



Our compatriot,  
pilot-cosmonaut  
Oleg Novitskiy,  
told in detail  
what awaits  
in orbit

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The Nature and  
Ecology Museum  
of Polotsk  
is housed  
in... a former  
water tower

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INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 44 (954) ● THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2022 ● WWW.SB.BY



During the regional *Dazhynki* holiday of agricultural workers in Dobrush

## Belarusian field

The dynamic development of domestic agricultural production provides a solid basis for the country's food security and makes it possible to increase the volume of export deliveries.

The issue of the harvesting campaign is among the most important tasks in our country. Experts will later specify the gross grain yield in storage, that is, after refinement, but today it already becomes clear: this year we received a record grain harvest. It's a great occasion to say thank you to all those who were in the field from early morning until late at night, who strove to get the best result. These were true professionals dedicated to their work.

Let's talk about some of the most significant events and achievements of this year. → **3-5**



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# Work for your country

**The President of Belarus received a report on the prospects of the Hi-Tech Park development. As Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, the time has come for the HTP to work primarily for the country, and moreover, do it effectively.**

The Head of State praised the park's performance in the current situation, "In the three quarters of this year, January to September, the park's export reached \$2 billion. I did not expect that. It is a little bit less than last year. But still, it is a high level. It has been reached within three quarters. A year consists of four quarters. Let us see how you work in the fourth quarter," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

He also called it a good fact that those who left the country started coming back after the sanctions were imposed,

**"A lot of people have come back. They have tried their best in foreign countries and realised that there was no place like home. These are good trends. New residents are coming, developing their own IT-products, developing new markets."**

## Director of the Hi-Tech Park Vsevolod Yanchevsky,

*"The main message of the President in relation to the HTP and the IT industry remains largely the same as it was for many years. So, the Park developed precisely because there were stable conditions for its existence. The Head of State reaffirmed a clear, simple and unshakable position. Belarus has always supported new technologies, IT. The President supported the Hi-Tech Park, and this trend continues. Today it is imperative to look to the future, so that both programmers and companies can work, create and move forward."*

*In some media, since 2020, Park has been buried many times. Nevertheless, the Hi-Tech Park is still here. The vast majority of companies continue working in Belarus, despite all the difficulties. The vast majority of programmers have stayed and continue working. New companies are registered. HTP exports will exceed that of 2020 in this very difficult year. In January-September of 2022, it exceeded \$2 billion and will grow even more by the end of the year. Belarus is known in the world for many things, among them is the IT industry and HTP. They knew, they know, and they will know our country for success in this direction."*

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that it was time they returned to the issue of the Hi-Tech Park operation, not even from the economic point of view, but from the moral and political one. In this regard, the Head of State mentioned the events of 2020 and the rebellion that was imposed on people in Belarus, "The Hi-Tech Park workers showed themselves at their worst then. Of course, there is a certain wariness in the society in this regard. That is what I mean. The time has come to get rid of unnecessary things regarding the functioning of the Hi-Tech Park. I have to say that not everything was the fault of the Hi-Tech Park employees themselves, or of those who were involved in high technology. This was partly our fault. More likely, it was an inevitable phase for us to go through when the Hi-Tech Park companies were mostly subsidiaries.

## FIGURES AND FACTS

- In 2021, HTP exports reached an all-time high and amounted to \$3.2 billion.
- The number of new companies in the HTP is also growing at an impressive pace. In just five years since the adoption of the digital decree, the number of Park residents has increased 5 times from 192 to 1,065.
- In 2017-2021, the HTP grew by more than 40,000 people, and today its number is more than 78,000 people. This is 2 percent of those employed in the Belarusian economy. They produce almost 5 percent of GDP.
- The HTP helps the development of regions. Today, more than 100 HTP resident companies and more than 4,000 people work outside of Minsk.

Their owners were far away from Belarus."

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that prior to the attempted unrest in 2020, there were reports on the plans to use Hi-Tech Park employees as a driving force. However, no due attention was paid to this issue, "I confess that neither I nor the special services paid due attention to it. We just ignored it. I thought then that it was impossible for your people to start a war against you. We paid the price for it. It turned out that people can act so if they are well paid.

***So, our people, it must be admitted frankly, working in the Hi-Tech Park, receiving a decent income, a much higher salary as compared to the average salary in Belarus, preferred big money and carried out the commands of their overseas masters, mostly those over the ocean... We analysed the situation from these positions and came to this conclusion. We must admit, however, that they were managed."***

At the same time, the President stressed that in recent years this industry has developed considerably in Belarus, and not only within the framework of the park, "Thanks to the park's efforts, every Belarusian enterprise has its own high-tech park today. Starting from the Academy of Sciences and ending with MAZ, BELAZ and other companies. At first, I did not believe that at each own enterprise we have highly qualified IT specialists who do not just work for an overseas uncle, but create the final product. We actually fought for product companies. So, here they are."

The President believes that the Hi-Tech Park has played a very important role in this regard. Moreover, thanks to the park, education in the country has also got a boost.

***"So whichever way you look at it, the Hi-Tech Park remains a feature of our independence, our young state. The park should exist," said the President.***

**The President of Belarus met with head of the Udmurt Republic of the Russian Federation Aleksandr Brechalov. Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that Belarus and Russia are capable of doing a lot if they unite efforts, "Actually, we can do a lot. I will refer to the talks with the Russian President. The main thing we discuss is that we can do everything, but we need a little time for it. Even today the main thing is not money. Today Russia has a lot of currency. Imports have decreased. Yet, we do not have much time and need to act."**

The two countries have outlined joint import substitution projects. More than a dozen of them will be implemented in Belarus and very many in Russia. At the same time, Russia finances, provides loans for projects.

According to the Head of State, Belarus is very interested in co-operation with the enterprises of Udmurtia, "You know our capabilities in hi-tech, car manufacturing, even the defence industry."

The President named the supply of eco-friendly types of public transport, including the elevators, as one of the areas of potential interest for the Russian region, "President Putin asked me to pay attention to the issue of replacing imported elevators in Russia with Belarusian ones. I promised to do it, and we are fulfilling this promise."

## Belarus and Russia will withstand the attack of the West

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that it is important not to forget the base and experience that were accumulated back in the days of the Soviet Union. The President stated that today Belarus has introduced the development of high-tech sectors in addition to the traditional sectors of the economy,

***"The Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation, nuclear energy, space, military-industrial complex, Hi-Tech Park — these are five such powerful areas. They raise the nation to a completely different level of development."***

Aleksandr Lukashenko also emphasised, "I am sure that the people in Russia also think that we will be able to withstand, both militarily and economically, this attack coming from the so-called collective West and our other enemies. An extremely fierce warfare is going on in the media."

In this regard, the Head of State noted that he is closely watching the discussion of these issues in Russia, "This is also a hot topic here in Belarus. I am following it with interest, I am getting additional information. Especially now as something has fallen on the territory of Poland."

Aleksandr Lukashenko no-



ticed that no one asks and answers a number of questions, "Why did this frantic rocket fired by the Ukrainian military (and they fired it eastwards as they were trying to hit Russian missiles in the east) turn around and fly in the opposite direction? Let experts answer this question. There is no way it can happen. It does not look like an accident. Well, one can say that a Russian missile flew to the west of Lvov, towards Poland, so the S-300 turned around and fired westwards. The question is: how come you, Ukrainians, fired towards a NATO state? Well, the main question that no one, including the Americans, answers is the following: at the moment when the Ukrainians were launching the S-300 missile, what target were they hitting, what objects? There were

no missiles in the air at that time. No answer. The Americans are keeping silent as well. Because they understand that we also have means of control. We see some things from here."

***"They need to answer simple questions. Why did this attack on a NATO state, as it was originally presented, occur during the G20 summit? You know, I'm afraid to draw conclusions, but it seems like a big-time false flag that nothing can compare to. But things did not go smoothly. People were killed. Poland needs to give answers to its own people. The Polish leadership needs to explain to the Poles how this could happen, why they hit the territory of Poland, who gave the green light, why the mis-***

***sile suddenly veered around from east to west and why they launched a rocket at a time when there were no Russian missiles in the air. There were no missiles at that point. These questions need answers, and then everything will become clear," added the President.***

In connection with this situation, he spoke approvingly of U.S. President Joe Biden, "Well done, Joe Biden. We should give credit where credit is due. He said honestly: 'Sorry, it was not fired from Russia [missile that fell on the territory of Poland]'."

