



The premiere of the Belarusian historical drama *On the Other Shore* took place on People's Unity Day

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Belarusians' hope for a high-quality people's car is becoming a reality

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People's Unity Day was celebrated in all regions of our homeland. In the photo: in Vitebsk

The power of unity

A new beautiful tradition in the history of sovereign Belarus. Our country, as one big friendly family, celebrated the youngest public holiday for the third time — People's Unity Day. We celebrated it with good deeds, patriotic events, interesting dialogue platforms, exciting sports and cultural events. The final chord of the holiday was the 'We are Belarusians!' large-scale patriotic forum, which brought together public representatives from all regions of the country at the thousand-people Minsk Arena. The Head of State also took part in the forum. → 3



The Head of the Belarusian State Aleksandr Lukashenko met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi. This is the sixth meeting between the leaders of the two countries since the beginning of the year.

“First of all, I would like to congratulate you on such a serious stage of the electoral cycle — the single voting day that was held in many regions. The results are clear; there’s no need to analyse them. They are, probably, best ever. All the candidates that you nominated to the

co-operation, Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that government officials of both countries had done a good job to fulfil instructions of the Heads of State.

“More than 80 percent of the tasks we’ve assigned to the governments have been fulfilled. We still have three months [to work on the main guidelines on realising provisions of the Belarus-Russia Union State Foundation Treaty in 2021-2023 and 28 Union State programmes]. I think we will fix these issues as well,” the President of Belarus continued.

Why am I saying it? Because (you and I know it well) the state of the Russian economy certainly reflects upon our interaction within the framework of the Union State. We have mutual things, commitments in this regard. It seems to me it is necessary to synchronise watches about some matters.”

In addition, Vladimir Putin mentioned his recent meeting with the leader of North Korea, who had visited Russia.

“I also wanted to tell you how the discussion about the situation in the region

licated one. There is also joint work in the African direction. Long story short, it seemed that we had resolved all the issues, but they keep piling up, this is why it is necessary to consult in good time. I am grateful that you took the time to consult and discuss actions for the future,” the Head of the Belarusian State noted.

The Presidents of Belarus and Russia Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin also jointly spoke with journalists.

One of the questions to Vladimir Putin concerned statements in the West that his recent meeting with the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un contribute to tensions in the region and allegedly the Russian side asked North Korea to send volunteers to participate in Russia’s special military operation. The Russian President demolished these claims and said they were total nonsense.

In turn, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that Western states should first count how many mercenaries they have already sent to participate in the Ukrainian conflict instead of trying to criticise Russia for something.

“Maybe they need to do it. And secondly, it is a dangerous statement on their part [on the part of the West]. Because they dream of deploying their regular army units there. Army units are deployed in Poland near the border and are ready to enter Ukraine. They should look into their own eyes for some log instead of blaming someone else,” the Belarusian leader remarked.

“I absolutely agree with you. Fully. By the way, we see foreign mercenaries, foreign instructors in the battlefield and in the units where troops are getting trained. I think someone was taken prisoner yesterday or the day before yesterday. We don’t feel the need to invite someone from the outside to fight for us,” Vladimir Putin said.

Journalists also asked to comment on the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s statement on possible peace negotiations with Ukraine. A senior representative of the American establishment recently put it figuratively when he said that Russia and Ukraine will eventually have ‘to tango’.

“As for the Americans, they themselves do not know how to tango. Tango is wonderful amazing music and beautiful moves, but the United States solves all issues from a position of strength. Or with the help of economic sanctions, or financial restrictions, the threat of the use of military force, or its use. They are trying to teach everyone while they themselves do not know how to do it or do not want to. Most likely, they just don’t want to,” Vladimir Putin said.

He stressed that Russia has never refused to negotiate.

“Therefore, if the other side wants to, they should say about it directly,” the Russian leader said.

At the same time, the President of Russia noted, “Tangoing is good, but it is important that Ukraine does not forget how to dance gopak. This is important. Otherwise, they will have to dance to someone else’s music, someone else’s tune all the time. But everyone will have to dance [the Russian dance] Barynya, one way or another, or Kazachok in the best-case scenario.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko, in turn, said, “They seem to have begun to tango. Three rounds of negotiations were held in Belarus and Istanbul. Then Blinken and Austin commanded Zelensky to stop the negotiations. These are the facts. These are the hard facts. Therefore, they have no reason to blame others.”

“He signed a decree prohibiting [the negotiations with Russia],” Vladimir Putin agreed.

“He forbade it for himself,” Aleksandr Lukashenko added.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

‘Next year will be a good one for us’



Implementation of the Union State programmes, the situation on the common fuel market, the conflict in Ukraine, co-operation with the DPRK and forecasts for the next year – the main topics of negotiations between the Presidents of Belarus and Russia

post of governor were supported by the people. This is a great success,” the Belarusian leader said.

During the meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed confidence that next year it will be possible to reach the pre-sanction level of economic performance.

“We cope with all these issues. Both minor and major ones. You are right. They tried to bend us really hard and nothing came out of it. On the contrary, we got mobilised somehow. It was even unexpected. I know that you and I didn’t expect we would be able to endure. Yes, our life is a bit poorer. Just a tiny bit. I think next year will be a good one for us and we will reach the pre-sanctions level of our economy’s performance. All the minor issues starting with the defence industry and the other issues relating to the Ukrainian conflict — all these issues have been practically resolved. If something is still left to be addressed, then we know how we should proceed,” the Head of the Belarusian State emphasised.

Speaking about integration-driven

Aleksandr Lukashenko also talked about measures to stabilise the situation on the fuel market upon Russia’s request.

“I’d like to inform you that there were some complications on the fuel market. We stabilised the situation by supplying as much as the Russian Federation needed. As much as the government requested. I think 60,000 tonnes of diesel fuel and 60,000 tonnes of gasoline. We will stabilise the situation on our common markets. If we have to further reduce exports and increase domestic shipments, it is not a problem,” the Belarusian leader assured.

Vladimir Putin said at the meeting that relations between the two countries are developing steadily and reliably.

“You and I continue contacts, consultations about our relations and about interaction, primarily in the sphere of economy. Everything is stable here and develops reliably, thank god,” The Head of the Russian State said at the beginning of the meeting.

Vladimir Putin also informed that a budget process is nearing completion in Russia,

“Everything is stable, reliable for us, which gives us reasons for joy.

proceeded. It is quite important,” he noted.

The Russian President also mentioned his intention to talk to the Belarusian counterpart to discuss the acutest issue — the situation in the direction of Ukraine and around the Ukrainian crisis.

“I am very glad to see you. Thank you for agreeing to come,” he summarised.

Aleksandr Lukashenko, in turn, also spoke about the development of co-operation with the DPRK,

“I watched closely your last events-packed working days. It was nice to see your meeting with Kim Jong-un at the Vostochny cosmodrome. I’ve been there myself. We have visited this cosmodrome before. I think that we can think about trilateral co-operation. North Korea, Russia... I know that Koreans have a great interest in co-operation with Russia. I think there will be some work for Belarus. Taking into account the problems that exist.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also noted that he will inform his Russian counterpart about the steps in co-operation with the African countries, taking into account the recent visit of the President of Equatorial Guinea to Belarus.

“A very famous person. A sophis-

The power of unity

People's Unity Day is a new tradition in the history of a sovereign country. This year, Belarus celebrated this new national holiday for the third time, which has its roots in the first half of the 20th century, when the country and people were divided in half for almost two decades.

The central event on September 17th was the 'We are Belarusians!' patriotic forum, which took place at the Minsk Arena. Numerous delegations from all regions and Minsk attended the event. These include youth, athletes, representatives of public associations, political parties, and the media. The forum was also attended by heads of government agencies, international organisations, and heads of diplomatic missions.

The plot was based on a narrative about modern Belarus — its traditions, achievements and future. President Aleksandr Lukashenko made a speech at the celebration, addressing his compatriots live.



"Today is September 17th — People's Unity Day. Our unity, the unity of the Belarusian people, the symbol of which was 1939 — the year when the Belarusian lands reunited into a single state. Time itself, the time of the global redivision of the world, returned this date to the calendar of public holidays. The more we see how modern states are collapsing, how peoples are losing their homeland, home, traditions, the more closely we look at the history of our native land. The land which thousands of years ago welcomed our ancestors with a harsh climate, taught them to stick together in order to survive and become masters in their homes," the President stressed.

