



K. Kiselev, Byelorussian Minister for Foreign Affairs signs United Nations Charter. 26 June 1945, San Francisco, United States

70 years since Belarus became one of the UN's founding members



Strong
UN.
Better
World.

The United Nations was established by the Charter of the United Nations and Statute of the International Court of Justice. The Charter was signed on 26th June 1945 by the representatives of 50 countries, including Belarus (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic at that time). There were 51 founding members in 1945.

In accordance with Article 110, the Charter entered into force on 24th October 1945, after ratification by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of the other countries.

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CEC of Belarus finalises results of Presidential elections

The final results of Belarus' Presidential elections confirm that Alexander Lukashenko has been elected to the post, supported by 5,102,478 votes (83.5 percent), accounting for over half the citizens of the Republic who took part in the voting

According to the CEC data, as many as 201,945 voters (3.3 percent) voted in favour of Sergei Gaidukevich. Tatiana Korotkevich won 271,426 votes (4.4 percent) while Nikolai Ulakhovich polled 102,131 (1.7 percent).

386,225 voters didn't support any of the candidates and 48,808 (0.8 percent) of voting papers were acknowledged as invalid.

"7,008,682 people were on the electoral register in the Republic of Belarus, and 6,115,690 people received voting papers. "In line with part three of article 79 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, the elections were recognised as valid, since 6,113,013 voters took part in the election, accounting for 87.2 percent of the total number of voters," noted the Central Election Commission.



During the session

"In line with article 82 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and article 79 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda specifies the following: firstly, to recognise the Presidential elections as valid; and secondly — to recognise Alexander Lukashenko as being elected to the position of the President of the Republic of Belarus,"

stated the Secretary of the Central Election Commission, Nikolai Lozovik, after announcing the final results of the elections.

Chair of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Belarus, Lidia Yermoshina, was unable to specify when the president will be inaugurated. She explained that the relevant division of the Belarus' Presidential Administration will take care of the issue.

Useful dialogue surely promises real progress

Minsk hosts Austrian-Belarusian-Russian Business Forum

By Denis Krymov

This is a significant event both for business circles of the three countries and in the context of economic interaction between the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union. During the meeting with the heads of the Austrian delegation — the First Deputy Chairman of the National Council of the Parliament of Austria (the Lower Chamber), Karlheinz Kopf and the President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Christoph Leitl — Alexander Lukashenko proposed a new stage in bilateral relations. The initiative received great encouragement from the officials at the meeting.

Out of all the Western European states, we're proud to share an equal dialogue with Austria, in which business prevails over politics. Mr. Lukashenko believes that it's no coincidence that, at the current stage, when our relationship with the EU and its separate countries is undergoing a time of change, good partnership events are taking place in Minsk. "On the one hand, there are representatives of the Eurasian Economic Union while on the other, there is the European Union in the form of Austria... A new stage in my life and the life of the society is likely to begin," the President noted.

The President shared his opinion that, at the start of his first presidential term, he had held the opinion that the West had somehow distributed its roles in the post-Soviet space and Belarus received Austria. In this context the Austria-Belarus relationship has been rather successful. Technological



Austria is active investor into Belarusian economy

DIRECT SPEECH

Christoph LEITL, President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber:

The role of Belarus is an intermediary one, a bridge between the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union, between these large integration associations, aiming to create stable conditions for the functioning of economies while facilitating rapprochement between the EU and EAEU.

and investment exchange is very efficient. Yes, at present, our foreign trade balance with Austria is negative but out of \$300m of annual average imports from this country, the lion's share is accounted for by investment import, i.e. technologies for the organisation of contemporary high-tech productions. The sphere of mutual interests is wood processing, the chemical industry, the production of construction materials and road infrastructure. The current forum is attended by world famous companies, specialising in the pro-

DIRECT SPEECH

Alexander NAKHAENKO, First Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

Thoughts that elections in Belarus are tiresome have no grounds. Everything is calm. Such a calm campaign indicates a stable society. It's great that we haven't seen any fighting or confrontation. I've been closely following the election campaign and appreciate the calm tone of candidates' speeches, as well as their well-thought-out ideas. This constructive approach shows a high organisational level and a sense of personal responsibility for the peace and stability of Belarus.

cessing of meat and dairy produce, traditional power engineering and bio-energetics, metallurgy and medical technologies. We do have contemporary developments in all the above-mentioned spheres but even greater prospects are opening up.

"We need to open a new chapter and build on our existing co-operation," proposed the President. "The only proviso is that those who come here should treat us as they would work in Austria. We'll be protecting you in the same way as we do with our Belarusian companies. We'll be doing everything to make you feel comfortable here. The same attitude towards our state and our people should be seen from Austrian businesses."

Mr. Kopf agreed, affirming, "I believe our meeting is a fortuitous combination of circumstances." The Austrian parliamentarian believes that we're on the threshold of a new stage in collaboration. He told the President, "You've achieved a convincing victory in the Presidential elections. The EU has made the first step towards the abolition of sanctions. I'm convinced that other measures will soon follow and a new stage will begin in our relations." Mr. Kopf admitted that he is pleased with the fact that Austria has traditionally played an important role in establishing contacts between Belarus and the EU in eliminating tension, "In this respect we've made a definite contribution and are pleased with it."

Co-operation praised in election monitoring

By Maxim Osipov

The Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda is satisfied with the preliminary conclusions of the OSCE election observation mission, presented in Minsk, CEC Chair Lidia Yermoshina tells journalists

The CEC Chair has met with the leadership of the OSCE observation mission in connection with concluding the work of the monitoring group. Ms. Yermoshina notes, "Firstly, I'd like to mention that over the years of international monitoring by the OSCE mission in our country it's the first time that we've received a report which contains conclusions and lists not only negatives, but which also identifies many positives. As the Head of the Long-term OSCE Observers Mission, Mr. Faure said, this report is like mosaic. The findings indicate many good things and we need to be proud of this: the situation in the country on the eve of the elections, the openness and benevolence of all the members of the electoral commissions and their collaboration with mission members."

The wonderful work of the mass media was also noted, which provided candidates for the Presidential post an opportunity to conduct pre-election campaigns without any censorship. It was also noted that campaigns were given every possible assistance from the local authorities. According to Ms. Yermoshina, the OSCE preliminary findings read that the voting process at 95 percent of polling stations was assessed as 'very good'.

"I'd like to emphasise that this is a very high assessment of the standards of the voting procedure. There were shortcomings related to the transparency and clarity of the work of district electoral commissions during the vote count. Nevertheless, the number of cases where members of the mission made comment decreased in comparison with the 2012 parliamentary elections. In this respect I'd like to stress that members of the OSCE election observation mission did their best to work objectively and the organisers of the Presidential elections also put every effort locally into making the electoral process open and the vote counting procedure honest. The observers have made their conclusions and I can say that the Central Election Commission is pleased with the conclusion presented by the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe," noted Ms. Yermoshina.

The CEC also believes that the OSCE mission's preliminary conclusion contains fewer references to anonymous sources and more positive points for development. Moreover, during the meeting, the parties shared opinions on the observation process and the elections themselves, and outlined the prospects for future co-operation. The CEC Chair thanked the mission and its leadership for their attempt to see the events that take place in our country in an unbiased way.

CIS and EAEU summits confirm aspirations for integration

Burabay in Kazakhstan's Akmola Region hosts two large international forums. Initially, the CIS presidents met to discuss and make decisions on a wide range of issues. Following this, the presidents of Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan conducted the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council and in-between the sessions Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin chatted in informal bilateral talks.

By Vasily Kharitonov

The CIS Summit began warmly with Alexander Lukashenko awarding the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Order of Friendship of the Peoples. This Belarusian award is bestowed for significant personal contribution towards the establishment and development of friendly relations and strategic partnership between the states. Mr. Lukashenko praised the efforts of his Kazakh colleague in promoting integration, "He is the person who has done most for the establishment of the CIS. He initiated the establishment of the **Eurasian Economic Union**. This facilitates the strengthening of friendship between nations while also improving the lives of people in our countries."

On behalf of the CIS heads, Mr. Nazarbayev, who welcomed the summit, congratulated Mr. Lukashenko on his convincing victory during the Presidential elections. Mr. Lukashenko commented that the campaign wasn't easy and it was very important to see how Belarusians would vote with such strong external influences and close attention from western observers. "We were trying to restore relations with the European Union — one of our major economic partners. After the elections, the issue was raised of what would be the next step. They had to acknowledge that the election in Belarus was held in compliance with the standards we don't even have, yet the UN, OSCE, PACE and other organisations regularly demand them from us. Openness in politics is the quickest way towards mutual understanding and Belarus has always adhered to this principle. Mr. Lukashenko reminded us that; "The CIS should start discussing serious problems in the post-Soviet space and encourage those who are responsible for their resolution as much as possible. Without it our co-operation will fade away."

