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Circus of high achievers → 10

We are used to the idea that Minsk has become a successful venue for diplomatic negotiations and sports competitions at the highest level, but we witnessed a different event for the first time not so long ago: Belarus welcomed participants of the 1st Minsk International Festival of Circus Art.

Over 100 high-class artistes came to the capital from 16 countries — including the USA, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Australia — to show their skill. Belarusian circus talents also defended the country's honour at the highest level.





Joint session of the EOC Co-ordination Commission and representatives of the organising committee and Directorate for the Second European Games Fund at the NOC of Belarus

Highest possible level



The European Olympic leadership team gathered in Minsk a year ago when the Belarusian capital hosted the General Assembly of the EOC and its participants focused on fundamental questions. Practicalities and pragmatism ruled at the National Olympic Committee, as the 2nd European Games were high on the agenda. A visit of the Co-ordination Commission of the European Olympic Committees was a major step for the organising committee of Belarus' first multi-sports event. The meeting aimed to evaluate, study and determine the details which would help avoid organisational problems during the event.

By Dmitry Komashko

There are many subtle issues to be addressed and the report of the Head of the Games' Directorate — Georgy Katulin — tackled all aspects of training. Meanwhile, the attending representative of the EOC and the National Olympic Committee still had much to announce and discuss. Some expressed the hope that, by 2019, the National Anti-Doping Laboratory would have received WADA accreditation and it would be no longer needed to take dope-tests over 600km to Warsaw. Others — who had already toured the capital by metro on the first day of their arrival — shared their impressions of Minsk's transport, stating that traffic and parking were functioning well but warning that, during the Games, all responsible parties (including drivers, road traffic police and the Ministry of Transport and Communications) would have to work closely together. "The European Games are a global and complex event; even a mi-



During the session

nor inconsistency would ruin earlier efforts," noted EOC technical expert, Adrian Corcoran.

Mr. Katulin agreed: much work lies ahead. He reported, "The present meeting for the first time enables the EOC leadership to build up a general view of the preparation for the Games. According to the guests' first impression, Minsk has started very well. However, it's important not to

follow Vladimir Vysotsky's motto: 'rush as if for \$500 and get exhausted'. We are very attentive to all comments, as never before has our country hosted events of this kind. World championships are good experience but their organisation has nothing to do with the European Games. We are now discussing separate issues which will be further united into a single information system. The latter will help

efficiently manage our transport, TV, security and organisation of sporting events. We've already set this task for our High-Tech Park; we'll see what proposals it will come up with."

Another issue is related to personnel: to organise a top European tournament, an army of qualified specialists and managers is needed. This issue remains unsolved yet but, according to the EOC Head — Janez Kocijancic — problems at the initial stage are common. After listening to reports and discussions, the experienced official concluded: Minsk is really doing well. "Our Belarusian friends are doing a great job and I think they'll succeed in hosting the 2nd European Games at the highest possible level. In Belarus, there are experts who already have experience in dealing with similar problems during the Ice Hockey World Championships and other major tournaments. I think that — taking into consideration our help and advice — they will cope with any challenges," he said.

The city is already divided into

'Olympic' routes, with officials and guests of honour to be provided with official cars. Participants discussed the work of press centres, logistics, transportation hubs and marketing. Meanwhile, Mr. Kocijancic stressed: it's not right to believe that Belarus would need to host a local version of the Olympics. The European Games are a separate tournament. "We do not want to copy the Olympics, though, of course, the upcoming event has much in common with them. The idea of the European Games is to conduct a self-contained tournament and many sports are already hoping to be included in the programme. Some — like taekwondo — are not happy to accept that this sport has not been included in the Games; such examples confirm the future event's growing popularity. Do you remember the skepticism demonstrated on the eve of the Baku Games? When the Games finish in Minsk, no one will say that they have failed to find their place in the global sporting calendar."

Minsk ready to become a new venue for negotiations

By Alexey Fedosov

Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei, speaking from the meeting of the UN General Assembly, calls on members to put an end to the 'cold war' and launch a new 'Helsinki Process', involving the large geopolitical players, suggesting Belarus as a negotiation venue

The Foreign Minister of Belarus noted that the last decades have been associated with contradictory tendencies: global political fragmentation and increasing economic globalisation. The first trend has led to global political

instability, 'resulting from wars, conflicts, terrorism, xenophobia and other factors — giving rise to mounting chaos and despondency'.

According to him, the reason why the world found itself in this predicament was because it failed to put an end to the 'cold war'. "It didn't end with the peace treaty as had been the case in previous wars. Therefore, we were left without a universally accepted framework which could have guided our subsequent behaviour," asserts the Minister.

The Head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry underlines that different powers began to interpret the state of geopolitical uncertain-



ty in different ways, which has led to disputes regarding legitimacy. "By and large, all the problems that have piled up since the early

1990s result from our inability to bring an end to the 'cold war'. But it is never late to do what is right," notes Vladimir Makei.

He reminded us about the initiative of the President of Belarus to launch a new negotiating process similar to the 1970 Helsinki process. "What we suggest is that some of the key global players like China, Russia, the United States of America and the European Union engage collectively in dialogue about a strategic vision for building new constructive relations. The Republic of Belarus, for its part, stands ready to serve as a convening place. We're willing to carry out such a task with the same high degree of responsibility

that marked our efforts aimed at settling the conflict in Ukraine over the past few years. Minsk is ready to become a bridge that will link the old with the new," emphasised the Head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry.

He believes that the results of 'Helsinki-2' will put an end to the last epochal war. "Some people may not consider this realistic today. But this is exactly how the proposal put forward by the President of Belarus to send peacekeepers to Ukraine was perceived three years ago. And today this idea has been revived and has been actively discussed in the United Nations," concluded Mr. Makei.

We don't want to go to war

Joint Belarusian-Russian strategic exercise, Zapad-2017 (West-2017) was completed last week. On the final day of manoeuvres, the attention of international observers and journalists was focused on the 227th combined-arms firing range, not far from Borisov, where the major forces of the regional troops of Belarus and Russia showed their mettle. According to the concept of the exercise, they had to repulse an enemy assault, then move into counterattack and defeat the imaginary enemy, restoring their lost position.

By Dmitry Krymov

Summarising the results of the exercise, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, highly praised the skills of the Belarusian and Russian soldiers. "The objectives were achieved and training issues were worked on to a good standard. Joint defence tasks were completed at a satisfactory level. The manoeuvres demonstrated combat and, what is most important, comradely assistance of Belarusians and Russians during the fulfilment of training-combat tasks," said the President.

After the exercises finished, the President answered journalists' questions:

Results of the exercise

The objectives set before this exercise have been met. We fully realised all the tasks. The major part of the exercise was the Belarusian manoeuvres, involving six firing ranges and two areas. We've practised actions of the Armed Forces and the system of territorial defence. I'd like to thank all the journalists who have worked during this exercise both in the preparation period and during the conduct of it.

I should say that the objectives which we set before the exercise were achieved in the firing ranges in Belarus and in Russia. We drilled all elements of the exercise. We'll analyse the results more closely later. But in general, the objectives have been met. What have we demonstrated? We didn't



President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, expressed his appreciation to participants of the Zapad-2017 exercise

hide this demonstration from anyone and showed the ability of the Armed Forces of Russia and Belarus to defend the interests of the Union and the interests of our states. This really was a demonstration of our capabilities.

Everything was at a very high level. It was not a sham exercise. It was a practical

exercise showing how everything will happen, God forbid, in reality.

