

Rumyantsev Hall,
music boxes and gilded
watches: Gomel Palace
and Park Museum is
celebrating its centenary



The exhibition of
paintings by Tatiana
Grinevich and Irina
Yasyukayt-Dudareva —
Augmented Reality —
at the ArtHaos Gallery



INTERNATIONAL

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The choice has been made

Parliament has acquired a new face for the next four years, with preliminary election results being concluded. The turnout stood at 77.22 percent, which is three percent more than during the Parliamentary elections in 2016. These are not just numbers. This is evidence of a high degree of legitimacy of the new deputy corps and an important indicator of the political and legal culture of society. The political system of the state has passed one more test for maturity, and Belarusians showed that they are not indifferent to the fate of the country and the future of their children. → **2**



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Business conversation in Vienna

The Belarusian President's official visit to Austria is already being called historic. Not least because it is the first in 27 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries. For us, it is very important — as it is for our partners: Vienna is seen by us as a bridge that contributes to the building of good-neighbourly relations with the European Union and Minsk is a point of entry into the large Eurasian market

for them. During the visit, talks with Austrian President Alexander van der Bellen were held in both narrow and expanded format. In addition, Aleksandr Lukashenko met with the Head of the National Council — Wolfgang Sobotka — and the Chairman of the Austrian People's Party, MP of the National Council, Sebastian Kurz. The President also took part in the Belarusian-Austrian Business Forum.



Bridging

The official talks between the Belarusian Head of State and the Federal President of Austria were preceded by a welcoming ceremony in the courtyard of the Hofburg Palace with the guard of honour and anthems of the two countries. Many residents of the Austrian capital were able to observe the ceremony.

After that, the leaders of Belarus and Austria held talks in a narrow and expanded format. The Belarusian Head of State thanked Alexander van der Bellen for the warm welcome and frank, meaningful conversation. "Austria is the most important and reliable partner of Belarus in our common Europe. We attach great importance to the development of mutually beneficial co-operation and are fully satisfied with the positive dynamics of Belarusian-Austrian relations," he said.

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that the Belarusian side highly appreciates the efforts of Vienna aimed at building bridges between the main geopolitical centres, reducing tensions in Europe and the world. Minsk sets the same goals in its foreign policy.

The Belarusian Head of State said that the parties agreed to continue working together within the framework of international organisations. Our country will support the candidacy of Austria in the elections to the non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for 2027-2028.

A good partner

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted Austria's support for the efforts of the Belarusian side to develop relations with the European Union, which is the second most important trade partner for

Belarus. "In recent times, thanks to the active work of the Austrian presidency in 2018, the EU is also becoming a significant political and investment partner for us. Over the past two years alone, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have provided financial support for projects in the Belarusian public sector worth 700m Euros.

The President reminded those present that Belarus is actively working with the EU on numerous programmes in the fields of ecology, energy efficiency, border management, migration regulation and support of public administration. "This year, Belarus and the European Union have approved draft agreements on visa facilitation and readmission. We hope to sign them soon," said the Belarusian President.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, Belarus and Austria share the desire to develop the *Eastern Partnership* as a holistic, flexible and effective instrument of co-operation in the region, contributing to the sustainable development and security of the European Union's neighbours. At the same time, it is not directed against the interests of third countries. Belarus is actively involved in this project and recently announced its proposals for the development of this initiative after 2020.

Billion Dollar projects

Mr. Lukashenko said that Belarus and Austria have a long tradition of successful economic co-operation. Even during the Soviet Union, Austrian business was present in Belarus. "A striking example is the participation of Austria in the creation of the Belarusian Steel Works in Zhlobin, which today remains one of the flagships of our industry," he noted, adding that Austrian businesses have a

projects worth over a billion Dollars are being worked on with the participation of Austrian companies.

Preservation of historical memory

At the same time, Mr. Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that countries and peoples are connected not only by the economy, "Of course we were talking about Maly Trostenets. This forest near Minsk

of Austrian citizens killed there by the Nazis during WWII.

Mr. Lukashenko stated that it's important to expand contacts between the scientific and museum institutions and historians dealing with the topic of Trostenets. He also spoke about the transfer by the Belarusian side to the House of History of Austria of objects that belonged to Austrian citizens killed by the Nazis in the Trostenets death camp. These artifacts were recently discovered during archaeological excavations.

When discussing humanitarian issues, the Head of State, on behalf of the people of Belarus and personally, thanked the Austrian citizens, represented by the Federal President, who have been involved in the rehabilitation of Belarusian children from the Chernobyl-hit regions. "Believe me, I know different trends in the EU in terms of Belarus. I want to say, Mr. President, maybe not today, not tomorrow, but the day after you will be proud that you came to Belarus, looked at this country and saw that it is not a foreign country for Europe (as you said when you were with your wife) and that decent people live here. You will never regret it. Belarus is the centre of Europe, it is a European country, and its policy is aimed at exclusively peaceful, friendly, mutually beneficial relations not only with its neighbours but also with our old, proven friends, which your beautiful and rich country is," he said.

In the evening, in the format of a working dinner, Mr. Lukashenko held a meeting with the Chairman of the Austrian People's Party, MP of the National Council of Austria, Sebastian Kurz.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



ACCENT
New projects worth over a billion Dollars are being worked on with the participation of Austrian companies.

strong position in modern Belarus. About 500 companies from Austria co-operate with Belarusian enterprises, about 100 of them are represented directly in Belarus in one form or another.

The President said that new

has entered history as a place of mass murder by Nazi criminals. Among the victims of Trostenets were over 10,000 Austrian citizens. We understand the great importance of preserving the memory of the victims of the Holocaust for Austrian society."

That is why, the President recalled, Belarus has supported the initiative of Austria in the installation of the Array of Names monument in the Trostenets Memorial Complex — in memory

House of Representatives' deputies elected in Belarus

official website of the Central Election Commission. The preliminary voter turnout during the elections stood at 77.22 percent. The final results of the elections will be summarised on November 22nd.

For objective assessment of the electoral process, Belarus invited foreign observers from various international structures, including the CIS, the OSCE/ODIHR, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation. More than a thousand foreign observers and 28,000 national observers were accredited.

"The elections were held in accordance with the Constitution and the Electoral Code of Belarus; they were held on a compet-

itive basis, openly and publicly, were free, transparent and met the principles of holding democratic elections," underlined Sergei Lebedev, who headed the CIS observation mission.

Voting in Belarus has been conducted in full compliance with national legislation, announced the State Secretary of the Union State, member of the CIS observation mission, Grigory Rapota. He especially noted the good conditions created in Belarus for voting by disabled people.

The SCO observation mission also recognises the elections as transparent, credible and democratic. This was stated by the Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation and head of the SCO

observation mission, Xie Xiaoyong, "The elections were an important step towards the further development of democratic processes in Belarus. The elections met the requirements of the electoral legislation of Belarus and the country's international obligations. Violations of national legislation that cast doubt on the legitimacy of the election were not noted by the mission. The elections were transparent, reliable and democratic."

The parliamentary election campaign in Belarus was held in line with democratic standards, noted the Serbian observer, Dragomir Karic. "The election campaign was proceeding normally, in line with European democratic standards, in the same way as in other European countries. We see

that good conditions are created for voters," he emphasised.

Belarus plays an important geopolitical role in Europe — this explains the large number of international observers during the Parliamentary elections. This opinion was expressed to reporters by the European Parliament's policy advisor and independent observer, Gregory Jullien. According to him, he had a good overall impression of the election campaign. "I've visited several polling stations. Everything was transparent," noted the independent observer.

The first session of both houses of the renewed Belarusian Parliament will open on December 6th.

