



The Great Stone Industrial Park celebrates its fifth anniversary



The unique memorial church in Minsk is filled with great spiritual and historical meaning



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The combined guard of honour company was a great attraction of the parade — astonishing the audience as always, with both well-loved and new elements

Victory Day parade held in Minsk

On May 9th, a military parade was held in the capital to mark the 75th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War. 19 units on foot marched in front of Minsk residents and guests of the capital, while the mechanised column featured 185 military vehicles. More than 40 planes and helicopters participated in the air show. The festive parade ended with an exhibition drill of the combined guard of honour company of the Minsk Military Commandant, followed by an artistic-and-theatrical performance of young athletes with flags of the same colour as the Victory Banner and singing of the famous 'Victory Day' song. → **3**





Memory that unites hearts

On the eve of the anniversary of the Great Victory, a landmark campaign — *To the Glory of the Common Victory* — finished in the Belarusian capital. Its deep meaning lies in such important concepts as memory and gratitude: to preserve the truth about heroes and history and to perpetuate the idea for centuries for future generations. Aleksandr Lukashenko came to pay tribute to the memory, taking part in the laying of capsules with soil from places of military glory and lighting a candle in the Memorial Church of All Saints. Addressing the ceremony participants, the Head of State emphasised, “We really have to stand like the Brest Fortress... Time will pass, and people — especially young people — will appreciate this time. Today I’m absolutely convinced that this will be a wonderful page in the history of our country. It will be wonderful because we withstood as they once did. They laid down their lives for us to live today. At least once a year on this special day, we remember our heroes with dignity and honour. We cannot do otherwise.”

To the Glory of the Common Victory memorable campaign started a year ago: the President announced its launch on May 9th, 2019. It brought together hundreds of settlements not only in Belarus, but also in a dozen other countries: capsules with soil collected from places of military glory throughout our country, as well as Russia, Ukraine, Austria, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Finland, Mol-

dova, Latvia, Romania, Hungary and Estonia are already installed in the crypt of the memorial church.

...Before the arrival of the President, a helicopter landed near the church, bearing capsules with soil from regional centres, the Minsk Region and the hero city of Minsk. Accompanied by a guard of honour, they were taken to the entrance to the temple, where the Head of State

arrived. Archpriest Fyodor Povny, one of the ideological inspirers and organisers of the memorable campaign, met Aleksandr Lukashenko, after which the President followed a column of soldiers carrying the soil into the big hall of the temple’s crypt. Here, he personally shelved 7 capsules and lit a candle in memory of the fallen soldiers. In total, on May 8th, 147 capsules with soil were buried here from sites

of military glory and places where there were massacres of innocent civilians: from Belarus, hero cities of the former Soviet Union and foreign states. The ceremony was attended by senior officials, heads of public associations, diplomats, and representatives of the regions.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Last week, Aleksandr Lukashenko learnt about developments in the field of electric transport while visiting the Republican testing ground for mobile vehicles of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences, in Lipki. He was told that a completely domestic element base of electric cars — except for bodies — has now been established in the country. In recent years, a new scientific school has been created, competencies have been developed, and specialists and scientists have appeared in Belarus who are able to solve any problems in the field of electric transport.

Movement in a new direction

Works on electric transport development are being carried out in various areas. These are not only passenger cars, but also cargo-passenger vehicles and minivans. There have also been prototypes of electric bicycles and electric scooters. There is an experimental line to assemble lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles. Necessary infrastructure is being developed for the use of electric transport, including the production and installation of charging stations being created. Electrical technologies are also applied in the development of unmanned aerial vehicles.

In addition, a working group to draft the *Development of Electric Transport for 2021-2025* state programme has been set up and a concept for the development of electric transport for the specified period, as well as to 2030, is ready. A set of measures to create prototypes of electric vehicles has been approved and infrastructure for research and testing of power drive components of transport vehicles is being organised.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he has decided to personally get to know about the development of electric transport. The President noted that among the advantages of this area is the expected surplus of electricity in the country and environmental friendliness.

Overall, according to the Head of State, in the next five years, science should be particularly actively involved in the country’s development, given the increasing level of technological com-

petition in the world. “We will have to stand up in this cruel struggle to be called a nation and not to lose the piece of land on which we live,” he stressed.

Time for important decisions

The President appreciated what he saw in Lipki. “I am impressed, even very impressed. I didn’t expect they would be able to accomplish all of that within such a short period of time,” he said.

The Head of State was shown an experimental Belarusian roadster — a two-seat electric convertible. The designers believe it will be able to challenge Tesla cars in the future. The vehicle is light and manoeuvrable. Classified as M1, it boasts improved performance characteristics. Its speed can go as high as 170km/h, with a cruising range of up to 270km without recharging.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also saw an electric ice resurfacer prototype. He gave instructions to ship the vehicles to every ice arena in the country. As many as 25 ice resurfacers will be distributed initially.

In addition, a new compact municipal vehicle model was presented. Minsk city administration had already demonstrated interest in the product. The Head

Turning to electric

The President appreciates developments of our scientists in the field of electric transport

of State noted the product looked promising. “Let’s keep it in mind,” he said.

At the site, Aleksandr Lukashenko was shown two identical MAZ buses: diesel and electric (MAZ 303E10 model). According to Valery Ivankovich, the General Director

On the edge of a breakthrough

The President was made familiar with developments in the area of production of accumulators, power cells and charging stations for various purposes — ranging from powerful stationary to compact ones that can be used in the garage of a private household.

The Head of State also examined prototypes of electric bicycles, electric scooters, and electric kick scooters. He asked about their technical parameters, speed, and cruising range, drawing attention to the need to improve the styling of some models.

The products on display also included a number of unmanned aerial vehicles and aviation devices. In particular, the R&D Centre for Multifunctional Unmanned Complexes of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus presented the ‘Burevestnik’ and ‘Busel’ drones.

The new products the Head of State was shown included the unmanned helicopter ‘Eye Sky’ developed and made by Unmanned Helicopters JSC. The company says it is the world’s first attack helicopter in this class and only eight countries develop unmanned helicopters that weigh over 100kg. Belarus is one of them. Belarus is the only former Soviet country to make such drones commercially.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



of MAZ JSC, the electric bus is still more expensive than its diesel counterpart, but the launch of serial production will reduce the price. “Due to technical solutions for the transmission, electronics and serial production, we get a very competitive price,” he stated and the President instructed to produce 10-12 MAZ electric buses within a year — by May 2021, to further send them to the country’s regions for use.

Aleksandr Lukashenko was also informed that, in many areas of the country, production of necessary components for electric vehicles has already been mastered but this is not enough. He instructed them to deal with this issue comprehensively.

Elections of President of Belarus

The House of Representatives schedules Presidential elections for August 9th and the main election campaign started on the Great Victory Day of May 9th



The Central Election Commission (CEC) has published the timetable for preparing and carrying out the forthcoming election of the President of Belarus.

The timetable specifies when election commissions are expected to be established. Regional ones are to be set up by May 20th at the latest while polling station commissions are to be established until June 24th. Polling stations must be established by the same deadline.

Contenders for the Presidential post are expected to file papers with the Central Election Commission on May 15th at the

latest in order to register an initiative group. Members of the group will be able to collect signatures in support of their candidate from May 21st through to June 19th.

Candidates will be nominated from June 20th until July 4th. They will be registered from July 5th to July 14th. Pre-election campaigning will begin after that. The main events of pre-election campaigning are also stipulated by the timetable. Early voting is scheduled for August 4th-8th. The Central Election Commission will sum up results of the election by August 19th at the latest. If the second round of the election is neces-

sary, it will take place within two weeks of the first one, that is on August 23rd.

The Chairperson of the Central Election Commission, Lidia Yermoshina, said ‘this election campaign will be held in a very unique environment’ due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Changes will apply to all the participants of the campaign. For example, signature collectors and observers will be obliged to follow the recommendations of the Healthcare Ministry. All of them will be provided with personal protective equipment (PPE). For now, the matter concerns national observ-

ers only. Ms. Yermoshina said she cannot yet say whether international experts will come to Belarus to observe the election.

Election-related meetings of regional, district and city executive committees will be held without observers, representatives of parties and public associations. “The executive bodies will be instructed to stream such meetings on their websites or upload their recorded versions so that all stakeholders can watch them,” informed Lidia Yermoshina.

Based on materials of belta.by

Victory parade

On May 9th, Minsk hosted a military parade to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War

Addressing its participants, the President of Belarus noted that this holiday is sacred to us, and the tragedy of the Belarusian people — who experienced titanic losses and destruction in one of the most brutal wars of the 20th century — does not compare with any of the present day difficulties.

