



What does the National Security Concept project say about science and technology?

4



Our new project *Belarusian Land Treasures* invites you to explore the amazing sights of the Brest Region

6

INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 22 (980) ● THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023 ● WWW.SB.BY



The young city is constantly growing and getting better. Vladislav Kuzyakov, a concrete fitter at Novopolotsk construction and assembly trust No. 16.

## City of young romantics

Novopolotsk — the younger brother of ancient Polotsk, one of the ‘youngest’ cities in Belarus — recently celebrated its 65th anniversary. The city owes its appearance to the All-Union Komsomol Shock Construction. On June 7th, 1958, the first tents of the builders of Europe’s largest oil refining complex appeared not far from Polotsk on the left bank of the Zapadnaya Dvina River. Thus began a new city, in December 1963 officially named Novopolotsk. The city in a short time became a major scientific and industrial centre, the capital of the Belarusian petrochemistry. The industrial giant Naftan has processed more than 800 million tonnes of black gold over 60 years. The enterprise has a fuel-oil-aromatic profile and the most advanced technologies. The plant impresses with its scale — more than ten thousand hectares — and environmental friendliness.

The memory of the builders of the city in Novopolotsk is carefully preserved — grateful descendants created a memorial complex on the site of their first tent.

The appearance of modern Novopolotsk, in which, according to the National Statistical Committee, 96,620 people lived as of January 1st, 2023, is also determined by university science and high sports achievements. In a significant year for Novopolotsk, the city bears the proud title of the youth capital of Belarus. The main street of the city has a symbolic name — Molodezhnaya Street. It is one of the longest in the country, and still has no end.

Today, the city looking to the future is constantly growing and getting better.



9 771991 297007 23022

# Unity makes alliances stronger



## The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, met with the secretaries of the Security Councils of the CSTO member states in Minsk

“Today the dialogue between our countries in the field of collective security is more relevant than ever. I will say frankly that a lot depends on you, the main assistants to the Heads of State in your countries for security,” the Belarusian leader stressed.

The President noted that such meetings have long gone beyond protocol meetings since the geopolitical situation requires prompt decisions.

**“You see, the military and political situation is extremely tense, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. At the heart of all hot conflicts is massive hybrid warfare against the key areas of our public life: economic, informational, biological, social, humanitarian and even spiritual. They are advancing on all fronts,” the Head of State noted.**

The President noted that the situation is now tense everywhere: the Caucasus and Central Asia, Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic states.

**The Belarusian leader said, “Amid what is happening, we are dealing with the fact that the entire architecture of international and regional security, which has been formed for decades, is collapsing. You don’t have to look far for examples. The conflict in Ukraine is one of many examples of how Western elites are throwing trillions of dollars into the militarisation and destruction of states.**

Any of our meetings is not complete without discussing the situation in Ukraine. As an experienced person, I would just like to ask you not to look for some reasons now. Sooner or later we will talk about the reasons. But now the most important task is to stop the conflict.”

According to the Head of State, a large number of Ukrainian equipment have been destroyed recently. In addition, a large number of Ukrainian soldiers have died.

“Three days of the ‘counterattack’. What we see completely coincides with the information I received from the President of Russia. About three dozen Ukrainian tanks were destroyed — and this in three days. Defending is easier than attacking — you know it; 120 or 130 infantry fighting vehicles in three days. And the worst thing is that more than 2,100 Ukrainians died. 2,100! The losses on this side are estimated at a little more than 70. Here is the result of this attempted ‘counteroffensive’,” the President noted.

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that the counteroffensive was a big disinformation on the part of Ukraine, “There is no ‘counteroffensive’ and cannot be. And if it really took place, here is the result of three days. And most importantly — silence continues for the fourth or fifth day. What does this mean? They have suffered a serious defeat, sat down and are thinking (in the West) what to do next,” the Head of State said.

The President is convinced that there is no other way but negotiations. According to the Belarusian leader, this is the position of the President of Russia.

**Aleksandr Lukashenko urged, “Peace and only peace. But peace is not needed. The West is hell-bent not to lose its grip on Ukraine as it wants**

**to subjugate Russia and wipe its feet on it. But this will not happen. You know Russians, you know us — we will not go down on our knees. Therefore, we should reach an agreement while it is still possible. Things will only get worse in the future.**

Robust weapons supplies (we see this here, being in this cauldron in the centre of Europe), efforts to foment tensions and create confrontations as well as huge amounts of money that primarily Europe



spends — the cause of this conflict goes beyond Ukraine. It’s important for Americans to bring Europe to its knees. They’ll show them repercussions of introducing the euro against the dollar. This is also clear. The euro began to make inroads some time ago. Americans don’t need this. And money is the lifeblood.”

According to the President, that was the reason why the United States began to put pressure on Europe and now wants to pull it apart, “It seeks to fence it off from us. From the Baltic to the Black Sea through Poland, Ukraine. It did not work out in Belarus: there was a plan to build this cordon from Smolensk down to the Baltic. But now they are arming Poland and Ukraine. They want Ukraine to win. This is their big dream. This is their design.”

The Head of State drew attention to the fact that Poland ruined relations not only with Belarus, but also with Germany. And it is unlikely that Poland decided to demand WW2 reparations from Germany because Poland is so brave, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted.

“Not because of that. Americans quietly (we also saw this) suggested: let’s pressure Germans. In fact, Germans are the driving force in Europe. Why do you think Brexit, the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union, came to be? Had Americans been interested in strengthening the European Union, they would have never given the go-ahead. But they tore off Great Britain, a country with a strong economy, political and defence capabilities, from the European Union even earlier, i.e. they need to rock this boat in order to dominate. They are well aware that the world’s fastest advancing regions after the United States are the European Union, China and our space, where we dared to speak,” the President explained.

At the same time, Aleksandr

Lukashenko noted that the Russian special operation in Ukraine was a gift for the West. “They started using it to subjugate our region and then China. This is their ultimate goal,” the Belarusian leader emphasised. “And one more thing: workforce was released after the withdrawal from Afghanistan. It must be used somewhere. So far they [American troops] have not got involved into it, but if this continues, I’m sure it will be a matter of time. In fact, there are hordes of merce-

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that it is difficult for post-Soviet countries to gain a foothold in other markets, even in Africa where we see the clash of interests of China, the United States and the European Union.

“I’m not saying that you shouldn’t work for the markets of the European Union, the United States of America, the Middle East, the Far East, the Indian, African and other markets. It is important to work there. But we must not lose ours. After all, we may leave and lose each other. Take care of the economy and don’t rush,” the Head of State is sure.

During the meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko touched upon the issues of settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The President said that in previous years he had put a lot of efforts into the settlement of the conflict between the parties, trying to establish co-operation between the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“Things have become more complicated today. We need to sort out the situation. In this case, of course, I support Nikol Vovayevich [Pashinyan, the Prime Minister of Armenia], understanding that all the recent developments have fallen upon this power, upon him. Now we need patience and attempts to find a solution that will benefit both Armenia and Azerbaijan,” the Head of State stressed.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the secretaries of the CSTO Security Councils should also make their proposals, as they are not bystanders in this situation.

Belarus is presiding in the CSTO in 2023. According to the President, Belarus will be doing its best to help Armenia and Azerbaijan settle the disputes. Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that the conflicts in the CSTO area, especially the armed ones, should be solved.

**“We cannot calmly watch conflicts taking place in the CSTO space. We cannot walk away from them. They are complicated. These countries are our brothers: we used to live as one state. Therefore, the conflicts must be resolved, For God’s sake, don’t quarrel with each other. We will still have the opportunity to quarrel with many: you see how they are trying to pull us apart. I will not be specific,” the Head of State stressed.**

The President drew attention to the fact that the information sphere has become a vulnerable element of the international security system.



# Meeting of the Presidents of Belarus and Russia in Sochi

Belarusian-Russian relations are the backbone of co-operation in the Eurasian Economic Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, stated this at a meeting with President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, in Sochi on June 9th.



The Head of State noted that the meeting of the two leaders in Sochi was planned a long time ago. These days the Russian city is hosting the meetings of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council and the CIS Heads of Government Council.

“We agreed back in Moscow that we will see each other during the time our Prime Ministers will be holding a meeting here.