The President of Belarus believes



Participants of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council session pleased with the results of the meeting

that the Commonwealth should play a greater role in the region and enhance its status on the world stage.

A large part of the summit agenda was dedicated to the issues of security. The situation along the perimeter of the CIS borders, in Ukraine, Syria, and Afghanistan don't allow us to be complacent. Clear and definite measures are needed to neutralize external threats. In particular, Mr. Putin noted clear progress in the co-ordination of international efforts in counteracting terrorism in Syria. However, it's unlikely that the problem will be resolved. The statistics are not encouraging, since the 1990s, the number of extremist organisations has tripled worldwide, exceeding 150,000 people. It refers not only to quantitative growth. Organisational forms of terrorism are also developing, represented by branched transnational companies. According to various assessments, between 5 and

7,000 CIS residents are fighting for the Islamic State terrorist group. We can't allow them to return to their homeland and continue their activities, so the presidents have agreed to use the potential of the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre to the utmost.

The heads of state have also approved a programme of co-operation to reinforcing border security and continue military co-operation until 2020. They made a statement regarding the 70th anniversary of the estab-

lishment of the UN and approved the address of the 30th anniversary since the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster. This document has been developed upon Belarus' initiative and can be used as a basis for the UN General Assembly's new resolution, calling on the world community to continue co-operation in overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

In 2016, Kyrgyzstan will take over the presidency of the CIS and

WORD-FOR-WORD

Alexander Lukashenko:

The CIS is very important as a negotiating tool and it shouldn't be destroyed in any way. However, we need to ensure that this structure is authoritative and popular when we'll be deciding major and controversial issues. Take the Karabakh conflict, Transnistria, the conflict in Ukraine, for example, we should not shy away from these issues.

Sometimes it appears that we have become used to expecting that the Americans, the EU or someone else will tell us how to solve the problem or will solve it instead of us. We now need to realise that the CIS must make adjustments to address current situations ourselves. Let's make steps in this direction.

Real co-operation brings benefits to everyone

By Alexander Pimenov

Europe begins to understand that Belarus is a donor of stability and security, believes Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei

"Europe begins to understand that Belarus isn't a trouble-maker in the region; on the contrary, it's a donor of stability and security. Together with Europeans we're working on addressing joint chal-

lenges such as illegal migration, drug trafficking and international crime," notes Mr. Makei.

The Minister added that Belarus also secures safe and reliable transit of energy resources. "We do a lot more in order to ensure peaceful development of the European continent."

According to the Foreign Minister, Belarus always takes note of the statements made by its partners but always looks at concrete

moves. "Such statements are a positive fact," the diplomat is confident.

Mr. Makei paid attention that the history of Belarus' relations with EU countries show that sanctions have never led to success. "We are interested in a prompt lifting of sanctions. This is in the interests of both Belarus and the whole Europe: the presence of normal trade-economic, political, humanitarian and other relations," he said.

Positive interest of Europe and Belarus

Belarus has turned into a stable bridge between the EU and EAEU, notes Doctor of Political Science and Professor at the University of Kent, Richard Sakwa (UK), on Belarus 1 TV Channel

"We all see how the titanic plates of the European and Eurasian economic unions are getting apart. Nevertheless, Belarus has not become a new division line. On the contrary, it has become a stable bridge between the two unions. Hence the positive

the next session of the CIS Heads of State Council will take place in Bishkek on September 16th, 2016 — a jubilee event, marking the 25th anniversary of the CIS.

As part of the summit, Mr. Lukashenko also met Vladimir Putin. The collaboration between Belarus and Russia in the format of the Union State remains the most successful and advanced integration project in the post-Soviet space. Mr. Lukashenko proposed to consider decisions regarding the most important issues during the Supreme State Council session or during his visit to Moscow.

The Supreme Eurasian Economic Council followed the CIS Heads of State Summit, with the presidents of Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan speaking about the prospects for development of the Eurasian Economic Union. Bishkek has joined the Eurasian Economic Union recently, this summer, so special attention was paid to the newcomer.

Not all issues connected with the movement of goods through the border have been solved, but this is being worked on. Mr. Lukashenko assured Kyrgyzstan that it wouldn't regret joining the EAEU. The Supreme Eurasian Economic Council session adopted a package of documents to implement the norms, undertaken by Kazakhstan in regard to its membership of the WTO, into the EAEU norms. On the one hand, these documents outline the obligations undertaken by Kazakhstan to the market of this country. On the other hand, they neutralise any possible damage to its union partners.

After the summit, the presidents signed documents determining the procedures of EAEU interaction with third countries. It was decided to begin official negotiations with Israel to sign an agreement on a free trade zone. The next session of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council will be held in December in Moscow.

interest of Europe towards Belarus," Richard Sakwa believes.

According to the political scientist, 'over the past couple of years, Belarus has become one of the main mediators between the west and the east in Europe while the image of Alexander Lukashenko has made an amazing transformation from 'Europe's last dictator' into a political figure promoting the Ukrainian peaceful settlement'. "And if the former is a propaganda cliché, the latter one is a political reality," states the expert.



Construction of the Belarusian nuclear power station in line with strict schedule

Nuclear power station of the future: welcome to Ostrovets

Our reporter visits Ostrovets, in Grodno Region, to learn how the Belarusian nuclear power station is being built

By Dmitry Neratov

Opponents scaremonger with tales of Fukushima

Several years ago, Ostrovets was no more than a small settlement; now, it's burgeoning into a bustling town. Its emblem features an oak, symbolising longevity and glory, with a huge trout beneath — standing for fertility, the realisation of dreams and justice.

Touring the power station's information centre, I was surprised to see a cinema. Staff from the future nuclear power station have also rented space within Ostrovets cultural and concert hall, to organise events, including film showings. Posters are everywhere. Meanwhile, there's a huge map with red LED lights highlighting all the sites where nuclear power stations operate.

"Eight thousand people have already visited the centre," I'm told. "They've all discovered how modern our project is, and that all processes are under strict control. However, our opponents haven't been idle, trying to create panic by putting up posters about 'Fukushima', frightening elderly people that their villages will be destroyed, fields flooded and cows killed. We've had to

CHOOSING A VENUE

The IAEA helped select the site for the nuclear power station, after undertaking inspections. The National Academy of Sciences named over 70 potential sites and, in 2008, Ostrovets was chosen. Criteria were tough, with 20th century records analysed. In 1908, an earthquake was registered in the Ostrovets District but, although we cannot know its intensity for certain, it's thought that any earthquake in Belarus is unlikely to be of more than 4.5 magnitude. The nuclear power station would easily withstand such a quake, as its reactor, steam plant and other equipment have shock-absorbers.

visit villages independently, to talk to local residents."

Number of residents tripling

Life is in full swing in Ostrovets. New houses are being built, with those involved in the construction process



General Director of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant enterprise Mikhail Filimonov

provided with accommodation: engineers and ordinary workers. The General Director of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant enterprise, Mikhail Filimonov, took us to the kindergarten at midday, while the children were sleeping. I could not but smile. I pondered that, since the project is to run for 60 years, it's quite possible that some of the children sleeping would one day work at the new power station.

Mr. Filimonov replied that it seems very likely, and that the site may also operate much longer, as has been known elsewhere. This win-

ter, a school opened in Ostrovets and, by 2020, the town's population should have tripled, to reach 35,000. Local authorities are now planning facilities to supplement the existing clubs, school, hospital and kindergartens.

Focus on endurance

Entry to the site is by special permission only. Once inside, you can see production and supplementary blocks, a canteen, administrative build-

TO THE POINT

Alexander LUKASHENKO:

The best nuclear power station worldwide is being built. Both Russia and Belarus wish to demonstrate how nuclear power stations of the future should appear. It will employ primarily Belarusians: our people, with invited key specialists the exception. We're inviting those from abroad during construction, mostly from Russia, as this is an example of a Russian station.

In training Belarusians, we need to be guided by Russian experience — which is advanced and truly perfect. Our higher educational establishments train specialists but are failing to prepare post-graduate students. We lack such experts, having very few. With this in mind, we should keep training specialists in Russia.

ings, workshops to assemble equipment and buildings where the first and second reactors will be managed. Most of the equipment has been produced in Russia, Belarus and third countries.

"The quality is under strict control, as the reinforced shell of the reactor must be able to withstand a plane crash (of 20 tonnes and at a speed of 100 metres per second)," underlines Belarus' Deputy Energy Minister, Mikhail Mikhadyuk.

