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INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 41 (903) ● THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021 ● WWW.SB.BY



People's Master of the Republic of Belarus Tatiana Kovaleva in the ethno-room of the District House of Crafts in Khotimsk, Mogilev Region

Secret code of rushniks

Tatiana Kovaleva from Khotimsk mastered the loom from scratch in retirement and is now reviving folk traditions: her works are exhibited at international festivals, her items are bought not only by residents of the district centre, but also by guests from neighbouring countries. The craftswoman's rushniks (traditional Slavic towels with embroidery) and vyshyvankas (embroidered shirts) have even travelled to France where the folk patterns are greatly enjoyed. → **7**



We have common tasks and we'll solve them together

A decisive step in the integration of Russia and Belarus, Leopard tanks on the border with our country, the genocide of the Soviet people. These and other topics were tackled by the President with the Prosecutor General of Russia.



Prosecutor General of Russia Igor Krasnov and Prosecutor General of Belarus Andrei Shved

By Dmitry Umpirovich,
Polina Konoga

Driving a wedge will not work

Later, the Kremlin confirmed the participation in the Supreme State Council meeting of the Russian President Vladimir Putin via video link. This is in response to those ill-wishers who have recently spread rumours about Belarusian-Russian relations. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that some media outlets have recently been trying to drive a wedge into this relationship which won't work.

"We are experienced people, especially you, as you have seen a lot in life because of your profession. I'm sure you understand what is going on around us. We cannot escape this political baggage," stated the Head of State.

The leaders of both countries agreed to sign twenty-eight Union State programmes during the upcoming meeting of the Supreme State Council. In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko, in a conversation with Igor Krasnov, anticipated that some people might say that Belarus and Russia are doing that because 'they have nowhere else to go', since there are sanctions against both countries and there is only one ally for Belarus... At the same time, he emphasised,

"The work was started long before those events here, and in Russia, before these sanctions. We have seen once again who our friends are, who our rivals are, who our real enemies are. We see all that. I think that new facts will be unveiled every day."

Being able to stand up for oneself

Here's another fact which deals with the ongoing militarisation along the western borders of our country. The Head of State

identified the problem, "Russia has certainly paid attention to it too. Poland decided to fight illegal migration on the border with Belarus with the help of Leopard tanks. You'd probably be surprised by that. Are they going to use tanks against civilians? They are just looking for any excuse to move their troops closer to our borders, the borders of the Union State."

Belarus will not look calmly on such antics of the collective West. Yes, our doctrine is purely defensive and we do not claim foreign territories, but we can stand up for ourselves. Aleksandr Lukashenko warned,

"We see all this and, of course, our reaction will be very harsh. We'll wait a while. We will warn them. Belarus has reason to move closer to the borders, let alone the Russian Federation. We will act harshly, disregarding any criticism from their side. We know what they want."

Remembering history

Our country really knows the value of peace. It is not for nothing that the General Prosecutor's Office of Belarus opened a criminal case this year and continues to carry out very serious work on recognising the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War. Aleksandr Lukashenko did not fail to discuss this issue with Igor Krasnov. He applied for assistance, noting that the Russians always provide support, "I have a personal request for you: could you join this effort if you have an opportunity?"

I think we will go further than Belarus in this. We have much to say and show about the events happening in the territory up to the Urals. Stalingrad, the area near Moscow, Leningrad. A real genocide. We must keep working on it in order to show all

The Presidential Office welcomed the Russian Prosecutor General Igor Krasnov. For the Belarusian Head of State, any meeting with a guest from the Russian Federation is an occasion not only to discuss issues of interaction between specialised departments, but also to outline the topical points of contact between the two countries. Their upcoming agenda will include the Supreme State Council of the Union State on November 4th. Aleksandr Lukashenko called this event very important, "Because over the past years, or maybe a decade and a half, we have been making a decisive step in our integration. As President Putin, my counterpart, said, this is how we will resolve many, if not all, issues in the economy. In his words, we are building the foundation of our future relations. I think that these relations will be productive. I hope that we will make a concrete and powerful step forward."

these vile and filthy people what role the Soviet people played during the Second World War, the Great Patriotic War, defending their sovereignty, security and human rights and freedoms as they call them today."

The meeting also tackled current issues. Aleksandr Lukashenko immediately made it clear to the Prosecutor General of Russia: he did not come to a foreign country for himself but to his own home, and from this he should proceed. Moreover, co-operation between the two departments has always been fruitful, "There are plenty crooks both in Belarus and Russia. And as the Prosecutor General has told me, there have never been problems during the joint fight against them. I want to assure you: no problems will emerge from our side. My involvement is not even needed here. The Prosecutor General will resolve any issues related to the fight against crimes committed by Russians in the territory of Belarus and by Belarusians in the territory of Russia. We have no problems here due to our agreements, arrangements and your contacts. We are able to resolve all issues. I assure you once again... I would like to emphasise once again that we are kith and kin, we have common tasks and we will solve them together."

Synchronising watches on time

The Russian guest, in turn, thanked the President for the opportunity to meet and admitted that it is a great honour for him to be in Minsk and 'to discuss various issues and areas of co-operation between the supervisory departments of our states'. Moreover, he added,

"First of all, with no other prosecutor general's offices in the world does the Russian Prosecutor's Office co-operate as closely as with the prosecutors of Belarus. Every year we compare notes with the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus taking into account the international and regional agenda, and we outline priority areas of our work for the near future."

The common tasks of the two departments are implemented thanks to the joint collegium of the prosecutor generals of Russia and Belarus, established within the framework of the Union State, at which various issues of protecting business, countering cybercrimes and drug trafficking are discussed.

The Prosecutor General of Russia outlined the current agenda as follows,

"Today, external attempts to destabilise the sit-

uation in Russia and Belarus are of particular mutual concern. This is done using, inter alia, extremist and terrorist groups. This situation is particularly alarming in connection with the current developments in Afghanistan."

In this regard, Igor Krasnov believes that the parties need to adjust security issues throughout the CIS. Moreover, the attention of the prosecutor's offices of both countries is also focused on the observance of the rights and freedoms of socially unprotected segments of the population, environmental protection, the fight against corruption, combating domestic violence and crimes against children.

...Together with his Belarusian counterpart Andrei Shved, Igor Krasnov discussed issues of bilateral interaction, including extradition, taking measures to reduce overdue foreign receivables, countering extremism, investigating the criminal case on the genocide of the Belarusian population during the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period, as well as ways of combating crimes using information and communication technologies, including the criminal use of cryptocurrencies and other virtual assets.



Igor Krasnov and Andrei Shved laid wreaths at the Victory Monument in Minsk

Made for the people

Unique production of Bellesbumprom. Details of the President's working trip to the Gomel Region.

A very complex production. Space-level technology! Who would have thought that such an epithet from experts would be awarded to a new enterprise at the Dobrush Paper Mill Geroy Truda? It really amazes with its scale and economic effect. Last week, the President personally praised the production of coated and uncoated cardboard, calling it unique. Aleksandr Lukashenko also stressed, "We know how to do everything when we are sovereign, independent, when we understand what we are doing for ourselves and our people."



By Yevgeny Kononovich,
Dmitry Umpirovich

One good turn deserves another

In total, about \$350m was spent on the new venture. And although the plant will reach full capacity presumably in a year, we can already say that the money will be paid off many times over. But first, the Chairman of the Bellesbumprom Concern, Mikhail Kasko, reported to the President on how the industry worked in 2021, "We have historically the lowest stock balances. Demand is very good; we didn't expect it to be so high. We export 80 percent of what we produce. Prices for all products are also the highest in history.

This year, we will add more than \$250m in exports and come close to \$900-950m."

Such a favourable conjuncture enables the enterprises of the industry to gradually pay off debts, repay budget loans and bank loans issued against guarantees from the Government.

