

SB. Belarus Segodnya, the country's largest, mainstream, and most influential newspaper celebrates its 90th anniversary, with circulation of more than 400,000 copies and status of united editorial office



INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times



Socio-political Weekly

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‘Art is a code of civilisation’

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Founder sets the tone

By Victor Kharkov

SB. Belarus Segodnya Holding remains popular among readers, including its English language weekly: *The Minsk Times*

Next year, it will celebrate fifteen years of publication. The first ever edition of *The Minsk Times* socio-political weekly (which came out on February 4th, 2003) had a fresh, white appearance, with vivid colour contrast. The editorial office was eager to be bold, presenting a strong image, and, within a few issues, a letter had arrived from Belgium. A professional journalist working freelance on Brussels editions was keen to join the team. It was a wonderful surprise, and a great sign of recognition.



What did we write about in the first issue of *The Minsk Times*? We extended an invitation to readers to visit Belarus — a young and sovereign state at the centre of Europe. We presented ourselves as an industrial country making super-giant BelAZ vehicles, and fulfilling an order for the Nike Corporation, sewing sportswear for this famous brand. We explained our currency, and the circulation of foreign currencies. Moreover, there were wonderful photos of the Belarusian historical and cultural monument of Mir Castle.

This was just the beginning. Has the newspaper changed over the past fifteen years? Of course. While many editions choose a niche, *The Minsk Times* has always endeavoured to explore the richness of life across the whole country, and across a range of interests. Our contemporaries have enough for us to write about. Moreover, so many people want to know about Belarus!

The Minsk Times brings the whole Belarusian palette of events and characters to readers, most of whom are foreign, while drawing attention towards the richest history and culture of the country.

The Minsk Times continues to develop, alongside *Belarus* magazine (co-founded and published by SB. Belarus Segodnya). For twelve years, the magazine has been released in English, Spanish, Polish and Belarusian; from this year, there is even an edition in Chinese. Of course, these target foreign audiences. The aim is to show people the 'real' Belarus, including our accent on social welfare and our diverse cultural and sporting life. Moreover, the magazine celebrates achievements across all spheres.

The SB is both a map and a beacon for foreign guests, who often read the edition while on Belavia aircraft (or on other airlines flying into Belarus). They browse *The Minsk Times* weekly and *Belarus* magazine with interest, seeing that we're hospitable to business people and tourists. They arrive knowing that their meetings on the ground won't disappoint.

Security foremost

Belarus paying serious attention to the construction of nuclear power station, notes President Alexander Lukashenko on meeting Director General of Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation, Alexey Likhachev

By Alexander Pimenov

The President has named the construction of the Belarusian nuclear power station as an important issue, from an economic, political and moral point of view. "The decision to build a nuclear power station wasn't easy for us after the Chernobyl catastrophe. There were strong phobias, but we managed to convince people that it's our future. Secondly, it brings the most advanced technologies. I place the construction of the nuclear power station alongside space, IT and digital technologies, which are our future. We're attaching the most serious attention to its construction. I'm aware of every detail in the construction process," noted the Head of State.

Not long ago, an Aide to the President was appointed to supervise the implementation of national projects. "It's of national level, alongside about ten others. They're cash-consuming projects, and we're attaching the closest at-



At construction site of Belarusian nuclear power station

tention to them," underlined the Head of State.

He notes that the construction of the nuclear power station is regularly discussed at meetings with the President of the Russian Federation. "We discuss the construction of the nuclear power station and closely monitor both the construction process and price parameters. The Russian president shows great interest in the issue,"

Mr. Lukashenko asserts.

The Belarusian nuclear power station will be completely launched in operation within three years. The Director General of Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation, Alexey Likhachev, has assured the President, saying, "We proceed from Rosatom's obligations to commission the whole station by summer 2020." He added that the interest shown by the



Alexey Likhachev

heads of our two states is felt constantly. He recollected a conversation between Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Putin in May 2012 which set the tone for this huge project.

"At that time, you said that the task was to construct the most secure and most contemporary station in Europe. Rosatom is following this order. Actually, this is a new generation of security (3+), without rival globally."

Important issues are on agenda

By Vladimir Khromov

Acute issues of national security discussed at Presidential meeting with high-ranking officials of State Secretariat of Security Council

Alexander Lukashenko stressed that regular meetings are planned, covering important national security issues, including relating to the organisation of significant international events.

He mentioned the operation of the collective security system in the CSTO, over which Belarus is currently presiding. "They always want efficient chairmanship from Belarus," underlines the Head of State. The session of the CSTO Collective Security Council, which is scheduled for autumn, should take a central place in the series of events held during Belarus' chairmanship. The President has heard about the preparation of important documents, for submission to the Head of State.

Mr. Lukashenko briefly tackled the topic of the forthcoming joint strategic exercises of the armed forces of Belarus and Rus-

sia, Zapad 2017. "The exercise is open. We invite, or have already invited, a great number of observers. The exercise is of defensive character, and is held traditionally with the Russian Federation."

The President also heard reports from border protection agencies, noting the situation along the Belarusian-Russian border. He explained why the State Secretariat was instructed to carry out inspections in this sphere, noting illegal migration and the drug trade. He believes that border guards are working hard, with apprehensions on the border rising by a third.

The 2nd European Games, to be held in Minsk in 2019, received its fair share of attention during the meeting. Mr. Lukashenko pointed out that the Belarusian capital city will become an international sporting epicentre. A great many foreign guests from European countries and other foreign states will arrive in Minsk, so security considerations are essential. "Belarus should worthily host the 2nd European Games in 2019," emphasises the President. The participants of the meet-



Stanislav Zas

ing also discussed the state of affairs in law enforcement. Mr. Lukashenko believes that optimisation of power-wielding agencies is of fundamental importance. "We'll determine personnel numbers and the expenses required for specific areas, and will make adjustments this year," asserted the Head of State. Optimisation will continue to need attention, with law enforcement agency heads tasked with ensuring this.

The State Secretary of the Security Council, Stanislav Zas, reported on the activity of law enforcement bodies in H1, noting that all government bodies in charge of ensuring national security have done well, maintaining

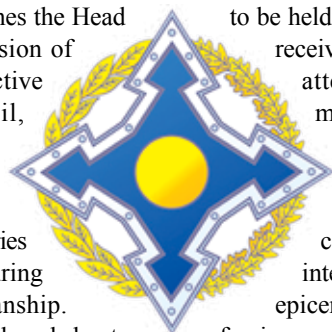
efficiency and showing positive results across all major areas.

There was also a report on Directive #1 'On Measures to Strengthen Public Security and Discipline', with Mr. Lukashenko hearing that systematic work is underway (under the guidance of the State Secretariat of the Security Council) to ensure that executive agencies and ministries are working to fulfil the targets.

According to the President, discipline is vital. He compared Belarus to other countries, pointing out the importance of our 'calm and safe environment, where the Government responds to people's demands'.

"Discipline is a corner stone," Mr. Lukashenko is convinced. "I can't say that we've done everything necessary, but discipline is a number one priority, relying on power-wielding bodies, and the attitude of the military."

The meeting also focused on the organisation of joint patrolling by the military and police, who maintain order in populated areas.



Equipment is in demand

Belarusian tractor-making industry is known and respected worldwide, despite great competition

By Vladimir Khromov

The President has set targets to increase capacity at industrial facilities, including expanding the range of models, and the incorporation of the latest technologies.