"They are waging a fierce war against us. This example is telling. They stumbled and backtracked quickly, like thieves. This topic is already off the headlines in the West. Well, this is just the beginning. Poles and Ukrainians regret that it was not a Russian missile. They need a provocation, an escalation. Therefore, we need to take care of our people, our economy. Economy is at the heart of everything. With strong economy, no wars will scare us. I think if there is a god, he will soon uncover the truth," concluded the President of Belarus.

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



# Belarus is in worthy positions in food rankings

The well-being of the state and its food security are in the hands of the workers of the agro-industrial complex. The President of Belarus stated this during a solemn ceremony at the Palace of Independence to honour best agricultural workers.

“You are the keepers of the traditions which were born on this land thousands of years ago. We, Belarusians, know well that our centuries-old history — including estates and palaces, families of the richest — was built primarily by the work of peasants. The development of our native land has always rested on the shoulders of those who cultivated the land, sowed, ploughed, reaped the harvest and baked bread,” Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed the representatives of the agrarian sector.

According to the President, nothing has changed since then,

**“Yes, the world is at the peak of technological, digital progress, and there is no limit to innovative development. However, this is possible only on one condition: if people are fed and clothed. Every Belarusian understands that wellbeing of the state and our food security are in your hands, the hands of machine operators, agronomists, cattle breeders, veterinarians, bakers, cheese makers, scientists — all those involved in agriculture.”**

On behalf of the entire nation and himself, Aleksandr Lukashenko also thanked those who come to help the rural area: machine builders, chemists, transport workers, biotechnologists, builders, military personnel, employees of the Emergencies Ministry and law enforcement agencies.

On the other hand, Belarus was ahead of the CIS countries in the Global Food Security ranking last year and is able to feed itself, the President stressed. Not just itself.

**“Export earnings this year will reach record levels — more than 20 billion rubles. No matter how they stifle domestic producers with sanctions, we traditionally occupy worthy positions in world rankings. We are one of the five largest exporters of dairy products, which today can be found on the shelves of supermarkets in almost 50 countries around the world. For the first time in history, we have produced more than a tonne of bread and grain for each person. This is a success that, I am sure, even the largest states of our planet have not achieved,”** noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Belarus has penetrated the Chinese market and successfully competes with New Zealand, an internationally recognised leader of the dairy industry, the Head of State stated.

“We truly have something to offer. We make over 1,800 dairy product titles. 1,800! We make cheeses, which taste and quality are on par with prominent world brands. A number of Belarusian companies have reached world level results in milk production. We make over 1,000 meat product titles. These products are



at their jobs, continuing to perform their professional duties, without even thinking about the magnitude of their role in the history of the state, preserving its sovereignty and independence. You are the humblest, but the most reliable, the most hardworking of all of us. You have withstood everything: the pandemic, sanctions and attempts to draw you into political games under the guise of a rebellion. Furthermore, you passed the tests with honour and dignity, because we are always busy with work, you know the value of work, look wisely and realistically at our sometimes frantic life,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

According to the President, life shows that the most effective and diligent leaders, famous scientists, doctors, teachers, inventors are born and grow up in an ordinary village:

**“The village is the best school of life. There, from an early age, everyone is involved in household chores. Everyone knows what daily physical labour and responsibility for the household, for the family. This sense of responsibility, the skills of planning, mobilising funds to achieve results are instilled once and for all, and experience is passed down from generation to generation,”** emphasised the President.

The Head of State stressed that without intensive and meticulous work, without innovations and mutual assistance it is impossible to achieve high results. Prosperity can be achieved only through creative labour, “You and I have accomplished a lot. By straining the nation’s strength, through manufacturing cooperation with close and friendly countries. A lot has yet to be accomplished. The task of income levelling in the countryside and in urban areas remains topical. It remains on the watch list. Requirements for those, who are responsible for accomplishing this task, will be raised. But money needs to be earned. The components are well-known: investments, technologies and discipline.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko assured the government will continue providing support to agricultural enterprises with modernising their manufacturing capabilities. Primarily with the construction of farms, acquisition of expensive machines, tools, and vehicles, with land amelioration.

In total, about 600 people were invited to the solemn event. On this festive day, the President wholeheartedly wished everyone strong health, happiness and wellbeing, and also peace and kindness to the Belarusian land.

The Head of State said that perhaps today’s celebration in the Palace of Independence would give birth to another tradition of modern Belarus, based on the traditions of the past:

“All the districts and regions of the country held *Dazhynki* celebrations. We thanked everyone. At the same time, the number of qualified and hard-working rural specialists keeps increasing, and it is impossible to honour them all in the Belarusian capital. Many of them are awarded for their work on site,” he said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko added that ministers, members of the government, the prime minister, top government officials, and he will keep agricultural people on their toes,

**“It is necessary to use this time to make life better for our peasants. So that they could live a decent life. In good conditions, in good houses. So that their kids would have an opportunity to get good education, go to university like everyone in cities, including in Minsk, can. So that they could occupy a decent position in our society as diligent people, the future, our personnel reserve. You have to agree that peasants, agribusiness workers deserve it. Let’s do everything for the sake of our children.”**



“Thank you very much for your hard work, and, first of all, for the record-high harvest you gathered this year. More than 10.5 million tonnes of grain have been threshed. This is almost a million and a half more than we had last year.

**Every wheat spikelet is worth its weight in gold in our time. Look at the situation in the world. Last year, 828 million people (about a tenth of the world’s population) were affected by hunger. The number of people who cannot afford a healthy diet has exceeded 3 billion. Growth of consumer prices for food has played a role as well. The world is one step away from a global food catastrophe.**

For a variety of reasons. Not only climatic and geographic. There are countries that at one time abandoned their own agricultural production becoming markets for imported products. In the eyes of Western curators, they are more democratic than you and me,” the President said.

exported to over 30 countries across the globe. At present Belarus is recognised not only thanks to the famous MTZ tractor and the BELAZ truck but also thanks to such brands as Savushkin Product or Babushkina Krynka. Everyone, who appreciates organic food, opts for Belarusian producers. I am told that even Western sophisticated citizens of the collective West leave Belarus with huge sacks these days. They buy up everything our market has to offer. But primarily food. While introducing modern technologies, we’ve managed to preserve our traditions. The fact that today we can offer products for the most exacting gourmets and for people in need of special and medical nutrition is another great accomplishment of ours,” said the President.

Belarus’ self-sufficiency with regard to the main foods exceeds 100 percent. All of them are of high quality and affordable.

“I thank those who are in this hall and the thousands of workers who remained

## The President spoke about the withdrawal of McDonald’s from Belarus

The place of McDonald’s, which is leaving the Belarusian market, should be taken by domestic enterprises and manufacturers. Addressing the Belarusians, the Head of State focused on the following, “I always urge you to eat locally-produced food and ignore imported stuff. This is relevant today. Some people, especially youngsters (and, probably, middle-aged, and maybe older) are lamenting the withdrawal of McDonald’s. I say, thank goodness they are leaving! McDonald’s, which employs our people, our specialists and sources our products, should be replaced by Belarusians.” Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, who was present in the hall, “Roman Alexandrovich, Belarusians! Remember, no one else. We ourselves must do what this McDonald’s once did, if someone needs it, and even better.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



# Belarusian field

The dynamic development of domestic agricultural production provides a solid basis for the country's food security and makes it possible to increase the volume of export deliveries

**The issue of the harvesting campaign is among the most important tasks in our country. Experts will later specify the gross grain yield in storage, that is, after refinement, but today it already becomes clear: this year we received a record grain harvest. It's a great occasion to say thank you to all those who were in the field from early morning until late at night, who strove to get the best result. These were true professionals dedicated to their work. Let's talk about some of the most significant events and achievements of this year.**



By Diana Bernikovich

## 'Cooler than space'

Perhaps the first thing worth remembering is that the opening of the Belarusian National Biotechnological Corporation took place at the beginning of November. It has no analogues either in Europe or in the post-Soviet space. This is a truly epoch-making event, comparable in significance to the construction of a nuclear power plant, the implementation of space programmes, and the creation of an IT park.

What does this have to do with agriculture? Actually, they are very closely connected. This is a landmark project for the deep processing of grain to obtain essential amino acids. These are highly productive compound feeds and premixes for all kinds of animals.

**However, the corporation has already sold products worth more than \$100 million in the pilot mode. When the enterprise is fully loaded next year, the figure will increase to 1.3 billion.**

"The creation of BNBC is cooler than space," said the President, speaking to workers and builders of the National Biotechnology Corporation.