The Head of State emphasised that for many centuries Belarusians were one: when they adopted Christianity, when they were up against the German Teutonic Order, Napoleon's French army, when they defended their faith, language and culture, when they created the basis of their national statehood together with the fraternal Soviet peoples, when they stood up against fascist aggression and when they rebuilt the Soviet country from the ashes of the Great Patriotic War. And also when they began to build a sovereign Belarus on the ruins of the Soviet Union.

"Until recently, we hardly remembered about that dramatic time — the period of dismemberment of our Belarus in half! Everything went into the shadow of the global tragedy of the Great Patriotic War, World War II... We, Belarusians, did not accuse our neighbours, but we always remembered: how Belarusians were taken away from their schools, our faith, land, natural resources, how our ancestors died without medical care, how humiliated and destroyed morally and physically everyone who was devoted to their native culture, faith, language and traditions. Is it possible to forget how cannons were fired at Belarusian villages, how Belarusian children were beaten with rods in foreign schools, how Belarusians, Russians, and Ukrainians were tortured in a sophisticated manner in the Polish concentration camp in Bereza-Kartuzskaya? These are all facts. But we overcame this pain for the sake of friendship with the Polish people. People over Bug River misinterpreted it for weakness. But the lesson has been learned. Time has shown that our neighbours did not appreciate our noble desire to live in peace. I'm not talking about the Polish people. I'm talking about the elite — politicians who have been thirsting for revenge all these years," the Head of the Belarusian State said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko addressed his neighbours, or rather, the peoples of neighbouring countries: Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians.

"Be aware! We are not hatching plans to interfere in your life. We wish you only well, happiness and peace! But peace is so fragile that any careless movement can lead to grave irreparable consequences. I would not like our lands to once again become a theatre of military operations or millions of our citizens killed again. As it has always been in history," the Belarusian leader noted.

"Belarusians do not need someone else's. But please remember (I address the peoples of the neighbouring states): in the event of an aggression against Belarus, we will do no red, yellow, black or blue lines! The line is there, it is the state border! We have something to respond with. Therefore, let's live amicably, in a neighbourly way, as it was in the best times of our history. But today's vultures are circling over us, as it was in the run-up to the Great Patriotic War. They are circling around the Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian lands. They are ready to make an alliance with the devil himself, if only to take more space on the political map of the world... 'Od morza do morza'. They would like to erase the facts of political shame and moral decline of their predecessors. They themselves would like to forget how Poland was one of the first to recognise the Nazi Reich. This is the fact. It signed a non-aggression pact with it and a secret agreement on the division of Czechoslovakia. They would like to forget how, having received part of someone else's territory, they were crushed within a short time by their former ally. In no case should our neighbour forget this page in history."



Aleksandr Lukashenko asked a rhetorical question: would it have remained on the world map if not for the Soviet soldiers? And if yes, within what borders?

"The authorities of our neighbours are not asking such questions today. They continue to destroy traces of the memory of their liberators. But why? They are gone, they are dead. All right, they don't appreciate them for liberating their lands. But why they feel the need to rake over the old ashes? Let them remain as they are. Yet they dig up everything, blow up and destroy, erase from memory the best things that were in the history of neighbouring states. We, on our part, are drawing conclusions again," the President said.

According to him, therefore today, on September 17th, the day when the Red Army began the momentous liberation campaign, Belarusians celebrate one of the most important state holidays — People's Unity Day. Unity tempered in a selfless struggle for our national dignity.

"We are proud of the indomitable will of those who did not submit to the anti-human regime. Those who went underground, waged a guerrilla liberation war, resisted the policy of forced assimilation.

If there had not been such a large-scale nationwide resistance, there would have been no reunification of the Belarusian people in 1939 into a single state. And there would be no modern sovereign Belarus if it were not for the conditions created in the family of Soviet peoples. We know that. We remember this. Both then and today, unity has been... Unity has been essential for the preservation of our state and its future. This is a matter of our survival as a nation," the President is convinced.

According to him, September 17th is one of the three milestone dates in Belarus, along with May 9th (Victory Day) and July 3rd (Independence Day), which provide an opportunity to take a look into the past in order to hold the present firmly in your hands and protect the future.

"These dates unite us, modern Belarusians, in an effort to protect our historical memory in the name of peace in our native land. I emphasise once again: we are not an aggressor. Our people, in fact, cannot be an aggressor. We do not threaten anyone and never will. This is not our policy. Objectively, we cannot threaten anyone. But we must defend ourselves, whether we are strong or weak. This is our historical role, of the generations living in Belarus today. Therefore, no matter what internal political processes take place in our neighbouring states, the Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, and Ukrainians should understand: we are the most peaceful nation on the planet. We are not rattling nuclear weapons or some units such as Wagner, and we are not threatening anyone," the Head of State continued.

At the same time, the President again called for turning to history: the Belarusians had never threatened anyone before, but they virtually wiped us off the face of the earth. Belarus lost every third person in the last war.

"We taught and continue to teach history. And we will always be ready to defend our Fatherland and our land! I am addressing Belarusians today. As President and Commander-in-Chief, I want to assure you: we do not want to fight and will not fight. There will be no war in modern conditions on the territory of Belarus, because it is impossible! If, God forbid, anything happens, we will all become the Brest Fortress. We will defend our land, which belongs to our children, to the last soldier, to the last Belarusian man! We will do this in the name of peace in our native land, in the name of Belarus, which we are building on the foundation of victories, achievements, experience and memory of our heroic ancestors," the President summarised.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

True answers to questions of history

The State Policy in the Sphere of History: Problems and Prospects of Preserving the Historical Truth and Memory national research to practice conference brought together more than 300 participants in Minsk

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, sent greetings to the participants of the *State Policy in the Sphere of History: Problems and Prospects of Preserving the Historical Truth and Memory* national research to practice conference.

"We are Belarusians, a nation with a rich history that spans centuries. We are proud of our past, of the great accomplishments and of the trials that our forefathers have gone through with dignity. We remember in what complicated conditions the value foundation of the Belarusian statehood was created. Today on its basis we continue national development and strengthen the sovereignty of Belarus," the message reads.



Igor Sergeyenko

During the discussion, it was emphasised that history can equally act as an instrument of integration and creation, as well as the division of society in the era of hybrid wars and tough information confrontation. Therefore, an objective understanding of past experience, a clear objective assessment of events and the role of individuals in the history of the Belarusian state are urgently

needed in order to prevent the spread of destructive ideas that could undermine the country in the future. The conference was opened by **Head of the Belarus President Administration Igor Sergeyenko**, making a report on the main directions of development and improvement of state historical policy in Belarus.

Time itself has prompted us towards a deeper understanding of our history, Igor Sergeyenko emphasised, "One can single out a lot of both outstanding and tragic events, reformat them and weaponise them. This is what is happening today."

According to Head of the President Administration, the history of Belarus is carefully studied abroad. It is being rewritten in the interests of the policies of other states: they deliberately distort historical facts and create myths that are aggressively imposed on our society, including with the aim of discrediting our heroic past,

"The most obvious example is Khatyn and other similar tragedies, when they strenuously tried to convince us that it was the partisan resistance that caused the atrocities of the Nazis. Heroes are turned into villains that caused people's misfortunes. These fabricated narratives sincerely outrage and insult us, Belarusians, the people who suffered the worst from Hitler's aggression. And this is just one of hundreds of examples of manipulation of the historical past. The problem is that all this information is in the public domain. Peo-

ple see, read and discuss it and, worst of all, begin to have doubts. They are zombified; losing faith in official sources of information in many respects. We must give answers to many difficult questions of our history – truthful answers, without political fraud."

Igor Sergeyenko emphasised that history has been and will be a tool of internal and external struggle for power, "This happens in all countries of the world. But we must always be ready to repel all information attacks with arguments. Moreover, the time has come for offensive tactics. Anyone who considers it possible to delve into our history, to interpret our past according to their own patterns, should understand that similar approaches can be applied to them."



Aleksandr Kushter

Accents

Head of the President Administration identified five priority areas for the implementation of state policy in the field of history.

● **First — to popularise the concept of the history of Belarusian statehood**
"Attention should be focused on firmly opposing attempts to distort the objective picture of the past: military patriotic education in educational institutions and popularisation of military history, improving the management of dissertation research in the humanities, defining the pantheon of national heroes who made a significant contribution to the development of Belarusian statehood," Igor Sergeyenko explained.