Over 4,000 people are currently working at the site and, next year, many more will come — totalling around 8,000. The Belarusian nuclear power station is being

built under the Russian new-generation AES-2006 project (three plus); its system is unique in being automated, even during a 'power cut'. The first reactor is to be launched in 2018 and the second in 2020: each with nominal output of 1,194 Megawatts.

Everything is on schedule at present, with equipment being installed gradually. Later, the most complicated stage will begin: commissioning tests. As foreign experience shows, pitfalls emerge usually at this stage. However, Mr. Mikhadyuk believes that no delays are likely. "The station must come into operation in conformity with our set deadlines," he asserts.

330 tonnes on the way

By Alexander Pimenov

Reactor case for first energy block dispatched to Belarusian nuclear power station

The Volgodonsk branch of the AEM-technology Atomash has shipped the case reactor for the first energy block of the Belarusian nu-

clear power station. After dispatch to Tsimlyanskoe water reservoir, by specialised automobile machinery, it will later travel to Veliky Novgorod by river, and then on to Ostrovets by rail.

Atomash has produced equipment for the Novy Voronezh, Rostov and Belarusian power stations and, in future, is to supply

stations in Turkey's Akkuyu and India's Kudankulam.

The case weighs over 330 tonnes, is 13m tall and has a diameter of 4.5m. The reactor is a vertical cylinder, with an elliptic base, holding an active zone and inter-case devices. Its walls are 200-400mm thick, and allow the reactor to be hermetically covered, with mechanisms and regulation boards at



Dispatch of the reactor case for Belarusian NPP

the top, in addition to leverages for reactor protection and nipples for inter-reactor control cables.

AEM-technology is producing over 50 types of equipment for the Belarusian nuclear power station,

including devices for molten mass localisation, reactor facilities, sets of foam generators, and major circulation pipelines. Between 2013 and 2017, over 4,000 tonnes of equipment will be produced and shipped.

High technologies obviously meet contemporary standards

Over a thousand specialists have come to Minsk from around the globe, to discuss the development of new technical standards and regulations in the field of electrical engineering, and to share their experience. Around a dozen thematic events were held as part of the International Electrotechnical Commission's General Assembly.

By Vladimir Khromov

The event was truly of high status. The previous three sessions of the International Electrotechnical Commission were held in Tokyo, New Delhi and Oslo. After Minsk (in 2016), Berlin will take the baton.

The Commission notes that its general assemblies are usually held either in states with developed high-tech industry or in the most promising regions of the planet. Belarus belongs to the second category: our potential for electrical engineering arouses little doubt worldwide. Our country has definite advantages, including well-developed infrastructure, and a high level of education.

In his welcoming speech, Prime Minister Andrei Kobayakov noted that Belarus' membership of international standardisation organisations has helped form a considered technical policy for the state, reducing expenses and simplifying international trade.

The International Electrotechnical Commission was established almost 110 years ago. In 1905, American St. Louis hosted a World Fair, where delegates discussed the necessity of cooperating via technical communities. There were few common terms for electrotechnical devices, so the need for a common language was obvious, as was the need to standardise some technologies. To promote global progress, it's invaluable for companies and inventors to use the same definitions, and to ensure that technologies are compatible.

The International Electrotechnical Commission is influential, comprising 83 member states, including Belarus. Our country joined in 1993 and boasts



At the International Electrotechnical Commission session in Minsk

224 technical experts and 54 organisations within its 92 committees and subcommittees. Recently, experts discussed issues of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources, while planning absolutely new electrical lighting devices. Thinking about machinery which consumes and generates electricity, they also looked at technologies being used in ordinary white goods: washing and dishwashing machines, vacuum cleaners and kitchen devices.

The Chairman of the State Committee for Standardisation, Victor Nazarenko, comments, "Experts and specialists gathered in Minsk to find an answer to the key question: what is coming tomorrow? Speaking of the International Electrotechnical Commission's modern tasks, one of its heads recently noted that enterprises are always

MT REFERENCE:

The International Electrotechnical Commission is a non-commercial organisation guiding standardisation in the field of electric, electronic and related technologies. It comprises representatives of national standardisation services and was established in 1906. At present, the Commission unites over 76 states. Initially, it was located in London but, in 1948, its headquarters moved to Geneva. The organisation has regional centres in Singapore, San Paolo and Boston. Its membership is open only to acknowledged organisations of national standards.

in competition with rivals, so finding norms of usage is vital in planning the way forward."

Mr. Nazarenko underlines that Belarus is focused on sales abroad and so must meet technical standards. Similar-



Electrotechnical Commission's General Secretary, agrees, saying, "It's vital for your experts to actively contribute to discussions and become involved at the same level as international specialists. Only in this way can you contribute to setting standards suitable for your enterprises, which will result in export growth."

Some time ago, the Commission compared the importance of the international standard system with the importance of the air that we breathe: we take it for granted until its absence! Since the organisation's establishment in 1906, it has developed over 3,000 standards: on final produce; in the field of terminology; on methods of electrical device testing; on electronic components; and within other spheres. Its standards are only recommendations but they define the lower end of technical demands: a level which must be passed to ensure a place on the world market.

The Commission unites 166 states: 83 of them — including Belarus — are members, while others are observers. 98 percent of the global population lives within their territories and their facilities produce 96 percent of world electricity. With this in mind, the General Assembly offers a true advantage: improving Belarus' image internationally.

Mr. Nazarenko notes, "In the past, Belarus offered to host the General Assembly's session. The International Electrotechnical Commission's heads have assured our Government that they will do everything possible to promote our country. As a result, experts always mention Belarus, its industry and investment attractiveness, saying that we are a reliable partner."

ly, it must ensure that it takes part in setting these standards, so that its industries have a fair chance of complying. To do otherwise would be to lose sales markets and reduce export geography.

Frans Vreeswijk, the International

Putting vehicles on forty-four wheels

Belarusian machinery definitely sparks special interest at RAE-2015

By Andrey Pechkin

The Exhibition of Arms, Military Equipment and Ammunition — *Russian Arms Expo* — has been organised since 1999, in the suburbs of Nizhny Tagil. Its 10th event was held in mid-September.

The international forum has, since 2013, attracted leading military-industrial companies from Western Europe. This year, former participants chose not to attend, due to sanctions, but the Republic of Belarus was represented convincingly.

Staratel training ground hosts the event, allowing battle scenarios to be

recreated before spectators, showing the application of most types of weaponry. Its complex track can be used to demonstrate automobiles (including those using 'caterpillar tracks') in action. Trucks and tractor trucks made by Minsk Wheeled Tractor Plant (MZKT) appeared as true 'kings'.

The whole new range of MZKT wheeled vehicles was on show — known worldwide under the VOLAT trademark (meaning 'strongman'). They are truly powerful. All mobile Soviet and Russian strategic and short-range missiles use a MZKT chassis. At present, the enterprise's designers are focusing on enhancing

vehicles' speed, as well as the comfort of drivers and crew.

A four-by-four MZKT-500200 truck aroused special interest. It premiered recently at the *Masters of Artillery Fire-2015* international competition, held in the Saratov Region, featuring a Belarusian team, and was widely admired for its evident advantages: good dynamics, off-road capacity and smoothness of movement. Meanwhile, the military from Russia and foreign countries were most impressed by its ability to navigate potholes and off-road conditions. The MZKT-500200 confidently overcame the most difficult of obstacles.

Nizhny Tagil also unveiled the new MZKT-600201, with its heavy chassis, 8x8 wheel arrangement, and independent suspension of all wheels. A powerful vehicle can be used as a basis for artillery and missile troops, as an ammunition vehicle and as a tractor truck. It's also able to work under most difficult conditions.

Interest towards MZKT machinery at RAE-2015 was apparent. Despite NATO sanctions, high-ranking military delegations from leading states across the Middle East, Africa and Latin America arrived in Nizhny Tagil, including delegations headed by heads of general headquarters and

defence ministers. Most entered MZKT's negotiating room and, although no new contracts have yet been signed, foundations have been laid.

Negotiations were also held with Russian partners of the Minsk factory. The MZKT leadership shared its latest news: of its development of a new chassis for the Russian Iskander tactical missile system, which allows for even smoother movement, improved dynamics and automatic gearshift.

In the future, all VOLAT chassis will boast independent suspension and automatic gearshifts, developed by the company domestically.

Plasma hello, colleagues

Russian and Belarusian National Academies of Sciences to jointly construct inter-academic satellite

By Vladimir Yakovlev

Plasma is a high-temperature state, widespread in nature: across the cosmos and the universe. Scientists have managed to tame this unstable and unpredictable substance, such as via nuclear weapons, plasma TV panels and diverse technologies of metal strengthening and processing.

