

Co-operation  
envisages  
an acceleration  
of events



Investor  
optimism based  
on stability

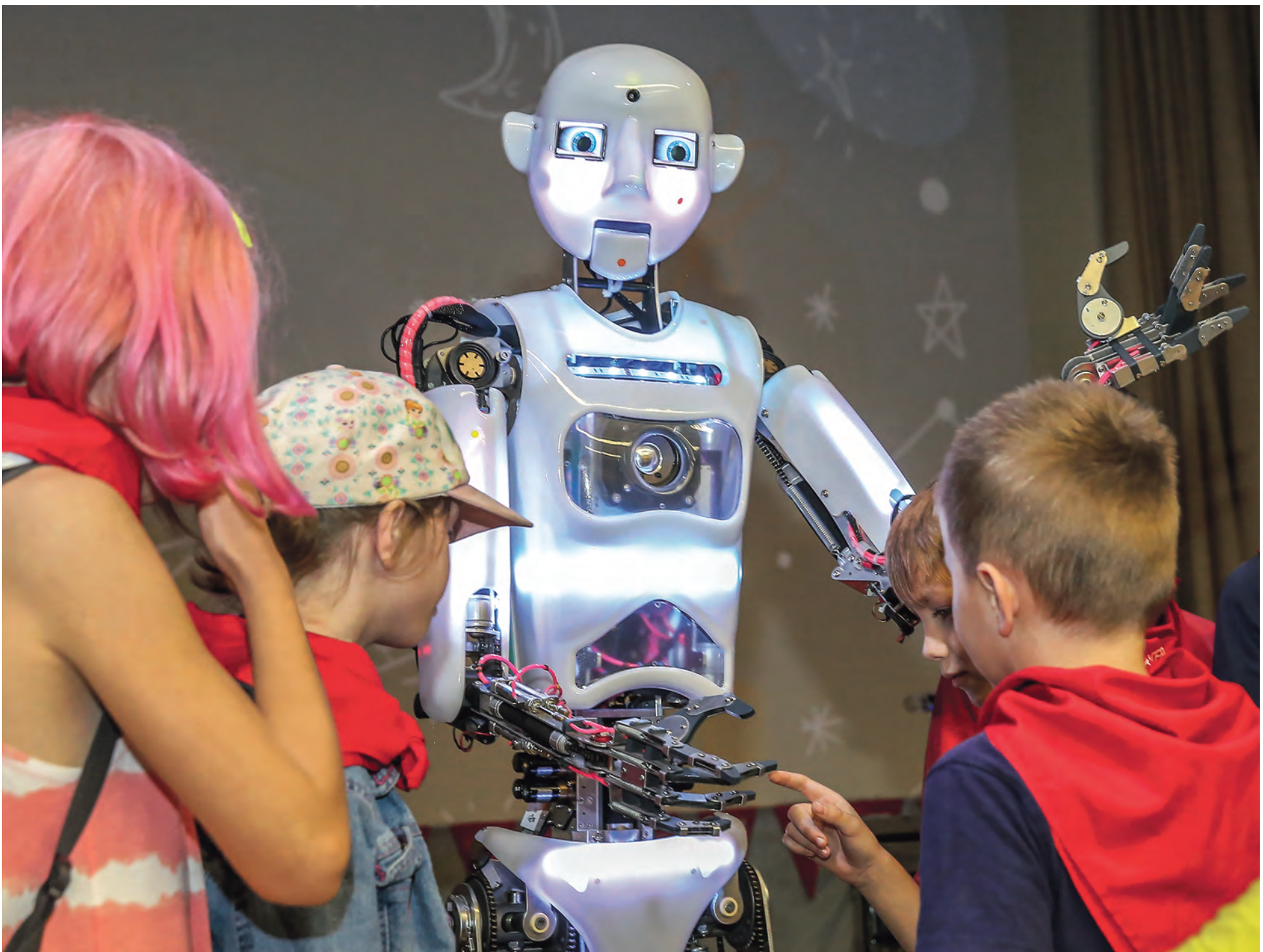


INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 30 (796) ● THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019 ● WWW.SB.BY



## Cyber-teacher appreciated by young people

Robot offers open lessons at an IT-camp for children coming from all districts of the Brest Region





# Elections should be held democratically

## Shape of the next electoral campaign outlined

By Kirill Dmitriev

During the working meeting with the President, the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Belarus, Lidia Yermoshina, suggested holding elections for the Council of the Republic on November 7th and elections for the House of Representatives on November 17th. The Head of State didn't have any objections.

Aleksandr Lukashenko gave the instruction to conduct additional meetings with the heads of regions and other officials, in order to approve the dates as quickly as possible. However, the standard procedure for the organisation of the election campaign went as follows, "It's necessary to take a careful approach and conduct the elections properly. Specialists should always assess our elections to verify that everything in Belarus was held properly and democratically. In the meantime, order and stability are at the core of what we do. Everything should be done according to the law. We'll conduct the elections according to the specification in the Belarusian Constitution. They are for us, for our nation. They are not for anyone else."

During the conversation with the Chair of the Central Election Commission, Aleksandr Lukashenko determined several key points which should be acknowledged during the organisation of the parliamentary, and later Presidential, election campaigns.

### On the terms

As it has already been said, the dates of the major voting days will be decided as soon as possible. There have been many discussions surrounding this topic, though Mr. Lukashenko has made everything clear by saying that, "We've already decided to hold the parliamentary elections in 2019 and the Presidential elections in 2020, despite the predictions of analysts who speculated that Lukashenko would hold the Presidential elections in 2019, taking advantage of the calm political situation. This is a mistake. As I promised, everything will be done in accordance with the law and the Constitution. Since the parliamentary and Presidential elections coincided, we have decided to separate them."

### On the geography of the elections

On the whole, the number of deputies and senators has been determined by legislation, alongside the number of electoral districts. Nevertheless, the Head of State spoke on this topic, probably, in order to avoid the creation of rumours, "The Constitution determines that the number of deputies is 110. I think it's quite enough for our country, as there are 110 districts."

### On interaction

The power structure in our country has been built in such a way that only a few people are involved in resolving election issues. On the one hand, this helps to avoid influences from outside on the electoral process. On the other, in the period of election campaigns, the burden placed on these experts increases.

The President noted that it's necessary to establish interaction between the CEC and power authorities at various levels.

### On financing

The topic of money is often prominent. However, the issue is transparent, as assignments for election campaigns are taken into account by the budget. In general, the principle of due diligence is a priority. "Without squandering money, we should determine the financing of elections, as the budget has the necessary funds." noted the President.

### On observation

The election of power authorities is an exclusively sovereign right of a nation. The country is open to interest from the outside. Mr. Lukashenko noted, "I do not think that we need to beg anyone to



come and observe the election. However, it's necessary to give a clear signal that if anyone wants to come, they are welcome. If someone needs official status, we will invite them. If you want to see the Belarusian electoral process, you are welcome to come. If you need an invitation, we'll send it. No one will be prohibited from observing."

### On transparency

The President set the task before the CEC to widely and more actively inform the population about preparations for the elections and the elections themselves, "I suggest Lidia Yermoshina should lead this process. I believe all members of the commission can participate in the process of informing the public about the course of the election campaign, about preparations for the elections and, of course, an information centre on the actual day, as we usually do. It's important that the elections are held at a high standard in our country. I don't want anyone, even the so-called opposition, to see any hidden motives in my words about fairness. I'm absolutely sincere. Today we do not need to show off, as people know me, members of the Government and of the Parliament."