Why did the presidents of Belarus and Russia not observe the manoeuvres together?

We reached an agreement that, as the main action will take place here [in Belarus],

while some will take place in the Leningrad Region, the President of Russia will keep an eye on the exercise in the north while I will do the same in the centre.

I'm grateful to our military and the Russians for giving me an opportunity to observe the main phase. Initially, we intended to observe the

exercise together but later we came to realise that we should see more of the exercise so that people could see where the presidents work and how.

There is speculation that Russian troops will remain in Belarus and will threaten the neighbouring states

I will be happy to comment on this at a later point when all troops involved in the exercise will be in their permanent places of deployment, including Russian units.

I'm aware of those who wanted to try to discredit the exercise in this way. What would have changed several thousand Russian soldiers introduced to the Belarusian region for these manoeuvres? The Belarusian Army comprises 75,000 soldiers. If we need to solve any issues we will solve them and in case of any clash in the western direction, it is the Belarusian army who enters the war first to protect the interests of Russia and Belarus. Then the Russian Armed Forces will instantly deploy its units here, according to our military plans.

So, the attempt to discredit us was extremely unprofessional. However, let's wait until all the troops of Russia and Belarus return to their places of permanent deployment and see what they will say then. If we need to involve our Russian brothers for help it will be done instantly, as you have seen. We're not going to attack anyone. But if we are attacked we will strike back... We are not aggressive. We've suffered a lot during the war... We don't want to go to war. We have never started wars. We've suffered from them. As President, I just want the Belarusian people to know that the state can protect them if need be. I want the security to which every state aspires.

OPINIONS OF OBSERVERS:

Thomas Moller, a representative of the Swedish Armed Forces:

Both before and during the exercise, there were enough comments from experts about the threat of these manoeuvres. I didn't see anything to justify this. I wouldn't say that Zapad-2017 represents any threat to Belarus' neighbours. Such military exercises are normal practice and this is done in many countries, be it Sweden, the Netherlands, Belarus or Russia.

Massimo Fogari, an observer from Italy:

It was a well prepared and professional exercise! I have seen Belarusian and Russian soldiers in action and how professionally they interacted. I say sincerely: your soldiers are perfectly prepared. I'm a brigade general and, believe me, I'm aware of the importance of such exercises.

Robin Mossinkoff, a OSCE observer:

Zapad-2017 is a perfect example of transparency. Belarus has demonstrated how to host such events. All observers had an opportunity to obtain unbiased information. I'm thankful to the Belarusians for having invited international organisations to the exercise, including the OSCE. You have behaved in full compliance with the 2011 Vienna Document.

Japanese Autumn in Belarus 2017 enjoys full house

By Yana Vidnikevich

The Japanese Embassy to Belarus is organising for the fifth time, the festival which takes place from mid-September to late November. This year, it's dedicated to the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Belarus.

The first event of the programme has already aroused great interest, enabling visitors to become

familiar with the tradition, methods and techniques of Butoh dance. The opening ceremony also attracted a full house, thanks to the master from the Ikenobo school, Ms. Midori Yamada who, after the official part of the event, demonstrated the Japanese art of creating bouquets. The next day many of those keen on Ikebana attended two master classes.

Minsk and guests of the capital continue to acquaint themselves

with traditional and modern Japanese culture. Last week there was an opportunity to visit master classes in aikido, to see the performance based on Yukio Mishima's *Marquis de Sade* and to listen to a lecture about post-modern theatre. October will see an exhibition match in Japanese chess, an international tournament in karate, alongside master classes in ink painting, calligraphy and origami.

One can also master a compre-

hensive system of body development at the Bujinkan seminar or listen to a lecture about traditional Japanese aesthetics in everyday life or on the creativity of Haruki Murakami. A week of Japanese cinema is scheduled for October 6th-10th, while a festival of youth East Asian culture, *Higan*, will take place on October 7th. Some of the master classes will be also repeated in November. Moreover, the programme also includes exhibitions and con-

certs where one can see Japanese flute and taiko drums, lectures in traditional clothes such as the kimono and the Japanese philosophy of efficiency, alongside a master class in creating manga and Belarus' open cup in spochan.

Many events are taking place featuring guests from Japan. For example, master of calligraphy, Kaori Isidzima, will visit, as will kimono specialist Kimiko Tomizawa and pianist Tempei Nakamura.

New truck is launched

The heavy-duty dump truck with a steerable frame, Amkodor 20232, presented in Minsk at the Udarnik Plant — part of Amkodor Holding. The vehicle is named ‘Mara’ and its serial production has been launched.

By Sergey Kovalevsky

According to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of JSC Amkodor — Holding Management Company, Alexander Shakutin, the truck is unrivalled in the CIS. The project was implemented by a group of designers headed by Stanislav Marchenko. The name of the heavy-duty dump truck — ‘Mara’ — is consonant with the surname of the designer.



Amkodor presents its new heavy-duty dump truck



New machinery from Amkodor

“The heavy-duty dump truck has undergone the strictest tests. Today its production line was launched. The assembly line was made in Pinsk and it will be produced in the Brest Region. There are plans to make 15-20 vehicles per month. The load capacity of

the new heavy-duty dump truck is 24 tonnes and in future there are plans to manufacture the same vehicles with a load capacity of 35 and 40 tonnes. The vehicle is of high quality and we are very proud of it. We have already had contracts for the supply of ‘Mara’

to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Bangladesh,” notes Mr. Shakutin.

The new vehicle boasts good cross-country ability and will cope in difficult weather conditions. It is suitable for work on the construction of mining and processing facilities, as well as rail and roads.

The presentation of the new heavy-duty truck coincided with Machine Builder’s Day. Amkodor celebrated its professional holiday by honouring veterans of the holding, members of the team manufacturing vehicles for the timber processing complex, decorated with state awards. An awards ceremony took place, ‘A Man of Action in the Right Place’, a solemn dedication of 50 young specialists welcomed into the company.

Quality of economic contracts improves

Belarus and Mongolia confirms the improvement of economic contacts, notes Industry Minister Vitaly Vovk as he met the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia, Purev Sergelen

“Thanks to the implementation of the agreements reached during the previous meeting of the Belarus-Mongolia Commission, we have made progress in our economic relations. However, we should not be satisfied with what we’ve already achieved. We should move forward and increase bilateral trade,” underlined Mr. Vovk.

The meeting of the Belarusian-Mongolian Joint Commission discussed the prospects for co-operation in agriculture, food and light industry, as well as transport, mining, construction, urban development, healthcare and environment. The Mongolian official delegation met with their Belarusian counterparts and visited several Belarusian enterprises, including MTZ, BelAZ and MAZ. In January-June 2017, enterprises of the Belarusian Industry Ministry exported more than \$2.5m of products to Mongolia, which was up by 4.4 percent in the same period in the previous year.

In line with the aims of the modern world

The initiative to create the Silk Road Economic Belt meets the aims and aspirations of the modern world, noted China’s Vice Premier, Zhang Gaoli, during talks with delegates of the Media Co-operation Forum on Belt and Road in Beijing

Taking part in the meeting on Belarus’ behalf was Director General of the Belarusian Telegraph Agency (BelTA) Dmitry Zhuk, and Editor-in-Chief of the *Respublika* newspaper Vasily Matveev.

“Many countries have already understood the numerous benefits from the creation of the Silk Road Economic Belt. China is ready to discuss projects with all those wishing to be involved and consider the interests and points of view of our partners,” underlined Mr. Gaoli.

