

24th Belarusian Energy
and Environmental
Forum held at Minsk's
Football Manege



Personal exhibition of
famous Belarusian artist
Mikola Bushchik —
Essence of Colour — opens
at ArtHaos Gallery



INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 39 (805) ● THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019 ● WWW.SB.BY



Centuries-old traditions and modern technologies

Slutsk sashes — a famous Belarusian treasure — are known far beyond our country. These amazingly beautiful accessories from the past have been preserved in rare museums and private collections around the world. However, it's still possible to acquire a no less valuable copy. In modern times, these masterpieces of decorative art, which symbolise the traditions of national weaving, are made by Slutsk master craftsmen — not only by hand but with the help of modern technology... → **7**



Find answers to global challenges



During the international *Minsk Dialogue* forum, the Belarusian capital was transformed for two days into a platform for discussing the most important geopolitical problems. Minsk was visited by hundreds of foreign experts, politicians, diplomats, heads of foundations and representatives of major think tanks. *In Search of Agenda for Peace and Co-operation for Europe* plenary session was the central event and President Aleksandr Lukashenko took part. In his speech, the Head of State described in detail the global challenges which the region of Eastern Europe and the world as a whole face, also voicing proposals for the gradual removal of tension and settlement of conflicts.

By Pavel Filatov

Platform for dialogue

Addressing the forum participants, Aleksandr Lukashenko reminded the audience that, last year, Minsk hosted the first expert forum of this scale on security issues. “It was important that it was not lost among other events but, on the contrary, it received great appreciation and attracted the attention of the public, and therefore has continued,” he said, adding that this is evidenced by the recent foreign policy forums held in Belarus on a wide range of topics — including information security, human trafficking and terrorism. “This shows the obvious growth of interest of Western and Eastern audiences in Minsk as a platform for dialogue. If Europe needs it, we are ready to act at any level, in any place in Belarus,” he said.

On the main challenges of our time

The President stressed that the list of modern challenges to humanity is dominated by security threats and, accordingly, the words of the conference theme — ‘Moving Away From the Edge of the Abyss’ — clearly express the main problem in the world community.

The President emphasised that the unprecedented tension in international relations, the weakening of the foundations of international security and the increase in the number of regional conflicts affect most continents. “We have already begun to sound the alarm, calling for an end to confrontation. In recent times, we have been talking much about the need for dialogue, confidence-building measures and finding compromises. Sadly, the world is not getting better. Moreover, we are witnessing a new round of strategic rivalry between the so-called great powers. Trade wars and sanctions confrontation are gaining momentum, the struggle for energy and raw materials is getting tougher,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

On confrontation between East and West

The President noted that Belarus is concerned about the fact that the degree of mistrust and confrontation between East and West has reached its limit. According to him, after the recent withdrawal from the treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles of its key participants — the United States and Russia, the process of destroying the architecture of arms control has actually reached the finish line.

“The last measure is the treaty on strategic offensive weapons. If the parties fail to agree on its extension, in just two years, the world will find itself in a situation where relations in the field of nuclear weapons will not be regulated at all. Humanity is moving with great strides

to the line beyond which the abyss lies,” Mr. Lukashenko said.

At the same time, the President acknowledged that large powers have reasons to treat each other with distrust. “Unfriendly or even aggressive actions in the past entrench mutual suspicions and fears for years to come. Ideally, we need to return to the concept of European security based on co-operation, to the values of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe,” he stressed.

On Belarus’ unique position

Mr. Lukashenko noted the unique geopolitical situation that has devel-



BELTA

oped around Belarus over the past two decades, saying, “On the one hand, we are a military and political ally of Russia, a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. No state has such a level of relations with Moscow as we have. At the same time, our country has concluded international treaties on security and confidence-building measures with all its neighbours, including NATO member states.”

The Head of State said that Belarus is making every effort to strengthen regional security and intends to act in the same way in the future. In his words, the country has everything necessary for this. “The location of the Belarusian land, centuries-old spiritual and cultural traditions of Belarusians, their peaceful way of life and creative work determine our position. Our history can also join this list. We’ve fought as no other nation

has done. Moreover, we were not the initiators of these wars and we sometimes fought not for ourselves,” he said.

On non-deployment of missiles

Mr. Lukashenko said that Belarus will initiate the development and adoption of a multilateral political declaration of responsible countries on non-deployment of medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe. Due to the end of the treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, the USA and Russia are causing concern about security in the Eastern European region.

The President explained, “This is evidenced by our recent contacts with American representatives and the message of Russian President Vladimir Putin to a wide range of countries on the moratorium on deployment of missiles in Europe and other regions of the world. It is necessary to discuss this, perhaps, the most acute problem at the moment. We could meet in Minsk or another place. Belarus has already made a proposal to adopt a multilateral political declaration

of responsible countries on non-deployment of medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe. We are ready to initiate, or even undertake, the development of the text of this document.”

On Helsinki-2

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that, at present, the new success story of European security needs to be collected literally bit by bit. “Small and medium-sized states, such as Belarus, can make a real contribution to the revival of the spirit of Helsinki in the European space. I am convinced that the implementation of this approach would be beneficial to all key world players: Russia, the European Union, the United States and China,” he said.

The Head of State is confident that it is possible to move away from the brink of global conflict only through di-

alogue. “The need to hold an international summit in the coming years within the framework of the new Helsinki process — under the auspices of the OSCE and, possibly, under the auspices of the UN — is becoming increasingly obvious. We need to adopt a strategic document to strengthen international security in the Euro-Atlantic and on a broader scale. Today, it is impossible to resolve these issues without such a heavyweight as the People’s Republic of China. It is important to take into account the opinion of other countries whose influence in the world is growing today,” he pointed out.

The President assured those present, “We are ready to promote the idea of Helsinki-2, the dialogue of the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union, the CSTO and NATO, pairing with the *One Belt, One Road* Chinese project, the SCO, ASEAN, the creation of a digital neighbourhood belt (which has been spoken about recently). We will support all constructive ideas aimed at overcoming dividing lines and preserving peace.”

On Ukraine

During his speech, the Head of State also touched upon the conflict in Ukraine. Mr. Lukashenko noted some progress in its resolution but, at the same time, urged European countries to take more active and effective measures to stop the war in the neighbouring country.

Belarus is pleased that, in the process of resolving the conflict, the exchange of detainees has been carried out and some decisions were made in Minsk at the meeting of the trilateral contact group. “However, if people think that after the decision in Minsk was made (the Minsk agreements of the

Normandy Four were once again specified) the goalposts have moved, then the answer is: ‘no’. The position has not changed and will not if we do not push the process. It’s the so-called Steinmeier formula. This is because we’ve left Mr. Zelensky — who’s been left with this terrible burden — alone with these problems,” Mr. Lukashenko said, noting that, in his opinion, it is impossible to reproach the President of Ukraine by saying that he is not trying to solve this issue.

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed at the talks that, in the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, Belarus has been accused of jumping the gun. “We are not aiming to be mediators or peacemakers. We’ve never intended that,” he explained. “We are ready — as close and dear people — to play the role attributed to us by Russia and Ukraine if these two states agree.”

OPINIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Prof. Dr. Heinz Gärtner, member of the Advisory Committee for Strategy and Security Policy of the Scientific Commission at the Austrian Armed Forces:

I would suggest a return to the Helsinki documents and carefully read these in the context of the present time. They lack words like ‘enemy’, ‘threat’ and other confrontational terms. Even under the conditions of the cold war, it was about something else: collective security, the need to address border issues. After Helsinki-1975, sanctions against the USSR were eased, a dialogue of civic values was established. The emphasis was put on all sides, although this did not mean

an emphasis on democratisation. Today, we have not even reached the level envisaged by the Helsinki documents. In solving the problems of our time, we should at least return to them.