### After the report to the President, Lidia Yermoshina told journalists details of the preparation for the election campaigns, particularly about innovations:

"This year, access to electronic maps of the electoral districts will be guaranteed. These have been developed by the State Property Committee. The Belarusian Republican Youth Union is working on the development of a mobile application, enabling each voter to determine their electoral district and provide them with instructions. An information centre will be operating in the Palace of the Republic, as has been the tradition since 2001." Speaking about the financing of the election campaigns, the CEC Chair noted that 'elections in Belarus are held in the most cost-effective way'. "This is the will of the Head of State and the public. Per capita spending on elections is much lower in Belarus than it is in neighbouring states," she noted.



## Current issues for a meaningful conversation



By Vladimir Velikhov

**President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky had a telephone conversation**

According to the Presidential press service, the Belarusian Head of State congratulated the Ukrainian President on successful political campaigns and wished him every success in forming his Government.

Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed his earlier invitation for the President of Belarus to visit Ukraine at the 2nd Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine to be held in Zhitomir in October this year. Mr Lukashenko accepted the invitation and said that he was an initiator and co-founder of this event, which he views as a highly efficient and useful instrument for promoting the economies of both countries.

Furthermore, Mr. Zelensky provided a detailed update on the situation in Donbass and thanked the President for offering an efficient negotiating platform and for the role Belarus plays in conflict resolution. The Belarusian leader assured Mr. Zelensky that Minsk will keep investing every effort in settling the situation and that the Ukraine can count on Belarus as an advocate of peaceful initiatives.

A separate set of issues dealt with the economy and trade, in particular, partnerships in industry and agriculture. The presidents paid special attention to the harvest season in the two countries.

In addition, they discussed their joint efforts in maintaining national security in the energy sectors of both Belarus and Ukraine.

Volodymyr Zelensky congratulated Mr. Lukashenko on the excellent conduct of the 2nd European Games and emphasised that Ukraine closely followed the events. In return, Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated the President on the performance of the Ukrainian team.

At the end of the conversation Mr. Lukashenko invited the Ukrainian President to visit Belarus at any time, and Mr. Zelensky gladly accepted the invitation.



# Co-operation envisages an acceleration of events

By Vasily Kharitonov

**Belarusian-Uzbek relations are a shining example of how, with sufficient political will, it is possible not only to bring the partnership to a higher level, but also to ensure prospects for its development. This is evident from the productive talks between the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, and the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who came to Minsk on an official visit last week.**



It's no exaggeration to say that Uzbekistan is experiencing a period of Renaissance. The authorities have announced a plan for large-scale development in the country, with special attention paid to the modernisation and diversification of the economy. The main priorities of the state programmes include import substitution and exports. Uzbekistan is open to attract new technologies and investments.

In his talk with Mr. Mirziyoyev, the Belarusian Head of State focused on the development of co-operation between the countries, "Over the last two years, we have completely transformed our relationship... although we simply needed to renew connections. Fortunately, we have done much more in the last two years than in the previous 25 years."

The heads of state also had an opportunity to talk the day before the official talks took place. Mr. Lukashenko invited his guest to an informal dinner, where the presidents spent most of their time exchanging their views on business issues.

Mr. Lukashenko commented, "To our surprise, we found we had similar views. You are situated in Central Asia and we are at the centre of Europe. Our advantages and problems are all related to this. The most important thing for us is your initiative to engage other regions in co-operation. This is probably the best part of this visit, as it's our task to pave the way. Those who implement our decisions and the 'road map', approved by the governments

of both Uzbekistan and Belarus, should follow this path."

The heads of state agreed to meet regularly, in Minsk and Tashkent, with the aim of personally monitoring the implementation of the 'road map'. The document includes 155 specific measures and, according to Mr. Lukashenko, it's extremely important to keep a finger on the pulse. The Belarusian President assured his guest of Minsk's sincere interest in the development of a partnership, saying, "We can resolve any issues mutually. Our economies do not conflict each other, we are complemen-

tary. Everything we produce is needed in Uzbekistan and we need everything you produce. In the industrial and agricultural revolution that began in Uzbekistan, I think we will not be superfluous, we will find our place as well."

Tashkent also shows interest in Minsk's participation, looking at it from the point of view of healthy business conduct. "Belarus has achieved many great successes in various sectors during the years since independence. I always tell our Government and our intergovernmental commission that it is necessary to meet more often, to ensure less paperwork but better results," said Mr. Mirzi-

yoyev, sharing his view on the logistics of mutual relations.

Full political understanding of both parties' situations and a warm and respectful attitude by the people, as well as a personal friendship between the heads of state is enough to convince them of the success of joint business aspirations. During the talks, Mr. Lukashenko emphasised their special relationship, "Belarus and Uzbekistan have always had something more than just friendly relations. This sentiment is based on our peoples' hard work, love for their land and desire for peace and harmony."

According to the President of Belarus, a series of diverse events timed to coincide with the visit, best confirms the mutual need for the development of an international dialogue. As for the main vector of co-operation, Minsk and Tashkent agree, after conducting their assessments, to strengthen trade and economic ties. The need to balance mutual trade and develop co-operation between leading businesses is considered particularly important in Uzbekistan. This relates to the exchange of experience and technology on mutually beneficial terms. Another priority for co-operation is the creation of joint groups in agriculture

and the textile industry, for the common development of a third market.

Summarising the talks, Mr. Lukashenko said that he sees the visit of the President of Uzbekistan as meaningful and productive. According to the Belarusian Head of State, in less than a year since his visit to Uzbekistan, significant progress has been made in strengthening relations between the countries. "This was facilitated by a systematic interstate dialogue at the highest level. I very much appreciate the confidential nature of the meetings with Shavkat Miro-

monovich, where all areas of mutual interest are constructively discussed," he said.

Minsk greatly appreciates the results of the official talks. They were business-like and constructive, and once again confirmed that Belarus and Uzbekistan are strategic partners. The course of strengthening this co-operation will be continued.

In conclusion, Mr. Lukashenko spoke warmly about his personal attitude to the Belarusian-Uzbek partnership, "Personally I appreciate what we are doing today with the President of Uzbekistan. I am very pleased with the success that Uzbekistan has had in

just three years. I understand the actions of the President of Uzbekistan, which he is taking to raise the status of his country and to ensure that the people of Uzbekistan believe this is not only an ancient nation but will also be a successful one in the future. I have noted today that the current authorities in Uzbekistan are starting a revolution in industry and agriculture. It is not only modernising the country and the economic sectors, but also opening new doors to Uzbek society."

Mr. Mirziyoyev also spoke warmly of our country, noting the similarities in views of the leaders on issues of bilateral co-operation, "Peaceful and steadily developing, Belarus now sets an example for many countries. We are thankful for the successful outcome of the reforms implemented in your country and its development. Thanks to the well-thought-out policy of dear Aleksandr Grigorievich, the potential of the Republic of Belarus has been increased in all areas."

The President of Uzbekistan invited Mr. Lukashenko to pay an official visit to Tashkent at any time and expressed hope that the heads of state will see the joint ventures completed by the time of the next visit. The negotiations resulted in the conclusion of 12 joint documents on the development of co-operation in various areas. In addition, the presidents issued a joint statement in which they stressed the mutual desire of Minsk and Tashkent to develop a productive partnership in all directions.