**Belarusian-Russian relations are the backbone of co-operation in the Eurasian Economic Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States after all. If there are any issues, we will respond. You are going to meet with the Prime Ministers. I believe it is a comprehensive, good event that we are holding. Yes, there are economic issues. We are addressing them. There is room to move forward. Most importantly, we know what to do and in what direction to move,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.**

nately join in. I am sure that Kazakhstan will do it within the framework of the EAEU, and Uzbekistan will do it, too. We will create attractive conditions here. I am sure that our union will only grow stronger,” the President of Belarus said.

“We will now discuss all issues: security and economic co-operation. There is something to talk about,” Vladimir Putin said.

According to the President of Russia, it is gratifying to see so much progress in economic co-operation of the two countries, and its pace is ‘remarkably good’.

**“The quality of interaction and the structure of our economic relations are changing in the right direction. The primary focus is not only on traditional industries, but also on high-tech areas. This is encouraging,” Vladimir Putin emphasised.**

Speaking about the security situation in general, the Head of the Russian Federation described it as stable.

“I would even call it good, solid.



Sochi

“Thanks God we are making progress,” Vladimir Putin noted.

“We thought we would have worse results. But we are doing better than we thought. Thanks God. We will build up our relations step by step. At the meeting of chiefs of security councils in Minsk I said that Belarus and Russia would come up with an action plan to deal with the situation we are in. We should not hope that the sanctions will be lifted or something. We should rely on our strengths, on ourselves. And if we work out such a policy response, our partners will defi-

We co-operate in this area. Everything is going on as planned on the most sensitive issues that we agreed upon with you: the preparation of the relevant installations will be completed from July 7th to July 8th, and we will immediately embark on work to deploy the appropriate types of weapons on your territory. Everything proceeds according to the plan, everything is stable,” the Russian leader added.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

“You can probably know who destroyed the Kakhovka HPP. They say guilty mind is never at ease. Who was the first to throw accusations? It is clear that Ukraine had to disguise its three-day counteroffensive, in which almost 100 armoured vehicles were destroyed and over 2,000 people were killed. That is why they are talking about Kakhovka, and not a word about their losses during the counteroffensive. Everything is seen, however. You can see what a cautious position the USA has taken: ‘We cannot yet say who did it. We need to conduct an investigation.’ One wonders why?” the President said.

The Head of State emphasised the importance of counteracting information and psychological operations and offered to share Belarus’ best practices in the area, adding that Belarus has been active co-operating with the Federal Security Service of Russia on the issue.

“In order to fight back, we need to put forward our agenda. CSTO countries are in the firing line of this pressure and dangerous information weapons, which have been always creating problems for us inside,” Aleksandr Lukashenko highlighted.

In this regard, the Head of State mentioned the recent events in Kyrgyzstan, where there was an attempt to stir up the situation inside the country, but the authorities stopped it in time, “Well done! They coped with it. They nipped it in the bud, and did not let it spread. Furthermore, they drew conclusions from history. Good job! I pay my respects to them. You see, they are

**proposals for the future security architecture of the Eurasian continent. This is the most important task,” the Belarusian leader said.**

The President proposed to conduct a comprehensive review of the legal framework of the CSTO, the Union State, and the EAEU.

“We need to get a clear idea about what we need and what we don’t. We need to remove everything that cannot work and will never work, and leave the main things. We need to go back to fundamental documents, write down provisions that will be legally binding and agree on how to act in various situations, how to respond to various conflicts. In my opinion, this would be a great helping hand in resolving conflicts like those between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan,” the Belarusian leader proposed.

In particular, Aleksandr Lukashenko announced his intention to suggest to the President of Russia drafting a program of action, a kind of internal development plan.

**“You remember the times of the Soviet Union: we were under pressure, no one liked us, they tried to strangle us. But we did very well and were self-sufficient despite being largely cut off from the rest of the world. We should understand that we need to develop this space that includes Belarus and Russia, we need to become self-sufficient, so that no one will try to put us on our knees using the dollar or some other currency.**



trying to stir up the situation... Leave Kyrgyzstan alone! The country is rising from its knees. Let the country develop. Who does it create problems for? Nobody. They continue their attempts to undermine the situation though. Do you think Kyrgyzstan has been chosen for no reason? No. They are using it to get through Kyrgyzstan to Kazakhstan again, like they are using Russia to get to China. Pay attention to this. They will not let Kazakhstan alone.”

The Head of State urged to improve the CSTO crisis response system, “We need to build and fine-tune the crisis response system. This is the task for our special services and law enforcement agencies.”

According to the President, the Heads of the Security Councils of the CSTO member states play an important coordinating role in this matter.”

“Taking into account the large-scale transformation of threats, we need to think about the concept of a new collective security strategy of the CSTO for the period up to 2035,” the Head of State said.

This need is also due to the fact that current document was adopted in 2016 and is designed to run until 2025.

**“I think that the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils and the CSTO as a whole need to start working on harmonising approaches and developing appropriate**

We need to work out a plan for the internal development of our space, primarily Russia and Belarus, since we ended up in the same boat. So far every time we do something, we factor in the East or West in our development plans like we cannot live without them. It is necessary to use the best practices of the past to make sure that our countries will live a normal life in the future. In fact, we have a common economic market and even a common defence space,” the Head of State said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that the voice of the CSTO countries will be heard if they present a united front and propose a peaceful and fair agenda in the Eurasian region and involve the SCO and the CIS in this process.

“Belarus, as the CSTO chairman, is ready to make every effort to strengthen our organisation and collective security in its area of responsibility,” the President stated.

Moreover, Aleksandr Lukashenko proposed to use, if necessary, the possibilities of the Belarusian chairmanship ‘to convey to the Heads of State and discuss the most important security matters’.

“Folk wisdom says: one soldier does not make a battle. Only unity makes us stronger. I am confident that the motto of our presidency ‘Through solidarity and co-operation to peace and security’ meets the interests of all our states,” the President of Belarus concluded.

# Components of our progress

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

*"Whoever loses in this race runs the risk of losing everything, including the country. In fact, we have no other choice — we must be among the leaders. This is a question not only of scientific ambitions, but also of the preservation of our statehood and the Belarusian nation."*

**During a meeting with the scientific community of the country on January 25th, 2022**

By Svetlana Isaenok

## National innovations guarding the security

In the scientific and technological sphere of our country, a comprehensive development of the national innovation system is being carried out, and its individual components are being improved on an ongoing basis. Scientific research and development are guided by the specific needs of the economic, social and other spheres of activity of society and the state. Measures are being taken to comprehensively modernise key sectors of the economy and increase the science intensity of GDP.

Practice has confirmed the ability of Belarusian science to solve breakthrough problems.

*During the years of independence, Belarus has made significant progress in nanotechnologies, nuclear and renewable energy, aerospace, artificial intelligence, digitalisation and robotics, biotechnologies and pharmaceuticals, mechanical engineering and instrumentation, precision farming, the creation of new medicines and methods in healthcare and many other areas. These are all components of our progress and ensuring national security.*

## FIGURE

According to the National Statistical Committee, the number of organisations engaged in research and development in our country was 445 by the beginning of 2022. 25,644 people were employed in the field of research and development. Of these, scientific research was carried out by 16,321 people. Young people under the age of 29 (inclusive) make up 20.7 percent of the total number of researchers.



Aleksandr Gorbash



What does the National Security Concept project say about science and technology?

**The higher the degree of confrontation in the world, the faster the development of technology is gaining momentum. Technological warfare has long been not just a concept, but a reality. The one who most actively applies scientific knowledge to solve practical problems has significant advantages. Intelligence and breakthrough ideas make it possible to create more competitive products, make people's lives more comfortable and safer, and countries to move faster in their development. In the context of global changes in the information and technical fields, the rapid renewal of knowledge and technology, it is extremely important not to miss important stages of development.**

Scientific and technological security — the state of protection of scientific, technological and educational potentials from threats that impede the development of scientific activities, the creation and implementation of innovations and advanced technologies in the real sector of the economy and other areas.



