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INTERNATIONAL

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During a nationwide subbotnik in the Khatyn Memorial Complex

Noble work

A nationwide subbotnik (voluntary labour day) took place in Belarus, during which work was carried out to improve and clean-up workplaces, facilities and territories of settlements, historical and cultural heritage, memorial complexes, places of war and military glory during the Great Patriotic War. According to preliminary data, 2 million 345 thousand people took part in a nationwide subbotnik. Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Igor Petrishenko told journalists about this fact. According to him, 10 million 584 thousand rubles have been earned. This money will be directed to the reconstruction of the Khatyn Memorial Complex. → 3



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Working visit of the President to the Far East

In the very near future, Belarusians will be able to participate in the development of the Vostochny Cosmodrome. The agreement on this was reached during a two-day working visit of the President of Belarus to the Far East. And already in 2023, the Belarusian cosmonaut will go out to the ISS.

On Cosmonautics Day, the Presidents of Belarus and Russia visited the Vostochny Cosmodrome, where they inspected the infrastructure, held talks, and then answered journalists' questions.

Aleksandr Lukashenko became the first foreign leader to visit this spaceport, which demonstrated the highest trust. The presidents arrived at Vostochny together by helicopter. They talked with the staff of the cosmodrome, held confidential negotiations, discussing space, economic co-operation plans and the further development of the two countries under external sanctions.

"Space is our common topic. During the Soviet era Belarusians made a significant contribution to the development of cosmonautics. We have managed not only to restore the former skill sets but to develop many new ones with the help of Russia. As a result, Belarus has entered the club of the space powers," reminded Aleksandr Lukashenko.

"It is important that we managed to preserve and expand co-operation on space research with our Belarusian friends. The countries implement joint programmes in the area. We will continue to strengthen co-operation in this very significant area," Vladimir Putin noted. According to him, workers and specialists, companies and enterprises of Belarus will very soon get an opportunity to participate in the development of the city of Tsiolkovsky and the Vostochny Cosmodrome.

"I won't leave it unanswered. Why do we bother about these sanctions? Won't we be able to build houses?" promised Aleksandr Lukashenko to the employees of the cosmodrome.

So, the Belarusian side must select a group of applicants for a flight into space by June 15th. In addition, Russia and Belarus will jointly participate in a major project for the production and launch of special spacecraft for remote sensing of the Earth. The two allied countries also intend to jointly form the infrastructure in this area. This, according to Vladimir Putin, guarantees the Union State independent access to space. The creation of plasma engines is also recognised as a promising direction.

Vladimir Putin and Aleksandr Lukashenko have no doubts: the Union State will not only survive, but will also flourish, because import substitution will only benefit.

The President of Belarus emphasised,

"Today we already have to look into tomorrow and lay down a brand new economic strategy of development of construction of the Union State of Belarus and Russia in the long term. They say the world will never be the same. It is true. To those, who would very much like to return to the past, as they say, into a comfortable environment, we can say right now: you have to forget about it. The modern world is a fierce struggle, a clash of civilisations."

The President of Russia supports his Belarusian counterpart

"I am convinced that in the current situation, when Western countries have unleashed an all-out sanctions war against Russia and Belarus, it is important to deepen our integration within the framework of the Union State. Mr. Lukashenko and I share this view. We will continue

ical operation staged by Englishmen. If some of you need addresses, passwords, places of secret meetings, plate numbers and brands of the vehicles those people used to come to Bucha and how they did it — Russia's FSB can share these materials. If you don't, we can help in this regard. Together with our Russian friends we have gotten to the bottom of this nasty and disgusting position of the West from

move forward in creating joint assemblies here. To carry less back and forth, and to produce what is needed here."

The issues of purchasing Belarusian mining dump trucks were also touched upon. By the way, Belarusian consumer goods: clothing and furniture are especially popular in Primorye. For three years, Belarus has increased food exports to Primorye by more than seven times.



to jointly oppose any attempts to slow down the development of our countries or artificially isolate them from the global economy."

The personal meeting of the two leaders lasted three hours. Vladimir Putin urged to use all potential opportunities to support each other. Aleksandr Lukashenko assured: Russia can count on Belarusians, Belarus will be together with Russia and will stand side by side in all situations.

Speaking about external pressure, the President of Russia said that the 'blitzkrieg' of the West had failed and would now boomerang at their authors — sanctions would lead to inevitable internal political problems in the European Union itself. And the continued introduction of restrictions can provoke famine in different regions of the world and new waves of migration, including to European countries.

Aleksandr Lukashenko added,

"We once decided that the Cold War was over, that that page was turned over, and we will live in a new civilised and fair world based on mutual understanding and the triumph of international law. We thought so. But the West didn't. They didn't destroy us then. They've decided to try now... No sanctions will tilt us or lead us astray!"

The presidents spoke that day about the situation in Ukraine, including the events in Bucha.

"We've discussed this special operation of theirs in detail — a psycholog-

ical operation staged by Englishmen. If some of you need addresses, passwords, places of secret meetings, plate numbers and brands of the vehicles those people used to come to Bucha and how they did it — Russia's FSB can share these materials. If you don't, we can help in this regard. Together with our Russian friends we have gotten to the bottom of this nasty and disgusting position of the West from

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The working visit of the President of Belarus to Russia also included a meeting with the Primorye Territory Governor Oleg Kozhemyako in Vladivostok and a visit to Russky Island. The conversation was about specific mutually beneficial projects. Representatives of Primorye offered to create here a single service centre for the maintenance of Belarusian equipment. Now the region is actively purchasing Belarusian combines, road equipment, buses. Local enterprises have their own small service stations, but, according to the Governor, it is necessary to actively develop this area of co-operation.

"It is necessary to advance to a new level, create a single centre to instantly respond to all kinds of needs, like maintenance, training, exhibitions. Deliveries from Japan and Korea that have always dominated our market are winding down. I think Belarus will take their place with its machinery and equipment, which was previously imported," Oleg Kozhemyako believes.

Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about the need to create highly efficient joint ventures, "We agreed that we should

However, local farmers and industrialists successfully use equipment from Belarus. The Belarusian elevators have also proved to be excellent. The region plans to replace more than 1,300 elevators by 2030. Based on this, 80 to 100 elevators per year are purchased from the Mogilev plant.

Seafood is actively transported from Primorye to Belarus. As a result, the Governor of the Primorye Territory noted, the trade turnover with Belarus has increased three and a half times in three years. By the end of this year, it will reach six billion Russian rubles.

As the governor noted, the prestige of Belarusian builders is high in the region. They participate, among other things, in the construction of a cultural and educational centre on Russky Island, in which the President of Belarus took part during the visit and personally got acquainted with the progress of work. There will be a choreographic, music school, a kindergarten, a boarding school. A boarding school for students who will be trained in music and ballet, residential buildings for employees and specialists of the complex are also being built.

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that Belarus intends to seriously work with the Primorye Territory,

"I am glad that Belarus will grow together with Primorye in economic terms. We are serious about working here..."

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Nationwide good deed

During a nationwide subbotnik, the Head of State took part in the improvement of the Khatyn Memorial Complex

Together with his team, Aleksandr Lukashenko planted apple trees and wild rose bushes near symbolic log cabins. Then the President took part in the laying of the park of historical memory — 149 trees will grow here according to the number of dead villagers.

“As a symbol that life goes on regardless of how difficult things can be,” explained the Belarusian leader.

March 22nd, 2023 marks the 80th anniversary of the tragedy in Khatyn — by this date the Memorial Complex is planned to be reconstructed and modernised. The Head of State got acquainted with the proposals for the further development of this memorial place and expressed his vision of how the new museum in Khatyn should look like, “I want all the works to begin in May. Report the deadlines, plans, who will work, expert evaluations, designs, and cost estimates to me by 9th May. We have to do everything by this anniversary. Start building the museum right away. We will provide funding. Simplify everything as much as possible.