## DIRECT SPEECH

**"We can resolve any issues mutually. Our economies do not conflict each other, we are complementary. Everything we produce is needed in Uzbekistan and we need everything you produce. In the industrial and agricultural revolution that began in Uzbekistan, I think we will not be superfluous, we will find our place as well."**



# Proposal deserving of close attention



Egypt suggests Belarus join projects to modernise metro, tram lines and railways, renovating transport systems and launching new types of transport

By Vladimir Khromov

The Transport Minister of Egypt, Kamel el-Wazir, made corresponding proposals on meeting the Belarusian Ambassador to Egypt, Sergey Rachkov. Discussing how best to advance our bilateral co-operation in promoting environmentally-friendly transportation, Egypt noted its interest in purchasing trams and electric buses made by Belkommunmash JSC.

Egypt is keen to update its urban public transport, including in the new administrative capital. Plans are afoot for the Belarusian enterprise to send representatives to Egypt, to examine potential sites for building tram lines in the new administrative capital, as well as evaluating tram operating conditions, and discussing terms of co-operation.

Belarus may join other projects organised by the Egyptian Transport Ministry, helping to develop the coun-

try's transport infrastructure. Mr. Rachkov has suggested using more Belarusian automobiles and equipment made by joint ventures in Egypt.

Expert consultations are planned with top managers from the road and bridge construction company of the

Egyptian Transport Ministry, with a view to organising trials for Belarusian trucks and road construction machinery — made by the Helwan Mechanical Engineering Plant and ETP Company of the Egyptian Military Production Ministry.



## Supporting exports remains among major priorities

By Alexey Fedosov

**In the first half of the year, the Development Bank financed projects worth over \$500m**

Large amounts of credit resources were allocated to

purchase machinery for the construction of facilities for the 2nd European Games, to construct and repair local roads, as well as to modernise the Byelorusskaya substation.

The Development Bank continued to support domestic exports, allocating more than \$400m of credit in the first six months, almost 1.5 times greater compared to the same period in the previous year. In total, the portfolio of credit has increased by almost 25 percent.

It should be mentioned that, to provide comprehensive financial assistance to small and medium-sized businesses, the bank allocates resources through three major sources: Rouble resources from the Development Bank, foreign currency loans from the World Bank and the Khalifa Fund. However, in the second half, there are plans to expand the network of partners via leasing organisations and proposals for new joint products for small and medium-sized businesses.



The press service announced that the debut of two issues of Eurobonds, \$500m over five years and \$210m over three years, on the international financial market, was the final part of the project that was implemented by the bank from

June 2018 to April 2019. Furthermore, the deal with the USA was the first external undertaking by a quasi-sovereign borrower from Belarus and is an indicator for similar projects for the Belarusian economy. The uniqueness of the transaction in Belarusian Roubles is primarily that, for the first time ever, a financial instrument denominated in the national currency was used on the international financial market. It's no exaggeration to say that this project marks a historic moment for the domestic financial system as it is an indicator of trust towards the economic and financial policy of Belarus, rather than merely towards the bank as a borrower.

In general, from January-June 2019, the Development Bank attracted €900m in external resources via various instruments. In terms of non-resident funds, the Development Bank is in second place among Belarusian banks. Furthermore, in the first half of 2019, the bank received \$106m in profit.



## Regions focus on collaboration

Mogilev Region and China's Jiangsu Province plan to expand mutual trade

By Vladimir Mikhailov

The meeting between the General Consul of Belarus in Shanghai, Valery Matsel, with top executives of Jiangsu-based companies JOC and Su-guo Supermarket, tackled the expansion and diversification of supplies of Belarusian goods to the market of this Chinese province.

Valery Matsel took part in an international conference in Nanjing to discuss co-operation as part of the *Belt and Road* project. Speaking at the event he called to step up Belarus-China interregional interaction in trade-investment and sci-tech areas. Mr. Matsel emphasised that thanks to interregional and twin-town contacts between the Mogilev Region and Jiangsu Province, the export of Belarusian prod-

ucts to this region (that has the second-highest GDP among the Chinese provinces) tripled in 2018 to reach \$40 million. The exports were dominated by foodstuffs (milk and beef), as well as sawn timber, chemical products and flax fibre.

During the conference, the Belarusian diplomat demonstrated facilities at the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park. He also met with Wuxi Deputy Mayor, Gao Yaguang, to discuss the development of regional contacts with the Belarusian city of Bobruisk.

Taking part in the conference organised by the Jiangsu Province's industrial Department and Nanjing's Office of External Ties were company heads from China and 12 countries of Europe, Asia and South America.

## Doing without a driver

BelAZ to develop robotics technologies with Russian firm Zyfra



By Olga Korneeva

BelAZ JSC and Zyfra Company (Russia) have signed a strategic agreement for partnership at the international industrial exhibition *Innoprom-2019*, held in Yekaterinburg. Both sides agreed to jointly develop robotics technologies for the mining industry while also establishing a research centre at the factory for innovations in artificial intelligence and autonomous transport.

The first steps have already been taken, as, together with the developer of solutions for the mining industry VIST-Group (which is owned by Zyfra), the production of robotised dump trucks has been launched. At present, these vehicles are successfully used in Khakassia's pits.

"Practice shows that completely automated and remotely controlled machinery (thanks to rigorous monitoring of the parameters of geo-technology) allows 20 percent more efficient transportation, ensuring drivers can avoid working in dangerous areas," note specialists.

Special emphasis was placed on artificial intelligence. On the basis of research of customers' needs and analysis of the world market, the plant's developments will be improved. In addition, the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, also familiarised himself with the opportunities presented for digital products in the mining industry during his visit. He saw how an operator remotely controlled a 130-tonne heavy-duty dump truck at the enterprise's testing site in Belarus.



# Investor optimism based on stability

In recent times, an unprecedented intensity in co-operation between Belarus and the European Investment Bank has become noticeable. Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to this at a meeting in Minsk with the EIB Vice President, Vazil Hudák

By Vasily Kharitonov

A framework agreement with the EIB was signed recently: in May 2017. However, in 2018 and until now, the current portfolio of the European Investment Bank in Belarus has amounted to 335 million Euros. The EIB finances a number of very important projects in the country, also taking part in the modernisation of the Minsk-Oshmyany-Lithuanian border highway, in the reconstruction of the corresponding road checkpoint. Aleksandr Lukashenko generally emphasised that the development of transport infrastructure is not only in the interests of Belarus, but plays an important role internationally. “We understand that, for Europe, Russia and China, this thousand-kilometre ‘window’ through Belarus is very important. What we are doing jointly here now is not only for Belarus; these are most important arteries for the whole world,” he said.

The President recalled that Belarus has already reconstructed many international routes linking Minsk with regional centres. “The infrastructure is excellent. I think that, over time, we will also use the North-South road, which includes St. Petersburg and Odessa. We have maintained it in very good condition in Belarus, but there are problems in other places. I think this road will be in high demand.”



The President also praised the EIB’s participation in environmental projects, noting, “There are many projects and I am very grateful to you for this. I hope our co-operation will develop at the same pace and we will find new avenues that will be beneficial for us and your bank. I am ready to be a guarantor, as for other foreign banks. We have always been a reliable partner.”