Fine tuning

The new company for the production of coated and uncoated cardboard is gaining momentum. From June to September, almost 9,000 tonnes of products have already been manufactured here, said Aleksandr Kolyada, Director General

of the Management Company of the Belorusskiye Oboi Holding. They work in close cooperation with the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Cardboard Mill. It's impossible to make cardboard without bleached pulp. The technology is only at first glance simple, in fact, as Mr. Kolyada says, it is space-level technology, "There are 2,500 sensors here that receive 4,000 signals. A very complex, fine-tuning procedure."

And the wages in such jobs are appropriate. For example, machine operators and cardboard cutters receive over Br1,600 (about \$650), leading technologists — Br2,200-2,300 (about \$900-940). The new facility already employs 509 people, with 40 more jobs being vacant. Most of them are high-tech, requiring special training, knowledge and experience.

According to the Director General, next year the enterprise plans to produce 120,000 tonnes of cardboard, subsequently reaching the design capacity of 200,000 tonnes. Moreover, 90 percent of the production will go abroad. That is, we will not only cover internal needs, but also earn currency.

The Head of State familiarised himself with the principles of operation of the main technological equipment and then talked with the labour collective of the factory,

"The construction of this unique facility is finally over. We can learn lessons from the many challenges we faced during its construction. And we have learned a lot: how to build and how to supervise the process. I am pleased that we have completed the project."

The President is convinced that the new production in Dobrush opens up new prospects not only for the town itself, but also for the country as a whole, because enterprises in other regions will also develop. The main thing, of course, is people's well-being.



Pressure from the outside

The President noted that the state has done much to create a new production facility at the Dobrush factory. A lot of money has been invested, and people should appreciate it. However, Aleksandr Lukashenko urged workers to take a deeper look at the situation and the situation

around the country, to learn how to analyse information, "Things will not be easy for us. They will just not leave us alone. Our manufacturing industry is one of the reasons.

No one wants us as competitors, and anyone who has similar manufacturers will try their utmost to get rid of us."

As an example, the President also cited machine building, where Belarus competes with western countries and many want to oust us from the markets. Let's say that the same BELAZ occupies 30 percent of the world market. Sanctions have

been imposed on this company for a reason, said Aleksandr Lukashenko, "The better we do, the more pressure we will face from the outside. Everything is far from simple. We have to do our best to survive. That is our number one task.

I do not want to go to war, but I do not want us

subjugated, either. If we just get down on our knees, we'll never get up."

Promising business plan

Factory workers are worried: are there enough raw materials in our forests for the successful operation of the enterprise? The President reassures that there is an abundance of raw materials. The main thing is how to rework it all,

"Three million cubic metres of timber have been stuck. You process only half a million...

That is, woodworking will surely exist. We have learned a lot by modernising woodworking enterprises."

The business plan is already active. A dozen pellet factories have been built in Belarus for wood processing (after hurricanes swept across our country a few years ago in the forests there was a lot of timber to process). Their products are now in great demand, including abroad.

"They take with both their arms and legs! They forgot that Lithuanians or Poles do not like Belarus. They take everything off the wheels. And the prices are decent," says Aleksandr Lukashenko. "We've made a good profit. Next year we will recoup all these plants and will continue to build them further, because there is a great demand for clean fuel while firewood has always been clean."

National Centre for Personal Data Protection established in Belarus

Its establishment is stipulated by Decree No. 422 'On Measures to Improve the Protection of Personal Data', which President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko signed on October 28th. The document was issued in development of the norms of the law No. 99-3 of May 7th, 2021 'On the Protection of Personal Data'.

In accordance with the decree, the national centre is endowed with the status of an authorised body for the protection of the rights of subjects of personal data. Its basic rights, tasks, functions and powers have been determined.

In particular, the centre is empowered to verify compliance with the legislation on personal data, to issue written demands (orders) to eliminate identified violations, to demand the termination of the processing of personal data if it is impossible to protect the rights of subjects of personal data by other means.

Moreover, the decree establishes additional measures related to the protection of personal data. This is, for example, the need to undergo special training for persons whose duties include the protection of personal data; the obligation to keep records of personal data subject to processing by state bodies and other organisations.

'Thank you for your care and kindness!'

Donbass children recorded a video message thanking Aleksandr Lukashenko

Ukrainian children living in Donbass and their parents thanked the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, for the opportunity of rehabilitation at the Zubrenok National Children's Educational and Health Centre. Their video was posted by the Pul Pervogo Telegram channel.

"Dear Aleksandr Grigorievich! My name is Yulia Mikhailova, I came under a mortar attack in 2015. And, having experienced the pain of war myself, I want to express my deep gratitude for the care and kindness that you gave our children: 'dolphins' [a figurative designation for children with special needs], orphans, children who came under fire, children who lost their parents because of the war. Thank you!" said one of the girls.

The parents of these children also expressed gratitude for the support provided by Aleksandr Lukashenko. "They got to know your culture, they were surrounded by care and attention every minute. Thank you personally for your support to the children of Donbass!" said one of the mothers.

"No wonder you are called Batka, Aleksandr Grigorievich. Thank you so much for this paternal love that you gave the children of Donbass! May God grant health and a guardian angel to you and your loved ones. And thank you for Aleksei Talai [Belarusian Paralympic champion]!" added another parent.

As previously reported, a group of 150 children



One hundred and fifty children from Donbass visited the best camp in our country for three weeks

from the Donetsk Region holidayed and recuperated at the Zubrenok National Children's Educational and Health Centre from September 15th to October 5th, 2021. The order to organise such a trip was signed by the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko after a corresponding request was received by the Head of State through charitable organisations. Aleksandr Lukashenko supported this initiative.

Alongside recreation and recuperation, an educational process as well as excursions and cultural events in iconic places of Belarus were organised for children from the Donetsk Region.

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FORUM ECONOMICO EURASIATICO DI VERONA
EURASIAN ECONOMIC FORUM IN VERONA
ЕВРАЗИЙСКИЙ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЙ ФОРУМ В ВЕРОНЕ

Sanctions are a dead end. The matrix of lies and manipulation of public opinion. Neoliberal approaches in the economy that are destroying our planet... These and other issues were high on the agenda at the 14th Eurasian Economic Forum in Verona.



Antonio Fallico

By Marta Astreiko

The current economic system of intensive production and consumption — based on capital and endless growth — is no longer sustainable. According to many experts, it is time to develop a model that would be based on sustainable development, ecology, social development and economic component. This is a complex operation that requires a gradual approach which needs no panic and no extreme optimism.

The Eurasian Economic Forum in Verona — organised by the Conoscere Eurasia Association, the Roscongress Foundation and the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum — is an important negotiating platform where the world's leading politicians, scientists, diplomats and businessmen meet annually. This year, the participants of the two-day meeting discussed topical issues in the field of economics and finance, healthcare, ecology, energy and technological innovations in Greater Eurasia united by the global theme: *Eurasia on its Path to a New Geopolitical, Social and Economic Order: Transition to a New, Human-Centred Economy*. They also tried to find an answer to the question of how to ensure that western countries move away from the counterproductive policy of sanctions, and the West and East forget about conflicts and join forces to save the planet.

New pandemics for humanity likely

The threats faced by the Earth population are now obvious and real and the President of Conoscere Eurasia and the Chairman of Banca Intesa, Professor Antonio Fallico, drew attention to the



Saving humanity: will the West and the East be able to work together?

problem. Speaking at the Verona forum, he noted, “Among the important topics of the Verona meeting is the need to rethink the unipolar structure of our world and the neoliberal model of economic development. Classical diplomacy alone is no longer enough for this.

It's necessary to expand the use of business diplomacy opportunities on an international level. This will make it possible to break down geopolitical barriers in favour of international humanistic comprehensive development and contribute to the salvation and prosperity of our planet.”