Based on materials of belta.by



On November 17th, Belarus hosted elections of deputies to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the seventh convocation, with elections taking place across all 110 election districts

The names of candidates who, as of November 18th, were elected to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the seventh convocation are available on the

Security is a common cause

By Yevgeny Kononovich

The absence of a guarded border between Belarus and Russia was one of the first and perhaps the most noticeable result of the two countries’ integration. In 1995, Minsk and Moscow signed an agreement on joint efforts to protect the Union State’s external borders. Every five years, it’s either extended by default, or the parties make adjustments to it. We are now in such a position. The President discussed Belarusian-Russian border co-operation with the State Secretary of the Security Council, Stanislav Zas, and the Chairman of the State Border Committee, Anatoly Lappo.



Vladimir Shlapak

At first glance, there are no fundamental differences in collaboration between the border guards of our states, with both military and transport workers reporting the same issues. However, as the Head of State noted, as soon as these are brought to the level of Government, problems appear, “As a result, we are constantly under reproach, they say: ‘We support Belarus. It will collapse if we do not subsidise it, maintain it and so on’. But we must calculate what it costs us to defend a common border. We need to remind them of an air defence system. For a long time, they asked us to make this a joint system. From the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, we’re working today for the Russian Federation. It also costs a great deal of money, amongst other things.”

Foreigners are forced to ‘cut corners’

There is, in fact, no reason to reproach our country. Belarus is one hundred percent fulfilling its obligations under the agreement on joint border protection. This applies to the fight against drug trafficking, illegal migration, arms smuggling, the search for stolen cars, etc. The effectiveness of the work of Belarusian border guards is not in doubt among our foreign colleagues. After all, we protect not only our security, but also the security of our main ally. And what do we gain in return? Constant reproaches? How else can we judge the fact that not all citizens of third countries are able to pass freely through our internal border with Russia. Aleksandr Lukashenko is extremely indignant at this state of affairs, “That is, if a foreign citizen enters the border near

STATISTIC
Issues of deportation to the territory of the Russian Federation are successfully settled, with 468 detained foreign citizens deporting to Russia in three years.

Brest, they might not be allowed to pass near Smolensk even with a Russian visa. The authorities bring them back, suggesting that they drive through the Lithuanian, Latvian-Russian or Ukrainian-Russian border. An Austrian, a Pole or a German may have received a visa, driven through our common border near Brest (the Russians admit that we guard the borders better than they do themselves), and then been stopped... They tell them to come back and enter through Latvia. What absurdity is this? This issue must be resolved with the Russians.”

Accidental or a conscious move?

Another problem is the ten-kilometre (or longer) lines of vehicles near Smolensk. Is this distrust of Belarusian methods? Is it a conscious move? The President has questions regarding this, “Trucks crossing Belarus to Russia line up for inspection:

border, customs, phytosanitary, etc. Why? The common border has been agreed... There is no reason for a car to be ‘turned inside out’. We know where it’s going and what it’s carrying; this information will have been transferred to the Russian Federation. They again stop these vehicles near Smolensk, Pskov and Bryansk at our internal border, and begin to turn them back. It’s unacceptable, but it seems we must endure it for the time being.”

Belarusians are not scroungers!

Mr. Lukashenko believes that the absurdity of the situation also lies in the fact that such actions by the Russian side do not have any effect, “What are they for? Extra bribes at the border with Russia? I have informed the President of Russia about this. It should not be happening but since such incidents occur, Stanislav Vasilievich [S.V. Zas, State Secretary of Security Council], you and the Government should keep it under control.”

Another example is when the first batch of modern Russian Su-30SM fighters arrived in our country. Firstly, there is no charity involved. Belarus bought this equipment for much money. And

secondly, we’re also protecting the air borders of Russia in the west, noted Mr. Lukashenko, “So why not help us, why not supply modern weapons? We know how to use them just as well as the Russians. I don’t mean that we will not perform our duties. What I mean is that you should not talk nonsense in the mass media and even at an official level alleging that Belarusians are an albatross around your neck.”

According to the President, these issues cannot be ignored. Minsk and Moscow are now actively discussing a road map for further integration. The President has set a specific goal, “These matters should be put together at the level of the Government to show how we help, to make Russian society see and understand that Belarusians are not scroungers, that the people of Russia are as welcome in Belarus as in Russia. Let’s be

FACT
Over the past three years, Belarusian and Russian border guards have jointly revealed 6 channels of illegal transit migration (2 on the territory of Russia and 4 in Belarus), detaining 10 perpetrators of illegal activity (among them are citizens of Russia, Belarus, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan).

frank: more welcome in Belarus than in Russia. Therefore, if the Russian authorities are ready to move in this direction, let us sign a new agreement on the protection of our border. If Russians do not want it, we should be ready, like we are now, to protect our interests on behalf of the Republic of Belarus, on our own. We should have an open and candid discussion on these matters with the authorities of the Russian Federation, namely with the border service.”

SPECIAL OPERATION
The State Security Committee of Belarus, the Federal Security Service of Russia and the Separate Service for Active Measures stopped the activity of an underground drug laboratory in the Minsk District’s village of Khatezhino. Two Russian citizens, 30kg of synthetic drugs and about 430kg of other drugs were detained. This year, five Russian citizens were also identified attempting to smuggle more than 506kg of drugs from Poland and Lithuania to Belarus.

A sign of trust demonstrated in survey

Independent research organisation Rating Group Ukraine conducted another study of the dynamics of the attitude of Ukrainians towards world leaders

By Yevgeny Kononovich

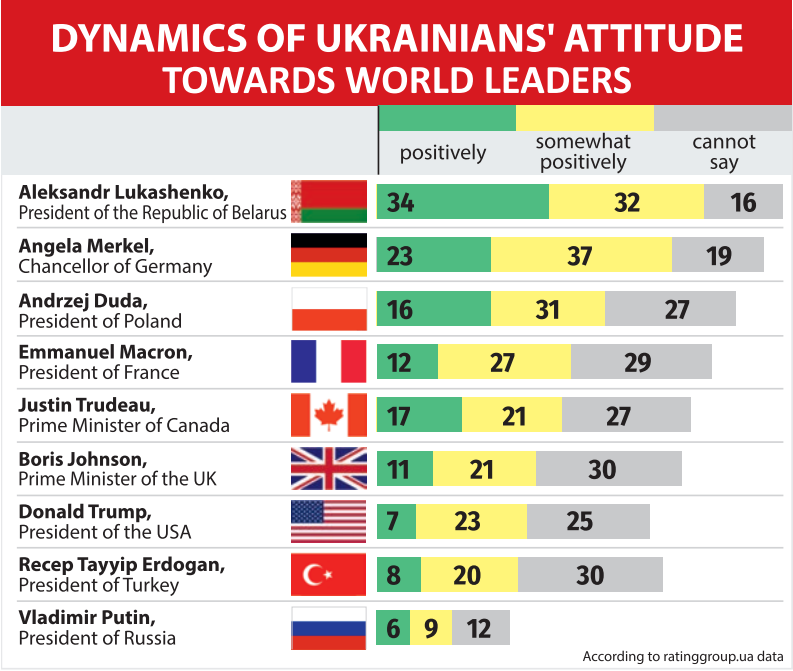
According to the results of the sociological survey, among the leaders of other countries Ukrainians have the best attitude towards President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko — 66 percent are positive. Second place is occupied by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is positively assessed by 60 percent of respondents. The top three is completed by the President of Poland, Andrzej Duda; 47 percent of Ukrainian citizens have a good attitude towards him. Next, in descending order are the leaders of France, Canada, the UK, the USA, and Turkey. Ukrainians have the most negative attitude towards the President of Russia, with over 70 percent expressing their displeasure towards Vladimir Putin.

According to the Rating Group Ukraine, over the course of more than a year and a half, the attitude towards Angela Merkel,

Vladimir Putin, Aleksandr Lukashenko, Emmanuel Macron has not really changed. It slightly improved towards Andrzej Duda and got worse towards Donald Trump and Recep Tayyip Erdogan. There are differences in the regional context. In particular, in the south and east of Ukraine citizens are somewhat more positive in their attitude towards the leaders of Belarus, Turkey and Russia, while in the west — towards the leaders of Poland, Canada and the USA.

