



Developments by young scientists at exhibition of sci-tech and innovative achievements of NAS of Belarus

## Profession of scientist viewed as prestigious

Around 65 percent of young people are interested in science and the latest scientific achievements, with around 20 percent having considered a career in this field, according to a national survey recently conducted by the Youth Laboratory of Sociological Research, dedicated to the Year of Science. Countrywide, 1,200 people aged 16-31, took part, from cities and villages.

## Belarus is primarily focused on protection of national interests

President Alexander Lukashenko congratulates soldiers, sergeants, warrant officers and officers, as well as veterans and all fellow citizens, on Fatherland Defenders' and Belarus' Armed Forces Day

By Vladimir Khromov

'We always celebrate this holiday, associated with courage and bravery, with a special feeling of pride in our soldiers, who have always

ensured the defence of the country and who continue protecting the borders of our Homeland with dignity', reads the greeting.

The Head of State stresses that Belarus prioritises

the protection of national interests. 'A reliable security system has been created in the country, with the Armed Forces strengthening, and military training of soldiers improving,' Mr. Lukashenko

underlines.

The President has expressed his sincere gratitude to veterans of the Great Patriotic War, saying, 'Thanks to their selflessness and heroism, they are an example of



true patriotism and loyalty to military duty for the current generation of soldiers and officers'.

Mr. Lukashenko wishes everyone health, wellbeing and new achievements for the benefit of Belarus!

## Profession of scientist viewed as prestigious

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By Alexey Fedosov

Participants described the qualities they imagined important to a scientist, with observation named by 66 percent of respondents, and persistence by 51 percent. The ability to focus well was cited by half and over 40 percent noted the need for originality and a high level of self-discipline. Other qualities mentioned were a critical approach and independence of opinion.

Meanwhile, 65 percent named the creation of new technologies as the most important function of science. Around 20 percent of respondents said they had taken part in competitions for scientific and innovative projects.

Young people view the work of scientists as more prestigious than that of doctors, engineers, lawyers, accountants, chefs, teachers, journalists or market researchers. However, in comparison to pilots, the military and IT-developers, scientific work appears less attractive.

Participants were asked to assess their own level of awareness of Belarusian scientists and their developments, with the average score being four points out of



During the Festival of Youth University Science

ten, indicating a low level of promotion of Belarusian science among young people. At the same time, respondents believe that the level of development of science in Belarus is higher than in Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Armenia and Kazakhstan, but lower than in Russia, Poland, Great Britain and

the USA.

The co-ordinator of the national *100 Ideas for Belarus* youth competition, Yekaterina Petrashkevich, comments, "Around half of young people are interested in science and scientific achievements. This is a good indicator but — as seen from this research — young peo-

ple have little knowledge of Belarusian science. We need to promote national science, including through modern creative forms, to attract young professionals but also to develop a sense of patriotism. We must pay attention to the resources used by young people: popular science websites and blogs, and

groups and communities on social networks. We can promote science there. Young people have a positive image of science, with the status of a scientist viewed as more prestigious than other professions. There's great potential for the development of the scientific sphere. We need to tap into this."



## Telephone conversation connects presidents

By Vadim Mikheev

**Upon Kazakh initiative, Alexander Lukashenko and Nursultan Nazarbayev speak on the phone, notes Presidential Press Service**

Among the topics discussed was the Eurasian Economic Union, with both sides expressing concern over problems. The President of Kazakhstan is concerned by relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, but is convinced that all issues will be solved within the Union.

Mr. Nazarbayev informed Mr. Lukashenko about problems between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and his suggestions for ways to solve them.

The entire spectrum of Belarus-Kazakhstan relations came under discussion, with Mr. Nazarbayev inviting Mr. Lukashenko to attend the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation Summit, in the summer of 2017, and to visit EXPO-2017 Astana, which will feature a Belarusian national pavilion.

The presidents have reaffirmed their resolution to enhance allied relations.

According to the Presidential Press Service, the President spent the previous week in Sochi.

## ‘A tax haven? No, it’s Belarus’

This is how an article begins in popular Polish weekly magazine

By Alexander Pimenov

Some pieces of news are inspiring contemplation. The largest software developer, High-Tech Park resident EPAM Systems, earned more than \$1 billion last year. It’s the only company with Belarusian roots whose shares are quoted on the New York Stock Exchange, and whose clients include such giants as Coca Cola, Volkswagen, Gazprom and Google Corporation. Meanwhile, Poland’s *Wprost*, a popular Polish weekly magazine, has run an article on Belarus’ honorary status by Polish investors and experts: *Eastern Tax Haven*.

One of the founders of EPAM Systems, Arkady Dobkin, tells us, “I said this ten years ago, and then five years later, and I will repeat it now: the conditions created in the country for IT business are great and modern. People understand how products, solutions and services are created to a world level, because they’ve been allowed to do business with privileges. The estab-



Programmers of EPAM Company in their office in Minsk

lishment of the High-Tech Park has been justified. Few in Eastern Europe have attempted anything similar and, where they have, they’ve not shown the same results. For example, Georgia is smaller than Belarus and it would be more difficult to gain a good result there. More than 90 percent of the software produced in the HTP is exported, with almost half going to Europe and 40 percent to the USA and Canada.”

Polish businessmen note favourable conditions for investors beyond the service sphere. ‘Exemption from income tax, zero VAT rates, cheap labour and duty-free access to a 170-million strong market. A tax haven? No, it’s Belarus’, reads the article in *Wprost*.

Polish Grupa Atlas, the largest manufacturer of construction materials in Eastern Europe, feels comfortable on the Belarusian market.

# wprost



Arkady Dobkin

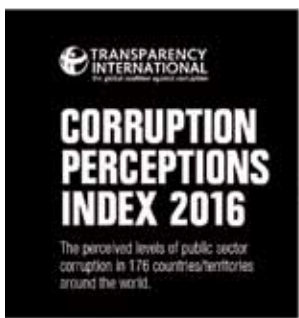
The Chairman of the Board, Henryk Siodmok, views Belarusians as being eagerly open to foreign investors. Economic zones have been set up allowing investors to avoid income tax for five years, while VAT is set at 10 percent.

According to Mr. Siodmok, it’s

also easy to hire qualified personnel. “The competition is considerably lower than here [in Poland] or in Western Europe. Because of the stereotypes about Belarus, nobody hurries to work there. This is a mistake. Those who find their niche in this market invariable come out as winners,” he notes.

Professor Robert Ciborowski, Rector of the University of Białystok, forecasts that the number of Polish companies on the Belarusian market will increase, “Conditions are in place for intensification of contacts. If trade and migration barriers were removed, my Podlaskie Region will gain tremendous benefits.”

The introduction by our country of a five visa-free regime is one more step in promoting business contacts and attracting investments. As they say, you’re always welcome. Come and see, and draw your own conclusions.



## Fewer barriers obviously lead to greater profits

By Valeria Gavrushcheva

Transparency International organisation has released its 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index, with Belarus ranked 79th out of 176 countries — a good result considering last year’s placing of 107th

The index assesses the level of corruption perception in a state sector and countries are ranked from 0 to 100, where 0 is the highest corruption level and 100 is the lowest. From 2012 to 2015, our index fluctuated between 29 and 32 and increased to 40 last year. Nikita Belyaev, an expert of the Liberal Club, explains, “As far as I’m aware, the calculating methods regarding our country have changed. Previously, a group of experts gathered to assess definite criteria reflecting the level of corruption in Belarus. An interview method is now used, with more than 1,500

respondents being polled. The result has consequently changed and it is likely that it is now more in touch with reality.”