According to Mr. Fallico, COVID is the first pandemic problem that has hit all continents simultaneously and has demonstrated an impressive rate of spread,

“Tens of millions of people have lost their jobs. All of us — politicians, businessmen, ordinary people and intellectuals — should learn an important lesson from the pandemic crisis: the illusion has been cultivated for too long that new digital technologies generated by the fourth digital revolution will ensure linear growth without restrictions or shocks... The pandemic has created a world with unthinkable social inequality.”

There is now a world where 3bn people have to live on less than \$5.5 a day. Two billion people cannot use electricity, while one percent of the richest people own 18 percent of the world's total wealth. Every year, 30m people die from hunger, including 7m children. One billion people cannot write or read their name. The pandemic has increased inequality: as a result, the rich have become richer and the poor — poorer. It has made us realise that there is no viable economic development without a strong system of rules and public services. It forces us to completely reconsider the way we produce and consume.

“The fear of a shortage of goods — which we have observed during the pandemic — has a positive side. This frees us from consumer narcissism, from the position when we want everything right now. This brings us back to basics and the quality of human relations and solidarity. So, welcome to the limited world!”

Mr. Fallico also added, “This pandemic will sadly not be the last one. Deforestation forces us to contact animals whose viruses are unknown to us. The thawing of permafrost threatens to spread dangerous epidemics, as does intensive farming...”

Inferiority of sanctions

Much attention in the speeches was paid to the flawed policy of sanctions: this sets the international community back decades — especially in the context of a difficult fight against the pandemic.

Mr. Fallico believes that imposition of sanctions by western countries against various states is based on a matrix of lies,

“The mass media and digital platforms are now bombarding us with so-called post-truth and information characterised by emotionality and based on unverified facts. With this in mind, we must confirm man's ability to resist the confusion of reality and fiction, truth and falsehood.”

“The World Wide Web transmits a huge uncontrolled flow of information, fake news,” he added, mentioning the situation when former US Secretary of State Colin Powell accused Iraq of possessing bacteriological weapons from the UN rostrum as a vivid example of deliberate manipulation of facts. “He theatrically demonstrated a bottle of white powder saying that the same amount of anthrax could kill everyone there and that Iraq was running a chemical and bacteriological weapons programme — which impressed all those present. The world later learnt personally from Colin Powell — who died not long ago — that it was all a lie. However, as a result of that war, more than 200,000 Iraqi civilians were killed,” the Italian expert explained.

Decline of an era

Much attention was paid at the Verona forum to energy problems. Energy prices that have soared in Europe were also discussed. The Head of Rosneft, Igor Sechin, warned that a significant rise in gas prices could further warm up oil prices. He also noted that the shock prices for blue fuel pose a risk to the economic recovery of Europe — adding: the era of relatively low energy prices,

which lasted almost 100 years, may be coming to an end.

“The de-stimulation of traditional energy leads to a reduction in investments necessary to maintain the level of production of traditional energy resources, which will cause a shortage and an even greater increase in prices. High energy prices will certainly slow down economic growth, and the era of relatively low energy prices, which lasted for almost 100 years and became the main incentive for the development of the world economy, may come to an end,” believes Mr. Sechin.

Reboot and effective solution

A reboot and the beginning of normal political, economic and other contacts between all members of the international community, including between the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union, is a logical and effective solution to many problems that the international community has faced. In the meantime, the creation of an effective partnership from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean is frozen due to the fault of the European Union, believes the ex-ambassador of Italy to Russia, who held this post until 2021, Pasquale Terracciano. He recalled that, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, there were great hopes for rapprochement between the West and the East, “However, some EU member states resisted holding high-level talks. Despite that resistance, contacts at the technical level between the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union began in 2017 which led to certain results. This is a minor example of what we could achieve as a result of at least a minimal partnership and co-operation between the EU and the EAEU.”

The idea of a normal dialogue between the West and the East is also supported by the Mayor of Verona, Federico Sboarina. He is convinced that the negotiations and agreements reached at the Verona forum will give impetus to trade turnover and business ties between Italy and the EAEU member states, “We need to discuss specific problems and specific ways to solve them. We appeal to politicians, experts and diplomats to repeat and remind everyone that our Eurasian Economic Forum is an important and effective platform to discuss and solve many problems,” Mr. Sboarina said.

Shoulder to shoulder on top of the world

Belarus has thanked the participants of the spring ‘memory expedition’ to Everest

By Aleksandr Nesterov

On October 25th, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko signed Decree No. 416, according to which the Order of Francysk Skaryna was bestowed on three members of the international expedition to Everest: Eduard Kubatov, Vadim Frolov and Georgy Shulepov. They received an award for high sports achievements and significant contribution to the popularisation of Belarusian sports in the international arena, raising the Victory Banner and the State Flag of the Republic of Belarus to the highest point of the planet.

The State Flag of our country was hoisted on Everest as part of the project of the Belarusian Mountaineering Federation with the support of the Federation of Trade Unions. The idea was, in the year of the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, to raise one of the state symbols of Belarus, as well as a copy of the Victory Banner and soil from the Mound of Glory to the highest point on the planet — as a reminder of the value and importance of peace for every inhabitant of the Earth. It is symbolic that the ascent was made by an international team of climbers — thanks to the mutual assistance of these people the task was fulfilled.

Everest is usually climbed in May, and then in autumn. This season cannot be called standard: the world is faced with a pandemic, which is not going into retreat just yet. Some climbers who settled in the base camp from the Nepal side (Tibet was completely closed) did not escape infection. Unfortunately, among the sick was the Belarusian climber Vadim Frolov. He was evacuated by helicopter to the Kathmandu hospital, where he was diagnosed with coronavirus pneumonia and lung damage. And then his friends — Russian Georgy Shulepov and Eduard Kubatov of Kyrgyzstan — came to the rescue.



Vadim Frolov, General Director of Industrial Group Vekprom LLC, member of the Belarusian Mountaineering Federation:

When we went to the mountains, there were no thoughts of possible rewards, of course. I am happy that I was born in Belarus — a small but proud country in the centre of Europe. Now I live and work in Russia, but I visit my native place several times a year. As for mountaineering, I have always devoted a lot of time to it. Now, however, the priorities have shifted towards family and work. But, of course, I dream of a fully-fledged conquest of Everest. I won't rush and will wait a couple of years; after all, the mountains have stood and will continue to stand for a long time.



“Vadim Frolov was forced to abandon his ascent due to a serious illness at 6,400m,” Eduard recalls six months later. “It was a bitter and difficult decision for him. And then he asked me and my partner Georgy Shulepov to raise the Victory Banner over Everest. This sacred item over the Reichstag marked our Great Victory on May 9th, 1945! We went to the top for ourselves and for our brother, we followed the Victory to the end!”

Having learned about the awarding of the Order of Francysk Skaryna, a mountaineer from Kyrgyzstan (who, by

the way, is the Honorary Consul of Indonesia in Kyrgyzstan) did not hide his emotions on Facebook, “My huge and sincere gratitude to brotherly Belarus!”

Even before leaving for Nepal, Vadim Frolov also said that it was a special honour for him to deliver a valuable cargo to the highest point of the planet,

“I had two grandfathers who fought, one served in intelligence on the border, the other was a pilot. I was brought up in the spirit of patriotism and love for the Motherland... By my example I want to show that we, Belarusians, are a strong nation.”

Everest (exact height is 8,848.86m) is the highest peak on Earth. The first successful ascent dates back to 1953. Viktor Kulbachenko was the first of the Belarusian climbers to conquer the ‘top of the world’ in 1998. To date, about 5,000 people have successfully climbed Mount Everest; more than 300 have died in such attempts.