According to him, the People’s Republic of China believes it’s vital to conjoin the projects scheduled as part of the *Belt and Road* initiative, with the activity of the Eurasian Economic Union, various regional associations and international organisations.

“In our opinion, such an approach will enable us to receive a proper socio-economic effect. We should adhere to the dialogue, share positive experiences and new developments,” he added.

Strong impetus

Preparation and certification of scientific staff is a crucial condition for the innovative development of the economy

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, sent greetings to the participants of the international scientific-practical conference, *System of State Attestation of Scientific Workers of Higher Qualification*, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Higher Attestation Committee

“The current forum is very important for our country, since training and standardisation of scientists is a crucial condition for the innovative development of the economy and other areas of society. The Higher Attestation Commission plays a big role in raising the prestige and authority of Belarusian scientific and teaching schools, their international recognition, revealing new names in science,” read the message.

The Head of State believes that the exchange of experience in this field will give a strong impetus to the improvement of the system of state attestation of scientific workers of higher qualification.

System ready to be trialled

By Yelizaveta Artsueva

A Belarusian integrated service-payment system will begin working on July 1st, 2018, notes Minister of Communications and Informatisation, Sergey Popkov

“The deadline is tough: on July 1st, 2018, the system should start working,” notes Mr. Popkov. The project will enable us to replace the internal passport of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus with an ID-card which will become a fully-fledged means of citizens’ identification.

The Minister said that the first stage of the project’s realisation is almost finished. “We’ve already prepared the technical tasks and shortly an inter-departmental working group will ‘legalise’ it. Then a contest will be announced for the development of the hardware-software complex for the integrated service-payment system,” he explains.

According to Mr. Popkov, the system is to be launched in April in



Go-ahead to undertake technological changes

test mode. “From July 1st, commercial exploitation of the system will start and by this time we will be already issuing the first ID-cards. The Interior Ministry will be involved in this. The system is very powerful and complex; we need time to trial it,” he explains.

The Minister reminded us that an ID-card will have two major functions: it will replace the Belarusian passport and will also become

a key-access of a citizen to receive various types of electronic administrative services. “Such cards exist in many countries of the world and if corresponding inter-governmental agreements are adopted, it will be possible to cross the borders of our country using an ID-card. Moreover, in future, the card will be able to replace various types of documents, for example, driving licenses,” he added.

Business environment gradually warming up

Work is almost complete on a liberal package of documents aimed at simplifying business processes. If all the measures are adopted (some have been already approved by the President) it will mean that the state will remove almost all administrative barriers which hinder the development of entrepreneurship.

By Vladimir Khromov

In some cases, the changes are revolutionary. The President has signed a decree expanding the types of economic activity which can be run by citizens without registration as individual entrepreneurs, by paying a single tax. It refers to the legalisation of those activities which are now conducted by individuals at home (for example, hairdressing services) or can be conducted without damage to society. The Deputy Chairman of the Council on Entrepreneurship Development, Sergey Novitsky, is confident that the decree creates additional conditions for the enhancement of self-employment.

“Additional opportunities will appear for those who would like to run their own business. The life of craftsmen and small entrepreneurs will be considerably simplified. They just need to pay a single tax and can proceed to provide their services or sell their goods,” said Mr. Novitsky.

Co-Chair of the Board, Director of Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers, Zhanna Tarasevich, believes that this document may become a good business start-up opportunity for some, “A person who



BELTA

can cook tasty cakes or cut hair or sew designer clothes, can first try their hand being craftsmen and then possibly employ assistants, gradually train them and open a legal business. One more draft law aims to improve the relations in the sphere of agro-ecotourism. Alexander Lukashenko supported the idea of giving the owners of agro-eco-estates the right to provide additional services, including conducting weddings,

banquets and anniversaries. Moreover, there are plans to significantly reduce checks on entrepreneurs, change approaches towards the confiscation of goods and reduce fines.”

In other words, business will be given maximum freedom of actions. However, this doesn't mean absolutely no laws for entrepreneurs. The President insists on observing a balance between freedom and responsibility, “We remove practically

all barriers and give unprecedented freedom and privileges to our business. On the other hand, there will be the strictest responsibility of businessmen and heads of companies for what is happening in their enterprises. If they make mistakes and God forbid someone should die, they will go to prison. There can't be freedom without responsibility. I'm against excessive control but functions the state needs should be preserved.

Pensions will be raised

By Yevgeny Vasiliev

The recalculation of retirement pensions will be made this year; however, a decision on terms and size of growth hasn't yet been made

This information was released by the Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Protection, Valery Kovalkov, during an online conference on the website of BELTA and the Ministry. He reminded us that retirement pensions are recalculated (according to the law) in the context of the growth of an average salary at least once a year within the limits of the Social Protection Fund's budget.

As far as social pensions are concerned, they are increased simultaneously with the growth of the minimum subsistence budget. Answering the question about the current correlation of the average pension to average salary, Mr. Kovalkov informed us that this figure stands at 39.5 percent over seven months.

The load of the pension system on the country's economy is high, stressed the Head of the Chief Department for Pension Provision, Natalia Murashkevich, “Today pensioners account for around 29 percent of the population (considering security officials). The correlation of the number of those employed and those receiving pensions is falling: in 1990, there were 46 pensioners per 100 employed while, in 2016, there were 62.”

Meanwhile, the budget of the state non-budgetary fund of the social protection of the population performed with a net surplus of Br110.5 million in the first six months of this year. The balance of the budget for these funds is ensured by subventions from the Republican budget.

In a businesslike atmosphere

By Yevgeny Bogomazov

Chairman of the WTO Working Party on Accession of Belarus, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the WTO, Kemal Madenoğlu, notes significant intensification of Belarus' negotiations and reaffirmed support for the country's early accession to the WTO. This was accentuated during his meeting with Belarus' First Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei Yevdochenko.

The Foreign Ministry said that the Belarusian delegation, led by Andrei Yevdochenko, took part in another round of talks on Belarus' accession to the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation met with Kemal Madenoğlu and Officer-in-Charge of the WTO Accessions Division, Maika Oshikawa.

The two sides exchanged views on the status of the negotiations for Belarus' accession to the WTO, and



Andrei Yevdochenko and Kemal Madenoğlu

discussed the preparations for the ninth session of the working party. They pointed out the progress in Belarus' accession process, in particular the distribution of the first draft report of the working party and the end of bilateral talks with several WTO member states. Mr. Yevdochenko extended the invitation of Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vladimir Makei to Kemal Madenoğlu and members of the WTO Accessions Division to visit Minsk in 2017.

A market-access protocol was

signed with Ecuador in Geneva on the same day.

On behalf of the Belarusian Government, the document was signed by the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrei Yevdochenko, on behalf of the Ecuadorian Government by Permanent Representative to the WTO, Diego Aulestia Valencia. Both sides expressed the hope that Belarus' accession to the WTO will facilitate economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and between Ecuador and the EAEU.

Knowledge-based economy to be formed

By Yana Vidnikovich

Knowledge-based economy may be formed in Belarus by 2025-2030

The opinion was voiced by the Head of the Innovative Activity Department at the Ministry of Economy, Dmitry Krupsky, before the opening of the 10th international economic forum of young scientists, held in Minsk. The event was attended by more than 60 young scientists and specialists from various organisations from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

“At present, a large number of documents have been adopted aiming to build an IT-country and to develop the high-tech sector in general. There's hope that by 2025-2030, the basis for a knowledge-based economy will be formed. We will have enough people -who make up the

creative class — to enable the country to shift to an innovative development path,” notes Mr. Krupsky.