Alexander Vershbow, the Deputy Secretary General of NATO:

The problem is that we have a conflicting vision of European security, a conflicting view of what to do next. We need to focus as much as possible on the future. If there is political will, we can take certain practical steps. The first of these can be a step towards building relationships and partnerships. By increasing trust, we can reduce the risk of international conflict.

Thomas Graham, the Managing Director at Kissinger Associates, a former Special Assistant to President George Bush Jr. on Russia and Eurasia:

Dr. Kissinger and Andrei Gromyko solved similar problems in the 1970s: how to build a relationship between two superpowers working in the globalised world, how to manage these countries to reduce the risk of nuclear conflict, while addressing local problems. It seems to me that the main rule, the first principle, contributed to this: the involvement of both sides in this process at the highest level.



Unity of common goals

A meeting of the CIS Heads of State Council was held in the capital of Turkmenistan. The leaders exchanged views on topical issues, including deepening co-operation in the Commonwealth, developing e-commerce, introduction of a single CIS visa and expanding partnership with third countries. The Belarusian President's speech was detailed. He touched upon key issues and ways to strengthen the CIS, calling on partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States to support Belarusian initiatives to form 'a digital neighbourhood belt' and the non-deployment of medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe.

By Aleksandr Pisarev

On the agenda

While delivering a speech at the CIS Heads of State Council, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that we now face the need to strengthen the CIS as a self-sufficient and effective association. The President emphasised the importance of the declaration on strategic economic co-operation, to be considered at the summit. "Economy has always been and remains the foundation of our interaction. This document once again confirms our readiness to consolidate the economic potential of the CIS countries, to increase production, co-operation and trade links," he said.

Mr. Lukashenko also suggested intensifying co-operation across key areas such as transport, energy, industrial co-operation, mutual investment and trade.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, the CIS Economic Development Strategy to 2030 is almost ready. He suggested supplementing it with concrete breakthrough projects, which could then become common promising areas for economic growth.

Mr. Lukashenko believes the most important task on the economic agenda is the development of a fully-fledged free trade zone. "We are interested in the prompt completion of the draft agreement on free trade in services. Exploiting the potential of this area is in the interests of all CIS countries. We must admit, however, that the process of preparing the agreement is running over time. I think it would be appropriate to set strict time limits for the final revision of the document. Dear colleagues, let us not fool each other. The further we delay the process of our economic unity, the more reasons emerge for us all (the states) to look in the other direction, looking for a better future somewhere else, as I said at the EAEU summit. It is just unclear what else we are searching for," he said.

The President noted that the CIS is a huge market. "Let us work closer with each other. Let us further build economic relations and create advantages for each state."

Universal victory

The Address of the CIS Heads of State to the CIS Nations and the World Community was given in Ashgabat in con-

nection with the 75th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. Commenting on this significant event, Mr. Lukashenko stressed that the victory of the Soviet people in that war was a common one. "This year, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of Belarus' liberation. Our people paid a high price for their freedom: every third Belarusian died in the fight against fascism. We feel the consequences of that terrible war even now," he said.

The Head of State also recalled the common issue of the Chernobyl disaster, from which Belarus suffered the most, adding, "These are our heavy burdens: the consequences of the Great Patriotic War and this fact — not to mention other issues. The victory in that war was given to us by the great Soviet people! People died in the besieged Brest Fortress and Leningrad, fought at Stalingrad and Kursk, liberated Europe and penetrated Berlin. Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Kazakh, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Moldovan, Georgian, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen and Uzbek people did not think about their national identity. They were united when they hoisted the Red Flag on the top of the Reichstag. It means that our victory should be universal and indivisible!"

Ukrainian theme

While speaking at the summit, the President also called upon those present to support the acting authority in Ukraine. "The Ukrainian problem has been raised recently. I would like to communicate my position as both the President of Russia and I are deeply concerned about this issue. It is going on near us. Speaking about the new authorities in Ukraine, I encourage you to support this Government. You already see a tendency to bring it down and depose it. However, we must be aware of who will come to power in Ukraine should that happen," said Mr. Lukashenko.

Digital neighbourhood

The President noted that security threats dominate the list of modern challenges to humanity and their number has been growing rapidly. One of the reasons for this is the progressive loss of trust in relations between the countries. "The key to success lies in close co-ordination at all levels.

Therefore, our programme of co-operation between the CIS member states in the fight against terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism is now very relevant. Recently, new terrorist risks and threats have emerged. Cyber-crime and cyber-terrorism are the greatest of these," Mr. Lukashenko noted.

The Head of State stressed that the Internet and social platforms open unlimited opportunities for extremists to promote and recruit supporters and co-ordinate criminal activities. He recalled that Minsk hosted a high-level international conference on ways of countering terrorism through new and emerging technologies in September, where Belarus launched the 'digital neighbourhood belt' initiative. "As a mechanism of implementation, we suggest signing agreements on information security, with key roles being assigned to the idea of digital sovereignty and neutrality. This will guarantee non-interference of countries in each other's information resources," said the President.

Mr. Lukashenko drew attention to the need to regulate relevant issues. "So-called hybrid wars and their components — information technology — are emerging. We need to reach an agreement not to attack each other in the media and not to wage information wars against each other," he said.

The President asked the summit participants to support the Belarusian initiative in order to effectively counter terrorism and other threats in cyberspace. "If you agree, we could instruct the Executive Committee to start drafting the relevant agreement," he added.

Belarusian initiative on non-deployment of missiles

According to the Head of State, Belarus has put forward an initiative on the non-deployment of medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe. "After the termination of the relevant treaty, it seems likely that such weapons will appear in the European part of the continent. This inevitably entails the threat of a new round of military confrontation," Mr. Lukashenko said, adding, "These are not just problems of Russia trying to restore the status quo and keep particularly dangerous weapons under control. We cannot allow such missiles in Europe."

In his words, Belarus, as a fully-fledged party to the treaty, has not withdrawn from it and does not intend to do so in the future if there are no threats to the security of the country. Moreover, Minsk suggests developing a declaration of responsible countries on the non-deployment of medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe.

Mr. Lukashenko also expressed concern about the forthcoming large-scale NATO military exercise near Belarusian borders. "NATO has decided to arrange a large-scale military exercise near our borders in just a few months. Thousands of personnel will be deployed on a never-before-seen scale in Poland and the Baltic States. It is not normal. It does not mean peace has come to Europe and no trouble spots will emerge in the future. It is an incomprehensible exercise. The President of Russia and I may have to think about ways to ensure our security in this period as the exercise will involve a large number of about 30,000 people. In Belarus, we are already working on it," he said.

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that a joint military force exists within the framework of the Union State of Belarus and Russia. "We will have to respond in some way," he noted, adding that this should not be considered sabre-rattling. "We didn't make the first step but we have to respond," the President stressed, assuring that Belarus will never be the source of any threat.

In turn, Vladimir Putin said that Russia welcomes Belarus' proposal to develop a multilateral declaration on the rejection of the deployment of medium-range and shorter-range missiles which was put forward at the 74th UN General Assembly. According to him, Minsk's proposal is in line with Moscow's initiatives.

Experts note that, in Ashgabat, a meaningful and frank exchange of views on many issues of integration co-operation was conducted and eight joint documents were adopted as a result. Turkmenistan officially handed the chairmanship to Uzbekistan and will act as co-chair. Our country will also work on the same status next year — to subsequently take on the chairmanship.