The spring expedition to Everest was a significant contribution to the preservation of historical memory, and therefore a contribution to the preservation of peace on Earth.

Georgy Shulepov, after the ascent, recalled that it took the group 33.5 hours to conquer Everest. The main assault camp was at an altitude of 7,100m. After spending the night there, it was necessary to immediately go to the top — the climber covered this section in 23 and a half hours, “And then at the top I had to take a picture, do something and descend to 6,500m. The descent took ten hours. During this time, I lost 13 kilograms. You can imagine what kind of loads there are. And not so much physical, as psychological. There are literally a few thoughts constantly spinning in my head: how much oxygen do you have, is it enough for the descent, what state the reducer is in, how the mask behaves...”

The fact that the feat of the international mountaineering team was greatly appreciated in Minsk became known in summer. On Independence Day, Aleksandr Lukashenko, after speaking at the wreath-laying ceremony at the Mound of Glory Memorial, spoke about climbing Everest as follows, “These are people who have accomplished a great feat. And, moreover, patriots. I think they are worthy to be awarded.”

At the same time, the members of the expedition presented the President with the State Flag and a copy of the Victory Banner, which had visited Everest. The Head of State promised that these artefacts will take pride of place in the exposition in the Palace of Independence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Immunology and Allergology Centre to be established at Belarus' NAS



The Immunology and Allergology Centre will be established at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, following a decision made at the Bureau of the Presidium meeting — as announced by the Academy of Sciences' press service.

The Immunology and Allergology Centre will function as part of the Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering of the NAS of Belarus. The new scientific structure will aim to ensure a comprehensive study of the formation and functioning mechanisms of immunity of living organisms at a molecular and cellular level in normal and pathological conditions.

The Centre will complement the Institute's range of activities, enabling it to perform fundamental research in the field of virology and creation of new vaccines at a high methodological level.

Auroch joins a herd of calves in the Glubokoe District

An unusual neighbour has appeared with a herd of cows in the Glubokoe District, for the third week an auroch has been grazing with them. There are more than 230 cows in the herd; they graze in the field outside the village of Luchaika.



The auroch eats the same as them and follows them to the watering place. When the pasture changes, then it moves to a new territory. The animal did not create any problems for the villagers.

Perhaps the auroch has come from the Verkhnedvinsk District, where there is Krasny Bor farm, engaged in breeding of aurochs. The auroch, which came to the Glubokoe District, is exploring new territories and looking for a herd.

In the near future, the cows will be transferred to their winter stall. It will be necessary to separate the auroch from the herd so that it returns to its relatives.

Construction works have been launched at Slutsky Gostinets metro station in Minsk

The metro remains the safest, fastest and favourite means of transport among citizens — especially those who live in Minsk's new residential districts.

Director General of Minskmetrostroy unitary enterprise, Leonid Stukhalsky, commented on the construction of the Zeleny Lug metro line, “We are currently working on the second section of the third line. Its stations are at different stages of



readiness. At Aerodromnaya, finishing is already underway, while only two-thirds of the planned works are ready at the Nemorshansky Sad station. Construction of Slutsky Gostinets is at its initial stage but we plan to complete groundworks here in 2022. By the end of next year, we plan to finish construction works at all three stations; finishing and equipping will then follow.”

The New Year train at the Father Frost Estate in Belovezhskaya Pushcha will start running from December 10th

The Estate of the Belarusian Father Frost is the most famous tourist brand in the country. A total of eight New Year trains are planned: on December 10th, 17th, 24th and 28th, as well as on January 2nd, 4th, 6th and 14th. The holiday route is a weekend tour with departure from Minsk on Friday evening and returning the evening of the next day. At the carriages, passengers will be greeted by conductors in the guise of Snow Maidens. The New Year's train will go to the Father Frost Estate from the Minsk-Passazhirsky station



and arrive in Brest, from where tourists will be taken to Belovezhskaya Pushcha by comfortable buses. A rich New Year's excursion programme, a gift from Father Frost and a treat with fragrant pancakes with herbal tea await them.

AWWARD

‘Open space is exciting’

Star mission 3.0 completed: Oleg Novitsky tells us about the first experience of filming and emergency situations on board the ISS

Recently, Oleg Novitsky, a Russian cosmonaut of Belarusian origin, returned to Earth from his third stellar expedition. This time, he spent 191 days on the International Space Station. Oleg’s dream came true: he went into outer space three times. The expedition didn’t turn out to be easy: the Russian crew received and integrated the new ‘Nauka’ module with the station, returned the ISS to its original position when the suddenly turned-on engines of the new module deployed it, and looked for the source of smoke on the ‘Zvezda’ module. Oleg had a chance in manual mode to re-dock the ‘Soyuz MS-18’ manned spacecraft from the ‘Rassvet’ module to ‘Nauka’ module. In addition, for the first time in history, the cosmonauts met a film crew on board the ISS and took part in the filming of a feature film. Now Oleg Novitsky is in the Moscow Region, on rehabilitation. His programme is full, but the cosmonaut found time for a conversation with our correspondent.

By Oksana Nevmerzhitskaya

Cosmonauts and actors

“I have literally ten minutes,” the retired colonel warns us in a military manner. “Then a two-hour training session will begin, followed by rehabilitation. The evening belongs to my family...”

Oleg Novitsky returned to Earth on October 17th. Together with him, actress Yulia Pereginskaia and director Klim Shipenko



Preparation for the crucial operation of re-docking of the ‘Soyuz MS-18’ manned spacecraft to the newly arrived ‘Nauka’ module

were on board the ‘Soyuz MS-18’ descent vehicle. This miniature film crew spent twelve days on the ISS, working on a film with the working title *Challenge* — about a female doctor who went to the ISS to rescue an astronaut. For the first time in history, the descent to Earth was carried out by one professional cosmonaut.

“The landing took place as usual, without any incidents. The crew’s help, of course, is required for the commander since the spacecraft is not adapted for the flight of one person,” said Mr. Novitsky, commenting on the event. “But Yulia and Klim underwent serious special training before the flight to the ISS. Moreover, a few days before departure, the crew conducted a final training session with an instructor on Earth, during which the cosmonauts refreshed their memory of everything they’d learned during training and worked out various landing plans, including in the event of an emergency. So, the guys were ready and provided me with the necessary help where,

for instance, I couldn’t reach on my own such as with the cabin fittings.”

Cosmonauts are, one might say, recognisable because they have to give interviews and take part in press conferences. However, for the first time in their lives, Oleg Novitsky, Piotr Dubov and Anton Shkaplerov got the experience of filming in a feature film. Did acting talent awaken in them, how did they manage to combine acting with

‘Everything can be managed’

From the Earth, the impression was that the third space expedition for our compatriot was especially rich in emergencies: either the ‘Nauka’ module suddenly turned on the engines without permission, while even turning the ISS, or the ‘Soyuz MS-18’ manned spacecraft had to be docked manually from the ‘Rassvet module’ to a new module, then there was smoke on the ‘Zvezda’ module...

“This is technique, anything can happen to it,” Oleg Novitsky notes philosophically. “Such incidents always come as a surprise, but they’re not critical. After all, the crew is prepared for different situations, Flight Control Centre immediately joins in and everything can be managed, which we did. For example, to compensate for the impulse given by turning the ‘Nauka’



On the third expedition, Oleg Novitsky went into outer space three times



For the first time in history, astronauts met a film crew on board the ISS

the performance of immediate duties and tasks? It turns out that everything can be done if you strictly follow the plan and orders!

“The plan for work in orbit also included work on the *Challenge* project,” explains Oleg Novitsky prosaically. “It was necessary to maintain the time frame, to combine so that the work on the film was not to the detriment of space experiments, activities to maintain the operation of the station itself and its systems and the members of the film crew understood this. The workload increased, of course, but it was interesting. We were faced with the task of fulfilling the orders of Klim and Yulia, because they have rich experience in the field of cinema. We just listened to what they were saying and tried to do it exactly...”