In turn, Vazil Hudák thanked Mr. Lukashenko for his praise of the work of the European Investment Bank in Belarus. “Of course, this is the result of the fact that Belarus is a dynamic country which is booming and where there are

very interesting opportunities for investment,” he said, adding that the EIB is focused on long-term investments and its financing is designed for 15-25 years. “Such long-term investments can be made only in those countries where there is sustainable development and optimism among investors that the country will continue to develop and remain stable. This is very important in today’s world which is full of various threats and instability. I would like to thank you for leading the country in this direction,” the guest added.

In addition, the European Investment Bank is considering opening a representative office in Belarus. As noted by Mr. Hudák, the proposal came from the Economy Ministry of Belarus. “We are grateful for this proposal from the state and the Government of Belarus. To open a representative office is not an easy decision, it needs to be thought over. We do not have representative offices in every country where we work, therefore we need to look at this from the point of view of developing the EIB representative offices abroad as a whole,” the official noted. “However, from the point of view of the dynamics of relations with Belarus, to look ahead (we hope to annually invest at least 200-300m Euros in Belarus), then this issue is promising, and the bank’s leadership will review it by the end of the year.”



Mr. Hudák believes the development of activities in Belarus is active and fruitful. Over the past eighteen months, the EIB has already allocated 335m Euros to credit projects in the country. By late 2019, this sum may reach half a billion Euros. “We see dynamic development. This is due to two aspects,” he explained. “Firstly, Belarus is a stable, attractive investment country where there is stability — both economic and political, as well as guarantees for investors that investments are reliable and will be returned. Secondly, Belarus is a key state for the European Union in terms of the *Eastern Partnership* and the development of European interests in the area. The role of Belarus on the path between Asia, the East, Russia and Europe is very important.”

One of the most successfully implemented projects is the provision of credit lines to two banks — Belarusbank JSC and Belagroprombank JSC — to support small and medium-sized businesses. 75m Euros (allocated in 2018) are already being fully utilised for these purposes. The possibility of providing additional resources is being explored at the moment. “This is very promising, as can be seen from the experience of those loans that were allocated through major state banks. The demand for this money is great, so we will continue moving in this direction,” assured Mr. Hudák.

ECONOMY

## Goals set: how they can be achieved

By Oleg Bogomazov

### Government determines economic tasks for next year

Experts of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have recently downgraded global growth forecasts for this year and next. The Eurozone is slowing down while trade wars between the USA and China lead to increased competition on a range of markets — sensitive for Belarusian manufacturers. All this gives rise to serious challenges for the stable operation of the country’s economy both this year and in 2020, therefore forecasting acquires special meaning.

While developing criteria for making social and economic forecasts for 2020, two scenarios were used: a targeted one for the forecast and a basic one for the budget. The differences are in the foreign economic aspects. Prime Minister Sergei Rumas noted that key figures of efficiency of the work of the Government and the National Bank for next year were determined as follows: growth rates of GDP, labour productivity growth, the attraction of around \$2bn of direct foreign investments and inflation at no more than 5 percent per year.

“Real earnings of the population should expand by 2.4 percent in 2020 while real salaries should increase by 2.1 percent. The export of goods and services is to increase by 3.3 percent, which means that, next year, supplies to foreign markets should rise by \$1.4bn year-on-year. The foreign trade surplus is projected to stand at 1



percent of GDP. As you see from the above-mentioned parameters, the main objective is to ensure macroeconomic balance,” noted the Head of Government.

According to Mr. Rumas, in order to stimulate economic growth, it is necessary to resolve several key issues. The first is labour productivity. The second issue is high economic costs while the promotion of entrepreneurship and work with investors is a further consideration. In the 2020 budget, the issue of bringing salaries in the budgetary sector to the level of at least 80 percent of the average salary in the economy is being addressed.

“Taking into account the growth of expenditure, we’ll need budgetary optimisation and total cost cutting across all areas, including for the support of the national economy and state enterprises,” added the PM. “These expenditures have been optimised and reduced to the minimum where it was possible to do so. The major objective of the budget is to enhance the well-being of the population and to improve their material stance. Primarily we will solve the problem by increasing salaries in the budgetary sphere which employs around 1 million people.”

The budget also envisages subsidies for the reduction of housing costs and subsidies for interest rates for particular borrowers.

## A1 Telekom Austria Group eager to further expand co-operation

The Austrian business has prepared proposals on developing the communications industry and information and communications technologies in Belarus

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

The Concern’s Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Arnoldner, made the statement as he met with the First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus, Aleksandr Turchin. The Belarusian telecommunications company velcom | A1 is a daughter enterprise of the Austrian Concern. Thomas Arnoldner talked about the main areas of work of A1 Telekom Austria Group and plans to further expand the business. He mentioned the importance of the Belarusian market for the concern and its appeal. “The more we work here, we see how the country develops as a whole and how information and communications technologies develop, how our experience can be used,” said Mr. Arnoldner.

In turn, Mr. Turchin stressed that Belarus is satisfied with co-operation with the business



and velcom | A1 is demonstrating good results. “I am ready to hear proposals regarding the development of the company in our country. We will exchange opinions and will make the final decision on the matters discussed if we can,” he remarked.

A1 Telekom Austria Group is one of the largest providers of telecommunications services in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2007, the group bought 70 percent of the shares in the Belarusian mobile carrier velcom | A1 and the other 30 percent in 2010. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, velcom | A1 had almost 5m subscribers.

The Minsk Times  
Thursday  
August 8  
2019

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# Positive experience ensures ability to make a proposal

## Belarus ready to train specialists for developing the economy of Uzbekistan



By Oleg Bogomazov

Belarus is ready to respond to the needs of the Uzbekistani labour market and quickly organise the training of specialists for an innovative business plan across a wide range of specialties, including IT, which is necessary for the development of a digital economy, trade and economic co-operation and assembly plants. The idea was proposed by Belarus' Education Minister, Igor Karpenko, at the 1st Forum of Regions of Belarus and Uzbekistan.

Mr. Karpenko recalled that the joint Belarusian-Uzbek faculties were set up in 2018 and over 400 Uzbek citizens are at present enrolled in Belarusian universities. He proposed the expansion of co-operation, not only in higher education but also in vocational training, for example, the establishment of resource centres.

Plans are in place to set up a Belarus-Uzbek interbranch institute of applied qualifications which will offer online programmes for the training and improvement of skills in areas strategically important for Uzbekistan.

The Minister also highlighted academic mobility, including internships, exchange of professors and students and joint training of their academic staff. Internship programmes for the faculty and staff of Uzbek universities have their headquarters at the BNTU Polytechnic Technopark, which reached an agreement on long-term science and innovation co-operation with the Islam Karimov Tashkent State Technical University in January.

Recently, Minsk hosted pro-rectors for science and innovations from the academic institutes of Uzbekistan on the internship visit.