Solid foundation

The President of Belarus also held talks with his Turkmen counterpart — Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov — in Ashgabat. Mr. Lukashenko emphasised during the meeting that Belarus and Turkmenistan have good foundations for the further development of co-operation.

"We have very good plans which we will certainly implement. We have created the foundation of our relations; we have done a great deal," he said. Mr. Lukashenko also agreed with the Turkmen leader that the peoples of our two countries are very hardworking and friendly, stating, "I support you in the fact that we still have much to achieve."





Very energetic approach

24th Belarusian Energy and Environmental Forum has been held at Minsk's Football Manege, gathering over 300 organisations from 16 countries, which demonstrated their achievements. This annual event is the most important energy-ecological event of the country: the forum brings together representatives of state bodies, science and energy companies to discuss the development of energy industries, efficiency and environmental protection.

By Natalia Yemelyanova

During the opening ceremony, Energy Minister Viktor Karankevich said the forum is a significant event for the country, "Energy security issues are very important for any state. The main policies of our country are energy independence, diversification of energy suppliers and reducing the burden on the environment. Belarus has achieved high rates of economical use of fuel and energy resources and the involvement of local and renewable energy sources. The implementation of the national nuclear energy programme is of particular importance for us."

The forum brought together international specialised exhibitions: *Ener-*

gyExpo' 2019, Oil&Gas Technologies, ATOMEXPO-Belarus, ExpoSvet, Water and Air Technologies, ExpoCity.

The Optron Instrument-Making Plant presented a line of electric vehicles: electric scooters and electro-trikes. The Institute of Microbiology showed its 'Biovir' complex preparation for disinfection and purification of water in ponds and reservoirs. This highly effective and environmentally friendly drug halves the content of nutrients, reduces the number of blue-green algae by five-seven times and phytoplankton — three times. There are no domestic analogues for the development which is superior to foreign analogues with regard to its effectiveness. The

Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering demonstrated the components of electric power plants, while scientists of the Institute of Applied Physics have developed a monitoring system for metal structures which provides continuous monitoring of the state of load-bearing structures during their construction and operation.

The business programme of the forum included forums, conferences, seminars, round table discussions, presentations of companies participating in the exhibition. Domestic and foreign experts presented modern technological solutions in the field of energy, petrochemistry, energy conservation and ecology.

During the thematic events, the participants discussed international experience in implementing the sustainable development strategy, issues of public control in nuclear energy on the example of the Belaru-

sian NPP, experience and opportunities for the implementation of energy service contracts, sustainable waste management, prospects for integrated optimisation of the energy system, digital transformation of the electric power industry and other topics.

The forum annually attracts attention of leading Belarusian and world manufacturers of equipment, technologies and materials and is one of the largest on this subject in the CIS and the Baltic States.



Business with the 'eco' prefix

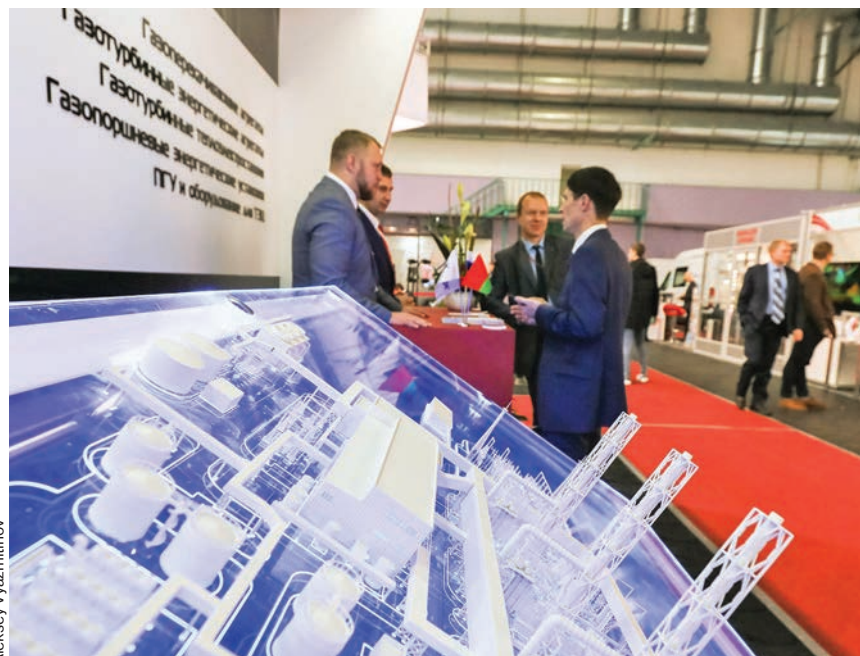
By Veronika Malyshchits

The Deputy Prime Minister, Igor Petrishenko, visited the event and spoke in detail about the main prospects for green economy development in Belarus. "State programmes are being implemented, legislation is being improved and documents in the field of environmental protection and environmental management are being developed. The principles of green economy are relatively new for us but, taking into account national peculiarities and global challenges, the state defines this direction as a strategic priority," he noted.

The principles of green economy are integrated into the national strategy for sustainable socio-economic development until 2030. This year, the national strategy for sustainable development of the country until 2035 is to be prepared, based on a model that assumes a green vector of development with the transition to a fundamentally new resource-efficient model of the closed-cycle economy. It is associated with the provision of efficient and ecological production, eco-design technologies and the maximum use of secondary raw materials.

The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that Belarus sees the dynamic develop-

Green economy development is put to the fore all around the world, with programmes, projects and strategic documents being concluded. Such partnership agreements aim to improve the environment and at the same time the climate of relations between states. The 3rd Belarusian-Italian business forum focusing on issues of the green economy was held in Minsk recently and such important issues as the growth of mutual trade and the creation of joint ventures were discussed — in addition to discussion of how purely economic areas can be combined with environmental initiatives in areas like the development of alternative energy, recycling and so on.



ment of Belarusian-Italian economic co-operation as one of the keys to success in the implementation of relevant approaches and projects.

In turn, the Italian Ambassador to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Mario Baldi, drew attention to Belarus' huge potential in the development of innovations in the fields of IT and construction. "This can give great impetus to the development of the economy and co-operation between Belarus and Italy in general," he noted.

This year, the forum was attended by 35 Italian enterprises and firms and more than 150 Belarusian companies. The Italian Ambassador expressed the hope that this will bring real results and new contracts for Belarusian and Italian enterprises.

"In Belarus, Italian investors may be interested in its developed infrastructure, highly qualified personnel, stable business conditions, high ratings and opportunities to create joint products with Belarusian added value and promote them to the Eurasian Union market," Vladimir Ulakhovich, the Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stated. According to him, investors will be primarily interested in working in the regions, since they have a huge potential.

Neuro-navigator and lung ‘passport’

High-Tech Park presents new projects and medical developments

By Olga Korneeva

The High-Tech Park has become a great presentation platform for new medical projects. The advanced developments of Belarusian IT companies in the field of medicine were presented during the meeting of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Aleksandr Turchin, and heads of the Health Ministry with residents of the HTP and med-tech start-ups.

The HTP projects developed in collaboration with doctors were demonstrated. “Our idea is to organise Government Days at the HTP with resident companies that have developments in different areas — such as medicine, education, agriculture and industry. We would like to establish communication between developers and consumers of services. The HTP should join the real economy. Some projects have great prospects — not only domestically but in view of their export capacities,” said Mr. Turchin.