● **Second — the promotion of national traditions and holidays, original culture based on the everyday experience of the Belarusian people**
"It is necessary to pay attention to the so-called cultural import substitution, the development of modern forms of introducing Belarusians to the rich heritage of their ancestors and implementation in all spheres of life," Head of the President Administration noted.
He also drew attention to the need to continue work on organising permanent museum exhibitions and temporary exhibitions, and called for this to be done on an ongoing basis.

● **Third — improving information support for historical policy**
Igor Sergeyenko emphasised the need to intensify work on developing accessible forms of popularising history among the population using modern means of communication, "The first steps in this direction have been taken. But it is necessary not only to speak to young people in a digital language they understand, but also to raise them to a higher scientific level. So far we have nothing special to say in this direction. We need more opportunities for visual campaigning on the streets of cities and towns in order to promote historical dates and famous personalities who contributed to the development of the country. I mean including outdoor advertising. This is the field of activity of local authorities, executive committees of all levels. The Academy of Sciences should help with the content side of this part of the work."

● **Fourth — harnessing the potential of public associations**
According to Igor Sergeyenko, the national public association Belarusian Society Knowledge, the Military Scientific Society, the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, Belaya Rus, the Belarusian Republican Youth Union and others should be more actively involved in promoting the historical agenda, including in the regions.

● **Fifth — strengthening the Belarusian model on the outer circuit**
It's about involving foreign institutions of the Republic of Belarus, representatives of our country in international integration structures, as well as constructive organisations of the Belarusian diaspora abroad in the information work, Head of the President Administration explained.

Aleksei Stuk, Deputy Prosecutor General, emphasised that every day prosecutors, investigators, experts,



representatives of the Defence Ministry, historians and archivists, as part of the work of the investigative group of the General Prosecutor's Office, establish new facts of crimes of Nazi criminals and their accomplices. Moreover, the scale of the tragedy is much greater than previously assumed, and the mass extermination of people was put on stream from the first days of the occupation, Deputy Prosecutor General noted, "The leaders of the Third Reich declared that one of the goals of the war against the Soviet Union was to reduce the Slavic population by 30 million people."

The policy of Hitler's Germany towards Soviet citizens differed significantly from the behaviour in other European countries. Citizens of the Soviet Union were immediately declared subhumans, subject to any punitive measures. It has been established that during the years of Nazi occupation, at least 3 million civilians and prisoners of war were killed on the territory of Belarus, more than 380



BELTA

thousand people were driven into German slavery, many of whom died from unbearable conditions. The abduction of children for forced labour was also widespread. Children were often used as donors. Over 200 cities were destroyed, including such large ones as Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk, and thousands of villages were burned. In July 1941, Heinrich Himmler held a meeting in Baranovichi, at which it was decided to conduct a large-scale operation to 'cleanse' the Brest Region from the so-called hostile elements. Shootings and gallows, gas chambers and burning, starvation and the spread of disease were used. This was sup-

posed to instil fear and suppress attempts to resist the occupation regime.

Director of the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences



Nikolai Myslivets, presented the results of a new public opinion study. The responses received indicate that modern Belarusians are united by the desire to live not only in stability and prosperity, but also in a separate and independent country. The top 3 symbols that were indicated by the largest number of respondents in 2023: state symbols of Belarus — 68.3 percent of respondents, folk symbols (stork, bison, cornflower) — 46.1 percent, cultural heritage objects — 40.7 percent.

The vast majority of the country's residents share the ideological meaning inherent, in particular, in such holidays as Victory Day (more than 90 percent), Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus (84.1 percent), Constitution Day of the Republic of Belarus (73.6 percent), People's Unity Day (71.5 percent) and others.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



The national film project *On the Other Shore* was on general release for just a few days. The premiere of the historical drama dedicated to the struggle of Belarusians against Polish oppression took place on People's Unity Day. The *On the Other Shore* film by the Belarusfilm studio tells about ordinary people, their life on the border and how they fought for the reunification of the Belarusian people into a single republic.

Shores of history

The premiere from the Belarusfilm film studio tells about the struggle of Belarusians for the reunification of their native lands into a single state



The leading role was played by the young actor Daniil Chup (right)



Director Andrei Khrulev

By Anastasia Poloiko

It was no coincidence that the landmark premiere by director Andrei Khrulev was released on one of the most important public holidays. Let us recall the historical realities in which the plot unfolds. In 1921, the Treaty of Riga was signed, according to which the lands of Western Belarus, in particular the Grodno and partially Minsk provinces, were annexed to Poland. About 100 thousand square kilometres of territory, more than 3 million people who suddenly lost the right to self-determination and became second-class citizens in their native land... The annexed lands, 'Kresy Wschodnie', were only a source of raw materials, cheap resources and practically free labour forces for Poland, and the Belarusians had to either become Polonised or disappear. All this is not just a background for what is happening, but a significant motivator for the actions and choices of the main character Pavel (played by the young actor Daniil Chup). The young man lives with his mother exactly on the border of the Polish Republic and the BSSR. Through his vision and perception, viewers can observe how the Polish authorities are trying to assimilate local residents, suppress the original culture of Belarusians, and replace their religion and language with their own. The story of Pavel's growing up and personality development is closely intertwined with what is happening. There are popular unrest, guerrilla warfare, and the way the new government suppresses any attempts by Belarusians to preserve their identity. The protagonist's father went missing in the World War I, his mother died at the hands of Polish gendarmes, his brother became a member of the partisan movement, and was subsequently execut-



Crowd scenes were filmed as realistically as possible



ed for anti-Polish activities. Nevertheless, the young man himself has more practical affairs and values — he just wants to live beautifully and richly, so he becomes a smuggler.

But before our eyes, the young hero develops, matures, finds for himself the definition of such concepts as love, hatred and the possibility of 'to call themselves human'.

"This is a very large-scale project, and it is important precisely because we all must remember the lessons of history," Honoured Artist of the Republic of Belarus Ruslan Chernetsky, who played one of the anti-heroes, a Polish officer in the new film said.

"No matter how many years pass, we must remember that we are united, we are one people, and we must value and carefully preserve our unity. People's Unity Day is a wonderful holiday because the Belarusian people were able to reunite. I am very glad that I participated in this project. I'm not even just glad, but incredibly proud to have starred in this film."

The *On the Other Shore* film was created in the best traditions of dramatic cinema. It closely interweaves many aspects that are understandable and close to everyone: the boundless pain from the loss of a loved one, the collapse of faith in justice, the loss and acquisition of the meaning of life, and also a meeting with fate and the opportunity to find love. Simple human feelings, skilfully conveyed by the actors and embodied in the characters, will help viewers become involved in what is happening on the screen even without additional knowledge of the story. The theme of a single people and civil patriotism sounds quite clearly in the film, however, the main emphasis is still

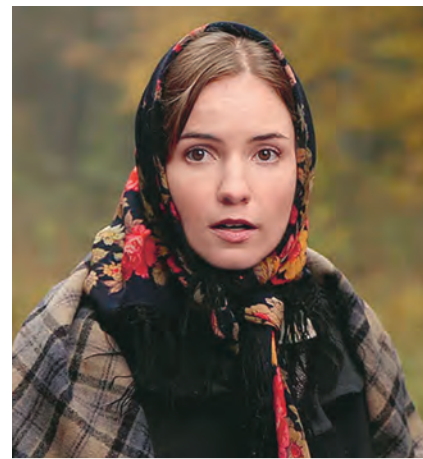


HOWEVER

The music for the film was written by Belarusian composer Alexander Sukharev

placed on human feelings, on weaknesses and willpower, on courage and bravery, on love and humanity.

"You have a scene, you understand what you have to achieve, that is, by and large, the atmosphere itself tells you exactly what subtleties there are in your task, and everything is quite clear. And the director already explains the details through which the character or conflict can be better revealed. Yes, there were some homemade preparations for the image, because in improvisation a person is shown as sincerely as possible. But Andrei Khrulev still made sure that these improvisations did not violate the general context of the work. At the same time, he



Actress Antonina Divina

trusts the actors on set very, very much," Ruslan Chernetsky shares the nuances of working on the set.

The On the Other Shore film is also unique in that the crowd scenes were built and filmed as realistically as possible, with the involvement of numerous actors, with the greatest possible authenticity and great attention to detail.

