



**China-Belarus
Great Stone
Industrial Park
summed up the
first results of
its work for 2022**

4



**A unique information
resource *Partisans
of Belarus*
will be multiplied
by visual
information**

5

INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● ● NO. 04 (962) ● THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 ● WWW.SB.BY



Belarusian sports electric car on display at the *Intellectual Belarus* exhibition: Electro Roadster able to travel 270km without recharging

‘We can do everything’

From breakthrough space technologies to Belarusian products, about 500 promising developments of domestic scientists were presented at the *Intellectual Belarus* exhibition. Anyone can see them. The President gave the instruction to gather the latest achievements of Belarusian science at a single location back in October during a meeting with the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Vladimir Gusakov.

During the days of the *Intellectual Belarus* exhibition, the booth of the Joint Mechanical Engineering Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus was especially crowded. Three electric vehicles made using the frame-panel construction technology were demonstrated there. The point is that plastic body elements are mounted on a metal frame. This design is much cheaper than all-welded metal.

“We made all these bodies ourselves. Design, calculations, engineering, testing and certification — everything is done on the basis of our institute. We have mastered all skill sets,” experts explained. → **3**



9 771991 1297007 23004

Attempts to strangle Russia and Belarus have failed

The President of Belarus met with Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov. The Head of the Russian Foreign Ministry visited Minsk to attend a meeting of the collegiums of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries.

“We are well informed about the results of this year for Russia. We have approximately the same results. It is very good that we have reached a balance in our trade and economic relations with the Russian Federation. We even have a slight trade surplus. This suggests that the attempts to strangle us, Russia and Belarus, have actually failed. We will definitely stand our ground,” Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed.

The President noted that over the difficult year 2022, the parties mapped out the way to go in order to preserve their sovereignty at all levels, “We are making good progress in import substitution. President Putin and I start almost all meetings with this matter. The economy is at the heart of everything. If our economy is doing fine, we will be able to resolve all other issues.”

The President emphasised that he had always called the relations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs exemplary.

“If all our ministries co-operated in the same way as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, we would not have any problems at all. And there would be no problematic issues altogether. I have always said this. Not only today,” Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised.

The President noted that there are issues that need to be discussed at the meeting with Sergey Lavrov, and they go beyond the purview of the collegiums of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and Russia.

“There are questions that we must discuss with you. You know my attitude towards you. I never hide anything from you. This is very important. Well, we also need to consult on some matters. Therefore, I suggest focusing on some key issues, and then we will have a one-on-one meeting to discuss other matters... But there are questions that are beyond the scope of our today’s official events,” said the Head of State.

The topic of Russia’s special military operation in Ukraine was also raised at the meeting.

“We are doing everything I have promised, everything Russia needs in this difficult period [the special operation of the Russian Federation in Ukraine]. I listened to your yesterday’s press conference. I heard all your statements. I totally support all of them. In any contacts that we have with the West, others, we say that Russia has never been against peace. Let us negotiate. We are ready to take part in talks. You should have no doubt about that. If something is needed on our part, and we can do it (you know very well what we can do), say it straight, we will work together, side-by-side,” Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised.

On this occasion, the Head of State emphasised,

“Today, security for us, not only for Russia, is more important than before. You know the intentions of our western neighbours. Not only those of Ukraine. They are trying to use Ukraine against Belarus. But what amazes and pleasantly surprises me is that Ukraine has managed to resist so far. It has not yet engaged in provocations against Belarus. Although it is actively encouraged by our western neighbours. You know who these neighbours are.

We have to withstand this period. The past year 2022 has shown that we can do it. We are on the same page here.”

Sergey Lavrov noted, “As for the special military operation, we are taking all necessary measures together with our Belarusian allies and friends to defend ourselves from possible encroachments, as you said, by our Western neighbours. We see how NATO is now settling in the north of Europe, which was a neutral territory in many respects. Finland, Sweden — all this is very close to our borders... Thank you very much for having me here. First of all, best regards from Vladimir Vladimirovich. Although you meet with him... We have calculated that last year you met 10 times in person in addition to phone calls. Therefore, we, the foreign ministers, cannot keep up with you. But that is the way it should be.”

In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko responded, “We will meet even more often this year.”

The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasised that the questions submitted to the meeting of the two collegiums relate to the policy that ‘is spearheaded by the Americans who put others under their sway as a result of the line of our Western colleagues for total domination’.

“And this is manifested in the positions of NATO, of course, of the European Union. The Council of Europe has already taken this path. And many problems are accumulating in the OSCE,” he added. Sergey Lavrov said that these are some of the key issues on the agenda of the meeting of the collegiums, ‘along with co-operation in international organisations, where it is important for us to prevent the privatisation of secretariats, this is also what the West is trying to do’.

“It is of particular importance to coordinate our actions within the so-called human rights framework: the UN Council on Human Rights, other mechanisms, where the West is clearly trying to politicise the debate, which should be based on the existing international humanitarian law,” explained the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The President of Belarus was also informed about the foreign ministries’ efforts to facilitate the implementation of the 28 Union State programmes. They have been implemented by 70 percent. Moreover, a new action plan is being drafted to strengthen the Union State, to implement the Union State agreement for the period from 2024 to 2026.



Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov and Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Aleinik

The sides discussed interaction in the course of realisation of the programme on concerted actions in the area of foreign policy in 2022-2023, co-operation in the area of foreign policy planning, coordination of actions with regard to the European Union, NATO, and the Council of Europe, joint work within the framework of the OSCE.

Foreign Ministers Sergei Aleinik and Sergey Lavrov adopted a resolution of the joint meeting of the Board, approved the plan of consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and signed a memorandum of understanding between the government of the Republic of Belarus and the government of the Russian Federation on biological safety. Both ministers then spoke to the media. The counteraction of attempts to falsify and rewrite history and the sacrilegious war on monuments was mentioned by Belarusian Minister of

Foreign Affairs as an important avenue of Belarus-Russia co-operation. In this regard, Sergei Aleinik mentioned an exhibition that had been opened in the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and offers an opportunity to see rare exhibits. It is dedicated to the 210th anniversary of the victory in the Patriotic War of 1812 and organised by the collector Vladimir Likhodedov.

“The illegitimate sanctions-fuelled pressure on our states objectively requires greater coordination of actions from us, including the development of joint response steps. All the sanctions are obviously designed to deliver maximum damage to our citizens and create maximum discomfort. However, the past year demonstrated that any damage can be mitigated through tighter manufacturing co-operation and integration. We will do everything we can to become even more resilient and more

independent in the future. Independent of irresponsible decisions of Western politicians. A hybrid war has been launched against us in all but name. It is designed to wear out and weaken both Belarus and Russia. And, let’s say, weaken our statehood and sovereignty. But we have already grown stronger together and will endure just like we did multiple times in the course of our common history,” stressed the Head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry.

The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs noted that escalation of the military and political tensions and cannot be left without a reaction on our part.

“Once again we’ve expressed profound concern about the destructive policy of the United States of America and its satellites in favour of expanding NATO, bringing the alliance’s military force, military infrastructure closer to our com-

mon borders. Well, it leads to escalation of the military and political tensions... We share the opinion that the so-called collective West has in fact converted Ukraine into a foothold for further penetration of the post-Soviet space, a foothold for subversive actions against the Union State of Belarus and Russia, that the West directly encourages Kiev to create imminent threats to vital interests of Russia and Belarus... As we see, the Western blitzkrieg was successful neither in relation to Russia, nor in relation to Belarus. In recent months, many joint steps have been taken that have strengthened the economic sovereignty of our countries — these are, first of all, projects in the field of modern technologies, food security, transport and logistics connectivity,” Sergey Lavrov said.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

‘We can do everything’

Belarus has developed enough scientific and technical solutions not only for defence and security, but also for peaceful purposes — as noted by the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, as he visited the *Intellectual Belarus* exhibition

“We once agreed with the head of the Academy that we should show what we can do. There are about five hundred of the latest developments...” the Head of State recalled the background of the decision to hold the exhibition.

The Head of State was particularly interested in developments in the field of artificial intelligence. Scientists assure that Belarus has already reached the world level in this area. Aleksandr Lukashenko discussed this topic earlier during his meetings with foreign partners, including partners from the United Arab Emirates, a country where artificial intelligence is one of key areas of focus. In this regard, he recalled the Northern Waterfront project to build an experimental multifunctional complex in Minsk.

“Why did I fall for this: not only because of the \$5 billion in investments, but also because they promised me to create this smart city, as well as a powerful educational platform for artificial intelligence. There will be a university there.

If we want to be an advanced and civilised nation, this is what we should focus on in the future. There can be no artificial intelligence without you,” explained the Head of State.

