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Holiday of friendship, true brotherhood and freedom — for everyone

This year, traditional *H.O.G. Rally Minsk* Festival has brought together a record number of participants. More than 7,000 bikers from 15 countries have arrived in the Belarusian capital. A traditional parade from the Mound of Glory to the place of celebrations, near the Sports Palace, stretched for several kilometres. The column included 'stars' of the holiday — Harley Davidson

bikes while each such vehicle is a true work of art. Lucky owners of such bikes comprise the largest motorcycle movement in the world. The festival was also attended by other brands and models, since motorcycle brotherhood makes no differences in age and bike models. On the occasion of the bike festival a visa-free entrance to the country was envisaged for foreigners.

As is traditional, the column of bikers also included Interior Minister Igor Shunevich. Bikers from various countries believe that their hobby doesn't have boundaries; rather it unites representatives of various states, professions and ages. In April 2018, the roar of engines in Minsk will declare the opening of the new motorcycle season.

Exercise — exclusively defensive in character

Last week saw the start of a joint strategic exercise between Belarus and Russia — Zapad-2017 — which involved 12,700 soldiers

By Kostantin Bakun

The Belarusian side has done everything to hold the exercise openly and transparently. On the eve of the event, at the briefing for representatives of Belarusian and foreign media, the Chief of the Defence Ministry's International Military Co-operation Department and Assistance to the Defence Minister for Foreign Military Policy, Oleg Voinov, described the details of the exercise. He described that the concept stems from a crisis situation, which becomes aggravated due to the activities of illegal military formations and international separatist and terrorist organisations enjoying outside support.

“For the purposes of the exercise, the warring parties are located within the real borders of Belarus: the ‘Northerners’, which include the Union State of Belarus and Russia, and the ‘Westerners’, which are rep-



At the briefing for Belarusian and foreign media in the National Press Centre

resented by a coalition of interested countries.”

Some foreign media were rumoured to be reporting that the exercise could be a ‘veil for preparation for possible real combat actions’.

Mr. Voinov underlined the fact that the Zapad-2017 (West-2017) exercises are exclusively of defensive character and our country completely fulfils its international obligations in the sphere of control over armaments.

“The conduct of the exercise poses no threat either for the European community in general or for neighbouring states in particular. The exercise enables us to improve in practice the mechanism of joint use of the defensive infrastructure for the sake of ensuring the military security of the Union State,” explained Mr. Voinov.

Zapad-2017 doesn't exceed the parameters specified by the Vienna Document. However, Belarus invited representatives of Sweden and



Norway to observe the exercise, alongside those from neighbouring states. It means that several countries — NATO members — could observe the activity in Belarus. It also took place on three Russian firing ranges: Luzhsky, Strugi Krasnye

and Pravdinsky; these finished on September 20th. The Russian troops that arrived in Belarus to take part in Zapad-2017 will return home by September 30th. By the same date Belarusian units should also return to their permanent stations.

First stone laid in plant's foundation

By Sergey Gromov

Minsk Automobile Works and Chinese Weichai Power to build a factory to produce engines for trucks, special vehicles and buses at the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, with the first stone officially laid recently in the foundations

The factory will be owned by the joint company MAZ-Weichai Ltd. co-founded by Minsk Automobile Works (MAZ) and Weichai Power. A memorandum of co-operation envisaging the construction of the diesel engine factory was signed during last year's visit of the President of Belarus to China.

The factory will occupy 2.5 hectares of land. MAZ-Weichai joint venture will become the Park's resident company and will therefore be eligible for tax exemptions and preferences. The facility is expected to start rolling out the first engines in 2019.

The factory is planned to produce internal combustion engines. The joint company intends to satisfy the demand of Belarusian manufacturers for engines and penetrate the markets of the CIS and non-CIS states with its products.

Weichai Power's first factory was set up in Weifang, China, in 1946. The company employs over 12,000 people, including 2,500 engineers. Weichai Power manufactures over 900,000 engines per annum. This is one of the world's largest manufacturers of engines for trucks.

Skaryna gathers friends in the capital

By Natalia Stepuro

The National Library has turned into a centre of celebrations for the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing, with an international congress and exhibition, *Francysk Skaryna and His Epoch*, opening

Delegates from 24 countries have been invited to the celebration. During the opening ceremony of the congress, Maxim Ryzhenkov, the First Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, noted that the book is a source of knowledge and a driving force in social development. Belarus' Information Minister, Lilia Ananich, agrees. In her opinion, Belarus remains the country which has preserved the popularity of printed books, as well as a country which does a great deal to enable books to



be more widely read in society.

For two days the participants of the event, held under the UNECSO aegis, will be discussing current issues. There will be attention given to our own country and its role in the formation and preservation of the

book legacy of Europe, as well as the achievements of Skaryna and his followers. Librarians, scholars, archive workers, museum employees, representatives of civil associations and other guests were the first visitors to the exhibition *Francysk Skaryna*

and His Epoch. For the first time in Belarus, this precious collection of works by the first printer and his followers has been gathered under one roof. The most ancient and precious exhibit is an original of the Gutenberg Bible. Only a few copies of this unique edition have been preserved in the world and only a few countries are able to show the book to the public. The National Library of Germany in Leipzig has agreed to show the rare fragment. To supplement the image of the unique Gutenberg work, a facsimile edition of the full Bible, created in 1913 in Leipzig, is exhibited nearby.

Original editions by Skaryna are also on show; these have come to Minsk from Slovenia, Germany and Russia, alongside those kept in Belarus. The exhibition will run until December.

Tractors to be in demand

By Alexey Sterligov

Assembly production of Belarusian tractors is to begin in India in 2018, notes MTZ Director General, Fiodor Domotenko

The two sides reached the relevant agreements during business negotiations in India and signed a contract. “It defines our steps for 2017 and 2018. We plan to set up an assembly plant in 2018. The share of local content is projected at about 50 percent and output at 4,000 vehicles, with power ranging from 6 to 150hp,” explained Mr. Domotenko. In his words, cheap, high-quality and light equipment is primarily in demand in India, which operates some 3.7 million tractors.

Belarus-India: philosophy and peculiarity of relations

This the third visit of the President of Belarus to India. Current negotiations at top level have given impetus to a new stage of relations: Belarus and India are shifting from simple trade to joint investment projects. The mutual benefits are evident, since today India is the world's third economy and an influential global player in the world arena. Strengthening our position in the Indian market will assist our country to gain a powerful foothold in the Asian continent, with the ability to enter other states. In turn, India views Belarus as a suitable and convenient ground to export its goods and services to the markets of the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union. At the negotiations in New Delhi, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, voiced his vision of how to implement these large-scale tasks.

By Yevgeny Kononovich

Historical traditions are extremely strong in the ancient Indian lands and the President of Belarus was welcomed solemnly and magnificently in the Rashtrapati Bhavan Presidential Palace: with an equestrian escort and a 21-gun salute. Mr. Lukashenko visited the Raj Ghat Memorial in New Delhi where he laid a wreath at the Mahatma Gandhii Memorial, whom the Indians call the 'Father of the Nation'.

Then a negotiation 'marathon' started: because of the tight agenda, members of the Belarusian delegation hardly managed to move from one residence to another. Mr. Lukashenko met his colleague, Ram Kovind, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, the Vice President of India and the Foreign Minister. Various issues were discussed, but the President expressed the general sense of all meetings by saying, "It's high time for us to speak in the language of definite contracts. We have determined the philosophy of our relations and areas of development. Now we need to shift to concrete actions which presuppose contracts and investments."