Articulated tractors have never been manufactured before in Belarus, but are being launched at Amkodor JSC, using Chinese credit resources. Another promising avenue is the development of tractors with hydrostatic transmission. Until now, both types have been imported. Now, it's hoped to not only satisfy domestic needs but provide



At Minsk Tractor Works' assembly shop

export revenue. A system of interaction between enterprises would help drive forward these plans.

Speaking at a recent meeting, President Alexander Lukashenko outlined several fundamental issues, saying, "How does the Gov-

ernment see the strategy of tractor-building development? Certain decisions cannot be made without a common concept. What's the current economic situation at Amkodor and Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ)? What's the proposal to create a new

holding for production of agricultural machinery? Is it interconnected with existing Belarusian facilities? Importantly, should we create new types of tractors? If so, upon what basis? Should the existing school be used or should we create something

new? Moreover, we must remember that unhealthy competition on domestic and foreign markets is to be avoided. It's unhealthy to see staff moving between enterprises."

Industry Minister Vitaly Vovk explained, after the meeting, "Articulated tractors will be produced in Belarus: Amkodor and MTZ have found a path of mutually acceptable co-operation."

A new brand name is needed for the vehicles and it's hoped that we'll see closer co-operation between the two companies. Mr. Vovk believes this would unite the best specialists countrywide, and would remove unnecessary costs (inevitable when production is established from scratch). The President has requested that comprehensive proposals be prepared.

Mr. Vovk believes it will take 12-24 months to ensure serial production launch. "We will develop similarly to global companies — producing wheel, track, articulated and hydroficated tractors. This will be the range of tractors which are produced globally and which are most in demand. The range of tractor equipment is being expanded to supply the domestic market and increase the country's export potential," he added.



Prime Minister Andrey Kobyakov at BelGee Plant

Points of growth are under focus

By Vladimir Volchkov

Industrial regional centres undergo serious review, with Presidium of Council of Ministers' session, held in Borisov District, discussing problems which remain for densely populated area, despite it having forty enterprises

Before starting serious conversation, Prime Minister Andrey Kobyakov visited BelGee Plant, Autogidrousitel Plant, and Borisov Plant of Medical Preparations. The Deputy Economic Chairman of the Borisov District Executive Committee, Leonid Voronich, asserted that the region is full of good

investment projects, thirty-one having been implemented between 2011 and 2016, and twelve this year.

However, external investment is vital, as the PM mentioned, stating, "Creating a site is important but it isn't the only factor in attracting investments. It's necessary to work with investors, showing them prospective projects."

Modernisation of enterprises requires a careful approach, even cautious. Mr. Kobyakov agrees that it's necessary to renew the fleet of equipment; however, it's vital to use opportunities of co-operation and outsourcing, since no company in the world can perform all operations themselves.

Prospects for interaction discussed in Ljubljana

By Alexey Fedosov

Activation of trade-economic and investment ties discussed during official visit of Foreign Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Makei, to Slovenia, with 25th anniversary of our diplomatic relations celebrated

During negotiations with his colleague, Karl Erjavec, Mr. Makei discussed prospects for Belarusian-Slovenian relations, as well as bilateral interaction as part of international organisations, and dialogue between Belarus and the EU.

This included thoughts on collaboration between our two countries during Belarus' presidency over the Central Eastern Initiative. The major accent was placed on activation of trade-economic and investment ties between our two states.

Innovation and telecommunication, construction and power engineering, agriculture and processing of food produce, as well as machine building and pharmaceuticals, are priorities for our relations. Expansion of credit-investment and banking interaction and industrial co-operation are also high on the agenda. Collaboration between our regions, and



Ljubljana today

President, Borut Pahor, discussing how best to develop economic, investment, humanitarian and cultural ties, while stressing the necessity of expanding and enhancing political dialogue between our countries. The situation in the region and problems of international security were also discussed, with special attention paid to Belarus-EU interaction.

During the meeting with the Mayor of Ljubljana, Zoran Janković, Mr. Makei discussed prospects for establishing direct collaboration between our capitals. Trade-economic interaction and exchange of experience

and promising developments in the sphere of urban economy came under focus, as did cultural and humanitarian components. The Minister gave his thanks for the loan of an original copy of the *Small Travelling Book*, by Francysk Skaryna, by Ljubljana Library, for temporary exhibition at the National Library of Belarus.

Belarus' Foreign Minister met major Slovenian business representatives, who are keen to reinforce interaction with Belarus, discussing prospects for economic projects, establishing joint production ventures and entering third country markets.

between the mayoral offices of our two capitals, was also agreed upon. After negotiations, a programme of co-operation was signed between the foreign ministries of Belarus and Slovenia, for 2017-2018. This envisages bilateral events, creating a 'roadmap' for developing relations between our foreign political departments. The ministers exchanged congratulatory messages on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, with Mr. Makei underlining that our range of mutual interests and dialogue expands each year.

Mr. Makei met the Slovenian

Rouble's position against the basket of currencies

Over the last month, the Dollar and the Euro have increased in value significantly against the Belarusian Rouble, by 5 and 7 percent respectively (rising by an equivalent of 10 and 15 Kopecks). Why is this happening, after a period of steadiness, and is the trend set to continue?

By Veronika Nikitina

Financial consultant Zhanna Kulakova immediately dismisses the speculation common among the elderly. “The holiday season has not influenced the situation — as confirmed by the fresh report of the National Bank regarding buying and selling currency in June,” she explains.

Indeed, in June, individuals sold over \$750 million in cash and non-cash, buying only \$568 million. The population traditionally acts as a net seller of foreign money. As Ms. Kulakova notes, our currency market simply follows in the wake of that of Russia. “Recently, the Russian Rouble in our neighbouring country began losing ground. The process was quick and Belarus is copying the situation: our economic dependence on Russia continues. Meanwhile, it’s truly interesting to investigate why the Russian Rouble is losing its rate. Oil isn’t the reason. In early 2017, the Russian national currency strengthened against a background of falling oil prices. Then, Russian assets were in great demand among foreign investors, due to high interest rates. Now, something seems to have changed; probably, geopolitical risks have played a role. Bulk profit-taking is registered and money is now being withdrawn. This process may last for some time but there are no preconditions for large-scale collapse as yet.

Analyst Vadim Iosub prefers to refrain from forecasts. He sees the cause of the current situation on



TATIANA STOLYAROVA

It's always easy to receive information about currency exchange rates, from Belarusbank

the currency market as the growth of wages, which are now overtaking productivity. Moreover, demand for imports is evident and, accordingly, foreign currency is needed. The reduction of the refinancing rate — which influences deposit rates — might act as an additional factor. Citizens tend to close their Rouble deposits — spending money in shops on large purchases or exchanging it into foreign currency.

Speaking about prospects for exchange rates, Mr. Iosub explains, “In my opinion, everything depends on the policy of wages. If we try to further artificially increase salaries, to reach \$1,000, we’ll gain nothing in Dollar terms.”

Financial experts pay special attention to the galloping Euro, explaining that this situation is common for many other states. It seems the EU currency is regaining its position, lost in 2014. Because of differing views between US and EU central banks, the Euro-Dollar exchange rate dropped by almost a third; their correlation is now almost at the same level, with one Euro worth \$1.15. As regards the further fate of the Euro, experts’ opinions differ.

According to Mr. Iosub, the Euro’s value will fall. “This will depend on decisions of the US Federal Reserve System, which is sequentially increasing rates. Moreover, the time

has come for the US Central Bank to sell securities and bonds bought up during the crisis of 2008 — though it’s not yet clear how much and in what time frame. This might confuse things,” he says.

