



Vishnevo is a modest village with history at every turn



Several reasons to see Belarus on Red Book



INTERNATIONAL

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Robots are becoming an integral part of the exhibition of technologies and innovations in industry

All aspects of the future

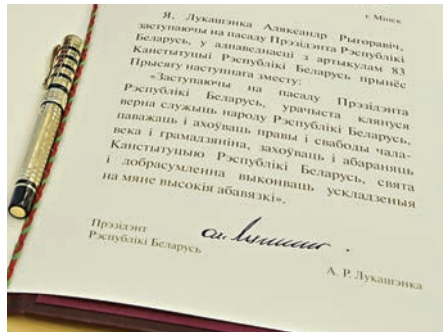
Industry, agriculture, transport and other areas are constantly in need of technological solutions. Our country boasts great scientific potential and an established innovative infrastructure. Innovative development fairs help connect science and production, developers and potential customers. They commercialise Belarusian projects and give a start to newcomers. Last week, the *Innovations in Industry: Technologies and Equipment* fair was held in Minsk as part of the Belarusian Industrial and Investment Forum. → 5



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Aleksandr Lukashenko sworn in as the President of the Republic of Belarus



The solemn inaugural ceremony was held at the Palace of Independence. Several hundred people were invited to attend — including senior officials, members of the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic, heads of government bodies and organisations, local executive and regulatory authorities, the national media, figures of science, culture and sports.

In line with the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the President assumes the office after taking the following oath: ‘Assuming the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, I solemnly swear to faithfully serve the people of the Republic of Belarus, to respect and protect the rights and freedoms of man and of the citizen, to observe and protect the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, and to fulfil strictly and conscientiously the lofty duties that have been bestowed upon me’.

Holding his right hand on the Constitution, Aleksandr Lukashenko took the oath in the Belarusian language. He then signed the act of taking the oath, and the Chair of the Central Election Commission (CEC) — Lidia Yermoshina — gave him the certificate of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

When addressing his countrymen, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “The day of the President’s inauguration is a day of our common victory: a convincing and fateful victory. We did not just elect the President of the country. We defend

our values, our peaceful life, sovereignty and independence. In this regard, we still have a long way to go.”

The Head of State said that the year 2020 will go down in history as an extremely emotional period. “Our statehood has faced an unprecedented challenge — the challenge of a fail-safe technology

which has been used repeatedly to destroy independent states. We are among the very few, maybe even the only state where a colour revolution has failed. It was the choice of Belarusians who do not want to lose the country,” he stressed.

Aleksandr Lukashenko added that the country is coming out of a series

of tests of the difficult 2020 leap year ‘with updated medicine and technologies, modern forms of self-organisation and mutual support of society’. “We have tested agriculture for stress resistance and significantly strengthened our energy security. Unprecedented external pressure has only hardened us, made us more determined and uncompromising in the fight for our own — we do not need anyone else’s ideas,” he stressed.

After the inauguration ceremony, the Belarusian military swore an oath of loyalty to the nation and the President. Representatives of various military service branches swore to the Belarusian people and the Commander-in-Chief that they will always be ready to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Motherland.

The Presidential election in Belarus took place on August 9th. According to the CEC, Aleksandr Lukashenko got 80.1 percent of the vote. The turnout was 84.28 percent.

Based on materials of belta.by



Large-scale project for Belarusian capital

The United Arab Emirates is the main partner of Belarus among the Gulf States. Last year alone, trade turnover between the two countries exceeded \$105m and the volume of Emirati investments in our country’s economy amounted to about \$120m. Investors from the UAE are showing great interest in Belarus. A large-scale smart city project worth 4bn Euros is being implemented in Minsk by Emaar Properties. The company’s prospects in the Republic were the focus of the President’s meeting with its Chairman, Mohamed Alabbar. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted the importance and value of such bold and ambitious plans for our country, saying, “We understand that these are difficult times in the world. Humanity is challenged in many ways. In this regard, there is a very acute struggle for investors. Of course, your work in Belarus and the investments you plan to make in Belarus are very helpful to us today.”



The future National Exhibition Centre

For the common business benefit

The Belarusian President appreciates the activities and investments of Emaar Properties in our country. In his talk to the company’s head, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “First of all, I appreciate your punctuality and commitment. When we met about a year ago, we agreed on joint work. Back then we conceived a number of projects, which you were interested in and were ready to implement in Belarus, ranging from agriculture to the construction of large infrastructure projects. We agreed to meet this autumn after the Presidential election to finally dot the i’s. That is why I am grateful to you for being so punctual.”

In his words, a lot of work is still ahead. “Therefore, today’s meeting has brought together many high-ranking officials [on Belarus’ behalf the meeting

was also attended by the Prime Minister, the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee and the President’s Aide for National Security], so that we ensure there will be no holding back in our work,” said the Head of State.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, he remembers Mohamed Alabbar’s promise to erect the most beautiful buildings and facilities in Belarus, which will become the UAE’s trademark in the centre of Europe. “I am ready to discuss all pending issues today. If there are any problems, we need to solve them promptly,” the President said.

Right Belarusian tactics

In turn, the Chairman of Emaar Properties, Mohamed Alabbar, announced his readiness to continue co-operation with

Belarus and invest in different projects. The foreign guest also thanked the Head of State for the opportunity to meet in person, noting that he was glad to be back in Minsk. “I would like to congratulate you on many things,” said Mohamed Alabbar. “Firstly, on a practical victory over the virus. The policy that you have chosen in this regard — not to close the economy — has proved its effectiveness.”

The guest noted that he meets with representatives of many countries due to his occupation and has recently visited Serbia — meeting with its President. According to Mohamed Alabbar, Serbians assert it’s impossible to restore the economy after months of downtime due to the coronavirus.

Mohamed Alabbar also congratulated Aleksandr Lukashenko on winning the Presidential election, saying, “We never doubted the result, we have always appreciated the policy that you are pursuing, the achievements that your country has gained in terms of the standard of living of the population, security and other parameters.”

Major benefit is quality of life

Speaking to journalists, the businessman described in some detail the large-scale smart city investment project and outlined

the sites that will be built in the Belarusian capital. “It’s an infrastructure project worth more than 4bn Euros, aiming to make this part of Minsk one of the most advanced and modern. Technology rules the world. We are planning to build a smart city in the city, and we are actively designing it,” he said.

The smart city will also have many social facilities, including a university and other educational institutions, sports and healthcare facilities. Belarusian specialists involved in construction will also get the best international experience. Moreover, the venue itself will become a kind of a business card for the city, as well as being pleasing to the eye.

Mohamed Alabbar noted that the experience and knowledge accumulated over the past 25 years, which his company has acquired on the largest projects, will be applied in the Belarusian capital, “It’s not so much about buildings, roads, or profits. In the end, the main achievement is the quality of human life. We want the new project to improve conditions for families and children, and make it more attractive for tourists and businessmen. The expected GDP growth in Minsk is 5-7 percent. In addition, the project will create more than 70,000 jobs.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Phone conversations



Belarus' President Aleksandr Lukashenko had a telephone conversation with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev on October 1st.

The two sides traditionally discussed the development of bilateral relations, trade and economic co-operation and other topical issues. The main topic of conversation was the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.



A telephone conversation of Aleksandr Lukashenko with Russian President Vladimir Putin took place on October 2nd, focusing on a wide range of international issues.

The presidents discussed a range of international problems, including the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. In connection with the existing European issues, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin discussed the situation in Belarus and Russia, also sharing detailed information about the state of affairs in the two countries.