Moreover, Aleksandr Lukashenko enjoys a markedly higher level of support among older respondents. The leaders of France, the USA and the UK have more supporters among younger respondents.

The Rating sociological group annually conducts about 100,000 interviews and 100 focus-group studies. Its clients include political parties, authorities, public organisations, the media and business.



On a business wave

The Belarusian-Austrian Business Forum was held in Vienna, attended by the President of Belarus. In his talks to the Austrian Head of State, the political will for rapprochement was the focus while the forum in general was devoted to discussion of specific areas of business co-operation development.

By Olga Korneeva

Aleksandr Lukashenko believes that the future of our economic relations lies in industrial co-operation, development of services, traditionally strong for Belarus and Austria industries such as petrochemistry, food industry, woodworking, engineering, construction, transport, logistics and IT.

“The national peculiarity of Belarusians is that we have a thorough and balanced approach to decision-making. Having agreed with our partners, we scrupulously carry out the obligations we undertake. I want to assure you that, if seriously interested in Belarus, the Austrians will never be disappointed,” the President stated.

According to the Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladimir Ulakhovich, the Belarusian-Austrian business forum held in Vienna aroused great interest among the Austrian partners. “They even call it a historic event. In total, there were more than 200 companies registered from the Austrian side, from the Belarusian side we had about 40 companies that represented different spheres,” he said.

The forum presented the success story of Austrian businesses that have been working in Belarus for a long time. The parties discussed a number of new topics and areas of co-operation. “Simple trading is probably not a very promising avenue. Therefore, we talked about developing strategic priorities in our economic co-operation, including logistics, green energy,



BELTA

Business Forum was rich in contacts and contracts

woodworking and IT. These are the areas on which we had a preliminary conversation with the Austrian Economic Chamber. It is necessary to develop these priority areas, fill them with specific projects and promote them,” Mr. Ulakhovich added, noting that bilateral co-operation with Austrian partners contributes to the development of liaisons with other European countries.

“Austria has always supported us on the European front — both at political level (everyone is well aware of this) and from the point of view of business. Recently, the Austrian Economic Chamber held the *Belarus — European Union Investment Forum*. Austria is a very important partner for us, which is always a reference point for the development of Belarusian-European relations,” said the official.

Mr. Ulakhovich was positive about the results of the Belarusian-Austrian Business Co-operation Council, which was established several years ago. “This is a model of interaction between business circles. There, financial support tools are provided and there’s an opportunity to present new projects and, most important for businesses, the opportunity to discuss existing problems and difficulties jointly with ministers and top-ranking officials. It works well,” he added.

At the end of the forum, documents were signed. These will bring more than \$200m to the states’ bilateral trade. A memorandum of understanding on co-operation between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus and the Austrian Energy

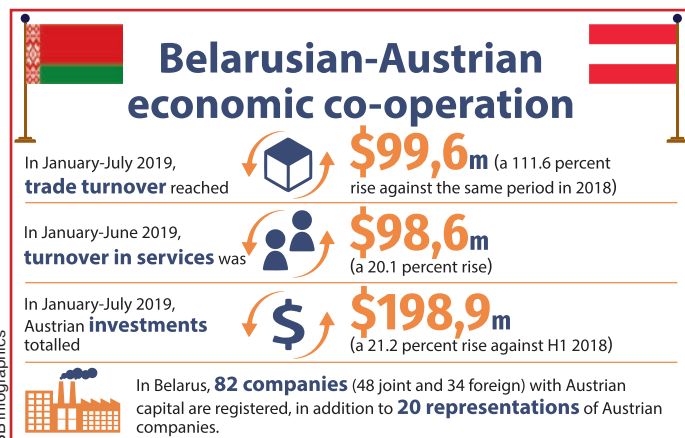
Agency was signed, in addition to a co-operation agreement between Famed Engineering GmbH and AK-Miory.

Three documents were signed with the participation of the Belarusian Steel Works — the Management Company of BMK Holding: an agreement with Pisek Group Austria GmbH

to provide the plant with additional unrelated financing to the amount of up to 20m Euros for production needs in 2020 and a tripartite agreement with Pisek Group Austria GmbH and Dutch Merksteijn International B. V. to supply up to 180,000 tonnes of Belarusian wire rod to the European market in 2020 for a total amount of over 70m Euros.

In addition, an annual framework agreement with Belmet Handelsgesellschaft mbH on the supply of steel products for 2020 totalling 27.5m Euros was concluded and a co-operation agreement between Bezopasnye Dorogi Belarusi (Safe Roads of Belarus) JSC and Siemens AG Austria was signed.

In Vienna, during the official visit of the Belarusian Head of State, a joint declaration on strengthening co-operation in the field of communications, information and communication technologies and development of the 5G broadband network, an agreement on scientific co-operation between the NAS of Belarus and the Austrian Academy of Sciences were also signed.



NEWS IN BRIEF



Minsk Days were held in Shanghai during which Minsk and Shanghai established twin-city ties.

Representatives of the Belarusian delegation visited the high-tech enterprise in the field of artificial intelligence Deep-Blue Technology, learnt about the work of the Shanghai free trade zone and the High-Tech Park of Shanghai. The *Minsk — Shanghai Business Forum* was also held, where priority areas of co-operation were identified — such as increasing mutual trade, infrastructure construction, tourism and IT. The Shanghai Music Conservatory opened an exhibition of photographs — *Journey to Minsk*.

The EU Council has approved the decision to sign a visa facilitation agreement with Belarus.



The decision to sign a visa facilitation agreement with Belarus was published in the EU official journal. After approval of the decision, the President of the Council of the European Union must appoint a person authorised to sign the document. After the exchange of ratification instruments, the cost of EU visas for Belarusians will be 35 Euros, while the application processing time will be reduced to 10 days. However, the exact date of signing has not yet been indicated.

Belarus opens a Consulate in Liechtenstein — to be headed by a member of the royal house.

The exequatur on behalf of the Head of Government and Crown Prince of Liechtenstein was presented to Prince Albrecht von Liechtenstein’s grandson, Baron Timothy von Landskron,



in Vaduz. Earlier, the order for his appointment was signed by Belarus’ Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei.

Timothy Baron von Landskron is the first member of the ruling royal family to represent the interests of Belarus abroad. The official opening ceremony is scheduled for January 2020.

Foreign tourists show an increased interest in recreation in Belarusian health resorts.

With the extension of the visa-free zone from November 10th, foreigners began to book more places in Belarusian sanatoriums. They attract tourists with high quality services and affordable prices. The expanded zone includes several resorts in the region, previously not available for visa-free tourists. For example, since the beginning of the year, more than 105,000



visa-free guests visited Grodno and its surroundings. Foreigners go to see historical sites and monuments and engage in medical and health tourism.

The Embassy of the State of Qatar will soon begin operating in Minsk.

During the political consultations held in Minsk between the foreign ministries of Belarus and Qatar, the two sides assessed the state and prospects of Belarusian-Qatari dialogue, including at the highest levels, discussed the expansion of bilateral trade relations, investment co-operation and the exchange of visits by delegations of business circles. Special attention was paid to the opening of the Qatari Embassy in Minsk which will begin work in the near future. Two Qatari diplomats have already arrived in Belarus to open the Embassy.



Energy conservation law

By Oksana Nevmerzhitskaya

For more than 25 years, the country has been consistently pursuing a state policy in the field of energy conservation: during this time, we have managed to reach a level of energy intensity of countries with similar climatic conditions — such as Canada and Finland. Energy saving is beneficial to both the state and its residents. Measures to reduce energy consumption were discussed at a press conference dedicated to the International Energy Saving Day.

From 1996 to 2015, the total fuel economy in our country amounted to 24 million tonnes. Mikhail Malashenko, the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Standardisation and Director of the Energy Efficiency Department, said, “We have set the target of saving at least a million tonnes of conventional fuel per year.” At the request of journalists,



he estimated that this volume would be enough to heat about 3.5 million square metres of housing, if we are talking about non-energy efficient buildings.