The filming period spanned several seasons, and the filmmakers had to travel a lot around the country. For example, three Belarusian rivers — Isloch River, Zaryanka River and Neman River — created in the picture the image of one water artery, which divided the country into two banks. Scenes in the border area were filmed in Rakov, and individual buildings and parts of the city were filmed so perfectly that one gets the feeling of a real presence in the town of the 1920s. The museum-estate in Loshitsky Park and the streets of Zaslavl became an excellent setting for the film. There were really a lot of shooting days, and they took place in different weather conditions.

"The first shift was the most difficult for me; I had to learn the most text in Polish. There, according to the plot, an interrogation took place, everything had to be done very organically and authentically. But in general, the role was well written; my character was perfectly explained not only by director Andrei Khrulev, but also



by screenwriter Ivan Krivoruchko. As a matter of fact, he conducted the casting for this film. It's great that there was such a role in the project, and I hope that I was able to embody my character and convey him as accurately and organically as possible. My character, of course, is negative, but as an actor I simply have to justify it — and he, naturally, has his own truth and his own vision of the world," Ruslan Chernetsky recalls.

The plot of the film is really twisted, with elements of not only drama, but also a real detective story. The whirlpool of events captures you literally from the first minutes. So, no more spoilers: just don't miss it!

Health technologies



Attracting large pharmaceutical players, innovation and traditional Chinese medicine — ‘Great Stone’ expands medical cluster

Industrial Park Great Stone attracts dozens of innovative companies from all over the world due to its favourable geographical location and advantageous conditions for business development. Among them, an important place is occupied by medical and pharmaceutical companies. Of particular interest are projects in the field of traditional Chinese medicine — the capacity of this market is estimated at ten billion dollars. Special conditions are being created for all these areas in our country that allow unhindered work for the benefit of people’s health. In this regard, representatives of the ‘Great Stone’ are actively working to attract major foreign players. No less attention is paid to innovative developments in this area.

Aleksandr Kulevskiy



By Ilya Kryzhevich

Oriental vector

According to Kirill Koroteyev, First Deputy Director General of SZA O Industrial Park Development Company, Industrial Park Great Stone now places great emphasis on the development of traditional Chinese and innovative medicine, the production of medicines, as well as medical equipment. At the moment, a whole cluster is already being formed, in which Chinese companies will play an important role.

— We actively involve Chinese partners who work in this direction in our project. So, on the eve of the presentation of investment opportunities of the industrial park, as well as preferences in the field of pharmaceuticals and the provision of medical services, took place in Gansu province. We plan to develop this direction. Legislation in our country provides a number of benefits and preferences for it. Now we are faced with an important task to demonstrate new opportunities to potential partners.

Also, according to him, in the field of Chinese medicine, target players have already been identified, with whom they would like to co-operate in the ‘Great Stone’ in the first place. Among them is Sinopharm Corporation.

— Previously, we purchased a coronavirus vaccine from this company, and they also gave it to us free of charge. Now we intend to co-operate with them more widely, including on investing in Belarus. A working group has been created for this. They are already studying the investment potential of the park. The company operates both in traditional Chinese medicine and in European medicine.

Kirill Koroteyev also noted that the day before, a delegation led by Healthcare Minister Dmitry Pinevich held talks in China with Sinopharm and Genertech corporations on expanding co-operation in the supply, localisation and service of medical equipment, including the Industrial

Park Great Stone site. These practical negotiations are the result of agreements reached during a visit to China by First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Snopkov.

— We plan to attract a sufficient number of companies that work in traditional Chinese medicine and innovative medical technologies. For this, all obstacles are removed in Belarus.

For example, Presidential Decree No. 161 dated June 1st, 2023 was signed, which made adjustments to improve the working conditions in the China-Belarus Industrial Park Great Stone.

Chinese innovation

Among the companies that bring unique medical technologies from China to the project is a resident of Haihunbel Medical Scientific and Technical Company LLC, which registered in July. It was founded by HAIHONG, a subsidiary of SINOMACH Corporation, and plans to promote advanced adaptable medical projects in the field of 3D printing of medical devices in Belarus.

Haihong Industrial Chairman Li Zhifang said the company specialises in the research, development, production and sales of personalised rehabilitation assistive devices and 3D printed medical products. The main products include printed orthoses for feet, ankles, scoliosis, discreet braces and other medical devices.

— We want to offer high-quality and personalised affordable products and services to the people of Belarus. We hope Belarus will become a good friend and partner for us. We are very glad to be in your country. Furthermore, we have a great future, Li Zhifang stated.

With surgical precision

Belarusian residents also have their own experience in innovative medical technologies. The project participant, Human Craft LLC, will produce individual endoprostheses and instruments that are used in medical practice to

replace or restore damaged parts of human anatomical structures based on 3D printing technologies. They will be used in surgery, traumatology, dentistry and in the surgical treatment of oncological diseases.

According to Artyom Ruev, Operations Director of Human Craft Company, the company is currently dealing with a number of equipment and documentation issues in the industrial park, and production will be launched at ‘Great Stone’ at the beginning of next year:

— The uniqueness of our products lies in the fact that, unlike standard implants, our implants are made taking into account the unique anatomical features of each patient, which allows us to achieve the best fit and minimise the risk of complications. Already today, our developments are used in various fields of medicine, including orthopaedics, traumatology, dentistry, and neurosurgery. They can be used to replace joints, restore bones and cartilage.

According to him, due to this, surgeons can perform previously inaccessible surgeries that are difficult to perform. This gives a chance for patients with complex problems. At the moment, the company already has a production site in Minsk.

— Now the second production site is being built in the ‘Great Stone’. We decided to expand due to the fact that there is a high demand for our products. Among our works is an endoprosthesis of the clavicle for the Alexandrov National Cancer Centre. Here we also made plates for the reconstruction of the lower jaw with the restoration of chewing function — a high-tech operation. For the National Research Center for Pediatric Oncology, Hematology and Immunology, a scapula endoprosthesis was created. We also co-operate with the Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital and a number of other medical organisations.

Artyom Ruev emphasised that ‘Great Stone’s’ tax and customs benefits would contribute to the company’s development and capacity building, including for export.

Prospects on the Silk Road

‘Great Stone’ showcases its potential at Beijing International Entrepreneurship Summit

Beijing hosted the international summit of entrepreneurs HICOOL 2023. Within its framework, an exhibition was held, in which representatives of the Great Stone and a number of resident enterprises participated. In the exhibition area of the summit, a stand was placed, presenting the achievements of the industrial park in the field of innovation and science and technology. This year the summit brought together over 400 participants from more than 50 countries.



Bound together

Bellegprom concern and the Chinese Leather Association CLIA signed a memorandum of co-operation

Representatives of the light industry of Belarus took part in the opening of the international leather exhibition All China Leather Exhibition 2023, visited the textile exhibition Yarn Expo 2023, which presented the stand of the Orsha Linen Mill. We also visited the exposition of Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics.

Overweight vehicles, mining dump trucks and tractors made in Belarus have long become a national treasure, and these products are today recognised in all corners of the world. Belarusian electric buses do not experience any particular problems in finding their place in the domestic and foreign markets. And now the domestic passenger car industry is already beginning its history, confidently competing with popular global manufacturers.

The car industry is moving into high gear



Yury Mozolevsky

Belarusians' hope for a high-quality people's car is becoming a reality



Aleksandr Kulevsky

BELTA

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

"We will have our own Belarusian car. Since we are already hooked on this, then we will reach the production of our own absolutely, almost 100 percent Belarusian car. High-quality car."

From a speech to employees of organisations at the Minsk National Airport on August 11th, 2023

By Dmitry Shamko

Under our own brand

The well-known Belarusian-Chinese automobile project was called too bold, given that this industrial niche has always been crowded. But the decision made by the President to organise our own production of passenger cars was correct. The new plant gave jobs and salaries not only to Borisov, but also to the subcontractors who are making the car more and more Belarusian. In addition, the company began producing equipment under its own brand BelGee X50. In the near future there are also plans to produce two more models under the domestic name. According to the BelGee Director General Gennady Svidersky, domestic brand gives more opportunities. This includes the prospect of independently regulating all processes and determining the terms of sale.

Indeed, the creation of our own brand will significantly change the situation for the plant: the parent Chinese company opens access to those manufacturers who supply components. Today, quite a lot of space has been freed up for automobile production in the Union State, and the technological potential of Russia and Belarus allows these capacities to be utilised.

