

INTERNATIONAL

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Near works by Nadia Khodasevich-Leger, at exhibition in National Art Museum

## Artistic dispute appeared as part of original quartet

National Art Museum presents dialogue of Belarusian and Italian avant-garde art of early 20th century → **10**



## Time has come for biometric passports

By Alexander Pimenov

### Biometric passport and national ID-card to be introduced by January 1st, 2019

According to Alexey Begun, who heads the Department for Citizenship and Migration at the Belarusian Interior Ministry, the passport will be designed exclusively for foreign trips while the card will be the main identity document. As far as an ID-card is concerned, it will contain a digital signature and will ease dealings with e-government. The electronic chip in the passport will contain personal data, including a photo,

electronic signature and fingerprints, easing the going through corresponding types of control at the border, to simplify particular mechanisms of visa issuance, and increase the level of passport protection for Belarusian citizens.

Mr. Begun is confident that the cost of introducing biometric passports will be cheaper for Belarus than it has been for other CIS states. "Expenditure will stand at 12-14 million Euros," states the Head of the Department for Citizenship and Migration at the Belarusian Interior Ministry. He tells us that a corresponding design has been prepared, and a



Degree of protection should increase many times

sketch approved. "We've determined a list of equipment to be installed at citizenship and migration departments, as well as at the

document personalisation centre, at the Interior Ministry, to 'read' biometric information. A technical assignment is now being pre-

pared for these projects, with a tender being announced to implement these projects jointly with the Interior Ministry," explains Mr. Begun.

Each biometric passport will cost around 30 Euros, while an ID-card will cost one base amount (at present, a base amount stands at Br23).

Meanwhile, the new passports will differ in having a photo on the first page. Moreover, all pages will be different, to enhance the protection of the document. Biometric passports won't be obligatory, with old document remaining valid, together with an ID-card.

## Modern style exposition



By Inna Kabysheva

For the past month, Minskers have been using the Vitovt eco-friendly electric bus, as developed by Belkommunmash. Comfy, smooth and quiet, avoiding sudden jerks, the bus is a great improvement on those of the past. Passengers and drivers alike are full of praise.

Each Vitovt bus can operate at temperatures of below 35 degrees (or even colder) and to those above 40 degrees. It recently arrived in sunny Astana, for the EXPO-2017 show, as the Director of Belkommunmash, Chief Designer Oleg Bytsko, explains. "The Belarusian pavilion will feature a single 12-metre long E420 Vitovt Electro. We didn't develop the electric bus specifically for the exhibition, as we wish to demonstrate vehicles actually operating on Minsk streets," he notes.

This year, the International EXPO-2017 Fair will be held under the 'Energy of the Future' motto, fo-

cus on alternative energy sources. Participants from 112 countries are bringing their developments to Astana, with Belarus exhibiting its industrial achievements in the sphere of energy-saving technologies: besides the Vitovt bus, there will be MAZ bus

### Electric bus already operating on Minsk streets joins exhibits at World Fair in Astana, in June

models and combine harvesters, all running on gas fuels. Our companies are now preparing for the event.

The Chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology, Alexander Shumilin, comments on other exhibits from Belarus that are sure to cause a stir, such as our highly efficient power supply sources of the fifth technological mode and an automated module purification system of drinking, sewage and industrial water (managed via the Internet). A separate part of the exhibition will be devoted

to energy-efficiency in the home.

Eight interactive kiosks will be the highlight of the Belarusian stand, allowing visitors to use Bluetooth or Wi-Fi to download information to their gadgets. "We'll be using this technology at the exhibition for the first time. Probably, we'll be the only ones using it, showcasing us as a high-tech country," adds Mr. Shumilin.

The Belarusian pavilion will present various areas of development, and the Day of Belarus at EXPO-2017 will take place on August 16th.



## Artists from nine countries drawing Mogilev

By Diana Garaninova

### Mogilev Through Visitors' Eyes art project — dedicated to city's 750th anniversary — solemnly opens at regional centre town hall

Artists from nine countries are painting Mogilev for two weeks, with two of the city's art schools running improvised workshops. The first international symposium gathers artists from Belarus, Russia, Azerbaijan, China, India, Lithuania, Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. During the first three days, participants toured the city, soaking up its colours and moods, and chatting with Mogilev residents.

Oksana Yevdokimenko, a painter from Mogilev, who is the brains behind the project, tells us, "I've been nurturing this idea for a long time and the city authorities have helped me realise it. The symposium perfectly fits into the programme of jubilee events and I hope it will become a tradition. I spend five months abroad, annually, taking part in artistic projects, as this helps inspire me with creative energy. I've invited my fellow artists to Mogilev; they are wonderful in their creativity and human relations, and are much impressed by our Podnikolsky Monastery and the town hall, with its 'princely path' to the observation ground."

## Good interaction between notariates

By Alena Kitaeva

### Notary officers of Belarus and China meet in Minsk, agreeing to conduct joint seminars and training

Chinese lawyers have held working meetings with

the Presidential Administration and the Justice Ministry, discussing legislation which regulates notarial activity of our two countries, as well as a range of items from Chinese legislation of interest to representatives of the Belarusian notarial society. The

Chinese have also agreed with the leadership of the Notary Chamber of Belarus to strengthen co-operation between the notariates of our two states.

According to participants of the meeting, efficient interaction requires

us to study the conditions and peculiarities of notary work in both systems, via joint conferences and training seminars. The guests visited the multi-functional centre of the Notary Chamber of Belarus, where notary officers are trained, and saw

the work of notary archivists from the Minsk regional and Minsk city notary districts. The Chinese delegation also visited the 1st Minsk City Notary Office, where they looked at how Belarusian colleagues organise their work.



## No minor results in professional sport

Alexander Lukashenko re-elected President of the National Olympic Committee, at recent NOC Olympic Assembly sitting. Sportsmen, coaches and responsible officials in the sporting sphere are working hard to meet tasks set by the NOC Head. In his speech, Mr. Lukashenko outlined the strategy for development.

By Vasily Kharitonov

Belarus has managed to declare itself as a sporting state. Owing to the striking achievements of Darya Domracheva, Ivan Tikhon, and other champions and Olympic medallists, the country has gained wider global recognition. While hosting major sporting events, Belarus is significantly expanding its circle of friends. Tourists come to the country, seeing its lifestyle, history and traditions. This is a positive role of sport as one of the strongest forms of public diplomacy.

Having a certain reputation, the country now needs to maintain its level of sporting prowess, and keep pushing forward, overcoming obstacles. Our athletes performed well at the Olympics in Sochi and showed good results at the European Games in Baku. However, their Rio perfor-

mance was poor, finishing in 40th place in the medal standings. Footballers, ice-hockey and volleyball players, as well as some representatives of individual disciplines, underperformed.

Mr. Lukashenko believes that the country is spending a great deal on developing sports and has every right to demand a return — including living up to fans' expectations, and lifting their mood, in repayment for their support of our athletes.