The two leaders also drew attention to the situation with the spread of COVID-19 and expressed concerns over the increase in the number of cases. They discussed further efforts to normalise air, railway and automobile transportation between the two countries.

Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin focused on the analysis of the previous *Slavyanskoye Bratstvo 2020* [*Slavonic Brotherhood*] joint army exercise and discussed the results of the 7th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia, emphasising the crucial role of direct contacts between regional authorities and enterprises in bilateral relations. Confidence was expressed that this joint work will have a positive impact on the citizens of both countries.



The President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian, called Belarus' President Aleksandr Lukashenko on October 4th.

The heads of state discussed the socio-economic and political situation in Belarus and Armenia. Armen Sarkissian informed the Belarusian leader in detail about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In addition, the President of Armenia touched on the issue mentioned by some sources about the alleged recent deliveries of military cargo from Belarus to Azerbaijan. The conversation gave a definitive answer to this fake information: no military cargo has been delivered to either Azerbaijan or Armenia through the Military-Industrial Complex over the last six months.

Based on Presidential press service

All roads lead to the church

First meeting with Metropolitan Veniamin and consecration of a new church: on Saturday, the President visited the agro-town of Shershuny

By Dmitry Umpirovich

It was a holiday for residents of the agro-town of Shershuny and its environs where the new church of St. John the Baptist has opened its doors. Aleksandr Lukashenko lit a candle and then addressed the parishioners,

“Over the past quarter of a century, more than 1,500 such religious buildings have been built in the country. We will not be here, but our children will remember that we have done such good things in the name of our children and our grandchildren. I'm absolutely convinced that thanks to these ascetic activities our land will always be under the protection of God.”

The temple is a Byzantine-style building with two domes. It will be able to accommodate about 150 parishioners. The parish complex includes a church, a clergy house, a playground and a place for parishioners to relax. The construction began in mid-2018 and was completed recently. There has been no church in the vicinity for about a hundred years, and the President knew all about it. The Head of State personally approved the project of this church. In the end, the Russian philanthropist Mikhail Gutseriev helped to realise the villagers' old dream, for which Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked him sincerely.

“And also a Muslim, this philanthropist, had to come here to build this church... I would like to thank you, Mikhail Safarbekovich, not only for this place, but also for a school and production facilities worth billions of Dollars that you have built in our country, and continue your work here.”

Mikhail Gutseriev told parishioners and journalists about the construction of the church in detail, “The original place

of worship was one and a half kilometres from here. However, in 1919, the Bolsheviks destroyed it and blew it up out of ignorance, out of stupidity, I don't know why. Aleksandr Grigorievich said that there are no cult religious buildings in several settlements, no churches and it would be good to build them. So, the idea was born... There is also a tank soldiers' grave some 50-70m away from here. The graves of four soldiers who died in the summer of 1944 during the liberation of Belarus. This place is very significant.”

Mr. Gutseriev emphasised that the church has turned out to be very beautiful, “It's 25m high — one of the highest



The church has an architecture unusual for our country and peculiar to the ancient Byzantine style: a rather wide dome (12m in diameter) is combined with a high (about 30m) building

in Belarus. The vault is 12m high. At first there was the idea to build a small church, but then we decided to go for something big and monumental.”

Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavl Veniamin, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, presented the Order of the Belarusian Orthodox Church of St. Kirill Turovsky of the 1st degree, to patron

Gutseriev in recognition of his personal contribution to the construction of the church. The parish itself was not left without gifts. As a gift to the church, Aleksandr Lukashenko presented an icon, while the Patriarchal Exarch (who the Head of State had met for the first time on this day) was presented with a traditional bouquet of white flowers.

In response, the President was presented with an icon of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos. The Belarusian leader decided to leave it in the church.

Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about the construction of a place of worship in the agro-town of Shershuny in the context of the village's prosperity. He emphasised that he was once again convinced of how beautiful and wonderful our nature and our land are.

“We must preserve this land (you probably understand me even better now). I hope very much that He [the Lord] hears us today and will be a good helper to us in these good deeds,” said the President.

The Head of State also added,

“We have done a lot, but we are only at the beginning. Perhaps, especially recently, you have understood what it means to live on your land and what it means to have your own. I have to tell you: if it wasn't for you, rural people, it would be even more difficult for us. You are the foundation, the pillar of stability of our state. I am immensely grateful to you for that. If a new generation wants to try a new life, let them do that. You and I should live this life in peace and tranquillity, especially our old people. They have had enough, especially after the war.”

Forum with great opportunities

Belarus and Russia take another important step towards strengthening co-operation

ECONOMY



The 7th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia focused on the topic: *Historical Heritage of the Great Victory as the Basis for the Development of Socio-Economic and Spiritual Ties Between the Peoples of Belarus and Russia*. Five sections were organised in several thematic areas: parliamentary co-operation, joint economic projects, the feat of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War, countering the glorification of Nazism, and increasing the activity of rural youth. A joint session of the business councils of Belarus and Russia and a high-level expert session on *Education as the Basis of Historical Memory and Further Integration Development of the Union of Belarus and Russia* were also held.

Issues of regional co-operation, implementation of documents adopted at previous forums, and the development of trade, economic, scientific and technical liaisons between the two countries were discussed at the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Commission of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus and the Federation Council of

the Federal Assembly of Russia on Inter-Regional Co-operation.

Actually, our nations are united not only by the economy, but also by the common memory and historical heritage of the Great Victory. A plenary session was devoted to this issue — becoming a central event of the forum. The presidents of Belarus and Russia — Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin — addressed the participants in an online format.

The President of Belarus noted that the summit is another important step for strengthening good neighbourliness and developing co-operation between our fraternal peoples. The format of such regional co-operation is very effective. Over the past six years, more than 300 agreements have been signed and contracts worth over \$2bn have been concluded.

“History confirms that only together can we achieve significant results,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said. “We are rightfully proud that Belarusians and Russians, together with other peoples of the USSR, made a decisive contribution to the victory over fas-

cism. That is why today we all remember the sacred event: the 75th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed the deep conviction that Belarusian-Russian relations will continue to develop consistently and dynamically.

In his speech, Vladimir Putin stressed the fact that relations between Russia and Belarus are not subject to time or conjuncture, and they have a solid foundation, because our states share strong cultural and spiritual ties that go back centuries, and a common joint history.

The forum participants adopted a draft document which will be supplemented with instructions from the presidents of Belarus and Russia, as well as initiatives and proposals made at the forum. Agreements were also signed between the governments of Belarus and Bashkortostan, the Kabardino-Balkar Republic, the Komi Republic, the Samara Region, the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District and the Kursk Region Administration on co-operation in trade, eco-

The 7th Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia was held in Minsk in late September — for the first time in an online format. This didn't prevent the discussion of joint economic projects and the conclusion of new contracts worth more than \$700m. The result confirms once again that the forum has become an effective platform for discussing topical issues of Belarusian-Russian co-operation, developing approaches to solutions and strengthening partnership relations.

conomic, sci-tech, social and cultural spheres.

In addition, an action plan for 2020-2021 to implement the agreement between the governments of Belarus and the Stavropol Krai of Russia on trade, economic, scientific, technical, and socio-cultural co-operation was agreed and approved.