“Even the idea of betraying the traditions that have been glorifying the history of the Great Deed of the victors for 75 years already are unthinkable for us,” the President stressed.

“In this crazy world that has lost its reference points and guidelines, there are people who condemn us for choosing this place and time for organising this holy celebration. I would like to tell them with respect: don’t rush to make conclusions or condemn us, the successors of the Victory, Belarusians. We just couldn’t act differently; we didn’t have a choice. And if we did, we would have done the same anyway, because eyes of the Soviet soldiers who died for the sake of our freedom look at us, eyes of the partisans and underground resistance fighters who were tortured to death by Gestapo, eyes of the old people, women and children of Khatyn. They wanted to live very much, but they died so that we could live. Modern Belarus is a monument to that dreadful war, to those who died, who were tortured to death and burnt alive. It’s a living monument!”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that although, this year, the army parade in Minsk is the only one in the post-Soviet space, it was organised in honour of all the Soviet soldiers who liberated the world from Nazism. “We bow low before the heroic deeds of Russians and Belarusians, Ukrainians and Jews, Tatars and Kazakhs, Tajiks and Uzbeks, Kyrgyz and Turkmen, Georgians, Armenians, Azerbaijanis and Moldavians, Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians — all the residents of the Soviet Union, underground resistance fighters of Europe, our allies — the USA, the UK, and China. Their courage, bravery, and readiness to die for their country became a terrible weapon of vengeance against the Nazi and their satellites,” he stressed.

The President noted that history taught a lesson to followers of Nazism ideology, to conquerors with unbridled geopolitical ambitions. The meaning of the lesson is simple and just: people that defend their native country, their families and the future of their children are invincible.

“Belarus rose up as a living shield in the path of the aggressor. After marching over half of Europe, the Nazis met fierce resistance in Belarusian lands for the first time. The heroic defence of Brest Fortress and the city of Mogilev lasted much longer than the conquest of many European countries. It is in the fierce battles of 1941, including in Belarusian lands, that the enemy’s confidence in its supremacy was shaken and the foundation



Millions of views and thousands of thanks

The live broadcast of the Victory parade from Minsk broke the ratings: viewers from 80 countries watched it online. The celebrations in the Belarusian capital were broadcast by the world’s largest TV channels and the live broadcast also aroused great interest among the Internet audience. A single YouTube version of the parade gathered over 2m viewers and thousands of grateful comments continue appearing under the video.

of the future Great Victory was laid,” Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out.

Some 1.3m Belarusians fought in ranks of the Red Army. Underground resistance fighters and partisans controlled 60 percent of the occupied territory of Belarus by the end of 1943. “Every third Belarusian died to stop the advance

of the Nazis to the east, to the capital city of our Union. As long as our hearts feel pain for those, who didn’t come back from the battlefields, as long as truth is told about that war, we will remember! Because every day of peaceful and free life has been paid for with millions of victims and war-torn destinies. We are forever connected

by ties of blood with the brotherly nations, together with whom our fathers and forefathers put a stop to the biggest catastrophe of the 20th century,” he said.

About 3,000 military personnel and 185 vehicles took part in the parade. Over 40 planes and helicopters flew over the capital.

There were many new and upgraded systems among the vehicles taking part in the parade. It was the first time the multiple-launch rocket system ‘Fleita’ and the robot complex ‘Vistl’ had been demonstrated in front of the public.

The units on foot included parade units of specialised lyceums and military education institutions, the Military Academy, the Military Technology Department of the Belarusian National Technical University, the 120th Independent Guards Mechanised

Brigade, and representatives of the State Border Committee of Belarus, the Emergencies Ministry, and the Internal Affairs Ministry. Female military personnel also marched along the avenue.

The mechanised column was led by a T-34-85 tank, followed by modern battle tanks T-73B3, armoured personnel carriers, ‘Bogatyr’, ‘Dragon’, ‘Cayman’, ‘Lis-PM’ and other vehicles. Cutting-edge hardware was

presented as part of the parade unit of the State Military Industrial Committee of Belarus.

The army parade ended with an exhibition drill of the combined guard of honour company. It was followed by a civilian episode, in which young Belarusians who live in a time of peace and glorify heroic deeds of the Soviet people took part. With marches and dancing flags of the same colour as the Victory Banner and gold, of which medals and orders are made, they offered a tribute of respect to the heroic deeds of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers. Young cadets of Emergencies Ministry education institutions carried a flag of the Republic of Belarus, followed by activists of the Belarusian national youth union BRSM, who carried a canvas with names of the heroes of the Soviet Union and holders of all ranks of the Order of Glory as well as names of Belarusian veterans of the Great Patriotic War. Those were the people who liberated the country 75 years ago.

A concert — *To the Glory of the Common Victory!* — took place in Pobedy Square in the evening, to recall all those who fought for Minsk, survived the Leningrad blockade and were killed while defending Brest Fortress, Kiev, Odessa, Stalingrad and Sevastopol, who acted as a live shield against the enemy on its way to Moscow and those who protected the Motherland on water, land and in the air — everyone who survived through the war and who was killed before victorious May 9th, 1945... The festive concert ended with grand fireworks, against the musical background of ‘Victory Day’ performed by an Honoured Artiste of Belarus, Vladimir Gromov. The main song of this most important event of the year was accompanied by many hundreds of voices — creating a strong and very touching final chord in memory of those who saved the world from fascism and connected all generations: those who died in battle, and those who lived through them.

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FOCUS

Honouring the heroes

Belarusians all over the country took part in the *Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone* campaign dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Great Victory. Expressing gratitude for the peaceful sky above, ordinary citizens, heads of the Government, ministries, departments and delegations of various organisations visited places of military glory and laid flowers at memorial complexes, obelisks, monuments, mass graves and graves of unknown soldiers in all corners of the Republic.



The Deputy Prime Minister, Igor Petrishenko, visited the Khatyn Memorial as part of the *Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone* campaign. He called the village of Khatyn — burnt during the Great Patriotic War — ‘an unhealed wound of Belarus’ and also noted that every Belarusian should visit this place, “It is very important to maintain continuity in preserving the memory of what happened during the war years.”

The Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, and Foreign Ministry officials laid flowers at the Minsk-Hero City monument. According to Mr. Makei, Belarus boasts a special attitude towards preservation of the historical memory of the Great Patriotic War.

“Activities dedicated to the Victory Day and the events that take place throughout the country are aimed at preserving memories. We must do everything so that the war is never repeated, this is one of the most important principles of Belarusian state policy. Both the parade and all the events on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War are a sacred thing for every citizen of Belarus,” he said.

The remaining dynasty of the Gartsuev-Belokhvostikovs paid tribute to the soldiers and partisans buried in nameless mass graves at the Military Cemetery. The actors of the Yanka Kupala Theatre — Zoya Belokhvostik and Valentina Gartsueva — alongside the Artistic Director of the Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama, Aleksandr

Gartsuev, are sure that these are not just people who defended their homeland. A story as long as a human life stands behind each of these graves.

Students and teachers of the Gomel State University laid flowers on the memorial plaque to one of the leaders of the underground, Roman Timofeenko, installed on the house where he died heroically.

toly Dashko, Marina Vasko and Yevgeny Zaitsev, representing Brest in the Parliament, laid flowers at the obelisk in the Yuzhny micro-district and honoured the memory of soldiers who died from their wounds with a minute of silence.

Tributes to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War were also given during a memory meeting in the Osipovichy District’s village of Tatarka. Flowers and

The *Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone* campaign was also held in the park named after Zhukov. On the eve of Victory Day, the Deputy Prime Minister, Yuri Nazarov, laid flowers at the obelisk of Marshal Zhukov, four-time Hero of the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Aleksandr Karlyukevich took part in the ceremony of laying flowers at the monument to the Hero of the Soviet Union, Dzhumash Asanaliev who, in 1944, accomplished a feat in the battle during the liberation of Belarus from Nazi invaders. The Minister emphasised that much has been done in our country to memorialise the events of the Great Patriotic War, to honour the heroes of the Great Victory, and this obviously deserves respect.

Fighters of the youth detachment of law enforcement from the Grodno State Medical University put things in order in the burial places of fighters from the Great Patriotic War. The soldier of the youth detachment, Ilya Chabay, doesn’t try to hide his overwhelming emotions, “Our modest work is a tribute to war veterans who survived to Great Victory Day and those who died on the battlefield. They saved not only their homeland, but the whole world from the Nazi plague. We, the descendants of the heroes, should honour their memory, no matter how many years have passed since that heroic and at the same time tragic time. It’s our duty, our sacred duty.”



Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei takes part in *Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone* campaign, laying flowers at the Minsk-Hero City monument

The First Deputy Prime Minister, Dmitry Krutoy, also joined *Belarus Remembers. We Remember Everyone* campaign, laying flowers at the Minsk-Hero City monument. As with any Belarusian, Dmitry Krutoy’s family keeps the memory of those who died on the battlefields of World War II.

The deputies of the House of Representatives at the National Assembly, Ana-

wreaths were laid at the Warrior and Partisan Woman monument-sculpture, as well as the mass grave of Soviet soldiers. Representatives of authorities, the public and military personnel of the 5th separate special forces brigade from Maryina Gorka came to honour their memory.

Heads of the Republican media laid flowers at the Unconquered Man sculpture in Khatyn.

Based on materials of sb.by

A large congratulatory campaign — *Thanks for Victory* — is in full swing: on the eve of Victory Day, celebrations were organised at home for veterans of the Great Patriotic War. Gardens were transformed into makeshift stages. Along with presents, flowers and greeting cards, the main heroes of the celebration were awarded ‘75 Years of Victory in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War’ commemorative medals and mini-concerts were organised. Favourite tunes of the war years were played by a live orchestra right under the veterans’ windows.

By Lyudmila Gladkaya

An orchestra in a Minsk courtyard came to perform ‘Victory Day’, ‘Katyusha’, ‘Farewell of Slavyanka’ for a single man: Anatoly Salamatov. Neither the veteran of the Great Patriotic War awarded with orders and medals, nor passers-by who witnessed that unique concert under the officer’s balcony could hold back tears. Ordinary people shouted, “Well done, guys! You did it for us!”

The musicians are members of the band of the 120th separate mechanised brigade of the Armed Forces. In full dress uniform, with impeccable bearing and smiles they lined up under the window and wanted to personally shake the veteran’s

Thanks for Victory!



A veteran of the Great Patriotic War — Anatoly Salamatov

hand to say, ‘thank you’. However, it’s impossible at the moment: it’s better for the old man to take care of himself. Mr. Salamatov smiled and waved instead — as if to say: ‘I’m with you, guys! We’ll live on!’

The diploma and a souvenir were presented to the veteran’s daughter, Irina. “I would like to do this personally. Please convey our warmest words of gratitude and congratulations,” Sergei Ventsko, the deputy commander of the 310th guards artillery group of the 120th separate mechanised brigade, asked.

Irina says that her father is in a great mood, “Our colonel is full of energy and vigour. He is now receiving calls from over the former Soviet Union. People congratulate him and they remember the

past. He already wants to go out on the street as soon as possible; figuratively speaking, he is eager to fight.”

Meanwhile, as soon as the music started, people began to gather on Melezh Street to look on with interest to see who the orchestra was playing for. Three men: Piotr Vorobei, Vladimir Skakun and Pavel Yeroshenko, the latter, dressed in a Soviet artillery uniform, approached from a nearby entrance. He was virtually marching, with a clear marching step. He’s a true officer, with numerous medals covering his breast.

“Thank you! Thank you, my dear!” with voices trembling with excitement, the victors thanked people in military uniforms and the district administration, while accepting flowers and presents. The attention is especially valuable and memorable.

At the same time, the Head of the Administration of Minsk’s Sovetsky District — Sergei Khilman — read a short biographical note about Anastasia Ivashina, an underground fighter and partisan. She was arrested by the gestapo, but managed to escape and continued fighting in a partisan unit. After the war, Ms. Ivashina worked as a cardiologist and retired at the age of 72. Apart from flowers and presents, the official presented the veteran of the Great Patriotic War with a jubilee medal, later telling reporters, “We meet with veterans, give them medals and gifts. Now 231 veterans of the Great Patriotic War live in the district. Of course, these people should stay at home for now. Therefore, we are coming to them, to support them morally and thank them. These are legendary personalities, they are our history.”



Valentin Kozlov

MAZ produces its first electric bus which is part of the latest generation and can cross a major city several times without having to recharge



Historical moment for MAZ

MAZ 303E10 has become the first low-floor electric bus. It is powered by accumulators able to store 412 ampere-hours of electricity. The cruising range is up to 300km, which is on a par with the latest models from internationally recognised manufacturers.

The company staff explain, "From the outside, the vehicle resembles a bus, servicing international routes and has the appearance of an auroch — due to a specific curve on the roof. Panoramic windows are nearly one third larger, while the structural frame is made of corrosion-resistant steel pipes with a special cross-section to increase the load-bearing capacity. Panels made of aluminium and plastic are also low-maintenance which help avoid serious repairs. The power plant is placed above them to minimise noise and vibration."

The electric MAZ bus is powered by a 300kW German motor ZF CeTrax. It is ahead of many competitors in terms of acceleration speed, cruising range and electricity consumption. The accumulators can be charged from a 380V power socket or at a special station

with a CCS2 Combo power socket. Charging the battery to full at maximum voltage needs four hours.

MAZ representatives believe that 'an historical moment has come for MAZ as it joins the promising segment of electric buses'. "The



new model combines advantages of both buses and trolleybuses. Based on the third-generation bus model MAZ 303, it boasts maximum unification of structural components, equipment and electronic systems. The vehicle is not simply advanced but economical and, accordingly, is a great option for cities," they say.

The external dimensions are optimised for the urban environment: the bus is 12.43m long, 2.55m wide and 3.3m high. It can carry over 70 passengers and offers 30 seats.

Another 14 seats are placed in the barrier-free zone.

The bus is truly modern — with tactile buttons, a contactless system and a retractable ramp for wheelchair users. All the seats are equipped with USB ports to allow passengers to charge their gadgets. It also uses electric heating, which makes the bus totally environmentally friendly. The air conditioner can be used for cooling or heating interchangeably.

The driver's cab is equipped with a digital dashboard. Every minor detail is indicated, including information from rain sensors, light sensors, ECAS and EBS safety systems. All the onboard systems can automatically report malfunctions.

We are also informed that all the components have been unified with conventional buses as much as possible. This has been made to ensure carriers can maintain electric and diesel buses simultaneously.

Based on materials of belta.by

Distant partners become closer



Kamvol JSC seeks to branch out into the markets of the United States and Canada, negotiating actively with partners from abroad: international trading houses Alliance Apparel Group Inc. (USA) and Les Entreprises Presidentielles Inc. (Canada) which specialise in production of clothing made of wool, cotton, linen fabrics, yarn and synthetic fibres

By Igor Svetlov

In Q1 2020, Kamvol established co-operation with a number of major partners, including in the Eurasian Economic Union. Among the most significant of them are distributors in Russia, Armenia and Uzbekistan. Over this period, the Belarusian company signed \$7.5m worth of contracts.

According to Bellegprom, in 2019, Kamvol increased supplies to Russia, Ukraine and Moldova by 50 percent and tripled sales to Uzbekistan. Sales to Azerbaijan rose 16-fold. The company exports its manufactured goods to 17 countries worldwide.

Kamvol is Belarus' only and the CIS largest producer of pure wool and wool-mix suit and dress fabrics, pure wool, wool-mix, polyacrylonitrile knitted and woven yarn with a complete production cycle.



NEWS IN BRIEF



The Partisans of Belarus project of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House wins the Grand Prix of the 16th Golden Letter National Contest

The Information Ministry has summed up the results of the 16th Golden Letter National Print Media Contest. The multimedia project *Partisans of Belarus* was recognised as the best creative project of the year in Republican print media, news agencies and network publications. This is an electronic interactive database of partisan and underground movement, which contains unique archival documents, awards records, combat characteristics, descriptions of battles and fights involving partisans, as well as biographies of brigade commanders. The portal has already opened more than 85,000 personal electronic partisan cards.

The US plans to send an ambassador to Belarus this year and build a diplomatic mission



Belarus and the United States plan to exchange ambassadors this year. The Americans are looking for a place for the construction of the diplomatic mission, TASS reports, citing US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, George P. Kent. "We're glad that we will exchange ambassadors with Belarus in 2020," said Mr. Kent. "We see great potential in expanding relations and are looking forward to expanding co-operation."

Earlier, US President Donald Trump announced that he is planning Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Europe and the EU, Julie Fisher, for the post of US Ambassador to Belarus.

Nuclear fuel delivered to Belarusian NPP

A train carrying nuclear fuel for the first unit of the Belarusian nuclear power plant has arrived at the power plant construction site. The necessary technical readiness of the premises, equipment, systems, and components of



the Belarusian nuclear power plant has been secured. The organisational readiness of the plant's personnel for handling the fresh nuclear fuel safely has been also ensured. Internal troops of the Belarusian Internal Affairs Ministry were put on guard at facilities at the first unit in line with the regulations, before the fuel was delivered. A batch of nuclear fuel to start the first power-generating unit of the Belarusian NPP's reactor was made by Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrates Plant.