The NOC President listed the main tasks aimed at taking our sport to a higher level. Among them is the determination and support of promising, potential 'winning' sports. "We'll financially support those who receive licences and pay even more if medals are won," he said, noting also that student sport is to become a mainstay for professional sports.

Mr. Lukashenko also spoke of

coaches' training. From an organisational point of view, everything is available: the University, the Higher School of Coaches and the Institute for Qualification Improvement. However, it remains difficult to find highly trained specialists, necessitating us often inviting them from abroad. True, these are high-level professionals but — as the President wisely noted — 'they can never put their soul into the work and never teach sportsmen to love their Motherland'. With this in mind, domestic coaches are especially needed.

In addition, Mr. Lukashenko said that Republican Olympic training centres should optimise their work, paying special attention to sports science and medicine and setting goals for achievement. "It's hardly possible to achieve serious results without high-quality medical and scientific support. We must make maximum use of the potential of the Ministry of Health, while understanding that sportsmen need an individual approach."

Doping is the scourge of modern sports and, as seen from recent scandals, the problem is controversial. Of course, it's bad to use prohibited drugs, but this issue sometimes becomes an instrument of pressure on teams. It's important to oppose such an approach.

Speaking about the role of regions, Mr. Lukashenko notes that these should be strengthened, re-



Alexander Lukashenko speaks

garding sportsmen's training. Many of our stars 'have grown' from local schools and — if support is provided — new stars will appear. Without this approach, promising athletes may be obliged to move residence (far from ideal) or may give up altogether on their training.

In relation to sports infrastructure, Mr. Lukashenko asserts that construction plans must clearly agree with the country's concept for sports development. In addition, sports facilities must be used for specific purposes.

The work of sports federations should be intensified and the President proposes distributing duties and

responsibilities among various sports organisations. The special role of the National Olympic Committee is that it should be a home for all — rendering methodological, financial and other assistance to federations, while quickly and efficiently solving problems.

Mr. Lukashenko outlined the general strategy, saying, "Sport is the most important sector of the national economy. It must work with benefits and dividends. We aren't rich enough to spend money recklessly. The situation requires action to improve this sector and eliminate negative factors hampering the effective use of funds."



Ivan Tikhon (L) and Darya Domracheva during the sitting

## Francysk Skaryna to appear on screens

By Lyudmila Minkevich

A new documentary about Belarus' first printer to be screened in the country's cinemas

It will be not a dry biopic straight from the history textbooks but exciting events to show the life of Belarus' first printer. The audience doesn't just see the well-known engravings and self-portrait of Skaryna — but walks with him along his life journey. Belarusfilm National Film Studio suggests getting acquainted with the life and creativity of Francysk Skaryna

in a different way. The author of the new film, entitled *The First Printer*, Vladimir Moroz and director Igor Chishchenya reveal the personality of the great first printer in a modern context showing how his ideas and principles are relevant to today.

The shooting process took almost three months. During this time the cinematographers travelled to cities and countries once visited by Skaryna. They went to Vilnius, Prague, Krakow and St. Petersburg before dropping into Polotsk — the native city of the first printer — and Minsk where

they shot in the National Library. Pre-arranged shooting took place in Vileika, in the building where a museum, entitled *Looking for Lost Values*, is to open soon to mark the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing. The mastermind behind it is historian, collector and author of several *SB* projects, a laureate of the 'For Spiritual Revival' Award, Vladimir Lihodedov. He kindly procured the building for the shooting, as well as his son Dmitry who debuted in the role of the first printer. Spectators will also see a famous printing machine — the



one once used by Skaryna to publish his books. "The printing machine has been restored using ancient drawings and engravings," noted Mr. Lihodedov, who is very proud

of this wooden creation, made without a single nail. "I have even travelled the same path as Skaryna and went to Germany, Switzerland and Poland to study ancient book printing.

I have provided the printing machine for use free of charge for the filming, alongside everything that is now in my museum of printing."

After being shown in the country's cinemas, *The First Printer* will be offered for screening on Belarusian TV channels and beyond its borders and will become an entrant at numerous events, marking the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing and enlightening people about the activity of Francysk Skaryna, including during Belarusian Written Language Day in Polotsk.



# Issue easily comparable with independence of a country

President of Belarus demands we overcome recession in oil processing at Government session discussing industrial development strategy

By Vladimir Khromov

“I’ve said before that the importance of this issue is tied with the independence of our state. We should do our utmost to ensure the energy independence and security of Belarus,” emphasises the Head of State. “We should work out a plan of action to help the oil refiners overcome the difficulties they’re facing.”

Oil processing is a strategic industry for Belarus, accounting for more than 13 percent of the country’s industrial output and about 17 percent of Belarus’ exports. Unfortunately, its contribution to the Belarusian economy is falling. The added value of oil processing in our GDP was only 0.5 percent in 2016. The contribution of two oil refineries is comparable with that of, for example, Beltelecom. The negative trend in foreign trade in oil and oil products appeared in 2016. Experts predict a trade deficit by the end of the year. It’s no surprise that this situation raises serious concerns. Once the flagship of the economy, this industry is now turning into a loss-making sector.

Alexander Lukashenko notes that huge funds have been invested in the improvement and modernisation of oil refineries. Still, there is no proper outcome; the refining yield index of over 90 percent (expected



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At one of Mozyr Oil Refinery’s construction sites

back in 2015) is yet to be achieved.

The President said that the global situation and the significant decrease in oil prices has had a negative impact. At the same time, certain mistakes had been made in determining the oil refining development strategy. Besides, the Government has no clear-cut plan of action in this field.

“Poor project management, and irrational distribution of workforce and funds have increased construction costs and extended the timescale

(up to five years for certain projects). It’s doubtful that we’ll complete the modernisation of oil processing enterprises in 2019,” noted the Head of State.

Mr. Lukashenko believes that domestic enterprises haven’t been working effectively in the face of declining oil prices, despite needing to be proactive.

The President urged participants of the session to focus on a number of crucial issues, such as the economic

situation at oil refining enterprises and their year-end prospects, and the Government’s outlook on the long-term and mid-term development strategy under new market conditions.

The Head of State also asked about the amount of money and time that will be required to complete the upgrade of enterprises and raise the efficiency of the industry, and about planned sources of financing.

“Remember that the economic

dimension of oil processing and its efficiency should be in the spotlight,” warned the President, speaking to those who are responsible for the branch.

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that, when approving the appointment of new directors at Naftan Oil Refinery and Mozyr Oil Refinery, he set clear tasks regarding the preparation of feasible action plans. “Enough time has passed for them to gain a picture of the state of affairs. I’ve warned them that previous practices will not work,” summed up the President.

During the meeting tackling the development strategy for the Belarusian oil processing industry, Mr. Lukashenko also spoke about tasks assigned to the newly appointed Aide to the President, Alexander Kosinets, who has been entrusted to supervise the projects discussed during the session.