In the first nine months of 2019, 635,000 tonnes of conventional fuel were saved. Saving of fuel and energy resources is achieved through the introduction of new energy-efficient technologies at enterprises and optimisation of heat supply schemes. Another

direction is the construction of energy sources for biofuel and the transfer of existing gas boilers to local fuels. Mr. Malashenko noted, “Currently, 41 percent of all heat energy produced in the housing and communal services system is obtained with the help of biofuels and peat fuel. We plan that, by 2021, the share of local fuels will be 52 percent. Now more than 70 percent of boiler houses of housing and commu-

nal services are transferred to biofuel, peat fuel. In general, half of the energy sources now work on local fuels.”

A multi-apartment house consumes a third of the country’s thermal energy. The majority of residential buildings are built on non-energy efficient projects, respectively, 80 percent of the multi-apartment housing stock spend 2-3 times more thermal energy to heat one square metre than those

houses that are now being built.

The Energy Efficiency Department has drafted a decree, which has already been adopted and will soon enter into force. In accordance with it, owners of the housing stock will be given the opportunity to implement energy-efficient measures — for example, during major repairs. It’s possible to keep warm by using the thermal renovation of the building exterior, replacement of window units, insulation of the attic, introduction of automatic control systems, installation of individual metering devices of thermal energy using remote transfer of data to servers in real-time. Since these works are quite expensive, it is assumed that part of the costs will be borne by the state.

We also have renewable energy sources. At present, there are 55 photovoltaic plants, 99 wind power plants, 51 hydroelectric power plants, 25 biogas plants and 9 mini-CHPs working on wood fuel in the country. Measures for their further development are underway.

New agricultural vehicles presented



Belarusian manufacturers have taken part in one of the world’s largest agricultural machinery fairs — *Agritechnica 2019* — in Hanover (Germany)

By Natalia Yemelyanova

Almost 3,000 exhibitors from 51 countries demonstrated their technological achievements as part of the *Global Farming — Local Responsibility* fair.

Belarus was represented by three stands of domestic mechanical engineering companies: the Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ), Gomselmash and Amkodor — featuring upgraded off-the-shelf vehicles and cutting-edge products. In particular, MTZ presented a new tractor ‘Bela-

rus-742’, which meets European Stage V environmental standards. The model is expected to become the core of a future family of tractors with an engine output of 50-75HP in line with modern tractor engineering trends. MTZ’s compact batch-produced tractor ‘Belarus-622’, in turn, is designed to cater for ski tracks. The model can also be used in the forestry and utilities industries.

The new Belarusian agricultural machinery products were greatly appreciated by the visitors to the fair.

Joining international organisation



Belarus to join the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) in early 2020, said the Director of the Securities Department at the Finance Ministry — Aleksei Krasinsky — speaking at the *Status and Prospects for the Securities Market of Belarus* seminar hosted by the Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange

By Olga Korneeva

“All organisational activities have been completed. There are no obstacles to joining the IOSCO. In early 2020, the Finance Ministry will be a member of this international organisation,” Mr. Krasinsky said, adding that, taking into account the accession of Belarus to the International Organisation of Securities Commissions, brokers from the IOSCO member states will get access to trade at the Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange.

In July 2019, the Government gave its approval for the

Finance Ministry to join the International Organisation of Securities Commissions as an associate member.

The IOSCO is an international financial organisation that brings together national securities market regulators. Its headquarters are in Madrid, Spain. The organisation facilitates the interaction between securities commissions of different countries, promotes the exchange of experience in state-legal regulation of the securities market and new methods of regulation of the securities market.

Intentions of co-operation

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Belarus and Finland to expand co-operation in forestry machinery production

While visiting Joensuu, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Finland, Aleksei Samosuyev, focused on issues of further expansion of co-operation between Amkodor and their Finnish partners in the joint production of forestry machinery, among others matters. He also held talks with KESLA’s CEO Simo Saastamoinen on further expansion of liaison with Amkodor in the joint production of special-purpose forestry machinery.

Prospects for systemic Belarus-Finland contact in the forest industry were considered at the meeting with representatives of the Arbonaut

Research Centre. Mr. Samosuyev also familiarised himself with the activity of the Karelia University of Applied Sciences. Possible areas of Belarus-Finland co-operation were discussed at the meeting with the President of the University, Petri Raivo, and

the teaching staff. The parties also discussed the training of Belarusian specialists under the school of forest sciences programmes.

The diplomat also visited the Sirkkala Energy Park that specialises in improving the production of wood for fuel.



Heading to the South pole



The 12th Belarusian Antarctic expedition was recently launched. Its members went to Cape Town from Minsk by plane and continued their journey onwards to Vechernyaya Mountain Belarusian station.

By Arina Novikova

“This time, our team is extended to 10 members, with a half of them being scientists,” said the head of the current and all previous Belarusian expeditions — Aleksei Gaidashov. “Another feature is that, for the first time, Belarusian polar explorers will work as part of the Bulgarian, Turkish and Russian Antarctic expeditions.” In particular, Belarusian environmental engineer Yuri Giginyak will conduct biological research at the Russian Progress station, while engineer-geophysicist Pavel Shablyko will work as a part of the Bulgarian expedition and Sergey Kakareka will be engaged in scientific geo-ecological research along with his Turkish colleagues.

Each participant of the expedition is tasked based on their major and related specialties. They are expected to perform a large volume of work regarding selection of samples and pat-



Photo from the archives

terns of natural materials of Antarctica and to conduct a wide range of studies. Specialists will continue to build up the infrastructure of the base, putting

an emphasis on the commissioning of the satellite communication station which will provide unlimited Internet access and reception of several tele-

vision channels. “In addition, we will participate in at least two international optional programmes,” Mr. Gaidashov adds, explaining, “The first of them is the study of thermal and level regimes of Antarctic freshwater reservoirs together with our Finnish colleagues. The second is the continuation of scientific research together with our Russian colleagues to study the reflecting properties of glaciers and changes in their boundaries using ground-based remote measurement methods, aircraft and space satellite systems.”

The National Academy of Sciences notes that construction of the infrastructure of the first part of the Belarusian Antarctic station is at its final stage. Conditions for work and life have been created. Previously, creating conditions for survival was the key goal and now scientific studies are in focus as Belarus joins the international community of countries involved in Antarctic exploration.

Monomakh writing to Vsevolod

By Katerina Charovskaya



One of the first mentions of Grodno’s Prince Vsevolod Davydovich occurs in connection with his marriage to the daughter of the Grand Duke of Kiev — Vladimir Monomakh. This joyful event happened in 1116 and, in 1128, Grodno was first mentioned in the chronicles. However, it’s only recently that archaeologists have found material evidence that distance was no obstacle to communication between the two princes: during excavations in the courtyard of the New Castle, a personal pendulous seal of Vladimir Monomakh was discovered.

Ivan Spirin, a senior researcher at the National Academy of Sciences’ History Institute, has been supervising the excavations for a year and a half. It was he who discovered the rare artefact. The scientist explained that pendulous seals in ancient times were used for sealing letters: they were hung on laces

and confirmed the authenticity of documents, indicating the identity of the person who sent it. With regard to the Grodno find, this means that it was the Grand Duke of Kiev — Vladimir Monomakh — who sealed papers many centuries ago.

“The value of this find is not so much material but scientific,” Mr. Spirin notes. “In this case, it is a confirmation of the chronicle’s information about the existence at that time of correspondence between the Principality of Kiev and the Principality of Grodno.”

One side of the seal features Basil of Caesarea — the patron saint of Vladimir Monomakh, who was christened Basil. There’s an inscription in old Slavonic on the back: ‘Lord, help your servant, Basil’.

The artefact was found at a depth of 40 centimetres, although the cultural layer in this place is 5.5 metres. Scientists believe this was so close to the surface due to the fact that later cultural strata may have been cut during the 16th-17th century road construction.

