

About 23,000 foreigners from 108 countries are studying in our country



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2nd Minsk International Festival of Circus Art held in the Belarusian capital



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Best grain farmers of northern region honoured in Braslav

Participants and guests of the regional *Dozhinki-2019* festival-fair of village workers were welcomed warmly and hospitably. This holiday is a great opportunity to pay tribute to the ancestors who worked and grew bread on their native land and to those who continue their business in our days. The total weight of the Vitebsk Region's grain harvest reached 980,000 tonnes — a third more than a year ago.



Dialogue hits a friendly note

By Pavel Filatov

Aleksandr Lukashenko met with journalists of the leading Ukrainian media at the Palace of Independence — focusing on political and economic issues, new projects and promising initiatives and acute controversial topics. The talk lasted longer than planned, but no issue was ignored. This particular format of communication with the media of our southern neighbour was used for the first time, and the Head of State proposed to make it traditional.

On the new format

Taking part in the press conference were representatives of the information agencies Ukrinform, Interfax-Ukraine, TV channels Ukraine, 112 Ukraine and 1+1 and the *Uryadovy Courier* newspaper. “This is the first time that we have met in direct dialogue format with representatives of such large Ukrainian mass media. This is good practice, and I would like to turn it into a tradition. First, I learn a great deal from you about the current situation in Ukraine. I also have an opportunity to express my opinion on the fundamental aspects of our relations without any rumours and insinuations,” said the President. “At this meeting you represent not only the Ukrainian mass media but also the entire Ukrainian nation.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that Belarusians and Ukrainians have common historical, spiritual and familial roots. The two nations cannot lose this unity. “We must preserve this Slavonic relationship for future generations. We must pass it on to our children for the sake of peace and stability in our countries,” said the Head of State. “We have always felt support for each other regardless of any shocks we’ve faced in the course of time. But we know that we can cope with difficulties together and find solutions for the benefit of our countries and people.”

On the Forum of Regions

The recent meeting with the Ukrainian media was held on the eve of the 2nd Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine — held in Zhitomir. Mr. Lukashenko emphasised, “This project is very important not only for our countries but also for me personally.” He reminded journalists that, two years ago, the Ukrainian leadership supported this idea and, a year later, the first such forum was held in Gomel. “The results were not long in coming. Such meetings help to build much-needed interregional ties, primarily in trade and the economy,” he said.

The Head of State noted that trade turnover between Belarus and Ukraine will reach \$6bn or even more this year. “This is a huge trade turnover for our countries and is the main thing on our road map. If we are even more active, I think we can make up for what we have missed and at least begin to resolve outstanding issues, we will be able to plan our work for the next five years: 2020-2025. We are prepared and will work towards this,” he noted.

On the meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky

During the 2nd Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine in Zhitomir, there will be a meeting between the

presidents of Belarus and Ukraine. Aleksandr Lukashenko thinks it will be a good opportunity for them to get acquainted on a personal level and learn about each other’s stance on different matters. “I promise to be sincere and honest, I am used to speaking my mind,” the President said. “I guarantee we will find common ground.”

Commenting on the conflict in Ukraine’s east, Mr. Lukashenko said that Belarus is ready to take part in the restoration of the infrastructure of Donbass, “I have repeatedly said that Belarus is extremely interested in lasting peace and stability among our Ukrainian friends. This position is based not only on good-neighbourliness. The current conflict in Eastern Ukraine is hurtful for Belarusians as well. It’s our pain.”



The President stressed that Belarus is doing and will continue to do everything in its power to achieve peace in Ukraine: from ensuring the work of the trilateral contact group in Minsk and providing humanitarian assistance to participating in the restoration of the infrastructure of Donbass.

“We will take any steps that will help bring us closer to peace: anything necessary to the participants of this conflict — primarily, for the Ukrainian people,” he added.

On Belarusian choices

The President also commented on Belarus’ relations with Western countries. The Head of State stressed that he always says at meetings with US representatives that the conversation will not work if it relies on Belarusian choice between East and West.

“That’s our position. We’ll independently determine the relationship with Russia and China, on the one hand, and the EU and the USA, on the other,” noted Mr. Lukashenko.

Ukrainian journalists asked whether the warming in Belarusian-American relations could start a new stage in Belarusian-Ukrainian co-operation. The Head of State explained, “The US position will not be decisive in relations between Belarus and Ukraine. Our relationship depends only on us. True, we’ll look back to Russia and the Americans but this does not mean that we’ll be dependent on them.”

On relations with Russia

Mr. Lukashenko also touched upon the integration of Belarus and Russia. He stressed, “There are too many not only idle but absolutely wrong, inaccurate

conversations around the discussion of our integration processes with Russia. Everyone is afraid. What of? We are a sovereign, independent state. We will continue strengthening sovereignty and independence, whatever it takes.”

The Head of State drew attention to the peaceful and independent character of the Belarusian people. This is especially true of the current young generation of Belarusians who were born in the period of sovereign Belarus and do not know the Soviet Union. “It should be taken into account that people were born in an independent and sovereign Belarus. They do not want conflict with anyone. For them Ukrainians and Russians are the same. A new generation has appeared. These people cannot afford to surrender Belarus,” he said.

On security

The Head of State also touched upon the issue of building the country’s military policy, stressing that Belarusian troops are ready to repel threats from any direction. “We are carefully building our military policy and are ready to deflect threats from any direction. Our army is not the same as in Ukraine or Russia: we do not have huge units that can form fronts. We have only mobile units and territorial defence where we can call up half a million people. We don’t have any potential enemies yet,” he said.

Journalists asked whether the situation is possible when armed Belarusian forces — in the framework of common actions with the Russian armed forces — would enter Ukraine. The President stressed, “The Belarusian military can only come to Donbass when I make such a decision. I am the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Belarus. We have an army that is mobile, armed and adapted to modern combat. Most importantly, it is disciplined. They can go somewhere only when they are ordered by the Commander-in-Chief. I have voiced my position about the war in the east [of Ukraine], without touching on certain issues. As for participation in military operations, this is impossible while I’m the President of Belarus. Don’t expect any trouble from us.”

On China and the global economic crisis

The Head of State also commented on relations between Belarus and China. He stressed that he does not consider co-operation with China a threat to the sovereignty of Belarus.

Answering the question of how Belarus is preparing for the projected global economic crisis, Mr. Lukashenko noted that the country should always be ready for such challenges. At the same time, the President believes that such economic threats are difficult to avoid due to the presence of many factors.

“We are a fragment of a huge empire, and it does not matter that 25 years have passed since the collapse of the Soviet Union. We are not firmly embedded in the world system. We still need 50 or even 100 years to find our place, like, for example, small countries such as Finland, Austria or Switzerland. Perhaps our time of stability on a global scale has not yet come. We don’t have as many reserves as Russia, China or America. Therefore, willing or not, we need to somehow adapt to keep the country independent. We are forewarned, but not yet armed,” said the President.

On oil supplies

The Head of State also mentioned the Russian tax policy in the oil sector, noting that, as a result, Belarus is forced — among other things — to look for alternative oil supplies. The President stressed, “It’s not leverage. It is a search for alternatives.”

He noted that Ukraine is also interested in the supply of petroleum products: diesel fuel and gasoline. In this regard, Belarus makes a quality product, and is just finishing the modernisation of a corresponding facility for deep processing of oil at Belarusian refineries.

“We can process [oil]. If we supply through Ukraine, we are ready to involve Ukraine in this project. You need these oil products so let’s work together. Our businessmen have bought a section of Prikarpat Zakhid Trans and have already pumped a trial batch: around 8,000 tonnes,” added Mr. Lukashenko.

OPINIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

**Pavlo Kuzheev,
Editor-in-Chief of 112
Ukraine TV Channel:**



I would very much like my country, the authorities of my state to adhere to the agreements reached at a certain level: it does not matter — at Presidential or at the level of medium-sized businesses. What sounded like a refrain is an idea for the Ukrainian authorities to take note: if we co-operate, then upon the ‘promise — do’ principle. It’s an important point.

**Sergii Braga,
Editor-in-Chief of Ukraine’s
Uryadovy Courier newspaper:**



The conversation proved to be sincere and frank and the most diverse topics were touched upon during it — including acute political and economic issues. Aleksandr Lukashenko is well informed about the situation in Ukraine and has his own view on it. This view is somewhat different from the one we expected to hear during the meeting.



