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INTERNATIONAL

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Socio-political Weekly

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Yegor Yermalitskiy

The main goal of the presidential experimental fields is precisely to rely on science, introduce new varieties of seeds and technologies, get better results and then replicate this experience throughout the country. In the photo Slesarev Aleksei — chief agronomist of Aleksandriyskoye farm, Mogilev Region

## Harvest backed by science

During his visit to the Brest and Grodno Regions in early August, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko demanded a wider use of domestic seeds in the cultivation of crops. This approach is used by the Head of State in all spheres, and life confirms his correctness.

Belarus has a well-developed agricultural machinery industry, and with our equipment we can perform all operations in the fields. There are also enough seeds of domestic selection. But quantity does not equal quality. With an excess of their supply, some agricultural producers turn towards foreign varieties. Why do they use imports? What are the problems here, and how are they solved? → 4



# Co-operation for the security of peoples

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, met with member of the CPC Central Military Commission, State Councillor, Minister of National Defence Colonel General Li Shangfu

The Head of State warmly welcomed Li Shangfu to Belarus, calling him the world's most media person.

"I have a reason to start our conversation with calling you the world's most media person today. Your work and the efforts of the People's Republic of China to promote its interests, the main ideas on the world order are heard by the entire world today. China and Belarus share the same main ideas of the current and future prospective world order. We, together, have been demonstrating this for the past three decades," Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

The President made a special emphasis on the fact that Belarus and China have similar views on many issues,

***"We are absolute supporters of a multipolar world, territorial integrity and unity of the borders and territories formed after World War II. We stay committed to non-interference in the internal affairs of states. In short, the whole palette on which China's foreign policy is based is similar to ours."***

## VISIT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

During the state visit of President Aleksandr Lukashenko to China in the first quarter of 2023, Belarus and China signed almost four dozen agreements and contracts worth \$3.5 billion. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Xi Jinping adopted a joint statement on further developing exemplary relations of all-weather and partnership between Belarus and China in a new era.

"Bilateral relations have made a historic leap forward and have become an example of a new type of international relations. Taking into account the high level of co-operation between the states, as well as in order to improve the welfare of the two countries and their peoples, the parties agreed to further develop the all-weather and all-round partnership between the two countries in a new era," the document says.

China supports the efforts of Belarus in maintaining political stability and economic development, and opposes any outside interference in the internal affairs of Belarus under any pretext. The document also speaks of the inadmissibility of the



***You should know that for more than 30 years we have always supported China in all its aspirations, because we consider the domestic and foreign policy of the People's Republic of China absolutely fair, aimed at peaceful resolution of any disputes and conflicts."***

During the conversation, the parties also discussed important issues of our time.

"Unfortunately, the world is absolutely unstable today, through no fault of ours. Very powerful turbulent developments are happening in the world. We must be strong. Strength is always respected. In our policy we rely on a strong economy and strong diplomacy. I

am very grateful to you for your support in military-technical and military co-operation. In this regard, we rely on our friends, first of all, the Russian Federation and China," Aleksandr Lukashenko stated.

The President noted that this visit is the first one for Li Shangfu to Belarus.

***"It is very important for Belarus. All our co-operation, which is very significant (we did not hide it from anyone), is by no means directed against third countries. We don't need that. We need to protect our states and our peoples," the President said.***

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he had good and friendly relations with

Chinese President Xi Jinping, "I have deep respect for my friend. We have known each other for a long time. Please convey my warmest and best wishes to him and his family for all that China has done for Belarus recently."

The Head of State also asked to convey good wishes to Chinese leader's wife Peng Liyuan.

In turn, Li Shangfu conveyed the best wishes and warm greetings to Aleksandr Lukashenko on behalf of the President of the People's Republic of China. He praised Belarus' great successes in its development and the role of the Belarusian Head of State in this.

"You are a far-sighted political and strategic leader. You are greatly loved by the Belarusian people. You lead Belarus and achieve great success in the prosperity and development of your country. Let me express my sincere and deep respect for your high contribution to peace and development in the world," the Chinese defence minister said.

The guest recalled the Belarusian leader's state visit to China earlier this year, during which the Heads of State reached important agreements to further strengthen bilateral military co-operation, including in the military sector.

"The purpose of my visit to Belarus is the implementation of important agreements at the level of Heads of State and further strengthening of bilateral military co-operation," Li Shangfu said.

**Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by**

## Chinese Minister of National Defence Li Shangfu on Belarusian-Chinese relations,

***"Our bilateral relations are steadily developing. Last year they received the new status of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership. This suggests that our relations have received a historical leap and now the Belarusians, and we are truly iron brothers... Last year, the growth in trade between our countries amounted to 33 percent. From January to May of this year, the development trend of trade turnover also showed good growth and amounts to \$3.7 billion, or 127 percent of the development level. The Chinese side is ready to further expand our traditional friendship, deepen co-operation in all industries and fields."***



## REFERENCE

The development of military-technical co-operation with China has been carried out since 1995. To date, all the necessary contractual and legal basis for bilateral co-operation has been formed. Interaction between the Belarusian Defence Ministry and the Ministry of National Defence of the People's Republic of China is carried

out in accordance with the Agreement on Military Co-operation dated May 13th, 2010.

From 2013 to 2020, 10 high-level military delegations visited the PRC and 13 such delegations visited the Republic of Belarus.

In 2011, 2015, on the territory of Belarus, and in 2012, 2018 in China, joint anti-terrorist trainings were held by units of the special operations forces

of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus and units of the airborne troops of the Chinese Air Force. These events made it possible to exchange experience, coordinate the Belarusian and Chinese units, create a foundation for the further development of Belarusian-Chinese relations in the field of joint training of troops. In 2012, during the visit of the Belarusian Defence Minister to China,

an agreement was reached on the annual holding of joint exercises (trainings).

In the period from August 3rd to August 18th, 2018, a Hunting Falcon — 2018 joint Chinese-Belarusian anti-terrorist training (exercise) was held in China. The next training (exercises) on the territory of Belarus has been postponed to 2024 at the initiative of the Chinese side.

The President of Belarus promised to grant this interview Ukrainian journalist Diana Panchenko two years ago during a Big Conversation with the President, and he has kept his word. Much has changed during this time. A criminal investigation has been opened and sanctions have been introduced in her homeland. The interview became a big conversation about many other important things: the Head of State frankly answered questions for about two hours. We offer readers some vivid quotes from Aleksandr Lukashenko.

# On War and Peace: a frank interview with Aleksandr Lukashenko



## On the start of hostilities in Ukraine

The conversation began with the gratitude of the journalist to the President, who agreed to a conversation in the ‘no forbidden questions, no forbidden topics’ format.

Diana Panchenko drew attention to the opinion that has been repeatedly expressed: if it were not for the Special Military Operation, then Ukraine would have attacked first. But, according to her, many Ukrainians do not believe this.

Aleksandr Lukashenko talked in detail with the journalist about the events that were taking place then. First of all, he clarified that in January and February 2022, Belarus and Russia conducted routine planned exercises, “The exercises were large-scale. We have seen the situation on the border, what is going on in the west from Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. Remember the migrant crisis, to which we had practically nothing to do. The West called migrants to itself — they went there. Including through our territory. They walked in droves through the Ukrainian territory, but it was not given as much importance as the situation on the border of Belarus and Poland. We understood that they were starting to draw us in, to entangle us, to provoke us. We saw our main danger there.”

After the exercises ended, the Head of State continued, Russian troops and equipment began to withdraw from the territory of Belarus, “And on February 23rd or 24th, part of these troops, this is not the whole group, began to cross the border of Ukraine and Russia. And for you, it was unexpected, and for the whole world, although many said that the war would begin, but few believed. They began to cross this border. Why? Ask the President of Ukraine a question... You can’t reproach me for anything. There was not a single Belarusian soldier there.”

