

# Hockey without results makes no game

## Tough decisions at Presidential meeting on ice hockey development

Top-level discussion on the problems facing ice hockey is rooted not just in the President's personal love of this sport and his frequent play in matches. Millions enjoy the sport, which brings recognition of Belarus and enhances its image internationally. Huge sums are invested in ice hockey development and fans are rightly indignant when they don't see results on the ice. The President's tough stance has good grounds.



INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

ISSN 1991-2978



**Socio-political Weekly**

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 20 (690) ● THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017 ● WWW.SB.BY



## *Braslavskie Zarnitsy* ignites hearts of youngsters

International holiday of traditional culture, held in ancient Braslav, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year



## Hockey without results makes no game

By Alexander Pimenov

Recently, Belarus and Latvia received the right to co-host the Ice Hockey World Championship, in 2021, ahead of applications by Finnish Tampere and Helsinki. Of course, it gives

reason for celebration, but Alexander Lukashenko explains, “No victory would have taken place if we’d failed to demonstrate, three years ago, that we could organise a world championship better than any other country. I’ll tell you the secret. On the eve

of voting, there were proposals to give up the struggle and let Finland host the event. However, I flatly rejected the idea. As we agreed with the Latvians, we must fight to win. The Latvians are due merit, as they made a direct proposal to me to join

the struggle to host this World Championship.”

We need to plan a strategy for the home tournament, with Mr. Lukashenko pinning hopes on the new head of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation, Semen Shapiro. Known as a strong

and experienced manager and a good organiser, who won’t rest until he gets his way, the President has given him carte blanche in training his team, choosing reserves, overseeing coaching staff and strengthening the domestic championship.

## You are only young once

President of Belarus calls on young people to seek happiness in their homeland, meeting youngsters as part of *Youth. Looking into the Future* forum

By Vladimir Velikhov

“You can be absolutely happy and fulfil your dreams in Belarus,” the Belarusian leader is convinced. “The homeland is the main thing. I advise you, not as president but as a person, not to leave your homeland! Live here and try to do some good for your country. Do something for those who might help you become great people and true leaders someday,” the Head of State announced.

He also mentioned the initiators of promising and interesting youth projects across various regions of Belarus, saying, “They deserve support and respect. These people are doing great things for the country, making our lives more meaningful. These and other projects will definitely make Belarus famous around the world.”

Minsk gymnasium #6 pupil Danila Yeliseyev demonstrated a 3D printer he’d assembled to the President, at an exhibition of accomplishments by youngsters, as part of the ‘Leadership Guidelines as Formulae for Success’. Danila assembled the printer at home and has already made arrangements to acquire the necessary parts to assemble more.

Mr. Lukashenko asked the ninth form pupil whether he can make more advanced models, printing using a variety of materials and colours and Danila admitted to working



Meeting with pupils as part of *Youth. Looking into the Future* campaign

on this. Pupils from across Belarus demonstrated their inventions at the exhibition, with those from Minsk’s architecture and arts gymnasium #75 recreating ancient and lost architectural monuments, in miniature. “We’re reconstructing what was lost long ago,” explained pupils Anna Gamezo and Nadezha Frolova. “Architectural landmarks destroyed by people, time and wars. Some are under renovation at the moment. For instance, there is only ruined building left from huge Pavlinovo mansion. Meanwhile, Shchorsy estate

(the ‘Belarusian Versailles’) has been almost destroyed.”

Pupils built miniature models, from old Belarusian and foreign documents and photos, and from the recollections of those who once worked there: models of Pavlinovo, in the Baranovichi District and the Novogrudok District’s Shchorsy estate. Around thirty models were on display, with most usually housed at local museums.

“We’re doing this to help people appreciate and remember their history. We believe that our efforts will

help restore Belarus’ historical heritage. The fact that the state pays attention to this issue, as in the case of Mir Castle and Nesvizh Castle, only proves it,” note the pupils.

After viewing the youngsters’ models, Mr. Lukashenko expressed his pleasure and surprise, remarking, “Such incredible beauty!” He believes that, under current conditions and using modern technologies, the sites could be restored.

Mr. Lukashenko also visited the school’s statehood museum, and gave instructions to present a Slutsk

sash to the school, for the sake of expanding the collection.

During his meeting with schoolchildren Mr. Lukashenko chatted about the qualities of a true leader and encouraged youngsters to appreciate the time they have.

“As the head of state, it’s my job to pay attention to the younger generation because I see tomorrow in you,” he underlined. The President expressed confidence that young people will achieve their goals since, ‘all conditions exist’ for their ‘walk in life to be a success’. “The existing education system allows you to choose your profession wisely and to realise your skills,” noted the Head of State.

Mr. Lukashenko also advised students not to waste time. “Everything needs to be done when the time is right. If you don’t do something now — gain an education, and build the foundations of your future life — tomorrow will be too late.”

The President noted his pleasure in chatting with youngsters, and said that the visit helped him recall his own schooldays and his time as a teacher. He encouraged the students to speak their minds on various matters, asking their opinions on how they’d like to participate in public life, what they’d like to do on the sixth school day, and what time they’d like to see their studies begin every day.

## Touching delicate strings of wounded soul

By Galina Ulitenok

**Of approximately 22,000 Jewish people brought to Belarusian territory from European countries during WWII, around 13,500 were from Austria, sent to Minsk ghetto and Trostenets death camp. Victor Balakirev, the Chairman of the Directorate of the Johannes Rau International Centre for Education and Exchange, spoke of the fact during the opening of a memorial service devoted to those tragic events.**

From Vienna alone, the Nazis sent ten vehicles to Minsk in 1942; each transported approximately a thousand people. The first train left

exactly seventy-five years ago, in early May. “The figures we’ve heard are truly inconceivable,” admitted Alexander Bayerl, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to Belarus, speaking with sorrow. “Today is a very sad and very important day for us.”

The meeting near Minsk’s Memory Stones memorial brought together former prisoners of Minsk ghetto, representatives of the Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities, and leaders of religious confessions. Among those in attendance were a large group of relatives of Austrian victims of the Holocaust. Grey-haired joined the young in taking the baton in mem-



In memory of tragic events

ory of the older generation, arriving from Vienna, London, Amsterdam, Hamburg and elsewhere, to address their dead relatives with the impor-

tant message: ‘We have not forgotten you, we love you!’

Young rabbi Alexander Grodensky, from Luxembourg, lost rela-

tives on both sides to the Nazis in Belarus: near Oshmyany, his great-grandfather’s family (on his father’s side) were killed, while his Austrian descendants, on his mother’s side, were tortured in Trostenets. This was Alexander’s second visit to Belarus, and he believes our attitude towards the memory of victims of war and the Holocaust deserves the highest praise.

This is the ninth visit of such groups from Western Europe, the USA and Australia — organised under the auspices of Austria’s IMMERMER Association. Thanks are due to the personal energy, enthusiasm and dedication of the secretary general of this humanitarian initiative, Waltraud Barton.