He stated that we already have the basis for this type of economy in Belarus. The creative class, which is the engine for the formation of such a strategy includes around 82,000 people. “However, this is too few, as today the economy employs about 4.3 million people. The creative class should account for 10 percent, i.e. at least 450,000 people. Then the process of the formation of a knowledge-based economy will intensify,” he explains.

“The role of young scientists in change is becoming key, since much depends on their far-sightedness, creativeness and interpretation of current processes. This primarily refers to the development of solutions which can be laid as a foundation for state policy,” added Mr. Krupsky.

Unique achievements in focus

Vitebsk scientists develop 'smart' fabrics and unique fur-covered brick

By Yelena Begunova

Tracking modernisation

For many years, Belarus' only, and the CIS and Europe's largest, flax processing facility — Orsha Linen Mill — has been often in the news: a major investment project is being undertaken here. Technical re-fitting and modernisation is long overdue as Orsha's history began in 1930. The plant is progressing steadily — expanding its range and mastering new products and technologies. Nevertheless, a long road is still ahead: there is a high rate of flax imports into Belarus. The reason being that flax is a difficult material, without the help of scientists, processing is inefficient and quality variable.

Orsha Mill's specialists work closely with Vitebsk Technological University. Apart from the instalment of new equipment, new opportunities are emerging in the workshops. Line fabrics and yarns can be multifaceted: due to changes in their structure, colour and 'silkeness', they can satisfy the most demanding customers — being an exemplary raw material for the production of not only home textiles (bed linen, towels, table cloths, etc.) but also fashionable, high-quality clothing and interior design fabrics.

The Head of the Department of Ecology and Chemical Technology at the Vitebsk Technological University — Natalia Yasinskaya — describes flax as a unique research issue. "It's very interesting to work with linens — especially now, when the linen mill's technical opportunities have significantly increased. The Department of Textile Material Technology has its own branch at the plant and tests, experimental batches and all kinds of studies are part of our joint work," she explains. Alongside the Univer-



In the research laboratory of the Vitebsk Technological University's Department of Textile Material Technology

sity's Head of Research, Sergey Belikov, Natalia uses simple language to comment on what technological problems are currently being solved by the university specialists.

Curbing bacteria

New fabric structures enable linen to acquire new qualities. On removing fabric from the loom, workers see a colourless rough canvas which is then sent to the dyeing and finishing production stage. Ms. Yasinskaya explains, "Dyeing and finishing are the most harmful processes. Traditionally, high temperatures and chemicals are used here. We are searching for options to enhance environmental safety. In recent times, a method for enzymatic treatment (when biotechnology is used instead of harmful chemicals) is popular. Special fungal bacteria of animal and vegetable origin help achieve good results for some kinds of finishes: fashionable washed fabric, coloristic effects of abrasions and wear (for the newly mastered jeans fabric) and even fancy holes; bacteria 'eat' fabric in the necessary places," she says. The use of

this technology also produces an energy-saving effect, as it does not require the high temperatures necessary in chemical processing.

Each production method has its own features and requirements. The methods — which appear to work in university laboratories — can produce a completely different effect. Their 'unpredictability' can be influenced by different hardness in the water, not to mention the uniqueness of each piece of factory equipment. The university specialists aim to develop and calculate all the necessary technological nuances and to find the optimal finishing method — minimising chemical and damaging effects.

Moreover, until recently, imported enzymes have been used to process fabrics. At present, 'enzyme factories' are operating in the country; their produce should be combined with the raw materials of the Linen Mill. So as not to miss modern fashion trends, practical workers and scientists seek to minimise terms to one year — including concept development and putting new knowledge into production.

Nanotechnology time

Vitebsk Technological University specialists are currently developing similar fabric processing technologies for the Baranovichi Cotton Production Association. With the manufacturers, they are working on mastering a new technology: the production of printed fabrics. In this case, a pattern is put on the fabric using large-format digital printing; a highly qualitative, extremely clear and bright picture is created as a result. Mr. Belikov comments, "At present, dozens of ideas deal with a scientific approach to fabrics. Appropriate applications for funding from the national central innovation fund and for inclusion on the industrial research and technical programme have been made. In the next few years, we plan to develop the technology and implement the production of flax-based small-pattern coloured shirt fabric of complex raw material composition, large-pattern tapestry fabrics, combined jeans fabrics with textured surfaces and many more. We also plan to realise unique ideas in the development of materials with nano-fibrous coating — so-

called 'smart' fabrics.

The time of 'smart' fabrics — able to react to the physiological state of a person — has come. Such experiments have been carried out around the world and are very important for athletes, children and people with health issues. For example, if one's temperature rises, a coat colour might change from pink to blue-green... In the past, talk of this kind seemed fantastic but these are already real tasks for light industrial enterprises.

Another interesting development from the university scientists aims to create a true revolution in the construction industry. Can you imagine a brick covered with artificial fur, textile or leather? An additive to the normal composition of bricks will significantly enhance its heat-shielding features. As a result of burning the above-mentioned materials, air pockets are created and — alongside external calcination — the brick experiences internal calcination, thus becoming stronger and 'warmer'. Of course, time will show what the university will produce with the research but, in the future, the results of modern experiments will be made public.

Moving forward

By Yelizaveta Artsueva

The country's machine manufacturing workers recently celebrated their professional holiday. At present, the machine building industry of Belarus is represented by more than 265 large and medium-sized organisations.

Over eight months this year, \$8bn of machinery have been produced. The key components, the production of machines and equipment; production of transport vehicles and equipment; production of computing, electronic and optic equipment and production of electrical equipment account for 15.5 percent of the total production volume in the

processing industry.

Our enterprises specialise in the manufacture of trucks, heavy-duty dump trucks, buses, trolley buses, as well as road and construction machinery. Belarus is also the largest manufacturer of agricultural machines: tractors, harvesters, various types of forage harvesters and machinery. Moreover, the production of



household appliances — TV sets, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines and microwave ovens, electric

and gas ovens — also have an important part of the industry.

Belarusian machinery is widely known all over the

world. Over the seven months of 2017 (compared to the same period last year) the volume of exports has significantly increased for electric transformers (2.4-fold), road tractors (1.8-fold), road and construction machinery (1.7-fold), automobiles for special purposes (1.6-fold), trucks (by 39 percent) and tractors (by 18.3 percent).

Non-stop movement

Soon it will be possible to get to Vilnius within 2.5 hours. During a ceremony at Prudy station, Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Kalinin opened the electric train programme on the Molodechno-Gudogai-Kena section by cutting the red ribbon. Then a Chinese-made electric train — BKG1 — set off to Lithuania with the first batch of export cargo.

By Ilya Krasovsky

Before the ceremony, the Head of Belarusian Railways, Vladimir Morozov, personally demonstrated a new railway sub-station to the Deputy PM. In his speech, Mr. Kalinin compared the precision of Belarusian Railways to a Swiss watch and praised railway workers for the growing volume of cargo transport. “I think we’ll soon be able to launch a comfortable modern electric train from Minsk to Vilnius. It will be especially useful for the European Games 2019,” noted Mr. Kalinin.

Annually, at least \$300m is invested into infrastructure transport projects in the country. The financing of the section electrification used credit resources from China’s Eximbank, funds from Belarusian Railways and money from the Innovation Fund of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The total cost of the project reached \$72m.