The exhibition it will have is the key. I want people’s hearts broken already before they walk here.

Back in January, during the Address to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly, the Head of State supported the initiative of the student groups of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union to declare the construction of a new museum in Khatyn an All-Belarusian Youth Construction Site. Therefore, it is no coincidence that not only the President and his team, journalists from the presidential pool, but also activists of the main youth public organisation of the country, led by the head of the public association Aleksandr Lukyanov, came out to work last Saturday. Together with them, there were workers of the local forestry.

Aleksandr Lukashenko, speaking with journalists, stressed the importance of such joint labour events, “We don’t force anyone to work. They do it voluntarily. If you want to work in this case in the name of these people who were burned — including children. They wanted to live — they were burned. We want to pay tribute to the memory of those people. We’ve come. If some scoundrel wants to forget it, cross it out (we see it in our southern neighbour), it is his business. We will fight it ferociously.”

In a conversation with journalists, the President also recalled that there used to be a village church on the territory of the current Khatyn Memorial Complex, near

the old cemetery, and this is one of those elements that may soon appear again.

Important lessons from history

On April 10th, a glaring incident occurred at the Memorial Complex in Buchenwald: an unknown individual replaced the state flag of the Republic of Belarus with a white-red-white flag. Concerned Belarusians staged a protest near the German embassy in Minsk, the country’s ambassador came out to them and even

couldn’t care less about this history and about what happened to these poor people — about 150 kids, women, and old folks.

This ambassador doesn’t care, as well as other ambassadors.

Moreover, according to the President, the actions of Western diplomats are ‘tantamount to fascism’. Aleksandr Lukashenko promised that in the future he would publish important data on the activities of various European ambassadors in Belarus,



Aleksandr Lukashenko also laid flowers at *The Unconquered Man* sculpture in Khatyn. The special symbolism emphasises the place and time of the event. Both young people and the older generation see the true meaning of what it means to remain unconquered through the words and deeds of the Head of the Belarusian State...

apologised for what had happened. As a satisfaction, the diplomat was offered to take part in the subbotnik in Khatyn. However, the ambassador did not come to the Memorial Complex.

Aleksandr Lukashenko commented on this fact, “Don’t trust them, just don’t. For them it has become a thing to come, shed some tears, and say sorry for doing bad things here. If you remember, people came from Austria and Germany (to the Trostenets Memorial Complex in 2018). It seemed that’s it, our land was consecrated and they would never touch this sacred place with dirty hands. Look what happened later on: sanctions, sanctions, sanctions... They do their Anglo-Saxon thing as we tend to call it or the thing of the collective West. They

“We will summarise all the documents and release what they are doing here. You will be horrified.”



The law applies to everybody

Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko has heard out reports of Healthcare Minister Dmitry Pinevich, Prosecutor General Andrei Shved and Chairman of the State Security Committee of Belarus Ivan Tertel. The main topic on the agenda was fight against corruption in healthcare. “How do wars begin? I can prove within 5-7 minutes that injustice is the basis of any war, and corruption is the basis of injustice,” emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko.

According to the President, tough barriers have always been put up against the spread of corruption crimes in Belarus.

“I want to warn that there will be no mercy for those who make money from people’s misfortunes,” warned the Head of State.

Another topic of the meeting was the case initiated in 2018 against orthopedic doctors.

“I know the progress of this operation very well. I kept an eye on it. It didn’t start today or yesterday. I’d warned the healthcare minister about it. But as of today 35 people have been arrested. And I am convinced that more people should be arrested together with them. Nobody is going to dissuade me from it. They didn’t simply hint to people in need of surgeries what imported orthopedic replacement parts they

need but took considerable bribes from foreigners. Sums as large as €300,000, €650,000 were found after searching some of their houses,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The President expects that this case will serve as a good lesson to the Ministry of Health and the head of the department.

The President also set the task of diversifying the supply of medicines in order to prevent their shortage in the domestic market, “Saying that someone does not sell us something is a poor excuse... You know, medical equipment and medicines are not under strict sanctions. If the Americans don’t sell drugs to you, buy them in India, Cuba. It’s just a matter of maneuverability.”

The Head of State instructed Prosecutor General Andrei Shved to take the supply of medicines and other products under control.

During the report, the President was also interested in the situation in healthcare in general and the epidemiological situation in connection with COVID-19.

“I see that our doctors who do not steal but work honestly and fight against COVID-19 show good results, a certain success,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted.

After the report, Dmitry Pinevich told reporters, ***“The epidemiological situation is almost safe. There are only sporadic cases of disease, and the healthcare system has returned to its routine operation by and large. Tertiary medical care is provided in full, routine operations are performed across all specialisations.”***

Healthcare Minister also told President about the fact that our country has launched the production of the Sputnik Light vector vaccine to prevent COVID-19. He showed the package with this medicine to journalists, “This is a full-fledged production, a complete technology transfer. The work on the production of our own vaccine in Vitebsk is proceeding according to the schedule.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Real genocide

International mass grave

The investigation by the Prosecutor General's Office of the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War is ongoing. New facts and circumstances are being discovered, a gloomy picture of the inhumanity of the Nazis and their regional henchmen is emerging more and more clearly. But behind the new facts, one should not forget the old, well-known ones. The Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, with the support of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus, continues the *Real Genocide* project, which combines both well-known episodes of the largest crime against humanity and materials that were inaccessible until recently (or even inaccessible at all). Today you can read a story about Trostenets, which became the largest place of extermination on the territory of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War.

By Maksim Osipov

Objectively speaking

Trostenets became the largest place of extermination on the territory of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War. It ranks fourth after such notorious Nazi death camps in Europe as Auschwitz, Majdanek and Treblinka in terms of the number of victims. Soviet prisoners of war, Jews of Belarus and Western European countries, underground fighters and partisans, residents of Minsk, who were arrested as hostages, perished here. According to official figures, 206,500 people died in Trostenets. According to other sources: 546,000 people died here...

Witnesses testified that the victims of the executions were both peaceful Soviet citizens and

foreign Jews who were brought to Minsk by special transport. The first echelon arrived from German Hamburg on November 10th, 1941. It delivered 990 people, most of whom were just immediately killed, the rest were placed in the Minsk ghetto, where there were about 80,000 local Jews since the summer of 1941. Until the end of November of the same year, six more trains arrived from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria. In the spring of 1942, the deportation of Jews from Western Europe resumed. According to some reports, another 16 trains (about a thousand people each) arrived in Minsk before the onset of winter.

The anti-Semitic policy of Nazi Germany called for the extermination of 11 million Jews in Europe. Plans for the 'Final Solu-

tion to the Jewish Question' began to be shaped in the summer of 1941, and on January 20th, 1942, the leaders of Nazi Germany adopted the Wannsee Protocol: 'Europe is to be combed through from West to East in the course of the practical implementation of the final solution.' The programme was provided for the creation of a ghetto for the concentration and isolation of Jews and their subsequent deportation to extermination camps, a chain of which was organised in Eastern Europe: Auschwitz, Treblinka, Majdanek. The easternmost point in this chain was Minsk and its suburb Maly Trostenets.

Firewood for people...

In the fall of 1943, the Nazis began work to remove the traces of their crimes. A special SD



Igor Marzalyuk, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Deputy of the House of Representatives:

"It is known that Lithuanian death-squads were involved in carrying out operations on the territory of Belarus and Ukraine. They were also noted in Latvia and Poland. The 15th Lithuanian battalion was involved in the destruction of people in the Trostenets camp: according to very approximate estimates, the Lithuanians directly killed more than 1200 people here. Lithuanian Auxiliary Police Battalions located on the territory of Belarus were an obedient and high-quality machine of genocide."