The Belarusian leader recalled that he had already talked about four Ukrainian sub-divisions that were armed with Tochka-U missile systems and deployed along the border, “Long before February 24th. Our intelligence were tracking them. Once they came close, removed the tarpaulin — shelters from the missiles, deployed them in a combat position and turned them towards us. The Russians destroyed them in the first place.”

## On previous events

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to an important point, “We are accused of contributing to the start of the war here. No, the warfare was already underway. You started it. The Ukrainians started this warfare against Belarus. Economic warfare first of all. You have declared a blockade on us in the southern direction. You closed the sky to our planes even before the Europeans did. You did not let our goods through. Furthermore, you arrested thou-

sands of wag-ons with mineral fertilisers that we loaded here in the port of Odessa. Then you captured heavy trucks, 73 or 74 people, killed several people, and I had to conduct a special operation to free them. We took these people away, the Ukrainians didn’t even notice it.”

Belarusian leader draws attention, “We acted very carefully. We did not commit any hostile acts against you, either economic, or political, or diplomatic. We behave very respectfully. Why did Putin begin to withdraw troops to the Far East through Kiev? You ask Zelensky this question. He knows better. But there are reasons to accuse me of Putin going to Vladivostok through Kiev... Well, you can ask Putin.”

## On plans to ‘take Kiev in three days’

Diana Panchenko recalled the interview of Aleksandr Lukashenko to Russian journalist Vladimir Solovyov, which took place on February 4th, 2022. In it, the Belarusian leader said that in the event of a war between Russia and Ukraine, ‘everything will last 3–4 days, there will be no one to fight there’. Hence the question: was there the same plan to ‘take Kiev in three days’?

The Head of State responded that an estimate of three to four days was figurative, but it was definitely the matter of several days, “If the Russians had occupied Kiev, the war would have ended by now.”

“There is a very important point here: everyone in Ukraine is sure that Zelensky defended Kiev and that the Ukrainian army repelled the invasion, so the Russians withdrew,” the journalist explained.

The President shared his position on this matter, “Listen, it is a fairy tale and nothing else. But all of it was probably cooked up by mass media and Zelensky himself in order to demonstrate his heroism.”

“How is it really?” Diana Panchenko asked.

Aleksandr Lukashenko explained, “I had a conversation with Putin in connection with this. I said: ‘War is war, but in order for the war to end, of course, it is necessary to take the capital’. Putin replied to me: ‘You know, it can be done right away, instantaneously but a huge number of people will die’. Guns, tanks are hiding behind kindergartens and hospitals — how, he says, to fight with them? ‘We are conducting a targeted operation. We are on the outskirts of Kiev. We can’t beat like them, indiscriminately.’ That is, he was worried that he would have to fight in such a way that there would be nothing left in the place of the schools.”

The Head of State added that the Ukrainian army continues to use civilian facilities in which there are people, especially children. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “No Zelensky countered anything there. Putin withdrew troops from Kiev. How did he, Zelensky, protect? Did he defeat the Russian army there? No. Therefore, in vain he ascribes to himself this feat, which did not exist.”

## On Zelensky in the cellar and Ukrainian leaders

Diana Panchenko did not hide her surprise, “You just said a sensational thing. I know the mood in Ukraine well, this is what Zelensky’s main propaganda is now based on: that he, firstly, is not Yanukovich, he did not run away, and secondly, he repelled the Russian attack.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko was rightly indignant, “Yes, your Zelensky was sitting in the cellar at that time! He did not repel anyone or anything. And the military saw how it would end.”

The journalist asked the opinion of the Head of the Belarusian state: if Poroshenko, and not Zelensky, were the President of Ukraine, would a war start?

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he often criticises Zelensky for inexperience, expressiveness, and character. The Belarusian leader is convinced that the previous occupation of the Ukrainian leader played a role. But he drew attention to the fact that troubles in Ukraine began



since the time of Leonid Kuchma, when there was no single and definite course in the country.

## On those who do not need peace

Diana Panchenko clarified which of the parties can negotiate today? And why are they for Zelensky, the West and Russia? Here is the President’s opinion, “The longer the war goes on there, it’s better for the US: war is expensive, and by doing so they want to weaken Russia. And not just to weaken, but to kneel. However, do the Ukrainians, Zelensky actually need it?”

“Ukraine — no, but Zelensky?” the journalist asked.

“You are right to emphasise. Ukraine is not Zelensky, and Zelensky is not Ukraine. Zelensky is a ‘hero’ in a T-shirt, he travels around the world. Whose story are you the hero of? Whose hero is he? He is their hero [Western politicians], not a hero of Ukrainian people,” Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised.

The Head of State added that he was watching public opinion in Ukraine, “A lot of people are starting to assess Zelensky in the right way. Hence this back-and-forth on his part. He cannot make up his mind whether to call the election. Or, using martial law, to postpone it. In other words, the situation is very unclear. I will tell you, if the election was held in the near future, one of the military would win... The people in Ukraine are starting to sober up. The hawks in the West, read — in the USA, need to keep the war going. It does not bother them that the Slavic peoples are fighting with each other, and killing each other. It is beneficial for them. Thus, having weakened Russia, they will get closer to China from this side. Zelensky is playing along. But in the end Ukraine — a flourishing, beautiful country blessed with natural resources — will cease to exist.”

## On European disillusionment

The journalist recalled that earlier Aleksandr Lukashenko said that peace talks on Ukraine are possible this autumn. Noting that the absolute majority of the political forecasts of the Belarusian leader came true, Diana also clarified the opinion of the Head of State regarding this forecast. And she heard in response, “Based on all my contacts lately, I must say that the Germans, the French, others (except the British, of course — those are tough under America) don’t need this war anymore. This is why there is no unity of Europeans and Zelensky about the continuation of this war. Once Americans want it and give this signal to Zelensky, he will start peace talks. If there are no deliveries of weapons via Rzeszow and other border crossings, then there will be no war.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

# Strong seedlings

How to fulfil the President's demand to increase the share of Belarusian seeds in the cultivation of crops



During his visit to the Brest and Grodno Regions in early August, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko demanded a wider use of domestic seeds in the cultivation of crops. This approach is used by the Head of State in all spheres, and life confirms his correctness. But once upon a time, some experts professed the following point of view: why do we need to produce your own, if we can buy everything abroad. Firstly, this requires a foreign currency. Secondly, as the events of recent years show, even if it is available, not everything can be purchased due to sanctions. Belarus has a well-developed agricultural machinery industry, and with our equipment we can perform all operations in the fields. There are also enough seeds of domestic selection. But quantity does not equal quality. With an excess of their supply, some agricultural producers turn towards foreign varieties. Why do they use imports? What are the problems here, and how are they solved?

By Alena Yasko, Vasily Gedroits

## The eye of the problem

The President got acquainted with the harvesting of wheat of the 'bonanza' variety of German selection at the field of OAO Belovezhsky on August 1st. The average yield is 70 centners per hectare, and some areas, where there was more moisture, yielded up to 120. Rapeseed reached 65 centners. And again, from imported seeds. Why are they preferred?

### EXPERT COMMENT

► **Aleksandr Buynichenko, Deputy General Director for Crop Production of OAO Belovezhsky, Kamenetsky District,**

"A few years ago, Belarusian and foreign varieties were grown, but then they came to the conclusion that imported ones on our lands give a higher yield. Therefore, the Belarusians were abandoned. But that doesn't mean it's permanent. If our breeders present such varieties that will produce yields, I repeat, in our farm, higher than foreign ones, of course, we will use them."



Aleksandr Kulievsky

## Problem depth

Experts estimate the scope of imported seeds used in our country for the cultivation of crops in different ways. It all depends on the calculation method: by total weight or sown hectares. That's why disagreements are inevitable.