Belarus is doing much in relation to the digital transformation of health care. According to the Director of the High-Tech Park’s Administration,

Vsevolod Yanchevsky, HTP is now experiencing an explosive growth of companies that combine medicine and IT. There are several dozen already. These companies create interesting solutions and new products that will help bring Belarusian medicine to another level. Some of them have already received recognition around the world.

Doctors have shown great interest in a neuro-navigator for surgeons developed by Promwad. The special station makes it possible to minimise surgery, more accurately monitor and plan brain surgery, as well as increase doctors’ productivity.

Another interesting development is the lung ‘passport’ from Healthy Networks. The automatic system can assess the condition of lungs based on the analysis of sounds and associated symptoms using neural networks. The electronic stethoscope picks up even sounds inaccessible to human hearing and helps the doctor to make an accurate diagnosis in a timely manner.

Skinive’s start-up, in turn, uses a neural network to identify



problem areas of skin — using a smartphone camera. The development helps in identifying cancer risks and sends information about anxiety symptoms to specialists.

Another stand enabled participants to test a virtual reality helmet, which is used in the rehabilitation of children with cerebral palsy. The technology of GKeyLab is also planned to be used for the treatment of schizophrenia.

The exhibition also demonstrated a medical 3D printer: this ‘digital dentist’ prints the necessary implants. Such technologies are applicable in orthopedics, oncology and plastic



BELTA



surgery, including in the planning of operations.

Another project on show is aimed at the prevention and correction of autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children using neuro-technologies and neuro-feedback therapy technology. The participants of the meeting were shown a brain training headset that helps in solving such problems.

The HTP also presented a gaming application to combat depression (Goodville), a mobile heart monitor (Cardio X) and an augmented reality system for use in traumatology (Voka.io).

After the technological exhibition, the High-Tech Park and the Belarusian State Medical University signed a co-operation agreement. The conversation continued informally, focusing on joint IT projects for health care. The Park presented a map of medical IT companies in Belarus. Over the past few years, the number of new solutions in this area has increased considerably.

12th Eurasian Economic Forum to be held in Verona, Italy

By Marta Astreiko

Just a week remains before the start of the 12th Eurasian Economic Forum: to be held on October 24th-25th in Verona, Italy — reported by the non-profit Association Conoscere Eurasia and the Roscongress Foundation

At the upcoming international meeting, participants will be invited to discuss a wide range of topics including global energy challenges, business diplomacy in modern geopolitics, social economy through the development of the health industry, education, nature conservation and labour relations, industrial revolution 4.0 and the economy of the future in Greater Eurasia.

According to the President of the Association Conoscere Eurasia — Antonio Fallico, the Verona forum is non-political. This platform for discussion was born as a result of an initiative by business and entrepreneurs who promote the idea of removing obstacles to co-operation between the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union.

As expected, over 1,500 representatives of business, political, expert and diplomatic circles and integration associations — including the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Standing Committee of the Union State, as well as the media, will participate in the two-day forum covering more than 40 countries.

The Belarus Segodnya Publishing House is acting as a media partner of the 12th Eurasian Economic Forum in Verona.



conoscereeurasia.it

NEWS IN BRIEF



Grodno will host the 3rd Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine in 2020.

Preparations for the event are beginning. The forum aims to represent the economic potential of the regions of Belarus and Ukraine, to develop new initiatives and forms of economic, investment, scientific, technical and cultural co-operation at interregional level. The 1st Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine was held last year in Gomel and the 2nd Forum of Regions was hosted by Zhitomir this October.



UNICEF new country programme will be implemented in Belarus in 2021-2025.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Igor Petrishenko, and Rashed Mustafa Sarwar from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in the Republic of Belarus discussed development. Among the priorities of the new programme are strengthening the institution of the family and social support for the most vulnerable categories of children, adolescents, etc.



Xi Jinping’s book — *On State Management* — will be released in Belarusian.

A corresponding memorandum of intent of co-operation was signed by the Publishing House of Literature in Foreign Languages (China) and the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House during a visit of the Chinese delegation of book publishers to Belarus.



First Belarusian electric bus has begun operating in Uzbekistan.

The route of the electric bus passes through one of the busiest suburbs of Tashkent. The vehicle is equipped with a system of energy storage based on supercapacitors. The electric bus travels for more than 40km after a single charge. Complete charging — available at terminal stations — takes around 5-10 minutes. The electric bus services up to 15 routes daily.



Over three years, the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has signed contracts for the supply of Belarusian products totalling \$1.5bn.

Over this period, almost 1,500 enterprises have expressed their wish to join the Chamber as members. The Chamber currently boasts a record figure: 2,434 enterprises, 60 percent of which represent small and medium-sized businesses. This information was announced during the 11th Congress of the BelCCI held recently in Minsk.



Minsk National Airport has welcomed its four millionth passenger this year.

This was a Belavia passenger travelling from Minsk to Sharm El-Sheikh. This year, Minsk airport has served four million passengers a month earlier than last year — when the airport reached the same target in November.

They will refresh themselves and fly to milder climes



Starlings have been recently seen on the pines and birches at Minsk's Kievsky Public Garden. They are migratory birds, so why have they not flown to warmer countries? We learnt from the experts if our weather is comfortable for these birds and whether or not we should feed them.

By Kristina Skuratovich

Yevgenia Luchik, an environmental specialist at the APB-BirdLife Belarus public organisation, surprised us by saying that the starlings have come from Estonia, "Many people think that the birds they now see on the trees are local, and don't understand why they still haven't flown south. But this is not entirely true: the rooks and starlings living in the Kievsky Public Garden came from the northern regions, Estonia, Finland or Siberia. There is a kind of bird shift: ours have already migrated, and these have chosen Belarus as a transit country. They will have a little rest and fly on, only a few stay in our country for the winter."

The ornithologist destroys a popular myth: birds emigrate to warm countries not because they are cold: we just don't have enough food for them in winter.

"Weather for birds does not play a particular role, they have a natural high body temperature. In winter, however, there are not so many grasshoppers, caterpillars and earthworms and they have nothing to eat here. But it is better not to



BELTA

feed the starlings so as not to interfere with nature. Many years ago, we used to make birdhouses and feeders for them. In this way we tamed the birds, spoiled them, and now we complain that they interfere with our lifestyle, summer residents say that starlings spoil the berries and vegetables in their beds. It is better to simply admire them — their call is unique, and they can copy many birds. If the birds become uncomfortable here,

they will quickly spread their wings and fly away," the expert says.

Yevgenia tells us that the mass migration of birds is now in full swing, recently experts organised the Autumn Bird Watching Days Festival — *EuroBirdwatch-2019*. "Millions of birds are now leaving Europe and heading to their over-wintering places, so we can see many species, even rare ones. We've seen migratory waders — they nest in the cold

taiga and tundra, and our region is chosen as a stopping place in autumn and spring. Redpolls, long-tailed tits and bullfinches, however, will winter with us as it's warm here for them. Many of our birds do not go anywhere: fieldfares, jackdaws and crows will remain. Starlings are close émigrés, they will wait out the cold in Spain, Italy, and some even stay in Poland, Hungary and India. With the arrival of spring, they will return home," she adds.

Global warming and climate change are gradually changing the fauna of our country. We now see avocets, who mainly live in Ukraine and on the Black Sea coast but are gradually expanding their range and even beginning to nest in the vicinity of Turov.