At a branded store

By Olga Korneeva

General Director Viktor Tereshchenko reported to the Head of State in detail on the development of the company's production. In particular, Vitex JSC and Belita JV now offer consumers over two thousand types of cosmetic products and average monthly nominal salary here is about \$1,000 (in equivalent). The produce is exported to 32 countries and new markets are being mastered. Moreover, export revenue is growing steadily: i.e. last year, over \$45m was generated.

The President was especially interested in the experience of the acquisition of an unprofitable farm in the village of Teplen of the Uzda District to Vitex JSC; an agricultural branch of the enterprise was created on its site, which now enjoys a leading position in the district. Over the years, large-

scale reconstruction of farms was carried out here. There is also an apple orchard on the site, with fruit used to make juices and chips. Herb extracts and honey are also gathered. Along with the production, the social sphere is developing in the village.

Mr. Lukashenko praised this approach, saying, "This is an example of business that should be run in Belarus. It has agricultural production on the land and, in Belarus, this is the way to behave. It is necessary to run a diversified production. Importantly, we have great opportunities for this."

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that the decision to transfer unprofitable farms under the control of private businesses — made 15 years ago — was correct and is now yielding fruit. "Out of those farms which were sent into private ownership, only four were taken back by the state. Private owners well

Beautiful work

Aleksandr Lukashenko visited Vitex cosmetics company in Minsk. The Head of State not only learnt about the work of the enterprise, known domestically and abroad, but also raised a number of important issues. In particular, he drew attention to the presence of domestic goods on the shelves of Belarusian stores and also commented on the work of agricultural enterprises assigned to private companies. The President stressed that Vitex is a model of business that should be run in Belarus.

worked with those farms," he added.

There are about 30 such farms under the management of Minsk's private companies. The President believes that the successful experience of Vitex's agricultural production development should be adopted by other organisations which have sponsored farms.

He also asked for the prompt allocation of land for developing agricultural enterprises and removal of excessive bureaucracy in the shortest possible time. "We need to remove these barriers. It's not good to co-ordinate the process of land allocation for months," he said. The Head of State ordered an investigation into the situation and asked to ensure that regional executive committees spend no longer than a month on this procedure.

During the visit, the possibility of selling food and cosmetics on the same site

was also discussed, on the condition they are offered in closed packaging. The President also got to know the production process of cosmetic products and their range. He praised the quality of Belarusian cosmetics and even promised to personally use only domestic products.

The President advised the company to promote sales of domestic cosmetic products abroad as much as possible, and not forget about potential niches in the domestic market: i.e. to use them more widely in the hotel industry and represent more in retail. "There are problems. Take control and get on with it. We need to sell domestically produced goods. This company [Vitex JSC] has fewer problems since it exports much. However, we have companies that fail even to penetrate our domestic market. This is a serious issue," the President stated.

Gifts from the heart

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Products from the personal farm and experimental fields of the President of Belarus sent to charitable organisations

The President's privately-owned farm and experimental fields have long become a kind of pilot site for the cultivation of new varieties — both familiar and completely new. A good harvest of watermelons, melons, fruits and berries has been gathered which, until recently, could be considered exotic. New varieties of potatoes and other vegetables are being tested. Scientists are closely monitoring the agrarian experiments on the Presidential fields, with the best results being adopted for mass production. The gifts of the fields are transferred to charitable organisations: the elderly and children.

One of the first destinations is, as usual, a home for veterans and people with disabilities in Minsk's Vaupshasov Street. The recently harvested crop comes directly from the beds and greenhouses to the kitchens of local cooks. These are products that the Head of State grows personally. There are elite varieties of potato of Belarusian selection.

In addition, there's also honey collected in Aleksandria, as well as pickles and preserves prepared by the President's cooks, Belarusian melons grown from Uzbek seeds, our own exclusive apples, birch and apple juices. The first tasting took place on the spot, with tea, chat and even singing.

Of course, the guests did not forget about their local mini-farm. Hens, rabbits and goats have already been sent here from the Head of State's farm. Before the visit to the home, a special request was received from its residents, and another ten Dutch breed hens were warmly received.

The meeting was a real celebration of good moods and smiling faces.

Benefitting both people and the country



By Yevgeny Kononovich,
Polina Konoga

Many of those who have travelled abroad have used duty free shops. They have become synonymous with a bargain. The essence of such retail is clear from the name. They are exempt from customs duties, value added tax, and in some cases also from excise taxes, so goods in the duty free distribution chain are cheaper than in ordinary stores. The President drew attention to this during the meeting in the Independence Palace on the functioning of duty free shops, "The development of this type of trade helps increase transit and the attractiveness of the country to tourists while meeting modern standards for citizens crossing the border. For most people these shops are normal, it's also profitable for us."

However, we can't ignore the interests of domestic producers. The President is fundamentally not opposed to proposals by the Government to expand the duty free trade network. But, preceding their discussion, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that the adoption of new decisions should be approached carefully, assessing all the consequences and possible risks.

The rules of the duty free industry were clearly specified by the Presidential decree back in 2014. Enough time has passed to assess the effect of this type of activity and to figure out how to develop it further. Mr. Lukashenko pointed out several interesting statistics, "Since 2014, the number of these stores has tripled in the country. About 70 such companies are functioning in Belarus. Three of them are open not only for departing customers, but also for passengers arriving in our country. In addition, a decree was signed for duty free trading on board the aircraft of Belavia Airlines."

The benefits for the population are obvious, and the state budget also bene-

Duty free trade to be expanded



fits. Despite the exemption from customs duties, duty free items still contribute considerable amounts to the state treasury: 10 percent of the proceeds. Moreover, as Mr. Lukashenko added, the share of Belarusian goods in duty free shops is growing, "In my opinion, we have not grown very much, but about a quarter of all goods we sell in these stores are of domestic production."

If the advantages and conveniences for people are undeniable however, how comfortable do other market players feel about the development of duty free trade? How does it affect manufacturers of similar Belarusian goods and the rest of the distribution network, where there are no such benefits? Mr. Lukashenko addressed these questions to the First Deputy Prime Minister, Aleksandr Turchin, "Let's get to the point. I need to clearly understand what to do with the documents that you submit for my consideration. From the regulatory point of view, we have stipulated and agreed on how these stores will operate. Privileges, preferences, benefits: all these have been also determined. We've agreed that after a certain period

we will analyse what these 70 stores gave us, and how Bellegprom Concern, for example, reacts to it. What is the impact on companies that do not have such benefits? This is what interests me most of all."

Commenting on the results of the meeting with the Head of State, Mr. Turchin emphasised, "The President asked that we evaluate all possible risks, all the pros and cons, so as not to create unnecessary competition for domestic manufacturers. The Head of State supported the proposal: four more duty free shops will be operating on entry. These stores are located at the end of the customs control zone. Therefore, a person who buys goods in such a store goes through standard customs procedures. That is, purchases will be within the framework of the rules that apply in the EAEU [baggage allowance]."

As far as possible competition with manufacturers of similar products in Belarus is concerned, the Government believes that there is no direct competition. The main products in duty free stores are alcohol, tobacco, and perfumes. As a rule, this range does not intersect with the one that our manufacturers produce.



Aleksey Stolyarov

Business mood

More than 150 participants and the latest developments presented at *Budpragres-2019* International Construction Exhibition held in Minsk

participants — which is very pleasing. The modern period of rapid technological development suggests that it is very important in construction to keep up with the times and ensure the introduction of new high-quality innovative technologies. Organisations at such exhibitions are an example of this trend.”

According to the Deputy Prime Minister, the participants represent many different new directions that contribute to the development of the construction industry. In turn, the Deputy Minister of Architecture and Construction, Oleg Shvets, noted that, over the years, the exhibition has become a platform where advanced developments in the field of

architecture, design, and the building and construction materials industry are demonstrated. He expressed the hope that the exhibition will serve as an impetus for the development of the innovation and investment climate in the country.

The thematic content of the exposition covered almost all areas of construction, design and landscaping. About 30 participants demonstrated large and small-sized construction and road equipment.

The programme of business events — of interest to everyone involved in construction, architecture and design, production and sale of equipment — is a traditional part of the fair.

