

Impressive clusters engaged in developments in the field of nano technology have already been formed

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Lake Svityaz is among one of those sights that's easy to be enraptured by



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Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial

Duty to ancestors and descendants

It was from the Brest Fortress that the great feat of the Soviet people over Nazi Germany took the count. Decades later, the citadel's defence remains a model of loyalty, heroism and boundless love to the Motherland. On June 22nd, the National Day in Memory of the Victims of the Great Patriotic War, the Head of State visited the Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial Complex. Here, on the day when the war began, the traditional commemorative event was held. The President laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame and honoured the memory of these courageous heroes, also talking to veterans and participants of the ceremony. → 3



Honest work is the key to prosperity

The President made a working trip to the Grodno Region. In Grodno, the Head of State held a meeting with the region's authorities and visited Grodno Azot JSC. Aleksandr Lukashenko made special emphasis on the fact that every corner of Belarusian land is dear to him, saying, "My Motherland is Belarus. I started my election campaign from here, the Grodno Region, and served in the border troops in Brest. The Gomel Region will forever remain in my heart: I lived through the most difficult times of my presidency with the Gomel Region when we were mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Vitebsk hosts the *Slavianski Bazaar* festival every year and it was in Mogilev that I spent my childhood and youth."

Possibilities for development

The Head of State highlighted the state of affairs in some sectors of the country and said he sees good opportunities for the country's economic development, "It's possible to live well. We simply need to get everyone out of this pandemic as quickly as possible since the economy is export-oriented. The sooner the world opens up after this disease, the better it will be for Belarus."

Aleksandr Lukashenko was informed about the construction of new public and social facilities in Grodno, including in the health sector. Development of the city's road network and construction of a bypass ring road were also discussed. The President supported these projects, promising to help them find funds where necessary.

In the near future, the Belarusian nuclear power plant will start operating in the Grodno Region. It's the largest facility in the country's history and is of great importance for ensuring energy security, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed.

As for the safety of the station, the President said, "The issue of security is more important for me, as for you, than for Lithuania, Poland or Germany. If we want to have highly developed tech-



nology, cheap electric energy and move around in electric cars, we must do this. We'll see as time passes. The big picture is best seen from a distance."

Profitable investments

Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined the country's priorities in attracting investment when he met the Grodno Region's authorities. "Good investments mean wealth for both the people and the region. We need to decide on the main facilities that we will build in the next five years," he said.

The Head of State then visited Grodno Azot JSC. The company plans to build a new nitrogen complex; the facility will cover an additional 500 hectares. At the moment, Grodno Azot already occupies an area of 500 hectares, and the production volumes at the enterprises will be the same.

Reminder of topical matters

Answering questions from employees of Grodno Azot, the President noted that Belarus and other countries have already faced a surge of various viruses

in different years and managed to cope with all the problems. "We'll get over it as well. There have not been coronaviruses in our history such as this one, but we are alive. The key is to save our land, our piece of land — for yourselves and for our children," he stressed.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also said that wages in Belarus should be higher. "We will strive to double our salary in the next five years — especially among teachers and doctors. It is not good that our doctors, teachers and cultural workers have such low salaries. This is because we are not doing very well in the economy... We will hold the elections properly, don't worry. The main thing is not to lose the country, not to give it over to those who are not dynamic or who promise to throw money around, saying that investors will come and bring many benefits. Investors will come from abroad but they will say: we won't pay taxes, give us cheap raw materials, and the people will have a salary of \$300. They will take everything out of our people, out of the country, pay no taxes, go away and sell out. We do not need investments like this," the President stressed.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

To make things easy, not complicate matters

A meeting with the President tackled approaches aimed at improving administrative responsibility measures. The major message from Aleksandr Lukashenko, voiced at the meeting, is that the legal norms that will be adopted as a result of changes in administrative legislation should ease people's lives, not complicate it. The Head of State believes that, "Prohibitions and restrictions should remain only where they are objectively necessary: if there is a risk of harm to the life and health of citizens, in emergencies."

Life changes

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that an interdepartmental expert commission had been working on the draft Code on Administrative Offenses and the draft Procedural Law Code for Administrative Offenses for six months.

The President emphasised that following the codes, it is necessary to review departmental instructions and other acts of a sub-legislative level, removing unnecessary bureaucratic requirements.

The Head of State added

that the improvement of legislation will continue in the future, by analogy with how this has happened with the regulations governing administrative legal relations. In particular, such work will be carried out in the field of criminal law.

"Quite a lot of time has passed and life has changed. New and existing laws must be in sync with the pace of life, the lifestyle of our people and the functioning of the state," noted Mr. Lukashenko. "There is no need to reduce everything down to nothing as a result

of reforms and expect that we will build something entirely new from the rubble. We need to follow the path we have taken to develop these rules (on administrative responsibility), taking into account what has already been done."

The Head of State noted that such work is already underway. It began three years ago as part of the liberalisation of the business environment.

"This work should not stop. This is a direct order. We need to think about how to work with people all the time. Legal



Olga Chupris

norms should make people's lives easier, not vice versa."

Justice first

Following the meeting, Olga Chupris answered journalists' questions in detail. According to her, Aleksandr Lukashenko generally approved the draft codes proposed by the interdepartmental commission. Therefore, they will be submitted to Parliament next week so that, as previously planned, from 2021 the documents will enter into force.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Phone conversation

Belarus' President Aleksandr Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation, said the Head of State's spokesperson, Natalya Eismont, speaking to the media, BELTA announced.

According to her, the talk focused on three main topics. "The first one was the pandemic. The heads of state discussed in detail the situation with the coronavirus in Russia and Belarus, its development and ways of counteracting it," said Ms. Eismont.

In particular, Vladimir Putin spoke about a new medication developed in Russia based on Japanese medicines. "This is a brand new drug and, as has been noted, it is effective and works well. In this regard, Vladimir Putin

suggested using this drug in Belarus, if necessary. According to the Belarusian President, the drug will be purchased in the necessary amount and used for treatment," said the spokeswoman.

The second topic was the parade which will be held in Moscow and the third important topic was the situation in the economy.

On June 19th, Belarus and Russia signed an agreement on the mutual recognition of visas. After the document comes into force, foreigners will not need to obtain two visas to stay in both countries: they will be able to visit them using the national visa of just one.



Lukashenko invites Zelensky to pay an official visit to Belarus

The Ambassador of Belarus to Ukraine, Igor Sokol, has met the Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Ihor Zhovkva, to discuss the state and prospects of the development of the Belarusian-Ukrainian co-operation in trade, economy and humanitarian affairs. The agenda of the meeting also included preparations for the 3rd Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine due in Grodno in October.

"The Ukrainian party was given an invitation from Belarus' President Aleksandr Lukashenko to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky to visit Belarus in 2020 and take part in the 3rd Forum of Regions," the Embassy noted.

In addition, the Ukrainian party also received embroidered shirts for the Ukrainian President and his spouse as a gift from the Head of State of Belarus. According to the Embassy, in a letter

that accompanied the present, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that a Belarusian embroidered shirt highlights the unique character, cultural ties and close relations of the peoples of Belarus and Ukraine and expressed the hope that these embroidered shirts will become a talisman and a sign of deep friendship between Belarusians and Ukrainians.

Based on materials of belta.by



Duty to ancestors and descendants



The President talks to veterans

We remember!

The memory of the war events is particularly important to ensure that nothing of the kind will happen again. The President stressed, “As soon as we forget it, we may once again plunge into chaos, division and a destabilisation of the country, we will create a new war. That is why we came here today, so that what happened here would never be seen again. This is not just an ordinary ritual. It is a memory so that we and our children will never have to face such problems.”

The Head of State believes that it’s important to resolve any issue peacefully. “In time, we’ll see the results. The only thing I will ask you: never (regardless of whether I’m in office or not) enable anyone to bully, intimidate or humiliate you. Such times are already in the past. We’ve managed to strengthen ourselves and create our own state. The main task is to protect it... I have always told you that I will not allow anyone to use force to solve problems that should be solved peacefully, politically, on the basis of our laws,” he stressed.

Effective army

Aleksandr Lukashenko later visited the 38th Brest Independent Guards Air Assault Vienna Red Banner Brigade in Brest. The Head of State was briefed on

the history of the brigade and its combat capabilities. He familiarised himself with samples of armaments and military equipment in service, as well as the living conditions of the servicemen.