Andrey Sazonov

## OPINION

**Oleg Dyachenko, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Council of the Republic on Education, Science, Culture and Social Development, Rector of the Academy of Postgraduate Education,**

*"The era of digital, artificial intelligence, bioengineering has come. Naturally, there is a change in the structure of the economy, in which new knowledge, professional skill sets, and highly qualified specialists are increasingly in demand. To effectively solve the tasks set, human resources with a modern level of training are needed. Therefore, the rivalry of the planet's economic hegemony is intensifying not only for control over the markets for their products, natural resources and advanced production technologies, but also for the possession of highly developed human capital.*

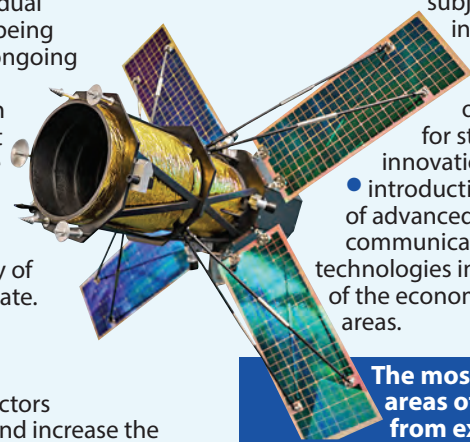
**In the face of external and internal threats, a new geopolitical redivision of the world, we need not only to preserve the educational and scientific and technological potential of our country, but also to give impetus to the development of the national education system, as well as to ensure the comprehensive improvement of the national innovation system on an ongoing basis."**

## The main national interests in the scientific and technological aspect are:

- further development of the economy and other areas based on modern knowledge and scientific and technological potential;
- creation of innovative technologies, intensive renewal of the real sector of the economy on their basis and implementation in all spheres of life of society and the state;
- expanding the presence of Belarus in the world market of science-intensive and high-tech products, mutually beneficial international scientific and technological co-operation and attracting advanced technologies to the country's economy;
- provision of various spheres of activity of society and the state with scientific personnel.

In the scientific and technological sphere, a comprehensive development of the national innovation system is being carried out, and its individual components are being improved on an ongoing basis.

Scientific research and development are guided by the specific needs of the economic, social and other spheres of activity of society and the state. Measures are being taken to comprehensively modernise key sectors of the economy and increase the science intensity of GDP.



- increasing the science intensity of GDP to a level that ensures the dynamic development of the scientific sphere, the rejuvenation of scientific personnel, the sustainable development of the real sector of the economy and other areas;
- development of the national innovation system; improvement of the regulatory legal framework aimed at increasing the efficiency of scientific, scientific, technical and innovation activities, ensuring the functioning of the subjects of the innovation infrastructure;
- improvement of the system for stimulating innovation activity;
- introduction and use of advanced information, communication and other technologies in the real sector of the economy and other areas.

## Internal sources of threats to national security in the scientific and technological aspect are:

- the impossibility of developing scientific and technological potential due to the low science intensity of GDP;
- low innovative activity of the real sector of the economy; insufficient efficiency of the national innovation system, including the mechanisms for technology transfer from science to production, the equipment of the material and technical base of scientific institutions, the financing system, industry science;
- a decrease in the level of training and provision of scientific personnel, including highly qualified ones, and an increase in the average age of scientific workers.

## The main external sources of threats to national security in the scientific and technological aspect are:

- limiting the access of domestic scientists and business entities to the results of research and developments of the world level;
- purposeful policy of individual foreign states and companies,

stimulating the outflow of scientists and highly qualified specialists abroad;

- elimination of the subjects of the Republic of Belarus from the chains of creation of science-intensive and high-tech products.

## The most important areas for neutralising internal sources of threats to national security in the scientific and technological aspect are:

- increasing the science intensity of GDP to a level that ensures the dynamic development of the scientific sphere, the rejuvenation of scientific personnel, the sustainable development of the real sector of the economy and other areas;
- development of the national innovation system; improvement of the regulatory legal framework aimed at increasing the efficiency of scientific, scientific, technical and innovation activities, ensuring the functioning of the subjects of the innovation infrastructure;
- improvement of the system for stimulating innovation activity;
- introduction and use of advanced information, communication and other technologies in the real sector of the economy and other areas.

## The most important areas of protection from external sources of threats to national security in the scientific and technological aspect are:

- co-operation within the Union State on the formation of a single scientific and technological space, development of a system of access to international electronic databases of scientific and technical information;
- creation of joint scientific laboratories and centres, including with the participation of friendly countries and organisations;
- ensuring the most favourable economic and image conditions for conducting research in Belarus and attracting investments in its scientific and technological sphere;
- creation of new innovative enterprises;
- expanding the export of science-intensive and high-tech products and jointly entering new markets in co-operation with partner countries and countries adhering to the principles of mutually beneficial co-operation;
- concentration of resources on scientific research and development aimed at the production of products of higher technological modes;
- improvement of the system of technological forecasting, constant monitoring of the market of scientific ideas and provision of legal protection of intellectual property.

# All natural and high quality

## Belagro: there is something to show the world

The China-Belarus Industrial Park Great Stone hosted the 33rd edition of the international specialised exhibition *Belagro 2023*. It is considered another national brand, and no wonder: this is a platform where everything that the Belarusian land is glorious and the strength of its agricultural complex is presented. This is a unique and powerful agricultural machinery, natural, high-quality food, breeding stock and much more. *Belagro* provides an opportunity to learn more about innovative scientific developments, advanced technologies used in production and ensuring the Belarusian agro-industrial complex reaches a qualitatively new level.

By Diana Bernikovich

### Pattern for partners

The situation with food security in the world can be called consistently alarming. The number of hungry in 2021 exceeded 820 million people (88 times the population of our country). For the sake of the interests of individual states, the global supply chains of products, raw materials, and components for many types of economic activity are being disrupted. Countries that once abandoned their own agricultural production have no choice but to turn into markets for imported products. These and many other factors are pushing up consumer food prices, even though, as FAO experts predicted, eight years ago the world could have ended hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

*Our Belarus was able to fulfil, and much earlier, the task set: for decades we have been fully ensuring food security on the basis of our own production, increasing, despite the intrigues of foreign enemies, our export potential, and successfully resisting sanctions pressure. Today, Belarusian products are successfully exported to 100 countries of the world, and their quality is undeniable.*

The level of production of basic products per capita in Belarus significantly exceeds the indicators achieved by our partners in the EAEU.

Last year, the country reached a record high in terms of the supply of food products and agricultural raw materials to the foreign market — \$8.3 billion, which is 24 percent more than in 2021. Agriculture provided a significant increase in gross output in comparable prices — 3.6 percent.

Thanks to the balanced policy of the Head of State, the active introduction of the latest scientific achievements, the support of farms, the development of large-scale production, and, most importantly, the hard work of the villagers, we managed to achieve what we wanted.

### All flags visit us

*For several decades, Belarus has done the seemingly impossible: the industry's equipment with its own equipment has grown from 13 to 87 percent, and agronomists, engineers, and machine operators are increasingly using digital technologies in their work.*

**Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the organising committee of the international specialised exhibition *Belagro 2023* Leonid Zayats,**

*"In recent years, the country has achieved significant results in agriculture, which made it possible to ensure food security. Moreover, today we are one of the main food exporters in the world. Exports of foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials in 2022 reached a record high of \$8.3 billion. We are not going to stop there, there are enough reserves."*



Daria Titova

### REFERENCE

In January-April, for organisations of the Agriculture and Food Ministry, the growth rate of food production (FPI) amounted to 105 percent compared to the corresponding period of 2022.



Belarus has achieved a high level of self-sufficiency in all major commodity items: meat — 134.2 percent, milk — 263.3 percent, eggs — 127.7 percent, potatoes — 100 percent, vegetables — 101.8 percent, fruits and berries — 57.2 percent.



Deliveries to the domestic consumer market were increased in accordance with the increased demand in January-April 2023: canned milk — by 12 percent, soft cheeses — by 9 percent, whole milk products — by 1 percent, meat — by 8 percent.



The China-Belarus Industrial Park Great Stone is a convenient platform for such a large-scale exhibition. This year, the exposition area expanded to 28.6 thousand square metres: 450 companies from Belarus, Russia, China, Pakistan, Türkiye, Vietnam, Germany, Italy, India, and Palestine took part. 14 Russian regions presented their expositions. The exhibition was attended by delegations from 16 countries, including Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Mongolia.

The greatest interest of visitors from year to year is attracted by a large-scale exposition of domestic agricultural machinery — in addition to the latest machinery and equipment, advanced developments were presented that are not inferior in many characteristics to foreign counterparts.