“Everything should be objectively analysed and submitted to me. I won’t tolerate modernisation failing to be completed within a certain timeframe. I won’t allow any devaluation, disavowal, or failure to implement the President’s instructions. This is inadmissible. This applies to everything, including today’s conversation. I want to see objective analysis and a report,” stressed Mr. Lukashenko.

## Improved visa conditions for Great Stone potential investors

By Alexander Pimenov

**Potential investors and residents of Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park will be able to stay in Belarus without a visa for 180 days per calendar year**

The Chinese-Belarusian Park is being set up not far from Minsk. A range of residents are now registered as part of the project, ready to establish promising production.

Kirill Koroteyev, the First Deputy Director General of the Industrial Park Development Company, states, “Due to peculiarities of the project, its international status and its novelty for Belarus, the Park needs a large number of foreign specialists with experience of implementing similar projects in other countries, specialists who speak foreign languages, as well as native speakers. This is why the Presidential decree introduces visa-free travel options for representatives of potential investors and

residents. They will be able to stay in the country for 180 days per calendar year.”

The decree also allows foreign companies to hire migrant workers. “This regulation is necessary for foreign general contractors, as they build Park facilities using preferential-rate Chinese loans. Its mandatory for Chinese components to be used in such construction projects, are set out by loan contracts,” explains Mr. Koroteyev.

The volume of investments necessary for registration as a resident of the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park has been updated by a recent decree. “The document envisages reducing the volume of investments to \$500,000, providing injections within three years. This should attract small and medium-sized businesses to the Park, as are necessary to create complementary production facilities for the larger companies,” notes Mr. Koroteyev. Previously one



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could become a Park resident with investments of \$5 million, without any restrictions regarding terms.

The new decree expands major areas of activity for resident companies, across informatics, pharmaceuticals, electronic commerce, storage and processing of large volumes of

data, and socio-cultural operations. A ban has been introduced on activities potentially dangerous to public health and the environment, such as the production of alcohol and tobacco. Meanwhile, the production of radioactive materials is strictly prohibited.

## Partners seeking new impetus

By Alexander Pimenov

**Venezuela keen to expand its assembly line-up of BELARUS machinery, notes Venezuelan governmental delegation, headed by Minister for Basic, Strategic and Socialist Industries, Juan Arias**

In particular, the parties discussed assembly of logging equipment, for launch at an existing enterprise in Venezuela. Mr. Arias announced, “We’d like to drive forward our co-operation. Venezuela is assembling tractors for use in the agrarian sector and would like to expand its line-up. We’re especially interested in logging equipment.”

The Director General of Minsk Tractor Works, Fiodor Domotenko, states that the company is ready to expand its line-up of equipment assembled in Venezuela. “We’ve received concrete proposals and are currently studying them. A delegation from Minsk Tractor Works will soon be ready to go to Venezuela to continue talks,” he added.



## First quarter truly inspires

Judging by the results of the first three months, the economy has grown. According to the data of the National Statistical Committee, our GDP has increased by 0.3 percent. Growing demand for Belarusian produce on external markets has also had its role to play. Export supplies have increased by 17.4 percent compared with the same period last year. The figures were announced at a session of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers.

By Maria Drukova

The greatest movement has been seen in industry and agriculture, as well as the wholesale and retail trade. Belneftkhim experienced some problems be-

cause of the oil and gas dispute with Russia, but new agreements should ensure growth in this sector. Prime Minister Andrei Kobryakov noted, "It's important that we have achieved growth of real salaries — 100.5 percent against

January-February 2016. This was due to the increase in labour productivity, enabling us to reach the planned level of real disposal incomes for the population."

Inflation is also slowing down, with prices growing by



Production at Minsk's Atlant Association

only 1.7 percent in January-March though the Government forecast growth of at least 4.8 percent. In total, according to Mr. Kobryakov, in the first three months of this year, the economy has exceeded all planned figures.

We expect GDP to grow by 0.2 percent in the first six months. This will enable us to gradually improve into the second half of the year and ensure the forecast figures are achieved by the end of 2017.

## Blue skin for 'exotic' potatoes

Belarusian specialists breed purple, blue and red varieties



Traditional Belarusian potatoes in demand

By Kristina Khilko

### Better than broccoli and spinach

Work is in full swing in the laboratory of the Scientific-Practical Centre for Potato, Vegetable and Fruit Growing at the National Academy of Sciences. Staff carefully cut potatoes and throw them into the fryer with boiling oil. A few minutes later, there appears a plate full of multi-coloured crunchy chips: purple, blue, red and yellow...

We watch an experiment: a purple potato is thrown into a saucepan to be put on a slow heat. Thirty minutes later, the amazing multi-coloured product is cooked. The colour has not disappeared and this means that no artificial colourants have been used. The laboratory assistants

disclose the secret, "In order not to lose any colour, the water should be salted at the start of cooking." The new 'exotic' potato is no different in taste from an ordinary potato but it's much more useful. As far as nutrients are concerned, it rivals broccoli, brussel sprouts, spinach and peppers. Moreover, its juice is a natural food dye which could replace artificial colourants in the food industry.

"These colour varieties are a true 'find' for both our stomachs and wallets. They would be much cheaper than imported food," explained the Doctor of Agricultural Sciences and a chief researcher at the Centre — Georgy Piskun. "This is a serious benefit to Belarusians as around 30 percent of all local dishes use potato. Unsurprisingly, we are called 'bul-



Crisps from new potato variety

bashi' [from the Belarusian 'bulba' which stands for the Russian 'potato']. According to the statistics, almost 600kg of potatoes are grown annually per capita in the country, while we consume around 180kg a year. These are the highest rates in the world. Russians in contrast, eat around 100kg of potatoes annually."

### A single variety from 150,000 samples

Varieties with red, blue or pink skin and flesh are already known in potato breeding. Experiments are now in full swing in Japan, China and the United States. Our scientists are keeping up with the global trend.

These varied colours appear when ordinary tubers are coloured with special pigments: anthocyanins. After penetrating the organism, these substances can block the development of serious diseases: atherosclerosis, cardiovascular disease or cataracts. Belarusian specialists

— are hidden inside them," says Mr. Piskun. "We collect them, wash and thoroughly dry them to then plant them in greenhouses. In autumn, we collect and store the harvest and, in spring, plant them anew. To receive a single variety, we need to work with around 150 thousand seedlings. Only the best remain. The process is long, taking approximately nine years. Each plant is unique not only in its form but also in colour, taste and resistance to pests and diseases. It takes about twelve years from the moment of mixing until a variety is included on the state register."

### The devil is in the detail

Over the past five years, Belarusian scientists have developed over a dozen new varieties of potatoes — each named with the national colour: i.e. 'Zhuravinka', 'Uladar', 'Volat'. "This is done so that the varieties can be easily recognised abroad," explained Mr. Piskun. "One of the most popular of them

is 'Skarb'; around thirty percent of our fields are planted with it. Russians also prefer it. This variety stores well in warm cellars and will not germinate for a long time. Cooks know that beautiful potato pancakes can be cooked with it." Potato is among the most profitable exports in Belarus: last year, around 300,000 were sold abroad. "In Moldova, the red-skinned potato is especially popular, while Belarusians see it as fodder and think it tasteless. In turn, 'Zdabytak' is popular in the European Union; starch is made from it there. This variety has almost twice as much starch as any other."

