



Capital of Belarus prepares to surprise fans at 2nd European Games in 2019



Georgy Skripnichenko became known as 'Belarusian Salvador Dali'



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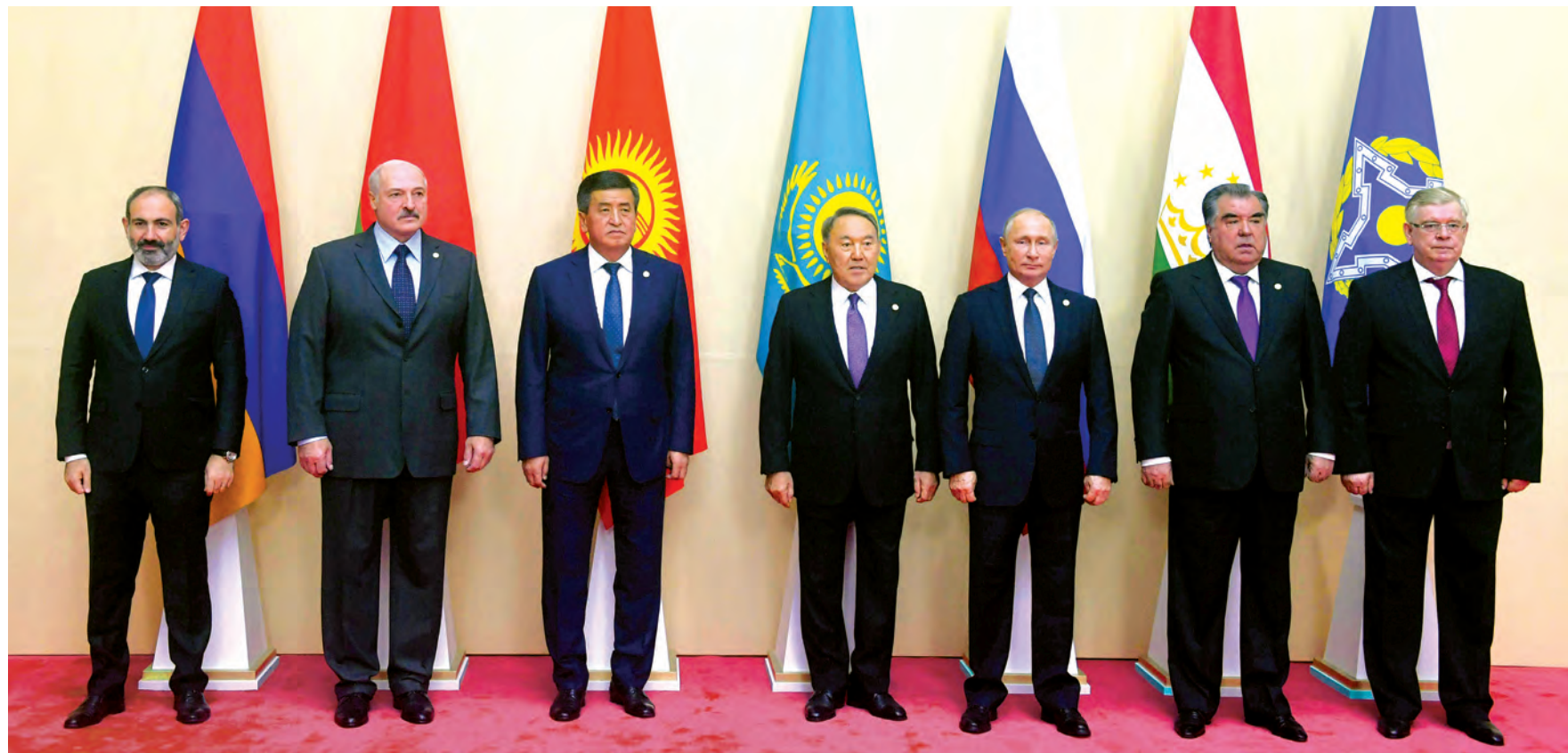
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As the last curtain falls, international film festival awards prizes

The 25th *Listapad* Minsk International Film Festival has awarded its *Gold of Listapad-2018* Grand Prix for best film to *I Don't Care if We Go Down in History as Barbarians*, directed by Radu Jude — a film jointly produced by Romania, the Czech Republic, France, Bulgaria and Germany



Responsibility for security

The presidents of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan, alongside the Acting Prime Minister of Armenia — Nikol Pashinyan, recently attended the CSTO Collective Security Council meeting in Astana, discussing military-technical co-operation, information security, and the fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal migration

By Vladimir Khromov

Before negotiations began, the ministers of foreign affairs and defence joined security council secretaries from CSTO countries for private talks. While the content of those meetings remains confidential, we do know that the Belarusian Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, stressed the importance of collective action to promote global and regional security, offering various suggestions to improve such interaction between CSTO member states.

All participating countries stressed the need to maintain the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. While the United States voiced its desire to exit from the treaty, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, “We have a common position: the Treaty is one of the most important tools for maintaining international security and stability, so we must preserve it.”

The ministers approved about twenty documents, which were subsequently submitted for discussion by the heads of state. At a narrow format meeting, the presidents discussed issues of international and regional security and co-operation within the international arena. Even before the summit, the question was discussed of who will become the new CSTO Secretary General (following the early termination of the powers of the representative of Armenia, Yuri Khachaturov). A representative of Belarus was mentioned, while others suggested the current Acting

Secretary General Valery Semerikov as a possible candidate. Yerevan has offered its candidacy. A final decision will be taken in December, at the CSTO summit in St. Petersburg. Valery Semerikov will remain in ‘acting role’ until then.

At the plenary session, the heads of state discussed the current activities of the CSTO, the implementation of previous decisions, and the priorities of the chairmanship. Nursultan Nazarbayev underlined, “We had a detailed exchange of views. Mutual understanding has been reached on all issues and Kazakhstan considers the CSTO as an authoritative and effective structure. With the active and comprehensive support of member states of the organisation, the priorities of Kazakhstan during the chairmanship were successfully implemented.”

The main political document of the summit was the final declaration reflecting plans for the future. The observer status and partner status of the organisation also received legal registration, allowing the CSTO to expand its work within the international arena. The relevant provisions define who may be granted such status, including criteria and conditions. The draft decision takes into account the priorities of the chairmanship of the CSTO of Belarus in 2010 and 2017.

The military and political situation on the outer perimeter of the CSTO remains extremely tense. Therefore, special importance is attached to improving the military component of the organisation.

A Crisis Response Centre is being set up, with its organisational and legal basis defined, and regulations approved on the composition of military contingents and special forces units of the Collective Rapid Reaction Force.

The presidents signed action plans to combat illegal migration until 2025 and to develop a co-ordinated information policy, while adopting measures to be taken

against participants of international terrorist organisations.

The fight against drug trafficking was also high on the agenda. This year alone, the special services of our countries jointly seized five tonnes of drugs, thanks to the work of the Co-ordinating Council. It has been suggested that heads of relevant authorities be given more powers to combat drug trafficking.

COMMENTS



Stanislav ZAS,
State Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus:

The heads of states’ adoption of legal registration of observer and partner status at the level of the organisation (as initiated by Belarus) sends a message to the world that the CSTO wishes for co-operation, creating a belt of good neighbourliness. The creation of a legal framework will facilitate closer interaction between CSTO member states and other countries.

Regarding the establishment of the CSTO Crisis Response Centre, Mr. Zas said, “This is very important, given the current situation in the world, with its diverse risks and threats. It should be possible to exchange information online and make appropriate decisions. These were the two most important decisions on today’s agenda.”



Vladimir MAKEI, Belarus’ Foreign Minister:

We assess the results of the summit as positive. A number of important decisions have been made — including those initiated by Belarus. Unfortunately, it’s taken several years to decide, for example, the status of a partner or observer, although this is obvious and necessary. A number of other important decisions have been taken, including those of a closed nature, related to information security, and the fight against terrorism. We believe that the summit is a success. The decisions taken at this meeting are in line with the policy of our country.