### Seeds of development and success

In an exclusive interview with our journalists on the eve of *Belagro 2023*, Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Zayats emphasised that this year the task is to ensure the planned volumes of grain production — at least 9 million tonnes, rapeseed oil seeds — 1 million, sugar beet — 5 million, potatoes — 1.1 million tonnes, vegetables — 610 thousand tonnes, flax fibre — 55 thousand tonnes. A powerful



Anton Stepanishchev



Daria Titova

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

*"Yes, the world is at the peak of technological, digital progress, and there is no limit to innovative development. However, this is possible only on one condition: if people are fed and clothed. Every Belarusian understands that wellbeing of the state and our food security are in your hands, the hands of machine operators, agronomists, cattle breeders, veterinarians, bakers, cheese makers, scientists — all those involved in agriculture."*

During a solemn assembly held to honour top agribusiness performers on November 18th, 2022



**Production of basic agricultural products per capita in the EAEU Member States**

In 2022, kilogrammes

	Potato	Vegetables	Eggs, pcs	Milk
EAEU (total)	154	124	303	268
Armenia	118	206	252	210
Belarus	417	309	374	850
Kazakhstan	208	244	256	322
Kyrgyzstan	185	169	88	252
Russia	129	93	316	226

backlog has been created to achieve the planned plans.

One of the most important components of a record harvest is high-quality seeds. Last year, about 120 varieties of agricultural plants bred by the Scientific and Practical Centre of the National Academy of Sciences for Agriculture were cultivated on the fields of agricultural enterprises, and they occupied more than 80 percent of the sown area, and for winter rye, oats, fodder barley, buckwheat, spring wheat and lupine exceeded 90.

A huge contribution to the production of agricultural products is made by scientists and other scientific organisations of the Department of Agrarian Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, institutions of higher agricultural education. The obligatory participant of *Belagro* is BNBC. The interest of foreign partners is justified. This is the most unique project in the CIS for deep processing of grain.

More than 100 Belarusian producers presented a wide range of their products: sausages, semi-finished meat products, poultry, dairy products, canned food, groceries, baby and diet food, bakery products and much more.

The Agriculture and Food Ministry emphasises that the meat industry has

made significant progress in recent years. The assortment of the meat industry is a thousand items. Belarus is one of the top 15 world exporters of poultry meat, beef and sausages. The main buyers of Belarusian meat products are Russia and other CIS countries, China, Vietnam, the United Arab Emirates, African countries.

*Belarus is also in the top five largest exporters of dairy products, which today can be found on the shelves of supermarkets in almost 50 countries of the world. The share of dairy products in the export of food products exceeds 40 percent. They produce more than 1800 types of dairy products. For example, cheeses are in no way inferior in taste and quality to well-known world brands.*

And it all starts with the village, those same dairy farms and complexes. By the way, animal husbandry has recently shown a positive trend.

As part of *Belagro*, demonstration shows of breeding horses from leading horse breeding farms, sheep of various breeds were held. Considerable attention is paid to the business program. About two dozen conferences and seminars are planned, the topics of which cover the entire spectrum of issues related to the agro-industrial complex.



BREST REGION

European bison at Belovezhskaya Pushcha

The Republic of Belarus is located in the centre of Europe and is one of the 15 largest countries in this part of the world. Belarus is often called a 'blue-eyed country': there are thousands of lakes, rivers and protected forests. But the country is interesting not only for its unique nature. Each region of Belarus has its own modern industrial giants, amazing historical sites and sights. Belarus consists of six regions: Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk and Mogilev. Minsk — the capital of the Republic of Belarus — retains an independent status and is not part of any regions. *The MT* presents the project called *Belarusian land treasures* and invites readers on an exciting journey. The Brest Region is the western gate of Belarus, a land of amazing nature, an important tourist, transit, industrial and agricultural region.

# Belarusian land treasures

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

*"The chronicle of your region is rich and ancient. The fate of Europe was decided here more than once, many outstanding personalities come from here: scientists, astronauts, artists, poets and statesmen. The whole world remembers the heroic deed of the defenders of the Brest Fortress and admires the relic splendour of Belovezhskaya Pushcha. Decades of the newest history of the Brest Region are filled with fruitful work and creation... The skilful use of natural resources and the introduction of modern technologies help the region's farmers to maintain leading positions in many respects. Thanks to the talent and diligence of the people, Brest has become one of the most beautiful cities in the country."*

**From the congratulations of the Head of State on December 6th, 2019**



The first Dazhynki festival was held in Brest Region



Archaeological open-air museum

## Historical insight, interesting facts

Brest is one of the oldest cities in Belarus. It is first mentioned in the *Primary Chronicle* (1019) as a large, well-fortified settlement.

Over the centuries, Brest has repeatedly become part of different states, destroyed and rebuilt again. The city to this day keeps the architecture of different eras: from the ancient settlement of Berestyie to the buildings of imperial Brest-Litovsk, Polish Brest-on-the-Bug and Soviet Brest.

The construction of the Brest Fortress, which began in the 1830s, was a landmark event in the history of the Brest Region. It was to become one of the largest and most modern fortifications in the world.

On June 22nd, 1941, the Brest Region and the city of Brest with their fortress took the first blow of the German troops on the first day of the Great Patriotic War. The Brest Fortress, with a small garrison in it, did not surrender until July 30th, 1941.

In 1991, it was in the Brest Region, in the Viskuli residential complex on the territory of Belovezhskaya Pushcha, that a historic document on the collapse of the Soviet Union was signed. A new international organisation, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), was also born here.

It was in the Brest Region in 1996 that the first *Dazhynki* harvest festival in independent Belarus was held.

In this region, the last monarch of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Stanislaw August Poniatowski was born, as well as the future classic of Belarusian and Polish literature, Adam Mickiewicz.

The first President of Israel, Chaim Weizmann, is from the Brest Region.

Napoleon Orda is famous for his paintings depicting various architectural monuments of Belarus, Lithuania and Poland, urban and rural landscapes. Pyotr Klimuk is also a native of the Brest Region and the first Belarusian who has been in space.

Brest was glorified by Yulia Nestsiaienka, who in 2004 managed to sensationally win the 'royal' distance at the Athens Olympics — the 100-metre run.

## Geographical position and population

The Brest Region is located in the south-west of the country, in the south it borders on Ukraine, in the west — on Poland.

1,324,027 people live in the region (as of January 1st, 2022), including 945,484 people in cities and 378,543 people in rural areas.

The largest cities in the region are Brest (340,723 people), Baranovichi (173,028 people) and Pinsk (125,060 people).

## Economic development

The Brest Region has great potential in the agricultural and industrial sectors. There are enterprises for the production of food products, mechanical engineering, textile and clothing production, furniture and building materials production.

The industry of the region provides more than a quarter of the gross regional product. The share of the region in the volume of industrial production of the country is almost 11 percent.

There are more than 1800 industrial enterprises in the region. The leading companies are Savushkin Product, 558th Aircraft Repair Plant, Santa Bremor, Brest Meat Processing Plant,

Brestenergo, Polesie, Granit, Pinskdiv Holding Company, Gefest-Technika and others.

There are 267 agricultural organisations in the region.

The concept of the village of the future is being implemented in the region, for the implementation of which three agro-towns have been chosen — Ostromechevo, Belovezhsky, Parokhonsk.

The light industry is the hallmark of the Brest Region. Clothing and hosiery from the Brest Region are in great demand far beyond the borders of the country.

In general, products manufactured in the Brest Region are exported to 107 countries of the world. Since 1996, the Brest FEZ has been operating in the region.

6 transport and logistics centres have been equipped in the Brest Region. There is a Berlin-Warsaw-Brest-Minsk-Moscow transit corridor. 80 percent of land exports of the CIS states to Western Europe go through the region.

## Natural wealth and mineral resources

279 rivers flow on the territory of the Brest Region, the largest are the Western Bug River, Pripjat River, Goryn River, Shchara River and Yaselda River, there are 663 lakes, the largest are Vygonoshchanskoe Lake, Bobrovichskoe Lake, Sporovskoe Lake, Chernoye Lake and Beloye Lake.

The Brest Region is the centre of Belarusian Polesie. Europe's largest open low-lying swamps have been preserved in their natural state on the territory of the region.

In the north-west of the Brest Region there is a unique forest area, the oldest protected natural area in Europe — the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, which is included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. The legendary Belovezhskaya Pushcha is one of the oldest reserves in the world, the largest remaining part of the vast relic forest of Europe, which many centuries ago stretched from the Baltic Sea to the Bug River and from the Oder River to the Dnieper River. The main wealth of the famous Pushcha is the second largest population of bison of the Belovezhskaya line on the planet.