A remarkable fact is that in the American anti-corruption rating TRACE Matrix (an alternative to the Transparency International rating) in 2016 Belarus was ranked 48th among 199 states. Regarding one of the four criteria of the assessments — ‘legislation and law enforcement practice’ — we were even placed 27th.

Vitaly Iskritsky, a senior prosecutor of the Directorate for Combating Corruption and Organised Crime of the General Prosecutor’s Office, explained that last year, we took into account 1,593 corruption crimes, “A country has to balance a system of struggle against corruption at all managerial levels and in various branches of economic activity. The Law ‘On the Struggle against

Corruption’ that entered into force about a year ago, also plays an important role. Law enforcement and other state bodies take measures to prevent, repress and reveal crimes related to corruption. In recent times, their number has remained below 1.5-2 percent of the total number of registered crimes (against 1.71 percent in 2016). The biggest number of corruption crimes was in the spheres of state management, healthcare, industry, trade, construction and agriculture.”

Universal solutions to corruption don’t exist. Even the countries which are traditionally leaders of anti-corruption rankings (Sweden, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Singapore and Denmark) have failed to completely beat the greed of individuals towards bribery. The complexity is such that crimes are characterised by a high degree of latency, so preventive measures come to the forefront.

## Simple strategy of competitive integration is high on the agenda

By Vladimir Velikhov

Belgian business ready to help Belarusian entrepreneurs enter new markets, notes co-founder of Belarusian-Belgian Export-Import Agency Belexia, Etienne Vauthier

prizes making high-quality products lack basic documents for entering the European market. Our work aims to help solve this problem.”

The Belgian businessman believes that Belarus’ five-day visa-free policy will help drive forward business dialogue. “It’s also neces-



“When we compare Belarus with neighbouring countries, we see that Belarusian enterprises are more ready to export to new markets, including the European Union’s common market. However, not everyone has enough experience in sales. Belgian companies have vast experience and can help enterprises from Belarus properly build sales strategies and enter new markets through joint efforts,” he explains.

Mr. Vauthier stresses that Belarus has an advantageous position for exporting to the EU. “This includes both its geographical location and production capabilities. However, it lacks certification. Even those enter-

sary to promote the country. People coming here need to know where to go and what to do, with whom to meet and co-operate. Belarus has high industrial potential, and everything needed to sell its products abroad, but some adjustments are needed to integrate into the global sales system.”

The joint Belarusian-Belgian Export-Import Agency, Belexia, is officially registered in Brussels. Belexia promotes Belarusian exports to Belgium, other EU member states, and third countries. It also attracts foreign investment into Belarus and into the Eurasian Economic Union as a whole.

## Ensuring reliability and safety

### Fifty new MAZ buses cross streets of Saransk city, in Russia

By Vladimir Yakovlev

Football fans are glad to see a new transport fleet of high-capacity vehicles come into operation, for taking fans to the capital of Mordovia next year, for the FIFA World Cup. Vehicles will run between the airport and stadium, to the stands and to parking. The Minsk buses are to bear the official mascot of the championship, wolf Zabivaka, and the symbol of Saransk: a red fox.

Minsk buses have operated in Saransk for many



MAZ bus on streets of Saransk

years, with the first arriving in 2011. Since then, almost every year, a new batch has been delivered from the MAZ Plant. With fuel efficiency and high eco-

standards, modern transmission and various electronic systems providing reliability and safety, they're a popular choice. Thanks to their compulsory body tilt,

passengers with less mobility can board easily. According to modern Russian requirements, Minsk buses are equipped with a system to communicate directly

with emergency services: the traffic police, police and 'first aid'.

MAZ buses' high standing on the Russian market is an established fact.

Popular on Russian streets since about 1995, they've received several top prizes at international transport exhibitions in Moscow. Last year, MAZ vehicles were ranked third among Russian brands, with 825 new vehicles delivered to the regions (up 1.5-fold on 2015). Urban vehicles of large and average capacity, providing maximum comfort for boarding and departure, meeting high eco-standards, are the most popular among those sold abroad.

MAZ is proud of its reputation on the Russian market, its reasonable prices and high quality, with good after-sales services, and favourable financial terms. Fifteen models of bus are currently being produced, with more than a hundred variations available for engine, transmission and other technical specification. Models can also be tailored to customers' needs. Recently, MAZ completed testing of a new, improved model of school bus.

## Achieving another record for BelAZ

### Video of motorcyclist jumping from one moving BelAZ truck to another goes viral



By Victor Ponomarev

Russian motor-freestyler Vladimir Yarygin has set another world record with his spectacular jump between two of the world's largest dump trucks: Zhodino-made 450 tonne models.

"I've never seen trucks of this size," he admitted, prior to undertaking the dangerous feat. "Motor-freestylers have achieved some

amazing jumps, but never from one moving vehicle to another." The distance between the trucks exceeded 20m, while Vladimir travelled 18m, jumping from a ramp on the rear truck to a landing board on the leading vehicle.

The video does not state where the jump was set up but factory workshops and residential houses are visible in the background. "The

shoot took place in Zhodino," says Yelena Konon, who heads BelAZ Public Relations Department. "We set up the trick with factory specialists." The 450 tonne BelAZ-75710 truck is the third for this model, and is now undergoing field-testing. The first vehicle was produced in 2013 and is successfully operating at Kuzbassraszrezugol's open pit.

## How to source business development funds

By Yevgeny Kononov

**Where can a business gain funds for its development? It's a difficult problem to solve. Often businesses prefer the easiest method of going to the bank and taking out a loan. However, under the current interest rates, this is not always the most sensible solution, nor does it fill the companies with confidence, knowing they are paying interest, as well as the loan amount.**

Public share placement on the stock exchange or IPO can be a much more pleasant and efficient instrument of investment. The State Property Committee has prepared a draft decree, suggesting the so-called public privatisation of those joint stock companies where the state share accounts for less than 25 percent. The State Property Committee isn't ready yet to name the businesses that will be publicly privatised. Nevertheless, the Deputy Head of the Property Relations Directorate of

the State Property Committee, Anna Kornievich, is confident in the necessity of such a step, "This is one more way to attract the funds of citizens to our enterprises, enabling residents to change from currency exchange offices and inspiring them to invest their savings in shares."

To revive the bond market, shares should be liquid while their profitability must not be lower than the profitability on the deposits. This is not the only condition. According to Oleg Mazol, an expert of

the stock exchange envisages the shift to standards of corporate management, enabling foreign investors to assess the efficiency of activity of these enterprises. Seeing the interest of foreign businesses in a company will encourage our own citizens to show interest in its shares."

The country has already had a successful experience of this kind. For the first time, 'national IPO' was conducted in the country back in 2012 when the shares in the Minsk Sparkling Wines Plant were sold, bringing \$3.4m to the enterprise.

Furthermore, the State Property Committee has prepared a preliminary list of sites for privatisation

this year. Previously, the largest balance or market cost of the enterprise was taken into account while now only the market will dictate the price during the sale. Requirements for investors didn't change and primarily include the creation of jobs, provision of social guarantees, development of production and conquering of new sales markets.



the Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Centre (BEROC), the openness of information is another factor of IPO success, "People should have maximum complete information about the activity of a joint stock company in order to decide whether to invest in it. Appearance on



Unique robot courier, developed by Belarusian intellectual start-up Dronex, supervised by Vladimir Davydov

## Home delivery available

By Vasily Seliterkin

Vladimir Davydov has been interested in flying toys since childhood but, around a decade ago, visited Thailand, where his unique idea was born: to develop a flying device to deliver goods faster and cheaper than couriers. While abroad, he saw a beautiful girl on the beach and sent her a glass of ice cream by quadrocopter — just for fun. She received his ‘surprise’ and Vladimir thought of making drones for goods delivery.

