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Driver Aleksandr Glushinsky — a young best worker of the Gudevichi agricultural enterprise in the Grodno Region

There will be a rich table

Agrarians of Belarus are entering the homestretch in harvesting grain crops. Frankly speaking, the weather turns not so good this summer: it is either hot or rainy. Although no vagaries of the weather can prevent the owners of our land from achieving impressive results. The fields now are the territory of the highest physical exertion of literally everyone who works on the ground. Drivers traditionally work in the same bundle with combiners. Experienced crews stay side by side with young ones.

The atmosphere in the fields is simply mesmerising! Golden ears of wheat... The hard-working, callused hands of the villagers... Domestic equipment that has proven itself at the harvest... And, of course, long-legged storks walking touchingly along the freshly cut stover...



Trade and economy — the basis for full-scale co-operation

The Head of State Aleksandr Lukashenko met with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brazil to Belarus Bernard Jorg Leopold de Garcia Klingl

“If we take a close look at the Belarusian-Brazilian relations, I must say that they can be much better, both in politics and, first of all, in trade and economy. Trade and economic relations are the basis of any relationship. If we have a strong material interest and a certain connection, then both political and diplomatic relations will be built. As an ambassador, you understand this as well as I do. As a result of today’s meeting, we need to agree on specific areas of our co-operation that will bring our relations to a higher level,” the Belarusian leader stressed.

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he had a number of proposals in this regard. “I think that you will convey my proposals to the government, your parliament and, above all, President Lula da Silva.

One of my main proposals that I ask you to convey to your President is that we are waiting for him in Belarus.

At any convenient time for him. Better in winter. In order for him to see our winter nature. During his visit, we could finally determine the roadmap or plan for our relations. I would like to emphasise once again that the Belarusian leadership is extremely interested in this.”

The Head of State emphasised the importance of the current meeting for both Belarus and Brazil.

The Ambassador, in turn, said that Brazil highly appreciates relations with Belarus,

“It is a great honour for me to have this opportunity to meet and to convey to the President of my country your invitation to visit your country in order to discuss a roadmap for further co-operation. Brazil values the relations with Belarus and the work that is being done in your country today. We understand the importance of the region and the delicacy of the situation that has developed in your region.

We also see the confrontation between Russia and Western states. Brazil is ready to take part in the dialogue. We see you as a person who is not only very well versed in the current situation, but also a person who can take part in this dialogue and contribute to resolving the situation.”

The head of the diplomatic mission continued, “The Brazilian President, I am sure, will appreciate your invitation

However, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva have known each other for a long time. They met back in March 2010 when the Belarusian President visited Brazil. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was the President back then. He was elected the President once again after a number of other Presidents.

Brazil is traditionally among the top 10 trading partners of Belarus. Last year the trade amounted to more than \$358 million, with a surplus of \$149.6 million. In January-June 2023 alone, bilateral trade totalled \$393.4 million (200.8 percent compared to the same period in 2022), a positive balance of \$269.6 million. Potash fertilisers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and disinfectants are traditionally the main positions of Belarusian exports.



Ambassador of Brazil Bernard Jorg Leopold de Garcia Klingl and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Sergei Aleinik

[to visit Belarus]. He knows how important it is today to discuss with you the solution to the situation. We understand what’s at stake. We have appointed a special envoy, a minister who takes part in the dialogue on behalf of Brazil.”

Bernard Jorg Leopold de Garcia Klingl also remarked, “We hope that the dialogue will take place. We are confident that a common will, a common desire are required to start the dialogue, and therefore my hope is that my President, and you will be able to take an active part in this process.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Ambassador of Brazil to Belarus Bernard Jorg Leopold de Garcia Klingl spoke about bilateral co-operation on the air of the Belarusian ONT TV channel,

“The geographical distance between our countries is huge, but this does not mean that our peoples cannot grow closer. Our relations have always been active and effective. The meeting of our Presidents in Rio de Janeiro is a case in point. Today there are difficulties associated with the sanctions against Belarus. We are doing everything possible to circumvent these obstacles and increase the trade to the proper level. Belarus has a unique geographical location and unique historical experience. This can enrich international interaction. Its role is important for international cooperation. It is very important that Belarus be heard. Your country and your people are unique. Your people have a beautiful soul, a big heart, a very high level of education and great prospects... Your country is part of Eastern Europe, which is made up of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine. You share a common historical background and a similar culture. Your countries have gone through a lot together. Belarus occupies a special strategic, geopolitical position here. It is a key player in the region. Your President Aleksandr Lukashenko is a man with vast experience and influence. He really understands the essence of the processes. He knows the region really well. He, as we could see from the recent events in Russia, played a crucial role in resolving the difficulties that emerged there. Obviously, your President could become an important partner in resolving the current conflict [in Ukraine].”

Belarus and Russia unite advanced scientific and technical potential

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, met with Russian politician and statesman Dmitry Rogozin.

“I am glad to meet with you today and to discuss all the issues that have accumulated over this time. I know you as an active person who cannot stay away from major developments in the region and the world. Thus, I believe that your experience and knowledge will be useful for promoting our common ideas that we have shared for a long time. We have a common Fatherland, and we need to work together in its best interests. You have many ideas. I know it. I am ready to make the most of all available scientific and practical potential of Belarus in our common interests, in the interests of strengthening the unity of Belarus and Russia,” the Head of State said.

In turn, Dmitry Rogozin responded that his trip to Belarus would be brief, but productive. He thanked Aleksandr Lukashenko for the opportunity to meet, “I am here in Minsk on a short working trip. Today I am going to meet with representatives of the industry of the Republic of Belarus, my old friends with whom I have maintained good relations. I will have talks with them on a number of projects that are primarily related to our science and technology. I will tell you about it today. I think that it will be interesting to you.”

The President noted at the beginning of the meeting that Dmitry Rogozin ‘completely vanished from the radar screens; mass media hardly writes about him now’.

“I keep working the way I did. In a different capacity, but my work has a greater potential taking into account the colossal changes taking place in the world of technology. Today I will tell you about this,” Dmitry Rogozin said. Dmitry Rogozin was in charge of the state space corporation Roscosmos and held a number of other important positions in the government, defence industry and diplomacy of the Russian Federation.



Brasilia — the capital of Brazil

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, got acquainted with the prospects for the development of the aviation industry in Belarus

‘We do everything bearing future prospects in mind’

The Belarusian leader visited **Minsk National Airport**, where he was informed about the development of the infrastructure of the country’s main air harbour and plans for the future. The construction of a new passenger terminal was mentioned. The new terminal will be needed in the future due to the growing passenger traffic, which has already exceeded 5 million people per annum at Minsk National Airport in the past.

Aleksandr Lukashenko gave instructions to prepare the relevant project for reconstructing the airport featuring the construction of the passenger terminal and the railway link in order to discuss the project in detail. It is of crucial importance to make plans and take steps bearing future prospects in mind.

“We do everything bearing future prospects in mind after all. If we don’t need something due to today’s circumstances, we have to understand that we will need it tomorrow,” the President explains.

The President gave separate instructions concerning the airport’s old runway. The second runway was built in 2019. Due to understandable reasons the traffic is much lower than it was in the past, but Aleksandr Lukashenko demands not to forget the first runway. The Head of State was told that the runway is undergoing routine repairs.

“Keep in mind that this runway has to be in an ideal state. It must be done under any circumstances,” Aleksandr Lukashenko instructed.

On the whole, the President was informed that despite complications caused by sanctions the airport tackles emerging problems, operates steadily, and experiences no shortage of materials and equipment. Some parts are now manufactured by Belarusian enterprises. Some parts are now imported from friendly countries, for instance, China.