Ms. Kulakova believes the Euro-Dollar rate might increase by late 2017-early 2018. “In the coming two years, we may witness a long period of growth of the Euro against the Dollar. I’d suggest that those with long-term savings pay attention to the Euro. We should remember that it’s better to keep money in a variety of currencies. ‘Black swans’ (unexpected events able to significantly influence the situation) happen on financial markets from time to time.

Using reserves from both sides

By Alexey Fedosov

Belarus could increase supplies of machinery to Ukraine many-fold

Belarus’ Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Semashko, is confident, saying, “If we combine Belarusian and Ukrainian subsidies, we’ll be able to increase exports of our tractors, combine harvesters and other equipment several times. Ukraine’s fleet of tractors includes some 200,000 vehicles, with 90 percent outdated. We estimate that Ukraine needs to upgrade 20,000 vehicles per annum. We’ve been exporting between 3,000 and 3,500 vehicles so far, and we can increase this 3-4-fold.”

At present, there are seven joint assembly production facilities in Ukraine. “We’ve agreed to increase the level of localisation, as this will make our equipment eligible for subsidies, and will benefit everyone,” explains the Deputy PM.

According to Mr. Semashko, there are six joint ventures in Belarus working in co-operation with Ukraine. “We should take advantage of this situation: Belarus is a member of the EAEU, reaching a market of 180 million people, while Ukraine is an associate member of the European Union. If there’s a large share of local content, goods can move freely within the market,” asserts Mr. Semashko.

First financial supermarket has opened

By Yelizaveta Artsueva

Alfa-Bank opens first financial supermarket in Belarusian Baranovichi

Unlike bank branches we’re familiar with, the financial supermarket uses many automated processes. “The financial supermarket format is now very popular, as it enables you to simplify interaction with the bank, making it unobtrusive and clear,” Alfa-Bank staff comment.

The new branch offers the most popular banking services: card ordering, opening of deposit accounts and taking out loans. Visitors enjoy access to a 24-hour and seven-day self-service area, with the door opened via electronic key (the room is equipped with an ATM and a cash accepting terminal).

The format hails from the United States and has spread to Europe and Asia, offering easy access, a high level of automation, and a range of services, with most self-service, via terminals and info-kiosks. Specialists act mostly as consultants.

‘Metelitsa’ tram launched in July

‘Metelitsa’ (snowstorm) tram — assembled at Stadler Minsk JSC — joins capital’s streets for experimental testing

By Anton Kostyukevich

Those interested in the development of public transport know already about the twenty-three trams dispatched to St. Petersburg. The first has been tested on Minsk’s streets, without passengers, whose weight was replicated by special loads. Soon, ‘Metelitsa’ will be serving city routes, so everyone will be able

to enjoy its merits. The trams on Minsk’s streets differ from those sent to St. Petersburg in being shorter and in having three sections — stretching to 27 metres in total. With low floors and four doors (placed on both sides of the tram) the two passenger cabins are both comfortable and convenient. Able to carry up to 250 passengers, and equipped with fifty seats, each cabin also has sockets



‘Metelitsa’ tram on Minsk streets

dispensing 220 volts (to charge a laptop) and USB-ports for small gadgets, like smartphones. A

powerful air conditioning system provides heat in winter and cool air in summer.

Immediate 3D printing

Minsk's 9-grade pupil Danila Yeliseev has assembled a 3D printer which costs four times less than the most inexpensive foreign analogue

By Anna Kurak

Master Danila

The young man virtually grew up with a soldering iron in his hand. As a pupil, he spent every summer outside the city in the cottage where he assembled and disassembled old appliances. While his peers were staring at computer screens and smartphones, he tried to understand how these gadgets are made inside. His parents have always encouraged his hobby and even presented him with an electronic 'Znatok' set for designers. It only took minutes for Danila to find out how it worked. After toys, he turned to 'adult' appliances and over the course of time, he built an electronic clock and a thermometer.

"Without a case, they were more like a tangle of wires and chips rather than useful appliances. I then tried to make a case independently in my handicraft lessons. I spent hours cutting plywood and it looked terrible and was time-consuming. One day I saw a 3D printer at my father's office where he works as a programmer. This awesome device could print anything, and I needed cases for my electronic devices," Danila explains.

The idea of buying a home printer was tempting but the schoolboy had no idea where to get \$2,000. The sum required seemed enormous so he decided to make a printer himself. "During the summer after finishing year eight, I developed my 3D printer — working on it day and night. The Internet has a lot of in-



VLADIMIR SHLAPAK

Ninth-grade pupil Danila Yeliseev designing beyond his years

formation on the topic. I visited thematic forums and websites. I learnt what senior college students study. I ordered some parts via the Internet and took details from old appliances. A 3D-printer is a complicated device: it's necessary to ensure agreement on the movement of all the axes, to calibrate each of them, make them move to the required distances — which sometimes is one-tenth or one hundredth of a millimetre! To ensure successful operation, it's not enough to simply make a printer: special software is a must;

I've written it personally. To do this, I had to master 3D modelling and, as a result, my device costs about \$250 — competing in print quality with expensive American and Chinese products. Furthermore, it does not sit on a shelf: it works up to seven hours a day," he added.

Amazing his grandmother and pleasing his brother

The Minsk schoolboy's printer is unique as its printing element can be replaced by milling or laser cutting. As a result, a detail can be pro-

cessed or an engraving can be made on it. While Danila is demonstrating his 'treasure', his grandmother joins us.

"I was not happy to see my grandson was sitting at home with a soldering iron: I advised him to go out and have fun. He showed me his device but I didn't understand the idea. Sometime later however, I lost a teapot lid and my grandson printed it! Then I appreciated Danila's work. The printer is also extremely useful for his younger brother: Danila prints toys, broken or lost parts

for him," she explains.

Before meeting Alexander Lukashenko, Danila thought carefully about a present which could be printed using his invention. As a result, he made an auroch — a powerful animal from Belarus' reserve. His present proved to be symbolic, significant and beautiful.

Plans to study in Minsk

The young engineer shared his plans, saying, "I was invited to Moscow to international competitions but I've already made up my mind regarding the university and place of residence."

In the past academic year alone, Danila has participated in eight contests for young inventors, winning seven diplomas and receiving the Grand Prix of the Union State's 21st Century Talents competition — ahead of almost three hundred participants from Russia and Belarus.

He is now developing two more models of his 3D-printer: a more powerful version can be used in businesses to make pre-production prototypes and a 3D-mini-printer can be taken in a bag by anyone — being able to operate without electricity.

In the future, Danila plans to launch a fully-fledged production of the Belarusian 3D-printers based on these three models. He is already receiving business proposals as this niche is almost empty in the Belarusian market: so far, only one company produces 3D-printers to order and they are four times more expensive than our young man's.

Portable device that will register heart disorders

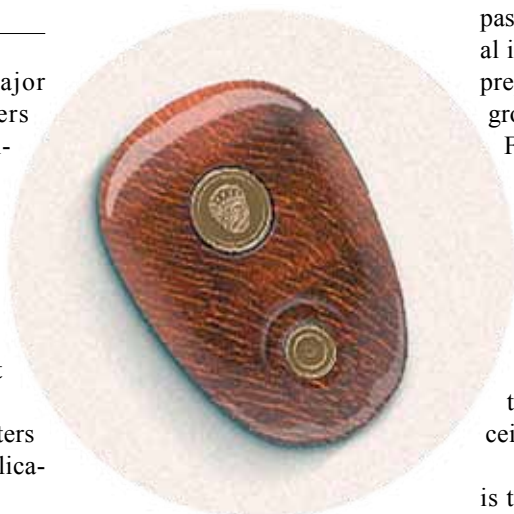
Mobile electrocardiograph developed in Belarus

By Alexander Pimenov

The device registers major types of heart beat disorders which are forerunners of serious heart disease. A fully-fledged cardiogram can be made by putting fingers on the device, without need for special mounts, making it simple to use. A cardiogram can be recorded quickly at home or, even, on the road.