Using bilateral opportunities to fuller degree

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarus notes progress in dialogue with Hungary on priority areas of bilateral co-operation, explains Belarus’ Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Kravchenko, after 9th session of Belarusian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Co-operation

The Deputy Minister has noted trade turnover growth in both goods and services since 2017, while a joint Belarusian-Hungarian construction venture was established in July 2018.

Mr. Kravchenko has called the draft agreement between the gov-



ernments of Belarus and Hungary (on promotion and mutual protection of investments) a breakthrough. He’s confident that the agreement will inspire investment projects across our two states.

Csaba Balogh, the State Secre-

tary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, is keen to see Belarus and Hungary make better use of opportunities for bilateral interaction.

The Belarusian-Hungarian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Co-operation has been working since 2009, organising business forums and working groups to promote interaction in tourism, science and technology.

Conversation on geopolitics, security and collaboration

President of Belarus meets representatives of US analytical centres

By Vitaly Mikhailov

The importance of the meeting can hardly be overestimated, noted the Head of State: not only for Belarusian-US relations but for the entire European region. “At present, the military and political situation in Eastern Europe remains complicated, as it does across wider Europe. Unfortunately, there’s no obvious solution,” the President underlined. “Politicians who get carried away with their own rhetoric cannot come to an agreement. The military hope for the best, as usual, but have to prepare for the worst. Meanwhile, people are still dying in neighbouring Ukraine. Your current status and the format of our meeting enable us to openly discuss the most important issues for our region.”

Early in the meeting, Mr. Lukashenko stressed that Belarus is a young sovereign state pursuing an independent foreign policy, with a balanced and pragmatic position relating to wide-ranging international security.

The conversation was sincere, covering such issues as:

Equal dialogue

“While restoring relations with the United States, maintaining good neighbourly relations with the EU and expanding partnership with NATO, Belarus is committed to building equal dialogue with all parties. We stand for more openness and understanding to enhance regional security,” asserted the President.

He noted that Belarus is addressing topical issues with



neighbouring countries: NATO member states and countries beyond the alliance.

Conflict must be avoided

Belarus is located between the two largest centres of power. “Being foreign policy experts, you understand the risks that military confrontation can bring between the West and the East. Our country is keen to avoid conflict of any nature, with a neighbouring country or internally,” emphasised the Head of State. He asserted that Belarus’ military policy is exclusively defensive, saying, “I’ve repeatedly stressed that our country will never be a threat to our neighbours.”

The military base

Mr. Lukashenko mentioned that Belarus is in a military alliance with Russia, whose rela-

tions with the West are not at their best. “Nevertheless, no other states’ bases have been set up in Belarus yet.” Discussing the Russian military presence in Belarus, he stated, “This is no problem. We’re in a military-political alliance with Russia. It makes absolutely no difference if we’re hosting a military base. We aren’t deploying such bases not because we want to demonstrate our sovereignty or independence. We aren’t deploying them because there’s no need. According to our joint military plan with the Russian Federation, we’ll fulfil the duties we’ve taken on, ourselves,” stressed Mr. Lukashenko.

He added that the Armed Forces of Belarus, which have already been reformed four times, are able to ensure national security and fulfil their functions bet-

ter than any other state, including Russia. “This is why we don’t need any bases. Should we need them, we’ll say so!”

He added that, if NATO continues to ‘intimidate’ by deploying bases in Poland, or in any other way, Belarus will need more sophisticated weapons, such as missiles. “As you can see (and we don’t conceal this), we’ve lately developed our own rocket industry and produced high-precision missiles. Therefore, I see no need to involve another state, including Russia, to help us perform our duties. This is why we’re categorically against the deployment of a base, especially an air force base. The estimated time of arrival of any aircraft from Russia, if needed, is 3 to 5 minutes. Why do we need a base here? Why do we need to become a target for a potential aggressor by deploying

an air base,” asserted the Head of State. He added that any talks of a Russian military base are nothing more than empty talk.

Belarus views itself as a European state interested in a strong and united Europe, with a solid transatlantic partnership. “We’re convinced that the security of the entire continent depends on the unity of countries in the region and the preservation of the military and political role of the United States in European affairs,” underlined Mr. Lukashenko.

Representatives of US analytical centres visited Belarus on November 5th and 6th, with the delegation including an expert from the Centre for European Policy Analysis, Ben Hodges. He was joined by the Senior Director of the Penn Biden Centre for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, Michael Carpenter, and Bruce McClintock of the RAND Corporation. Among the delegation was the President of the Jamestown Foundation, Glen Howard, and its senior fellow Vladimir Socor.

The delegation attended meetings at the Defence Ministry and at the Suvorov Minsk Military School, as well as touring the High-Tech Park and the Belarusian State Museum of History of the Great Patriotic War. The US analysts also met the Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vladimir Makei.

The US delegation also took part in a briefing dedicated to Belarusian-US relations, organised by Minsk Dialogue; Ben Hodges and Michael Carpenter both presented reports.

Opinion sharing clarifies positions

By Alexey Fedosov

Belarus’ Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei Dapkiunas, and Head of EU Delegation to Belarus, Andrea Wiktorin, discuss the priorities of Belarus and the EU during the UN General Assembly session, including efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the EU-drafted resolution on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty

The two sides exchanged views on the basic approaches and priorities of Belarus and the EU at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. Among the priorities, Andrea Wiktorin identified the EU resolution on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty. The previous resolution was adopted by the UN two years ago. The document was then supported by the majority of the states. 40 countries, including the USA, India, China and Japan voted against it. Belarus abstained in the voting. Mr. Dapkiunas highlighted the importance

of discussion and development of the UN General Assembly documents on death penalty issues in an atmosphere of consistency and sincere respect for the opinion of the opposite side.

The Deputy Minister drew the attention of the Head of the EU Delegation to Belarus to a technical project aimed at supporting Belarus’ efforts in the nationalisation and localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Belarus is working on it in co-operation with UN bodies. The diplomat suggested considering the possibility of EU support for the project as an important tool contributing to the achievement of the SDGs in Belarus. Mr. Dapkiunas also named the promotion of the idea to support middle-income countries in the UN as a priority for Belarus. On the initiative of Belarus, a high-level meeting on the matter will be held at the UN headquarters in New York. It is expected that the meeting will launch the practical development of a strategy for UN co-operation with middle-income countries.

Good assistance to develop ties

By Oleg Bogomazov

Senior Director of Penn Biden Centre for Diplomacy and Global Engagement (USA), Michael Carpenter, asserts Belarus should not be made to choose between eastern and western vectors

“Belarus is a sovereign country and, from my point of view, there’s no need to ask it to choose between its allies: between close historical and cultural ties with Russia and improved relations with the USA. It’s a false choice. We can improve our relations without this,” notes Mr. Carpenter. He adds that Belarusian-US relations will normalise gradually but laments the lack of ambassadorial representation, since diplomacy aids wide-ranging co-operation, includ-



ing economic. “Of course, it’s necessary to develop relations at the level of nations while ensuring close ties between Americans and Belarusians.”

Visiting the High-Tech Park in Minsk, he praised Belarus’ achievements in the IT sphere, saying, “I’m astonished at the number of young and talented people who work in this Park

and the number of entrepreneurs who use this organisation as an incubator for their business ideas. Undoubtedly, we have a large number of contacts between the High-Tech Park in Belarus and Silicon Valley in the USA. This assists further normalisation of our ties and strengthening of collaboration.”