Belarus and Lithuania began electrification of the section in September 2015. The Belarusian side electrified 84km of rail roads while Lithuania — 27km, a section from the border to Naujoji Vilnia. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lithuanian Republic to Belarus, Andrius Pulokas, confirmed that Lithuania plans to continue electrification of the railways, up to the port of Klaipeda. While the Deputy Director General of the Lithuanian Railways, Gerimantas Bakanas, explained that there are plans to do this in a relatively short period of time — by 2021.

As the electrification of the Molodechno-Gudogai-state bor-



\$72m spent on electrification of Molodechno-Gudogai-Kena double-track road

der is finished, we can talk of two completely electrified international railway transport corridors, coming through our country (another section includes the Brest-Orsha-border with the Russian Federation). The introduction of the new electrified section will reduce the cost of transportation by 10-15 percent and will increase the route speed of cargo and passenger trains by 24 percent, while reducing the amount of pollutant emissions by approximately 720 tonnes per year.

An investment project to fulfil the Presidential Decree was implemented with support from the Chinese National Electric Import & Export Corporation (CUEC), which supplied equipment, organised the work of sub-contractors

and trained personnel of the operating organisations. Moreover, it supplied 12 electric trains of the BKG1 series and 14 trains of the BKG2 series which are designed to last for 30 years. The electrified section will be working for the benefit of the large international *Belt and Road* project.

It’s now possible to get from Minsk to Gudogai in 2 hours 45 minutes, using an economy class electric train of the regional lines — 40 minutes less than previously using a similar diesel train. Symbolically, the price of tickets has remained the same — 2 Roubles 45 Kopecks. “Starting from now, no diesel train of the regional lines of the economy class will be running along this section,” notes the Head of the Belarusian Railways’

MT REFERENCE

The movement of electric trains has opened at the Molodechno-Gudogai-Kena section, enabling passengers and cargo to get to Vilnius within 2.5 hours

Passenger Service, Alexander Zakharevich. “At present, a new schedule of train movement is being developed that will be introduced from December 10th. The forecast time from Minsk to Vilnius using electric trains produced by Stadler Bussmag AG is around 2.5 hours.”

In turn, Lithuania will launch the newest double-decker electric trains manufactured by Skoda along the same route.

Invention is patented

By Violetta Dralyuk

A new nano-material has been developed by physicists of the Gomel State University (named after F. Skaryna) in co-operation with JSC Integral — Integral Holding Managing Company. The invention is described as the ‘Sol-gel method to form a ferroelectric oxide film’ which has now been given a Eurasian patent. It solves acute problems of the electronic and machine tool industry.

Though the formulation sounds difficult, everything is self-explanatory for the scientists and experts. The Dean’s Office of the Physics and Information Technology Department of the University explains that the sol-gel method envisages when gel is formed from liquid and then volumetric or thin-film materials are produced from sol-gel. At the end, a condenser-type micro-layer is applied during the production of non-volatile storage devices.

“It refers to data storage devices designed for the recording and storage of information: magnetic discs, flash-cards, sim-cards and others. The application of the micro-layer ensures resistance of the storage device to the influence of electromagnetic and radiation emissions. In turn, this will serve as a reliable and long-term protection of information on the device and will enable it to increase its volume and lifespan.”

This is the first such development within the post-Soviet space. At present, ferroelectric non-volatile memory isn’t manufactured in the CIS states. The invention is in demand in businesses involved in the creation of new generation nano- and micro-electronics and will undoubtedly receive wide application in the industry. It is currently being prepared for launch in a production process at Integral JSC.

Green energy is currently under development

Country’s most powerful wind-driven electric unit is launched in the Novogrudok District

By Alexey Fedosov

Alternative green power engineering continues to develop in the Novogrudok District. Special climatic conditions enable us to efficiently use the power of wind, attracting private investors to the region. Recently a wind unit, with a capacity of 3.3MWt, has been launched by Envetr Ltd. The wind unit near Bolshie Leznevichi village is the most powerful in Belarus. It is 110m high and the length

of its blades is 52m, while the total weight of the construction amounts to 500 tonnes.

13 wind-driven electric units, whose total capacity exceeds 18MWt, have been installed and are successfully operating in the district, with 7 of these being privately owned. In 2016, Grodnoenergo RUE implemented a project dealing with the construction of a wind park near the village of Grabniki. Five units, with a total capacity of 7.5MWt, were in-

stalled here and together they can satisfy almost 25 percent of the district’s needs for electrical energy. Moreover, a solar electric station with a capacity of 1.25MWt is now functioning in Novogrudok.

The total sum of the investments for the construction of wind-driven electric units and a solar electric station in the Novogrudok District amounts to about \$18.7m. The area plans to develop alternative power engineering further. Twenty land plots



have been allocated in the district with the necessary conditions and characteristics for the construc-

tion of wind-driven electric units and other renewable sources of energy.



Aftershocks and fading hopes in quake-hit Mexico

Last week's 7.1-magnitude quake has killed at least 318 people, and experts warn more tremors are likely

Aftershocks rattled Mexico over the last weekend, as rescuers continued to search for survivors of last Tuesday's earthquake, the country's deadliest in 32 years.

The latest tremor, of 5.9 magnitude, struck on Sunday off the west coast, with its epicentre 99km south-

west of Tonalá, in Chiapas, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said. There were no immediate reports of significant damage. Aftershocks then spread fear among the already traumatised population, and a plume of ash spewed from the Popocatepetl volcano in another reminder of the

country's volatile geology. In the capital Mexico city, hopes of pulling people alive have faded by the hour.

Frustration with authorities has also grown among the thousands who lost their homes — now left sleeping in makeshift shelters or right on the street, anxiously hold-

ing pictures of their missing loved ones. Last Tuesday's 7.1-magnitude quake has killed at least 318 people and flattened dozens of buildings. The country's deadliest since a 1985 tremor killed thousands, it was also the second major earthquake to strike Mexico this month.



Protests flare as far-right AfD wins seats in German Parliament

Demonstrators marched in Berlin and other cities, outraged at the party's historic election success

Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the election night headquarters of the AfD, to voice their rage at the far-right German party entering parliament for the first time. Bottles were thrown and there were scuffles with the police. A number of arrests

were made. And it wasn't just in Berlin that anger flared.

There were protests, too, in Frankfurt and Cologne, with those marching reflecting outrage at the hardline stance of the AfD whose leaders have said Islam has no place in the country and that Germans should take pride in what their soldiers achieved during the Second World War.

Puerto Rico officials describe 'apocalyptic' conditions of damage

Days after Hurricane Maria pounded the island of Puerto Rico, killing at least 10 people, authorities are starting to see firsthand the scope of devastation that left the US territory off the grid

Without power and communications in much of the island, millions of people, including city leaders and first responders, have been cut off from the world

Authorities flew over the island, and were stunned by what they saw. No cellphones, water or power. Roads completely washed away and others blocked by debris, isolating residents.

"It was devastating to see all that kind of debris in all areas, in all towns of the island," Jennifer



González, the island's non-voting representative in Congress said. "We never expected to have a lot of debris in so many areas. A lot of roads are closed, older ones are just gone," she added.