Konstantin Kostyuchenko, sculptor of the Trostenets Memorial Complex:

"At first, my project was based on the theme of the royal gates — these are the main gates of the iconostasis in an Orthodox church, which lead to the altar and symbolise the gates of heaven. Subsequently, the idea arose to create a 'Memory Gates'. I studied archival information about the Trostenets death camp and was just horrified. I understood that the idea of the memorial should be comprehensive. I have to reveal many aspects of those terrible years, conveying pain and tragedy, and at the same time make the work concise so that it harmonises with the landscape."

WHERE DID PEOPLE COME FROM IN TROSTENETS

- Germany
- Czechoslovakia
- Austria
- France
- East Prussia
- USSR



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS



• September 1941 — in the course of implementing the decision to exterminate European Jews, Minsk became one of the main points of deportation.



• November 11th, 1941, — about 1,000 Hamburg Jews arrived in Minsk with the first train. They were placed in the Minsk ghetto.



• August 1941, March 1942 — Reichsführer SS Himmler, responsible for 'Jewish question' in the RSHA Eichmann, and one of the organisers of the 'final solution' Heydrich visited Minsk in turn in order to discuss the extermination programme.



• Spring 1942 — the German Security Police created a camp to ensure their activities in the tract Maly Trostenets on the lands of the former collective farm named after Karl Marx, where prisoners were involved in forced labour. Blagovshchina, a tract nearby, was chosen as the site for the murder of Jews.



• June 1942 — Documents recorded the use of several gas vans ('gas chambers'): prisoners died on the way to Blagovshchina.



• August 10th, 1942, — a special railway line was launched, trains with 'Jews from the Reich' could move directly to the place of execution.



• October 1943 — 'Sonderaktion 1005' secret special operation to remove the traces of the Nazi crimes amid the approaching Red Army took place. The corpses of the victims were exhumed from 34 ditches in the forest of Blagovshchina. They were piled on woodpile and burned.



• End of October 1943 — a ditch was dug up to burn the bodies in order to replace Blagovshchina a few hundred metres from the Maly Trostenets estate, in the Shashkovka tract. Executions were also carried out here from March 1944.



• June 28th, 1944, — a decision was made to liquidate the prisoners of the SS joint camp. Since the crematorium-pit in Shashkovka was 'too small', people were taken to a barn in Maly Trostenets, where they were shot and set on fire. According to various estimates, up to 6,500 people died. There were only 5 days left before the liberation of Minsk...

(According to the materials of the *Trostenets Death Camp in European memory* collection)

(Security Service of the Reichsführer-SS) intelligence agency, using the labour of Minsk prison inmates, dug up and burned in November-December the bodies of about 100,000 people who were shot in the tract of Blagovshchina. Residents of nearby villages had to deliver several thousand cubic metres of firewood to the designated place. It should be noted that the delivery and destruction of crowds of people from Minsk continued during this work.

The investigation conducted in July 1944 has determined that, some of the pits reached a length of 50 metres. During partial opening of random graves at a depth of three metres, charred human bones and a layer of ash with a thickness of 0.5 to 1 metre were found, and under the layer of ash — a dark brown liquid. Charred logs and rails were found along with bones in some pits at the bottom. Around the pits were many combs, dentures, wallets, bowlers and other items for personal use.

To tell young generations. And also show them

In June 2018, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, together with the Federal Presidents of Germany and Austria, Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Alexander Van der Bellen, visited the Trostenets Memorial Complex, where a requiem rally dedicated to the memory of the victims of Nazism was held.

In addition, Aleksandr Lukashenko and the Austrian Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz opened a monument to Austrian citizens who died during the Second World War in the Trostenets Nazi death camp in March 2019. During the ceremony, the Head of State noted, "Our common duty is to tell young generations about the horrors of the war and its victims, so that things like that will never happen again. I am convinced that our joint efforts to commemorate the Nazi victims will help strengthen friendly relations between our countries and peoples."

Under the ruins of capitalism

Elections in France, the second most powerful country in the EU, clearly reflects the socio-political crisis in Europe. However, there is nothing sensational. Europeans are disappointed in traditional parties, the middle class is tired of the permanent drop in living standards, even the developed EU states are gnawed by growing inequality in terms of income, assets, and opportunities. Back in the early 2010s, it was already obvious: either the EU would transform its socio-economic model, or the social conflict would spark and could result in a total radicalisation of the political space. And populists with extremely unconventional views can come to power amid this tendency. Will the West be able to overcome the crisis in its current state?

This is a complex question. One thing is clear: the states in which the socio-economic model is based on the principles of justice, but not solely on economic efficiency will be the first to emerge from the current economic impasse in the world without huge losses.



By Vladimir Volchkov

Lost decade

In an effort to take over other markets, the notorious capitalist world has become too carried away by emission and borrowing. By and large, the debt crisis has been raised and nurtured for a long time, over two decades, or even more.

The current pre-default state of world currencies and the governments of developed countries is the result of their irresponsible policies of a whole generation of leaders.

In the late 2000s, the world went through a series of crises: first, the energy crisis, when the cost of a barrel of oil just immediately reached \$150, then the food crisis began, ending in a financial collapse... But the developed West (though why is it considered developed) flooded all the problems with unsecured money. Why? For political reasons. No matter how proud the developed countries were of their high standard of living, social problems multiplied in these countries: inequality went off scale, the financial and political world merged into a single whole. The existing model of the universe in Western countries has ceased to suit the vast majority of people.

Revolution options

The pandemic had not yet begun, the conflict in Ukraine had not escalated, but the Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab published an article in 2019 in which he clearly stated: the socio-economic model of capitalism has become obsolete. In his opinion, this is true despite this model was based on the principles of the notorious financial and economic efficiency. Schwab clearly wrote: it is logical to evaluate the activities of companies not by efficiency, profitability and dividends, but by the contribution of business to the development of society and human capital.

To some extent, Schwab's keynote article became a harbinger of the popular ESG agenda last year. Another question is that in the end the struggle to reduce the impact on the environment, the achievement of social harmony resulted in the desire of the same Western countries to just strengthen their dominance.

But the original idea, voiced by experts, was extremely rational: a revolution from above. For classical capitalism no longer meets any modern realities.

Accordingly, there are two options: either the capitalist world will change of its own ac-

cord. So to speak, 'revolution' from above. Either society transforms the modern unjust system on its own — 'revolution' from below. By and large, in this case, we can even remove the quotes.

Moreover, the pandemic was not able to mobilise the efforts of the West to restore order in its socio-economic models, but only exacerbated the existing imbalances. And the conflict with Russia, Belarus and sanctions threaten to finally bring down the European economy.

Ordinary citizens in the EU have different attitudes towards Russia, the conflict in Ukraine and Western pressure on opponents. However, they unequivocally oppose the fall of their own standard of living. This process did not begin suddenly in February, but as far back as last year, when due to the ambitions of some politicians in Europe, the energy market that had been forming for decades was 'broken'. Citizens were just freezing, businesses were suffering from high tariffs, and speculators continued to make wonderful money on the volatility of kilowatts per hour of energy. This is fundamentally inappropriate for the electorate, especially young people, who begin to lean towards very radical politicians in their political predilections.

Request for justice

It must be admitted that the level of aggression and xenophobia in many countries is dangerously over the top today. In these not the least danger-

Countries that implement a fair socio-economic model will be the first to emerge from the global economic crisis

ous feelings, people find the answer to the social split that is taking place in the vast majority of Western states. Their leadership is no longer able to consolidate citizens to solve very difficult problems: epidemiological, economic, social and political. Remember the stories with COVID-19 restrictions: any decision resulted in mass protests. We have to state that the feedback between Western society and Western elites has disappeared.

The Belarusian experience is to a certain extent unique: in fact, over 30 years of painstaking work, we in a small state were able to build a model that European countries have tried to strive for in recent years. But they didn't.

There has always been a request for justice, but not everywhere politicians managed to implement it. Undoubtedly, the socio-economic model of Belarus is not perfect, it still needs polishing and cutting. At the same time, it meets the needs of society.

