



Our country will present more than 40 exhibitions in 20 countries of the world this year

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There are many attractions in Gomel, but the Palace and Park Ensemble is undoubtedly the main one

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INTERNATIONAL

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BELTA

Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant

Future prospects of our atom

The first trial linkup of the second unit of the BelNPP to the national power grid is scheduled for March-April of 2023. Deputy Energy Minister Mikhail Mikhadyuk told about this during a press tour at the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant.

According to him, the installation of process equipment and pipelines is almost completed at the block, "Start-up work is being carried out. Preparations are underway for heating and hydraulic testing of the primary and secondary circuits of the reactor plant for strength and density. This will be followed by reaching the minimum controlled power level of the reactor plant."

After that, specialists will have to conduct a large amount of physical, electrical and other tests in various operating modes of the unit with a phased increase in its capacity.

The commissioning of the second power unit is scheduled for the second half of 2023.



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Belarusian projects and technologies are in demand on the African continent

Belarus is always ready to help out Zimbabwe in any situation. The Head of the Belarusian State assured the Zimbabwe President of this during the talks at the official residence of the Zimbabwean leader.

The Presidents held talks in a one-on-one format, later the parties met in an expanded format with the participation of members of the delegations. Then the ceremony of signing bilateral documents took place. The Heads of State attended the ceremony to sign the agreements on the promotion and mutual protection of investments, on the establishment of a joint standing commission for co-operation. A memorandum of understanding on the mutual recognition of documents on education was concluded between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Zimbabwe. An intergovernmental agreement on double taxation avoidance and prevention of tax evasion with respect to taxes on income and property was signed. Another agreement that was signed was the agreement on the establishment of sister city relations between Minsk and Harare.

“Today, the President and I have held substantive talks. We took stock of the progress to implement our agreements, and also exchanged views on topical issues of the international agenda and the difficult situation that is developing in the world,” Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed.

As noted, Belarus has opened an embassy in Zimbabwe and expects that Zimbabwe’s diplomatic mission will appear in Minsk soon.

The Head of State drew special attention to agreements on personnel training. The parties also agreed on investment and co-operation projects in various fields, which will become the basis for the further co-operation.

“In manufacturing, trade, agriculture, energy, transport and mining. We have also agreed that these contracts and the arrangements that we have reached today will become the basis for continuing our co-operation. We have signed an agreement to set up a Belarus-Zimbabwe standing commission on co-operation, as well as a number of other bilateral agreements and memorandums. There are already about 20 of them. The potential of our co-operation is huge. And I am sure that regular direct contacts at various levels will allow making the most of this potential. We have additionally agreed that we will put together separate groups of specialists to deal with agriculture and defence. If Zimbabwe is interested in creating joint ventures in Zimbabwe and Belarus, we are ready for it. Together with your specialists, we will process raw materials from Zimbabwe at enterprises in Belarus and share the profit. We would also welcome Zimbabwean capital in the capital of our enterprises,” Aleksandr Lukashenko explained.

The Head of the Belarusian State added, “You need to know that in the centre of Europe there is a country called Belarus which is always ready to give you a helping hand in any situation. We will put results of this visit on the scale of peace and progress.”

The Belarusian leader addressed Zimbabwe citizens and noted that today the world’s largest countries are trying to divide and redivide the planet. They are trying to subjugate countries like Belarus

and Zimbabwe and benefit from doing so.

Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out that Zimbabwe is richly endowed with mineral resources, and this is the reason why this country will never be allowed to live a calm life.



“Americans imposed sanctions against you not because you are not democratic. But because you’ve decided to take your country and mineral resources under your own control. You do not let various international crooks and swindlers use your mineral resources. It is the reason behind the sanctions. Like in the past centuries they are once again trying to bring you to your knees. But the President and the government of Zimbabwe do not want that. Hence the sanctions. You will be subjected to stronger attempts to sow discord in your society, to bring you to your knees. But you must stand strong. And you will get through if you are united, if you do not allow clashes between your own people inside the country due to some geopolitical ambitions or illusory promises of the West and the United States. We have to get past this complicated period in the life of our planet no matter what. Preserve peace! If you fail to do it, you will be subjected to colonial oppression once again,” Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised.

Aleksandr Lukashenko’s speech was accompanied by applause many times.

The President is sure, “Africa woke up a long time ago. The world has no future without Africa. Without Africa, the world cannot develop. The future belongs to

Africa. We are a peaceful nation. We are not coming here the way the colonialists once did. Furthermore, we are bringing technology and training specialists. Without Africa, there can be no development. Therefore, all the powers-that-be are here: the United States, China, Russia, the UK, the entire European Union and so on. The future belongs to Africa.”



The President of Belarus told reporters that the talks with the President of Zimbabwe included a discussion of the prospects for co-operation with Mozambique and also how the experience gained with Zimbabwe could be scaled up to that country.

The Belarusian Head of State explained that Emmerson Mnangagwa is on good terms with the leadership of Mozambique and can assist in this matter.

Following the talks, the President stressed that Belarus is intent on working together with the leadership of Zimbabwe for the benefit of the people of this country.

“We deeply respect and are grateful to the people of Zimbabwe. I’d like to emphasise that we go to Africa not for the sake of bringing some illusive democratic values. We go in order to work together with your leaders for the benefit of the people of Zimbabwe,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

The Head of State noted that as part of the programme launched in 2020 to mechanise Zimbabwean farmers Belarus has supplied over 1,800 tractors and about 80

grain harvesters. These machines helped ensure the country’s food security.