The portable device registers disorders while a mobile application extracts data.

The device can be used whenever a person feels discomfort in the area of their heart. Afterwards, a red flare indicates the need to call for an ambulance, by pressing



the SOS button. If all is well, the screen will be green, and recommendations are given.

The development has already

passed the research stage and a trial industrial version is now being prepared, for testing with a focus group. The Belarusian Innovation Fund has also shown interest in the device.

Doctors note the promising character of the development, being satisfied with the quality of the resulting cardiogram and the processing of the signal. They're ready to use it and to analyse data received.

The mobile electrocardiograph is to be sold both in Belarus and abroad. It may be offered in Belarus free of charge, enabling Belarusians to monitor their hearts, and meet national goals for public health.

Plans destined to be fulfilled within a year

By Yana Vidnikevich

Belarus to develop and manufacture medical simulation equipment

The creation of the joint Belarus-Tatarstan enterprise is envisaged by an agreement signed by the Health Ministers of Belarus and Tatarstan (Russian Federation), Valery Malashko and Adel Vafin.

"The simulation equipment project has been discussed for some time. We've invited the Republic of Tatarstan to become a partner, producing medical equipment. It possesses the necessary technology and I believe this experience will produce good results," notes Mr. Malashko.

According to the Health Min-



Valery Malashko

ister, simulation equipment offers clinicians and nurses the most realistic, hands-on experience in medical training. Moreover, it's useful in assessing the skills of medical workers.

It's expected that the first simulators will be produced in 2018. The product is competitive and will be in demand, including on the European market.

The one who unites us

Recently, in Krakow, a couple of local intellectuals (she an artist, and he an employee of the theatrical academy) drove us to Kościuszko Hill. “Wow, Kościuszko!” I couldn’t help but exclaim, in my favourite Belarusian storyteller voice, just like Adam Mickiewicz.

By Inessa Pleskachevskaya

“You know that Mickiewicz is almost Belarusian?” “We know,” they replied, laughing. “One of the greatest Poles, Nicolaus Copernicus, was German.” It’s always amusing to see how various states claim the famous. Let’s take our Francysk Skaryna, whom we view as one of the greatest Belarusians in history, not unfairly. It doesn’t confuse us that he published the Bible in Western-Russian (more precisely, in Ukrainian-Belarusian), in Church Slavonic. According to his nationality, he was Ruthenian, while his citizenship was Lithuanian, and he lived in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which reached the territory of modern Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine.

Francysk Skaryna was born in Polotsk, so he is ours. The national hero of Poland and the USA, Tadeusz Kościuszko, came from the Brest Province. The national hero of Chile, Ignacy Domeyko, and the greatest Polish poet, Adam Mickiewicz, (who wrote, *Oh Lithuania, My Fatherland!*) were both from Novogrudok Province. Meanwhile, president of Israel Chaim



Weizmann was from Motol and President Shimon Peres was from the Volozhin District. The founder of Metro—Goldwyn—Mayer, Louis Mayer (Lazar Meir), was from Minsk. The founder of clothing stores Marks & Spencer was Michael Marks, from Slonim. In the Czech Republic, people lay claim to all who have achieved success abroad, if they were born in their territory. They’re proud of them. We feel the same way.

However, let’s return to Francysk Skaryna. On June, 15th, in Prague, at the National Clementinum Library, there were two

exhibitions devoted to his work. The first was an exhibition of modern Belarusian graphics, called *Traditions*



Memorial plaque in Krakow

and *Modernity*, marking the 500th anniversary of Belarusian publishing (organised by our newspaper together with the Embassy of Belarus to the Czech Republic, and Artplaz Gallery). On show were works by Valery Slavuk, Vladimir Vishnevsky and Roman Sustov. The second has been prepared by the Wroblewski Library, of the Academy of Sciences of Lithuania, and is devoted to the book traditions of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (which encompasses our traditions too). In five years’ time, Vilnius will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the opening of the first printing house



Monument to Francysk Skaryna, in Prague

in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, opened by Skaryna — a Polotsk resident, a Ruthenian and a Lithuanian. Should we ‘share’ him? I leave you to decide.

Francysk Skaryna was an outstanding figure, capable of uniting all of us: Belarusians who fail to politically agree, countries and peoples. Lithuanians consider that he belongs to them, and they have the right to do so, as do the Poles. Those from Prague proudly say that they hosted the birth of Belarusian publishing.

As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Lubomír Zaorálek, tells us, “I’m proud that

Francysk Skaryna is connected with Prague and the Czech state, that 500 years ago he used this place for printing his books, and that this helped him with the creation of Belarusian language, laying the foundations for Belarusian culture.”

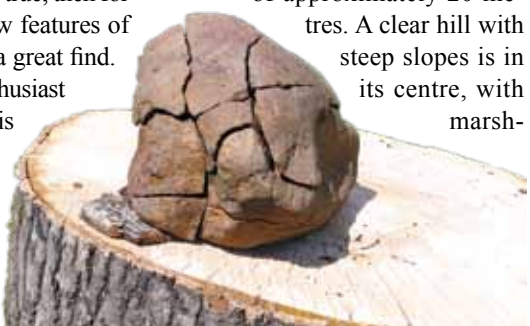
The Italians are also proud: a portrait of Skaryna hangs in the well-known Hall of Forty, among the most outstanding graduates of the University of Padua. We can be on friendly terms with Skaryna cities, Skaryna universities and Skaryna peoples. Friendship is always more beneficial than enmity. Why shouldn’t Francysk Skaryna be for all?

Enthusiast’s sensational finding

By Alexey Feofanov

Vitebsk resident claims to have found a meteorite

The news announced by Vladimir Borovikov from Vitebsk is truly sensational: he says he has discovered concrete evidence of a large meteorite falling on this northern region of the country. The long-time fan of space and the cosmos believes a large space object reached the Earth’s surface over 10,000 years ago and its fragments have been preserved thanks to the glacial age. If this is true, then for Belarus, which has few features of this kind, it would be a great find. The researcher and enthusiast has added intrigue to his story by asserting that he has also discovered a fragment of the meteorite and is now ready to present it to the public.



Mr. Borovikov is a former military pilot who served on Kamchatka and returned to Belarus before the USSR collapse. He has been interested in space since childhood and has discovered traces of the meteorite 40km from Vitebsk, in the Liozno District where his mother-in-law lives. Her house on the outskirts of the village is now the only one inhabited. A large crater is a hundred metres away, the hole forming a virtually perfect circular ‘cup’ with a diameter of about 1km and a depth of approximately 20 metres. A clear hill with steep slopes is in its centre, with marsh-

land surrounding the area.

“I noticed this valley over a decade ago,” explains Vladimir. “An idea suddenly occurred to me: what if this is an ancient meteor crater? However, questions came into my mind such as: Why were the traces of an old space catastrophe not destroyed during the last glaciation? Why does the depth of the alleged crater not match its diameter? How can we explain the fact that the crater lacks a surrounding bulk shaft? Sometime later, these questions were answered. I assumed that the collision of a cosmic body with the Earth took place at the end of the last Ice Age. At that time, Belarus’ north region was covered with a thick ice shield. We can assume that a fairly large object struck a thick layer of ice, penetrated it and exploded with a slight depression in the sedimentary rocks. When the glacier retreated, the crater remained small. Streams of

water created deep gullies while the ice was melting and the hole was partially filled with alluvial deposits. The remains of the astrolabe (an

impact crater) were lost in the complex post-glacial relief. Something of the kind could happen if the collision took place at the end of the Ice Age.”