# Regional context of European partnership

Belarus interested in interaction with EU on regional development, notes Head of State on meeting Markku Markkula, President of European Committee of Regions



Alexander Lukashenko notes Belarus' interest in interaction with EU on regional development

By Vasily Kharitonov

“You’re dealing with very serious problems, as we faced long ago, in Soviet times. These problems involve our people living in rural areas, villages and small towns. We’re reliable partners for those in Europe who want good and happy lives for people living, primarily, in rural areas,” noted the President.

Alexander Lukashenko also remarked that recent events in Minsk involving this European body are en-

twinced in the fabric of Belarus’ relations with Europe. He said, “You’re preparing recommendations for the European Union across a spectrum of relations between Belarus and the EU, especially for the Eastern Partnership initiative.”

The Head of State is convinced that this visit will be the next step in establishing good, neighbourly relations between Belarus and the EU. “I was very much interested in your arrival in Belarus. You’ve arrived with a team of specialists. We’d now like

you to learn more about Belarus and to see the openness of our country,” the President stressed.

Mr. Lukashenko also mentioned pragmatic interest in developing co-operation with the Finns. “I’ve never been to Finland, your homeland, but I feel sure that your country could be an example to us, across many fields,” asserted the Head of State, adding that he hoped Mr. Markkula would work to bring Belarus and Finland closer.

Mr. Markkula thanked

Belarus for the invitation and for holding events in Minsk, saying, “The influence of our organisation in Europe is high. Just like you, in Belarus, we’re focusing on people living in less populated areas; we want to create a decent level of social security for them, ensuring stability.”

The European Committee of the Regions is a consultative body representing local and regional authorities of twenty-eight EU member states. It comprises 350 members, appointed for a

five-year term, following the recommendation of governments of European Union member states, with the right to be appointed for a second term. It aims to develop small and medium-sized settlements, and to enhance standards of living for residents. Recently, the President set tasks for the development of the Orsha District, with Baranovichi, Bobruisk, Lida and some other towns within the field of vision. Local production facilities are to be set up, breathing new life into communities.

## Expansion of dialogue welcomed

By Vladimir Khromov

### Number of followers of Belarus-EU equitable dialogue increases

The session of the Bureau of Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP), held in Minsk for the first time, saw representatives of Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia join colleagues from the European Committee of the Regions. The meeting was a stage of preparation for the *Eastern Partnership Summit*, due to take place in Brussels in November.

“Belarus is keen to expand dialogue with local and regional authorities of European Union member states and with *Eastern Partnership* countries,” notes the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Council of the Republic for Regional Policy and Local Self-government and Co-chairman of the CORLEAP, Alexander Popkov. “The *Eastern Partnership* is interesting to us in showing how we can become familiar with new technologies and new innovation projects popular today. We support the strengthening of the *Eastern Partnership* and hope that implementation of good neighbourly policy will enhance stability, security and successful economic development of our states.”

The meeting of the CORLEAP Bureau in Minsk saw discussion of recommendations for the *Eastern Partnership Summit*, being held in Brussels. The agenda included ideas on stimulating economic growth and public employment, as well as the development of infrastructure and enhancement of energy efficiency. According to the President of the European Committee of the Regions, Markku Markkula, local and regional authorities should be more active in settling these issues. Meanwhile, the Head of the EU Delegation in Minsk, Andrea Wiktorin, noted significant progress in EU-Belarus co-operation. In this context, she tackled the topic of simplifying the visa regime, saying, “This process is progressing well. The first round of negotiations has taken place in Brussels while the second is to be held in Minsk. I’m confident that we’ll manage to solve all issues.”

# Contemporary Silk Road: fast as the wind

## Container trains running from Shenzhen, China to Belarusian Kolyadichi station

By Nina Vasilieva

The new train route runs through the territory of four states, including Russia and Kazakhstan, and has become a visible achievement of the implementation of the *Belt and Road* initiative. The destination for these container trains is Kolyadichi station, near Minsk, making it part of the multi-modal lo-

gistics hub. It has a dry port, accepting cargoes from various countries and very often from the People’s Republic of China.

Cargo has been travelling along the Silk Road to the Great Stone Industrial Park but, originally, these were only one-way journeys: fulfilling special orders for the supply of construction materials, used to build adminis-

trative and business centres, as well as warehouses, for the Park. Now, the launch of the China Railway Express train along the Shenzhen-Minsk (Kolyadichi) route is viewed as a strategic project.

During the recent *Belt and Road* Forum for International Co-operation, in Beijing, President Alexander Lukashenko agreed with Chinese President Xi Jinping



Train from Shenzhen

to develop joint collaboration on this project, including the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt.

Connecting Asia and Eu-

rope, this large-scale infrastructural project will open up a wealth of new opportunities. The first container train has now left Shenzhen.



# Robotic milking and feeding of dairy herds

Over the past ten years, production of cheese in Belarus has tripled

By German Moskalenko

## Preserving success

The latest statistics show that Belarus produces almost three times as much milk as it consumes, with the excess exported, to generate revenue. Over the past five years, production and processing of milk in Belarus have grown by about 25 percent, but plans are even more ambitious. The programme for agrarian business in the Republic of Belarus until 2020 envisages an increase in milk processing by another third.

The foundations of this Belarusian dairy miracle were laid fifteen years ago, when major modernisation of agriculture began. Emphasis was placed on updating infrastructure and production. In 2005, the first agro-towns appeared: large villages with modern housing, infrastructure and social support. Automated lines were introduced at farms and an increasing number are now using robots to feed and milk cows.

To ensure high-quality processing, all twenty-four dairies country-wide have been modernised, at large enterprises and traditional flagships, and at small factories in district centres. Lyakhovich Dairy Factory processes up to 160 tonnes of milk daily, with around 30 percent exported (including to Russia). The enterprise employs ten farms from the district.

Meanwhile, quality is receiving greater control, with the technological chain of production and processing ensuring that about 200 laboratory samples are tested daily.



New Timokhovka dairy farm, at Ovsyanka agricultural production co-operative, in Mogilev Region

## Money voting

Not long ago, the Russian Public Opinion Research Centre published a study on consumer preferences within the Russian market. Belarusian milk, cheese, meat and sausages led the ratings. “Consumers say the secret of Belarusian milk is that it’s natural and, therefore, tasty,” says Alexey Meleshchenya, the Director of the Research Insti-

tute for Meat and Dairy Industry, at the National Academy of Sciences. “Belarus has managed to preserve its position from Soviet times, regarding the training of specialists and breeding techniques. We’ve progressed into increasing milk production and processing.”

Cheeses are especially popular for export, having almost tripled in export volume over the past dec-

ade. Besides making traditional chesses, Belarusian factories now produce modern roquefort and mozzarella, and Mogilev’s Molochnye Gorki Plant — modernised using Russian investment — produces parmesan.

Interestingly, when European and Russian experts test cheeses ‘blindfolded’, they often give preference to Belarusian brands.

Business unions would like to help businesses together

By Alexey Fedosov

## Business unions of Belarus, Estonia and Malta to create a single Internet portal to exchange business proposals and practical information

Recently, the Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (named after Professor M. Kunyavsky), the Estonian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (EVEA) and the Malta Chamber of SMEs (GRTU) signed an agreement on long-term co-operation. The document guarantees additional assistance to entrepreneurs in establishing business contacts and information about business terms in the three countries.