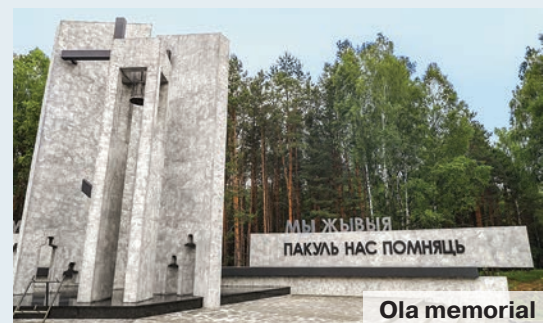
The President also met the brigade soldiers, saying, “Belarus has established and effectively operates a national security system based on the Armed Forces. I have set a task: if we want to protect our-



Borki memorial

escape were shot and thrown into the fire alive. A total of 1,758 civilians were killed there, including 950 children. After the war, the village was never restored. The President promised to support the creation of a memorial complex in this place last December, during his talk with students and teachers of medical universities. He also promised to come to the opening of the memorial. Eventually, this day has come.

“Even after the fall of the Hitler regime, the ideas of fascism do not remain in the past,” Aleksandr Lukashenko stated. “I will tell you honestly: Belarusians cannot let fascism and hatred exist under the banner of democracy in their own land. They would never do this.”



Ola memorial

On June 22nd, the National Day in Memory of the Victims of the Great Patriotic War, the Head of State visited the Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial Complex. Here, on the day when the war began, the traditional commemorative event was held. The President laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame and honoured the memory of these courageous heroes, also talking to veterans and participants of the ceremony.

The feat of the Brest garrison has become a symbol of the invincibility of our brotherly neighbours and the common heritage of the former Soviet republics, believes the President. “Sadly, not all citizens of these now independent states view themselves as inheritors of that heroic history,” he said. “The descendants of traitors and betrayers have their own truth and their own victory which they intend to use to win on the ideological front. Losers need a focus for revenge. Their initiatives have already become part of the state policy of certain countries but I’m deeply convinced that the national memory will overcome all in our time as well.”

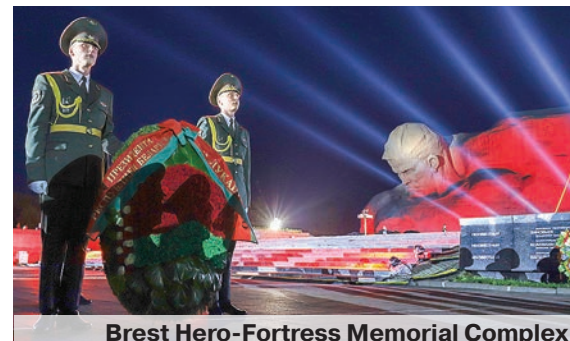
selves, we must produce the bulk of our ammunition and weapons ourselves.”

Maintaining the combat capability of the Armed Forces is especially important in the context of worsening global contradictions, when military escalation is increasing, and the role of international organisations — including the UN and the OSCE — is devalued, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. “We are taking steps to further enhance the prestige of military service. We will do everything for this,” the President assured. “We provided great benefits to those who have served in the army so that the men who served in the army for a year and a half or two years would not say that he wasted the time.”

During the meeting, he noted that no democracy exists in any country in the form it is believed to be. The President stressed that the fiercest competition — primarily in the economy — always forms the basis of policy.

At the same time, he added that, in Belarus, most people are coming to understanding that the way chosen in the country to respond to the COVID epidemic was correct. Otherwise, the niches of Belarusian companies in the world markets would have been simply occupied by others and it would be unlikely to restore production and the economy on the previous scales.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial Complex

Two new memorial complexes — Borki in the Kirov District and Ola in the Svetlogorsk District — have recently been unveiled, with the President taking part in the opening ceremonies.

The tragedy of the village of Borki and surrounding localities is known as one of the biggest on the territory of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War. As a result of a punitive operation, over 2,000 civilians were killed. A group of young architects decided to embody the horror of those days in a memorial.

Ola’s story is no less bitter: on the morning of January 14th, 1944, a German detachment surrounded the village where residents of 11 neighbouring settlements had previously moved. People were driven into the houses which were then set on fire. Those who tried to

By Polina Konoga,
Yevgeny Kononovich

Opening the event, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that he closely monitors what is happening in the country and conducts an open dialogue with people. “Today, the focus of all political interest centres on Belarus — from both the West and the East. I see that certain forces have become more active and are beginning to become more intense, affecting the situation in the country. We have seen this coming for a long time. However, we managed to take steps to thwart a large-scale plan to destabilise Belarus (this is not a joke or threat) and lead the country to revolt. That was the goal. Masks have been torn from certain ‘puppets’ that we had here and also ‘puppeteers’ who remain outside Belarus,” he said.

The President particularly noted, “I

Supreme values

Belarus’ sovereignty, support for the economy, business, citizens and the responsibility of banks were the focus of attention at the President’s meeting

want you to understand that I will not allow anyone to break this country in any way, both in my functional duties as President under the Constitution and as a person who has spent his whole life creating this independent sovereign state... For me, there is no greater value than Belarus — a sovereign and independent country.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, certain political forces are now trying to

use people, including underage teenagers, for their own purposes. The President asks parents to watch their children more closely, “Explain to them that it’s inadmissible to break the law. I don’t want children to get themselves into difficult situations. I ask you to take this into account. Don’t make heroes out of thieves, these bankers and other scammers who are sitting there in Belgazprombank.”

Unite resources and help people

The President states there is no disaster in the Belarusian economy but there are some problems related to states’ lockdown due to the pandemic and to the fact that the global economy has not yet unwound. Moreover, many are talking about the second wave of the coronavirus epidemic.

Aleksandr Lukashenko’s principal demand is to support people. In this regard, he mentioned the payment of wages, especially in private enterprises, “It is necessary to concentrate and unite all our resources to help people. Fortunately, under my pressure, their salaries were at least paid. There are still some companies who’ve failed to do this but these are private firms and other measures need to be applied to them. Their heads had money to holiday in the Canaries or Goa but don’t pay wages to their staff. We’ll investigate this...”

New working formats



By Olga Korneeva

The Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladimir Ulakhovich, said, “We know that the private sector is not accustomed to waiting for a long time for things to improve on their own, this is why our chamber and the enterprises that belong to the system of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have actively worked on mastering new formats of co-operation. The first virtual expo, which starts today, confirms this.”

Speaking of the theme of the expo, Mr. Ulakhovich stressed it had not been chosen by accident. “Agriculture and

food are topics of special importance for all countries. I’m talking about food supplies, the availability of organic food and a number of other areas. Belarus has always maintained a very high standing on the global market as a food supplier and has been one of the leaders in this field. Last year, Belarusian companies exported over \$5.5bn of food. We export it to 104 countries across the globe and, in 2019 alone, Belarusian products were introduced into ten new African countries. However, our producers have no intention of stopping. They will continue going step by step towards the \$6bn milestone,” the official emphasised.

Made in Belarus #AgroFood has been organised under the aegis of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Over 100 best developments of scientific and innovative organisations presented at the *Made in Belarus #AgroFood* virtual exhibition of Belarusian goods and manufacturers held in the Republic for the first time

with the assistance of industry-specific ministries and state agencies, chambers of commerce and industry and business associations of a number of countries.

More than thirty Belarusian organisations and enterprises are featured at the exhibition, occupying two pavilions: ‘Agro’ and ‘Food’. Each virtual stand presents product samples, videos and business offers. Visitors can be welcomed with a video greeting and chat with a manager of a company in a text chat.

The ‘Agro’ pavilion showcases agricultural equipment and technologies. The stand of the State Committee on Science and Technology demonstrates Belarusian R&D solutions including fertilisers and plant protection products, feed and feed additives, veterinary drugs, technologies for reinforcing and restoring parts of agricultural machinery and a separator for planting material. The National Academy of Sciences presents such developments as a greenhouse electric lighting system, a self-propelled flax baler, new varieties of wheat, immuno-enzyme kits for the anal-

ysis of mycotoxins in grain, legumes and oilseeds.

In turn, the ‘Food’ pavilion offers new products from Belarusian food and beverage manufacturers. Belarusian scientific organisations demonstrate developments in the food industry: i.e. the technology of producing oxidation-resistant dietary supplements based on flaxseed oil, technology of making hypoallergenic children’s biscuits, edible packaging films, vitamin-mineral premixes for functional food, phyto-salts, new technologies to produce vegetable juices, technology to manufacture vegetable oils with a balanced composition of polyunsaturated fatty acids, innovative pasta and dry dairy products.