Vladimir methodically explored all the surroundings of the alleged meteorite crater searching for unusual stone findings. As a result, he’s

managed to collect several vitreous fused and sintered artefacts and strange black stones; the latter are diverse in form but are made of a similar amorphous mineral. Some samples have small inclusions resembling droplets of a silvery-white metal. Another group of his finds includes the fossilised remains of ancient organisms which were probably taken out by the glacier. He is now waiting for its scientific study and analysis.



Vladimir Borovikov

Krichev has seen a lot of history

The town on the Sozh River is one of the oldest in the Mogilev Region: it was first documentary mentioned under the old name of Krechut

By Svetlana Markova

Visiting Duke Potemkin

In the late 12th century, a stone castle was built on the site of the ancient city — which was destroyed during the Northern War. Only the foundation of its tower remains as an example of its former greatness. The area's history is closely connected with the name of Yekaterina the Great's favourite — Duke Grigory: The Empress presented local lands to him. The first owner built a palace in the shape of the letter E; it's now called the younger brother of the Tauride Palace in St. Petersburg. Both buildings were designed by Ivan Starov and it's known that the Empress stayed there. At present, the Potemkin Palace is Krichev's main attraction. Most of its halls are occupied by the local folklore museum.

Walk in the footsteps of Gannibal and Afanasy Nikitin

The great-uncle of Alexander Pushkin — General Ivan Gannibal — was an engineer, building a shipyard on the Sozh River in the city. It was put into operation in 1785 and was one of the largest in Russia. Overall, 25 sailing and rowing vessels were launched from there to the Black Sea. Krichev is also perhaps the final resting place for the great traveller, Afanasy Nikitin, who reached India on foot in the late 15th century. It's unknown where Afanasy was buried and, according to documents, returning from overseas, he died somewhere near Smolensk — in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Belarusian historians believe that it happened in Krichev. Historical records indicate that it was here that Nikitin gave his world famous



notes to merchants travelling to Moscow from the Crimea.

Drink healthy water from Peter spring

The local streets are of interest as they've preserved a layout similar to 19th century Russian district towns. There are even houses here built more than a hundred ago. In Krichev, much is connected with the history of the Russian state. The local name of a spring on the outskirts of the city is the Peter spring in the Peter meadow: in 1708, a camp of Peter the Great was situ-



Work as a station master

Krichev's post office was built in the mid-19th century. It was then an important crossroads on the state route from Moscow to Warsaw. The one-storey building had corners marked with pilasters and arched niches in its walls. Rectangular windows appear as arches. Sadly, the station stables that were once part of the complex have not survived. However, it's now possible to visit stone stables in Krichev where, judging by the rich stucco, the estate owners were extremely fond of horses. Ancient traditions are still alive in the Krichev District — even in these modern times. Local farmsteads offer horse riding, in addition to the traditional Belarusian hospitality — such as fishing, hunting, banya and tasty dishes of pancakes and machanka.

ated close by. Near the village of Molyatichi (close to Krichev) advanced detachments of Russian troops then faced Swedes who were forced to retreat.

the villagers were finally defeated. Vasily moved to Russia where he later died. Radziwill called him a bandit and the man is now known historically as a national patron — a sort of Belarusian Robin Hood.

Learn the history of the Belarusian Robin Hood

A wooden sculpture of a warrior with a cross in his hand and a sword on his belt greets anyone entering the city. This is Vasily Vashchila — the leader of rebels who called himself a grandson of Bogdan Khmelnytsky. Gathering peasants from surrounding villages, Vasily opposed oppression by one of the richest magnates of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania — Hieronim Radziwill who then owned Krichev. In clashes with regular army units,



PAVEL MICHENKO

Dear readers!

While thumbing the pages of history, we get to learn how our ancestors lived and how much they invested in the development of their region. We are also working hard to contribute to its further prosperity. We are proud of the fact that Krichev has managed to preserve buildings which adorned the city for many centuries and delight present day lovers of antiquity. Our fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers bravely defended their land in hard times but always kindly welcomed guests with bread and salt. The Krichev District residents keep to this tradition. Come and see for yourselves!

Vasily Sysoyev,
the Chairman of Krichev's
District Executive Committee



Passengers rescued after cable car gondola crashes in Cologne

Children were seen clinging to parents as they dangled 40 metres above the River Rhine

Up to 76 people were rescued from cable cars suspended over the river Rhine in Cologne after a gondola crashed into a support pillar, leaving passengers stranded.

German fire crews lowered people to safety from cable cars in a dramatic recovery operation, with children seen clinging to parents as they dangled 40 metres above the river.

German media reported that rescue teams in Cologne had practised for an incident on the gondola just a week ago.

A pregnant woman and a man were slightly injured in the rescue mission in which mobile cranes were used to bring the stranded pas-



sengers to safety. No other injuries were reported.

Public transportation authorities for the city in North-Rhine-Westphalia state said 32 gondolas

were operating when the incident occurred. An official cause has not been announced, but there was strong wind at the time.

Martina and Hans-Peter Rieger,

the first to be rescued, were celebrating their 41st wedding anniversary on a day out in Cologne when the cable cars stopped.



France plans asylum 'hotspots' in Libya

Emmanuel Macron has had enough of seeing migrants sleeping rough on the streets of France

In Orleans, the French President attended a citizenship ceremony, which saw the leader propose a new way to stem the flow of migrants into Europe.

At the event, in which several refugees were granted French nationality, Macron said he wanted to see 'emergency accommodation' erected in certain 'hotspots', where asylum seekers can be processed 'with dignity'.

He took to Twitter to express his unrelenting support, saying he would be 'uncompromising on the right to asylum'. "Those in danger must be welcomed," he wrote.

It is in Libya that such centres, which the leader estimated would be ready 'by summer', are so desperately needed. He said there are currently between 800,000 and a million refugees stranded in the North African country, hoping to get into Europe.

It estimates that more than 2,300 people have drowned or are missing.

Dozens injured in Barcelona rail crash

Dozens of people were injured when a commuter train ploughed into the buffers of a busy station in Barcelona

It happened during the morning rush hour, at Francia station in the centre of the north-eastern Spanish city. Reports say the regional train simply failed to brake. It is not known why and an investigation is underway. After conflicting numbers were given for those injured, authorities put the figure at 54, including the driver.

One person was seriously hurt. More than 30 are described as lightly injured. Many were treated on the platform, with lo-

cal roads blocked to traffic to allow emergency services to get through. The train had travelled from the village of Sant Vicenc de Calders, around 70 kilometres away, in the province of Tarragona. One passenger in the first carriage said that a lot of people, who were standing in the packed train, bumped into each other and fell to the ground at the moment of impact which she described as like an earthquake.

Barcelona city centre woke up to chaos with this serious train accident. Most of the passengers were commuters coming here for a day's work.



Obamacare repeal bill dies in US Senate as McCain votes 'no'

US Senate Republicans failed to overturn the healthcare law known as Obamacare in a blow to President Donald Trump that effectively ended the Republican Party's seven-year quest to repeal the 2010 Affordable Care Act

Three Republicans crossed party lines to join Democrats in a 49-to-51 vote to kill the bill.

