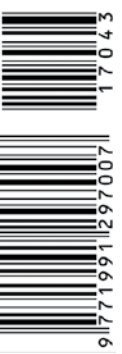


The Minsk Times

ISSN 1991-2978



Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 43 (713) ● THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 ● WWW.SB.BY

Every chance of winning, as teams prove almost equally matched



Belarusian tennis players play tough, dramatic match to full houses at Minsk's Sports Complex, Chizhovka-Arena, sadly losing Federation Cup final to US team





Relations of strategic partnership

China views Belarus as an important partner for co-operation in Belt and Road initiative, notes the General Secretary of the Central Committee of China's Communist Party and President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, in his response message to the Belarusian Head of State, Alexander Lukashenko

Xi Jinping's message reads: 'I'd like to express my gratitude for your greetings on the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of China and my re-election to the post of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. I attach great importance to the development of Chinese-Belarusian relations'.

The Chinese leader emphasises that, in September 2016, China and

Belarus created trusting relations and an all-round strategic partnership of mutually beneficial co-operation, which has opened a new page in bilateral relations. He stresses, "We support each other in matters relating to our vital interests. We can see positive trends of pragmatic collaboration across various spheres between China and Belarus. China views Belarus as an important partner in the joint *Belt and Road* initiative. I'm

ready to join you in efforts to achieve the comprehensive development of our bilateral relations and to create a community with a shared fate."

On behalf of the Chinese people, he expressed gratitude to Alexander Lukashenko for inviting Chinese children to Belarus for recuperative holidays. Xi Jinping also expressed confidence that the friendship between our two peoples will continue to grow stronger.



Meeting point — Abu Dhabi

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, meets President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, while in UAE

"We're co-operating via the trade-economic sphere and, despite difficulties and obstacles, our trade turnover now exceeds \$3 billion, standing at about \$3.5 billion as of today. However, we can certainly expand collaboration by promoting interaction between regions," noted Mr. Lukashenko.

The Belarusian leader is convinced that the first forum of regions of Belarus and Ukraine, which is expected to take place in Gomel, will bring new impetus to the development of bilateral relations.

"As far as political interaction is concerned, we haven't any problems. We're committed to the course we've agreed to follow," underlined Mr. Lukashenko.

The Head of State noted that, even far from their countries, the presidents found an opportunity to meet and discuss topical issues regarding relations between their countries. "We have an opportunity to discuss issues that need additional impulse from us," he asserted.

Petro Poroshenko praised vigorous efforts to implement previous agreements concerning demarcation, as well as trade-economic co-operation. "I'm keeping an eye on this issue," stressed the President of Ukraine. He's satisfied that interaction is expanding across various fields, including the economic and social sectors.

Like Mr. Lukashenko, Mr. Poroshenko was in the UAE on a working visit.

Listapad forum bestows prizes

24th Minsk International Listapad Film Festival bestows awards upon entrants of national film school competition

By Irina Ovsepyan

Films by thirteen national film schools, including those from Belarus, Russia, Poland, Ukraine and Germany, have competed, with Belarus represented by director Alexander Komisarchuk's *Mai* (from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts).

The award for 'best film' went to *Close Ties* by Zofia Kowalewska, a representative of the Polish Film School in Lodz. The jury also awarded two diplomas: to Daria Blokhina (St. Petersburg State University of Cinema and Television) for her *Lake*, and to Anna Bedynska (the Marina Razbiezkhina and Mikhail Ugarov School of Documentary Film and Theatre) for *In Another World*.

Alongside upcoming directors, Minsk welcomed grand masters of cinema art, such as People's Artist of Russia Vladimir Menshov, who was awarded a Special Prize of the President of Belarus 'For Preservation and Development of Spiritual Traditions in Cinematic Art'. The director fell in love with Belarus when he shot *Moscow Doesn't Believe in Tears*.



Listapad-2017 Grand Prix, for best film, awarded to *November* by Estonian director Rainer Sarnet (Estonia, Netherlands, Poland)



Deputy Prime Minister Vasily Zharko awards the Special Prize of the President of Belarus 'For Preservation and Development of Spiritual Traditions in Cinematic Art', to People's Artist of Russia Vladimir Menshov

He tells us, "It was late 1979 and early 1980, when Victor Turov, a wonderful director, took me under his patronage," Mr. Menshov recalls.

Another grand master, Vyacheslav Nikiforov, presented his new film *Tum-Pabi-Dum*. Belarusfilm had to urgently finish the film for *Listapad*, opening to a full house at the festival, despite there having been no premiere. Next year, the picture will be able to participate in the major competition.



Receiving a US visa will become easier

By Olga Zdanovich

US Embassy to Belarus renewing issue of tourist visas in early 2018, with gradual move towards full consular services

Previously, tourist or business visas were available only to those aged over 70; now, this has been

reduced to encompass anyone over the age of 50. Moreover, Belarusians will be able to extend their US visa in Minsk if it ended less than a year ago.

For almost a decade, Belarusians have needed to travel to other countries (where there's an American embassy) to receive a US visa.

Most have used Moscow, where documents can be completed in Russian. However, since September 1st, 2017, Moscow has no longer accepted visa applications from Belarusian citizens, following Russia's request for the number of employees at the diplomatic mission to be reduced.

Charge d'Affaires at the US

Embassy to Minsk, Robert Riley, notes that consular services in Belarus were to expand in 2018 but the process is being brought forward. Mr. Riley views this as important for both states, saying, "The difficult process of applying for a visa has become even more complex, so we gave the Foreign Minister

of Belarus our proposal to expand our list of consular services. We're keen to avoid difficulties in relations between Russia and the USA from affecting Belarusian citizens. I'm grateful to the Belarusian Government, the Presidential Administration and the Foreign Ministry for accepting our proposal."

Good endeavours will always find support and assistance

Representation of International Committee of Red Cross opens in Minsk

By Vladimir Khromov

Belarus will continue to support the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), noted the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, meeting ICRC President Peter Maurer. Mr. Lukashenko pointed out the importance of the first visit of Peter Maurer as the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross saying that it highlighted the fact that 'our relations should advance to a new level'. "Our current efforts to open an ICRC representational office mean a great deal, and we value them very much. This will open a new page in our relations and will generate new prospects and hopes."

According to Mr. Lukashenko, the International Committee of the Red Cross has 'the noblest mission in the world among all international organisations'. "You've always supported people in trouble, providing humanitarian aid or serving as a mediator in providing humanitarian aid, wherever possible. These are truly great activities, and we'll always support them. You can count on us in this regard."

Mr. Lukashenko noted that Belarus is doing its best to help people in need. For



Alexander Lukashenko and Peter Maurer during their meeting

example, during the Ukrainian crisis, Belarus welcomed about 150,000 refugees and provided for their needs. "Belarusian people and our Ukrainian brothers and sisters are equal. We've spent a great deal but won't dwell on those expenses, because people were in trouble. Expenses don't matter in such a situation," noted the President.