As part of the *Made in Belarus #AgroFood* virtual show, an international online agricultural forum was held to discuss the impact of the pandemic in different countries on the agro-industrial complex and foreign trade in agricultural products. The exhibition platform is open to the public in demo mode until July 19th, 2020.

Belarusian cheese in Tokyo



By Irina Sergeeva

On June 14th, Belarusian dairy products by domestic exporters — Savushkin Product JSC and Turov Dairy Plant JSC — went on sale in the Nissin

Belarusian cheese and other dairy producers have found their way into the Japanese retail chain, Nissin World Delicatessen, announced the Belarusian Embassy in Japan

World Delicatessen retail chain in Tokyo.

“Over the past few years, Belarusian dairy exporters, in co-operation with their partners from Japan, have done a great job of accessing the premium Japanese market. Today, residents of Tokyo and other Japanese cities, as well as foreign tourists

can assess the quality, organic features and a variety of Belarusian dairy products,” said the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Japan, Ruslan Yesin.

Belarus exported over \$1.8m of milk and dairy products to Japan in 2018; in 2019, the figure exceeded \$3.3m.

New resident at the Park

A new resident — Lithuanian-Belarusian ESS Group — registered at the Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park to produce electric scooters and charging stations



By Arina Novikova

Electric scooters will boast a cruising range of up to 100km, which is more than that of the existing models. In addition, the company plans to develop software and management systems for an electric scooter sharing system.

The Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park is an economic zone with a special legal regime, located 25km from Minsk. Residents from 15 countries are registered in there. The Park’s priority businesses include mechanical engineering, electronics and telecommunications, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, new materials, logistics, e-commerce, storage and processing of large volumes of data.

Valuable support

Belarusian banks provide credit holidays to over 6,000 clients

By Svetlana Savelieva

“In total, in March-May, banks provided credit holidays to more than 6,000 clients to the amount of about \$840m. Of these, about 2,800 are legal entities and 3,300 individuals. For example, the country’s largest bank — ASB Belarusbank JSC — alone satisfied about 90 percent of requests it received from small and medium-sized businesses to restructure and defer loans,” announced the press service of the Association of Belarusian Banks.

Apart from reducing the debt burden, banks are taking additional measures to help businesses and citizens: reduction of tariffs and free packages of services to preferential



projects with delivery services, transport companies and other services. At the same time, special attention is being given to the most affected sectors, such as tourism, passenger transportation and catering. For example,

BNB-Bank provides free services to businesses in the areas of tourism and passenger transportation, while BSB Bank has developed a free package of services for public catering and MTBank offers new customers cash and settlement services at a 90 percent discount.

“Banks will continue to take all the necessary measures to support both the real sector of the economy and citizens and reduce the adverse consequences caused by the pandemic,” said Anna Kovaleva, the Acting Chair of the Association of Belarusian Banks. “Credit and financial organisations are ready to increase the volume of support but at the same time they are waiting for an increase in the activity of customers themselves who often — when experiencing problems with loan repayment — fail to contact banks in a timely manner with the appropriate request. In addition, in order to minimise cases of refusal of credit holidays, it is necessary to properly prepare and submit to a bank a set of documents confirming a difficult financial state.”

Impressive clusters engaged in developments in the field of nano technology have already been formed in our country

In search of new competitive advantages for their products, many manufacturers are moving to the nano scale. The scope of application of nano technology is wide: from optics and electronics to fertilisers and new coatings. Our country is also keeping up with the times: clusters engaged in developments in the field have been established.

By Igor Svetlov

Association of clusters

The First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus — Sergey Chizhik — noted at a conference held at the Press House that new technologies require large investments but are already producing tangible results. “The National Academy of Sciences has attempted to structure its work through the Republican Association of Nano Industry. We’ve united about 30 organisations of various forms of ownership in 7 clusters as part of this association,” he explained.

Among these unions is a cluster of precision nano scale processing. According to Mr. Chizhik, unique results have been achieved in this sphere regarding the creation of super-smooth surfaces in optics. “We have implemented these approaches at our enterprises — i.e. Planar scientific-production association. The company’s equipment range has already been delivered to China,” he added.

In turn, the Centre for Nano Diagnostics and Scanning Probe Technologies focuses on creating equipment to diagnose at nano scale level. It is used in electronics, materials science laboratories, industry and cellular technologies: i.e. it’s possible to determine pathologies at cellular level.

In addition, a new direction for the development of nano carbon materials has been explored. Nano structured materials are also used in the production of paints and they strengthen the properties of concrete. A cluster of magnetic nano materials and coatings was also established and, thanks to it, electromagnetic protective screens are now being produced. In turn, the cluster enterprises for ion-plasma technologies and equipment are engaged in the production of solar panels and mod-

ifications of electronic products. There are also a number of companies that develop membrane technologies — creating filter elements for oil and gas processing. Development of nano fertilisers also seems an interesting area; it’s being overseen by the cluster engaged in the creation of microelement nano substances.

Intersectoral perspectives

Mr. Chizhik noted that the nano industry could hardly be viewed as a separate branch as it penetrates into all spheres. Everywhere nano technology promises good results but is also associated with high risks. “Many advocate

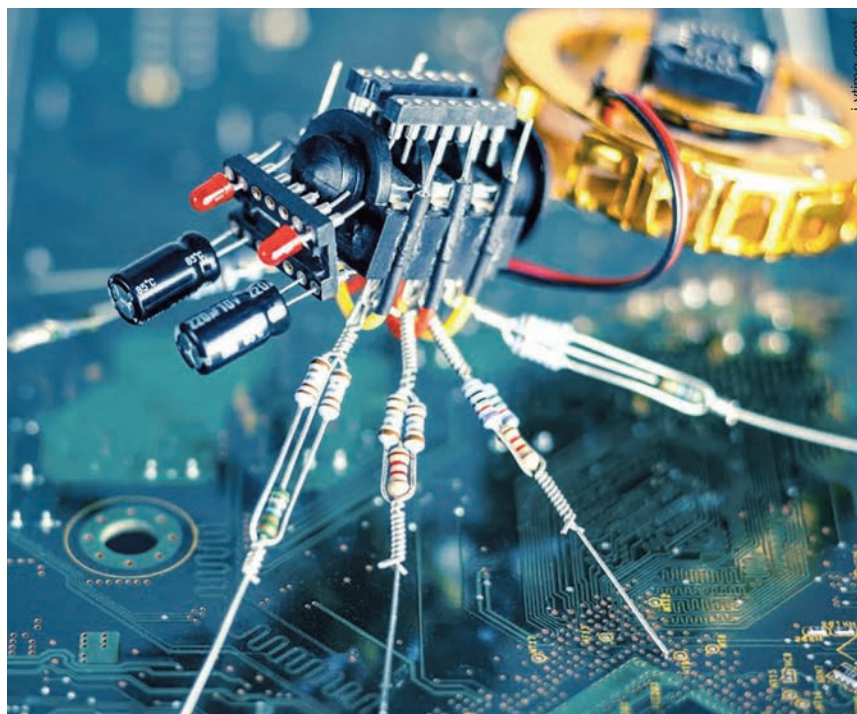


Sergey Chizhik

deeper penetration of nano technologies into the real sector. However, this is a risky idea since nano technology in mass production could prove ineffective: the larger the production, the more difficult it is to control it. Matters of this kind should be developed from a small business. Some of our companies have already successfully passed the first stage and are developing further,” he said.

At the same time, Mr. Chizhik drew attention to the fact that the country has examples of successful application of nano technology in large enterprises, “These are, for example, Integral JSC

Nano size produces a super effect



Nano technologies are intersectoral in nature and have great prospects for use

in our country, nano technology is already actively used in mechanical engineering, “They are intersectoral in nature and have great prospects for use. As for mechanical engineering, the most extensive co-operation is established in the field of opto- and microelectronics.”

and Planar. They reach a resolution of 65 nano metres in their equipment. Planar, for example, competes today with American firms in tenders for the production of sophisticated high-precision equipment.”

In turn, the Deputy Head of the Department, the Head of Innovation at the Industry Ministry’s Sci-Tech Department, Sergey Kabishov, also noted that,

According to Mr. Kabishov, a cluster of innovative instrumentation operates in the country; it unites the largest enterprises of the industry: holdings. At the same time, microelectronics is not the only field where nano technology achievements are used. There are broad prospects for their implementation in the field of metallurgy and foundry production.