On the territory of the Brest Region there is the Belarusian part of the Western Polesie transboundary biosphere reserve (Belarus-Poland-Ukraine), as well as the Pripjat Polesie biosphere reserve.

In addition, on the territory of the region there are 18 reserves of republican significance and 32 reserves of local significance.

In the region, 10 natural areas are included in the international Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance, mainly as habitats for waterfowl.

The Brest Region has deposits of minerals: building stone, clay, sand, gravel, oil shale and brown coal.

## Culture and main attractions

More than 2,500 monuments of culture, history and architecture are concentrated in the Brest Region. 774 monuments are included in the State List of Historical and Cultural Values of the Republic of Belarus.

The Struve Geodetic Arc is a unique monument of history and scientific and technical thought of the 19th century, named after the astronomer and mathematician, the first director of the Pulkovo Observatory, Vasily Struve, and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. In Belarus, the largest number of objects of the Struve Geodetic Arc has been preserved — 19. On the territory of the Brest Region, these are the points of Leskovichi, Osovnitsa and Chekutsk.

Also, among the main attractions of the Brest Region are the Brest Hero Fortress Memorial Complex, the Kossovo Palace and Park Ensemble, the Ruzhany Palace Complex of the Sapiehas, the Nemtsevichy Estate and the Berestyie Archaeological Museum — the only museum in Europe of a medieval East Slavic city.

There is a 700-year-old 30-metre donjon tower in the Kamenets District of the Brest Region, which is often called the White Tower, a recognisable architectural symbol of Belarus.

The hallmarks of Brest are considered to be the railway station built by the decree of Alexander II of Russia (the largest and most beautiful in the Russian Empire), the local 'Arbat' — the pedestrian Sovetskaya Street, the monument to the Millennium of Brest.

Another important attraction of the country is located in Belovezhskaya Pushcha — the residence of the Belarusian Ded Moroz.

The Brest Region annually hosts the Biker Festival, the theatre festival *Belaya Vezha*, the ecological festival *Sporovo Hayfields*, the *Motalskie Prysmaki* gastronomic festival and many others.



Granit enterprise's intellectual quarry



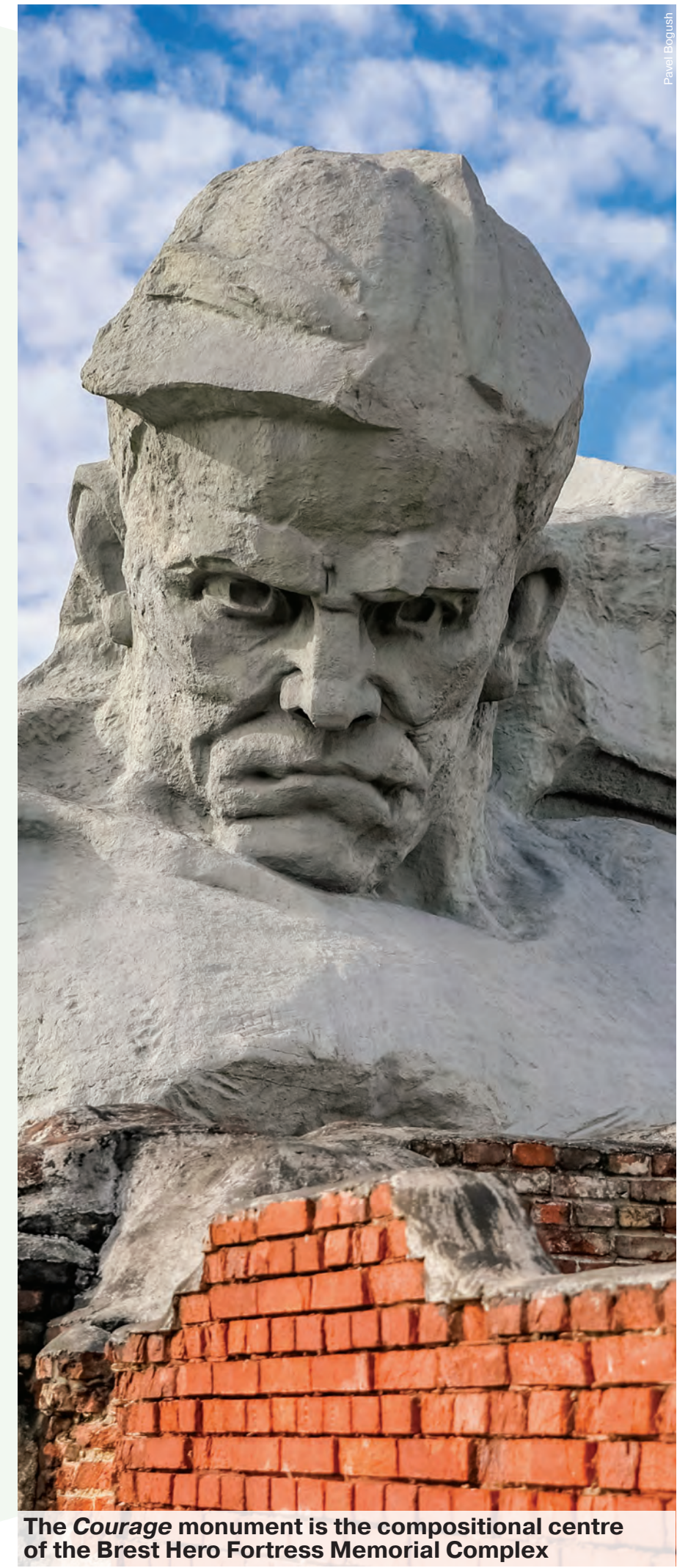
Kossovo Palace and Park Ensemble



At the Brest Stocking Mill



In the Pripjatsky National Park



The Courage monument is the compositional centre of the Brest Hero Fortress Memorial Complex

# Grab the claw



A real breakthrough is expected in the field of oncology — for the first time in Belarus, the country’s medical scientists are conducting an experiment using the PanTum Detect test, which allows detecting cancer at different stages

**PanTum Detect — a large-scale Belarusian-German project of technology transfer, in the creation and development of which doctors and scientists from leading state specialised medical centres took part: the Alexandrov National Cancer Centre, Vitebsk Regional Clinical Oncology Dispensary, Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and other structural subdivisions of the National Academy of Sciences.**

By Ludmila Konopelko

## The earlier the better

About 50,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in our country every year. Oncology ranks second in the general structure of mortality of the population. And this despite the fact that early diagnosis of cancer allows one to get timely medical care and reduce the risk of complications, relapses and death. The treatment of oncological diseases in the early stages is more gentle, due to which the rehabilitation period is reduced, and the chances of recovery are significantly increased.

The principle of operation of the PanTum Detect analysis is to study macrophages, mobile cells of the human immune system that are capable of absorbing and ‘digesting’ particles foreign to the body, including tumour cells, the

press service of the Healthcare Ministry reports. Macrophages leave the bloodstream, move into tissues, absorb specific tumour structures, and migrate back into the peripheral blood. Tumour cells are concentrated in macrophages, which allows them to be studied in detail

by flow cytometry and accurately determine threshold values using artificial intelligence programmes.

After receiving the results of the analysis, patients in whom the study showed a reasonable suspicion of a tumour (positive result of the PanTum Detect test) will immediately be sent for a detailed examination to state specialised medical institutions in order to confirm or exclude the diagnosis.

## The first stage — on a paid basis

Today, the PanTum Detect test allows one to detect more than 60 types of cancer at different stages. Including zero (precancerous diseases), including pathologies for which there are currently no effective and affordable early screening methods. The annual PanTum Detect analysis provides information on the

development of oncological diseases at various stages.

Due to the fact that the programme is still an experiment and has not been launched into mass practice, those wishing to take part in the study will be able to do this on a paid basis. The project development programme provides for several stages of connecting new laboratories to it: Stage 1: May – June 2023 — Vitebsk Regional Clinical Oncology Dispensary;

Stage 2: June – July 2023 — Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus; Stage 3: 2024 — the Alexandrov National Cancer Centre.

By the way, Belarus is the second country in the world after Germany, which brought the development of this experiment and the production of tests to the stage of registration and implementation.