By Veronika Malyshchits

This autumn, the Football Manege is endlessly welcoming guests with new expositions. The Belarusian Industrial Investment Forum has been recently replaced here by the annual three-day *Budpragres-2019* international exhibition, gathering

over 150 leading construction companies from Belarus, Poland, China, Lithuania, Belgium, Russia, Ukraine and elsewhere.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Kukharev, welcomed the participants, guests and organisers of the exhibition, saying, “Every year we observe an increasing number of par-

ECONOMY

Something to share and learn from

Japan is among the promising trade and investment partners of Belarus in Asia

By Arina Novikova

“The Belarusian Government welcomes Japanese business interest in the establishment of partner relations with our country and is ready to provide all-round assistance to domestic companies entering the Japanese market,” Belarus’ Deputy Prime Minister, Igor Lyashenko, said at the Belarusian-Japanese Economic Forum held in Minsk as part of the Belarusian Industrial and Investment Forum. He believes the two countries have something to share and learn from each other. There is a lot to strive for in the development of trade links.

“Meaningful discussions and interested exchange of opinions and new ideas will help intensify bilateral trade and expand co-operation in the field of investment and technology between Belarusian and Japanese organisations,” Mr. Lyashenko said.

In turn, a member of the Board (Minister) for Industry

and Agribusiness of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), Aleksandr Subbotin, said our Japanese colleagues can use the venue of the Eurasian Economic Union as a gateway for promoting products and services all over the world. “Especially since Japanese companies have long been active on the EAEU market and gained a foothold here,” he added.

It’s been announced that, as a result of the forum, Belarus and Japan have decided to implement industrial co-operation projects in the production of innovative sportswear. This agreement was reached at a meeting of representatives of Japanese business with heads of the Bellegprom Concern. In addition, the parties discussed the expansion of supplies of Belarusian light industry goods to Japan. It was also agreed to start joint work to prepare for a presentation of Belarusian light industry in Tokyo and Sendai.

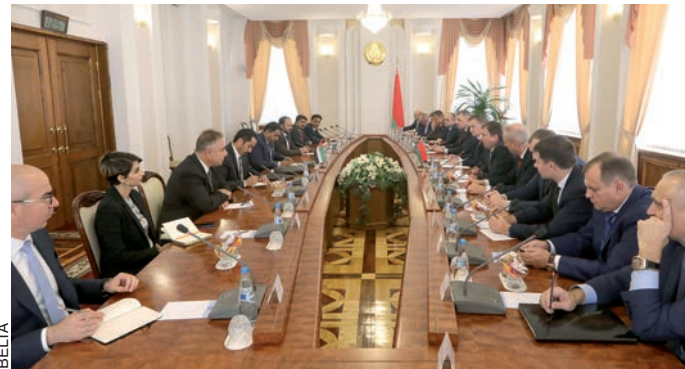
Projects for growth

By Polina Konoga

Aleksandr Turchin discusses prospects of co-operation with UAE business community

Less than two weeks have passed since the meeting of the Head of State and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi but the Government and business circles of the both countries have already reached a new level of interaction. Such efficiency shows how interested we are in profitable co-operation. Recently, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Aleksandr Turchin, met with a delegation of business leaders of the United Arab Emirates. The parties discussed promising joint projects in the banking sector, agriculture, construction, energy and woodworking.

Welcoming foreign guests, Mr. Turchin noted that the visit of business circles from the UAE took place in record time, “This indicates the unconditional seriousness of the intentions of the Emirati side. Economic co-operation remains one of the most important areas. I believe our countries and business communities have something to offer each other. The advantageous location of Belarus and its membership in the EAEU



BELTA

makes it possible to view our country as an effective export channel to Russia and Western Europe. The UAE, in turn, is the gateway to the markets of Asia and Africa. We confirm our interest in co-operation in such areas as banking and finance, oil refining and production, energy, agriculture and food, feed production, construction and woodworking.”

The Belarusian side is committed to long-term co-operation. Innovation and export potential are the benchmark. Among the promising joint projects are food production with the possibility of exports to the UAE, participation of an Emirati bank as a shareholder or partner for Belarusian financial institutions, establishment of furniture production and other areas.

“I’m convinced this is the first, but not the last time we will meet. It seems to me that

during the talks we will come up with other topics of possible mutually beneficial co-operation,” said Mr. Turchin, addressing the guests. “The Government is very serious about co-operation with the UAE. Your suggestions will be seriously and carefully considered. I think we’ll find an opportunity to implement them all.”

The head of the delegation, Abu Ala Al-Nuaimi, thanked the Belarusian side for their warm hospitality and assured them that the parties will actively work to increase the volume of mutual trade and implement profitable projects in various sectors of the economy. The delegation included representatives of the UAE Government and major companies, including Elite Agro, First Bank of Abu Dhabi, Senaat General Holding Corporation, Al Jaraf Fisheries and International Holdings Company.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Great Stone recognised as best project of Belt and Road initiative in Europe

The Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park has been awarded the New Silk Road Finance Awards 2019 by one of the largest and most influential publications — *Asiamoney*, becoming the winner in the ‘Best Project of the Belt and Road Initiative in Central and Eastern Europe’ nomination.

Belarus’ leading role in the fight against human trafficking highlighted at UN General Assembly

In New York, Belarus’ Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, held the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends United Against Human Trafficking as part of the general discussion of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. Belarus co-ordinated the meeting. The Group currently comprises 23 states representing all regions of the world.



Belarus and India set up joint technology demonstration centre

The Belarusian-Indian Technology Demonstration Centre will be opened in Hyderabad, India. The relevant documents were signed during the visit of the delegation of representatives of leading scientific organisations of India to Minsk for participation in the Belarusian-Indian *Nanomaterials and New Materials* seminar.

MAZ truck assembly plant opens in Vietnam

The enterprise was solemnly launched with participation of the Belarusian delegation headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Igor Lyashenko. The plant will be able to produce up to 3,000 trucks per year, enabling the top Belarusian automobile producer to significantly expand its presence in Southeast Asia. The Head of the Vietnamese Government — Nguyen Xuan Phuc — supported the supply of Belarusian buses to Hanoi.



Debut documentary nominated for Oscar from Belarus

The film — directed by Anastasia Miroshnichenko — was shot in 2018. It tells the story of a theatre in a women’s prison. The film has been nominated in ‘The Best Foreign Film’ category. The 92nd Academy Awards ceremony for excellence in film will be held on February 9th, 2020 in Los Angeles.



A fair wind

Around \$40m of foreign investments attracted to Belarus to construct the country's largest wind farm, notes the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

By Svetlana Savelieva

"Belarus has come a step closer to building its largest wind farm and achieving the renewable energy goal by 2030. Belarus intends to set up a wind park with a capacity of 25MW near the village of Velezhkovichy (Liozno District of the Vitebsk Region). The project will be financed by the Turkish company Guris Construction and Engineering Co.

Inc. which is a well-known developer of eco-friendly engineering solutions.

"Thanks to this project, Belarus will attract direct investments in green economy and renewable energy sources. Wind farms will help reduce pollution and improve the quality of life of the local population," said the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Aleksandr Korbut.

Plans are in place to begin work on the project in 2020, after the investor has prepared detailed design documentation. The Velezhkovichy wind farm will become the largest in Belarus and will supply eco-friendly energy to over 20,000 households in the district. Operation of the wind farm within the next twenty years is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 500,000 tonnes.

Belarusians among professionals of industrial and technical sphere

By Natalia Yemelyanova

Made in Belarus exposition on show at 75th International Technical Fair in Bulgarian Plovdiv

Five Belarusian petrochemical companies presented their products as part of the show. In particular, Belshina showed a

The choice of products brought by Polotsk-Steklovolokno included construction, structural and high-temperature materials.

The exposition has been organised by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's BelInterExpo, with assistance of the Belarusian Embassy in Bulgaria.



wide range of car and truck tyres, while the Gomel Chemical Plant had mineral fertilisers on display. The Mineral Wax Plant demonstrated candle wax and a reagent for treating the packaging of food products. The Naftan Oil Refinery showcased diesel and jet fuel, gasoline, lubricants and petrochemical products used to make textiles, carpets, artificial fur, and household chemicals.

Taking part in the 75th International Technical Fair were over 500 companies from 35 countries, including Austria, Belgium, Greece, Denmark, India, Spain, Italy, Canada, the USA, Turkey, Sweden and Japan. The fair has become a major business event in Southeast Europe bringing together about 25,000 industry and technology professionals.

The most powerful 'iron woodsman'

Minsk Automobile Plant and Axiom-Group produce the most powerful 'iron woodsman' in the CIS — a shredder that turns wood into chips twice as fast as similar machines



By Igor Platonov

The new development was demonstrated to representatives of the Forestry Ministry in the forest near Ostrovets. The capacity of the equipment is 300 cubic metres per hour.