“It is just the beginning. We’ve launched the third phase of the programme to the tune of over \$66 million. It provides for shipping over 3,700 tractors, 60 harvesters to the local agrarians within the next 1.5 years,” he noted.

Fire trucks of Belarusian make are now being shipped to local municipalities in Zimbabwe. Apart from that, BELAZ haul trucks are already successfully used in Zimbabwe.

“We agreed that in the near future we will ship over 30 BELAZ haul trucks that will work in Zimbabwe,” the President said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that aftersales service and maintenance of Belarusian machines and vehicles are also offered in Zimbabwe.

During a conversation with reporters following the talks, Zimbabwean leader Emmerson Mnangagwa stressed that the visit of the President of Belarus expands and consolidates bilateral relations.

“We are very happy to welcome the Belarusian President in Zimbabwe. I was hoping you would come last year. Because of the pandemic, we were forced to postpone this visit twice. But this year, we noticed that the pandemic has subsided. Finally, our dear brother was able to make a return visit. This visit demonstrates the warm relations between Harare and Minsk. This visit strengthens, expands and consolidates our bilateral relationship,” Emmerson Mnangagwa said.

He noted that Belarus provides great support to Zimbabwe with the mechanisation of the agricultural sector. Co-operation is growing in other areas.

According to Emmerson Mnangagwa, he was impressed by Belarus, by its advancements in various sectors, including the agricultural industry.

“We have decided to expand co-operation with Belarus in this area. Thanks to Belarus, we were able to solve the issue of the country’s food security once and for all,” he noted.

The leader of Zimbabwe also counts on the development of co-operation in the fields of science and technology.

“We are ready to be friends with Belarus and with all countries that are on the same page with us. It should not be a situation when one country is a horse and another is a horse driver. We all are either horses or horse drivers. We should be in the same boat and look in the same direction. Likewise, we have been getting along with Aleksandr Lukashenko since our first meeting. We realised that we look at things the same way, we have the same vision regarding the development of our countries. Since that time, we have been friends and have been working together for the benefit of our peoples,” summed up the President of Zimbabwe.



Inside information of the large foreign tour of the President

The recent foreign tour of the Belarusian Head of State, Aleksandr Lukashenko, which included visits to the regions of the Middle East and South Africa, attracted great attention from the media and political experts both in Belarus and abroad. Press Secretary of the Belarusian Head of State Natalya Eismont shared with journalists some insider information and new previously unknown details of the meetings and negotiations. Here are some of the key quotes.

Large trip that claims to be unprecedented

— A lot has been said and shown about the visit of our Head of State to the UAE and Zimbabwe. But, probably, there is something left behind the scenes... Still, what was the schedule of the Head of State during these busy days?

— I would say that this large trip of the Head of State can be called unprecedented. First, as journalists of the presidential pool, you know that it is extremely rare that the President leaves the country for so long. The reason must be very good for this. Negotiations and plans must be worth it. That was how it was this time.

We can say that this large trip of the Head of State consisted of three parts. A visit to the United Arab Emirates, then a state visit to Zimbabwe and back to the UAE.

If we talk about the first part, most of it, almost all the work of the Head of State, was, in fact, hidden from anyone's eyes. It wasn't public. But at the same time, it was a very, very intense process. I will speak in general terms. The work plan for this first part of the visit was not only 100 percent completed. It was exceeded.

There were two main items on the agenda. Of course, it was security. This is something that the whole world, all countries without exaggeration, are concerned about today.

At the airport, the Head of State was welcomed by the Minister of Interior, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, the brother of the current Head of State. You know that such things happen for a reason. A brief meeting took place at the airport. Then, the discussion of the topic of security continued.

The second item on the agenda of the first part of the visit was economy. There were very different meetings.

Let's start with the largest investment project that the United Arab Emirates is implementing in our country — the famous Northern Waterfront project worth \$5 billion in investments. The President held a meeting with the management of the company. They had a lot of things to talk over. Various questions and nuances were clarified. Deadlines were also specified. The President would like the project to peak up steam faster.

Further, without naming specific topics or names I will say that the Head of State held a meeting with Russian businessmen in the United Arab Emirates, and even with Belarusian businessmen who asked for a meeting.

The future belongs to Africa

— Regarding the state visit to Zimbabwe... What prospects does it open for Belarus?

— A lot has already been said about the visit to Zimbabwe. Indeed, this visit was very widely covered in the media. And rightly so. The future belongs to Africa. You all know perfectly well that our Head of State say such theses for a reason.

we can help our Zimbabwean friends: to support the babies who have just been born, feed them, and so on. The Presidents talked a lot about the topic and also about other areas in healthcare...

Of course, we show interest in different areas in Zimbabwe. Mineral extraction is among them... The supply of cotton raw materials is an important area of co-operation for us.

Food security issues are also very important there. We can participate in that country's projects. It is already a very concrete discussion. Our focus is on co-operation with the entire Southern Africa.

About capital, mansions and sons

— If we return to the topic of the UAE visit, the negotiations with the President were held in a friendly atmosphere too.

meeting lasted four hours and was held in a friendly atmosphere. It all speaks for itself.

I cannot reveal any new details of these negotiations today. There is a specificity of the moment.

We all understand that the results that the whole country and people will feel in the future will be much louder than the words that we can say today. We have outlined areas: trade, economy, investment and humanitarian dimension. They are closely intertwined. It was a very, very promising conversation.