NEWS IN BRIEF

COVID-19 patients will receive free medicines



In Belarus, patients with coronavirus who are being treated at home will receive antibacterial drugs, purchased from the local budget.

The list of diseases that entitle citizens to free prescription drugs for doctors includes ‘Infection caused by the COVID-19 coronavirus’, the Healthcare Ministry reports. In Belarus, some of those infected with coronavirus stay at home, where they receive the necessary treatment. This group includes patients with light to moderate forms of the disease, including mild pneumonia.

Economies of the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) countries start moving towards recovery

Such data is provided by bank analysts in the information and analytical review of EDB for May 2020. EDB member countries are Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.



The largest losses in the wake of the pandemic were suffered by organisations from the service industry. Large losses were also noted in the light industry sector while pandemic COVID-19 least affected the enterprises of EDB member countries manufacturing food products and pharmaceuticals, the construction sphere, as well as productions using a continuous cycle (mining and petrochemical industry).

Ball of lightning observed in Belarus

On one of the days last week, around noon, a ball of lightning swept into one of the gardens of the agro-town of Brashevichi in the Drogichin District. The owner was mowing grass when he suddenly saw a small ball of fire.

Local residents who spoke about the incident to the sb.by noted that there was no thunderstorm and rain at that time in their village. True, the sun was very warm and



there was a large amount of evaporation. The ball of lightning disappeared as unexpectedly as it appeared. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The nature of lightning, especially ball lightning, has been little studied; regardless, it poses a serious danger.

Belarusian-Chinese strategic partnership is comprehensive

This fact was noted by the deputy foreign ministers of the two countries — Andrei Dapkiunas and Le Yucheng — during online consultations between the foreign ministries of Belarus and China.

The diplomats discussed the prospects for exchanging state visits at top level, alongside the expansion of the Great Stone Industrial Park and investment projects.

The two parties paid special attention to the initiative of holding the Year of Regions of Belarus and China. The parties assured each other of further mutual support in the international arena and in multilateral formats of co-operation.





9-year-old Ilya Idelchik is one of the participants of the *Kind Doctor* campaign

By Maria Kucherova

The Chief Doctor of hospital No. 10, Viktor Isachkin, called the exhibition 'a ray of light', "It's nice to look at our work through children's eyes, to feel its importance. These drawings arouse many good feelings. I'm happy to see smiles on the faces of healthcare workers, even masked, when they are look at how children view them. Thank you for such a heartfelt event."

The youngest participant of the exhibition (recently turned 5), is Bogdan Leonov, who approached his work from a scientific point of view, "I drew a picture of the body fighting the coronavirus.

Here it is, in the middle and macrophages are destroying it around. I learned about them from a book my mother read to me. These are such useful cells. It is difficult for doctors now, as this virus is very complex. However, they are doing their best. I want to support all the doctors and patients with my drawing, I know that we will definitely beat it. I'll be a fireman when I grow up. I will also save people."

The exhibition will move on to Minsk's hospital No. 2 and afterwards Alfa Radio employees have promised to present the drawings to medical institutions. Doctors say they greatly appreciate this, though regret that the campaign is temporary.

Drawing a doctor with a sunbeam

An exhibition of children's drawings in support of doctors opened at Minsk's clinical hospital No. 10. Posters with children's works also decorated the billboards of the city's central avenues. The *Kind Doctor* campaign has been timed by employees of Belarus Segodnya Publishing House's Alfa Radio to coincide with Medical Workers' Day. "No one is as sincere as a child," believes marketing specialist Alina Provotorova. "We really wanted to present this sincere childlike warmth to doctors — so that they would breathe and smile at least for a minute," she adds. Over fifty drawings and messages of thanks to doctors for their hard work have been sent in three weeks by children from all over Belarus: Minsk, Volkovysk, Zaslavl, Gomel, Novosady, Beloozersk, Petrishki and elsewhere.

Healthcare workers receive medals and gratitude from Belarus' President

Aleksandr Lukashenko signed a decree according to which eight doctors were awarded the medal 'For Labour Merits' for their long-term fruitful work, high professionalism, great personal contribution to public health protection and significant achievements in research activities.

In addition, 18 doctors were awarded the President's special thanks for many years of fruitful work, high professionalism, and significant personal contribution to the provision of medical care to the population.

Japanese fashion design in Belarusian style

Vitebsk's Victoria Alferenok has won the international fashion design competition in Japan for the second time. The first time, the young designer sent a sketch of a bag and, last year, a hat which were recognised as best in their categories.

By Svetlana Savelyeva

In 2019, the contest celebrated its 30th anniversary, having been international since 2018. It was then that the Vitebsk artist decided to try her hand. Sketches of works in one of the categories had to be sent to the jury: bags, headgear, footwear, belts and small leather goods (accessories). "The winning designs are then turned by Tokyo craftsmen into real items. These products are put into exhibitions and are displayed in Japanese stores and sent to manufacturers," said craftswoman Victoria Alferenok.

In 2018, a sketch of a bag brought victory to the young girl. The Belarusian designer's innovation was appreciated in the Land of the Rising Sun. "The idea came to me to make the side of the bag in the shape of folds of paper, with a reference to origami. This element works functionally, and the lining inside repeats every bend," said the designer.



BELTA

Victoria Alferenok admits that during her first visit to the awards ceremony, the Japanese were surprised by the guests from Belarus.

"There were no Europeans there, except for my husband and me. We were interesting to everyone," recalls the Vitebsk resident.

A fashion design competition is held in a Tokyo area called Taito. Historically, a base for artisans who worked with leather was formed there. One of the tasks of the creative competition is to support and revive the traditions of leather in Japanese art. The Belarusian has also made her own contribution. Last year, Victoria Alferenok's hat pattern was the best in its category. Japanese artisans will sew a hat to summarise the results of the 2020 competition. Moreover, the works by the Belarusian and other winners can now be launched into mass production.

Art installation in the colours of Suprematism

Sculpted letters forming the word 'MOBA' [language] unveiled near a pedestrian bridge for the 1,000th anniversary of Vitebsk — becoming the fourth art installation as part of the *Grandeur of Native Language* project

By Natalia Yemelyanova

According to the author of the idea — sculptor Pavel Voinitsky, the colours were chosen to show the historical and natural differences of all the regions of Belarus. For Vitebsk, this is a combination of yellow, blue, terracotta, red and black. It is easy to recognise the colours of Suprematism — an art movement founded by one of the most famous artists of the 20th century, Kazimir Malevich. It was in Vitebsk a hundred years ago that he gathered like-minded people to establish UNOVIS. Bright colours then decorated Vitebsk streets, buildings and trams.

"This project fits beautifully the cultural events that have taken place in Vitebsk and Belarus recently: the celebration of the UNOVIS 100th anniversary, numerous exhibitions, events

and performances," says Andrey Dukhovnikov, the Director of the Vitebsk Centre of Contemporary Art. "This topic is very important and relevant not only for experts but also for many art fans. Apart from being interesting for its plastic construction and colour solutions, the new artwork is important as a symbol, a starting point for understanding the meaning of language as the most important cultural component in the national consciousness."

'MOBA' artworks have already been installed in Gomel, Brest and Mogilev. Grodno and Minsk are next in line. The project idea is based on the works of famous Belarusian ethnographer and art historian, Mikhas Romanyuk, as well as on the concept of the designer, painter and poet — Mikhail Anempodistov — described by him in the *Colour of Belarus* book.



Aleksey Matsushko



Bewitching Lake Svityaz

Belarus is famous for its natural beauty which has a special allure for those who experience it. Lake Svityaz is among one of those sights that's easy to be enraptured by. This priceless gem surrounded by emerald forests is glorified in legends and painted by artists.

By Alla Bibikova

In a company of the Director of the Svityazyansky Republican Landscape Reserve — Yekaterina Litvin — and her colleagues, we wander through the forest paths. The young woman lovingly describes the local sights. Her dedication is heart warming: clearly, she's the right person for the job.

“The natural core of the reserve and our main pride is Lake Svityaz — with its exceptionally clear water. It's one of the most beautiful in Belarus and the largest in the Grodno Region. According to geologists, Svityaz is a ‘karst’ type lake, its basin formed about 13,000 years ago,” says Ms. Litvin.