“Many companies are in need of such service — including online shops, restaurants, pharmacies, and car and electronics repair services. However, they have no desire or possibility to hire staff to service drones. Thanks to our invention, their costs will be reduced to those of delivery,” he explains.

Designed by Belarusians, the

device is equipped with advanced software. It easily evades obstacles and boasts unique aerodynamics and an ultra-precise autonomous landing system. A landing area of transparent polymer is placed on a windowsill and each client indicates a telephone number or e-mail tied to the co-ordinates of their site. Parcels are then delivered to the window.

Vladimir asserts that safety is the key advantage of his invention. “Why aren’t companies using drones to deliver products widely? Not Amazon, Google or DHL use them. So far, they’ve failed to develop a security system to ensure flights in populated areas. We’ve designed the safest drone, able to gently touch the ground if necessary. In the event of a collision, it can absorb impact energy. Screws are covered on all sides,” he notes.

The drone is able to cover 25-30km, at a height of 200m, loaded

with a cargo of up to 3.5kg.

Last year, Dronex pilotless delivery service won the annual start-ups contest, *BelBiz Battle*, held as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW 2016). Mr. Davydov, the founder of the start-up, whose team includes more than thirty people, has received permission to operate in three countries (Russia, China and Lithuania) and is negotiating with twenty other states, although he won’t disclose technical details.

“Belarus is clearly attractive as

### MT REFERENCE:

Dronex is a hardware start-up developing new ways of delivering goods, using autonomous drones unrivalled in terms of security and cost. The company, with headquarters in Ireland, positions itself as the world’s first service enabling customers to receive and send orders via drone. Small plastic platforms are simply affixed to window ledges, to enable drone landing.

a place for start-ups, having strong engineering personnel. In the USA, it would be impossible to recruit people for a project similar to our pilotless aircraft, on a modest budget,” Mr. Davydov asserts. “Think of Google, Amazon and three dozen other start-ups, each of which have budgets of \$10 million. They all compete for a modest pool of engineers. Belarus is a great place to set up an engineering team, with an eye to export, as we’ve seen from such companies as Wargaming, Viber, and Juno.”

## Time to strengthen co-ordination

By Alexander Pimenov

### Iran suggests Belarus take part in North-South, West-East transport corridor projects

Corresponding agreements have been discussed at a meeting between the President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, and the Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, Mikhail Myasnikovich, during an official visit of the Belarusian parliamentary delegation to Iran.

President Hassan Rouhani recalled his meeting with the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation Summit in Ufa, in 2015. The heads of state agreed to focus on co-operation across a number of major economic projects. Mr. Myasnikovich pointed out that this approach underpins the roadmap signed by Belarus and Iran in 2016. He added that Belarus is taking measures to implement agreements, and suggested that Belarus and Iran could strengthen interaction in manufacturing industry and finances.



Discussing sci-tech co-operation, it was noted that Belarus and Iran are involved in a number of competitive innovative technologies, including nanotechnologies and space technologies. Participants of the meeting agreed that special attention will be given to supporting young people taking part in such projects. Issues related to the training of Iranian specialists at Belarusian universities were also high on the agenda.

The President of Iran expressed his country’s eagerness to intensify relations with the Eurasian Economic Union and invited Belarus to take part in projects to develop the North-South and West-East transnational transport corridors that are nearing completion and are built in co-operation with Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. Iran views Belarus as a bridge between Europe and the countries of Central Asia.

Mr. Myasnikovich conveyed warm greetings from Alexander Lukashenko and wished Hassan Rouhani success in the upcoming presidential elections.

## Among best global outsourcers

International Association of Outsourcing Professionals publishes top 100 suppliers of outsourcing services, *Global Outsourcing 100*, including six IT companies with Belarusian subsidiaries

By Alexey Fedosov

The website of the International Association of Outsourcing Professionals (IAOP) notes that those listed among the Global Outsourcing 100 have demonstrated their global advantage. The top 100 includes IT companies with subsidiaries in Belarus: EPAM Systems (a HTP resident), Itransition (a HTP resident and

a member of the Infopark Scientific and Technological Association), Bell Integrator, IBA Group, Ciklum and Intetics.

The founders of four of these companies are either Belarus-born or citizens of Belarus: EPAM Systems (Arkady Dobkin and Leonid Lozner), Itransition (Sergey Gvarditsev), IBA Group (Sergey Levteev) and Intetics Inc. (Boris Kontsevov).

The rating also lists two companies with Belarusian representations not working in the IT sphere: Colliers International (a consulting company which provides services in the sphere of commercial property) and Teleperformance (which is involved in outsourcing of business processes).

Global Outsourcing 100 is an annual list of the world’s best suppliers of outsourcing services. The



major criteria for being registered on the list is profitability and growth of the team, best projects, recommendations from customers, level of corporate social responsibility and innovations.

## Social networks begin to crumble

By Maxim Osipov

The reason for this is the expected increase in cyber attacks in 2017. In order to steal personal information, criminals break into social network accounts and consequently users are beginning to delete their accounts to prevent the distribution of this data. Does this occur in Belarus too?

“Certainly, global processes in the sphere of information technology will affect our country too,” says the Chairman of the Foreign Policy and Security Research Centre and Associate Professor of the BSU’s Department of International Relations, Andrey Rusakovich. “However, in Belarus, older people are disinclined to place detailed personal information and photos on the Internet. So in our country, cyber-threats through social networks are less probable.”

Today experts predict that many social networks users in Western countries will begin to search for alternatives. This means there are opportunities for new forms of communication such as closed communities, blogs and other Internet platforms. The creation of personal

social networks may add another new dimension as has happened in China, for example. Andrey Rusakovich shares a similar opinion, “The creation of national networks is an effective mechanism to protection users and control processes. How-

ever, we need to understand that the market is mobile, while its legal regulation is minimal both nationally and globally. Users of social networks should realise the risk in putting too much information about their private lives on them.

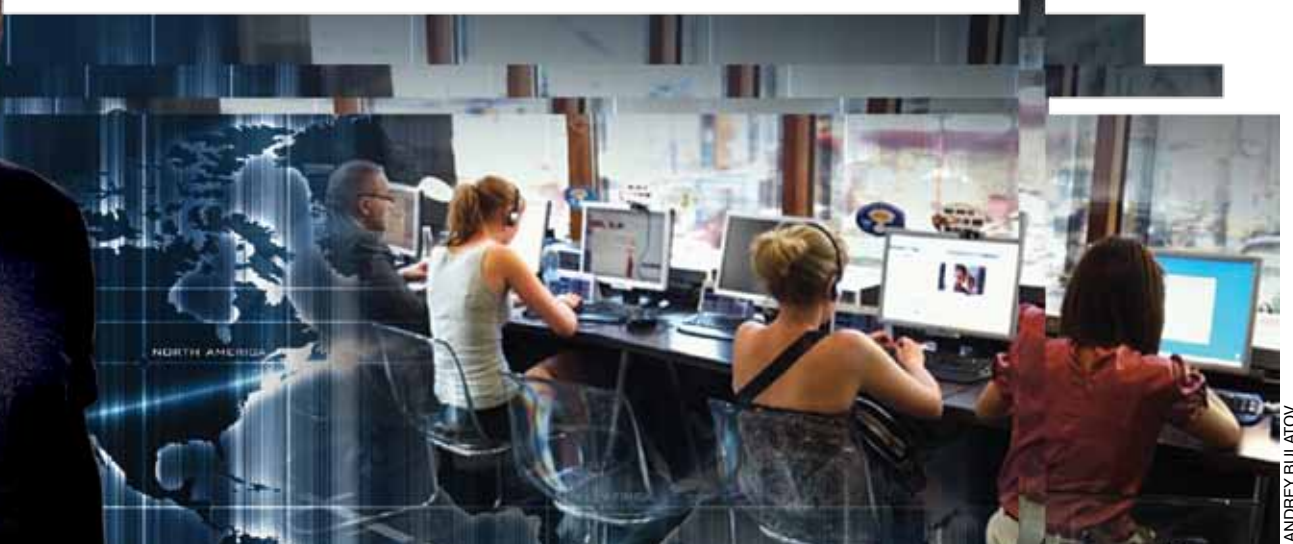
It is not necessary to demonise social networks. People should not forget that the Kaspersky Lab is a company that specialises in the development of a system of protection against computer viruses, spam, hacker attacks and other cyber-