As the President was informed, Belarusian scientists have about a thousand promising developments. More than half of them have been put into production, many of them are already successfully sold. The famous novelty, which quite recently literally blew up the electronics market, is a laptop from the Belarusian Holding Management Company Horizont. Director General of Holding Management Company Horizont Yuri Predko showed a small board with structural elements mounted on it, “This development is domestic one. The main thing here is the chip that controls the entire system. Next, we dealt with the production of the matrix. It is also made in our factory. Only the outer casing remains. We also made a first-level programme — the so-called BIOS. This is our software product, and it is difficult and even impossible to interfere with its work from the outside...”

However, the laptop is still localised by 31 percent. The requirement of the Head of State is to bring this figure to 70 percent by the end of the year. Aleksandr Lukashenko praised the developers and said: the domestic computer from Horizont has already replaced a device of a well-known Western brand on the President’s desk.

“Well done. You have showed that we can do everything. And no matter how difficult it was, we did it. I suppose the West has already come to realise that it is necessary to stop fooling around and to resume co-operation with Belarus. I don’t believe that we will knock head-on and look like an enemy all our lives. Eventually, everything normalises,” the President stressed.



By the way, Horizont is soon ready to present the next version of the product.

Yuri Predko specifies, “Let’s just say, for government agencies. And in total we will have up to 80 modifications. I want to draw your attention to another unique technology — a transparent TV. And here already 80 percent of the components are of Belarusian production.”

The President talked about achievements in the field of microelectronics in the context of import substitution, co-operation and the implementation of the Union State programmes.

“At the end of last year, we shaped and agreed with the Russian Federation a roadmap for the development of Integral. It has already been signed and approved by the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade. We are in demand there. The average export of Integral was in the range of \$70-75 million five years ago. This year, the enterprise made exports of \$137-140 million. It’s been the best year ever,” experts report to Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“We (I talked to Putin) will give any money for this. Then there was talk of three hundred million dollars. I say: let’s create a joint cluster — Belarusian-Russian, and we will work. He promised that there would be no issues with funding,” the Head of State said.



Aleksandr Lukashenko also stopped at the stand with drones. Their combat capabilities were discussed by the President and the developers in a ‘not for the press’ format. In addition, they spoke about their civilian use.

The Head of State, in particular, was shown a ‘vacuum-cleaning robot for the fields’.

— This is a plant protection complex based on an agrodrome. A new development designed for applying herbicides, fungicides, pesticides to agricultural crops, mainly vegetables. This is an element of precision farming. It is given the boundaries of the field, shown where the towers and trees are, so it automatically calculates the flight route and



goes to work. It can process two hectares in one flight — up to one hundred hectares in a shift. The application is carried out by the method of ultra-low volume spraying. It showed a fairly high efficiency. This is completely domestic development.

— Well, do we use it? — the President asked.

— Indeed, more than a thousand hectares have already been processed.

The Head of State was also shown some developments in medicine. For example, an artificial heart valve, which is not inferior to foreign counterparts. There are also modern materi-

als for prosthetics, drugs for the treatment of oncological diseases at the exhibition. Deputy Director for Research at the Alexandrov National Cancer Centre Sergei Krasny spoke about them in more detail, “The first is the Elenagen anti-cancer vaccine. It has completed its clinical trials in metastatic platinum-resistant ovarian cancer. The best results in the world have been obtained to date. No one even comes close to anything like it.”

This is only the first stage of mastering and introducing the drug into practice. It has great potential,



“Currently, laboratory production of the vaccine has begun. It is produced in Belarus in the laboratory setting — 40 vials per week. This is not enough. We plan to expand the production up to 1,000 vials per week next month. In this case there will be enough vaccines to conduct large-scale studies in various types of tumours and for various chronic diseases.”

The second product is a new type of medical nutrition. Nova Vita. According to Sergei Krasny, it has simply unique properties.

“This product solves important problems. In clinical practice, it restores protein metabolism in patients and can significantly increase the five-year survival rate of cancer patients — by almost 30 percent. Today, no medicine gives such an effect: the tolerability of treatment — chemotherapy, radiation therapy — is significantly improved. However, there are significantly fewer complications after surgery with its help. This is also suitable for lactose intolerant people. For the first time in Belarus, a new technology of hydrolysis of lactose to glucose was used, so there is no lactose here at all,” Deputy Director for Research at the Alexandrov National Cancer Centre noted.

At the end of the visit to the exhibition, the President was presented with a hybrid of lemon and citron. Such a fruit weighs 1 kilogramme!

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

BELARUSIAN EMERALDS

Belarusian scientists managed to grow large gems the size of a walnut. For example, emeralds of an unusual red colour are produced. They are more expensive than traditional green ones. Jewellery with artificial emeralds is sold in jewellery stores and is in demand. They are also supplied for export.

BELARUSIAN LITHIUM-FREE BATTERIES

“We promised the President to create our domestic lithium-free battery, and we did it. We have reached approximately the same parameters as lithium batteries. The price of a new accumulator is an order of magnitude lower than that of lithium batteries. Lithium is expensive, there are few deposits, there is not enough lithium for everyone. Contrariwise, there is sodium in Belarus. In addition to it, the battery contains ammonia, which we also produce, as well as graphene, a modification that we obtain from cheap graphite purchased in Russia,” Director General of the Materials Research Centre of the National Academy of Sciences Valery Fedosyuk explained.

BELARUSIAN HAZELNUT

“This is a new sample for Belarus. Two domestic varieties are already included in the register. They are no different from world standards in terms of their performance, moreover, they even surpass them in some features. We are talking about taste, disease resistance and winter hardiness. Contrary to popular belief, hazelnuts are grown not only in the south. There are production plantings, for example, in the Molodechno District,” the Head of the Potato Breeding Department of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Potato and Horticulture of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Yulia Gunko said.

Steady course along the Silk Road



China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park summed up the first results of its work for 2022. The shaped plans have been implemented despite unfavourable external factors. The departed Water Tiger was favourable to the 'pearl of the Silk Road' in attracting new residents. Thus, the number of project participants reached 100 — 19 companies were registered during the year. The volume of announced investments increased to \$1.32 billion. Head of the China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park Aleksandr Yaroshenko and First Deputy Director General of SZA O Industrial Park Development Company Kirill Koroteyev spoke in more detail about the results of the year, as well as the prospects for 2023.

Top managers of Great Stone on the achievements of the park in 2022

By Ilya Kryzhevich

Export volume — more than \$100 million

— According to preliminary estimates, Great Stone performed quite well in 2022 despite the unpredictability of external factors. What areas and clusters have received additional development?

A.Y.: Indeed, the plans for 2022 have been implemented. The number of park residents has reached 100 companies. The volume of announced investments now stands at \$1.32 billion.

Positive dynamics is also observed in some indicators of the activity of Great Stone. We expect that exports in monetary terms will amount to more than \$100 million by the end of 2022. The number of employees of the park residents will exceed 2,000 people, and the average salary will be about Br3,000, which is almost twice the national average.

In 2022, our presentation activities also became more active compared to 2021. We represented the park in Belarus and abroad, participated in online conferences and meetings — 70 events in total. We also hosted over 130 delegations at the Great Stone.

If we talk about the development of existing areas, then this is e-commerce. The National Pavilion of Belarus was launched at large Chinese sites with the participation of the Industrial Park Development Company and one of our residents last year. The cluster of enterprises producing medical products continues to expand.

20 more residents in 2023

— What expectations does Great Stone have for the current year? Will the number of Chinese residents grow? Do you plan to work even more closely with China in terms of attracting residents?

A.Y.: Of course, we will work to attract new project participants to the park. We expect 20 new companies to join Great Stone this year. Now we are co-operating

with several Chinese companies operating in the field of integrated logistics, an enterprise that produces high-tech aseptic packaging. In addition, agreements of intent were signed on the entry into the park of two companies working in the field of storage and processing of large amounts of data at the end of the year. The day before, China eased COVID-19 restrictions, which is likely to contribute to the growth of the dynamics of our contacts.

Chinese residents are building large facilities in the park. We expect that they will be put into operation this year. This is the first stage of the Fakel (Torch) park of the Chinese corporation Sinomach on Minsky Avenue, where research and development will be carried out. The construction of a multifunctional complex with a hotel, which is being built on Pekinsky Avenue with the participation of our resident China Merchants SinChen, will also be completed.

Park automation and the second stage

— Tell us about the work done in the construction of infrastructure. What are your plans for 2023?

K.K.: In 2022, we have completely built the infrastructure for the first phase of the development of the park of 8.5 square kilometres. We also completed the execution of contracts with our general contractor. At the moment, we are in the stage of repayment of loans that were taken for these purposes.

Now we will pay attention to automation, ecologisation and smartisation of the park and the created infrastructure. This year, our work will be aimed at equipping the territories of the first stage.

As for plans, we expect the construction of the second stage to begin along with the Beltamozhservice and Eurasian Railway Gateway terminals. We want to synchronise the construction of the infrastructure of the second stage with the start of the construction of terminals.