Belarusian producers of chips, French fries and dry mashed potatoes are waiting impatiently for the day when the new bright varieties can be grown on an industrial scale. Individuals are also eager to start planting them in their gardens. However, they will all need to wait for a while longer as the experimental potatoes will only appear nationwide in two years' time.



# Ambulances with tablet devices

Within five years the Health Ministry plans to move all polyclinics and hospitals over to electronic services

By Vladimir Khromov

The Health Minister Valery Malashko has high hopes for the new method and is confident that informatisation of the branch will enable us to considerably enhance the quality of medical services, “First, emergency doctors will have tablet devices. It’s no secret that many citizens don’t have their medical records to hand and emergency doctors, unlike primary care physicians, face previously unknown patients. Thanks to these electronic tablets, doctors will be able to access all the nec-



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At newly revamped Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Neurology and Neurosurgery

essary medical records, enter the medical database, choose an algorithm for treatment corresponding to the severity of the disease and immediately access the necessary medication in the closest pharmacy.”

The next step in branch informatisation will be to unify all medical institutions in the country

into a single network, i.e., information about each patient (complete clinical record, discharge summaries, specialists’ expertise and prescribed treatment) can be found in the common database regardless of which healthcare institution was attended by the patient.

Undoubtedly, the new system is useful and progressive but elec-

tronics itself can’t replace doctors, so great attention will be paid to preparation of staff. In this respect Mr. Malashko is optimistic, “I can say that today there are no staff problems in the branch. In line with staffing structure a small district should have only one ophthalmologist, one ORT specialist and so on. However, any special-

ist can fall ill, take a vacation or a maternity leave and thus drops out of the system for some time. Such cases are difficult to predict, so the Ministry suggests a system of compensating for the missing personnel at the level of inter-district centres and regional healthcare institutions by sending the necessary specialists to the region.”

## New and promising avenue

By Olga Kosyakova

**Neurosurgery is among the areas where 3D-modeling is widely used. Every year, the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Neurology and Neurosurgery conducts over 500 plastic surgery operations on skulls, with over 50 interventions involving 3D-prototyping.**

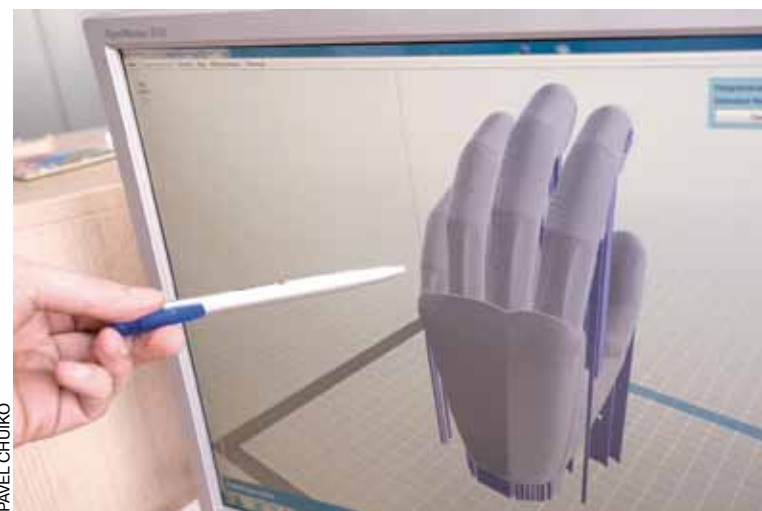
Traumas and brain decompression lead to violations of the integrity of the bone skeleton of the head. Patients obtain skull defects as a result; these vary from small to impressive 6 to 270 square centimetres!

The Head of the 2nd Neurosurgery Department at the Centre — Andrey Shchemelev — demonstrates the formation of the head bones. “After removing the compression of the brain, a patient lives without part of his skull for some time; then, the closing of the defect follows. Otherwise, trepan syndrome will develop where a patient will suffer from headaches and dizziness. Such patients are sensitive to atmospheric pressure and are uncomfortable on turning their heads. It’s easily possible to injure the brain and then bleeding may occur — accompanied by the formation of hematoma which

may be life threatening. A person’s own bone is considered the ideal material. After craniotomy, part of the bone can be frozen but the risk of infection is possible during defrosting and implantation. Until the next phase of the operation, the removed part is stored in a pocket made of the abdomen’s subcutaneous fat, on the leg. We preserve a part of the skull in the subcutaneous tissue of the patient’s head. However, in this case, there is a possibility that a patient’s body will start to dissolve the bone and cause a decrease in size, meaning that it would not fit well enough when required.”

There are cases when parts of a skull are destroyed due injury or severe infection; as a result, nothing can be stored in the subcutaneous ‘treasury’. The question of how to close the injury then arises. Around 35 years ago, Belarus used protacryl for this purpose: the material used to produce dental prostheses. However, it is quite allergenic and rejection is possible.

Mr. Shchemelev demonstrates models of a skull made of plastic and titanium plates. “If possible, we preserve a patient’s bone. If not, we put in titanium implants. These are our currency and import substituting



PAVEL CHUIKO

Life-sized palm model

products, three times cheaper than foreign analogues and rivalling foreign plates.”

The doctor recalls his first patient to have her skull made of plastic plates. The lady was beaten and received extensive damage to her skull: depressed fractures and a fractured bone. 270 square centimetres were damaged. The neurosurgeons eliminated compression of the brain and her condition began to improve.

“It’s impossible to live without half of the skull,” admitted the doctor but said, “Thanks to specialists from Gates Trade JSC, an individual 3D-model of her skull was produced,

combined with the missing pieces. It was modelled from the healthy side. Based on the printed prototype, a titanium implant was then made to be successfully transplanted.”

The lady recovered, graduated from university and lives a normal life; she has no complaints about the titanium. Such an implant can be permanent.

3D-modeling is also used in operations to remove bone tumours. “We prepare a programme on how to remove tumours. We perform cranioplasty with titanium plates. 3D-printing is a new and promising avenue in medicine.

## Close to children

By Violetta Dralyuk

**Project aiming to protect children and teenagers from sexual abuse launched by Club of Business Women, with support from the Small Grants Programme of the US Embassy. The project was presented in Gomel, featuring investigators, militia-men, teachers and volunteers.**

According to the Interior Ministry, from 2013 to 2016, around 600 children were registered as having suffered sexual abuse. Presenting the project in the Gomel Region, Galina Suzdaleva, a senior investigator for special cases at the Central Office of the Investigative Committee, explained, “Each year, the number of crimes connected with paedophilia and child pornography increases. We must develop an exact strategy of prevention and response, improving legislation and raising the awareness of public organisations and parents, while training specialists. We lack enough ‘crisis psychologists’ with experience of working with abused children.”