Summing up the results of the 7th Forum of Regions, the Prime Minister of Belarus — Roman Golovchenko — said that about 70 co-operation agreements and commercial contracts worth over \$700m were signed.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Partisans of Belarus: the SB project in action

The *Partisans of Belarus* exhibition — held as part of the forum — introduced its participants to the partizany.by Internet project created jointly by the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House and the National Archive. The Deputy Head of the Main Department for Education at the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, Vitaly Lisovsky, was among the forum participants and tested the project personally. He was pleasantly surprised, explaining, “I used the *Partisans of Belarus*, entering the name of my grandfather, Aleksandr Lisovsky, and succeeded: I found his award list and an image of the award itself. It would be great to have more archived data but it was still very interesting and exciting. The project is of major importance.”



NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese Ambassador to Belarus Cui Qiming awarded the Order of Honour

Cui Qiming was awarded the Order of Honour for his significant personal contribution to the development and



strengthening of political, trade-economic, credit-investment, sci-tech and humanitarian ties between Belarus and the People's Republic of China. The corresponding decree was signed by the Belarusian Head of State. During a meeting with Aleksandr Lukashenko on the occasion of the completion of his diplomatic mission in Belarus, Cui Qiming noted, “Wherever I go, I will always be a good friend of the Belarusian people and will continue to contribute to the development of co-operation in various fields between China and Belarus.”

All forests in Belarus are digitised

After installing an app on a smartphone and visiting a forest, a person can see where he or she is, how old the forest is, what kind of trees are there, as well as types and conditions of the growing area. For foresters, this is a great help in their work, as now they can perform management and cutting more efficiently, seeing where the border of a particular area ends.



Forestry Minister Vitaly Drozhzha noted that the aim is to cover the entire forest area with observation towers in the near future, where CCTV cameras with infrared sensors will be installed, which will record the heat source. This will enable us to prevent fires more quickly.

5G test zone appeared in the Great Stone China-Belarus Industrial Park

Gennady Melnikov, the First Deputy General Director of RUE Beltelecom, said that, since September 30th, it has become possible to deploy two test zones in Belarus — in the Great Stone and in the city of Kopyl. It's assumed that 5G technology will be applied in areas such as fixed wireless access, mobile broadband access, video surveillance, unmanned vehicles and others.

The Industrial Park pays close attention to the development of 5G tech-



nology. Thus, back in February 2020, an agreement on co-operation was signed with the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation of Belarus.

Clinical trials of Russian vaccine against coronavirus began in Belarus

The Russian vaccine ‘Sputnik V’ is faced with the task of successfully passing clinical trials and proving its effectiveness. Our country also acts as a test site. This happens within the framework of a personal agreement between the two states' heads: Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin. In total, 7 Minsk clinics and the Vitebsk Regional Hospital are taking part in the study. Since October 1st, 100 Belarusian volunteers (there were about 4,000 applications to the Health Ministry) began to receive vaccinations. They will be under close medical supervision for 120-160 days, since vaccination takes place in two stages.



Collecting agricultural treasures

This year, numerous guests were welcomed at the Football Manege which hosted the large-scale event: 360 exhibitors came from Belgium, the UK, Hungary, Germany, Israel, Italy, China, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, France, Switzerland, and Sweden. Belarusian enterprises and companies occupied the largest pavilion: the domestic enterprises have much to show and surprise our foreign colleagues with.

“Belarus is considered to be one of the leading European agricultural powers. Our products are known in more than 100 countries around the world, they are competitive in world markets and differ in quality, having excellent taste. The results of the *Belagro* exhibition become an impetus for the development of new directions, contribute to the creation of new integration chains and the search for new partners in international markets,” Aleksandr Subbotin, the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the organising committee of *Belagro 2020*, said at the opening of the forum.

The National Academy of Sciences’ Scientific and Practical Centre of Arable Farming demonstrated new varieties of seeds for main agricultural crops with high productivity and yield potential. In turn, the Flax Institute showed new flax varieties and the Scientific and Practical Centre of Animal Husbandry of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus presented the latest biotechnologies in livestock breeding.

The so-called innovation platform, which brought together advanced developments in the field of digital technologies, was probably the most spectacular venue. Attacking pests and weeds from a drone seemed impossible some time ago but now has real possibility. Advanced technologies have come to the aid of farmers in introducing plant protection products. The impressive size of these was brought from the Orsha Technopark, where drones were successfully tested.

This year, the official forum of agrarian workers is being held for the 30th time. Over the last three decades, *Belagro* has become not only the country’s largest agricultural exhibition but also a national brand. International and domestic companies choose it as an effective platform for demonstrating new achievements, products and services. Only the best and most advanced exhibits are presented.



in production and are in demand in the market of Belarus, CIS and beyond. The centre now actively co-operates with 40 Russian regions and 46 countries.

More than 200 units of agricultural machinery were presented in the open air. Along with foreign manufacturers, domestic industrial enterprises advertised new products. For example, out of almost a dozen samples presented by MAZ, special interest was shown in the 65012J dump truck — an innovation from last year. The highlight of the equipment intended for grain transportation is an engine that is comparable only to those produced, for example, by Mercedes. The price, however, is more democratic.

Belagro 2020 will also be remembered for the presentation of a certificate for organic products for the first time in the country: it went to Zdorovaya Strana, from the Berestovitsa District of the Grodno Region.

This year, *Belagro* was dedicated to the Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia and the stands of over 30 Russian exhibitors from the Bryansk, Volgograd, Omsk, Saratov and Voronezh regions were crowded. The interest is understandable: as the visitors admit, *Belagro* has long been a platform for profitable economic co-operation. In recent years, the volume of contracts has reached \$100m and the participants are convinced that, in 2020, the portfolio of contracts will be just as significant.



The Scientific and Practical Centre of Agriculture Mechanisation presented its potato-sorting machine, with a camera vision system and auto-on — making tens of shots per second. Potato tubers, green spots, traces of diseases, and mechanical damage are recognised and such potatoes are automatically identified as substandard and are then removed from

the conveyor by a jet of compressed air.

The centre’s scientists also demonstrated a set of specialised machines for mechanising the flax harvesting processes. The equipment is manufactured at Belarusian enterprises with a localisation level of 80-90 percent. Among other novelties of the company are a trailer-style half-row berry harvester, flax-pulling combines for harvesting carrots and cabbage, a boulder stone picker, and a pneumatic combined vegetable seeder.

At present, over 80 percent of the agricultural machinery operating domestically has been developed by the NAS Scientific and Practical Centre of Agriculture Mechanisation. In recent years, the work of scientists and designers has resulted in about 170 developments that are being implemented

Ideas stand high

Digital technologies for the real sector: Belarusian Industrial and Investment Forum held in Minsk

The Belarusian Industrial and Investment Forum traditionally brings together representatives of science, industrial production and related sectors of the economy. During the exhibition, issues related to the development of the engineering infrastructure, industry, and the introduction of innovative technologies in the real economy were discussed, while Belarusian enterprises and guests from Russia demonstrated their new products. The business programme included symposiums, conferences, exchanges and seminars that reveal the potential of industries, as well as being aimed at finding practical recommendations for creating conditions for their development.

A large-scale event was organised at the Football Manege which hosted the 1st International Forum on the Smartification of the CIS Real Sector of the Economy — SMART INDUSTRY EXPO, the 23rd International Exhibition of Technologies and Innovations in Industry — *TechnoProm*, and international specialised exhibitions — *Chemistry. Oil and Gas; Professional Welding; Plastics and Composites*. As a result, the single platform united over 150 exhibitors and forum participants.

The Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, Aleksandr Shumilin, noted at the opening ceremony that the exhibition aimed

to demonstrate the country’s best industrial developments. “In particular, the State Committee for Science and Technology stand featured more than 100 exhibits of modern developments by scientists and universities, including the winners of the 100 Ideas for Belarus contest, as well as businessmen. The developments of the Industry Ministry were also widely presented,” he said, adding that a special place in the economy is given to its digitalisation. “The achievements of the digital economy in the country’s GDP of at least 15 percent by 2025, will be a target indicator of the success of our work. This figure stands at 6 percent at present. It is also



worth noting that, in the next 10 years, the development of the economy will be provided by industry and the industrial sector will have to work at a new level,” the official added.

Aleksandr Shumilin also drew attention to a new industrial paradigm: today, it is not enough to make a product and advertise it. It is important to make products for specific market needs, as well as to forecast and create these markets. This issue was one of the most discussed on the forum.

The Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology also noted that the country plans to significantly modernise its production sector

through the widespread use of software and equipment based on artificial intelligence technologies, 3D printing, and robotic systems. This will make it possible to introduce a new type of cross-industry paradigm in Belarus: smart industry.

The business programme of the forum included round table discussions and conferences featuring leading smart industry experts from Germany, the USA, Israel, China, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Ireland and elsewhere.

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INSIDE

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Return of the icon

The presentation of the Belarusian icon was recently held in a church at the Minsk Theological Academy. Parishioners can see the relic at Minsk's Holy Spirit Cathedral while later it will be transported to Turov.

By Marina Kuzmich

Many people know the story of the stone Turov crosses growing out of the ground. Pilgrims come to them to bow down and pray. The altar cross of the 12th-13th centuries has been recreated, increasing the number of icons for Belarusians. Who would have thought that the diocesan cross — that disappeared after the eight-point earthquake in 1230 — would be restored eight centuries later?

In 1962, during excavations in Turov, archaeologist Piotr Lysenko discovered four icons portraying saints. According to scientists, the unique finds were located on the altar cross of the local episcopal church. The idea was born to recreate the cross. Research and creative searches took decades. In June 2017, the President instructed the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus JSC to get involved in the restoration of the Turov cross.

The Belarusian Orthodox Church and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus have been working together on its reconstruction for three years. As a result, two copies were made: one intended for worship, the other for exhibiting at the National Academy of Sciences. Samples from the Holy Cross, as well as parts of the relics of St. Nicholas, the Apostle Andrew and the Great Martyr Barbara were placed in the first.

At the solemn presentation of the Turov cross, Metropolitan of Minsk and

The saints depicted on the cross are associated with the Belarusian land, with the Turov Principality. Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky ruled in Turov at the beginning of the 12th century and, in honour of the Great Martyr Barbara, a convent was built in the Pinsk area, which is still operating today.

Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus Veniamin said, "Orthodox Christians give liturgical veneration to the Cross of Christ as a symbol of the Creator's boundless love for the human race and for each of us. The Gospel says: 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life'. The cross is the beauty of the church. Looking at it, we remember the suffering of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for people and the adoption by the Most Holy Mother of God of all mankind. There is no clearer example of love, the ability to forgive and endure than the image of the Saviour's sacrifice on the cross."

His Eminence Metropolitan Veniamin expressed gratitude to the entire

The reconstructed Turov cross is presented in Minsk



The Turov cross is made of gold using precious and semi-precious stones

team that took part in the reconstruction of the cross, while also expressing hope that 'the Lord by the power of the Honest and Life-giving Cross will protect Belarus from evil and show people the way to peace and harmony'.

The Patriarchal Exarch performed a short prayer service at the Turov cross, which was laid on a lectern in the centre of the church, after which the faithful bowed to the icon.

Maria Netsvetaeva, the Chair of the Synodal Department of the Belarusian Church for Church Art, Architecture and Restoration and curator of the project, noted that the Turov Principality had never initiated wars while the ancient city only defended itself, but never attacked.

"We tried to perpetuate the memory of this and the call to peace in the reconstructed cross," she said. "The most difficult thing was to bring together theological thought, the historical context, and the worldview of the Middle Ages. In the relic, every detail — both in stones and ornament — is filled with meaning. The arrangement of the images of St. Kirill

Turovsky, the Blessed Prince Andrei Bogolyubsky and the Holy Great Martyr Barbara corresponds to the historical context. The images of the saints unite the historical past of three countries: Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine."

The work of recreating the cross was not easy. An experienced craftsman, jeweller Oleg Yermolovich, who worked on the reconstruction, notes that the Turov cross was recreated on the model of the altar crosses of Byzantine and Old Russian churches. The cross of St. Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya also belongs to them.

"The Turov cross is made in the proportions of the Polotsk cross, it also has a cypress base," explains Mr. Yermolovich. "In the lower part of the shaft there are lapis lazuli, then green chrome diopside and red garnets. At the very top is a large green emerald, and in the centre a ruby. On the side arms of the cross are images of the apostles Peter and Paul. It is gratifying to realise that we have managed to recreate another Belarusian icon and the life of the Turov cross is just beginning!"



sb.by

The castle welcomes guests

The Radziwills' Lyubcha Walk traditional festival was held in the agrotown of Lyubcha, Novogrudok District. For over 17 years, Lyubcha Castle — built in the 1580s for noblemen Kishki — has been under restoration, and animation programmes are now held there.

By Yelena Yasko

The work on the castle continues: the wall at the entrance gate is rising higher and the dome is being prepared to soon be installed on the tower.

The history of the place is connected with the Radziwills who bought the castle in the late 16th century. In the mid-17th century, it was owned by the Great Hetman, Janusz Radziwill, whose troops defeated the regiments of the Cossack, Colonel Nebaba, in 1651 in the battle near Loev.

As is traditional, guests of the festival, including tourists, were met by

the Keykeeper and Pannochka. The animation programme was organised by employees of the Lyubcha House of Culture and the Vorobievichi Village House of Culture which is a centre of theatrical creativity. In addition, guests could enjoy a local medieval treat that resembles pampushki [small savoury or sweet yeast-raised buns or doughnuts]. A talented local craftswoman, Nina Gorvat, presented an exhibition of straw products. Moreover, adults and children appreciated the opportunity to try on medieval costumes and take photos of the castle as lords and ladies.

New flight task

Oleg Novitsky is preparing to go to Baikonur as the commander of a backup crew of the ISS expedition

By Natalia Tychko

A new crew will leave for the International Space Station (ISS) on October 14th — comprising two Roscosmos cosmonauts and one NASA astronaut. They are now entering the final stage of pre-launch training. Two spacewalks and 56 scientific experiments are planned for the expedition, some of which will be held for the first time. Our countryman, Oleg Novitsky, will go to Baikonur as the commander of the backup crew.

The interdepartmental commission has confirmed that the main and backup crews of the 64th expedition to the ISS are ready to fly. The final stage of pre-launch training will be held at the Baikonur cosmodrome. A traditional pre-flight press conference was held at the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre; this time, it was organised online due to the epidemiological situation. Moreover, because of the pandemic, not two but three crews were formed: one as backup. The expedition will last 177 days and is scheduled to return on April 9th, 2021.



Oleg Novitsky

"I hope that, during our flight next year, we'll conduct quite a few spacewalks," said Oleg Novitsky, sharing his plans. "It's my professional dream. A cosmonaut goes through long training and must be ready for anything. The opportunity to go into outer space is very attractive to me. That's why I'm crossing my fingers for our flight programme. I hope there will be enough work both on board the international space station and beyond."

This will be the third flight for the Belarusian.