Binding thread of bridges

By Vasily Kharitonov

During a working trip to the Gomel Region, for the opening of a bridge over the River Pripyat, in Zhitkovichi District, Minister for Transport and Communications, Anatoly Sivak, stresses that early 2019 will see clear plans for nationwide bridge reconstruction

Well-developed transport infrastructure is vital for the Belarusian regions, leading to assessment of all bridges nationwide, asserts the Transport and Communications Minister, Anatoly Sivak. Thirty-two of the most important bridges are along major roads, needing reconstruction, mod-

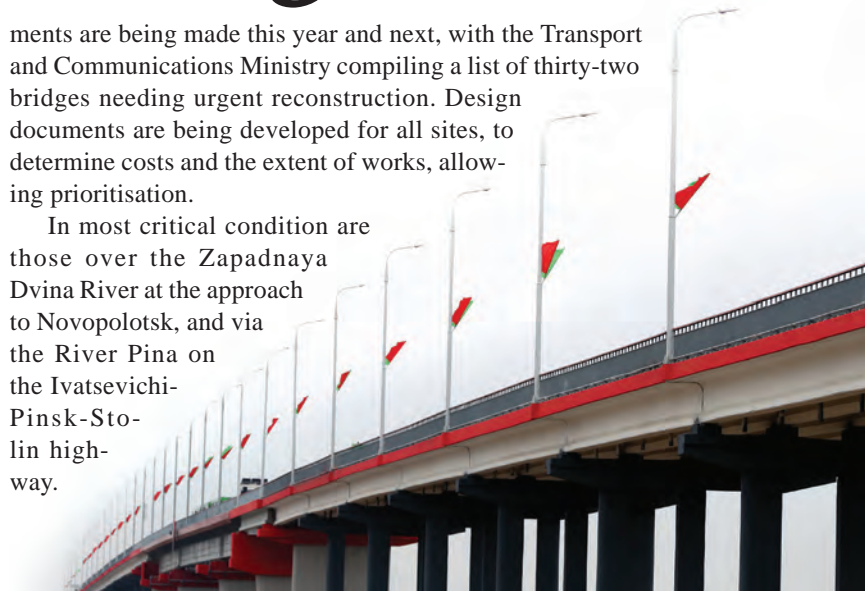
ernisation and replacement. Meanwhile, Mr. Lukashenko is keen to see bridges on minor roads receiving attention also.

The first three months of 2019 will see the President viewing a report on bridges, enabling him to make a final decision on financing and schedule.

There are 2,259 bridges in total across Belarus: 1,712 traditional bridges, 481 which cross other roads and 66 pedestrian bridges. There is also one ferry crossing. The condition of bridges along main road routes is an acute problem, due to the high cost of maintenance and reconstruction. According to surveys from 2017, considerable upgrading is required. Similar assess-

ments are being made this year and next, with the Transport and Communications Ministry compiling a list of thirty-two bridges needing urgent reconstruction. Design documents are being developed for all sites, to determine costs and the extent of works, allowing prioritisation.

In most critical condition are those over the Zapadnaya Dvina River at the approach to Novopolotsk, and via the River Pina on the Ivatsevichi-Pinsk-Stolin highway.



Forum brings together good business partners

Expansion of goods and service exports to Chinese market under focus at Belarusian-Chinese business forum, held in Shanghai as part of 1st China International Import Expo

By Alexander Pimenov

Within just a few days, Belarusian companies signed over fifteen contracts, memorandums and agreements, worth several dozen million dollars. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the forum was the head of the Belarusian delegation, the Deputy



Near Belarusian stand at exhibition in Shanghai

Head of the Presidential Administration Nikolai Snopkov. He was joined by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to China, Mr. Kirill Rudy, and Liu Xuesong — who heads the Department of Eurasia at the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. Heads of ministries, concerns and the Great

Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park joined about eighty Belarusian exporting companies and their Chinese partners to discuss methods of promoting and diversifying the export of Belarusian goods and services on the Chinese market.

At the opening ceremony, various co-operative docu-

ments were signed. The Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed a co-operative agreement with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Shanghai Sub-Council, while Belgospishcheprom Concern and Jiangsu SOHO Holdings Group Co., Ltd. signed a co-operative memorandum.

Beneficial difference against background of others

By Vladimir Velikhov

International Monetary Fund notes stability of Belarusian economy

The Head of the IMF Mission in Belarus, Jacques Miniane, has asserted the stability of Belarus' economy, speaking at the Kastychny Ekanamichny Forum (KEF 2018). He notes that a range of developing countries have been demonstrating serious problems of late, while Belarus looks stable in comparison, having reduced inflation to 5 percent.

However, the IMF believes that Belarus needs to preserve strict principles of monetary and fiscal policy. The IMF connects improvements in the Belarusian economy with serious toughening of fiscal policy. Mr. Miniane stresses the need for productivity growth, via stimulation of the private sector and accelerated reformation of state enterprises, to enhance productivity.

Mr. Miniane warns against Belarus relying too strongly on the Russian Federation for its exports, and against overdependence on subsidised energy imports.

Matrix of changes in focus

By Polina Konoga

House of Representatives approved programme of Governmental activity until 2020

The Government presented deputies with a programme of activity for 2018-2020. Parliamentarians unanimously supported the conceptual document and agreed that the programme is realistic and considers all vectors of the country's development, previously announced. The major result of its implementation should be a more competitive economy, enabling us to ensure Belarus' development exceeds

the average worldwide and to create a foundation to achieve at least \$100bn GDP by the end of 2025.

The programme also has a range of peculiarities. According to PM Sergei Rumas, the preparation of the document was based on fundamental principles, including equality of all forms of ownership and non-interference in fair competition. Moreover, the major orienting point of the Government's activities is the enhancement of the Belarusian nation's standards of living. The instruments of economic policy will be working for the fulfilment of this task.

The structure of the programme was revised and concrete goals, tasks and mechanisms for their achievement were determined. The document envisages the division of functions of the owner and regulator in managing state property, decriminalisation of economic risks (particularly, measures are being developed to abolish criminal prosecution for violations in the sphere of tax legislation). In total, the programme contains all ten top tasks: the development of the business environment and creation of comfortable conditions for entrepreneurship; outstripping development in the sphere of services;



Deputies support the Government

the formation of an IT country and large-scale digitisation of the whole economy; the conduct of efficient budgetary-financial and tax policy; the provision of a sustainably low level of inflation; efficient management of state

property; activation of foreign economic activity; improvement of investment policy; reduction of inter-regional differentiation and provision of worthy conditions for the population's life and labour payment.



Belarusian nuclear power station construction site

Future at atomic level

After 2030, it will be impossible to save our planet from catastrophic climate changes. This gloomy forecast was released by the International Group of Experts on Climate Change at the UN. Scientists note the danger of strong droughts, forest fires, floods and lack of food for hundreds of millions of people. The conclusions were made based on the current level of greenhouse gas emissions. However, there is a way-out known as the peaceful atom.

By Maxim Osipov

According to specialists' calculations, in order that warming doesn't exceed 1.5 degrees, it's necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 by 45 percent, compared to the 2010 figures, and ensure 'zero emissions' by 2050. Theoretically, it's possible; however, large-scale changes will be required in the spheres of industry, construction and transport and, primarily, power engineering. Vladimir Gorn, Deputy Director at Rosatom Eastern Europe, noted at a round table discussion in Minsk, that nuclear power engineering is a significant part of sustainable balance for the planet, "It's no surprise that a whole range of developed states are making their choice in favour of nuclear power engineering. By 2040, the EU, the USA, Japan, China and Russia will be among the top five active users of nuclear energy. In 2040, this list will change, with China coming into first place,

followed by the USA, the EU, India and Russia. Moreover, nuclear power engineering has great importance for the development of the economy."

"This tackles new tax deductions, as well as the appearance of cheap electrical energy for the development of existing and the appearance of new productions. The peaceful atom will also play its role in solving the employment issue."

Nuclear power engineering also promises other tangible dividends: both from the point of power engineering and in strengthening the international image of our state, as well as the integration of participating countries of the planet's nuclear club. New prospects are opening for Belarus, which is constructing its own nuclear power station. According to Lilia Dulinets, Deputy Head of the Nuclear Energy Department of the Energy Ministry, today, preference worldwide is given to the so-called green generation and nuclear power



**Victor
KARANKEVICH,**
Energy Minister:

Today, in our opinion, considering the development of modern technologies, society is approaching the level of responsibility in ecological issues which enables the state to introduce stimulating measures to develop renewable energy sources

engineering is an indispensable part of it, boasting ecological and colossal synergetic effect.