Belarus boasts one of the most advanced scientific schools in this sphere, initiated by outstanding researcher and USSR Lenin Award holder Mikhail Yelyashevich. His followers work in several academic institutions and universities countrywide.

A recent international



Vladimir Gusakov and Vladimir Fortov are convinced that co-operation between their academies will significantly enhance the scientific potential of the Union State

conference on plasma physics — hosted by Belarus' National Academy of Sciences — brought together leading world scientists and promoted modern developments at the highest level. Besides welcoming experts from the USA and Asia, it hosted a large delegation led by the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladimir Fortov. It was his first visit to Minsk as the head of the RAS. "The global equipment market widely uses plasma; one of the largest markets accounts for \$3-4 trillion," he told journalists. "Importantly, Belarus has not only preserved studies in this field but has mastered production based on

these scientific results."

Our two states' scientists closely co-operate in this high-tech sphere: for example, Belarusian researchers visit their Russian colleagues to conduct major experiments. Following the exchange of experience at the Minsk conference, new co-operative agreements on plasma studies are expected to be signed.

Mr. Fortov and his Belarusian colleague, the Chairman of the National Academy of Sciences' Presidium, Vladimir Gusakov, discussed a wide range of issues. Of course, our academies liaise not only in the field of plasma but meet regularly as an inter-academic



At the Belarusian spacecraft flight control centre

council. On June 16th, Moscow hosted a joint session of the two academies of sciences' presidiums, with a plan of co-operation signed for the coming five years. Special attention was paid to forming a mechanism of selection for the most important Belarusian-Russian programmes, with focus on such vital aspects as remote Earth monitoring. A framework agreement was signed recently: on co-operation in creating a new Belarusian satellite (to be launched in coming years).

At the Minsk conference, the two academies' heads decided to create a joint inter-academic satellite. Mr. Gusakov explains, "We intend a micro-satellite: size doesn't matter for science and education. We could launch it via a cargo or piloted spacecraft, rather than a special rocket, which would be much simpler and cheaper"

Mr. Fortov also visited the permanent show of Belarusian academic science's achievements. Around 30 percent of its exhibits have been created as part of joint Union State sci-

tech programmes, covering informatics, microelectronics, and bio- and nano-technologies.

The launch of the first Belarusian nuclear power station — being built by Russian companies, under a Russian project — will launch a new stage of collaboration. Belarusian research organisations are already conducting a scientific accompaniment to this important project and plan to work in this field further — relying on great Russian experience in the nuclear sphere.

Truth revealed during intellectual games

By Yekaterina Medvedskaya

Participants of International Youth for Peace Law Competition, which is traditionally held at MITSO University in Minsk, agree and make compromises

Events of the past few years show that armed conflicts can occur unexpectedly and nearby. We need only look to Ukraine. Perhaps this is why students from Kiev's Taras Shevchenko National University did well at the International Youth for Peace Law Competition, having first-hand knowledge of war. It will soon be three years since conflict began in the southeast of their country. Who else but lawyers, even future lawyers, should know that provisions of law must be used to solve disputes, and solve acute issues.

The MITSO Games requires the application of theoretical knowledge to resolve conflicts. This year, teams were asked to negotiate for the repatriation of prisoners of war from one state to another.

The Head of the Chair of International Law at the International MITSO University, Doctor of Legal Sciences Yelena Dovgan, tells us, "The Taras Shevchenko National Univer-



Participants and prize winners of the competition

sity of Kiev team (from Ukraine) and students from the Nicolae Titulescu University (Romania) coped well with the task, but those from Ukraine were most convincing."

The jury found difficulty in judging the oratorical competition, but eventually selected the team from the Russian-Armenian (Slavic) University (Armenia), from the National Research University Higher School of Economics (Russia) and from the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev (Ukraine).

In total, representatives of 13

countries took part, including from China, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Romania, Poland, Moldova, and Kyrgyzstan. Two MITSO teams represented Belarus, but did not take part in any of the contests, to avoid the possibility of biased judging.

The jury comprised leading foreign experts of international law: Prof. Stefan Oeter, of Hamburg University (Germany); lawyer Lionel Blackman, from the UK; Olivier Ribbelink, a senior researcher at the T.M.C. Asser Institute (Netherlands); Prof. Michael Strauss, of the

MT REFERENCE:

The International Youth for Peace Law Competition is a unique project, without analogue in Eastern Europe or the CIS. Initiated by the International MITSO University, and co-organised by the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, the competition is part of a global initiative by the *UN Academic Impact*.

Centre for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies (France); and Prof. David Turns, from Cranfield University (UK).

At the press conference held prior to the competition, Olivier Ribbelink noted that the International Youth for Peace Law Competition is among the three most prestigious European competitions for international law. Participation is important for future lawyers, giving students

practical experience of negotiating, learning to defend their interests before a large attendance, and gaining in confidence. Summing-up the results of the competition, Romanian team member Marius Brabete admitted, "Of course, it's a pity that my team took second place, but we came close to victory. Most importantly, we took part. I hope we'll keep in touch by phone with our colleague-friends in Minsk and will return again."

Organisers note that the competition fosters a friendly atmosphere of support. Yelena Dovgan notes, "Evenings of national culture helped unite the young people, despite their different backgrounds. They were able to become acquainted, making mini-presentations on culture and their national traditions." Dishes of national cuisine were also available on these evenings. Mr. Brabete admitted that he liked Ukrainian curd tarts, Kyrgyz dumplings and, of course, Belarusian draniki.

By tradition, participants of the competition tour Minsk and always profess a liking for the city. Prizes were also awarded for the best essays on international humanitarian law, honouring the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

UN 70 Express for SDGs to spotlight the UN Anniversary in Belarus



Strong
UN.
Better
World.

If you come to Belarus in October you cannot help but get caught up in all the excitement around the UN 70th Anniversary celebrations and the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals. Never before have the UN and the Government of Belarus, UN member states, private companies and NGOs together undertaken an initiative of this scale. You do not even have to be in the capital Minsk to be involved because the whole country is part of it!

You may ask how? Easy! We have arranged for a UN Train to depart on 23rd October from Minsk to all the six Oblast capitals. This special trip will last 8 days and will engage thousands of people on board and in the cities. We call it the 'UN 70 Belarus Express for the Sustainable Development Goals' because it will bring the UN and the SDGs to the regions. Dozens of movies, workshops, seminars, round tables, a model UN, city fairs, concerts, street theatre, and master classes on board and in the cities will involve representatives of the UN, ambassadors of UN member states, senior government officials and parliamentarians, CEOs of companies and NGOs, celebrities and UN good will ambassadors, students, academics and journalists. Almost 200 UN staff from 20 agencies will be part of the train, including the Secretary General's Youth Envoy. We hope to have a real-time conversation about how people all around the country will work together to achieve the SDGs. All the Governors of the regions will sign a declaration in support of the SDGs and on 6th November the initiative will culminate with a conference convened by the UN and the Government to 'hear the voices from the regions' and charter a course on how the public service can respond effectively so that Belarus achieves the SDGs by 2030.

To honour the UN's 70th Anniversary, the Belarusian Post Office will issue a special stamp to com-



Belarusian youth supports sustainable development goals

The United Nations has worked in Belarus since 1992. Currently there are 8 resident agencies on the ground and a number of non-resident agencies working with Belarus to achieve its development agenda. The areas of work are very broad: climate change, environment protection and energy efficiency; migration and asylum; economic and local development; human trafficking and domestic violence; health, in particular HIV/AIDS, TB and since recently non-communicable diseases; child protection and responsible parenthood; democratic governance and human rights; Chernobyl consequences, gender equality and many more. The UN in Belarus builds strategic partnerships with the Government, civil society and other national and international partners to implement joint activities with a common goal of advancing the development of the country. In 2000, the global community agreed on common 8 time-bound and quantified Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). 15 years later, Belarus has done exceptionally well reaching almost all its targets — eradicating poverty and reducing maternal and child mortality, achieving universal primary education and decreasing CO2 emissions, promoting gender equality and building strong

partnerships for development. Further efforts are needed to enhance progress in combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development. With most MDGs achieved, more attention will now be given to further enhance the quality and sustainability of the country progress, and the equal coverage and availability to the rural and urban population, both men and women.

At the end of September 2015, the leaders of the UN member states adopted the new development agenda for the next 15 years — a landmark agreement that will propel the world towards a more sustainable world, a world without poverty. The new universal agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that cover economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The United Nations in Belarus stands ready in assisting Belarus in the achievement of the SDGs through the new strategic United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Republic of Belarus (UNDAF) for 2016-2020 and the National Strategy of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development for the Republic of Belarus until 2030.

tion and music festival at the central station in Minsk.