# Young people appreciate cyber-teacher's classes

## Robot offers open lessons at an IT-camp for children of the Brest Region

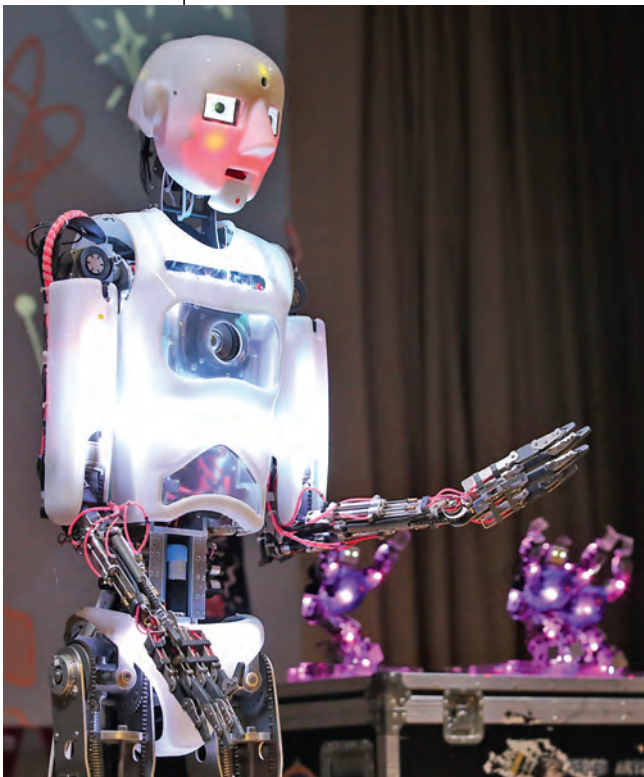
centre, Orlyonok and Salute health camps took part in the training. They were able to learn the basics of programming and 3D-modeling, how to create websites and develop programmes for chatbots.

"We've organised the IT-camp for the third year running. This is a joint project with the Education Ministry and the main goal is to teach children to use modern technology competently and safely," the Head of PR of the MTS mobile communication operator, Victoria Zdyarskaya, explains. "While staying at the camp, young people will gain knowledge in the field of IT, learn to work as part of a team, think analytically and some classes may even help them to choose their future profession."

The first camp was organised two years ago, in the Minsk Region. It was then decided to spread the experience across the

country. In Brest, great attention is paid to the IT training of children. "We co-operate with the High-Tech Park and open STEM-centres which already operate in the Brest, Pinsk, Baranovichi, Malorita and Bereza districts. We want our children to keep up with the times and participate in these projects," said the Deputy Head of the Department of Social and Educational Work at the Main Department of Education of the Brest Regional Executive Committee, Alla Senkevich.

In reality, in the south-western area of the country, over 55 000 children benefited from the programme in June and July. They stayed both at schools and in camps. Before the end of the summer, about eight thousand more children will have had the opportunity to improve their health in the Brest Region.



By Aleksandr Pimenov

The lesson was held at the Kolos children's rehabilitation and health centre. The students from the IT-camp enjoyed the opportunity to communicate with the robot, which is specially programmed to communicate with people and can read and show emotions. The cyber-teacher told them about the professions which will be in demand in the future, as well as the basic principles of robotics. It explained elements of artificial intelligence and how to assemble a robot at home.

The IT-camp united around a hundred children from all districts of the Brest Region. Among its participants were orphans and children from the regions most affected by the Chernobyl accident. Young people who came to recuperate at the Kolos



# Low-cost flights from Budapest

By Irina Novitskaya

## In spring 2020, low-cost airline Wizz Air to launch a Budapest-Minsk flight

The largest budget airline in Central and Eastern Europe, the Hungarian company Wizz Air, will launch Budapest-Minsk flights next spring. Staff at the Aviation Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communications said that the Hungarian Aviation Administration has sent a draft memorandum which has now been agreed to be signed.

"So far, we are talking about access to flights from Hungary to Belarus with this airline," says the Director of the Aviation Department, Artem Sikorsky. "I think we can easily make a deal."

The memorandum states that the low-cost airline will be able to run daily flights on this route. More precise details about the frequency of flights and conditions for passengers will be available after the document is signed.

### THE REFERENCE

Wizz Air is a relatively new company, having been set up 16 years ago. It offers more than 600 low-cost routes in 25 European airports and is constantly looking for opportunities to expand its network.



# Heartful, solemn and sombre event

## Monument to Uzbek poet Alisher Navaiy unveiled in the Belarusian capital

By Vladimir Velikhov

A bust to the Uzbek poet has been erected in the park in Sverdlov Street. Taking part in the ceremony were the Deputy Chairperson of Belarus' Council of the Republic, Marianna Shchetkina, and the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Uzbekistan's Oliy Majlis, Sodiq Safoyev.

"The unveiling of the monument to an outstanding son of Uzbekistan, philosopher Alisher Navaiy is a bright and important event. After all, he was not only a poet, but also a great humanist. His works have been translated into many languages. His deep philosophy and variety of images attracts new audiences even now. We can say for sure that this is a heritage for all mankind," Ms. Shchetkina said. "The wise words of Alisher are a guide for us, who live in the modern world. Culture unites all and is the foundation of the world, it has no borders. We love the culture of Belarus and honour the culture of Uzbekistan. We are confident that the spiritual basis and culture has been and will continue to act as a uniting power for all nations."



Mr. Safoyev noted that it was a great honour for him to participate in the unveiling of the bust to the great son of the Uzbek people in the capital of Belarus. On behalf of the people of Uzbekistan, he expressed his sincere gratitude to the President of Belarus, the Mayor's office and the public of Minsk for the respect



shown to the memory of his great ancestor.

"Alisher Navaiy has a special place in the heart of every Uzbek. His work has left an indelible mark on the culture of our people. With unsurpassed poetic power, he described the best human qualities and feelings of love for his homeland and peo-

ple, as well as his native language. Alisher was the first outstanding poet who gave the world access to the colourful, unusually imaginative Uzbek language," the guest noted. "He was also a brilliant educator and a prominent statesman of his era, supporting scientists, philosophers and artists. At his own expense he also built grand private buildings and 380 public edifices. His legacy fits seamlessly into world culture."

As Mr. Safoyev emphasised, Uzbekistan views Belarus as a reliable partner, relations with which are one of the main priorities of the country's foreign policy. The monument opening in Minsk is nothing more than a confirmation of the growing ties between the two peoples.

Alisher Navaiy was a poet, philosopher and statesman who lived in the 15th century. He created his literary works in Chagatai, Persian, Turkic, Uzbek and Uighur languages. His creative heritage includes about 30 major works: collections of poems, philosophical and scientific treatises.

The bust in the Belarusian capital was based on a sketch project by the young sculptor, Maxim Makarevich.



## CNN features Minsk among most beautiful European cities

### US TV Channel lists Belarusian capital among the top 20 most beautiful cities of Europe which have little tourism

By Olga Korneeva

CNN offers a selection of cities where visitors don't have to 'battle' through huge crowds of selfie stick-wielding tourists, such as the likes of Venice, Paris and Amsterdam. The article invites travellers to wander around vast Nezavisimosti Square before visiting the Museum of the Great Patriotic War, which looks at how Belarus overcame

Nazi occupation. Furthermore, CNN TV notes 'Minsk's legendary bar scene' and suggests tourists try the local beverages after a day of sightseeing.

Other European cities included in the list are Antwerp (Belgium), Malmo (Sweden), Bern (Switzerland), the Hague (the Netherlands), Wroclaw (Poland), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Ankara (Turkey).