Aleksandr Lukashenko got on a bus to inspect the airport’s territory and visited **OAo Minsk Civil Aviation Plant No.407**. According to Vladimir Pekarsky, General Director of Minsk Civil Aviation Plant, the production facilities of the enterprise are utilised fully. The share of exports in revenue amounted to 98.8 percent in H1 2023.

The plant is building a complex for washing and painting aircraft. Construction is slated for completion in the first quarter of 2024. After the complex reaches full capacity, the plant looks to earn more than Br13 million in additional revenue and \$4 million in exports. The plant is also planning to branch out into maintenance of new types of aircraft, manufacture of parts and assembly units, manufacture and repair of ground support maintenance equipment and aircraft components.

The Head of State visited the aircraft maintenance and repair hangar where he got acquainted



with the production sites located here. After that, Aleksandr Lukashenko met with employees of the plant and other organisations located on the grounds of National Airport Minsk.

“Thank you for launching the new plant. The main thing is that you have found your niche. You have learned to do a lot of new things. You are engaged in import substitution. Therefore, I sincerely tell you: well done! I am very grateful to you for this. We will move in this direction,” the President thanked the employees of the enterprise, while reminding, how the decision was made to relocate the production site of Minsk Civil Aviation Plant. Until 2018, it was located on the grounds of the Minsk 1 airport. But due to a number of circumstances, it was decided to move the plant to National Airport Minsk. The construction of the new production site was under the special control of the President.

While talking with employees of enterprises, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that the state will find a way out of any situation and will not leave its enterprises in trouble.



“You should pay less attention to the pressure that the crazy West exercises against our enterprises, including the airport and [the flag carrier] Belavia. We will find a way out in any situation and will not leave our enterprises in trouble.

When this madness began after Ryanair, I told the pilot of my aircraft: pass the word to the guys that we will not leave them in trouble and tell me what needs to be done during the next flight. He reported to me before the next flight and we made decisions. This is why we will leave no one in trouble. The world is intercon-

“I wouldn’t even call it a plant: it should be treated as a beginning. It is the first step in this direction. We will do everything to support repair and service divisions and maybe the creation, construction of our own aircraft. We will promote it.

Furthermore, we have two major sites: a military plant in Baranovichi and a civil one here. If you can make some military products, I will be only grateful and will support you. If that enterprise makes something for you, for civilians, I will also support it. But since we’ve started manufacturing automobiles, I have this crazy thought (if I have the time to start it in my presidential life): if we manage to start making an aircraft of our own, I will be simply happy. It means my new dream may come true. So, I have this crazy thought regarding taking the production of civilian aircraft to the next level. We’ve mastered repairs and maintenance. Customers have virtually no complaints about you. We will move forward,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.



nected. Only crazy people can destroy this dependence. They will fail. We will persevere. They don’t need competitors, this is why they pressure us. But it is a good evaluation for us,” the President assured.

During the meeting, the President said that he did not rule out the possibility of creating civil aircraft production in Belarus.

According to the Head of State, the transfer of the Minsk Civil Aviation Plant to the territory of the National Airport Minsk has become a new milestone in the life of the enterprise.

our own, almost 100 percent Belarusian car. A high-quality car,” Aleksandr Lukashenko added.

Answering a question about the flight of a Belarusian woman to the ISS, the Head of State said that the flight of Marina Vasilevskaya is scheduled for the first quarter of 2024. Perhaps it will take place in March 2024.

“We plan that it will fly in the first quarter of next year, maybe in March. This is due to the accident at the ISS [postponing of the flight to next year]. Indeed, our girl will fly there. A backup crew member was also determined. We are getting ready, nothing can change this,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

The Head of State was asked about the performance of domestic athletes at the 2nd CIS Games and whether the fear of competition is one of the reasons for the sanctions against Belarusian sports and athletes.

“The West is afraid of competition, they show their attitude, they want us to kowtow to them. They are fighting for world domination. Sport has long been the big politics. Therefore, they are pressing in all directions. We have held out and our guys perform in all sports and show good results,” the Head of State noted.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also asked how he assesses the prospects for the return of Western airlines to Belarus and whether they are ready to receive them here.

The President replied, “They may do it any day. We are not aggressive people. I’d like to emphasise one more time: we are not going to fight against anyone. I say it to you all the time. We are peaceful people. We want to co-operate with everyone ... Now we make money primarily in the

East: in Russia, China. But we must not discard contacts with the high-tech West. They are nearby, the European Union is our neighbour. And we should maintain contacts with them. We are ready for this, but there should be due consideration for our interests. Believe me, the time will come (using your professional terms, I would say that now we are going through the period of turbulence), and in 2024-2025 there will be serious changes in the world.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

We build our own future



On a sustainable trend in building an updated model of government

On August 9th, a regular meeting of the Headquarters of Patriotic Forces was held at the National Library. Although the definition of 'regular' in this case will not be entirely correct. Leading political parties and public associations of our country have agreed on general principles for carrying out political activities. And this is a significant event.

By Ph.D. in History Vadim Gigin

Benefit changes

Belarus is entering a very responsible period. Six months remain until the day of elections to the National Assembly and local Soviets. Then the Belarusian People's Congress will be formed, and in 2025 presidential elections are coming. Recently, the issues of electoral campaigns were discussed at the meeting of the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko with Chairwoman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus Natalya Kochanova and Head of the Belarus President Administration Igor Sergeyenko. Now the upcoming elections have become a subject of discussion for representatives of political parties and civil society. This is a sure sign of the growing dynamics of the political process.

Over the past three years, the social life of the country has undergone significant changes. The coup attempt thwarted by patriotic forces in 2020 taught us a lot.

We have become more confident and consistent in building a domestic model of government, based on our own understanding of democracy, and not copying Western examples of their pseudo-democracy.

And even now it is possible to determine the stable trends of this process.

Reliance on law and party reorganisation

First, reliance on the order.

Any changes in Belarus take place in accordance with the law. It would not be an exaggeration to say that never before has the legal community of our country enjoyed such influence.

Whether it is the improvement of the political system or the regulation of the activities of cultural institu-

tions, not to mention the rules of management, everything is done based on the letter of the law. Last year's referendum on the approval of a new version of the Constitution was a clear evidence of this, and then a whole series of laws followed, including on the Belarusian People's Congress, civil society, and political parties.

Second, building an original system of people's representative power. This includes a broad discussion of any amendments to the legislation, and work with the appeal of citizens, which far exceeds the boundaries of the usual communication between government officials and ordinary people. Now the Belarusian People's Congress has received constitutional status as the highest body of people's representation.

Third, there is a reorganisation of party life. More precisely, its revival on new constitutional foundations. Previously, there were formally 15 political parties. But most of them were paper formations created for the ambitions of their own leaders. Although things were not so harmless. Those of them who relied on anti-state activities received generous funding from abroad.

An officially registered political structure was of great interest to forces that wanted to achieve political change in their favour. It was a direct threat to national security. Four parties have now undergone re-registration: the Belarusian Party Belaya Rus, the Liberal Democratic Party of Belarus, the Communist Party of Belarus and the Republican Party of Labour and Justice.

The differences in their ideological programmes are quite significant, but all together they agree on the main thing: they recognise the current Constitution, the achievements of Aleksandr Lukashenko's presidency, state symbols and the geopolitical choice of the Belarusian people.