The chipping complex is mounted on a MAZ-631226 chassis. The machine is

equipped with a closed knife drum of increased strength. The quality and uniformity of chips are provided by various tools, including an adjustable sorting sieve.

To control the 'iron woodsman', a module with a colour screen is installed and an operator can change the feed speed and operating modes, with

different chip-making options. The feed system is adjusted automatically taking into account the load of the motor. Another advantage of the chipper is low power consumption. Despite the high speed, the complex creates a minimum amount of dust. The driver's and operator's cabin is made according to European standards: inside there are comfortable seats, air conditioning and a multimedia system.

"The machine has been developed through the joint efforts of engineers and designers of Belarus, Russia and Finland. We've managed to create the most powerful and strong 'iron woodsman' and great emphasis is placed on its quality and reliability. We have also achieved a good cost price, so that the super machine is even cheaper than its less powerful counterparts," say the developers.

The machine has already passed all the necessary tests and, in the coming months, will be able to start forestry work.



Ice no longer a problem for planes

By Irina Sergeeva

MAZ-MAN has mastered the production of machines for aircraft de-icing. The machine is designed to solve the problem of providing airports with the equipment necessary to comply with safe flight standards in the cold season.

The machine has been developed jointly with Belarus' TechPro Engineering and its American partners. A pilot sample has been made, with the bespoke chassis produced to order.

An engine which meets Euro-5 ecological norms is used and, for the first time, the MAZ-MAN chassis is equipped with an Allison 3000 automatic trans-

mission, with a torque converter. There is a system of limiting and maintaining a given speed. A distinctive feature is the ability to control the movement of the car from the operator's cabin.

The machine is equipped with three thermally insulated tanks for water and anti-freeze liquid. For application onto the surface of the aircraft, an air blasting system is used: it's a combination of conventional processing and high-pressure compressed air flow. This greatly increases the effectiveness of the impact on the ice crust.

The new development will shortly be demonstrated to the public for the first time at an exhibition in Minsk.

Knowledge without borders



Foreign speech is heard more and more often in the classrooms and corridors of Belarusian universities. Today, about 23,000 foreigners from 108 countries are studying in our country, while 27 universities are ready to teach undergraduate studies in English across more than 180 specialties. There are also those being taught in French. It seems logical that every year there are more and more foreign students. According to data from the National Statistical Committee of Belarus, last year, more than 15,500 foreigners, or 5.8 percent of the total number of students, studied at our universities, while, in 2010, this number was little more than 9,300, or 2.1 percent. Moreover, the first group of the experimental programme for training citizens of Israel, the USA, Canada and the European Union, began to study at the Belarusian State Medical University.

By Olga Pasiyak

The project is unique, with graduates being promised not only excellent knowledge in medicine, but also an examination allowing them to work in the above-mentioned countries. The English language programme was launched in record time, and demand was high. Moreover, the Vice Rector for International Relations of the Belarusian State Medical University (BSMU), Vasily Rudenok, confirmed that this is the first such experience for the post-Soviet states.

...Students, bending over microscopes and textbooks, study the material in English, but every now and then Hebrew is heard. Most of the students here are from Israel; it was for this country that the project was conceived, because there is huge competition for places in medical institutions there. Consequently, those who want to become doctors are looking for an opportunity to study abroad. Belarus offered a particularly tempting option: good quality, affordable prices, and comfortable conditions, including a place in a hostel. Programme manager Yulia Danovich explains that those who already have a higher education in biological and related medical specialties will study for four years. Among these students are Igor Sternberg and Aleksandr Brand from Israel, each of whom studied for about seven years, with four more ahead in the BSMU, where they were attracted by the high level of medical training. "I'm a pharmacist by training, and Aleksandr is a nurse," Igor says. "We speak Russian and are able to communicate here."

Meanwhile, American Daniel Bush and Scottish Kate Zhilina will have to study for 6 years: they decided to study medicine in Belarus after school. Why BSMU? Excellent quality educational programmes and affordable tuition. In addition, the student from the USA admits that it also offers a trip to the other side of the world, which is an adventure, an opportunity to see the world, meet new people and experience a different culture. Dani Aldin from Israel

will also have to spend six years studying, "I'm from a small village near Haifa. My father is a lawyer, my mother is a teacher at school, and I plan to become a neurologist. I think this is my destiny. It's a long journey..."

Who comes here?

The export of educational services is important for any country, because it brings both money and improves their image abroad. Most often foreign students come to us from Turkmenistan, China, Russia and Iran. In total, more than 110 international agreements with other countries and over 4,000 agreements with universities around the world have been signed. Most foreigners enter the Belarusian State University (BSU); last year, 2,500 boys and girls from more than 50 countries studied here, while about 3,000 foreign citizens are being trained this year.

More than 2,000 foreigners are on their way to getting BSMU diplomas. Belarusian medical education is famous and especially in demand among representatives of Leb-



Igor Sternberg and Aleksandr Brand at Belarusian State Medical University's Anatomy Museum

about to be launched, with education on a phased basis in both countries.

Which specialties are in demand?

Young people from abroad are more likely to come to us for philological and economic specialties but, in joint educational programmes, universities are still relying on technical



Natalia Reznik

tion of diplomas with Turkmenistan and, secondly, in this case we are talking about an internal document that focuses not so much on universities as for specific, mainly humanitarian, specialties (not in high demand in the market). This practice is also characteristic for other countries. The Ministry of

Education also notes such a trend: more and more foreign students going to study in the regions. Every year there are more such students in Vitebsk, Grodno, Gomel and Polotsk state universities.

Where do they live?

Foreign students, especially those who come to study in the undergraduate stage, are provided with a hostel in order to allow them to adapt to life in our country. Often, foreign senior students decide to move to more spacious housing in the city. In addition, one of the hostels, which this year opened in the Student Village for BNTU, was built with the financial support of China — it is designed both for foreign students and Belarusians.



Foreign students at Belarusian State Medical University's histology room

anon and Jordan; all in all, the University has more than 120 partner countries, from Japan to Canada. Moreover, many foreign graduates remain working in our country. Nowadays, special attention is paid to India and about 300 people from this country are currently expected. Many people come from China but often, for such applicants, the language barrier is insurmountable. The so-called 'sandwich' model for graduate studies with Uzbekistan is

students. In the BSU, there will already be a third admission to a joint institute with the University of Dalian in China for two specialties related to applied physics and information technology. It seems that more and more applicants from Turkmenistan are looking to technical and natural sciences. In their homeland, they recently decided to recognise only university diplomas, which are in the top 1,000 of five key international ratings.

Though there are only a few such universities in Belarus, representatives of the Ministry of Education are optimistic: firstly, there is an intergovernmental agreement on recogni-

ACCENT

The Belarusian education system has signed over **110** international agreements with other countries and over **4,000** agreements with universities around the world.



Minsk is the most amazing city!

A family from Ireland, who recently visited the Belarusian capital, share their impressions of our country

Ready for a large-scale campaign

By Olga Korneeva

A population census will be held in Belarus from October 4th-30th under the slogan: 'A Look at the Present — A Step into the Future'

Each Belarusian citizen will receive an SMS about the beginning of the census, the Chair of the National Statistical Committee of Belarus — Inna Medvedeva — informed us. “The SMS — sent to each Belarusian — will tell them who can undertake the census. In addition, an address will be provided for the Internet form. It means it will be possible to immediately visit our census website from a mobile phone,” she said.

Ms. Medvedeva noted that the development of a particular region will depend on the census. “It will be possible to make a decision on what funds will need to be directed to health care, education, construction of infrastructure, housing, kindergartens. We are conducting a large-scale

information project and trying to inform all citizens of Belarus that this event will be held,” the official added.

During the census, respondents will be asked 49 questions, including those related to the main demographic



and national-ethnic characteristics, migration activity, education, sources of livelihood, employment, number of children, housing conditions and economic activity.

Participation in the census is possible in one of three ways: independently and at a convenient time fill in the questionnaires through the Internet, on stationary sites, or answer the questions at home in an oral survey.

Taken together, all the new approaches to the census will help to reduce the number of census personnel to a third of the previous amount and reduce the time it takes to complete the questionnaire by almost as much. Of course, the quality of procedures will be improved. A special call centre will also help with the census; from October 1st, anyone can contact it with questions.