The defeat means that Donald Trump's pledge to end his predecessor's flagship healthcare measure has been dealt a major blow. This is the third failed attempt to overturn Obama's Affordable Care Act. The President reacted on Twitter saying the American people had been let down.

Porsche to recall thousands of cars over emissions-controlling software

The German Transport Minister has ordered the recall of 22,000 Porsche Cayenne cars to remove what he called an illegal software that controlled the 4x4's emissions

Alexander Dobrindt said that tests conducted on the luxury car's 3-liter TDI model found that it had been equipped with a 'defeat device' program, used to disguise the real extent of pollution. "There is no explanation as to why this software is in this car," Dobrindt said. "We forbid authorisation for this vehicle. That means that no further cars can put on the market."

UK to ban new diesel and petrol car sales by 2040

Sales of new diesel and petrol cars will be banned in Britain from 2040, the UK government has announced as it looks to improve the country's worsening air quality

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' (Defra) plans, which come after a similar pledge from President Macron of France, will also put an end to the supply of hybrid vehicles that have an electric motor powered by a petrol or diesel engine.

In addition, the scheme will include over £200 million to be divided between local authorities to help them in dealing with toxic nitrogen dioxide (NO2) emissions from diesel vehicles.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Andrzej Lechowski:

‘Art is a code of civilisation’

Masters of Polish Drawing exhibition is a success at National Art Museum

By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition is displaying more than 300 works by Polish painters from the 19th and 20th centuries. Visitors are able to see works by Juliusz Kossak, Jan Matejko, Michał Elwiro Andriolli, Maximilian Gerymski, Alfred Verusz-Kowalski, Stanisław Witkiewicz, Leon Wyczulkowski, Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz and Alfons Karwański. On show are portraits and caricatures, landscapes and historical scenes, as well as phantasmagorias. *Masters of Polish Drawing* continues the tradition of cooperation between the National Art Museum and the Polish Institute in Minsk, with exhibits donated by the Podlaskie Museum in Białystok and the Suwałki Regional Museum.

Three drawings by one of the 19th century's most notable artists, Jan Matejko, deserve special attention, including *The Presentation of Barbara Radziwiłł to the Polish Gentry*.

Bright examples of caricature comprise a significant part of the exhibition, as were popular in the 19th century, for their expressiveness and humour. Works by Czesław Sadowski and Józef Blicharski are complimented by the grotesque works of Alfred Verusz-Kowalski.

Works by famous Polish artists are on loan from the Podlaskie Museum in Białystok and the Suwałki Regional Museum, located in the Podlaskie Voivodeship, which neighbours Belarus. The Podlaskie Museum is the largest in the Podlaskie Voivodeship, set up in 1949. Besides showing art inside Białystok's Town Hall, it has six branches, featuring archaeological finds as well as works by outstanding Polish artists: Jacek Malczewski, Olga Boznańska, Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, Jan Cybis and Aleksander Szturman. It also holds



Masters of Polish Drawing exhibition arouses major interest among museum visitors

works by masters of the Wilno artistic dynasty of Bałzukiewicz — Józef and Łucja. Lithographs and drawings comprise a significant part of the collection.

The Director of the Suwałki Regional Museum, Jerzy Brzozowski, tells us that the Regional Museum in Suwałki was founded in 1956, featuring paintings by Polish artists from the late 19th century, connected with the artistic circles of Munich. It boasts a rich collection of works by Suwałki-born Alfred Verusz-Kowalski.

On show is a drawing donated to Podlaskie Museum by Roman Catholic priest Abramowicz, of St. Roch's Church in Białystok. The

collector has put forward Polish Michał Elwiro Andriolli's pen illustration *Drunkard in the Interior*.

In total, the *Masters of Polish Drawing* exhibition showcases 319 works: around fifty are from the Suwałki Regional Museum, with the remainder from the Podlaskie Museum in Białystok. The most recent work was created in the 1980s, while the oldest is from the mid-19th century.

Interestingly, most of the artworks need to be kept away from direct sunlight, since the ink and paper is liable to degrade. Before they found their way to museum archives, they lacked the necessary storage conditions, resulting in

paper turning yellow. Works were delivered to Minsk in special packaging, without seams.

According to the Director of the Podlaskie Museum in Białystok, Andrzej Lechowski, the exhibition has been prepared especially for show in Belarus.

“Works presented at the exhibition are from our art collection,” notes Mr. Lechowski. “As usually happens, everything began with a single drawing. Gradually, over several decades, our collection grew, with three generations of curators working on its formation. We've managed to bring many works to Minsk, but only part of our archive.”

According to Mr. Lechowski, the museum's collection is diverse. “We're involved in recording the history of art, as well as ethnography and archaeology,” explains Mr. Lechowski. “Annually, we prepare around forty exhibitions. However, the most important thing is our educational activity, aimed at the younger generation especially, though we cater to all ages: from children to elderly people. The

best thing is when an event arouses interest among children and adults, and they come to us together.”

A lecture by Mr. Lechowski, at the National Art Museum, was also dedicated to the *Masters of Polish Drawing* exhibition.

In the introductory note to the exhibition catalogue, Mr. Lechowski has written: ‘Art is a code of civilisation. Despite language, geographical or administrative differences, it unites the creators of art and those who perceive it. Evidence of the existence of this unusual connection are preserved and demonstrated in museums. We find references in almost every art museum on our continent. Nationalism has no place in modern art. Rather, art embraces all nationalities, each with their regional historical, household and life experiences, reflected in their works, under the banner of European art.’

As Mr. Lechowski philosophically notes, talking about a museum or an exhibition is like trying to eat ice cream through glass. Everything must be sampled firsthand.

Masters of Polish Drawing is on show at the National Art Museum until September 20th. It will then tour other Belarusian cities.

Open air classic show

It's already a tradition for Minskians to gather at the Town Hall each Saturday, to listen to live music and enjoy themselves. In the first summer month, townspeople enjoyed jazz from the best global performers and, in July, classical music reigned, during the *Classics at the Town Hall* programme.

By Yelizaveta Artsueva

The first night was entitled *A Century of Classics*, and began with sunny weather, happy smiles and a festive atmosphere. Some came alone and others joined friends, with many families settling to enjoy the music, children running among the adults. The youngest viewers sat on their parents' shoulders to ensure a view.

The first concert saw the State Academic Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alexander Anisimov, performing pieces by such masters as Piotr Tchaikovsky, Mikhail Kleofas Oginski, Georges Bizet and Giacomo Puccini. The orchestra is celebrating its 90th birthday this year.

Among the invited guests were two charming opera singers: Oksana Volkova and Irina Krikunova, in addition to Lithuanian tenor Christian Benedict. During the breaks, the audience was entertained by the host, who shared interesting facts about orchestra instruments and explained its structure.

By the evening, a completely different crowd had gathered: courting couples, spry old ladies and trendy youngsters with tattoos and bright blue hair, as well as tour-



YURI MOZOLEVSKY

Classics at the Town Hall project brings together many admirers of classical music

ists eager to experience the atmosphere of the Belarusian capital.

The city centre had a wonderfully friendly atmosphere, with people making new friends during the concert. Organisers encouraged participation: taking selfies with the orchestra, and posting on social networks.

Some think that classical music

is elitist, but these nights at the Town Hall completely destroy that notion. No matter your age or outlook, you can enjoy these masterpieces, regardless of level of musical education. People came in groups and alone, enjoying listening to Puccini and Verdi — some for the first time.

Classics at the Town Hall is a new format for urban recreation, ena-

bling anyone to become acquainted with masterpieces of world classical music, and enjoy an uplifting weekend of entertainment.