► **The point of view of the Research Centre for Agriculture at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus**

About 3 percent of seeds from the total demand for grain crops are purchased annually. In the future, they are propagated on the spot, the ratio is growing, but approximately 78 percent remains with the Belarusian varieties. In general, the country needs 830 thousand tonnes, about 6 thousand tonnes are being purchased. The largest share of foreign varieties in sown areas is in winter wheat — 57 percent. Winter rape has 52.

## Don't stop and don't fall behind

There are 46 seed lines in the country. The Law 'On Selection and Seed Production of Agricultural Plants' was adopted. Of the 380 farms that were engaged in the production of seeds, 46 remained, which increased their quality by an order of magnitude.

Thanks to the new equipment, the SPC of the National Academy of Sciences for Agriculture will have the opportunity to engage in selection in greenhouse conditions this winter. It is planned to encrust the seeds. This is an agrotechnological technique involving the application of protective, nutritious and stimulating substances with a dye using a film former to their surface.

## Wishes to scientists

► **Nikolai Leshik, Head of the Main Department of Crop Production of the Belarusian Agriculture and Food Ministry,**

"With the observance of the technology, Belarusian varieties of grain crops are able to form decent yields in the region — 100 centners per hectare. But at the same time, some of them are sometimes prone to lodging, the stem cannot withstand a heavy ear. Foreign ones are more stable. Our breeders need to overcome this problem.

For many years, good varieties of rapeseed have been bred. And abroad, more attention was paid to the creation of hybrids that yield much higher yields. Our breeders also began to create hybrids, but have not yet reached the foreign level. We must work in this direction."

► **Yulia Goncharova, an agronomist-seed grower of OAO Gastellovskoye, Minsk Region,** "Belarusian winter wheat 'amelia' produced 113 centners per hectare last year. Imported varieties — from 108 to 114 centners. Winter triticale 'grodno' — 120, imported — 115. As you can see, there is practically no difference. Therefore, we actively use Belarusian varieties. But our winter barley is the only one. And it takes a lot to have a choice."

## What is being done?

► **Director General of the Research and Practical Centre for Arable Farming of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus Sergei Kravtsov,** "It is right that the President demands from us, scientists, not to sit still and report on successes, but to conduct a constant scientific search, to produce such varieties of agricultural crops that would do honour to our country and would be in demand in the world.

**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,**

"We have agreed that our science and plant breeders have to do some serious work. You plant a lot of foreign varieties. You buy seeds in Germany and so on. We need to have our own varieties. Probably it makes sense to buy 15% or maybe 20% abroad to compare and see the difference. We need to do it. But not more. This is why we will sort out science a bit and will improve things."

During a visit to OAO Belovezhsky in Kamenets District on August 1st, 2023

Our scientists submitted for variety testing a super-early winter barley variety, which can be harvested as early as June, one week earlier than those used now. Its vegetation begins at a temperature of 3 degrees Celsius, but not 5, as in the current.

**We have high hopes for him. Also this year, Belarusian naked barley was zoned and tested: its grains do not have a membranous shell, mechanical peeling is not needed.**



Experiments continue with various varieties of the leguminous group: peas, maple pea, lupine, sunflower... Some of them contain up to 45 percent protein, like soybeans. According to preliminary calculations, our country needs about 300 thousand hectares of leguminous crops in order to completely abandon the purchase of foreign soybeans. Now there are about 90 thousand hectares."

## Conclusions

It should be reminded that last year OAO Gastellovskoye in the Minsk Region had the highest yield of cereals and legumes — more than 100 centners per hectare. Therefore, the high assessment of the agronomist of the farm of the Belarusian wheat variety means a lot. This opinion is shared by other experts. This suggests that it is not necessary to persuade to buy a high quality product. They will ask for it themselves. Wishes to scientists: create more of these varieties and hybrids, advertise them, encrust, make the product attractive.

## ► Emphasis of the Agriculture and Food Ministry,

There are fewer foreign seeds, in particular rape hybrids, for sowing than Belarusian ones. They have a very high degree of calibration, pre-sowing encrustation was carried out. Therefore, the seeding rate is up to 2 kilograms per hectare. And we most often cook in the traditional way, and we use three times more per hectare. There is work to be done here. The estimated figure of all seeds is 830 thousand tonnes. But this includes the insurance fund. Nevertheless, it is actually used for sowing 480-490 thousand tonnes. Based on this, the total amount of imported seeds of rapeseed, corn, cereals and legumes is 5 percent of the total weight. And, for example, winter crops — only 1.3 percent. However, high reproductions, which are already multiplying in our farms. And all the seeds of foreign varieties, taking into account those propagated in our country, are sown 160 thousand tonnes. That is about a third.



## The 2nd International Anti-Fascist Congress took place in Minsk



By Maksim Osipov, Anastasia Tselyuk

### Rally and sober up the world community

Holding the congress will prove the importance of issues related to ensuring international security, Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus Aleksandr Volfovich is sure,

“We see how Europe is trying to rewrite history. Children in Western schools are told from the first grade that the war was won by the Allied coalition, and not the Red Army. Americans deliberately belittle the role of the Soviet Union. Monuments to soldiers-liberators are pulled down, and at parades in Europe we see not only fighters against fascism but also fascists themselves and their henchmen. This cannot be allowed. It is not for nothing that in our strategic projects, starting with the Constitution, the Concept of National Security, the Military Doctrine, we lay the postulates of preserving the historical memory, independence of Belarus, preserving the Belarusian identity and the heroic deed of the Belarusian people.”



To warn the world about the real threat of neo-fascism, to consolidate healthy international forces to counteract the spread of fascism and Nazism in the world, to help preserve the historical truth about the Great Patriotic War and the Genocide of the Belarusian People during its period are the main tasks set by the 2nd International Anti-Fascist Congress. The large-scale forum was attended by representatives of more than 30 countries. In our material you can find excerpts from the most striking speeches according to our opinion.

# Minsk warning



### Filtering nations through rebellions and proxy wars

In the context of the irreversible building of a multipolar world and the impossibility of defending their interests by force, Western political elites have stepped up the use of fascist tools to retain power, Defence Minister Lieutenant General Viktor Khrenin stressed, “The challenges of the new millennium are associated with the revival of fascism, attempts not just to rewrite history, but to reverse the historical process. They consider themselves masters of life, who are allowed to do anything. They demonstrate their impunity to everyone and everything, the Western elite is once again trying to format the world, planting on all those whom it considers ‘jungles’ ‘an order based on rules’. Fascist templates cut out by Western civilisation are used for this purpose. They have replaced Aryan standards with liberal democratic values. The filtering of peoples is carried out for compliance with the new standard through political pressure and blackmail, illegitimate sanctions, colour revolutions, and proxy wars.”

### Under the guise of democracy

Once again, humanity is faced with the situation of the need to fight against fascism, Metropolitan Veniamin of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus emphasised, “Why has humanity not learned the most terrible lessons of history? Why did memory lapses occur in many nations? The answer is quite simple: because, artificially hiding behind the slogans of democracy and human rights, the modern Nazi regime is being encouraged, including in Ukraine. Memory is erased and the moral principles of the life of each individual and of all mankind are stolen. A monstrous global project is being implemented to reduce and decompose the world’s population. We are especially concerned about activities aimed at destroying the self-consciousness of peoples and changing their mentality. And this is done very subtly and imperceptibly: through the Internet, through mass culture and fashion. There is a degradation of the individual, of entire nations and peoples, nationalism and fascism are only the worst manifestations of such a process. Our duty is to protect the people and the state from the mentioned destructive factors.”

### FROM CONGRESS RESOLUTION

The 2nd International Anti-Fascist Congress notes the urgent need for collective efforts of the majority of states and peoples to fight neo-fascism. The congress calls on:

- the international community and, first of all, the United Nations Organisation for a comprehensive and objective assessment of the current events in the countries where fascist ideology is being revived;
- representatives of political parties, public organisations and movements should unite in a single international anti-fascist front for the sake of all present and future generations on the planet;
- representatives of mass media should truthfully and objectively report on events that are taking place in the world and unequivocally condemn any manifestations of fascism, Nazism, and chauvinism;
- those, who falsify the history of wars, and Western politicians, who make decisions to revise the lessons taught by the Great Patriotic War and World War Two, should be exposed with unflinching steadiness;
- international and national laws should be improved to guarantee the punishment of fascist criminals and prevent the rehabilitation of fascism.