## Books without borders

For the first time, the *Books from Belarus* stand is being exhibited at Book World Fair in Prague. The event coincides with the 500th anniversary of book printing in Belarus: our first printed Bible was published by Francysk Skaryna on August 6th, 1517, in Prague.

By Inessa Pleskachevskaya

“Have you really come from Belarus? You’ve never been here before,” visitors to the Belarusian stand ask. They are told this is so, and are offered Belarus-made sweets. Of course, Prague residents and visitors to the Czech capital come to the exhibition primarily for intellectual and spiritual fare. To their delight, the latter abounds at the Belarusian stand (though sweets are definitely a nice bonus).

“We’ve been preparing for this trip carefully,” comments Yelena Pavlova, who heads Publishing and Book Trade Department at the Information Ministry. “We’ve ordered a large stand and gathered a good team of professionals: publishers, distributors and printers. We’ve taken seminal books to Prague: on art, culture, Minsk and Belarus — in addition to Skaryna’s editions. How can other book publishers celebrate this date? By issuing quality titles and participating in book fairs. The purpose of our participation is to present our book publishing and our achievements of recent years, as well as books on Francysk Skaryna.”

On the opening day of the exhibition, the Belarusian Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Valery



Books from Belarus stand, at exhibition in Prague

Kurdyukov, read Skaryna’s famous lines about love for his native land. This year, it seems Belarus and the Czech Republic are strongly united by their appreciation of books as cultural treasures.

Up until now, few Czech people may have heard of Francysk Skaryna and of the birth of Belarusian book publishing in Prague, with his open-

ing of the first printing house. With this in mind, many exhibits at the *Books from Belarus* stand — attended by almost all visitors to the fair — were a true revelation. Foreigners were able to learn that the tradition of Belarusian book printing is over 500 years old and could acquaint themselves with beautiful and high-quality books published in our

country. In actuality, almost 10,000 books with a total circulation of 23 million copies are released annually throughout Belarus. Although circulations of printed books are falling worldwide, with the predominance of e-book publishing, Belarus boasts two and a half new books per capita every year — which is a strong indicator. Moreover, production of Bela-

rusian language books is a new trend of recent years: around 28 percent of all books published in the country are in the native language.

Belarusian books for children aroused the greatest interest. “Children’s books are popular all over the world,” confirms Ms. Pavlova. The Belarusian exhibit also attracted representatives of the Czech National Library, Klementinum. One wall of its building features a memorial plaque in honour of Francysk Skaryna. Its representatives planned to obtain some Belarusian books to replenish their collection, and the Belarusian team was only too happy to oblige.

It’s not only for the Czech Republic that Belarusian books are topical. The Belarusian diaspora is now represented around the world; with libraries serving its needs. The newly initiated *Culture of Belarus* programme is to give Prague 127 editions, at the launch, soon to be hosted by the Embassy of Belarus and the Belarusian-Czech Chamber of Commerce.

The ‘premiere’ of Belarusian books in Prague has proven successful and it seems a new tradition has been born: Belarusian publishers laid flowers at the monument to Francysk Skaryna.

## Book-loving Polotsk resident truly captures international attention

By Lyudmila Ivanova

**History enthusiasts and book-lovers around the world are talking about Francysk Skaryna. Humanist, translator, bookmaker, and one of the first book-printers in Europe, this Belarusian historical figure took the spotlight at the national stand, Books of the Republic of Belarus, and was a significant attraction at the recent 8th Warsaw Book Fair. The exhibit was dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing.**

Rumyantsev readings at the Russian State Library were also devoted to the great Polotsk resident and his printing of the first Eastern Slavonic Bible. Presentations of Skaryna’s facsimile edition took place at the



ARTUR PRUPAS

Latvian National Library and the National Library of Estonia. Meanwhile, the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania hosted

a round table discussion: *Francysk Skaryna: 500th Anniversary of Book Printing in Belarus and Lithuania*.

To commemorate his contributions to the history of the printed word, London now has a library which bears the name of Skaryna. A scientific and practical conference is to take place in Belgrade, while Wroclaw will be hosting a special session during the IFLA World Library and Information Congress.

A recent reproduction of *The Small Travelling Book*, originally published by Francysk Skaryna in 1522 in Vilno, has begun its journey as a travelling exhibit through the countries once visited by Skaryna himself: Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic and Italy.

Small though his travelling book may have originally been, Francysk Skaryna’s vision and contributions to the literary world are certainly making a big impact.



## For those who are entranced by the stars

By Stanislav Galkovsky

**Local astronomy amateurs have been waiting for this event for around three decades: a planetarium opens in Gomel’s Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace**

The planetarium in Gomel was actually opened in the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral back in 1962 but was closed in the late 1980s. Later local authorities returned the church to believers. However, there

is no new building for an astrophysics centre, so the Full Dome mobile planetarium will open, with the stars being ‘hidden’ in the cellar. Oksana Toporova, Director of the Museum of Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace, notes, “The basement will house a 5m high dome, with a diameter of 8m. The new starry church is not big, seating just 12 but the projection is transmitted over the whole dome, ensuring a 360-degree panoramic view and creating the sense of immersion.”





Police officers at site of terror attack in heart of London

# Seven victims killed, three suspects shot dead by police

At least seven people have been killed and 48 injured in a terror attack in central London, with police shooting three suspected assailants dead

The attack began late Saturday (June 3rd) night, when a white van stuck pedestrians on London Bridge, Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley said in a statement. The suspects then left the vehicle and ‘a number of people were stabbed, including an on-duty British Transport Police officer who was responding to the incident at London Bridge’, said Rowley. The officer received serious but not life-threatening injuries.

“Armed officers responded very

quickly and bravely, confronting three male suspects who were shot and killed in Borough Market,” said Rowley. “The suspects had been confronted and shot by the police within eight minutes of the first call. The suspects were wearing what looked like explosive vests but these were later established to be hoaxes.”

Officers say they know the identities of the men who carried out the attack and will release the names ‘as soon as operationally possible’.

Eyewitnesses reported panic as

the incidents unfolded in the vicinity of a major transport hub and in an area packed with restaurants and bars. The London Ambulance Service said at least 48 people were taken to five hospitals, with many more treated at the scene. The attacks came days before a general election and two weeks after 22 people were killed when a suicide bomber targeted an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester. It was the third terrorist attack to strike the United Kingdom this year, after a man drove a car into pedestrians on

Westminster Bridge in March.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said authorities were dealing with a ‘terrible incident’ and London’s Metropolitan Police Service said incidents at London Bridge and nearby Borough Market were being treated as terrorism. The investigation is now being led by the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command. London Mayor Sadiq Khan said it was ‘deliberate and cowardly attack’ on Londoners enjoying a Saturday night out.



# World’s largest airplane rolled out

**Stratolaunch — which is designed to release rockets that will carry satellites into space — has a 385-foot wingspan, features six engines used by the Boeing 747, stands 50 feet tall and can carry more than 500,000 pounds of payload**

The twin-fuselage aircraft, the baby of Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, was pulled out of its Mojave

Air and Space Port hangar in California to begin fueling tests — the first of many ground tests.