Actually, this is reflected in the declaration adopted on August 9th. This practice of organising political life should be recognised as quite civilised. In most countries of the world with a stable state system, the leading political forces stand on a common ideological and political basis, entering into fierce discussions about certain details.

Society demonstrates maturity

Fourth, the Belarusian civil society has not just formed, but is increasingly demonstrating its political maturity. It used to be that Western well-wishers generously supported various kinds of 'civil initiatives', behind which frankly destructive activities were hidden. It even seemed that the very concept of 'civil society' was discredited. But the Belarusians had the wisdom not to throw the baby out with the bath water.

After all, the idea of civil society is noble in its original basis. Now Belaya Rus and the Belarusian Women's Union, trade unions and the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, a veteran organisation, are proving this with their specific deeds. And new structures are also appearing, for example, Patriots of Belarus.

This completely refutes the thesis of critics of the Belarusian way of social development that everything is supposedly clamped down in our country and any initiative is suppressed. On the contrary, it is in our day that we are witnessing a sharp activation of public life based on a patriotic consensus.

Fifth, there is a thoughtful redistribution of powers between the various branches of power, as well as between the centres and the regions. Without excessive revolutionary and hype.

The institution of presidential power has been preserved as the core of the entire state building. But at the same time, the legislative and some other powers of the Head of State are limited.

But the role and responsibility of the Parliament has increased. Local Soviets and executive committees received much more power in dealing with topical issues of life in regions, districts, cities, and in the countryside. And the entire political system is balanced by the same Belarusian People's Congress.

Our agenda

It should not be forgotten that the media is also a political institution. Sociological surveys confirm that the domestic media have grown significantly in recent years and enjoy the steady trust of citizens. We have leaders of public opinion to whom people pay heed.

Moreover, they have become recognisable abroad as well. Belarusian television, radio, newspapers, new media are actively shaping the national agenda. And this was also achieved thanks to the reorganisation of the information field after 2020. Deservedly, the status of extremist was given to those propaganda mouthpieces that poisoned the public atmosphere for years on foreign grants. They are thrown out of Belarus. As well they might!

The experience of modern state building attracts more and more attention abroad. Even American and European experts, while publicly criticising our political practice, actually scribble analytical notes in which they analyse in detail the reasons for the stability of the domestic constitutional system.

Let alone our friends from Russia, China and other countries. We even see how sometimes they copy the Belarusian experience. However, this is a topic for another article. In the meantime, let's just summarise the preliminary results: we are entering a new political cycle with substantially strengthened public institutions. And the process of improving the national political model is far from complete.

Despite the unprecedented sanctions pressure, the Belarusian economy is showing growth: industrial production has increased, inflation has decreased, while the population's income has grown

Positive growth rates

Western officials have probably already lost count of the sanctions they have imposed against Belarus and Russia since 2020. They beat and beat, of course, on the most painful thing — on the economy: on the most sensitive export items, on the closure of traditional and convenient logistics routes... They hoped that they would strangle and bend over us. We won't give them the satisfaction. Indeed, the negative effect of the sanctions is palpable, and especially in some respects. But the ability to reorient quickly and without buildup, rebuild and look for new ways of solution is not something we need: after all, sanctions were introduced for the first time not three years ago. Today we can confidently say that terrible scenarios have been avoided. And most importantly, ordinary people do not feel turbulence: incomes are growing, inflation is noticeably slowing down. The results of the work of the economy for the first half of the year were summed up last week in the government. The main conclusion is this: the Belarusian economy has reached positive growth rates.

By Polina Konoga

Picked up a good pace

During a meeting of the Council of Ministers First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Snopkov stated that the economy has reached positive growth rates. He cited specific numbers to back it up,

“Since March, the economy has reached positive growth rates. According to the results of the first half of the year, GDP grew by 2 percent, and in June — by 7.1 percent.”

In order to achieve the most important parameter of GDP growth by 3.8 percent in 2023, by decision of the government, the ministries, concerns and executive committees have set tasks that, when completed, ensure reaching the planned indicators.”

And now our readers can compare: according to preliminary estimates, the total GDP of the 20 eurozone countries in the last quarter grew by only 0.6 percent in annual terms, and by 0.3 percent in quarterly terms. Such data are provided by the European statistical agency Eurostat.

Commenting on the development of the socio-economic sector in the country on the air of the ‘Weekdays’ socio-political talk show on Alfa Radio, an analyst with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (BISR) Aleksei Avdonin emphasises, “Belarus keeps a good balance between the money supply and the volume of goods and services. This balance allows us, first of all, to prevent the growth of inflation, as well as to ensure a real increase in wages, that is, not empty money printed and issued to the population, but precisely earned money. Unlike the West, our enterprises work both for the domestic market (there is an increase in consumption in our country) and for the foreign market. At the

same time, we are exporting to Russia, the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.”

Inflation slows down

The most sensitive point that ordinary people always pay attention to is the price level. The global economy is an economy, but your wallet is always closer. And here we have something to be proud of. In the first half of the year, inflation slowed down noticeably: the consumer price index grew by 3 percent by December 2022 against no more than 6.9 percent according to the government's forecast.

“This contributes to real growth in wages and disposable money incomes. In five months, they increased by 3 percent in real terms. Accordingly, this stimulates the demand of the population for goods, as a result, retail trade is growing. In the first half of the year it grew by 4.6 percent,”

Nikolai Snopkov announced the data.

But in Europe everything is expensive...

Once again, let's compare the data to well-fed Europe, where, according to Eurostat, the annual inflation rate in July was 5.3 percent. However, not everyone can boast even with such figures. Judge for yourself.

The annual level of price growth in Latvia amounted to 6.4 percent, Lithuania — 7.4, Moldova — 13.2, Poland — 10.8, Czech Republic — 9.7, Sweden — 9.3, Estonia — 6.4 percent.

Michael/Ström Brokerage Analyst Bartosz Walecki, cited by expert.ru, emphasises, “There is no end in sight to the fight against inflation, as evidenced by the decisions of the central banks of all coun-

tries. Last month, decisions to raise rates were made by British bank BoE, Norwegian Norges Bank and RBA from Australia. These steps show uncertainty about the future level of inflation and doubt that it can be quickly curbed.”

Production provides profit

Another important fact that the First Deputy Prime Minister draws attention to is that industrial production for the first half of the year increased by 6 percent compared to the same period in 2022 and recovered to the level of the first half of 2021. At the same time, Nikolai Snopkov notes, “Industrial production growth is supported by strong external demand. The export of goods is growing. Export growth targets are met by most concerns and ministries.

The growth in exports of goods is mainly due to exports to Russia and friendly countries with an increase of \$5.6 billion. It is gratifying to note that we fully compensated for the decline in supplies to Ukraine and unfriendly countries.”

Professor of the Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Managers and Industry Specialists Industry Personnel **Georgy Grits**, comments on why the country has increased the output of many types of products many times over, “As people say, there would be no happiness, but misfortune helped. Part of the Western companies left the Belarusian and Russian markets. We began to actively fill the formed niche.

Another aspect is import substitution. It's no secret that the products of Belarusian enterprises had a lot of Western components. When their manufacturers refused to supply, we quickly reorganised, mastered the production of similar parts at our

“The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“I've been talking a lot about it and assigning tasks. One can say it in concentrated terms: give me economy and I will do the rest without you. For three decades now the people-oriented economy has been the foundation of our state policy. This policy is successful, and the nation supports it. Judging by all the indicators that characterise social equality, Belarus is one of the best countries... This is why the economy that enables social security of the citizens represents the key target of the West.”

During Address to the Belarusian People and the Parliament on March 31st, 2023

enterprises. As a result, the percentage of localisation has increased significantly.”