Oleg Novitsky didn’t talk about the roles that the cosmonauts had a chance to play; they say, the director’s realm begins here, perhaps he still wants to keep the details secret.

engines, the engines of the neighbouring ‘Zvezda’ module and the ‘Progress’ cargo ship were launched.”

In the third stellar expedition, Oleg Novitsky’s dream came true: he went into open space, and not once, but three times. However, this cannot be called pleasure, because the cosmonauts worked hard for seven hours in a row. It’s impossible to imagine: in the infinite Universe, connected to the ISS with only two safety tethers, they prepared the station for undocking the ‘Pirs’ module, which had served its time; its place was taken by the ‘Nauka’ module, they also performed works on integrating the new module with the station and connected the local cable Ethernet networks.

“Open space has more than met my expectations,” admits Oleg Novitsky. “It’s hard to put into words — interesting,

exciting. There was no time to admire the planet, since the exit programme turned out to be very busy, it was necessary to meet the schedule. But there are breaks in it to rest your hands for a few minutes. That’s when we looked around. The Earth looks beautiful!”

Oleg speaks carefully about his plans for the future, “Now the primary task is to recover and return to duty. Everything in the world is changing so quickly that it makes no sense to think far ahead. I know that very interesting space programmes are coming, and the tourists, apparently, will already fly... Of course, I would like to join the fourth space expedition!”

Grass near the house

It is highly likely that after rehabilitation and rest in the sanatorium, Oleg Novitsky will come to his small homeland, to

the town of Cherven, where his mother is always waiting for him.

“We talked on the phone almost every day. Rather, Oleg called, I could not call there,” said Valentina Novitskaya. “He dialled my phone number in the morning on October 12th, on his 50th birthday. I congratulated him on the phone, and in advance all the family members and I also filmed video congratulations and Yulia — my daughter-in-law — sent them into orbit through the Flight Control Centre. Every snapshot, every video from Earth is a great joy not only for Oleg, but also for everyone on the ISS.”

Valentina Novitskaya is sure that, despite COVID and related restrictions, she will meet with her son before the New Year, “Everyone went through quarantine, was vaccinated, so everything is ok with health in this regard. Now Oleg will take a test for antibodies, if the amount is insufficient, he’ll be vaccinated again. I was also vaccinated, and if you want to know my opinion, everyone should be without fail! I know from a very good doctor and a decent person: there is not a single vaccinated person in the intensive care unit of our district hospital!”

For her son’s birthday, Valentina Novitskaya has a gift that was more material than a video greeting but would not reveal the secret: let it be a surprise for Oleg!

Secret code of rushniks



Tatiana Kovaleva arrives at the Khotimsk District House of Crafts by bicycle. She has got used to using this method of transport to get to her favourite work. At 74 years, she is still in the ranks of the workers. She admits that she doesn't like to sit around. This prompted the former teacher to master the loom in her retirement. Now she is reviving folk traditions: her works are exhibited at international festivals, her items are bought not only by residents of the district centre, but also by guests from neighbouring countries. The craftswoman's rushniks (traditional Slavic towels with embroidery) and vyshyvankas (embroidered shirts) have even travelled to France where the folk patterns are greatly enjoyed.

Former teacher from Khotimsk, Tatiana Kovaleva, mastered the loom from scratch in retirement and is now reviving folk traditions

By Tatiana Bizyuk

A thread with history

Tatiana Kovaleva is from Obol in the Shumilino District. She moved to Khotimsk in her youth with her husband, so considers the district centre to be her second home. For more than 30 years, she worked here as a teacher of chemistry and biology at school №1. She practised needlework in her free time, but more for the soul. When she retired, she decided that there is nothing to sit around for and she needed to look for new interests. The craftswoman recalled,

“So, in 2010, I came to the district House of Crafts, and it turned out that at 74 I have never been out of work! What did I start with? We had an old loom in our centre, which had been idle for a long time, and I decided to get it back to work. But how? After all, I didn't even know which side to approach it.”

Tatiana Ivanovna began to master a new area for herself through books. The first handbook was *The Revival of the Craft* with step-by-step instructions: how to thread the machine, what types and techniques are needed. However, knowledge was still not enough. Therefore, she decided to take an adventurous step and went to Mogilev to study weaving courses.

“This is how I got to know the craft from scratch. The more I learned, the more I was amazed at the wisdom of our people. Another time I compare the traditional ornament with hieroglyphs, which have many meanings. So it is here:

you add an element to the pattern, which results in another symbol. A small star, for example, represents a person. If you frame it with flowers, it is paradise. Meanwhile, the sun is a rhombus with rays, the earth is the same figure but with rays inside. If you put the sun in the earth, then you receive spring, life. Moreover, in the old times, in order to make it rain, our women wove ritual cloths overnight, and then they carried them around the village, thus encouraging the thunder to rumble. Woven products were used for even more practical reasons,” said the craftswoman, offering us a cultural educational programme. “How, for example, can you wish a person good health? The solution is to present a belt with the desired ornament. Or how to show that you like the guy? To present him with a towel with birds on it. He will immediately understand that the girl has an interest in him. There is a sacred meaning in this. When there was no written language, people expressed their wishes in this way, in ornament.”

Elixir of life

Tatiana Ivanovna has already lost count of how many rushniks she has woven because her works not only travel to exhibitions and festivals but she also makes them to order. “People have become more interested in Belarusian culture. It usually happens that, at the festivals, people come up to me and take my telephone number. Then they call and ask me to weave a rushnik or an embroidered shirt. Or the Russians travel,



Andrey Sazonov

notice the sign, come in and see that we have such beauty here! There are also regular customers: at the request of Muscovites I made embroidered shirts for various occasions. My granddaughter even took my works to her friends in France and they admired our patterns!”

One of the most special works for Tatiana Ivanovna is a rushnik, which was exhibited in Alexandria in the Shklov District at the *Kupala Night* Festival this year. It won the first-degree diploma. During her work, the master Kovaleva created a rich collection, which was demonstrated in different parts of Belarus and abroad. The merits of the work were highly praised and, at the beginning of the year, she was awarded the People's Master of Belarus title.

“I have enough energy, so why not put it into action? For me, weaving is a revival of traditions, a connection between people and nations,” says Tatiana Kovaleva, explaining her love of creativ-

ity. “Think about it, in old times, rushniks accompanied the whole life of a person — from birth to their death. They were used in the most important stages of life: christenings, weddings etc. It was believed that a good future wife is the one whose dowry chest fifteen men could not lift. It should contain woven fabrics, embroidered shirts for relatives, belts for guests and rushniks. In addition, the craft for me is the elixir of life. When I see that people are interested in my works, it gives me strength to do even more!”



TRADITION



Global supply chain chaos

Supply chain bottlenecks have held back business activity as the global economy rebounds from COVID-19 restrictions and closures. The recovery has seen increased demand and limited supply for everything from oil to computer parts.

During the course of 2021, shortages and delays along the supply chain have already been notable in regard to microchips and semiconductors used in car manufacturing and electronics. Globally, the automotive sector has been hit the hardest, resulting in temporary shutdowns at car plants since April. Other goods that have been affected include metals, rubber, plastics, lumber, and paper.

Third-quarter industrial surveys indicate that many countries in the Central European region have been facing high shortages of materials and equipment as well as labour.

IHS Markit's vulnerability index shows that Hungary, Slovenia, Estonia, and Czech Republic are facing higher supply-side constraints than other countries.

A closely watched survey of German business optimism sagged for the fourth month in a row, underlining concern about the impact on Europe's largest economy from sharply higher energy prices and stubborn bottlenecks in supplies of raw materials and parts.