He commented that Belarusians had always been concerned about the war in Syria. "We've provided humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, especially children, and continue to do so. We've created a programme of recuperation for Syrian children in Belarus and will continue to work in this direction," assured Mr. Lukashenko.

Tackling prospects of cooperation between Belarus and the ICRC, the Head of State said that the Belarusian nation has endured many hardships in the course of its history and takes a constructive approach to international humanitarian work. "Our people have gone through so much in the course of history, involuntarily engaged in wars and conflicts across

Europe, especially from the west to the east. We know the value of life and the destructive power of war. Therefore, we always respond to the call for help when bombs are falling," asserted the President of Belarus.

Peter Maurer said that the ICRC appreciates this. "The activity of the International Committee of Red Cross, as never before, de-

pends on the support of such countries as Belarus, who try to settle conflicts in the world and to unite conflicting parties at the negotiating table. Thank you for your assistance. The Belarusian nation, authorities and you personally support the activity of the ICRC. We feel this in the way you support international humanitarian law."

As soon as the representational office opens in Minsk, interaction will become even closer and more dynamic, helping to reduce suffering of people worldwide. Humanitarian activity has become an indispensable part of Belarusian state policy.

The representational office of the International Committee of Red Cross will start its work in Belarus from January 1st, 2018. A corresponding agreement about the status, privileges and immunities of the ICRC in Belarus was signed at the Foreign Ministry by the Foreign Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Makei, and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer.

At present, the ICRC is fulfilling its operation in the Republic via a regional delegation in Russia, Belarus and Moldova, located in Moscow.

Proposals assure in their attractiveness

Belarus may become a springboard to the EAEU market for Romania, notes Belarus' Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov as he met Romania's Foreign Minister, Teodor-Viorel Meleşcanu in Minsk

By Alexander Pimenov

The PM also emphasised the interest of the sides in setting up in Belarus the joint manufacturing of car components, furniture, clothes, textile, building materials, and agricultural products, and also implementing projects in IT and healthcare. Joint assembly plants can also be set up in Romania with the subsequent advancement of joint products to third

markets. The experience in this area has already been gained. A licensed tractor assembly plant has been opened in Romanian Mures on the premises of the Romanian Irum Plant.

Experts note that the current visit of the Head of the Romanian Foreign Ministry can become a starting point for brining dialogue between the countries to a qualitatively new level. The bilateral contacts have recently intensified across

all areas. The Belarusian-Romanian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade-Economic Co-operation has resumed its activity following a long break. The dialogue between the parliaments of the two countries is in full swing. "In our opinion, there are all necessary conditions for further enhancement of bilateral contacts in the near future," underlined the PM.

Teodor-Viorel Meleşcanu conveyed greetings



Teodor-Viorel Meleşcanu

from Romanian Prime Minister Mihai Tudose, who expressed hope for a meeting with his Belarusian counterpart in the near future. "We cannot say that the relations between our countries were as active as we wanted them to be. However, in the past two or three years we have reached a considerable increase in the bilateral trade thanks to our embassies," said Teodor-Viorel Meleşcanu.

Transit to become more attractive

By Alexey Fedosov

House of Representatives' deputies ratify Belarusian-Chinese intergovernmental agreement on international cargo transportation and co-operation for Silk Road Economic Belt concept

The Minister of Transport and Communications of Belarus, Anatoly Sivak, who has presented the draft law, notes that the agreement aims to strengthen collaboration in the transport-logistics sphere while promoting competitiveness for the international transport route

between Europe and Asia.

In line with the agreement, countries will encourage enterprises and organisations to raise the efficiency of international transit while facilitating multi-modal transportation to third countries.

Participating states will aim to simplify and reduce procedures, using the declarative principle to speed up cargo movement through customs. Mr. Sivak notes that synchronisation of customs clearance and completion of paperwork will speed up processes at the border, making cargo transit via Belarus more attractive.



Arrival of the electric train, manufactured in Belarus, at Kievsky Railway Station in Moscow

Quickly and comfortably

Two-deck convenient red-coloured electric trains — assembled by Stadler in Belarus — launched in Moscow

By Galina Kovalevskaya

Eleven red-coloured electric Russian Aeroexpress trains assembled at Stadler Minsk JSC have become one of the most successful investment projects, with four of the new trains servicing the route from Kievsky Railway Station to Vnukovo Airport by late 2017. Another seven will be launched in November, connecting Poveletsky Railway Station and Domodedovo Airport.

The General Director of Stadler Rail, Peter Spuhler, is calling the contract with Russia a 'breakthrough' since it not only enables the company to join the Russian railway market but to produce 'a unique train, regarding technical characteristics and passenger capacity'. "The contract is an important stage for Stadler," he notes.

Russia's Transport Minister, Maxim Sokolov, comments that renovation of Aeroexpress' fleet is timed to coincide with the 2018

World Football Championship. No doubt, Fanipol-produced trains will be much appreciated by Muscovites and foreign guests, owing to their business class carriages, free Wi-Fi, sockets and screens, and comfortable seats. The trains can travel at up to 160km/h and, according to Mr. Sokolov, passengers are sure to appreciate the technical developments of the Belarusian-Swiss project.

2016 figures indicate that the Stadler branch in Fanipol is per-

forming incredibly well. CEO at Stadler Minsk, Philipp Brunner, forecast that the total number of employees would exceed 500 by the end of the year. By late 2018, over 800 people are expected to be employed. At present, the plant produces the longest trams in the CIS (34m long 'Chizhik' trams for St. Petersburg), while working on trams for the Czech Republic and Hungary. Moreover, Stadler Minsk is to manufacture ten trains for the Minsk metro.

Position still remains good

Belarus ranked 38th in *Doing Business-2018* among 190 states

By Alexey Fedosov

Belarus stood in 37th position in the similar report published last October. "Compared with last year, the change is insignificant. This one-point decline shows that other countries have managed to conduct more active reform, while Belarus had just one new reform," explains Valentina Saltan, a co-author of the report, adding that no drastic changes have been seen in the rating's methodology in the last year.

Judging from research, the momentum of reform in Belarus has reduced. "Belarus was ranked 106th (of 150 economies) in 2006. Now, the country is ranked 38th: a very good result," notes Ms. Saltan. The report for the previous year took into account four major reforms for business.

Several parameters are evalu-

ated to deduce the total score in *Doing Business-2018*. Gaining Construction Permits in Belarus scored 22 (28th in the *Doing Business-2017* report), while Registering Property is ranked 5th (5th); Paying Taxes occupies 96th place (99th) while Resolving Insolvency is 68th (69th). Dozens of indicators were analysed in all.