“Estonia has a lot to offer Belarusian businessmen. Mainly, there are our unique digital services allowing business to be conducted in the EU,” noted EVEA Vice President Marina Kaas during the signing ceremony.

“We are looking forward to beginning a new stage of interaction. This project opens up great opportunities for Belarusian, Maltese and Estonian companies provided they work together,” said GRTU representative Noel Gauci. “Establishing business ties with Estonia and Malta means additional opportunities for Belarusian business in attracting investment and developing foreign trade. We count on the building of a partner business network between entrepreneurs of Belarus, Malta, and Estonia,” summed up Dmitry Dichkovsky, co-Chairman of the Board of Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (named after Professor M. Kunyavsky). The business unions of the three countries have started to develop co-operation as part of the *East Invest 2* project, supported by the European Commission within the *Eastern Partnership* initiative.



# Olga Starostina has managed to combine her hobby and business

By Olga Korneeva

**Confucius said: ‘Find a hobby to your liking and your life will never be dull. Surely everyone would like to combine a hobby with business but not everyone succeeds. One teacher from Kopyl — Olga Starostina — has made a success of this.**

Several years ago, she was attracted by Irish lace and is now preparing to present her works at the *Ethno Art Fest 2017*, in London.

Olga turned to knitting in childhood, making scarves, napkins and hats. However, she always wanted to achieve more. She accidentally found Irish lace, began to study the technique and tried it herself. Olga sold her first jacket on an international website: Master craft fair. She realised this is what she’d been searching for.

“Irish lace is always exclusive. It’s classic — beyond fashion and time. Due to the specificity of its technology, each model is unique

and can be inherited as a family heirloom. The work requires painstaking patience and certain expense. For example, only Italian cotton is suitable for lacemaking. It is now sold in Belarus and I need no longer order it from overseas,” she said.

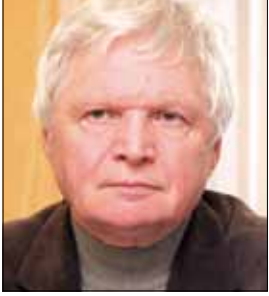
It takes Olga around three months to make a single article. Every knitter has their own price but an average price for a cardigan and dress from Irish lace can reach two thousand Dollars. However, ac-

cording to Olga, true connoisseurs of art are willing to pay. “Among my buyers are not only residents of Belarus and Russia but also Germany, France, Latvia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. For example, I’m now taking orders for summer of 2019,” she notes.

Olga plans to pass an internship, learning from masters of Irish lace at the Royal Court of Great Britain. She also dreams of opening her own school in Belarus and even an art salon in Paris.



# Entrepreneurial strategy



**Boris PANSHIN**,  
Professor at  
BSU's Faculty  
of Economics

We often speak of the development of a long-term strategy for innovation and entrepreneurship, currently the major source of new jobs and a guarantee of high growth rates for both new and traditional economies. The task of elaborating on such a strategy is a complex one, but feasible nonetheless.

Small business in the country accounts for 28 percent and the non-state sector employs more than 1.2 million people — practically one in every four or five workers. In most developed countries, these figures are twice as high. However, we must consider that in these states, especially in the USA, the economy has been growing for almost 200 years, starting with small enterprises. Our economy on the other hand, has had just 20 years to establish itself in its modern form, and relies primarily on large enterprise. This determines our many contemporary problems and difficulties while simultaneously creating new opportunities for the quick renewal of industries, using their production and intellectual

potential.

Small innovative business is unable to grow and strengthen if high-tech industry doesn't develop nearby. Examples of Belarusian high-tech enterprises show that all except the 'virtual' businesses, have established themselves on the premises of state enterprises and scientific research institutes.

Countries with sustainable development (Germany, Denmark and France) have a level of small enterprises accounting for 70 percent, medium-sized 22 percent and the share of large companies is 8 percent. This enables them to involve the maximum number of citizens in active economic life and ensure a sustainable economy. The same situation is seen in Asia, where



scientific-production clusters have been established, dozens of medium and hundreds of thousands of small companies are working on the principals of co-operation. All benefit because they spend most of their efforts on bringing technology and production techniques to a high standard rather than on a competitive struggle for survival.

Under current conditions, the foundation for the creation of Belarusian clus-

ters are the large enterprises, as well as academic and branch scientific research institutes and higher and secondary educational establishments. The success of the High-Tech Park is primarily explained by significant state support, and the fact that IT companies began to compete for talented students while creating their laboratories and centres in leading universities. In the real sector, it's more difficult to do this and more effort and time is

needed; however, it's necessary to move in this direction at an accelerated rate.

It would be a rational step to set up a range of national centres of excellence (knowledge hubs) in universities covering those activities in which Belarus has indisputable achievements. These would be linked to large enterprises, with the aim of introducing innovations and, at the same time, preparing personnel. Moreover, many experts see

the future of universities as a cluster of high-tech companies with highly intellectual services.

The future of the economy relies on human capital, which is of great concern to new, promising technologies and production facilities that we can develop independently. Without this, an increase in living standards is impossible, since one job in the high-tech sphere creates 4-5 others in related production and services.

## Green light for businesses

The forthcoming business decriminalisation law has been widely covered and, recently, representatives of the Financial Investigations Department of the State Control Committee presented the possible legislative innovations to journalists

By Victor Ponomarev

A package of concrete proposals has been put together; as a result, some currently criminal actions would be viewed as administrative crimes in the future. Those labelled criminals now, might be considered 'offenders'. The difference is significant as criminals currently serve gaol terms but, in the future, they will pay for their mistakes financially. This move is called decriminalisation.

Specialists of the Financial Investigations Department have been guided by Article 233 of the Criminal Code regarding illegal entrepreneurial activity. The article now consists of four

crimes: forbidden entrepreneurial activity; business carried out without a special permit or license; the same activity conducted without state registration; and the activity of the so-called financial pyramids. In the future, these pyramids will remain on the list of criminal offenses as they constitute fraud. It is proposed that the first three are completely excluded from the Criminal Code.

This also applies to some other activities. Among them is the providing of deliberately false documents for obtaining a loan (for salary payments, production needs, the replenishment of working capital, for example); the evasion of payment of



**Victor Franskevich**

accounts; the production, distribution or use of counterfeit excise stamps; and opening accounts outside the country.

The rationale behind the move is that, either the public danger of these activities has lost its relevance, or the punishment for them is disproportionately strict. The responsibility for such violations would not disappear, but it would become less harsh — passing into the category of administratively punishable. Criminal

liability will also still apply if the actions of officials fall under special articles: fraud, embezzlement by abuse of official authority, or causing property damage.

The Financial Investigations Department's Deputy Director, Victor Franskevich, states that, now, during the investigation of criminal cases, citizens are exposed to considerable numbers of these crimes. He can't promise a complete 'amnesty' but announced that the responsibility should be reduced.

## Partners see real prospects

By Vladimir Velikhov

**Belarus and the Czech Republic keen to expand bilateral projects in the energy sphere**

Minsk has hosted a session of a Belarusian-Czech working group on co-operation in power engineering.