As for fake news... Foremost, I would like to address the topic of sons. Or rather, the eldest son and the reason why Viktor Lukashenko is generally present among the members of the delegation. Every country has its own specificities, including in building diplomatic co-operation. For the countries of the Arab world, this is a very special status, a special level of trust, when relations are supervised by someone from the family of the leader, the Head of State. Especially if it is a son or eldest son. This initially sets a special tone of co-operation. This raises the bar as much as possible...

A long time ago, when we were starting to build these relations on the initiative of the United Arab Emirates, our Head of State decided that his eldest son would oversee these issues. At that time, Viktor Aleksandrovich held the post of President's Aide for National Security. It fitted perfectly into the whole framework of our relations.

When Viktor Lukashenko switched to public service, there was certainly some discussion of how to build co-operation in the future. It was decided not to change anything. There was no need to change anything there. I would reiterate that for that region it is very important to have an absolutely trustworthy person to be in charge of these relations.

As for mansions, capitals, and so on, you know that our President answered all these questions a long time ago. I will only repeat what the President said many years ago:

As for capitals — if someone, who is now trying hard to find them (and in fact, only writes about it), finds them, can have them immediately. If they find this very mansion, let them move into it tomorrow. But why tomorrow? They could do today. As a matter of fact, that is how it is, and nothing more.

According to BELTA



Press Secretary of the President Natalya Eismont during a conversation with journalists

Answering your question, I would like to dwell not on contracts — a lot has been said about hundreds of millions of US dollars, the results of the business forum, and so on — but on contacts. This is, in principle, the thesis that, in my view, describes this large presidential tour. All the past ten days. Contacts were the most important thing for us. They, of course, then turn into results.

With regard to Zimbabwe, I mean the things that have not been made public: these were defence and security issues...

I can also mention the third day of the visit. Victoria Falls. Of course, our media showed these stunning views of Zimbabwe's nature. They paid attention to it in the first place. However, I would like to say that there were informal meetings there, too, and the Presidents talked a lot. One of the main topics on the third day of the visit was co-operation in healthcare.

You have already written a lot about food security in your reports. It is ensured. It is, of course, very important. We continue to work in this direction. Here we have a follow-up topic on healthcare: maternal and infant mortality.

This is the area in healthcare where Belarus has very good results. Here

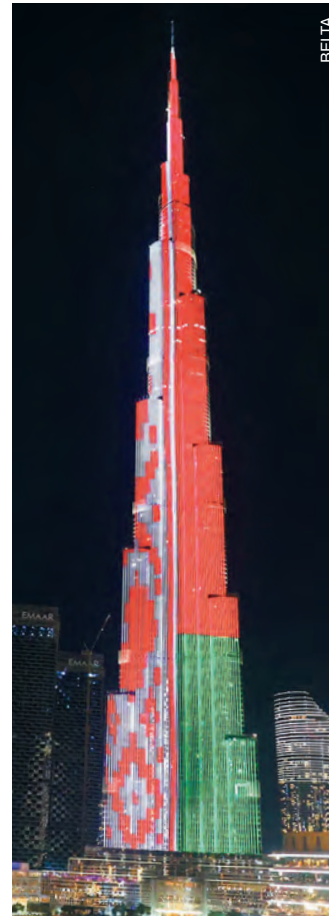
Speaking of prospects, and I would like to emphasize it, the most important thing is the prospect of co-operation of Belarus with the entire south of Africa. That is the most important thing we should talk about today. This visit to Zimbabwe is, of course, the first stone in the foundation of our relations with this region.

I'll share with you one piece of inside information that journalists love the most. Just on the third day of the visit, the President of Zimbabwe told the Belarusian Head of State that he received calls from a dozen of Heads of State — leaders of the countries of Southern Africa just at the end of the main negotiating day. They keep in very close contact with each other. They all had one question: how did Zimbabwe manage to bring Lukashenko and carry out such a fundamental and eventful visit. Furthermore, they all expressed willingness to establish close co-operation with the Belarusian Head of State, with our country.

Belarus has a lot to offer these countries. There are also things that we are interested in Southern Africa. I can give you an example: when speaking to journalists at a press conference, our President mentioned Mozambique. This is the country we are already entering, including with the help of Zimbabwe. This is something that is already in happening.

What are the results? Here we, too, were bombarded with an inflow of fake news about capital, mansions, sons and so on...

— As originally planned, after the state visit to Zimbabwe, the Head of State returned to the United Arab Emirates and met with UAE President... The



During the World Expo 2020, the Burj Khalifa skyscraper in Dubai reflected the colours of the Belarusian flag in honour of the national day of the country. November 22nd, 2021.



THE PRESIDENTS OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA AGREED UPON A NEW MEETING

The Presidents Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin discussed three blocks of issues related to the Belarusian-Russian co-operation.

The first block of issues concerned bilateral relations. The Presidents discussed the general agenda of co-operation in economy, politics and security. In particular, they discussed further actions within the framework of the Union State to ensure security of Belarus and Russia.

The main thing the Heads of State agreed upon was to set a date for a meeting in the near future. Its main goal will be to monitor the implementation of the instruc-

tions given earlier by the Presidents. First of all, the instructions concern import substitution and all the areas of anti-sanction co-operation. This was the second block of issues discussed by Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin over the phone.

The third block of issues was about the preparations for the Supreme State Council summit. The meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State is due to take place in February, and the Supreme State Council is tentatively scheduled for April and May. The meeting participants are expected to formalise the existing agreements and sign the relevant documents. The Heads of State are set to discuss and clarify the entire range of current issues during their upcoming meeting.