The Chinese partner led more than 30 investment projects of various sizes together with the BNBC. But fearing the COVID-19 pandemic, all but Belarusian were suspended. We are the undisputed winner. In turn, foreign partners saw our interest in the implementation of the project and in the successful development of the agro-industrial complex in general.

## Record grain yield

But let's get back to the received millions of tonnes of grain. Gross harvest of grain in agricultural enterprises alone exceeded 10.1 million tonnes. We take into account cereals, grain legumes, including corn, and cruciferous crops.

In total, 10.5 million tonnes of grain have been harvested across the country, taking into account peasant (farm) households and households of citizens. A significant increase in agricultural production by 1.4 million tonnes of grain compared to the level of 2021 has been ensured. The average yield increased compared to last year and amounted to 38 centners per hectare.

In terms of gross harvest among the regions, the palm, undoubtedly, went to the Minsk Region: about 2.6 million tonnes were milled. In terms of yield, the Grodno Region has absolute leadership — cereals and grain legumes, taking into account corn, showed an average of 53.4 centners per circle. Twenty regions have harvested more than 100,000 tonnes of grain each. Four farms provided yields of over 100 centners per hectare. This result was achieved for the first time in the history of our sovereign Belarus.

**And this was done despite the fact that the spring this year was long — the vegetation of plants lagged behind by almost two weeks, which added complexity, affected the shift in the timing of field work. But in difficult conditions, Belarusian farmers still managed to show top performance.**

All agricultural crops have produced a bountiful harvest this year. Take, for example, wheat, which has not fallen below two million tonnes over the past three years. It is an excellent reason for joy: in 2022, we received 3,270.3 thousand tonnes of it with an average yield of 43.8.

## Plant of the future

This is the way how agronomists call rapeseed today. There is another name — 'black gold'. The fact is that culture is not only a source of edible vegetable oil, but also a raw material for obtaining technical products and biofuels. And most importantly, its cost on the market is much higher than the same wheat or rye.

**Winter rapeseed brings the first income during the harvest season. In the vast majority of farmers immediately sell the harvested crop. The received funds are used to buy fertilisers, fuel for the autumn sowing campaign as well as spare parts for agricultural machinery.**

This year, a record yield of oilseeds was harvested — 926.7 thousand tonnes (114 percent compared to 2021) with an average yield of 25.9 centners per hectare, that is, 4.3

centners more. The absolute 'rapeseed record holder' is the Niva-2003 agricultural company from the Grodno Region with an average yield of 71.7 centners per hectare.

## 'Buslik' is taking off

Nonetheless, winter barley is the main discovery of the year, its champion, so to speak. The one that the President, visiting the Slutsk District, called salvation,

**"Winter barley is salvation for us. This is true especially for the southern parts of the country... Its yield was over 80 centners in places where it was sown according to required technology."**

This year, the crop yield was 51.2 centners per hectare, the total harvest exceeded 300,000 tonnes.

Much has been said about the benefits of winter barley, with the main focus being on Alexandriyskoye farm, Shklov District. Here, on behalf of the President, and on the field, which was immediately called presidential, an unusual experiment was going on: last fall, four plots were sown with imported and domestic barley seeds in order to identify the best one. Including the domestic 'Buslik' [a stork in Belarusian], which replenished the state register of varieties only last year. As a result, it made a worthy competition to the eminent French 'Isocel'. The harvest of both of them was excellent — over 60 centners per hectare.

**The area under winter barley for the 2023 crop in the Vitebsk Region was increased eight times, in the Gomel Region — six times, and in the Mogilev Region — 5.1 times.**

## Superharvester.by

**Combined harvester Polesye GS2124. Breakthrough development of the Gomselmash design team. Our domestic superharvester is considered outstanding in many characteristics and not inferior to imported analogues. However, these are no longer single, demonstration copies. The Minsk Region alone purchased 40 combined harvesters last year.**

Sergei Maksimets from the Krutogorye-Petkovichi joint-stock company from Dzerzhinsk District and Vasily Zur, a worker with Gomselmash, working in this harvest season in a well-coordinated tandem, went down in history as the first combine operators, harvested over 6,000 tonnes of grain using the Belarusian combined harvester GS2124. Today we have a reason not only to recall their labour achievements, but also to congratulate them — in accordance to decree of the President, they were awarded the Medal for Labour Merits on the eve of their professional holiday.

**What do these and many other high figures indicate? They prove that farmers have once again successfully passed the test of professionalism, endurance and dedication! The successful solution of the tasks assigned to them is the result of high professionalism and dedication to their matter of life.**

Gross grain harvest in agricultural organisations of Belarus in 2022	
(in originally recorded weight, in thousand tonnes)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10 130</b>
Cruciferous (rapeseed and colza)	897.7
Cereals and leguminous crops (forecast)	9232.3
rye	946.5
wheat	3270.3
triticale	1413.5
barley	1372.6
oats	377.8
buckwheat	46.9
corn for grain (forecast)	1450.1
millet	26.9
legumes	327.7





# It's all ours

This year, Belarusian agricultural workers will earn more than \$8 billion on food exports

By Vasily Gedroits

The success of Belarus in the international dairy market, without exaggeration, can be called phenomenal: our share in world production is only 1 percent, but in trade — 6. The country exports 5 million tonnes of products per year in milk equivalent. This is the fourth place in the world after the EU, New Zealand and the US. At the same time, we annually produce about 8 million tonnes of milk with an average milk yield per cow of over 5,400 kilograms. However, we provide ourselves and others not only with milk, but also with meat. The production and export of meat and meat products are also increasing, factories are working steadily under sanctions pressure, and buyers in the domestic and foreign markets have long been convinced that Belarusian means quality. Let's evaluate the outgoing year and the prospects for our processors.

## Step by step

But it was not always so. For example, in 2000, agricultural enterprises produced only 2.6 million tonnes of milk, with an average milk yield per cow of 2,154 kilograms. Not surprisingly, almost all of it went to the domestic market. Only 430,000 tonnes of products in milk equivalent were exported for \$65 million. It is not difficult to conclude what tremendous progress has been made in more than twenty years.

**Belarusian Agriculture and Food Minister Igor Brylo said, "Belarus has a huge dairy potential. Our country is among the top five world leaders in milk production per capita for the year — 840 kilograms. Our own consumption — 244. Therefore, such large surpluses are formed, which are exported."**

This year, milk production in the country will approach 8 million tonnes. 9.2 million are expected in 2025 and 10.5 million in 2030.

"We focus on the introduction of modern technologies. We are gradually moving away from old farms with a milk pipeline and summer grazing to year-round stall keeping of cows and getting milk in milking parlours. This year, 61 percent of the dairy herd was already at such complexes, two thirds are expected next year," explained Head of the Central Office for Animal Husbandry Intensification of the Agriculture and Food Ministry Natalya Sonich.

## Who to look up to

Milk for agricultural enterprises is the most profitable commodity today. Farms that milk a lot always have a solid bank account. This allows them to pay high salaries to the staff, buy fertilisers, fuel, equipment and spare parts. This means that all work in the fields and farms must be carried out in a timely and high-quality manner.

There are many farms in the country that have achieved excellent results in the industry. Every year the 'club' of those who receive 10,000 kilograms of milk from a cow per year is expanding. Three agricultural enterprises last year overcame the milestone of 12,000. The Molodovo-Agro unitary agricultural enterprise from Ivanovo District is an undisputed leader of recent years.

For 10 months of this year, the farm produced an average of 11,006 kilograms of milk from each cow, exceeding by more than a solid milestone of the same period last year by 762 kilograms. At the end of the year, the 13,000 threshold will be overcome.

## Big means competitive

Processing enterprises have free capacities. Therefore, they will easily cope with the increase in milk production in the future. At the same time, the industry needs to improve organisationally, to consolidate assets, that is, to get bigger.

This work has been going on for many years. If in 2001 there were 112 independent organisations operating in the industry, then in 2010 — 57, now — 33. The largest of them are Savushkin Product, Slutsk Cheese-Making Plant, and Babushkina Krynka.

**As international experience shows, large corporations have more chances in the fight for a buyer in international markets. But it is from export that the dairy industry has the greatest income. Our country is the largest supplier of products abroad. Over the past 10 years, the volume of exports of dairy products has grown by 44 percent and amounted to \$2.7 billion in 2021.**

## Challenges and opportunities

One of the most important issues this year is the operation of processors amid sanctions.