During *EuroBirdwatch-2019*, our country hosted the Photobirding Championship of Belarus. Unlike the usual birdwatch, when people look at birds with binoculars, the task of photobirding is to photograph birds in their natural conditions. *EuroBirdwatch* is an annual event that is taking place for the 26th time. In Belarus, in 2018, its participants saw more than 27,000 birds in two days.

A book about a thousand-year-old city

The *Brest 1000* encyclopaedia has been presented at the regional centre dedicated to its anniversary. The book was published at the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House.

regional centre to publish an encyclopaedia. This is a unique edition, with the circulation of 2,000 copies. "We see high demand for this encyclopaedia, so we are considering an additional circulation of about 2,000 copies. Perhaps soon, the City Executive Committee's web site will post an electronic version of the book," he said.

The encyclopaedia contains 14 thematic sections which include about a thousand articles on the history of Brest, its administrative and territorial structure, the activities of government, architecture, monuments and memorable

places, the state of the economy, social sphere, sports achievements, public organisations and religious associations. Information about the historical figures and prominent citizens is also available.

The book is written in three languages: Belarusian, Russian and English. "The publication is richly illustrated and has many photos. Interesting approaches were used in the design. The book is written in accessible language and gives a complete picture of the life of Brest," noted the Director of the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House, Olga Vanina.



BELTA

By Svetlana Savelyeva

The idea of publishing a book about the city was born long before the celebration of Brest's millennium. Scientists, historians, employees of the museums, libraries and other institutions worked on the encyclopaedia devoted to one of the oldest cities of Belarus. The Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor

Aleksandr Vabishchevich, was the project co-ordinator. He explains, "This is a kind of tribute to the memory and respect of many generations of Brest residents who, for ten centuries, built and revived the city. I am sure every reader will find something interesting."

According to the Chairman of the Brest City Executive Committee, Aleksandr Rogachuk, Brest is the first

Price attractive for tourists

By Alina Yanchur

Tourist search engine Aviasales.by names Belarusian cities with most inexpensive hotels

Experts of the service have studied accommodation prices in hotels in the major cities of Belarus and prepared a rating of the most favourable destinations for tourists. The analysis took into account accommodation in a double room of a three-star hotel.

The most inexpensive rooms are in Vitebsk and Mogilev. Here, the lowest cost of a night's stay is \$21 (equivalent) per per-

son. These are followed by Brest: \$24. Hotels in Gomel and Bobruisk are also not expensive: on average, a night stay here costs \$27. The cheapest rooms in these cities are within walking distance of the city centre.

In the capital, prices start from \$31 and, according to the service, cheap hotels in Minsk are situated close to the major city sights.

In Baranovichi, prices are higher: a night in a hotel near the historic centre of the city and the train station costs \$35. In Grodno, three-star hotel accommodation costs an average of \$42.



belarus.by



Pavel Chuiko

Slutsk sashes are one of the special symbols of our country, an item of national pride. We've managed to revive their unique production techniques: today, with the help of innovative technologies and skilful weavers, real works of art are being created. Natalia Duboleko, a department head at RUE Slutskie Poyasa, has been working at the company for over thirty years. We dropped into the modern weaving workshop and learnt how to create these exclusive masterpieces.

INSIDE

Slutsk sashes preserve unique ancient manufacturing secrets

By Yulia Popko

Made in Slutsk

The building of the Slutskie Poyasa enterprise looks very modern, with light rooms and spacious workshops. Natalia Duboleko knows every square metre and arranges a mini-tour for us. We enter into the holy of holies: the workshop where the unique Slutsk sashes are created.

"This machine was designed and manufactured specifically for us. The equipment is the only one in the world," Natalia points to an impressively sized loom.

The height of the loom is six metres and it is eight metres wide. Craftsmen work here daily, with production of sashes being automated, the whole process being monitored down to the smallest detail.

"The raw materials are the same as those used in the past: silver-plated and gilded threads," Ms. Duboleko shows us the reels. "It's much easier to work with new modern equipment than to weave manually. But nobody can fault their attentiveness and accuracy; it's important to be very focused and not to be distracted."

Master weavers check how the threads are stretched: in total about 1,300 are wound onto the machine. Each forms a specific pattern. I watch closely and think that they are actually engaged in jewellery work. The machine is noisy, and we continue the tour.

Details are important

Three hundred years ago, only very wealthy people who came from the upper class acquired Slutsk sashes, but today a lot has changed. The wardrobe item, which used to be a sign of the noble origin of a person, has become one of our national symbols. There are opportunities to buy a sash made from cheaper raw materials: for example, instead of threads with precious metals, natural silk or metallised thread can be used. One of the largest art craft businesses in the country today has expanded its range: now not only traditional Slutsk sashes are made, but also a huge range of souvenir products.

"The unique machine where the belts are created, is also used to create cloth from which panels, toys, bookmarks, covers for keys and telephones, as well as business card holders are made," Ms. Duboleko opens the door and we find ourselves in an office that is very similar to a museum exhibition. This room

showcases hundreds of items on shelves, racks and behind glass. Unusual clothing immediately catches the eye and the specialist is quick to explain, "This is the latest development: combined clothing. In ancient times, only noblemen could afford to buy Slutsk sashes, but today everyone can buy a man's shirt like this. It's linen, but with special inserts."

She shows us the cuffs, the stand of the collar and the strap of the shirt: surprisingly, the real Slutsk sash is sewn into the clothes! What if such a wardrobe item also becomes a valuable exhibit of the museum in 100 years? A lot of the clothes are also made for women in this style. There are accessories and I pick up



Vladimir Shlapak



Vladimir Shlapak

a fashionable clutch bag, which is completely made of a piece of the Slutsk sash.

In addition to the above-mentioned items, the company produces many woven, embroidered products. They are created both on machines and manually. Ms. Duboleko daily monitors the process and product quality while also taking part in the development of new items.

Nothing is missing

Ms. Duboleko knows the production workshops and the whole range like the back of her hand. It's no wonder, as she has been working here for 33 years. She was born in Slutsk, studied in Baranovi-

chi to become a technologist, and went to work in the Russian city of Tver. The young girl was drawn back to her homeland, so she returned and got a job at RUE Slutskie Poyasa (as the company was then called — an art product factory) and stayed here. At present, she supervises the work of nearly 40 workshop employees.

"We have young girls, as well as very experienced employees. Many col-

leagues have been here for 20-30 years," Natalia tells us. "It's easy to lead, because we have professionals. Moreover, people are amazing: kind, well-mannered, and responsible. They will always come to the rescue, support, prompt and assist each other," says Natalia.

"Our Director Larisa Tarasova has created a very pleasant, friendly atmosphere in the team. She always motivates us to work, putting her soul into the cause."

After a difficult working day, Natalia has no time to relax: she looks after her vegetable garden and is fond of sewing and embroidery. She has two children and two grandchildren. "I don't have time to get bored," she laughs.

Every day is busy and her evenings are also active but, in the morning, Natalia Duboleko is always happy to go to work. She says she never intended to change her job. If she has found her vocation, why would she?



Natalia Duboleko



Nobel Prize winners for 2019 announced

The prize committees have worked carefully and independently to select the recipients of the 2019 Nobel Prize and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel

The Nobel Prize is a series of annual awards given in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace. They are awarded to people ‘who have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind’ in the previous 12 months.

Different organisations award the prize in each category every year. Five of the six are chosen in Sweden, while

the Nobel Peace Prize is selected in Norway.

Academics, university professors, scientists, previous winners and others submit nominations. Under the Nobel Foundation’s rules, the shortlists are not allowed to be published for 50 years.

The prizes are presented at ceremonies on December 10th, the anniversary of Nobel’s death, in Stockholm and Oslo.