Industrial real estate is in demand

— Last year was finalised with a big deal. We are talking about renting a production building. How attractive is such real estate for investors today?

K.K.: Indeed, the industrial park ended the year 2022 with the signing of a lease agreement for a universal production building with a resident of IPD

Group. The leased area was 5,000 square metres. This arrangement was one of the largest in the country's industrial real estate market last year.

For the park, the creation of industrial real estate has become one of the main areas due to the sanctions policy of Western countries. There are high risks for investments in the construction of 'greenfield' production facilities in our region. But when there is already a ready-made site for the production building, then investors can implement their projects even at high risks. The investor shares the risks with us by investing in the premises. This direction has become in demand since mid-2022, and many import substitution projects were interested in renting such areas in one way or another. This process is gaining momentum. Today, we have built ten buildings — this is more than 90,000 square metres. About 80 percent of them have already been contracted. Belarusian high-tech business is also interested. Russian business is now eyeing it. In 2023, we will build at least 10,000 square metres of such areas.

Platform for growth

— How did the National Pavilion perform on Chinese marketplaces in 2022?

K.K.: In 2022, SZA O Industrial Park Development Company became the operator of the National Pavilion of Belarus abroad. In 5.5 months of operation, the pavilion attracted 700,000 subscribers on the Douyin platform. However, this number keeps growing. On this platform, people easily get acquainted with our country. I am very pleased that the pavilion is of great interest. This is an opportunity to tell Chinese citizens as much as possible about our culture. At the same time, the total number of orders for Douyin amounted to 160,000 by the end of the year — there were more than 125,000 buyers. The total sales on the JingDong and Douyin platforms reached \$1.3 million.

About 40 items were sold on the two platforms. There are plans to expand the range. I hope that logistics will improve in February and we will grow significantly.

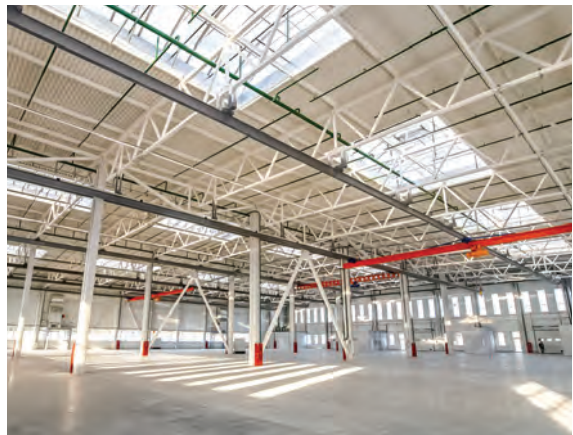
At the same time, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we are still accumulating experience. We did not know all the features of doing business in China from the very beginning. Since the start of the work of the pavilion, serious progress has been made. At the end of December, we received the right to expand our presence on other platforms. Soon, the National Pavilion will operate on such platforms as Weibo (microblogging service), WeChat public (a blogging environment of a popular messenger), Kuaishou (social network for sharing short videos), Xiaohongshu (social network with e-commerce functionality), Bilibili (video blogging portal), Tmall Taobao (a trading platform owned by Alibaba Group) and Zhaoshang Daojiahui (a trading platform of China Merchants Group).



Darya Titova



BELTA



Aleksandr Kulevsky



A million documents and a commander's diary pierced by a bullet: the *Partisans of Belarus* project will be multiplied by visual information

Heroes in every family



The powerful popular resistance during the Great Patriotic War is a fact that simply nullifies the attempts of Western interpreters to convince contemporaries that the Soviet people met the German army as long-awaited liberators from hated Bolshevism. The movement was too massive and spontaneous to be easily discredited, passing off, as the neo-fascists and their ideologists write, for a handful of disguised Chekists and Red Army soldiers or bandits who killed civilians. The more they tried to suppress the people's avengers, the more violent the protest was. The Belarus Segodnya Publishing House together with the National Archives creates a unique information resource in the CIS called the *Partisans of Belarus*. It was recently awarded a special presidential prize for outstanding achievements that have received public recognition. Deputy Director — Editor-in-Chief of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House Ivan Sinichkin spoke about the implementation of the project, which perpetuates the truth about the partisans and makes it accessible to everyone.

By Yelena Kozlovskaya

Half way

— The start of work on the creation of a web resource was given in 2018. What has already been done so far?

— At the initial stage, we set the task of creating an electronic database of participants in the partisan movement. This is the digitisation and systematisation of information from the personnel documents of the archival fund of the Belarusian headquarters of the partisan movement, which are now stored in the National Archives: personal files, personnel records, award sheets, combat characteristics, and so on. An electronic card is issued for each partisan. And it is fixed by an automatic counter in real time.

Today, about 200,000 personalities have been digitised. And in total, more than 370,000 partisans and about 70,000 underground fighters fought in the ranks of the people's avengers. That is, our resource has already immortalised about half of the names.



Andrei Demyanuk and Ivan Sinichkin

FACT

In 1941-1945, 213 partisan brigades and 1255 partisan detachments operated on the territory of Belarus

Personal history in the context of the country

— Do you believe the resource needs advertising?

— Indeed, it can and should be promoted. And we ourselves are successfully doing this by organising traveling exhibitions in Minsk and regions. More than eighty of these have already been carried out. As a rule, educational institutions where young people are concentrated act as platforms for the presentation of the project. More often these are state universities, military units and recreation camps. We have travelled to all regional centres, now we want to visit as many regional centres as possible, whose residents are not used to such diversity of cultural events.

Our goal is to stimulate young Belarusians' interest in their family history in the Great Patriotic War. Agree, it's one thing just to know that your great-grandfather was among the partisans, but to see his photo, his personal contribution to the common Victory in a large base, especially at an exhibition is another.

More than once I have seen how teenagers, looking at the stands, without leaving, called their mothers and grandmothers in order to clarify the name or place of birth of their great-grandfather. Our resource is actively used in many schools in the classroom and extracurricular activities. It becomes an instrument of civic-patriotic education.

GUIDE

There are four main tabs-sections on the partizany.by portal. 'Search for a partisan' is a tool that allows one to find information about a specific person. 'Legendary partisans' contains information about the most famous personalities of the movement — Heroes of the Soviet Union, the best brigade commanders. The section 'Fights, battles, deeds' describes the most significant events in the fight against the invaders, including those according to the recollections of eyewitnesses and veterans. The 'Connections' tab tells about the formations of the partisan movement — the headquarters, separate brigades — by region (both the Byelorussian SSR and the territories bordering it).

THE STORY OF HEROES TURNED INTO MODERN FORMAT OF COMMUNICATION

The Belarus Segodnya Publishing House has released free themed sticker packs for Viber and Telegram messengers. It is planned to update them.

partisans. It was necessary to contact the National Archives, make a request to get acquainted with the documents, sign up for a certain date and time in the reading room, after all, spend more than one hour, or even more than one day, studying the materials provided. Moreover, it's not a secret that sometimes it's quite difficult to figure it out for a layman. Now, being anywhere in the world where there is access to the Internet, it is possible to visit the website and get information. In addition, registration is not required.



Now we set the task not only to continue replenishing the database with new names, but also to visualise such information. We are talking about posting photographs, cartographic materials, battle plans, battle sheets and wall newspapers, as well as diaries of partisan detachments on the site. We recreate not only the stories of specific people, but also of partisan detachments and brigades, their combat paths, participation in battles. Furthermore, we want to end up with a real electronic encyclopaedia of popular resistance to the occupiers during the war years.

— How interesting is the resource to Internet users?

— The partizany.by portal became

popular from the very beginning. Since its launch, that is, since July 1st, 2019, more than half a million people from 100 countries have visited it. Most users are from Belarus and Russia. However, a lot of people came from Europe, Israel, USA. As a rule, ordinary citizens search the database for the names of their relatives who participated in the Great Patriotic War. While historians, students, archivists look for facts for writing research papers and abstracts.

Thanks to the resource, the things that used to be laborious become easily accessible. Until recently, it took, without exaggeration, a huge motivation to find out information about one's grandfather or great-grandfather, who were



The bullet won't break the memory

Director of the National Archives Andrei Demyanuk considers receiving the special Presidential prize a great honour for archivists.

"During our joint work with the publishing house, that is, since 2019, we have transferred to its employees more than 820,000 electronic pages of archival documents. These are personal records of personnel, award documents, personal files of employees of the Belarusian headquarters of the partisan movement, copies of notices of the death of partisans. In total, our archive stores more than 30,000 such files on the history of the partisan movement, most of which are planned to be placed on the portal. Thus, this is more than a million electronic documents," explained the head of the archival division of the *Partisans of Belarus* project.