During the session, the two sides summed up the results of previous decisions and discussed possible options for invigorating bilateral interaction in power engineering, including in trade-economic and investment areas.

Brief presentations by companies were arranged during the session, with key interests and lines of business being sketched out. Participants of the session also exchanged opinions about the modernisation of energy

facilities, the exchange of experiences in energy effectiveness and the use of renewable energy sources. The two sides expressed their interest in implementing more bilateral projects with a view to promoting a joint product in other markets. Moreover, the potential for further expansion of bilateral mutually beneficial ties in a number of promising avenues was noted.

The most important projects the sides have implemented include the construction of the Polotsk and Grodno hydropower plants with the assistance of the Czech company Mavel and the joint project of the Belarusian companies Beltopgaz and Torfopredpriyatiye Glinka JSC and Czech Raselina to build a plant to process peat and make turf substrates.



# Staggering air ticket prices

On the eve of the summer holidays, sophisticated travellers are monitoring the websites of air companies searching for convenient flights and cheap tickets. It's nearly impossible however, to find better prices than those of the low-cost carriers. Why is there such a monopoly on flights?

By Mikhail Govoren

They work using principles known as 'cheap and good' and 'there's always room for one more'. Air tickets for \$20-30 are offered in exchange for lack of on-board services, alongside high-density seating, enabling maximum utilisation. High labour productivity and low overhead costs result in very low tariffs — unthinkable for traditional air carriers.

Everything may seem straightforward as far as cheap flight pricing is concerned but there are other considerations. Firstly, a passenger can have the extra services but at a charge comparable with the cost of a ticket. Additional cost options include luggage transportation, pre-boarding, meal on



Low cost airlines attract by their cheap air tickets

board, seat reservation in the exit row where one can even stretch out one's legs and even check-in.

Secondly, these air carriers save on airport fees. They fly to those airports which are older or located further away from the city; accordingly, airport fees are less. Arrival and departures are often not at very convenient times. There are no connecting flights for different routes, i.e. an air company sells tickets from point A to point B only via a direct flight. This envisages passengers spending extra time and money on the road to the city and to another airport. Thirdly, they try to use only new airplanes and only one model, which enables them to minimise expenditures for the repair and maintenance of a big staff of

technicians. They use aircraft heavily for 5-6 years and then sell them on. Moreover, the terms of sales and rules for ticket return also have their role to play (these are primarily sold on their own Internet websites), alongside on-line flight check-in.

Belarusian travellers know that one can fly from Vilnius airport (which is often called 'Minsk-3') for a few Euros. Low cost airlines don't come to Minsk because Minsk hasn't welcomed them. One of the stumbling blocks is passenger luggage. An air ticket sold by a traditional air company always includes hand luggage and checked-in luggage, while in case of a low-cost air carrier, one can take only hand luggage, while the additional payment for a suitcase can

exceed the cost of the air ticket.

Dmitry Melikyan, Director General of Minsk National Airport, notes that low cost airlines don't meet Belarusian standards. "Our standard is that the ticket of a person who comes to our airport already includes 20kg of checked-in luggage and 8kg of hand luggage. I believe that our people should receive high-quality services."

Air expert Vyacheslav Kononov, comments on the arrival of one of the most popular low cost airlines to Ukraine — Irish Ryanair. "When low cost carriers arrive somewhere they demand very big discounts and particular subsidies. They sell themselves by saying, 'We're a marker, you will start earning money from now on because a whole crowd of air

carriers will follow us. On the other hand, we transport many passengers, so this should be compensated'. The governments of some resort countries now encourage air companies to fly to them and the subsidy amounts to \$30-50 per passenger. There are other advantages to shops which receive new customers, for example."

If we calculate all the subsidies, the payment for luggage, check-in and other penalties, the tariff of the low-cost airlines is not so small as it may seem, summed up the air expert. If we add the additional transport fees required, it turns out that the flights aren't always very cheap. In addition, some of the more traditional carriers are adopting policies of the cheaper airlines.

## Voyage from Brest to Brest

By Valentina Kozlovich

**Brest IT specialist, Dmitry Suyarkov, plans to sail from Belarusian Brest to French Brest, with his route passing along the Baltic Sea's coastline and envisaging visits to the cities of Gdansk, Szczecin, Kiel, Amsterdam, Calais, and Brest**

Dmitry explains how the idea was born to buy his own yacht, "I once visited a marina full of sailing boats in a Baltic port. My childish dream began there. I repaired and scrubbed others' yachts, gaining experience and understanding of their workings. In return for my work, I was invited by crews to join them in changing the yacht's position. In 2008, I visited Novorossiysk to wave off a famous explorer with Belarusian roots — Yevgeny Gvozdev — on his third round-the-world tour. I then returned to Brest and began building my own yacht. It took 5 years from the purchase of



When yacht was still under construction

the first sheets of waterproof plywood until the last screw was put into the hull."

In 2014, Dmitry's yacht was put on water in the port of Brest. He believes his voyage from Brest

to Brest will take up to 5 months. "I have a six month vacation and I have already chosen my fellow travellers. They will not be able to come all the way with me but they will overlap each other," he added.

## Exciting opportunity to study buildings

By Olga Korneeva

**Belarus' architecture has huge potential in attracting foreign tourists, notes the French Doctor of Art History, Fabien Bellat, and author of a book on the Soviet-era architecture of Minsk**

The preparation for the volume on Soviet architecture was an exciting opportunity for an art historian. Fabien Bellat shared a range of discoveries made as he worked on the book, entitled *Stalinist Architecture of Belarus*. He is of the opinion that many of the buildings in Minsk would easily attract French and Italian tourists, as well as residents from other European states, since the architecture of the Soviet era is very attractive to them.

This is the second book by the author describing the architecture

of the Soviet period. The first was a book about the city of Togliatti. It was so successful that the publisher showed an interest in creating another and the capital of Belarus was chosen.

Mr. Bellat believes that the publication of such a book will change the image of Minsk in the eyes of Europeans. The following buildings may become sites of great interest for foreign guests: the House of Councils (the Council of Ministers), the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre, the National Academy of Sciences, GUM (city department store), the Tractor Works, etc.

The architecture of many of these buildings, for example that of GUM, echoes with architecture in France, and this would attract the interest of the French. Mr. Bellat believes that Nezavisimosti Avenue is also worth the attention of foreign visitors.



# People of the marshes

*MT* reporter takes an extreme outing to Olmanskie marshes in southern Belarus

By Vasily Malashenkov

Who would think of spending their holiday in the marshes? Some clearly would. Going to ‘drygva’ — as the marshes are sometimes called in Belarus — is a type of extreme tourism in the Republic. Sturdy boots and a good map are essential, the romantic aspects of a trip here is questionable, however.

## Take a walking stick along the ‘drygva’

In Belarus, the swamps occupy nearly 15 percent of the total area and people treat these special places with respect. During the war, the ‘drygva’ offered shelter from the enemy and now people collect cranberries and cloudberry. Five of us recently travelled to the Olmanskie marshes and took three and a half days to explore them all.