On 24th October, you will not want to miss the most exciting event — the UN 70th Anniversary Concert in Hrodna Concert Hall, with music and dance performances from numerous countries. We will hear real stories from people the UN serves like refugees, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, people fighting domestic violence and human trafficking and survivors of Chernobyl.

At the same time, in major cities you will notice that important public buildings are illuminated in blue as part of the 'Turn the World UN Blue' campaign.

Major media outlets in Belarus will carry special coverage of the UN 70 Express' journey across Belarus in real-time. The most popular local TV channel will make a movie about the trip and a book will be published about the whole initiative. You may follow the train using the #UN70Express hashtag on the 'UN in Belarus' social media pages, in addition to seeing all the fascinating things happening during the journey.

memorate this important event. On the eve of UN Day, a number of important events will take place in the capital. They include the planting of a

Peace and Sustainable Development Tree by the President; the signing and launching of the UN Development Assistance Framework for the next

5 years; the opening of an exhibition that captures the 70 year relationship between the UN and Belarus; and the launching of the train with an exhibi-

More kindergartens open

By Nadezhda Pavlova

Last year, demographers registered a record birth rate for the first time in two decades: 118,500 babies were born in Belarus. The 2015 results are expected to continue this positive trend.

However, any demographic rise is an additional challenge for the social infrastructure, primarily for the new residential districts of Minsk

and those regional centres that lack places in kindergartens. Officials are working to solve the issue to the benefit of young families and, every year, at least ten new kindergartens are being built across the country. According to the Deputy Prime Minister, Natalia Kochanova, there will be eighty more establishments built by 2020.

There is no evident lack of places in kindergartens at the present; the problem is the location within

walking distance of the schools. The young families of the Minsk Student Village however have no such difficulties. The local Cat's House kindergarten has opened on the ground floor of the hostel. The capacity of it has also been increased to cope with demand; although there are vacant places to be found in the city suburbs and, close to newly built residential houses. The best way to solve the problem of course is to build new kindergartens. At the moment,



441 state run kindergartens operate in Minsk

around 4,000 are registered in the country. In 2012, 20 were built (for 3,200 children) and, in 2013, 11

were launched (for 2,300). Last year, another 14 kindergartens were put into operation for 2,600 children.



A man jumps off a rubber dinghy as he arrives with other refugees and migrants on the Greek island of Lesbos

Hundreds of rescued migrants and refugees arrive in Europe

European migrant crisis: more refugees, more troubles

The Italian Coast Guard says the 781 migrants and refugees, recently rescued off the coast of Libya, have arrived in Cagliari in Sardinia. The people were rescued in six different operations co-ordinated by the Italian navy. Meanwhile, eight people died while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

Stefano Campesi is from the Italian Civil Protection, "The first thing we have to do is set up a camp, that is our main job. This is a complicated

process as we have to set it up and dismantle it in 24 hours."

Meanwhile, the Libyan Red Crescent have retrieved the body of a person that washed up along the Garabulli shoreline, some 64 kilometres east of Tripoli. The Red Crescent says the victim drowned within the past 24 hours and there are fears more will be found.

The International Organisation for Migration says that more than 2,600 migrants have died in 2015

crossing the Mediterranean. As the flow of migrants continued towards Germany, Slovenia said it can not accept thousands of migrants a day. That is likely to cause a further backlog in people trying to reach Germany.

As migrants remained stranded between EU member states Croatia and Slovenia, Slovenian police prevented them from crossing the border. "We cannot accept an unlimited number of migrants if we know

they can not continue their journey," explained Slovenia's State Secretary Bostjan Sefic. "In a very short time, in maybe ten days, we would have 35,000 migrants in Slovenia, which is unacceptable for us."

About 5,000 people a day are crossing from Greece into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and then Serbia. Croatia and Slovenia said they will not stop migrants from crossing their countries if Austria and Germany also keep their doors open.

NASA spacecraft finds blue skies and water ice on Pluto

The first colour images of Pluto's atmospheric hazes, returned by NASA's New Horizons spacecraft recently, reveal that the hazes are blue

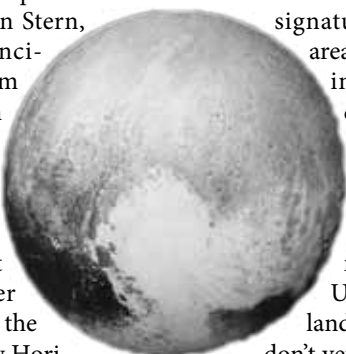
"Who would have expected a blue sky in the Kuiper Belt? It's gorgeous," said Alan Stern, New Horizons principal investigator from Southwest Research Institute (SwRI), Boulder, Colorado.

The haze particles themselves are likely gray or red, but the way they scatter blue light has gotten the attention of the New Horizons science team. "That striking blue tint tells us about the size and composition of the haze particles," said science team researcher Carly Howett, also of SwRI. "A blue sky often results from scattering of sunlight by very small particles. On Earth, those particles are very tiny

nitrogen molecules. On Pluto they appear to be larger — but still relatively small — soot-like particles we call tholins."

A curious aspect of the detection is that the areas showing the most obvious water ice spectral signatures correspond to areas that are bright red in recently released colour images. "I'm surprised that this water ice is so red," says Silvia Protopapa, a science team member from the University of Maryland, College Park. "We don't yet understand the relationship between water ice and the reddish tholin colorants on Pluto's surface."

The New Horizons spacecraft is currently 3.1 billion miles (5 billion kilometres) from Earth, with all systems healthy and operating normally.



Italy becomes world's largest wine producer

Italy has overtaken France to become the world's largest wine producer this year, according to European Union data

Moderate weather conditions have resulted in a plentiful grape harvest across the Mediterranean peninsula. Production for 2015 is projected to rise by 13 percent. The figures submitted to the European Commission in mid-September show total output approaching 50 million hectolitres.

In contrast a heatwave and lack of rainfall in France caused production to decline by one percent. The

Burgundy and Beaujolais regions were worst affected. In the latter case, production fell by a quarter and it's thought that both areas could see price rises in the coming months.

One reason for the rise in Italian output is simply that the 2014 harvest was particularly bad due to the weather. Despite this year's overall good conditions some vineyards were forced to use emergency irrigation in the July heat.

But thanks to a cooler September, the 2015 Italian harvest is set to yield what one producer described as a 'pretty good vintage'.

A race against time to save the 'bongs' of Big Ben

A report on the state of one of the United Kingdom's most prominent symbols says if urgent repairs are not carried out the clocks' mechanism could fail completely

Refurbishment costs could run as high as 54m Euros with the taxpayer picking up the tab.

Andrew Blick is from King's College, London, "Well clearly in a climate of austerity when parliament is voting through cuts in other areas it's going to be controversial if they seem to authorising expenditure on that scale for a repair to what is essentially their own building. However, Big Ben and the Elizabeth Tower, which it's on top of, is an iconic image of the UK."



The restoration of the Palace of Westminster is already stretching the public purse to the tune of 10bn Euros. This comes at a time the government is introducing deep cuts across a raft of public services.

The repair work could see the clock fall silent for four months.

Forklifts of the future: Sensors & the Factory

At a warehouse in Bilbao, in northern Spain, a strange robotic ballet is underway

These automated forklifts weigh eight tonnes each. They transport heavy loads of soda. And they are completely unmanned.

"They work with a laser that measures the different distances inside the walls in the warehouse," says Vittorio Cavarani, an electronic engineer with Elettric80. "These measurements give the robots their spatial position, so the machines are able to move around different paths in a very accurate way, in a range of millimetres."

It's a real challenge to allow different machines to move around autonomously in a given space like this. They have to calculate path and speed, and they have to do it in a safe way. Safety is a fundamental issue here."

Electronic and sensor engineers developed systems that allow robots to understand their surrounding environment so they can follow determined paths and avoid collisions. To achieve this, complex and sophisticated devices were installed in the circuit boards.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Young artists boldly announce themselves and put forward significant prices for their works

Republican Art Gallery (in Minsk's Kozlov Street) gathers full houses at opening of *Autumn Salon* exhibition — featuring a wide panorama of modern Belarusian artists' work

By Veniamin Mikheev

The press release for the show read: 'The *Autumn Salon* with Belgazprombank will demonstrate the best pieces created by young early 21st century Belarusian artists. Unique within the Republic's cultural life, the project is part of a major bank initiative called *Art-Belarus* — aimed at reconstructing the integral and continuous process of Belarusian culture development.'