Historical heritage of domestic science

Scientists of the Belarusian State University discover geodesic points of the Central European arc in the Minsk Region, which are more than 180 years old

By Olga Korneeva

Field studies were conducted in the Kopyl, Lyuban, Starye Dorogi and Kletsk districts. The exact location of six points was set. The surviving points are 50cm below ground level and are represented by masonry in the form of a cube with a length of 1m. A brick was installed in the centre and co-ordinates were marked on it.

The researches were carried out in 2018-2019 with the participation of employees of the Department of Geodesy and Cartography of the BSU’s Geography and Geoinformatics Faculty, leading specialists of the Belgeodesy state enterprise and Credo-Dia-

logue company. Before starting work, scientific reports and cartographic materials of the 19th-20th centuries were thoroughly studied.

Scientists present the results of field expeditions at the international scientific and practical conference *Geomatics: Education, Theory and Practice*, which is held on November 20th-22nd at the BSU in Minsk.

In total, 52 points were sited in the territory of Belarus from 1827 to 1866, which are included in the parallel degree measurements. As the BSU explained, astronomical and geodetic measurements were required to establish the shape and size of the Earth’s ellipsoid. Determining the

length of the meridian arcs at different latitudes in the middle of the 18th century made it possible to confirm the hypothesis of the planet’s polar contraction, determine the parameters of the Earth’s ellipsoid and refute the version of its ideal spherical shape.

The geodetic constructions of the 19th century are the historical heritage of our domestic science. Searches by scientists, surveyors and cartographers are necessary to preserve these unique objects and include them in the State List of Historical and Cultural Values of Belarus. Such studies allow a comparative analysis of geodetic works in the context of different eras. Modern definitions using satellite systems confirm the high accuracy of conducting astronomical and geodetic works of the 19th century.

The surviving centre of the Tenner survey point — Kondratovich

THE MT REFERENCE
The Central European parallel arc is a degree measurement along the parallel of the 52nd north latitude. Its total length is **4,360 km** — from the island of Valencia (Ireland) in the west to the city of Orsk (Russia) in the east. In Belarus, the arc’s length exceeds **530 km**.





Time travel portal open

Rumyantsev Hall, music boxes and gilded watches: Gomel Palace and Park Museum is celebrating its centenary

By Olga Valchenko

The first exhibition at the Gomel Palace and Park Museum opened on November 7th, 1919. Over the century, the collections have experienced a great deal. During the war, 7,500 exhibits were evacuated, and just 500 were returned. For decades, the museum has been working to create a new, authentic collection. We visited this outstanding site and found out about the most unusual, expensive and significant items.

Stars of the huge halls

Senior researcher Vadim Barabanov traditionally starts the tour from the central part of the palace, “In fact, only the walls remained from the former palace. It was destroyed several times. It suffered greatly in 1919 during the Strekopytovsky revolt and the Great Patriotic War.”

Now the interior has been reconstructed, as far as possible, with the coat of arms of the former owners of the estate, the Rumyantsevs and Paskevichs, even being applied to the inside of the dome. To mark the anniversary, the museum invites visitors to look through time, with archival photographs being added to most expositions. They illustrate not only the history of Gomel, but also the fate of the museum itself. The current reception hall once used to be a ‘golden dining room’ while the Rumyantsev Hall housed an exhibition dedicated to the October Revolution and Soviet power.

They have worked faithfully on the restoration of the museum, confirmed by Mr. Barabanov’s figures, “Our main archive now boasts 174,000 items. However, much has not yet been returned. Some artefacts from Gomel palace are even stored in the Hermitage.”

Each exhibition space can boast a star. On the old canvases next to the owners of the estate one can find the modest image of Pushkin. The former house chapel houses icons carved from walrus bone. Furthermore, the room with decorative items has unusual music boxes from bygone times, as well as modern ones, with the singing of Kursk nightingales. Nearby



The red living room is the favourite room of Irina Paskevich, the last owner of the palace



Eight representatives of the Paskevich family are buried here

are the personal belongings of Andrey Gromyko, while there’s a posthumous cast of the hands of Ivan Paskevich in the palace’s tower.

The museum shows not only the life of the aristocracy, but also the history that only archaeologists can restore. The most valuable exhibit here

is not the gilded 1810 watch ‘Coriolanus and Volumnia’ produced by the French workshop of Tamira, whose price, according to rumours, reaches tens of thousands of US Dollars. The arrowhead found during excavations in the park is of greater historical importance, found in the same room

On January Suchodolski’s canvas *Surrender of the Erzurum Fortress Aleksandr Pushkin* is depicted behind Ivan Paskevich

with the mammoth bones. It dates back to the 12th-13th centuries, and visitors are invited to look through a magnifying glass to see the signs of the Rurik dynasty — the famous trident.

What surprises visitors

The museum is not limited to the exhibition rooms. It occupies the buildings of the former sugar factory, which now houses the observation tower and a winter garden with an area of almost 250sq.m with dozens of species of subtropical plants: magnolias, palm trees, laurels and avocados. The oldest of them is a fanpalm, planted in 1888. History hides under every bush in the



Ivan Yurievich

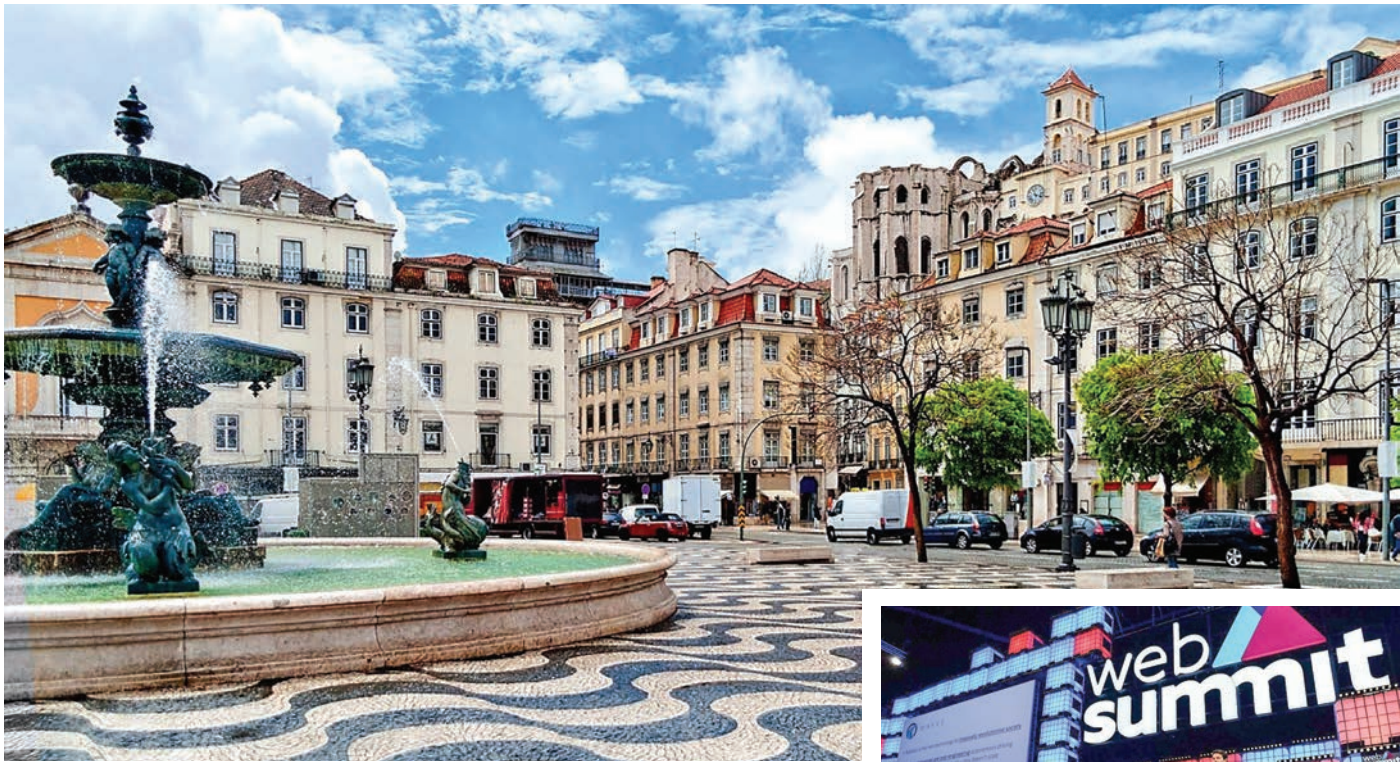
park. For example, near the path to the embankment, one can see the granite pedestal for a 19th century sculpture and a plinth with a 100-year-old flower girl with a two-sided image of a bull, found during work at the mouth of the Gomeyuk ravine.