### Documents of the era

An interactive exhibition *Partisans of Belarus* was launched in the hall of the Central House of Officers

The exposition is based on the documents of the unique Internet project of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House and the National Archives, materials of the Belarusian State Archive of Film and Photo Documents. Also, the participants of the congress were presented with an exhibition of firearms from the times of the Great Patriotic War, tents with exhibitions. Patriots of Belarus NGO presented the *Book of Memory. Republic of Belarus* with information about burial places, monuments, as well as stories of participants and war children.



### CONGRESS MEMBERS SPEAK

Viktor Goremykin, Deputy Minister of Defence — Head of the Main Military and Political Directorate of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, “The collective West is not ready to put up with the formation of a multipolar world, it intends to defend its hegemony by all means, including the military ones. In the context of an extremely sharp escalation of threats and NATO activity near the borders of the Union State, Moscow and Minsk are forced to take retaliatory measures. The most important of them is the deployment of non-strategic nuclear weapons of the Russian Federation on the territory of the Republic of Belarus.”

Verkhovna Rada of the 9th convocation, leader of the anti-fascist movement Patriots for Life Ilya Kiva, “Every post-Soviet republic has been subjected to Western expansion and aggression. I can say with full responsibility: they tried to cultivate Nazism everywhere — in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine. Remember the nineties! But the consistent and systematic work of the leadership of Belarus and Russia made it possible to nip in the bud any attempts to revive and strengthen this criminal ideology. In Ukraine, unfortunately, there was no person in the leadership who would be devoted to his or her country and his or her people.”

Luka Kastratovic, Chairman of the Executive Board of the Club of Generals and Admirals of Serbia, retired Major General, “It is symbolic that the anti-fascist congress is being held in Belarus, which has been confirming its freedom since the World War II even today, when the United States moved against Russia through Ukraine. The peoples of Belarus and Serbia perfectly understand and respect each other, they especially appreciate the actions of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, who visited Serbia during the NATO aggression. We write books about it.”

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Republic of Belarus Ignatius Graham Mudzimba, “Unfortunately, in Zimbabwe, the same thing is happening. However, we do not call it neo-fascism, but neo-colonialism. We have gone through hard times in the fight against colonialism. Now we are an independent country. However, measures are still being taken to change this situation in order to have control over our resources. And for the people of Zimbabwe to become puppets in someone’s game. Therefore, of course, we support the progressive movement against neo-fascism and neo-Nazism.”



By Ilya Kryzhevich

### Development platform

A number of experts called for a suspension of the development and training of AI this spring. However, opinions were divided, and some eminent experts spoke out that there was not much point in slowing down the learning process of neural networks: not everyone would agree to do this, and those who stopped would simply lose their advantage. Sergei Kruglikov is also actively watching what problems in the field of artificial intelligence appear before the world community. In his opinion, it would be more correct to systematise all the current achievements in this area, making them more understandable for developers. In addition, for the systematic development of this direction, it is necessary to create a standardised base of legislative normative legal acts. This will allow us to move in a single constructive direction.

— *The specialists of the National Academy of Sciences are actively working on these issues in our country even now. Opening the Intellectual Belarus exhibition in January, the Head of State assigned this direction to the National Academy of Sciences. We will act as a regulator of artificial intelligence in the country. We have already created a mature school for the study of AI. Furthermore, we are working on creating an artificial intelligence platform. It will bring together all the major Belarusian players in this area for the joint adoption of strategic decisions.*

Sergei Kruglikov also noted that preferential conditions will be created for the players who will come to the platform. They are currently being defined. Among the new opportunities, for example, it is discussed that private firms will be able to receive government orders.

The creation of this site will be actively discussed at the second forum Artificial Intelligence in Belarus, which will be held on October 12th at the National Academy of Sciences.

### Single law for the CIS

In addition, during the forum, it is planned to hold an expert council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries, which will discuss the concept of a model law on artificial intelligence for the Commonwealth states.

— *The CIS countries are very interest-*

# They approach the matter wisely

The National Academy of Sciences is working on creating an artificial intelligence platform that will bring together all the major Belarusian players in this field

**Developments related to artificial intelligence (AI) have been making a splash since the beginning of this year, occupying a significant place on the information agenda. Therefore, it seems that now the question is not whether to engage in the introduction of AI technologies or not, but only how exactly to develop them? Sergei Kruglikov, Director General of the Informatics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, spoke about how this process is approached in Belarus.**

*ed in the development of technologies tied to AI. In the spring of this year, the Informatics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus won a tender to develop a model law on artificial intelligence for the CIS countries. In the near future – on October 12 – with the consent of the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences, we will hold an expert council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS countries on the basis of the National Academy. Having gathered a round table of experts – members of the CIS countries, we want to show how artificial intelligence will develop in Belarus.*

During the meeting, the parties will discuss the very concept of the model law, some key points. The document has already been practically prepared and is now being supplemented and updated.

— *If we agree on a specific vision for the development of AI within the CIS, then this process will accelerate in Belarus. There are no problematic moments when creating the concept.*

### Leaders and results of the year

As part of the future forum Artificial Intelligence in Belarus, the Leader of Artificial Intelligence competition will be held for the first time. It will be held in three categories: the leader of AI in Belarus in the company, product and project sections.

During the forum, experts will also evaluate companies and their artificial intelligence technologies that they have implemented over the year. Among the companies that are already working with such technologies in the country are large industrial giants, food manufacturers, medical and agricultural organisations.

— *In 2023, we will hold a nationwide forum. But there are already many applications from foreign colleagues for participation in it. For example, we have already entered into a co-operation agreement with the Russian Innopolis university. It is worth noting that they want to co-operate and plan to decide on the categories of projects that we can work on together. Our experience is important to them, and we have it wide.*

As Sergei Kruglikov stressed, next year the forum is expected to acquire an international status.

— *In June, we had numerous of joint events with Russia, Uzbekistan, through the EAEU, the CIS. Among them are CIPR-23, the Eurasian Forum, Innoprom, the Forum*

*of Regions of Belarus and Russia. According to these events, it can be judged that people understand the need for joint development in this area.*

### Designing the future today

Speaking about what the National Academy of Sciences is currently working on, Sergei Kruglikov said that specialised institutes continue to develop a number of technologies related to artificial intelligence.

— *We are working on creating algorithms in different directions. For example, in the processing of video information streams for solving a number of tasks: recognition, capture and tracking of an object on video, analysis of a video sequence. For the agricultural drone, this is important because, in case of loss of control, it will be able to return, analysing the video sequence, which captures the flight area. Thus, it can return to its point of departure with very high accuracy.*

Sergei Kruglikov drew attention to the fact that the Informatics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus is also working on many projects for the development of healthcare.

— *Our algorithms process X-ray images, CT diagrams, which allows us to detect neoplasms in various human organs. We started with the lungs and eyes, and now we are moving to other organs. We are constantly working on processing this data.*



*Moreover, in this direction we occupy high positions in the world ranking.*

There are also voice recognition systems among the projects.

— *Now we are creating a platform for studying the voices of birds. It makes it possible to determine the level of ecology of any zone where bird voices sound. There is a set of certain birds that live in clean and polluted places.*

*This will make it possible to determine with a high probability that in some areas there is a decline in natural resources.*

Sergei Kruglikov recalled that last year work was announced on the creation of a voice assistant analogous to Alice. Today, scientists are already approaching the completion of the project.