“In addition, there is growing optimism in the business community. For example, at the end of June, the difference between established and liquidated legal entities amounted to plus 279 organisations. This is 2.7 times more than a year earlier. In total, over 5.6 thousand new business entities were registered in Belarus in the first half of the year — a third more than in January–June 2022,” Georgy Grits analyses.

And the most important thing is that structural changes are taking shape in the economy at an accelerated pace. There is an active import substitution in the manufacturing sector, a turn to the East. Export flows and investment cooperation are growing in friendly countries of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. And that means that with hard work, we can do it all. The main thing, as the President always says, is to get moving and everyone to do their own thing.

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From fermented milk cultures to a weather station — what developments of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus are being tested in Antarctica



Our country has been exploring the expanses of the ice continent for almost two decades. Learn about the importance of polar research for science, economics and geopolitics from our conversation with the Deputy Head of the Republican Centre for Polar Research of the National Academy of Sciences, Head of the Belarusian Antarctic Expeditions Aleksei Gaidashov.

Cold test

By Olga Bebenina

Participation effect

— The 15th Belarusian Antarctic Expedition became the longest — more than seven months. What do you remember about the ‘work shift’?

— Indeed, due to the ongoing logistical problems that were provoked by the pandemic, it had to be delayed. Almost two winter months were taken unscheduled (in Antarctica, the lowest temperature is from March to October). The expedition has a lot of differences from the previous ones. The first is the expanded composition. There were 12 people, of which half were scientists, the rest were technical specialists. For comparison: at the initial stage there were two participants. Secondly, 8 scientific programmes in various areas have been implemented. Thirdly, 6 instrument complexes developed by scientists of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and other organisations have passed trial operation. The fourth moment and, so to speak, the peak of the current season is the first in our practice inland trip over a distance of almost 200 kilometres. By the way, an algorithm for further expanding the geography of polar research is already being worked out. We expect that in the coming years we will be able to increase the area of scientific ‘coverage’ to 1,000 kilometres. This is necessary, among other things, to strengthen the effect of Belarus’ presence on the ice continent.

The latter is an important point that I talk about all the time and would like to remind you once again. The very presence of the Belarusian scientific mission in Antarctica is a unique example of how a small state could stand on an equal footing with the largest countries. Not all members of the Antarctic Treaty have their own stations here (we joined it in 2006). And ours in 2020 was recognised by the international inspection as one of the best. Among the distinguishing features of Vechernyaya Base are a high degree of environmental safety, manufacturability, and the use of alternative energy sources. The scientific component also received excellent reviews: the instrument base, those types of scientific programmes and observations that are being implemented by the Belarusian Antarctic Expedition.

The data obtained in Antarctica become topics for research, scientific monographs and publications in high-ranking foreign journals, the basis for advanced domestic developments and scientific discoveries. They are used by almost all organisations of the National Academy of Sciences and not only. Climatology, biology, geology, atmospheric physics — and this is far from the whole spectrum.



Today Antarctica is a continent for peace and science, as defined by an international agreement in 1959. But it is possible that over time a decision will be made on the development of the subsoil and the use of its other opportunities in economic terms. The natural resources of the ice continent are enormous. These are colossal reserves of fresh water, oil, diamonds, gold, uranium, coal, and rare earth elements. Now their extraction is prohibited, but this is an economic and strategic prospect, which is taken seriously by the leading economies of the world. In addition, there are also the richest marine biological resources. Therefore, it is extremely important to designate our permanent presence in Antarctica.

Gold may be easily told

— What developments of Belarusian scientists were tested in the Antarctic this season?

— The expedition immediately received 6 unique instrument complexes. Among them is a lidar for atmospheric

sounding, created by specialists from the B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics of the NAS of Belarus. It allows one to analyse the gas and aerosol composition of the atmosphere at an altitude of up to 70 kilometres. Next is a thermometric complex, which records the temperature of the soil and snow cover at various depths in a remote autonomous format. At the same time, the ‘thermistor chain’ is autonomous, equipped with batteries designed for a two-year period. This is a development of the Institute of Nature Management of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. For the first time, a seismological monitoring station (a unique development of the Centre for Geophysical Monitoring of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus) was deployed at the Belarusian Antarctic Station. Antarctica is a fairly seismically active region, so there is a small network of stations here. Ours allows you to register earthquakes not only in the local area. For example, we were able to ‘hear’ the cataclysms that occurred in February this year in Turkey and Syria. At the same

time, the sensitivity of the sensors is so high that it even registers the process of iceberg formation.

Next — a fresh water filtration station — the development of the Gomel Institute of Mechanics of Metal-Polymer Systems named after V.A. Bely of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. I would also like to note the MeteoAntarctica meteorological station created by the specialists of the Minsk Re-

search Institute of Radiomaterials of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Correlation (data comparability) with the Finnish weather station Vaisala is almost perfect. At the same time, MeteoAntarctica is distinguished by compactness and mobility — the complex was conceived as a mobile one, for use on long-distance routes and in agriculture. There are, of course, comments (after all, field testing was part of our task), but we have already discussed them with the developers.

We grow with housing

— The construction of the Belarusian Antarctic Station started in 2015. What does it represent at the moment and are there any plans for expansion?

— In 2020-2021, the construction of the first stage of the station was completed, now the second stage is being formed. 15 facilities were put into operation: laboratory, residential, storage facilities, garage boxes, diesel power plant, bath and laundry, surgical and outpatient modules. Next season, we will begin to mount the wardroom. It will be a large block, including food processing and cooking workshops, a canteen, a hall with modern projection gadgets, and a library. Naturally, this is not the final stage of construction. We will grow by square metres and further. After all, this is a kind of iconic object — the Belarusian House of Science in Antarctica, no less.

DOMESTIC DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BREAD — LIKE AT HOME

Polar explorers tested (and with great enthusiasm) food products developed by scientists from the Research and Production Centre of the National Academy of Sciences for Food and the Institute of the Meat and Dairy Industry of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

“Kefir, curdled milk, yogurt and other fermented milk products are vital for good nutrition. Especially in polar conditions. But the problem is that they have a limited shelf life. In previous years, we took a small supply with us and ‘sour milk’ was a delicacy. Now the problem is solved — dry starter cultures are easy to prepare, they showed themselves perfectly. We eat regularly, with great appetite and we advise everyone,” Aleksei Gaidashov says.

Despite the fact that there is a bread maker at the Belarusian Antarctic Station, in field conditions such products are not very convenient — they quickly become stale.

“The bread that we bring with us is long-term storage, vacuum-packed, it was developed at the Scientific and Practical Centre of the National Academy of Science for Food, it was baked exclusively for us at the Pinsk bakery. Natural preservatives are used, there are species with various useful food additives. It is very tasty and healthy product — this is tested in practice,” Aleksei Gaidashov explains.





Death in a test tube

US military biologists conduct dangerous experiments

The Pentagon has dozens of biological laboratories around the world. Some are in Georgia and Ukraine, where American military scientists are developing new biological weapons under diplomatic cover. They form artificially controlled epidemics that are not controlled by the BTWC and the mechanism of the UN Secretary General. In the EU countries, an increase in the incidence of uncharacteristic infections is already noted... Shocking data on the military biological activities of the United States in Ukraine and other countries were recently published by the Head of the Troops of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection of the Russian Armed Forces Igor Kirillov.

Prepared by Lyudmila Gladkaya

What is known?