Producing cars under your own brand is one of the ways to solve the issue of localisation of production. Tests of Belshina and Belarusian batteries were successfully carried out. There will be not only welding, painting, our assembly, installation, but also components, Gennady Svidersky notes.

Focus on the acceleration

According to Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Parkhomchik, the Belarusian car industry is developing at an accelerated pace. Last year, about 30 thousand cars were produced, and this quantity was not enough on the market. The President has set a tough target to produce 60 thousand passenger cars this year, and it will be achieved. About 40 thousand vehicles have already been produced and sold, and localisation of the component base is becoming the most important task.

BelGee has big plans for next year. It is necessary to create a stamping production in a short period of time and begin production of all body components. In addition, we need to launch production for welding

structures. Therefore, the stage of organising additional capacity begins in order to be able to produce about 80 thousand cars per year with a two-shift operating mode.

The Belarusian passenger car is becoming truly popular, since today you even have to stand in line for some time to buy it.

Demand creates supply

It is important for any businessman that his or her products are sold and in demand. The Belarusian manufacturer of passenger cars has no problems with sales today — there is great demand in both the Belarusian and Russian markets. In order to fulfil the President's instructions to increase production volumes, the company works 12 hours a day and seven days a week, Gennady Svidersky notes, an additional recruitment was announced. By the

way, in 2023 it is planned to sell approximately 13 thousand cars in Belarus, that is, three times more than last year.

But we must understand that production volumes cannot be increased instantly — this is a gradual process. The supply chains disrupted as a result of the sanctions are also having an impact, and a reset has been made in this regard. The company uses all available channels, which it mastered this and last year.

When the plant opened, the President set the task of making the car popular. This meant affordability. Therefore, a campaign is underway in the country to return prices to a fair course so that unscrupulous sellers do not profit from the current situation. The Belarusian automaker is also struggling to reduce costs, Gennady Svidersky emphasises.

If we are talking about the people's car, then this year a new model appeared, which at its price (it is below Br50,000) becomes accessible to a wider circle. There is also a financial programme, to support domestic cars, which allows one to purchase cars on credit and leasing at bank rates lower than the refinancing rate.

New generation components

Belarusian scientists and designers are creating the most important components for electric transport. These are power motors, control electronics, and the heart of any electric vehicle — batteries. As reported by the National Academy of Sciences, today manufacturers are focusing on assembly from lithium-ion cells. NAS has three enterprises that assemble battery systems. However, it is more important to be prepared to replace lithium. Today, a new direction is being looked at — sodium-ion batteries. Prototypes are already being produced in laboratory conditions. If the results are positive, then we can talk about mass production.

By the way, during the annual exhibition *Electric Transport Day*, First Deputy Industry Minister Aleksandr Ogorodnikov announced the imminent completion of work on a prototype of a Belarusian electric vehicle: the domestic model will be presented to a wide audience this year.

The presence of scientific, personnel and industrial potential in the field of mechanical engineering provides the prerequisites for the possibility of attracting well-known foreign brands to create fundamentally new and modern production of passenger cars in the post-Soviet space. We are talking primarily about Chinese partners, who are beginning to occupy one of the leading positions in the world market. The creation of joint automobile production with Indian and Iranian enterprises, which are also dynamically increasing their rating in the international market, could also be quite interesting in terms of co-operation. Moreover, bringing vehicle kits and assembling a car is no longer entirely relevant and is not always economically profitable. Today, in-house production with a high level of localisation looks most promising.

Gratitude to the Chinese leadership

The launch of production of domestic passenger cars became another bright page in the history of the country. The President stated this on November 17th, 2017, at the grand opening of the new plant of BelGee, "Our friends responded to my request and helped create this wonderful plant. Moreover, they also provided loans. Therefore, first of all, I want to say today that my dream of making our own passenger car has come true." Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that for this it is necessary to thank the leadership of the People's Republic of China, in particular the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping.

A total of 9,673 passenger cars were sold in Belarus from January to July.

In July of this year, the number of cars sold raised at more than double compared to the same period in 2022

July leaders (number of cars sold)



New players are expected to appear on the market and present models that are potentially interesting to buyers.

According to the BAA Automobile Association

The regime of the ruling Polish Law and Justice party has become insolent to the limit. It cynically and cruelly deals with migrants at the Belarusian border, immediately calmly selling visas. Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Piotr Wawrzyk, has already become a victim of the scandal; he was dismissed from his post and deleted from the PiS electoral list. However, journalists and experts believe that a whole group of corrupt officials, including relatives of the former Deputy Minister, profited from the sale of visas to migrants. This ugly story became another huge shame that seriously tarnished the reputation of PiS in the midst of the election campaign, the French publication *Le Point* reports. We offer our readers a translation of this article.

Diplomatic scammers



A huge migration scandal erupted in Poland on the eve of parliamentary elections

Five thousand dollars for a visa

At the height of the election campaign in Poland, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki was forced to dismiss Deputy Foreign Minister Piotr Wawrzyk within a few hours. The reason for this rapid removal was a scandal related to the issuance of visas to migrants from Asia. The Prime Minister limited himself to a vague explanation, admitting 'the lack of satisfactory co-operation'.

The Polish press and, in particular, the daily newspaper *Wyborcza* revealed details of this case. On August 31st, 2023, Polish intelligence services visited the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of an inspection of the activities of the Indian company VFS Global, which is an intermediary in obtaining visas. Investigators also wanted to check the phone of Piotr Wawrzyk, a PiS MP since 2019. A few hours later, the Prime Minister decides to fire this man, who was also expected to rank quite high on the PiS list for the parliamentary elections on October 15th. According to press reports, the posters have already been printed.

Employees of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau suspect that Piotr Wawrzyk is involved in a corruption scheme for issuing Polish visas with the complicity of one of his family members. We are talking about a bribe of five thousand dollars for each visa issued.

The scandal naturally put PiS in an awkward position. The ruling party has been playing the anti-immigration card for years, and to ensure the issue featured prominently in the election campaign, the government even decided to hold a referendum on migration on parliamentary election day.

PiS's main opponent, Donald Tusk, who heads the Civic Platform, made a lot of noise about this, condemning the duplicity of the ruling party.



“Unleash anti-migrant hysteria, attract record numbers of migrants, make millions on visas and, finally, hold a referendum on migration. Lukashenko is an amateur compared to them,” Tusk wrote on social networks. PiS hastened to exclude Piotr Wawrzyk from its list...

Political schizophrenia

In fact, Poland has been attracting workers from Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries to its territory for many years... Experiencing a labour shortage, Warsaw issues visas to Muslim workers from these countries, while declaring that it opposes Muslim immigration. At EU level, Poland has refused to accept its share of Syrian refugees. In the EU Council they voted against asylum reform, while promising to regulate flows more seriously. PiS's rhetoric and voices in the EU do not correspond to reality.

In contrast to PiS, their ally in the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists Giorgia Meloni, on the contrary, preferred to adhere to a strictly European approach to migration. She approved the European documents currently being adopted. Together with commission chair Ursula von der Leyen and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, she travelled to Tunisia to sign a comprehensive agreement that included a migration component. Faced with a labour shortage in her country, she signed a decree in July 2023 that formalises and regulates legal migration for years to come.

The political schizophrenia of PiS was sharply condemned by Donald Tusk in his video made after this incident.

He asks on camera as part of his election campaign, “Do you know who attracts Muslim immigrants to Europe the most? The government that scares them the most.

Last year alone, the PiS government issued 135,000 permits to visitors from Muslim countries. Poland even overtook countries such as France and Germany. The Poles have just found out why.”

By Emmanuel Berretta, Le Point, France

EXPERT OPINION

Piotr Petrovsky, political analyst,

“Double and triple standards in the field of migration appear more than once in Poland, as in other EU countries. It has already become a tradition to see that migrants and refugees there are divided into two unequal groups: those migrants who enter EU countries from Belarus are subject to violence and can even be killed, while migrants from other directions, on the contrary, are provided with shelter and protection.

Poland's policy looks particularly cynical in this situation. Not only does the Duda-Morawiecki regime rank migrants by grade, they also sell visas for those wishing to move from Muslim countries to Poland. The facts of the journalistic investigation revealing the corrupt illegal schemes of the Polish government are simply shocking. We have been observing the policy of hypocrisy of the Polish regime for a long time. However, the illegal schemes to enrich the local elite surprise even their French allies. And this is amid the general rhetoric of the ruling regime about the need to tighten migration policy throughout the European Union, deport people, and not grant them refugee status. As a result, we see a typical policy of deception.