— *We named the Belarusian version Ales. It is not yet as advanced as Russian, but the system speaks Belarusian. We will offer to test it in various call centres. We plan to put it into trial operation and make a finished product. However, we can train Ales according to the needs of customers*

Now we are actively looking for them. In fact, wherever existing voice assistants operate, our alternative could be installed. In October, we want to show Ales to the public.

Among the interesting projects, Sergei Kruglikov noted the already launched first experimental line for sorting apples using an image recognition system using technical vision and neural networks.

— *The project works in Tolochin. The line already allows sorting 2.8 tonnes of apples per hour. The same system has been developed for sorting potatoes, but it has not yet been made. We will work on it.*

Sergei Kruglikov also said that a domestic 3D printer would be created by the end of 2023.

— *It will be affordable and competitively priced. Initially, we are ready to release one or two units per quarter. Our main consumer is the organisations of the National Academy of Sciences. Chemists, physicians, technicians are interested in development.*

**Globally dangerous climate change**

- Severe droughts
- Water scarcity
- Strong fires
- Sea level rise
- Floods
- Melting polar ice
- Catastrophic storms
- Decline in biodiversity
- Food shortage
- Increased health risks
- Poverty and forced displacement

Source: United Nations (UN)

# The climate shoots at point-blank range

## Weather disasters in 2023 — accomplices of climate weapons or a harbinger of another conspiracy theory?

The weather forecast is one of the news that many perceive with increasing suspicion. First, not all predictions come true. And secondly, the world has entered an era when anomalous natural phenomena cease to be anomalous. For example, Europe already faced the third wave of summer heat in August, but there is no panic. Are they used to? Meanwhile, amid disturbing (and often fake) news from numerous hot spots around the world, every now and again suspicion creeps in: is it not an artificial origin of the current cataclysms?..

By Aleksandr Nesterov

### Games of disturbed minds

Rumours about the artificial nature of hazardous natural phenomena most often appear in turbulent, troubled times. In the way it is now. You don't have to look far for examples. In March of this year, a document appeared on the website of the US Congress discussing the so-called climate interventions.

*The Americans thought of a proposal to approve a five-year plan to create climate control technology. The official reason is the search for ways to combat global warming. But in the future, will the potential impact of the United States on the weather turn into a climate weapon directed against opposing countries?*

By the way, two years earlier, CIA specialists tried to find out whether 'hostile states' could arrange a snow storm and abnormal cold. They learned, apparently, little, but they made a decent noise.

The February disaster in Turkey and Syria, where a powerful earthquake of magnitude 7.8 occurred, has become the subject of numerous rumours and speculation. One of them is that the United States is to blame for the tragedy, which allegedly used the latest climate weapons capable of changing the climate, melting ice masses, affecting the ozone layer, and causing earthquakes. It is not for nothing that the United States, on the eve of the tremors, warned its citizens about the insecurity of being in Türkiye!..

The heat that is testing the strength of the Mediterranean countries has not yet been overgrown with rumours about the artificial origin of heat waves.

*But the fact remains: extreme natural phenomena are akin to weapons of mass destruction. For example, in Europe alone, more than 60,000 people died from the heat last year. The loss of this year is yet to be calculated.*

### Fantasy and reality

Fortunately, there is no climate (or, as it is also called, meteorological) weapon in the form in which it is imagined by most earthlings with a rich imagination, in the world yet. Theoretically, it can be based on various technologies and means, including man-made disasters provoked by man and a sad ending for the environment.

*Even during the World War II in Nazi Germany, according to a number of sources, bloodthirsty minds hatched plans to create a device that causes tornadoes for military use.*

But the first real example of the use of technology for a global impact on nature can be considered the experience of Americans in Vietnam. As part of Operation Popeye, launched in 1967, the military sprayed silver iodide from transport planes and fighters for several years during the rainy season, which led to heavy rainfall. As a result, fields with rice and other crops, roads were under water.

*Increased rainfall, floods and landslides are partly a consequence of air pollution.*

The proof of that is a study by scientists at the University of California, published two years ago in the *Nature Communication* journal. With the help of artificial intelligence, climate data from around the world were analysed. It turned out that in recent years, the maximum amount of precipitation and days with very heavy rains have increased, which have a devastating effect on urban infrastructure and the environment. In almost all cases, the main cause of such cataclysms was the activity of people, accompanied by the release of greenhouse gases. With such 'peaceful activity', as they say, who needs enemies.

As for the near future, some scientists are concerned about the American HAARP project. We are talking about a system that is credited with the ability to change the climate in certain regions. The principle of its operation lies in powerful microwave radiation, which makes it possible to disable a warhead

or an aircraft that has fallen into a zone of high voltage of the electromagnetic field. In this case, 'ion clouds' appear in the ionosphere, in which areas with plasma appear.

*The fluctuations in the ionosphere caused by the impact of HAARP are said to be able to disrupt the processes of weather formation and even affect the bowels of the planet. However, reliable 'dangerous' results within the framework of this project have not yet been announced.*

### What do we have?

From the report published on the official website of the International Consortium for Monitoring the Aquatic Environment, it follows that scientists warned in advance about climate change in 2023. According to them, since spring, people had to prepare for unexpected droughts and heat. Does it

come true? It does. Why such an inflated attitude to reports of temperature records?

*Fortunately, major natural disasters bypass Belarus. But temperature swings, when the air temperature jumps up and down by 20 degrees or more in a day, are not very encouraging.*

### DIRECT SPEECH

**Alexander Losev, financier, member of the Presidium of the Council on Foreign and Defence Policy of the Russian Federation, specialist in rocket and space technology,**  
*"There is no such weapon in the hands of mankind that can compete with the climate. One average hurricane has a yield comparable to 250 megatons of TNT. And to move billions of tons of air and ocean masses, more energy is needed than the entire nuclear ammunition of Russia and then all the thermal and electrical energy generated by our power plants."*



### THE MOST POPULAR CONSPIRACY THEORIES

- Global warming is a conspiracy of climatologists
- Animals are used as carriers of artificially designed diseases
- 5G communication towers irradiate the brain and lead to infertility
- Coronavirus is a secret weapon of intelligence agencies
- Aircraft tracks in the sky are toxic substances, heavy metals, parasites and viruses that poison the population
- Fluoridated water depresses brain activity
- The world is ruled by a secret government
- GMO food is a bioweapon
- Americans have never been to the moon

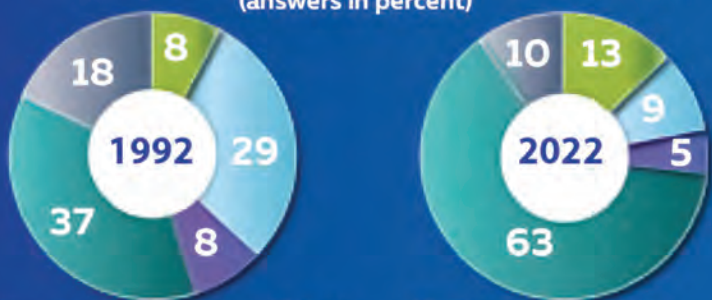
In general, according to Belhydromet, during the warm period on the territory of our country, the greatest danger is weather phenomena associated with violent convective activity - these are strong and very strong showers, thunderstorms, hail and squally wind intensification. Unfavourable and dangerous weather phenomena in summer also include high air temperatures. Moreover, due to climate change, heat waves are becoming more frequent.

*All this, of course, is still not the use of climate weapons. But nothing prevents fans of conspiracy theories from building new theories about unknown high-tech enemy weapons.*

One thing is sure: the climate is a global category, and everyone will suffer from a hostile impact on it.

### Who or what controls the person?

(answers in percent)





multi-admin.ru

## Most Germans don't trust state

**Trust in the state has fallen to record lows in Germany and most of the population thinks their officials are simply incapable of doing their job, a new survey commissioned by the nation's biggest public sector employee union showed**

The number of people who believe that the state is 'overwhelmed' with the tasks it is facing has reached 69 percent, the poll (conducted by the Forsa Institute for Social Research and Statistical Analysis) indicates.