**Safety**  
The blood test is given in a certified laboratory without negative health consequences.

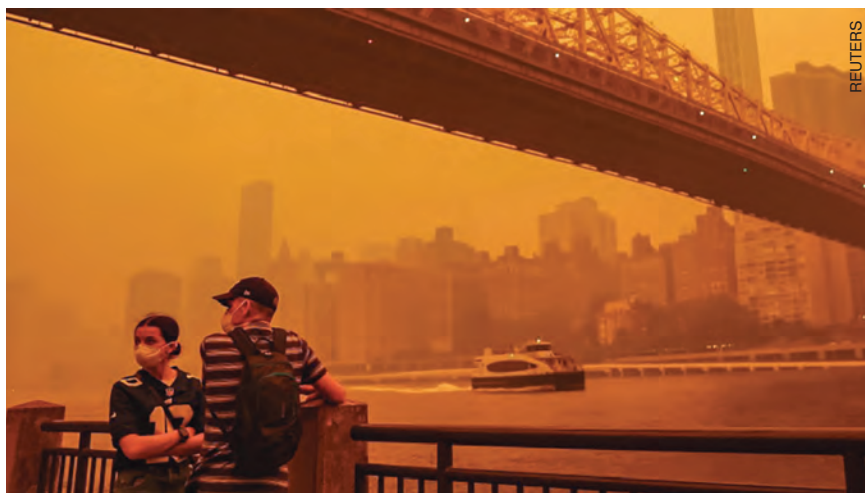
**Availability**  
It is available to everyone, more than 120 laboratories across the country are expected to participate.

**Versatility**  
It determines more than 60 types of tumours and allows one to replace about 200 diagnostic studies.

**Sensitivity 97.5**  
It identifies 97.5 out of 100 cases of cancer.

**Specificity 99.5**  
It shows 199 accurate results from 200 examinations.

In 2019-2022, numerous studies and clinical trials were conducted at the leading scientific, practical and medical centres of Belarus, which confirmed the high diagnostic capabilities of the PanTum Detect test in oncology screening.



## NYC recorded world’s worst air pollution

Smoke from the wildfires raging across Canada has created a thick haze across New York City’s iconic skyline, nearly fading out the Statue of Liberty and high-rises

New York was the most polluted major city in the world on June 8th, as smoke from Canadian wildfires blanketed the city in haze, according to the IQAir website.

Pollution levels in the city were deemed to be in the ‘unhealthy’ range, and were higher than those in the Indian capital Delhi and Iraq’s Baghdad, according to the Swiss air quality company.

Other North American cities were also being afflicted by smoke from the unprecedented wildfires, with Detroit affected particularly badly.

“We are taking precautions out of an abundance of caution to protect New Yorkers’ health until we are able to get a

better sense of future air quality reports,” said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. “We recommend all New Yorkers limit outdoor activity to the greatest extent possible.”

Canada is on track for its worst-ever wildfire season if the rate of burning continues at the same pace. Government officials say approximately 3.3 million hectares have so far been scorched. Some 413 fires are currently burning and 26,000 Canadians have been forced to evacuate their homes.

The World Health Organisation outlines the severity of air pollution-related health issues, contributing to millions of deaths yearly.

## Borehole for deep-Earth exploration

**China has begun digging its deepest borehole in an effort to study areas of the planet deep beneath the surface**

The drilling of the borehole began in a desert in the Tarim basin in China’s north-western region of Xinjiang, according to the Chinese state-run Xinhua news agency. With a planned depth of 11,100m, the narrow shaft will penetrate more than ten continental strata and reach the cretaceous system in the Earth’s crust — a series of stratified rocks dating back 145m years.

The project is expected to be completed in 457 days and has been hailed by Chinese state media outlets as ‘a landmark in China’s deep-Earth exploration’.

The deep exploration well will allow scientists to study the internal structure and evolution of the Earth, and provide data for geoscience research, China National Petroleum Corporation, the country’s leading oil and gas producer which led the project, said in a statement.

The equipment, which weighs more than 2,000 tonnes, is designed to withstand underground temperatures of up to 200C and an atmospheric pressure that is 1,300 times higher. In addition to the extreme conditions deep below the surface, the harsh ground environment of the Tarim basin — home to China’s hottest, driest desert — adds to the challenge.

The project is part of the country’s efforts to explore new frontiers in space and below the Earth’s surface. In 2021, the Chinese President urged the country’s leading scientists to break new barriers in different areas, including deep Earth exploration.

The borehole would be the second in the world to surpass 10km in depth, while the record for the deepest man-made well belongs to the Kola Superdeep Borehole in Russia with a depth of 12,262m.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

# Poland no longer hides aggressive intentions towards Belarus

A couple of weeks ago, the former Deputy Minister of National Defence of Poland, Waldemar Skrzypczak, burst out with a number of revelations about Warsaw's plans for Minsk on the air of the Polsat TV channel. Of course, one could write off what was said to the fact that the retired general overheated in the sun, but the current May turned out to be not too hot. Therefore, the statements of the former high-ranking military man should be considered both without raising unnecessary alarm and without undue frivolity. And Skrzypczak gave the following: allegedly, an armed coup is being prepared in Belarus, and Poland is going to support it with military force. "We are preparing for an uprising in Belarus, because it will happen," the ex-general declared without hesitation, having clearly tried on the laurels of the bandit Pilsudski.

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

"We are keeping an eye on these people that this confused Polish general was talking about. They say they are putting together regiments or battalions. At least they proclaim that they are doing this. But in fact... We know where they are. We know them by name. We're ready. Let them come."

During a conversation with Russian reporters on the sidelines of the EAEU summit, May 25th, 2023, Moscow

## The general broke his disguise

By Anton Popov

### The earth will burn under their feet

According to Skrzypczak, the strike force of the 'uprising' (in fact, a large-scale terrorist act) should be the self-exiled oppositionists who are currently fighting in Ukraine, and they will be supported by regular Polish units.

*The statement is indicative of the actual attitude of the Polish elites towards Belarus. And it, frankly, coupled with obvious militaristic steps, cannot but cause concern.*

General Skrzypczak emphasises that the terrorists who crossed the border will be supported by the broad masses of the people, while this statement is fundamentally wrong. If, nevertheless, the West decides to try to use the forces of tame extremists to enter the Belarusian land from Ukraine or Poland, they will have to act on extremely hostile territory. First, most of the so-called 'underground', that is, individual cells that have survived since 2020, have already been defeated by the Belarusian security forces. The remaining few extremists are fragmented and hardly capable of meaningful actions to support the units of the fugitives.

Secondly, the bulk of the population will have a negative attitude towards terrorists, and hostility can manifest itself both in refusing to co-operate with the 'Kalinovites' and in resisting them in the ranks of the people's militia and territorial defence. And this is all in addition to the

fact that immediately after crossing the border, the entire firepower of the Belarusian army will fall upon the bandits, from conventional artillery to high-precision Iskanders and Polonezes. So the convictions of General Skrzypczak are fundamentally wrong and demonstrate a serious crisis in Polish military analytics, which is unable to calculate the reaction of the population and the political leadership of the neighbouring state to the aggressive aspirations of Warsaw.

### Doomed to dishonour

Another important question is who will be appointed as suicide bombers? A lot has been written about the 'Kalinovsky regiment', there is not much point in repeating. The only thing that can be added is that the Polish elite is really closely following this formation, and the government in Warsaw keeps the personal characteristics of each of the 'Kalinovites' within walking distance. Proof of this was discovered by the pro-Russian hackers of the NemeZida project, who, on the night of May 25th, organised a cyber-attack on the resource of the Polish Council of Ministers, where they found an array of documents related to the 'Kalinovsky regiment'.

*The vast majority of mercenaries are criminals involved both in the events of 2020 and in other illegal actions, which completely destroys the romantic image that the extremist media is intensively making to 'Kalinovites'.*

In addition to the already designated 'regiment', which does not pull even a battalion in terms of the number of personnel, there are other paramilitary formations that can be involved in a hypothetical provocation against Belarus. First of all, these are banners of the 'Belarusian Pospolite ruszenie' located in Warsaw, Gdansk, Wroclaw, Bialystok, Lodz, Poznan, Vilnius and Kaunas. The activity of the extremist formation, which appeared last autumn, is aimed at training saboteurs and their subsequent transfer to the territory of Belarus to destabilise the situation during the electoral campaigns of 2024-2025.