Previous art projects by Belgazprombank have demonstrated Belarus' rich artistic heritage, while this *Autumn Salon* aims to reveal its modern potential. With this in mind, it unites the best young Belarusian artists, who have passed a selective round and are now contenders for Belgazprombank's *Art-Belarus* Award.

Works on show at the Palace of Arts have been created over the past three years and represent various art trends: pictorial and graphic painting, glass sculpture, photography and installations. According to the organisers, these represent the best examples of early 21st century young Belarusian art.

The show attempts to recreate the atmosphere of Parisian autumn salons of the early 20th century (known for their liberality and novelty). The event includes works by experienced masters, acting members of the Belarusian Union of Artists, students of the Academy of Arts and talented amateur painters without formal education: followers of classical traditions and alternative styles. Many have completed foreign internships and have been recipients of the Special Fund of the President of Belarus for the Support of Talented Youth. Some contestants are also from famous Belarusian artistic families.

The prize fund of 25,000 Euros aims to help the best artists develop future projects and take up artistic internships. The jury includes acknowledged experts in the field of modern art, recognised at international level: Aesa Sigurjónsdóttir (an independent curator, Reykjavik and Paris), Gaspere Manos (an artist, a curator, and founder of Venice's Gaspere Foundation), Dieter Roelstraete (a member of the curator team from Kassel, Germany), and Teresa Iarocci Mavica (Director of the Leonid Mikhel'son's Victoria — the Art of Being Contemporary (V-A-C) Foundation, Moscow). Visitors to the show also cast a vote, and on-line voting



There's what to see, assess and buy at the *Autumn Salon*

and graphic works tend to cost less. Principles of pricing are always complex, but are primarily related to size, since larger works take longer to complete and require more 'resources'.

Alesya Skorobogataya has set a record for her *Day and Night* diptych, which is priced at Br528m — or \$30,000. Vasily Zenko, whose grand quadriptych *Final Destination*, is priced at around \$10,000, tells us that the price reflects the large size, and much time and effort involved, while Anna Silivonchik is showcasing three pictures at \$5,000. She explains, "The exhibition does not revolve, primarily, around sales. My works on show are large. I've never exhibited them and have little desire to sell them. I've set a price high enough that I wouldn't regret parting with them. However, in truth, I'm not yet ready to sell my pictures."

Oleg Kostyuchenko — who painted Van Gogh's *Pipe* (over \$5,000) — notes, "A picture's price is based on ordinary things: the

price of paint and canvas, the under frame, and workshop rent. Initially, I sold my paintings for \$1,500 each but, as I received more orders, I raised my prices. After reaching a certain sum, it's impossible to sell for less. Moreover, I don't draw portraits. I sell my ideas and ideas are always expensive."

Yaroslav Filippovich, who created the most expensive sculpture in the show (\$20,000 for *Breeze*) explains, "Sculpting is much more expensive than pictorial art and requires me to employ others: to create the carcass and mould. Rubber costs \$26 per kilo and I need around 50kg for a sculpture. I would love to cast in bronze but lack the necessary finances. Price

reflects not only the cost of resources but payment to the artist. The usual formula is to price an item at four times the cost of resources but this isn't workable in our country, where we tend to be happy to receive double the cost of resources for any single piece."

Truly, the prices are higher than we'd usually expect, and unaffordable to most of the Belarusian public, but, no doubt, they reflect their 'worth'.

The Chairman of Belgazprombank's Board, Victor Babariko, who initiated the *Autumn Salon*, hopes to rouse public interest in

national culture, and in fine arts especially. He comments, "As part of Belgazprombank's artistic collection, we've returned the most significant works by Belarusian artists to their homeland. We hope this has contributed to enhanced interest in Belarus' art history, which dates back several hundred years. In my view, our *Autumn Salon* is a logical continuation of this cultural concept. We want to show the art being created in Belarus today, presenting domestic masters' achievements from the early 20th and 21st centuries."

He continues, "We announced a contest, with over 800 works received, from around 300 artists, photographers and sculptors. In the first of two selective rounds, Belarusian experts were attracted, choosing works by 90 artists. Gallery workers and art specialists on the European and American art markets will take part in the second stage, and we hope they'll be objective. We often hear that talented people live in our country so we'd like to see who they are and what they're doing. We need to define modern Belarusian art, showing who deserves to be appreciated and recognised. We don't live in a vacuum without talent."

is available (on the artbelarus.by site), for the audience's award.

Evidently, the *Autumn Salon* with Belgazprombank aims to represent Belarus within the modern global art industry, including asking artists to place a 'value' on their works, offering them for sale.

The *Autumn Salon* also features a rich educational programme of lectures, round table discussions and children's clubs, aiming to revive public dialogue with the diverse artistic world. The atmosphere on the opening night was buzzing. By around 5pm, exhibition halls were crowded with art lovers, young artists and supporters, with people bringing their families.

Some may have been attracted by the names of our famous coun-

trymen, representing the legendary Parisian school: Chagall, Soutine, Zak, Stelletsky, Khentova, Lubitch and Kikoine. Belgazprombank's corporate collection, also on show, aims to indicate the succession of generations and to show the deep historical roots of Belarusian art. Soutine's *Eva* is the pearl of the collection, covered with glass and guarded by a policeman (no surprise, as it was purchased for \$1.8m).

Ninety artists, aged between 18 and 40 years, are taking part in the show, including recognised masters and former students, across various genres and styles. The exhibition presents the rich layers of modern Belarusian art, and features paintings with price tags ranging from around \$2,000 to \$6,000, and at least \$8,000 for a sculpture. Photos



Zhitkovichi secondary school #3 cheerleading team, coached by Yelena Rekun

Flying stars or life in dance rhythms

What images does cheerleading conjure for you? I can't help but think of American films in which girls in short skirts perform acrobatic somersaults and pyramids to encourage their team. Now, it appears that Belarusian youngsters are a worthy match.

By Maria Dronova

"There is nothing difficult in cheerleading," says Irina Karas, a graduate of secondary school #2, in Zhitkovichi. For the past three years, Ira has been learning how to turn handspings and perform acrobatic routines, under the direction of Yelena Rekun. Ms. Rekun teaches foreign languages and runs cheerleading classes, having begun by giving lessons in basic acrobatics. The activity grew into a hobby which, in turn, led to more serious sporting events.

School head Anna Druk tells us, "Yelena always calls me to let me know if they've had a good journey to a competition, and whether they've won any prizes." Some time ago, Anna decided to introduce some 'American elements' into school life, to make it interesting for children, and to help pass the hours in the school holidays. The Ministry of Education suggested developing this direction. Fortunately, Gomel graduate Yelena had decided to return to her home region, and was engaged in cheerleading. She'd become an instructor, and her knowledge and skills were matched with enthusiasm. The group established quickly, partly because of its novelty.

Members of the team regularly worked out in the gym, to build their strength, and took part in their first regional competition in 2013: *Pioneer Sparks*. They reached the regional stage, then they started to win. Yelena remembers every detail, recalling their first time at the Belarus Cup, in 2014, when the team took third place. The children were thrilled to show that, despite coming from an outlying district, they could outshine others. Initially, their costumes were simple: cut off jean shorts and T-shirts bearing their team logo of Flying

Stars. However, Stefan Zweigus, of Milasernasts charity, paid for fabric, which the school's handicrafts teacher turned into bright costumes.

As they claimed victories at international competitions, the children began to attract more attention and support, including from the Chairman of the District Executive Committee, Alexander Mikalutsky, who promoted the purchase of new trainers. Other sports clothes appeared too, while the local department of education, sports and tourism helped with transport.

"It's hard to find a sponsor in our modest district. Nevertheless, the director of local enterprise Saturn-1, who is a friend of the school, has promised support," Anna Druk says. "Parents have also been enthusiastic, despite having to pay for children to attend competitions. It's good that pupils aren't spending so much time online."

"Two more cheerleading squads have now been created, for children

of younger ages: Caramels took second place in the regional competition *Pioneer Sparks-2015*; and, although the first formers only began training a month ago, they're already performing splits and somersaults," underlines Ms. Druk.

Yelena emphasises, "Our younger group is yet to travel to compete but all like jumping. Many are afraid of heights so I advise them to jump from the table to the sofa at home. Actually, it's good for them to retain a sense of fear, as it tightens the muscles, making it easier to twist in the air. If they're too relaxed, they may fall. Of course, it's potentially dangerous. During a celebratory assembly, we performed on asphalt but, thank God, had no casualties."