In 2020, when Germany was facing the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, only 40 percent of its citizens believed that the state was failing to fulfil its duties.

"Citizens' trust in their state's ability to act has thus fallen to a new low. That is alarming," said Ulrich Silberbach, the Head of the German Association of Civil Servants (DBB), which commissions similar surveys every year. "The rifts between East and West, poor and rich... are getting deeper and the social stress level is increasing," he warned.

The DBB Head blamed these developments on a lack of leadership on the part of Chancellor Olaf Scholz. "What the citizens... want is quite simple: The state should fulfil its tasks and be there for the people," he said, adding that Berlin should stop 'constantly passing new, ever more complicated laws' and 'do the opposite' by reducing bureaucracy and providing more services in the public sector.

Another poll — commissioned by Germany's ARD public broadcaster in early August — shows that public approval of the German government fell to just 21 percent, down from 60 percent in 2020.

In mid-July, a survey by the Forsa Institute shows that 77 percent of Germans were either somewhat or completely dissatisfied with the federal government.

## Poland risks falling under sanctions

Poland will not lift the ban on the import of Ukrainian grain, as it will be guided by its own interests in this matter, the authorities said. EU may impose sanctions on Poland over Ukraine grain embargo.

The country introduced it against the background of the losses of its farmers due to cheap grain from Ukraine. Poland will be guided by its own interests in the issue of banning the import of Ukrainian agricultural products, President Andrzej Duda said in an interview with *Sieci*. So far, the country has closed its borders for Ukrainian grain imports until September 15th.

If Poland unilaterally extends restrictions on grain imports from Ukraine after September 15, the EU will consider imposing sanctions against the country. The European Commission believes that

Poland's continuation of the Ukrainian grain embargo violates European legislation. This may lead to the imposition of fines on Poland. According to RMF FM, there are fears in Warsaw about trade countermeasures that individual EU countries may introduce. This primarily concerns Germany, but in general, up to 20 countries oppose the continuation of the embargo. Poland also admits that other Eastern European states may refuse to support the embargo after September 15th. As noted by RMF FM, it is most likely that Romania will not go against

the European Commission's decision. Still, other states may decide — similarly, including Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary.

Waldemar Buddha, former Minister of Development and Technology of Poland, noted that Warsaw plans to extend the ban on Ukrainian grain imports until the end of this year.

The minister stressed that the ban on imports of certain Ukrainian goods, including grain, will continue until the end of the year, unless the EU takes new decisions at the European level.



## More Americans are ending up homeless — at a record rate

**The United States has seen the biggest ever spike in homeless people living on the streets — as preliminary figures showed a record 11 percent increase in one year, according to *The Wall Street Journal***

There are nearly 600,000 rough sleepers across cities and towns in America, and the jump from 2022 to 2023 so far is the highest since the government started tracking the data in 2007, according to the *WSJ*.

Places like Oakland and San Francisco in California have become hotbeds for homelessness, as people living on the streets are like 'drug tourists' who arrive to have easy access to narcotics.

The numbers keep increasing year-on-year in Los Angeles and Seattle too.

Using data from 300 entities that count the number of homeless people in different vicinities, the *WSJ* estimated 577,000 people are sleeping rough so far this year, compared with 582,462 in the whole of 2022.

Last year's total was up dramatically from the 380,630 recorded in 2021 — a total the *WSJ* says is lower because of pandemic counting disruptions.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is expected to publish formal figures this year, but the preliminary study has shown how the issues of crime, drug abuse, and lack of housing has exacerbated the number of homelessness.

Costs and the lack of available housing are also big issues — as well as the migrant crisis.

In city centres like New York, an average of 2,300 migrants from the border arrive weekly — putting a strain on housing and forcing many to take to the streets.

## New human species discovered in China

An ancient skull dating back 300,000 years is unlike any other pre-modern human fossil ever found, potentially pointing to a new branch in the human family tree, according to new research

An international team of researchers from China, Spain and the United Kingdom unearthed the skull — specifically the mandible, or lower jaw — in the Hualongdong Region of eastern China, along with 15 other specimens, all thought to originate from the late Middle Pleistocene period.

Published in the *Journal of Human Evolution*, a study by the research team found that the mandible, known as HLD 6, is 'unexpected' and does not fit into any existing taxonomic groups.

Many Pleistocene hominin fossils discovered in China have been similarly difficult to classify, and were previously per-

ceived to be anomalies, according to the study. However, this discovery, along with other recent research, is slowly changing what people know of the evolutionary pattern in the late Middle Pleistocene.

By comparing the HLD 6 mandible to those of Pleistocene hominins and modern humans, the researchers found it has features of both.

The researchers theorise that HLD 6 must belong to a classification that hasn't yet been given a name, and that modern human characteristics could have been present as early as 300,000 years ago — before the emergence of modern humans in east Asia.

Skull of a new species of human with gaps filled in. *Journal of Human Evolution* photo



Journal of Human Evolution

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



# Movement to the right

The right turn trend in EU countries is not new in itself. It was first talked about at the beginning of the last decade, when forces that had long been considered marginal and unpopular suddenly began to arouse interest among the electorate. The reason for this was the migration crisis. The predominantly left-wing parties, which were at the helm of power in a significant part of the countries of the continent, could not offer a clear strategy for receiving migrants, their inclusion in the normal life of society. The result was a series of monstrous attacks.

By Anton Popov

*The migration crisis and the surge in terrorist activity directly related to it have become, although the main, but by no means the only trigger for the growth of the popularity of the right in Europe. Both the general dissatisfaction with the socio-political situation in the EU and problems on the outer circuit related to US pressure and illegal sanctions against Russia, which led to a long-term economic recession in the EU, made a difference.*

Nevertheless, the true renaissance of the right began with the advent of COVID-19, which the EU authorities tried to fight with measures whose severity was by no means proportional to their effectiveness. From the very beginning, the right has criticised the strategy of lockdowns and all kinds of restrictions, and then the practice of introducing covid passports. As the Belarusian experience of fighting the pandemic later showed, in many respects the critics of the national authorities, nationalists and Eurosceptics turned out to be right: successful suppres-

sion of the spread of the virus turned out to be quite possible without a stop signal for the economy.

## The Abduction of Europa

Right-wingers and Eurosceptics across Europe are rapidly gaining political weight. From Italy to Finland and from Hungary to France, nationalist forces are infiltrating parliaments and occupying key positions in the system of state administration. A striking example is the victory of the Brothers of Italy party, led by George Meloni, last September, which brought the right to power in the Apennines. Even more comfortable are the right-wing forces in Hungary, where the leader of the Fidesz party, Viktor Orban, is pursuing a surprisingly balanced and reasonable policy both domestically and internationally.

Even in the supranational bodies of the EU there are tendencies towards an increase in the number of the right. The authoritative publication *Politico* generally believes that if the elections to the European Parliament were held now, then the sceptics from among the 'European conservatives and reformers' could take the third position on a par with the Renew Europe party, and that, by the way, has 89 mandates. In comparison with the elections of 2019, this will mean, the authors of *Politico* do not hide their surprise, a huge increase in 23 seats at once.

*What is characteristic, it is the Italians Meloni mentioned above who give this significant increase. But the German far-right from the Alternative for Germany, which is experiencing an explosive growth in popularity at home, is quite capable of ensuring the growth of 15 mandates for the Identity and Democracy group, which could take 77 seats.*

## Battle for minds and hearts

A significant future strengthening of the positions of Eurosceptics in the EU Parliament is a logical consequence of their growing influence at the national level. Perhaps the sensation of the summer, although expected, was the first victory of the

German far right in local elections. The representative of the Alternative for Germany Robert Sesselmann became the head of the Landrat of the Sonneberg District in Thuringia with a population of 56 thousand people. Zesselman beat the CDU candidate backed by the left and the Greens with 52.8 percent of the vote.