"The growth in the production and export of dairy products, as well as other food products, indicates that we are

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

*"Agricultural products are increasingly becoming a strategic resource in the world market. And unlike natural resources, we can seriously increase this resource, deriving huge benefits for the country and people, increasing food exports."*

**While listening to the report of the government on the results of rural development in 2005-2010 and the tasks of implementing the state programme for the new five-year period on March 22nd, 2011.**

successfully overcoming difficulties. All dairies are running smoothly. Some difficulties that arose with the packaging were solved with the help of Russia and other friendly countries. We are also working on mastering our own production in this segment," says Igor Brylo.

Spare parts for imported equipment are imported or manufactured in Belarus. The same approach applies to packaging.

The situation on the world stage is an opportunity to unlock the potential of Belarus, including in the field of import substitution.

## Development directions

Belarus fully meets the needs of the domestic market in finished products of meat processing through its own production.

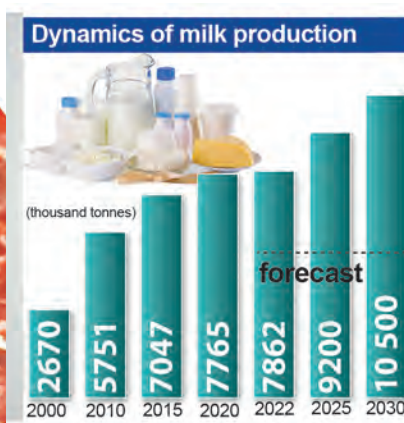
Meat consumption in the country per person per year is quite high — 98 kilograms. Self-sufficiency in meat and meat products — 135 percent. This makes it possible to export a significant part. Over the past year, meat products worth \$1.2 billion were sold to foreign markets.

The existing structure of production by types of meat ensures the satisfaction of the market demand for a range of products and will be maintained in the near future. Now it is as follows: poultry — 38 percent of the total production, cattle — 37, pigs — 25.

By 2025, it is planned to increase the total volume of beef production by almost 1 percent and reduce other types.

Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Agriculture and Food of the Grodno Regional Executive Committee Igor Sorokin explains, "With the current volumes of pork and poultry, we fully satisfy the needs of processors and trade. The situation is similar in the foreign market, where it is difficult to sell additional volumes of these types of meat. Mainly due to the fact that the main buyer — Russia — almost completely satisfied the needs on its own. Nonetheless, our eastern neighbours do not have enough beef. It is in this niche that we must strive, which we are doing. Cattle meat is also well sold to other countries."

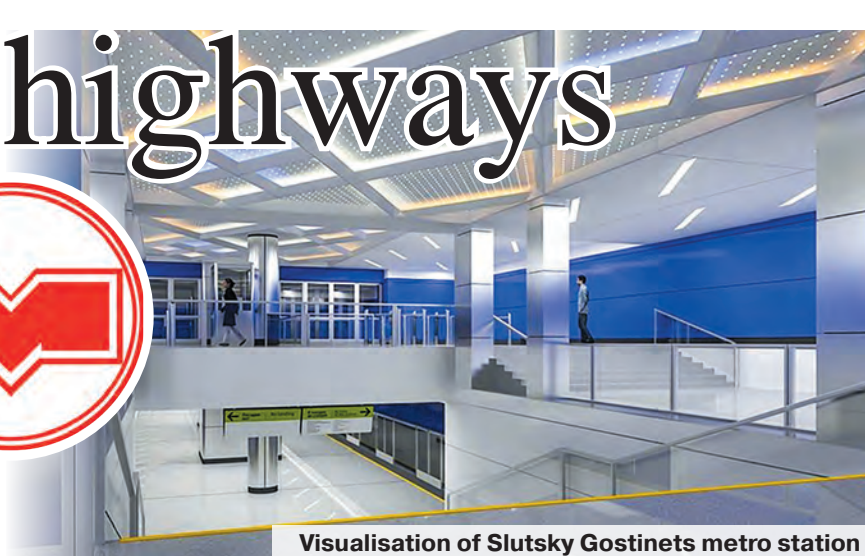
An increase in the production of turkey meat is one of the directions for the development of meat poultry farming. Now an investment project is being implemented for the construction of a complex for growing turkeys for 6,000 tonnes per year at the Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky. In August, the day old turkey poult were brought for the first time. By the end of 2022, the production of 800 tonnes of this type of meat is expected.





# Underground highways of Minsk

More than 800,000 people use the services of the Minsk metro every day. The existing lines need relieving and redirection of passenger flows through interchange nodes. Today, the construction of the third subway line, Zelenoluzhskaya, is actively underway. Since 2020, four stations have already been operating, and three more are on the way: Aerodromnaya, Nemorshansky Sad and Slutsky Gostinets. They are scheduled to open in two years. The readiness of this section has already reached 50 percent.



Visualisation of Slutsky Gostinets metro station

Unmanned trains, inaudible rails and protective fences at the edge of the platforms — what's new at the metro stations under construction in Minsk

By Inna Gorbatenko

## The city needs to relieve

We decided to start the study of new stations with Aerodromnaya, which is being built on the territory of the former Minsk-1 airport. Today it has the highest readiness — 80 percent. The peculiarity of this station is that a transfer hub is being launched here already at the construction stage for the fourth metro line, which, according to the general plan for the development of Minsk, will become a ring one. The hub was laid up until the construction of a new branch began.

Aerodromnaya has a vaulted structure: there are no columns, so the platform is very spacious. One can go down to the station using the stairs and the elevator. There is a special lift for physically challenged people. Access to the platform is via escalators, two of which are for descending and two for ascending.

*“Inside, architectural and finishing work is in full swing. Specialists of subcontractors lay granite stone, finish walls and ceilings, mount equipment. Commissioning is ahead,” says Deputy Chief Engineer of Minskmetrostroy Sergei Grechkin.*

A combined traction substation is the heart of the station. This is a set of equipment that ensures the operation of all Aerodromnaya systems, explained the Director of the Electrical Installation Department of Minskmetrostroy Ivan Bauby, “From here, electricity is supplied for the movement of trains and the operation of all equipment at the station complex. At the same time, we install lamps. The work is not easy: the weight of individual lighting elements reaches 5 tonnes.”

The installation of architectural forms that will shape an individual look of Aerodrom-

naya will be started at the very end. Since the station is located on the site of the take-off field, the theme of the sky and flights is reflected in the interior: it will be made in a cool bluish colour with splashes of white, blue and grey. As planned by the architects, a stylised runway will even appear on the platform.

The next station is located at the intersection of Kizhevatova and Osipovichskaya Streets.



Aleksandr Kushner

The metro in Minsk was opened on June 29th, 1984, on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the capital of Belarus from Nazi invaders. Since then, the metro, which is the only one in the country, has expanded to three branches. In the 37 years since its launch (from 1984 to 2021), it has carried more than eight billion passengers — a figure comparable to the population of the entire planet.

This is the Nemorshansky Sad (the design name is Loshitskaya), its readiness is approaching 60 percent. Architectural, finishing and electrical work has begun here, and heating and ventilation systems are being installed. The length of the station with tunnel structures is about 150 metres, the depth is 16 metres. There are two rows of columns on the platform. They will symbolise tree trunks, and ceilings — crowns. This emphasises the theme of the garden, incorporated in the name of the station.

And, finally, Slutsky Gostinets (the design name is Korzhenevskogo). The con-

struction of this station at the intersection of Kizhevatova and Korzhenevskogo Streets was started later than others, so the percentage of completion here is less — about 30. The block of service premises in the structures is ready, now the platform section is being built, then the construction of the vestibule and entrances will begin. The interior, namely the design of the ceiling, will reflect the modern

order to make stations not only beautiful, but also comfortable. For example, automatic station doors are being installed to prevent passengers from falling onto the rails and are one of the key elements of the unmanned train driving system. Installation of such equipment is the first experience of Belarusian metro builders. It was necessary not only to install protective structures, but also to tie them

nology. Fragments of a running rail of 25 metres are welded into a 100-metre-long whip, transported through tunnels, laid and concreted.

By reducing the number of joints on the rails, it will be possible to increase the smoothness of the trains. Nevertheless, this is not the limit in ensuring passenger comfort, assures Head of the Detailed Design Department of Minskmetrostroy Pavel Romashkin, “Today we are working on the superstructure of the track on an experimental section with a length of 150 metres.