threats. It is logical to assume that, in its forecasting the growth of cyber attacks, there may be at least partially a commercial interest, but for our own safety and well-being we should not ignore the opinions of the experts.

### According to forecasts by the Kaspersky Lab, in 2017 social networks are to lose users



### Publicised cyber attacks:



2014	microblog of Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in Twitter was hacked
2013	links in the accounts of US President Barack Obama in social networks Facebook and Twitter were hacked
2012	hackers withdrew \$5m from 4,5 thousand cash dispensers, having gained access to the Indian operator of prepaid cards Visa and MasterCard
2011	the list of the companies whose computer networks were compromised was published. It included Facebook, eBay, Google, IBM, Intel.
2009	cybercriminals got into the computer system of the Pentagon and stole information on the new multi-purpose fighter F-35 Lightning II
2000	occurrence of the virus I Love You — one of the most harmful in the world was registered. The damage it caused exceeds \$10 bn.

## Hitting the mark

By Dmitry Umpirovich

**Combat capabilities of anti-aircraft missiles and military aircraft, alongside operational-tactical complexes, assessed over several days, at Polessky former military firing range**

‘Tor-M2’ and ‘Osa’ anti-aircraft missile systems have shown perfect results, hitting all air targets. Also being tested were ‘Tochka’ tactical missiles, as well as ‘Yak-130’ jet trainers



Launching a missile

and ‘MiG-29’ fighters, launching guided missiles.

In total, the event featured around two hundred units of machinery and more than five hundred soldiers. According to General Major Oleg Dvigalev, the Commander of the Air Force and Air Defence of the Armed Forces, for most of those taking part, particularly, for young pilots, these manoeuvres were a true ‘trial by fire’.

“We’ve conducted several experiments, testing the tactical-technical characteristics of anti-aircraft missile complexes. The ‘Tor-M2’ managed to hit a target with an almost unreflective surface, launched from the ‘Grad’ multiple launch rocket system. It means that any aircraft, whatever its size, can be easily hit. Operated by the 147th brigade, the ‘Osa’ anti-aircraft missile’s target was a conventional helicopter. It’s not easy to hit this target, because of its low speed. Overall, everyone is pleased with the results and we’ve met our goals,” stressed the General Lieutenant, Defence Minister Andrei Ravkov.

## Route ‘from the Varangians to the Greeks’ with a stop in Podvinie

### Archaeologists have found a unique site of an ancient settlement of Vikings in the Vitebsk Region

By Victor Mikheev

It appears that an important point on the way ‘from the Varangians to the Greeks’ was on the bank of the Zapadnaya Dvina between Vitebsk and Polotsk. Experts called the settlement Kordon — in honour of the neighboring village, while the National Academy of Sciences has included the discovery in the top-10 discoveries of 2016.

“We got on the trail of the settlement after monitoring the websites of ‘black diggers’, the Head of the Archaeological Centre of the Institute of History of the NAS, Olga Levko, told our correspondent. “The site of this ancient settlement is unique because it reflects the 9th-10th centuries in a pure state — a period not often studied by archaeologists. We often deal with multilayered monuments



Fragments of archaeological discoveries

where one age mixes up with other eras. However, the most important thing is that now it is possible to say confidently that the foundation of the route ‘from the Varangians to the Greeks’ was established in the region of the Belarusian Podvinie (near the Dvina River). While the famous Smolensk route passing through the village of Gnezdovo, is a whole century younger.

A large quantity of artefacts,

including Roman coins, were found in Kordon. The oldest one was minted in the 790s. Arabian dirhams were also found, implying a trading centre on the site. A large embankment protected it from attacks from the river. There was also a bay for merchant ships. It’s likely the centre lost its importance and ceased to exist because of expansion of the Polotsk Principality towards Vitebsk.

# Five reasons to visit Ivye

The town in the Grodno Region is the unofficial capital of the Belarusian Tatars, who participated in the famous Battle of Grunwald, fighting as united Slavic regiments against the Crusaders in 1410. After those events, the first Tatar settlement was established in the Ivye District, where the followers of Mohammed received land in reward for their service.



By German Moskalenko

## Sightseeing 'capital' of Belarusian Tatars

Experts assert that the name of the town comes from the Tatars' 'oue, eve' — translated as 'a nest or a house'. Local residents share their own legends associated with place names. One states that the wife of Duke Gediminas of Lithuania loved the land so much that her husband ordered a castle built on the hills near the Ivenka River for her. The coat of arms of the ancient town features Princess Eva; accordingly, Ivye is the town of Eva.

When the Tatars were given the right to hold titles of nobility, many began to marry local beauties of Christian faith, taking Belarusian names. At the same time, they remained faithful to Islam. The oldest mosque in Belarus is located in Ivye, built in 1882.

Present-day Sovetskaya Street, on which the mosque is located, was named Tatarskaya for hundreds of years. A Muslim cemetery (mizar) is nearby, featuring gravestones engraved with the Islamic crescent and Arabic script. Eastern names neighbour those typical of Belarusian families. Stones also depict the symbol of Tatar families: a drooping willow twig, with leaves and falling tears.

The first spring vegetables and herbs in Belarusian markets come from Ivye. Migrants from the Crimea helped encourage local horticulture. Minsk even has a district named Tatarskie Ogorody (Tatar Gardens).

It's best to visit Ivye during the festivals of Kurban Bayram and Eid al-Fitr, to see how locals celebrate.

## Approaching monument of four shrines

An unusual monument is situated in Ivye's central square, its four arches symbolising the beginning of the path to four shrines: the Orthodox church, the Roman Catholic church, the mosque and the synagogue.

The Orthodox church, with its golden bulbil-domes, is famous for its icon of the Kazan Mother of God, as presented to the town by Ivye-born Victor Shutov, who worked with the Russian Space Agency. The icon spent ten days in orbit.

The town boasts a well-preserved two-storey Jewish quarter of artisans and merchants. The synagogue building, in traditional architecture, now houses a sports school. During the war, almost half of all Ivye residents died in the ghetto; on May 9th each year, their descendants come



Locals believe that Christ the Saviour protects the city against all strife



Monument of four confessions



Mosque is one of the town's sights



from all over the world to hold a requiem service.

## Seeing 'twin' of Rio's Christ

The cosy provincial town lives a quiet and measured life. It's best to observe it from the hill on which the St. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church is situated. Wars and people have changed the original appearance of the Gothic church, so that its present style combines Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo elements. It's truly worth visiting. The statue of Christ in Ivye was erected over a decade ago and is a perfect copy of the famous Christ the Saviour monument in Rio de Janeiro. Of course, it's much smaller than the original but offers an interesting comparison with the other in remote Rio.