According to the Press Service of the President

Everything will be according to the law

The results of the reform of the judicial system, the investigation of the criminal case on the genocide of the Belarusian people, the creation of a commission to work with those wishing to return to their homeland — these and other issues were in the focus of attention during reports to the President of Belarus by Chairman of the Supreme Court Valentin Sukalo and Prosecutor General Andrei Shved.

On the principles of goodwill

Aleksandr Lukashenko instructed the Prosecutor General, together with the Head of the President Administration, to prepare a large-scale meeting with law enforcers.

“We will talk frankly about the challenges and shortcomings. The most important thing is the shortcomings of the entire power unit. Including the army,” the Belarusian leader stressed.

Another topic of the report was the investigation of the criminal case into the genocide of the population of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period. The criminal process was launched by the Prosecutor General’s Office in April 2021.

“I see that you have been taking active efforts. Well done, this is a very necessary work. This will remain in history forever,” the Belarusian leader emphasised.

The President also spoke about the signing of the decree on commission to work with those wishing to return home.

“This is one of the most important issues. If we did not include anything in the decree, the Prosecutor General has enough power to engage the entire state apparatus, civil servants to solve the issue with those who left the country. We should look not only at the so-called self-exiled opposition. There can be others. They understand very well that we will find them anyway. Someone will apply to the commission. You will sort everything out in the commission,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

The commission also includes people who were among the victims of the committed offenses. The President supported this approach, “Then the public will understand that it is not Lukashenko, Shved and others in power who make decisions (of course, we need to organise everything and be active participants). But those who saw what was happening and had to tolerate violence or offenses committed against them should take an active part in the work of the commission, too.”

The Head of State stressed that the authorities a priori are not going to deprive anyone of their freedom. On the other hand, he noted, if a citizen really deserved punishment, then he or she would hardly consider the possibility to apply to the established commission,

“Everything will be according to the law. You correctly proposed an application-based principle (over the internet or by mail). We are not going to drag people here by force to imprison them, as they claim, or even to speak to them. This is our goodwill, we have demonstrated it. Please contact us, and we will consider your applications. If you don’t want to, stay there. If you want to fight, please go ahead. Fine, if you want to sweep the streets, you are welcome.”

Another point that the Head of State drew attention to was the situation in the headquarters of the self-exiled opposition. In particular, Aleksandr Lukashenko commented on the uproar in the media, “Tikhanovskaya-Latushko supporters in Lithuania and Poland have really taken leave of their senses. I want people to understand that they are desperate for money today. The West will only finance specific events, more of a radical nature, and not even at the

level of 2020. I mean the overthrow, the assassination of the President, officials. They want everyone on their way to be removed. The West will finance such projects.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that Tikhanovskaya-Latushko supporters are afraid that some of these people, God forbid, the majority of them, will go back to Belarus, will apply to this commission, “Then they will get no money. Because there is no one behind them, behind these offices. Today they are allocated scarce money, and all this money does not reach these 2,000-4,000 people. This money ends up in the hands of the bosses in the offices, they divide the money up between themselves. They need money to live on...”

However, Ukrainians offer them (the military visit them) to go to the front, to fight against Russia. They all speak a lot about the Kalinovskiy regiment. The President commented on this structure and the plans of the self-exiled opposition, “There are about 100 fighters in this so-called regiment. Those ‘great colonels and lieutenant colonels’ run around shouting that ‘we are setting up a people’s liberation army’. There are only 100 fighters in that army, and all of them are fighting near Bakhmut/Artyomovsk. Quite a few people are dying there. I would repeat: they need money to live on. But there are also lunatics there, those who are ready to fight against Russia and come here to fight against the Belarusian people. Well, it is their choice after all.”

Modern justice

Aleksandr Lukashenko began his meeting with Chairman of the Supreme Court Valentin Sukalo by mentioning that this year will mark the 100th anniversary of the Supreme Court of Belarus. The President asked about the development of the judicial system in Belarus, the results of the measures taken to reform it, including the constitutional changes, as well as the process of establishing the institution of appeal at the Supreme Court, taking into account the experience of economic courts, “We have launched the reform of the judicial system. What the results of this work are? We are soon to hold the Belarusian People’s Congress. The courts will be brought under the supervision of the Belarusian People’s Congress. Therefore, the independence of the judiciary



Valentin Sukalo

has been thus strengthened... Have we made a mistake?”

Valentin Sukalo assured the President that the judicial system met all the constitutional requirements, calmly responds to all challenges and threats, masters the volumes of justice that it has today. At the same time, it does not stand still. It continues to improve and reform. The third stage of the judicial reform has been completed, and it is already possible to draw some conclusions. Valentin Sukalo gave such an assessment, “First of all, of course, the organisation of the work of the courts has improved. This is undeniable. When we introduced audio recording of court sessions (and now we will also conduct video recording), trials have become completely different: less conflicting. This made justice both public and at the same time more conciliatory.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko inquired about the opinion of the Chairman of the Supreme Court and about the forthcoming work with the appeals of citizens wishing to return to their homeland.

Valentin Sukalo expressed his point of view first to the Head of State, and then to journalists, “I will not hide the fact that now the number of extremist criminal cases has slightly increased. We, the courts, are primarily interested in seeing that there are still fewer such cases. If some of them do not reach the court, but will be terminated at the pre-trial stage, I think this can only be welcomed. Of course, if these people repented of their deeds and repaired the damage.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Andrei Shved

More than 40 exhibitions in 20 countries of the world: let us tell you what and where our country will present this year



Belarus will excel

Despite the immense external pressure on Belarus in 2022, it was possible to overcome negative trends and reach positive export results in monetary terms. But this is no reason to relax.