"This year's data has remained steady for almost every indicator. In Registering Property, Belarus has kept 5th position (among 190 countries); there are only two procedures to register property, and it's possible to do so within two days, at relatively low cost," says Ms. Saltan.

She notes Belarus' position in Gaining Construction Permits, saying, "The country is ranked 22nd here. The private sector often complains about this indicator, as sixteen procedures are required to gain



a construction permit in Belarus. It takes up to 115 days, while the corresponding average indicator across Europe and Central Asia stands at 168 days."

In the World Bank's *Doing Business-2018* report, New Zealand boasts the top score, followed by Singapore. The top ten countries with the most favourable conditions for doing business include Denmark, the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (China), the United States, the UK, Norway, Georgia and Sweden.

As far as former Soviet Union countries are concerned, Georgia is ranked the highest, in 9th place, having enjoyed forty-seven reforms

in the past fifteen years. It is followed by Estonia (12th), Lithuania (16th), Latvia (19th), and Poland (27th), Russia (35th), Kazakhstan (36th), Uzbekistan (74th), Ukraine (76th), Kyrgyzstan (77th), and Tajikistan (123rd).

Ms. Saltan notes that the World Bank's *Doing Business* report uses simple and transparent methodology. "This enables countries and governments to easily see how they can change their business environment, to promote economic growth, investment and the creation of new jobs," she underlines. Moreover, our analysed indicators enable us to perceive each country's economic situation."

GDP continues to grow

By Maria Druk

Belarusian economy meets annual forecast within nine months, growing by 1.7 percent

The forecast — viewed as ambitious until recently — has now been achieved, with economic growth to remain steady through the rest of the year, perhaps rising by 2.3 percent, if the construction and agricultural spheres continue to do well and citizens' incomes grow.

The issue was high on the agenda at a recent session of the Council of Ministers' Presidium. Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov opened the meeting, summing up the intermediate results of the economy from January-September, saying that inflation reached only 2.7 percent. The public are still selling more currency than they are purchasing, while increasing savings in Roubles. The average rate for new loans for legal entities stood at 12.3 percent in September, although it exceeded 20 percent in early 2017. Figures relating to exports, industrial production and agriculture are growing, while labour productivity increased by 3.2 percent between January and August. Real salaries exceeded those of the same period of 2016 by 3.2 percent, and retail turnover increased.

Belarus met the January-August 2017 target for growth of disposable income (to within a tenth of a percent). Meanwhile, the nominal wage level is lower than the envisaged forecast for late 2017 (by Br1,000). In August, the average wage stood at 844 Roubles and 40 Kopecks.

"Basic decisions on wages in the public sector have been made, with the rate for first grade state employees raised, alongside those of state officials and the military. Soon, we'll work on low-paid categories of workers in the public sector," Mr. Kobyakov said, adding that the growth in wages should be fed solely by growing labour productivity in the private sector.

The Government has criticised the Ministry of Architecture, Bellegprom and Belneftekhim concerns. According to the Council of Ministers, if construction had continued at the level of the previous year, GDP would now be 2.1 percent (rather than 1.7 percent). Despite some improvement in September, the pace of growth of construction and installation has not been met over the past nine months, despite available reserves and resources.

Via the subsidised programme of housing construction loans, only Br3 million has so far been issued this year, instead of the planned Br209 million. Most has been distributed in the Brest Region, with no activity in the Vitebsk, Gomel or Grodno regions. The situation needs to change soon, with Government influence if necessary.

Good reason to be proud of domestic inventions and developments



University's First Vice-Rector, Vyacheslav Dragan

Vitebsk's Amphitheatre is one of the iconic buildings of the *Slavianski Bazaar*, recognisable by its unusual roof. A huge 'wing' seems to hover weightlessly in the air. However, behind the seemingly light structure lie years of painstaking work by scientists from the Brest State Technical University. Some time ago, they set an ambitious goal to simplify the construction of large span roofs and canopies. It may seem that everything in this sphere has been invented and tested many times, but our specialists proposed something revolutionary. They continue to surprise their colleagues around the world with variations of this development.

By Pavel Losich

Roof for your house

Brest's inventors have named their development simply: BrGTU System — to honour their 'native' university. The lead author, the First Vice-Rector of the University — Vyacheslav Dragan — shows me a small but heavy ball which resembles an underwater mine. This is the master node of the BrGTU System; in brief, it's the foundation.

The professor explains, "Holes are drilled in various places in this 'bun'. Washers and bolts are inserted into them and the balls are bonded together using metal pipes. There can be any number of such nodes and tubes — depending on architectural re-

quirements. The system can withstand enormous loads. For example, during testing, a load on the roof of the Vitebsk Amphitheatre reached a thousand tonnes! Moreover, a large margin remained unused."

The system's development was launched in 2005 and, since then, scientists have done great scientific work on it.

34 for one

At present, the University is proud of its development for good reasons:

son: during their work on the system, the scientists received 34 patents for their

Brest scientists invent fixture to realise most daring architectural projects

inventions! Their development is easy to use, reliable and at the same time cheaper than alternative solutions. BrGTU System has collected dozens of awards at prestigious exhibitions, even in Germany and Japan. In just a couple of years, it has supplanted all alternative technologies from our domestic construction market. Professor Dragan recalls, "Initially, while building a dome over the National Olympic Committee building in Minsk, we planned to use the German

Mero system and even prepared a project for the method. But we later learned about our BrGTU System. The difference in price was impressive: the German technology would have cost four times more!"

From Ukraine to Nigeria

BrGTU System has been used in the construction of 23 projects: Minsk-Arena, the summer amphitheatre in Molodechno, an indoor skating rink in Gomel, the Brest Palace of Water Sports, ice arenas in Pruzhany, Kobrin, Lyakhovich, Ivatsevichi, Lepel, Smorgon and Glubokoe. Another pride of Brest's scientists is a potash plant in Turkmenistan. The European Union and Ukraine are

interested in the Belarusian development and scientists from the Brest State Technical University have even been asked to design and supervise construction of a network of petrol stations in Nigeria. However, they admit that, up to now, Vitebsk Amphitheatre's roof remains their most significant work, "Despite the complexity and uniqueness of the object, we managed it quickly. Development began in September and, in March, we had already started testing."

The development is changing as it is being applied — ensuring work for designers, manufacturers and installers. In the years of its co-operation with the University, Brestmash JSC has produced about five thousand tonnes of BrGTU System constructions. Scientists, in turn, are not only engaged in applied science and see the concrete results of their work but also earn money for their University — which is also important.

"Over the last 10 years, BrGTU System has proved its efficiency," says Mr. Dragan. "We've conducted many field tests — studying in practice how it behaves in different conditions, with strong snow, wind and seismic loads. Of course, we are proud that our work is highly appreciated not only in our country."