Meanwhile, German department stores and shops are struggling to fulfil orders due to bottlenecks and shortages. A survey of German retailers by the Munich-based Ifo

research institute found that 74 percent are experiencing logistics problems.

More than half of British shoppers, surveyed by YouGov, have experienced noticeable food shortages in their local supermarkets and shops in recent weeks — a trend that is predicted to only worsen in the coming months during the build-up to Christmas.

However, the issue extends to businesses all across the economy, most recently hitting petrol stations and causing people to 'panic-buy'. Experts believe that problems in the supply chain are expected to limit production globally until next year.

EU Court fines Poland

The European Court of Justice has fined Poland 1m Euros per day for ignoring an EU ruling that called for the country's Supreme Court disciplinary chamber to be suspended

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) ordered Poland to pay a fine of 1m Euros per day over its decision to ignore an EU ruling on Warsaw's judicial reforms.

The top EU court imposed the penalty as Poland has not suspended the disciplinary chamber of the Supreme Court. The ECJ had ruled in July that the chamber did not guarantee impartiality.

The ECJ said in a press release the fine was 'necessary in order to avoid serious and irreparable harm to the legal order of the European Union and to the values on which that Union is founded, in particular that of the rule of law'.



Meanwhile, Polish Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro called the ECJ injunctions lawless. Poland insists the court has no authority over its justice system and has been ignoring its rulings.

Moreover, the Polish Judicial Council has been expelled from the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ). Such decision was taken during a sitting of the ENCJ Extraordinary General Assembly in Vilnius.



One in a million

British photographer managed to take a unique photo of the rainbow

British photographer Danny Shepherd captured a unique view of a full double rainbow from the top of one of the hills in England's Peak District National Park.

A photographer has captured a 'mind-blowing' view of a full double rainbow from a Peak District summit. Danny Shepherd took the photos from Mam Tor in Derbyshire at about eight o'clock in the morning.

He described the view over the village of Edale as a 'one in a million colour party', which lasted for about twenty minutes.

The picture has been widely praised after Mr. Shepherd posted it on social media.

Mr. Shepherd, who has been taking pictures in the national park for 20 years, said the view from the hilltop was always amazing, but said this was the

first time he had seen anything like this.

"I've not seen a rainbow cover Mam Tor this way before," he said. "[It was] pretty mind-blowing actually, to see both ends and it cover Edale. Mam Tor always delivers amazing views at sunrise, but this was a first for a complete rainbow above us. I do a lot of Peaks photography so when this happened, I was like a kid in a sweet shop."

Paul Mullins saw the same full rainbow from Winnats Pass and said it was an 'incredible surprise'. He said, "As soon as I saw it, I had to capture the picture. I'm a keen hiker — I got up early to set off from Barnsley to make it in time for sunrise. I was hoping for a good sunrise, which I got, but the rainbow was an incredible surprise."

Vikings came before Columbus

Vikings had a settlement in North America exactly one thousand years ago, centuries before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas, a study says

Scientists say a new dating technique analysing tree rings has provided evidence that Vikings occupied a site in Newfoundland, Canada, in 1021 AD.

It has long been known that Europeans reached the Americas before Columbus' arrival in the New World in 1492. But this is the first time researchers have suggested an exact date.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, scientists said they had analysed the tree rings of three pieces of wood cut for the Norse settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows.

They said that using an atmospheric radiocarbon signal produced by a dated solar storm as a reference, they were able to pin the 'exact felling year

of the tree' to 1021.

Such a solar storm — a huge blast of radiation from the Sun that hits Earth — was known to have taken place in the year 992 AD, the scientists said. This enabled them to determine a more accurate date than previous estimates for the camp of about 1000 AD.

"The association of these pieces with the Norse is based on detailed research previously conducted by Parks Canada," the study says, adding that there was clear evidence the sampled wood had been modified by metal tools.

The authors say the discovery represents a definitive point for future research into the initial consequences of transatlantic activity.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

The National Art Museum presents its collection of protective masks depicting fragments of paintings from the last century



Museum partners sew protective masks. Production is in batches, so pre-order is not available. The only point of sale is a gift shop. There are also plans to develop online sales.

The art of being healthy

By Natalya Tychko

The National Art Museum proposes to make a real parade of art wearing masks: protective masks depicting fragments of five paintings from the last century appeared on sale in the gift shop. *The MT* learned the details.

Such projects are not new for the National Art Museum. Sleep masks, postcards, mugs, even hoodies and waist bags — the museum, together with designer Lesha Limonov, produces truly unique items. They draw inspiration from their favourite paintings.

“We have long planned to make protective face masks depicting fragments of paintings from our permanent exhibition. The most suitable work for printing was chosen from each hall; there were five of them in total. These are *Portrait of a Woman* and *Still Life with Melons and Pumpkins* by Ilya Mashkov, an obi belt from the eastern collec-



The museum, together with the designer, embodies all new unusual ideas: protective and sleep masks, mugs, even hoodies and waist bags

tion, *Astran Observatory with Quadrant at Saturn Ring* by Yazep Drozdovich, *Madonna in Flowers* by Daniel Seghers,” Maria Frunze, a marketing sector specialist at the National Art Museum tells us about the embodiment of the idea into reality. “The sewing production

is limited: only 100 pieces. The price of an unusual mean of protection against coronavirus is Br20 (more than \$8). This is a kind of experiment, we decided to see what demand the masks will have. With the designer, we thought for a long time how to present our collection on social

networks. Now we note from the responses and comments that people like these ideas. The masks went on sale earlier this week, with about 50 remaining in the gift shop on Wednesday. If necessary, we can replenish the collection.”

“The lining of the mask is

100 percent cotton, the outer part is a synthetic fabric that resembles silk. From my own experience, I can say that when washing and boiling, the drawing does not fade, it’s quite easy to breathe in it,” said Ms. Frunze, sharing her observations. “When applying the picture, we tried to make the colours as close as possible to the original execution of the picture. But still, the shades are noticeably different.”

Ideas for new projects are already ripening in the minds of the museum staff. However, they are implementing their ideas carefully, taking into account the epidemiological situation. After all, the main thing is health. And the collection of protective masks came in handy. We are still battling the pandemic, and it seems that face coverings are a permanent feature of our lives. To decorate closed faces and add an unusual accent to the image, you can also purchase avant-garde masks.

New look at the tradition of textile art



Here, There and Everywhere, an international exhibition of contemporary art of textile and mixed media, has opened at the Shchemelev Art Gallery in Mink

By Olga Korneeva

The exhibition demonstrates an up-to-date picture of the modern stage of development of the art of textiles from different parts of the world. It offers a new look at the ancient traditions of textile art, its rethinking in other areas of art and mixed techniques. “At the beginning of the 21st century, textile works of art are examples of deep intellectual and emotional content. At present, the boundaries

of textiles as art are blurring and transforming into a special form of textile thinking,” emphasise the organisers.

The exposition features over 100 works. Their authors are the artist Soude Dadras (Iran, USA), Manuel Wandl (Austria), Stefan ‘Secretspaces’ (Germany), Rahul Sharma (India, Netherlands) and Kristina Vysotskaya (Belarus). In their works, the craftsmen and women connect different ideological, semantic and formal plastic approaches. Each author

in his own way explores the possibilities of textiles, not only with the help of technology and material, but also as a special philosophy and worldview.

Spectators can attend meetings with project participants and go on excursions. Their goal is to show a unique vision of the art of textiles, the inimitable style and spirit of creativity of each master.

The author and curator of the exhibition is Kristina Vysotskaya. The project will run until November 28th.