"The creation of nuclear power engineering is a new intellectual and technological impulse in the development of the country and strengthening of its sovereignty and independence," she said.

Moreover, the planned Belarusian nuclear power station will facilitate strengthening of the country's international image,

as well as reinforcing integration ties in the CIS. Six months ago, Uzbekistan and the Russian State Corporation Rosatom agreed to build a nuclear power station in this Central Asian country. The project for the station to be implemented there is the same as that being constructed in Ostrovets. Therefore, Bahrom Mansurov, the Deputy Director General of the Atomic Energy Development Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of

Uzbekistan, believes that the accumulated experience of our country in this area is extremely useful, "Having experienced over a decade how to create a nuclear industry, at present Belarus is actually standing on the threshold of its imminent launch. The programmes, adopted by the Belarusian state, have enabled you to realise the nuclear project efficiently and within the set time. We hope that the accumulated experience will be one of the most important factors of the successful construction of the nuclear power station in Uzbekistan."

The expansion of the number of states which use the peaceful atom will become one of the most important factors of counteracting global climatic changes on the planet. However paradoxically it may sound, what was perceived several decades ago as a threat towards humanity could become its rescue. This circumstance brings nuclear power engineering to a new level.

Test drive on the rails

By Oleg Bogomazov

Belarusian-Swiss enterprise Stadler Minsk in Fanipol continues to surprise and plans to launch a new production facility this year

"The workshop of the mechanical-processing works is already able to produce 300 carriages per year. By the end of the year we'll put into operation a welding workshop and a painting workshop by March 2019. When the project is complete, the number of jobs will increase by 280. We are already recruiting new

employees and next summer the demand for personnel will increase," Minsk Stadler's Director, Philipp Brunner, tells journalists.

Next year, the factory in Fanipol will start manufacturing converters for trams and trains. New products will be exported to the Western European states. Other projects include train production for Norway, Hungary, Georgia and trams for Bolivia. The first supplies to South America start in August 2019.

Passengers of the Minsk metro will soon be able to assess the comfort and conveni-

ence of Stadler carriages, as the company has won the tender for the supply of ten trains for the Minsk metro. By the end of 2018, the first wagons, produced completely from aluminium, will appear on the rails. Mr. Brunner is completely confident in the quality of the goods, "We're ready to provide a guarantee for 50 years without servicing. Due to the application of aluminium, the body of the train is lighter, so it consumes less energy and the burden on the infrastructure is lower. Moreover, an automated control system for the second level is also envisaged



At Stadler-Minsk workshops

and the train itself manages speed-up, slowdown and keeps the correct calculated speed."

Such trains will be running

along the third metro line that will connect the southern and northern residential districts of Minsk with the centre.



This beautiful stadium in Minsk will host European Games competitions

Generous hospitality

Capital of Belarus prepares to surprise fans at 2nd European Games in 2019

By Artur Nanyan

From June 21st-30th, 2019, Minsk will become one of the centres of the sporting world, as it will be hosting the 2nd European Games, conducted once every four years.

As part of the Games, athletes will be competing in 15 sports, with ten of these becoming qualifications for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. The Games will serve as the European Championships for badminton, boxing, canoeing and kayaking and judo next year.

Next summer, Minsk is expecting more than 4,000 athletes from 50 countries, while more

than a thousand representatives of the foreign media will be covering the Games. The visits of 100 presidents, general secretaries of European sport federations and sport ministers are also planned. The scale is truly impressive.

Belarus is already busy preparing for this important event. General Secretary of the National Olympic Committee of Belarus and Director of the 2nd European Games 2019 Directorate, Georgy Katulin, tells us how hospitable Minsk will be, surprising participants and guests of the European Games.

Alongside Belarus, Poland, Turkey, the Netherlands and a range of other states also laid claim to the 2nd European Games. Why was Belarus chosen?

The application of Minsk for the 2nd European Games said that, except for the construction of 2-3 sporting facilities, all the remaining sporting infrastructure is already present. Recently, Dinamo Stadium reopened after a large-scale reconstruction; it will host the opening

and closing ceremonies of the Games, as well as competitions in track-and-field. Construction work is also currently being completed at the sports and rifle complex named after Marshal S.K. Timoshenko. The site is to be commissioned by the end of the year. Moreover, the new residential building is also to open at the Student Village, which will accommodate the athletes.

How many guests are you expecting in Minsk? Primarily how many fans?

At least the same number as during the 2014 IIHF World Championships in Minsk and during the 1st European Games in Baku in 2015. I estimate 70,000. This figure may increase to 100,000 people.

How is Minsk going to surprise its guests?

People will primarily come to see a spectacular event; therefore, our task is to 'keep' them in Minsk till the end of the competitions and to offer an unforgettable cultural programme, souvenirs and tasty cuisine. The more interesting the programme is, the longer people will stay.

Moreover, four fan zones will open in Minsk: near Minsk-Arena, near Chizhovka-Arena, near the Sports Palace and in Orkyabrskaya Street which will be turned into a pedestrian area during the competition. We'll also offer our guests dance and entertainment shows.

Why are these European Games so important for Belarus? What legacy can they leave?

Our task is to ensure that everything which is made for the forthcoming sporting event, remains in future for the benefit of residents of the city and athletes. For example, we're studying a proposal enabling us to provide Minsk urban transport with free Wi-Fi. Hostels will be repaired in the Student Village, while the neighbouring area will be landscaped. Moreover, Minsk is purchasing 300 new buses that will later run along city routes. In total, 65 percent of the expenditure for the multi-sporting forum is taken up by the 'legacy': hotels, transport provision, repair of hostels and reconstruction of sites.

Story about our people and country

English lawyer and writer Nigel Roberts, author of the guidebook to Belarus, accepted the proposal to prepare a special issue of the guide, dedicated to the 2nd European Games in Minsk

Nigel Roberts presented his fourth guidebook to Belarus at the Sports and Tourism Ministry. During the negotiations, the Deputy Sports and Tourism Minister Mikhail Portnoy made a proposal to prepare a separate collection that would include information about the sporting facilities which will be hosting the 2nd European Games, about the people who are involved in this large-scale project, as well as places that foreign tourists will be able to visit.

The fourth guidebook to Belarus is not merely a collection of sights of the country, but an emotional and always sincere narration about the country, about meetings with people and participation in interesting events. "I try to tell simple human stories which help people to better understand local residents, their manners, habits and mentality. I also give practical advice on how to choose housing, routes to travel, what to see and which dishes of national cuisine to taste. I receive letters from my fellow countrymen telling me that after reading the guidebook, it was much easier for them to travel through Belarus. I have long fallen in love with this country and I'd like foreigners to visit it more often," notes Mr. Roberts.

In 2008, after seven years of acquaintance with our country, the British author released his first guidebook which quickly spread among readers. Since then, he has been to Belarus more than thirty times and sees his mission as building a bridge between western readers and beautiful Belarus.

Presenting a proven and solid team

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

2nd European Games volunteers acquire experience at largest international events

"Last year, not a single large event in Minsk took place without the participation of Games volunteers," notes the Head of the Volunteer Services Department of the 2nd European Games 2019 Directorate, Nadezhda Anisovets. "More than three thousand people have received experience at various sport tournaments, creating a proven, solid team. Moreover, we have a special site for our volunteers, sharing news and appointments to events, during the preparation and conduct of the 2nd European Games."

According to Ms. Anisovets, 77 percent of those eager to become volunteers are women, and Anastasia is the most common name for female volunteers. Meanwhile, Alexander is the most common name among male volunteers.