Dome of NOC Headquarters in Minsk

Green light for high-tech achievements

By Vladimir Khromov

Belarus lacks deposits of non-ferrous metals but isn't held back in developing its information technologies, becoming an IT-oriented economy. Thanks to the High-Tech Park, which unites over 150 residents and over 25,000 IT specialists, the dream is becoming a reality.

Belarus boasts a developed pharmaceuticals sector, with success in bio- and nanotechnologies, involving about fifty organisations. In 2019, the first block of the Belarusian nuclear power station will be commissioned, enabling the country to receive sufficient volumes of electricity to automate production. Meanwhile, the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park will soon be complete, housing high-tech production facilities.

The High-Tech Park is annually increasing its volumes and, this year, may achieve \$1 billion in export of computer services. Residents of the High-Tech Park have entered new markets: Japan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Exports to Singapore have risen ten-fold, and those to Denmark five-fold, while exports to the Netherlands are up 2.5-fold. According to Alexander Martinkevich, the Deputy Director of the HTP Administration, the HTP is work-

ing to create venture funds, and conditions for the attraction of large international corporations to Belarus. "Our country is known globally but has some way to go. Belarus is positioned as one of the largest IT clusters in Europe, but much work lies ahead regarding worldwide status. Another important task is the promotion of the Belarusian IT industry abroad, presenting our business potential and IT investment opportunities," he says.

Barry belongs to us

American laureate physicist Barish has Belarusian roots

By Alena Prokina

Not long ago, the world community followed the news from Stockholm, where this year's Nobel Prize laureates were announced. In the field of physics, the committee acknowledged the breakthrough studies of American scientists Kip Thorne, Rainer Weiss and Barry Barish, who've proven the existence of gravitational waves, as predicted by Einstein.

Interestingly, Barry Barish's ancestors were Jewish emigrants who left for America from Western Belarus (in the late 19th-early 20th century, from today's Grodno and Vitebsk regions), as he has disclosed in interviews. Mr. Barish was born in the American state of Nebraska, in 1936. His parents were born and met on the West Coast of

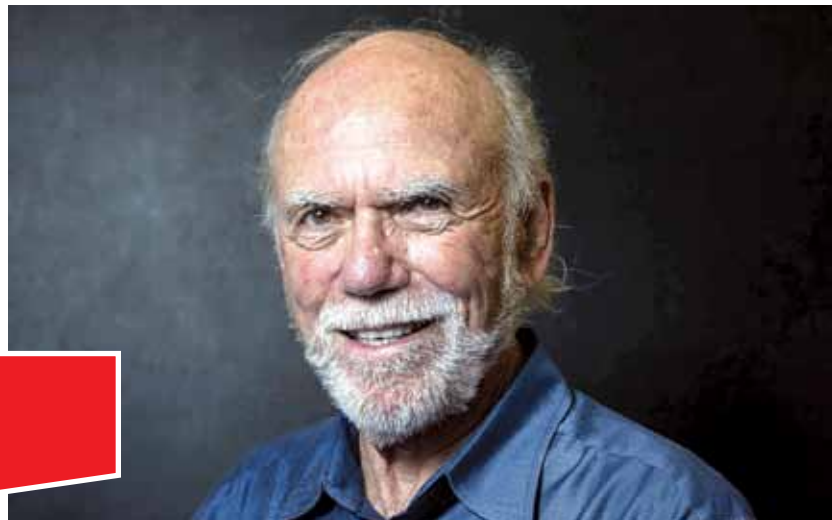
the United States. "We lived in the city of Omaha until I was nine and then, right after World War II, we moved to Los Angeles," the scientist tells us.

Mr. Barish's passion for science was nurtured by his parents, who were keen to see their children gain a good education. Barry's mother was self-educated and, only after her death, did the future Nobel laureate learn that she had successfully passed college exams. Sadly, her dream of higher education didn't materialise as her parents insisted that she devote her time exclusively to her family.

Mr. Barish has been fond of mathematics since childhood, and entered the University of California to become an engineer. However, he became fascinated by physics, achieving unprecedented heights.



BELARUS



Barry Barish

SIMON KUZNETS

Pinsk-born Simon received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1971. He introduced the term 'gross national product' into circulation, which is now used as the main indicator of national financial activity. He also explained the role of 'human capital'. Simon moved to the USA in 1922.

ZHORES ALFEROV

Although the famous Soviet scientist lives and works in Russia, he was born in the Vitebsk Region and graduated from a Minsk school with a gold medal. Mr. Alferov received his higher education and doctoral degree in physical and mathematical sciences in Russia. He was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2000 for the development of semiconductor hetero-structures, creating fast opto- and microelectronic components ensuring a breakthrough in microelectronics.

MENACHEM BEGIN

He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978. Born in Brest-Litovsk (modern Brest), Menachem graduated from

the Jewish religious school and the state grammar school. He then moved to Israel with his family, fighting for the independence of Israel and winning the presidential election as a result. A year after his appointment, he was awarded a prize for initiating negotiations with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. As a result of the Camp David agreements, it became possible to avoid major military conflict and return the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt.

SHIMON PERES

The former president of Israel and a Nobel Peace Prize winner (1994), Shimon was born in the Minsk Region's Volozhin District. His mother, Rabin Rosa Cohen, was born and lived for a long time in Mogilev. When Shimon turned 11, his family moved to Palestine and Mr. Peres grew up in Tel Aviv. In 1941, all his relatives remaining in Belarus were killed by German Fascists in the village of Vishnevo. Mr. Peres has visited the village twice. The Nobel Committee has praised his efforts to achieve peaceful settlement of the Middle Eastern conflict.

SVETLANA ALEXIEVICH

Known for writing *Second Hand Time*, *Chernobyl Prayer*, *War Doesn't Have a Woman's Face*, among other books, Svetlana was awarded in 2015 for her 'for many-voiced creativity — a monument to suffering and courage in our time'. Ms. Alexievich has become the first in the history of sovereign Belarus to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature (and the first Russian-speaking writer of the past thirty years). Svetlana was born in Ukraine but later moved to Minsk with her family. She lived in Western Europe for over a decade but, in 2013, returned to Belarus.

LEONID KANTOROVICH

He received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1975. His father comes from the village of Nadneman, in the Minsk Region, while his mother is a native Minsker. Leonid was born in Petersburg and studied, worked and lived his whole life in Russia. He was awarded for his 'contribution to the theory of optimal allocation of resources'.

Volunteers always vital

In 2019, Belarus will host the 2nd European Games, with thousands of volunteers giving their assistance, as they did for the 2014 IIHF World Championships, their help making each event successful

By Konstantin Bakun

About 2,000 volunteers are expected to give their time to the 2nd European Games, with applications already being received. We asked Nadezhda Yelsukova, the manager responsible for the work with volunteers on cultural and educational programmes, to tell us more about her work for the Directorate of the 2nd European Games 2019. How does one become a volunteer, and what training is given? She explains, "Registration is launched on the www.minsk2019.by site in November but, already, anyone can apply.