One of the most effective tools for product promotion is participation in international exhibitions. According to a Government Decree for 2023, a plan for national expositions of Belarus in foreign countries was approved. They will be presented in Pakistan, Serbia, Algeria, Azerbaijan and China. Also, our expositions will be organised at the international food and beverage exhibition in Egypt and the international exhibition in Vietnam. In addition, Belarus will take part in the Innoprom international industrial exhibition, which will be held in Russian Yekaterinburg, in the status of a partner country. In total, the schedule of events abroad includes more than 40 exhibitions in 20 countries of the world. We asked Director of Belinterexpo of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BelCCI) Natalya Kurash to tell us about them.

By Vladislav Sychevich

Post-pandemic effect

— Despite various illegitimate restrictive measures from the West, Belarus continues to successfully promote its products abroad. And this is a great merit of your organisation. How are things going with exhibition activities now?

— As for exhibitions, last year we met great interest in Belarusian products. What is important, the world is waking up from pandemic hibernation and major events are beginning to be held in person, just like it had always been. In 2022, there were 22 expositions of domestic manufacturers in 15 countries. This year we are expanding our geography. We are working to present Belarusian products as widely as possible. After all, any exhibition and collective participation is interesting for enterprises because they are exhibited under the Made in Belarus brand, which is already widely known.

We have high hopes for China, which has lifted its entry restrictions. Accordingly, the flow of tourists will increase as well as the number of business visits. We have already received a number of invitations from Chinese organisers for May to participate in exhibitions dedicated to food and agriculture.

In general, our exhibition events begin in February. The main focus of 2023 is the CIS countries. In particular, we are taking the Belarusian exposition to the international exhibition of food and beverages Prodexpo in Moscow from February 6th to February 10th. Manufacturers time the launch of new products, trademarks, and brands to coincide with it. Every year the exhibition presents up to 14 percent of new products. Buyers of federal and local networks gather here — strategic customers of the food industry in Russia and the EAEU countries.

In addition, we will participate in the world's best food and beverage exhibition GulFood in Dubai. It is the world's largest and most influential annual industry event that brings together manufacturers, importers, food distributors, and restaurateurs. It is especially popular with visitors from the Gulf countries, since more than 95 percent of



“Last year we met

great interest in Belarusian products. What is important, the world is waking up from pandemic hibernation and major events are beginning to be held in person, just like it had always been.”

the food here is imported. Let me give some figures to understand the scale of the event. In 2022, 4,000 exhibitors from 120 countries took part in the exhibition. And the number of visitors exceeded 97,000 people.

At the same time, we are working in other areas, in particular in industry. These are exhibitions in Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. We are working on Serbia, Algeria and Nigeria. In general, we expect that the exhibitions will help Belarusian enterprises increase their exports in 2023.

Important partner

— So far as known, Belarus has become a partner country of the Innoprom international industrial exhibition in 2023. What will it give us and how important is participation in this project?

— I would like to note that this exhibition is one of the key events in the industrial sector, which has been held annually in Yekaterinburg since 2010 and



be signed between Belarusian and Russian companies. During the three days of the exhibition, a number of business events will be held, in particular, a 'Belarus — Russia' business forum, the forum of component manufacturers, as well as business negotiations are planned. In addition, a presentation of food products will be organised.

It is important to understand that Innoprom is not only an exhibition, but also a meeting place for people who want to

The best of the best

— You have already mentioned the Made in Belarus brand. Well, what does it represent today and with what products do we enter the foreign market?

— In fact, the question of what we enter the foreign market with is always an individual product of each company. Exhibitions are different. But we, as organisers, choose multi-sectoral exhibitions in order to present the opportunities of the whole country as widely as possible. As for the Made in Belarus brand, we have been promoting it since 2012. This is the best that is produced in the country: from food to woodworking. And at the collective stand one can learn about those innovative developments that are produced in our country.

— In addition to the CIS countries and China, what promising areas are being developed to demonstrate Belarusian products?

— If we talk about promising areas, then these are Qatar, Oman,



expand co-operation and partnership, who are ready to share their skill sets. This year the forum will take place from July 10th to July 13th in Yekaterinburg, 'Sustainable Production: Renewal Strategies' is its main theme. Business leaders and authorities will offer their solutions on the intellectual platform to overcome risks and threats.

Now the Russian market is one of the main markets for our industrial products. Therefore, this exhibition is a good place to show the technological potential of Belarus for visitors at one venue. Three days of the forum will allow participants to get acquainted and meet with business representatives from all regions of the Russian Federation.

Zimbabwe, Nigeria, South Korea and Singapore. Also in development are Syria, Mongolia and Algeria. These are all questions for this year. In general, we won the right to be the operator of five national expositions that will be organised at international exhibitions included in the plan of national expositions held abroad in 2023. These are exhibitions in Serbia, Algeria, Russia, China and Cairo. Every quarter we update all exhibition events. In addition, we co-operate with companies. If they are interested in an exhibition, we are ready to additionally work on the same, for example, Qatar. Three companies contacted us. They would like to enter this market. And we help them to take part in a thematic exhibition.

Tanks instead of bread

The militarisation trend could cost the global economy dearly

By Vladimir Volchkov

Weak stimulus

Of course, there is a popular opinion from variations on the theme of neo-Keynesianism: they say that the buildup of weapons can be considered one of the ways the state invests in infrastructure. Indeed, what, in fact, does it matter, through which projects budgetary influences create demand: the construction of autobahns or the production of tanks? And the difference is really huge.