Of course, one can be a little ironic, knowing that Sonneberg is one of the smallest constituencies in Germany, but the fact is that the AfD has not achieved such a result since its creation in 2013.

The second significant event of the summer in Germany was the summing up of the results of the June Insa poll, dedicated to the political preferences of the Germans. The AfD received a sensational 20 percent. For comparison: in January, only 15 percent of those polled adhered to right-wing views. We must not lose sight of the fact that some of the supporters of the ultra-right are a protest electorate that is dissatisfied with the policy of the authorities. However, we have to admit that the actions of the AfD and its rhetoric are definitely appealing to an increasing number of Germans. This is especially true of its attitude to the Ukrainian crisis, which contrasts sharply with the position of other parties.

*So far, the main problem of the AfD is its non-handshake status in the eyes of other parties. The speaker of the Landtag of Thuringia from the Green Party Frau Böhm lashed out at voters for electing Sesselmann and flatly refused to work with his administration after the victory of the right-wing candidate in Sonneberg.*

According to experts, sabotage is not so bad. If the AfD continues to gain supporters at the same pace, and the ruling coalition loses them, then administrative resources and provocations may be used, and in extreme cases, access to elections for members of the party can be completely restricted as 'proven to be right-wing extremist'.

## Right march

Right-wing politicians are climbing higher and higher in the hierarchy of political forces in different regions of Europe. Moreover, as the Ukrainian conflict becomes more and more protracted and the desire for escalation, demonstrated by the collective West, the trend is gaining momentum. So, in Madrid this summer, the representative of the conservative People's Party Isabel Diaz Ayuso won. The same party eventually turned out to be the winner of the extraordinary parliamentary elections held on July 23rd.

A painful defeat was suffered by the leftist forces in Greece. There, three ultra-right parties took part in the parliamentary elections at once, gaining a total of 13 percent of the vote, which became a real sensation. Considering that New Democracy, which became the leader of the voting, belongs to the right-centric forces, one can say that another European country has made its right turn.

Things are going well for the rightists in France too. There, Marine Le Pen was able to build a very influential faction in the National Assembly from members of her National Rally party — they have 89 seats, which could have seemed fantastic even in the last elections. Moreover, the prospects for Madame Le Pen are the most rosy: President Macron seems to be doing everything so that the left forces first lose parliament, and then he himself leaves the Elysee Palace, giving way to the lady. The right-wingers managed to strengthen their position with anti-migrant rhetoric amid the July pogroms that gave France several fiery nights, and now everyone is waiting for the outcome of the crisis in Niger.

## Such different right

In the meantime, in the south and north, the right settles in power, in the east of Europe, the existence of two systems continues, which, it seems, should be as like as two peas, but nevertheless they are too different. We are talk-

ing about Poland, in which the right-wing PiS is preparing for the elections on October 15th and whipping up military hysteria, and Hungary, which is increasingly moving away from its NATO colleagues in matters of the war in Ukraine. What are only the high-profile exchange of captured ethnic Hungarians with the participation of the Russian Orthodox Church and the direct threat of blocking military trenches to Kiev from the EU if the Zelensky regime does not exclude OTP Bank from the list of international 'sponsors of the war'.

Judging by the events of the summer, the Duda-Morawiecki tandem is ready to take any measures to maintain power. The law on relations with Russia, because of which Poland was cast sidelong glances even in the United States, was passed, and a large-scale purge of the ranks of dissidents in the ranks of the bureaucracy began. At the same time, there were persistent rumours in the Polish expert community that if PiS was not sure of its victory, it would organise a provocation in the border area against Belarus or the Kaliningrad Region.

*The second option seemed fantastic until the beginning of August, however, the massive transfer of units of the Polish Army to the east and the incident with the alleged overflight of our helicopters suggest that this version was accepted in Warsaw as a working one.*

The events of this year clearly show that the period of left-wing dominance in Europe is coming to an end. They failed to cope with the migration crisis, did not prevent a large-scale military conflict and almost brought the continent to the brink of total war. Of course, no one gives guarantees that the right will be able to solve all problems, but the Europeans, tired of the permanent threat, want to try to change something. And while everything goes to the fact that the right will soon become the dominant political force.



# Summer in the city: children's recreation in Minsk

The Belarusian capital welcomes even the smallest travellers and is always ready to offer them a rich entertainment programme.



By Sofia Arsenyeva

### Kakadu park

An aviary has recently opened half-hour drive from Minsk. Or, more simply, a parrot park. One of the largest in the CIS! Exotic birds impress with their bright colours, and the smartest individuals are ready to repeat their words after the visitors incessantly.

They say that here you can find the double of the feathered actor from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie or a parrot, very similar to the cartoon Keshha. Note: here you can feed, stroke and photograph the birds. Everything is safe for children and in the joy of the inhabitants.

**Where:** the urban settlement of Radoshkovichi, 3rd Lipenya Street, 32



### Lebyazhy aquapark

There is the largest water amusement park in Belarus on the banks of the picturesque Drozdy water reservoir. Among the silence and tranquillity of the protected area there are steep slides, unusual rides, hydromassage guns, jacuzzies, geysers, fountains, a surf simulator.

While the parents are energised at the spa, the little ones can be cared for in special children's centres. Several restaurants and cafes are constantly working on the territory of the water park. So, you can safely buy tickets for the whole day - no one will go hungry.

**Where:** Pobediteley Avenue, 120



### Children's railway

The driver, the head of the station, dispatchers, conductors and controllers — everything is run by children. And everything is real! There is a spacious train station with a ticket office and a waiting room, and the Zaslono – Sosnovy Bor express train rides everyone on a piece of iron along picturesque places from May to October. By the way, adults are also allowed, but only as passengers.

Interestingly, for the Minsk children, the Children's railway is not just entertainment, but a step towards adulthood. In the training centre, they comprehend the basics of future professions and prepare for admission to railway colleges and universities.

**Where:** Independence Avenue, 86



### Belarusian State Circus

It is located in the centre of the capital, right on the central avenue. Therefore, you will find it without problems. At one time, such artists as Scipione Ciniselli, Anatoly Durov, Ivan Poddubny performed at the Minsk arena.

And even today, the public does not hide their enthusiasm — fearless tight-rope walkers and gymnasts under the very dome, funny clowns and incendiary acrobats, bears on bicycles, monkeys in balloons and incredible white tigers. And as part of group tours, you can get behind the scenes and meet face to face with real magic! It is not surprising that about 340,000 small spectators visit the Belarusian State Circus every year.

**Where:** Independence Avenue, 32



### Chelyuskintsev Park

A favourite place for Minsk families. Once these lands belonged to the Radziwill magnates, then to the Vankovich family. And in the thirties, a park of culture and recreation named after Chelyuskintsev was opened here, which still holds the mark in terms of entertainment.

On the western side is the ever-blooming and fragrant botanical garden. And in the heart one can find a cafe with delicious treats and playgrounds. But everyone comes here for the rides. There are many of them, and all are different — family, children's and extreme. Traditionally, the queue for the legendary Super-8 slides, which went down in history thanks to the song of the Leprikonsy. Yes, Hully Gully is about Chelyuskintsev Park.

**Where:** Minsk, Park Chelyuskintsev metro station

# Shine, shine bright

10 young stars who began to shine in the Belarusian team at the 2nd CIS Games

The brilliant festival of sports and good mood died down in ten cities of Belarus, giving the whole country a real holiday. The 2nd CIS Games brought only positive emotions: there were many smiles, victories, full houses and positive feedback from everyone — participants, numerous guests and tourists. The national team of Belarus performed with dignity, gaining 236 medals (48 gold, 78 silver and 110 bronze), took the second team place, losing only to the great and mighty Russia. Many champions can be singled out personally, but today we will focus on ten young athletes, whose names after the Games have migrated to the number of the brightest and most promising representatives of the new sports generation in Belarus.