There are absolutely unique things among the evidence of the feat of the people's avengers. For example, the diary of the commander of the 'In the

Name of the Motherland' partisan brigade M. G. Yankovsky, pierced by a bullet. Despite such damage, it can also be digitised. The diary will soon be seen by the visitors of the partizany.by portal. The National Archives also holds a dying letter from the underground fighter Timofey Stepanovich Borodin to his relatives. It was written in June 1942 on a bloody handkerchief.

"About ten years ago, the brother of this hero from Gomel came to our archive. So their family history was filled with new awareness and deep feelings. And now the photo and history of the handkerchief, which can be considered a symbol of an unconquered person, can really be made public. After all, such an object is a kind of symbol of all the inhabitants of our long-suffering and courageous land who did not flinch before the invaders," says Andrei Konstantinovich. The fact that such pages of the heroic past of our partisan republic, previously accessible to a very limited circle, as a rule, to scientists, are being opened up for all current and subsequent generations, and there is value in the joint work of archivists and journalists.

Epilogue of big money era

American companies are becoming cheaper and are gradually turning from transnational oligopolists and monopolists into ordinary large regional companies

For the past forty years, Western economies have lived according to the theory of big money. Their key thesis is that it does not matter how much money is printed, it is important to have a developed financial system. It absorbs and digests all excess emissions. But apparently, the experiment is coming to an unsuccessful end. So far, they have not been able to cope with inflation so plainly in the United States. The economy is in recession. In addition, stock indices showed a record negative trend since 2008. Quotations of American corporate companies are rapidly flying down. The abuse of its dominant position in the global financial system, sanctions and the heating up of geopolitical conflicts deprive both American companies and financial instruments of the global market. The very big money, with the help of which the States usually got away clean from the crisis of any 'degree of pollution'. Now the show is ending, and American multinational corporations, great, powerful, unattainable and invincible, are gradually turning into ordinary companies. Large, but without exceptional positions on a global scale.

By Vladimir Volchkov

'Bears' beat 'bulls'

Western stock indices swelled in the first two COVID-19 years, absorbing 'helicopter' money. It seems to be quite natural that last year there was a period of decline in quotations. Quite a normal stock cycle, which has been repeated many times, but this time the depth of the decline in quotes is somewhat unexpected. Although quite predictable.

In 2022, key US stock indices showed the worst result since the global financial crisis. Stocks and bonds collectively lost almost \$30 trillion last year. Moreover, the shares of giants, which until recently seemed unsinkable: Apple, Tesla, Google, fell significantly (by 30-50 percent) in price.

The great Amazon has been actively laying off employees and has taken up leasing idle logistics space and vehicles. The NASDAQ index for 2022 lost 33 percent, the S&P500 (called the barometer of the American economy) — almost 20. Judging by these results, investors simply lost confidence in American companies, and possibly in the American economy as a whole.

Big among equals

As a matter of fact, there is a quite reasonable explanation for the stock slalom: the global world has collapsed, and American companies (to some extent, many European ones) are gradually turning from world-class corporations into regional ones.

For example, the same Tesla caught up with Ferrari in terms of the rate of return (the ratio of dividends to the share price) despite the growth in sales of its cars last year. This Italian company is a well-respected legend, but it is a standard asset in the engineering industry that does not excel at phenomenal returns in terms of investment.



Wall Street can thank the White House. No matter how much Russia, China, Iran and the penguins in Antarctica are accused of wanting to remake the world and transform the existing rules of the game, it was Washington that ruined the era of globalisation and world trade.

Through trade wars, sanctions and provocations of tension. Just remember the Taiwan case. On the one hand, all these winds of an ideal storm in combination brought some unrest in different regions: one day they froze investors' assets in the United States, another day Western companies leave the market (or they will have to leave).

After the active use of Starlink for military purposes in Ukraine, it is obvious that this service of Elon Musk is just inaccessible for many countries. Just in case, as they say.

Thus, sanctions in general raise doubts about co-operation in the high-tech sector. Technological, informational and cyber security has taken on a new meaning over the past year.

Therefore, not all states are unconditionally ready to allow American companies with their technologies, software, and applications into their garden. More and more countries are already choosing to roll up their sleeves and develop their own high-tech infrastructure.

People's casino

Last year was marked by another phenomenal event: Chinese banks overtook American banks in terms of the number of securities placed on the open market for the first time in history. In other words, investment money is shifting definitively and irrevocably towards Asia.

American CitiBank announced an additional reduction of 3,000 employees (about 8 percent of the payroll). Investment divisions are just scuttled. They failed to fulfil the plan last year. The layoffs indicate that the top management of the bank does not hope to achieve acceptable performance this year either.

Apparently, the American stock casino ends its existence.

At a certain point, the stock market relied on attracting private, so-called non-professional investors in order to increase turnover. Fortunately, communication technologies allow one to play on the stock exchange through a smartphone.

This is what tens and hundreds of mil-

lions of people around the world have been doing. And it should be noted that they rushed to invest in stocks during the pandemic period, when stock indices were growing and promised prosperity. A lot of private investors began to get rid of their securities amid falling quotes. Large companies spent tens and hundreds of millions of dollars to buy back their shares, but could not resist the correction.

In other words, there are certain fears that after such a fall (however, it may continue), the stock market, at least the American one, may never regain investor confidence. At least private. So, the stock casino is actually closed for everyone.

Investments come down to earth

For the time being, the axiom worked: capital flows to developed countries in the event of global economic instability. But now the usual formulas no longer work. There is a very significant disappointment among investors with the dollar and euro zones.

One way or another, a certain excess of liquidity is indicated on the capital market. Investors (not only in the US, but also in other regions) are leaving their usual securities. If not completely, then partially. And they are looking for defensive assets.

Of course, there are traditional moves — gold and other precious metals. The original actions are the same crypto assets, although they have been shaken by scandals lately. Nonetheless, investment in the actual production of the necessary things is one of the options for protective investments. Foremost in everyday life: food, building materials, furniture, clothing and so on. As well as the production of raw materials, equipment and materials for such industries. In other words, investments gradually descend from clouds of high matters closer to earthly needs. Although investors understand that there are no huge profits in these sectors, but funds are saved and quite decent profits can be made.

In fact, our country has a lot to offer in this area. By and large, our entire economy was oriented towards real production and people's needs. Those areas that acquire a fresh approach and respect from investors. True, American and European entrepreneurs are unlikely to invest in our assets because of the sanctions. But there are still many other states, investors from which will gladly diversify their financial portfolios.

Undoubtedly, it is necessary to make worthy and interesting proposals. Money will not flow. But our investment opportunities and attractiveness (including projects within the framework of the Union State) are taking on a new meaning.





Finances will become a mess

The economic situation in Poland will worsen sharply this year

Aleksandr Lukashenko determined what the year 2023 would be like for Belarusians in St. Petersburg on December 26th last year — ‘the happiest, the most successful’. However, such a forecast cannot be applied to our unfriendly neighbours, especially Western ones. Deciding to play a sanctions war against Belarus and Russia, they hit their fingers with an economic sledgehammer, and now they are frantically trying to understand how it happened. The answer is really quite simple: he that mischief hatches, mischief catches. It is a pity that the meaning of this proverb is apparently not fully understood in the West.

By Anton Popov

Losses from a sweet couple

Perhaps, the consequences of the ill-considered policy of Western leaders are most clearly visible on the example of an ordinary citizen of Poland. If Germany, France and some other European states approached the crisis with a small margin of safety (albeit quite worn out during the COVID-19 lockdowns), then Poland, with its eternal Anti-Belarusian and Anti-Russian sentiment, began to suffer losses right after the sanctions thunder struck. As a result, by the end of the year, the sweet couple in the person of Duda and Morawiecki led the country to the worst economic performance in at least the last 30 years.

The increase in food prices has become one of the main triggers for Poles' dissatisfaction with their authorities in 2022, and there are no grounds for optimism in this area in the coming year either. Economists believe that inflation in Poland could rise sharply up to 20 percent already in February.

Over the past 12 months, the price of food in Polish retail stores has risen by an average of 25.8 percent. There were cases when individual goods rose in price by 80-100 percent. By the way, the reaction, or, rather, its absence, to such a sensitive problem for society on the part of political elites is indicative. For comparison, when facts of unreasonable overpricing were revealed in Belarus last autumn, this became the reason for a tough trial at the highest level and a legislative ban on increasing the cost of goods. Thus, the problem was solved. In Poland, however, such a useful experience was arrogantly turned away...

Price collapse

Experts and influential media, even those who support the current course of the ruling party, unanimously declare that another price hike awaits Poland in the near future. According to the *Rzeczpospolita* publication, the main impact of the upcoming rise in prices will fall on dairy products and vegetable fats, the price of which will immediately rise by 20-30 percent. In addition, experts expect an increase in the cost of vegetables and fruits, and the price of imported products will jump the most.