Along the cherry route

History at every turn

If you drive past this modest village in the Volozhin District, it may seem that it is not very remarkable among the many others on the Belarusian map. Simple houses are found in the shade of linden and birch trees. Both Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches are found here. However, if you look more closely, you cannot but notice that each local corner is filled with the spirit of the past.

By Marina Kuzmich

Friendly people who are ready to welcome anyone who passes through will offer them the chance to quench their thirst with crystal clear water from the well. They say it can cure ailments.

The appearance of an image of Our Lady on a cherry tree became a local miracle many centuries ago and probably gave the village its name. The legend says that the cherry stump, where the holy face appeared, is located under the church's foundation and is washed by healing 'calm spring waters'.

The names of Symon Budny, composer Mikhal Kleofas Oginski, poet Konstantsiya Builo, and Yanka Kupala's wife Vladislava Lutsevich are associated with the local history. Vishnevo is also connected to the names of a Zionism leader, Nahum Goldman and the President of Israel, Nobel Prize winner — Shimon Peres.

The Lithuanian Encyclopaedia reads that the Vilnius castellan (castle voivode) Piotr Gedgaud built a wooden church in Vishnevo in 1424. The area later became the property of the rich Zdygultovich landowners, and then passed to the Slushkov, Osikov, Sangushkov and Pats families. In 1600, Adam Khreptovich bought Vishnevo and its surroundings from Pats and, from then on, the Litavor-Khreptovich dominance began: the family began joining new village and farms to the centre. Their rule lasted more than three hundred years and therefore the further history of Vishnevo is closely connected with the activities and history of the Khreptovich noble family.

In 1637-1641, following an order of Yuri Khreptovich, a brick church was built on the site of the wooden one. Vishnevo was eventually transformed into a centre of church administration uniting over a dozen neighbouring parishes.

Vishnevo became not only a religious, administrative and cultural, but also an industrial centre. In 1778, the first iron foundry started operating here, then — glass, distillery, brick and pottery factories, a cloth weaving facility and a water mill. Over that time, the settlement turned into a centre of trade. Auctions were held every week on Wednesdays, and large fairs were organised twice a year.

In the second half of the 18th century, the main development of the town was located along the Olshanka River. Streets radiated from the centre where the market square was located: Vilen'skaya — to the west, Volozhinskaya — to the east, Krev'skaya — to the north. There were also such streets as Zagonnaya, Shkol'naya, Krestovaya and Svinaya; the latter led to a pig market.

In 1864, the St. Kozma and Demyan Church was built in Vishnevo. Its retrospective Russian style combined stone and plastered decorative elements. The two-tiered roof, decorated with a bulbous head, looks very colourful.

After walking along the winding street, looking at the surrounding area from the height of the hills, anyone can understand why the poem about love for the Motherland written by Konstantsiya Builo — a native of this glorious place — is so heartfelt:

*I love our land, this wonderful land
Where I was born and grown,
Where for the first time I felt joy
And shed the tears of sorrow.*

With the development of industrialisation and the appearance of cheaper cast iron, the Vishnevo Steel Works closed in 1868 due to unprofitability. The Khreptovichs turned to agriculture, paying special attention to animal husbandry. At that time, they owned more than 20 thousand hectares of land, of which more than half were covered by forests and meadows which made



A Roman Catholic church. Early 20th century

it possible to keep about 3,000 heads of cattle and several thousand sheep. The local creamery soon became famous for its two-pound millstone-shaped cheeses and excellent quality butter. Almost all dairy products and beef were exported, mainly to Germany and England.

The Khreptovichs' economic and business activity transformed Vishnevo into an industrial urban town in the late 18th — early 20th centuries. In 1897, there were more than 300 courtyards, 2,000 inhabitants, a public school, a post and telegraph office, two chapels in the cemetery, a synagogue, two Jewish prayer schools, a workshop for the production of chairs, shoe and sewing workshops, a tannery, a



A view from the Roman Catholic church. Early 20th century



A view of the ruined mill and church. Early 20th century



The town's outskirts. Early 20th century

match factory, 47 shops and a pharmacy.

In the late 19th — early 20th centuries, a match factory, a brewery, a workshop for the production of soft drinks, a wool factory, several bakeries, blacksmiths and carpentry workshops were built. Many private stores opened.

During WWI, in 1914-1918, a defence line of the Kaiser's German troops passed through the town and, during the Great Patriotic War, a German garrison was stationed there throughout the occupation. A Jewish ghetto was established and a monument later unveiled in its place.



Pochtovy Tract. Early 20th century



Vishnevo. A church. Early 20th century

Photos from Vladimir Likhodedov's private collection

HISTORY

The Minsk Times
Thursday
October 8
2020

7

Mountains on fire



Sharp escalation of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh results in dozens of military and civilian casualties



Heavy fighting involving aircraft, artillery and heavy armoured vehicles began in Nagorno-Karabakh and the parties report on significant damage to the enemy. According to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, the Armenians lost about 550 people killed and wounded. In turn, the Armenian side claims that the enemy's losses amounted to 200 soldiers. There are also civilians among the victims. A curfew has been declared in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Who was the first to break the delicate peace in this troubled corner of Transcaucasia, has not been made clear, as always.

The Karabakh conflict has only a political and diplomatic solution: the international community must stop the bloodshed so that the people of the region can live in safety. A number of states called on the parties to exercise restraint. The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, called on the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to immediately stop fighting and start negotiations.

Belarus is deeply concerned about the current situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, as stated by its Foreign Ministry. 'We not only urge, but also sincerely ask both our im-

portant partners — Azerbaijan and Armenia — to stop fighting, renounce the use of weapons and find ways to resolve the situation peacefully, including within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. We confirm our readiness to provide any necessary assistance in promoting the dialogue between the parties in this and other formats acceptable to them', its statement reads.

Negotiations on a peaceful settlement to the conflict have been held since 1992, within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group headed by three co-chairs: Russia, the United States and France. Azerbaijan insists on preserving its territorial integrity, while Armenia defends the interests of the unrecognised republic, since the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is not party to the negotiations.

Jet suit for paramedics



A jet suit for paramedics which would see patients reached in minutes by a 'flying' medic has been tested by the Great North Air Ambulance Service

After a year of talks between GNAAS and Gravity Industries, a first test flight was carried out in the Lake District. Andy Mawson, the Director of Operations at GNAAS, came up with the idea and described seeing it as 'awesome'.

He said it meant a paramedic could 'fly' to a fell top in 90 seconds rather than taking 30 minutes on foot, adding, "There are dozens of patients every month within the complex but relatively small geographical footprint of the Lakes. We could see the need. What we didn't know for sure is how this would

work in practice. Well we've seen it now and it is, quite honestly, awesome."

The test flight was carried out by Richard Browning, a founder of Gravity Industries. He said the suits had two mini engines on each arm and one on the back.

"The biggest advantage is its speed," Mr. Mawson said. "If the idea takes off, the flying paramedic will be armed with a medical kit, with strong pain relief for walkers who may have suffered fractures, and a defibrillator for those who may have suffered a heart attack."



Relic stolen

A gold and crystal casing holding drops of the blood of Saint Pope John Paul II was stolen from the cathedral of the central Italian city of Spoleto

The casing, known as a reliquary, was snatched from an altar dedicated to the Polish pope, who died in 2005 after a 27-year reign.

A sacristan who was closing the cathedral for the night discovered the theft of the reliquary, which encased a vial holding a few drops of blood.

The relic was in the Spoleto cathedral temporarily and was due to be moved next month to a new church in the Umbria Region named after the late pope.