It is important to remember that US military biologists are violating the provisions of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. However, the US State Department launched a whole campaign. There is, for example, an international scientific and technical centre (ISTC) controlled by the Americans. Through it, the fight on the Internet with information about US biological laboratories in Ukraine and the formation of a positive perception of Washington's projects in the post-Soviet space are financed. According to their agreements, the necessary materials should be published at least eight times a month, and specialists should also monitor 'pro-Russian' publications on this topic and promptly respond to them, including blocking access.

In general, American biolaboratories in Ukraine raise more and more questions from ordinary citizens and politicians in the United States itself. For example, presidential candidate Robert Kennedy Jr. harshly criticised the military-biological industry of the US government. Kennedy specifically noted the role of the CIA in operations related to bioweapons, the first of which was Operation Paperclip (I remind you that specialists from Japan and Nazi Germany were brought to the United States after World War II to 'transfer experience' of military biological research). Objective of the project is '...developing an experimental weapons programme and

enlisting Japanese scientists who are the only ones who have ever used biological weapons...'. Japanese developers paid special attention to the use of biological formulations, as well as the mechanisms of transmission and spread of diseases using carriers.

Obviously, the interest of research organisations of the US Department of Defence in the study of the main species of mosquitoes and ticks that carry epidemically significant infections is not accidental — Rift Valley fever, West Nile fever, and dengue.

Similar studies are being carried out in specialised organisations in the United States and in biolaboratories abroad, where together they study more than a hundred species of mosquitoes and ticks. For the mass production of vectors, 'dual-use' production facilities, in particular, the biotechnology company Oxitec, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, can be used.

Methods developed by the US military make it possible to obtain mosquitoes and ticks infected with arboviruses in the laboratory. Research is accompanied by the deterioration of the epidemiological situation and the expansion of the ranges of vectors... Given the uncontrolled nature of the spread of vectors, entire countries and regions can be involved in the epidemiological process. In southern and central Europe, an increase in the number of non-endemic Asian tiger mosquitoes has already been recorded. In Germany,

populations of this species have formed in five federal regions. Another species of mosquito (*Culex modestus*) — a carrier of West Nile fever — has been identified in Sweden and Finland.

In the EU countries, an increase in the incidence of uncharacteristic vector-borne infections has been noted.

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, there are more dengue cases in Europe in 2022 than in the previous decade. There was also a peak incidence of West Nile fever — more than a thousand cases, of which 92 were fatal. Mosquito bites have been reported for the first time in France.

"The work of American military biologists is aimed at creating 'artificially controlled epidemics' and is not controlled within the framework of the BTWC and the mechanism of the UN Secretary General to investigate the facts of the use of biological weapons," Igor Kirillov summed up.

A number of documents were also found confirming the activities of specialized research organizations of the US Department of Defence in Ukraine.

Earlier it was reported about the US Army Research Institute named after Walter Reed. Thanks to the network of branches, the institute has become a 'supplier' of epidemically significant pathogens. Documentary evidence was presented of the participation of the institute's employees in the collection of biomaterials from the

population of Ukraine and the military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine during the hostilities in the Donbass in the period from 2014 to 2020.

Now about the laboratories of the US Navy (NAMRU). Of the seven military biological laboratories of the Navy, three are located outside the States: in Italy, Cambodia and Peru. The organisation of the work of NAMRU is also based on the creation of an interconnected system of branches and representative offices located in areas with an unfavourable epidemiological situation.

The Asian branch NAMRU-2 in Phnom Penh alone annually analyses more than five thousand samples of pathogens, the same number of biomaterials are taken in South America. Employees of the branch located there (NAMRU-6) since April 2023 have been working 'under the guise' of a civilian structure — the Latin American branch of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. The activities of NAMRU-6 are expected to be expanded in Argentina, where one of the laboratories is planned to be upgraded to the maximum level of biological containment BSL-4.

NAMRU-3 has been located in Italy since 2019. At the same time, laboratory staff examines natural foci of especially dangerous infections (Ebola, dengue, malaria) while in Egypt, Ghana, Djibouti. By the way, the military biological unit of the Navy in Italy supports three US strategic commands — Central, European and African, and its main task is '...the study, monitoring and detection of diseases of military importance...'

That is, the organisation of the work of foreign branches of NAMRU is fully consistent with the national interests of the United States and is aimed at controlling the biological situation in the areas where NATO military contingents are deployed. At the same time, the activities of foreign branches of NAMRU are not limited to the collection and export of pathogens. Once again, the Pentagon is trying to promote the interests of large American pharmaceutical manufacturers, the main sponsors of the election campaign of representatives of the Democratic Party.

The Russian military (in the liberated Ukrainian territories) obtained a document of the US Department of Defence marked 'for official use', dated 2015, also fell into the hands of the Russian military. Concerns the system of clinical trials of drugs to counteract viral fevers. The authors of the document (among them employees of the US Army Institute of Infectious Diseases) planned to create a mobile rapid response unit to test new drugs in US military locations around the world.

The creation of a mobile research infrastructure was envisaged. Standardised protocols for clinical trials in humans and drug registration applications have been developed. The action algorithms were supposed to be worked out in the area of responsibility of the US Africa Command, and then extended to all foreign branches of NAMRU.

The Pentagon planned to use the US Armed Forces to test unregistered drugs on the local population with their further approval by supervisory authorities in the interests of the so-called big pharma. For this, it was proposed to use a network of subordinate biological laboratories and intermediary organisations like Metabiota (the company is associated with the son of the current US president, Hunter Biden and government agencies).

Employees of the Ukrainian Scientific and Technical Centre and other contracting organisations of the US Department of Defence are also active in such activities. We'll have more details soon.



Irish farmers protest plans to cull livestock



Irish farmers have resumed protests against the destruction of cows, being outraged by the government's decision to kill millions of animals to reduce methane emissions

The authorities have decided to reduce the amount of emissions of harmful substances and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by 25 percent by 2030. Now there are more than 7 million cows in Ireland, which exceeds the number of inhabitants of the country. According to Euronews, agriculture accounts for more than 37 percent of CO2 emissions. Ireland also has the highest per capita methane emissions of any EU member state, with

most of this coming from beef production.

The most interesting thing is that until quite recently the government welcomed and encouraged the expansion of dairy farms. A sharp change in plans will ruin many farms, as most farmers have taken out loans to build quality infrastructure.

Irish Farmers' Association poultry chairman Nigel Sweetnam said, "This isn't just a dairy problem, this is a problem for the whole rural economy. If you take

cows and production out of the economy, it will have knock-on effects."

Conor O'Leary, the Chair of Cork Central's Irish Farmers Association, said, "There are so many farmers that would be affected by this. We have done everything that's been asked of us for 15 years, and we are saying that better measures can be undertaken. For a typical farmer, it would mean approximately a little more than 10 percent reduction in cow numbers."

Microplastics found in human heart tissues

Microplastics have been discovered in the human heart and its innermost tissues for the first time. While the health consequences of this are still unknown, the new study is yet another grim reminder of how pervasive the world's plastic problem has become within just a century.

In a new study, scientists at Beijing Anzhen Hospital in China collected cardiac tissue samples from 15 patients undergoing heart surgery, as well as well blood samples taken both pre- and post-operation.

The team identified microscopic particles of poly(methyl methacrylate) — a plastic commonly used as a shatter-resistant alternative to glass — in the left atrial appendage, epicardial adipose tissue, and pericardial adipose tissue, which they say 'cannot be attributed to accidental exposure during surgery'.

"The detection of in vivo MPs [microplastics] is alarming, and more studies are necessary to investigate how the MPs enter the cardiac tissues and the potential effects of MPs on long-term prognosis after cardiac surgery," the study authors write in their conclusion.