The Statistical Committee will provide the first information on the Belarusian population in February 2020. The detailed socio-demographic information, including actual unemployment, will be available in July 2020, while the information on the most difficult part of the questionnaire — the population’s activity in the field of agriculture — will be announced in July 2021.

Special prize of international TV forum goes to Belarusian film



OST documentary of Belarusian TV and Radio Company awarded special prize of 19th International TV and Cinema Forum — Together — for demonstrating unusual human stories

By Irina Sergeeva

The international forum brought together participants from Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Germany, Israel, India, Iran, Spain, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Serbia, Ukraine, Estonia and the Russian regions. The main idea of the festival is the peaceful coexistence of countries and peoples, cultures and traditions.

The OST documentary — shot by a creative team from the Belarusian TV and Radio Company — was presented in the ‘Journalistic Programmes’ category. It’s a project about the fates of Belarusians who were taken to Germany during the Great Patriotic War. Author Victoria Kosenyuk and director

Yana Shablyko show touching stories of Ostarbeiters who were not only separated from their families but were also deprived of their homeland.

The film crew visited Austria and Germany to meet witnesses of those distant and sad events. Overall, five million Soviet citizens were taken to Western Europe; only half of them returned home and 450,000 of those who survived decided to stay abroad. One of the OST characters returned home but left her child with an Austrian family, only being reunited 70 years later.

“Our film is about war, fear, tears, love and hardship,” says Ms. Kosenyuk. “The most important criterion for me now is

when a movie evokes emotions. I always look at how audiences react during public screenings. I silently rejoice when they laugh, cry, scream and cover their faces with their hands. Such emotions are priceless. While we were editing the film, I cried several times myself. I hope it leaves no one indifferent as it’s impossible to talk about the war in any other manner.”

The film was screened for the first time on May 9th by the Belarus 1 TV Channel and the Belarus 24 International Satellite Channel.

Interestingly, modern Belarusian teenagers of the same age as the real characters of that time were involved in the shooting.

It’s nice to receive feedback from readers, especially when they’re enthusiastic. This happened recently when our editorial office received an email from an Irish couple who visited Minsk not long ago. Sometimes we fail to notice the positive things that surround us every day and shape our lives: our eyes become immune to it... However, these everyday moments — which are routine to us — are quickly caught by the eye of a stranger. Paul and Sharon Molloy, from Tullamore in central Ireland, spent five days in the Belarusian capital and were much impressed with everything they saw. So as not to repeat the message, we publish it below: read it and we have no doubt you’ll not regret it.

the city just blew us away. Phenomenal. All around the city in the evenings we saw people having dinner at tables outside restaurants in the sun. Also many people drinking a beer yet nobody falling around drunk or fist-fighting (practically a national sport on the streets of my country every Saturday night).

We spent an evening in Gorky Park. It was dark yet the park was very busy, buzzing with life. Families out walking, children playing, food stalls, young women walking through the park alone without a worry. (Walking through a park at night-time is not recommended where I come from. Especially alone.)

Every day we ate and drank in restaurants with lovely, friendly staff, many of whom asked



Hello from Ireland. Myself and my wife have just returned from 5 days in Minsk. While in an underground shop going to a metro station I saw 'The Minsk Times' and bought a copy. I just feel the need to tell you/ someone/ anyone how much we fell in love with your incredible capital city.

We have travelled a lot — from New York to Moscow — and Minsk is the most amazing city we have ever been to. It's absolutely breath-taking. On our first day we strolled along Nezavisimosti Avenue from the Church of Saints Simon and Helena to the Victory Monument taking in the sights along the way. I have never seen a city so immaculately clean. Not a piece of paper or even a cigarette butt to be seen anywhere. You don't see that anywhere else. The hugely impressive Lenin statue and building after building just makes you say: 'Wow!' Stunning architecture. The Palace of the Republic, Belarus State Circus, GUM and so many more. We got some great photos we will cherish forever.

We spent a morning in Victory Park. The entrance with the Museum of the Great Patriotic War and the spectacular monuments outside looking down on



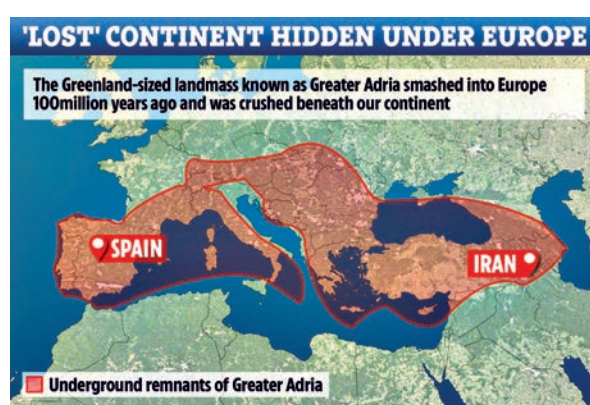
where we were from and they wanted to know our thoughts on Minsk. They seemed very happy when we told them we had fallen in love with the city.

I will tell everyone I meet from now on they need to visit Minsk. It's a different culture, a different way of life from anything we've ever seen before. As violent crime rates begin to soar out of control in Ireland and other EU countries, in Belarus we've never felt safer or more relaxed and under different circumstances we would move there permanently tomorrow. Your country is wonderful. Kind regards, Paul and Sharon Molloy Tullamore Ireland

INSIDE

The Minsk Times
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A lost continent has been found under Europe

Researchers have discovered a hidden continent on Earth, but it's not Atlantis. They found it while reconstructing the evolution of Mediterranean region's complex geology, which rises with mountain ranges and dips with seas from Spain to Iran.

The continent is called Greater Adria. It's the size of Greenland and it broke off from North Africa, only to be buried under Southern Europe about 140 million years ago.

"Forget Atlantis," said Douwe van Hinsbergen, a study author and professor of global tectonics and paleogeography at Utrecht University. "Without realising it, vast numbers

of tourists spend their holiday each year on the lost continent of Greater Adria."

Researching the evolution of mountain ranges can show the evolution of continents. "Most mountain chains that we investigated originated from a single continent that separated from North Africa more than 200 million years ago," said van Hinsbergen. "The only re-

maining part of this continent is a strip that runs from Turin via the Adriatic Sea to the heel of the boot that forms Italy."

During the continent's aquatic migration, much of the landmass was scraped off when it was forced under Southern Europe's mantle. These removed masses then formed parts of the Alps, the Apennines, the Balkans, Greece, and Turkey.

Since plate tectonics work much differently in the Mediterranean than they do elsewhere, research was quite a challenge. In certain parts of the Earth, it's believed tectonic plates don't deform when moving alongside each other in places with substantial fault lines. In Turkey and the Mediterranean, however, that theory doesn't hold much weight.

China pledges new impetus in climate efforts after 2020

China will inject new impetus into climate change efforts after 2020, and use its Belt and Road initiative to boost co-operation in the fight on global warming, the Government's top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi, said

China has promised to show 'the highest possible ambition' when reviewing its climate commitments next year, raising hopes that the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter would include stronger targets in a five-year plan from 2021.

Wang, who was representing President Xi Jinping at a United Nations Climate Summit in New York, said China would aim to step up efforts to cut climate-warming greenhouse gases after next year.

A 'green' Belt and Road programme would strengthen global co-operation on climate change, he added in a statement.

Beijing has already pledged a target date of around 2030 for a peak in greenhouse gas emissions, but the Paris accord on climate change urges nations to make stronger pledges if possible.

Government researchers have urged China to bring the target forward, but cautious officials have warned economic uncertainty could jeopardise even existing pledges.

In light of tough economic and geopolitical prospects, China is weighing its options on climate.

Global economy seen sliding toward weakest growth in decade



the future now so that this sluggish growth doesn't become the new normal."

The OECD is the latest institution sounding the alarm over the state of the global economy. In the past time, the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, the People's Bank of China and numerous of their peers have eased policy to shore up demand, urging governments at the same time that fiscal stimulus will be needed to ensure their ef-

Intensifying trade conflicts have sent global growth momentum tumbling toward lows last seen during the financial crisis, and governments are not doing enough to prevent long-term damage, the OECD said in its latest outlook

The Paris-based organisation cut almost all economic forecasts it made just four months ago, as protectionist policies take an increasing toll on confidence and investment, and risks continue to mount on financial markets. It sees world growth at a mere 2.9 percent this year.

"Our fear is that we are entering an era where growth is stuck at a very low level," OECD Chief Economist Laurence Boone said. "Governments should absolutely take advantage of low rates to invest in

forts won't be futile.