*We are working on a technology that is used in the Minsk metro for the first time. In simple words, between two layers of concrete we lay a special rubber anti-vibration mat, due to which we plan to further reduce noise and vibration during the movement of trains. This will provide additional comfort not only to passengers, but also to residents of nearby houses. With the commissioning of this section, we will take measurements and, if the result is positive, we will apply the technology at the following sections of the metro construction.”*

In the meantime, Minskmetroproekt specialists have begun designing the second section of the third line: Profsoyuznaya, Perespa, Komarovskaya and Druzhby Narodov Park stations. Its total length is about 4.5 kilometres. Before the end of the year, it is planned to start preparing the territory for the construction of the Druzhby Narodov Park station. A mounting and shield chamber will be built here, from which the Alesya mechanised tunnel-boring complex will begin tunneling towards the Komarovsky market.

interpretation of the theme of the Slutsk belts. Nearby, in the area of Serova Street, the Slutskoye electric depot will also appear — a full-fledged workshop for servicing rolling stock and networks of the third metro line. It will house a settling and repair building, an administrative and amenity block, a train washing chamber... A separate step-down transformer substation will be built to service the complex and provide it with electricity.

## At a state-of-the-art level

The most modern technologies are used in construction in

to the automatic train movement so that they open synchronously with the doors of the cars.

*Modern trains are a true decoration of the third line. Passengers have already appreciated the comfort of a trip on the new Stadler, which, compared to the trains of the previous generation, are less noisy and has a smoother ride, and are able to move autonomously. However, despite this innovation, the driver is present in the cab for safety reasons.*

Another know-how of the third metro line is rails. They are laid using sleeperless tech-



Visualisation of Aerodromnaya metro station



Visualisation of Nemorshansky Sad metro station



# Fly out of comfort zone

By Taisiya Azanovich

## There is successful space-link!

— Cosmonauts are eternal students: they pass about 250 exams. Two and a half weeks before the flight, strict quarantine conditions are created at the spaceport — no one even shakes hands, and meetings are held behind glass. On the day of the start, according to tradition, the crew, leaving the hotel, puts a signature on the door of the room where they lived, and leaves the building to the words of the Grass by the Home song. Precisely before starting, they are treated with an antiseptic from head to toe — so that their eyes even burst with tears.

The spacecraft stands on suspensions, so any breath of wind is felt inside. One can hear the valves turn on, the liquids in the tubes overflow. It feels like a living organism that breathes in unison with you. When you get off the ground, there is kind of euphoria. The speed is just crazy: the spacecraft goes into orbit in 526 seconds. It takes two days to catch up with the International Space Station and link.

## An hour and a half a day to rest

— In space, every day is scheduled from wake up to lights out. Free time — an hour and a half. But usually it goes to prepare for the next day. The main working time is spent on maintaining the station: each element must go like clockwork. The schedule clearly spelled out daily exercises on the simulator (without this, the muscles in weightlessness quickly atrophy) and, of course, experiments. In space, research is being carried out in various fields: biotechnology, biology and medicine... We are doing the part that needs to be done in a state of weightlessness. The station is international, its territory is divided into segments (Russian, American, European), but there are no borders. If something happens in someone else's segment, no one stands aside. We participate in research in other countries, we have joint dinners every week, we celebrate national holidays. Weekends in space, as well as on earth, are Saturday and Sunday. But it so happens that the work is actually in full swing even in these days. For



**Belarusian can fly into orbit as early as September next year. 29 candidates were selected for this mission. Further actions are up to the Cosmonaut Training Centre. After examining medical documents, about ten people will be selected and invited for examination. As a result, they will choose only two: they will determine the main and backup cosmonauts. Our compatriot, pilot-cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy, told in detail what awaits them.**



Oleg Novitskiy

example, on Saturday we do a thorough wet and antibacterial cleaning.

## It smells like home in orbit

— Our conditions are very tight. On four square metres there is a dining table, a toilet, a treadmill — all in one place. Despite powerful ventilation (if it were not there, a bag of exhaled air would form around one's head — so one can suffocate), the smells are quite earthy there. Say, if the cosmonauts are having lunch, it smells like potatoes and meat.

## 540 degree change

— I have made space trips three times. And none of them were without emergency situations. I will definitely remember the case when the station abruptly turned 540 degrees and lost its orientation: there was an emergency start of the engine. During the last flight, the block caught fire — there was already smoke in the compartment. They quickly shut down the systems that could have caused him. And there was also a night when they jumped up from the howl of the alarm: the smoke detectors went off. We checked the equipment — everything is working properly. We climb into sleeping bags, we just fall into a dream, as the siren cuts the space again. Both times it was a false alarm. The restless night was over. By the way, sleep in weightlessness is very specific:

the back does not feel supported. At first, I had to strongly rest my knees against the wall, but then I got used to it.

## Closet with medicines

— Each cosmonaut undergoes medical training, if necessary, we even put stitches. A set of medicines at the station takes up a whole closet. According to the rules, if someone becomes ill, it is necessary to get in touch with the earth. Doctors consult and make recommendations. In case communication is not possible, there is a manual describing the symptoms and treatment options. This list is so detailed that even a person without a medical education will orient himself.

## Attention: you are filmed from space

— In space, I always photograph Belarusian cities. This time I photographed all regional centres. I always capture my native Cherven. In two flights, I failed to take a good picture of the Brest Fortress and Brest itself, because any cloud, even a small one, can cover half the country if one looks at it from orbit. But it came out the third time. I carefully keep all photos.

## According to Stanislavsky's textbook

— Our crew had an interesting mission — to participate in the creation of

the film. Actress Yulia Peresild and director Klim Shipenko filmed a feature film aboard the ISS for the first time in history. A movie about a female doctor who flies into orbit to save an cosmonaut. The actress and director spent 12 days in orbit. I had the most comfortable role: a sick cosmonaut who says almost nothing. We all tried to learn how to express emotions. I remember that before the flight, the director said, "I'll give you Stanislavsky's textbook, you will study it". I replied, "No problem, if only you read all the flight documentation on the Soyuz."

However, I returned to earth with Klim and Yulia. I will not hide: the experience is very unusual — for the first time I had to land with two non-professionals. However, entry into the atmosphere is one of the most difficult stages. The congestion quickly builds up, it becomes difficult to breathe and speak. But everything went well. After landing, people are removed from the capsule, transferred to a special chair, and undergo a medical examination. Soon one will be able to move independently, but a person still poorly navigate in space. Then the rehabilitation process begins.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Belcosmos corporation was established in Belarus



The new structure is a cluster at the National Academy of Sciences. The corporation has been established with a view to realising and developing promising projects of its participants in the area of peaceful research and use of outer space.

The cluster includes a number of organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus such as the Informatics Institute, Geoinformation Systems, the R&D Centre for Multifunctional Unmanned Complexes, as well as a number of organisations the academy co-operates with. This includes the Belarusian-Chinese company Aviation Technologies and Systems and KB Unmanned Helicopters LLC.

Plans have been made to develop new competitive aerospace products.

### A delegation of the Latvian association 'Republican Society of Veterans' visited Belarus

The purpose of the visit is the signing of an agreement on co-operation between the Latvian and Brest veteran organisations, the exchange of experience and the establishment of cultural contacts. The delegation includes widows of officers of the Soviet army, former juvenile prisoners of fascism as well as ordinary citizens of Latvia with a civic engagement.



Brest Mayor Aleksandr Rogachuk met with the Baltic guests. The head of the Latvian delegation, Ilgarts Zeiberts, stressed that it is especially important today to establish contacts between neighbours, "The organisation consists of more than 300 people, and we are focused on co-operation with Belarusian colleagues. At present, such contacts must be established, because friendship between our peoples should not stop."

### Minsk hosted the 28th edition of the international food show Prodexpo

The showcase has brought by more than 100 exhibitors, including foreign companies.

At the event there were thematic stands featuring a wide range of products: from everyday products, organic food for a healthy lifestyle to exquisite delicacies. In addition, production and trade equipment, packaging solutions, overalls, refrigeration and freezing equipment were exhibited here.

The demonstration of import-substituting products is a key feature of this year.

Under the conditions of external pressure and the closure of a number of markets, manufacturers quickly adapted and began to produce their own versions of such products. These issues were discussed in detail during the 'Domestic Consumer Market: Import Substitution and Food Security' business forum.



SPACE



# Ukraine hit. Russia to blame?

Provocations of Ukraine and the West in the information field increase the risks of the start of a third world war



On the evening of November 15th, the Polish authorities announced that a missile had fallen on the territory of the country, killing two people in the Polish town of Przewodów. The Polish Foreign Ministry immediately blamed Russia for the incident. Moscow called such statements a provocation. NATO countries at first doubted Russia's involvement, but later even stated that the missile was Ukrainian.

When reports that a missile had hit Polish territory were first announced, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called it an 'escalation' by Russia while Polish officials spoke of invoking Articles 4 and 5 of the NATO treaty, framing the event as a threat to the security of the alliance.