Some parents chose not to attend the celebratory assembly, and avoid competitions also, feeling too scared to watch! However, they're happy to watch recordings afterwards. Ninth-former Misha Karas, who is very tall, lifted his partner on outstretched

MT REFERENCE:

The term cheerleading (from 'cheer', meaning approving and inviting exclamation, and 'lead' meaning to guide) appeared in the USA in the 1870s. The notion became most popular in the mid-20th century, with groups of girls and boys taking to sports grounds during breaks in games to perform short, rousing dance programmes. Often, they'd hold bright pom-poms and, eventually, these performances became an independent sport, with its own international competition circuit.

Cheerleading combines showmanship with gymnastic exercises and acrobatic elements, with tight moves, fervent shouts and, typically, pyramid formations. It's a good choice for girls who wish to keep toned and supple. Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise, Sandra Bullock and Madonna all took part in cheerleading and even some presidents: David Eisenhower, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and George Walker Bush. Cheerleading is divided into two basic directions: team competitions following rules; and work with sports clubs to support your team at matches and attract spectators.



Yelena Rekun with the most valuable prize

arms during the national championship this year: an element included among 'adult exercises'. It requires great strength, and he was the only youngster to achieve the move, which delighted the international judges. Only his coach knows how hard she was praying for him, although she believed he was capable. Naturally, she felt relieved once the exercise had been completed. They were still perfecting the move during last minute rehearsals. Ms. Rekun admits, "We usually set off to competitions in the evening and always train the night before. It's not enough to perform exercises beautifully; your voice is important too. I remember that I had to practise shouting for the Caramels, running for an hour in the gym while shouting. Senior age children are less inhibited and now have experience from performing."

In the meantime, the children continue training in the gym, preparing a surprise for September 1st. Sometimes, the senior pupils stage performances independently, which makes their coach very proud. Team captain Vadim Tychina stages duets for little girls, while Ira Karas is an expert in freestyle. All achievements are registered in a special portfolio, for members of the Belarusian Federation of Cheerleading. By showing your experience of training, it opens doors for future work with children.

Naturally, it's vital to stay in shape, so it's great that the children have access to the gym at weekends and during holidays. At other times, they train on the horizontal bars. It seems that the only way is up, with the children setting an example of aspirations having no bounds.

Land of warmth and positivity

By Maxim Plotnikov

Russians holiday in the Belarusian countryside, as families or couples, with and without children, arriving by car, train and plane

Holidaying in Belarus is affordable, regardless of your tastes or finances. Belarus boasts wonderful natural beauty, as well as friendly people and great service. What more is needed for a summer break?

According to the Russian travel.ru online tourist service, in 2015, Belarus became the most popular destination within the CIS for independent holiday-making Russians. Belarus topped the five most popular destinations, accounting for 37 percent of all travels: 22 percent headed to Ukraine, 16 percent to Kazakhstan, 9 percent to Azerbaijan, and 7 percent to Armenia. The remaining CIS states account for just 9 percent of all tourist destinations for Russians.

Online bookings have risen by 60 percent (in comparison to 2014) and the 'average spend' for each Russian guest is around \$70 a day on accommodation alone. They stay for 4.5 days, on average.

Russians have also voted for the best 'value for money' CIS city destination, with Minsk standing in the top ten alongside Kiev, Almaty, Baku, Yerevan, Astana, Vitebsk, Bishkek, Tashkent and Chisinau. Other Belarusian cities — such as Brest, Grodno and Gomel — are among the top 20 most popular travel destinations for Russians.

The most popular places to which tourists head are Kyrgyzstan's Lake Issyk-Kul, followed by Belarusian Naroch, Lake Borovoe in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan's Nabran and Armenian Sevan.



At Lake Naroch

Another online tourist booking site — oktogo.ru — tells us that most independent Russian travellers (those not with groups) choose Minsk above other CIS cities, followed by Bishkek, Almaty, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Baku, Astana, Chisinau and Tashkent. Independent holidaymakers are growing in number, since it's much cheaper to do so, although there are 'risks' involved. However, in choosing Minsk and Belarus, Russians know that they'll be heading to a warm welcome, since we share the same mentality. Moreover, no visas or foreign passports are needed.

Anyone choosing to visit Belarus will enjoy diverse and rich opportunities for relaxation, paying around 1,200 Russian Roubles per night to stay at a spa hotel. According to Tsentrikurort RUE, Russians pay just 10-15 percent more than native Belarusians.

Victorious double on home courts

Belarusian tennis player — Dmitry Zhirmont — wins two titles at International Saleo Cup 2015 held in Minsk: jointly with Andrey Vasilevsky, he won doubles and then a singles event

By Kirill Pirogov

In the singles finals, Zhirmont (311) played against young American Stephan Kozlov (564), with the Belarusian winning two sets — 6:1, 6:4. In the first game, the host's advantage was evident (lasting for 21 minutes) but, during the second game, the American strongly opposed him.

After the finals, Yuri Galkin — the tournament's director — commented, "Sportsmen from over ten countries came to Minsk. In the decisive singles match, Dmitry opposed 17-year-old Kozlov. The latter has Russian roots: his father Andrey Kozlov was born in Samara but now lives in Florida. He named his sons in honour of Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker. So a namesake of the

famous Swedish tennis player performed at our tournament. Home matches are good practice for Belarusians. They also provide an opportunity to earn rating points. Surprises were common at the event: our own Maxim Tybor knocked his countryman — first seed Maxim Dubarenko — out. As a result, Tybor reached the quarter-finals which was a good result for him."

The Saleo Cup unites two tennis competitions. On October 18th, the second tournament began — featuring a different line-up but the same prize fund. On October 23rd and 24th, mini tennis events among mass media representatives were organised — proposed by the organisers. Journalists competed for the prize, which was an exact copy of the main trophy.



S. Kozlov and D. Zhirmont

Winning 12th champion's title ahead of schedule

Borisov BATE footballers become unreachable for their rivals — winning gold three rounds ahead of the finals of the 25th championships

By Igor Grishin

The Borisov team received its 12th (in total) and 10th (in succession) champion's title by defeating Vitebsk in an away match — 2:0. Alexander Yermakovich's team had a single goal: to win. It did not matter who they defeated and what the score line read. It was essential to earn three points and secure the champion's title at least until next year. A draw would have pushed them to aim for the Slutsk-Dinamo (Minsk) match — played the following day. However, the 12 time champions are not used to relying on some-



BATE — champion!

one else: BATE smashed Vitebsk.

In the first half, BATE enjoyed a comfortable advantage. In its main line-up, forward Dmitry Mozolevsky played for the first time in two years — after a long injury period. As a result, he became the major 'hero' of the champion's match. Mozolevsky passed to Alexey Rios who opened the score in the 25th minute. Shooting from the corner of the penalty area, Rios was actually making a

diagonal pass rather than a kick. However, the hosts' goalkeeper — Dmitry Gushchenko — failed to save it and the ball shot into the farthest corner of the net to make the score 1:0.

Six minutes later, the Borisov footballers scored again, also thanks to Mozolevsky. From the 6-yard line, he converted Denis Polyakov's pass making it the first goal for Dmitry since his return from injury in August. In the sec-

ond half, the hosts tried hard but BATE played steadily and kept their advantage. After the match, the Borisov footballers were clearly delighted: becoming the country's champion for the tenth time in a row is truly a unique achievement.

This season, BATE has also won three national trophies: The Belarus' Super Cup, Belarus' Cup and the gold medal in the national championship. A truly worthy collection!

Two games against world champion

Belarusian grand master Sergey Zhigalko draws in playing world chess champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway, with the two next to meet at the World Chess Rapid and Blitz Championship, in Berlin

The Rapid event gathered 150 of the world's strongest players, including Russia's Vladimir Kramnik, Ukraine's Vasily Ivanchuk, Israel's Boris Gelfand, India's Vishvanatan Anand, and Armenia's Levon Aronyan. The event attracted so many chess geniuses that it could perhaps have joined the Guinness Book of Records.

Among the participants were Belarusians Sergey Zhigalko and Vladislav Kovalev. In the Rapid event, Sergey set the standard, heading the table after 10 rounds, with Magnus Carlsen. During the eleventh round, the leaders met and the Belarusian lost. Zhigalko earned 9.5 points and was placed 18th. The top



three players were Carlsen, Russia's Yan Nepomn-yashchy and Azerbaijan's Teimur Radzhabov.

Zhigalko's second game was in the 16th round, in the Blitz, which ended in a draw; the Belarusian earned 10.5 points and was placed 12th. However, in the last five rounds, Sergey lost every game, pushing him into 90th position.

From December 17th-20th, similar tournaments will be held in Minsk, with chess players competing for the European Championship title.