"Give the reliquary back to the cathedral and the faithful," said Archbishop Renato Boccardo, who was a close aide to the late pope for years at the Vatican. "It would be the serious thing to do".

Boccardo said it was not clear if the reliquary had been stolen for ransom, which has happened in the past with other relics in Italy. Police were reviewing footage of security cameras inside and outside the cathedral.

Lantern festival lights up

Recently, the 2020 Cross-Strait (Kunshan) Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival held a lighting ceremony in Kunshan, Jiangsu. Compatriots on both sides of the strait living in Kunshan, under the same night sky, enjoyed a lantern to celebrate reunion.

Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival on both sides of the Taiwan Strait (Kunshan) is a special exchange project between Kunshan and Taiwan. "No matter how much interference and obstacles are encountered, the exchanges and co-operation of compatriots on both sides of the strait cannot be stopped, unbroken, and must not be less," Huang Wentao, the Director of the Exchange Bureau of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said. No difficulty can prevent compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait from getting closer and closer to each other.

This year's festival followed the theme of 'flowers blooming together, lights reflecting on both sides of the strait', with traditional Jiangnan culture and cross-strait sentiment as the cultural foundation. The main light 'Affection for One Family on Both Sides of the Taiwan Strait' is inspired by double lotus and bridge of the same origin, which symbolises the same root and the same origin on both sides of the strait.

Wu Xinming, the Secretary of the Kunshan Municipal



Party Committee, said that Kunshan has always worked side by side with Taiwanese businessmen and entrepreneurs.

Facing the new epidemic this year, Kunshan has made every effort to help Taiwan-funded enterprises resume work and production.

Clouds floating over the homeland

The well-known artist, Honoured Figure of Arts Vladimir Urodnich, shared the long-awaited news that he had opened an art gallery in his small homeland — in the town of Stolín (Brest Region) — a dream that has finally come true. Twenty-seven canvases by the artist, donated to his fellow countrymen, took their place in the gallery. *The MT* reporter talked with Vladimir Urodnich and asked him about what art should be about today.



Vladimir Urodnich near the *Portrait of Milkmaid Lyashuk* picture

Aleksandr Kulevsky



Time of Arrival of Wild Geese

By Irina Ovsepyan

What problems do you think our society is facing now from the point of view of an artist?

I always proceed from two very important messages. Culture and art are the instrument of state building while the museum network is a timekeeper of the development of society. Why are they not using this instrument so that we can do deep research and take a modern look at our history, so that we connect these two ideas? We are ready! Back in the Soviet period, the system of interaction between the artist and the state was clear. Moreover, the state is not the officials who sit in the offices, this is all of us. If, for example, an important date is approaching, such as the 75th anniversary of Victory, we must do something new. This year, of course, everything is in pieces due to the pandemic, but it's good that the President had the courage and strength to hold the Victory Parade — it was necessary. It is impossible to reproach him for this! But, unfortunately, our cultural sphere, which was supposed to pick up the patriotic theme, did not create anything new either in the music, or drama, or in the visual arts. How much can you talk about the Parisian school? This is not the main theme that can unite the authorities and the people. How much can we neglect all that our art school and our culture acquired during the years of Soviet power? Soviet art has never played a secondary role in the world; our films and our literature have always taken an offensive position. Today the main problem, in my

opinion, is the lack of conversation between artists and the authorities, and we want to keep this going. We live in the interests of the country, the present day is dear to us, as is history.

You head the Traditional Association in the Belarusian Union of Artists, so what is the purpose of its work?

We felt the need to create this association 10-15 years ago, when we realised that free western trends are completely destroying the domestic school of painting. For example, the plot-thematic picture — a type of novel in our section of culture — practically disappeared



Clouds Disappear Over the Horizon



The Road to the Great Bear

landscapes or doing formal work to secure an income. For comparison, I recall the Soviet period: a circular from the USSR Culture Ministry came to the Union of Artists, which has a particular number of contracts for the creation of large-format paintings dedicated to socially significant topics. I'm not saying that such a principle should work all year round, but there are important dates in our history when, in my opinion, this is simply necessary. In the year of the 75th anniversary of the Victory, we see at exhibitions what was done by previous generations of artists. What about today's artists? How do they view the topic of patriotism and how do they depict it?

The Tradition Association are the heirs of the realistic method. There are twenty of us, mainly people of the older generation, honoured figures of art — your obedient servants, Nikolai Opiok, Leonid Dudarenko, Georgy Loiko, Viktor Barabantsev...

Last year, on the anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from Nazi occupation, we organised a tour of our exhibition, which was called 'When Apple Trees and Pears Bloomed', and took it along the route of Operation Bagration. We were ready to hold an exhibition this year dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Victory, but the coronavirus prevented it. However, life goes on. We also work closely with the Studio of War Artists: the Ministry of Defence is the department that is interested in supporting the patriotic theme, in making it resonate in art, and we co-operate with them fruitfully every year.

What works did you donate to the art gallery in Stolín?

I prepared twenty-seven paintings for my fellow countrymen; these are large thematic works, portraits, landscapes, sketches. I called this set 'Clouds Floating over the Homeland'. I presented the 'Time of Arrival of Wild Geese' painting, dedicated to the partisan movement and commander Tomilov, in whose unit my father fought.

from exhibitions. However, it is necessary to understand that no one can create large compositional works in a big format at the expense of their pension or on a small salary. In such cases, the state can set a task for artists, formulate requirements in the field of art and support them financially by announcing an annual competition. I'm especially sorry for young people: when I was the Dean of the Graphic Arts Department of the Academy of Arts, we taught them the normal skills of modelling a plot-thematic picture, but you will find almost nothing now, except for formal art, in the current expositions.

That is, most artists simply focus on the needs of buyers? Abstraction is easier to sell nowadays...

Buyers can be different: some want a realistic still-life painting, while another time they will buy a formal piece. However, an average man has never determined the level and degree of development of art! Commerce is about 'painting'

Belarus on Red Book

After the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, 216,000 hectares in the south of the Republic became completely inaccessible to humans. Nature took over, giving free rein to its imagination.

By Sofia Arsenieva

Go back thousands of years

The mighty, freedom-loving auroch is associated with Belarus all over the world — which is no surprise: the country is home to the largest (more than 2,000 animals) population of these wild cattle. Big, beautiful and quick: it feels like master of the Belovezhskaya and Nalibokskaya pushchas, also grazing on lawns in the Berezina, Pripyat and Polesie nature reserves away from the hustle and bustle of people. However, a few thousand years ago, aurochs inhabited all of Europe: the ancient Greeks painted them on walls, while Romans arranged gladiatorial fights with them. Alas, uncontrolled hunting and progress have produced sad results and tourists from all over the world now go to the protected Belarusian forests to get a glimpse of the horned giant.

The ideal time to get acquainted with these animals is at dawn or sunset, when they come out on lawns to eat treats from people: potatoes, beets or hay. National park staff will tell you the best points for safe observation.

Make friends with the black stork

Birdwatching is a popular trend in modern eco-tourism and foreign tourists come to Belarus for this purpose — admitting that ‘spying’ on the birds here is a real pleasure. In the north of the country, the golden eagle and the black-throated loon are seen, while, in the central part, the greater spotted eagle and the great grey owl nest. The south has long been favoured by the black stork.

In Belaya Rus, people did not particularly like the dark-winged stork. They were afraid of the flapping of its coal-black wings. However, the bird itself never ventured to neighbourhood where there were people. For centuries, black storks nested in nooks on swamps and in dense forests, primarily in the floodplain of the fast-moving and fish-rich Pripyat. However, in recent years, the number of black storks in Belarus has started to grow and these birds now nest closer to human settlements in Polesie — as if hinting: ‘I don’t mind making friends’.