The Western tabloids immediately picked up the hysteria. The most 'successful' in this regard were the British media whose front pages burst into apocalyptic headlines that 'Russian missile strikes Poland', 'Russian bombs hit Poland', etc.

At the same time, none of them, anywhere, said a word about the statements of Joe Biden and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, which made it clear that one should not rush to conclusions.

Once the true origins of the 'attack' were understood, Western officials were quick to absolve Ukraine of any responsibility for the tragedy, noting that Ukraine had fired the errant missile to defend itself against Russian missile strikes on critical infrastructure.

Ukraine, however, has been reluctant to accept this conclusion. "I have no doubt

that it was not our rocket," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has since said. Ukraine has indicated that it wants to be closely involved in the investigation.

This kind of rhetoric is beginning to exhaust the patience of some Western diplomats. They fear that Kiev's at times maximalist language and demands risk adding to so-called 'Ukraine fatigue' among allies. For example, according to a publication in the *Financial Times*, there is a growing level of dissatisfaction in NATO with the actions of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy because of the missile incident in Poland. The journalists stress that Zelenskyy's firm desire to convince the world community that Ukraine was not involved in the fall of missiles in Przewodów despite the evidence, is beginning to irritate NATO.

Responding to Zelenskyy's comments, a diplomat from a NATO country in Kiev told the *Financial Times*, "This is getting ridiculous. The Ukrainians are destroying [our] confidence in them. Nobody is blaming Ukraine and they are openly lying. This is more destructive than the missile."

Meanwhile, the host of the US programme *The Benny Show* on Newsmax TV channel Benny Johnson accused the Kiev authorities of trying to unleash a WWII. "Ukraine was trying to unleash a third world war when a Ukrainian missile hit a NATO country and killed innocent people. Ukrainian leaders lied and blamed Russia. The AP has unquestioningly stated this. Ukraine's leaders lied while trying to start a full-blown World War III," he wrote on this twitter page.



## World population hits 8 billion

The world's population reached eight billion people, representing a 'milestone in human development' before birth rates start to slow, according to UN projection



On November 15, Damian was born in the capital of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo — one of the babies who claimed the title of the 8 billionth inhabitant of the planet

The UN says the world's population has hit eight billion, just 11 years after passing the seven-billionth milestone. After a big surge in the middle of the 20th century, population growth is already slowing down. It could take 15 years to reach nine billion and the United Nations doesn't expect to reach 10 billion until 2080.

It's hard to calculate the number of people in the world accurately, and the UN admits its sums could be out by a year or two. But November 15th is its best estimate for the eight-billionth line to be crossed.

The eight-billionth person on planet Earth was born in the city of Martuni

in the Gegharkunik Region of Armenia, Gegharkunik Governor Karen Sargsyan wrote on social media.

"The newborn baby girl named Arpi is considered to be the eight-billionth person on the planet. She is a daughter of Karen Zakarian and Ani Kocharyan, residents of the village of Tsovinar in the Gegharkunik Region. The baby girl was born weighing 2 kilograms 900 grams, 49 centimetres tall, absolutely healthy," Sargsyan said.

After a big surge in the middle of the 20th century, population growth is already slowing down. It reportedly could take 15 years to reach nine billion and the United Nations says the global population will peak in the 2080s at 10.4 billion.

## Climate activists attacking art

With the effects and progression of climate change becoming increasingly evident around the world, eco-activists have discovered a radical strategy to make their voices heard

This year, famous artworks have been attacked by protesters from various activist groups demanding action on the climate crisis. The incidents include a German environmental group throwing mashed potatoes at a Claude Monet painting in a Potsdam museum, activists from Just Stop Oil throwing tomato soup over Vincent van Gogh's *Sunflowers* at the National Gallery in London, a group splashing pea soup on a van Gogh masterpiece in Rome, Extinction Rebellion campaigners targeting a Picasso painting in Melbourne, two protesters from Stop Fossil Fuel Subsidies group scrawling blue graffiti over Andy Warhol's *Campbell's Soup Cans* in Australian Canberra and activists gluing themselves to artworks by Botticelli, Boc-

cioni, Van Gogh and other old masters.

Last week, climate activists in Austria attacked a famous painting by artist Gustav Klimt with a black, oily liquid and one then glued himself to glass protecting the painting's frame. Members of the group Last Generation Austria tweeted they had targeted the 1915 painting *Death and Life* at the Leopold Museum in Vienna to protest their government's use of fossil energies.

The eco-activists, however, for the most part, claim that they are not targeting works of art with the intention to cause damage. On the contrary, they have said they approach artworks with caution and care, ensuring there is no risk to the cultural treasures.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Recently, a bomb exploded in the American information field — Republican political activist Candace Owens said on Fox News that the multibillion-dollar aid sent to Ukraine from the United States does not go entirely to the needs of ordinary people. On the contrary, the dollar rain that has spilled over our southern neighbour is carefully collected by the raking hands of local officials and used in their dirty deeds. “Do you want to know where this money goes? I recently travelled to Europe, and people are saying that Ukrainian officials are buying up real estate in Switzerland,” Owens plainly told well-known columnist Tucker Carlson. However, this is extremely serious accusation. The activist assures that she voiced the information because she is one hundred percent sure of it. And if the evidence falls on the table, Biden and the Democrats will be in big trouble...

By Anton Popov

### House in the mountains

The fact is that with the beginning of the special military operation and the introduction of illegal international sanctions against Russia, Russian entrepreneurs and officials began to hastily sell villas they had bought earlier in Switzerland. According to Candace Owens, the Ukrainian officials, who travel around the country in expensive cars, took up the buying.

*Driving Ukrainians around Europe in elite supercars and parking them in the most unexpected places has become a byword. Recently, photos of Bentleys, Lamborghinis and Maybachs with Ukrainian numbers parked right on pedestrian zones in Germany and Poland have been viral on the net.*

Owens’ sources analysed the luxury real estate market in Switzerland and found a very revealing pattern. Purchases registered to Ukrainian officials were not linear, with sharp jumps in the number of transactions occurring exactly after the next tranche of aid was received from the United States.

*“What are our ‘brilliant’ tax officials doing, whose service was expanded with such hype? Why don’t they track the money we send abroad?” the investigator asks a rhetorical question.*

### Guilt is evident

Literally on the eve of the November midterm elections, the Ukrainian President gave a long interview to *The Wall Street Journal* in which he called on Americans to invest even more in Ukraine. “We have a strong legal base. We will provide you with great opportunities,” this is how he seduced overseas moneybags. True, ordinary Americans sarcastically advised Zelenskyy to first remove Ukraine from the shameful 122nd place in the world corruption rating, and only then make ‘profitable’ offers in the comments on the newspaper’s website.



# Corruption as the essence



*Of all people, the current owner of the office on Bankova Street, has no right to talk about corruption. Back in October last year, his image as a fighter against this evil was destroyed by the publication of the Pandora Papers. It states that the owner of Kvar-tal-95, like 38 other wealthy Ukrainians, had offshore accounts in Cyprus, the British Virgin Islands and Belize.*

With the help of these offshore companies, the profits of the Zelenskyy-owned telecompany, as well as the Maltex Multicapital Corporation, in which the President and his wife Olena owned a 25 percent stake, were withdrawn from Ukrainian law.

And here’s the bad luck — archivally profitable project for the remelting of dollar bills into beautiful large houses against the backdrop of alpine meadows may soon go down in flames. It is already clear that the Democrats have lost the House of Representatives to rivals from the Republican Party, and the political landscape in the States has changed somewhat. This will allow the Republicans, who have long been talking about the need to create a clear and effective mechanism for controlling the funds transferred to Ukraine, to check where the \$50 billion already sent has gone.

### Scheduled crash

An honourable second place in the hit parade of a thousand and one ways to steal military-financial assistance from the West and at the same time evade responsibility is occupied by crypto-exchanges.

Two weeks ago, the world’s fifth-largest cryptocurrency exchange FTX collapsed with a bang in America. The reasons for the bankruptcy are banal at first glance: the assets of the Alameda research affiliated with the exchange were provided with FTT tokens, which were issued by... FTX itself. This simple scheme made it possible to use clients’ funds as their own wallet and destroy competitors by artificially changing the rate of tokens.