Manufacturing has borne the brunt of the economic crisis brought about by a tit-for-tat trade war between the US and China. The services sector has proved unusually resilient to the malaise so far, but the OECD warned that 'persistent weakness' in industry will weigh on the labour market, household incomes and spending.

Additional risks stem from a sharper slowdown in China and a no-deal Brexit that could push the UK into a recession and would considerably reduce growth in Europe, according to the report.

The OECD said 'collective effort is urgent', and the effectiveness of monetary policy could be enhanced by 'stronger fiscal and structural policy support'.



Iconic Orient Express showcased for European Heritage Days event

The symbol of luxury train travel — the Orient Express — has arrived at Perrache train station in Lyon, France

The long-distance passenger train revolutionised luxury travel when it left Paris for the first in 1883 to cross Europe. After a change of train and a boat ride, its passengers arrived in Constantinople more than 80 hours later.



Its journey ended in 1977, after being dismantled and its carriages bought by different companies. In 2014, France's national railway company, SNCF, decided to buy several carriages to preserve this piece of railway heritage.

Throughout all the years of its operation, the magic of the Orient Express still captivates minds. "The Orient Express is one of the most famous trains in the world, which speaks to everyone,

almost like the Trans-Siberian railway that runs through Russia," said Arthur Mettetal, Orient Express Heritage Director for the SNCF.

"What is very interesting about this train is that a lot of adventures have happened inside it, a lot of things that are real or fiction. It's a train that's welcomed a lot of famous passengers, whether it be Mata Hari, Josephine Bak-

er, the King of Bulgaria, or the Belgian King. So, there's this celebrity aura around the train which has made it an extraordinary myth."

Mettetal added that the myth of the Orient Express lies also in its destination — Constantinople, with orientalism at the end of the 19th century — which became Istanbul.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Heart much in demand

Yelizaveta Misnikova, 14, will represent Belarus at the *Junior Eurovision-2019* Song Contest in Poland: this is her third attempt to conquer the national selection round, her last chance — and finally success!

By Irina Ovsepyan

The final of the national selection is traditionally held in the Belarusian Radio and TV Company's 600 Metres Studio where a specially mounted stage was installed, designed by Galina Gomonova. It was spectacularly beautiful: a kind of mini-Minsk-Arena, where the decisions from the *Junior Eurovision-2018* in Minsk were implemented.

This year, the struggle for a 3kg crystal heart, produced at the Neman Glassworks, was intense. However, the young vocalists were fighting not only for the trophy, but for what it gives them — the right to uphold the country's prestige, and their own, at the 2019 competition in Polish Gliwice. The final of the national selection for the *Junior Eurovision* turned out to be more difficult than ever: not only did the girls claim victory; in addition, for many pupils of the pop studios it was their last chance. 14 years old is the age limit for entrants to the competition, which was held between Maria Zhilina, Anastasia Zhabko and Yelizaveta Misnikova. Yelizaveta was lucky — 1,526 votes from the TV viewers gave her 10 points, and the same from the professional jury ensured she outstripped all the other participants.

The winner of the people's vote, Maria Yermakova —



Aleksandr Kulevsky

Yelizaveta Misnikova wins national selection round for 2019 Junior Eurovision

1,907 votes from TV viewers and 12 points — was given only 6 points from the judges, taking second place. *Monkey Tops* band with 17 points came in third; though the judges gave the dancing girls first place, they didn't manage to gain enough support from the audience.

The jury for the national selection included the Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Composers, Yelena Atrashkevich, singer Iskui Abalyan, composer Maksim Aleinikov, showman and host of the Belarusian Ra-

dio and TV Company Yevgeny Perlin, cultural columnist of the TV News Agency Lidia Zablotskaya, singers and composers Yegiazar Farashyan and Aleksandr Patlis, alongside representatives of the Ministry of Culture.

For the winner Yelizaveta Misnikova, this was not the first attempt to conquer the selection round; the pupil of vocal teacher Olga Drozdova had already previously tried to get through to the finals.

"I tried three times, and I did not get into the top ten twice. But

finally I've got in, and I'm number one! I nearly jumped over my own head, I'm so happy! I'll put the hard-earned heart in the studio so that everyone can see it: maybe for someone it will become an incentive. I think I may also try for the adult competition later on," she says.

Yelizaveta Misnikova came to the final show with a powerful support team: her parents and teacher, as well as a group of active teenage fans (which was specially formed for her). They called themselves 'Team Ash',

after the name of Yelizaveta's song, and everywhere they joined in the refrain, and then sent SMS messages, voting in favour of their idol. It's a good example of how victories are won today: it's not enough just to be talented, beautiful and smart, it's necessary that a large number of fans recognise this fact.

"I have fans and also people who aren't, but I think that one cannot please everyone — these are subjective things," says Liza. "And of course, the reviews on social networks are very different. But I'm happy that my fans supported me, and after the victory I had to answer messages and comments for two days. The coolest thing was that the guys were singing my song when I went on the stage — this is the greatest feeling!"

Liza's plans are now to prepare for the competition and to take classes, and not just in vocal lessons. "I have to go to school; I haven't been in it for quite a long time!" the girl admitted with disarming frankness.

She also suggested that the song and the show may change by the time of the contest. "Everything is still to be planned, we will make an acoustic version as well. But I promise that I will perform even better at the *Junior Eurovision* Song Contest than now!"

Junior Eurovision-2019 will be held on November 24th in Gliwice (Poland).

Kupala Theatre opens jubilee hundredth season

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

The Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre has celebrated the opening of its 100th season and arranged a theatrical picnic. In the centennial season, the theatre will expand its tour and celebrate its centennial history through new information projects.

Opening the anniversary season, the theatre has gone beyond the hall: great celebrations started on the main stage and continued in the Aleksandrovsy Park. Guests could treat themselves at the buffet, wear a moustache like the young Kupala, walk around the theatre's backstage, get invited to private shows and even come onto the theatrical stage.

During the festivities, the park held its first live broadcast of the Kupala Theatre's production based on Andrey Gorvat's *Radio Prudok*. The show was also available for viewing outside, in the street. In addition, the theatre hosted impressive tours for guests who

could get behind the scenes and feel like real actors.

In the evening, the park resounded to different melodies: guests enjoyed a musical programme featuring the unique Kupala orchestra.

"It is the first time Belarusian theatres have organised such an open air event. Our *Theatrical Picnic* aims to focus on a very important date in the history of the first Belarusian drama theatre: the 100th anniversary," said Pavel Latushko, the Director of the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre. "We have opened our doors wide for all who love the Kupala Theatre and are interested in theatrical art, for those who — probably for the first time thanks to this celebration — come close to the theatrical process. It is very important for us to go beyond the borders, beyond the walls of our theatre and present theatrical art to all residents and guests of the capital."

Pavel Latushko also spoke about the theatre's plans and new projects for its 100th anniversary season.



BELTA

During Theatrical Picnic

"The Kupala Theatre believes it is important to develop theatrical scope through new projects, to expand their tour map and discover new venues. Our tour plans include several Belarusian regions, Gomel, Grodno, Slonim, Baranovichi, Molodechno, Bobruisk and Soligorsk, as well as many foreign cities and participation in European theatre festivals. In late September, the theatre will stage its *Pinsk Gentry* performance in Bialystok and, in December, will present *The Harvest*, based on Pavel Pryazhko's play in Paris," said Mr. Latushko.

Next year, the small stage at the theatre will renew its work at the historic building in 17 Engels Street. This multifunctional venue will be used for performances and movies, musical eve-

nings and concerts, as well as acting as a gallery for modern art.

"Our key words during the 100 year theatrical season will be 'history', 'modernity' and 'future'. We have something to be proud of in the history of the Kupala Theatre. We have something to present at a creative level in the modern arena. Through this, we are laying the foundations for the future development of the theatre," noted Mr. Latushko.

There are also plans to make documentaries and television commercials and to publish a book about the history of the theatre with valuable material from the archives. The book is expected to be published next year. Among the new projects is an educational programme for the development of creative thinking.

Exciting, cool, extreme



2nd Minsk International Festival of Circus Art held in the Belarusian capital, bringing about a hundred artistes from 18 countries



CULTURE

By Irina Ovsepyan

Do you know what a balancing acrobat is? Have you seen acrobats building an intricate pyramid, standing on each other's heads, sometimes with the help of long poles? Now imagine the same thing, but in the air and on the trapeze. Breath-taking! Such shows pleased the audience of the 2nd Minsk International Festival of Circus Art: performances on the brink, or even beyond the limits of human capabilities, risks which make the heart miss a beat, and at the same time show an incredible lightness and beauty, achieved only by the highest professionalism.