Two years ago, during the visit of the Indian President to Minsk, the two sides agreed to increase mutual trade turnover to \$1bn by 2020. Now it stands at slightly more than \$400m. A small drop last year was connected with the price fall for our export positions, primarily potash fertilisers. However, the mineral commodity market has revived and we can potentially make up for lost time.

Mr. Lukashenko suggested creating a scientific-technological industrial park in Belarus, at the crossroads of strategic routes from the



Alexander Lukashenko and Narendra Modi

WORD-FOR-WORD

Alexander LUKASHENKO, the President of Belarus:

We would like India to become a great powerful country. We have always promoted, proclaimed and supported the idea of a multi-polar world. We want India to be a powerful fulcrum in this world. Greater India is impossible without your presence on the territory of Belarus, namely between the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union. We're ready to provide the most beneficial and preferential conditions for your investors. We have pursued a similar policy with other countries. The signing of the Belarusian-Indian agreement on mutual protection of investments shows our firm intentions. I would like also to promise any assistance with speeding up the signing of the EAEU-India free trade agreement.

west to the east and from north to south. It will be an Indian investment cluster, while companies that will invest were promised beneficial conditions by the President. A project of the multimodal industrial-logistics park in Orsha District's Bolbasovo would be the base for such cluster.

In Belarus, Indian business acquires a stronghold in

the EAEU space. However, our ministers and exporters shouldn't lose the opportunity for reforming relations. The Indian Government has allocated billions of US Dollars for the programmes, *Digital India, Smart Cities, Affordable Housing*, as well as for the modernisation of railways and construction of high-speed highways, the renewal of infrastructure in



WORD-FOR-WORD

Narendra Modi, India's Prime Minister:

We've discussed new ideas and initiatives for further development of interaction across all spheres. I have seen that President Lukashenko also has a great enthusiasm and desire to expand partnership for the benefit of our nations. With this aim we will be diversifying our economic ties and use the merits of our respective economies. Our companies should move from the 'supplier-buyer' scheme to a higher level of co-operation.

500 large cities and river purification projects.

There will be no better opportunity to reinforce our position in such a promising

market. It's necessary to act distinctively and quickly, as for example, our oil workers do. Almost a month ago, they finished the first large

project at the Digboi deposit and immediately signed another contract. This issue is extremely important for India, as the country plans to gradually reduce its imports of crude oil. In turn, large projects to release new medication for hepatitis and oncological diseases will be implemented in our country with the help of Indian capital.

India remains a strategically important importer of potash fertilisers for Belarus. In August, the Belarusian Potash Company signed a contract with Indian companies to export 700,000 tonnes of potash chloride until June 30th, 2018. Mr. Lukashenko shared the good news that during the current visit, Belarus and India have agreed to increase the supplies of fertilisers at least until 2023.

Belarus' Education Minister, Igor Karpenko, sees an opportunity to expand links with educational services, with the most popular specialties including machine building, construction and medicine. "India desperately needs doctors," explains the Managing Partner of Medico Abroad, Raja Ram. "There's one doctor per 220 patients in Belarus on average while in India the figure exceeds 1,700. When Indian parents make the decision to send their children to study in Belarus, they are looking at three major issues: the quality of education, security and the quality of life in the country."

It's no surprise that, three years ago, around 150 Indian citizens studied in Belarus, while last year there were 356 and this number is expected to increase particularly following the agreements signed during the visit. We'll be able to assess the first results soon, as Mr. Lukashenko has invited the Indian Prime Minister to visit our country soon.

Games in our own way: beautiful, open and spiritual

The large European competition hosted by our country in 2019 should be a present for the whole country and its numerous guests



By Maxim Osipov

In the eternal dispute of analysts about the primacy of either economy or policy it is... sport that has often become the winner in recent times. Initially designed to unite nations and peoples, it has often divided them. Now, the time has come to go back to our roots. In two years' time, our country, which has long been used to competitions at the highest level, will welcome probably the most unique of them — the European Games, due to take place from June 21st-30th, 2019.

The uniqueness of these competitions is that they will be held for only the second time. The first took place in June 2015 in the Azerbaijani capital and brought 43 medals for Belarus, including ten golds. However, the benefit of the forthcoming competition for our country is not only in new sporting victories. The European Games will bring presents for millions of our citizens in the form of the drastic renovation of the Dinamo Stadium that will turn into a multi-functional complex; a new building of the Republican Scientific-Practical Centre of Sports where athletes will be able to pass all medical and comprehensive scientific



Reconstruction of the Dinamo Stadium continues

examinations; in the currently under construction Rhythmic Gymnastics Centre and a multi-purpose game sports hall; and finally in the form of the most grandiose, 25-storey hostel in the Student Village, enabling us to provide 1,800 students with housing. Moreover, Minsk Railway Station plans to renew six out of eight escalators, to equip ticket halls with modern air conditioners and modernise fire alarm and video surveillance

systems. Of course, the whole infrastructure is being built targeting the Games and their participants, but also considering our own citizens.

The competition also promises to be an unforgettable event in the life of our country. The Director of the Foundation 'Directorate of the Second European Games', Georgy Katulin, emphasises the grand scale of the project, "Despite the experience accumulated during the conduct of international competitions, the organisers of the 2nd European Games will have to face some serious challenges. In terms of scale, nothing similar has been staged in Belarus, around 11,000 participants will be accredited for the event. Alongside athletes and coaches whose number is expected to be around 4,000, this includes volunteers, journalists and official figures."

It's no surprise that the Sports

and Tourism Minister, Alexander Shamko, forecasts high competition for all athletes across all 15 sport disciplines, "At the recent Olympic Games, more than 50 percent of medals were earned by athletes from the Old World. We have good victorious traditions in a range of disciplines."

The conduct of international sporting competitions is one of the most efficient marketing methods to promote the country. All those arriving in the country will be welcomed with... a bell. At least, this is how head coach of the Belarusian national canoe and kayak team, Vladimir Shantarovich, sees the talisman of the future Games, "For me Belarus means space: endless fields and meadows with lots of flowers. It seems to me that a bell-flower is best suited to be our mascot, since it symbolises our delicate and interesting culture."

Alas, another flower, a fantastic fern, has been already chosen as the basis of the logo of the Games. Bronze medallist of the Summer Olympics 2016 in Greco-Roman wrestling, David Gamzatov, suggests his own, "A Tiger symbolises nobility, strength and speed. This is an animal with a beautiful colour, which moves gracefully and runs fast. I believe it perfectly suited to be a symbol for the 2nd European Games." Anyone wishing to can take part in the open Republican contest. It's necessary to suggest an idea of a symbol, picture and name. Applications can be received until November 15th, 2017. Details are available on the websites of the Information Ministry, the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and News Agency BelTA.

"The European Games is an important event which should give a powerful ideological impulse to our society and consolidate the nation even more," noted the President of Belarus at the recently held NOC session. There's only one aim: 'We should bring the nation, the country, the state to the highest stage of development and the Games should push us towards this. Everything should be done for the benefit of the people. We won't compete with the opening of the Olympiad in Sochi and the 2nd European Games in Baku. But we don't aim to do this, because hundreds of millions of US Dollars have been spent there. If this would have been for our benefit we would find the money. There's no need to do this. We need to break records with the spirituality and openness of our nation. We need to do it in our own way: beautifully and spiritually'.