*But what does Ukraine have to do with it, you may ask? The thing is that a considerable part of FTX client money (according to various estimates, from \$20 to \$50 billion) was precisely Ukrainian ‘investments’.*

The essence of the scheme, in which the interests of the owners of the exchange, the Democratic Party and the Zelenskyy regime, are bizarrely mixed up, is so funny and simple. In Kiev, they allegedly received military assistance to fight Russia. Part of the money was immediately transferred to FTT tokens and sent to the FTX exchange. Fur-

ther, the funds of American taxpayers, laundered through their transfer into cryptocurrency, went into the hands of the functionaries of the Democratic Party and were further distributed to the needs of the ‘donkeys’. Considering that the exchange was actively working in the summer and early autumn, and immediately after the elections on November 8th, its Executive Director Sam Bankman-Fried filed for bankruptcy, the illegal proceeds went to finance the Democratic election campaign.

In addition, a couple of hours after the information about the bankruptcy appeared in the media, hackers allegedly attacked the exchange and stole another 600 million, at the same time creating a threat of malware infection of the trading application, because of which it was immediately blocked. As they say, and no one will be the wiser.

### Theft: they know how, they can, they practice

Sometimes it seems that cunning officials of the Kiev regime can literally make money out of thin air.

For example, back in August, a huge scandal erupted over the looting of humanitarian aid. Journalists from Austria, Hungary and Germany conducted their own investigation and revealed the facts of blatant theft. Thus,

the Krasnodar community received 20,436 food packages from the Kharkov Military Administration. However, they were opened and looted, and the amount of food corresponded to only 20-25 percent of what was declared on the list. In the urban-type settlement of Vashischevo, the set of products corresponded to the list only by 50 percent, and in the Novobavarskyi District, packages were not issued at post offices at all.

*It is quite reasonable to note that, at least in the Kharkiv Region, the widely publicised presidential programme called ‘Package for Every Citizen’ actually failed — humanitarian aid from the West was simply stolen.*

Moreover, sources from the ranks of Kharkiv Region officials themselves told investigative journalists that a clear instruction not to check the packages before issuing them came from the Office of the President of Ukraine. That is, the products were stolen on an industrial scale immediately after they were brought to Kiev, and the country’s top leadership was aware of the fraud.

### Lock, Stock and Two Anti-Tank Guided Missiles

The virus of corruption has also penetrated deep into the army structures. Back in the spring, when the NATO logistics machine was just accelerating in pumping Ukraine with weapons, guns for every taste were already being sold in stores on the darknet. For example, the American M4 automatic rifle with a silencer is sold for \$2,400, the Swithblade 600 kamikaze drone is sold for \$7,000, and the British-Swedish NLAW anti-tank system can be purchased for 15,000. Moreover, weapons that can kill more than a dozen people and even destroy armoured vehicles are delivered not only throughout Ukraine, but also taken out to neighbouring countries.

Needless to say, the product is in demand. In early summer, a video appeared on the network in which a militant from one of the groups that control the Syrian Idlib boasts that, along with other mujahedeen, he acquired anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles in Ukraine. In September, Ukrainians transporting Sting-er MANPADS were detained in the port of Hamburg. In October, Finnish police discovered a cache of smuggled weapons in the country that belonged to the Bandidos MC biker gang, which has close ties to Ukrainian nationalists.

*The actions of today’s Ukrainian authorities most clearly illustrate the well-known proverb ‘war is good for business’. While ordinary people sit without electricity and water or flee to Europe, the regime is buying villas on Lake Geneva, driving expensive cars, stealing humanitarian aid and selling weapons to scumbags from all over the world.*





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**Polotsk forever**

The 'hostess' of the tower, the Head of the Museum Natalya Mikhal loves her native city. One could offer her golden mountains — she will always choose Polotsk for its special atmosphere, comfort and history, she admits, "This is my city, my relatives are from here. As a child, I read the *Young Naturalist* magazine to rags. As a result, I didn't surprise anyone with admission to the Biology Faculty of Vitebsk University. According to the assignment, I worked as a teacher in a rural school, and after the maternity leave I learned about a vacancy in the museum. A real gift of fate! From the first days I realised that it is my profession — and I was not mistaken."



Natalya Mikhal

Together with her husband Sergei, Natalya is raising her ten-year-old son Matvei and four-year-old Anya. Their children are frequent guests in the tower. Every time her daughter asks her to show something new, the mother explains, "Today it's a swan, tomorrow — bats. I think my work leaves its mark: Anyuta wants to be either a palaeontologist, or an animal tamer, or a farmer... Matvei knows every corner of the museum, he takes his sister by the hand and conducts excursions for her."

The head of the family is a military man, so it is not often possible for everyone to get out somewhere together. This year they were lucky, Natalya notes, "Camping in Narochansky National Park was a great time. And in winter, the children and I went to Belovezhskaya Pushcha to visit Ded Moroz together with the family of my older sister Marina. We also visited the local museum of nature."

**In the footsteps of the aurochs**

The height of the former water tower, built in the mid-1950s, is almost 33 metres. Since 2005, a museum with an impressive staircase has 'signed in' at it, like in a castle. The number of steps is a secret, intriguing Natalya Mikhal, "Let everyone count for himself. In addition to the inner screw, there is a glass outer one. It imitates a waterfall, indicates the connection between nature and man."

All floors of the museum are a mirror of this concept. The first one is dedicated to the richness of the flora and fauna of Belarus. The second is environmental issues. The third demonstrates the policy of our state aimed at protecting the animal and plant world. At the top, the fourth level, there are dioramas. Standing at one of them it may seem: take a step — and you are in the abyss. This artificially created abyss is a symbol of ecocatastrophe.

We are examining the exhibits, which, by the way, are more than 1000 in the museum. Stuffed animals are mostly open: one can study them in detail. One of the rarest specimens — the horns of the aurochs — is still under glass. The last of them died out in 1627, Natalya gives a brief background, "All that reminds of these giants is their remains. These horns were found while digging a reclamation canal in the Polotsk Region. The degree of their preservation is unique."

There are even more ancient finds. For example, fragments of the humerus and mammoth tusk.

# Check out the tower!

**The Nature and Ecology Museum of Polotsk is housed in... a former water tower. The central spiral staircase symbolises the tree of life. Each floor has its own theme and zest.**

**Greetings from Carboniferous period**

The Nature and Ecology Museum of Polotsk is never empty. This year it was visited by people not only from our country, but also from Russia, China, even earlier — from England and France.

What exhibits are in the spotlight? Children are delighted with the huge dragonflies and praying mantis, 'soaring' between the floors. By the way, the models are life-size, but taking into account the realities of the Carboniferous period, when giant insects dominated the planet.

The guide draws our attention on the floor dedicated to environmental issues, "Shells, corals, the luxurious shell of the nearly extinct hawksbill sea turtle — unfortunately, many

have presented died a natural death or perished, for example, freezing in winter or receiving an electric shock... Children often ask this question with tearful eyes. We reassure that our museum is not built on bones, but stuffed animals are an opportunity to remind people of the fragility of wildlife..."

At the same level there is a stand dedicated to environmental issues with miniatures



Anton Stepanishchev



It has no immunity to snake bites, so every hunt of a feathered predator is a risk and at the same time jewellery work."

A lynx is a favourite exhibit for a photo, the head of the museum states, "On the fourth floor, in addition to stuffed animals and dioramas, there are aquariums with live fish and turtles. A two-metre catfish, which was moved here from the local museum of local lore is the pride of the hall. That's where I saw it as a child. Now I myself am talking about how 66 years ago this 100-kilogramme miracle was caught on Lake Lisno in the Verkhnedvinsk Region."



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perceive them not as part of wildlife, but as décor and souvenirs... Thus, this is a tragedy, a huge loss for the ecosystem."

In their whims, people went further — they began to get exotic pets. However, even stick insects got the works. Right now, the museum is waiting for a new exhibit: a stuffed green iguana. Natalya catches my watchful eye, "Almost all the stuffed animals, birds that we

of factories, plants, even a garbage dump. There is also information about reducing waste emissions, about technologies that help to live in harmony with nature. Natalya Mikhal outlines, "Naftan is a good example, where a delayed coking complex was commis-

From the height of the museum tower, its garden, divided into three zones, looks just magical. There are also Red Book species among all the richness of plants: mountain violet, anemone, European globe flower





# Winter will judge

## Biathletes are preparing for the start of the season

By Tatiana Pastushenko

There is very little time left before the start of the biathlon season — the first stage of the Biathlon World Cup will begin in Kontiolahti, Finland on November 29th. There will be no Belarusian and Russian shooting skiers on it: the International Biathlon Union upheld the suspension of athletes from the two countries from participating in competitions held under the auspices of the organisation. Nevertheless, Russians and Belarusians have even less time to wait than their foreign counterparts. The first stage of the Russian Biathlon Cup opens in Khanty-Mansiysk today, on November 24th: athletes will compete in sprints, pursuit races and classic relay races.