Curious is the fact that the GUR of Ukraine, which oversees both the Belarusian Nazis and the renegades from the Russian Volunteer Corps (RDK), apparently decided to establish co-operation between the organisations. So, in a raid on the Belgorod Region from May 22nd to May 23rd, a war criminal Igor Yankov with the call sign 'Yanki', a participant in the protests in Minsk and an active recruiter of neo-Nazi formations, was spotted among the RDK militants. It is unlikely that his appearance was accidental: it seems that the 'Kalinovites' have begun a substantive study of the experience of infiltrating the territory of neighbouring states and committing terrorist attacks there.

### Pilsudski's heirs at the red line

The role of Poland, in addition to the obvious provocation

of a major conflict in Europe and inciting all kinds of extremists to Belarus, can manifest itself in several ways. The first and most likely, despite the statements of Skrzypczak, is the organisation of a major sabotage attempt with the capture of a small part of the territory of the Republic of Belarus with the help of the listed Nazi formations.

*The anti-terrorist operation of the Belarusians in this case will become a pretext for a multiple increase in NATO forces and another strengthening of NATO's eastern flank.*

In the event of a negative scenario, Warsaw may try to provide terrorists with support from its territory or even organise an intervention. Poland can use both artillery, air force and missile forces, including those equipped with recently received HIMARS launchers, as well as infantry and armoured formations of the 16th and 18th mechanised divisions. However, this option should be considered less likely than the first, since such a step would mean aggression against the Union State and would untie the hands of the presidents of Belarus and Russia regarding the use of the entire spectrum of forces and means, including nuclear weapons.

### We keep powder dry

The May terrorist raid on the Belgorod Region recalled the 'exploits' of Basayev and Khattab in the mid-1990s and raised a number of uncomfortable questions. Some of them were

actively discussed in the Belarusian media space in the context of our capabilities to repel such attacks. It must be said that Belarus is closely monitoring what is happening in the zone of the special military operation and drawing appropriate conclusions. For example, one of the most painful points of the events near Grayvoron was the lack of an effective local territorial defence or militia, although there has been talk of such structures in the border regions for a long time. In Belarus, during the exercises, the system for creating militia units has already been tested and, hopefully, the corresponding law will come into force soon.

*Based on the published draft law, it can be assumed that weapons and ammunition will be handed out to the militias. Such a move dramatically increases the reaction rate of volunteers in the event of hostilities.*

It is impossible to completely exclude the possibility of attempts to repeat the same raid, but already on the territory of Belarus. Both Poland and Ukraine, and the Baltic countries are hostile to us, and therefore relaxation is like death. Despite the excellent work of the special services and the calm situation in the country, it is too early to lose vigilance. This is especially true for border residents. They should not be afraid — the army is on guard, but it is necessary to be prepared for emergency situations and firmly know the procedure.

REALITIES

The Minsk Times  
Thursday  
June 15  
2023

9



# Rock will return to the *Bazaar*



The MT came by the poster of the International Arts Festival *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk*

**A month is left before one of the most anticipated events of the summer. Guests and participants will meet the 32nd edition of the International Arts Festival *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* from July 12th to July 17th. The festival programme is ready. Let's see what's in it.**

By Anna Naumova

The bright overture of the fest will be the concert dedicated to the Year of Peace and Creation by the Aura band under the symbolic title *Peace to our home*. A creative evening with the participation of many star guests will be held on July 12th at the Summer Amphitheatre. On the same day, the 21st International Children's Music Competition starts in the Vitebsk Concert Hall, and Sergey Lazarev will perform on the site in front of the concert hall in the evening.

A day later, on July 13th, the fanfare of the festival will be officially played. The opening will



Belarusian Anna Trubetskaya won the Grand Prix of the festival in 2022



of Folk Art, said, "There are plans to hold two competitions of masters — in embroidery and basket weaving. Don't miss our *Tanchym Razam* (Let's Dance Together) international tournament of national dances. During the *Slavianski Bazaar* it will spin everyone for the jubilee, 10th time, gathering about 250 Belarusian and Russian participants on the Freedom Square. Some of them will also demonstrate special, local dances.

The debut of the forum is

*Fashion Divertissement* with a show of modern outfits, in which elements of the folk system are noticeable. Linen, intricate ornaments, original decorations will be presented by both Belarusian fashion theatres and guests from

the Russian Federation. We will not reveal all the surprises, but the semantic line of 'two sisters — Belarus and Russia' will not do."

The public also appreciated the *On the Seven Winds* festival of street art, which will turn the streets of Vitebsk into open-air concert venues from July 13th to July 16th. Performers and artists, dancers and musicians, an incendiary fire show — it will be beautiful!



be illuminated by a whole galaxy of stars: Lev Leshchenko, Angelina Vovk, Elena Vaenga, Dmitry Kharatyan, Vladimir Presnyakov, Aleksandr Marshal, Varvara, Yuri Malikov and the Novyye Samotsvety ensemble, the NA-NA group... By the way, tickets for the opening are already sold.

*The Union State Invites...* concert has become a good tradition. Dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the People's Artist of the USSR Igor Luchenok, it will be held on July 14th. The talented composer, beloved by many generations, is known for such hits as *Moi Rodny Kut*, *Alesya*, etc. Artists of Belarus and Russia will perform not only legendary hits to the music of Luchenok, but also unreleased, that is, completely new songs accompanied by National Academic Concert Orchestra of Belarus named after Mikhail Finberg. The festival will also host a concert of choreographic art Under the auspices of the Day of the Union State.

On the night of July 14th-15th, the audience will experience the *Golden Hit*. The programme includes Ilona Bronevitskaya, Viktor Saltykov



and the Forum band, the NA-NA, DoReDos, Gorod 312, Discomafia groups and others.

The 32nd edition of the International Pop Song Performers Competition promises a lot of discoveries, the participants will perform Slavic hits accompanied by an orchestra. The second part will please the creative evening of Irina Dorofeeva and guests.

On the night of July 15th-16th — the *Russian Radio* concert. From the stage of the amphitheatre, the guest will hear the best and most relevant hits of BURITO, Hanna, Anna Semenovich, Mitya Fomin, MIA BOYKA, ST, Artem Kacher and others.

Excellent mood and positive guarantees a KVN-concert with the participation of teams of the Major League of KVN and



guests. A holiday of humour and laughter awaits everyone at the main site of the *Slavianski Bazaar* on July 16th. In the evening of the same day, the closing ceremony of the festival will take place.

But that's not all. On July 17th, the amphitheater invites you to the *Chanson TV — All Stars* concert with Tatyana Markova, Soso Pavliashvili, Viktor Korolev, the Lesopoval band, Natalia Senchukova, Viktor Rybin and other famous artists. And the platform of the KZ Vitebsk will be pumped on the waves of *Rock Panorama*. The return of rock to the *Bazaar* — what could be cooler! The programme includes performances by Sergey Bobunets (Smyslovy Gallyutsinatsii), Vadim Samoylov (Agatha Christie) and the SKYNET group.

The atmosphere of *Slavianski Bazaar* is created by a rich theatrical programme,



warm musical meetings in the regional philharmonic society, and, of course, street, truly folk venues. Only in the City of Masters more than 200 participants from different parts of Belarus and Russia will present their work. Local craftsmen will be accompanied by originals from Pskov, Nizhny Tagil, Vologda and Udmurtia...

Ekaterina Labuko, director of the Vitebsk Regional Scientific and Methodological Centre



# Mental load

Grodno is preparing for the CIS Games in a calm rhythm. The arenas where representative competitions will take place in early August, and these are the Grodno Regional Complex Centre of the Olympic Reserve and the Ice Palace of Sports, were recently personally inspected by the Sport and Tourism Minister of Belarus Sergei Kovalchuk. Brief conclusion? Everything is going according to plan, it is only necessary to correct certain details. Which, no doubt, will be done by August.



Aleksandr Furs (centre)

By Vladimir Kozyrev

## It is fashionable to compete in hospitable Grodno

Grodno has the necessary experience in holding major international tournaments. The city, for example, twice hosted the Alexander Kurlovich Memorial Weightlifting Tournament. At the same time, one of them had the status of a qualifying stage for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. So here everything has been tested and brought to a common denominator a long time ago.

As for the home arena of the most titled club in the country, HC Ritm, everything is thought

out to the last detail. In addition, in the language of the military, everyone knows his manoeuvre. Of course, some nuances of preparation remain: somewhere we need to make cosmetic repairs, somewhere we need to clarify the details of refereeing the 5x5 hockey format, which is still kind of exotic for us...