Built according to the status of the forthcoming sport forum

By Dmitry Komashko

The construction of the sports facilities for the Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro cost more than \$7bn and, even at the start of the Games, some of the stadiums and swimming pools had drawbacks

The organisers of the 1st European Games in Baku got everything ready in time, but spent much less than the Brazilians. The concept of the 2nd European Games, which are to take place in Belarus in 2019, was initially oriented towards rationality; however, we can't manage without any construction expenses. Not ac-

counting for the complete reconstruction of Minsk's major stadium — Dinamo — several more sporting facilities are to be brought in order by the start of the historical event (these have previously been incomplete sporting construction projects).

The visit of the Prime Minister and the Head of the Games Organising Committee, Andrei Kobyakov, showed that work on these sites is moving at an Olympic rate. Over the six months since the previous inspection, much has changed. The multi-functional game sports hall at the Republican School of Olympic Reserve is among the most transformed. Despite the delayed start

(due to an unforeseen change of project developer) it was expected to commission the site by the New Year. However, construction machinery will actually leave this stadium first. The building of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Sports Medicine is next in line, which under the new plan, will be united with the scientific-research centre. Heating will be connected here by November and then the builders will begin the fit-out works. Mr. Kobyakov was keen to shorten the construction terms for this facility but, according to Stanislav Rynkevich, Director of the Antrasst Ltd. (performing the works) this won't affect the qual-



ity. Builders working on the hostel building in the Student Village, in Dzerzhinsky Avenue, will also have to accelerate their progress. Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Kalinin, believes that the terms can be almost halved with no detriment to quality. The Olympic facilities will be completed to a high standard and any shortcomings will be corrected at the expense of the contractors. In

this respect, the leadership of the Olimpiysky Sport Complex has fewer troubles. The Palace of Water Sports will house competitions in beach football and archery for which only temporary constructions need to be installed. Moreover, parking spaces will be arranged, alongside urban landscaping of the area which should correspond to the status of the forthcoming event.

Customs with big opportunities

Minsk Regional Customs conducting experiments to improve customs procedures which will enhance the attractiveness of our country. The *MT* reporter visited one of the customs clearance offices, looked at cargo inspection process and learnt about introduced and planned innovations.

By Oksana Nevmerzhitskaya

The words ‘customs control’ are primarily associated with a border. Then why are lots of customs clearance offices located countrywide?

“If all cargoes had been checked at the border, it would have paralysed the work of all border checkpoints,” Igor Sytko, the Chief of Customs Clearance and Control Department #1 at Minsk Regional Customs (located near the village of Shchitomir-ichi), smiles at my naïve question. “When trucks arrive in the country they are inspected by the border guards, vehicles are scanned and sent to the regional customs office. If there are suspicions in violations, for example excess weight along the axis or uncharacteristic correlation of the goods during scanning, the risk management system informs us about this. Such vehicles will then need a more thorough inspection.”

It’s impossible to avoid a customs clearance office. Firstly, no self-respecting shop or warehouse will accept bonded goods. Moreover, a vehicle that has arrived in the country is subject to the customs transit procedure. If within 3-4 days the truck doesn’t appear it will be registered on a database as a violator and it will be searched for. It won’t be able to leave the country and the consequences are very serious: from huge fines to confiscation of a transport vehicle. In case of a road accident or vehicle failure, the driver needs to immediately apply to the nearest customs clearance office and inform them of the issue. An employee of the customs office will come to the place of the accident with a new vehicle, the cargo will be re-shipped and sealed again.

Comfortably and without queues

It’s spacious, relaxed and almost empty in the customs clearance office. Instead of the expected queues of exhausted long-haul truck drivers with piles of papers in their hands we see just two people. One is standing near the clearance window while the other one is checking documents at the table. It’s strange, as there are many vehicles at the office...



“The system is computerised and electronic declaration is made in 99 percent of cases,” explains Mr. Sytko. “Drivers and entrepreneurs are waiting to be called in comfortable conditions. There’s also a payment processing centre here and it’s possible to pay duties and the necessary taxes, as well as receive a declaration within just a few hours.”

One of the innovations that is currently being ‘tested’ at Minsk Regional Customs is the remote goods release technology. Its essence is that a vehicle can arrive for inspection in one customs control zones while its documents, data and e-declarations will be processed in another customs control zone — less busy, where the scanned papers will be sent by email. The results of the experiment are impressive: document processing time has reduced by 40 percent while the time spent in a vehicle within customs control zones has reduced by 7-10 hours.

If not overweight than substitution

Astonishing as these achievements are, we move along to the customs warehouse. Here goods are sent which require additional processing: for example, labelling of control symbols, tax stamps. When we arrive, French wine, one bottle of which is estimated at 100 Euros (even before duties and VAT)



is undergoing the customs control procedure. An inspector is checking the authenticity of tax stamps and an indicator of latent measurement is used for this. On the original stamps, a special infra-red picture is applied. We put the ‘eye’ of the indicator on the label and see the depicted bottle, meaning that everything is ok.

A rail road was laid to the customs clearance office in Shchitomir-ichi, enabling marine 40-foot containers to be processed there. Their journey is long: from China by sea to the port, generally Klaipeda, and then by railway. After customs clearance, part of the cargo — clothes and footwear, furniture and accessories, watches and computer parts — remain here while the rest will go to Russia and other countries of the

Customs Union.

In the warehouses for temporary storage, customs inspectors give seized property to representatives of organisations who have a license to trade confiscated goods. Goods managers thoroughly study the contents of cardboard boxes containing clothes.

I am drawn to the pile of bright clothes; I must avoid distractions, as we need to be present during opening of a vehicle from Klaipeda. The inspector removes the customs seal, the driver opens the doors and we see that the long-haul truck is fully packed with cardboard boxes. According to the documents, these contain welding sets and compressors. Inspectors selectively unpack several boxes to make sure that the actual cargo cor-

responds to that declared. Judging by this, this vehicle will quickly undergo customs clearance: there’s no need to unload goods to the warehouse, the risk management system hasn’t identified any issues, there’s no excessive weight and the boxes really do contain welding sets.

Customs officers note that violations don’t happen often. The most common is excessive weight and it doesn’t always happen out of malice; sometimes it can arise because of a change of moisture or a mistake filling out documents. There was however, a recent incident concerning cheese. The product was declared as cheap cheese from Slovenia, while in reality, it was an expensive foreign brand. In total, 120 tonnes were confiscated which were given to shops which trade in seized produce.

Either forget or pay

The maximum period goods can stay in the temporary warehouse for storage is 4 months. Then the goods are seized. If, within one more month, an owner doesn’t appear, it’s turned over to the state. The cargo may be confiscated for various reasons: the money has not been paid, the firm has closed. It sometimes happens that after the calculations are made, entrepreneurs realise that it’s cheaper to forget about the goods than to pay for customs clearance, duties and VAT.

Sometimes it’s necessary to introduce changes stipulated in the declaration. Now this can also be done remotely by both inspectors of the customs clearance departments and employees of administrative divisions. Moreover, the so called ‘auto-release’ is practiced: definite categories of goods which have no risks and are not subject to any restriction measures are processed even without presence of an inspector. However, they should be sent by the authorised economic operator which has their own customs control zone and the right to seal vehicles. At present, Customs Clearance and Control Department #1 alone issues around 60 such declarations. In case of successful realisation innovations will be launched at other customs clearance offices of the country.