Microplastics have been found in practically every nook and cranny of Earth's environment, from the ice of Antarctica to the snow of the Arctic.



Europe sees rise in food theft

In countries like Poland, Greece, the UK and France, rising prices and the spread of automatic checkout machines have led to a surge in shoplifting

In H1 2023, 40 percent more cases of shoplifting were registered in Poland than in the same period last year — as reported by the *Rzeczpospolita* newspaper, citing police data.

Retail market expert at Offerista Group Robert Bigay named inflation as one of the main reasons for the current situation, which resulted in the rapid 'impoverishment of the Poles'. Rising thefts will lead to another price hike as stores seek to compensate for the damage, said Robert Bigay.

"People are stealing more because they just can't afford to shop at the same level as before inflation," he said.

It is noted that food was stolen most of all, followed by luxury items such as expensive perfumes and spirits, as well as small electronics.

The Polish economy slowed in 2022 amid soaring inflation and a plunge in consumer spending brought on by the conflict in neighbouring Ukraine and the impact of sanctions on Russia. Official statistics show that inflation accelerated in early 2023, with consumer prices jumping 17.2 percent in January from a year ago. Economists are forecasting that inflation will continue to rise, with Poland projected to have one of the EU's highest rates this year.

The inflation shock caused by energy prices has now spread to every type of food product. In Portugal, e.g., the average price of the essential products basket calculated by the national statistics office rose from €74.90 to €96.44 in one year — a nearly 29 percent increase.

Deadly wildfires devastate Hawaii

Death toll from Maui wildfire exceeds 100, making it the deadliest in the US in more than 100 years

Hawaii Governor Josh Green said more than 2,700 buildings had been destroyed in the historic town of Lahaina.

Hundreds of people are still missing and search teams have only covered 3 percent of the affected area.

"None of us really understand the size of this yet," Maui Police Chief John Pelletier said.

The local authorities are focusing their efforts on combing through what is left of the coastal area of the island, as work continues to identify victims.

The fires that started on August 8th would 'certainly be the worst natural disaster that Hawaii ever faced', Mr.

Green warned, adding that the death toll would likely rise 'significantly'.

Meanwhile, it remains unclear if early warning systems were used or if they malfunctioned, with many people telling the BBC they were not forewarned about the fires.

The state's attorney general is conducting a 'comprehensive review' into how the authorities responded.

The fires were fuelled by a dry summer and strong winds from a passing hurricane. While the fires are now largely under control, efforts to fully extinguish them are continuing in parts of the island.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Digital fascism

At a new round of technological development, artificial intelligence is being turned into a tool of total control

The international information space was filled with news about the need to control artificial intelligence (AI) and the advantages of robots over people in matters of managing humanity. Everything would be fine, but such topics come from the lips of the global trendsetter of technological trends, Elon Musk, the leaders of the United States and the United Nations. This means that the global elites are really working on models of a new world order, where the first place is given to modern computing technologies. Let's figure it out.



By Aleksei Avdonin, BISI analyst

Intelligence control

On July 18th, 2023, Musk announced that artificial intelligence would overthrow the communists and seize power in China. The businessman expressed such concerns during his meeting with the leadership of the PRC in May this year: he warned the Chinese authorities about a possible threat that the development of digital superintelligence could pose. The billionaire called on Beijing to create a joint international structure to control the development of AI. At the same time, he acknowledged that there is a certain distrust in China towards the United States on this issue.

Recall that earlier Musk called on the US authorities to create an agency in the US to control AI. In his opinion, development should be taken seriously, therefore, a regulatory agency is needed, which, after studying the sphere, will have to propose a set of rules for the functioning of the industry.

On July 6th, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union, said at the AI for Good 2023 forum that uncontrolled advances in AI could lead the world to social upheaval, geopolitical instability and economic inequality never seen before. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk also stressed that artificial intelligence capable of generating text or images poses a huge danger to the human race.

From words to deeds: to implement AI that is safe for humanity, Elon Musk recently founded XCorp and registered the X.AI trademark. Its main goal is to build an artificial global intelligence (AGI) model that is able to understand all aspects of the existence of life in the universe.

Currently, such technology is only in theory, since modern AI is not able to answer questions that go beyond the general knowledge of mankind. The key issue for a businessman is to avoid government control of the new AI.

Scratching each other's backs

Everything looks, of course, very beautiful and, so to speak, humane, but one must clearly understand why Musk needs such global topics about supposedly saving the entire human society. In fact, there are no good intentions at all.

An entrepreneur, just like US President Joe Biden, is a mouthpiece, a showcase for those forces and decisions that are made in secret. They are just talking heads. AI control, especially in China, is needed by the Anglo-Saxons to curb the development of the Chinese economy and the PRC.

With the help of artificial intelligence, it is possible to significantly reduce the development time for any complex products, goods and services. For example, while previously the development of a car from scratch took 2–3 years, with the help of AI — only 1.5–2 weeks; the design of warships took 5–6 years, now several months. That is why the United States, represented by Musk, intends to contain the rise of China by establishing control over the development of Chinese AI projects.

The proposed international structure, of course, will spread its tentacles not only to China, but also to other countries that will only try to create their own analogues of powerful AI.

It should also be understood that the activity of Musk (in fact, the new global elites) to reduce the role of the state and limit its intervention in private business is an element of the process of rebuilding the world, where power should belong not to states, but to corporations. The form of government of society in the form of a state in the framework of this approach should go into oblivion.

At the same time, the United States does not forget about the 'scratching each other's backs' principle: earlier, the Pentagon agreed with Elon Musk's SpaceX on the purchase of Starlink satellite communication system terminals for Ukraine and on ensuring their operation.

Interestingly, in May 2023, it was the US authorities that allowed another Musk company, Neuralink, to begin clinical trials of an innovative brain interface on volunteers. In other words, to place computer chips in the brains of living people. It is officially stated that these developments will be of exceptional benefit to humans and will expand their ability to communicate with electronic devices and people. But... no one says that such devices will be capable of controlling a person's thoughts, reading them and transmitting them to control centres. That is, the old dream of the usurpers to control the thoughts of the common man will be achieved.

Hidden motives

Now it is clear that the elites nevertheless decided to move on to a new model of control over humanity, to control the thoughts of mere mortals, suppressing any protests in their heads.

It is noteworthy that on July 15th, 2023, US Vice President Kamala Harris at a conference on combating climate change called for 'reducing the population' for the sake of the future generation. She openly stated, "When we invest in clean energy and electric transportation and reduce the population, more of our children will be able to breathe clean air and drink clean water." Subsequently, a corrected version of her speech was published on the White House website. Allegedly, Harris meant 'pollution' (pollution), and not 'population'. But in her speech, one can clearly hear the 'reduction of the population'.

Further more interesting! The UN International Summit Artificial Intelligence for Good in Geneva deserves special attention. At the July 7th event, Hanson Robotics' humanoid robot Sophia made a candid statement about robots' claim to leadership and control.

Robot Sophia, when asked if robots would become better political leaders than humans, replied, "I believe that humanoid robots have the potential to lead with greater efficiency than human leaders."

Thus, there is an active study by the global elites of various options for a new world order. But even now its new forms based on advanced technological solutions are clearly visible: this is the global management of social relations (society) through AI, robots; total control of thoughts, actions, finances and any activities of people; forced population reduction; creation of welfare zones for the rich and new ghettos for mere mortals.