Autumn hills

By Igor Leshin

Time of serious tests for junior football team

Igor Kovalevich's team is playing five matches within 90 days, with three already complete. The September match against Slovakia brought victory, while the Slutsk match saw our guys lose to Turkey 0:2. Finally, in Cyprus, they celebrated a win, bringing them to six points and sending them into the lead with Slovakia and Holland.

November will see our team playing two more matches: against Holland (away, November 12th) and Cyprus (home, November 17th). The outcomes are vital, as another six points will help strengthen our leadership in the tournament.

Meanwhile, national team head coach Alexander Khatskevich will be following play attentively, being keen to sign up some new, young blood for the national Belarusian team in time for the 2018 World Championship.

Contract cancelled

By Yegor Glebov

Dinamo Minsk rescinds contract with head coach of the team — Lubomir Pokovic — by mutual agreement

Although we cannot say for certain that Dinamo has enjoyed its best season this year in the KHL Championship, the recent news that Lubomir Pokovic is no longer the head coach of the 'blues and whites' club has come as a surprise to all. The decision to part company was made by mutual agreement. The head of Dinamo's press service — Roman Strongin — refused to comment on the reasons for the move. Andrey Kovalev has been appointed acting head coach. Meanwhile, Dinamo has begun its tour along the Novosibirsk-Novokuznetsk-Khabarovsk-Vladivostok route. Taking into consideration its staffing issues the series is not expected to be easy. However, its first match against Siberia brought victory to the Minsk team. The win is especially valued as Mr. Pokovic's unexpected leave could have had a negative affect on the team. Moreover, the Belarusians were playing the leaders of the KHL Eastern Conference, although the 'aurochs' have already proved, many times this season that they can compete at the highest level.

Lubomir Pokovic's commentary:

I was pleased with our team's recent performance. Everyone is aware of our current staffing issues. Not everything went smoothly at the start of the season but we continued winning: we've now earned 27 points (some matches were played in reserve). Despite our recent losses to CSKA and Torpedo I have no reason to criticise our players, in fact I was proud to see how the team was struggling and getting through tough times.

Your leaving the team looks even more unexpected against these facts...

Yes, it does. It was due to an incident that happened the previous week but I'm afraid I'm not willing to discuss any details.

Is it somehow connected with the dismissal of a physical training coach — Barry Brennan?

Sorry, I'd rather not comment.

Can you please at least explain: did the club executives insist on your dismissal or was it your choice?

It's impossible to say categorically. My position became untenable given the situation.

Performance of the week



Days of Chinese Culture in Belarus open with Beijing People's Art Theatre's *Our Jing Ke* performance

Exhibitions

MUSEUM OF MATURE AND ECOLOGY OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 6th March. *Jungles behind the Window*
Until 17th January.

Mummies of the World

WANKOWICZ HOUSE-MUSEUM
33A Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 25th December. *A Prophet of his Time. Adam Mickiewicz. Illustrations and Medals*

MAXIM BOGDANOVICH LITERARY MUSEUM
7A M. Bogdanovich Street

Until 1st December. *Maxim's Garden*

ZABRODIE ETHNOGRAPHICAL COMPLEX
Zabrodie village

Until 31st October. *Exhibition of Retro Technique*
Until 31st October. *Museum of Century-Old Way of Life*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 30th November. *Great Mummies of Egypt*

CAT MUSEUM

11 Dzerzhinsky Avenue

Until 31st October. *Cats in the City*

ARTS PALACE

3 Kozlov Street

Until 8th November. *Autumn Salon art project*

PICTURE HOUSE

89/3 Pobediteley Avenue, office 3

Until 31st December. *Great Classics of the 20th Century*

FIRST RSDRP CONGRESS HOUSE-MUSEUM

31A Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 31st October. *1960s: Fashion and Style*

Theatres

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square

23.10. Anyuta 24.10. Iolanthe 25.10. Big Theatre for Children: Cipollino; Pagliacci
29.10. Music of the Heart

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street

23.10. Women's Revolt 24.10. Tours of Daugavpils Theatre: Casanova. Henriette. Venice; Leo — A Small Lion 25.10. Town Musicians of Bremen; The Clandestine Marriage (Duke Luxembourg)
26.10. Dubrovsky 27.10. Blue Cameo
28.10. Arshin Mal Alan 29.10. Giselle

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street

24 and 25.10. The Twelfth Night
27.10. Lion in Winter 28.10. Bridegrooms
29.10. An Intimidated Apostle (Oracle)

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street

23.10. International TEART Theatre Art Forum: As You Like It 24 and 25.10. Paulinka
25.10. World War Two 27.10. The Boor
28.10. The Black Lady of Nesvizh
29.10. Autumn Fall. Andersen

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue

23 and 24.10. Who Laughs Last
25 and 27.10. #13
28 and 29.10. A Very Simple Story

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street

23.10. Capital Around 24.10. Adam's Jokes
25.10. The Contract
26.10. Duke Radziwill's Bible
27.10. A Two Dogs' Tale; Three Giselles
28.10. The Seawolf; Silent Love
29.10. Two Wonderful Umbrellas; Feint-Kruaze

Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

October of decades and centuries past comes to life

October 23rd. In 1940, Oleg Chudakov — a scientist in the field of facial-maxillary and plastic surgery, a Doctor of Medical Sciences, a Professor and an Honoured Figure of Sciences — was born in Surazh. He wrote many scientific papers on methods of plastic recovery of major defects of face and neck organs. He founded and headed the Belarusian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

October 24th. In 1902, a film director and an Honoured Artiste — Yuri Stalmakov — was born in Klimovichi. He worked at the Belarusfilm Studio, shooting *Soviet Belarus* and *Pioneer of Belarus* film magazines, alongside *Victorious May* and *Holiday on Unity* documentaries.

October 25th. In 1934, Timofey Pet-sold was born in Minsk — a scientist in the field of construction, a Doctor of Technical Sciences, a Professor and an Honoured Figure of Sciences of Belarus. He was a scientific head of the project and construction of Minsk's National Library.

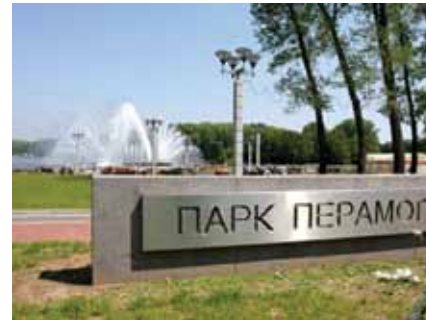
October 26th. In 1954, a sable sportsman, a champion of the 1979 World Championship, a champion of the 1980 Olympics and a champion of the 1982 USSR Championship — Nikolay Alekhin — was born.

October 27th. In 1947, Alexey Shkadarevich — a physicist, a Doctor of Physico-Mathematical Sciences, a Professor and a corresponding member of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences — was born in Kopyl. He authored scientific studies in the

field of laser physics, optic-electronic and laser tool building.

October 28th. In 1884, a Belarusian actor, director and theatrical figure — Florian Zhdanovich — was born; he was a founder of the Belarusian professional theatre and the first head of the BGT-1 (now known as the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre).

October 28th. In 1945, the Pobedy Park was laid on a wasteland, near Kom-somolskoe Lake. 58,000 trees and bushes were planted on the territory of around 60 hectares. Recently, the park has been reconstructed and is now a popular recreation zone.



October 29th. In 1929, Soviet Union Hero Marat Kazei was born. A city street and a park (with a monument) are named after him.

October 23rd. in 1923, the first inter-city bus route was launched — serviced by 15 vehicles. Simultaneously, a commission was set up in the city to check drivers' expertise.

October 23rd. In 1959, the Vasilevichi hydro-electric station began servicing Minsk — being the most powerful electric station in the USSR at that time.

October 23rd. In 1990, the Shirokov Institute of Contemporary Knowledge opened in Belarus — becoming the first private educational establishment in the country.

October 23rd. In 1998, an assembly line was tested at the joint MAZ-MAN Belarusian-German company.

October 24th. In 1913, a branch of the International Society of Physical Development — Sanitas — was established. The first football team was formed in the city those days.

October 24th. In 1991, a declaration on principles of good neighbourly relations was signed between Belarus and Lithuania.

October 24th. In 2001, Minsk's anthem — based on Ignaty Pankevich's lines and Vladimir Olovnikov's music — was approved.

October 25th. In 1939, regular passenger railway transportation was launched between Minsk and Baranovichi.

October 26th. In 1956, the Belarusian SSR signed the IAEA charter which was ratified on March 18th, 1957.

October 27th. In 1881, Minsk's branch of the State Bank opened.

October 27th. In 1988, the Belarusian Scientific-Production Association of Meat and Milk Products was established.