Double-deckers to appear on popular route

By Yulia Matuzova

New double-decker passenger electric trains are planned between Lithuania and Minsk from December

These were manufactured for the Lithuanian Railways by the Czech Skoda Vagonka. Each train consists of three coaches with 290 seats, including 23 first class seats. Modern double-decker electric

trains can accelerate up to 160kmh. They offer Wi-Fi technology, as well as an opportunity to charge a telephone or a notebook.

“There are special spaces in the carriages to store bicycles, prams

and other large luggage. The train is also adapted for disabled passengers, with two carriages having mobile ramps and places for fixing wheelchairs,” says Paulius Grubinskas, an employee of the repre-

sentative office of the Lithuanian Railways JSC in Belarus.

Vilnius-Minsk is the most popular route of Lithuanian Railways, used by 200,000 passengers over the first eight months of this year.



Salt should be in demand

What future awaits the potash industry?

By Vladislav Kuletsky

Belarus produces a fifth of the world's potash fertilisers. After experiencing a dramatic fall in prices in 2017, potash producers are looking hopefully to the future: in 2018, they predict increasing demand for their product. Our reporters attempt to discover the state of the industry and what the prospects for its development are after the launch of two major mining and processing plants.

It all began with a record

The most significant issue for the Belarusian potash industry is the construction of the Petrikov mining and processing plant. Opened in May 1966, the field only began to be developed in 2014. Belaruskali's future lies here. The company's management has often announced that, over time, the staff will move from Soligorsk to Petrikov. Local deposits of potash are estimated at 2.2 billion tonnes — enough for about 90 years (provided that 1.5m tonnes of fertiliser is produced annually). Production is to be launched in late 2019 and, in December 2021, the company will reach its full capacity. Moreover, the process of enrichment at the new field should be much easier than at the Starobin mine; here, only around 1.5 percent of insoluble residues are found in the rock — as against 15 percent there.

Clearly, it's desirable to get the resources out as soon as possible and the general contractor for construction of the underground complex — Trust Shakhtospetsstroy JSC — is in a hurry. In August, the penetration speed at section #1 stood at 80 metres per month, a record figure for the entire post-Soviet period. Given a larger diameter of barrel than in other fields, it can be assumed that the heading team descended over 102 metres a month in this section.

Brigadier Dmitry Grebenek says this is no surprise. "We have shown that our team are even stronger and more professional. Young guys from the second team say they will beat our record. Well, let them try. This is a kind of sporting interest," he smiled.

Shaft sinking is conducted

through a drill-and-fire system, with erection of a concrete lining and freezing of aquifers. According to the trust's management, this method has long been tested and is safe under the geological conditions of the Belarusian potassium-bearing basin.

Belaruskali's General Director — Ivan Golovaty — also believes that there is nothing wrong with this way of sinking shafts. "It is often said that we are applying old, antiquated methods of penetration rather

than using machines. However, this is not true. The technological principle remains unchanged, while the performance is much better. The recent record proves that professionals are at work here. You can see for yourself how much has already been done. I am sure that we'll meet the deadline and the facility will be launched in 2019," he asserted.

So far, Belaruskali's capacity stands at 12.6m tonnes of potassium per year. From January-August, among the customers were 99 countries and this figure is expected to exceed 120 by the end of the year.



Mr. Golovaty explains that the company is now trying to maintain a balance between supply and demand. Accordingly, the market will dictate sales volumes. "After 2020, we'll reach capacities of up to 15.9 million tonnes per year. However, this does not mean that all the output will be produced and sold, since stability in the potash market is a must. Additional capacity primarily helps the company to develop, allowing extra time when it's possible to conduct repairs and modernisation," he

explains, adding, "It's difficult at the moment to talk about growth and reduction of prices. This is not the key factor to increase the capacity of the enterprise. Many manufacturers claim that they launch new projects and facilities but part of them are closing at the same time. Prices for fertiliser depends heavily on the economic situation in countries where we sell our product, as well as on harvest volumes and state subsidies in these countries."

Belaruskali does not disclose

The sad fact remains

While Petrikov's workers are setting records, the construction of a new mining facility is its original stage in Lyuban. In July, a tripartite agreement with German Deilmann-Haniel was signed envisaging shaft excavation at the site of the Nezhinsky mine. The General Director of Shakhtospetsstroy — Denis Diulin — has taken Slavkali's rejection of their services in favour of German companies personally. "It took us seven years to build the Bereza mine and the Garlyk plant in Turkmenistan. In Petrikov, about 400 metres are closed with tubing now, however, no such result is yet seen in Lyuban. In Garlyk, we experienced a man-made disaster: due to the Turkish contractor's work, shafts were flooded. We had little time but managed to solve the problem. Sadly, our local companies don't trust us. Foreign companies work closely with our

organisation. We would set a lower price than the Germans, however. In my opinion, the drill-and-fire system with deep freezing of layers is much more reliable than mechanical methods."

In turn, Slavkali's Director Igor Kozhich, believes such statements are unfounded, "As you know, Slavkaliya received its project money only last year. We've only just broken ground at the site and are currently drilling freezing wells at shafts 1 and 2. In a year (when freezing is

Growing popularity

After new mining and processing plants are put into operation, Belarus will become a powerful potash producer on the world market. In this situation, it would be nice to ensure a constant growth of demand. This trend is already registered and the Belarusian Potash Company, for example, expects to increase its exports this year both in physical and price terms.

General Director Yelena Kudryavets, comments, "In the first half of 2016, we limited production and exports but, in 2017, the tendency that emerged last year is still present. We are accordingly working very hard to meet demand." Perhaps, by late 2017, the volume of exports will reach 10 million tonnes — against 9.5m in 2016.

As regards 2018, Ms. Kudryavets has even more grandiose plans. According to preliminary estimates by the International Fertiliser Industry Association (IFA), global shipments in 2016 amounted to 63.3 million tonnes — which was slightly above the level of 2015 (63.1 million tonnes). Following the IFA's prognoses, in 2017, this figure will increase slightly and reach 64-65 million tonnes. Increased demand is due to the decline in stocks in the major consuming countries.

Better to work close to, but under capacity

According to BPC, the market is evolving today and in the last 18 months, demand is quite good. It is not easy but the company manages to sell all the produce of Belaruskali. Over the last year, the price per tonne of fertiliser rose on average by \$15-20 in all markets. Experts say that potash prices will continue growing. As predicted, by 2031, a tonne of potassium could cost up to \$500.

Ms. Kudryavets is cautious in agreeing. "These prices are possible only provided work is co-ordinated by producers aimed at balance retention. We need to have capacity to meet the demand and to be working at only 70-80 percent," she says.

Belaruskali already works this way as it's necessary not only to maintain balance but also to ensure safe production: all repairs are completed on time. Nobody would increase potassium production for no special reason. Mr. Golovaty states that even the present growing prices are offset by the growth of freight — on an average of \$5-15. However, this does not stop the company from increasing its resource base.

Blowing our tourist trumpet worldwide

Innovative approach is obviously needed to attract tourists

By Lyudmila Minakova

Belarus is open to the world. We want tourists to visit us, talk about us and return over and again. This is well-proven by the introduction of a five-day visa-free regime for citizens of eighty countries. Of course, this initiative has contributed to more tourists arriving but greater results are needed. The Secretary General of World Tourism Organisation, Taleb Rifai, believes our country could receive 2-4 times more tourists, by promoting the Belarus brand, so that more people are aware of what we have to offer.