At least 10 people have been confirmed killed by the storm, according to Governor Ricardo Rosselló's office

STX deal is possible

France and Italy could reach a deal over the STX France shipyards at a meeting of the two countries' leaders, an official at French President Emmanuel Macron's office said

France clashed with Italy in July after ordering a 'temporary' nationalisation of STX, cancelling a deal in which Italian state-owned Fincantieri and another Italian investor had agreed to buy a 54.6 percent stake. France took the decision after Fincantieri, which had agreed to buy the majority stake from STX's former South Korean owners, rejected a French government proposal of 50-50 ownership. France has proposed extending co-operation to the field of naval defence, in which its Naval Group military shipyard is an important player. The French government is also keen to preserve jobs at the STX Saint-Nazaire site on France's Atlantic Coast.

BNP Paribas accused of complicity in Rwanda genocide

French judicial investigators have opened a full-scale inquiry into allegations of complicity in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, an official at the public prosecutor's office said

BNP Paribas Bank, accused by non-governmental organisations of complicity over a transfer of \$1.3 million to an arms dealer, said the move was expected and not a surprise. "This in no way constitutes a new development," a BNP spokeswoman said. The full-scale inquiry follows a preliminary investigation that began earlier this year, when three non-government organisations filed a complaint on the matter.

Japan PM calls snap election

Abe said his decision to call a snap election would not distract his government from responding to North Korean threats

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has called a snap election.

Abe said his decision to call a snap election would not distract his government from responding to North Korean threats, pledging to increase pressure if Pyongyang failed to halt its missile and nuclear weapons development.

North Korea has launched two ballistic missiles and tested what was likely a hydrogen bomb in the past several weeks raising tension in East Asia. Abe spoke at a press conference to announce his plan to dissolve parliament and call a snap election.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

In search of lost values

A search for lost values sometimes does lead to distant lands. This was the thoughts of Minsk historian and collector Vladimir Lihodedov when, during the recent Moscow International Book Fair, he presented his historical-educational book, entitled *Belarus and the Muslim World* (already in its second edition) jointly with the Sharjah Book Authority, an unexpected but fortuitous pairing.

By Alina Kolesnikova,
Vladimir Matyushkin

Undoubtedly, *Belarus and the Muslim World* by Vladimir Lihodedov is a true revelation for many. It's no surprise, as Belarus is divided from the Muslim regions of the world by thousands of kilometres; however, centuries-long ties do exist. A substantial part of the book's circulation has found their way to the United Arab Emirates. This was also facilitated by the fact that the text has been written in five languages: Belarusian, Russian, English, Arab and Turkish. Now, the book is found in the collections of libraries and museums of Turkey, Qatar, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan

and Abu Dhabi. It tells us about the history of trade and cultural contacts between Belarus and the Muslim world. Special attention is paid to the Belarusian Tatars. Moreover, the contribution of our scientists into Oriental studies was also noted. The edition is illustrated with reproductions

of unique old postcards from Mr. Lihodedov's collection, as well as the author's contemporary photos.

"During excavations in Belarus, archaeologists have unearthed ancient Eastern coins and silver Dirhams dating back to the 8th-9th century. The major subject of

Eastern trade at that time was my native city of Polotsk — the centre of ancient Polotsk Principality," Mr. Lihodedov says proudly. "The greatest treasure including Arab Dirhams in Belarus was also discovered not far from Polotsk in 1973 (hidden approximately in the mid-940s). Most of



Vladimir Lihodedov and guests from Sharjah at the Moscow International Book Fair



Ordashchi village in Smorgon District. A Muslim cemetery in 1916



A mosque in Ivie. 1016



Minsk. A mosque in the early 20th century

the coins are Dirhams of the Arab Caliphate, minted in North Africa, the Middle East, Transcaucasia, Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia. This treasure become a kind of map, reflecting the wide geography of the Muslim East, involved in trade with our ancestors in Belarus. There isn't much material about the history of the Islamic community in Be-

larus. However, they do exist and evidence shows that such nations diverse in faith and culture — Christians-Belarusians and Muslims-Tatars — were peacefully and friendly setting up their houses and lives side by side, hand in hand, for many centuries."

The experience of Belarus is unique not only for historical world practice. Our country 'continues to be

a brilliant example of successful functioning of a multi-confessional society'. This is the opinion of Vladimir Peftiev, taken from his foreword to the book *Belarus and the Muslim World*: 'Thousand-year ties of Belarus with the Muslim world is, in our view, invaluable heritage which serves nowadays as a basis for mutual understanding and the development of fruitful co-operation in various spheres of economy and culture'.

This was also noted in his speech by the Faisal Khalid Al Naboodah, an Executive Director of the Sharjah Book Authority, at the presentation of the edition in Moscow. Highly praising both the book itself and the support provided by Vladimir Peftiev, Mr. Faisal Khalid Al Naboodah underlined that good relations between nations can and should be built via attentive and respectful dialogue, as well as educational and cultural interaction. He invited Vladimir Lihodedov and Vladimir Peftiev to take part in the Book Fair in Sharjah. As expected, the search for the lost often leads to new discoveries.

A five-century-long trip

By Yana Milevskaya

The Bible, published by Francysk Skaryna five hundred years ago in Prague, can be seen at the National History Museum. This precious folio has been long kept at the State Historical Museum of Russia in Moscow but has moved in Minsk for the next few months.

"Our Russian colleagues gave permission to exhibit the rarity and to scan separate pages, enabling visitors to 'turn' the Bible with the help of contemporary digital technology," said the Director of the National History Museum, Oleg Ryzhkov.

This book is only a part of the *Belarus: Revival of Spirituality* exhibition which describes the history of the spread and existence

of religion in Belarus. In total, the exhibition displays more than 400 monuments of history and culture, many of which are on display for the first time: a 12th century stamp of Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya, a mural painting of the Transfiguration Church of the Monastery of Our Saviour in Polotsk from the 19th century, a unique collection of silver Kiddush wine glasses, a Catholic altar painting.



The Bible can be seen at the National History Museum

Circus of high achievers

We are used to the idea that Minsk has become a successful venue for diplomatic negotiations and sports competitions at the highest level, but we witnessed a different event for the first time not so long ago: Belarus welcomed participants of the 1st Minsk International Festival of Circus Art. Over 100 high-class artistes came to the capital from 16 countries — including the USA, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Australia — to show their skill. Belarusian circus talents also defended the country's honour at the highest level.

By Irina Ovsepyan

The level of the modern Belarusian circus performance is extremely high and it's reasonable for the country to host such a large scale artistic forum. The event was organised in Minsk for the first time and, the Director of the Belarusian State Circus — Vladimir Shaban — commented, "There are many diverse festivals of the kind globally. I'm often invited to visit them and each time I observe how such events are being organised. I always see the key: firstly, they are a matter of public prestige and, secondly, festivals help discover new artistes and support talented performers. Foreign colleagues are well aware that one of the best stationary circuses in Europe is situated in Minsk. In our conversation, they came up with the idea that Belarus needs its own circus festival."

The plan was supported by the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee — Andrey Shorets — who proposed to time the first festival to coincide with the celebrations of Minsk's 950th anniversary. The Circus Festival was a sparkling final event of the anniversary festivities. The Belarusian State Circus team appreciated the idea and began their preparations shortly before the New Year. According to Mr. Shaban, the work is very time-consuming. "We began receiving applications for participation almost immediately after the event was announced; by July 1st, we had received over 200 applications from all over the world! Our artistic and production team did a great job: luckily, it's now possible to receive videos quickly, watch them and decide. We chose 26 applications and plan to invite other interested artistes next time: the Minsk Festival of Circus Art is expected to be held regularly," he says.