The reasons for the rise in prices remain unchanged and are directly related to the thoughtless sanctions policy of Warsaw: a significant rise in the price of electricity and gas, as well as rising fuel prices resulted in problems with logistics.



In addition, a new law that increases the minimum wage added some headache to manufacturers. Enterprises in crisis, obeying the law, fall into a vicious circle of serious increase in costs.

Too many Ocean's

An increase in the number of shoplifting is a completely natural reaction of society in response to rising prices. According to official statistics, the number of theft facts recorded by the police increased by a third from January to October last year compared to the same period in 2021. Most often, thieves coveted food, alcohol, cigarettes and consumer electronics. At the same time, grocery stores accounted for 50.4 percent of all crimes of this kind.

However, in fact, there is little fun in the situation. Police statistics show that the proportion of elderly people among thieves has seriously increased over the past year. Polish pensioners are rapidly getting poorer, and many are simply not able to pay their checks that are getting heavier day by day.

The reckless support of Ukraine, the sanctions clinch with the Union State and the costly militarisation carried out by official Warsaw give unfortunate people no choice but to steal what they could have recently acquired.

It would seem that what is happening speaks of a serious crisis in Polish society and downright requires the adoption of urgent measures.

In fact, the reaction of the authorities turned out to be very original: Duda signed an amendment to the Criminal Code, which raises the threshold for decriminalisation of theft.

Previously, a person could get a maximum of 30 days of arrest for stolen goods in the amount of up to 500 zlotys, and anything higher ‘was estimated’ at five or more years in prison. Now the threshold has been raised to 800 zlotys. This will be a real disaster for shop owners, especially small ones.

In the end it is ordinary people who suffer

The key element of the new crisis on the West lies its system and complexity. Problems have affected not only the sphere of energy or industry — chaos affects all aspects of life without exception. Partly to blame for this is the high degree of globalisation of the current world order, but this happened mostly due to the excessive zeal of the authorities in imposing sanctions against Belarus and Russia.

Poland gives us an example of just such an explosive mixture. Serious dependence on cheap Russian energy resources, on the one hand, and dense Anti-Russian sentiment, on the other, created an explosive cocktail that was not slow to explode after the start of the special military operation.

Huge spending on new weapons, coupled with the expansion of the army and the principled refusal to make any compromises with Russia, shape very unsightly prospects for the future of the economy of our western neighbour.

One of the logical results of the refusal of Russian gas was problems with heating.

Perhaps, oats are the most unusual type of fuel that burns in Polish stoves in times of crisis. The efficiency of this type of fuel is in question, but given the rising price of gas, firewood and other energy sources, some Poles have few alternatives.

Of course, residents of the border regions with Belarus periodically go to our country at least for pellets, but they are mercilessly intimidated on the other side of the border — they spread ridiculous rumours and print all sorts of nonsense in the media. Take, for example, the work of Paulina Siegien, the publicist of the *Krytyka Polityczna* publication. She proudly admits that she dissuaded her friend from going to Belarus for fuel in a publication on the matter. Apparently, sincerely believing that she actually saved a friend.

Towards the storm

The coming year 2023 is unlikely to please ordinary Poles with good news. The political elites have a stranglehold on the topic of the Ukrainian conflict and are determined to continue the escalation, as evidenced by Warsaw's aggressive campaign to push through the supply of NATO tanks to Kiev, and to militarise Poland itself.

A rise in prices, acceleration of inflation and impoverishment of the population will inevitably lead to a further increase in social tension. Now the Polish police are under serious pressure due to the increase in the number of thefts and the increase in Ukrainian ethnic crime — however, 2023 may well be the year for them to face a real social explosion. However, it is unlikely to sweep Duda and Morawiecki out of their chairs, but it will certainly be able to thoroughly shake the positions of the elites.

From global reality to global virtuality: what the participants of the World Economic Forum are talking and fantasising about

This is the 53rd time the world's economic and political elites have assembled for their 'gatherings' in Switzerland to use the World Economic Forum in Davos to discuss and develop a common global peace policy. 5 days, more than 2,700 guests (including 52 heads of state and 116 billionaires), 5,000 police officers for protection, at least \$45 million in security expenses, about \$330 million of the organisation's total budget — that's what the WEF in Davos is all about today. The numbers are certainly impressive. But...

By Aleksei Belyaev, a political scientist

The world is split, divided and scared...

There is the complete absence of a delegation from Russia among the guests of the forum, which claims to develop a global agenda in the economic (and political) sphere. At the same time, Russia is the 11th country in the world in terms of nominal GDP and the sixth in terms of GDP in terms of purchasing power parity (let's not mention the 1st place in terms of occupied territory and the 9th in terms of population)! There are no richest people in the world and not one of the 626 Chinese billionaires on this forum (while the PRC is the second state in their number after the USA)!

Moreover, the agenda of the current congress of oligarchs smacks of pessimism: 'Co-operation in a Fragmented World'. That is, they were building and creating a 'global village', and suddenly all their efforts went to waste. Forget about uniform rules or about promised worldwide prosperity... Where does this come from? It's obvious!

The American company Edelman, which annually measures the level of citizens' trust in various institutions around the world, has come up with another study. Only 40 percent of those surveyed around the world (but not in Russia, of course —



Davos is no longer the same...

do not forget about sanctions!) showed economic optimism, saying that they hope to improve their lives in the next five years.

Strange as it may seem, the richest countries were the worst. Thus, in Japan, only 9 percent of respondents confidently look to the future, in France — 12, in Germany — 15 percent. The main fears are the following: job loss, inflation, food and energy shortages — that is, purely economic factors that are easy to feel for oneself, especially with a previously very good standard of living.

American researchers have also recorded a very impressive social class gap: the poor trust institutions much less than wealthy citizens. For example, in the US, the discrepancy reaches 23 percentage points. According to the authors of the report, 'inhabitants of the same country live in very different realities'.

Expectations can come true

The reasons for all this global disunity and fragmentation of the world community were discussed in the early days of

the Davos forum. International Monetary Fund, a structure well-known for its globalism, also released its study, in which the main risks of deglobalisation were associated with restrictions on trade in raw materials and high-tech goods that followed as sanctions against Russia and China for military and political reasons.

While these sanctions are partial, however, in an attempt to completely stop trade in energy and high-tech goods between countries, IMF experts predict a drop in world GDP by 1.2–1.5 percent.

It is symptomatic that, having voiced such bad expectations, world leaders immediately took a step towards their implementation. In particular, the Europeans again started talking about the next package of sanctions against Russia. The only conclusion that suggests itself is that the leadership of the European Union is completely infected with the virus of economic suicide. Indeed, coupled with American and Chinese legislative initiatives aimed at providing large-scale

benefits and preferences to national producers (which include cheap energy, inexpensive labour, and tax incentives for manufacturers of modern goods, such as electric cars), 'final' sanctions will finally kill industrial European corporations. And then there's interest rates going up, making new investments impossible...

Escape from reality

But instead of taking a sober look at the economic problems created by their own hands, the leaders of European countries prefer to discuss new deliveries of tanks to Ukraine in Davos.

The forum is used as another political tribune to promote the alarmist agenda and escalate tensions. No collaboration, just further fragmentation.

The remnants of the global world (more precisely, that part of it that is still within the reach of the Western elite) are trying to take absolute control. The idea of creating a controlled metaverse was voiced in Davos (that's right, without quotes, because everything is the pure truth!).

Klaus Schwab, the founder of the forum, literally announced a 'global collaboration village', a worldwide 'village without borders' — that is, a new digital platform that Microsoft will be commissioned to create. It will be possible to enter the platform from any device (even a laptop, even virtual reality glasses and even smartwatch), and it will be fully controlled. Interpol is one of the partners in creating the virtual space of the future.

Relatively speaking, the brave new world is taking on more and more obvious features of a digital concentration camp. Having failed to maintain the global world order with economic preferences and common rules, the power of tanks and other weapons, the world oligarchy relies on consciousness and virtuality.

That's just satiety from virtual bread and warmth from a virtual fire starving humanity is unlikely to wait.



World's richest 1 percent grab two-thirds of global wealth

Right on the first day of the World Economic Forum, the report of a British-founded confederation of charitable organisations Oxfam under the *Survival of the Richest* telling title was released

It follows from the report that the world has found itself in a paradoxical situation for the first time over the past 25 years: both the number of extremely poor and extremely rich inhabitants of the planet has grown at the same time!

During the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020, 1 percent of the rich have received at their disposal 62 percent of the world's accumulated wealth during this time — as much as \$26 trillion! Meanwhile, 1.7 billion ordinary workers live in countries where inflation is now outpacing wage growth. And every tenth inhabitant of the Earth suffers from

daily hunger. The wealth of billionaires, however, has surged as inflation drives up food and energy prices.

A total of \$42 trillion in new wealth has been created since 2020, with \$26 trillion, or 63 percent, of that being amassed by the top 1 percent of the ultra-rich, according to the report. The remaining 99 percent of the global population collected just \$16 trillion of new wealth, the global poverty charity says.