Sponsored by Velcome, these evenings will continue delighting Minskians and city guests every Saturday night through until late summer. The final performance is scheduled for August 26th.

Treasures of ancient Egypt to arrive in Minsk

By Yana Vidnikevich

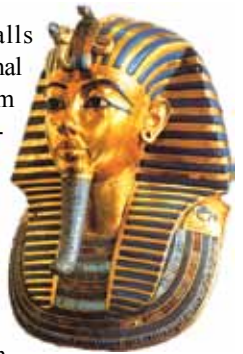
Funeral mask of Tutankhamun to go on show at Treasures of Ancient Egypt exhibition, hosted by National Art Museum of Belarus

Four halls of the National Art Museum will welcome visitors, inviting them to explore the rich history of Egyptian civilisation

— full of myths and puzzles. Over 300 exhibits will be on show, including a funeral mask of Tutankhamun, a mysterious Sphinx, a statue of the god Ku, mummies, jewellery, sarcophagi, amulets and papyrus, as made in line with technologies of that time.

The exhibition is divided into six thematic zones. Walking around the museum halls, visitors can learn about the everyday life of ancient Egyptians, seeing how they farmed, and learning about their military technologies and shipbuilding, while becoming acquainted with the dynasty of rulers, and beliefs on the cult of the after-life.

The exhibition will run from September until December.



BELTA

Final return to the homeland

By Olga Korneeva

Ashes of patron of early 20th century Belarusian Renaissance, Princess Magdalena Radziwill, being handed to Minsk's Red Roman Catholic Church

The Princess' ashes have been donated by Alexander Sapega, the Deputy Chairman of the Association of Belarusians of Switzerland. The site for the remains to be buried is yet to be chosen but they'll be kept at the Red Roman Catholic Church, next to

which Magdalena Radziwill once lived.

Relatives' desire to rebury Magdalena in Minsk was voiced by Prince Maciej Radziwill in 2016, with the decision taken by her great-grandchildren. Until recently, the ashes were kept in the city of Friborg, in the west of Switzerland. In 1918, Magdalena Radziwill was forced to emigrate from Belarus. She spent time in Poland, Lithuania and Germany and, from 1932, lived in Friborg, where she died in 1945, at the age of 83.

Field season for archaeologists

By Yulia Vasilishina

Fragments of a bronze necklace with locket (from the 1st century BC) have been discovered. Vetka Museum of Old Belief and Belarusian Traditions has been working with St. Petersburg's Hermitage to restore and clean the piece, in the village of Goroshkov in the Gomel Region. Without due care, the fragile necklace would be lost forever, damaged even by the wind.

At the traditional conference, hosted by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences, archaeologists gathered in anticipation of sharing information on discoveries from the past season. Truly, 2016 was rich in this respect.

Among the discoveries of the past year is a large Viking Age settlement at Kordon, near the Vitebsk Region's Dvina River. It proves that this section of the 'from the

Varangians to the Greeks' route, uniting the Scandinavian north and Byzantine south, began its formation right here. The site is now listed as being among the ten most vital in the field of fundamental research, helping us understand Belarusian statehood. It has, accordingly, been nominated for the State Award.

Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Olga Levko, is leading the investigation, having taken part in the Yurovichi dig, in the Kalinkovichi District. Oleg Iov, a senior researcher at the Department of Archaeology of the Middle Ages and Modern Times, explains that this is where the most ancient Paleolithic site is located, as are the ruins of a large, and little studied ancient city. It's now thought that the city flourished in the late 10th-early 11th century.



Bronze necklace with medallion

Some artefacts, which help us to understand how the early Slavs lived in the 4th century, have been unearthed in the Turov District's Berezhtsy-4 settlement. Several layers of dwellings were built, one upon another, with excavations finding not only residential buildings but a furnace 'filled' with the bones of animals and fish, and similar bones buried near another, which perhaps indicate the existence of special rituals. A set of ceramics and old, heavy clay 'bread', weighing around

a kilo, have been found, as thought to have been used in rituals.

The unique bronze necklace, unearthed by Belarusian and Russian archaeologists during excavation of the ancient burial place near Goroshkov, has been given to a restorer from the Hermitage. While still in the soil, it was impregnated

with a special adhesive composition, to preserve it, before being lifted out, with a layer of soil beneath, on a metal sheet.

The discovery — like fibulae and stucco bowls — is being kept at the Vetka Museum of Old Belief and Belarusian Traditions. The Hermitage expert is to spend a month at the museum, restoring fragile artefacts and teaching skills to Belarusian experts. As a result of his visit, a laboratory for restoring archaeological finds will be created at Vetka museum.

Best result over time of participation

Belarusian athletes claim fifteen awards at 14th European Youth Olympic Summer Festival, in Hungarian Győr

By Oleg Bogomazov

Belarusians have earned three gold, five silver and seven bronze awards — the best results of all time for Belarusian athletes at such competitions. Gold medals were claimed by Victoria Novikova (judo, 70kg), Anastasia Shkurdai (swimming, 100m butterfly), Vladislav Shakhnitsky and Anastasia Zhuk (mixed C2-500m).

Silver medals were collected by Sergei Dembitsky (athletics, triple jump), Artur Moskalenko (athletics, hammer throwing), Svyatoslav Dranitsky (artistic gymnastics, vaulting), Anastasia Shkurdai (swimming, 100m backstroke), and the women's volleyball team.

Meanwhile, bronze medals went to Vladislav Shakhnitsky and Anastasia Zhuk (mixed C2 200m), Roman Gmyrak (athletics, javelin throwing), Anastasia Zhuk (C1 500m), Karina Yeginyan (athletics, shot putt), Glafira Bakhur (judo, 44kg), Vladislav Dzvoniuk (judo, 50kg), and the mixed C4 (Anna Pashchenko, Irina Shkred, Maxim Khutsky and Ilya Kozlovsky).



Medallists from Belarusian team who took part in the festival in Hungarian Győr

The last highest achievement happened in 2005, when Belarus won eleven medals (4, 5, 2) in Italian Lignano. Belarus is now placed 12th in overall standings. The medal table was topped by Russia with 61 (30

gold, 19 silver, and 12 bronze) medals, followed by Italy with 38 (14, 11, 13) medals and Hungary with 41 (13, 14, 14) awards. Representatives of 38 out of 50 countries graced the podium in Győr. Belarus was represented by

96 athletes, who competed in basketball, cycling, volleyball, artistic gymnastics, rowing and canoeing, judo, athletics, swimming, and tennis — the most representative squad over all years of performance.

Withstanding fierce competition

By Yuri Dronov

Belarusians Yekaterina Orel and Tatiana Khaldoba take third place at European Championship in Modern Pentathlon, held in Minsk



Yekaterina Orel

The duo scored 806 points across three events (swimming, fencing and horse riding), just 23 points behind Russian Alise Fakhrutdinova and Anna Buryak. The Belarusians also withstood stiff competition from their Hungarian rivals: renowned Tamara Alekszejev and Sarolta Simon.

The Russians led initially but, eventually, took second place to Germany, represented by 2012 Olympic champion Lena Schöneborn — and Annika Shleu. The winners earned 1,389 points, while the Russians finished with 1,387 points. Tatiana and Yekaterina crossed the finish line in third place, earning 1,339 points.