## The clang of iron

In the Ice Palace of Sports, weightlifters aged 15 to 20 fought against rivals and a naughty barbell at the national championship. Even at the approaches, a characteristic clang of iron was heard. Moreover, inside the arena, the usual routine for weight-

lifters flowed: in the warm-up rooms, young athletes, making final estimates and stretching exercises, thoroughly prepared for entering the main platform.

On the platform under the encouraging remarks 'hold, hold!', 'well done!' and others in the same vein were seething with serious passions. About 150 young athletes determined the best in the championship of Belarus. Both boys and girls competed. At the same time, the owners of gold medals will go directly to the 2nd CIS Games, which, let me remind you, will be held in Grodno from August 5th to August 9th.

Taking advantage of a short pause, we talked with the chief secretary of the competition: Aleksandr Furs is sure, "The course of the junior championship of Belarus demonstrated that the conditions in the Ice Palace of Sports are excellent, almost ideal. However, we will make them as such — ideal — by the beginning of the CIS Games, do not even doubt it! In particular, we will move the main platform closer to the stands. The cube is also small, on which there is a



Olga Velimovich: good lift!

live video broadcast. Therefore, we decided with the organisers that we would install a 10x10 metres screen measuring. There are no small things here! Now we have held a mini-meeting, during which we checked the combination of colour combinations on a rectangular scoreboard, where the names and results of competing athletes are displayed. In general, there are no global problems. I am sure that Grodno will hold the tournament at the highest level in August."

We also talked to Olga Velimovich, a 17-year-old master of sports from Mozyr. The girl, far

from superstitions, confidently answered 'yes!' To the 'did you come to Grodno for gold' question of a journalist before the start of the competition. In addition, the words did not match the deeds. In the weight category up to 55 kilograms, she took 80 kilograms in the snatch, 98 kilograms in the clean and jerk, and confidently climbed the top step of the podium with a combined total of 178 kilograms. Therefore, we are waiting for the young champion in Grodno on August 5th!

SPORT



# Crown befits Brest

## Belarusian club became the winner of SEHA League

By Tatiana Pastushenko

SEHA League ended in St. Petersburg with the Belarusian Clásico — HC SKA Minsk and HC Meshkov Brest met on the ground in the decisive match of the tournament. Even after the successfully passed semi-final stage, the head coach of the Brest team Eduard Koshkarov said, "We wanted to avoid this situation and not play with HC SKA Minsk. What can you do, apparently, this is our destiny: to prove something to someone till the end." In fact, it was necessary to prove who is stronger from the first to the last minute.

This season SEHA League was different in its format from the one in which it was held in previous years. The participants

were divided into two divisions. In the East Division, four best Belarusian and Russian teams competed, in the South Division — the Balkans. It was planned that after the preliminary stage, the strongest representatives would clash with each other, but already in April, it became known that there would be no play-offs. As explained on the official website of the tournament, "the clubs in the South Division have recently received a ban from the National Olympic Committees from participating in matches with teams from Russia and Belarus at this stage". Therefore, the fight for the title of winners continued inside the East Division.

In the semifinals, HC SKA Minsk took over Chekhovskiy Medvedi, and HC Meshkov Brest took over GC Permskie

Medvedi. The face-to-face duel of the leaders of the Belarusian handball this season has already become the tenth. Shortly before the Final Four of the SEHA League, HC Meshkov Brest beat HC SKA Minsk three times in the 'golden series' of the championship of Belarus, but according to the results of the meetings in all tournaments, the score was equal: each of the teams scored four victories, one more match ended in a draw. The decisive game of the SEHA League played by principal opponents turned out to be tense. Throughout the match, the Brest team had an advantage

of 3–4 goals, but HC SKA Minsk managed to close the lead. Shortly before the end of the duel, the players of HC Meshkov Brest developed their advantage to five points, but even then, having scored four times, the 'soldiers' managed to get close to the opponent. Yet, the Brest team gained the victory — 32:31 — and became the winners of the SEHA League for the first time.

After the game, the head coach of HC SKA Minsk Igor Papruga congratulated the opponent. The specialist said, "We have been playing in this league for the first time, and the tournament did not disappoint us. They took a worthy place, but they are dissatisfied with it. If we are satisfied with the second place, we will stop in development. In important moments of the match, we lacked discretion, there were extra passes."

"Two teams showed an interesting game, it was not clear until the end who would take the trophy. I think everyone enjoyed it. I thank my team for being the winners. Well done! As for my time in the team, I have not managed to change anything yet. We slightly improved the game. And the boys showed their character, their desire, that's all..."

Eduard Koshkarov summed up the results of the game.

In the match for third place, however, there was no particular intrigue. Chekhovskiy Medvedi defeated GC

Permskie Medvedi: already after the first half of the game, they were leading by 13 goals, and the match ended with a score of 40:30.



## Photo of the week



BELTA

Wolf at the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On June 16th, 1903**, a young American engineer Henry Ford founded his own automobile company, the Ford Motor Company, which later became one of the largest in the world. The main goal of the inventor was the transformation of the car from a luxury item into an essential item.

**On June 16th-19th, 1963**, the world's first female cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova made a space flight. She made a historic flight on the Vostok 6 spacecraft. After Tereshkova, the second woman flew into space only 19 years later. It was made by Svetlana Savitskaya.



**June 16th** is Day of the African Child. It has been celebrated at the initiative of the Organisation of African Unity since 1991. The purpose of the holiday is to attract the attention of the world community, children's and medical organisations, politicians around the world to the problems of African children and to the conditions of their daily life.



**June 17th** is World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It is celebrated by the decision of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly on the day of signing in 1994

in Paris of the International Convention to Combat Desertification. The problem of desertification is a global and urgent issue of world significance. The consequences of desertification and drought are food insecurity, hunger and poverty.

**June 18th** is Medical Workers Day in the Republic of Belarus. The profession of a doctor is one of the oldest in the world, and at present it is in demand literally everywhere. Modern healthcare and the efforts of doctors are aimed not only at treating diseases and maintaining human health, but also at preventing various diseases.



**On June 18th, 1889**, the baby buggy has been patented. The real fashion for baby buggies arose in the 1840s, when the English Queen Victoria, a mother of many children, wanted to walk with her babies in the royal park herself. Since then, the baby buggy has gone through a whole evolution, turning



from a bulky structure, which was opposed by the then paediatricians, into a convenient mean of transportation.



**On June 18th-20th, 1937**, Soviet pilots Valery Chkalov, Georgy Baidukov and Alexander Belyakov performed the world's first non-stop flight aboard an ANT-25 aircraft on the Moscow — North Pole — Vancouver route. The flight took place in extreme conditions. The length of the flight was 9130 kilometres, and it lasted 63 hours and 16 minutes.

**On June 19th, 1862**, the President Abraham Lincoln passed legislation to abolish slavery throughout the United States. However, the slave trade in the Americas still continued until the end of the 19th century. The Convention to Suppress the Slave Trade and Slavery was adopted by the League of Nations only in 1926.



**June 19th** is World Children's Football Day. It was proclaimed by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the 'International Association Football Federation (FIFA) in order to draw the attention of the world community to the problems of children and promote a healthy lifestyle among young people.



**On June 20th, 1928**, Gavrill Vashchenko was born (1928-2014), a painter, teacher, professor, Honored Art Worker of Belarus, People's Artist of Belarus. He worked in the field of easel and monumental painting, watercolours, in the genres of plot-thematic paintings, portraits, landscapes, still lifes. The Gomel Art Gallery named after Vashchenko was created on the basis of the collection of his works donated to Gomel in 1998 and the collection of works of Belarusian masters belonging to him.

**On June 20th, 1948**, a branch of the Yanka Kupala State Literary Museum was opened in the homeland of Yanka Kupala, the village of Vyazyinka, Molodechno District. It is located in the house where Yanka Kupala was born. It is included in the Yanka Kupala Memorial Reserve Vyazyinka.

**On June 20th, 2018**, the National Olympic Stadium Dinamo was solemnly opened in Minsk after the largest, fifth reconstruction since its creation in 1934. The stadium has a modern athletics track, the football field is covered with natural grass, there are sectors for long jump, high jump, pole vault, triple jump, shot put, javelin, discus and hammer throws. Dinamo is a world-class multifunctional arena.