## Good reputation worth cherishing

By Natalia Yemelyanova

### Belarus recognised as most punctual regarding flight schedules by AirHelp which specialises in protecting air passengers' rights

The company's specialists studied the data from March 31st to June 15th of 2019 to identify the numbers of delayed and cancelled flights in 15 countries, which were the most popular with Russian travellers in the summer of 2018. China is recognised as the least punctual. During the period in which they were assessed, more than 135,000 flights departed late from Chinese airports, almost a third of over 390,000 flights were delayed for at least 15 minutes or cancelled. Second place is occupied by Germany (25 percent of flights were not punctual) and Greece

with 24 percent is in third position.

In Belarus, travellers seldom face delays or cancellation of their flights; according to AirHelp, only 6 percent of all flights failed to meet the schedule during the set period.

A good percentage of problem-free flights were also in Moldova (almost 9 percent), Kazakhstan (12 percent) and Latvia (12.3 percent). In Russia, there were 12,500 delays and cancellation, which is almost 10 percent of the total number of flights.

AirHelp is the largest organisation which specialises in protecting the rights of air passengers and helps travellers seek compensation for cancellations or delays to their flights, as well as in cases of a refusal to be allowed onboard the plane. The company offers its services in 35 countries.







# Hot air trapped over Europe moving to Greenland now

Climate change made the stifling heat that enveloped parts of Europe last week much more likely and hotter, researchers say

The heat wave, the second to hit Europe since late June, set temperature records in Paris, as well as in Germany, the Netherlands and other countries. Nuclear reactors in France and Germany were forced to reduce output or shut down because the water used to cool them was too warm.

The hot air, which was trapped over Europe after travelling from northern Africa, lingered for about four days. It has since moved north over Greenland, causing the surface of the island's vast ice sheet to melt at near-record levels.

World Weather Attribution, a group that conducts rapid analyses of weather events to see if they are influenced by climate

change, said that for France and the Netherlands, the four days of extreme heat were a rare event even for a warming world. But it said climate change had made the heat wave at least 10 times more likely. In Germany, the heat wave was at least eight times more likely because of climate change, the group found, and in Britain, where the heat did not linger as long, it was at least two times more likely.

Looked at another way, the researchers said, the heat wave was hotter by about 2.5 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit, because of climate change.

"European summer heat waves are absolutely one of the hot spots of climate

change," said Friederike Otto, a member of the group and a climate researcher at the University of Oxford in England. "We've had two of these this summer alone, and the summer is only halfway through. We also had a massive heat wave last summer."

World Weather Attribution, with researchers in Britain, France, the Netherlands and elsewhere, uses computer simulations of the climate as it is now and as it would be if human activity had not pumped hundreds of billions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The group's goal is to bring legitimate scientific analysis to the public quickly after an event to help counter any potential misinformation.

## A town of 800 gets a million tourists a year

This is Hallstatt in the Austrian Alps which is considered to be the place where the oldest salt mine in Europe and archaeologists' assumptions are that mining started here in the Bronze Age. That's why the period between 800 and 400 BC is called Hallstatt period, showing the importance of this little village in Europe's history. Due to its salt extraction, the region was very wealthy and this is another reason why Hallstatt is called the Pearl of Austria. In 1997, this amazing place, maybe Europe's most beautiful village, was listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site. Since then, the UNESCO World Heritage region of Hallstatt Dachstein Salzkammergut has attracted millions of travellers, both those who are seeking for some adventurous activities or those who are seeking for mind relax.

Up until the 19th century, Hallstatt was accessible only by boat or mountain trail, but nowadays it's possible to reach this amazing small village by car, being located just about one hour from Salzburg.

Hallstatt is the most beautiful village in Europe, so beautiful there is an exact replica in southern China. The project was undertaken by Minmetals Land Limited. With an investment of nearly a billion Dollars, they set out to not only copy the historic district of Hallstatt but build a massive, Western style housing complex all around it.

## NASA's Valkyrie robot could help build Mars base



bots to be sent across to the uncharted mission since a couple of years now and is looking at its humanoid robot, Valkyrie to establish a base on the Red Planet.

A six-foot and two-inch semi-autonomous humanoid robot, Valkyrie, was designed with an ultimate goal by NASA, to help humans colonise the Mars. The 300-pound robot has been prepped up with a number of space-based trials by NASA's Space Robotics Challenge. The robot can use human tools and map its own path safely. It can freakily navigate well across rocky terrain, thanks to its hydraulic power.

At first sight, Valkyrie is an Iron Man look-alike with a glowing circle on her chest marking her status. Inside the infrared-transparent faceplate, you will find a whirring LIDAR sensor that constantly scans the surroundings for objects and obstacles. The robot has dual brain — two Intel iCore i7 computers which make sense of the sensors' input. Although Valkyrie was tested with a power cord in place, it can run on a battery pack lasting a good one hour.

**A semi-autonomous robot designed to operate in hostile environments has been developed by NASA**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and its pursuit of Mars will cross a milestone in 2020 with its Martian exploration programme. The American space agency has been developing ro-

## Facebook to pay record \$5bn fine over privacy violations

**Social media giant Facebook will have to pay a record-breaking \$5bn fine, accept news restrictions and a modified corporate structure that will hold the company accountable for decisions it makes about users' privacy to settle a government probe into its privacy practices**



The \$5bn penalty against the tech giant is the largest ever imposed on any company for violating users' privacy and almost 20 times greater than the largest privacy or data security penalty ever imposed worldwide. It is also one of the largest penalties ever imposed by the US Government for any violation.

The FTC said that Facebook's data policy was deceptive to 'tens of millions' of people who used Facebook's facial recognition tool. It also violated its rules about deceptive practices when it used phone numbers it obtained to enable security features for advertising.

"Despite repeated promises to its billions of users worldwide that they could control how personal information is shared Facebook undermined consumers' choices," said FTC Chairman Joe Simons.

Democratic FTC Commissioner Rohit Chopra said the penalty provided 'blanket immunity' for Facebook executives 'and no real restraints on Facebook's business model' and does 'not fix the core problems that led to these violations'.

Chopra and Democratic FTC Commissioner Rebecca Slaughter said the company's culture would not change until 'Facebook's core financial

incentives for risking personal privacy and national security' were addressed.

'Today Facebook reached an agreement with the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice over allegations that it broke a previous agreement over privacy. In reaching the settlement, Facebook has agreed to pay a \$5bn penalty, which is one of the largest in history. But even more important, Facebook will make some major changes to how it builds products and operates as a company', said the company in a statement.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**





# Real-life plots on display

National Art Museum is hosting a painting exhibition of the Honoured Figure of Arts of Belarus, Ivan Stasevich, dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the artist's birth and presenting two dozen paintings depicting primarily post-war years



By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition of works by Ivan Stasevich seems logical in the year of the 75th anniversary of Belarus' liberation from Nazi occupation. Many Belarusian artists had to fight, and Ivan Stasevich was, as stated, 'a son of the regiment' which reached Berlin and the Reichstag. Along with the exceptional circumstances of fate, he was an extraordinary and natural painter, who later also obtained an excellent education.

The would-be painter was born into a peasant family in Medvednya village of the Minsk Region's Starye Dorogi District. During the war he became a soldier of the partisan brigade and survived the siege. He was 15 when Belarus was liberated, then Ivan Stasevich was enrolled in the automobile and road unit of the 1st Belarusian Front. During



the military years he drew combat leaflets, posters and road signs, the last of which is *250 Metres to the Reichstag*.

After the war he graduated from the Minsk Art School and Moscow Art Institute named after Vasily Surikov.