The oldest among them all is 75 years old, explains Ms. Anisovets, adding that some volunteers don't need special training. "Most of the foreign volunteers come from Russia. After the 2018 FIFA World Cup, we received applications from groups of young people with serious experience in helping organise major sporting events, so those candidates are given first consideration."

The Belarusian capital is expected to welcome more than four thousand athletes, in addition to about two thousand coaches and support personnel for the 2nd European Games in 2019. About fifty European National Olympic Committees will be represented, while around 650 international and 410 national judges will be officiating.

Minsk will also welcome over a thousand representatives of foreign media, and a hundred presidents, general secretaries of European sports federations and sports ministers of European countries. There will be more than 250 representatives and employees of the EOC headquarters, and presidents and general secretaries of European NOCs, while two hundred guests are expected from European NOCs. The event will involve about eight thousand volunteers.

Genes can tell us much

There are more and more people who want to investigate their genes: specialists of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology at Belarus' NAS have made genetic passports for almost 13 thousand people

By Yulia Vasilieva

A person has 25 thousand genes but, to assess their predisposition to a number of diseases, only about a hundred are of them of interest. Specialists at the Institute tell us more about what health problems can be seen at birth and how testing can help maintain a long and active life.

“While conducting genetic studies, we identify the risks of cardiovascular diseases — such as stroke, heart attack or venous thrombosis, diabetes of 2nd type, metabolic syndrome and osteoporosis-bone fragility. On the one hand, they are related to one’s genes and can lead to disabilities, on the other, they can be linked to lifestyle. I always say a genetic passport is not a sentence but a guide for action. This is an opportunity to prevent the disease by changing habits,” explains the head of the laboratory of human genetics, Doctor of Biological Sciences — Professor Irma Mosse. She has repeatedly witnessed that this is true. Those who research their genes often wish to give up smoking and lose weight. They begin to monitor their health, buy blood pressure monitors and blood glucose meters. A child at risk of diabetes is taught from childhood to avoid sweets and those who are prone to osteoporosis focus on dairy products and calcium preparations.

Also, scientists are conducting studies on sensitivity to drugs. After all, standard treatment regimens are not suitable for everyone. “This especially refers to drugs that treat car-



Genetic passport is a guide to action and could prevent disease

diovascular diseases such as warfarin. In the United States, 3 million people took it and 16 percent had side effects, to lethal effect in some cases. To select it personally and determine whether there is hypersensitivity, what dosage to give, or to understand that it will be ineffective and needs to be replaced, is possible only on the basis of genetics,” Ms. Mosse adds.

Another area that is still developing in the framework of purely scientific research is the study of the psycho-emotional

characteristics of a person. After all, whether you are phlegmatic, sanguine or choleric, also depends on your genes. If we look at this from the point of view of longevity, optimists live longer. Knowing that our genetics are not conducive to a positive outlook on life, with the help of special practices, it will be possible to develop it.

In addition, since the beginning of September, the Institute of Genetics and Cytology offers a number of nutrigenetic analyses — on gluten and milk intoler-

erance, predisposition to weight gain, absorption of fatty acids and individual taste sensations. In addition, a project on the genetics of longevity has been running for three years, with the co-operation of the University of Cagliari (Sardinia): this island is among the world’s top five places with the largest number of centenarians.

“Our research is focused on antioxidant defined genes. There are several genes that cause the risk of antioxidant stress, leading to the development of car-

diovascular and cancer pathology. When we’re aware of this feature, it can be corrected: a person needs to eat more fruit and vegetables and drink green tea,” Yelena Mikhaleiko — a leading researcher at the laboratory of environmental genetics and biotechnology — notes. It is also believed that longevity is 25 percent dependent on genes, and 75 percent on lifestyle, nutrition and the environment. The knowledge of genetic features helps us better understand how to correct them.

Potential surely can’t be underestimated

By Svetlana Savelieva

Belarus and the Republic of South Africa keen to expand inter-parliamentary and trade interaction

Belarus and the Republic of South Africa have the potential to expand inter-parliamentary, trade-economic and humanitarian co-operation. The matter was discussed at a meeting between Deputy Chair of the Council of the Republic, Marianna Shchetkina and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of South Africa to Russia with concurrent accreditation to Belarus, Nomasonto Maria Sibanda-Thusi.

Ms. Shchetkina noted that relations with the Republic of South Africa are among the priorities of Belarus’ foreign policy on the continent. “The countries have everything necessary to significant-



ly increase mutual trade and develop industrial and agricultural co-operation,” said the Vice Speaker.

In turn, Nomasonto Maria Sibanda-Thusi expressed interest in the development of interregional collaboration and exchange of experiences in the agriculture and manufacturing industries. “We need to develop partnerships. South Africa could learn a lot from Belarus,” she said.

Moreover, the parties also discussed gender parity and the role of women’s organisations in empowering women in the two countries.

Ms. Shchetkina familiarised the Ambassador with the

activities of the Belarusian Union of Women, which she chairs. She noted that women’s diplomacy serves as a good tool to address various issues and to share best practices.

How to achieve a billion in trade



By Olga Korneeva

Belarus and Kazakhstan have set the terms for a considerable increase in trade turnover in 2018, notes Belarus’ PM, Sergei Rumas, as he met the Kazakh Ambassador to Belarus, Yermukhamet Yertysbayev

Mr. Rumas emphasised that Kazakhstan is a strategic partner of Belarus. “Over eight months of this year, trade turnover totalled \$610m — almost half more compared to the same period in the previous year. We

shouldn’t lose steam in any way and should achieve \$1bn this year,” noted the PM.

Mr. Yertysbayev noted the high level of inter-regional co-operation between the two states. The development of economic collaboration is facilitated by the assembly production of Belarusian machinery in Kazakhstan. “The volumes of trade are impressive, and the prospects are considerable,” he added. Issues of the development of bilateral relations will be discussed at the forthcoming session of the Inter-governmental Commission.



California lost in deadly Camp Fire

Death toll in wildfires sweeping California has risen to 31, with more than 200 people still missing, officials said

The death toll from the three raging wildfires in California has increased to 31, with more than 300,000 people forced to evacuate from their homes across the US state, according to authorities.

Of the 31 victims, 29 died in Northern California's Camp Fire and two in Southern California's Woolsey Fire.

The Camp fire — the most destructive blaze in the state's history and largest of the three — has burned 111,000 acres across Northern California. It has virtu-

ally burned the town of Paradise to the ground and destroyed an estimated 6,700 buildings, most of which were homes.

Cal Fire said that at least 110 people were still missing and the toll could go higher.

In Southern California, the Woolsey fire has spread to 83,275 acres. The smaller Hill Fire covered 4,531 acres. Together, responsible for the destruction of 179 structures, but another 57,000 were threatened, fire officials said.

Firefighters managed to con-

tain flare-ups generated by high winds in Los Angeles County. But officials warned that the dry conditions feeding the fire are expected to continue and gusts would peak at around 40 mph. "Sadly, with these winds, it's not over yet," Scott Jalbert, Chief of Cal Fire's San Luis Obispo Unit, said.

More than 300,000 people have been forced from their homes statewide. The majority of those residents were in Los Angeles County, where 170,000 were evacuated.

"This event was the worst-case scenario," Butte County Sheriff Kory L. Honea said, referring to the Camp Fire. "It's the event that we have feared for a long time."

Gov. Jerry Brown (D) requested a 'presidential major disaster declaration', which would make the hardest-hit communities eligible for housing, unemployment and other support programmes and allow state and local governments to repair or replace fire-damaged facilities and infrastructure.

Elon Musk replaced as Tesla company chair

Maverick Tesla Chair Elon Musk has been replaced after the billionaire had to step down as the electric-car maker's chief more than a month ago

Board member Robyn Denholm was named as Tesla chair. She will take over the position immediately, leaving her CFO and head of strategy role at Australian telecommunications firm Telstra, once her six-month notice period with the company is complete.