Many stone Roman Catholic churches are situated in Ivye, and each deserves recognition. Among them is the early 20th century neo-Gothic church in Subbotniki, and one of the oldest Belarusian Roman Catholic churches — Nikolaevsky (1519) — in Geraneny. There are also the ruins of a 15th-16th century castle. Another Ivye attraction is the Museum of National Cultures, which hosts unique exhibits — such as an ancient Koran and Talmud. Melety Smotritsky's *Grammar* is said to have been published by an Ivye publishing house, and was named by Mikhail Lomonosov as 'the gateway to education'.

## Visiting royal Łazienki

Warsaw's Łazienki is the famous residence of the last king of the Rzecz Pospolita, Stanislaw August, and is known as the 'palace on the island'. To see this masterpiece of architecture, there's no need to go to Poland. Just visit the Ivye District's village of Zhemyslavl, which retains its palace and park estate; it's almost an exact copy of royal Łazienki.

The local nobility's nostalgia over the 'wonderful' days of the Rzecz Pospolita led local magnates to view themselves as equal to kings.

## Hunting in the Nalibokskaya Pushcha

The Nalibokskaya Pushcha National Park is a pearl within the tourist map of the region. At present, the Pushcha is a perfect place for hunters, as wildlife abounds. It's even possible to hunt royal pheasants.

Zimnik — Father Frost's brother — lives in the village of Zaleiki. Baba Zavirukha (Lady Snowstorm) also resides there, welcoming hundreds of families every winter.

## South Koreans protest against Park presidency

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in Seoul as part of a candlelit rally to demand the resignation of President Park Geun-hye

The rally was largely peaceful, with songs and speeches amid angry calls for her to step down. The leader, who was impeached by Parliament in December over a corruption scandal, remains in power while South Korea's Constitutional Court decides whether to uphold the impeachment. The scandal broke last year when



Protesters occupy major streets in Seoul for a rally against South Korean President Park Geun-hye

Park was accused of colluding with her friend Choi Soon-sil to pressure big businesses to donate funds to two foundations set up to back the

president's policy initiatives. If her impeachment is upheld, the leader would become the first democratically elected President of South Ko-

rea to be removed from office. A new election would have to be called in 60 days to decide a new leader for a full five-year term.

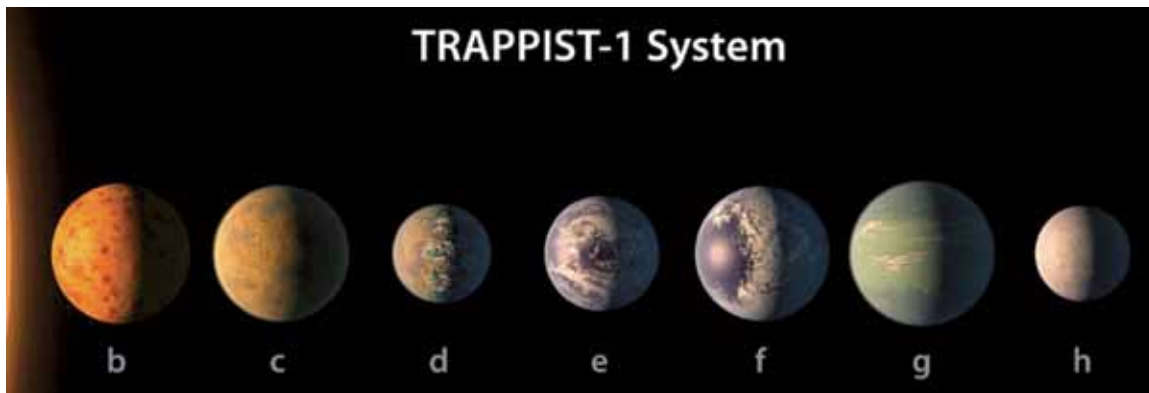
## Budapest to withdraw bid for 2024 Olympics

**Hungary is set to pull out of the race to hold the 2024 Olympics**

Budapest had been campaigning to host the summer Games in seven years time, but the proposals were met with fierce opposition from those who said it would be too expensive. A petition against the bid has gained more than 200,000 signatures, and now the Hungarian Government has advised the country's Olympic Committee to withdraw.

Budapest's city council has agreed, meaning the city's bid is all but over. The *NOlympia* campaign, which was started by the left-wing Momentum Movement, argued the money used on hosting the Olympics could be better spent on education, healthcare, housing, transport and social programmes.

Its petition gathered enough signatures to trigger a referendum on the issue, but Budapest's near-certain withdrawal makes that unlikely. Just two cities now remain in the running for the 2024 Games — Los Angeles and Paris.



## Seven exoplanets hint at a Milky Way packed with orbs that resemble Earth

**The discovery of seven Earth sized exoplanets found orbiting the dwarf star named Trappist-1 has sent a wave of excitement rippling through the world of astronomy and astrophysics**

It is the first time such a number of exoplanets have been discovered and it leads scientists to the conclusion that the Milky Way may well be full of worlds that resemble planet Earth.

Thomas Zurbuchen, from the Science Mission Directorate at NASA, notes, "These planets are among the best all the planets we know to follow up, to see, for example, with the James Webb Space Telescope that we're going to launch next year, to examine the atmospheres and also to look

at bio signatures, if there are any. The discovery gives us a hint that finding a second earth is not just a matter of if but when."

The initial discovery was made by the Trappist Telescope in Chile in 2016, six of the planets are in the 'temperate zone' with temperature between 0 and 100 degree Celsius. Scientists believe that all seven have the potential to support liquid water depending on the other characteristics of the surface. However, only three are in the 'habitable zone' where life is considered possible.

This discovery shows how the field of exoplanet astronomy is booming. This particular story is making the news because the seven planets are in some ways similar to Earth, but actually even-

ry week scientists are detecting new exoplanets orbiting around other stars in our galaxy, and they believe there are likely to be billions of them across the Milky Way. It's fun to dream about what it would be like on one of these planets, looking up at a pink Sun with other planets in the sky, but we shouldn't jump to conclusions about alien life — just because we say these planets are habitable, doesn't mean they actually are! Earth, Venus and Mars are all in the 'habitable zone' around our Sun, but for the moment we haven't found life on Mars or Venus.

Scientists said they need to study the atmospheres before determining whether these heavenly bodies could support life forms.

## Tesla has said on track for volume production of its Model 3 electric car

**Tesla has reassured investors by confirming that its vital mass-market Model 3 electric car is on track to be produced in large number by September**

There had been concerns that volume production would be delayed until next year as Tesla has struggled to meet previous forecasts and deadlines. However, the carmaker's operations continued to burn through cash, and Chief Executive Elon Musk has admitted that he may ask investors for billions more soon.

"According to our financial

plan, no capital needs to be raised for the Model 3 but we get very close to the edge," Musk told investors on a conference call. "We're considering a number of options but I think it probably makes sense to raise capital to reduce risk," Musk said.

That didn't seem to worry Wall Street, nor did its fourth quarter losses which narrowed to \$121.3 million (114.6 million Euros). Tesla said it would produce over 5,000 Model 3s per week 'at some point in the fourth quarter', and 10,000 vehicles per week 'at some point in 2018'.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



# Remaining true to oneself is really vital

We are often rather sceptical of the worth of our contemporary painters, as if believing they have not yet earned the right to our admiration. Vladimir Akulov, whose exhibitions are often held in the Belarusian capital, is among the exceptions.