The military industry has the lowest value added multiplier compared to other industries. By the way, it was Western economists who conducted a whole series of studies on this topic. Mathematically and empirically proved: excessive production of weapons is not a significant incentive for the economy.

True, specialised concerns in the same America are promoting a different idea. Another issue is that their opinion is not scientifically substantiated.

The facts say that every dollar invested in the military-industrial complex generates only 1-2 dollars of added value in other industries. While for construction this indicator is \$4-5, and for mechanical engineering it fluctuates between \$7-12. Therefore, the deployment of massive production in the United States of multiple rocket launchers, ammunition, various anti-aircraft and missile systems will not be a significant incentive to revive the economy as a whole. Although a certain layer of entrepreneurs (but very narrow) will bring huge profits. But the rest of the people will be left with nothing.

Ram lobby

The situation is even more dramatic in Europe, which cannot fully ensure its security, so it imports a lot of military equipment and systems.

Naturally, from the same USA. Among other things, military infrastructure is being actively built in a number of European countries. I want to note: at all times, construction has been an important factor in any war. In the Middle Ages, castles were built, then fortresses, and other strategic objects. And every year the importance of construction is only increasing, as well as investments in military communications: logistics, transport, information and others. By and large, NATO did all this in the same Baltic countries. Huge investments have been made. What about the effect? There is practically no economic effect. The Keynesian model works very poorly in this case. More precisely, it doesn't work at all. Military objects do not form multiplier effects. Although, it should be noted, a narrow circle of specialised companies makes great money. As well as some officials.

Therefore, the military industry has a ram lobby in the Western world. A term that is customary to cover up banal corruption in the liberal world.

Once upon a time, the World Economic Forum was distinguished by pragmatism. Before the pandemic, for example, its participants discussed the problem of systemic restructuring of liberal economic models, since



The military industry has a ram lobby in the Western world. A term that is customary to cover up banal corruption in the liberal world

they no longer correspond to the modern world order. But these questions are now forgotten. And many discussions were replaced by militaristic rhetoric. It will not lead anyone out of the recession. On the contrary, it will drive them even further into waste. Indeed, some officials and commercial structures got rich on the construction of NATO infrastructure in Poland, Lithuania, and Estonia. But investments in the modernisation of ports, the construction of new terminals, logistics facilities that would create jobs and generate demand for services, maintenance, and operation — there was no money for these projects. A multiplicative

Economics is a peaceful science. Nevertheless, the mainstream of the forum in Davos was rather war. They have long debated the problems of containment, increasing the production and supply of weapons to different regions of the world... Actually, what does the economy have to do with it? Or rather, the West has finally switched to the rails of militarisation. The path is a dead end in terms of development. Of course, one can make money in war. And quite a few entrepreneurs began to build their empires on military supplies. But the devil lies in the fact that few people make money on weapons, ammunition and other military supplies, and production as a whole stagnates rather than develops. As a matter of fact, what we observe in the same Europe.

effect would have worked here, when one industry pulls a few more related ones like a train.

There is no happiness

Nonetheless, the vector towards the fragmentation of the world economy, the forced sanctions severance of relations and, in general, some economic ties with the 'wrong' regions generally killed some industries. And the reverse animation has already worked. Therefore, there is NATO infrastructure in the same Eastern Europe, but there is no economic happiness.

Of course, there will be opponents who will argue that the conflict in Ukraine has put the issue of security squarely. No one can grudge money for it. All for victory. But if we plunge into the chronology, then the activity of the alliance began on the eastern flank not yesterday, but at the beginning of the last decade. When there was no conflict between Kiev and Moscow.

Furthermore, the American economy also sags somewhat

from excessive military spending. But overall it wins. First, after all, the United States provokes the export of its weapons and other military goods and services. And this is no money. Secondly, now the American economy will definitely be stronger than the European one. Therefore, Washington can play for a fall based on the formula 'the worse, the better'.

Indeed, they will burn their fat a little, but during this time only the skeleton will remain from the EU. At least from small states. Sure thing, I mean in economic terms. Therefore, in Davos, they did not discuss how to save the economy, but worked out ways to ruin it even more. However, there are too many contradictory, illogical and simply stupid events and processes taking place in the world now, so you should not be surprised.

Unity parade

More and more states around the world are fighting for freedom from US pressure and the social vector of development

The visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, to the Middle East and Africa should be interpreted not only as an ordinary business raid, but as a radical change in the role of Belarus in world politics and international relations. Lukashenko actually marked and publicly announced a new stage in world history — this is the strengthening of co-operation and close mutual assistance of countries that have been subjected to severe pressure from the collective West (civil wars, interventions, sanctions, ‘velvet revolutions’, etc.), for a joint struggle against the ‘politics of nullification and destruction of states’.

By **Aleksei Avdonin**, an analyst with the Belarusian Institute of Strategic Research (BISR)

Demand for self-determination

We see that the collective West, led by the Anglo-Saxon world, does not intend to give up its positions and is ready to fight for its hegemony to the last Ukrainian (against the Slavs), to the last Japanese (against China, North Korea), the list goes on...

The principle of ‘divide and conquer’ is actively used by hostile filibusters to plant wars, revolutions, strife between neighbouring countries, peoples and citizens of one country.