On the one hand, the Polish regime tells the population stories about how it is fighting illegal migration. On the other hand, they encourage this migration through corruption schemes and even make money from it.”

On the eve of the parliamentary elections in Poland, the disclosure of such facts could shake public opinion, and the ratings of the ruling Law and Justice party will go down even faster, which the Polish elite are very afraid of. That is why the Duda-Morawiecki regime is trying to do what is popularly called 'turn the tables', i.e. the public view on other topics that are just made up. For example, to the imaginary Belarusian and Russian threat. In this way, they want to instil a sense of fear in society and consolidate it around the ruling regime before the elections.

Cursed handshake

Last week, a meme went viral online, according to which everyone who met with Ukrainian President Zelensky and responded to his handshake ended badly. Let's figure out whether this is so and whether the aura of the Ukrainian President is really so black that it allows him to destroy the destinies and lives of people with one touch.

By Anton Popov

The most famous heroes of the meme are British Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Liz Truss. Both characters became victims of the 'Zelensky curse' last year and became famous throughout the world for their inappropriate antics. The first to be asked to leave was Johnson, who managed to build such a close relationship with Zelensky that he was more often seen on Bankova Street than on Downing Street or in parliament. Of the most memorable comments made by the ex-Prime Minister about Ukraine, perhaps we need to remember the phrase that became the motto of the West in this proxy war with Russia.

During a visit to Kiev before the conflict began, he said: 'Ukrainians will fight to the last drop of their blood'. Zelensky, who was standing next to him, wrote something down on a piece of paper at that moment. Then no one attached any importance to this, but after more than a year and a half of war, it is clear: the leader of the Kiev elite took these words as a guide to the destruction of his own population.

Johnson flew out of his position with a bang: most of the cabinet simply refused to work with the curly-haired warmonger. The ex-Prime Minister did not hide his disappointment, but soon his 'merits' to the world and Great Britain faded amid the creativity of his successor. Liz Truss, who spent only 49 days in office and nearly killed the already dying British economy with her ambitious reform plan, will be remembered only as the last Prime Minister of the reign of Elizabeth II. By the way, not so long ago Truss announced a hefty book of memoirs, where she plans to tell her version of the indecencies she committed. However, it is unlikely that she will be able to beat the sales of Prince Harry's books, but it will interest a certain audience.

And yes, Ms. Truss also touched upon Zelensky. At that moment she was the Minister of Foreign Affairs. True, Truss compensated for the lack of personal meetings as Prime Minister with regular calls with the bearer of the curse. Zelensky invited her to the Ukrainian capital, but the black aura of the Ukrainian president took effect earlier.

It is significant that the 'curse' has a very specific effect on another lady from the photo. We are talking about Kaja



Evil fate haunts everyone who shook hands with Zelensky. But what does conspiracy theory have to do with it?

Kallas, the Prime Minister of Estonia. During her time in power, she almost resigned along with her cabinet in April of this year, but the country's President, Alar Karis, invited her to head the new government. And already in August, a loud scandal broke out related to Callas's husband's share in Russian business. But even here the Prime Minister got away with it, which hints: with regard to the leaders of the dwarf Nazi extinctions, Zelensky's handshakes act strictly in the opposite direction.

Well, Prime Ministers come and go, but the global goal of Western policy — to plunge their opponents into chaos and through this maintain their hegemony — remains unchanged. Politicians on the 'other' side feel unpunished, and this is not surprising, because they really do not bear any responsibility for what they do in office.

Has anyone charged Johnson with warmongering, promoting intolerance against Russians, or sponsoring nationalist gangs? Has a word been said regarding the Russophobe Callas or any other politician who has been noted since the beginning of the North Military District with calls to kill as many Russians as possible? The questions are rhetorical.

Black mark

But resignation is not the worst thing that can happen in a politician's life after a fateful meeting with a former comedian. An example of this is the sad fate of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. On July 8th, 2022, he was shot dead with a homemade pistol during an election speech in the interests of his native Liberal Democratic Party. The killer, Tetsuya Yamagami, explained rather confusingly why he killed the politician, but from everything it turned out that Abe did not die because of political convictions and in general there was no reason for the brutal execution: the shooter allegedly wanted to take revenge on a certain sect to which his mother gave a large sum money and with which the ex-Prime Minister was allegedly associated.

But if Abe is, rather, a sad exception in the political establishment, then the Ukrainian military, who receive awards from Zelensky and traditionally shake his hand, do not live long in the vast majority of cases.

It is difficult to stop on specific personalities, considering the volume of the list of losses, which, according to some sources, will soon exceed half a million in killed alone.

Two people can easily be identified in the photo: pilot

Anton Listopad and right-wing militant Dmitry 'Da Vinci' Kotsyubailo. In the Ukrainian state mythology of the last year and a half, both are significant personalities, so let's go in order.

Listopad, as Ukrainian media reported, is one of the best fighter pilots of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. He began his punitive campaign against the civilian population of Donbass back in 2018. On the last pre-war Independence Day, he led the formation of aircraft over Khreshchatyk Street. From the beginning of the special military operation, he carried out combat missions on the MiG-29, received the Order of Courage from Zelensky, and at the same time a black mark: already in June he was shot down by Russian air defence and died.

Kotsyubailo is a product of Ukrainian propaganda. They called him all sorts of things: both a national legend and the personification of the younger generation that went through the Euromaidan and the confrontation with Russia. 'Da Vinci' was a media character as much as possible; he was intensively promoted by the media as an example of a 'real Ukrainian'. In fact, Kotsyubailo was a model Nazi: with his battalion 'Da Vinci's Wolves' he tortured, raped and killed civilians in Donbass, and abused captured Russian

soldiers. He owns a phrase characterising the militants of the Right Sector, about 'Russian bones' with which he 'feeds his wolves'.

Tellingly, the then Prime Minister of Finland Sanna Marin also came, strenuously portraying boundless grief for the punisher and scum at the funeral of this last Dirlewanger in the centre of Kiev, together with his brutal comrades.

Zelensky's handshake is akin to the kiss of Judas for members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. With one hand, the head of the Kiev regime hands out useless trinkets, often for fictitious exploits, and with the other he sends those awarded into the heat of a senseless slaughter.

The same Kotsyubailo, as you know, died near Bakhmut, in which the would-be commanders of the Kiev regime lost more than 70 thousand in killed alone. And beautiful words about supposed heroism actually serve only as a cover for large-scale theft. Serve, fool, you will receive a badge — these words fit the deceitful ceremonies of the owner of Bankova Street like no other.

Of course, the 'Zelensky curse' should not be taken too seriously.

The Ukrainian President in this case is only a symbol of the decomposition of American and European politics, the transformation of the Western establishment into a host of faceless and irresponsible creatures

Therefore, the assumption of the unknown author of the meme that Chinese leader Xi Jinping is allegedly afraid to meet with Zelensky because of the 'curse' is a little naive. In fact, the President Xi, one of the most experienced and wise politicians of our time, only needed an April telephone conversation with Zelensky to understand who he was and what forces were behind him. And there are no conspiracy theories.

Lord of the Polesian lakes



A picturesque place in the Ivanovo District of the Brest Region is known as the capital of a major culinary festival *Motol Treats (Motalskiya Prysmaki)*.

But few people know that the only boat master in the country lives here. Pavel Raikevich is a fourth-generation artisan. From an early age, he adopted the experience of his father — now he passes on secrets to his sons and grandchildren. He admits that water for him is life itself. What else will the unique resident of Motol tell about?

We visited a unique craftsman who has been making boats using ancient technology for almost 40 years

By Marina Kuzmich

The peasant house is open to kind people

The master works as a driver in one of Motol's enterprises. But in his free time, he does what he loves — making boats.

Pavel Pavlovich (in the local language — simply Palych) invites us to his home, where he equipped a workshop right under the open sky. Raikevich's house is immediately noticeable among the many well-kept wooden huts. It's all about a beautiful shop with a visor and a map of the world in the most prominent place. Palych opens the gate,

“My house is always open for kind people. My batko [father] left such a will for me. When the hut was completed, it was necessary to cut the lock. And he simply pin down everyone to facts: we will not have a castle, we are building a house for friends, there is no need to close the doors for them. These words are still in my memory today.”