Jean Floyd, Stratolaunch’s Chief Executive Officer, said the goal is to have a launch demonstration as early as 2019.

“Over the coming weeks and months, we’ll be actively conducting ground and flight line testing at the Mojave Air and Space Port,” Floyd said in a statement.

# Eurozone needs a radical overhaul of the way it works

**Officials believe it would make the single currency more democratic by granting greater oversight powers to MEPs**

“The governance of the euro area cannot ignore democratic demands, we need democratic control, we need the strengthening of the role of the European Parliament to play this role,” said Pierre Moscovici, the EU Economics Commissioner.

The former French Finance Minister said it could help bridge the gap between richer and poorer members.

“We can not have a two-tier Europe, and especially a two-speed euro, which means a reduction of divergence,” he added.



Pierre Moscovici

The Commission also suggested that mutualising government debt would be another option, something which Germany has vigorously opposed.

It said the proposals were merely to start a debate, rather than a draft piece of legislation.

# NASA’s first mission to the star set for 2018 year

**A US spacecraft set to launch next year will make a series of unprecedented dives into the Sun’s scorching atmosphere to see how the star works and what can be done to better predict space weather events on Earth**

The Parker Solar Probe will have to survive temperatures as high as 2,500 Fahrenheit (1,371 Celsius), impacts by supersonic particles and powerful radiation as it circles as close as 7 million km to the Sun.

Data sent back to Earth some 1.4 billion km away will help scientists figure out why the sun’s atmosphere, or corona, is hotter than its surface.

“We’re going to be seven times closer (to the Sun) than any other mission has ever been,” project scientist Nicola Fox, with Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland.

The spacecraft, designed and built by the Johns Hopkins University laboratory, is scheduled to launch in July 2018 and fly around Venus seven times to get itself into orbit around the sun in December 2024. NASA is paying about \$1.5 billion to build and launch the spacecraft.

The probe is expected to orbit the sun 24 times, edging closer on each pass. The size of a small car, it will be outfitted with five science instruments to measure and sample the Sun’s corona.

In addition to expanding knowledge of stellar physics, the information is expected to help engineers design better instruments and techniques for predicting solar storms and other events.

# World’s oil cartel extends oil production cut

**The oil cartel OPEC has agreed to extend production cuts into 2018 in an effort to end a global glut**

Ministers meeting in Vienna, together with Russia, prolonged the supply curbs for another nine months.

Crude stockpiles are shrinking, but the surplus built up over the last three years is not expected to clear until at least the end of 2017, possibly further.

OPEC and Russia’s grip on the global market has been challenged by the rapid rise of the US shale industry, which is not included in the latest output deal.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



## Good news from Cannes

Belarusian filmmakers Nikolay Lavrenyuk and Sergey Kolosovsky receive special jury prize at Cannes Film Festival, for *Solomon's Mountain*. The script has won the Krzysztof Kieslowski *ScripTeast* Award, ahead of ten other films nominated from Central and Eastern Europe. *Sorry, Poland*, by Polish Kuba Czekaj, also won a prize.

By Victoria Popova

The prestigious *ScripTeast* event has been held for the 11th time, but this is Belarus' first ever prize. Nikolay Lavrenyuk explains, "We're the first Belarusians to take part. I think the main problem is that our guys don't always know where and what is taking place. My advice to Belarusians is to independently search for organised competitions. The project is led by Dariusz Jablonski — a Polish film director, producer and the President of the Polish Film Academy. Some time ago, he was Krzysztof Kieslowski's assistant director, and is now supporting Alexey German Jr. He liked our script very much and wanted to include it in the project. Applications were to be submitted by August 1st. We were then invited to a week-long session, in Poland, where professional script writers from around the world looked over our work. We had to rewrite it by New Year, for presentation at the Berlin Film Festival, for further study. We then wrote a third, and final, draft of our *Solomon's Mountain* and eventually came to Cannes."



**You've won the special prize of the jury here. Accept my congratulations, Nikolay. Such a weighty prize is a true gift. Probably, you've immediately started receiving proposals for co-production on a film based on your script...**

*You're right; the 'ScripTeast' competition is well known in the world of cinema and its award is a 'seal of quality' for a script. We're now in the process of negotiations, with serious interest being shown from the Polish side. My co-author, Sergey Kolosovsky, will*

**At Cannes Film Festival**  
*act as the director; he graduated from the Warsaw Film School and his short films have several times participated in international film festivals.*

**I hope you'll begin shooting soon. Can you share your impression of Cannes?**

### Solomon's Mountain:

- The story of a young man who escapes from prison and hides in the Chernobyl zone, where he meets an old woman who lives alone...
- The script is based on the work of playwright Irina Pismennaya, *Like Sting*.

*Apart from film premieres, catwalks and queues to cinema screenings, the French Riviera is hosting a huge film market, where each country tries to promote itself, to attract foreign companies into co-production of films. Cannes is the main platform for promotion of cinematography. We used to have our own pavilion, represented by Belarusfilm Studio, but it's now closed.*

The closed pavilion at the Cannes fair does look somewhat forlorn. Perhaps, the studio should unite efforts with other companies, making another attempt to open for the film world next year...

## Dolphins and mermaid create a ballet — the opposite to fishing

By Kristina Khilko

**Underwater ballet with sharks and sea creatures gaining global popularity. Belarusian synchronised swimmer Polina Cherkasova tells us how she became involved in these dangerous dances.**

### Her best friends are sharks

The aquarium is as high as a two-story house. A giant ray is basking lazily when a girl appears out of nowhere. She grabs it by its side and pulls its tail. The creature could easily shock her with a burst of electricity up to 230 volts. She then approaches a shark and touches its fin. The predator opens its mouth in response, with its sharp teeth glinting in the light... After such 'fun', games with dolphins seem like childish pranks. We asked Polina to comment.