Belarusian 'dzyakui' [thank you] for the liberation from Nazism appears on the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin

Words of gratitude for liberation from Nazism were projected on Berlin's Brandenburg Gate on May 8th; the inscriptions were broadcast in Belarusian, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, English, French and German — according to *Deutsche Welle*. "With this projection, Berlin would like to thank the allies 75 years later for liberating Europe from na-



tional socialism," the organisers of the *Kulturprojekte Berlin* campaign said in a statement. Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei expressed his gratitude to German friends on his Instagram account, also thanking them for appreciating the contribution of Belarusians to the establishment of peace in Europe and in the world.

Belarusian army receives modernised tanks

The Armed Forces of Belarus continue the rearmament and modernisation of existing weapons models, with the military receiving five upgraded tanks.

In line with the contract signed between the Defence Ministry and Uralvagonzavod Research and Production Corporation, the Armed Forces received five modernised T-72B3 tanks.

According to the Defence Ministry, the upgraded tanks are equipped with a more than 1,130HP engine, as well as an improved weapons system. The changes also affected the armour of the tank, which is reinforced on the



side screens of the hull with a set of removable modular armoured kit.



Pearl of the Silk Road

The Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park occupies an area almost equal to the country's largest lake — Naroch. It is a third the size of Minsk but, actually, it's not this that matters — but the content. Its innovative approach and new technologies are becoming increasingly important in the modern world.

Everything meets in this place: the proximity of the capital, closeness of the National Airport and the transcontinental highway. China's initiative to recreate the legendary Silk Road and ensure fast delivery of goods and services was supported at the highest level in Belarus. In China, the Great Stone is called the pearl of the Silk Road. Its history began on May 12th, 2015 when the leaders of Belarus and China visited the Park — which was at the construction stage. They actually launched the project and, at present, the Head of Great Stone's Administration — Aleksandr Yaroshenko — has the right to say that, "Over the last 5 years, the project has become international — attracting investment from all over the world. When we started in 2015, there were 8 companies but there are now 59. Another has joined recently. Residents have come from 16 countries: the USA, Switzerland, Israel, the UAE and elsewhere."

The Park embraces 5 sections: of commercial estate, industrial, trading and residential. Minsk Avenue at the Great Stone is its calling card, though is not yet completed. An administrative centre of the Park will be situated here.

Yan Gang, the General Director of Industrial Park Development Company, confirms that much has been done in five years. "We are turning to high-quality development. We have completed the construction of roads with a length of more than 30km, 176km of engineering networks. 30 structures have been built. The Park now has all the conditions to attract investors from all over the world," he says.

The site is also great for industrial co-operation. For example, Fast Gear — the world's largest manufacturer of gearboxes for trucks and buses — now operates in Belarus. The Director of Fast-MAZ JSC — Jao Jianlin — explains, "Belarus occupies a favourable geographical position. Fast Gear and MAZ have more than a 20-year history of mutually beneficial co-operation, and now we are working to jointly promote our products on international markets."

MAZ is not the only project in the Park. There is also MAZ-Weichai which expects to produce up to 20,000 diesel engines a year for trucks, buses and special vehicles in 6 years. All engines are of Euro-5 and Euro-6 classes.

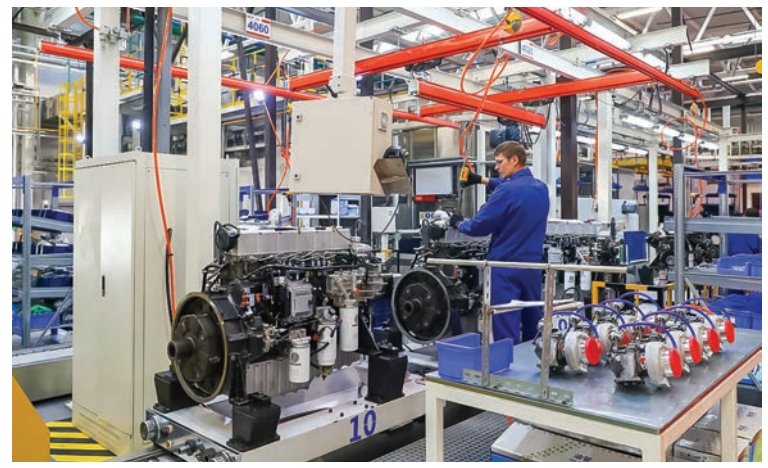
Meanwhile, rental accommodation is being built in Druzhnaya Street at the Great Stone. The first block with 156 apartments is a low-rise building with high ceilings. Another — which will be bigger — is currently being designed. The Park's employees live here, paying less than is usual in the city and enjoying the available furniture and appliances.

In line with the Presidential decree of 2017, the Park has become an attractive platform for businesses. Residents do not pay income tax for 10 years, and then pay another 40 years at a halved rate. In addition, residents of the Park are exempt from land and real estate taxes, and do



In 2020, Great Stone plans to start building a railway terminal and a branch line from Minsk

5G will soon be launched at the Great Stone and unmanned transport — though in test mode — will be introduced for the industry. The smart city is at the beginning of its path but seems to keep up with the times and technologies, even progressing ahead of them.



not pay customs and VAT when importing production and investment goods. They also have 5 years of freedom from tax on dividends, and the income tax is reduced from 13 to 9 percent.

One of the major projects of the Park — Zoomlion — is a world leader in creating special equipment. It became a resident of the Great Stone in 2015, with the aim of combining the competitive advantages of two companies — taking chassis from Belarusian MAZ and using Zoomlion's attachments. In May, a conveyor is to be launched to produce 900 units of special equipment in 5 years. Zoomlion Bel-Rus Director — Yuan Xun, explains, "The Great Stone is a good base for production and development of our company, including from the point of view of logistics: it is an important innovation hub on the Silk Road. Our potential consumers are both in the European Union and the EAEU. By being located here, we will cover both of these markets."

Will businesses in the city of innovation duplicate the existing real sector? During the 'Big Talk' programme, a Georgian journalist asked the President about this. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that companies that are not present in Belarus are being created in the Great Stone. Moreover, most products from there are exported not domestically but abroad.

"We are now establishing enterprises that do not exist in Belarus. We strive to ensure that they are joint and — importantly — the most modern,



meeting the latest technological trends. In other words, we need not only investment but highly efficient advanced production facilities that will produce the goods of tomorrow. There should not be only Chinese or Belarusian enterprises. There should be enterprises from any country," the President said.

It is planned to digitise 90 percent of administrative procedures and red tape should not become an obstacle to business development in the Industrial Park. The decision was made and actions swiftly followed. There are no difficulties in translation either: Belarusians communicate with investors in Russian, English, Chinese and German.

The Deputy Head of the Centre for Comprehensive Maintenance of the

Park's Administration — Yevgeny Mordasevich — comments, "There were examples when we registered a company in 8 minutes. Another interesting feature is the visa-free regime for 180 days."

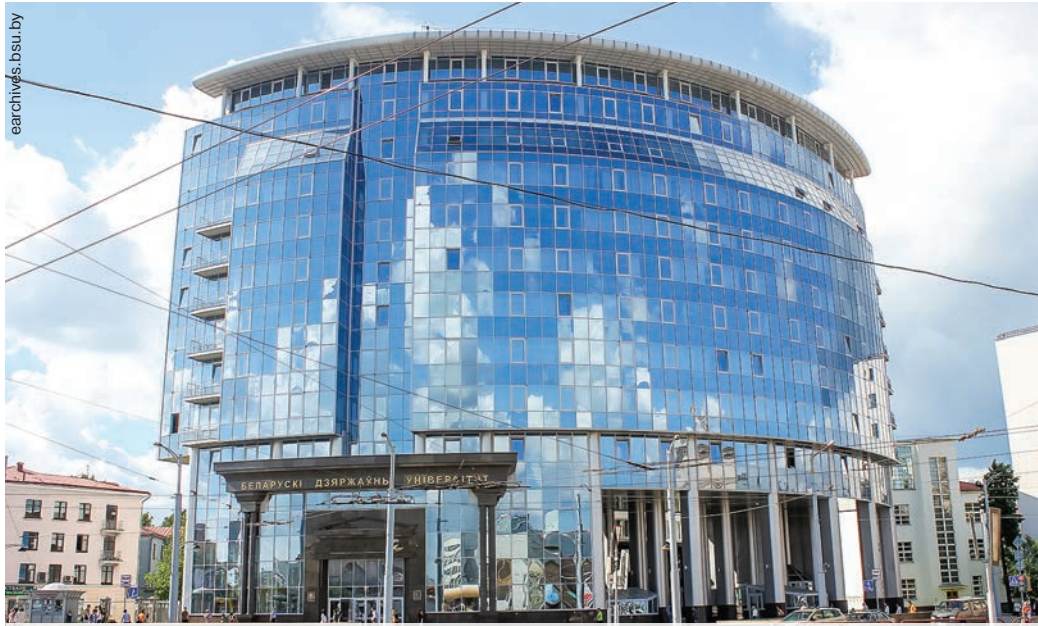
The leaders of Belarus and China have spoken more than once about the Great Stone as the most important platform of the Silk Road Economic Belt. Last year, the Park hosted a forum on regional co-operation and development as part of the *Belt and Road* initiative — gathering about 700 participants from almost 30 countries. The large scale meeting was a driver for attracting new residents and investments.