We do have material stratification of society, but it is several orders of magnitude lower than in developed countries. Most importantly, equality of opportunity is preserved: all citizens, regardless of wealth and social status, have access to healthcare, education, and culture. There are social lifts, when everyone can move up the ladder depending on their desire and skill sets.

In the economy, thank God, we have not taken the path of the obsolete monetary capitalism with total private ownership of all resources.

There is also business in the country, there is a public sector, which is not only aimed at commercial effect, but also bears a significant social burden, including creating a standard of behaviour

for the private sector, which must also be more humane, otherwise it will lose competition for the same labour resources.

In fact, we have often been criticised for this approach. Nevertheless, Western countries are puzzled: how to transfer business to a social footing so that it does not think only about profit?! The answers have not yet been found. And in Belarus, our approaches, in fact, are implemented according to the principles of ESG. By and large, the West can learn from our experience.

Of course, Belarus is far from the richest country in terms of financial indicators. But due to a fair social policy and a relatively even distribution of resources among all walks of life, we have managed to achieve a very high standard of living. We also rank high in human development indices. This means that the country is moving forward dynamically.

Obviously, it is not without complications and difficulties, which, to be fair, are imported in many cases.

However, today there is a demand for honesty and justice in the world. And not only politicians, but also ordinary citizens in Western countries are beginning to understand the essence of our development vector. It turns out that it is possible not only to build the economy on liberal soil, but also on the principles of social justice. At the same time, to remain in the market: we compete with companies, including those of capitalist origin.

To some extent, and for this reason, they are trying to isolate Belarus. Our principles clearly do not satisfy the Western political and economic elite.

Another question is that this very elite does not have a very wide choice: they will either have to transform, or their place will be taken by radical populists who will come to power on the backs of an impoverished population.



We will sow and we will reap

To help farmers, domestic breeders have developed 20 new high-yielding varieties of crops

By Inna Gorbatenko,
Yelena Klimovich

Grain comes first

The best samples of foreign selection are no longer a match for domestic ones. Varieties with significantly increased stability, the ability to adapt to adverse environmental conditions, increased baking and fodder qualities — this is the main grain trend of this spring. First Deputy Director General of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Agriculture of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) Eroma Urban especially focuses on yield,

“In new varieties of cereals, it can reach more than 100 centners from one hectare, rapeseed — 60 centners from one hectare, legumes — up to 50 centners from one hectare. At the same time, it is Belarusian varieties of wheat that are most adapted to our climate, because they were created for local environmental conditions. Therefore, it is quite understandable why most farms prefer domestic material.”

The harvest plan set by the Head of State is quite realistic, Eroma Urban believes, “With an average wheat yield of about 4 tonnes per hectare, there is every chance to get the required level.”

Breeders are faced with the task of increasing the resistance of new varieties to invasive types of diseases and pests, and making winter varieties more frost-resistant amid climate change.

Grain breeding is carried out both to improve individual

indicators (protein content, gluten, essential amino acids, technological properties of grain, winter hardiness, productivity), and a complex of economically valuable traits, taking into account the zone of cultivation of the variety and the direction of its use.

The role of the variety in increasing and stabilising the yield is constantly growing. Its contribution to the yield increase is estimated at 35-50 percent.



The ‘old’ varieties are gradually being replaced by new ones — undersized and highly productive. According to Eroma Urban, the focus should be made on drought-resistant species, “In connection with the hot weather without precipitation, which has been common lately, the selection and distribution of non-traditional drought-resistant crops, such as panic grass and millet should be more widely developed on our land. In recent years, the farms have already increased the sown areas for millet and buckwheat.

Co-operation with Russia is an important area for Belarusian scientists. The allied countries are working together to improve the breeding process: we develop

Food security has always been a priority in Belarus, and in the current situation on the world stage, the focus on food will achieve its goal over and over again. This is testified by the indicators: we are in the top 25 states out of 113 in the Global Food Security Index. However, we do not lower our standards: work on a crop of 9 million tonnes of grain is already underway, almost 35,000 machine operators have entered the fields. The developments of our scientists are aimed at helping grain growers. Breeders have replenished the register with 20 varieties, many of which may surprise you with a yield of up to 100 centners per hectare.



joint varieties and provide their zoning. The result of close contact is already tangible: six new varieties are included in the state register of Belarus and Russia, five more are undergoing state testing. And while Europe prepares for famine, we sow. Moreover, we grow bread not only on our own land, but also help our neighbours: varieties of cereals, spring and winter rapeseed, perennial grasses of Belarusian

selection occupy more than 3 million hectares in Russia today. This is just the beginning.”

We have enough seeds and fertilisers

This year, spring is testing our stress resistance not only with the weather. The unprecedented sanctions pressure on Belarus is a no less serious test. First of all, there were problems with supplies from abroad. These are some

seeds, plant protection products. It is known that in our climatic conditions we cannot obtain sugar beet seeds — they are all imported. The main suppliers are Russia, Serbia and other European countries. Nonetheless, Deputy Agriculture and Food Minister Vladimir Grakun assured,

“Despite the forecasts of ill-wishers and fakes stating that there will be nothing to sow, it is possible to claim that the seed material of sugar beet has been fully delivered to our country. Moreover, Western companies also fulfilled their contractual obligations.”

Another import item for the agricultural sector — plant protection products — will also be available. Three plants for the production of plant protection products have been built in Belarus. Own production helped to close the need for such substances this year in case of shortages from abroad.

Herbicides, fungicides, insecticides are imported from Russia and European countries. There is only one change that can cause inconvenience, the Deputy Minister explained: today, sellers of chemical preparations put forward requirements for prepayment, while previously these products were supplied with a deferred payment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A new historical and cultural museum complex will be built at Buinichi Field



Local architects, who provided several draft projects, are working on a layout to create a museum of military glory in the Mogilev Region. According to one of them, it seems that the museum complex is built in the form of the Order of the Patriotic War from a bird’s perspective. This was not done by chance — the city of Mogilev was awarded the Order of the Patriotic War of the 1st class. The most significant turning points in the history of the region, starting from the Northern War will be demonstrated through the prism of the war years in the museum complex. It is expected that the expositions of the historical and cultural complex will be equipped with modern technologies. Most of the exposition will be occupied by the Great Patriotic War, the defence of Mogilev and the Dnieper frontier.

Visa-free entry to Belarus for citizens of Lithuania and Latvia

Against the backdrop of long-term COVID restrictions, citizens of the neighboring EU countries were not able to visit their relatives in Belarus due to the absence of visas. Taking into account these circumstances, as well as in connection with the Orthodox and Catholic religious holidays, the country’s leadership has been granted the right of visa-free entry, departure and stay in Belarus to citizens of Latvia and those having the status of a non-citizen of Latvia, as well as to citizens of Lithuania.

This order is valid from 00:00 April 15th to May 15th inclusive. During this period, this category of foreigners, can use the right of visa-free entry to Belarus an unlimited number of times and stay throughout the country’s territory.



At the exhibition in Hanoi, Belarus was in the honorary status of ‘special guest’

The 31st Vietnam Expo took place in Hanoi. Belarus took part in the largest business forum in the honorary status of ‘special guest’. The exposition featured more than 30 companies demonstrating engineering and petrochemical products, pharmaceuticals, scientific and technical developments, as well as food and beverages.

Thus, the collective stand of the concern Belgospisheprom brought together the exhibits of the largest manufacturers of the food industry. 13 enterprises of the concern, producing canned vegetables and margarine, beer and spirits, sweets and biscuits, food concentrates and malt, advertised their products. Visitors to the exhibition got acquainted with Belarusian marshmallows and marmalade, beer and kvass, confectionery.