The lake is associated with many legends and one of them was used by Adam Mickiewicz in his *Svityaz* ballad. It describes how, in the 13th century, on the site of the lake was the city of Svityaz, ruled by Prince Tugan. When Novogrudok was besieged, the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Mindaugas, asked Tugan for help. He gathered an army and moved to Novogrudok, leaving only the elderly, women and children in his city. His enemies took their advantage and began to storm Svityaz. Realising their plight, the remaining residents set fire to their homes and prayed for help and protection. Then, a white mist fell over the city and, when it cleared, a wonderful lake shone in its place. All its residents had turned into flowers, and when the enemies touched them, they immediately died...

Adam Mickiewicz dedicated three ballads to this lake: *Svityaz*, *Svityazyanka* and *The Fish*. It's no coincidence that it is included in the ‘Mickiewicz's Routes’ tourist trail. Poetry festivals are also traditionally held here. It is not only the surrounding beauty and legends that attract creative and inquisitive people from all around the world: people come here to recuperate. The Svityaz health resort is sit-



uated on its banks; the facility is a branch of the Magistralny sanatorium owned by Belarusian Railways.

The lake is surrounded by unique forests. Tall pines, dense spruce forests, birch groves, age-old mighty oaks and aspens delight the eye. There are also exotic species — such as Siberian larch, red oak and Laurel poplar. A 300 year old oak also grows here. The mighty giant is more than 20 metres tall and has a trunk circumference of about two metres. The tree has been declared a protected natural monument. Though old, it is healthy and not hollow. Specialists say the tree may live for another two centuries.

In the coastal zone and the lake itself are many rare plants: Lobelia Dortman, quill wort and rare European shoreweed; the latter is seen only in Belarus. However, the most mysterious plant is tetradinium javanicum which, apart from our reserve, grows only on the island of Java. In total, the Red Book of Belarus includes 22 species of plants which grow in Svityazyansky.

The wildlife on the reserve is no less diverse, including 98 species of birds, 39 species of mammals, 6 species of

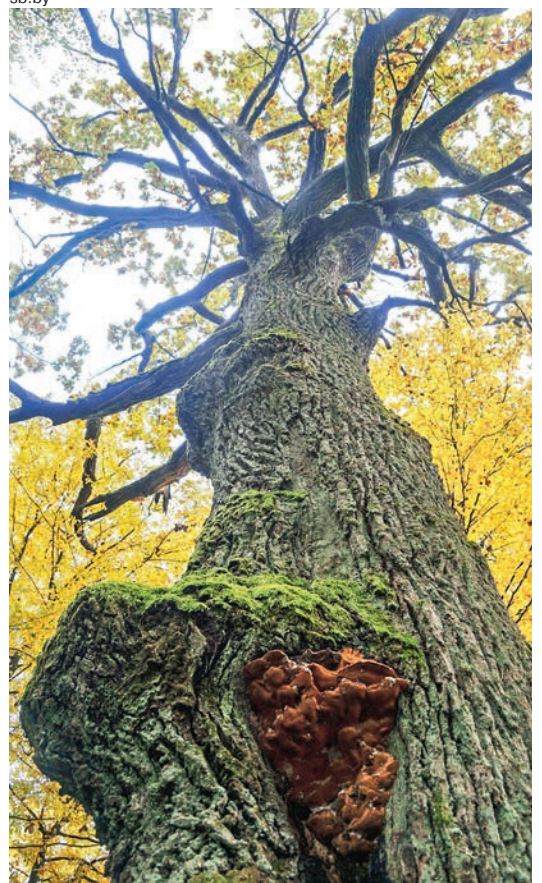


According to rumours, Undines — or water nymphs, which the locals call ‘svityazanka’ — come to the banks of Svityaz. A sculpture of one of them rises above the surface of the lake — created by Vladimir Terebun.

amphibians and 5 species of reptiles. The habitats of 5 species of rare animals, as well as 12 species of birds of pan-European importance are registered here. In Svityazyansky, the black stork, lesser spotted eagle, hobby falcon, little owl, long-tailed owl and badger can be found. Roach, rudd, tench, gudgeon, perch, ruff and pike are found in the lake, in addition to the Planorbis clam found only in the waters of Belgium, France and Germany. Scientists still do not know how these organisms came to be in the isolated lake.

In 2015, the reserve became a participant in the project *Assistance to the Transition of the Republic of Belarus to a Green Economy* funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP. In particular, an ecological information centre was built on the shores of the lake, where it's possible to learn about the local flora and fauna. There is also an opportunity to enjoy an obstacle course, visit a phyto-club and a photo area connected with Adam Mickiewicz. Visitors can explore nature on ecological trails.

Nearby is the tourist and hunting complex of Novogrudok Forestry where guests can spend a few days alone with nature; here, there is a children's health camp and several farmsteads. Part of the reserve is located near the agricultural town of Valevka where the wooden Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, built in 1685, has been preserved. It intertwined the traditions of Belarusian wooden architecture of the late 17th-early 20th century. The carved gilded iconostasis painted by famous Russian artist Victor Vasnetsov is of great value. It was



brought to the village of Valevka from the St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral in Warsaw, destroyed in 1926.

In Valevka, there's a signpost to Chombrov where there was once a noble mansion often visited by Adam Mickiewicz in his childhood. Only its basements and fragments of the foundations have been preserved and several trees remind us of the beauty of the lime alley. Not far from the estate there's a newly restored chapel.

These many sacred and special places are unique in cultural and scientific terms, as well as being beautiful and romantic places to visit. Come and see for yourself and enjoy the wonders of the bewitching Lake Svityaz.

THE MT REFERENCE

- Svityazyansky Republican Landscape Reserve is located mainly in the Novogrudok District, a small part of it lies in the Korelichy Area.
- The total area of the reserve is 1,193.79 hectares. It is located on the southern slopes of the Novogrudok upland, the relief of which was formed by

- glacial course-moraine and water-glacial deposits of the Dnieper and Sozh glaciations about 200,000 years ago.
- The reserve includes 46 natural ecosystems of which 7 are especially valuable biotopes.
- The area of Lake Svityaz is 1.76 square kilometres and its depth is about 15m.

A son of Slovakian partisan awarded the partisan-country order

According to Belarusian President's press service, the diplomat was awarded in recognition of his personal contribution to strengthening friendly relations and development of co-operation between Belarus and Slovakia

As the Head of the Mission of the Slovak Republic in our country, Josef Migas is remembered by Belarusians as a true diplomat who aims to build rather

than destroy bridges between peoples. On May 9th, he took part in a landmark parade in Minsk on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of victory in the Great

Patriotic War. However, after that, the Ambassador had to resign.

The President of Belarus called the participation of the Slovak Ambassador in the parade in honour of the 75th anniversary of the Great Victory a worthy act and expressed confusion about the official position of the Slovak leadership.

Josef Migas is the son of a partisan, a direct participant of the SNP (Slovak National Uprising). Belarus is a partisan-country...

In conversation with Slovakia's *Denník N — Nezávislý Denník*, Mr. Migas stated, "While participating in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the end of the war, I thanked and paid tribute to Belarusians. I am the son of a partisan, a direct member of the SNP. Freedom from fascism is a fundamental value for me. 50 million people who died in WWII will remain an eternal memory



Josef Migas

for us and for the next generation. Let's stop national fascism today, before it escalates and spreads."

Slovakia became a separate republic after the Munich agreements of 1938 and, during WWII, existed as a Slovak state dependent on the Third Reich. In response to the introduction of the new Nazi order on the territory of Czechoslovakia, a widespread people's antifascist resistance unfolded. Its high point was the Slovak national uprising of 1944.

At present, Belarus and Slovakia play the role of a bridge between Central and Eastern Europe. As members of the Central European Initiative, our countries strive to promote sustainable relations between the states of Central, Western and Eastern Europe, as well as to prevent the formation of new dividing lines in the European region. Diplomat Josef Migas fulfilled this mission flawlessly.



Minsk parade, May 9th, 2020

Borders. Everyone decides for themselves

Many countries — members of the European Union — in accordance with the recommendations of the European Commission, have begun to gradually open internal borders in mid-June against the backdrop of the approaching summer tourist season, European media report

Czech Republic

The Czech authorities will remove restrictions on travel for both their citizens to other EU countries and for the entry into the Czech Republic by citizens from other states — members of the EU, which are considered, according to local health services as 'green' — safe from an epidemiological point of view. Those arriving from the so-called yellow zone, including France, Italy and Spain, will have to carry a medical certificate confirming the absence of coronavirus.