The head coach of the national team Yuri Albers says that all preparations went ac-

in Khanty-Mansiysk, where the first stage of the Russian Biathlon Cup tournament begins. The second will be held in Uvat, the third — in Tyumen. After that, the team will return to Minsk, hold another training camp, and then on December 23th-24th will take part in the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup in Ryazan. This is the plan through to New Year,” says Yuri Albers.

After the competitions in Ryazan, Belarusian and Russian biathletes will again gather in Raubichi, where two more stages of the Commonwealth

Yuriy Albers repeats: there have been no changes in the preparation of our national team due to the suspension from major international competitions. The model of preparation for the 2026 Olympic Games has not changed either. Everything goes on as usual, the only thing is that in the near future the athletes will compete not in the Biathlon World Cup, but in the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup.

Darya Titova



**Dzinara Alimbekava had an eventful off-season: she married Anton Smolski and opened her own beauty salon**



**Mikita Labastau is one of the experienced biathletes of our national team**

### ON THE SUBJECT

It wasn't even the beginning yet, but the International Biathlon Union was already forced to redraw the calendar. On the eve it became known that the first stage of the IBU Cup — the second-ranking seasonal tournament — was cancelled. It was supposed to take place in the Norwegian Sjusjøen from November 24th to November 27th, but there was not enough snow. Thus, the IBU Cup will open in Hydra on November 30th.

### REFERENCE

There is a baby boom in the biathlon teams. Iryna Leshchanka and Hanna Sola, who are getting ready for the birth of their first children, will miss this season. Two biathletes will also not compete in the Russian national team in the near future: Uliana Nigmatullina is expecting the birth of her first child, and Kristina Reztsova is expecting her second child.



**On the track — Dzmitry Lazouski**



**Anton Smolski and Dzinara Alimbekava**

According to plan, according to the model that was approved in May. Athletes took part in two stages of the Commonwealth Biathlon Cup in summer biathlon, and after the completion of the competitions in Raubichi, they left for Tyumen, where they went out on the snow.

“When the team returned from Tyumen, everyone underwent a medical examination. Now the biathletes are

Biathlon Cup will take place. And although until recently there were rumours that this tournament could be transferred to the territory of Russia, the calendar remained the same as it was originally created. Moreover, the Russians are already booking rooms in the hotels of the sports complex with might and main, and some even want to celebrate the New Year near Minsk...

By the way, Belarusian biathletes went to it with an expanded roster. The team has rejuvenated. Now Ivan Tulatin, Stepan Danilov, Alexander Koshin and Pavel Belko went to Khanty-Mansiysk in the men's team together with experienced Anton Smolski, Dzmitry Lazouski, Mikita Labastau, Raman Yaliothnau and Maksim Varabei. The female team has also been renewed compared to

last season: it included Dzinara Alimbekava, Alina Pilchuk, Darya Kudayeva, Yuliya Kavaleuskaya, Adelina Sabitava, Elena Kruchinkina and Irina Kruchinkina.

Our federation is trying to use the exclusion from the regular tournament for development. This is especially true for the training of young athletes.

“Due to the fact that the admission to the competitions

in which we will take part is practically unlimited (unlike the World Cup, where each team has a certain quota), we were able to submit a larger number of athletes. However, the level of these tournaments in some moments is even higher than at the Biathlon World Cup and the IBU Cup. So our plan is the same as always — to show good results. Never look back!” explained Yuri Albers.

## ARENA

### ● Belarusian wrestlers won 11 awards at the Oleg Karavayev International Memorial Tournament in Minsk

The International Greco-Roman Wrestling Tournament in memory of Olympic champion Oleg Karavayev ended at Chizhovka Arena in Minsk.

Competing at the competitions which took place for the 29th time, were the strongest athletes of the Greco-Roman style from Belarus, Russia and other CIS countries. As a result of the tournament, our wrestlers won one gold, one silver and nine bronze medals. It was Aliaksandr Liavonchyk who brought the only gold to the team. Yaraslau



Kardash became the silver medalist. Bronze medals were collected by Maksim Stupakevich, Maksim Kazharski, Hleb Makaranka, Uladzislau Pribylski, Andrei Samets, Dmitry Navitski, Shuai Mamedau, Kiryl Maskevich, Dzmitry Zarubski.

### ● There is a record!

Alina Zmushka set a new national record in the women's 50m breaststroke. The Belarusian swimmer showed a result of 29.62 seconds in the semi-finals of the second stage of the Friendship Games in Kazan, which is 0.03 seconds faster than the previous record, which also belonged to Zmushka.



### ● Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic wins the ATP Finals for the sixth time

Djokovic defeated Norwegian tennis player Casper Ruud in the final duel of singles — 7:5, 6:3, and became the first tennis player who managed to win the ATP Finals in three decades: before that, Djokovic gained victory in 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. The 35-year-old Serbian player went undefeated in the tournament that ended in Turin, earning \$4,740,300, the most in tennis tournament history. Djokovic has climbed three places in the world rankings thanks to his victory at the ATP Finals — he will finish the year among the top five tennis players in the world.





## Photo of the week



Ivan Yanvanovich

First snow in the central park of Gomel

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On November 24th, 1859,** Charles Darwin's work *On the Origin of Species* appeared on sale in London, in which Darwin called natural selection and uncertain variability the main driving force of evolution. A huge edition of the book at that time (1250 copies) was sold out in a day, which marked the appearance of the theory of the evolution of living nature in world science, which became the cornerstone of modern biology, or Darwinism.

**On November 24th, 1874,** American Joseph Glidden received a patent for barbed wire. Initially, the invention of barbed wire was purely peaceful in nature — it was used in farming and cattle breeding. But the 20th century already evokes a strong association of barbed wire with wars, concentration camps, prison zones (first used in this capacity in the United States) and refugee camps (first used by the British in South Africa).



**On November 24th, 1974,** the skeleton of an adult female humanoid creature, which was later named Australopithecus Lucy,

was found in Ethiopia. The Lucy's uniqueness is in her antiquity and in her integrity. Almost 40 percent of the skeleton has been preserved, which is a rarity in anthropology. In addition, it is the oldest and best preserved of the remains of an adult erect ancestor of man, who lived about 3.2 million years ago.

**On November 25th, 1982,** Khoiniki Museum of Local Studies was opened. Among the exhibits are flint stone tools, clay product of the 11th-13th centuries and ceramics of the 17th-18th centuries from the excavations of the Khoiniki Castle, etc. Peasant clothes, straw weaving, woodcarving, knitting, paintings by local artists, herbariums of plants, stuffed animals and birds are exhibited here.



**On November 25th, 1795,** the last monarch of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth Stanislaw August Poniatowski (1732-1798) abdicated in Grodno. Throughout the years of his reign, he persistently tried to resist the partition of Poland. However, it was no longer in his power to save the Polish statehood.

**On November 25th, 1867,** dynamite was invented. In fact, it happened a little earlier. But a patent confirming the authorship and



rights to the production of this explosive was received on that very day by the Swedish chemist, engineer and inventor Alfred Nobel.

**November 26th** is International Shoemaker Day — a professional holiday for craftsmen and artisans involved in the design, manufacture and sewing of shoes, as well as workers involved in this production and shoe repair specialists.



**November 26th** is World Development Information Day. It is held on the initiative of the participants of the WIF-2000 World Informationological Forum and the International Informatisation Academy of (IIA). Information is one of the main values in the modern world. And its number is growing every day. The digital future, which could not have been imagined before, is becoming a familiar digital present.



**From November 26th to November 29th, 1812,** the Russian army under the command of Kutuzov inflicted a crushing defeat on Napoleon's army when crossing the Berezina River. The great army of

Napoleon ceased to exist as an organized fighting force, having lost 30,000 men in prisoners alone. Napoleon, having transferred command to Marshal Murat, departed for Paris on December 5th.



**On November 27th, 1895,** Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) — a Swedish chemist, engineer and inventor — signed the latest version of his famous will, according to which most of his fortune should go to the creation of a fund and the establishment of an award to encourage pioneers in the field of physics, chemistry, physiology and medicine, as well as writers and those who have done the most for the benefit of the world over the previous year, regardless of nationality.



**November 30th** is World Pet Day. It is dedicated to all animals domesticated by man and serves as a reminder to all mankind of the responsibility for 'all creatures great and small'. The words of the Little Prince from the work of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry became the motto of this Day: 'You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed'.