Developing a Belarusian brand was a key topic at the International Conference on Tourism: *Branding Destinations: Innovative Ideas to Attract Tourists*. This was held recently in Minsk, gathering over 300 participants from thirty countries. Belarus remains relatively unknown to world travellers, with many having preconceived ideas.

The challenge is to create a clear portrait of ourselves. Belarus is friendly, beautiful and sporting... but what stands out most? Tourists tend to surf online, looking not for a specific country but for the attractions it offers — such as ‘best beaches’, ‘ancient architecture’ or ‘outdoor activities’. It’s vital that we declare our advantages loudly and clearly, to attract attention.

For the past decade, Slovenia has positioned itself as a green country, being environmentally friendly, with an active lifestyle and healthy outlook. The brand is recognised domestically and globally, with much time and money spent. Efforts are yielding fruit: last year, 42 million people wished to visit the country.

Creating a brand has helped increase tourist flow to many countries: Georgia, Malaysia, India and Colombia, among others. Belarus can offer many attractions: beautiful landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and well-developed sports infrastructure... However, all must combine in a single concept — such as ‘beautiful’. The Secretary General of the World Tourism Organisation, Taleb Rifai, says, “A brand should reflect your values: what’s important to you. ‘Beauty’ can be a key word in creating the country’s brand. The Italian word ‘bello’ — which means ‘beautiful’ — is consonant with the name of Belarus.”

It was also proposed at the conference that Belarus be marketed as a romantic country, having a strong connection with history, traditions



OPINIONS

Janez Sirse, Head of Support to Sustainable Tourism Development in Belarus project: Belarus arouses interest. People who come for the first time are delighted by what they see and by the people they talk to. The country needs its own brand and logo. However, Belarusians should be aware that, while presenting the country on the world tourist market, they also need high quality tourist products, to meet customers’ expectations.

Sandra Carvão, Chief of Communications and Publications at the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO): A brand is an image in minds of potential customers. This is how we appear to others, and presents our true essence. It’s not enough simply to talk about the brand. It is important to illustrate it with action.

Tornike Zirakishvili, Head of International Relations for the Georgian National Tourism Administration: The main lesson I’ve learnt from my marketing experience is that you can’t sell what you don’t believe in. Many destinations fall into this trap, pushing an illusion. It’s important to show who you are, to demonstrate your authenticity and present what you really love.

and legends. Brand development is only a small part of the great work conducted to attract tourists. Paths of promotion are also important. Standard billboards, posters at airports, embassy brochures and, even, TV ads are obsolete. Rather, online marketing, using such popular platforms as Tripadvisor and Expedia, are essential.

Belarus is demonstrating certain progress, having launched its own portal a few months ago. Similar to booking.com, it’s called VETLIVA, and provides information on our country, while allowing the booking of travel services at any time and from anywhere. At present, the site is visited by over 4 thousand people daily.

Social networks play a major role in popularising the brand, conveying its essence and aiding business dialogue between companies. Many countries attract celebrities to promote their national brand. Belarus’ Belavia national airline has been used to help promote Belarusian Wargaming’s world-famous World of Tanks game. As Wargaming PR Manager, Ivan Zhivitsa, admits, their joint ‘tank-

aircraft’ works well in promoting the country’s image. “A Boeing bearing the inscription: The Game from Belarus Played Globally’ services twenty-eight countries and has already transported hundreds of thousands of passengers. Millions of people have seen it. No billboard could rival this,” he explains.

Every year, the number of travellers grows and, in 2016, over 1.2bn people were in search of new experiences. By 2030, this figure may reach 1.8bn. As the number of tourists rises, competition between destinations grows. To occupy a place on the tourist market, we need to expand our vision, using creative methods.

IMPORTANT

Several ideas for the country brand will be open for public discussion by the end of the year. At present, experts from the EU-funded *Support to Sustainable Tourism Development in Belarus* project are working on creating a highly recognisable idea, liaising with international experts, consultants, foreign tourists and Belarusians. In creating and promoting a national brand, it’s vital to ensure that the local population loves it.

Project experts are now working not only on Belarus’ brand but are developing the tourism development strategy and logos for five Belarusian regions and tourist sites: Naroch, Kamenets, Pruzhany, Mstislavl, Polotsk and Avgustovsky Canal. These are pilot destinations, with each brand tailored to suit the region’s history, landscape, attractions and other features. For example, Naroch is to be promoted as a source of health; Mstislavl as a place of living history and impressive landscapes; and the Avgustovsky Canal as a place of cross-border cultural heritage, complemented with adventure activities. Project experts expect that it may take years before branding is fully adopted by local authorities, the population and tourists. However, if the brand is a success, the results will please everyone. Pilot destinations should set an example to other Belarusian regions. Let’s hope these will be successful.

Reserve airfield as a tourist site

By Katerina Charovskaya

The country’s oldest aerodrome to become a tourist sight

Karolino aerodrome near Grodno is used as a base for a local aero-club. However, the Head of the Sports and Tourism Department at the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, Oleg Andreichik believes that the site would be interesting to a much wider range of people. Moreover, the aerodrome, founded in the early 20th century, could become a tourist ‘Mecca’ for Belarusian and foreign tourists who are keen on the history of aviation as well as those enjoying active leisure pursuits.

The first aeroplanes on the Karolino aerodrome appeared back in 1912. It was used by four-engine wooden ‘Ilya Muromets’ aircraft and the first monoplanes. The aerodrome was actively used during both world wars and Mr. Andreichik is confident that its glorious past, closely connected with the development of aviation, can and should spark interest among visitors.

“Karolino aerodrome is the oldest in the country. We suggest visiting this site to newly-arrived groups of tourists. For example, last weekend it was visited by 50 people. This is a good start but still too few. We believe that the tourist potential of the aerodrome hasn’t even been nearly reached yet. At present, visitors have an opportunity to go up in a balloon and to take a parachute jump. It’s already a venue for organised championships in parachute sports and aviation festivals, but we aren’t resting on our laurels.”

Demographic trends

By June 1st, 2017, the population of Minsk had reached 1,975,800 people, up from 1,964,200 in the same month of 2016

Even compared with January, the number of urbanities has increased by a thousand. As of April, 2017, there were 1,976,000 people, which makes it appear that Minsk’s population fell for the first time. However, experts believe that such conclusions don’t take into account the structure of the city’s student population.

At a certain time of year in summer, graduates travel to other regions (or return home) to take up their mandatory first job placements and the term of their temporary registration finishes, so they aren’t taken into account. Of course, the new term brings a rush of new first-year students, and numbers are again boosted.

The capital is also seeing growth in the number of marriages: since the beginning of the year, there have been 6,364 marriages (against 3,721 divorces).



Dozens injured as fierce storm hits Romania

Romania is bracing for more extreme weather after being hit by devastating storms over the last weekend

At least eight people were killed and nearly 70 others injured as severe storms battered western parts of the country. Winds of up to 100kph wreaked havoc, causing damage to apartment buildings,

hospitals and schools. Road and rail traffic in many areas were disrupted and dozens of towns and villages have been left without power. In Serbia, a search is continuing for a man who disappeared from his boat

on the Danube River near Belgrade as the city was battered by torrential rains and gale force winds. Six people, including a five-year-old child were hurt by falling trees.

Arcing from power lines,

caused by the high winds, sparked several wildfires. There were similar scenes in Croatia where heavy rains triggered flooding and brought traffic to a standstill in several coastal towns.