Mr. Barabanov finishes the tour in an unusual place, the tomb built in 1870-1889. Eight representatives of the Paskevich family found their last resting place here. Alongside its sacred meaning, this building carries a great cultural memory in carved stone, red unglazed terracotta, small mosaics and wall paintings. A mosaic panel depicting seraphim, produced in the late 19th-early 20th centuries by the famous St. Petersburg Frolov workshop has been preserved on one of the walls. The vaults are finished with ceramics resembling chipped stone with glass glaze. It was produced nearby: at a glass factory near the modern village of Nasp, in the Buda-Koshelevo District. Access to the tomb is open, while the chapel is still under restoration. The exterior has been completed, and specialists are now working on the interior. Soon there will be another place at the museum to surprise visitors.

INSIDE

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Web Summit 2019: highlights of the event

Who could be the next big player in the IT sector? Web Summit in Lisbon could shed light on this question.

It is arguably the biggest tech conference in the world. It attracts over 1,000 renowned speakers and CEOs across a plethora of industries, as well as more than 70,000 visitors from all over the globe.

Among the more than 1,000 speakers this year were Microsoft President Brad Smith, EU Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, former British PM Tony

Blair and EU Brexit Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier.

Web Summit Lisbon, which was initially known as Dublin Web Summit, brings together stakeholders and major players on the Internet and technology industries with participants ranging from Fortune 500 companies to tech startups. It also attracts angel investors, corporate big wigs and international journalists.

Web Summit involves various mini-conferences which focus on different topics like marketing, music, cryptocur-

rency, international business, health and more. For example, Google's Sustainability Officer Kate Brandt announced their first-ever sustainability accelerator. This programme will provide access to resources and tools for social impact startups who aim to solve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Meanwhile, two political powerhouses, Ro Khanna and Tony Blair discussed society's need for thoughtful and intelligent tech regulation. More than familiar with areas of social inequality, Ro Khanna and the

former British Prime Minister spoke about how lack of policy change leads to unequal social growth, which causes disenfranchisement in the areas that are not tech hubs.

The conference was closed with words from inimitable Margrethe Vestager. The EU Commissioner for Competition talked about the need for regulation on technology companies, future regulations for AI, digital rights, climate change, data protection, and how democracy 'needs to take place in the open'.



A hub of travel ideas

WTM London prides itself on being the hub of travel ideas, aiming to give the global travel trade an insight of how the industry will look in the next five years, share innovations, and create endless business opportunities over the course of three days

More than 50 thousand representatives from all over the globe have descended on London to debate and discuss what's hot in the travel and tourism sectors.

World Travel Market London is the leading global event for the travel industry to meet industry professionals and conduct business deals. Through its industry networks, unrivalled global reach, WTM London creates personal and business opportunities, providing customers with quality contacts, content and communities.

With nearly 5,000 exhibitors from 182 countries, WTM is the UK's leading international travel trade show. In 2019, WTM marks its 40th anniversary. This exhibition is held at London's ExCel Conference Centre and is a must attend event for tour operators, travel writers, and travel agents. Thousands are promoting all sorts of holiday destinations — ranging from capital cities to exotic islands.



Extinction Rebellion activists sail 'sinking house' down the Thames

Extinction Rebellion activists staged a surprising demonstration, floating a model of a sinking house down the River Thames in protest over rising sea levels

The replica suburban house was floated in front of London's Tower Bridge in an 'attempt to send a SOS to the Government on climate inaction', the protest group said in a statement.

Extinction Rebellion noted that the ongoing flood disaster in northern England starkly illustrates that 'our homes, businesses and families are at very real risk'. "We are watching, in real time, as people's lives are destroyed around the world and in the UK. Unless action is taken to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero these tragedies are set to worsen,"

the group said.

The group pointed to scientific predictions that global sea levels could rise between 1 and 5 metres by 2100.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has reported that the global sea levels in 2018 were 3.2 inches (81mm) higher than their 1993 level. It added that 2018 was the seventh year in a row that sea levels had risen over the previous year.

"We may be close to passing a tipping point for at least some of the large outlet glaciers draining the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, and this would commit us to significant sea level rise whatever we decide in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions," Stephan Harrison, the Professor of Climate and Environmental Change at the University of Exeter, said in the statement.

Havana marks 500th anniversary with fireworks and celebration

Havana has celebrated its 500th anniversary with a bang, staging a colourful and impressive fireworks display that wowed thousands of residents and tourists gathered along the seaside Malecon boulevard

Fireworks boomed over the Morro Castle, which has guarded Havana Bay since the early 1700's, while on the other side of the water locals cheered and clapped at the night's bright display.

The anniversary comes as the country is mired in economic doldrums that has caused hardship amongst many citizens who struggle to make ends meet. But residents put worries aside during the festivities, enjoying the historic occasion marking five centuries of the founding of Havana, an achievement many appreciated and hope will be the start of better times to come.

Hundreds of locals gathered in the evening at La Templete, the grounds where the city tree La Ceiba is located, considered a symbol of

Havana's longevity and well-being.

They circled the tree while touching its trunk, believed by locals to bring good luck in the coming year. It was a shared moment for local residents, representing their collective hopes for a better future.

"Well, it's the 500th anniversary of Havana, and it's also my birthday, so I am really happy to be a Habanero on a day like today, very proud," said Sheila Ravelo, 26, a local resident.

After nearly four centuries of Spanish rule, and over 50 years of US-backed governments, then 60 years of Socialist rule, the city has been in the forefront of history.

Now, residents say they are looking forward to celebrating the anniversary, with the belief things can only get better, even in the midst of economic hardship.

Before the fireworks, the city hosted a visit by Spain's King Felipe who met Communist Party leader Raul Castro before returning to Europe. It was the first state visit by a Spanish monarch.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Augmented Reality — mysterious and romantic



Are there any differences between the male and female view on painting? Can the individuality of an artist produce a creative link with another master? Answers to many difficult questions can be found by visiting the exhibition of paintings by Tatiana Grinevich and Irina Yasyukayt-Dudareva — *Augmented Reality* — at the ArtHaos Gallery.



By Maksim Nikolaev

According to the Director of the ArtHaos Gallery, Lilia Lukashenko, the exhibition has turned out to be both unexpected and very topical. In late autumn, when nature withers, the evenings are cold and dark and the mood is not the best, the exhibition miraculously complements our reality with colours and makes the audience feel the positive, warm atmosphere of artists Tatiana Grinevich and Irina Yasyukayt-Dudareva.

“The painters have established the tradition of presenting their works together and they really complement each other. The art of painting has mostly been of male character in the past but this show proves that art can have a female face too. It reflects the woman’s feelings, experiences and emotions. If we look closely, the whole of life can be seen here,” Lilia Lukashenko said.

Both artists are graduates of Minsk’s A. Glebov Art School — now known as Minsk’s A. Glebov Art College — and the Belarusian State Academy of Arts. They are members of Belarus’ Union of Artists and their works are kept at Belarusian museums and private collections around the world. Irina and Tatiana are good friends, on the one hand, and are a true artistic duo, on the other. *Augmented Reality* is their sixth joint exhibition. The main thing that unites these women in art is subtle attention to their surroundings. They are able to find new, mysterious and sensual features even in the most ordinary and familiar aspects. They then share their impressions with the audience, and we understand them perfectly!