**Sharks are often called killing machines. Aren't you afraid?**

*Initially, it was extremely difficult to persuade girls to dive into the aquarium: there are huge turtles, skates, dolphins and belugas as well. However, all the creatures are com-*



*pletely tame. We play the key roles while our 'swimming' colleagues perform as extras. We've even made friends. The shark likes to have its back scratched and dolphins love to play catch. Turtles are trouble-free: they can 'ride' on their backs brilliantly.*

**Are there never any emergencies?**

*We never go into the water with scratches or wounds: sharks go mad with the smell of blood. A dogfish once didn't keep its distance and crashed into me. Like Ostap Bender*

*with the horse, I got away with just a fright. They seem to be afraid of us actually.*

**They do not always show this though...**

*Not always. I was once swimming to the surface for a breath of air and collided with a metre-long ray. It was frightened so much that it produced a nasty sticky slime. I could hardly wait to wash my hair afterwards.*

*Linda's popular song — 'Dance under Water' — has been sung by everyone but few could imagine the day when it could be seen live...*

*It is really beautiful. We recently toured China with our show along with the Belarusians Olya Tokar, Alexandra Radkevich and the Russian Lolita Yurkina. When preparing our performance, we spent a week underwater making lotus flowers, Chinese houses and even Buddha silhouettes. The audience was delighted and the oceanarium was packed.*

**How did you become a synchronised swimmer?**

*From childhood I went into figure skating and swimming. In the end, I chose synchronised swimming which combines acrobatics, gymnastics and choreography. I trained twice a day. I got up at half past five, went to training, then to school and then again to training: it was a never-ending day. I realised that I did not want to devote all my time to sport so I switched to underwater demonstration performances. I'm a Fish according to the horoscope and water is my element. If I do not swim for a while, I miss it and start to feel uncomfortable. I think I'm turning into an amphibian.*

**What about the military make-up and hairstyles fixed with gelatine?**



Polina Cherkasova

*That's in the past. We now just use some bright lipstick. We become even more beautiful when we let our hair down. It would also be great to take off the pin from our noses! But, it's impossible to do without it.*

**Is underwater ballet easy for you?**

*The longer the delay in breathing — the more spectacular the figures look. So far, it's more theatre than sport. This was once also the case with synchronised swimming and artistic gymnastics.*





Stefano Bianchi pleased with the project

## Artistic dispute appeared as part of original quartet

National Art Museum presents dialogue of Belarusian and Italian avant-garde art of early 20th century

By Veniamin Mikheev

The Italian Ambassador to Belarus, Stefano Bianchi, spoke recently at a press conference devoted to the opening of the exhibition: *Dottori, Chagall, Soutine, Khodasevich-Leger: Energy, Expression, Symbolism and Dreams*. Presenting Italian and Belarusian art from the early 20th century, the exhibition is the key event in the Embassy's cultural programme in Minsk, for the Year of Italian Culture in Belarus. This marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

As the diplomat noted, co-operation between Italy and Belarus in the field of culture has been long developing. Preparing the present project, Italian organisers sought an artist who would be a revelation to the Belarusian public, many of whom are already familiar with Italian art. Gerardo Dottori was chosen, perfectly expressing the culture of Umbria and being among the key figures of avant-garde Italian art. As Mr. Bianchi notes, the idea of presenting avant-garde art seemed to be incomplete without a Belarusian master. He's convinced that, with the help of the National Art Museum of Belarus and Belgazprombank, the project is now ready.

The Chairman of Belgazprombank's Board, Victor Babariko, noted that this is another interesting experience for the bank, which is known for its cultural projects. He believes that such shows allow us to see Belarus as having been always part of European culture. "While participating in this joint Italian-Belarusian project, we're demonstrating yet again that Belarus has always been part of the European cultural space," he says.



Diversity of dialogue in avant-garde art of Belarus and Italy, at exhibition in Minsk

The exhibition features Dottori's bright landscapes, Chagall's childishly naive images, and the drama of Expressionistic Soutine, as well as the unexpected abstracts of Khodasevich-Leger. All are sure to intrigue art lovers.

Dottori is represented by fourteen late 19th-early 20th century works, including paintings, pencil drawings and sketches. Belgazprombank's corporate collection is sharing two works by Marc Chagall (*Lovers*, painted in his typical style, and *Clocks on a Flaming Sky*). On show also are two by Chaim Soutine (his famous *Eve* portrait and a landscape, enti-

tled *Large Meadows in Chartres Near a Viaduct*). The exhibition also includes two graphic works by Nadia Khodasevich-Leger, from the National Art Museum's collection. As the Italian Ambassador noted at the show's opening, all wonderfully complement each other.

Visitors have the chance to view an original quartet of artists. Dottori, Chagall, Soutine and Khodasevich-Leger each had their own unique style, revealing something new in art, while Dottori and Chagall brought the poetry of dreams to their works.



Each artist made an impact not only in Belarus but in France, Belarusian masters creating artworks in the context of European avant-garde art. Apart from pictorial and graphic works, the show presents documents, letters, photographs and magazines from *Dottori's Archives*. Visitors can watch documentaries about the Perugia futurist's life.

Thanks to support from the Italian Ambassador to Be-

larus, the event gained patronage from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Italy, the Legislative Assembly of Umbria and the Executive Committee of Umbria. Among the co-organisers are the municipality of Perugia, the National Art Museum, Belgazprombank and *Dottori's Archives*.

The National Art Museum's exhibition offers a creative dispute between the most famous 20th century avant-garde artists. The

whole history of futurism is hosted in a single room — including paintings, drawings, poems and documents owned by Dottori. We see a unique discussion between the artists. Interestingly, this is the second project by the museum realised jointly with the municipality of Perugia.

Italian curator Massimo Duranti has a simple explanation for the choice of pictures: though all artists differ in style, each has left a major legacy in the history of avant-garde art. "Dottori stands for energy, Soutine for expression, and Khodasevich-Leger for signs, while dreams are Chagall's focus," he explains.

The small hall features around two dozen works by artists who, as one art critic notes, might never 'understood' each other (due to their vastly different styles). Museum staff hope to have created a sense of dialogue between representatives of

the Italian avant-garde movement and these three Belarusian masters.

Dottori is the Embassy's key choice for the show. Mr. Duranti joined Andrea Baffoni and Francesco Duranti to choose works by the futurist artist from the Palace-Museum Palazzo Della Penna in Perugia and from private collections, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of his death. The idea has been to create dialogue between representatives of the Italian avant-garde movement, founded by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, as has travelled across Eastern Europe, and three Belarusian artists of the 20th century.

Curators from Belarus, Olga Kletschina from the National Art Museum and Alexander Zimenko from Belgazprombank, have closely liaised with the Italian Embassy in Minsk to prepare this wonderful exhibition.





Oleg Yurenya claims two gold medals on Belgrade water

# Sailing to golden finish

Three gold medals earned by Belarusian rowers during first competition day in finals of Canoe Sprint third World Cup stage in Belgrade

By Kirill Karin

Oleg Yurenya was unrivalled in one of the most prestigious distances — K1 1,000m — finishing within 3 minutes and 24.7 seconds. Denmark's René Poulsen finished second, followed by Roi Rodriguez from Spain. Gold in Serbia is the first significant success for Yurenya over the last two seasons and was followed by more success in Belgrade, as Oleg took gold also in the K1

5,000m (the longest K1 distance). The Belarusian was ahead of Danish René Poulsen by 1.5 seconds, while French Cyrille Carré came third.

Among the women, Belarusian Olga Khudenko took gold in the C1 500m, with silver going to Špela Janič of Slovenia, followed by Hermien Peters of Belgium. Alena Nozdreva of Belarus won the K1 500m, covering the distance within 2 minutes 05.4 seconds, ahead of Hungarian Virag Balla and Canadian

Katie Vincent, who took bronze.