France plans new incentives to phase out polluting vehicles

The French government plans a series of new incentives and taxes to phase out polluting vehicles and to boost energy-saving insulation in houses

Environment and Energy Minister Nicolas Hulot said that the 2018 government budget would include a series of measures to limit climate change, reduce pollution and help low-income families. Hulot said he would propose that a 500 to 1,000 Euro incentive to switch to a less polluting vehicle, so far only available to low-income families, should be available from 2018 to all citizens who own cars with petrol engines registered before 1997 and cars with diesel engines registered before 2001.

UK businesses call for three-year Brexit transitional deal

British business leaders from companies including BT and Centrica said they wanted a three-year Brexit transitional deal to protect jobs in Britain and Europe

In a letter organised by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), more than 100 companies employing a total of more than one million people in Britain and the European Union said they needed to make decisions now about investment that will affect jobs in the future. Britain is due to leave the union, deal or no deal, in late March 2019.

Criticised by Trump, Iran nuclear deal faces tough scrutiny in UN talks

The 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers faces a stern test at the United Nations as Europeans try to persuade a sceptical Trump administration to keep it, while Israel lobbies to turn up the pressure on its regional rival

The President of the USA, Donald Trump, who must make a decision by mid-October that could undermine the agreement, repeated his long-held view that Iran was violating 'the spirit' of the deal under which Tehran got sanctions relief in return for curbing its nuclear programme.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Catalan residents remain defiant over independence vote

Spanish authorities have seized Catalanian independence campaign leaflets and warned that jailing the region's top politician could not be ruled out

Despite the raid, supporters of the referendum held a rally in Catalonia's main city, Barcelona carrying posters vowing to go ahead. Over the weekend 700 Catalan mayors also gave their backing.

"What can the police do to us if we are peaceful?" asked one wom-

an. "We are just supporting democracy that's all, democracy." There is even support for the referendum in the seat of national government, the capital Madrid.

It was last month that the Catalan parliament passed a law enabling the referendum but Spain's Constitutional Court suspended it the next day. Although polls show less than half of Catalonia's 5.5 million voters support independence, most in the wealthy northeastern region want the chance to vote on the issue.

Ultra-Orthodox protesters arrested in violent clash, held in Jerusalem

Jewish ultra-Orthodox demonstrators protesting the arrest of a prospective army conscript from their community clashed with police in Jerusalem and eight men were detained, police said

Police used a water canon and mounted officers dispersed the protest that briefly turned violent near Jerusalem's military recruiting office which lies on the edge of one of the city's ultra-Orthodox neighbourhoods. Although most ultra-Orthodox seminary students gain exemption from military service on religious grounds, they must obtain their exemption through a conscription procedure. Police said the protest was prompted by the man's arrest after he refused to turn up for recruitment. Recently Israel's Supreme Court ruled that parts of the conscription law that exempt seminary students were unconstitutional



and gave the government a year to resolve the matter. Most Jewish Israelis, men and women, are called up for military service when they turn 18. Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said protesters blocked streets and threw stones at police officers. Video footage showed officers kicking, punching and pushing some demonstrators and a few were dragged across a street.

Window to the past

The first original watercolours by Napoleon Orda were brought to Minsk last year. 12 works featuring 19th century Grodno were made open to the public but this year, Orda's pieces are once again being showcased.

By Irina Svirko

In 2017, they cover a wider geography — including Bialystok, Grodno, Vilno, Vitebsk, Mogilev and Gomel. 110 graphic sheets have been on show at the National Art Museum since September 15th and Belarusians can enjoy a unique opportunity to see a great many original works. Sadly, our local museums and archives keep none of Orda's originals: there are only lithographs made from his drawings by Alois Misyarovich. From 1873 to 1883, Orda released them in Warsaw for his own profit in eight series — under the common title: *Album of Po-*

land's Historical Views Devoted to Countrymen. The new Minsk exhibition is timed to coincide with the celebration of the 210th anniversary of the birth of this famous painter, composer, pianist and writer who is known and appreciated throughout the world. *The Napoleon Orda: Illus-*

In his letter to Ignat Domeiko on March 28th, 1876, Napoleon Orda wrote: 'After returning, I was struck by the happy idea to visit our province — which is so dear to our hearts but so little known by our countrymen. While traveling with a pencil in my hands, I've drawn the remains of our past and our civilisation'.

trated Encyclopaedia of the Country exhibition has been organised jointly with Krakow's National Museum



Napoleon Orda. Raitsy, Korelich District, Church of St. Barbara

which keeps the largest collection of original works by Napoleon Orda (1,027). Most of them — 977 sheets — were presented to the museum in 1886 by Constacia Skirmunt, a publicist and historian who was Orda's great niece.

Napoleon Orda — our famous countryman — was born in the village of Vorotsevichi (presently in Ivanovo, Brest Region). In

Ivanovo (former known as Yanovo), he was buried in the family vault — following his own wishes. After the uprising of 1830-1831, fleeing from persecution, Orda was forced to go abroad where he gained fame among the European intelligentsia. He returned at the age of 49 — leaving his family, customary and secure life in Paris; in 1856, when the amnesty was declared by the Russian Emperor.

Napoleon Orda's artistic heritage numbers over 1,150 watercolours and graphical drawings made during his travels in Western Europe and the territories of the former Rzecz Pospolita: Ukraine, Poland,

Lithuania and Belarus. Over 200 drawings feature his native land: palaces, estates, churches, farms and places connected with the lives of outstanding figures such as Adam Mickiewicz, Stanislaw Moniuszko, Vladislav Syrokomlya and many other cultural icons. Napoleon Orda is an acknowledged master of architectural landscapes. His works are characterised by precision and accurate documentary-like depictions. Even now, they act as the historical basis for restoration works at many iconic architectural sites.

The exposition will be open until December 3rd.

Masterpiece of exquisite printing and high artistry

Original copy of Gutenberg's Bible delivered from Germany to Belarus

By Veniamin Mikhailov

A fragment of this rare artefact belongs to the German National Library in Leipzig. The edition, accompanied by bibliographers, diplomats and security guards, arrived at the Belarusian National Library on a special flight.

The book, considered to be the most ancient, renowned and expensive edition in Europe, went on display at the *Francysk Skaryna and His Epoch* international exhibition recently opened in the National Library of Belarus for the wider public.

The Gutenberg Bible is traditionally viewed as the starting point of book printing in Europe and a turning point marking the transition from the Middle Ages to the modern period. Printed in no-



ble Gothic type, the book has been acknowledged as a masterpiece of exquisite printing and artistry. The whole Bible is divided into two columns. Capital letters and headings are ornamented by hand in colour.

Only a few copies of this unique edition have survived. Very few countries can afford to showcase the book in public. The exhibition in Belarus has been made possible thanks to the German Embassy in Belarus and the German National



Library. A facsimile reproduction of the complete Gutenberg Bible made in Leipzig in 1913 is being exhibited alongside the original copy to complement the image

of the unique edition. Today the facsimile is also considered to be a bibliographic rarity. It was provided by the Russian State Library, Moscow.

Meeting and communicating

7th international TV festival, TEFI Commonwealth, held in Minsk

TEFI Commonwealth is held annually in different CIS member states, drawing together representatives of major TV channels of the CIS, Georgia, and the Baltic States. The festival aims to develop a common information space, promote co-operation between TV companies and media and entertainment professionals of the CIS and non-CIS states.

The seventh festival is dedicated to documentary movies, featuring 20 works from twelve CIS and non-CIS states, namely documentaries from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. The programme of the festival included the official opening, screenings of the films and their discussion, panel discussions on the festival's topic, master classes and roundtable discussions on the topical issues of modern television broadcasting and TV production and an awards ceremony.