“These are wild places where it’s better not to go alone,” warned an experienced swamp-visitor. “Local people reassure us that the bog has not sucked anyone in for many years though. It’s important to be safe and sensible in the environment and to use a long pole to examine the surface before stepping on it. Walking is difficult. The soil shifts beneath your feet, many places require you to walk through deep mud. Often causeways or wooden tracks help when they are not too slippery. In a few places, there are patches of perfectly ‘paved’ road, possibly the remains for a farm which existed before the time of Khrushchev. Borti’ — or



Philosophy of travelling along the marshes

old hives — are also sometimes seen and are still used by the local villagers”

## Cranberry price

One of the members of our tour — Digger — explained how he once managed to put a tent directly on the marsh. We decided to spend the night on the islands, searching for a site with access, found in wells dug by cranberry pickers close to their huts. These people spend up to several weeks a year here, collecting berries. They put the harvest into unsealed bags and put them back in the bog. Both the water and the cold help to preserve the product which is later taken out to be sold.



Olmany’s outskirts

A local villager tells us that cranberries previously reached a price of Br3 per kilo, but at the end of the season, the price dropped to

Br2.5. To make any money, a picker needs to collect at least a hundred kilos. The season usually starts in September and lasts until the first

snow. Collecting is sometimes hampered by fires and the evidence is clear to see on our trip, with some trees merely black sticks, with little or no fruit.

## Sacred lake

Olmany borders Bolshoe Zashominoe Lake. Its shore is boggy but decking has been laid by the villagers. On reaching a small viewing tower, we see a summerhouse by the shore. It’s a great place to stop and eat or just enjoy the lake. Believers might bow to the crosses nearby. According to legend, a duke’s daughter drowned here after being prohibited from marrying her lover. After the tragedy, her father commanded that the lake be blessed and set up the crosses.

A 19th century church is situated in Olmany; it was preserved after the war along with the priest’s house. The Germans burned the countryside, taking the villagers to camps. Only a few of them managed to escape and survived by hiding in the marshes.

In summer, the swamps are damp, hot and full of mosquitoes. In autumn, the dampness is a special feature: artful, cool and penetrating. Some may wonder why people choose such places for their leisure, the answer is simple: to personally challenge themselves and see how they can conquer the bogs. It’s a great achievement to reach places that most people can’t go. It’s a great opportunity to discover the unknown world of nature and test human capabilities.

## Ruffs make a pitstop at Pripyat

It’s unlikely our country has ever seen such a large number of birds registered in the Red Book. 120,000 ruffs (20 per cent of the whole world’s population) — slim long-legged wading birds — have spent this spring in the Belarusian Polesie region

By Dmitry Umpirovich

According to ornithologists, they will spend around a month at Turov meadow which is considered the major transit point for migrating birds.

“Ruffs fly from Africa, from their wintering places, to Eurasian cold deserts,” explained the Director of the Belarus Bird Ringing Centre and senior research officer of the ornithology



Interesting meetings in Polesie

laboratory at the Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources of the National Academy of Sciences, Pavel Pinchuk. “According to bird ringing data, these birds nest from Scandinavia to Yakutia. Migration for birds is a difficult time, so such stops are very important for them to gain weight, for example. Otherwise, the birds won’t

be able to reach their destinations.”

The floodplain of the River Pripyat is perfect for such a break, so it’s vital to preserve it in its unchanged state. Other birds from the Red Book also nest here: black-tailed godwits, double snipers, ring plovers, European oyster catchers, Terek sandpipers, marsh sandpipers and pintails.

## Careful attitude to the past appreciated

By Irina Zavadsкая

**Ancient Kopsy — a small settlement on the left bank of the Dnieper River — will soon welcome its first guests. It was announced at a traditional press conference on the eve of the International Day of Monuments that the age-old pier in the Orsha District has become a pilot area, where the reconstruction of memorial sites has been kept strictly to the historical records. Works are based on the 1665 Kopsy plan and Vitebsk’s record book from the time.**

The scientific project manager and Head of the Centre of Archaeology and Ancient History of Belarus, Olga Levko, explains that all the excavation and construction works in Kopsy have been conducted under the supervision of archaeologists on a truly large scale: almost simultaneously, gas, water supply systems and



new roads are being laid. Other cities and towns will be developed with no less respect for the historic record.

This year, the St. Boris and Hleb Church in Grodno and 18th-19th century paintings at Polotsk’s Transfiguration Church will be restored using money and grants from the President’s Fund for the Support of Culture and Art. Moreover, the temporary conservation of the Kn-yazheskaya church in the Smorgon District’s village of Krevo is planned.





## Massive migrant rescue off Italy coast

**As the G7 leaders arrived home after their summit in Sicily, some 1,500 migrants have been taken ashore in Naples by the charity Doctors Without Borders**

It is a stark reminder of the migration issue that Rome wanted to highlight during the G7 summit, deliberately choosing a hilltop location overlooking the Mediterranean.

Some 45 children and 140 women are among the migrants rescued. Two bodies are also being brought ashore.

The latest rescue came as NGOs complained that even though the G7 was held close to where so many migrants have drowned, the summit produced no concrete solutions.

Roberto Barbieri, from Oxfam Italy, noted, "Migration is really a big issue, because we are in a situation in which 65 million people are displaced or refugees. That is the biggest number ever since the Second World War. We have a huge responsibility towards these people. This is a nation. Somehow this is the hidden nation. Security alone can not be the approach. We need to look at long-term perspectives."

## Nokia and Apple avoid court battle over patents

**Nokia and Apple will not have their day in court as they have settled a legal battle over how much Apple pays to use technology developed by Nokia**

The swift settlement surprised investors who had expected the dispute to be ugly and lengthy.

After a previous agreement ended last year Apple complained of being overcharged while Nokia said Apple was violating its patents.

Nokia was once the world's dominant mobile phone maker but these days most of its profits come from exchange equipment; however, it does make digital health monitoring devices — such as smartwatches — which Apple will now resume selling at its stores and online. Nokia said it would also provide network products and services to Apple under the new business agreement.

Nokia's Chief Legal Officer Maria Varsellona said the agreement "moves our relationship with Apple from being adversaries in court to business partners".

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**

# Police makes progress in Manchester investigation

Detectives have made 'immense' progress into the Manchester bombing and are confident they have arrested some 'key players'

Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley said police have made 'significant' arrests and 'finds' and have got hold of a 'large part of the network' being sought over the atrocity.

Mr. Rowley said, "They are very significant, these arrests. We are very happy we've got our hands around

some of the key players that we are concerned about but there's still a little bit more to do."

Officers who earlier raided terrorist Salman Abedi's home discovered a working bomb factory with a huge stash of explosive chemicals and other components. It comes amid

fears the attacker might have built a second device that is now in the hands of fellow jihadists.

Security sources now believe he assembled the bomb himself after learning his trade in Libya. But the amount of material in his home has led to fears that he could have built

more than one device and distributed them to other British-based extremists.

British police have resumed 'working closely' with US authorities on the probe after a tense showdown between the allies over leaked intelligence.



## Robots to the rescue on post-disaster recovery

**After industrial accidents or natural disasters, the collection of information is crucial and robots can be precious allies to assist with this**

Ground robots and drones were developed within European research project TRADR. Remotely controlled, their mission is to search and explore the accident site. They can even create digital maps of the environment in three dimensions.