Heart under smart protection

The Belarusian Holter monitor will not only be functionally perfect compared to the world analogues, but actually three times cheaper



Perhaps everyone has heard of such a device as the Holter monitor, which accumulates information about the functional state of the human heart. Like any imported device, its cost, equipment and maintenance are expensive. So, what will happen if we make it not just Belarusian but at the same time improved? Specialists of the Institute of Physiology of the National Academy of Sciences thought about this idea. Thus, the first domestic Holter monitor appeared which is now being modernised. What will we get as a result? How many lives and money will we save? These and other questions were answered by a senior researcher at the Laboratory of Neurophysiology of the Institute of Physiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Candidate of Medical Sciences Yegor Lemeshko.

By Vera Arteaga

Real-time health

“Such a device helps a person to live a normal life, doing everyday things, because there is always a doctor behind his ‘back’. After all, there are sudden deteriorations that are difficult to predict. For example, heart failure, myocardial ischemia. Moreover, our device can report this information to the doctor in real-time. This means that human life will be saved,” says the scientist, showing us the first Holter monitor.

The reason for the creation of such a device by our scientists was not only the impressive price of the Holter. With its help, emphasises Yegor Lemeshko, the

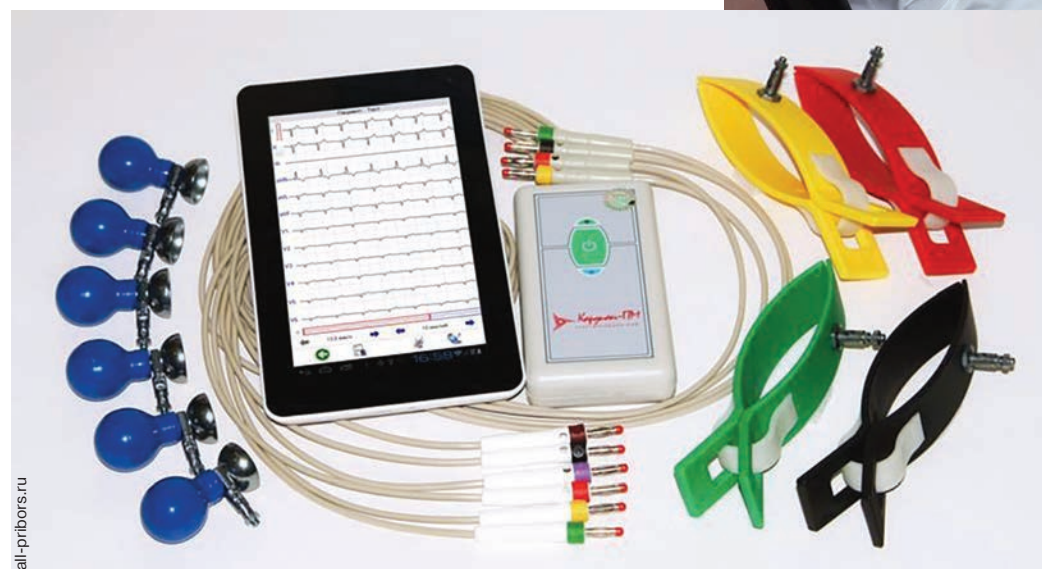
also determined the position of the human body, its activity. The data was transmitted to the server via a GSM modem and then received on the stationary computer of the medical staff. This is significant because, based on such data, we could determine whether the patient was in a critical situation in real-time. If so, send an ambulance there. By the way, the battery capacity of such a device, unlike the usual Holter monitor, was enough for a week of uninterrupted operation.”

Through the use of Artificial Intelligence

At that time, it was know-how. Scientists have created more



Yury Mozolevsky



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gigform.ua

doctor receives information about the patient's condition only after a while. What if the patient needs help during the examination?

Research work on the creation of a new version of the Holter monitor has been going on for a year. The entire programme is designed for five years. After that, preclinical and clinical studies will be carried out, the result of which will be the receipt of a certificate for the production, sale and medical use of such a device. However, this is not the first case, reminds Yegor Lemeshko. From 2013 to 2017, within the framework of the State scientific and technical programme called ‘Development and mastering the production of medical equipment, medical devices and information technologies for medicine’, the first Holter monitor was created together with the Minsk Watch Plant and Belarusian State Medical University, “Our first Holter-type monitor with extended functionality was attached to the patient's body with electrodes and a fixation device. It tracked not only the ECG, but

than 30 such devices. The device has successfully passed clinical, technical and sanitary-hygienic tests. In addition, a certificate for the production, sale and their medical use was received in 2018.

Nevertheless, Yegor Lemeshko notes, the Holter monitor had one drawback: the real-time information that came from it had to be tracked by a specialist. This is a huge waste of human resources. At the same time, the device itself turned out to be highly informative: despite the fact that a person could constantly be on the move, it recorded a high-resolution ECG. The scientist noted that the traditional Holter monitor, which is widely used, transmits the quality of the ECG four times worse, “All this prompted us to continue our work and think about creating software that would reduce the doctor's labour costs as much as possible. In particular, it would indicate deviations from the norm in the state of health of the patient to the doctor. The last decision, of course, is up to the specialist. AI only helps the doctor in making decisions. After all, the situation may not be so

critical, in which case it is enough for the patient to call or send a message. This work is carried out jointly with IT companies, using neural networks so that the machine not only receives, but also analyses incoming information in real-time.”

Scientists also plan to finalise the Holter monitor itself. For example, in terms of noise suppression. After all, a person moves, and maybe goes in for sports. The size of the wearable medical device will also change: the novelty will be ‘reduced’ to half a standard smartphone. Today it is significantly larger. Mounting options will also be different, depending on the scope of application. If this is healthcare, Yegor Lemeshko dwells, it is advisable that the Holter monitor be attached with wires, if it is sports medicine, one can mount it in special knitted tops. It can even be a plate that is placed under the skin of the subject in the heart area for ultra-long monitoring, “The device is able to transfer information to a desktop computer, tablet, smartphone and be used for many years. We are also considering this feature.”

On outpatient, not inpatient basis

However, even such advanced devices have world analogues. Some of them can even be equipped as an erector depending on the goals and objectives. The devices are supplied with LCD screens and work continuously via Wi-Fi. However, there are a number of quite significant differences, says Yegor Lemeshko. This is the fact that, as a rule, such devices operate within the territory of the clinic, and the information is received at the post of the hospital department, within which the examination is taking place. It is not about leaving the clinic with a cardiograph. The second significant difference is the price issue. Belarusian scientists predict that their development will not only be functionally perfect, but actually three times cheaper, “The imported device was created more for inpatient conditions than for outpatient ones. We do not consider this option. With our cardiograph, a person can safely go home, if necessary, change the battery in

the device on his or her own, to take a bath or shower without removing it.”

Scientists also aims at improving some consumables for the Holter monitor, which are also purchased abroad today, “Holter monitor requires imported electrodes. The operating time — from a day to three, and that's only if the electrodes are perfectly fixed on the patient's body. And even then, under the influence of external factors, the surface of the electrode degrades and dries out, noise appears, so the result of the examination may be inaccurate. Today, one examination takes 5-10 such electrodes. The package contains up to 50 pieces, which means that it is enough for 5-10 patients. We are looking for more durable materials to create new domestic electrodes. Scientists from other countries are also thinking about this matter, but their ideas are still at the development stage. It means we are not far behind. In addition to quality, the price will be the key point in this know-how. We don't forget about it.”

First crisis, then catastrophe



Unless G20 leaders, the IMF and the World Bank act immediately, crises of inflation, inequality and COVID-19 could push over a quarter of a billion more people into extreme poverty in 2022, a new Oxfam report warned

First Crisis, Then Catastrophe, published by Oxfam (a British founded confederation of 21 independent charitable organisations focusing on the alleviation of global poverty) ahead of the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings, shows that 860 million people could be living in extreme poverty — on less than \$1.90 a day — by the end of this year.