Tatiana Grinevich says that everyone sees the world in their own way but we reflect and complement it in our imagination. “Each of us has an opportunity to create our own reality and see good and bad, joyful and sad in the world. We complement reality in our paintings but our viewers will perhaps discover something of their own. I



Aleksey Vyznitsin



Director of the ArtHaos Gallery, Lilia Lukashenko



would like, of course, to fill the world with bright, beautiful and iridescent things. In my opinion, a person who looks at the picture, would like to mainly experience positive emotions since our world has enough negatives. If the picture inspires and makes your day warmer, then it’s great!” said the artist.

The difference between the augmented and virtual reality becomes obvious while looking at Irina Yasyukayt-Dudareva’s *Augmented Reality* — which is a self-portrait, as the artist admits. The character has a sort of a computer helmet with VR-glasses on her head but it’s woven from flowers; suddenly it turns into a traditional Belarusian wreath which girls like to dec-



orate themselves with. As a result, we can see the world not through digital images of a computer processor but through the petals of the flowers. The colours are amazing in this piece!

“What artists do with reality helps us to understand something about ourselves and about the world that surrounds us. My works are patterns that consist of real, recognisable images. However, they are



about the inner world, about what is kept by the soul, about time and about the changes it brings,” Irina says.

The woman in augmented reality is definitely there but she is also with us: she is quite real and tangible. Perhaps this is the key to how women are

able to anticipate, know and understand.

The *Augmented Reality* exhibition creates a warm and tender impression. It is soft, melodious and iridescent — like a bold female voice in a chorus of male art. It’s no better or worse: it’s just a different dimension!

CULTURE

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Granny Stepanida's prophetic dream

In search of interesting places in Belarus for the *Unusual Villages* project we went almost to the very outskirts of the Brest Region. The village of Doropeevichi is located in the Malorita District, just fifteen kilometres from Ukraine's Volyn Region.

By Victor Chamkovsky

The first thing the village of Doropeevichi met us with was its hospitality. As soon as we stepped on the threshold of the house of our character, when the hostess, Stepa, hastened to bake pancakes.

This is how craftswoman Stepanida Stepanyuk — famous throughout Belarus — is called by the locals. For more than 75 years already, she has been weaving handmade suits and dresses, rushniks and tablecloths, headgear and belts — everything using an old handloom. Granny Stepanida became famous due to a unique way of weaving, called 'kozhushek'. In the 19th century, it was forgotten, being replaced with simpler options. Meanwhile, Stepanida Alekseevna once saw a pattern woven in this way and decided to repeat it. But it wasn't easy at all. She went to local craftswomen but no one weaved like that. She also asked in the neighbouring village and there was no help either. Who knows if it would have worked out, if not a prophetic dream in the morning...

"I began to weave on the first day but failed. On the second day again. In this way I spent six days. Then I decided to cross myself and go to bed. If it does not work tomorrow, I will give up weaving," master of weaving Stepanida Stepanyuk recollects. "In the morning I was dreaming that I'm going in the direction of Kobrin. I see a grass lawn and a handloom. I see a woman sitting there. I think I'm going to ask her. I come up closer and see that the woman no longer exists while the handloom is still standing. Whom I'll ask now what to do with the thread?"

Stepanida Alekseevna managed to see in that dream how the handloom was threaded. The threads there were threaded less tightly. When the hostess woke up, she didn't cook any food or clean the house. The first thing she did was to go to the handloom. She threaded not the whole machine, but a small strip. Here a miracle happened. As the saying goes, the dream has come true. Everything turned out exactly as they weaved in Belarus 150 years ago. Now, white patterns were spread along the red cloth on one side of the cloth while red patterns were present on the white side, like negative and positive images of photos.

Stepanida Stepanyuk was born before the war. She was six years old when the Germans came to their farmstead in the woods. A family with five children was driven to the neighbouring village of Doropeevichi, so that they were under common control and did not help partisans. Stepanida's mother weaved well, and her father made a good handloom. They were making clothes, tow-

els, bedspreads, rugs... They sold or exchanged them for food and thus survived during the war.

Stepanida's daughter also weaves nowadays on the handloom. Valentina Gotovchits learnt everything from her mother and for a long time she has been doing well with a spinning wheel, a winder, a handloom and a shuttle. She says that her mother Stepanida is still responsible for the patterns.

"All these are old patterns from old costumes," explains Valentina Gotovchits. "We had and still have the old-style skirts. We carry all the patterns from them. We only combine them in different ways, rearrange, finish, or invent something of our own. For example, we use cornflowers, and they are already many years old. This is main-



Aleksey Stolyarov



THE MT REFERENCE

While in Doropeevichi, take a look at the old Holy Prechistenskaya church: a unique monument of folk architecture, the oldest church in the Malorita area. There's a mysterious monument here: a stone cross that has grown into the earth. Experts say that it was carved out from a pagan stone woman with the spread of Christianity. On holidays, believers go to the cross, bandage ribbons and towels, asking for health and prosperity. As often happens, stories of miraculous healing are associated with the stone cross.

NOTE

The Internet project of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House — *Unusual Villages* — tells us about the modern life of the most unusual villages in Belarus, which preserved unique cultural values that gave the village a second wind. These include ceremonies, customs, life, dances and songs that are registered in the lists of intangible cultural heritage of Belarus and UNESCO. Vivid photos, dynamic video reports and soulful texts — all this is available at veski.sb.by. Discover *Unusual Villages*!

ly done by my mother, as she dreams up and draws."

I watch with curiosity how a shuttle with a thread flies through the throat from right to left in the hands of the craftswomen. Now, the thread is pressed to the base of the would-be item with a sharp movement of a wooden thigh with cloves. From the outside, everything seems not very complicated. But you don't immediately notice that the weaver presses the running boards at the right moment, one after the other, and pulls the threads in four different combinations in a special sequence...

Even an experienced craftswoman will spend three days to create a woven apron and more than a week for a blouse. The skirt is the most difficult, and it will take at least two weeks. To create a whole costume, it will take two months of hard work, because you can't leave the household, which also requires time. Nothing can be done here without love for weaving.

No one will undertake to count how many metres of canvas were woven here. There was time when Stepanida worked as a seamstress during the day and, in the evening, she hurried to her beloved handloom. Among the products that granny Stepanida weaves there's one very rare. This 'nametka', or 'plat', is a headgear worn by married peasant women in the old days. Woven stripes with a width of 30-60cm were made exclusively of thin linen thread and it was here, in the Malorita District of the Brest Region, that they were richly embroidered.

Stepanida Stepanyuk initiated the opening of a weaving club in the village of Doropeevichi, headed nowadays by her daughter Valentina Gotovchits. So, the revived ancient technique of weaving lives in their female hands.

Hockey is never too much

The attention of all hockey fans has been riveted on the performances of club teams. During the recent international season, our squads of all different ages fought hard for awards and titles and did it successfully.

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Ours are the first

The Belarusian ice hockey national team won the Four Nations Tournament in Latvia under the guidance of head coach Mikhail Zakharov, who returned to the camp. In the opening match on the ice arena in Liepaja, the Belarusians beat the French team — 4:2, but then lost to Slovenia — 0:2. Everything was decided in the final match, with Belarusians defeating the Latvian national squad — 3:2 (with Mikhail Stefanovich scoring a hat trick).

Mikhail Zakharov noted, “The main thing is that we’ve managed to take first place in the tournament, but, of course, the last game made me nervous. Although both missed goals happened after forwarding. The second puck couldn’t be counted at all as there was hindrance to the goalkeeper, if the top camera were for repetitions, this would be obvious to the referees. But let’s leave that for their conscience. The main thing is our victory, both in the match and in the tournament.”