Renaud Dubé, autonomous systems engineer, ETH Zurich, ex-

plains, "There is a laser sensor on the robots that measures the distance on a map, and in two dimensions. Rotating it makes it possible to make a truly three-dimensional map. Most of the time we use two to three robots, each of which is equipped with one of these sensors. The aim is to merge all the measurements together to have a global representation of the environment."

The goal is to better assess the risks and protect the lives of the rescuers.

## 'Food revolution': megabrands turn to small startup ideas

**The aim of the strategy, according to interviews with executives, is to buy into — and learn from — the kind of startup innovation that has become their nemesis**

Food and drink megabrands are seeing their sales chewed away by smaller, nimbler, cooler rivals. They can't beat them — so now they're joining them.

Nine of the world's biggest industry players, including Danone, General Mills, Campbell Soup and Kellogg's, have launched venture capital units over the past 18 months. The aim of the strategy is to buy into — and learn from — the kind of startup innovation that has become their nemesis.

Food and drink multinationals spend far less on R&D than their counterparts in many sectors like tech and healthcare. They have been wrong-footed over the past five years by the shifting habits of



consumers who are increasingly shunning established brands in favour of small, independent names they regard as healthier, more authentic and original.

This is forcing the companies to take a leaf out of Silicon Valley's venture capital playbook — and their success or failure in harnessing promising new trends at a very early stage could help determine how well they adjust to the changing landscape, and whether they ultimately emerge as winners or losers.



## Breath of eternity frozen in wonderful porcelain

National Art Museum presents unique exhibition dedicated to 90th anniversary of birth of Victor Gavrilov — Honoured Figure of Arts of Belarus, artist, teacher, art critic, designer and public figure

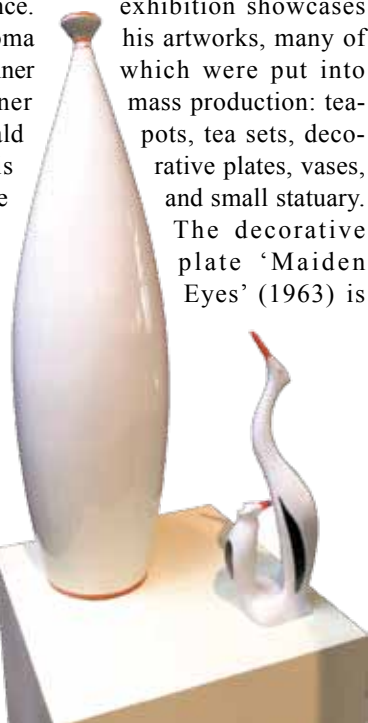
By Veniamin Mikheev

Victor Gavrilov was born in the city of Gorlovka, in the Donetsk Region. In 1939, he, together with his family, moved to Lvov, where he began to focus on art. The 1940s war-years saw the loss of loved ones and, in 1944, Mr. Gavrilov was drafted into the army, as his father and his brother had been before him. Only in the early 1950s did he manage to return to his labour of love, at the Ceramics Department of the Lvov Institute of Applied and Decorative Arts. Studying at the Institute, he combined the traditions of folk art and his knowledge of European art. Young teachers included Ivan Skabalo, Gavrilov's friend, and graduates of the Moscow Institute of Decorative and Applied Arts Mikhail Belyaev and Taras Porozhnyak, with whom Gavrilov grew closer, in Belarus.

Mr. Gavrilov's Lvov period was unusually rich: classes, active student, creative and social work as a master at one of the old ceramic manufactures in Rava-Ruska. This helped him gain valuable technological knowledge and experience. He completed his diploma project — 'Wedding Dinner Service' (1950), a dinner set with a unique emerald glaze, and received his first teaching experience at his home university.

His Lvov period saw the creation of his 'Geese and Swans' (1954) and 'Novgorod' (1959) vases, as well as decorative sculptures entitled 'Family' and 'Woman-Singer' (1961).

In 1963, Mr. Gavrilov was invited to Minsk, taking up residence as the chief artist at Minsk's Porcelain Factory and heading the experimental



and art laboratory, where an interesting research group had been created. By the mid 1960s, Minsk porcelain had acquired its style, and gained fame not only in Belarus, but far abroad.

Without exaggeration, Mr. Gavrilov was the founder of Belarusian artistic porcelain. The current exhibition showcases his artworks, many of which were put into mass production: teapots, tea sets, decorative plates, vases, and small statuary. The decorative plate 'Maiden Eyes' (1963) is

his most vivid piece, and is the only such portrait image known in Belarusian porcelain, full of vigour and using a rich glaze to express the idea of joyful youth.

He was an expert in ceramic techniques, enjoying using the vessel form. His decorative vases 'Zubr (Auroch)' (1986) and 'Bird' are characterised by strong form, while having an embossed, textural surface, which transforms the 'flat' surface into a bird or shaggy beast.

Meanwhile, many of his works are related to architectural ceramics: ceramic products for interiors of

public buildings and the urban environment.

Mr. Gavrilov was a permanent exhibitor at international art exhibitions.

In 1973, he received the Diploma of the Biennale of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy. Today, his artworks are to be found in museums across Belarus, Italy, Hungary, Russia and Ukraine, in private collections, and installed in public buildings.

The Belarusian period of Mr. Gavrilov's life is interesting, working for the Decorative and Applied



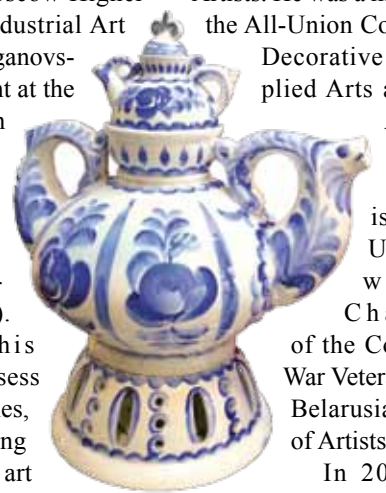
Exhibits from Victor Gavrilov

Arts and Folk Art Department, at the Belarusian Branch of the Union of Artists of the USSR. He was elected its first Chairman and defended his PhD thesis at the Moscow Higher School of Industrial Art (former Stroganovskiy). He taught at the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute (now, the Belarusian State Academy of Arts). Many of his students possess honorary titles, and are leading specialists at art enterprises across Belarus and abroad: Valery Leontovich, Alexander Zimenko and Tamara Kurachitskaya among them.

For his work and for his training of professional staff, Mr. Gavrilov received the Certificate of Honour of

the Supreme Council of the BSSR. He was repeatedly elected as a member of the Presidium and as a member of the Board of Art Fund, of the Belarusian Union of Artists. He was a member of the All-Union Council for Decorative and Applied Arts and Folk Art at the Union of Artists of the USSR, and was the Chairman of the Council of War Veterans at the Belarusian Union of Artists.

In 2004, Mr. Gavrilov received the Special Award of the President of the Republic of Belarus 'For Contributing to the Education of Creative Youth', for his efforts in developing decorative and applied arts and for training professionals.