Three years ago, a Belarusian resident — Asomedica — laid a foundation in Sapfirofaya Street. This leading manufacturer of medical consumables in the EAEU market produces tubes for artificial lung ventilation devices, and half of the products are exported. Moreover, it has developed an individual protection system for doctors: breathing masks and a bacterial filter with a high degree of protection which is now being sent to Belarusian hospitals. Orders from foreign partners are also being fulfilled.

Europeans are also looking towards the Park. Last year, the Swiss company, Hess, opened and has already launched production of electric transport: it assembles bodies for contactless trolley-buses. In the future, the Swiss will establish production of ready-made cars for buyers from Switzerland. Yan Gang is convinced, "In the future, the Great Stone should play an important role in international trade and the creation of new types of industries. It's expected to become a platform for economic growth and innovation."

Based on materials of TV News Agency project

Leading positions



Building of Belarusian State University's International Relations Department

By Natalia Yemelyanova

As of April 2020, the BSU rounded out the top three in the global ranking of institutional repositories *Transparent Ranking: Institutional Repositories*

by *Google Scholar*, behind the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) and Kyoto University (Japan). The ranking also featured digital libraries of other Belarusian universities: Belarusian National Technical

University (53), Belarusian State Economic University (133), Masherov Vitebsk State University (225) and Belarusian State Medical University (230).

Overall, the ranking featured more than 3,000 reposi-

Belarusian State University Digital Library remains Europe's top institutional repository

ries of universities and research centres from all over the globe. They were ranked by the number of collected items, which was evaluated by the web search engine Google Academy. Europe PubMed Central, Smithsonian/NASA Astrophysics Data System, and CiteSeerX topped the ranking. The BSU Digital Library occupies 11th position among all repositories, the same as last year.

The ranking of open access repositories is the initiative of Cybermetrics Lab known for its *Webometrics Ranking of World Universities*. The ranking is compiled to support open access to academic publications and teaching materials in digital form. Its creators aim to motivate researchers to

publish results of their studies on the Internet, making them accessible for their colleagues and people from all over the world. Thus, the ranking estimates the level of openness of academic resources and the level of their integration into the global information space.

The BSU Digital Library has been featured in the ranking since 2012. It is one of the largest repositories in the world in terms of the number of collected items. At present, it comprises more than 160,000 publications by BSU researchers and teaching staff. Support for the open science movement, thorough work of the library staff, and proper management of metadata enables the BSU Digital Library to hold a leading position.

New projects dedicated to Zhirovichi shrines

Until now, few books have been published by Belarusian authors about the Zhirovichi Monastery. However, the book publishers of our country decided to improve the situation by preparing new projects on the 550th anniversary since the discovery of the miraculous Zhirovichi Icon of the Mother of God and the 500th anniversary of the Holy Assumption Zhirovichi Monastery.

By Marina Kuzmich

The colourful and richly illustrated encyclopaedic guide — *Zhirovichi. Under Holy Protection* — will soon be published in the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House. The Belarusian-language publication contains more than 180 articles, alongside many photographs and illustrations on the history and modernity of Zhirovichi. It presents and illustrates articles about the agricultural town of Zhirovichi, the Holy Assumption Monastery, the Zhirovichi Icon of the Mother of God, as well as Orthodox church figures whose fate was associated with the monastery and theological academy. Moreover, the edition describes outstanding objects of literature and art that are found there.

“Several articles are presented immediately in three languages —

Belarusian, Russian and English,” says Olga Vanina, the Director of the Publishing House. “Most of the materials in the directory are being published for the first time, with the authors collecting information bit by bit. The author and compiler is Aleksandr Slesarev, a Candidate of Theological Sciences, Associate Professor and Vice Rector for Scientific Work of the Minsk Theological Seminary and Head of the Church History Department at Minsk Theological Academy.”

Candidates of theology, doctors of church history, historical scientists and candidates of art history took part in the preparation of the book, describing outstanding items of literature and art, which were or are still housed in the monastery. For example, the book contains an article about the Zhirovichi encyclopaedia, which is the first example of a reference publication in Belarus.

Ales Badak, the Director of the Mastatskaya Literatura Publishing House, presented the book of verses by the Zhirovichi Holy Assumption Monastery monk John — *Light from Zhirovichi*. Its author is Znich, whom

many know as Oleg Bembel. “This publication is very important not only for fiction, but also for the spiritual life of Belarus,” Ales Badak emphasised. “We’ve published a stylish and beautiful book, although not large. But there is something to read for everyone, especially those who are close to God in their souls.”

Belarus Publishing House is preparing two books. The first of them, entitled *The Zhirovichi Holy Assumption Monastery*, familiarises readers with the main Belarusian shrine, an architectural monument of the 17th-19th centuries. The author of the publication is Aleksandr Yaroshevich. The book in Belarusian, Russian and English describes the history of the monastery, as well as its development and modern life in an accessible form. “The edition is richly illustrated, and much attention is paid to the interior: the iconostasis, icons and interior decoration elements,” notes the leading specialist of the publishing house, Anzhela Sadovskaya. “Here, we’ve managed to explain the history of the monastery relying on scientific facts. This is a compact edition written in plain language and is designed for a wide circle of readers. Since it is in three languages, it will be a pleasure for many pilgrims who come to the monastery to purchase it.”

The second book is *The Light of the Zhirovichi Shrine* by Sergei Chigrin. This is, in fact, the first popular science book of the Belarusian local historian about Zhirovichi. The publication consists of articles in which the author talks about the spiritual connection of the natives and residents of the Slonim area with the Zhirovichi shrine. The Zhirovichi Icon of the Mother of God and the Holy Assumption Monastery are considered significant objects of the national cultural heritage of Belarus and spiritual symbols of the nation.



Marina Kuzmich



Cartoon-trailblazer

By Irina Sergeeva

Belarusian animators create CIS first animated series about proper waste sorting

Team 99 is an eight-part pioneer cartoon for children and their parents, created by the Gomel animation studio on the orders of the Operator of Secondary Material Resources state institution, as part of the *Goal 99 Movement* project aimed to ensure the level of collection of secondary resources and their processing in Belarus to 99 percent.

The story centres round a fun team of raccoon sorters — *Team 99* — who will teach children and their parents how to deal with what many still consider garbage. An old magazine, a juice bottle, a shopping bag, a battery or a broken smartphone might have its own way to become useful again. The raccoons will explain how and demonstrate this.

“*Team 99* comprises true superheroes — yellow raccoon Lemon (standing for plastic waste), green raccoon Kiwi (paper waste) and girl-raccoon Blackberry (glass waste) — who save our planet from garbage every day; they know exactly where to find secondary resources and how to properly recycle them,” Tatiana Dobriyan, from Gomel’s *Chin Up* animation studio, explains. “Every working day has a task on an interplanetary scale. The bold raccoons are sent to meet dangerous monsters that were formed as a result of improper sorting and recycling of waste. The characters of the environmental detective share their knowledge with the audience. Knowledge is their main strength! Raccoons Kiwi, Lemon and Blackberry will prove that everyone can become a hero!”

The cartoon’s authors claim that the aim of the series is to instil knowledge and habits in handling waste at the level of personal hygiene from childhood: sorting and recycling of waste saves depleted natural resources and prevents the emergence of new landfills; with proper disposal, waste will not harm nature and human health; everyone can collect waste separately and save our valuable resources.

The premiere of the cartoon has already taken place on the YouTube-channel: *target99 Belarus*.