"A billionaire gained roughly \$1.7m for every \$1 of new global wealth earned by a person in the bottom 90 percent," the report reads.

Elon Musk trashes WEF

Elon Musk slammed the world's most powerful club by saying this is becoming an 'unelected world government' and that nobody wants it

Billionaire Elon Musk is not a fan of the World Economic Forum and he is making it very clear to the uninitiated. The Tesla CEO has unleashed a torrent of criticism against the annual gathering of political and business leaders, seemingly determined to shake things up.

Musk expressed his disdain for environmental, social governance, or ESG, saying that 'S' should stand for satanic instead of social. The Tesla founder also scoffed at the idea of the WEF being 'the

boss of Earth' and called the gathering boring.

He further insulted the forum, comparing it to online message board 4Chan, which is well known for spawning baseless conspiracy theories. Musk didn't stop there and conducted a poll on Twitter, asking his millions of followers whether WEF should control the world. All this clearly showed his disappointment with the conference and this has been for years.



The World Economic Forum should control the world

Перевести твит

Yes 14 %
No 86 %

2 420 521 голос · Конечные результаты

7:49 PM · 18 янв. 2023 г. · 26 млн просмотров

41,6 тыс. ретвита 6 034 твита с цитатами 110,2 тыс. отметок «Нравится»

Words pay no debts

By **Aleksei Avdonin**, an analyst with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research

No more increase

On January 19th, the US reached the \$31.4 trillion limit on public debt. On January 13th, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen warned Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy in a letter about the risk of exceeding.

To avoid default, the Department of the Treasury is ready to take 'extraordinary measures', in particular, to refuse contributions to the pension and social fund, which will allow pushing the topic of expanding the limit until mid-2023.

In November 2021, Janet Yellen advocated raising the national debt limit by \$2.5 trillion, and the very next month, US President Joe Biden signed a decree raising the limit to the current level of \$31.4 trillion. Then the Republicans opposed the increase in the national debt: they called on the President and the Democrats to cut spending and start a policy of reducing the public debt. However, Biden said that the failure to resolve the issue of expanding the limit and the conflict in the US Congress with the Republicans could lead to 'undermining the reliability of US Treasury securities, and would also threaten the status of the dollar as the world's reserve currency'.

As an argument, Biden noted that during the presidency of Republican Donald Trump, Congress agreed to raise the national debt ceiling four times, the Democrats then supported these decisions. He urged Republicans to 'stop playing Russian roulette with the US economy'.

In 2023, experts also expect 'bargaining' between Democrats and Republicans. In exchange for agreeing to raise the limit, the Republicans are demanding cuts in the state budget, primarily military spending by \$75 billion (about 10 percent of the Pentagon's budget).

According to the US Treasury, if urgent steps are not taken now, the government's default will cause irreparable damage to the state and not only 'the US economy, the well-being of all Americans, but also international financial stability' will suffer.

Struggle for power

According to the Rasmussen Report, 76 percent of voters are concerned about the problem of external debt. More than 50 percent are dissatisfied with the December law on additional budget spending of \$1.7 trillion in the current financial year (this document also included \$45 billion in aid to Ukraine). According to CNN, after the establishment of Republican control over the House of Representatives in the US Congress, a real 'battle' between the parties is expected on the issue of raising the public debt limit.

It is important to understand that the United States lives not so much on official external borrowing through the issuance of securities of the US Treasury, but on the widespread replication and distribution of the dollar as the world's equivalent of value and reserve currency.

Thus, the volume of this currency and various credit derivatives (non-cash money) around the world is \$644.42 trillion, which is 2778 percent more than the US GDP.

The problem of increasing the US debt limit has become a hot topic of debate within the political establishment for the past ten years and attracts the attention of the whole world. Why does the US constantly live in debt, is not afraid to expand this campaign, and where is the end of this game of cheaters? Let's figure it out together.

The US has reached the limit on public debt of \$31.4 trillion: where is the ceiling and will there be a default?



The length of the Earth's equator is **40,075 kilometres**. The thickness of the \$100 bill is **0.1075 mm**. The US national debt has already reached **\$31.4 trillion**. In 100 dollar bills, this is **33,755 kilometres**. Just a little bit left — and the debt of a country that considers itself the world hegemon will cover the entire Earth.

It is clear that the excessive issue of money leads to the depreciation of the dollar in relation to the natural equivalents of value, which are precious metals. So, now the ratio of the dollar to a troy ounce of gold is \$873, while in 1913 this figure was \$28.68 per ounce — that is, 30 times more. Of course, the country's life on the basis of unsecured finance affects the real production sector of the economy. People cannot self-actualise and their place of work.

Thus, with a US population of 334.28 million people, the real unemployment rate is 10.53 million (official statistics give a figure of 5.69 million people). In fact, this exceeds the number of all citizens of Belarus.

Empty dollar policy

Maintaining the status of the world currency by the Federal Reserve System requires the US political leadership to take increasingly tough, aggressive actions against its main opponents — Russia and China. The confrontation between NATO and Russia on the territory of Ukraine is one of such points of struggle for the dollar.

The increase in the level of escalation and unpreparedness for peace talks on Ukraine and on the security zone for Russia is connected precisely with the fear of the Fed and the US Treasury of an outflow of global investors from US securities and the abandonment of the dollar. All printed dollars and non-cash accounts

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"They are trying to redivide the world. Those who have power or believe that they have power are trying to chip away at their neighbours, someone else, in order to gain the upper hand and strengthen their positions the way they understand it. Look, this is happening all over the world. And, of course, the United States is leading the way. They probably don't even need to bite off anything... Then the pandemic came to lay bare all these ulcers. Remember, the European Union opted for 'helicopter money', the Americans embarked on printing money. I said that it would eventually come back to bite them. Now we have rampant inflation in the world and this is a real challenge for the economy."

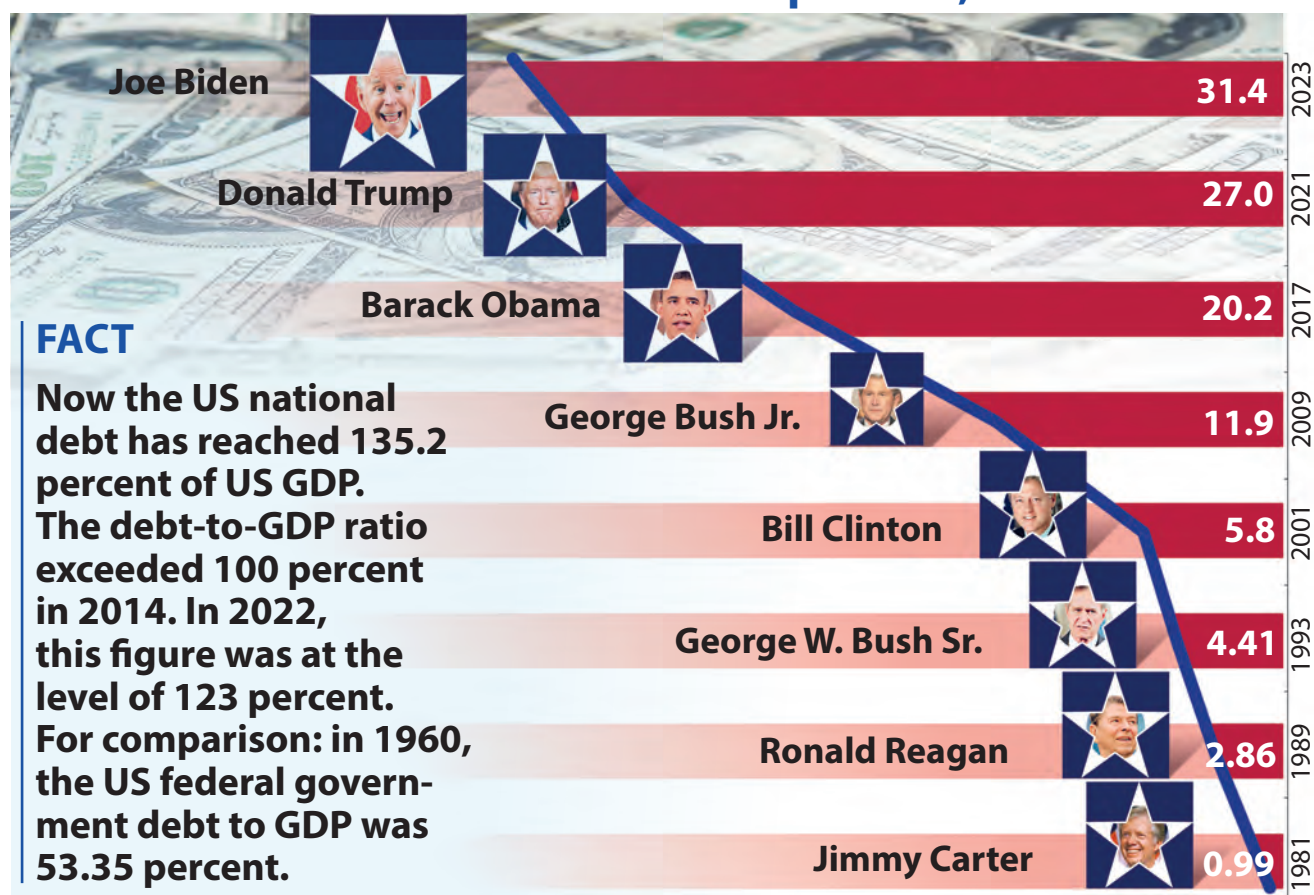
During his working trip to Myadel District on August 2nd, 2022

denominated in dollars can simply turn into candy wrappers overnight.