Denholm is now one of two women on the electric-car maker's board. Musk tweeted his support for the decision. However, Denholm will have the difficult task of overseeing billionaire Musk who will still be with the firm.

Will esports be in the next Olympics?

Although esports lag behind traditional sports when it comes to making money — the industry makes around \$800m of revenue a year — its 300 million fans put it on the map as one of the globe's most popular sports (most reports put it as 10th or 11th most watched). But will esports ever be given the highest sporting recognition and be accepted into the Olympics?

"Obviously the physical aspect is less in videos games than it is in football, but everything else: strategising, team play, the will to win, the thrill of winning, the fear of losing. It's all the same thing, it's not much different from traditional sports," Ralf Reichart, CEO and co-founder of ESL — the world's largest esports company — noted at the 2018 edition of Web Summit in Lisbon. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has already made steps to get to know more about esports.

Chances slim for special Brexit summit in November

Hopes are fading on sealing a Brexit deal this month, according to the Irish PM

"I do think that, with every day that passes, the possibility of having a special summit in November becomes less likely," Leo Varadkar noted after meeting Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipilä.

EU leaders had tentatively scheduled a special summit for November to sign-off on the deal, however, negotiators remain at odds over the Irish border question.

World leaders in Paris mark 100th anniversary of WWI Armistice

French President Emmanuel Macron led tributes to the millions of soldiers killed in WWI, using an emotional ceremony in Paris attended by scores of world leaders to warn against nationalism a century on from the conflict

US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and dozens of monarchs, princes, presidents and prime ministers joined Macron to mark the moment the guns fell silent across Europe 100 years earlier.

Many heads of state joined Macron in walking the last stretch of the Champs Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe, where the ceremony was held. In a 20-min-



ute address delivered beside the tomb of the unknown soldier, Macron described the 'unimaginable hell' of those who fought in the trenches, denouncing the nationalism that fanned the flames of war and now shows signs of resurgence.

"Patriotism is the exact opposite of nationalism: nationalism is a betrayal of patriotism," Macron said. "When we say 'our interests come first, those of others don't matter', we erase the very thing that a nation holds most precious, that which gives it life and makes it great: its moral values."



World's 'oldest painting' found in Borneo cave

New analysis suggests the animal drawings are at least 40,000 years old, say scientists

Painting of a wild bovid (Banteng) in the Lubang Jeriji Saléh cave in Borneo, part of a large panel containing at least two other animals. A patchy, weathered painting of a beast daubed on the wall of a limestone cave in Borneo may be the oldest known example of figurative rock art, say researchers who dated the work.

Faded and fractured, the reddish-orange image depicts a plump but slender-legged animal, probably a species of wild cattle that still lives on the island, or simply dinner in the eyes of the artist, if one streak of ochre that resembles a spear protruding from its flank is any guide.

The animal is one of a trio of large creatures that adorn a wall in the Lubang Jeriji Saléh cave in the East Kalimantan province of Indonesian Borneo.



Wonderful sides of one style

Those critics are right who assert that however much modern painters would like to ‘fence’ from some analogies they won’t be able to avoid some kind of comparisons. Though comparisons always say more than it’s necessary, leaving out of account something author and individual. Georgy Skripnichenko became known as ‘Belarusian Salvador Dalí’.

By Veniamin Mikheev

November and December 2016 at the National Art Museum of Belarus were marked with an exhibition project honouring the memory of Georgy Skripnichenko (who passed away three years ago). It was a grandiose event in the amount of attention towards the person of one, though very talented master. At that time, the exposition displayed more than fifty pictorial and graphical works from the private family collection, dating from various periods of the master’s creativity: from early time of searches through to mature years.

“Allegory and metaphor, improvisation and unrestrained imagination were an organic form of existence in art for Georgy Skripnichenko,” notes Yekaterina Izofatova, who heads the Department of Modern Belarusian Art at the National Art Museum.

Mr. Skripnichenko embraced the fantastic and unreal, creating his own interpretation of classical themes, as well as Biblical and mythological characters, well-known historical persons and contemporaries. He painted the full kaleidoscope of human states, from suffering and consolidation to anxiety and hope.

His allegorical representations of time and the Universe are unmatched and unique, although many attempt to categorise them, and make comparisons. His allegories and paradoxes, as well as his style of composition, all point towards surrealistic, figurative thinking.

He began with landscapes, sketches and portraits but, during his studies at Minsk art school in the 1960s, shifted from external realities to those of the inner

world, creating fascinating cultural dialogue. He played a rich intellectual game without rules, improvising, with unpredictable yet greatly effective results.

He gradually moved onto reflections on Old Testament themes, as well as those from classical mythology and world history, coloured with the poetics of ‘subjective historicism’.

“Skripnichenko defined his *Saint Sebastian, Abduction of Europe, Adam and Eve* and *Don Quixote of the 20th Century* as modern interpretations of myths,” explains Ms. Izofatova. “According to his own principles and beliefs, he interpreted philosophical truths, seeking originality of embodiment, connecting the past and the present, and investigating contradictions and opposites.”

Women appeared often in his works, within surrealistic settings, such as in *Victim* (1996), *Evening Rhapsody* and *Once in Ratomka* (1979). With shades of phantasmagoria, and the transformation of reality into the Gothic, these works are parable and allegories.

At the exhibition which took place two years ago, Georgy Skripnichenko’s outstanding and original artistic language, from such an early age, invited the audience into an associative game, yet one that is serious and frank, rather than wry. He invited us to gain understanding of ourselves through his work, presenting an identifiable history of mankind, with its cultural values and figurative peculiarities.

As Salvador Dalí said: ‘... when the Renaissance wanted to imitate the Immortal Greece, the result was Raphael. Ingres wanted to imitate Raphael, the result was Ingres. Cézanne wanted to



Exhibition dedicated to Georgy Skripnichenko

imitate Poussin, the result was Cézanne. Dalí wanted to imitate Meissonier, THE RESULT WAS DALÍ. He who does not imitate is destined to become nobody’.

Mr. Skripnichenko created his own, individual style and, surprisingly, became a national artist. He inherited what came before, and gave birth to something original, yet connected with centuries-old world art.

Meanwhile, very few Belarusian painters could boast of having their works kept in the permanent exposition of the country’s major museum. These include Georgy Skripnichenko who made his way towards recognition due to his talent and mastery.



From conversations with the painter in various times:

Are you an adherent of informal painting?

Probably, yes. However, I like realism in art. Is not Caravaggio a realist and El Greco? I’ve never consciously formulated my relationship with art.

What motivates you when painting? What is most significant?

I like to paint from life. I like to think and dream while standing at the easel. The canvas is a game: a theatre of deceit, lies and laughter...

Are you a philosopher?

I’ve never considered myself to be so, since philosophy is something ‘high’; intuition was given to me by nature, I think. I’m a bad philosopher and thinker but work hard.



Aren’t you afraid that audiences may not understand your works?

The audience should be prepared.

What is your attitude to fame?

If it is deserved, you should take it in your stride. I haven’t had such an experience, so I know nothing about this, but it’s pleasant when, at an exhibition, your work is remarked upon and you agree that it is worthy.

Everyone is pleased when they receive external approval.

What are your creative plans?

Work, work and work!
Mr. Skripnichenko didn’t sell his works and presented them only rarely. It’s difficult to part with something drawn from your soul. Every one of his works had meaning for him, possessed with his personal energy and inner thoughts.

To be continued in next issue.

Open ‘kufar’ and take ‘kashulya’ out

What can you give to the person who has everything — especially if we are talking of a president who’s here on an official visit? Of course, it should be something which represents the country’s culture. Our *MT* reporter has visited the legendary centre of folk crafts — Skarbnitsa — where souvenirs for top level guests and others are made using ancient skills.