Key from Vytautas Tower

Lida Castle breaks records for attendance this year



The Castles of Belarus state programme enabled many historical and cultural sites to rise from the ruins. The majestic walls of Lida Castle, crowned with two towers, have been seen in recent years. In 2010, the builders arrived and a few years later the historical monument became a place of attraction for the townspeople and guests of Lida. It is the castle that attracts most tourists, who then go to the city, visit cafes and restaurants and book places in hotels and farmsteads. What do guests want to see today in a 14th century defensive structure?

By Tatiana Vrublevskaia

Awakened interest in the past

Natalya Khotyanovich, deputy director for research at the Lida Historical and Art Museum state institution, notes a positive trend, “The results of the first nine months of this year are impressive. Only Lida Castle, excluding the historical and art museum itself and the Tavlai House — which are part of the structure of the attraction — was visited by about 40,000 guests. In 2020, 36,000 people visited all three sites. It’s clear that it’s mainly Belarusians who came, because of the pandemic. But is that bad? The interest of our compatriots in the past of their country, its history and traditions can hardly be overestimated. At the same time, the category of tourists is changing. We see many families, and of different ages, who independently unite into small tourist groups and book excursions.”

Lida Castle compares favourably with other historical and cultural sites for the possibility of holding knightly and equestrian tournaments. To maintain interest in the site, the museum staff develop entertaining performances, quests and interactions that take place in two restored towers: Vytautas and Gediminas and in the castle courtyard.

“Several types of excursions have been developed, depending on what time the tourist has,” Ms. Khotyanovich continues. “The shortest will take about 40 minutes. The theatrical *Journey into the Past* is in great demand. Its participants, alongside an educational trip into history, are invited to play medieval games and find a key to open Vytautas Tower. Meanwhile, both adults and children really like the animation programme, entitled *Gediminas Stronghold*, because they can see real knights, ‘fight’ with them with swords and take a selfie in the form of a warrior. The *Castle Road* project is in operation, which traditionally goes beyond the castle walls. Knight’s clubs, artisans, animators and creative associations are in constant contact with us. All this makes it possible to promote a tourist facility and significantly increase the number of inbound tourists.”

The loopholes are waiting in line

Head of the exposition and exhibition department of the Lida Historical and Art Museum state institution, Anna Nekrashevich, conducts a quick tour, “On weekends, there is nowhere to swing a cat.

Both the Vytautas Tower and the Gediminas Tower display exhibits dating back to the 14th-16th centuries. Among them are the most famous brick-palchatka and other authentic items found at the castle



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during archaeological excavations. In total, there are about a hundred genuine artefacts. Perhaps one of the most valuable is a sword-cord with the sign of the Passau wolf. There are about a hundred of them all over the world.

The bone chess rook from the 16th century can be said to be especially significant as the chess pieces made in Gediminas’ chambers were based on it. This is, of course, a replica. Everything protected by glass — nails, locks, crossbow arrowheads, keys, ceramics, jewellery and combs — is of historical value. Recent finds indicate that the castle was not

Lida Castle is one of the few in Belarus which is currently completely reconstructed. The square stone castle, built in 1323, was destroyed several times. The restoration of the historical and cultural site began with the reconstruction of the walls and, in 2005, the first knightly tournament was held here. In 2018, the Vytautas Tower was officially put into operation and in 2020, the Gediminas Tower. A year earlier, a monument to the founder of the castle, Grand Duke Gediminas, was erected at the foot of the walls. Every year mass events, festivals

and concerts are held here and the Lidbeer Music Festival attracts tens of thousands of Belarusians and foreign guests.

only a defensive structure, but also that it was visited by nobles.”

They try to change the expositions in the Lida Castle every six months so that visitors learn something new every time. Currently, there is an exhibition where you can see an historical object captured on the canvases of artists of different times, paintings from private collections are also presented.

“We want the castle to be a living organism that is constantly being improved,” Anna points to the screen where the interactive map of Aleksei Cherenkevich and his team is loaded, which tells about the formation of Belarus from the 9th century to 2015. “Everyone can learn about the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Rzecz Pospolita, the fate of all the princes and kings who ruled in different periods. We acquired a series of portraits of the princes of the Grand Duchy, made in a special ‘levkas’ technique on wooden planks by Igor Gordiyonok. A well-known graphic artist in Belarus has done a lot for our castle.

The collection of artefacts is also replenished through donations. Recently, the inhabitants of Lida presented us with a collection of coins found in the castle in the post-war period. This suggests that the residents of Lida appreciated the metamorphoses that have occurred with the historical and cultural sites over the past decade.”

“Recently, we have been paying special attention to the development of gastronomic tourism,” the museum worker concludes. “Tourists are very interested in what people drank and ate during the Middle Ages. The project was prompted by one of the exhibits: a fork with two teeth from the 16th century. In addition, this summer, the Kumnyak restaurant was opened at the castle, which is very popular. Many dishes are prepared according to old Belarusian recipes using local produce.”



Having won the away game against Gomel (3:2), the players of Soligorsk Shakhtyor — three rounds before the end of the national championship — were 10 points ahead of their nearest rivals, making themselves unattainable and noisily celebrating their victory with jokes, songs and champagne. We can say that they ate a pound of salt (during the championship they changed two head coaches) and took on the world.

The fans of the Soligorsk squad have every reason to believe that their beloved Shakhtyor did not turn out to be a flash in the pan, but confidently took (or at least seriously expects to take) the top spot, which once belonged to BATE. A quirk of fate, however, is that in the current team there are as many as six players who belong to the same legendary period of Borisov's monopoly for gold: Alyksandr Hutar and Syarhey Chernik, Egor Filipenko and Ihar Stasevich, Maksim Skavysh and Yuri Kendysh. And together with coach Aleksei Baga — there are seven of them! The decisive championship

former domination, of which (now we can speak about this with confidence) hardly anything was left: Shakhtyor completely 'swallowed' them.

Do you want to predict? Next year, when the team will most likely be faced with the task of making it to the Champions League group stage, Shakhtyor's roster will be replenished with a couple more recruits from BATE. Why aren't Pavel Nekhaichik or Mikalai Signevich, for example, candidates for the move? And Evgeni Yablonski or Maksim Volodko? It would be also nice to have Stanislav Dragun, but he recently extended the agreement with BATE until the end of 2022. In any case, in order to solve serious and ambitious aims in European competitions,



Gold mining

Shakhtyor became the champion of Belarus ahead of schedule: for the second time in a row and the third time in history



ball, by the way, flew into the goal after a kick by Egor Filipenko in the match against Gomel. He also scored the first goal while the second one was hit by Skavysh. Whatever one may say, Borisov's trace in Shakhtyor's victory is more than tangible. Imagine if all these guys hadn't changed their club registration. If Borisov's managers succeeded in finding a consensus with them on the amount of contracts, shook hands and they would have continued to play for BATE. Would Shakhtyor then become the champions? So, the current loud joy of Soligorsk team is nothing more than an echo of Borisov's

Shakhtyor needs to strengthen, looking for decent performers both on the domestic front and smart legionnaires. It seems that the issue of prolongation of the agreement with Baga has not yet been resolved either. Surely, Shakhtyor's management is likely to cast their rods in order to catch larger fish, keeping the current mentor as a backup, but with quite an acceptable result.

What else is remarkable about Shakhtyor's current championship title? Firstly, by the fact that it is the second in a row. Hence, it is not accidental. This is definitely not the story of Dinamo

Brest, which was forgotten. In this regard everything is professional in Soligorsk and the attitude towards the club at Belaruskali is certainly serious. In addition, until now, only a couple of clubs in the history of Belarus championships could boast that twice in a row they came to the finish line first: BATE and Dinamo Minsk. Shakhtyor came third in this group. Secondly, there have never been champions who have changed coaches during the season like gloves. The Ukrainian specialist Roman Grigorichuk, who was fired after flying past the Champions League, started the campaign, followed by Ser-

gei Gurenko, who was sent home after a series of completely incomprehensible fights, while Aleksei Baga is finishing though his prospects for next year, as we have already said, are also rather vague. Thirdly, Shakhtyor of the current model is a rather 'old' team: eight players who played very significant roles in the victory have already passed 30. Ihar Stasevich is 36, Alyksandr Sachyuka — 35, Egor Filipenko will turn 34 in spring... At the level of the domestic championships they are still quite good fellows and assistants to the team, but if we talk about European prospects, then, alas, they are past their best. So, the question of infusing fresh young blood before Shakhtyor, I think, will be quite acute this offseason.