Moscow's resistance and Washington's failure to achieve its desired goals in Ukraine (the collapse of the Russian economy, the Russian ruble, protests) lead to the need to open a 'second front' — against China, but not with their own hands, but on the model of a proxy war with the hands of the Japanese. Thus, the Chinese edition of the Global Times noted that Tokyo is striving for militarisation under the influence of Washington, and this can turn Japan into an 'Asian Ukraine'.

At the same time, the selfish financial and economic policy of the United States causes disagreement not only among Russia and China. Now the main production centres of Europe (France, Germany, Italy) have begun to oppose Washington more and more clearly. As for the States themselves, it is becoming more and more difficult to live in debt and distribute painted money. Maintaining the Fed's confidence in the dollar system requires radical, aggressive action and militant rhetoric from Washington. However, there are more and more players who play against the USA, and the probability of Washington's financial and economic loss increases every year.

US national debt from 1981 to the present, trillion dollars



From ceramic tiles to 'heraldic' whistles

8 craftsmen out of 12 are engaged in pottery in the Centre for Folk Art and Crafts in the urban-type settlement of Kopys, Orsha District. And it is not surprising that the cultural institution was awarded a special prize of the President of the Republic of Belarus to cultural and art workers for their active work in preserving the technologies for making traditional ceramic ware. The Director of the Centre Anastasia Korban spoke about the features of the local pottery, modern trends in ceramics and the new 'bubble' glaze, which may be the future of this type of applied art.

By Olga Korneeva

Two dozen factories for the manufacture of clay products operated in Kopys in the second half of the 19th century. The most famous were ceramic tiles — bricks that were used to decorate fireplaces, stoves and walls. Kopys samples dispersed around the world, conquering both the Russian landowner and the European bourgeois — from Moscow and St. Petersburg to Paris. Anastasia Korban said that some of the old houses in the settlement still have stoves decorated with similar ceramic tiles. From time to time, broken or intact tiles are found in Kopys, and sometimes fishermen catch them even from the Dnieper River.

In the old days, such elements added heat resistance to stoves and, of course, aesthetics. They were varied. Some had geometric symmetrical designs, and most often such plates had the natural terracotta colour of the clay. Others were inscribed with heraldic symbols. Also, tiles covered with plain or coloured glaze have become quite popular.

There were holes for a thick wire that held the plates together and created a dense ring in the rump — the back 'layer' along the edges of the ceramic tile. Furthermore, there was an empty cavity under each ceramic tile, which was heated by the oven and then kept warm for a long time. The main difficulty in assembling such a decorated heating 'device' was that it was necessary to make brickwork and immediately 'insulate' its ceramic tiles row by row. This required great skill from the stove-maker, who had to do his work with extreme precision so as not to damage expensive plates.

Today, ceramists of the Centre for Folk Art and Crafts make



The team of the Centre for Folk Art and Crafts in the urban-type settlement of Kopys was awarded a special prize of the President of the Republic of Belarus for their active work in preserving the technologies for making traditional ceramic ware in the Orsha District

How pottery masters continue the traditions of pottery in Kopys

ous orders. More than 30 times a year, ceramists from the Centre for Folk Art and Crafts go to exhibitions and sales. They work almost around the clock and seven days a week on the eve of the holidays.

Among the non-trivial requests of the customers were the Mermaid with the Cat-scientist that walks around the chain, a reduced copy of the building of the regional branch of the Investigative Committee and the Belarus tractor (also an exact copy of one of the modern models that the Minsk Tractor Works produces), figurines for the draw for the competition for young performers at Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk.

Bunny whistles from Kopys are very popular at almost all fairs. Such products sold like hotcakes on the eve of the New Year. In addition to being a symbol of 2023, the black rabbit flaunts on the coat of arms of Kopys, where it is placed on a green grassy background. In the old days, these wild animals were a dime a dozen here, and even now they boldly roam the surrounding forests, so this year the singing bunny should double as a talisman for the craftsmen from Kopys.

The head of the cultural institution herself masters the 'bubble' technique with great interest — applying glaze, which is inflated with a bubble through a straw and the craft is dipped into it. Such a coating falls on the product with a marble pattern and can be made in several colours.

In addition to pottery, the masters of the Centre for Folk Art and Crafts are engaged in wicker and straw weaving, woodworking, embroidery and other folk crafts. However, it is clay that is the trump ace that the craftsmen from Kopys take out of their sleeves in any game.



Anton Stepanishchev

imitation ceramic tiles — clay tablets — only as a souvenir or exhibition piece. Masters of this folk art continue the traditions of potters from the past centuries, pass on their skills to the younger generation and try to modernise clay products that differ from factory-made analogues in their individuality, unique design, and most importantly, they carry the spiritual message and mood of each creator of pottery jars, plates, panels or whistles.

Figuratively speaking, mass production of cast clay products has been established in the centre. For them, special plaster moulds are used, some of which went to the cultural institution from the former ceramic factories, as well as reserves of clay, especially white clay.

Habitual red clay is purchased in Obol, and it is stored in powder form in bags.

Before manufacturing, such raw materials are soaked in water, then impurities of sand, glass, and other fractions are

removed. Workable clay looks like a thick chocolate paste.

As soon as the natural material falls into the hands of the master, it begins to come to life. Some specialists of the centre work on modelling stands, others sculpt original handicrafts as if from plasticine.

Craftswoman Nadezhda Siranidi came to Belarus from Kazakhstan. From childhood, she loved to sculpt from plasticine, but few people heard about pottery in the southern country where she lived for many years. It was only in a Belarusian urban-type settlement that she got acquainted with this material and found her creative embodiment in it.

"I like to sculpt everything — panels, garden sculptures, and decorative crafts. I always say that our work is a kind of release. In the process of creating a product, I literally escape from the outside world. It happens that something doesn't work out the first time, then I redo it, but not

on the sample that I consider unsuccessful, I sculpt the same thing from scratch, with new amendments. I like clay more than plasticine, it is more pliable and gives more opportunities for the realisation of bold ideas," craftswoman explained.

The Centre for Folk Art and Crafts has its own shop, and there is no room to swing a cat on excursion days. Clay products never leave children and adults indifferent. Guests from abroad or from Belarus invariably try to get a souvenir. Pottery craftsmen from Kopys are almost constantly engaged in the manufacture of fair assortment in their spare time from numer-



Master of folk crafts Irina Kravchuk

We need this kind of hockey

The Belarus President's Team matches are always a little more than just a game

By Sergei Kanashits

The noise of crowded stands, overflowing emotions and a desperate desire to win create an indescribable atmosphere at the matches of the Head of State squad in the Republican amateur competitions for the prizes of the President's Sports Club. So the regular meeting with the Mogilev Region team was held at the Olympic Arena with a sold-out and a hail of abandoned pucks (7:2 in favour of the owners of the ice). The entourage did not let us down either: pop performers performed, the most active fans took part in competitions on the ice and received prizes, and according to the established tradition, the hockey players of the Belarus President's Team thanked the audience for their support with a rain of soft toys, throwing dozens of cute plushies at the stands after the end of the game.

However, on this Saturday, a very extraordinary and touching event happened on the ice, which is still not tired of discussing, including outside of Belarus. Aleksandr Lukashenko took to the ice amid the thunder of unceasing applause from the public and helped a simple guy from Donbass Pavel Prokhorenkov, who was forced to be in a wheelchair after an operation,



Aleksandr Lukashenko arranged a lap of honour on the ice arena for a guy from Donbass Pavel Prokhorenkov

make a lap of honour on the hockey rink. Five years ago, he decided to defend his homeland from Ukrainian aggression and, having received the approval of the girl, he left to fight. On April 30th last year, disaster struck: while performing another combat mission, Pavel blew himself up on a mine. He lost a leg. He almost lost his second one. Who knows how it would

have ended if it were not for the doctors of the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital, who performed the most difficult operation: the bones of the leg were collected like a mosaic. Doctor Alexander Kovalenko, who operated on Pavel, gives an optimistic forecast, "We expect almost complete recovery of the function of the operated limb. Then it will be possible to proceed with prosthetics of the amputated leg." The doctor emphasised, "This is a unique case in my 24-year practice, but our department is called the Complicated Trauma Department for a reason. We deal with severe injuries after road accidents, various injuries, including mine-explosive ones. It seems to me that this time they were on top. The operation lasted all day — we had to perform a panarthrodesis of the ankle joint using fragments of his own bone as an autograft with fixation in the Ilizarov apparatus. This is a very unusual situation, like the injury itself. We had to make an effort to restore the patient's self-confidence and hope for the future."