The World Bank had projected COVID-19 and worsening inequality could push an additional 198 million people into extreme poverty during 2022, reversing two decades of progress. But Oxfam now estimates that rising global food prices alone will push a further 65 million people into extreme poverty this year, a total of 263

million — equivalent to the populations of the UK, France, Germany and Spain combined.

Katy Chakraborty, Oxfam Head of Advocacy said, “It’s clear that a herculean response is needed to tackle the catastrophe facing humanity. Multiple global crises are causing misery for millions of people and just moving aid around to each crisis is not enough; low-income countries need debt cancellation to be able to invest in social safety nets and progressive taxation on the wealthiest is needed now more than ever to provide huge funds for protecting the most vulnerable. “In addition to the shocking extreme poverty figures, millions of people are already experi-

encing severe levels of hunger across East and West Africa, Yemen and Syria. The number of undernourished people could reach 827 million this year.”

The report notes that a wave of governments are close to defaulting on their debts and are being forced to slash public spending to pay creditors and import food and fuel. The world’s poorest countries are due to pay \$43 billion in debt repayments this year, which could otherwise cover the costs of their food imports. Global food prices hit an all-time high in February, surpassing the peak crisis of 2011. Oil and gas giants are reporting record-breaking profits, with similar trends expected to play out in the food and beverage sector.

Russia to ‘reinforce its borders’

Moscow has said it will be forced to strengthen its defences in the Baltic if Finland and Sweden join NATO

Dmitry Medvedev, the Deputy Chair of Russia’s Security Council, wrote on his Telegram channel that Russia would bolster all its forces — including deploying nuclear weapons — in the region if the two Nordic countries joined the US-led alliance.

Their accession to the alliance would more than double Russia’s land border with NATO members, Mr. Medvedev said. “Naturally, we will have to reinforce these borders by bolstering ground, air and naval defences in the region,” he said.



Dmitry Medvedev also said that Finnish and Swedish NATO membership would mean there could be ‘no more talk of any nuclear-free status for the Baltic: the balance must be restored’.

Russia had ‘not taken such measures, and was not going to’, said Dmitry Medvedev. “But if our hand is forced, well... take note it wasn’t us who proposed this.”

Brooklyn subway shooting suspect arrested

New York City Police Department officers arrested Frank R. James, the 62-year-old who was named a suspect in the shooting at a New York City subway that left dozens of injured

A man who was wanted in connection with a shooting on a New York City subway train has been apprehended after a 30-hour manhunt, officials announced.

“We hope this arrest brings some solace to the victims and the people of the city of New York,” New York City Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell told reporters during a news conference. The attack sent shock waves across the United States’ largest city, where millions of people take the subway every day.

An attacker set off smoke bombs aboard a subway train at around 8:30 a.m. local time, then opened fire with

a handgun, shooting 23 times. The attack left 29 people injured, including 10 who were shot, though none of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening, officials said. Five of the victims were young people commuting to school, New York Governor Kathy Hochul said. The motive of the shooting is not yet known.

James was charged in federal court with violating a law that prohibits terrorist and other violent attacks against a mass transportation system, according to Breon Peace, US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York. If convicted, he could spend life in prison, Peace said.



Microplastics first found deep in lungs of humans

Particles discovered in tissue of 11 out of 13 patients undergoing surgery, with polypropylene and PET most common

Microplastic pollution has been discovered lodged deep in the lungs of living people for the first time.

The scientists said microplastic pollution was now ubiquitous across the planet, making human exposure unavoidable and meaning ‘there is an increasing concern regarding the hazards’ to health.

Samples were taken from tissue removed from 13 patients undergoing surgery and microplastics were found in 11 cases. The most common particles were polypropylene, used in plastic packaging and pipes, and PET, used in bottles.

People were already known to

breathe in the tiny particles, as well as consuming them via food and water. Workers exposed to high levels of microplastics are also known to have developed disease.

Microplastics were detected in human blood for the first time in March, showing the particles can travel around the body and may lodge in organs. The impact on health is as yet unknown. But researchers are concerned as microplastics cause damage to human cells in the laboratory and air pollution particles are already known to enter the body and cause millions of early deaths a year.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

This is the battle for the new world

Now there is a final showdown of how the West can restrain the development of other poles of strength — Russia and China



However, European elites once again show the absence of real subjectivity, a position subordinate and dependent on the Americans. All sanctions and restrictions imposed by the US, Britain and the EU against Belarus and Russia will most likely be applied against China in the future.

This reality should be accepted (including by the Chinese leadership), because the West plans to deal with us one by one, and the signs are already visible. For example, the events in Pakistan, when Prime Minister Imran Khan was suspended from his post and then replaced by Nawaz Sharif. It is not without reason that analysts see the change of power in this key South Asian country as a game of the West to exclude Pakistan from China's allies.

Of course, China, acting according to its own logic and in its own interests, avoids direct confrontation with the United States, and there

By the political analyst
Alekssei Dzermant

Perhaps the majority of political analysts will agree with the thesis that the events taking place around Ukraine today are a battle not so much for Ukraine itself, but for what the new world will be like. The world that appears after more than 500 years of the West domination. After all, the fate of the borderlands of East and West, Eastern and Western Europe, and the whole of Eurasia, as many times before, is being decided now in the Donbass and the Black Sea region. It is in Ukraine that it is finally becoming clear to what extent the West can restrain the development of new (and in fact revived) poles of strength: Russia and China.

No doubt approach

The strategy of the leading country of the Western world — the United States and its allies — was and is that in Eurasia there would be no power or alliance of powers capable of challenging their absolute dominance in the military sphere, technology and finance.

By engaging in close economic co-operation with China to implement the strategy of isolating the

Soviet Union, the US believed that it would remain a junior partner with whom the US would share the burden of running the world. According to their plan, China had to do all the dirty work for America.

Nonetheless, the Chinese elites did not agree with the role assigned to them and relied on an independent policy. As a result, the country has become even stronger and acquired much more reliable allies and partners. For example, Russia.

Naturally, it was unacceptable for the United States. For the American elites, the question was: a hybrid war with China and Russia is inevitable, it is necessary to decide who needs to be neutralised first — Russia or China. Trump and the Republicans saw the primary threat in China, the Democrats and Biden — in Russia.

The latter came to power, and a clash with Russia became almost unavoidable. That is why Ukraine seemed the best place for it. For Russia and Belarus, this is not just a neighbouring country, but the cradle of our unity and brotherhood, so the mission of its liberation from the haze of Nazism and nationalism, which Russia has undertaken, is just sacred.

The Americans, the British, and their satellites plan to dismantle and strangle us in this struggle, which is being waged by proxy wars — this time in Ukraine. They need Ukraine solely as a tool capable of causing us maximum harm.

From this damage, we must suffer to such an extent that we cannot resist at all, and in the end we will simply be subdued and destroyed. If this happens, then China will be the next target — an equally dangerous adversary for the West.

Complex configuration

The proxy war taking place in Ukraine was directly shaped against Belarus and Russia, as well as against China, because the development of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative linking Europe and Asia is already called into question. The US is hitting on Chinese projects, isolating Europe from the rest of Eurasia in order to firmly keep it within the Euro-Atlantic bloc.

In fact, this means the extreme weakening of Europe, its isolation from the sources of growth in the East and a rigid military-political and economic attachment to the US in order to continue to maintain its geopolitical and financial position in the world at the expense of Europe.

is absolutely no need for confrontation with Europe instead of logistics and trade hubs. But that is precisely why the conflict was unleashed around Ukraine — a key transit country, with the involvement of China's allies and partners.

The future configuration of forces in Eurasia now largely depends on the outcome of a special military operation in Ukraine, and it is extremely important to prevent this country from becoming a 'traffic jam' between West and East, which could lead to an explosion threat.