However, the major trial for the team still lies ahead. At the World Championship, which will be held in Switzerland,



our squad, having returned to the elite division, faces serious challenges to take a place no lower than 12th. Our ice hockey players will have to compete in the group stage with teams from Canada, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Denmark and the UK. According to Mr. Zakharov, it will be difficult and there are some issues, but there is also time to resolve them. The Four Nations Tournament is only the

beginning of preparations for the world forum.

Targeting the World Championship

The success of the national team was also repeated by our youth team composed entirely of players under 20. In Bobruisk, the Belarusian hockey players earned three victories across three matches. First they defeated the Latvians — 1:0, then beat the Austrians —

2:1. In the last meeting of the single-round tournament, our players didn’t leave the Danes any chance, winning 5:1, with four goals scored in the first period. The head coach of the team, Dmitry Dudik, concluded the task was completed, “We didn’t miss a single goal in the minority. I’ll keep silent about the majority. We’re satisfied overall. All our targets were fulfilled.”

Very soon, this team will

begin fighting for qualification to the elite of youth hockey at the World Championship in Division 1A, which will be held from December 9th to 15th in Minsk. Belarusians will compete with teams from Austria, Latvia, Norway, Slovenia and Denmark.

Being left with bronze

Two of our national teams also won bronze medals at international tournaments. The U-18 squad suffered a defeat in Denmark from the national teams of Slovakia and Germany with the same score 1:2. Having defeated the hosts in the final match — 9:0 — Belarusians finished third. Meanwhile, the U-17 team was fighting for the awards of the traditional President’s Sports Club Cup at the Chizhovka-Arena. Belarusians have previously won the tournament three times but, this year, failed to repeat their success: they lost to the Slovaks — 3:4, then defeated the Latvians — 2:1, and in the last match they were beaten by the Russian team — 0:6 — who went on to win the President’s Sports Club Cup for the ninth time in its history. However, according to Dmitry Shulga, the head coach of the U-17 team, the tournament was very useful for our hockey players, “We were able to assess the level the team is at now. For the national team, this was the first tournament at this standard. A lot of needs to be done, but there are also positive aspects: the team continued fighting to the end even in those matches that it lost.”

ARENA

Belarusian athletes won 20 medals at the European Muay Thai Championship in Minsk.



These include 5 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze awards. The winners of the domestic tournament, bringing together more than 520 athletes from 26 countries, were Dmitry Valent, Andrey Kulebin, Nikolay Svedomsky, Daniil Yermolenko and Maksim Petkevich.

Belarusian sambo wrestlers earned 11 medals at the World Sambo Championships in Korea.



This time our team was left without any golds: Tatiana Matsko, Anfisa Kopaeva, Stepan Popov and Maria Kondratieva won silver at the event while Andrey Kazusenok, Aleksey

Stepankov, Marina Zharskaya, Angela Zhilinskaya, Yekaterina Prokopenko, Olga Maleiko and Yevgeny Aleksievich won bronze in combat sambo.

Belarusian skier Anastasia Kirillova clinched two gold medals at the Eastern European Cup stage, held under the auspices of the International Ski Federation (FIS) in Kazakhstan.



The athlete won the first gold in the sprint in the classic style. Having shown the best result in the qualification, she was unstoppable in the main round, ahead of Russians Yevgenia Shapovalova and Kristina Matsokina, who were placed second and third in the final standings respectively. In the classic 5km race, Anastasia Kirillova reached the finish line in 14 minutes 40.4 seconds. Her major rivals were the Russian skiers. Daria Rogozina lost to Kirillova by 0.5 seconds at the finish while Natalia Barakina, who became the bronze medallist, lost 2.4 seconds.

In the struggle for qualification

Belarusian athletes could expect about 100 ‘qualifications’ for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. The prediction was voiced by Belarus’ Sports and Tourism Minister Sergey Kovalchuk at a meeting of the organising committee to ensure the training and participation of Belarusian athletes in the 32nd Summer Olympic Games and the 16th Summer Paralympic Games.

By Irina Sergeeva

The third stage to prepare Belarusian athletes for the upcoming Olympics is drawing to a close. Their main task is to earn the right to take part in the Games and to model competitive activity — in real conditions as far as possible. The preparation programme envisages more than 300 athletes qualifying to compete across 30 sports at the 2020 Olympic Games.

As of early November, the Olympic qualifying requirements and standards were met by 63 Belarusian



athletes across 51 events in 13 sports. These include wrestling, cycling, gymnastics, rowing, athletics, swimming, and sailing. Selection in some sports will continue until the end of June 2020.

“We believe that, by the end of the Olympic qualifying period, we can expect our athletes to secure about 100 Olympic places,” believes Mr. Kovalchuk. “Analysis of the performance of our summer sports teams shows that Belarus is traditionally strong in kayak and canoe, as well as weightlifting, rhythmic gymnastics, trampolining, and wrestling.”



Vitaly Pivovarchik

Minsk. Kupala Public Garden. Squirrels store up food for the winter.

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM
12 Karl Marks Street
1st December. *Memory Keepers: Museums and Collectors*

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM
20 Lenin Street
Until 24th November. *Nadya. Devotion to 115th anniversary of Nadezhda Khodosevich*
Until 1st December. *Devotion to Small Homeland*
Until 10th January. *Russian Impressionism*
Until 19th January. *Oman: Pearl of the East. Handicraft Legacy*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS
3 Nekrasov Street
Until 1st December. *Art of Live Fire* — based on results of 16th International ART-ZHYZHAL Ceramics Open Air Workshop
Until 8th December. *Information*
Until 8th December. Personal photos projects of Yelenka Donbrova

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY
15 Svobody Square
Until 8th December. *Stars Captured by Camera of Oleg Lukashevich and Aleksandr Alekseev*
Until 19th. January. *Lady's Articles*

YANKA KUPALA LITERARY MUSEUM
4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 5th December. *I'm Free in My Spirit*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY
13 M. Bogdanovich Street
Until 12th January. *There Is Charm in Old and Forgotten...*

HIGH PLACE
2A Gertsen Street
Until 8th December. *Source*

MINSK GALLERY
9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 9th January. *Museum of Leonardo da Vinci's Inventions*

ZAIR AZGUR MUSEUM-WORKSHOP
8 Zair Azgur Street
Until 23rd November. *Seven Sins*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY
12 Karl Marks Street
Until 12th January. *Dangerous Beauty*

VILNIUS
55 Kalinovsky Street
Until 1st December. *Pictorial Art by Dmitry Mshar*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS
1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
21.11. Iolanthe
22.11. Cinderella
24.11. Love and Death / With Love to Opera
26.11. Eugene Onegin
27.11. Little Prince
28.11. Don Pasquale

MAXIM GORKY THEATRE
5 Volodarsky Street
23.11. Summer Residents
26.11. Bridal Shower
27.11. Dangerous Ties

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE
7 Engels Street
21 and 24.11. Pinsk Gentry
21.11. Evening
21 and 27.11. Elza's Land
22 and 28.11. Inspector
22.11. ART
23 and 24.11. Black Lady of Nesvizh
26.11. Pan Tadeush
27.11. Local Cabaret
28.11. Radio Prudok

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE
5 Frunze Street
22.11. The Devil and Miss Prim immersive show
23.11. Clinic
27.11. Night at a Hotel

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE
44 Kropotkin Street
21.11. Portrait
22.11. Mad Woman
23.11. I'm Not Ashamed
24.11. Concrete
26.11. Ticket to Brest Train
27.11. Serezhha
28.11. Grandfather

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS
33 Mashеров Avenue
21.11. Unnamed Star
22.11. Forgetting Herostratos
23 and 24.11. Who Laughs Last
24.11. Midnight Robbery
25.11. Master and Margarita
26 and 27.11. Mechanical Man
28.11. No.13

BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE
3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street
21.11. Sparrow's Night
22.11. Inspector
23.11. Soldiers

PUPPET THEATRE
20 Engels Street
21.11. Tartuffe
28.11. Pushkin. Very Small Tragedies

CONTEMPORARY ART THEATRE
5 Oktyabrskaya Street
23.11. #Itsdemocraton
28.11. Seagull