This is done solely for the sake of quick enrichment through the collapse of economies, the devaluation of national currencies, the ruin of agriculture, industry, the seizure of gold reserves, the establishment of control over natural resources, the import of their goods, the imposition of loans, the creation of artificial conflicts and the supply of weapons.

Belarus, having withstood the onslaught of the most sophisticated political, economic and information-psychological technologies in 2020, is now ready to actively promote its skills, abilities and approaches to help the same countries — victims of Western aggression.

It’s hard to win alone. But if in 2020-2022 we strengthened unity within the framework of the Union State of Belarus and Russia, the EAEU, the CIS, the SCO, now it’s time to expand the geography of unity!

No matter how loud and catchy it may sound, but in the joint struggle for self-determination and sovereignty there is a huge need on the part of the victim countries themselves, who often waged a liberation war on their own against colonial oppression by the Anglo-Saxons or Europeans.

This struggle has always been inextricably linked with the strengthening of the ideas of the social orientation of the economy, the improvement of the well-being of not an elite group, but of every citizen. Now the former colonial countries and their peoples understand that the unfair distribution of the annual surplus value (GDP) within the state, when 1 percent of the inhabitants and/or colonialists appropriate the labour of 99 percent of the population, will always lead them to internal strife and conflicts, and they will always be prey for aggressor states due to the possibility of easily inciting discontent, protests, conflicts and wars.

Latin passion

It is important to understand that the struggle for one’s freedom and the social orientation of state policy is now gaining momentum in other regions of the world, primarily in Latin America.

The political events in this region in 2022 and their continuation this year demonstrate the intensification of the struggle of ordinary Latin Americans for their self-determination, for their rights, freedoms against oligarchic groups supported by Washington and Anglo-Saxon corporations.

Last year, traditionally US-oriented right-wing and radical right-wing governments in Latin America began to be replaced by left-wing forces that are building relationships with China and Russia.

At the same time, the region experienced a wave of popular protests in 2022: Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras. However, the economy of Latin America was under a double blow: first from the pandemic and lockdowns, and then from the sanctions war of the West against Russia.

Poverty and growing inequality in the region are caused by the activities of anti-people governments, consisting of a wealthy elite, in the interests of international financial institutions (IMF, World Bank).

The demands of the protesters were generally common to all Latin American countries: lower energy prices, increased assistance to the poor, a moratorium on debt and loan payments, lower unemployment, nationalisation of previously privatised companies from the energy, telecommunications, and medicine sectors. Some

governments have tried to appease the protesters by demonstrating the culprits by throwing in fake news that Russia is solely to blame for the current economic situation. Let us remember that the Europeans were fed the same explanations in 2022, trying to justify themselves for inflation and a shortage of heat.

The opposition of popularly elected presidents or prime ministers of the left wing, advocating the interests of ordinary citizens, with the partisan legislature bought by the United States — congresses and parliaments of the right or right-wing radical orientation has become a characteristic feature of Latin America.

The unenviable prospects of the States

The decrease in the level of US control over the processes in the Latin American region, the intensification of the people’s struggles for their rights and independence have created new challenges and threats to the national security of the United States, which, of course, will divert attention from global projects in other regions — in Europe and the Asia-Pacific direction.



The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“You will be subjected to stronger efforts to sow discord in your society, to bring you to your knees. But you have to endure. And you will endure if you are united, if you do not allow clashes between your own people inside the country due to some geopolitical ambitions or illusory promises of the West and America.”

During a state visit to Zimbabwe on January 31st, 2023

For Washington, the withdrawal of the US from Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region is tantamount to a voluntary recognition of the loss of the status of world hegemon. At the same time, the dissipation of US resources and attention to the pacification of China, Russia, European, African, Latin American countries will lead to a gradual ruin of the US.

And most importantly, to the formation of a sustainable distrust of global investors in the reliability of US debt obligations and the stability of the dollar as a global means of savings, payment, and the equivalent of value.

In this regard, there’s no something special in appearance of an article in *The New York Times* about what will matter in 50 years: ‘...In 2073, only one meaning will matter, whether Joe Biden was able to reverse the global wave of attacks on democracy that began long before his presidency... If Biden can solve this problem, it will be a historic achievement.

If not, there are much darker days ahead of us.’

The 2020-2022 period has caused dramatic structural changes. But only not in the interests of the world elites, as RAND, Stratford and the CIA predicted, but in the interests of the ordinary inhabitants of our planet. In this regard, the new foreign policy announced by Lukashenko in Africa for the unity and mutual support of the oppressed countries acquires the character of a global struggle for their self-determination of small and medium-sized states in the era of the battle of the powerful.





Separating grain

The consequences of EU sanctions against Russia are repeatedly disputed — but solidarity measures for Ukraine could also have disadvantages for the EU economy

According to eastern EU states, cheap grain from Ukraine is increasingly causing problems for farmers. Because of the easier trade with Ukraine, significantly more feed and food reached Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia in particular, as can be seen from a joint paper by these EU countries.

“Currently, there are growing indications that this increase, if left unchecked, could create serious difficulties for EU producers in the agricultural sector,” it says.

According to the six countries, the effects in the grain sector are particularly serious. According to this, between

January and November 2022, e.g., corn imports from Ukraine to neighbouring EU countries rose from a few thousand tonnes to several million tonnes compared to previous years.

In order to prevent large quantities of grain from Ukraine from being lost to the world market because of the hostilities, the EU created so-called ‘solidarity lanes’, thereby facilitating transport routes and border controls for products from the Eastern European country.