TEFI Commonwealth took place in Minsk with the assistance of the Belarusian Information Ministry. The festival was organised by the Academy of Russian Television in co-operation with the CIS Interstate Humanitarian Co-operation Fund.

Hurry to see unique treasures

The National Art Museum is hosting the *Treasures of Ancient Egypt* exhibition, running until December, offering an opportunity to travel back in time to thousands of years ago, to look into the eyes of Sphinxes and famous pharaohs and admire the skill of the Egyptian masters. The exhibition will later move to Moscow and then on to Bucharest. The creators of this collection of priceless rarities sees this as a symbolic start to the tour of their project from a city in the heart of Europe, presenting Minsk with a window into an even more ancient history on the city’s 950th anniversary.



By Irina Zavadskaya

Four museum halls have been painted black specially for the exhibition, adding atmosphere for the guests of the pharaohs via special music and illumination. Most exhibits here are replicas of the treasures kept in the museums of Cairo, Washington, London and Berlin. However, each of the items has been recreated by Egyptian restorers from the same materials and using the same ancient technologies which were used for the original artefacts.

Olga Kuptsova, a representative of the organising company Berin Art Management, demonstrates papyruses which are shining with gold, “These are made in Cairo’s only workshop — according to one-thousand-year-old methods.” The authentic decorations, household utensils, fragments of fabrics and sarcophaguses which were created so long ago make it difficult to determine their age without explanatory notes.

An international team of Egyptologist specialists have been working for a decade on the exhibition. It’s impossible to see a similar collection of ancient Egyptian artefacts



in any other museum in the world. Everything is present: magnificent statues of the gods, gilded Sphinxes, sarcophaguses and treasures from Tutankhamen’s tomb rich in puzzles and mystic stories. The centre and pride of the exhibition is a gilded throne and a death-mask of Tut-

ankhamen, which has preserved the facial features of the boy-pharaoh. The Metropolitan Museum in New York also shows a replica of this mask, rather than the original. The replica of the 10kg face covering was made from 22-carat gold. By the end of the exhibition, one more

copy of the same mask will be recreated, from 30 fragments hidden all over Minsk.

Until December 10th, participants of the ‘Curse of Tutankhamen’ quest will search for capsules containing fragments of the mask, publish the victorious pho-

tos on social media with a hashtag #ПроклятиеТутанхамона (#Curse-Tutankhamen) and dream of a trip to Egypt (the prize promised to the luckiest winner). According to the legend, invented for the quest in co-operation with the museum, in the 16th century, one of the Nesvizh Radziwill dukes went to Egypt to find the ancient secret of mummification of the pharaohs. Having learnt the secret, the duke imposed a curse and only the mask of Tutankhamen can remove it... There’s no documentary evidence to this story, but some historians do assert that the Radziwills were aware of the recipes of the ancient Egyptian embalmers.

Each Wednesday, museum employees will conduct thematic lectures, as well as master classes where guests will be taught how to read Egyptian hieroglyphs, to create their own artefacts from clay (mixed using recipes preserved on ancient tablets) and to apply make-up which was made thousands of years ago, not only for decorative but also for medical purposes. The conditions of the quest and the schedule of events is available on the website of the National Art Museum of Belarus and on social networks.

Fashionable century in focus

By Veniamin Mikheev

Historic costumes from the collection of famous fashion historian Alexander Vasiliev to go on display at National History Museum of Belarus, in Minsk

The exhibition, covering the period from the late 19th century and the 20th century, consists of over 100 costumes and several hundred accessories and jewellery. Original historical costumes, created with highly skilled tailoring and sophisticated taste, will take us back to the times when

clothing was a work of art.

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to see unique items including outfits from famous fashion houses such as Paul Poiret, Coco Chanel, Mariano Fortuny, Yves Saint Laurent and other designers. The exhibits also include evening and ballroom dresses, clothes for solemn events and holidays, as well as costumes which belong to famous theatre and cinema artistes.

Each item at the *Fashionable Century* exhibition eloquently describes the period of its creation. Harmonious and delicate attire from the

late 19th century significantly changed in the early 20th century, while the major reform of female dresses — getting rid of corsets — took place thanks to the Parisian couturier Paul Poiret.

The beautiful aesthetics of fashion of the first decade of the 20th century changed in 1914 when the First World War broke out and grew into the comfort and functionality of the post-war costume. Then followed an eclectic style of 1920s art deco and emancipation which gave women freedom in clothes. This was followed by the elegant 1930s

under the leadership of couturier Elsa Schiaparelli and the appearance of ‘fashionable’ photography and then — the tragic 1940s underlined by simple design and military motifs.

The recent great decade of the High Fashion — the 1950s — took place under the sign of Christian Dior, Cristóbal Balenciaga, Salvatore Ferragamo and New Look style, followed by the minimalism and futurism of the 1960s and the freedom of the 1970s expressed in the styles of unisex, hippie, glam-rock and disco.



Then there were the 1980s, with bright colours and a desire for self-expression and of course, the 1990s, which changed all the principles of the fashion industry and brought clothes which paradoxically combined functionality and deliberate drama and colour.

Visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to see exhibits from the world’s largest private collection of the fashion historian, art expert, collector, theatrical artist, author of books and articles on this topic, Alexander Vasiliev. It will continue until January 10th, 2018.

Unbelievable comeback by Dinamo Minsk over Metallurg in KHL match

Belarusian team gains win over two-time Gagarin Cup holder — Magnitogorsk Metallurg — 5:3

By Alexey Grishin

After defeating Traktor (3:1) and Lada (2:0), our Belarusian 'bisons' lost to Avtomobilist (1:3). Due to a small injury, the recent match was missed by defender Ilya Shinkevich.

Magnitogorsk Metallurg is a two-time winner of the Gagarin Cup. Last season, the team reached the finals. Meanwhile, since then, many changes have taken place in the club. It has lost several key players: Chris Li, Alexey Bereglazov, Denis Zaripov and Victor Antipin. They have been replaced by Nick Schaus, Nikita Pivtsakin, Denis Denisov and Matt Ellison (who played in Minsk for three years). The guests started the match confidently, opening the score in the 3rd minute. Owing to Sergey Mozyakin's pass, Jan Kovář scored the first



Tense moment of Dinamo-Metallurg match at Minsk-Arena

goal — 0:1. Minsk players played their second half quite well but Magnitogorsk's hockey players proved better. Initially, Matt Ellison made fans at Minsk-Arena upset and then Yaroslav Kosov, apparently, settled all issues regarding the match winner — 0:3.

In the first five minutes of the third period both teams didn't create any dangerous moments but, afterwards, something incredible

began. Firstly, Alexander Kitarov pushed the puck into the net as a result of the struggle near Metallurg's goals and, two minutes later, Alexander Pavlovich also scored before Kitarov made his double — bring the score to 3:3.

That comeback was a true miracle but Minsk didn't stop: fans inspired the team to rush forward and, 45 seconds before the final whistle when Sergey Mozyakin

was virtually preparing to leave the penalty box, Yevgeny Lisovets delivered the fourth puck. The guests' coaching staff replaced the goalkeeper for the sixth field player but that resulted in another goal. Belarusian captain Alexander Pavlovich scored — 5:3. This victory enabled the team to return to the playoff zone. Dinamo will play their next match on September 21st in Astana, against Barys.