Vienna is one of the four headquarters of the United Nations, along with New York, Geneva and Nairobi

Main achievement

The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, believes that the main achievement of the United Nations is that through the efforts of the organisation for 75 years since its creation, humanity managed to avoid the third world war

According to him, thanks to the UN and the efforts of other organisations, humanity was able to 'live these 75 years without sliding into a catastrophic situation', similar to the two world wars.

"This is our main achievement today," Mr. Guterres said. He also added that peace and security are 'absolute priorities of the UN'. In this regard, the world organisation can be

proud of the results of its work, he concluded.

Antonio Guterres also said that he counts on the approval of the UN Declaration on the 75th anniversary of the Victory by all countries. "We are going to hold an official meeting organised by the General Assembly, with the participation of all members. We hope that member states will approve a declaration that will express the UN's

view of victory over Nazism and the end of World War II."

The Head of the UN recalled that the world organisation is also celebrating its 75th anniversary. "The very appearance of the organisation became possible thanks to the Victory," stressed the Secretary-General. In his opinion, the memory of the victory should contribute to the commitment of the world community to the principles

of equality and respect for the interests of all countries. "I want to say that now it is very important that we are united in our memories," emphasised Antonio Guterres.

The UN was set up in order to maintain and strengthen international peace and security while developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

Malaria 'completely stopped'

Scientists have discovered a microbe that completely protects mosquitoes from being infected with malaria

The team in Kenya and the UK say the finding has 'enormous potential' to control the disease. Malaria is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes, so protecting them could in turn protect people.

The researchers are now investigating whether they can release infected mosquitoes into the wild, or use spores to suppress the disease.

The malaria-blocking bug, *Microsporidia MB*, was discovered by studying mosquitoes on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya. The researchers could not find a single mosquito carrying the *Microsporidia* that was harbouring the malaria parasite. And lab experiments, published in *Nature Communications*, confirmed the microbe gave the mosquitoes protection.

Microsporidias are fungi, or at least closely related to them, and most are parasites. However, this new species may be beneficial to the mosquito and was naturally found in around 5 percent of the insects studied.

"The data we have so far suggest it is 100 percent blockage, it's a very severe blockage of malaria," Dr. Jeremy Herren, from the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology in Kenya, said, adding that, "It will come as a quite a surprise. I think people will find that a real big breakthrough."

More than 400,000 people are killed by malaria each year, most of them children under the age of five.

While huge progress has been made through the use of bed nets and spraying homes with insecticide, this has stalled in recent years. It is widely agreed new tools are needed to tackle malaria.



Saulius Skvernelis, Krisjanis Karins and Jüri Ratas in February 2020

Reopening internal borders

The Baltic States plan to open their internal borders on May 15th for the free movement of residents of the three countries

During a video conference, Latvian Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins, Lithuanian Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis and Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas agreed to open their internal borders from May 15th for the free movement of residents of the three countries.

Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins wrote on Twitter the borders would be reopening between the three Baltic States. But, he said, a person arriving from any other country — not from the Baltic States — will have to undergo a 14-day period of self-quarantine.

Prime Minister Jüri Ratas confirmed the announcement on his Twitter account adding this is was a big step back towards returning

to normal life. Saulius Skvernelis wrote on Facebook, "We agreed that all three Baltic countries have properly curbed the spread of coronavirus." He added, "We also trust each other's healthcare systems. This is why, from May 15th, we will eliminate restrictions for Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian citizens for travel between the Baltic countries."

Estonia closed its borders at the start of the emergency situation on March 12th and Lithuania did the same at approximately the same time.

Although Latvia has suspended international transport since March 17th, it is not forbidden to cross the Latvian border in private vehicles or on foot.

The ban on crossing the border only applies to the EU's external border, i.e. the border between Russia and Belarus, but officials can also make exceptions in this respect.

Sold out well in advance

Disney reopened its Shanghai theme park on May 11th; the park has been closed since January 25th

Disney reopened Disneytown, Wishing Star Park and the Disneyland Hotel in Shanghai in March. This was the first Disney theme park to reopen after being closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We will take a phased approach with limits on attendance, using an advanced reservation and entry system, controlled guest density using social distancing and strict government required health and prevention procedures," CEO Bob Chapek said. "These include the use of masks, temperature screenings and other contact tracing and early detection systems."

Typically, he said, the park has 80,000 visitors per day, but the Gov-

ernment has mandated they operate at 30 percent capacity, or 24,000 visitors. Mr. Chapek said the park would initially open operating well below that capacity and ramp up to reach the 30 percent cap over several weeks.

While Mickey Mouse joined familiar Disney characters welcoming the crowds, the Shanghai experience will not be as it was: instead of parades and fireworks, there are mandatory masks, temperature screenings and social distancing for visitors and employees.

The reopening of the theme park may provide a glimpse of how Disney can begin to recover from closures set to strip \$1.4 billion from the company's profit.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Memorial work continues



The Memorial Church of All Saints and Innocent Victims Who Fell to Rescue Our Motherland in Minsk is filled with great spiritual and historical meaning.

In 1993, I met a young and energetic priest, Fyodor (Povny), and didn't quite believe his stories about his plans to construct a temple. Despite his passion, the practicalities seemed immense. Now, under the cleansing chime of the bells, I admire the temple-monument and I'm glad I was mistaken.

By Sergey Musienko

“We value peace and call on all peoples for friendship and co-operation. And in this mission, our state, the Belarusian people, and our Church have always been united. The temple is of the same age as our independent and sovereign Belarus. It will always symbolise our sovereignty,” noted the President on January 7th, 2019.

It's common for Belarus to have an Orthodox church standing on the main square of almost every city while a Catholic church is found opposite. Often a synagogue is also situated nearby, and sometimes a mosque is close by, as in the town of Iyve. This distinguishes us from the neighbouring countries. Religion is a part of the state culture, a part of the country's overall system. It's necessary for us to support the traditional religions; these are part of the DNA of the nation. The Belarusian state is doing great and painstaking work to maintain ethno-confessional stability in the country.

There are few Christian temple-monuments; these are located in Leipzig (Germany), Sofia (Bulgaria), and Brussels (Belgium). There is also the Memorial Church-on-the-Blood in Russian Yekaterinburg and the Temple Monument in the Name of Victory of the Great Patriotic War on Poklonnaya Hill in Moscow.

The main idea of the architectural concept and the artistic embodiment of every detail — from the elements of external decoration to the doors to the crypt — belong to a graduate of the Belarusian State Academy of



Arts and a native of the priest's family, Archpriest Fyodor Povny.

At the heart of the temple-monument is the number nine — a powerful symbol of spiritual and ideological perfection — formed by eight broad facets. The ninth is the geometric centre — the peak. The height of the temple is 74 metres and together with the cross — 82 metres. At the same time, the church can accept up to 2,400 worshippers. Its architects are Lev Pogorelov and Fyodor Povny.

The church is decorated with unique iconostases created by Palekh masters and our Belarusian artists. Thanks to the temple, the national mo-

Chronology

On June 4th, 1991, the foundation stone of the Memorial Church of All Saints was consecrated in Minsk. It was made by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexy II, during the first Patriarchal visit to Belarus.

In summer of 2006, the construction of the memorial church began.

On October 2th, 2015, the solemn event — *The Prayer for Belarus* — was held for the first time on the steps of the church, bringing together believers of various faiths who live peacefully in Belarus. In addition, the ceremony also took place of shelving capsules bearing soil collected from WWII burial places from Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Italy in the crypt of the memorial church.

Smorgon, Solovki, Khatyn, Trostenets and Chernobyl.

The memorial church is a unique example of the attitude towards the memory of the Fatherland, a kind of scientific and methodological centre of a comprehensive museum practice.

Soon a unique thematic exposition, entitled *Museum of Memory*, will open here. It will give an idea of the losses during the events of the military history of Belarus and their chronology. Modern artistic solutions inspire emotional perception among the audience. Hundreds of historical artefacts have been introduced into the museum. Masterfully created miniature dioramas dedicated to historical subjects with battle scenes from different eras really impress the visitors, as do the latest technological solutions that are definitely worth a look. The heart of the museum will be an electronic database of soldiers and officers who died on Belarusian land. These are Belarus-born people, called up from the territory of our country, who died in different historical periods — starting from the Patriotic War of 1812 to the Afghan military conflict of 1979-1989.

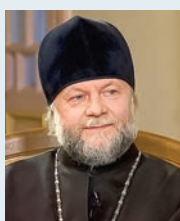
As of the end of 2019, 834,619 names of Belarus-born people who died and went missing during the wars were included in 'The Book of Memory of the Republic of Belarus', as was data on 433,485 military graves and burials of war victims from various historical periods.