By Veniamin Mikheev

Yevgeny Ksenevich has long promoted the work of Vladimir Akulov, curating his exhibitions, and collecting many of his works. Mr. Ksenevich compares Akulov's talent to that of Chagall and Soutine. It seems impossible for us to make such a comparison but many support the idea of Akulov's originality.

The press often writes about him, calling Vladimir Akulov a representative of the second wave of Belarusian avant-garde. His teacher, painter Alexander Soloviev, influenced him greatly during his studies at the Faculty of Art and Graphics, at Vitebsk's Pedagogical University. Since graduating, Akulov has created thousands of works.

Being inquisitive, the artist has travelled across the former USSR and has worked in Germany, Belgium and Italy. Moreover, he left whole cycles of his works in Germany, Belgium and the USA. Alexander Glezer, who helped organise the famous Moscow 'Bulldozer' exhibition, in 1974, came to Minsk to acquire Akulov's works for the Museum of Russian Art in the USA (New Jersey).

Vladimir Akulov has been exhibiting since 1985, with personal and joint exhibitions of contemporary Belarusian avant-garde art on display in Belarusian cities, in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Munich, Warsaw and Antwerp. His works are kept by the Modern Fine Arts Museum in Minsk, the Museum of Russian Art in New York, the Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace in Gomel and in various private Belarusian collections.

According to eyewitnesses, Vladimir Akulov's first personal exhibition caused shockwaves. Held in Slutsk's city library, in 1988, it aroused



a stormy reaction from the authorities, leaving him smeared with a reputation for 'scandal'.

Vladimir Akulov was born in Baranovichi but spent much of his life in Slutsk, where he attended school and studied at a pictorial art studio. He also worked as a teacher of drawing and as a book illustrator, for various institutions across the town and the district. In 1990, he moved to Minsk but returned to Slutsk in 2011, and has lived there, with his family, since.

Vladimir Akulov has told reporters that he arrived in Slutsk in 1962, studying there. "Then, I went into the army," he relates. "I continued my studies in Vitebsk and later 'passed from one hand to another', moving between four 'masters'."

The last record in his working dates back to 1982, when he took employment in Surgut as a book illustrator.

Since 1989, various people (whom he calls 'masters') have provided him with materials and have sold his pictures. He admits, "I wouldn't know how to find traditional employment these days. I think I've forgotten how. Meanwhile, I have my own schedule, without external control."

Mr. Akulov has created almost 2,000 works to date, but believes that he'll continue making far more. He asserts, "You should never stop creating. When you have purpose, this is what keeps you alive. Don't forget that you are mortal; that your time will come. This will help you appreciate the time you do have, and make the most of it. Once your time is gone, there's no going back."

Despite the fact that he primarily focuses on serious themes, such as war and faith, his first personal exhibition at

Slutsk Art Gallery showcased much lighter works, depicting buildings around the city, still-life works, and portraits and self-portraits. Some were dedicated to religion.

He stresses the importance of 'line' and his desire to express his emotions on canvas. "Asceticism is obligatory: everything should be abandoned, there should be no women... because this disturbs. Marriage brings the loss of half a man's rights while doubling his obligations. This doesn't coincide in any way," explains the painter while describing his own creative principles.

His works are multi-layered: both literally (supplementing a traditional still-life with an image of a human skull) and figuratively. Each of the pictures displayed at the exhibition has five or six images placed on top of each other, offering us many levels

on which to 'read' the picture, creating layers of metaphor and symbolism.

Mr. Akulov noted that most of the people he draws aren't keen on his portraits but this doesn't bother him. He underlines, "An artist should paint from the heart, rather than to please someone. Our desire to please others restricts our freedom."

Mr. Akulov is known for being outspoken. "The avant-garde of the 1990s has disappeared, being replaced by installations. The spirit of painting has died," he once said in an interview.

He tries to preserve the spirit of the avant-garde of that time but leaves it to audiences to judge how successfully he has transferred the traditions of this artistic movement into our 21st century world.

Undoubtedly, Vladimir Akulov is an extraordinary personality, absolutely recog-

nisable, even in the smallest details of his work. With the soul of an eternal traveller, seeking answers to eternal questions, he creates works which seem never to have existed before his imagination took hold. He breaks new ground, bringing his own unique vision.

He seems to lack rationality or analysis, using only improvisation, based on his intuition, and expression of his impulses, using various techniques, materials, genres and styles.

The major motivation seems to be his desire to express himself, through colour, light and lineal contrasts. He distorts form, and joins images with deliberately careless lines, layering those images, through collage, to create new meaning. The conveyance of beauty is secondary to his desire to convey his own truths, with honesty.

Vladimir Akulov's works are currently on show at Minsk's University of Culture Gallery. Unfortunately, he almost never leaves Slutsk these days, so won't be in attendance. His fans will be sad not to have the chance to question him, but perhaps this mystery is fitting. His works are full of secrets.

# White-winged angel on a bicycle

## Mogilev Drama Theatre stages unexpected and fascinating performance about well-known first printer Francysk Skaryna

By Tatiana Orlova

### Doctor of liberal sciences

2017 marks a special anniversary year of remembrance for Francysk Skaryna's work. The great man published the first book in Belarusian language: a translation of the Bible. Much research exists on the famous first printer, but he remains somewhat of a mystery, with details of his life hidden from us. He was a doctor, a theologian, an enlightener, a scientist, secretary to three kings, and a traveller...

Understanding of Skaryna's achievements helps us, today, better appreciate our past. The Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama and the National Library last year launched a contest, with sponsorship from Belarusbank, requesting plays about Skaryna, in five nominations. Nikolay Rudkovsky won first prize for his script, which unearths incredible secrets about Skaryna. His artistic research — deep, full of mysteries and unexpected in composition, is entitled *Doctor of Liberal Sciences* and was recently premiered at Mogilev Drama Theatre.

### Making something impossible

One year ago, the theatre's Artistic Director, Saulius Varnas, began his search for a playwright able to create a suitable script about the man whose monument is located in a small inner courtyard, in his native Vilnius. Skaryna is claimed not only by Belarus, but by Lithuania, and by Europe, for his incredible ac-



Mephistopheles intrigues young Skaryna, played by Ivan Trus, with a burning book, tempting him in his search for truth

complishments. Mr. Varnas undertook research and came to realise that he wanted to take a different approach. He tells us, "It's more important to look at the spiritual aspirations of the philosopher and thinker: his determination to make something impossible. Books were this impossible thing."

All who are ambitious experience joy and disappointment, triumph and failure. They wear the face of Faust, defying Mephistopheles, as the great Goethe portrayed in his work, exploring man's desire for immortality.

The performance *Skaryna*, at Mogilev's Drama

Theatre, features a 'Mephistopheles' in the form of 'Master' (played by Honoured Artiste Vasily Galets). He lures Skaryna into a secret society, tempting him with fulfillment of every desire. Ivan Trus, who plays young Skaryna, admits that he read many books about his hero before learning his lines. He tells us, "Skaryna was wise and self-effacing, while enduring many challenges."

### Python for secret society

The performance aligns ancient history with the present, Mogilev's Skaryna, like Faust, is passing through the centuries. We see the Bibli-

cal parable of Bathsheba and David. A white-winged angel on a bicycle storms across the stage. Clerks and censors burn books, and we're presented with *Girl on a Ball*, by Pablo Picasso. The character who returned from the next world smokes from a hookah pipe. An open book bursts into flames in Skaryna's hands and a plague streams by, reminiscent of the outpouring of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Master-Mephistopheles photographs all the events with a video camera and a black-tailed python, called Zina, is placed on Skaryna's back. Actress Yulia Ladik, in her first major role, plays

Margarita, the chosen one of Francysk Skaryna. As a true ballerina, she soars over the earth and life, on pointe.