A few more interesting facts: Shakhtyor goalkeeper Alyksandr Hutar becomes the national champion for the third time in a row, and in 2019 he won the championship with Dinamo Brest. Before that, at the dawn of his career, he also took gold with BATE. However, Shakhtyor boasts an even more prolific footballer in terms of league titles — Yuri Kendysh. This guy has been winning first places for six years in a row with four different clubs from three countries: Lithuanian Žalgiris, Moldovan Sheriff, BATE and Shakhtyor!

Thus, the 2021 championship determined the champions (Shakhtyor) and two clubs that will not be in the major league next year (Sputnik and Smorgon). It remains to find out who will get the silver and bronze (the key here will be the match of the 28th round, where, on November 6th, BATE and Dinamo Minsk will meet each other like water and stone, ice and fire), as well as identify the club that will take the 14th place and undertake play-offs with the third team of the first league. Heat is also expected here, because as many as six teams may be such: Neman, Torpedo-BELAZ, Energetik-BGU, Minsk, Slutsk and Slavia. And who after that will say that the national championship is not interesting in our country?

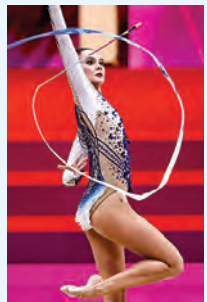
ARENA

● Lively programmes and well-deserved medals

Belarusian athletes gave brilliant performances at the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships in Kitakyushu, Japan, claiming one gold, two silver and four bronze awards.

In the medal standings, the Belarusian team took 3rd place, behind the Russians (7 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze), who celebrated victory and the Italians (one gold, three silver and one bronze), who finished second.

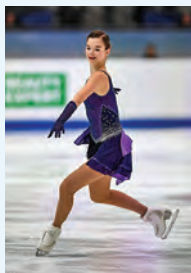
Alina Harnasko, the bronze medalist of the Tokyo Games, won the most



awards for the Belarusian national team, earning 5 medals: one gold, two silver and two bronze. Third places were also won by Anastasiia Salos and the team in group exercises consisting of Hanna Haidukevich, Anastasiya Malakanava, Anastasiya Rybakova, Arina Tsitsilina and Karyna Yarmolenka.

● Prima skater wins gold

Belarusian figure skater Viktoriia Safonova won the 2021 Denis Ten Memorial Challenge in Kazakhstan. In both the short and free programmes, the Belarusian scored 190.06 points. Second place was taken by Ekaterina Ryabova of Azerbaijan,



followed by the Ukrainian Anastasiia Shabotova. The Belarusian duo in ice dancing Victoria Semenyuk and Ilya Yukhimuk took fourth place in the competitions.

● Champions again

Dinamo-BGUFK footballers became champions of Belarus for the second time. In the 25th round match, Yuri Maleyev's trainees claimed their 25th victory, confidently beating Vitebsk away with a score of 5:0. Anastasiya Shlapakova scored a double goal in this meeting, while Karolina Romanchuk, Victoria Valyuk and Victoria Kazakevich scored once each. Having 75



points out of a possible 75, the Dinamo team were unattainable for their pursuers two rounds before the finish of the tournament.

The silver medallists of the tournament were the footballers of the Minsk squad, who had defeated the junior national team of Belarus — 5:0. Zorka-BDU and Neman continue the fight for bronze medals.

● Offensive defeat

Dinamo Minsk ice hockey players lost to Salavat Yulaev in the KHL Championship match with a score of 3:5 (2:2, 0:1, 1:2). Adam Almqvist, Pavel Varfolomeev and Matthias Tedenby scored for Dinamo.



Photo of the week



Cathedral of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church in Dyatlovo, Grodno Region

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On November 4th, 1946, the UNESCO Constitution entered into force. This day is considered the official date of the creation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) — the largest non-governmental organisation of the United Nations.

On November 5th, 1951, Minsk's GUM (city department store) welcomed its first visitors in a new building with



a total area of almost 7,000sq.m. GUM is the first big department store in Minsk and a landmark of Belarus. It is located in the very centre of the capital, at the intersection of the main highways — Nezavisimosti Avenue and Lenin Street. The building of the department store is a monument of architecture and urban planning of the 20th century.

November 5th is the Day of Military Intelligence in the Republic of Belarus.

Military intelligence has been and remains the most important link in the national security system. Nowadays, the most modern technologies are used to collect information — from unmanned aircraft to spacecraft.



November 7th marks October Revolution Day in the Republic of Belarus. The 1917 Revolution became one of the most significant events of the 20th century, which radically influenced the course of world history. The October Revolution Day is a good occasion to remember our historical past, which was marked by glorious deeds and great achievements.

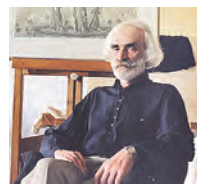
On November 7th, 1896, Mikhas Charot (present Mikhail Kudelka) was born — a Belarusian poet. He initiated the creation and headed the Maladnyak literary association; he was also a member of the Polymya association of Belarusian writers. He served as editor of the Belarusian State Publishing House and literary consultant of the Writers' Union of Belarus. He is the author of poetry collections entitled *Snowstorm* and *Selected Poems*, the poems *Barefoot at the Stake*, *Marina*, *Tavern*, the drama *On Kupala Night*, as well as plays for children. In 1937, he was repressed.



November 7th is the Day of Civil Aviation Workers in the Republic of Belarus. The birthday of civil aviation in the country

is November 7th, 1933, when Minsk airport was inaugurated and the first flight on the Minsk-Moscow route was carried out. However, the formation of the Belarusian civil aviation began much earlier: in 1923, with the establishment of the Belarusian Voluntary Society of Friends of the Air Fleet.

On November 7th, 1921, Boris Nepomnyashchy was born — a Belarusian painter. He graduated from the Moscow School of Industrial Art, the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute and studied at the Leningrad All-Russian Academy of Arts. He created the thematic paintings *Presentation of the Banner of the 1st Cavalry*, *Autumn 1941*, *Soldier's Thoughts*, as well as portraits of academician Platonov, Heroes of the Soviet Union Vainrub, Antonov, composer Aladov, landscapes, etc. Moreover, he is the author of monumental and decorative compositions. He died in 2009.



On November 8th, 1656, Halley Edmund (1656-1742) was born — British astronomer. He compiled the first catalogue of stars in the Southern sky, discovered the first periodic comet (Halley's comet, 1682) and the proper motion of stars (1718).



On November 8th, 1956, the Museum of the Defence of Brest Fortress — part of the Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial Complex — was opened in Brest, on the site of the garrison room-museum. It was set up as a departmental Military Museum of the Defence of Brest Fortress. The main theme of the museum exposition is the defence of Brest Fortress in June-July 1941. The exhibition is made up of photographs, documents about participants in the events and objects found at different times on the territory of the Fortress.



November 9th is International Day against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, celebrated at the initiative of the UN, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and international European organisations. On the night of November 9th-10th, 1938, mass Jewish pogroms organised by the leadership of the Nazi Party began simultaneously in Germany and Austria (Kristallnacht).



convened by UNESCO.

November 10th is World Science Day for Peace and Development. The annual celebration was established in 2001 at the initiative of the participants in the World Conference on Science,