Discussing prospects for Belarus' canoe and kayak national team this season, Alexander Bogdanovich, a deputy of the House of Representatives and an Olympic kayak champion, expressed his opinion that the team will soon be giving us more to celebrate. "The national team is reforming in the new Olympic cycle and various crew are being trialled. Probably, our leaders aren't yet on peak form but both men and women,

together with the coaching staff, will try to do their best. We'll be supporting them," notes Mr. Bogdanovich.

Belarusian rowers missed the first and second World Cup stages, held in Portugal and Hungary, in May. The World Cup stage in the Serbian capital will be a good test for them before the major starts of the season — the European Canoe Sprint Championship in Bulgarian Plovdiv and the ICF World Canoe Sprint Championship in Račice.

## Belarusians knocked out of Roland Garros

By Igor Svitov

**Belarusian tennis player Alexandra Sasnovich loses to Chinese Zhang Shuai (ranked 38th) in second round of Grand Slam tournament in Paris — 2:6, 6:4, 3:6**

Seeded 98th, Ms. Sasnovich endured an intense battle with Ms. Shuai, taking the initiative in the second set but failing to continue this through the third. Ms. Shuai broke her rival's serve and gained the advance in exchanging shots from the baseline. In the first round of the French Open, the Belarusian had defeated Swiss Viktorija Golubic — 4:6, 7:5, 6:3.



Meanwhile, in the first round of the men's doubles, Belarusian tennis veteran Max Mirnyi, partnering Russian Mikhail Yuzhny, lost to French pair Quentin Halys and Adrian Panarino — 6:4, 3:6, 2:6.

The Grand Slam tournament finishes at Roland Garros on June 11th. This year, the total prize fund of the French Open is 36 million Euros.



Alena Omelyusik pleased with her performance

## Two silver medals within two days

By Vladislav Mokhorov

**Alena Omelyusik, performing for Canyon SRAM cycling group, earns two silver medals after one-day road cycling races in France**

Alena Omelyusik is well known as a brilliant finisher and, during the Grand Prix de Plumelec-Morbihan Dames, has again shown her professionalism. In her group of four, the Belarusian athlete managed to cross the finish line in second place, behind Ashleigh Moolman of the SAR, while bronze went to Sarah Gillow of Australia.

On the eve of La Classique Morbihan race, Alena (born in Bereza) was ranked second. The Canyon SRAM team was relying on her at the finish and did all they could to aid her in making a final spurt.

Alena tells us, "The two races were successful for me. The last was slightly more difficult, since my rivals were maintaining a high tempo and often tried to pull away; however, at the finish, due to the efforts of my teammates, I managed to 'wedge' into the quartet which determined the strongest. The sprint was a success. Two medal podiums within two days. It's brilliant!"

## Playing, but half-heartedly

Belarus' national football team loses to Switzerland in friendly away match

By Vladimir Velikhov

Igor Kriushenko, head coach of the Belarusian national squad, invited many new footballers from national championship clubs to take part in the match against Switzerland. The debutants managed to contain their nerves before their prominent rivals but failed to play to the best of their ability. In the first half, there were few dangerous moments, with Sergey Chernik only just managing to save shots at his net. Sadly, in the ninth minute of the match, Swiss team leader Xherdan Shaqiri opened the score



Swiss stronger on this occasion

with a long-range kick. After missing one goal, Igor Kriushenko's trainees failed to organize a counterattack and didn't take a single shot against Roman Bürki's net in the first half. During halftime, the coaching staff of the Belarusian team made five substitutions and players began to take the initiative. Sergey Balanovich, Pavel Savitsky and Denis Laptev

combined to attack, but failed to equalize the score.

Our Belarusian team is now training for two home matches. On June 9th, they'll face Bulgaria, at Borisov Arena, in a selection match for the 2018 World Championship. Meanwhile, on June 12th, Minsk's Traktor Stadium will host a friendly match against New Zealand.



## Contest of the week



*A Day in a Big City* project sums up the results of the photo contest for best smile

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 25<sup>th</sup> May. *Breath of Eternity* Until 25<sup>th</sup> June. Exhibition dedicated to 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of artist-restorer A. Shpunt  
Until 3<sup>rd</sup> July. *Great Rembrandt*

#### NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 24<sup>th</sup> June. *Skorina — Enlightener-Humanist* Until 25<sup>th</sup> June. *Rabbinical Dynasty of Medalie*

#### GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> July. White Pole Museum of Ice-Cream

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. Exhibition of wax figures: *Miraculous Travel* Until 15<sup>th</sup> June. *Bells* Until 10<sup>th</sup> August (Labyrinth Gallery). *Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man*

#### YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> June. *Host of Belarusian Song*

#### TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 18<sup>th</sup> June. *Childhood for Everyone*

#### YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street  
Until 26<sup>th</sup> June. *Polish Writers from 1920s-1930s* Until 30<sup>th</sup> September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

#### MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street  
Until 11<sup>th</sup> September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

#### ZAIR AZGUR'S MUSEUM-WORKSHOP

8 Zair Azgur Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. Galina Gorova's sculpture: *Thoughts and Forms*

#### YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 9<sup>th</sup> September. *The Artist and The City: Golden Collection of Belarusian Pictorial Art*

#### HOUSE-MUSEUM OF FIRST RSDRP SESSION

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 6<sup>th</sup> August. *Path of Weapon: from Blade to Sort Rifle*

#### PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

11 Sovetskaya Street  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> June. *Vladimir Korotkevich: Savage Hunt of King Stakh*

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
09.06. The Magic Flute 11 and 12.06. The Swan Lake 13.06. Love. Fear. Loss / Gala Astana Ballet / Gaia 14.06. Dance Diversity / Carmen 15.06. Fogs of Time / Slow Fire; Bravo, Karant!

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
06.06. Jane Eyre 07.06. Bridegrooms 08.06. Cleopatra 09.06. My Fair Lady 10.06. Dubrovsky 11.06. Silva 13.06. Yunona and Avos 14.06. The Clandestine Marriage 15.06. Shalom Aleichem! 16.06. Wedding in Malinovka

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
08.06. Two Souls 09.06. School of Taxpayers 11.06. Evening 13.06. Local Cabaret 14.06. Paulinka

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
08.06. Viva Commedia! 09.06. Intimate Comedy 10.06. Circle of Love 13.06. Bridegrooms 14.06. Pane Kokhanku 15.06. Lady for a Day

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
08.06. An Unnamed Star 09.06. Robbery at Midnight 10.06. Two Arrows 11.06. Forgetting Herostratos 13.06. The Makropoulos Case 14 and 15.06. Mechanical Man

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE (SMALL STAGE)

12 Engels Street  
12.06. Love as Militarism 15.06. Shabany

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
08.06. Doctor Raus' Career 12.06. Adam's Jokes 13.06. Three Giselles

#### BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street  
08 and 13.06. Merry Roger 12.06. My Little Enchanter 15.06. Cat's House

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
08.06. Christmas Story 10.06. Morozko 11 and 13.06. Puss in Boots 14 and 15.06. Pippi Longstocking