France

The country has opened its borders immediately for all EU members, as well as Andorra, Iceland, Monaco, Norway, Switzerland and the Vatican. Local authorities will not require medical certificates from citizens of these states, nor will they be sent into mandatory quarantine. The exceptions are Spain and the UK; in France, there is a two-week quarantine for people entering the country from these two countries.

Germany

The country has removed border restrictions for residents of the EU, as well as those of Switzerland and the UK. However, restrictions on travel to countries outside the block were extended until August 31st.

Greece

The country allowed international flights not only to Athens, but also Thessaloniki. However, passengers will undergo a mandatory medical check at airports.

Belgium

Authorities have opened borders for residents of the EU, the UK and Switzerland, as well as Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway.

Croatia

The country opened its borders for all EU citizens, as well as the UK. On arrival in the country, they also will not have to go to quarantine.

Austria

This country allowed trips to Germany, Switzerland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Liechtenstein, Hungary and the Czech Republic in early June. Recently it opened its border with Italy. However, the restrictions continue to apply for residents of the Lombardy region.

for lifting restrictions on external borders. "After the abolition of all internal border checks within the Union, we offer a clear and flexible approach to removing restrictions on travel to the EU starting from July 1st," said Ylva Johansson, a member of the European Commission for Home Affairs, at a press conference in Brussels.

The European Commissioner said that an updated list of countries will be compiled, taking into account their epidemiological situation, with which the EU will begin to gradually open borders from July 1st.



Slovenia

The country opened its borders to 17 countries in mid-May, and has now added Montenegro and Italy.

Spain

Restrictions for EU member states were valid until June 22nd while for Portugal they will be valid until July 1st.

Previously, along with the recommendation to open internal borders, the European Commission outlined the prospects

When removing restrictions at external borders, three criteria will be considered. The decision to remove restrictions for a particular country should be based on the epidemiological situation and the response to the coronavirus epidemic in that country, the ability to ensure that the spread of the virus is prevented during travel, and on reciprocity — the lifting of restrictions on travel to the EU by a country.



Tourists back in Venice

Tourists were back in large numbers in Venice, as the Doge's Palace (Palazzo Ducale) finally reopened

Hundreds queued up for more than 300 metres at Saint Mark's Square, after around a thousand tickets sold for the reopening day only. "It's a very strong emotion, like the first day of school," the President of the Venice Civic Museums Foundation, Maria Cristina Gribaudo, said.

Inside the 14th century palace, face-masks are compulsory, with several signs urging people to 'keep their distance'. All the rooms are surveilled to avoid the formation of large gatherings.

Souvenir shops have reopened too in town, as well as almost all the other shops and restaurants — including the historic Café Florian.

Around the Rialto Canal, visitors flooded the alleys of the City of the Doges, and the famous gondolas and vaporettos sailed off again.

"We hope to have slow tourism in the future. This does not mean less tourism, but better, better organisation," the Director of the Venice Civic Museums Foundation Gabriella Belli said, as the COVID-19 lockdown prompted debates for a more sustainable tourism model.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

A bright image is emerging



Photo from the icon painter's archive

Anatoly Matyash has been painting icons for over 20 years — working in different styles and techniques. His finished icons can be seen in many churches in Belarus and abroad. Among them are diverse pieces, including full-size iconostasis and complicated iconographic versions of depictions: i.e. a three-dimensional rich-in-detail painting featuring the appearance of the Mother of God to soldiers during WWI, kept at a Belarusian church. The master explains, “These works are God’s, not mine, so I can’t claim their authorship.” Anatoly tells us about this unusual artistry — unveiling the mystery of the delicate art of icon painting.

By Tatiana Shimuk

An icon envisages no authorship, while pictures have creators

It has always been believed that a master of icon painting is a tool in the hands of God. Moreover, an artist with faith in God should not show their ‘self’ in creativity and sign works with their names but follow all Orthodox canons of iconography while working. In addition, an icon painter must be hardworking and patient, aware of all difficult techniques of ancient iconography and also be modest and kind. This symbiosis of creativity and Christian faith must be combined in an icon maker. True, the path to an icon is not fast.

Anatoly Matyash recalls, “I was born into a military family in Tyumen and constantly moved with my parents from place to place. I studied in Semipalatinsk after graduating from the Art University — learning to draw. I also studied works of old masters and was interested in landscape painting. I then came to Belarus and spent some time looking for myself in design, while working at Minsk’s agencies.”

Simultaneously, Anatoly was investigating the spiritual world. He studied the Bible, canons and was a novitiate at a bell tower. One day, the young man went to his confessor with a dilemma: what to do professionally and what to follow in life. He was told, “You have a talent for painting. Why should you invent anything?” The confessor then pointed to icons and this was how Anatoly got to know about icon painter Pavel Zharov — to later join his studio in the Minsk diocese. He worked as an apprentice initially, engaged in rough painting at the studio. Anatoly was making icons and learning the specifics of creating a spiritual image. To find out more about Orthodox faith and icons, the young man went to study in Sergiev Posad where he copied old pictures. His first faces of saints were ascetic and strict, and many of them later became his companions in long prayers.

Family and creativity

In Minsk, after his spiritual training, Anatoly met Yelena — a teacher



Master of icon painting — Anatoly Matyash — reflects on his Godly work, traditions in painting and studying from his predecessors

and a creative woman. She had been passionate about patchwork for many years, teaching other needlewomen to make beautiful and functional things out of fabric. A bright encyclopedia on patchwork has been even published under her name.

This happy couple have two sons: the eldest — Ivan — is 18, he is engaged in professional biathlon. Schoolboy Fedor is 14. The friendly family are engaged in handicrafts and follow an exceptionally healthy lifestyle, taking bike rides for long distances.

Yelena says that she watched Anatoly’s creative growth with interest and now she knows a lot about the technique of icon painting, as she has often helped him in preparing special paints that do not contain a drop of chemicals (they are called ‘tvareny’ — hand-made). Interestingly, the paint for an icon is valid for only a few hours. It’s made from natural minerals mixed with dry wine and egg yolk and it’s always hard work to prepare complex shades. “I remember how we bought lapis lazuli, cinnabar, malachite and other stones, crushed them and made the necessary palette,” the woman says.

The icon painter has his own workshop where he can concentrate and create. Anatoly has posted his most striking icons on a social network page.

The process of icon making is very serious and complex. The artist explains, “Each icon is a painstaking manual process — requiring self-discipline and appropriate training — since it’s being created for centuries to come. It’s important to keep much in



mind — including theology, details of the saints’ lives and diverse technical information. For example, it’s necessary to know what types of trees are suitable for a particular icon, how to dry a base board for the icon so that it doesn’t crack later... There are many ‘capricious’ execution techniques in iconography and it’s vital to be ‘a walking encyclopedia’ — being a chemist, a physicist, a carpenter and a historian at the same time.”

Anatoly explains that there is a lot of trouble at all stages of icon making. To properly prepare a board for a large icon, it’s important to make special dowels and ensure optimal gluing. The master must make a reliable canvas out of the board (‘pavoloka’), apply a coating of chalk and bone glue (‘levkas’) in several layers. Only then can the process of tempera painting

with ‘tvareny’ paints begin. Moreover, paints must be mixed so that they won’t fade after application.

A business for those who have patience

Pondering on whether icon painting is strictly a male business, Anatoly says, “An increasing number of girls are joining this specific area now. Orthodox churches have workshops and video tutorials of icon painting are broadcast on the Internet. However, true icon painters must receive the blessing of the church for their work and for this good cause.”

When asked about what style he mostly works in now and what customers are interested in, the artist notes that he adheres to the canons of the Belarusian school of icon painting which is slightly eclectic due to the territorial proximity of Catholic traditions to us. “People like realistic bright images. So-called dimensional icons are popular among them,” the master explains. “For example, when a baby is born and baptised, an individual icon of the patron saint is traditionally put in the house; its height exactly corresponds to the height of the baby, and the width is equal to the width of its shoulders at birth.”

Moreover, the Matyash family admit that no disease or depression should accompany the craftsmanship. Of course, a seasonal character is natural for this art and the painter individually regulates his activities and plans his time to combine family affairs and this inspiring work.