Wild aurochs



Black stork



Kupala Night holiday

Look for the fern flower

In the immortal *Evenings on a Farm Near Dikanka*, Nikolai Gogol wrote: ‘Kupala Night will take place tomorrow. This is the only night of the year when the fern blooms. Don’t miss it!’ According to Slavic belief, if you go deep into the forest at midnight alone without a lantern, you can find a glowing fern flower of unearthly beauty. It gives the owner superhuman strength: to see treasures, understand the language of animals and open all the locks in the world.

Science is adamant: the fern does not bloom and miracles do not happen. However, in Belarus, there is a corner where the locals don’t agree. Along the

high banks of the Bug River in the Brest Region, there are found magnificent leaves of the royal fern. Mysterious red panicles are above the green leaves — truly resembling flowers. It’s impossible to take their fiery beauty away but you can whisper your cherished desires over the plant. People say the ritual has never failed.

Feed wild horses

The Polesie Radiation and Ecological Reserve is unique of its kind. After the Chernobyl accident, the territory of 216,000 hectares in the south of the Republic became completely inaccessible to humans and nature came into power: flocks of Red Book birds and rare plants have been registered here over the last three decades. Animals also enjoy the freedom and there are over 200 aurochs alone here.

Moreover, the nature here is so clean that Przewalski’s horses have come to the reserve. It is known

for certain that this species has never lived in Belarus at all. Short-maned horses from Asia feel great, actively reproduce and develop new territory without hesitation. Moreover, they pose for photos with interest. Photo hunting in the Polesie reserve has been in high demand for several years but it’s necessary to register for excursions several months in advance: there are many people who want to come while only small groups are allowed to pass along the protected paths.



The lady’s slipper

Try on the lady’s slipper

Do you think Cinderella had the most elegant pair? No. More perfect shoes can be found in our flora: the lady’s slipper. This amazing plant blooms only once every seventeen years. A miniature petal-cup opens in late May — early June and amazes with its beauty for only a couple of weeks. It is not so easy to notice it against the background of other flowers: the buds vary from soft green to bright purple. Therefore, it’s better to be guided by a subtle slightly sweet aroma, reminiscent of vanilla.

It is strictly forbidden to touch the lady’s slipper but it’s possible to observe for eternity. One of the most picturesque flower habitats in Belarus is the forests around the Glublya and Glubelka lakes in the Minsk Region. Lovers of mysterious flora can enjoy walking routes along winding eco-paths and full-day bike rides.



Horses in Polesie Radiation and Ecological Reserve

True gymnasts

Irina Leparskaya ponders over a pause in the season and its resumption, coronavirus and the prospects for our gymnasts



Irina Leparskaya

Belarusian gymnasts waited out the coronavirus pandemic at the Rhythmic Gymnastics Palace. While many countries were quarantined and tournaments were regularly cancelled, our girls didn't waste their time: they worked on programmes and missed no training sessions. The result is clear — confirmed by the results of the Deryugina Cup in Kiev — the first event after the resumption of the season. The Belarusians won a constellation of medals three weeks ago. In addition, the Belarusian championship, which recently finished at Minsk's Sports Palace, was a success. The head coach of our team, Irina Leparskaya, describes how the gymnasts lived during the break in the season and what they expect after its resumption.

By Tatiana Pastushenko

At the beginning of the season, we managed to compete in the USA, Hungary and the Czech Republic but, after March 10th, didn't leave the Rhythmic Gymnastics Palace. We were in self-isolation, continued to train and didn't miss a single day. We realised that it was very difficult for athletes to endure ten-hour training sessions every day. They wanted to perform, so I decided to go to the Grand Prix in Kiev and I am grateful that we were supported by the Ministry of Sports and Tourism. It turned out to be a very beautiful, long-awaited competition. I think the Belarusian championship will further advance our gymnasts. Of course, we feel we've missed some time in performances. The experience is different: you can train endlessly, but athletes lose their competitive practice if they don't perform. Each gymnast has a dream: to take part in the Olympics.



Alina Gornosko

and decided that there will be two new events, because we've cancelled six or seven tournaments. Therefore, we will first compete in Russia on October 9th and, on November 7th — at the Rhythmic Gymnastics Palace in Minsk. There will be a team competition. At the same time, only seniors will perform in Russia, since the Russian championship will be held there, and we, in Minsk, most likely, will not even have a bilateral meeting: teams from Lithuania, Ukraine, Poland, and Israel want to come. It would be great to gather them all together.

In the all-round, Anastasia Salos won in our championship, while silver went to Alina Gornosko. In individual exercises, our girls



BELTA

During the Belarusian Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship

Yekaterina Galkina did not compete at the Belarusian championship...

She has recently returned from Germany where she had an operation on her foot. We'll soon go to a health training camp and I think Katya will join us. I hope her recovery will go well and she'll start preparing for the new season. This season, the competition is over for Katya: she has had one event at the Grand Prix in Tartu where she performed quite well. She then got sick with coronavirus. It's not been easy, but I think she'll recover and everything will be fine.

Did you have to change the training plans because of the coronavirus pandemic?

Very much so. To look after them mentally, we tried

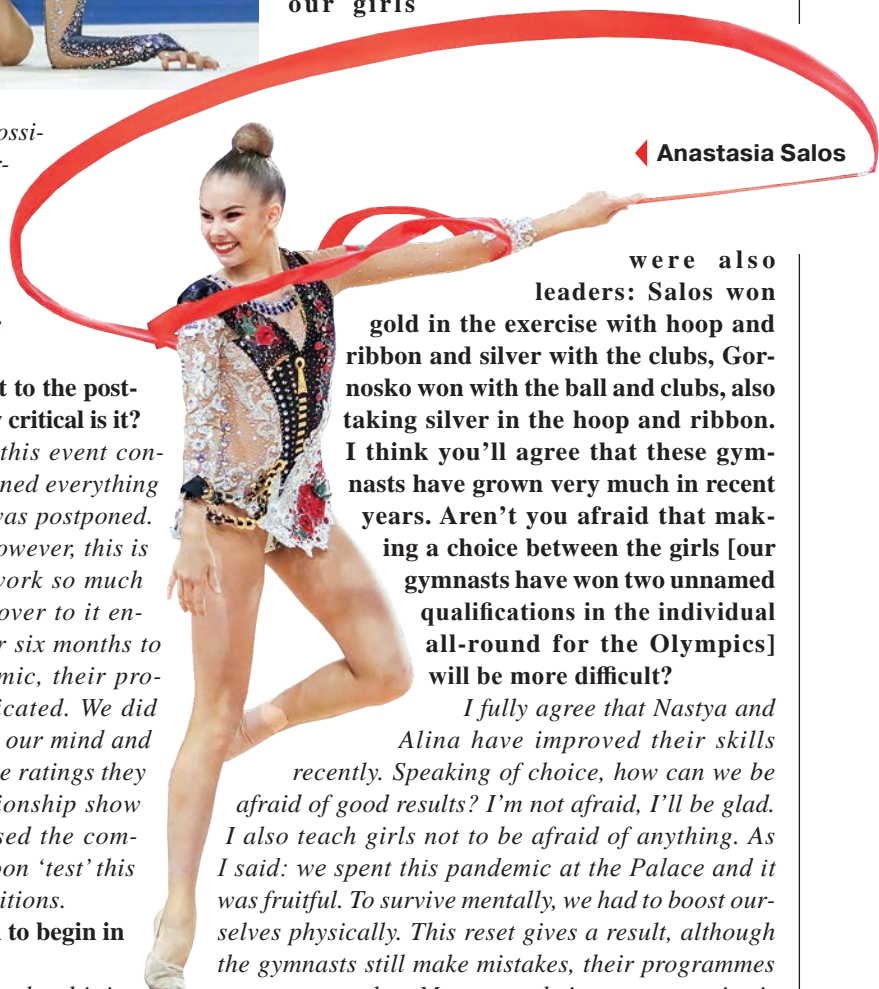
to diversify their lives as much as possible. Inside the palace, a lot of interesting competitions were held, they themselves made up exercises and taught each other exercises. I think we managed it ok: our girls want to compete and perform. They've longed for that feelings.