Who are the 2019 winners?

Medicine: Sir Peter Ratcliffe, William Kaelin and Gregg Semenza;

Physics: James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz;

Chemistry: John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino;

Literature: Peter Handke (2019); Olga Tokarczuk (2018 — but awarded this year);

Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has won the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for ‘his efforts to achieve international peace and co-operation’.

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2019 was awarded jointly to Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer ‘for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty’.

Spanish university builds futuristic eco-campus

The University of Malaga has joined forces with Ecosistema Urbano, an architectural design company set to transform the campus into an environmentally-friendly space

After being awarded a public tender to begin the project in 2016, Ecosistema Urbano is planning a new ‘open and innovative campus’ for students in Malaga, to include outside classrooms. Spanning a surface area of 52 acres, the new design will bridge the Teatinos University Campus and the town, starting from the Louis Pasteur Boulevard.

With technology at the helm, the campus will be ‘digitally integrated’ allowing for a new green infrastructure suitable for students to go about everyday activities such as studying, meeting and reading. The aim is to improve the climatic comfort and connectivity within an educational setting, by building more of an interaction between the physical and digital environments.

Using technology and sensors embedded into the architecture, outdoor spaces will be able to be ‘manipulated to support both educational and playful programming’, Ecosistema Urbano describes.

Dozens arrested at Extinction Rebellion climate protests

Hundreds of Extinction Rebellion activists have been arrested as protests take place across the globe



that is required to save us.”

Australia’s Government has been criticised for its lack of action in tackling climate change but it insists that it is doing its part to reduce global carbon emissions. The country’s Home Affairs Minister, Peter Dutton, said that names and photos of Extinction Rebellion protesters should be widely distributed to ‘shame’ them.

Protests are expected to spread across dozens of cities, including Delhi and New York, in the days and weeks ahead as activists call for urgent environmental action.

Extinction Rebellion (XR for short) wants governments to declare a ‘climate and ecological emergency’ and take immediate action to address climate change. It describes itself as an international ‘non-violent civil disobedience activist movement’.

Extinction Rebellion was launched in the UK in 2018 and says it now has groups willing to take action in dozens of countries. The group uses an hourglass inside a circle as its logo to represent time running out for many species.

They have brought cities to a standstill over fears that climate change will result in the deaths of billions of people within decades. Demonstrations have taken place in countries including Germany, Spain, Austria, France and New Zealand.

Climate protesters intensified efforts to disrupt life in London, and targeted sites including Billingsgate fish market and Shell’s headquarters. They said police took at least 28 of their supporters into custody. That number means that more

than 1,200 Extinction Rebellion activists have been arrested in London since their protests, over the Government’s ‘failure’ to act over climate change.

Extinction Rebellion wants governments to take immediate and drastic action to address climate change. “We have tried petitions, lobbying and marches, and now time is running out,” Australian activist Jane Morton said. “We have no choice but to rebel until our Government declares a climate and ecological emergency and takes the action

New IMF Chief warns of ‘serious risk’ global slowdown will spread

In her first speech, Kristalina Georgieva says looming crisis requires co-ordinated response

The new Head of the International Monetary Fund has told squabbling nations to forget their differences and prepare a united response to the most serious threat to the global economy since the financial crisis a decade ago. In her first speech since becoming the IMF’s Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva said the world was in a synchronised slowdown and needed a synchronised response.

Speaking ahead of the IMF’s annual meeting in Washington, Ms. Georgieva said her organisation’s economists were expecting slower growth in nearly 90 percent of the global economy this year. “While the need for international co-operation is going up, the will to engage is going down.”

She said the use of low interest rates by central banks in an



attempt to boost activity had led to a buildup of corporate debt and that there would be a risk of a \$19tn default in the event of a major economic downturn.

“The global economy is now in a synchronised slowdown,” Ms. Georgieva said. “This widespread deceleration means that growth this year will fall to its lowest rate since the beginning of the decade.”

The IMF has become steadily more pessimistic about the health of the global economy since 2017, when it was confident that a sustained and synchronised recovery from the financial crisis was at last under way.

Ms. Georgieva said the outlook had darkened owing to a series of ‘fractures’ — trade disputes, geopolitical tensions and Brexit among them.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Mikola Bushchik's *Essence of Colour*

Personal exhibition of famous Belarusian artist Mikola Bushchik — *Essence of Colour* — opens at ArtHaos Gallery, gathering over 40 of the master's works

By Maksim Nikolaev

Mikola Bushchik was born in the Slonim District. He graduated from the Belarusian State Theatre-and-Art Institute and is a member of Belarus' Union of Artists. Mikola's paintings are kept at the State Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus, the National Centre of Contemporary Arts and many museums and private collections around the world. The master paints in oils and creates watercolours in his own inimitable style.

The philosophical subtext of his work is widely recognised. In art, the artist sees not only a reflection of the world. In his opinion, copying what the Lord has created is the mission of pupils, while man — as a son of the Creator — is capable of more: he can reflect the emotions of the surrounding world.

"I wanted to make an exhibition-idea. I believe that art should not be dominated by paintings that simply tell or show something. Pictures should get under a person's skin and appeal to their feelings. Painting is about feelings. An artist receives impressions from the Universe and turns them into colour. It's no accident that we perceive everything in colour. The latter evokes our emotions which, in turn, are reflected in colours," says the author of the ArtHaos exhibition.

His personal exhibition thus bears the title: *Essence of Colour*. With this in mind, the exposition aims to ensure better understanding of the artist's idea and the incredible possibilities of colour, even the stands in the halls are of different hues. The central part of the exhibition has bold combinations and a rhythmic alternation of warm and cold colours dominate.

According to the artist, since the mid-1990s, his works have tended to be positive. "For myself, I decided to create in a positive way and make only what contributes to the spiritual and emotional uplifting of a person," he admits.



Vitaly Pivovarchik



Another hall symbolises tenderness: in line with Mikola's definition, it's based on soft and subtle works of colour. The third hall of the exhibition features watercolours. The artist perceives this genre in art like poetry in literature: unlike prose, poetry praises the impromptu and shows the transience of time. The weightlessness and transparency of watercolours enable the artist's brush to literally fly along a sheet of paper, on the breath of instant emotions and feelings.

The Head of the Department of Contemporary Belarusian Art at Belarus' National

Art Museum, Olga Arkhipova, notes that Mr. Bushchik belongs to the generation of artists who replaced the era of socialist realism. They tell us that there is a form in art and that content can be conveyed through colour, line and composition. According to her, Mikola Bushchik's artistry is all about the love of life. It has delight in the world in which we live. "The titles of the works presented at the exhibition make us think that we've come to an exposition of landscapes. To a certain extent, this is true. There is inspiration from the

world we live in. According to Mr. Bushchik, it is Belarusian nature that has such an incredible colour. It's impossible to disagree with this very unusual perception of the world and the Belarusian landscape," she said.

Artist Vasily Kostyuchenko has come to congratulate his colleague on another personal exhibition. He shared his impressions of his friend's work, "Not everything we see is real. Apart from seeing, we also feel.

The world is a mix of heat and cold. Mikola Bushchik's work captures all this and more. His great love of life and the land pushes him to these feelings and their depiction in pictures." This is the deep lyricism of Mikola Bushchik's creativity.



Aleksandr Shulgach

Former patient Valery Dobrinets and Dr. Leonid Kirkovsky

‘Pass’ to a new life

A tournament where there are no losers: Brest has hosted the unusual futsal competitions, with Belarusian transplant surgeons joining their colleagues from Russia, Ukraine and Poland to play with former patients who have undergone organ transplants

By Aleksandr Mityukov

Never give up!