This clock was brought to the craftsman disassembled, from Europe

By Valentina Kozlovich

The clock is almost the first mechanism in our ancestors lives, and their attitude towards it was extremely respectful, as well as to its creators. The ancient craftsmen were able to turn clocks into a true work of art. Vasily Zakrevsky from Pinsk, a retired military man, has exactly the same attitude.

He currently boasts more than a hundred mechanisms from the 19th and 20th centuries in his collection. They are all working! Vasily willingly shows them to a wider circle: he has already held several exhibitions in Pinsk.

The neat Zakrevsky mansion on the outskirts of Pinsk can be called a watchmaker's repository, or an exhibition hall, or even a museum. Clocks are everywhere: on the walls, on the shelves behind glass, on the tables, as an important home interior decoration. In addition, Mr. Zakrevsky has a workshop in his son's room, now he's away from home.

The collection began with the case of the famous German Junghans clock of 1906 — the result of an exchange with a numismatist friend. "I was just starting to build a house and I was thinking about how to make my home comfortable. I found my grandmother's chest and began to restore it, deciding that it would be useful. A friend saw that I was very handy and offered me the clock case; I restored it, though not very well. He came and looked at it and was extremely surprised. If only he knew what he'd pushed me into! Probably my genes were awakened. Our relative was a musician, repairing harmonicas, and my parents say I look like him," Vasily says, recollecting that he had spent several months reconstructing the appearance of that clock with more than a century of history behind it. He set up a mechanism, and when it began to work, there was no end to his happiness.

Work is completed by 'striking'

Restorer Vasily Zakrevsky admits why he doesn't have antique clocks in his house

Where do the rest of the clocks come from? Some were brought by the mother-in-law from St. Petersburg, others came from Gomel, yet others from Moscow and Odessa... The Agat desk clock was presented to a relative, a captain of the 2nd rank who served in the Northern Fleet and travelled for eighty years before finding their way to Pinsk. Mr. Zakrevsky often buys clocks in villages and, as a rule, he finds them in a dilapidated condition.

"There was once a fashion to paint clocks with floor paint. On the one hand, this conserves the wood, being painted every year for Easter. But on the other... Here, for example, is an example of the Vienna Regulator clock: high-quality and reliable Austrian clocks with a second stroke of the pendulum. Most of the mechanisms for such clocks were made by hand, including with a repeater (in contrast to mechanised production in Germany where mass stamping was used), which ensured quality and, accordingly, price," Vasily points to a wall where the antique clock hangs majestically. "It was painted with floor paint. It took me a long time to remove it. Now I want to return the tops to the clock: the 'crown', which was lost."

All the clocks are still, but they are working. Why are the exhibits in the master's house silent? He laughs, "If you get them all moving and striking, it will be something. I like to start and listen to each one individually."

Vasily Zakrevsky gently touches the hand on the clock with his hand and a ringing is heard. "This is a Junghans from 1912. Handsome, isn't it? I've restored it with its striking mechanism, which has consonant intervals: octave, quint. Each clock has a special sound, because the master puts his soul into his work and customised the clock for himself, for his concept of life and his time. It's very difficult to restore the clock to the way the author intended, because each master has their own style and each clock is individual, there are no identical clocks. They are entirely hand made. My task as an amateur restorer is to find the soul of the craftsman, only then will the clock thank me with its striking and movement, which means that we have understood each other. Every clock teaches me something."



Pavel Kunitsky



A gift to a 2nd rank captain

Mr. Zakrevsky says that the more he gets involved in this occupation, the more often there is a feeling that he... knows nothing, "I want to find original bolts, nuts, cogs. Often there are not enough parts and sometimes I want to give up. Only in exceptional cases do I grind, cut and adjust the mechanism myself. It's not possible to put more than 20 percent new parts into the clock; otherwise, it will be a remake. I'd like to thank Leonid Kachan, an old experienced craftsman, who once led a clock workshop at Pinsk's consumer services centre. He believed in me, showed me the nuances and guided me, teaching me for several years."

I ask Vasily Zakrevsky if the mood is important for working with old mechanisms? Is it necessary to balance oneself in order to enter into a 'resonance' with an unfamiliar craftsman?

In response, Mr. Zakrevsky starts a gramophone. 'Evening floats over the river like a quiet song...' we hear the *Uralskaya Ryabinushka* song.

"I have about fifty vinyl records and in this way I create my mood. It's better not to approach clocks if you're in a bad mood. If I argue with my wife — nothing will work! I'm grateful to my Svetlana, who helps and supports me. It takes a lot of time and money from the family budget for all this! The initial cost of many clocks, not restored, was \$100."

Mr. Zakrevsky's plans are to organise joint exhibitions with other Pinsk collectors, "This will create an opportunity for Pinsk residents to touch history, and for us — like-minded people — to share information, experience and, of course, details about the restoration of valuable items."

Time to get moving

Where and when will European cups finish the season and when will the Belarusian national team be able to continue fighting for Euro participation?

By Tatiana Pastushenko

New measures imposed

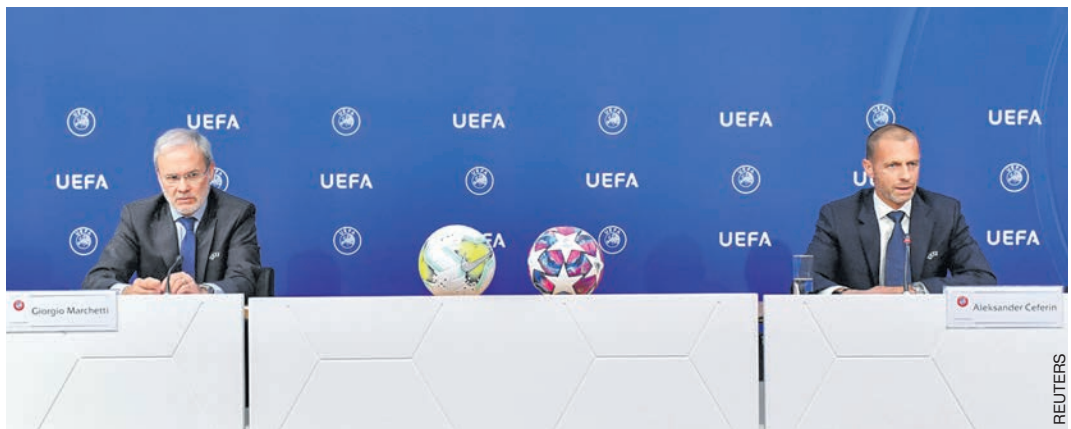
The Champions League play-offs will still be held in Lisbon. UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin commented on the decision, “The Portuguese Football Federation was the first to contact us and announced its readiness to host the tournament. They said that they are in contact with the Government and can easily organise it. There’s no reason to believe that there was a fight between England, Germany, Spain and Portugal for the right to host the tournament.”

The tournament — which was suspended in March at the quarter-final stage — will be played in the ‘final eight’ format: instead of the usual two-match stage, eight teams will play only one match in the quarter-finals and semi-finals, and the two best of them will compete in the finals. All matches will be played without spectators in the stands.

So far, only four participants of the final stage of the tournament have been determined: Paris Saint-Germain of France, Atalanta of Italy, Atletico of Madrid and Leipzig of Germany; they managed to reach the quarter-finals. Another eight teams will continue

the struggle to join the ‘final eight’ in the return matches of the round: French Lyon will again play against Italian Juventus (the score was 1:0 in the first match), Italian Napoli will meet Spanish Barcelona (1:1), Spanish Real will play against English Manchester City (1:2), and English Chelsea will meet German Bavaria (0:2). The return matches of the teams will be held on August 7th-8th but the decision on the venue has not yet been made by UEFA.

The final tournament of this year’s Europa League starts on August 10th and its matches will be held in Germany’s Gelsenkirchen, Duisburg, Duesseldorf and Cologne. In Cologne, on August 21st, the winner of the tournament will be determined. The Europa League was also suspended at the same stage, and UEFA decided that the remaining matches of this round will be played on August 5th-6th. Their venue is yet to be chosen: the teams will play either in Germany, or on hosts’ pitches. The formula of determining winners in pairs will also change: winners will be determined based on results of two matches for the teams which played through to the quarter-finals. In turn, winners will be chosen based on the results



All around the world, football is gradually being restored to its previous life. National championships continue and resume, while their new winners are being determined. UEFA has recently held the first meeting of its Executive Committee via video conference format; many issues relating to the completion of the European cups and other matters were settled.



of a single match for the teams which have not yet begun their struggle at this stage. The draw for the final mini-tournament will be held on July 10th, in Swiss Nyon.