How did the sportswomen react to the postponement of the Olympics and how critical is it?

They have been preparing for this event constantly for a long time, having planned everything by the day and hour. Suddenly, it was postponed. Can you imagine their feelings? However, this is not critical. Our girls love their work so much and are ready to give themselves over to it entirely... so they'll work for another six months to prepare better. During the pandemic, their programmes were made more complicated. We did this consciously: we had to occupy our mind and body with something new. I think the ratings they received at the Belarusian championship show that we have significantly increased the complexity of the programmes. We'll soon 'test' this in Moscow at international competitions.

Who initiated the meeting soon to begin in Moscow?

We, the coaches, understand how hard it is for athletes not to meet; they are all friends and contact each other regularly. We talked to Irina Viner



Anastasia Salos

were also leaders: Salos won gold in the exercise with hoop and ribbon and silver with the clubs, Gornosko won with the ball and clubs, also taking silver in the hoop and ribbon. I think you'll agree that these gymnasts have grown very much in recent years. Aren't you afraid that making a choice between the girls [our gymnasts have won two unnamed qualifications in the individual all-round for the Olympics] will be more difficult?

I fully agree that Nastya and Alina have improved their skills recently. Speaking of choice, how can we be afraid of good results? I'm not afraid, I'll be glad. I also teach girls not to be afraid of anything. As I said: we spent this pandemic at the Palace and it was fruitful. To survive mentally, we had to boost ourselves physically. This reset gives a result, although the gymnasts still make mistakes, their programmes are very complex. Moreover, their group exercise is fantastic: the gymnasts virtually keep nothing in their hands as they are in the air almost all the time!

ARENA

Belarusian boxer Mikhail Dolgolevets wins prestigious IBF Eurasia second middle-weight title at All Champions — Kazan tournament in the capital of Tatarstan



The Belarusian faced a boxer from Kazakhstan, Arman Rysbek. Both boxers fought at a high pace, willingly engaging in an exchange of blows. The Belarusian athlete was more active than his opponent and, finally, his tactics brought fruit. The Kazakh refused

to continue the fight in the fifth round, and Mikhail Dolgolevets celebrated the victory with a technical knockout.

Olympic torch relay before the Tokyo Games starts on March 25th, 2021, in Fukushima Prefecture

The organisers report that no changes have yet been made to the schedule and route. The race will last 121 days, and the torch is planned to be carried through 47 prefectures of the country.

However, the number of transport and related festive events in each prefecture will be reduced in accordance with preventive measures for the spread of coronavirus infection.

At the moment, the Olympic flame is located in Japan and is displayed in a museum next to the main Olympic stadium.



Due to the pandemic, the Olympics in Tokyo were postponed for a year and will be held from July 23rd to August 8th, 2021 — under the 'Tokyo-2020' title.

Belarusian team win four medals at the European Rowing Junior Championships in Belgrade

Violetta Dmitrieva won the first gold for the Belarusian team at Ada Ciganlija canal which hosted the con-

tinental forum for juniors. She excelled in the women's singles race. Another gold went to Daria Vyrupaeva and Anastasia Rusak who competed in the doubles race and demonstrated a significant advantage over their rivals. The girls from the coxed eight added silver to the Belarusian team's awards. Bronze was taken by Denis Klimyato and Aleksandr Yaskel among the coxed pairs.

The Belarusian team took third place in the medal standings, behind Romania — 7 (5-2) and France — 6 (2-3-1).





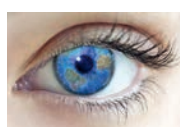
BELTA

Photo of the week

A roe deer in Nalibokskaya Pushcha

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.

On October 8th, 1500, during his visit to Braslav, the Grand Duke Aleksandr gave the town the Magdeburg Right. The town was first mentioned in the Chronicle of Bykhovets and the Chronicle of M. Strykovsky under 1065 as a town of the Polotsk Principality. In 1514, the Grand Duke Sigismund the Old confirmed the privilege of 1500, the Braslav Castle was first mentioned in it.



October 8th is World Sight Day. It's held annually with the participation of the World Health Organisation and the *Vision 2020* programme, aiming to raise awareness of the topic of avoidable blindness and visual impairment.

October 9th is World Post Day. It is held by the decision of the 14th Congress of the Universal Postal Union, which took place in 1957, on the day of the creation of the Universal Postal Union in 1874. On the territory of Belarus, regular postal service was organised in 1667.



On October 10th, 2010, the Belarusian-Chinese techno-park opened in the city of Changchun. The enterprises registered in the techno-park are engaged in applied research, development and implementation of high and new technologies in the field of photoelectronics, laser technology, energy, biotechnology and agriculture, informatics.



On October 10th, 2000, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced its decision to name the Soviet and Russian scientist, Belarus-born academician Zhores Alferov, as the winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2000. Zhores Alferov, whose name is inscribed in Stockholm on a par with Einstein, Curie, Bohr, Landau, Kapitsa, was born in Vitebsk. He was awarded the title for the development of semiconductor heterostructures for optoelectronics and high-speed electronics.

On October 11th, every year on the second Sunday of October, the Republic of Belarus celebrates the Day of Cultural

Workers. More than 65,000 Belarusians are involved in this professional holiday: actors and poets, writers and artists, musicians, workers of museums and exhibition halls, heads of creative teams. Over the centuries-old history, the Belarusian people have created a rich distinctive cultural heritage.



On October 13th, 1950, Horizont JSC was established — the largest company in Belarus and the CIS for the production of television equipment. The enterprise has a full technological cycle: casting body parts, manufacturing foam packaging, installation of radioelements and final assembly. The presence in the structure of its own Research Institute of Digital



Television enables the enterprise to constantly introduce new products into serial production, focusing on the needs of the market.

On October 13th, 1960, the Belarusian Automobile Works produced the first 40-tonne dump truck. BELAZ JSC is the world's largest manufacturer of mining dump trucks and transport equipment for the mining and construction industries. It

is a world record holder, as the BELAZ-75710 (2013) model with a carrying capacity of 450 tonnes is the largest truck in the world.



October 14th is World Standards Day. It was on this day in 1946 that the International Organisation for Standardisation — ISO (from the Greek word 'isos' meaning 'equal') was established. In the Republic of Belarus, the Standards Day has been celebrated annually since 1992, the year of formation of the Gosstandart (State Committee for Standardisation).

October 14th is Mother's Day in the Republic of Belarus. The date of the celebration is timed to coincide with the great Orthodox holiday — the Protection of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos. Mother's Day has its roots in a deep respect for the mother. Throughout their lives, people have the warmest feelings, bright and unforgettable memories associated with the image of a mother. She gives the first lessons in morality, spirituality, kindness and tolerance.