His teachers were the famous artists: G. Izergina, A. Mozalev, V. Tsvirko, D. Mochalsky and others. His graduation work *In Belarusian Swamps*, depicting the partisans' breaking through the barricade, was exhibited at the All-Union Art Exhibition and received positive feedback from the critics.

The painter also devoted his attention to portraits and landscapes. He was always attracted by people close to him with many strong characters in his circle of friends. His landscape paintings depict views of the south and north of Belarus, the Soviet Union, from Murmansk to the Crimea and from Valaam to Baikal. He has also been to Italy, France, and Portugal.

The focuses of his art are human labour and the beauty of nature, alongside outstanding architectural buildings. All these were portrayed through the com-

bination of truthfulness, an energetic artistic manner and a romantic attitude. Ivan Stasevich also held a teaching position at the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute. Since 1985, he was a Professor and was involved in social activities, including the Union of Artists.

At present, the works by Ivan Stasevich are kept in many public and private collections in Russia, Algeria, England, Austria, Belgium, Germany, India, Italy and Canada, including the Starye Dorogi Regional Historical and Ethnographic Museum, where there are over 70. In addition, 22 paintings and drawings by the artist are included in the collection of the National Art Museum of Belarus. These include the *Miners of Soligorsk*, an outstanding artistic and historical document, which holds a permanent place in the exhibition of Belarusian art of the 20th century.

# Honest female view on beauty

*Female Portrait. Without Editors, Cosmetics and Decorations* photo exhibition opens at Gomel's Museum of History of Printing and Photography

By Svetlana Savelieva

The exhibition showcases more than thirty works and each photo reflects the natural beauty of young girls and women of various ages and social status. The youngest is three years old, while the oldest is 65. These include young active ladies, mothers on maternity leave, businesswomen and teachers.

"It was important for us to show them in their natural beauty, without bias, cosmetics or mass media influence. It happened so that all our photogra-

phers are young women. This is an honest women's view on beauty," notes the head of the photography school, Outside the Camera's View, Anastasia Kontsevenko.

According to her, today many young girls try to be like celebrities, use lifehacks and fashionable tricks despite the fact that the best and most individual features have been given to them by nature.

Through the prism of the camera, photographers Anastasia Kontsevenko, Anna Bosovets, Aleksandra Nikiforova,

Kristina Chizhik, Irina Alesivh, Yelena Dlinnikova and Yelena Goncharova managed to see and reflect the natural tenderness and beauty of girls, young ladies and women. The black-and-white tones of the pictures emphasise the brightness of the images.

The topic of natural female beauty was commissioned by the organisers to show the uniqueness and endless diversity of characters and their appearance without the help of cosmetics. A number of photo sessions grew into a large-scale project.





# Special dialogue with the world which is around us

Minsk's Artel Gallery hosts an exhibition of Vladislav Petrushik's work, submitted for audience approval securing the painter's reputation in the last decade of his creativity

By Veniamin Mikheev

His work is well-known to those keen on art, with Vladislav Petrushik's Belarusian landscapes going on display at personal and group exhibitions. Recently, at Minsk's Artel Gallery, the painter presented pieces created during his trips through Europe: Italy, Holland, Spain, Croatia...

Despite this, however far Vladislav travelled from home, his pictures still radiate his national identity: colours which evoke emotions among his audience, as well as a passion for continuing the traditions of Belarusian artistic culture, which he skilfully combines with his impressionist approaches.

In the works displayed at the exhibition the painter continues to admire the surrounding world, while sharing unique moments of his zest for life. For Vladislav, it's important to reflect the impressions of what he has seen and to bring the richness of his emotions to the viewers. Therefore, the landscapes at the exhibition are a portrayal of reality, memories and nature, filled with light and subtle changes in sentiment adding poetry to his work.

From the point of view of the artist's mastery and format choices, he achieves coloristic integrity, not only through detailed colour or light and shadow, but via correlations in the colours of his impressionist dots. We should also highlight the painter's ability to immerse the spectators in his landscapes. At a glance, his pictures seem simple and clear, but experts are able to see complexity and multiple meanings in his work.

This display of Vladislav Petrushik's work evokes light and slightly nostalgic feelings. There's no doubt that his landscapes will find their connoisseurs and attract the attention of collectors.



## Rarity of the specimen yet to be determined

Ethnologists at the Belarusian State University discover 300 years old Gospel in Grodno

By Alexander Pimenov

The book was found during research by students in the History Department. It belongs to an elderly resident of the Zelva District, Alexander Kalyuta. The Bible, which contains stories about the life and teachings of Christ, has been passed on in the family from father to son for more than five generations. According to its owner, the book could be as much as 300 years old, although the original binding has not been preserved. The exact age of the Gospel has



yet to be determined by scientists at the Belarusian State University's History Department and the book's rarity will also be studied.

Books of this kind are usually found in museums, churches and private collections. Therefore, to find one locally is a valuable artefact. In 2016, during the ethnographic training of the History Department's students, a late 19th century icon of the Holy Great Martyr Barbara was found. It belonged to a resident of the Borisov District who donated it to the exhibition. Historians investigated the icon and it was later sent to the National Historical Museum.

This year, ethnographic research has taken place in ten different towns in the

Zelva District (Grodno). In total, more than 60 elderly people were interviewed over the course of three weeks. These studies are conducted in order to record the speech characteristics of indigenous people, to identify local dialects, study traditions and rituals and discover new historical sources. All the materials are processed and then published for further use by folklorists and linguists.

The work was conducted under guidance from the staff of the Chair of Ethnology, Museology and Art History of the BSU's History Department.





# Legacy of bright multi-sports forum

Final results of 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games continue to surprise specialists and sports fans until now

By Sergey Kanashits

News of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games has recently come to light at the press centre of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House: representatives of the Directorate of the tournament have announced the results of the marketing activities, as well as some interesting facts...

## Watching and enjoying

In Europe, the Games' TV audience exceeded 320m people, including 111m outside the Old World. In total, the competition was broadcast to 195 countries and the total broadcast on the European continent alone exceeded 3,000 hours! Across the rest of the world, it was over 1,000 hours, a result which definitely deserves respect. In general, the audience coverage of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games amounted to more than 1.5bn.

All these facts were made public by the Directorate of the Games and the top three countries with the greatest volume of TV broadcasts have also been identified. The Polish media holding, PolsatSport, topped the list: it devoted 286 hours to the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games across its four channels. Second place went to the Belarusian Radio and TV Company (284 hours) and third place was occupied by



Portugal's Sport TV Channel. Five of their channels broadcast 264 hours from Minsk.

The organisers also registered a record 500,000 Viber subscribers in the Games-related group, and the total coverage on the relevant topics on social networks amounted to 812m!

## Tickets

A total of 232,000 tickets were sold for the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games, as the General Director of the official ticket operator Ticketpro JSC, Kirill Sushchinsky said. On average the stands were 88 percent occupied and tickets were sold out for 62 competitions out of 102. The opening ceremony of the

2<sup>nd</sup> European Games was attended by 17,500 spectators, and 18,700 applications for the closing ceremony were made; the stadium was 97.5 percent occupied during both. The most popular competitions were the athletics (over several days, 56,300 people watched the events at the Dinamo Stadium), gymnastics (24,500), rhythmic gymnastics and acrobatics (16,000). Boxing (14,700) and wrestling (13,000) were also among the top five sports.