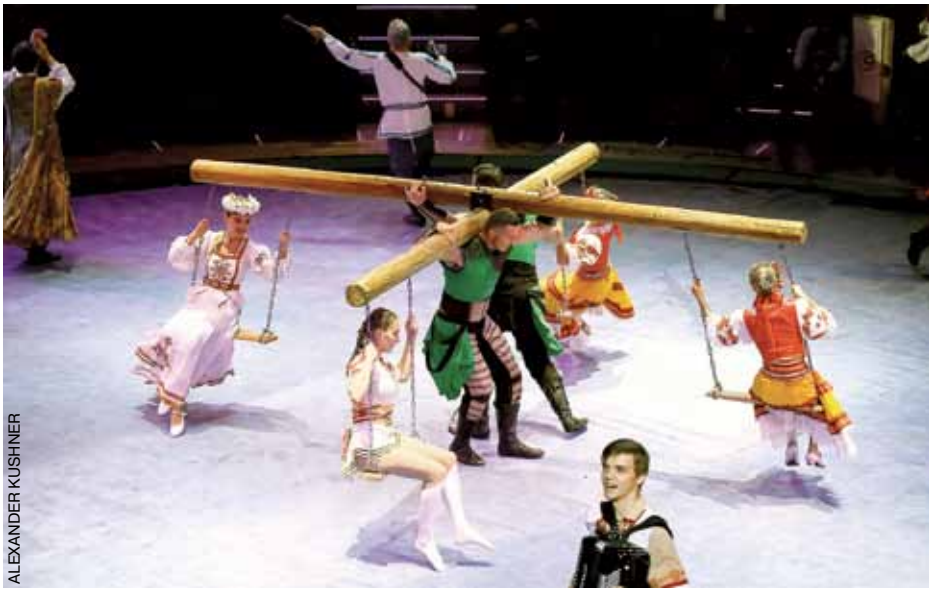
Accommodation for guests was easily provided: the jury members were welcomed at the 5-star Europe Hotel and participants stayed at the 3-star Belarus Hotel. Though the schedule was



ALEXANDER KUSHNER



ALEXANDER KUSHNER



ALEXANDER KUSHNER

intense, an excursion programme was offered: visiting artistes were greatly impressed with Minsk.

As regards Belarusian artistes, our circus had a wide choice: there were many top level artistes and shows — including young performers and those successfully touring abroad. Belarus was represented by three shows. Trapeze artistes Maxim Vinogradov and Veronika Rybchonok have recently won 4 prizes (including gold) from Astana's *Echo of Asia* Festival and, last year, captured gold at the International Circus Festival in Latvia. These young people have already much to be proud of.

The Belarusian Riders (of the Honoured Artiste of North



ALEXANDER KUSHNER

Ossetia — Boris Lazarov) also demonstrated their mastery; the equestrian-acrobatic show has by now gathered many international awards over the 14 years of its existence.

The circus art wins over the audience with its deceptive ease: an athlete makes their way to the



ALEXANDER KUSHNER

finish line with a strained face, while everyone is smiling in the circus — including trapeze artistes fluttering under a dome and trainers who are happily putting their heads in the lion's mouth. Only a few are aware of how much effort and many hours of rehearsal are required for a five-minute show, after which we are filled with delight. Such glitter and fanfares are common for evening performances: in the morning, artistes put on their

training clothes to steadily repeat their tricks.

On the eve of the festival, we visited the rehearsals. Tamer Aydin Israfilov — who was also rehearsing for the festival — was playing fiddle with 5-year-old Southern pig-tailed macaque, Kuzya; there was the impression that it was a loving father and his son were playing! They monkey behaved like a normal child: trying to go beyond limits — taking the camera away and biting one's fingers in the process. "Hide your glasses and earrings; Kuzya will steal them," he warns. The monkey seemed ready to move from rehearsal to interaction with the guests. Aydin was teaching the monkey to catch, stand on its front paws and throw a ball. "The issue is what kind of relationship is being built in its childhood. If we use force, nothing good will come of it. I prefer to

rely on authority: I act as the father and it is my son who must obey."

The 'Eccentric Monkey' show does not actually feature young Kuzma — who will need a year or two to feel confident in front of the public — but the experienced Ronnie. This monkey is unique: it is apparently the world's only monkey that can juggle and ride a bike. The trainer rode a unicycle with the monkey sitting on his shoulders and then they jointly juggled balls.

Legend. Epoch. Style

At the age of 19, when many are ending their sporting career, Alexander Medved was just beginning his road to championship glory. His unique career is full of contradictions.

By Sergey Kanashits

Medved is known not only by his titles — three as the Olympic champion in freestyle wrestling and a whole range of victories at world championships. He has an incomparable reputation of total invincibility and domination in the sport. An ordinary 'ploughboy' who managed to encapsulate the heroic might, intelligence, skill and mental strength of the champion wrestler. He is called a brown bear in human form, indeed he often says of himself, 'I am a bear [Medved is translated as 'bear'] without fur.' Alexander Medved is legendary in his sporting uniqueness. He is a starry mix of the widest range of natural abilities, colossal determination and hard work.

That Medved had a talent for fighting was first discovered by a lieutenant of the tank corps, Kotsegub, who helped make his name by meeting the would-be legend on the wrestling mat. Seeing himself as a good fighter, he called on the most physically suitable young boy as a sparring partner; however, the opponents hardly managed to shake hands before the novice took his commander in his arms, lifted him up and threw on the carpet. After that Kotsegub didn't appear in the gym anymore, but told everyone: 'I fought with a Bear. I didn't beat him but I stayed alive'.

Who decided Medved would be suitable for the tank troops is a question without answer. The tall young boy couldn't even get into a tank: he got in through the top hatch and came out through the front. Despite this, the deputy commander for political affairs was actively against his sporting activities: 'Private soldier Medved, why do you need this sport? You will finish tank school, return home and work as a tractor driver! It's an important and specialist job; you will become a big fish in



Alexander Medved's 80th anniversary

a little pond!' They later met in 1963 in an airport in Sofia. By that time, Medved was already a double world champion. He was going through the airport and suddenly heard shouts:

"Private soldier Medved! Stand fast: one-two!"

"I'm not a private soldier," replied Medved. "I'm a champion."

"You don't say! And I wanted to make a tractor driver of you..."

He paid no attention to the hardships he endured on the road to success. He lived for a long time in a hostel near Chelyuskintsev Park. The rooms were so full of bedbugs, they had to sleep in the street, while the athletes jokingly called the house, 'Benya-lux' (after the hostel's head). Medved cured sprains with a cloth covered with horse radish: he put it on the sore area and heated it with an iron. At the Olympiad in Mexico he fainted three times during the tournament because of heart problems. He was brought back to consciousness, then again went onto the mat and won. He didn't lose against anyone in the USSR national team in a 100m

race, and when they were running the 3km long distance he always finished first and outstripped them all by half a track. He swam perfectly. He also scythed, a habit, as well as wood chopping, from his childhood. After training, he would take a scythe and go to the meadow. His teammates' eyes would bulge:



Victorious throw

"You have just had training..."

"I haven't worn myself out yet," he would reply.

When he became a coach he also used non-traditional methods, send-

ing sportsmen to the fields to carry bales of straw and load them onto trucks. Tractors were working on the one side while wrestlers were on the other. People often managed to do it quicker than machines. As a sign of gratitude, the chairman of the kolhoz organised shashlyk for them.

It would be possible to describe Medved's career at far greater length, as not only the master, but the sport is 80 years old! He embodies the entire epoch of wrestling, Congratulations and many happy returns of the day!