The interests of Russia, Belarus and China coincide here, and the true interests of Ukraine too, but it needs to be freed from the power of those whose policies have turned the country into ruins. As a result of the special operation, Ukraine should become a safe transit space that does not pose any threat to its neighbours.

If everything works out, then Russia and China will be able to begin the full-fledged unification of Eurasia. And this is extremely beneficial for Belarus, which is vitally interested in peaceful co-operation in the region. It is for peace and security that this battle is ultimately fought.

Outlook on the tourist season

Last year, the number of organised tours exceeded one million, twice as many as in 2020

The peak season in tourism is super pumped. This year, our country relies again on domestic tourism. Director of the Tourism Department of the Sports and Tourism Ministry Irina Voronovich shared about what sights will be appreciated in the current warm season, how they intend to popularise recreation in the country and when the cashback system will start working in Belarus.



By Maria Druk

More trips to where there are fewer people

— The situation in the world suggests that domestic tourism will be in trend this year as well. According to your observations, what destinations for recreation will be in the top demand among Belarusians?

— For the third year in a row, the pandemic has made its own adjustments to summer holidays. In addition, the situation in the world also affects the industry: we see that there aren't many options for traveling abroad. Individual trips and tours will remain available. Trips out of town and camping trips on weekends will be trending. So the ecological routes of nature reserves, wildlife area and national parks will definitely be in demand. As well as accommodation in hunting houses, farmsteads located in the outback, closer to nature. However, the farmsteads offer long-term accommodation due to the variety of pastime options. Such places

are now in the top demand. For example, the Augustow Canal attracts many Belarusians not only with its unique nature, which you can safely enjoy, but also with the well-equipped infrastructure for outdoor activities — kayaking and cycling.

On hot days, as it was last year, the resting places near the water will surely be filled. Therefore, today the task is to equip such places as much as possible so that vacationers of any age can have fun and spend their time there comfortably.

In general, we see that domestic tourism has played out in fresh colours. Our task is to actively develop the infrastructure so that more Belarusians can relax qualitatively in the country. I am glad that the number of organised tourists and holiday-makers is growing: in 2021 it exceeded 1.188 million people, which is twice as many as in 2020. It is 7 percent more than in the pre-pandemic 2019, when their number was 1.1 million people. I am sure that the trend will remain, and the results will surprise you this year.

excursions. It is impressive how dump trucks are assembled at BELAZ or tractors at MTZ, how flax is turned into fabric. The Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade Ministry is responsible for gastronomic tourism. Last year, they improved their work to develop this area. It is logical: Belarus is famous for its ethnic cuisine.

At the same time, certain types of tourism depend on external circumstances. For example, business is now on pause for a number of objective reasons. People seem to show less interest in nostalgic and religious tourism amid the epidemiological situation and difficulties with traveling.

At the same time, it is not easy to draw clear lines between different types of tourism, they are interconnected. Therefore, our common task is to make these options brighter, more noticeable, to tell people where to go.

about the country describing its historical and cultural heritage, the ecological component of tourism, and the preservation of traditions. This year we will try to show another side of these regions, perhaps from the point of view of the development of sports tourism and gastronomy.

Accumulated experience

— Each region and Minsk have chosen topics that they intend to reveal through clustering — associations of different organisations working on a common idea, a common brand. When will it be possible to drive on all seven new routes?

— Unfortunately, this cannot be done at once — each project is designed for a different implementation time. For example, in Minsk they intend to make 11 full-fledged tourist zones in five years. Now they are finishing only the first one — the 'Verhni Gorod'. It is equipped in every possible way, QR codes are placed, signs with information about significant objects on the way. In the Grodno Region, they focused on developing a network of tourist information centres in the region, it remains only to connect one or two districts. The 'Patriotic impulse' of the Gomel Region is almost finished: all historical and memorable places have been prepared. The Vitebsk Region is implementing a project under the beautiful name 'Vasilkovy Krai'. As a result, a kind of 'golden ring' of the region should appear with the implementation of QR codes and mobile applications. The Minsk Region will make two mobile applications that will help in unleashing the potential of the region during the implementation of its 'Pristolichie' tour route. The 'Tourist region of Pripjat Polesie' project is being formed in the Brest Region. I personally really want to go and see the 'Chigirinka' eco-tourist recreational cluster. This is another name for a project in the Mogilev Region. And there, the basic idea is that the reservoir of the same name will be fully landscaped, prepared for active recreation. There will be all conditions for the development of various tourist services.

It should be noted that all projects are different. The regions chose them based on their interests and capabilities. Then their experience can be easily transferred to another region. At the end of the year it will be possible to sum up the interim results.

— There are 12 appointed types of tourism in the country. At a meeting of the final collegium of the Sport and Tourism Ministry of Belarus at the beginning of the year, Deputy Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko called for intensifying work on them. What do you plan to do to remind Belarusians about the variety of recreation options in our country?

— Indeed, the tourism development programme outlines the directions that we must develop. Not only the Sport and Tourism Ministry is devoted to it — other ministries are also involved in the process. They are preparing a plan for the year, a kind of road map, where events are prescribed to develop the issue. For example, the Industry Ministry oversees industrial tourism, and there is already significant progress in this direction; many industrial enterprises are straightening out, starting to arrange

— There is some information, but it is some kind of scattered information, and it would be great if it all could be available on one platform.

— We understand that there is such a request, therefore, Tsentrukort tries to designate all tourist routes, accommodation facilities, sights, leisure and recreational places on the vetliva.by website. People can also book a place of their choice there. In addition, the National Tourism Agency has made a guide map on its website that is especially convenient for individual tourists. One can select several interesting points on the map, determine the type of transport — and the system will immediately suggest a route, calculate the cost and show other interesting sights nearby. We will continue to update this service.

Earlier this year, the National Tourism Agency presented seven mini-films about each region and

Fight to protect

The *Bold Step* charity project of the President's Sports Club was launched in Grodno. It became the seventh region where children aged 10 to 15 who found themselves in difficult life situations got the opportunity to practice Thai boxing and kickboxing for free under the guidance of highly qualified coaches. In the Grodno Region, for example, boys and girls will be taken under the patronage of the multiple world and European champion Dmitry Varets.

By Katerina Charovskaya

The President's Sports Club initiated the creation of sports groups for children in need of support and encouragement two years ago. The idea was supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Belarusian Kickboxing and Thai Boxing Federation. Thanks to joint efforts, specialised sports centres were opened in Minsk, the Minsk Region, Mogilev, Polotsk, Gomel and Brest. Finally, the kids from Grodno got a unique opportunity to practice Thai boxing under the guidance of eminent athletes.

The opening ceremony of the sports hall was attended by Dmitry Lukashenko, Chairman of the Central Council of the President's Sports Club. He told those present the details of the project implementation, "The opening of this hall marks the completion of the first stage of the *Bold Step* sports and charity project. Initially, we faced a difficult task: to open something like such halls in every region of our country and staff these facilities with professional coaches. We fulfilled this task, and I think we did well. And it took off from there. Four participants of the *Bold Step* have already become candidate masters of sports. Our students have already received three gold, four silver, and five bronze medals at republican competitions. I am sure that this



Dmitry Lukashenko, Chairman of the Central Council of the President's Sports Club: 'I am sure that this project has a great future'

project has a great future."

Yuri Karayev, Assistant to the President, Inspector for the Grodno Region, Chairman of the Belarusian Kickboxing and Thai Boxing Federation was among those who considered it their duty to attend the opening ceremony. In his speech, he drew attention to the unique opportunity that the children will get thanks to the initiative of the President's Sports Club, "Not all families can pay big money for their children to attend prestigious and fashionable sports groups. Thai boxing is the kind of sport that Belarusians literally broke into a few years ago thanks to Yevgeny Dobrotvorsky and my current deputy Anatoly Simonchik. This happened thanks to their selfless devotion to coaching and students who are now well-known all over the world. Here, in Grodno, there is Dmit-



Aleksandra Sheffler — a multiple champion of Belarus

ry Varets. This is a Thai boxing legend, an iconic fighter that everyone in the city knows. He will raise new champions. Now I turn to children. Kids, under the leadership of Dmitry Varets you will become real fighters. Even if you don't become champions, you can protect the weak on the street, stand up for

the country, for yourself, for your family."