By Sofia Arsenieva

Cornflowers for the first lady

Standing on the threshold, I hear the measured knock of a wooden loom recalling the lines of Maxim Bogdanovich: ‘The hand weaves the native cornflower and we forget about everything’. Skarbnitsa is the only Belarusian enterprise which keeps the ancient techniques of these folk crafts alive. Local employees work with the same materials and even on the same machines. It’s laborious work and it takes weeks or months to create a single article. The work is precise and accurate and, interestingly, Skarbnitsa’s workers do not know for sure who will receive their produce. They are amazed to read in the mass media that the first lady of Venezuela — Celia Flores — has been presented with their spectacular embroidered table linen.

Workers create miracles here including national costumes, painted chests and decorative panels, woven bedspreads and towels. Each product is made in only a couple of copies and some are truly unique. At the same time, they are available not only to important guests, but also to ordinary buyers.

Skarbnitsa’s masters experience a busy time from now to the New Year and Christmas celebrations are coming soon. “Especially popular are sets of table linen with the Belarusian cornflower. They are sold out quickly before the holidays. Therefore, we work intensively for these few weeks,” comments Olga Bobyleva, who heads the scientific-methodical division of the company. “Skarbnitsa also has its own counterfeit protection methods: we sew the edges of napkins not on the inside but out. It’s a hard job but this feature enables anyone to find and recognise our products.”



Vyshivanka does not belong to us

Everything the factory produces is based on centuries-old traditions of Belarusians. For forty years, the company employees have joined scientists to tour villages. Master craftsmen can create a copy of a Belarusian artefact from any region.

“Around a decade ago, national costumes were bought by ordinary Belarusians, mostly abroad,” says Skarbnitsa’s leading artist, Yelena Galievskaya. “Grandmothers ordered sets for

their grandchildren living far from their homeland, so that they would never forget their roots. The situation has changed now: they choose these woven clothes for going out on any occasion. Interestingly, the popular word ‘vyshivanka’ has nothing to do with the Belarusian costume. For centuries, our people wore ‘kashulya’, ‘svitka’ and shirts (pronounced as ‘sorochka’ in Russian). The origin of the last word is truly interesting: the creation of a single shirt involved up to forty tasks (‘sorok’ in Russian) such as the sowing of flax and finishing garments with embroidery.”

Collect a dowry from your youth

Russia is known for its Gzhel porcelain, Zhostovo trays, Palekh boxes and Khokhloma ware. What can Belarusians boast of? Our Ogovo ‘kufars’, of course! Blue and green, they are recognised by bright scenes and messages written directly on their sides.

Olga opens one of these chests in front of me: it is packed to the top with woven blankets, tablecloths, towels. It turns out that, as soon as she began to get her legs onto the pedals of the loom, she immediately mastered it. She was then only 6 or 7 years old. From that moment on, the girl began collecting her dowry.

“Do you think these are mere flowers?” Olga asks, unfolding a cloth in front of me. “Your great-grandmother would have guessed at once: it is a wish for prosperity. A rushnik (hand-embroidered cloth) for Slavs is a sacred thing: it follows a person to their last days. Cloths were used to wrap newborns and frame icons. Loaves of bread were



Belarusian embroidered shirt for Gérard Depardieu

put on them while welcoming dear guests. Naturally, each rushnik had a special embroidery. For example, white ‘nabozhniki’ (cloths for icons) were decorated with horizontal red patterns. Our ancestors considered rushniks as ladders to the sky and believed that angels went down them to people. The lower to the ground, the thornier the path (denser embroidery). In turn, pompons and bumps on the bottom indicate that rushniks are not made for frequent washing.

Slutsk motifs

At the *Slavianski Bazaar* Festival, Alexander Lukashenko was presented with an unusual souvenir: a sash-talisman. It had the inscription: ‘This is a gift for a man honoured among Slavs’. For centuries, a Slutsk sash was the most important article of male clothing.

“Until the 17th century, patterned masterpieces were bought from Persia,” Skarbnitsa’s staff explain. “Silk woven fabric was beautiful but insanely expensive. The enterprising Radziwill family realised it would be nice to establish the production of tradeable goods domestically. Looms from the East were smuggled out on pain of death. This is how the famous Slutsk sashes appeared. The craft was heavy work. Men had to learn to use the two-level machines.” In modern times, the Radziwills’ masterpieces are woven by women. The complicated equipment was refurbished at the factory in 2013, and many sashes — lost during the Great Patriotic War — have already been recreated.



Greetings from the past

At Skarbnitsa, painted panels were also shown. These are traditional Belarusian ‘malyavanka’. “Villagers used them to decorate their houses, following the example of the gentry’s estates whose walls were decorated with tapestries. ‘Malyavanka’ were usually given as a wedding gift so that the couple would be happy (paradise was often depicted on them),” says Olga, adding, “The black linen background was strewn with bright flowers, with a pair of animals such as deer, lions, swans or white pigeons depicted in the centre. Any newly-wed couple dreamt of such a present right up until the 1950s!”

As regards top level delegations, presents to them are no less impressive. The collection of embroidered paintings — *Castles of Belarus* — is in great demand. In the Middle Ages, Belarus was called ‘the country of castles,’ but only a few of them have survived to now. Skarbnitsa has restored this lost architectural heritage based on drawings of Napoleon Orda and other artists.

A true Belarusian exclusive is a product made of straw. This craft has always been worked at a high level here. Belarusians appreciate straw on a large scale: magnificent sculptures are made using this brittle material — such as horses, bison, deer. Straw spiders are especially in favour. In the past, the latter were woven for fun at the end of the harvesting season. Diamond-shaped, pyramidal, spherical structures were suspended under the ceiling. People believed that straw could attract negative energy and

take bad thoughts away. Spiders spun over their hosts’ heads for a year and then they were burned: the delicate material began to crumble. Skarbnitsa’s masters have invented a special technology to create spiders-centenarians which can be stored for decades.

Hosts deserved a draw but failed

BATE loses to Chelsea 0:1, in fourth round of Europa League

By Alexey Veremeev

The Belarusian team — which has already secured first place in the national championship — is now focusing efforts on the Europa League. Famous British club Chelsea presented a tough rival for Alexey Baga's players, playing at Borisov-Arena, but BATE showed the top-level squad a good game, with many dangerous moments.

Compared to the match in London (a couple of weeks ago), the Belarusian team kept up a good defence, keeping control of the ball until the middle of the first half. In the 12th minute, midfielder Dmitry Baga had the



Fog in Borisov doesn't hamper match

chance to open the score, taking a pass from Alexander Hleb, but sadly hit the post after shooting from 20 metres.

After a corner kick, BATE again attempted to score, but were foiled by the Chelsea goalkeeper. In the 25th minute, the London team began to take control of the ball but failed to truly threaten Denis Shcherbitsky's goal. However, the second half

was another matter, thanks to a single successful combination by Maurizio Sarri's Chelsea players. Early in the second half, they went on the attack, leading to Palmieri Emerson entering BATE's penalty area in the 53rd minute. In the fight for the ball, striker Olivier Giroud headed it straight into the net.

The teams were pretty evenly matched until the 60th

minute, when Alexey Rios managed a shot at goal, from outside Chelsea's penalty area, but sent it over the bar.

After the victory in Borisov, Chelsea boasts twelve points (from four matches), securing a place in the playoffs of the Europa League. Borisov BATE has three points and will play Hungarian Vidi at home on November 29th.

Rising stars already shine

By Kirill Samsonov

These two unusual events took place at almost the same time, with a difference of one week. At first, Arina Sobolenko, who has made a breakthrough this year and raised her

standings in the world rankings from the second hundred to 12th position, was recognised as Newcomer of the Year by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA). Then our track-and-field athlete, Elvira German, took the same high bar,

sensationally winning in the 100m hurdles at the recently held European Championships. She was awarded the prize in the Rising Star category during the awards ceremony of the European Athletic Association in Lausanne.



Raubichi Sports Centre is preparing

By Olga Korneeva

In 2022, the sports complex near Minsk will welcome the BMW IBU World Cup Biathlon stage

The International Biathlon Union's Sports Director, Felix Bitterling, notes two new venues for the World Cup calendar in 2022: Estonia's Otepää and Belarus' Minsk-Raubichi.