While Pavel was undergoing treatment, his son Miroslav was born in Donetsk. Now the family, together with dad, is in Minsk, far from the bombings. The baby was christened in Minsk. And all the time they dream of becoming citizens of Belarus, which extended a helping hand to them and which they managed to love with all their hearts. An amazing story that once again makes us proud of our beautiful Motherland and its strong people with a very big and kind heart.

Ski track for several generations

The fight for medals, memories of the past and more — the fourth stage of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup ended in Raubichi

By Tatiana Pastushenko

The Commonwealth Biathlon Cup in Raubichi is a true holiday. Perhaps any of the viewers will agree with this statement. There was something to see. For example, how athletes who had long ago put an end to their careers fought for places on the podium in the Champions Race, held in the format of a single mixed relay. When Sergey Novikov, Oleg Ryzhenkov, Olena Zubrilova, Olga Nazarova, Viktor Maigourov and other participants of the show race signed autographs, the audience shared with them memories of how they were rooting for them in 1994 and not only... But the main heroes of the weekend were still biathletes of a completely different generation — those who are right now fighting for awards in the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup races and the overall standings of the tournament.

A medal saved is a medal earned

The home stage of the tournament brought five awards to our team. Four of them were won by men, and Dzmitry Lazouski became the main 'shockworker' in the fourth segment of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup. At the first stages, he repeatedly got into the flower ceremony, but it was not possible to get to the podium. At the end of last week, they managed to do it, for three times, however: Lazouski won the sprint and took second place in the pursuit and mass start.

The men's mass start, which completed the programme of the stage, became its real decoration. The intrigue kept to the last metres of the distance. There were four contenders for the medal: Dzmitry Lazouski, Mikita Labastau, Russian Vasily Tomshin, who perfectly coped with



shooting at all four shooting ranges, and our team captain Anton Smolski, who made two misses in the first prone, but was not used to giving up. On the final



The Champions Race was held as part of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup. It was attended by 16 Belarusian and Russian biathlon stars who have already completed their active careers.

lap in this four, the leader changed more than once, but in the end, Tomshin was the first to cross the final line. Lazouski and Labastau were behind him. The gap between the winner and the bronze medalist was only 2.2 seconds! Anton Smolski finished fourth. Alas, this stage did not become a medal one for him: he was sixth in the sprint, seventh in the pursuit race. However, Smolski is the first overall of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup. And in the women's top, the wife of the biathlete Dzinara Alimbekava-Smol'skaya is in the lead, who won the only medal for our women's team at home — bronze in the pursuit.

Under scrutiny

Senior coach Oleg Ryzhenkov believes, "The women's team today can be divided into two parts. The first is older athletes. The second is young biathletes who have a hard time here. First, the circle itself is heavy. For example, in Ryazan, where we competed before the New Year, the track is flatter, and this somewhat equalised the chances, gave weaker athletes the opportunity to approve oneself. Here the girls have a hard time, but they try."

For young athletes, these competitions are a chance to show quality, and for coaches — to see their reserve in action.

The coaches of our national team have said this more than once, and their Russian colleagues share the same opinion. Vice-President of the Russian Biathlon Union for sports Pavel Rostovtsev, for example, says, "The Commonwealth Biathlon Cup is very important because athletes should not lose competitive practice. No control training will replace the competition. The fact that today we do not compete at international competitions is not good, but any medal has two sides. For us, this is an opportunity to look at the nearest reserve, and not at one competition, but throughout the season."

Athletes, in turn, are happy with this opportunity.

Returned to the past

And as for the Champions Race, it was won by Sergey Novikov and Ekaterina Shumilova. Following the silver medalist of the Olympic Games in Vancouver, Pyotr Ivashka, who was on the same team with Ekaterina Yurlova-Percht, and Oleg Ryzhenkov, whose partner was Olga Podchufarova, crossed the finish line. However, they did it together: Pyotr Ivashka waited for a colleague a few metres before the finish line. But the main thing, as the participants of the unusual start said, was not at all places in the final protocol.

"Of course, it is interesting to participate in such a race. To remember a little youth, fill yourself with emotions..." Oleg Ryzhenkov said.

"Good event. This is not a competition, but rather an opportunity to communicate with people with whom I have performed before, to see how they are," Sergey Novikov noted.

"You always want to win in a competitive fight, but we did not compete for medals — we wanted to convey a good mood to the fans. I think we did it well!" Pyotr Ivashka emphasised.

The fourth stage of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup has ended, but biathlon in Raubichi continues again: today the fifth stage of the tournament starts in the sports complex near Minsk, during which biathletes will compete in sprints, pursuit races and mass starts.



Dzinara Alimbekava-Smol'skaya

Photo of the week



Andrey Sazonov

Samuel Ozovehe, originally from Jamaica, works at the Mogilev House-Building Plant

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



January 26th is the International Customs Day. On January 26th, 1953, the founding session of the Customs Co-operation Council (now the World Customs Organisation) took place in Brussels. It has been celebrated since 1983. The holiday is an occasion to draw public attention to the importance of the role of customs in the economic and social development of society.

On January 26th, 1500, Europeans first set foot in Brazil. The laurels of the discoverer of the territories of modern Brazil belong to Vicente Yáñez Pinzón, a Spanish navigator, explorer and conquistador.



On January 26th, 1525, the first printed version of the map of Rus' was published — the map of Moscow lands. According to the surviving data, the history of cartography in Rus' began in pre-Petrine times. The archives of Ivan the Terrible include 248 maps, during his reign the first geodetic manual *The Geometry Book, or Land Surveying with Radix and Compasses...* was written.



On January 26th, 1905, the world's largest Cullinan diamond was mined in South Africa, weighing 3,106 carats (621.2 g). The diamond was presented to the English king on his birthday on November 9th, 1907. Later it was decided to break it into pieces and cut it. After cutting, nine largest and most famous diamonds became the pride of the English crown.

January 27th, 1820, is the day of the discovery of Antarctica. The first Russian Antarctic expedition led by Faddey Bellingshausen, saw the cherished southern continent six months after the departure. However, the sailors did not manage to get ashore. Nevertheless, 28 islands and the previously unknown coast of the mainland were discovered in the southern seas.



On January 27th, 1944, the blockade of Leningrad was lifted by the forces of the Leningrad and Volkhov Fronts, which lasted 872 days. According to various sources, more than 1 million people died over the years of the blockade. This event of the Great Patriotic War became a victorious,

heroic and tragic page in the history of the Russian people. Enormous damage was done to historical buildings and monuments of Leningrad.

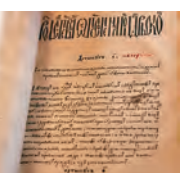
On January 27th, 1945, Soviet troops liberated the prisoners of the largest fascist mass extermination camp — Auschwitz, located on the territory of Poland. Crematoriums and gas chambers, instruments of torture, thousands of kilogrammes of human hair and ground bones prepared for shipment to Germany appeared before the eyes of the liberators. More than two and a half million people were killed by the Nazis in Auschwitz. In addition, more than 500,000 people died of starvation and disease.



On January 28th, 1943, Mikhail Ptashuk (1943—2002), film director, Honoured Art Worker and People's Artist of Belarus was born. The theme of the Great Patriotic War occupied a significant place in his creativity. M.Ptashuk's works include: films based on I. Shamyakin's *I'll Take Your Pain*, V. Bykov's *Sign of Trouble*, V. Korotkevich's *The Dark Castle Olshansky* and others. He was the laureate of the State Prize of Belarus and prizes of international film festivals.



On January 28th, 1588, King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Zygmunt III Waza approved the 3rd Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania — a set of laws of feudal law, a unique monument of Belarusian writing and legal thought. It was valid until 1840.



January 29th is the Day of Belarusian Science in the Republic of Belarus. The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, founded in 1928, is the leading research and scientific centre of the country. Today it brings together highly qualified scientists of various specialties and dozens of research, scientific and production, design and implementation organisations.



January 29th, 1886, is considered the birthday of the car — Karl Benz received a patent for his first car on that day. It was a three-wheeled two-seater carriage weighing 250 kilogrammes on high wheels with spokes. Benz put his new 0.9 hp four-stroke water-cooled gasoline engine in it.