# Holy simplicity hidden in an icon

If you fly high above the clouds and look down on the earth, Polesie will appear as a dark green stain covering four states: Belarus, Ukraine, Poland and Russia. It will appear dark due to the masses of forests and swamps. Over the past century, the forests have thinned and the number of marshes has become several times smaller. The total area of Polesie is now around 130 thousand square kilometres.

By Vladimir Stepan

Returning to earth, we can look into the houses of Polesie residents — pole-shuks. Much has changed but, even today, icons are still placed in the corner. Some families have old examples that have been inherited from their great-grandfathers and others have modern versions. They sometimes differ from those seen in Minsk's churches but people still honour and respect them.

Recently, a book dedicated to icons was released in Ukraine — featuring pictures from Gomel's Polesie. This is no surprise, as many years ago, these lands were a common huge state: the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

I'm sitting in the workshop of collector and artist, Igor Surmachevsky. On the monitor of his computer one picture replaces another, with the faces of saints appearing and disappearing. The Mother of God, the Saviour, the Resurrection, the Ascension... Original large and small icons are seen on the walls; the same were once found in pole-shuks' houses. The icons in the workshop are bare, lacking rushniks and frames, but it's impossible to call them mere boards.

"This is a type of art belonging to three or even four nations. When I saw them for the first time (not in a museum), I realised that this is a very unusual form of art — similar to the pictures of the Georgian Niko Pirosmanshvi, French Henri Rousseau and Yugoslavia's Ivan Generalić. I think that Polesie itself has such a uniquely particular reading of the Bible," says Mr. Surmachevsky.

**Igor, I was once told about the icons of Vetka's Old Believers by Fiodor Shklyarov. He said that the faces were drawn to**

**illustrate the Bible. After all, most of our ancestors could not read. Icons replaced books, television and cinema for the believers. An artist had to depict the biblical story so that an illiterate tiller, a fisherman or an artisan could understand.**

*the Polesie icons reflect the folk calendar and local fairy tales. All the beautiful flowers in our icons symbolise Paradise, while the black background stands not for darkness and horror but for infinity and the Universe.*

**Tell me more about the stories contained in the art.**

*of 'Belarusian Mother of God' had been discovered. I was intrigued, when it turned out to be the Mother of God with Three Hands, I studied its inscription and discovered it was painted in a monastery in Bryansk, in Bely Bereg; the icon was called Beloberezhskaya.*

*folk ritual. Over the year, the icons became darker as the soot of lamps and candles settled on them. Before the holidays, it was carefully washed away and the water was considered curative, helping with the fevers common at the time in Polesie. In turn the St. Varvara*

## Mysterious world of icons

*Those were St. George, Frol and Lavr, in addition to St. Nicholas of Myra. The latter is the patron saint of the poor. Even today, people advise those in need to ask him for assistance and protection. The daily life of our ancestors was ruled by the saints.*

### When did the first Polesie icons appear?

*In the early 18th-mid 19th century. They are described differently as folk, Uniate or peasant art and are not of a high professional standard, but are original and unusual. They were once treated with snobbery and scepticism — similar to the attitude shown towards Pirosmanshi's paintings. However, over time collectors have begun to understand their value and are now actively collecting them. Some of these icons echo the paintings of great artists of the Renaissance: Raphael, Titian or Giotto. Pictures existed in the form of paper engravings and local artists copied them — adapting to the wishes of their customers and their own understanding of holiness and beauty.*

**There are many stories and saints but usually only three or four icons are in a house...**

*No. If you look at old photographs of the beginning of the last century, you'll notice many icons in pole-shuks' houses. Sometimes they hang in lines starting from the red corner — in two or three rows. Today's minimalism did not exist. It was believed that the more, the better.*

*Many professionals treat naive art with disdain as the self-taught artists had no professional education. The authors of folk songs and fairy tales didn't graduate from literary institutes and conservatories as well as the builders of many of our fine buildings.*



SERGEY LOZUYUK



SERGEY LOZUYUK

Collector, artist and restorer Igor Surmachevsky

*Yes, exactly! How could a local worshiper see the real Jordan, Golgotha or Jerusalem? The Apostle Andrew could be depicted with a fishing rod or a 'taptukha' (a type of fishing tackle) on the Pripyat River bank. Then Christ appears, resembling a resident of a neighbouring village, and tells Andrew to follow him. A similar story is that of St. George slaying a serpent with a spear. Most often the terrible snake looked like a fairy-tale creature which could live in a swamp. Almost all*

*There are almost no festive stories in the Polesie icons. People wanted to have representations of the world in which they lived in their homes: these were horses, children, wives, and peasant's work. Do you know why the icon with the image of the Mother of God with Three Hands is so popular in Polesie? Pole-shuks believed that this icon helped people steal something with impunity! I received a call one day and was told that an icon with the inscription*

**My grandfather was presented with the Pochaev icon of the Mother of God by his father. What did it symbolise?**

*It brought peace to spouses and defended the family home. It was most probably painted in the Pochaev Lavra, now in Ukraine. Most likely, one of your ancestors went there on a pilgrimage and brought the icon to the village in Gomel. The Akhtyrka icon of the Mother of God was also very popular; associated with an amazing*

*icon protected people from unexpected death. It related to water and the marshes. Varvara protected children and prevented people from drowning. Every mother wanted to have such an icon at home. Meanwhile, St. Paraskeva was a female icon helping with housework. This saint in the folk calendar was represented by a poor old woman who ensured the mistress of the house did not work on holidays.*

**What saints looked after the master?**



# Dreams come true... and not

The ever intriguing Roland Garros has launched in Paris, an event in the tennis season which navigates us to a better understanding of the balance of power on court. Reigning as king is Rafael Nadal, while pregnant Serena Williams will play the role of spectator this year. Meanwhile, Maria Sharapova will be absent, having been disqualified. Our fans were thrilled by a possible chance of seeing six Belarusian players in the main draw of the Grand Slam event: an occurrence unknown in previous years.



By Konstantin Dmitriev

Two will join the world's strongest players without requiring preliminary selection: Max Mirnyi — partnering Yuzhny — is traditionally listed among the favourites in the doubles tournament, while Alexandra Sasnovich will represent the women. Max Mirnyi has previously won four Roland Garros doubles titles, while Alexandra — who debuted only in 2016 (unsuccessfully) in the main draw of the French tournament — has no such track record. The present leader of Belarusian tennis recently lost her first match in three tournaments, following her success in the Fed Cup, but is the only representative of Belarus in the world's top 100. At least until Victoria Azarenko returns, Alexandra remains the main hope for Belarusian fans.

The major Parisian matches started last Sunday, but qualification matches were already in full swing. Perhaps the most intriguing Belarusian match is yet to be played. Last year, Yegor Gerasimov



BELTA

**Alexandra Sasnovich**

dropped out due to injury but is now back; having won several serious tournaments and having raised by 56 position in the world ranking. Sadly, by the closing date of applications for the French Open, he was in 225th place. So, in Paris, he was replaced by Ilya Ivashko, who is among those

playing in the International Foundation of Grand Slam Tournament Development programme (envisaging assistance in professional growth and funding of participation in the competition). Ilya has, so far, been successful: in the first qualification round, he confidently smashed Belgian



BELTA

**Max Mirnyi**

Kimmer Koppeyans (seeded 167th) — 6: 2, 6: 2.