Struggle and search

On the day of Alexander Medved's celebration, Minsk's Sports Palace hosted the 47th international tournament for the Alexander Medved prizes. The event was dedicated to the 80th birthday of the outstanding athlete, recognised as the best wrestler of the 20th century. Hundreds of athletes from dozens of countries took part in the forum while the winners received their prizes from the legendary sportsman.

Point, another point

Basketballers of Tsmoki-Minsk are through to the second qualifying round of the Champions League — defeating Kosovo's Priština

At a recent home match of the qualifying stage, Minsk's faced stubborn resistance from their guests but managed to win — 89:74 (19:17, 21:22, 23:15, 26:20). Alexander Krutikov's trainees won the first half of the match by a small margin — 40:39, and after the break, increased their advantage to eventually win by 15 points. Nikita Meshcheryakov was the most productive player of the 'dragons'; scoring 21 points. In the away match — held in Priština, the Belarusian champions won by 7 points — 57:50. Their next game was against the champions of Ukraine — Kiev's Budivelnik in Minsk and the return match was played in Kiev. The winner of these matches will play the French team Nanterre in the 3rd qualifying round of the League.

Not all results are positive

Arina Sobolenko defeated by Ukrainian Dayana Yastrem-ska in quarterfinals of Neva Cup tennis tournament with \$100,000 prize pool in St. Petersburg

In the first set, the Belarusian (117th in WTA ranking) managed to defeat her Ukrainian rival (208th) — 6:3 but later failed to achieve success — 5:7, 1:6. In the quarter finals, Belarus' Vera Lapko was also defeated by Dayana — 3:6, 3:6. The best result among Belarusians in 2012 for the Neva Cup in St. Petersburg was demonstrated by Alexandra Sasnovich, who won the tournament.

Another Belarusian — Andrey Vasilevsky — also failed to win in the first doubles round at the St. Petersburg ATP World Tour (with a \$1m plus prize pool). With partner Chilean Hans Podlipnik Castillo, he lost to Marcos Baghdatis (Cyprus) and Viktor Troicki (Serbia) — 7:5, 4:6, 4:10.

Judokas have found a good venue

By Kirill Karin

European Judo Championships to be included into 2019 European Games programme — announced by the President of the European Judo Union (EJU) Sergey Soloveichik

Every year, the Belarusian capital hosts two major judo events: the European Open international tournament and the Randori training camp. Recently, the latter gathered over 800 participants at the Staiki Olympic Sports Complex.

"Minsk is well-known to ju-

dokas from different countries: the Belarusian capital has already hosted many international tournaments. As the 2nd European Games were announced, the European Judo Union asked the Head of the European Olympic Committees — Janez Kocijancic — to allocate the best venue in Minsk. We were offered the Chizhovka-Arena. It is really one of the best sports centres in Belarus and abroad. We are very happy with the conditions in which the tournament will take place. In 2019, Minsk will welcome judokas from 45-48 countries," said Mr. Soloveichik, adding

that all points earned at the 2019 European Games will be added to the athletes' ratings to be taken into account during the Olympic qualification. The 2nd European Games are scheduled for 21st-30th June 2019 in Minsk. Competitions in badminton, boxing, cycling, canoe and kayak, judo, karate, athletics, archery, shooting, table tennis will be qualifiers for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Minsk-Arena will be the venue for artistic and rhythmic gymnastics events, acrobatics and trampoline tournaments. Track cycling and badminton tournaments will be held at

the Minsk-Arena velodrome. The European Games programme also includes road cycling events (along the roads of Minsk). The Chizhovka-Arena will host wrestling (freestyle, Greco-Roman, women's) and sambo competitions. Boxers will compete for medals at the Uruchie Sports Centre. The Minsk Palace of Sports will host karate and judo tournaments, while Palova Arena near the Minsk Palace of Sports will be the venue for the 3x3 basketball competitions. The beach soccer and beach volleyball tournaments will be held at the Olympiyskiy Stadium. The kayak and



canoe competitions will take place at the rowing canal in Zaslavl. The Sporting Club will host the shooting tournament. Archers will compete at the stadium of FC Minsk. Falcon Club will be the venue for the table tennis tournament.

12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, September 28, 2017

Show of the week



Day of Confucius Institutes held in Minsk, with the Upper City turning into a venue with elements of the traditional holidays of the Heavenly Empire

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 1st October. *City. Architecture. We*
Until 19th October. *From Book Treasure*
Until 3rd December. *Napoleon Orda. Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Country*
Until 10th December. *Treasures of Ancient Egypt*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 1st October. *Sculptural Minsk*

LEONID SHCHEMELEV CITY ART GALLERY

19 Revolyutsionnaya Street
Until 1st October. *Recognition to the City*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 30th September. *Belarus: Revival of Spirituality* Until 1st October. *Life as a Reason* Until 10th January. *Fashionable Century*

VAN GOGH HOUSE

9 Zybityskaya Street
Until 1st October. *Vincent Van Gogh: Artist of Star Sky*

VANKOVICH HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 1st October. Exhibition of alternative photography by Victor Zhuravkov

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 9th October. *Anatoly Dribas: My Minsk* Until 20th November. *Skaryna's Letters and Words*

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

STATE MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE

13 M. Bogdanovich Street
Until 29th December. *Kandrat Krapiva: from Childhood to Maturity*

LOSHITSA ESTATE

8-2 Chizhevsky Lane
Until 14th October. *Jointly with Minsk*

SVOBODY SQUARE

Until 15th October. *Free Museum: People and Items*

CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 30th June 2018. *Legacy of Belarus: Dedicated to Minsk's 950th Anniversary*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 30th November. *Miraculous Autumn*

THEATRES

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
28.09. The Swan Lake 29.09. Falcons and Crows 30.09. My Sister is Mermaid. Tours of the M. Lermontov Stavropolie Academic Drama Theatre: Calling for a Bridegroom, Girls? 01.10. The Steadfast Tin Soldier 02.10. Tours of the M. Lermontov Stavropolie Academic Drama Theatre: Dangerous Liaisons 03.10. Tours of the M. Lermontov Stavropolie Academic Drama Theatre: Boeing-Boeing 04.10. Tours of the M. Lermontov Stavropolie Academic Drama Theatre: Accompanier 05.10. Tours of the M. Lermontov Stavropolie Academic Drama Theatre: Luxurious Wedding

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
30.09. House Upside-Down
05.10. Henpecked Husbands

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
28.09 and 05.10. School of Taxpayers
29.09. Two Souls 30.09. Art 01.10. Evening 03.10. People of the Marsh

YOUNG SPECTATORS' THEATRE

26 Engels Street
29 and 30.09. Chagall: Last Flight
01.10. Some Tenderness
03.10. Doctor Not Upon One's Own Will

BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street
28.09. Mann ist Mann 30.09. Malysh and Karslon Who Lives on Roof 05.10. Boat of Despair

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
28.09. Truth is Good but Happiness is Better 29.09. Circle of Love 30.09. The Visit 01.10. Private Lives 03.10. Inn Keeper 04.10. Oedipus

NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street
28.09. Cavalleria Rusticana 29.09. Vytautas 01.10. Gala concert dedicated to Music Day 04.10. Viva la Mamma!

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue
28.09 and 01.10. Abduction of Yelena
30.09. Pygmalion
03.10. A Very Simple Story
04 and 05.10. #13

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
28 and 29.09. Concrete
30.09. Living till the Premiere
05.10. If There Is No Tomorrow

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