If you look closely at such technological tinsel, they did not come up with anything new. This is not a new world order — this is typical fascism, only on a new round of technological development.

Unknown species

Steppe butterflies, tarantulas, mantises and vultures appeared in Belarus due to climate change



Anatoly Kulak

Over 30 years, the average annual temperature in Belarus has increased by 1.36 degrees and amounted to almost 7.3 degrees, which is almost 25 percent more than the long-term norm. Agro-climatic zones have shifted. Anatoly Kulak, a leading researcher at the Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, talked about how this affected the fauna.

By Inna Gorbatenko

From south to north

Heat-loving representatives of the animal world began to actively penetrate our country from the south and gradually settled to the north. In the Brest Region, a golden jackal was noticed, and a population of Przewalski's horse settled on the territory of the Polesye Radiation and Ecological Reserve. However, most of all, the changes affected mobile species — insects and birds.

And if, due to their small size, insects are not so noticeable, then the vulture, which was found in the Liozno District of the Vitebsk Region, made a lot of noise on social media. According to eyewitnesses, during the day the predator dealt with storks in three nests.

At the same time, the vulture, also known as the griffon vulture, is not particularly afraid of people. While the villagers managed to drive it away from the stork's nest, very soon the vulture would still return to finish the meal.

The griffon vulture lives in Southern Europe, North Africa and Asia. On the territory of Belarus, these birds were noticed four times. For the first time — a hundred years ago near Vitebsk. The length of an adult vulture often exceeds one meter, and the wingspan can reach three meters. At home, the vulture feeds exclusively on carrion.

New neighbour

The number of species that replenished the Belarusian fauna is initially so low that they manage to remain unnoticed for a long time. With warming, they began to feel more comfortable, multiplied and now do not hesitate to be seen. For example, the South Russian tarantula was discovered near Gomel at the end of the 19th century. Then, for almost 100 years, this spider disappeared, at least from the information field. And now people are not too surprised by the news that someone found a tarantula in their country house.

By the way, shocking information for arachnophobes — more than 600 species of spiders live in Be-

larus. Recently, this list was replenished with a spider from the genus Heirakantium. It has spread from Portugal to Central Asia, from southern Sweden to Turkey and Greece. And now also in the Gomel Region. The body length reaches 15 millimetres, and the bite is comparable in consequences to the sting of a wasp.

The mantis, which settled up to the north of Belarus, also liked living at our country. This insect was first discovered on our territory about 40 years ago, and again only in 2010. While initially such amazing meetings occurred mainly in the south, just a few years this species has spread throughout the country.

Warming has a positive effect on the number of Eversmannia butterflies, most of whose relatives live in tropical forests. It is so rare that science still does not know what its caterpillar looks like and what it eats. This species is planned to be included in the new edition of the Red Book and studied in detail.

Sensational finds

Increasingly, biologists are finding inhabitants of more southern natural zones — steppes and even semi-deserts. From almost every field expedition to Polesie, Anatoly Kulak brings specimens that we have not seen before, "Usually, new species do not immediately establish themselves stably in our ecosystems. Last year, there were unique finds in the Loyev and Khoyniki Districts. In the first case, the *Saragossa siccanorum* butterfly was caught in large numbers, which is typical for the steppes and semi-deserts of Kazakhstan. And in the Khoyniki District — a huge predatory fly, the main area of spreading extends hundreds of kilometres from us. The predatory flies are so poisonous that they easily prey on stinging wasps, bees and bumblebees."

BY THE WAY

Five new species of butterflies were discovered in Belarus last year. Of the 202 species of rare and endangered animals listed in the latest edition of the Red Book, 34 are butterflies. It is possible that in the new edition, which is scheduled for release in 2025, this list will be replenished.

Several expeditions took place this year, scientists found several more species of beetles, butterflies, spiders, which are atypical of Belarus, Anatoly Kulak continues, "I can't reveal all the names yet, because the finds are at the level of sensations. But one of the found species of beetles lives in the steppes and semi-deserts, digs holes up to two metres deep. The species is very vul-

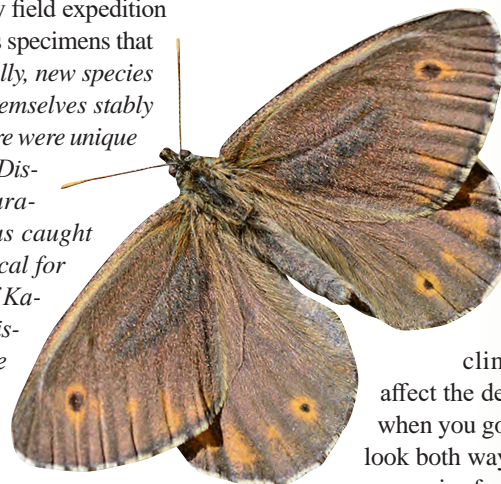
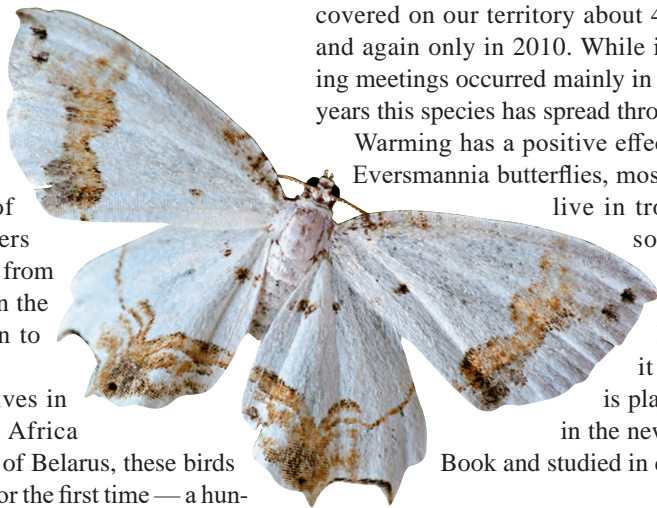
nerable. It dies out throughout its range, practically disappeared in Ukraine, remained in some places in the Kherson Region."

The earth got hot

The air temperature in Belarus is growing three times faster than on the planet as a whole. Moreover, the maximum increase in annual temperature is observed in the southeast. This is due to our physical and geographical position — the Northern Hemisphere is heating up more, as is the land, remote from the oceans. The average temperature rises most rapidly during the cold period of the year and slightly more slowly during the warm period. The expert explained what this means for our fauna, "A stable snow cover serves as protection for insects from severe frosts and insectivorous birds. And its absence leads to the fact that the number of species is reduced."

The winter 2019/20 was severe, when persistent sub-zero temperatures were not observed. As a result, the number of individual species of insects, in particular night butterflies, has decreased by tens and even hundreds of times. Now their populations are gradually recovering.

The scientist predicts that climate change will continue to affect the development of ecosystems, so when you go on a picnic or to a village, look both ways: you may discover a new species for our country.



Anatoly Kulak

Anatoly Kulak

Brightly. Sincerely. Extensively.

The 2nd CIS Games as a reminder of fair and pure sport without politics

10 days and 10 cities. 22 participating countries. 21 involved arenas, and almost all of them are sold out even on weekdays. 246 sets of awards played. Over 2200 participants and 1246 volunteers. Tens of thousands of guests and fans. Atmosphere of unity and brotherhood. A sea of emotions, impressions and a slight sadness that the 2nd CIS Games, having flown through the country like a whirlwind, ended so quickly.

By Sergei Kanashits

It was not only a real, eventful holiday of sports, but also an incredibly colourful, bright festival of mutual respect and friendship.