Nadezhda Yelsukova

Of course, we have to be scrupulous in training so many volunteers. The Euro-



Valeria Snezhko (R) at the 2014 IIHF World Championships

pean Games are comparable with the Olympics in terms of complexity of organisation. With this in mind, we must prepare people at the proper level. For example, there were at least 11,000 volunteers at the 1st European Games in Baku, but we plan to involve around 6,000. Our programme has been agreed with the European Olympic committees and we're co-operating with the Ministry of Educa-

tion, which is already receiving applications from students. About 1,500 interested people have informed us of their desire to act as volunteers. Training will be offered directly at seminars and online."

"Volunteers will oversee twenty different directions — including logistics, working with the media, doping control, medical care, and assistance in accommodating guests and athletes. All



our volunteer jobs are explained on the official website. Each requires different skills, but we will provide training. The most important thing is the desire to work," Ms. Yelsukova adds.

She notes, "Of course, knowledge of English is welcome. However, if a person suits us in other criteria, we'll offer help in studying a foreign language. Volunteers work for free, as they're keen to develop their talents and gain experience at a major event. We begin by giving general information and then, depending on their sphere of wishing to offer help, we offer further training. Our main task is to create a true sports festival, in which volunteers also enjoy their work."

A former student of the BSU's Institute of Journalism, Valeria Snezhko,

worked as a volunteer while studying. She donated her time during the IIHF World Championships. "I wanted to be part of something large and grand, so I offered myself as a volunteer," Valeria tells us. "I remember applying online and, after some time, was invited for interview, with about fifty other people. I later passed the training courses, where we were taught what we should do. There was nothing difficult and my English language knowledge was very helpful since I had to deal with foreigners a great deal. I'll never forget that championship. If I participate in volunteer activities now, I'll experience different emotions. At that time, there was a feeling of some kind of closeness: many people applied but we were the lucky few chosen."

Eating sandwiches in the morning and running in the garden

Nature favours: almost forty percent of Belarus is occupied by forests. Considering twenty thousand rivers and ten thousand lakes, it is for a good reason that our country is often called 'Sineokaya' (Blue-Eyed). Unsurprisingly, rural ecologically friendly agro-tourism is developing with immense speed.

By Boris Orekhov

State shoulder

In 2006, there were only 34 agricultural homesteads registered in Belarus but, at present, around 2,300 operate — with the Vitebsk and Minsk regions in the lead. The secret of success is simple: the hard work and traditional hospitality of the owners. State support is also a great aid. According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus as of June 2nd, 2006 'On Measures for the Development of Agrotourism in the Republic of Belarus', loans for construction of an agromansion are provided on a preferential basis for the period of up to seven years, with a possible deferral of payments for a year.

"Citizens who permanently reside in rural areas can work in the field of agrotourism on a declarative principle — paying a one-off annual fee. The sum is not large at all: around \$10. Agromansions are fully exempt from taxes and other mandatory payments," Yelena Perminova, the Director of the Tourism Department at Belarus' Ministry of Sports and Tourism, explains.

It is now clear why rural houses are opening in a geometric progression. "This is beneficial for everyone," believes Valeria Klitsounova, who heads the Country Escape Belarusian Association of Rural and Ecotourism. "Villagers enjoy an additional opportunity to earn money while local authorities and the region in general registers an increase of funds, infrastructure development and the creation of new jobs. In turn, tourists get the chance to spend their vacation interestingly and



FIGURES

2,263

The total number of agro-homesteads is:

- 605** — in the Vitebsk Region
- in the Minsk Region — **597**
- 346** — in the Brest Region
- in the Grodno Region — **303**
- 216** — in the Mogilev Region
- in the Gomel Region — **196**

with little expense in an ecologically friendly environment."

Each homestead has its own flavour and colour. Some hosts have preserved and reproduced local traditions and cuisine, while others offer active rest — fishing, hiking and scenic walks.

Please the forest host and find Zazyvka

Khutor Yedishki homestead near Vitebsk is among the few in Belarus with its own petting zoo: sheep and horses. A hedgehog family also lives here, with a mother, father and babies. Children are delighted with these live spiny beasts.

Another interesting homestead is Belovezhskoe Pomestie near Brest; it borders the national park. Holidaying here is like time travel: guests can get personally acquainted with the traditions and lifestyle of our ancestors. The restored wooden hut recreates a 19th century rural house down to the smallest detail. Food is cooked in a true clay oven, according to old recipes.

Those relaxing in agromansions near the Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve are envied. The reserve is thoroughly imbued with

myths and the number of sacred places, legends and fairy tales is enormous. Not long ago, the Centre of Mythological Tourism opened here and tourists on the exciting journey along the mys-

Distance is no obstacle for tourists

By Olga Korneeva

Belarus' introduction of five-day visa-free regime promotes significant growth in number of US tourists, Charge d'affaires at the US Embassy to Minsk, Robert Riley, tells journalists

"The five-day visa-free regime, introduced by Belarus, promoted significant growth in US citizens' visits to Belarus. My family has invited two groups of friends who've already visited the country," notes Mr. Riley.

Regarding introducing a visa-free regime for Belarusian citizens wishing to visit the US, he says, "Anyone aware of the US visa system knows that it's a long and complex process to join the list of states whose citizens don't need a visa to arrive in America. It relies upon investigations by numerous state authorities. It's not impossible that we may discuss this with the Belarusian government but the process is lengthy and complex."

FIGURES

300

thousand people spent their holidays in Belarusian mansions last year — including

90

percent of Belarusians and

10

percent of foreigners from

74

states (including

24

thousand Russians)

terious route are accompanied by author of the idea — Victor Boiko. Dressed as the mythological Bolotnik, he describes the unique Belarusian nature — using the mythological characters: Leshy, Polevik and others.

Guests should under no circumstances go deep into the forest as they might meet Zazyvka — a forest spirit in the image of a beautiful naked girl. She will fascinate the unwary and carry them away to the dense forest and then disappear — mockingly laughing as she bids them farewell...

Those wanting a spine-tingling experience can enjoy a night-time excursion to the mysterious world of forest spirits where strange characters come alive with sound and visual installations.



Residents huddle by a fire in an open area following a 7.3-magnitude earthquake at Sarpol-e Zahab in Iran's Kermanshah Province

Iran-Iraq earthquake: more than 300 killed

More than 300 people have died and at least 4,000 people have been injured after a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck the border region between Iraq and Iran

Most of the deaths reported have been in Iran, though seven people are reported to have died in the Kurdish Region of northern Iraq.