What about next season?

Qualification rounds of the Champions League and Europa League of the 2020/21 season will be played in a single-match format. The first matches will start on August 8th, while preliminary round matches will be played on August 8th and 11th, the first qualifying round — on August 18th-19th, the second — on August 25th-26th, the third — on September 15th-16th, the playoff round — on

September 22nd-23rd and 29th-30th. The group stage will start on October 20th and finish on December 9th.

The start of the qualifying stage of the Europa League is scheduled for August 20th when the preliminary round matches will be played. The first round will be held on August 27th, the second — on September 17th, the third — on September 24th, and the playoff round — on October 1st. The group stage will be held from October 22nd to December 10th.

The draw for the Champions League and Europa League group tournaments will take place on October 1st and 2nd, respectively.

This season, Belarus will be represented by Dinamo Brest in the Champions League, BATE, Shakhtyor and Dinamo Minsk will play.

Euro 2020: all out in force

Euro 2020 — postponed to 2021 by its organisers — will be held in the same 12 cities as previously planned: the tournament matches will be hosted by St. Petersburg, London, Munich, Baku, Rome, Bucharest, Dublin, Copenhagen, Bil-

bao, Glasgow, Budapest and Amsterdam.

The Belarusian national team will continue to fight for access to the final round of the European Championship with a play-off match against the Georgian team: our footballers will play an away match on October 8th. Before that, the Belarusian national team will start in the 2020/21 Nations League in September: matches of this tournament will be held on September 3rd-5th and 6th-8th, October 10th-11th and 13th-14th, November 14th-15th and 17th-18th, 2020. Friendly matches are scheduled for November 7th-8th and 11th-12th. The exact dates, times and venues will be announced later by UEFA.

Changes for future hosts

This year’s Champions League finals were planned to be held in Istanbul but the Ataturk Olympic Stadium will host the decisive match of the tournament next season. The hosts of the next three finals have also agreed to change the date: St. Petersburg will host it in 2022, Munich — in 2023, and London — in 2024. The situation is similar in the Europa League: Gdansk, which was preparing to host its decisive match, will receive it in 2021, Seville — in 2022, and Budapest — in 2023.

ARENA

● Andrei Gusov to coach Poland’s KH Podhale

Andrei Gusov previously coached another Polish ice hockey club — GKS Tychy. The Polish club under the tutelage of the Belarusian specialist twice won two Poland’s champion titles, as well as the Cup and the Super Cup of Poland. In Podhale, Gusov is known not only as a coach, but also as a player: in 1994-1997, he played for this team and became the champion of the country three times.



● Minsk is hosting Belarus Open Tennis Championship

In the main draw of the women’s tournament, Aleksandra Sasnovich — occupying the 119th place in the WTA rankings, is seeded first. 110th racket in the world, Russian Margarita Gasparyan, is seeded second. The participants of the competition also include the reserves of the Belarusian national team: Anna Kubareva, Irina Shimanovich, Yulia Gotovko, Shalimar Talbi and our best junior tennis athletes.



Among the men, reserve tennis players of the Belarusian national squad, Aleksandr Zgirovsky, Ivan Lutarevich, Aleksandr Bulitsky, Denis Zharin, Artem Bardin, Aleksandr Leonenko and other young sportsmen, will be competing for the champion’s title. One of the favourites is Russian tennis player, Aslan Karatsev, ranked 253rd in the Asia-Pacific rating.

Champions and prize winners from the Belarus Open Championship will be announced on June 27th.

● Stockholm will be hosting the ISU World Figure Skating Championships

The Council of the International Skating Union (ISU) has approved the capital of Sweden as the venue for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in 2021. The tournament for the best skaters in the world will be held in Sweden for the 14th time.



Athletes will have to identify the best in the single figure skating for men and women, pairs figure skating and sports dance on ice. The expected dates of the tournament are from March 22nd to March 28th, 2021.

In addition, the ISU confirmed that the European Figure Skating Championships will be held from January

25th to January 31st in Zagreb (Croatia). The ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships will take place in Chinese Harbin from March 1st to March 7th.

The previous World Championship was to be held in Montreal (Canada), however, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the competition was cancelled.

● Brest Meshkov HC to play in the Champions League next season

The European Handball Federation decided on the final list of the tournament’s participants: in addition to ten clubs that have secured a place in the Champions League due to their high ratings, the federation selected six more teams based on several criteria: geography, marketing, spectator interest and others. Of the 14 clubs applying for a place in the tournament, the EHF granted the right to play in the next season to Brest’s Meshkov, Hungarian Peak, Norwegian Elverum, French Nantes, Slovenian Celje and Motor Zaporozhye. In reserve were Dinamo from Bucharest and the Polish Vistula. For Brest Meshkov this will be the seventh consecutive season in the main round of the tournament, the draw for the group stage is scheduled for July 1st.





Photo
of the
week

Participants of the 'Walking with a Shrub' national rite in the village of Polkotichi, Ivye District, Brest Region

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.

On June 25th, 1905, Petrus Brovka (Piotr Ustinovich) was born (the village of Putilkovichi in the Ushachi District of the Vitebsk Region) — a People's Poet of Belarus (1962), an academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (1966), an honoured worker of science of Belarus (1975), a public figure and a Hero of Socialist Labour (1972). In 1941-1942, he worked in the *Za Savetskuyu Belarus* front-line newspaper and collaborated



with the partisan press. In 1945-1948, he was an editor of the magazine *Polymya*, in 1948-1967, he chaired the board of the Union of Writers of Belarus and, in 1967-1980, he was the editor-in-chief of the Belarusian Soviet Encyclopaedia. He is an author of poetry books *The Thyme Smells, And Days Go By, Day and Night...* and others. He is a laureate of the Lenin Prize (1962), the State Prize of the USSR (1947, 1951) and the State Prize of Belarus (1974, 1976). He died in 1980.

On June 26th, 1970, Marina Lobach was born (Smolevichi, Minsk Region) — a Belarusian athlete (rhythmic gymnastics), an Honoured Master of Sports of the USSR (1988) and a judge of the international category (1991). She is an



overall champion of the Olympic Games (1988), a champion (1987) and a silver medallist (1985) of the world championships in separate all-around events. She is a European champion (1988) and a silver medallist in certain types of exercises.

June 27th is World Fisheries Day. It's celebrated annually by the decision of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, held in July 1984 in Rome. Fishing is one of the most popular hobbies around the world.



June 27th is Day of the Inventor and Rationaliser in the Republic of Belarus. This was introduced in late 1950s at the suggestion of the USSR Academy of Sciences and was celebrated annually, on the last Saturday of June. Distinguished inventors were recognised, presented with state awards and given honours. The day continues to be celebrated in the country. The Belarusian Society of Inventors and

Rationalisers has been operating in Belarus since 1990 and unites about 80,000 members.



June 28th is Youth Day in the Republic of Belarus — a celebration of creativity and inspiration, energy and enthusiasm, knowledge and self-affirmation, love and romance. It dates back to the days of the USSR, when the Day of Soviet Youth was celebrated on the last Sunday of June.

In Belarus, youth policy has long been one of the priority areas in the state's activities. One of the key mechanisms for implementing the country's youth policy was the activity of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union (BRSM). Uniting over 300,000 young people, the country's largest public association has become a kind of centre for the country's youth movement.



On June 30th, 2005, the Stalin Line Historical and Cultural Complex was opened, located 30km northwest of Minsk, near the city of Zaslavl. The complex is a military-

historical open-air museum. Its historical site is made up of the preserved permanent firing positions (DOTs) of the Minsk fortified area, which was part of the fortified area system established in the late 1920s and early 1930s on the old western border of the USSR (which existed until 1939). On an area of almost 32 hectares, there are

4 permanent firing positions, earth-and-timber bunkers, dug-out shelters, trenches, field emplacements, anti-tank ditches and other types of engineering barriers as well as 4 sites where weapons and military equipment from the Great Patriotic War and the post-war years are shown. A pontoon ferry and a low-water engineering bridge, built by Belarusian military engineers according to drawings from the pre-war years, are on an artificial water reservoir. A stylised partisan village with an exhibition revealing the history of the partisan movement in Belarus has been also created.



June 30th is also declared by the UN General Assembly as International Asteroid Day. It's noteworthy that it was on June 30th, 1908, that the Tunguska meteorite fell to Earth, still arousing interest among researchers.