I draw attention to the rose bushes along the bright yellow painted house. Nearby is a large carved figurine of a deer, a garden swing made of textured tree branches, an armchair that looks like the throne of the ruler of the Polesian lakes.

“We make the house and the garden plot more beautiful together with our sons. Senior Sergei is a skilled lad, but unlike me, he went more along the artistic path — he makes stucco moulding. He does such a thing — that's crazy. The younger Aleksandr can easily make a boat. The main thing is that there is a desire. Of course, if you want to eat, you will have to find a solution. So, my batko taught me: ‘If you learn how to hold an ax, you can do everything’. And so it happened. I laid stoves and built huts,” Palych says.

Pavel Raikevich is the seventh child in the family. Although everyone in the family was handy, only he mastered the boating skill of the four sons. One grandfather was a carpenter, the other a beekeeper. Mom Lidia Vasilievna skilfully baked wedding loaves. Father Pavel Dmitrievich not only made boats, but was also the foreman of the fishing brigade.

He met his destiny on the water

“Fishing was once real gold for Motol. That's why people needed boats. It was be-

lieved: if you have a punt boat, then you can call yourself a real owner,” Pavel Pavlovich recalls.

Once everything was transported on boats: hay, firewood, children to school, and fellow villagers. A field for haymaking was allocated in the Sporov swamps from the farm, you had to take people there, then in three days you had to go to pick them up. Palych confesses: he met his bride in the boat. He took the girls to the neighbouring village along the Yaselda River to dance. Among them was his future wife.

The master made the first boat at the age of 22, when he built his own house, “Father was no longer alive. I just worked from memory, as he taught me. I did it. True, I was busy for two weeks. Later, when I mastered this craft, I began to make it in three days. One fisherman immediately liked my boat. He asked to make one for him. So the work began.”

The boat rescued the villagers during the flood. The master says: their street was always flooded so that in the spring it was neither possible to pass, nor drive. How many times the boatman helped the neighbours get out of the flood zone, brought bread, drinking water and medicine.

Recently, Palych has not had so many orders for boats — two clients a year. Although it happens even five a month: now punt boats are in demand among the owners of farmsteads and fishermen. But, as the artisan admits, the main thing is to preserve the unique technology — to transfer the skill to the future generation. Maybe it'll come in handy.

Wonderful modlo and local ohnal

We go to the workshop. Long boards lie on iron stands, and along the perimeter there are mountains of tools and all sorts of things. The boatman shares professional secrets, “See the three boards? This will be

the bottom. I cut it at the right angle, sand it, then sew it. I use only nails, locally — ohnal. Then I roughly figure out what size the sides should be. I make boards from wood, maybe even aluminium.”

Palych thinks for a second, silently goes to the garage. He returns a few minutes later with a long, slightly curved wooden contraption,

“This tricky thing in my arsenal is called modlo. The tool is very valuable, it was passed down by boatmen. By the way, it is also called in Italian. In the 16th century, Queen Bona Sforza resettled Italians in our area. Who knows, maybe the old technology that I use to make boats today dates back to those times?”

One boat can cost from Br380 to three thousand or more. It all depends on the material, “I've been collecting it for years. A tree can lie for five years, and more — wait for its turn. I see and feel with my heart: if not today, then tomorrow there will be beauty.”

Jewellery work

In order for the boat to walk well on the water, six ‘kosyns’ are made during its manufacture — this is a support structure that allows you to strengthen the hull of the boat, “I measure the width at 80 centimetres. If you miscalculate, the boat can give resistance, slow down. To avoid such a disadvantage and allows the use of modlo. That is why it is inherited.”

The fishing boat has a simple shape, but there is enough jewellery work. You need to think about how to protect the joints where the wood comes into contact with iron. There are some subtleties in the manufacture of oars. Palych makes them from ash — so that they are light. And most importantly, the master cuts the oars with an ax, otherwise they will not walk freely.

You need to sweat over the ‘front’, then make ‘pukha’ — this is the front and back of the boat. And still process everything with sealant, paint. Ready! 15 years warranty. If the material is of high quality, then twice as much can last.



Breath and energy of nature

Palych shows wooden gift baskets with unusual wooden handles. You can't make such an amazing pattern even with the help of a tool. The boatman says the author of the masterpiece is nature itself, “Sometimes I get up early, wander along the shore. I will find some interesting piece with a ‘live’ pattern, bring it home, wash it, and it will lie down and dry. I have these wooden pieces, collected on the shores of local lakes and rivers, ten a penny. Some came in handy when I started making gift baskets.”

Our hero admits: having lived near the water for many years, he learned to anticipate its arrival at a distance and in a few days, “I feel that tomorrow the water will come to the very threshold, that it will not be possible to leave the hut, I will bring a boat, I will set it up. Neighbours, suspecting nothing, chuckle: why, they say, brought the boat to the house? I say: ‘You will see tomorrow’. It hasn't happened yet that I was wrong with the forecast.”

Pavel Pavlovich also developed a fishing instinct — he always knows which lake to swim to in order to return home with full buckets.

We go with Palych to the shore of Motol Lake. Not so long ago, the fish god appeared to him. What a miracle It turns out that he found an old clumsy stump, dragged it home. His son Sasha removed the bark from it and was amazed: on the side of the stump, nature outlined the face of the old man. Who knows, maybe even a real lake deity. Now Palych is thinking how to bring this grandfather into people. He says that in the near future an exhibition or even a museum dedicated to fishing will appear in Motol.

... The master slowly tells stories from his life. He himself is surprised how completely unfamiliar people come to him from different regions, just to talk, shake hands, say a simple thank you, “They say that unusual energy comes from me. However, I don't know what's the secret. Many people ask: where do I get so much strength and when do I sleep at all. Well, how can I explain it to them? I can only nap an hour a day. My mood is always good. Why be sad? After all, I do what I love. If suddenly my heart is restless, I take a spinning rod and go to the lake. And then you forget about everything. I don't hold a grudge against anyone. Spend two seconds in nature — and all insults are vanished as if by magic. Our lakes and beloved Motol give me inexhaustible energy. Wherever I am, wherever fate takes me, I always return home.”



Heavyweight on the platform

Yauheni Tsikhantsou won two medals at the World Weightlifting Championships in Saudi Arabia

By Tatiana Pastushenko

The World Weightlifting Championships, which kicked off in Saudi Arabia on Sunday, did not go very well for our weightlifters at first. Genady Laptev, competing in the weight category up to 61 kilogrammes, was the first to step onto the platform and left with a 'square' — three times he failed to cope with the initial weight in the snatch. Petr Asayonak (weight category up to 89 kilogrammes) took fifth place in the clean and jerk combination, and Pavel Khodasevich (up to 96 kilogrammes) took ninth place. The Belarusians finally conquered the podium of the world forum — last Thursday evening Yauheni Tsikhantsou climbed it twice.

Before heading to Riyadh, the weightlifter tried not to make over-plans and spoke briefly about the upcoming tournament, "We'll see what I'm ready for. But I'm motivated and charged." For Yauheni, this was already the fourth major tournament in several months. He excelled with a result of 393 (178+215) kilogrammes at the May national championship, he won with a slightly more modest 390 (178+212) kilogrammes at the first qualifying tournament for the Olympic Games in Paris, held in Havana, and at the 2nd CIS Games he took silver, showing 391 (176+215) kilogrammes in the clean and jerk combination.

In Riyadh, Yauheni Tsikhantsou won bronze with a total of 394 kg. The Belarusian performed three successful attempts in the snatch, in which he first took 175 kilogrammes, then 179 and 183. No one conquered the greater weight — there is small gold! Things weren't going so smoothly in the clean and jerk. Tsikhantsou coped with the initial declared



weight of 211 kilogrammes, but the next two attempts to take 217 kilogrammes were unsuccessful. Although, if Yauheni had submitted to this weight, he would have become the silver medallist of the tournament — he would have outperformed the second-place Korean Jang Yeon-hak, who finished the performance with a result of 399 kilogrammes, by a kilogramme, but would still have lost to the winner of the tournament — the Chinese Liu Huanhua, who gained 404 kilogrammes in the clean and jerk combination. By the way, another Belarusian, Sergei Sharenkov, also competed in the weight category up to 102 kilogrammes. The young athlete was included in group B. In the snatch he failed three

times with the initial 172 kilogrammes, in the clean and jerk he first fixed a 195 kilogrammes barbell, and then successfully lifted 200 kilogrammes. But in the final table, due to the unsuccessful first exercise, Sharenkov has a dash in the 'place' column.