Aiming high for the benefit of all

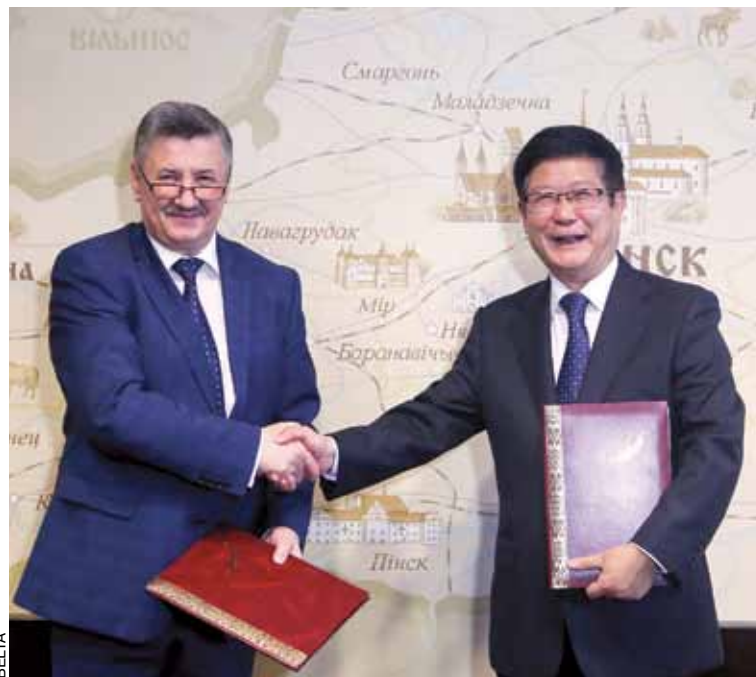
By Polina Sakharuk

National football stadium and swimming pool of international standard to appear in Minsk, with Chinese investors assisting. Economy Minister Vladimir Zinovsky and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Belarus, Cui Qiming, have signed an agreement to fund the projects, with partners allocating 1.2 billion Yuans (equivalent to \$180 million at the current exchange rate).

During the meeting between Mr. Zinovsky and the delegation of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, headed by the Chairman of the Office of the Department of Foreign Assistance, Wang Ligui, there was a comprehensive assessment of existing technical-economic assistance by the Chinese government, with further areas for collaboration discussed.

Vladimir Zinovsky:

Due to major friendship with China and well-established economic relations, China has provided assistance worth over 2 billion Yuans. Part of the funds have been spent on infrastructure at the Great Stone Industrial Park,



Vladimir Zinovsky and Cui Qiming

with a hospital also being built in Borovlyany and a hostel in the Student Village. Moreover, sixteen social housing buildings are being commissioned as part of the first stage of the project (entitled "Construction of Social Housing"). This year, we're launching the second stage and the third will follow. In total, we'll construct fifty such buildings. Mr. Qiming reminded that, this year, Belarus and China celebrate the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations. He believes

that co-operation between our two states is at the highest level in their history.

"The signed agreement testifies to our sincere and friendly relations and we've long learnt to help each other," The Ambassador is convinced. "We'll always remember that the Belarusian Government provided material aid to our country during the earthquakes in 2008 and 2010, and in other cases. We'll continue the tradition of helping and supporting each other."

Alina Talay has no plans to surrender

By Oleg Kravtsov

Belarusian runner comes third in 100m hurdles at Citta di Padova in Italy

The Belarusian team leader claimed bronze in the sprint distance, finishing in 13.02 seconds, behind Queen Harrison and Dawn Harper-Nelson of the United States (both of whom ran in under 13 seconds). Both are in training for the IAAF World Championships. Kendra Harrison, one of the favourites of the forthcoming IAAF World Championships in London, clocked 12.28 seconds in Hungary — demonstrating the world's best result of the season.

Noting her disappointment, Alina tells us, "I had my final races in Italy, before the World Championships in London. Unfortunately, I was slow, clocking 13.02 seconds. I guess something went wrong in my training and I'm failing to do my best. I'm not going to give up and will fight to the finish in London."

The women's 100m hurdles at the 2017 IAAF World Championships are scheduled for August 11th (qualifying and semifinal) and August 12th (finals).

First among legionaries

By Igor Svitov

Canadian ice hockey player Rob Klinkhammer starts training with Dinamo Minsk

The Canadian forward is now the only foreign player with the club, unlike last season. He admits to being greatly surprised by changes in the team, but he's pleased with the imminent arrival of NHL experienced goalkeeper Jonas Enroth. "If someone had told me that everything would change so much, I wouldn't have believed it. However, this is ice hockey and such things happen. I'm not particularly worried; I'm simply doing my job. I hope Dinamo will be no less successful than in the previous season. I haven't yet become acquainted with all the new players, but we have another three foreign players joining, and we'll see what this results in. I've come to win. To achieve this, we need to train hard. I'd like to ask our fans to support the team in the same way as they did last season, when we had the best fans in the KHL and the best atmosphere in the league," he says.

Last season, Rob Klinkhammer scored 21 goals and made 21 assists across 47 regular season games in the KHL as part of Dinamo Minsk. The team will play its first match in the new KHL season on August 23rd, at home, against Finnish Jokerit.

12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, August 3, 2017

Festival of the week



International Big-Mini Festival of Street Art held in Grodno

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 19th September. *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love* Until 20th September. *Masters of Polish Drawing*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 10th August (Labyrinth Gallery). *Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man*
Until 20th August. Exhibition of children's graphics: *Her Majesty Letter*

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 31st August. *Summer Story* educational programme

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 18th August. *Since Ancient Times: Kupalle*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 9th September. *The Artist and the City: Golden Collection of Belarusian Pictorial Art*

VAN GOGH HOUSE

9 Zybitykaya Street
Until 1st October. *Vincent Van Gogh: Artist of Star Sky*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street
Until 11th September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

HOUSE-MUSEUM OF FIRST RSDRP SESSION

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

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 1st September. *Made in USSR*

LOSHITSA ESTATE

8/2 Chizhevsky Lane
Until 27th August. *Wonderful Animals*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 31st August. *Summer of Cat Platoshka*

UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE ART GALLERY

1 Oktyabrskaya Street
Until 15th August. *Happiness to Be Together*

THEATRES

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
03.08. House Upside-Down

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
09.08. Featherhead
10.08. Night in Hotel

CONCERTS

UPPER TOWN

23A Svoobody Square
05.08. Days of National Cultures

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
09.08. KnyaZz band

CHESHIR

13 Vera Khoruzhaya Street
03.08. Artemy Krichevsky: blues night
04.08. Vasya Vasin (Kirpichi)
05.08. Defis 440
09.08. One Man Band

DREAMLAND

80 Orlovskaya Street
04.08. Father Takes a Rest Festival

GRAFFITI

16 Kalinin Lane
04.08. Crow

THE PUB

6 Karl Marx Street
03 and 04.08. Festival of Finish Tango

TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue
09.08. TheatreHD: Salomea

HOUSE OF LITERARY MEN

5 Frunze Street
06.08. Miraculous Night, or When Toys Turn Alive

LOSHITSA PARK

10 Chizhevsky Lane
03 and 07.08. Khatkha Yoga

STALIN LINE

Loshany village, Minsk District, P28 highway
05.08. Afghan Sky Festival

POBEDY PARK

Pobediteley Avenue
08.08. #Followminsk

YANKA KUPALA PARK

03-04 and 10.08. Cycling School. Minsk

PICNIC HOTEL EXPEDITION

Oktyabr village
04-06.08. Expedition Tour International Festival

SVOBODY SQUARE

05.08. Classics at the Town Hall
09.08. Vocal Rhapsody: from Romance to Opera
10.08. Belarusy art band

The Minsk Times

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