Today, there are 6,830 recorded burials from the period of the Second World War in our country, in which 2,072,954 people are buried. These terrible figures are constantly growing because the search and memorial work continues.



saic school was revived at the Belarusian State Academy of Arts (Denis Chubukov, Kirill Orsik, Olga Melnik-Malakhova, Alevtina Boshkataya, Filip Basalyga and other craftsmen). All the elements of external and internal decoration are works of art. The peculiarity of the memorial church is a return to an almost forgotten tradition: placing depictions of saints on the external walls, looking people in the face. The Minsk temple is a reminder that everyone has a patron saint in heaven.

Crypt (below the altar part of the temple) is a unique object, conceived as a genuine national shrine; it is unrivalled in the world. It contains the soil that was collected from the fields of all the great historical battles in defence of the Fatherland, as well as from the burial places of civilians who became victims of military campaigns and repressions. The crypt doors of the temple are decorated with six bas-reliefs 'Tears of Belarus', each of which depicts one of the places of glory and grief of the Belarusian people: Grunwald,



Fyodor POVNY, senior priest of the Memorial Church of All Saints, Archpriest:

The memorial church doesn't only decorate Minsk, it sets an example of the courage and endurance of our ancestors while fostering the culture of memory of the next generations. Here everyone can pray to their heavenly patron and thank them for their intercession. The people who honour the memory of their heroes, remember their ancestors and honour God will survive. This is the key idea of the concept of the memorial church, the consolidation of the efforts of the Belarusian Orthodox Church and the state in achieving peace in the country and the unity of society.

HISTORY

The Minsk Times
Thursday
May 14
2020

9

A boot, a heart and a palm tree

Many of us have probably heard about the Maldives, but know almost nothing about the Belarusian islands. However, our own land also has something to boast about. The Chairman of the Belarusian Geographical Society, Aleksei Yarotov, helps us find the most interesting islands on the map.

Most unusual islands of Belarus

EXPERT OPINION



How did the islands appear?

There are several theories. One of them says the islands were formed as a result of the retreat of the glacier and the filling of the basins with meltwater. According to another, it is a 'product' of large river systems: when flowing, water carries solid sedimentary material that settles in a particular area. We have many more river islands than lake islands. The former are famous for their impermanence: they disappear during a flood, and when the water level normalises, they emerge again.



travelling.by

It took 8 years to create the most famous artificial island in the country: the Island of Tears on the Svisloch River in the centre of Minsk. Its construction began in 1988 and was completed in 1996. The island has become a symbol of the memory of the international soldiers who were killed in Afghanistan. The island is connected to the land by a humpback bridge. Everyone coming here is welcomed by a boulder embedded with a bronze icon; below there's an inscription: 'This monument was erected to honour the sons who died in Afghanistan at the request of Belarusian mothers who wish evil would never exist in our native land or elsewhere'. A chapel with the names of 771 Belarusians who died abroad is the central element of the complex.

sandpipers and shorebirds nest here. In the centre of the inaccessible island there are two small inland lakes with crystal clear water, which are filled by the rains.

6 types of fish can be caught off the coast of the island-diplodocus on Lake Buzhe, in the Braslav District. If we look from above, the similarity of this area to a prehistoric reptile is striking. Interestingly, it's not the only island with a fancy shape. Belarus also has a boot-shaped and even a heart-shaped island.

One 'neighbour' was 'swallowed up' by Chaichin — the largest island on Braslav Lakes and the second largest in the country after Du. Both islands were located on Lake Strusto: when the water level decreased, they merged. A lake which still exists was formed in place of the channel. Until the 1930s, it was a small village and locals mostly fed on fish, which they were able to catch, dry and smoke like no one else. They took fish to exchange it for other food in 'mainland' villages. Chaichin can now boast gentle sandy shores and, in summer, becomes a tourist destination.

By Olga Dubrovskaya

5 km² is the area of the largest island in our country. It is located in the Verkhnedvinsk District and is part of the Osveisky landscape reserve; its name consists of only two letters: Du. This place is now uninhabited but, in the past, there was a village with the telling name of Ostrov (Island). Abandoned houses, a cemetery, the foundations of a farm and a pier indicate that people once lived there. At present, deer, elk, raccoon dogs and dozens of bird species can be found. Previously, the island was connected to the mainland by a bridge, parts of which are still preserved, though it's only now possible to get to Du by boat.



7 plots of land bisect the Ne-man River near the village of Khartitsa in the Mosty District — forming a unique island similar to Dubai's iconic Palm Jumeirah — an artificial mound resembling a palm tree with 16 branches, often called the 'eighth wonder of the world'. Our 'tree' is not so spreading, but natural. The unusual 'pattern' was formed as a result of a gradual change in the flow of the river. The water washed over a number of 'arms' that are now associated with branches.



25 metres is the height of the shore of Shova Island located on Lake Strusto, part of the Braslav Lakes National Park. Locals call it Bogatyr (a strong man) as it's not so easy to land on it. Because of its inaccessibility to humans, Shova has become a reserve for wild birds: gulls,

20 hectares is the area of the floating island on Lake Osveiskoe. It was formed due to the so-called floating earth: a carpet of mosses and other plants with powerful roots grew over the surface of the water. In the water area, there are now several dozen such natural creatures. The largest of them is popularly called Khozyain (Master). There were many attempts to register it but, after specialists registered its location, it changed position. Since the island was formed from vegetation and has no solid soil, it is dangerous to walk on it. It's a pity, as some might wish to feel like an inhabitant of the Uru tribe, which still lives on the floating island of Uros, on Lake Titicaca.

Championship in an apartment

How athletes train and compete in isolation

Sport goes online. This is not about cyber competitions and not even about challenges by fans to measure their achievements, which the world wide web was rich with in previous years. The coronavirus epidemic, which cancelled almost all world tournaments and locked most athletes in apartments and houses, forced even the pros to 'go on the air'. Usually at this time, track and field athletes, cyclists and swimmers were speeding up the summer season, aiming for the main events. Now they are sitting at home, but, as it's turned out, even in this situation, they can find a way to challenge themselves and their rivals.

By Dmitry Komashko

The idea of holding competitions online is not new. Back in early April, world champion Magnus Carlsen organised a virtual tournament of top chess players. The other day, probably the single international event ended with the final meeting of Carlsen and Japanese, Hikaru Nakamura. The Norwegian won — 2.5:1.5. However, it appears that competitions in isolation mode are held among even those sports that are quite difficult to present on the Internet.

Last week, the first virtual tournament of shot putters in the history of Belarusian sports took place! Leading Belarusian athletes — Oleg Tomashevich, Dmitry Karpuk, Aleksei Aleksandrovich and Ilya Misovsky — took part in the event which was divided into two meetings. The guys performed in the sectors where they continue training today: in Vitebsk and Brest; the measurements were carried out in accordance with international standards and the competitions themselves were broadcast live (including on the official website of the European Athletics Federation). Everyone got the opportunity

to participate in the contest.

The Chairman of the Belarusian Athletics Federation, Vadim Devyatovsky, explains: the project immediately aroused great interest. "The guys were well prepared and it was so sad that their potential would remain unrealised. Oleg Tomashevich, who became the winner and twice updated his personal record, as well as Dmitry Kapruk, are prize holders and champions of international tournaments in junior age categories, while Aleksei Aleksandrovich is also one of the world leaders. Ilya Misovsky occupies the third place in world ranking following the results of the winter season. They responded to our offer with great interest: it was obvious that they missed the tournaments. The coaches also supported the idea. We do not intend to limit to this tournament and already have an agreement on a virtual triple jump match — both for boys and girls. Other creative ideas are also being discussed."