Chairman of the Grodno Region Executive Committee Vladimir Karanik also expressed his high appreciation for the opportunities provided by the implementation of the *Bold Step* project for children, "This is a bold and big step towards the development of mass sports. We understand that this will give children the opportunity to engage in sports and physical development. In Thai-

weak. Yes, it's a fight club. But here they are taught to protect."

In fact, the *Bold Step* project is a well-coordinated work of three departments. The Ministry of Internal Affairs provides for the use of its sports training centres for systematic training. The Belarusian Kickboxing and Thai Boxing Federation appoints the coaches. The President's Sports Club provides gratuitous sponsorship for equipping the facilities, purchasing equipment and paying for the work of coaches. Last year, Staiki hosted competitions in which 96 participants of the *Bold Step* project took part. There are obvious sports achievements in addition to the organisational ones: Miron Borborovich became the bronze medallist of the 2022 European Championship.

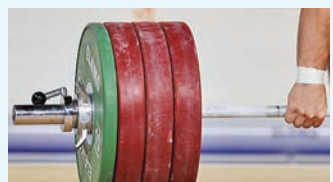
Now, thanks to highly qualified coaches, Grodno children will also be able to achieve the top positions in sports. Their future coach Dmitry Varets, Master of Sports of International Class, is sure of this, "About 30 people can practise in this hall at the same time. We are ready to work in several shifts, attract additional coaches to engage and keep the children of the project busy."

The champion is sure that training will help the guys who find themselves in difficult life situations to reach their full potential and achieve significant results in the future.

ARENA

● Belarusian and Russian Weightlifting Federations signed a co-operation agreement

The day before, BWF Chairman Pavel Lobachev met in Moscow with RWF President Maxim Agapitov. The meeting was also attended by BWF Secretary General Sergey Samusev and Executive Secretary of the Belarusian Federation Vitaly Kreydich. The parties discussed



options for organising and holding joint competitions and training camps, as well as the possibility of participation of Belarusian athletes and referees in Russian tournaments. As a result

of the meeting of the leaders of the federations, an agreement on co-operation was signed.

● Handball players of the women's national team of Belarus began preparations for tournaments in Minsk and Moscow

The coaching staff of the Belarusian team, headed by Alexander Sytko, invited 25 handball players to a training camp at the RCOP sports complex in Raubichi.

On the first day of the competition on April 22nd, Belarusian handball players will meet with the Chinese team. In case of victory, the national team of Belarus will play with the winner of the tie between the first and second national teams of Russia on April 23rd, and if they lose, they will meet with the loser of the game of two Russian squads.

● Belarusian boxers will take part in the Victory Cup tournament in Russia



International competitions will start on June 15th in St. Petersburg, the final is scheduled for July 22nd and will be held on Red Square in Moscow. The prize fund of the tournament will be more than 10 million Russian rubles.

"It will be a series of team duels in a number of cities with the participation of Belarusian athletes. The Victory Cup will replace the Boxing World Cup, which was supposed to start

in Russia in June. The strongest boxers, world and Olympic champions will compete at the upcoming tournament," said Tatyana Kiriyyenko, Secretary General of the Russian Boxing Federation.

● Yuri Shevtsov remains as the head coach of the Belarusian men's handball team

Yuri Shevtsov will continue to work as the head coach of the Belarusian men's handball team. This decision was made at a meeting of the executive committee of the Belarusian Handball Federation.

However, there have been changes among the assistant coaches of the national team: Dzmitry Nikulenkau became the chief coach instead of Igor Papruga, and Ivan Sanko, who



replaced Nikolai Zenko, will work with the goalkeepers.

Yuri Shevtsov, who is 62 years old, led the Belarusian national team in July 2009. Under his leadership, Belarusian handball players participated in the final stage of the World Men's Handball Championship (2013, 2015, 2017) for four times and for five times in the final tournament of the European Men's Handball Championship (2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022).



Coach Dmitry Varets with future wards

Photo of the week



Alekssey Shteynman

Since ancient times, the consecrated Easter cake, symbolising Christ present at the festive table, has been one of the main symbols of Christian Easter in Belarus

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



April 21st is World Creativity and Innovation Day. It is also a commemorative date of the United Nations. Thanks to the

introduction of advanced technologies, many of which are the product of creativity and innovation, conditions are being created to improve living standards in all corners of the globe. Economic innovation contributes to the development of economic potential, which should provide a solution to the problems associated with poverty and hunger.

April 22nd is Forensic Expert Day in the Republic of Belarus. It was established by decree of the Head of State in 2018. The document was adopted in order to improve the status of the profession of a forensic expert, to consolidate and develop traditions in the field of forensic science.



April 22nd is International Mother Earth Day. Proclaimed by the resolution of the UN General Assembly on April 22nd, 2009. The Earth and its ecosystems are our home. They provide life for humanity. The term 'Mother Earth' is generally accepted in many countries and reflects the relationship between the planet, its ecosystems and humans.



On April 23rd, 1917, The First Belarusian Company of Drama and Comedy was created in Minsk with performances of *Paulinka*

by Yanka Kupala and *In Winter Night* by Eliza Orzeszkowa in the building of the Minsk City Theatre. It was founded by Florian Zhdanovich with the participation of Ignat Buinitsky and Vsevolod Falsky. The company has played an important role in the cultural life of Belarus and in the development of Belarusian professional theatrical art.

On April 24th, 1892, Joseph Simanovsky was born (1892-1967), a Belarusian librarian, bibliographer, translator, Honoured Cultural Worker of BSSR. He worked as the Director of the State Library of the BSSR named after Lenin (now the National Library of Belarus) in 1922-1937, 1944-1961. Joseph Simanovsky was the author of works on the theory and methodology of library science.



On April 24th, 2002, the solemn opening of the Minsk Jewish Community House took place. MJCH is a symbol of the unity of Jewish organisations working

to develop and support social, cultural and educational programmes in the Jewish community. It is open both to all members of the Jewish community and to those who respect the Jewish people and their traditions.

April 24th is Easter or Easter Sunday for Orthodox Christians — the most ancient and important feast of the liturgical year. The Easter service begins at midnight on Sunday. All of it is a solemn hymn to the Resurrection of Christ, the reconciliation of God and man, the victory of life over death. On the Easter holiday, breaking the fast begins after a long Great Lent, and the main attributes of the festive table are painted eggs, Easter cake and Paskha.



On April 25th, 1937, the Belarusian State Philharmonic was opened in Minsk. The Belarusian State Philharmonic was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour for outstanding success in the development of the Belarusian musical art in 1940. In April 1963, the opening of the concert hall of the Belarusian State Philharmonic for 930 seats near Yakub Kolas Square in Minsk took place.



On April 26th, 1842, the Brest Fortress began to operate as a first class fortress. It consisted of a citadel and three



fortifications that protected it. An earth rampart 10 metre high with brick casemates ran along the outer line of the fortress, behind which channels were dug with bridges thrown over them. From the very beginning of the Great Patriotic War, the garrison of the Brest Fortress took the first attacks of the Nazi invaders and held the line for more than a month. In 1971, the Brest Hero Fortress memorial complex was opened.



April 26th is International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day, Day of Remembrance for victims of radiation accidents

and catastrophes. The Day of the Chernobyl tragedy in the Republic of Belarus. National day of mourning. The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant has become a symbol of the largest man-made disaster in the history of mankind. On April 26th, 1986, a powerful explosion, equivalent to 500 Hiroshima bombs, occurred at the fourth power unit of the plant. This event drastically changed the lives of millions of people.