Around 100 of the dead are believed to be from one town in Iran's Kermanshah Province.

The earthquake hit late Sunday night with the epicentre across the Iraq-Iran border.

The quake, which reached a depth of 23km according to the US Geological Survey, was felt across the region with aftershocks hitting Pakistan, Lebanon, Kuwait and Turkey.

Iraq's Meteorological Organisation issued a warning on Iraqi State TV urging citizens to stay away from buildings and to refrain from using elevators.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi tweeted that he 'instructed civil defence teams and health and aid agencies to do all that they can to provide assistance' to those affected by the quake.

Meanwhile in Iran, the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei sent a message of condolence and urged

military and civilian help to be dispatched to quake victims.

In Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish Region four people were killed in Darbandikhan, where a dam was hit by falling rocks. Rahman Shikhani, the Head of the Darbandikhan Dam said that cracks were spotted in the upper part of the structure but there was no water leakage.

Louvre Abu Dhabi opens its doors

It's taken ten years but the Louvre Abu Dhabi is finally open. It sits under a honeycombed dome of eight layers of Arab-style geometric shapes and draws in the lapping waters of the Persian Gulf.

The Museum's cost is unknown but Abu Dhabi has agreed to pay France \$525 million to use the 'Louvre' name for the next 30 years.

French architect Jean Nouvel says he was in-

spired by the landscape.

"The idea was to create an Arabian agora and a place where you come when you come back, when you talk about culture, about art," he explains. "And not a box



with an entrance and a classification only."

One of the first artworks a visitor sees is a two-headed Neolithic statue from Jordan, one of the oldest known in human history. Just one of the 900

works on display.

The museum exhibit ends with a commissioned work, *A Foundation of Light*, by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, an illuminated work of steel and glass that recalls the museum's

gleam at night.

It is hoped the museum will help position the city as a centre of cultural tourism with a display of hundreds of works that will draw visitors from around the world.

France commemorates the second anniversary of the Paris attacks

French President, Emmanuel Macron leads commemorations for the second anniversary of the November 13th Paris attacks

France commemorated the second anniversary of the Paris attacks on November 13th.

In all, 130 people were killed when groups of gunmen and suicide bombers attacked the perimeter of the Stade de France Sports Stadium, the Bataclan music hall and a string of six bars and cafes. For the first time as President, Emmanuel Macron led commemorations at each of the sites targeted by the attackers.

On October 30th, Mr. Macron signed a controversial security and anti-terrorism law, that took over the state of emergency that had been in place since the November 2015 attacks.

According to the Interior Ministry, extraordinary measures have helped intelligence agencies thwart more than 30 attacks in the last two years. The measures mean that without approval from a judge, the Interior Ministry will be able to set up security zones when there is a threat, restricting the movement of people and vehicles in and out and will have the power to carry out searches inside the area.

60,000 nationalists march on Polish Independence Day

This year's Polish Independence Day celebrations have been marked by far-right cries for a 'White Europe' and a 'Pure Poland'

Tens of thousands of nationalist demonstrators marched down the streets of Warsaw, during Poland's Independence Day celebrations on November 11th.

According to police estimates, 60,000 people took part in the gathering. Demonstrators were heard chanting 'Death to enemies of the homeland', 'Catholic Poland, not secular' and 'Pure Poland, white Poland!' as they waved Polish flags and lit red flares.

The main organisers behind the march were National-Radical Camp, the National Movement and the All Polish Youth.

Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Blaszczak commented saying the gatherings were 'a beautiful sight'.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Joint project by *The Minsk Times* and National Art Museum

Image of one's own time or *Lenin'17*, at 20 Lenin Street

National Art Museum of Belarus (situated at 20 Lenin Street) hosts jubilee exhibition, *Lenin'17*, dedicated to 100th anniversary of Great October Socialist Revolution

By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition includes twelve pictorial canvases, seven sculptures and two items of decorative-and-applied arts by Belarusian and Russian painters, united by

the topic of Leniniana. The jubilee of the 1917 October Revolution has brought these items from the archives, for public display, to mark the major revolution of the 20th century.

The exhibition includes



Reason for contemplation

diverse iconography of the leader of the 'world proletariat': Lenin as head of the revolutionary brigade of workers; Lenin as orator, speaking at a congress; and Lenin as thinker, with his famous gesture and cap.

No other image so dominates Soviet and world art,

with monuments to the leader of the October Revolution decorating squares, parks and public gardens across cities and towns in the UUSR and other socialist countries. Portraits and genre scenes depicting Lenin expand museum collections every year. Pictorial Leniniana is a bright



Exhibition reflects time

example of myth in art.

Works by Anatoly Shibnev, Valentin Volkov, Vladimir Stelmashonok, Ad-olf Gugel and others demonstrate Lenin's pictorial myth in Belarusian art. None drew from first-hand sitting with Lenin, purely embodying his image, as became grounded

in mass consciousness, following approved canons and standards.

The myth of Lenin has now died, with many monuments to the leader being vandalised and demolished. Meanwhile, contemporary painters are rethinking Soviet epoch art

works with post-modernism irony. Visitors to the current exhibition have the opportunity to bring their own opinions.

Lenin'17 will run at the National Art Museum for two months, at 20 Lenin Street, at the country's major museum.

Interesting meetings with truly eternal values

Belarus' National Art Museum is celebrating six decades of operation but remains relatively young compared to its global counterparts, most of which are over two hundred years old

By Alexander Pimenov

The State Picture Gallery, at 20 Lenin Street, in the capital, was designed by Mikhail Baklanov, opening in 1957, as many Minskites still recall. Old museum employees recall carrying framed works from the old building in Svobody Square, after the war. Since 1939, the museum has changed not only its location and name (three times) but has had four different heads, and has many times renewed its collection.

Today's collection was com-

pleted fifty years after the first was lost during the war: in 1941, it numbered around 3,000 artefacts and, in 2017, there are 30,000, united under twenty-one collections. Over the past sixty years, the museum — planned as the State Picture Gallery, with only ten rooms in 1949 — has transformed into the nation's artistic treasury.

In 2006, a new annex was added, increasing exhibition space several times. Around 300 people currently work in the museum's four buildings, including at the Museum of

Folk Art in Raubichi, Byalynitsky-Birulya Museum in Mogilev, and the Vankovichs' House in Minsk: researchers, restorers, caretakers and technical personnel.

Only part of the museum's treasures can go on show in its twenty halls, but more space is planned: in virtual fashion, and in real terms. An electronic catalogue of collections has been created and the museum's website is being updated daily with news, and quarterly with virtual exhibitions. New artefacts are being bought and, every



National Art Museum building

year, around fifty international and domestic exhibitions are organised. Postcards, books and art albums are published, and concerts and events for all age categories are held. The museum is annually visited by around 200,000 people, allowing them to enjoy Belarusian culture.