The performance is full of surprises and complexities, designed to puzzle and intrigue, in the best traditions of innovative art. We cannot help but muse on the passing of time, comparing the past with the present, and thinking of all that has occurred between.

The Bible is the beginning and end of all human wisdom, so its translation into Belarusian language was an incredible feat. The word 'translation' is explained in the performance as 'replacement of old words by new'.

Competition juror Anatoly Butevich comments, "Except for his name, people know little about Skaryna. There's little value or interest in relating a simple biography, of course. We need to lead the way, rather than following in others' footsteps."

### Trap of the banal

It is easy to fall into the trap of being biographical, when what audiences really want is to be thrilled. We may think we want accuracy of detail, but who can say what life was like five centuries ago. Perhaps the only truths lie in our knowledge of the human condition, which never changes. We continue to be fuelled by the same dreams, desires and fears, with our desire to communicate with the dead, and to hear God. We know that thought thrives on conflict, and theatre, above all else, inspires us to think.

We're led to believe that schoolchildren should attend the theatre to be 'instructed' but today's generation is used to being entertained with more dynamism than is found on theatre stages. Young people live in a world of digital technologies, bright visualisation, and apocalyptic and utopian plots, against a background of music and irony.

How can the theatre compete? By playing tricks, and dangerous games, experimenting and venturing into the unknown, beyond our comfort zone? Perhaps, *Skaryna*, the play, achieves this, but many are sure to question whether the performance is suitable for schoolchildren.

# Maestro Finberg sounds really loud

By Irina Ovsepyan

**Popular conductor Mikhail Finberg celebrates double jubilee: on February 21st, the People's Artiste marked his 70th birthday and the 30th anniversary of his founding of the National Academic Symphony and Variety Music Orchestra of Belarus**

Belarus' Culture Minister, Boris Svetlov, has conveyed greetings from Alexander Lukashenko and the Head of the Presidential Administration, Natalia

Kochanova, also presenting Mr. Finberg with the *Lira* National Music Award for his contribution to the pop music art of Belarus.

The National Concert Orchestra prepared several spectacular performances for ceremony guests, featuring young singer Yegor Sharankov who, this year, will represent Belarus at the *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* Festival.

Mr. Finberg was delighted, saying, "We love Belarus and do all we can to promote a love of music and to ensure universal access to concerts.



Mikhail Finberg at the rehearsal

There's no corner where our team has failed to perform — as confirmed by the 327 festivals we've held in small towns, as well as the cultural and historical centres of our country. We've raised a new generation who know and

love Belarusian art. This is our contribution to the development of national culture. Within the orchestra, several generations of wonderful musicians have grown up — including honoured and people's artistes.

Popular singer and People's Artiste Nikolay Skorikov is among those who've worked with the maestro since the ensemble's foundation. He's convinced that Mr. Finberg's role in Belarus' cultural development and promotion of Belarusian music cannot be overestimated, saying, "Maestro Finberg has been at the forefront of several major music festivals — including the *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk*, staging an incredible amount of exciting music. In 1993, the Festival of Belarusian Song

and Poetry was launched in Molodechno, at the instigation of Mr. Finberg (though few realise). The National Academic Orchestra (with which I've worked for around 25 years) has toured cities and villages, promoting Belarusian songs. My best years as an artiste and singer are connected with this ensemble, which — in my mind — is synonymous with the name of Mikhail Finberg."

Jubilee celebrations in honour of Professor Finberg and his orchestra will be accompanied by an art project.

# Gold, silver and bronze

Leather glove masters bring home medals of all values from 68th International Boxing Tournament, Strandja 2017, held in Bulgarian Sofia

By Kirill Karin

The competition brought together over 250 boxers from all over the world and proved to be most successful for Gomel's Vladislav Smyaglikov (91kg) who captured gold. In the finals, he defeated Bulgaria's Kristiyan Dimitrov — 4:1.

This was the fourth victory for the Belarusian at Sofia Sports Complex: on his path to the finals, the talented boxer defeated Azerbaijan's Rahil Mammadli — 5:0, Ukraine's Dmytro Lisovyi — 4:1 and Russia's Islam Takeev — 4:1.

Experienced Pavel Kostromin (69kg), who took part in the 2016 Olympics, lost 1:4 to the UK's Pat McCormack, leaving him with silver. Pavel celebrated victory over Bulgaria's Nikolay Koev, Kazakhstan's Ablaihan Zhus-



Prize winners of competitions with their coaches

supov and Greece's Alexandros Tsanikidis.

Galina Bruevich (60kg) captured bronze, beating

Thailand's Ratchadaporn Saoto and India's Preeti Beniwal — 5:0. Sadly, in the semi-finals, Galina's

Bulgarian rival, Denitsa Eliseeva, proved stronger. She lost 1:4, but proved her worthiness in the ring.

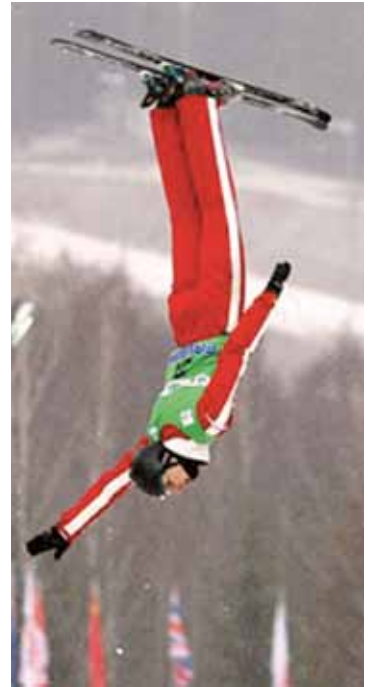
# Medals podium was out of reach during home stage

By Alexey Grishin

Australian Lidia Lassila and Chinese Wang Xindi win FIS Freestyle Skiing World Cup, held in Raubichi, near Minsk

It was clear after the qualification round that our Belarusian athletes wouldn't be claiming medals during the home stage. Only Alexandra Romanovskaya qualified for the finals, while none of the men were on good form, making poor landings. Sadly, Alexandra took a tumble on the slope, depriving fans of their last hope. Truly, nerves of steel are required in this sport.

Veteran Lidia Lassila, from Australia, whose attendance at the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang will be her fifth and last, out-jumped her rivals, despite harsh weather. With firm landings, she celebrated her first time



at Raubichi with victory.

The competition among the men was tough, with few able to challenge the Chinese athletes, who took all three medals. Wang Xindi was followed by Qi Guangpu and Zhou Hang. Belarus' young Pavel Dik performed best, ahead of Maxim Gustik and Stanislav Gladchenko.

# 'I approach the heavy bar-bell with a great feeling of tenderness towards it...'

Climbing the Olympic podium in Rio, Darya Naumova realised that she should fulfil another of her dreams: to parachute jump

By Kristina Khalko

I used to go weightlifting with my friend, but was already engaged in the shot putt and discus throw. At one tournament, I was invited to enter Bobruisk Olympic Reserve School. However, I knew that — being 165cm tall — I had little future in throwing. As a result, my first coach, Valery Sizinyuk, persuaded me to go into track-and-field — replacing the putt with a bar-bell.

**Is it good for a girl to lift weights?**

In the beginning, I was often told to give up that 'dirty work'. It was thought unfeminine. I ignored such advice, although I'd be like a squeezed lemon at the end of my training sessions. My progress was evident. I began working with a haft initially but later added 'pancakes' of weights. It was exciting as I saw my first successes.