About half an hour before the start of the tournament, the teams were warming up in the hall of the Victoria Sports Palace, with fans unfurling flags and banners, and the panel of judges deciding on the sequence of matches. Rostislav Lavrinyuk, who heads the Department for Co-ordinating the Collection of Organs and Tissues for Transplantation in Brest Regional Hospital, took off his formal business suit and put on his sports kit, “Transplantation is an opportunity to start a new life, find a good job, give birth to children, and do what you enjoy as well as do sport. The motto of the people who came to the competition today is ‘to live without giving up’.”

The tournament was held in two stages: according to the FIFA futsal rules. The teams were divided into two groups and played two halves of 10 minutes each. The winners met in the match for the first or second place. This year, six teams took to the field. Belarus was represented by doctors from the Minsk Research and Practical Centre for Surgery, Transplantation and Haematology and Brest doctors, as well as a team of patients from different regions of the country. Every player who once received a ticket to a new life has their own story.

“I underwent transplantation in November 2012,” says Valery Dobrinets, one of the oldest players among the former patients, warming up on a par with the doctors. “I used to think that I would run until I was a hundred years old, but the disease decided otherwise. From 2009, I was on haemodialysis, and spent every other day in hospital...”

A kidney transplant gave Valery a second birthday. Today he is 71 years old, and there is a place for travelling, dancing, amateur sports and volunteering in his life nowadays. Valery Dobrinets is one of the active participants in the socio-educational institution Donation. Dialysis. Transplantation which brought together people who have undergone organ transplants.

In accordance with the rules of the tournament, male teams of 5 players aged over 18 — donors, family members of donors, patients of organs and tissue transplants and those undergoing dialysis, as well as doctors and medical personnel involved in treatment and rehabilitation — had the opportunity to appear on the field.

The Deputy Director of the Minsk Research and Practical Centre for Surgery, Transplantation and Haematology, Leonid Kirkovsky gives in to a potential opponent, who will enter the field in a couple of minutes. He says that former patients are no longer perceived as sick even by the doctors themselves, “Transplantation not only saves people’s life. The point is that they subsequently

cease to be people with disabilities. Of course, the operation is not easy, but if everything goes well and, most importantly, patients are motivated to live a full life, then everything works out for them. These are completely different people. The current competitions are an example of this.”

Sport and family — great motivation

The first to enter the field were transplantologists from Brest and their Polish



Aleksandr Mityukov

Andrey Vasilchuk and his children Anastasia and Vlad

colleagues. The two halves of the game flew past, with Brest residents leaving the arena with a 4:0 victory. The teams of Ukraine and the Minsk Research and Practical Centre for Surgery, Transplantation and Haematology were next to play. Kiev’s Andrey Tsipko underwent a kidney transplant operation in Brest last year. He got into these competitions thanks to the National Movement for Transplantation organisation, “I did the first operation in Ukraine, my mother was a donor, but rejection started. According to our laws, organ transplantation can only be done from a living donor. Therefore, I sent a request to Brest. They contacted me. On October 3rd, 2018, I left after a successful operation. Now, of course, I still do not feel 100 percent normal, as there are certain restrictions. I can’t run for a full ten minutes, but I will change over and we have a large friendly team.”

Families came to support amateur football players. Daughter Anastasia and son Vlad came to support a 37 year old gas station owner, Andrey Vasilchuk. During the break, Andrey says that sport and family are great motivation for life, “I was

diagnosed with nephritis during a medical examination before going into the army. At one time I worked as a storekeeper at a dairy company’s refrigerator compartment, where butter and cheese were stored. I had to undergo dialysis, but even so, I didn’t give up sport. I live for football: my children will not let me stop. Another life began for me with a transplanted kidney and I now spend more time with my family.”

The squads from Poland and the Belarusian team of former patients faced

each other in the next match. And once again the guests from abroad were not lucky... A kick, a pass, a high ball... It would seem that the ball was about to fly into the Belarusians’ net, but number 10 held back the attack with lightning speed: midfielder Nikolay Gromishuk. It’s hard to believe, the player recalls that, a decade ago, he gave himself no more than a year of life, “Hepatitis, cirrhosis... I survived 14 episodes of bleeding. In 2009, I had to apply for doctor’s help. Two years of postoperative rehabilitation — and now, you see I’m running, even though I’ve already retired.”

According to the results of the two-day competitions, first place was taken by the national team of Brest doctors, followed by the squad from Minsk Research and Practical Centre for Surgery, Transplantation and Haematology. A team of patients from Russia took third place, while a team of Belarusian patients finished fourth. The fifth and sixth places were shared by Ukrainians and Poles. The champions received an original handmade cup manufactured at the Neman Glassworks. However, fans and judges agreed that, despite the results, the professionalism of the doctors and the will for life of their former patients is the real win in these competitions.



Aleksandr Shulgach

Rostislav Lavrinyuk is ready to take off his formal business suit and put on a sports kit



Aleksandr Mityukov



Raubichi heading for modernisation

In 2022, Raubichi will be hosting the seventh stage of the Biathlon World Cup, which will be attended by the strongest shooting skiers in the world after the Beijing Olympic Games. The previous day, the President had signed a decree on improving the infrastructure of the Republican Centre for Olympic Training in Winter Sports. Modernisation will be completed in 2021. What will change in the country's main biathlon complex?

By Tatiana Pastushenko

The global reconstruction of Raubichi was recently completed in 2014. Engineering networks were replaced in the sports complex, and new facilities were put into operation, e.g. a judiciary pavilion equipped with the latest technology. The country's major biathlon facility acquired a set of waxing booths, where technicians prepare skis for races, as well as stands for 4,000 seats. Moreover, team locker rooms were set up while a 7.5km ski-roller track was reconstructed and expanded. According to Aleksandr Gagiev, the Director of the Raubichi Republican Centre for Olympic Winter Sports Training, the current modernisation will begin in November and won't be on such a large-scale, but, nevertheless, very necessary. First of all, they will deal with the hotel and the clearing of the upper reservoir located on the site of the complex.

"We plan to begin the reconstruction of the hotel in November," says Mr. Gagiev. "Soon we'll begin to clear the upper part of the reservoir. It is very

misty, and the pumps that carry the water to put snow on the track are clogged with sand and silt. We will clean it so that it has an appropriate volume of water. Works must be carried out in winter, when the water reservoir freezes."

This is not all they plan to modernise at Raubichi by 2022. Documentation is being prepared to improve the snowmaking system of the complex. Previously, snow was collected in one place, and then it was transported by cars along the highway; however, after the implementation of the project, everything will change: snow cannons will be put on the highway, and the snow will be collected along its entire length: it will just need to be laid and levelled. This will simplify the task and reduce the cost of snowmaking.

A lot needs to be done to hold the World Cup, to increase the number of seats, for example. Mr. Gagiev says that they do not plan to build fixed stands, as they will install mobile structures in the complex, "It's better to be able to regulate the capacity of the stands, given the scale of the event, than to build them perma-

nently. The World Cup stage in Raubichi will take place in 2022, but for now there are enough seats for spectators at the stadium. If necessary, we will use the side stands, as is done all over the world nowadays. In Czech Nové Město, for example, high structures are installed, consisting of about 30 steps; it takes about a month to assemble such a platform, but then it can be disassembled. Tickets there are sold not only to the stadium, but also to the track, where stands for 1,000-1,500 seats are also installed, and in front of them there is a large monitor. The audience is close to the athletes, but at the same time they can follow what is happening at the shooting range and the stadium. The site in Raubichi allows us to equip places like this for the fans, and here — when we do water distribution — we will determine the sites for installing the monitor and the stands. In addition, standing places for spectators will be allocated on the track.