The museum has great pros-

pects, with plans to create a single 'urban museum quarter', featuring new exhibitions and allowing older exhibits to be shown in new ways. Museum staff are convinced that the museum should remain an island of spirituality in our hectic world: a place where we can spend time appreciating eternal values.

Everything happens at Minsk's samovar

Our reporter visits the House-Museum of the First RSDRP Congress, where the first RSDRP Congress took place 119 years ago

By Yury Borisenok

The first congress of the party (originally named RS-DRP) took place in the spring of 1898, in the provincial city of Minsk). The small wooden house-museum of the first congress, in the very heart of Minsk, could easily have been demolished, but Minskians have left alone the one-storied green building. Today, anyone can pay just Br3 (about 100 Russian Roubles) to gain entry.

Why was Minsk chosen to host the first congress? Sergey Rechkin, who heads the House-Museum of the First RSDRP Congress (a branch of the National History Museum of Belarus) believes the modernisation processes of the second half of the 19th century played their part. It was convenient for delegates to arrive in Minsk by railway. Social-Democrat Piotr Rumyantsev, who welcomed participants, was himself a railway worker.

The museum's exhibition starts with the story of Minsk, showing all that has changed, with the addition of steel, electricity, the telephone and other urban innovations connected with the name of energetic Karol Czapki, who headed the city during the time of the congress.

According to Mr. Rechkin, the appearance of Social-Democrats in Minsk — intellectuals who read Marx — brought these changes. A mirror and two metal candlesticks — 'eyewitnesses' of the event — remain from the site of discussions of the nine delegates of the first congress. The house itself was thoroughly restored in the post-war years,



Exhibition at House-Museum of First RSDRP Congress reveals its secrets



since the original building was burnt during Hitler's occupation.

The Deputy Director General of the National Historical Archives of Belarus, Denis Liseichikov, tells us enthusiastically how documents have been preserved at Minsk City Hall, regarding the Zakhariyevskaya Street property. These testify that the house where Rumyantsev lived was owned by local noblewoman Frantishka Rzhetskaya from 1890,

and stood on a land lot which belonged to the Minsk bishop's house. Household details are listed, stating that water was taken from an artesian well, and the mezzanine floor was covered with iron.

In the revolutionary centenary year of 2017, visitors to the house have been able to view several small exhibitions, featuring poster graphics, stamps and coins from revolutionary days. The names of figures from that time who are still honoured in the names of modern streets in Minsk. In October, a project dedicated to Minsk in 1917, was also launched.

How do the events of 1898 fit modern concepts of Belarusian history? The Director of the History Institute at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Vyacheslav Danilovich, believes that Belarus' significance in hosting the congress was connected with the role of the party, founded in Minsk, in the revolutionary days of 1917. This opened opportunities for the implementation of ideas of Belarusian statehood. The house-museum in the centre of contemporary Minsk should be preserved without reorientation or other major change.

Five curious facts about the house and the people of the First RSDRP Congress:

1. The House-Museum of the First RSDRP Congress opened in Minsk on March 14th, 1923, attended by participants of the first congress. Initially, the museum occupied only half of the house while the other remained residential. Almost nothing remains from the interior, including the furniture of those times. In the 1950s, the House-Museum was moved closer to the River Svisloch and was 'inserted' into the architectural ensemble of the major avenue of the Belarusian capital.
2. Political intelligence authorities didn't attach great importance to the congress. There were no informers among the delegates and even after time passed the authorities failed to receive information on the sessions held at Piotr Rumyantsev's flat.
3. The canonic biography of the party in the Soviet years started not from the first, but from the second congress of the RSDRP, which divided Social-Democrats into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. *The History of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks): Short Course* twice mentions that 'Lenin was not present at the first Congress of the RSDRP' and describes it merely as a 'formal act' of the party's establishment.
4. None of the delegates of the Minsk congress became truly outstanding historical figures. For some, Marxism was only a hobby of youth. Later, delegates of the congress were scattered all over the world: Kazimir Petrushevich died in 1949 in Poland, Shmuel Katz in 1928 in New York, and Alexander Vannovsky in 1967 in Tokyo.
5. Before 1991, the House-Museum of the First RSDRP Congress was visited by more than 8 million people, including leaders of friendly countries and parties who attended Minsk during official visits to the USSR: Fidel Castro, Josip Broz Tito, Hồ Chí Minh, Antonín Novotný, Edward Gierek, and Todor Zhivkov.



Alexandra Sasnovich

Belarusian tennis players play tough, dramatic match to full houses at Minsk's Sports Complex, Chizhovka-Arena, sadly losing Federation Cup final to US team

Every chance of winning, as teams prove almost equally matched



Arina Sobolenko

By Alexey Grishin

The US tennis team has won the Federation Cup for the eighteenth time, with the decisive point claimed by Coco Vandeweghe and Shelby Rogers, playing Belarusian Alexandra Sasnovich and Arina Sobolenko (3:2 in favour of the Americans).

The final match in the team championship was vital, leading team captains Eduard Dubrov and Kathy Rinaldi to make substitutions at the last minute, entrusting their strongest players to the court. The fifth match of the final series began with Sasnovich and Sobolenko appearing worthy opponents for their American rivals. However, the Americans began to steer the course of the match, winning the first set — 6:3.

After the break, Vandeweghe and Rogers saw severe resistance from the young Belarusians. Despite lagging behind with a score of 1:2, Alexandra and Arina managed to take the lead (5:2), returning two serves. Victory seemed possible until the Americans brought the score to 6:6. Vandeweghe and Rogers finally took the tie-break — 7:3, with the match having lasted a gruelling 111 minutes.

On the first day of the final match of the 55th Federation Cup (November 11th), the teams exchanged victories. Initially, the leader of the American team, Coco Vandeweghe (seeded 10th worldwide) beat Alexandra Sasnovich in two sets — 6:4, 6:4. Later, the situation was equalised by the Belarusian first seed, who de-



Awards ceremony: US team on the left while the national squad of Belarus is on the right

feated Sloane Stephens — 6:3, 3:6, 6:4. On the second day of the competition, Coco Vandeweghe defeated Arina Sobolenko — 7:6 (7:5), 6:1 and Alexandra Sasnovich played a challenging match against Sloane Stephens to eventually win — 4:6, 6:1, 8:6. The American tennis player last won the Fed Cup in 2000. As re-

gards the Belarusian national team, it reached the finals for the first time, defeating strong teams from the Netherlands (4:1) and Switzerland (3:2) this season. Despite being defeated by the Americans, our girls deserve praise for their performance in the finals. Alexandra Sasnovich and Arina Sobolenko demonstrated

true fighting spirit, playing as equals with one of the strongest teams in the world. Fans gathered at Chizhovka-Arena for two days, fervently supporting our players.