*It's a matter of opinion as to which sports are suitable for women. In my view, women can box and wrestle just as men do.*

**At the 2016 Olympics, in Rio, you made your debut — winning silver...**

*Sadly, I failed to capture gold. Before my performance, my thigh began aching and I had to gather all my will in a fist — 'performing to the teeth' as sportsmen say in such cases. Only the Chinese were ahead, but I won the first medal for the Belarusian team. I hope to capture gold at the Tokyo Olympics. You should never give up, even when you are pitted only against yourself. Keep on fighting, clenching your fists, swallowing tears and smiling through force. We must strive for our dreams and goals — until the very end.*

**Did you manage to sight-see the city of Ostap Bender's dreams?**



Darya Naumova in Rio

*I only saw the Olympic Village: the hotel, the dining room and the gym. I saw nothing of the city, but managed to throw a coin into the ocean, to offer up my wish to return there again!*

**You live in Bobruisk. Do you plan to move to Minsk?**

*No. The capital is too full of bustle and hurry; everyone is on edge. I often attend Minsk training camps and these days are enough for me to 'enjoy' life in the capital. Staying at home, in my native village, is different. The local air is so clean that it seems impossible to breathe it all. The forest and river*

*are nearby, and the surroundings are beautiful. Sadly, I rarely visit my native home but each time is a true holiday. We gather round a large table, my parents, sisters and nephews, chatting until midnight. I sleep a great deal there — gaining strength and playing with Nixon.*

**Is Nixon a cat?**

*He's my talisman: a little squirrel! I saw a video on the Internet where the animal was playing, running around and standing on its hind legs. I immediately fell in love with it. I reviewed a lot of ads and found a six week old 'baby'. It wasn't easy, as I had to wake up at*

## MT REFERENCE:

Darya Naumova was born on August 26th, 1995, in the village of Potoka (Mogilev Region). During her tenth year at school, she began weightlifting, and now performs in the 'up to 75kg' category. In 2014, Darya won bronze at the World Juniors Weightlifting Championship, in Kazan. Last year, she took silver at the Rio Olympics.

*night to feed it with milk. The squirrel has grown up now — being almost a year old. It loves nuts. It's no more difficult to care for a squirrel than for a hamster or a cat. My sister and niece look after Nixon at the moment. Once I have a car, I'll take Nixon to my training sessions.*

**How do you spend your free time?**

*I love being active in my spare time. After the Olympics, I missed the thrill and adrenaline. I decided to parachute jump! In tandem with an experienced instructor, I jumped from 3,000m, at 200km/h. That was breath-taking. I'd dreamed of this all my life! I want to jump again, on my own.*

# 12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, March 2, 2017

## Celebrations of the week



Maslenitsa open air celebrations held in Minsk

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> March. *The Age of Anton Barkhatkov* Until 13<sup>th</sup> March. Exhibition of Yulia Gaidukova's pictorial works: *Adoration of the Simple* Until 14<sup>th</sup> March. *Byalynitsky-Birulya's Memorial Landscapes* Until 16<sup>th</sup> April. *Radziwills: the Fates of Country and the Family*

#### NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 9<sup>th</sup> April. *Vladimir Mulyavin: Heritage of Great Maestro* Until 9<sup>th</sup> April. *MirRazh* Until 16<sup>th</sup> April. Interactive exhibition: *Anatomy of Miracle* Until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. *From Romanian Dinary to Belarusian Rouble*

#### MUSEUM OF MODERN BELARUSIAN STATE

38 Karl Marx Street  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> March. *Belarus and China: 25 Years of Successful Co-operation*

#### EXHIBITION HALL OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM

9A Bogdanovich Street  
Until 13<sup>th</sup> March. *Noisy Feathered Rainbow*

#### LOSHITSA ESTATE

8 Chizhevsky Lane  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> May. *Embroidered Beauty*

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> March. *Birds in Winter*

#### YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

#### MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 24<sup>th</sup> March. *Guitars of Past Epoch*

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUS' MINIATURES

25 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Museum of Miniatures of Belarusian Sights permanent exhibition

#### HOUSE-MUSEUM OF RSDRP FIRST SESSION

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Exhibition of experiments: *Science Museum*

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN FOLK ART IN RAUBICHI

Raubichi village  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> April. *Wedding of Western Polesie*

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
02.03. Prince Igor 03.03. Anyuta 04.03. Strauss Invites; Zarzuela. Concert of Spanish Music 05.03. Little Prince 07.03. For Our — The Soul of My Empress 09.03. Nutcracker, or Another Christmas Story

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
03.03. Art 04.03. Kolyady Night 05.03. Paulinka 09.03. Abduction of Europe, or Ursula Radziwill Theatre

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
02.03. Private Lives 03.03. The Twelfth Night 04.03. Pane Kokhanku 05.03. As If By Magic; Innkeeper 07.03. An Ideal Husband 09.03. Testosterone

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
02.03. Robbery at Midnight 03.03. The Battlefield 04.03. Even a Wise Man Stumbles 05.03. A Very Simple Story 07.03. Love to Woman 09.03. The Makropoulos Case

#### MODERN ARTS THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
03.03. Two Henpecked Husbands 04.03. Love and Pigeons 05.03. Figaro.tut 06.03. House Upside-Down

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
02.03. Medea Syndrome 03.03. Belarus. Didactics 04.03. Three Giselles 05.03. An Uninvited Guest 07.03. Adam's Jokes 09.03. Adel

#### BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street  
02.03. Treasury Island 03.03. Red Flower 04.03. Cat's House 05.03. Road to Bethlehem 07.03. Belarusian Vaudevilles

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
03.03. Tartuffe 04.03. Little Red-Riding-Hood 05.03. Mysterious Hippopotamus 08.03. Wolf and Seven Goats

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
07.03. Comedy

#### MTZ HOUSE OF CULTURE

24 Dolgobrodskaya Street  
02.03. Tragedy of Ground Floor

**The Minsk Times**

**Founder:**  
SB editorial office  
**Editor**  
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**Registration certificate #62**  
**Address:**  
11 Kiseleva Str., Minsk 220029  
**Editorial office contact number:**  
+375 17 290—61—13;  
fax +375 17 290—68—31  
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**To order:** 283  
Printed at the Belarusian Publishing House Republican Unitary Enterprise License № 02330/106 as of 30.04.2004  
220013 Minsk,  
79 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
**Circulation:** 1,930

**Учредитель:**  
Учреждение Администрации Президента Республики Беларусь «Редакция газеты «Советская Белоруссия»».  
Ул. Б. Хмельницкого, 10<sup>а</sup>, Минск, 220013  
**Регистрационное свидетельство № 62**  
Выдано 02.03.2009 Министерством информации Республики Беларусь  
**E-mail:** times@sb.by

**Редактор** Виктор Михайлович Харьков  
**Объём издания** — 3 п. л.  
**Адрес редакции:**  
ул. Киселева, 11, Минск, 220029  
**Телефон редакции:**  
+375 17 290 68 31; +375 17 290 61 13  
**Тираж:** 1,930, **Заказ:** 283

**Время подписания в печать:** 20.10  
Отпечатана в Республиканском унитарном предприятии «Издательство «Белорусский Дом печати». ЛП № 02330/106 от 30.04.2004. Пр. Независимости, 79, 220013, Минск.  
**Subscription indexes:** Departmental — 637302; Individual — 63730  
**Индексы подписки:** ведомственной — 637302; индивидуальной — 63730

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