Next March, the final stage of the IBU Cup will be held in Raubichi. The International Biathlon Union needs to check how we are able to organise the IBU Cup stage on the eve of the World Cup stage. Modernisation at Raubichi should not interfere with the competition. Although we do not exclude the possibility that, by the end of February and the beginning of March, the reconstruction of the hotel and the clearing of the upper reservoir will be completed."

Bronze medal captured at world boxing forum

By Arina Novikova

Belarusian athlete Yekaterina Kovaleva wins bronze at Women's World Boxing Championships held in Russian Ulan-Ude



Yekaterina Kovaleva (weight category over 81kg) — in the fight for the final stage of the competition — lost to an athlete from the United States, Danielle Perkins, to be placed third. This is the best result for a Belarusian athlete at the world women's forum.

227 athletes from 57 countries took part in competitions for 10 sets of medals. These were produced at the artistic workshop of the Buryat sculptor, Zhigzhit Bayaskhalanov. They are square in shape, symbolising the boxing ring. Lake Baikal is depicted on one side.

The World Championships are a pre-Olympic event but, due to disagreements between the International Boxing Association and the International Olympic Committee during the tournament, no qualifying places were given for the Olympics in Tokyo.

Logo for 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship

By Irina Sergeeva

Organisers present logo of 2020 IIHF U20 World Junior Championship (A1 Division) — to be held in Minsk from 9th-15th December



Andrey Shnitulenko has designed the logo; he is well-known for his collaboration with sports brands. As reported, in creating the logo concept, the organising committee sought to reveal the historical and cultural heritage of Belarus and reflect the dynamics and energy of modern hockey.

The folk Belarusian folk ornament-talisman — the 'eight-horn' — is the basis of the logo, symbolising strength, courage and health. All these features describe our younger generation of hockey players well. The traditional ornament also features the essential hockey attributes: crossed sticks and a puck.

Impetus for chess development

By Olga Korneeva

Renewed FIDE Chess School opens in Minsk



FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich and the nine-time winner of chess Olympiads, grandmaster Maia Chiburdanidze, have come to Minsk for the grand opening of a Belarusian school licensed by the International Chess Federation (FIDE). The ceremony was also attended by the Deputy Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee, Artem Tsuran, and the Chair of the Belarusian Chess Federation, Anastasia Sorokina.

Mr. Dvorkovich expressed the hope that the school will teach more than one generation of great chess players. "Belarus is a country with a good chess tradition. Importantly, owing to this school, there will be an impetus for further development," he said.

ARENA

Belarus trampolinists capture gold and bronze at 2019 FIG Trampoline World Cup in Spanish Valladolid



The competitions were qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics and gathered more than 300 athletes from 37 countries. Vladislav

Goncharov scored a total of 61,445 points to clinch gold in the individual event. Gao Lei of China finished second. Ivan Litvinovich and Nikita Fomchenko secured the synchronised bronze in their World Cup; the latter debuted in Spain. The Belarusians scored a total of 50,390 points to finish behind Canada and Japan.

Seven international sports federations sign agreement with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)



The document has been signed by the International Triathlon Union (ITU), the International Ski Federation (FIS), the International Archery Federation (WA), the International Rowing Federation (FISA), the International Shooting Federation (ISSF), the International Luge Federation (FIL) and the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF). According to the document, the division will investigate anti-doping rule violations in these international organisations.

The CAS anti-doping division was established to review and decide on anti-doping cases. It has delegated authority from the International Olympic Committee and international federations and its decisions are applied in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

Belarusian athletes placed 15th in points at 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships in Doha



The Belarusian athletic team won no medals but earned 25 points, occupying a good position in the points ranking. High jumper Maksim Nedosekov was placed fourth. Marathoner Olga Mazurenok and long jumper Anastasia Mironchik-Ivanova finished fifth. High jumper Karina Demidik, shot-putter Alena Dubitskaya and javelin thrower Tatiana Kholodovich took sixth positions. Pole vaulter Irina Zhuk was placed seventh and hammer thrower Gleb Dudarev was eighth. The top three countries at the competitions were the United States (14 gold, 11 silver and four bronze medals), Kenya (5-2-4), and Jamaica (3-5-3).

Race of the week



Belarus Kart Racing Cup and the DOSAAF Kart Racing Cup held at the Borovaya Karting Track, with participants competing in different categories

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marks Street
Until 17th October. *Old and New: 18th Century Russian Jewellery Art*

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

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

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 17th October. *City and Time*
Until 7th November. *September 17th 1939: You Are From Western and I'm From Eastern Belarus*
Until 10th November. *Doll Stories*
Until 15th November. *Constellation of Images*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 19th October. *Space of Sculpture*
Until 19th October. *Limitless Possibilities*
Until 19th October. *Awakened Angel of Valery Deviskib*
Until 26th October. *Lithuania. 999.9*
Until 10th November. *Presence*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

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

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlov Street
Until 27th October. *Fashionable Vernissage*

MAXIM BOGDANOVICH LITERARY MUSEUM

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

MINSK CITY HALL

2A Svobody Square
Until 3rd November. *Minsk Images*

TROITSKY SUBURB

7A Bogdanovich Street
Until 12th March. *Robo Art*

ZAIR AZGUR MUSEUM-WORKSHOP

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

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 21st November. *Not Only Banksy: street art from private collections*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 19th January. *Lady's Articles*

VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 8th November. *Essays from the Past*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommunny Square
17.10. Corsair
18.10. Autographs and Images. Maya Plisetskaya. Devotion
19.10. Orr and Ora / Night of Old Romance
20.10. Masterpieces of European Music: Sven Helbig
22.10. Tsar's Bride
23.10. Chopeniana. Six Dances. Bolero
24.10. Figaro's Wedding

MAXIM GORKY THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
18.10. Oscar and Pink Lady
20.10. Lady for a Day
23.10. Dangerous Ties

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street
17.10. Prudok Radio / Inspector
18.10. Jeweller's Jubilee / Shabany
19 and 20.10. Zavalnya Nobleman, or Belarus in Fantastic Stories
20.10. Local Cabaret
22.10. Evening
23.10. Elza's Land / Pinsk Gentry
24.10. Two Souls

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street
17.10. Medea's Syndrome
18.10. Mad Woman
19.10. When There Is No Tomorrow
20.10. Gender Tricks
22.10. Hunting for Self
23.10. Portrait
24.10. Chernobyl Prayer

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

33 Mashеров Avenue
17.10. Abduction of Yelena
18.10. Midnight Robbery
19.10. Who Laughs Last
20.10. Very Simple Story
22.10. Unnamed Star
23.10. Jubilee, Proposal
24.10. Forgetting Herostratos!

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
17.10. Mothers
19.10. Corporate
23.10. Featherhead

MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
17.10. I Want Your Husband
18.10. All Autumn Colours concert
19.10. Tristan and Isolda
20.10. Gypsy Baron
22.10. A Letter to a Stranger
23.10. Comedy
24.10. A Glass of Water

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
17.10. A Man from Podolsk / Tectonics of Feelings
18.10. Dear Pamela
19.10. Love of Three / Lesson of Love. Kosciuszko's Story
20.10. Sanya, Vanya and Rimas
22.10. Warsaw Melody
23.10. About Fedot-Archer
24.10. Vanyushin's Children