It's here that you fully understand what a great tornado of applause is as the contestants were almost bathed in it. Three-time gold medal winners, aerial gymnasts in the ring — Aleksey Grigorov and Marina Glovatskikh from Ukraine — showed a fantastically beautiful performance that made the audience scream with delight. A guest from China, Li Wei, demonstrated miracles of balance, riding a monocycle on a thin wire, and pedalling while standing on his hands. Romanian Daniel Badea balanced on a free-standing 8-metre staircase — a trick that no one else in the world is able to do. Russians Tatiana Yarovaya and Andrey Yarovoi brought a performance with trained bears: seemingly cute teddy bears on the train are one of the most difficult and dangerous animals, and the apparent ease with which the artistes manage them is worth seeing. The Brazilian clown Pepe Jardim also deserved his applause: to make the audience laugh, in a language you don't know, you need real talent.

The artistes of the Belarusian State Circus were by no means lost against such a brilliant background.

Young aerial

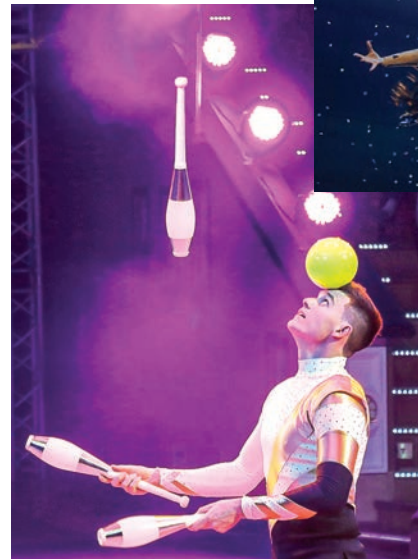
gymnasts, Anastasia Donchenko and Anastasia Putyato already have experience of international victories. Bogdan and Dmitry Kazakov demonstrated extreme power at the highest level: hammering nails into a board with one blow of their palm and dragging logs with their teeth. Specially for the performance, the brothers prepared a trick that no one had performed since the beginning of the 20th century: one of the artistes raised a huge piano on his shoulders, which four muscular men can hardly lift. The Belarusians' debut took place at the air flight festival under the guidance of Yevgeny Kononovich: the artists were flying at an altitude of 13 metres with great swings of the trapeze.



Aleksey Stolyarov

Looking at the incredible things happening in the arena, one understands why Urs Pilz, the Vice President of the world's oldest circus festival in Monte Carlo, patronised by the princely family of Monaco since its foundation in 1974, praised the Minsk forum so highly, "Since the first time, the Belarusian State Circus has shown a very high level and excellent quality of work, but now we see real upper class," noted the jury member. His comments confirmed that Minsk performs in the Premier League and is included in the many top class festivals that exist in the world.

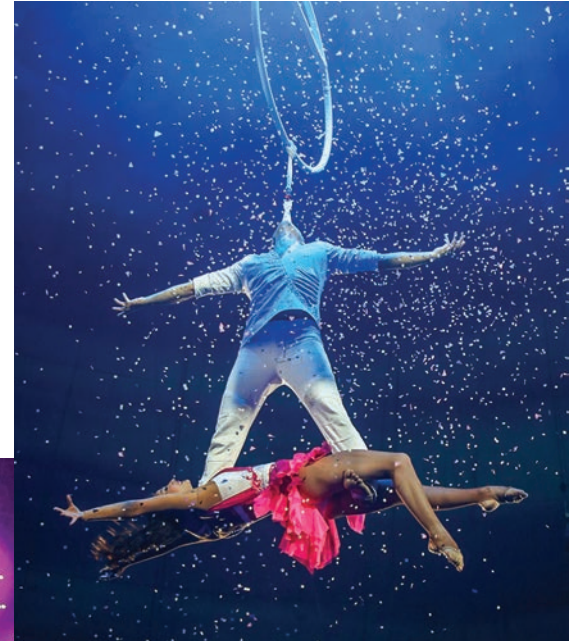
Of course, it's not really correct to directly compare the two forums: years, experience, history, atmosphere — are all different. However, Mr. Pilz emphasised that artistes of the same level (struggling to win the golden clown figurine) have come to Minsk to fight for the symbolic magician made



from Belarusian straw — first prize of the festival in Belarus.

The jury also determines the prestige: it's almost impossible to bring together such a large number of big names, but the Belarusian State Circus has managed to do this for the second time. Alongside Urs Pilz, the experts included the Minister of Culture of Hungary — Péter Fekete, the Artistic Director of the Russian State Circus — Gia Eradze, and chairmen of major European festivals.

As a result, by the decision of an authoritative jury, the Grand Prix of the 2nd Minsk International Festival of Circus Art was the show with the white tigers 'Shambhala', under the guidance of an Honoured Artiste of Russia, Sergey Nesterov.



Gold was won by the 'Virtuoso Five', led by Vladimir Plotnikov from Russia and 'Rope Walkers' led by Rim Un Il from the National Circus of Pyongyang. In addition, silver medals went to aerial gymnasts in the ring, Marina Glovatskikh and Aleksey Grigorov from the National Circus of Ukraine, as well as acrobats on the swings led by Aleksandr Skokov from the Russian State Circus Company. Bronze winners were Belarusian aerial gymnasts on the trapeze, Anastasia Donchenko and Anastasia Putyato, acrobats on the 'Step Ladder', led by Adlet Tikanov from the Kazakh State Circus, tight-rope walker Roman Khopersky from the Nikulin Moscow Circus on Tsvetnoy Boulevard, as well as the 'Free Wire' show by the Chinese artist, Li Wei.

The audience jury award went to Marina Glovatskikh and Aleksey Grigorov from the National Circus of Ukraine, while members of the children's jury mostly enjoyed the Mexican solo juggler, Pablo Martinez. Swing acrobats MI-PARTI led by Evgeny Didyk from Ukraine won the public jury award, and the Russian 'Funny Bears' performance with Tatiana Yarovaya and Andrey Yarovoi was awarded the Minsk Mayor's award.



BELTA

Arina plays her best tennis: technical, powerful, exciting

Belarusian tennis player Arina Sobolenko wins the tournament in Chinese Wuhan for the second year in a row

By Irina Sergeeva

In the decisive match, the Belarusian — ranked 14th globally — played against American Alison Riske (35th) and confidently won the first set: 6:3. In the second, the American seized the initiative and took it with the same result. In the final set, Arina played powerfully, giving the opponent only one game — 6:1 (the Belarusian scored 18 aces and the American — two). The match, which lasted 1 hour 55 minutes, brought a fourth title to Arina Sobolenko in WTA tournaments.

Apart from the title, Arina defended 900 points in Wuhan and her place in the ranking. She is now 14th in the live version of the WTA rankings.

“Alison, thank you for this wonderful final,” Arina said in her championship speech. “You’re a great fighter. Your backhands along the line are impressive! Thanks to the physiotherapists; it was an extremely difficult week for me. Thanks to my team. We’ve had a difficult season together, and I confess I was worried going to Wuhan whether I would be able to defend the title. I did, and I just want to say thank you for being with me — no matter what. Working with me is a great challenge, believe in me!”

It is notable that, for Arina, her first trophy in the 2019 season was in a match against Alison Riske. In the finals of the tournament in Chinese Shenzhen (with a prize fund of \$750,000), Arina also won in

three sets — 4:6, 7:6 (7:2), 6:3. They have now played three matches, all of which the Belarusian has won.

On her path to the finals in Wuhan, Arina Sobolenko consistently beat another Belarusian — Aleksandra Sasnovich (WTA:51) — 6:1, 6:2, American Danielle Rose Collins (WTA:33) — 6:1, 6:0, Kiki Bertens from the Netherlands (WTA:8) — 6:1, 7:6, Yelena Rybakina from Kazakhstan



(WTA:50) — 6:3, 1:6, 6:1, and world top seed Ashleigh Barty of Australia — 7:5, 6:4. The Belarusian lost only two sets to her rivals during the tournament.

Last year, Arina Sobolenko was also the best in Wuhan. She

won 12 matches in a row here. It’s a great performance! The tournament in Wuhan belongs in the Premier 5 category, with a prize fund of \$2.828m. In the 2018 final, Arina Sobolenko defeated Estonian Anett Kontaveit — 6:3, 6:3.

SUPPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, congratulated member of the national tennis team, Arina Sobolenko, on her successful defence of the winner’s title at the Wuhan tournament. His message reads: ‘In the competition against world tennis leaders, you clearly showed your championship ambitions. The fans got a great deal of positivity from your best tennis: technical, powerful and exciting’.

The President hoped that the sportswoman’s victorious spirit and hard work will take her to a new level, enabling her to join the list of the world’s best tennis players. He also wished Arina Sobolenko good health and success along the path.

Worth its weight in gold

Thailand has hosted the World Weightlifting Championships, with Yevgeny Tikhontsov becoming world champion in the under 102kg weight category, posting a result of 398kg in two exercises, and Andrey Aryamnov, performing in the under 109kg weight category, brought silver for our team, lifting a total of 426kg

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Silver, won by Andrey Aryamnov, is probably worth its weight in gold for him. Before the World Championships, the winner of the Beijing Olympics didn’t set a high goal, seeing this as the first step on the way to the Games in Tokyo. The head of our national team, winner and medallist of the European Weightlifting Championships, Oleg Chiritsso, said that Aryamnov’s medal was no surprise, “The less time left before the World Cup, the more clearly his chances for a medal appeared — the only question was what type it would be. He proved to be very good at this tournament, successfully using different approaches, showing a stable technique, and even had a look at the stock both in the snatch and clean and jerk.”

The champion’s title in this category was claimed by the Armenian athlete, Simon Martirosyan, who lifted a total of 429kg in two exercises. According to

the head of the team, Andrey has enough power to compete with him: the results show he is already close to Martirosyan: losing only 1kg in a snatch and 2kg in the clean and jerk.



Yevgeny Tikhontsov

Yevgeny Tikhontsov performed in a higher weight category than usual at the World Championships in Thailand: not in the Olympic weight category up to 96kg (in which he won the European Championship gold in April and was initially announced as a competitor at the world forum), but in the non-Olympic category up to 102kg.

At the World Championships, Tikhontsov showed a 2kg lower result than at the European Championships: in Thailand, he lifted 398kg against 400kg in Batumi. If Yevgeny performed in the weight category of under 96kg, where the number of participants was almost double than in the up to 102kg section, the current weight total (gained in the snatch and clean and jerk) would be enough only to be placed third. Chinese Tien Tao became the champion in the under 96kg with a result of 410kg, followed by Qatari weightlifter Faris Ibrahim El-Bakh who lifted a total of 402kg, and An-

ton Pliesnoi of Georgia closed the top three winners with 394kg. Mr. Chiritsso says that Yevgeny was physically ready to take the larger weight, “Everything was perfect in the snatch, although he may not have found the courage to take a weight of 181kg. And in the clean and jerk in the first approach he stalled, but in subsequent attempts he managed it. Yevgeny first performed in this weight category, but he will not go into it again, as Tikhontsov earns points in the Olympic rating in the category of under 96kg, therefore he will continue performing there.”

According to the results of the World Weightlifting Championships held in Pattaya, the men’s national team of Belarus was ranked second in the tournament team standings. Victor Shershukov’s squad earned 505 points. The best male team of the World Championships was the Chinese, boasting 700 points while Korea was placed third with 491.

SUPPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, congratulated the member of the national weightlifting team, Yevgeny Tikhontsov, on winning a gold medal at the 2019 World Weightlifting Championships in Pattaya. His message reads: ‘Just as at the European Championships this year, you demonstrated your wonderful physical fitness and the will to fight till the end. Well done!’ Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that all Belarusian sport fans share the joy of his victory. “May this victory give confidence to the whole team,” said the President.

IAAF President again

Briton Sebastian Coe re-elected as International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) President



The decision on a second term for 62-year-old Sebastian Coe was taken unanimously at the congress of the organisation in Doha, ahead of the IAAF World Championships. The Briton took up the post in 2015.

In 2018, Sebastian Coe attended the inauguration ceremony of Dinamo Stadium in Minsk and, in September 2019, he was an honorary guest at the Match Europe v USA.

Marksanship

Maria Martynova of Belarus claims silver and also an Olympic place at the 2019 ESC European Championship 25m/50m held in Italian Bologna and Tolmezzo

The Belarusian scored a total of 456.9 points to grace the podium in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Women. It proved to be a lucky event for Maria, as she also captured an Olympic qualification place. Gold went to Nina Christen of Switzerland (460.6 points). Bronze was collected by Norway’s Jenny Stene (444.9 points).



New coach for Zhodino’s Torpedo-BelAZ

Yuri Puntus appointed new head coach for Torpedo-BelAZ footballers

Yuri Puntus started the season in the first league team of the national championship — Bobruisk Belshina, and has recently moved to Zhodino, replacing head coach, Vadim Skripchenko. Before that, he successfully worked with BATE and twice led the Borisov team to the title of Belarus’ champions. In addition, Yuri coached Minsk MTZ-RIPO, Brest Dinamo, Mozyr Slavia and Smolevichi, also heading the youth and national teams of Belarus.



SPORT

The Minsk Times
Thursday
October 3
2019

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Race of the week



5th season of 'Bison Race' extreme run held in Logoisk, Minsk Region

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marks Street
Until 15th October. *Moisey Nappelbaum: Portrait of the Epoch*
Until 6th November. *Old and New: 18th Century Russian Jewellery Art*

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street
Until 20th October. *Space Pilgrim*
Until 19th January. *Oman: Pearl of the East. Handicraft Legacy*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 5th October. *City Contrasts*
Until 17th October. *City and Time*
Until 7th November. *September 17th 1939: You Are From Western and I'm From Eastern Belarus*
Until 10th November. *Doll Stories*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 19th October. *Space of Sculpture*
Until 19th October. *Limitless Possibilities*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 M. Bogdanovich Street
Until 24th October. *Caucasus Works by Lev Tolstoy*

YANKA KUPALA LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 12th October. *Border Crossed Near Minsk: 1921-1941*

MAXIM BOGDANOVICH LITERARY MUSEUM

7A M. Bogdanovich Street
Until 23rd October. *Walking in Grey. A Poem*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlov Street
Until 6th October. Exhibition of Sergey Mikhalenko's photos: *Melancholy*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 13th October. *Minotaur's Mystery*
Until 19th. January. *Lady's Articles*

TROITSKY SUBURB

7A Bogdanovich Street
Until 12th October. *Best Toys from USSR*
Until 12th March. *Robo Art*

ZAIR AZGUR MUSEUM-WORKSHOP

3 Zair Azgur Street
Until 19th October. Exhibition of vernacular photography: *Silk Velvet Season*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
03 and 04.10. *Romeo and Juliet*
04.10. *Three and Mozart*
05.10. *Aida*
06.10. *Anyuta*
08.10. *Salome / Jazz, Classics, Tango*
09.10. *Don Pasquale*
10.10. *Sleeping Beauty*

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
03.10. *Dangerous Ties*
05.10. *Hot Mothers*
06.10. *Bridal Shower*
09.10. *Oscar and Pink Lady*

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street
03.10. *Inspector*
04.10. *Harvest / Jeweller's Jubilee*
05 and 06.10. *Nobleman Zavalnya, or Belarus in Fantastic Stories*
06.10. *ART*
08.10. *Love as Militarism / The Seagull*
09.10. *School of Taxpayers / Radio Prudok*
10.10. *Local Cabaret*

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
04.10. *A Night at a Hotel*
05.10. *Featherhead*

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street
03.10. *Grandfather*
04.10. *Adam's Jokes*
05.10. *Duplet*
07 and 08.10. *TEART International Forum of Theatre Art: Stalingrad*
09.10. *Truth*
10.10. *Wind in the Hair*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

33 Masharov Avenue
03 and 04.10. *False Note*
05 and 06.10. *Nobody Promised Easy Life*
07.10. *The Same Place Next Year*
08.10. *Jubilee and Proposal*
09.10. *Pygmalion*
10.10. *Macropulos' Means*

CONTEMPORARY ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
05.10. *Oscar*
06.10. *House Upside Down*

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
03.10. *Love Until Unconsciousness*
04.10. *A Man From Podolsk / Playing Happy Family*
05.10. *Hotel of Two Worlds*
06.10. *Double Double / Zhmurik*
08.10. *About Fedot-Archer*
09.10. *Trickster Club*
10.10. *The Fool*