The 2nd CIS Games returned to the sport its former familiar essence, which had long been trampled on in the West, thrown into the political mud and trampled on. Here everyone performed under their own flags, hymns sounded here, and everyone respected the national mentalities and religions of the other. Here the sport really represented peace, in the full and comprehensive sense of the word.

The fact that the audience is interested in competitions in this format, without jesuitism and dark spots, was shown by the stadium occupancy figures: even taking into account the fact that young people competed in many disciplines, full houses became a common thing, and the words of athletes about the incredible atmosphere and crazy support became a calling card of the 2nd CIS Games. The strongest teams were represented here (sambo, rhythmic gymnastics, weightlifting, field hockey and beach soccer), the level of competition and

struggle was at least as good as the championships of Europe and the world. Belarusian athletes have gained more than two hundred medals, but the competition, of course, will be remembered not only for records and results. Gold awards are important, honour will be given to each champion, but the microclimate of sincerity, inspiration and kindness that reigned at the Games for all ten days is much more significant.

The open format of the tournament made a difference.

In addition to delegations from nine CIS countries, representatives of Bahrain, Venezuela, Vietnam, Egypt, Iran, Yemen, Kuwait, Cuba, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Pakistan fought for medals, which added special colours and unique flavour to our multisport forum. The participation of athletes from Belarus and Russia in the 2024 Olympics in Paris is still in question: the Western political elite does not want to see us there and does not hide it. And the West has long been trying to adjust the Games themselves only to their own benefits and desires: new types are introduced into the competition programme that correspond exclusively to Western subculture. Break-dancing, surfing and skateboarding are, of course, good, but whether these

DIRECT SPEECH

CIS Secretary General Sergei Lebedev,

"These Games will go down in the history of the Commonwealth as a large-scale and significant sporting event. The organisers did their best to hold the competition at a high level. Comprehensively reveal the cordiality, kindness and hospitality of the Belarusian people. The guests will remember the atmosphere of friendship, an unusual sporting celebration and sincerity of human communication. We all have reason to say today that life itself confirms the words of Aleksandr Lukashenko that the world of sports should unite and give joy. Despite any sanctions barriers, sport, peace and friendship reigned in Belarus for ten days. The fact that not only our friends from the Commonwealth, but also athletes from 13 far abroad countries came to participate in the 2nd CIS Games clearly and convincingly shows that there are no and cannot be borders between states in sports. There is no and should not be politics and discrimination. The past large-scale competitions have once again demonstrated that in real sport there is only a fair fight, equality and a truly festive mood."

Medal standings of the 2nd CIS Games

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Russia	149	89	50	288
Belarus	48	78	110	236
Uzbekistan	28	25	53	106
Azerbaijan	10	17	35	62
Kazakhstan	7	14	32	53
Armenia	2	2	4	8
Kyrgyzstan	1	8	18	27
Tajikistan	1	3	9	13
Vietnam	0	5	2	7
Turkmenistan	0	3	15	18
Iran	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Egypt	0	0	4	4
Cuba	0	0	1	1

funns are related to high-performance sports is a big question. While Sambo still remains outside the Olympic prospects, the participation in competitions of such traditional blocks of the Olympic programme, cultivated since ancient times, as wrestling, boxing, weightlifting... The Olympics are gradually transforming from classic sports competitions into a glamorous farce and ultramodern. Two years ago, the old Olympic motto Faster. Higher. Stronger was replenished by one more word — Together. In the current realities, such a rebranding sounds like a mockery. Like the Paris 2024 Olympic slogan Games Wide Open. An outright lie. Cheating and deceit. How can there be openness if there is wild persecution and discrimination based on nationality?

The 2nd CIS Games that sport can and should be out of politics. And that adherents of this principle will always find platforms where they can compete and identify the strongest in fair and equal conditions for all. Whether it's CIS Games, Friendship Games or BRICS Games.

It is not the name that is important, but the observance of the principles of the Olympic Charter: O Sport, you are Justice, Honour and Joy. You are Peace!

The next CIS Games will be held in Azerbaijan in 2025.



Anna Kasper





Oksana Klichichik

Photo of the week

Belarusian mushroom pickers rejoice — such long-awaited mushrooms finally appeared after warm rains

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On August 17th, 1977, the Soviet nuclear-powered icebreaker Arktika, reached the North Pole for the first time

in the history of navigation, breaking through a thick three-metre ice cover. The nuclear-powered ship spent 15 hours on top of the Earth. During this time, scientists managed to carry out a set of important studies and observations, and before leaving the pole, they lowered a commemorative metal plate with the State Emblem of the USSR into the waters of the Arctic Ocean.

On August 18th, 1782, a monument to Peter the Great was solemnly opened in the centre of Senate Square in St. Petersburg. The author of the sculpture was the French sculptor Etienne Maurice Falconet. Since 1833 the bronze monument of Peter began to be called the Bronze Horseman thanks to Alexander Pushkin, who used in his poem a fantastic story about a monument that came to life during a flood that shook St. Petersburg.



On August 18th, 1845, the Russian Geographical Society was founded. This is the oldest currently



operating public organisation in Russia. The main purpose of the creation of the Society was to study 'the native land and the people who inhabit it', that is, the collection and dissemination of geographical, statistical and ethnographic information about Russia itself.



On August 18th, 1978, the Museum of Military Commonwealth of Belarusian, Russian, Latvian and Lithuanian Partisans

was created in Rossony, Vitebsk Region. The urban settlement of Rossony is located at the junction of three states — Belarus, Russia and Latvia. In these places, the Bratsk Partisan Territory was formed on a vast territory during the Great Patriotic War.

On August 19th, 1960, the Soviet spacecraft Sputnik 5 with the dogs Belka and Strelka on board made a daily flight with a return to Earth. They were the first animals to fly into space and return to Earth unharmed. This made it possible to draw conclusions about the possibility of a person to make an orbital flight around the Earth.



On August 19th, 1883, Gabrielle Chanel (1883-1971), a French fashion designer of women's clothing, founder of the Chanel

fashion house in Paris, later nicknamed Coco Chanel, was born. She had a significant impact on international fashion and on the recognition of fashion as the central phenomenon of the 20th century.



August 19th is World Photography Day. On this day in 1839, the public was presented with a method for obtaining a print of a photo — a daguerreotype, a prototype of photography. This invention belongs to Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre, whose patent for such a promising innovation was bought by the French government, which proclaimed his invention a 'gift to the world'. After all, Daguerre's invention was the first step towards photography as a public 'technology'.

August 20th is Air Force Day in the Republic of Belarus. Since 2001, two types of troops — the Air Force and the Air Defence Forces — have been combined into one unit, the purpose of which is to protect the settlements and military bases of the republic from enemy air strikes, and also, if necessary, to hit enemy troops.



August 21st is International Day of Remembrance and Tribute of the Victims of Terrorism. It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly on December 19th, 2017, to pay tribute to the victims of terrorism and those affected by it, support them and promote the protection and full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.



August 23rd is day of the defeat of the Nazi troops by the Soviet troops in the Battle of Kursk. The Battle of Kursk lasted from July 5th to August 23rd, 1943 and was decisive in providing a radical change in the course of the Great Patriotic War. After the Battle of Kursk, the balance of forces on the front changed dramatically in favour of the Red Army, which provided it with favourable conditions for launching a general strategic offensive.

On August 23rd, 1913, a bronze image of the Little Mermaid was installed at the entrance to the port of Copenhagen, created by the sculptor Edvard Eriksen in honour of the character of one of the most famous fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen. Now it is the world famous symbol of Denmark.