Three gold medals claimed by wrestlers

By Igor Svitov

Three gold awards earned by Belarusian wrestlers on the first day of 47th International Alexander Medved Freestyle Wrestling Grand Prix Championship

The highest step of the medals podium in the under 48kg category was occupied by a representative of the Belarusian national squad, Ksenia Stankevich. In the finals she was stronger than her teammate Anna Vorobieva who claimed silver.

Gold awards of the tournament were also earned by our athlete Azamat Nurikov (65kg) who defeated in the decisive match Konstantin Vlasov of Russia and Andrey Bekernev (74kg) who didn't yield a single point and beat US Nathan Tomasello in the final fight.

The women's team also claimed two silver medals: Madina Sidakova of Bobruisk in the under 60kg category and Anna Sadchenko (69kg). More than 200 athletes from 11 countries, including Russia, the USA, Iran and Ukraine, took part in the event.

Brest Meshkov HC defeat Polish Vive in Champions League

By Semen Bondarev

Handballers of Brest Meshkov HC enjoy home victory over Poland's Vive — 28:25 — in the first round of Champions League Group Stage

At Brest's Victoria Sports Complex the hosts were controlling the game and took the lead — 15:11 — even before the break. Then the Belarusian squad continued to actively attack, with Dmitry Nikulenkov, Konstantin Igropulo and Alexander Shkurinsky being recognised as the most efficient players, each scoring five goals.

In the second round of the Champions League Brest Meshkov HC will go to France to meet PSG. On the last September day our handballers will accept Hungarian Veszprém in Brest.



Sergey Bebesheko's trainees will hold their next two matches away: on October 8th — against Danish Aalborg and on October 14th — meeting with Slovenian Celje. Moreover, Brest players will also play this season against two representatives of the Bundesliga: Kiel and Flensburg.

Women's team of Tsmoki-Minsk wins BBL Cup

By Kirill Karin

Women's team of Tsmoki-Minsk basketball club achieves two victories across three matches and wins the Baltic Basketball League Cup

The pre-season tournament — the Baltic Basketball League (BBL) Cup — was held in Druskininkai. At first, our team defeated Lithuania Sūduva — 69:57. The next day our girls unexpectedly lost to Grodno Olympia — 52:57. The winner of the tournament was determined on the third day. During the key meeting Tsmoki were stronger than Polish Toruń — 70:66. Raichel Theriot from the Belarusian squad was recognised as the most precious player.

Cyclist Vasily Kiriienko wins bronze in team trial time

Vasily Kiriienko of Belarus claims bronze medal in team time trial at UCI Road World Championship

The British team Sky was one of the favourites in the 42.5km race in Norwegian Bergen. Kiriienko performs for this team, alongside Chris Froome, Gianni Moscon, Michal Kwiatkowski, Geraint Thomas and Oun Dall. After the 10.5km section Sky with Vasily Kiriienko was occupying the first intermediate place. However, the German professional cycling group Team Subweb was better at the finish; it outstripped Sky by 22.35 seconds and came first. The second place went to American BMC Racing team.

BATE draw with Red Star in first match of Europa League Group Stage

BATE Borisov begins its performance in UEFA Europa League Group Stage with away match against Serbian Red Star

BATE began the match brilliantly — immediately attacking. However, starting from the first seconds of the second half, Serbian players immediately rushed forward. Their persistence made Belarusians foul, leading to two yellow cards.

In the 54th minute, Denis Shcherbitsky missed a goal, scored by Red Star's Radonjić — 1:0. The situation could have become critical just a couple of minutes later but Slavoljub Srdić managed not to hit the ball, being only a metre away from the net. Meanwhile, BATE forward Nikolay Signevich managed to equalise the score, scoring a goal by his head.



MIFF-2017 Fire Festival held in Minsk

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS
20 Lenin Street
Until 24th September. *Mikhail Blishch: Dedicated to 100th Anniversary of the Birth* Until 1st October. *City. Architecture. We* Until 3rd December. *Napoleon Orda. Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Country* Until 10th December. *Treasures of Ancient Egypt*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM
12 Karl Marx Street
Until 30th September. *Belarus: Revival of Spirituality* Until 1st October. *Life as a Reason* Until 10th January. *Fashionable Century*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS
116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 9th October. *Anatoly Dribas: My Minsk* Until 20th November. *Skaryna’s Letters and Words*

VANKOVICH HOUSE
33a Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 1st October. Exhibition of alternative photography by Victor Zhuravkov

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM
5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas’ Automobile Paths*

STATE MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE
13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street
Until 29th September. *The Land of Anatoly Kaplan’s Places* Until 23rd September. *The Nation of the Books. Statute of 1588 and Black Letter Books* Until 1st October. *Lermontov in Moscow* Until 29th December. *Kandrat Krapiva: from Childhood to Maturity*

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY
5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 23rd September. *Leaving Nature*

YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM
4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 27th September. *Smithy of Belarusian Spirit*

VAN GOGH HOUSE
9 Zybitskaya Street
Until 1st October. *Vincent Van Gogh: Artist of Star Sky*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY
15 Svobody Square
Until 1st October. *Sculptural Minsk*

LEONID SHCHEMELEV CITY ART GALLERY
19 Revolyutsionnaya Street
Until 1st October. *Recognition to the City*

THEATRES

NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE
1 ParizhsКОЙ Kommuny Street
21.09. The Flying Dutchman 22.09. Spartacus 24.09. Tsar’s Bride 25.09. Romeo and Juliet 26.09. Aida 27.09. Little Prince 28.09. Cavalleria Rusticana

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE
44 Myasnikov Street
21.09. Silva 22.09. Bridegrooms 23.09. The Clandestine Marriage (Duke Luxembourg) 24.09. Adventures of Kai and Gerda (the Snow Queen) 26.09. The Sleeping Beauty 28.09. The Swan Lake

YOUTH THEATRE
17 Kozlov Street
21.09. Whether Spring is Sacred...

BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE
20 Engels Street
21 and 28.09. Mann ist Mann 22.09. Belvedere 23.09. Wolf and Seven Goatlings 24.09. Wash-em-Clean 27.09. Interview with Witches

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE
7 Engels Street
22.09. Local Cabaret 23 and 24.09. Paulinka 24.09. The Black Lady of Nesvizh 26.09. The Tyke 27.09. Pinsk Gentry 28.09. School of Taxpayers

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE
5 Volodarsky Street
21.09. Lady for a Day 22.09. Divers 23.09. Inn Keeper 24.09. As If By Magic; Viva Commedia 26.09. Singer 27.09. Pygmalion 28.09. Truth is Good but Happiness is Better

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR
13 Pobediteley Avenue
21.09. Even a Wise Man Stumbles 22.09. Who Laughs Last 23 and 24.09. The Battlefield 25.09. Master and Margarita 26 and 27.09. Sheep and Wolves 28.09. Abduction of Yelena

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA
44 Kropotkin Street
21.09. Doctor Raus’ Career 22.09. People’s Love 23.09. Pelican 28.09. Concrete

MINSK CONCERT HALL
5 Oktyabrskaya Street
23.09. Comedy 26.09. Litsedei Theatre with Anima Allegra programme

YOUNG SPECTATORS’ THEATRE
26 Engels Street
21.09. Blue Bird 22.09. Doctor upon One’s Own Will 23.09. Doctor Aybolit 24.09. Thumbelina 26.09. Wings of My Childhood 27.09. Savage Hunt of King Stakh