Belarus will be hosting the 2021/2022 BMW IBU World Cup Biathlon from February 28th-March 6th, after the Olympic Games in Beijing. This season, Raubichi Sports Centre will be hosting the IBU Open European Championships, from February 18th-24th, 2019. Previously, Raubichi Olympic Sports Complex has hosted world and European

biathlon championships. After reconstruction in February 2015, it hosted the 49th Biathlon Junior World Championships.

The forthcoming IBU Open European Biathlon Championships, taking place in February 2019, are followed by the IBU Summer Biathlon World Championships. Meanwhile, 2020 will see the finals of the IBU Cup: a serious test before the IBU World Cup stage in 2022.

"We've undertaken major work in recent years," notes the Chairman of the Belarusian Biathlon Federation, Andrian Tsibylsky. "Step by step, the federation worked towards gaining the right to host this World Cup stage. Of course,

it would be impossible without the support of the Head of State, Alexander Lukashenko, to ensure reconstruction of Raubichi Sports Complex. Now, the centre meets all requirements to conduct international competitions."

Regarding seating capacity, the Chairman of the Belarusian Biathlon Federation is certain that this won't be a problem. "At the next start — the IBU Open European Biathlon Championships — additional stands will be installed to considerably increase capacity. We'll pay special attention to the opening of the forum, during which we'll 'send off' our legends — Darya Domracheva

and Nadezhda Skardino. It will be a test for the federation and the organisers, to keep fans happy. The IBU Summer Biathlon World Championships in 2019, and the 2020 IBU Cup finals will be rehearsals for the World Cup stage. IBU representatives will be able to see that Belarus can conduct competitions at the highest level, hosting a large number of spectators."

Mr. Tsibylsky is keen to ensure that our biathletes are ready, saying, "We hope to prepare a serious fighting team in time for the 2022 Olympics in Beijing."



Raubichi ready to host high level competitions

ARENA

● Pavel Khodasevich wins silver at World Weightlifting Championship in Ashgabat.

In the 'up to 89kg' weight category, Pavel snatched 169kg on his third attempt. Meanwhile, in the clean and jerk, he lifted 202kg, giving a total of 371kg.

Russian Artem Okulov took gold; after losing to the Belarusian in the snatch, he managed to lift 206kg, giving him a winning total of 372kg (166kg + 206kg).

Bronze went to Revaz Davitadze from Georgia: 371kg (168kg + 203kg).

Pavel Khodasevich's medal is the second for the national team of Belarus, with Vadim Likhovrad claiming bronze.

● Australian Ashleigh Barty has won the WTA tennis tournament finals in Chinese Zhuhai. At the preliminary stage, Barty had lost to Belarus' Arina Sobolenko — 4:6, 4:6. However, defeating French Caroline Garcia (3:6, 4:6) — who also took victory over Arina — Ashleigh Barty claimed first place in her trio and qualified for the semi-finals. Barty then defeated Germany's Julia Görges — 4:6, 6:3, 6:2, sending her into the finals, where she met Wang Qiang of China. In the semi-finals, Wang Qiang had defeated Garbiñe Muguruza of Spain — 6:2, 6:0. Barty's defeat of Qiang — 6:3, 6:4 — took Barty from 19th to 15th position in the WTA rankings, while Arina Sobolenko moved from 12th position to 11th. Belarusian Lidia Morozova partnered Japanese Shuko Aoyama to reach the doubles finals, sadly losing to Ukrainians Lyudmila and Nadezhda Kichenok — 4:6, 6:3, 7:10.

● Meanwhile, Vadim Likhovrad has claimed bronze at the World Weightlifting Championships in Ashgabat. Performing in the under 73kg weight category, he earned 343 points in the double event. The winner was Chinese Shi Zhiyong, who lifted 360kg, while silver went to Korean Won Jeong-sik (348kg). Piotr Asaenok, Igor Lozko and Suzanna Volodko also competed for the World Championships awards.

● Belarusian swimmers have taken four medals at the World Cup stage in Beijing, with Yevgeny Tsurkin claiming silver in the 100m butterfly and bronze in the 50m butterfly. Ilya Shimanovich claimed bronze in the 50m and 100m breaststroke events. The next World Cup stage will take place in Tokyo, from November 15th-17th.

● The Minchanka female volleyball team is to play in Group C in the Champions League, facing Italian Novara, French Cannes and whichever team wins between Łódź (Poland) and Mulhouse (France). The Champions League Group Stage will launch on November 20th while, on November 11th, our Minsk will enter the Russian Superleague with an away match against Dinamo Moscow.

SPORT

The Minsk Times
Thursday
November 15
2018

11

Festival of the week



A mannequin has its hair done backstage during the *Windrose HAIR-2018* Beauty Festival in Minsk

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 8th December. *Deafart* Until 30th December. *Universe of Yazep Drozdovich*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 30th November. *Signs of Independence: Polish Money from 1915-1939* Until 8th January. *Art of Chocolate*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 16th November. *See Belarus Such*
Until 31st January. *Maly Trostenets*: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale massacre Until 7th April. *Fantasy Land*

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

11 Sovetskaya Street
Until 30th November. *Belarusian Lawyers of 19th Century*

OUTLETO TRADING CENTRE

44 Zhukov Avenue
Until 1st January. *Tropics* exhibition of exotic animals

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 18th November. *Muses in Line*

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 31st January. *Somewhere to the West of Minsk: Daily Life of Western Belarus* Until 4th December. *20th Century Avant-Garde*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 30th November. *Cat and Autumn*

MAGIC MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 15th December. *Tournament of Three Magicians*

GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 13th January. *Museum of Fir-Tree Toys*

VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 10th August. *Yakub Kolas and Vilno*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 24th November. *Violeta Bybelite: Own Body*

VILNIUS GALLERY

55 Kalinovsky Street
Until 18th November. *Watercolour Whisper*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
15.11. *Little Prince* 16.11. *The Magic Flute* 17 and 18.11. *The Swan Lake* 20.11. *Night of Modern Ballet* 21.11. *La Esmeralda* 22.11. *The Tsar's Bride*

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
15.11. *Lady for a Day* 16.11. *Red Hot Mamas* 17.11. *An Ideal Husband* 18.11. *Pane Kokhanku* 20.11. *He and She* 21.11. *How to Become Rich* 22.11. *Taming of the Shrew*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
15.11. *Forgetting Herostratos* 16.11. *Robbery at Midnight* 17.11. *Who Laughs Last* 18.11. *An Unnamed Star* 19.11. *The Same Place Next Year* 20.11. *The Makropoulos Case* 21.11. *Night of Anton Chekhov's Miniatures* 22.11. *The Battlefield*

NEW DRAMA THEATRE

16 Liza Chaikina Street
15.11. *Christmas* 21.11. *Important to be Serious* 22.11. *I Would Live!*

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street
15.11. *ART* 17.11. *School of Taxpayers-* 18.11. *Tolerance* 20.11. *Paulinka* 21.11. *The Black Lady of Nesvizh* 22.11. *Skaryna / Pinsk Gentry*

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street
15.11. *This Is All She* 16 and 21.11. *Adam's Jokes* 17.11. *The Sea Wolf* 18.11. *Three Giselles* 19.11. *How Much Is Love* 20.11. *The Broken Nest* 22.11. *If There Is No Tomorrow*

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
15.11. *Double Double* 16.11. *Warsaw Melody* 17.11. *Vanyushin's Children* 18.11. *Fool* 20.11. *Pieta* 21.11. *New Affair of My Husband* 22.11. *Tectonics of Feelings*

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
15.11. *Love of Three, or Easter on New Year* 16.11. *Unfinished Affair* 19.11. *Catch for Husband* 21.11. *Comedy*

BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street
16.11. *Inspector* 17.11. *Dog in the Manger* 22.11. *Soldiers*