The captain of the Belarusian women's team, Eduard Dubrov, has thanked all the players who defended the Belarusian flag in the Fed Cup,

in addition to all who contributed to the team's training. He stressed that defeat in the finals is a great victory for our small country, rather than a failure. He notes that the team aims to win every match before the debut season of the Fed Cup. "We have a team of fighters — as all matches have demonstrated. Alexandra Sasnovich lost to Sloane Stephens (2:5) but played well. Our pair led — 5:2 — but failed to win. However, these matches were close-run affairs. If our girls can play like this against those from the top 10 and top 20, they've proved their worth and that they deserve to be up there."

The Belarusians' achievements were praised by American captain Kathy Rinaldi who said, after the victorious match in Minsk, that her team had to make an enormous effort to snatch victory. The leader of the US team and the world's 10th seed, Coco Vandeweghe, won three matches, later saying that Minsk's Chizhovka-Arena enjoyed a fantastic atmosphere. Although fans were supporting the Belarusian team, it was a great pleasure for the guests to play.

Next season, the teams of Belarus and the United States could meet again, in the Fed Cup final, if the quarterfinal and semi-final stages go well. In winning the quarterfinal match against Germany, Belarus would then play whoever wins the Czech Republic-Switzerland match. If the Americans beat the Dutch, at home in February, they'll face the winner of the France-Belgium match in the semi-finals.

Long-awaited gold shines

By Kirill Karin

Tatiana Petrenya of Belarus wins gold at Trampoline World Championships

In the individual event, the experienced athlete, aged 36, out-performed her rivals, scoring 56,075 points. Silver went to Ayano Kishi of

Japan (55,740) while Sophieane Méthot of Canada took bronze (55,490). For Ms. Petrenya, a pupil of Mogilev trampoline school, this was the first gold medal claimed at world championships in an individual programme. In synchronised jumping, she took gold in 2003, partnering Galina Lebedeva.

Among the men, Gao Lei of China celebrated victory, earning 62,280 points. Vladislav Goncharov and Oleg Ryabtsev of Belarus failed to appear on the medals podium. The Rio Olympic champion finished sixth (54,075) while Ryabtsev was placed seventh (37,970 points).

Fighting well on the carpet

Two gold and three silver medals claimed by Belarusian judokas, at U23 European Judo Championships in Montenegrin Podgorica

Dmitry Minkov (weight category 66kg) and Daniel Mukete (under 100kg) have both taken gold. Dmitry Minkov did well in the pre-

liminary stage, defeating Patryk Wawrzyczek of Poland and Gourgen Aleksanyan of Belgium in Group A. In the semi-finals, the Belarusian judoka defeated Russian Alim Balkarov, followed by Alexander Kulikovskikh of Russia in the finals. In his turn, Daniel Mukete from Belarusian Vitebsk first defeated Onise

Sanebldidze of Georgia and Zalan Ohat of Hungary. In the semi-finals, he beat Austrian Aaron Fara, followed by fellow Belarusian Nikita Svirid in the finals, where he received the 'Waza-ari' score. Belarusians Yegor Voropaev and Vladislav Terpetsky also claimed silver medals at the European tournament.

Festival of the week



Representatives of twelve countries take part in international beauty festival, *Wind Rose HAIR-2017*, held in Minsk

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 3rd December. *Napoleon Orda. Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Country*
Until 3rd December. *Ernst Barlach and Käthe Kollwitz: Beyond the Borders of Existence*
Until 10th December. *Treasures of Ancient Egypt*
Until 12th December. *Lenin '17*

TUT.BY GALLERY

57 Dzerzhinsky Avenue
Until 20th November. *Letters from Venice. Alexandra Stelmashonok and Alexandra Zarutskaya*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 20th November. *Skaryna's Letters and Words*
Until 31st December. *Francysk Skaryna and His Epoch*
Until 15th January. *Passenger from Nastrom*

STATE MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE

13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street
Until 29th December. *Kandrat Krapiva: from Childhood to Maturity*

SAINT ELISABETH CONVENT

6 Vygotsky Street
Until 21st November. *Crown-Bearing Family. Path of Love (Emperor Nicolas II and His Family)*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 31st December. *Meeting the Master*

UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE ART GALLERY

1 Oktyabrskaya Street
Until 6th December. *Ripples of Invisible Fields*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 3rd December. *In World of People*
Until 10th January. *Fashionable Century*

GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 15th January. *Robots and Transformers*
Until 15th January. *Museum-Factory of Fir Tree Toys*

HOUSE-MUSEUM OF FIRST RSDRP SESSION

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 14th January. *Minsk 1917*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 30th November. *Miraculous Autumn*

CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84 / 1 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 30th June 2018. *Legacy of Belarus: Dedicated to Minsk's 950th Anniversary*

THEATRES

PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC

1 Oktyabrskaya Square
18.11. Russian Ballet Theatre: *The Swan Lake*
18.11. Russian Ballet Theatre: *Cipollino*

NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street
16.11. *The Flying Dutchman*
17.11. *Grand pas from Paquita ballet. Small Death. Six Dances*
18.11. *Corsair*
19.11. *Little Prince; Milonga with Serenada*
21.11. *La Traviata*
22.11. *The Nutcracker, or Another Christmas Story...*

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
16.11. *Woman's Revolt*
17.11. *Jane Eyre*
18.11. *Golden Chicken; The Bat*
19.11. *Town Musicians of Bremen; Mary Poppins*
22.11. *True Story of Lieutenant Rzhnevsky*
23.11. *My Wife is a Liar*

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
17.11. *Paulinka*
18.11. *Evening*
19 and 22.11. *Art*

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
16.11. *Testosterone*
17.11. *Private Lives*
18.11. *Viva Commedia!*
19.11. *Hot*

Mothers 20.11. *Jazz Bridge: France—Belarus—Germany. Franco-German Frank Woeste Quartet*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue
16.11. *Nobody Ever Said Life Would Be Easy*
17.11. *My Dear*
18 and 19.11. *#13*
20.11. *Master and Margarita*
21.11. *Pygmalion*
22 and 23.11. *Wolves and Sheep*

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
16.11. *Love of People*
18.11. *How Much Does Love Cost?*
19.11. *An Uninvited Guest*
21.11. *Concrete*
22.11. *If No Tomorrow*
23.11. *Feint-Kruaze*

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
16.11. *Bigamist; Zhmurik*
17.11. *Love Lesson: Kosciuszko Story*
18.11. *Chekhov. Comedy. Seagull*
19.11. *Dowerless*
21.11. *Bankrupt*
22.11. *Whether Spring Is Sacred...*
23.11. *Tectonics of Feelings*

BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street
18.11. *Morozko*
19.11. *Wolf and Seven Goats*
23.11. *Belvedere*