Belarusian cyclists have also joined the Internet. It would seem that isolation is almost a sentence for them but, according to Yelena Omelyusik, the sportsmen find an opportunity not to stop train-

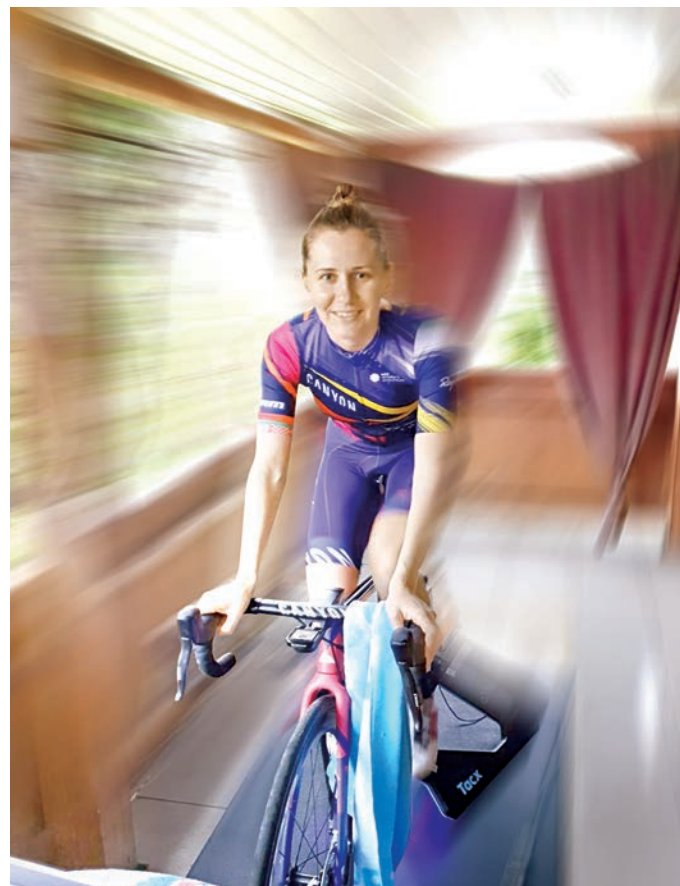
ing in the current difficult situation and even participate in world championships — simultaneously raising funds to help doctors.

"There is a Zwift app that was invented to make it more interesting for cyclists to train



Magnus Carlsen held an international tournament during quarantine

changing the load. We often put fans next to the device, because it is hot in racing mode without a headwind. It's true that I'd rather run three road races than one virtual one, but such competitions have been held for several years. Virtual races are



Yelena Omelyusik: 'It's possible to cycle a world championship at home'

indoors. A special bike stand has been developed that can be connected to gadgets and the power grid. A bicycle is installed on the device, a track is chosen and a training could start. For example, it's possible to cycle along the Richmond route of 2015 and everything will look realistic. All the turns and surroundings are screened, while the profile contains all the data: weight, height and others. Based on this, the app calculates the power that the rider demonstrates and simulates movement along the track,

becoming more popular among fans who are not able to go to full-time training due to their work or climate. In addition, such races make it possible to compare your strength against professionals. Conditionally, a sportsman can cover the distance of a world cup, close to Alejandro Valverde or Fabian Cancellara. The same programme is available for runners who can now compete with each other on treadmills. Sometimes, during training or competitions, I see that at the same time on the same track about 16,000 people

are cycling! We are going to participate in a project aimed at helping doctors who are fighting coronavirus. According to the rules, if 200,000 people participate in the race, the app developers will transfer funds to WHO. Moreover, the app opens up additional features for amateurs and novice athletes. Every year, Zwift hosts something like a reality show. Three finalists of the last such selection came to our team in December; one of them got a contract."

Bookmakers are a cherry on the cake. For them, the current situation borders on disaster. The ongoing matches of the Belarusian football championship don't help, and neither do bets on the end date of the quarantine and the return to normal life. As a result, there are sometimes very non-trivial loopholes for fans of gambling and sports betting. On the courts of the Maksim Mirny Tennis Centre, for example, despite all the cancellations, matches with a claim to international level continue. Their participants are local amateurs, but, according to the Centre's Director, Maksim Sadovsky, bets on the outcome of matches are made in the most remote parts of the world.

"The idea is simple: there are fewer people who want to play tennis now and we needed to fill the courts. As a result, we contacted the organisers of online broadcasts which sell their videos to bookmakers around the world. People from China, India and elsewhere who have no opportunity to place bets on official ATP and WTA tournaments today are betting on Belarusian amateur matches. We invite a judge and install a video camera. In general, everything is serious and quite interesting,



Dmitry Karpuk participates in the first virtual tournament of shot putters

ARENA

● Sobolenko wins Belarus Insurance Cup tennis tournament held at Minsk's Tennis Palace

In the decisive match of the women's competitions, the 11th racket in the world — Arina Sobolenko — beat Aleksandra Sasnovich, ranked 119th worldwide — 4:1, 0:4, 4:3. At the preliminary stage, Arina Sobolenko defeated Kristina Dmitruk, Evelina Laskevich and Yulia Gotovko. In another group, Aleksandra Sasnovich beat Anna Kubareva, Alena Faley and Shalimar Talbi.

The winner of the men's tournament was Ivan Lutarevich, who defeated in the final the captain of the national team

of Belarus in the Davis Cup, Dmitry Zhirmont — 3:4, 4:0, 4:3.

The tournament was organised in compliance with maximum safety measures: the matches were held in a shortened format and without spectators, all athletes underwent a thorough medical examination, only one judge was pres-



ent on the court and there were no usual handshakes at the end of the matches.

● Raubichi hosting training camp for Belarusian biathletes

Raubichi Republican Centre for Olympic Training in Winter Sports is hosting the first training camp of the new season. To allow athletes to adapt, the coaching staff decided to make the first two meetings shorter at 14 days each.

Anton Smolsky, Roman Yeletnov, Sergey Bocharnikov, Maksim Vorobey, Dmitry Lazovsky, Nikita Lobastov, Viktor Krivko and Yegor Kazarinov were called up for the men's training camp.



Irina Krivko, Dinara Alimbekova, Anna Sola, Yelena Kruchinkina and Irina Kruchinkina, as well as Adelina Sabitova and Alina Pilchuk were involved in the women's camp.

In addition to the national team, the junior team also started its training in Raubichi.



Photo of the week

The 'Heroes of the Great Victory' memorable panel of 500 photos of veterans and war participants — provided by their relatives — is prepared in Mogilev.

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.

May 15th is the International Family Day. It has been celebrated annually since 1994 following the resolution of the UN General Assembly of September 20th, 1993. The holiday was created in order to attract the attention of the wide public to family problems.



The family as the main element of society has been and remains the keeper of human values, culture and historical continuity of generations, alongside being a factor in stability and development. Family well-being is a measure of the country's development and progress.



On May 16th, 1955, Olga Valentinovna Korbut was born (in Grodno) — a Belarusian athlete (gymnastics)

and Honoured Master of Sports of the USSR (1972). She is a four-time Olympic champion (1972, 1976), a silver medallist of the Olympic Games in parallel bars

(1972) and a silver medallist of the European Championship in the individual event (1973). Olga Korbut is a world champion and a silver medallist of the world forum (1974). In 1972, she was recognised as the best athlete in the world. Olga entered the history of world sport for performing for the first time a unique element called the 'Korbut Loop', no longer performed during official competitions. She also became the first gymnast to perform somersaults on a beam. Today, Olga Korbut lives and works in the USA, where she leads the Academy named after her.

May 16th is the International Day of Light. It's celebrated annually on the anniversary of the first successful use of the laser in 1960, developed by a physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman. This day is a call to strengthen scientific cooperation and use its potential to promote peace and sustainable development.



May 18th is the International Museum Day. It's held on the decision of the 11th General Conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), held in May 1977. Since then, International Museum Day has been



celebrated in more than 150 countries. Each year, starting from 1992, the day has its own specific theme devoted to issues of museum activity. The theme of Museum Day in 2017 was 'The Museum as a Space of Equal Opportunities: Diversity and Inclusion'. On the very day, many museums in different countries of the world open their doors to everyone for free, prepare new exhibitions, thematic lectures, trips and scientific readings. Often *The Night of Museums*, which has become very popular in recent years, is timed to coincide with this day.

On May 20th, 1980, a new Tsentralny (Komarovskiy) market opened in Minsk — the largest indoor market in the country. The unique structure was designed by a team of architects: V. Aladov, A. Zheldakov, V. Krivosheev and M. Tkachuk. An indoor pavilion complements the seasonal market. In 2001, a multi-stage fountain was unveiled on the square near the



market. Next to it, Vladimir Zhanov's bronze sculptures — 'Horse and Sparrow', 'Lady with a Dog' and 'Photographer' — were installed, as was Oleg Kupriyanov's 'Marketwoman Trading Sunflower Seeds'.

May 20th is the 550th anniversary of the discovery of the Zhirovichi Icon of the Mother of God and the 500th anniversary since the foundation of the Holy Assumption Zhirovichi Monastery. The Zhirovichi icon is widely known both as a miraculous object



and as a unique artistic, historical and cultural phenomenon. This is the smallest of the revered icons of the Mother of God — an oval plate of jasper (5.6cm by 4.4cm) with a relief image of the Virgin Mary and the Christ child. Valued by Orthodox believers and Greek Catholics, she is the patroness of Belarus and is included in the list of 100 most significant Orthodox icons in the world. The Zhirovichi monastery was founded in 1520; it has not been closed for centuries, and today it is the largest Orthodox centre in the country.