After this tournament, Yauheni Tsikhantsou will certainly improve his position in the Olympic qualification rankings. Let us remind you that in order to qualify for the Olympics in Paris, weightlifters need to compete in five qualifying tournaments (the Grand Prix in Havana and the World Championships in Riyadh are among them) and gain a foothold in the top 10 rankings. Before the start of the tournament in Saudi Ara-

bia, Tsikhantsou was located above the rest of our guys — on the seventh line.

Yauheni Tsikhantsou is one of those in our team who has the highest chances of winning a license for the Games in Paris. The weightlifter has already had one Olympics in his career — Tokyo. Before that start, Tsikhantsou loudly declared himself more than once. In 2017, he won silver medals at the world and European junior championships. In 2018, he took gold at the world championship among juniors, but among adults he fell a little short of the podium — he took fourth place. In 2019, Tsikhantsou won both the European Championship and the World Championship. At the Olympics in Tokyo, alas,

the weightlifter's performance did not go well. He was unable to complete an effective attempt in the snatch and lifted 173 kilogrammes in the clean and jerk...

Let us remind you that our quota was cut to the minimum at the previous Games — only one athlete was able to compete in the men's and women's competitions. Now the situation is different. In Paris, if everything goes well (the IOC is still delaying the decision regarding the admission of Russians and Belarusians to the main start of the four-year period), three men and three women will take to the stage. The fight for licenses has begun and promises to be interesting.

Our women's team included four girls at the World Championships — Alina Shchepanova (up to 59 kilogrammes), Susanna Volodko (up to 71 kilogrammes), Ryna Litoshyk (up to 76 kilogrammes) and Darya Kheider (up to 81 kilogrammes). Shchepanova, who competed in group B, is 18th in the final table, Volodko, who started in the strongest group, is sixth in the clean and jerk combination total. Litoshyk — 11th, Kheider's final position became known after the end of the competition in groups A and B of the weight category up to 81 kilogrammes. Let us remember that this World Championship was the first prominent adult competition for all our girls.

Now our weightlifters are planning a vacation. It will not last long, because already in December the athletes will have to compete at another qualifying event for the Olympics — the Grand Prix at Doha. The final qualifying tournaments will take place early next year. Our team expects to compete at the European Championships in Turkey in February, as well as at the World Cup in Thailand in early April.

ARENA

• The triumph of the rowers of the Belarusian national team at the Altai Regatta — eight individual medals

The international kayaking and canoeing competition Altai Regatta was held on the rowing canal in Barnaul. In total, more than 300 athletes took part in the competition, fighting for medals in kayak and canoe rowing, Dragon class boats and stand-up rowing. The main competition of the tournament in Barnaul was the Race of Champions, in which 40 of the strongest kayakers and canoeists from eight countries competed: Belarus, Russia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Colombia, Chile, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Athletes determined the best at a distance of 500 metres in single races, at a distance of 350 metres among mixed crews of twos, as well as in the 4x200-metre medley relay.

In the final of the men's single kayak,

the entire podium was captured by Belarusians: Uladzislau Kravets was a winner, Dzmitry Natynchyk finished second, Mikita Borykau finished third. In a similar type of programme for women, our Volha Khudzenka excelled, and Maryna Litvinchuk won silver. In the single canoe race, all three places on the podium were again taken by Belarusians: gold from Alena Nozdrava, silver from Volha Klimava, bronze from Yulia Trushkina.

Our Dzmitry Natynchyk, paired with



Russian Anastasia Panchenko, won in the final of mixed crews among kayakers, and the mixed crew among canoeists was won by the Belarusian-Russian duet Yulia Trushkina — Zakhar Petrov. Volha Khudzenka (silver), Mikita Borykau (bronze) and Artsem Kozyr (bronze) also won medals in this discipline. In addition, Alena Nozdrava and Uladzislau Kravets, as part of the international four, became second in the relay, and Yulia Trushkina and Maryia Kavalenka, together with rep-

resentatives of Bulgaria and Uzbekistan, finished third in this event.

• Belarusian boxers won three bronze medals at competitions in Dagestan

The 22nd International Boxing Competition among men, dedicated to the memory of Magomed Salam Umakhanov, kicked off in Kaspiysk. 109 athletes from 15 countries took part in international competitions in Dagestan; the Belarusian team was represented by nine boxers.

In the end, three Belarusians took away the forum awards: in the weight up to 54 kilogrammes, Dzianis Salotskikh won bronze, in the category up to 57 kilogrammes, Ilya Vorobyov also won bronze, and in the weight up to 71 kilogrammes, Aliaksandr Radzionau brought another third place to our team.



Yegor Yermolitskiy

Photo of the week

Deer. Minsk Region

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On September 21st, 1799, the famous crossing of the Alps by the army of Field Marshal Suvorov began. Emerging from northern Italy, Russian

and Austrian troops participating in the War of the Second Coalition moved across the Alps towards Austria to strike the flank and rear of the French. The crossing took place in the most difficult conditions and remains in history a feat of the Russian army and commander Alexander Suvorov.

On September 22nd, 1943, Minsk underground fighters Elena Mazanik, Maria Osipova and Nadezhda Troyan



liquidated the General Commissioner of Belarus, Gauleiter Wilhelm Kube, who, while in power, was involved in the extermination of civilians, partisans, hostages, and Soviet prisoners of war.



September 22nd is World Car Free Day. It is held in more than 1,100 cities around the world to promote the idea of walking, cycling and using public transport. And also to attract public attention to problems related to air pollution and environmental issues.



September 22nd is World Day of Elephant Protection — the largest animals from modern mammals. It was established in 1996 on the initiative of

international environmental organisations. The main reasons for the decline in the number of elephants are hunting them for tusks and meat, extermination due to damage to crops, deforestation — the natural habitat of elephants, and overall environmental deterioration.

On September 23rd, 1993, The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus adopted a resolution on the publication of the Belarusian Encyclopaedia in 18 volumes.



Belarusian Encyclopaedia is a universal, systematic reference book containing about 80 thousand terms. It contains a variety of information on all branches of knowledge accumulated by mankind, and also describes events, phenomena, facts related to Belarus.



September 24th is Machine Builders Day in the Republic of Belarus. Belarus is one of the main suppliers of tractors,

machine tools and other special equipment not only to the countries of the post-Soviet space, but also to a number of other states. The products of MAZ, BelAZ, Atlant, Gomselmash, the Minsk Tractor and Motor Plants, and other industry enterprises are known far beyond the borders of the country.

September 24th-25th, 1938, Soviet pilots Valentina Grizodubova, Polina Osipenko and Marina Raskova made a non-stop flight on the Rodina ANT-37 plane from Moscow to the Far East. In 24 hours 29 minutes, a distance of 6,450 km was covered and a women's international distance record was set. On November 2nd, they became the first women in the USSR to be awarded the honorary title of Hero of the Soviet Union.



On September 24th, 1893, Pavlina Medelka (1893-1974), Honoured Cultural Worker of Belarus, was born. She made a significant contribution to the development of Belarusian theatrical art. However, she is one of the first to play the role of Pavlinka in the play of the same name by Yanka Kupala. She wrote verses, poems, songs, plays, and memoirs.



On September 25th, 2013, BelAZ produced the world's largest mining dump truck with a lifting capacity of 450

tonnes. It was presented at the test site of the Belarusian Automobile Plant.

On September 25th, 1945, a record long jump from the stratosphere was performed in the USSR. The jump, which became a world record for both height and duration of the fall with an unopened parachute, was made by parachute and ejection test instructor Colonel Vasily Romanyuk (1910-1993). The athlete left the plane at an altitude of more than 13,000 metres.



On September 27th, 1801, the world's first bicycle was presented to Emperor Alexander I. The inventor of the world's first two-wheeled bicycle was a native of the Prikamye, Efim Artamonov. The bicycle, built at the Nizhny Tagil Plant, was iron and durable — the master was able to make a difficult journey on it from the Urals to St. Petersburg for Alexander I's coronation. The bicycle is now kept in the Nizhny Tagil Museum of Regional History.