By Sergei Kanashits



## Ivan Kazak (18 years old), shooting

The son of a famous shooter, a participant in two Olympics, Andrei Kazak, won all the disciplines in which he took part: first he became the winner in air pistol event in mixed doubles competitions, then he excelled in a personal tournament, and for the finale he showed the best result in team competitions! It seems that this guy has everything for further growth and progress: a temperament corresponding to a sniper (calm as a boa constrictor), genes and a powerful mentor — from the first days, the honoured coach of the USSR and Belarus Oleg Pishchukevich has been working with him (the one who raised the Olympic champion Kanstantsin Lukashyk).



## Mariya Gnedchik (19 years old) and Mira Buraya (16 years old), modern pentathlon

These girls are straight flames! Mariya Gnedchik is a restless figure, where there is sport, there she is: she has gone through competitions in skiing and biathlon, triathlon and cross-country, swims, rides a bike and horses. She has three gold medals at the 2nd CIS Games: in the individual, team and pair relay! And this despite the fact that the girl performed after a serious injury, which she healed for a long time. Gnedchik took the championship in the duet with Mira Buraya — another growing unique! She has two golds at the Games (in pairs and a team), as well as individual silver. Goodies!

## Uladzislau Kazlou (19 years old), freestyle wrestling

Uladzislau, not embarrassed, defeated older opponents, reached the final, where he fought with an experienced Russian Sergey Kozyrev. And he could win! Uladzislau confidently and professionally led the fight, winning with a score of 2:0, but seven seconds before the final gong he missed the opponent's hold and lost. Nevertheless, silver became a worthy reward for Kazlou. And just a week later, Kazlou was already fighting at the World Youth Championship in Amman and was also in prominent roles. We state the irrefutable: a serious competitor to Aleksandr Gushtyn, the leader of the national team in the 97 kilogrammes weight category, is growing up.



## Abubakar Khaslakhanov (19 years old), Greco-Roman wrestling

Abubakar, who competed in the weight category up to 97 kilogrammes in the Greco-Roman wrestling in the final of the II Games of the CIS countries, confidently defeated Murad Akhmadiyev from Azerbaijan. This is the only gold of our classics in the tournament!

At the youth championship of the planet, which was held in Amman, Abubakar went on the mat to defend the title of the current junior world championship.



## Denis Matsulev (18 years old), boxing

Denis Matsulev showed boxing of very good quality and brought the only gold to the national team of Belarus at the 2nd CIS Games. In the final, 'a modest Belarusian guy from Vitebsk', as Denis calls himself, fought with the winner of the European Junior Championship, international class master of sports Russian Israfil Islamov and confidently broke him down!



## Valeria Khvatik (17 years old), Thai boxer

She looks fragile, thin, but in fact a real gladiator in a skirt! She not only won the 2nd CIS Games, but also received the official title of the best fighter of the competition! Belarusian Muay Thai is rich in stars of the most cosmic magnitude. Including in women's competitions: Yekaterina Vandareva and Yelena Leshkevich are known all over the world! Valeria Khvatik has someone to take an example from. So, let's continue!



## Aleksei Yermakov (19 years old), handball

Aleksei Yermakov is considered to be almost the main growing talent in Belarus in the position of the left welterweight. Last season, Yermakov was tempered in adult handball as part of the junior BGUFK-SKA-RGUOR. At the 2nd CIS Games, he confirmed his reputation as a scorer: in the final match against the Russian national team, he became the top scorer (he scored seven goals together with point guard Timofey Baranchik), received the title of the best player of the tournament and an invitation to the SKA main team. Where, it should be noted, he scored five goals against the opponent in a recent friendly match with CSKA — more than any of his teammates. So, there is a change in Belarusian handball.



## Anna Orlovskaya (14 years old) and Ilya Korebo (14 years old), athletics

We would like to believe that in the near future a figure will appear in our sprint that will be able to approach the results of the famous Yuliya Nesterenko — White Lightning, who surprised everyone with her victory at the Athens Olympics. It is quite possible that Anya Orlovskaya will become one of the main characters of the athletics tournament at the 2nd CIS Games, who won the 60 and 300 metres races, as well as silver in the 4x200 metres mixed relay (a moment was not enough for the victory — 0.001 seconds!).



Ilya Korebo, it seems, still does not really know what he is capable of. "Ilya joined the team literally at the last moment. The records of his rivals at a distance of 60 metres with barriers were a cut above, but Korebo surpassed both himself and his competitors: he took it and overtook everyone! Significantly improving his own record at the same time," says state coach Igor Sivodedov. In addition, Ilya has bronze in the 60 metres smooth run. Run boy, run!





## Photo of the week

The *Batskina Bulka* round-loaf festival in Svisloch is a large-scale and bright celebration that glorifies traditional and modern Belarusian culture, which brought together the best bakers from all over the country

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On August 24th, 79**, Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, Stabiae and

several small villages and villas. During the excavations, streets, fully furnished houses, people and animals that did not have time to escape were found under many metres of ash. The force of the eruption was such that the ashes from it flew even to Egypt and Syria.

**25th, 1943**, the battle for the Dnieper River began — an offensive operation of the Soviet troops against the Nazi invaders, which lasted until December 23rd, 1943. The crossing of the Dnieper River is one of the largest and most successful battles of the Great Patriotic War.



**On August 26th, 1728**, a Russian navigator Vitus Bering discovered the strait between Asia and America, later named after him — the Bering Strait during the 1st Kamchatka expedition. The smallest width of the strait is 86 kilometres, and the depth is 36 metres.



Although the strait was discovered by Bering, Semyon Dezhnev was the first to cross the strait in 1648 — 80 years before the discovery. A cape in Chukotka, the easternmost point of Asia, was named after the navigator.

**August 26th** is International Bat Night. Its main goal is to draw public attention to the problems of bats and their protection, as well as to debunk the myths around the animals, before which many people experience unjustified superstitious fear, considering them to be vampires.



**August 27th** is International Boxing Day. Boxing is a contact sport in which athletes punch each other while wearing special gloves. The fight lasts up to 12 rounds, and the referee controls what is happening in the ring. The earliest evidence of such competitions dates back to the third millennium BC, they are imprinted on Sumerian, Egyptian and Minoan reliefs.



**On August 27th, 1955**, the first copy of the Guinness Book of Records was published. To prepare the publication in London, a special agency was created that

registered various curious achievements. Since then, this reference publication has annually recorded information about the outstanding achievements of people and animals, unique phenomena in nature and human society.



**August 27th** is Miner's Day in the Republic of Belarus. Industrial production of oil, gas and potash salt started in the territory of the Republic in the 1960s. Today, the country produces oil, brown coal, peat, potash and rock salts, saporpels, dolomite, sands, clays, fresh and mineral underground waters. Belarus occupies one of the leading places in the world in terms of production and export of potash mineral fertilisers.



**August 28th** is World Dream Day. The idea for the holiday was Martin Luther King's speech on August 28th, 1963, which went down in history under the *I Have a Dream* title and was named after a quote from the speech. Martin Luther King, who lived the dream of human equality, devoted his whole life to the realisation of his dream, becoming one of the brightest symbols of the fight against racial discrimination.

**On August 29th, 1958**, Michael Jackson (1958-2009) was born, an American singer, songwriter, record producer, and dancer. He made a significant contribution to the development of popular music, video clips, dance and fashion.

He is one of the most successful performers in history, known as the King of Pop. He won 15 Grammy Awards and hundreds of other awards. The number of Jackson records sold in the world is 1 billion copies.



**On August 31st, 1920**, the first production Russian tank was created. On this day, a light tank drove out of the gates of the Krasnoye Sormovo factory in Nizhny Novgorod, which became the first mass-produced tank in Russia. It was a seriously modernised Renault FT-17, called Russian Renault. The creation of these tanks was the beginning of the formation of the Russian tank building school, which soon proved



its worth, uniqueness and superiority over foreign tank building schools in many respects.