Vladimir Ignatik is also through to the second qualification round, after defeating Chinese Di Wu. Our women

in the qualification rounded included Arina Sobolenko (making her debut in Paris) and Olga Govortsova, who reached the third round, six years ago.

## P.S.

The results are as follows: Alexandra Sasnovich advanced to second round of the French Open. In the start match of Rolland Garros Alexandra, ranked 98th in the world ranking, played against Viktorija Golubic of Switzerland (ranked 65th in WTA) and won in three games (4:6, 7:5, 6:3).

Unfortunately, our hopes that Alexandra Sasnovich and Max Mirnyi (who are

playing in the main draw of the French Open) will be joined by four more Belarusian tennis players have failed to realise.

One of the major characters of the recent semi-finals of the Fed Cup, playing against the national squad of Switzerland, Arina Sobolenko, has lost in the first match to Turkish Ipek Soyulu (ranked forty positions lower than Arina in the

world rankings): 6:4, 1:6, 6:7(3:7).

Meanwhile, Olga Govortsova won only four games from 17-year-old Kayla Day of the USA (1:6, 6:3). Ilya Ivashko and Vladimir Ignatik won their matches in the men's tournament second round but Ignatik then lost to Columbian Santiago Giraldo (2:6, 4:6) while Ivashko could do nothing against first seeded Romanian Marius Copil, losing 2:6, 2:6.

## MT REFERENCE:



BELTA

Victoria Azarenka has announced her upcoming return to the court, ahead of her initial plan to return for the final tournament of the Grand Slam series: the US Open, in August. Not long ago, Victoria announced her change of plans on Twitter, and is now due to play at Wimbledon, with a schedule of prior tournaments to be outlined.



## Vital preparation

By Kirill Karin

Belarusian ice hockey has acquired a new head, following the resignation of the Chairman of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation, Igor Rachkovsky. He is replaced by the Chairman of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, Semen Shapiro. Commenting on the results of the voting which took place during the unscheduled summary and electoral conference, Mr. Shapiro noted that there's no need to wait for revolutionary changes; rather, it's necessary to listen to the opinions of all interested

specialists before speaking of further development.

He adds that he's well aware of the situation in Belarus' most popular winter sport. "We should choose coaching staff carefully. Today, we've enough problems in Belarusian ice hockey. Of course, children and young people are the future of sports, so we'll be paying attention to this. It's extremely difficult to defeat the Czechs and the Canadians, but, once we've established our own school, it may be possible. I'm convinced that we'll be able to defeat these teams once we're prepared."

## Goncharenko proving his mettle

By Alexey Grishin

Looking at events in the European football championships, there have been a few setbacks, as well as triumphs. Sergey Chernik's Nancy club has been dropped from the strongest division of the French Championship. Meanwhile, Alexander Hleb, Sergey Kornilenko and Vadim Skripchenko haven't been playing well. Hleb hasn't been scoring for Samara's Krylia Sovetov, while Kornilenko's play has also been below par (despite a few goals). Skripchenko, though leading the team and receiving many good reviews in spring, hasn't scored when his team has needed it most. His team lost to Terek, being relegated to the second division.

Orenburg — featuring Belarusian Gutor, Sivakov, Dargun and Nekhaichik — scored the same number of points in matches against Anji and Ural, but remains behind them, due to other indicators. It will next play transition matches against SKA-



**Successful year for Victor Goncharenko**

Khabarovsk.

Let's look at those who are doing well. Among them are Real (which won the Spanish Championship, recently, for the first time in five years); Juventus (which is truly unequalled in Italy); and Chelsea, Tottenham, Liverpool and Manchester City (the UK's legendary four, who're playing in the Champions League (Arsenal is absent for the first time in twenty years). Newcomer Monaco (which

defeated wealthy PSG) is also playing well. Belarus' Timofey Kalachev has been named best assisting player in the Russian Championship (ten assists across twenty-five matches). BATE's former coach, Victor Goncharenko, has helped CSKA win a place in the Champions League and victory in the spring segment of the championship — just one point ahead of Russia's champion, Spartak Moscow.





At the Braslavskie Zarnitsy holiday

## EXHIBITIONS

### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 25<sup>th</sup> May. *Breath of Eternity*  
Until 3<sup>rd</sup> July. *Great Rembrandt*

### GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> July. White Pole Museum of Ice-Cream

### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. Exhibition of wax figures: *Miraculous Travel* Until 15<sup>th</sup> June. *Bells*  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> August (Labyrinth Gallery). *Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man*

### HOUSE OF PICTURES

89/3 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. *Scents of Life -2. Sense and Feelings* Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. *Woman — Sea*

### YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Y. Kupala Street  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> June. Host of Belarusian Song

### YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street  
Until 26<sup>th</sup> June. *Polish Writers from 1920s-1930s* Until 30<sup>th</sup> September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

### MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street  
Until 11<sup>th</sup> September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

### NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. *Field of Flowers* Until 25<sup>th</sup> June. *Rabbinical Dynasty of Medalie*

### VLADISLAV GOLUBOK'S PARLOUR

14 Starovilenskaya Street  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. *Song of Northern Gods*

### MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> June. *Enchanting Melodies of Clay*

### ZAIR AZGUR'S MUSEUM-WORKSHOP

8 Z. Azgur Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. Galina Gorova's sculpture: *Thoughts and Forms*

### YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

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

### VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 20<sup>th</sup> July. Exhibition of Sergey Drozdov's author doll: *Male Sight*

## THEATRES

### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
01.06. Macbeth  
02.06. Tales from the Vienna Woods  
04.06. Eugene Onegin 05.06. Little Prince  
06.06. Aida 07.06. Figaro's Marriage

### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
01.06. Once in Chicago 02.06. The Bat  
03.06. Casanova 04.06. Blue Cameo  
06.06. Jane Eyre

### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
06.06. Game Without Rules and Unknown Purpose 07.06. Quiet Whisper of Leaving Steps 08.06. Doctor Raus' Career

### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
01.06. Office 02.06. Art 04.06. Seagull  
05.06. Pinsk Gentry 06.06. Not Mine  
07.06. Paulinka 08.06. Two Souls

### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
01.06. Abduction of Yelena 02.06. Even a Wise Man Stumbles 03 and 04.06. #13 07.06. Pygmalion 08.06. An Unnamed Star

### BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street  
02 and 05.06. Doctor Aybolit  
06.06. My Little Enchantress  
07.06. Thumbelina  
08.06. Merry Roger

### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE (SMALL STAGE)

12 Engels Street  
01.06. Woyzeck 07.06. Old-fashioned Comedy

### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
01.06. Testosterone 02.06. Tricks of Khanuma 03.06. The Twelfth Night  
06.06. An Ideal Husband 07.06. Innkeeper 08.06. Viva Commedia!

### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
03.06. Little Red Riding Hood  
08.06. Christmas Story

### PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC

1 Oktyabrskaya Square  
01-02.06. Keep the Faith

### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
06.06. Don Giovanni