## Heritage

The Games have passed but their memory has been preserved. Also, the benefits



of the event still continue with the revamped sports facilities and modern equipment that was purchased for the competitions which will be used in other fields of activity. These are investments from which we will benefit for many years to come. In addition, over 300 air-conditioned buses and electric buses

have joined the city's fleet. Bus lanes have been created and public transport in many regions has been improved. Young people can now enjoy the revamped Students' Village, with two new hostels, a stadium, a health clinic and two modern sports halls.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games are history, but Belarus is now looking to another international sports competition. In September, Dinamo Stadium will host a unique track and field event featuring the best global athletes from two teams, Europe and the USA. Never before have matches of this kind been organised.

## Medals

Over 4,000 athletes from 50 countries competed for 200 sets of medals in 15 sports at the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games. The national team of Belarus surpassed all expectations. Our sportsmen managed to win 69 medals: 24 gold, 16 silver and 29 bronze. As a result, they took second place in the overall rankings (during the 1<sup>st</sup> European Games in Baku, Belarus won 43 medals). Their progress is clear. We were pleased to gain two direct Olympic qualifications for the Games in Tokyo 2020. Yuri Shcherbatsevich won silver in shooting and Tatiana Kholodovich captured gold in javelin, meeting the standard for Olympic qualification. Bravo!

## Next rivals will be Italian Torino

By Nikolay Khodasevich

Win for Danish team Esbjerg FC in the Europa League qualification round would make a difficult game for Soligorsk's Shakhtyor

Neither match saw much finesse; on the contrary, both teams displayed total pragmatism. Two goals in the first home match seriously helped settle the nerves of Sergey Tashuev's trainees during the away leg, when there was pressure from the opposition, who hit the bar twice. The Belarusian squad managed to defend their lead but also made mistakes, receiving yellow and red cards for minor issues, which may become a problem in the latter stages.

For the return European Cup leg, Shakhtyor's coaching staff fundamentally altered their tactics. It was necessary to preserve the lead gained in Denmark and to maximise their defences, choosing a more aggressive style of play in attack.

Before the break, Esbjerg was mainly on the attack, but didn't pose a serious threat to goalkeeper, Andrey Klimovich. "Sometimes we had to soak up the pressure. In addition, the field was very dry



A scene from match between Esbjerg FC and Shakhtyor

though it was easier in the second half," noted Soligorsk's head coach after the match. It was much easier in the second half for the Belarusian footballers to find space, as they managed to shift the game from their end and finally begin their attack.

Nevertheless, it was a nervous end to the game in Denmark, perhaps because of Shakhtyor's inexperience. The hosts raised their game as they had nothing

to lose, while our players began to feel the pressure. Some, hoping for a miracle, rushed to their rivals' net, while others tried all possible ways of defence (due to their anger at long years of failure in European Cup matches). Július Szöke, already on a yellow card, tried to persuade the referee in the 90th minute that he had cramp in his calf and earned an extra minute for his team. This didn't work, however, and led to a second yellow card. The squad

will obviously miss him in the forthcoming meetings against Italian Torino.

The championship in Italy hasn't yet begun, but Walter Mazzarri's team has already twice defeated Hungarian Debrecen in the Europa League qualification — 3:0 and 4:1. The leaders of the attack — Zaza and Belotti — have tasted goals already and are preparing for the meeting with Shakhtyor. In general, it will be a difficult match. The return will be held by the Soligorsk football players on August 15th at Minsk's Dinamo Stadium; before that, they will face Italian Torino on August 8th.

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**This autumn, we won't see BATE in the Champions League Group Stage as they lost in the return match of the second qualifying round to Norwegian Rosenborg — 0:2 — and were knocked out of the tournament. Now, they can only seek consolation in the opportunity to fight for qualification for the similar Europa League. First, they need to defeat Bosnian Sarajevo and then a much more representative team (determined by the draw) in the last selection round: in the play-offs.**



SPORT



## Photo of the week



Paratrooper and Special Forces Day celebrated at Grodno's aeroclub with parachute jumping. In the photo: paratrooper Sergey Zhdanyuk jumping.

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 11<sup>th</sup> August. *Edges of Realism*

#### NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 18<sup>th</sup> August. *Ancient Money of the East: Silver and Paper*  
Until 18<sup>th</sup> August. *Spitak Tragedy: Retrospective of Memory*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> September. *Minsk and Sport. A Time Travel*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 7th April. *Fantasy Land*

#### NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street  
Until 14<sup>th</sup> September. *Sport is High Art*

#### NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

47 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> September. *Kazimir Malevich and 21st Century*

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 M. Bogdanovich Street  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> September. *Vasil Bykov: Stipples of Life*  
Until 26<sup>th</sup> August. *Fairy Enchanting World*

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. *Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait*  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> September. *Ladies Tricks*  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> September. *European Martial Arts: from Vulcan's Forge to the Arts of Mars*

#### VANKOVICH HOUSE

33A Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> September. *Poetry of Silver*

#### HIGH PLACE

2A Gertsen Street  
Until 18<sup>th</sup> August. *Commonwealth*

#### YANKA KUPALA LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street  
Until 17<sup>th</sup> August. *Being Honoured to Present — Ovanes Tumanyan*

#### VILNIUS GALLERY

55 Kalinovsky Street  
Until 10th August. *Yakub Kolas and Vilno*

#### MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 1st September. *Dangerous Beauty*

### THEATRES, CONCERTS AND PARTIES

#### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
08.08. Mad Money  
09.08. Dragon  
11.08. Cinderella  
12.08. House Upside Down 2  
13.08. House Upside Down  
15.08. Comedy about Penny Pincher

#### MODERN ART THEATRE (SUMMER PALACE)

4 Voiskovy Lane  
14.08. Seagull

#### CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street  
09.08. The Devil and Miss Prym immersive show performance  
10.08. Corporate Party  
13.08. Veronica Decides to Die  
14 and 15.08. Simpleton

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
14.08. Two on the Swing

#### UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square  
08.08. Yevgenia Letun's jazz trio  
10.08. *Classics at the Town Hall*: Estonian Saxon wind orchestra  
12.08. Encore concert: Timur Sergeenya (piano)  
14.08. Valery Skorozhonok's Dedication to My Teacher and Friend  
15.08. Opera and Operetta World Masterpieces

#### LOSHITSA PARK

10 Chizhevsky Lane  
10.08. A-Fest

#### SQUARE NEAR SPORTS PALACE

11.08. Velcom Becomes A1

#### MINSK-ARENA

111 Pobediteley Avenue  
10.08. USSR Disco

#### MINSK PLANETARIUM

2 Frunze Street  
08.08. Music and Stars

#### PRIME HALL

65 Pobediteley Avenue  
09.08. KnyaZz band

#### MELOMANY

23A Svobody Square  
08.08. Stigmata band

#### STANDUP COMEDY HALL

45 Kuibyshev Street  
08 and 15.08. Underdog StandUp  
10.08. Stand Up: Rasul Chabdarov  
11.08. Accelerations

#### GRAFFITI

16 Kalinin Lane  
08.08. NEO acoustics

#### RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street  
09.08. 1980-1990s Disco  
10.08. 1990-2000s Disco  
11.08. 1990s Disco

#### COYOTE

117A Nezavisimosti Avenue  
08 and 15.08 Retro Party