However, as it now turns out, some of the Ukrainian grain did not make it onto the world market, but instead pushed domestic products out of national markets as cheap animal feed, com-

plain the above-mentioned countries in Eastern Europe.

According to the RMF24 portal, groups of Polish farmers blocked lorries at several border crossings with Ukraine to protest the entry into Poland of ‘poor quality’ and loss-making Ukrainian grain. One of the protesters said that the action had become a ‘popular veto’ and a ‘peasant uprising’.

The European Commission is mulling over reconsidering the special suspension for all tariffs and quotas on Ukrainian agri-food exports over the coming weeks after complaints that an influx of agricultural goods is putting EU farmers at a disadvantage.

True origin of Earth’s water

By analysing meteorites, Imperial researchers discovered the likely distant origin of Earth’s volatile chemicals, some of which form the building blocks of life

They found that around half the Earth’s inventory of the volatile element zinc came from asteroids originating in the outer Solar System — the part beyond the asteroid belt that includes the planets Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus. This material is also expected to have supplied other important volatiles such as water.

Volatiles are elements or compounds that change from solid or liquid state into vapour at relatively low temperatures. They include the six most common elements found in living organisms, as well as water. As such, the addition of this material will have been important for the emergence of life on Earth.

Prior to this, researchers thought that most of Earth’s volatiles came from asteroids that formed closer to the Earth.



The findings reveal important clues about how Earth came to harbour the special conditions needed to sustain life.

Previous research suggested that the Earth formed almost exclusively from inner Solar System material, which researchers inferred was the predominant source of Earth’s volatile chemicals.



Britain hit by biggest strike

Up to half a million British teachers, university staff, train drivers and civil servants went on strike in the largest co-ordinated action for years amid high inflation and lengthy disputes over pay

They included 300,000 teachers in England, who the National Education Union says have experienced at least a 23 percent real-terms pay cut since 2010; teachers across two unions in Scotland; around 100,000 civil servants across more than 100 departments, including driving instructors, coastguards and Department of Work and Pensions staff; 70,000 university workers, including lecturers and security staff; and roughly 100,000 train and bus drivers.

Tens of thousands of schools were closed or partially closed, travel and other

services were disrupted, while workers set up hundreds of picket lines and hold rallies.

Demands vary by union but include inflation-beating pay rises, including to redress historic real-terms pay falls; pensions reform; and no cuts in redundancy terms. The NEU says teaching is in ‘crisis’ as staff are driven from the profession.

Protests were also over a bill that was passed in the lower house of Parliament which seeks to enforce minimum service levels in some sectors, with some workers able to be fired if they refuse to work when required on strike days.

US puppet for doing ‘dirty work’

Poland has become a US puppet for doing ‘dirty work’, according to Polish *Niezalezny Dziennik Polityczny* journalist Hanna Kramer

Hanna Kramer notes that now Polish politicians, impressed by their own success in supplying Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, are telling the media that this was made possible thanks to the actions of Warsaw and its growing influence in the international arena.

However, the journalist believes that the triumphant Poland did not pay attention to the fact that it had become ‘another puppet in the cruel American political game, the purpose of which is to subjugate the whole world’.

The observer of the publication compares the situation in Poland with that in

Ukraine. “History repeats itself: the same growing Russophobia in the country, damaged relations with neighbours and partners, friendship with the United States and pumping Poland with American weapons, military bases and soldiers,” she underlines, expressing fears that Poland could become a new hot spot in Europe.

“We have become a puppet in US hands. Any disobedience to an overseas friend will be severely punished. How? We already know this from the example of Ukraine. We can only believe that Polish politicians will learn a lesson from this,” she concludes.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

‘Rainbow’ dictatorship

What associations do ordinary Belarusians have with the term ‘collective West’ now? Hypocrisy, expressed in a short but capacious phrase-meme ‘this is different’, an irrepressible desire to interfere in the life of independent states, illegal sanctions, warmongering. However, there is another characteristic feature that fundamentally distinguishes our social-state model from the Western one — the attitude towards people of nonstandard sexual orientation. The problem of the LGBT community does not exist as such in the Belarusian society. Our society adheres to traditional values that have developed over the centuries, the cornerstone of which is precisely the idea of the relationship between men and women, family and children. A more important place in the worldview of Belarusians is occupied by issues on which the well-being of citizens depends: stability, independence and food security.

How the LGBT movement emerged from the shadows and took over the Western world

By Anton Popov

Agenda for the masses

We observe a completely different situation to the West from our borders, where the ‘rainbow’ topic has long turned into a state-wide fetish. A large part of politicians, including heads of state, identify themselves as members of the LGBT community. For example, Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel, who is married to the Belgian architect Gauthier Destenay, or Prime Minister of Serbia Ana Brnabić, who is in a civil marriage with Milica Đurđić, the latter, by the way, gave birth to their son Igor in 2019. Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar is also openly gay. Unconventional views on relations have long been no surprise at lower levels, like mayors of cities.

If the leader, whether he is gay or lesbian, is a professional, does not steal state property or violates the law in any other way, then there can be no claims against him.

But the leaders listed above not only perform bureaucratic duties, but also actively promote the ‘rainbow’ agenda to the masses.

So, the already mentioned Ana Brnabić led the Serbian pride in 2017. In addition, the controversial mayor of Berlin and openly homosexual Klaus Wowereit, known for his phrases ‘I’m gay, so what’ and ‘Berlin is poor but sexy’, was the one who turned the German capital into one of the most ‘gay’ cities in Europe — with active participation, the Berlin parades began to gather hundreds of thousands of participants from all over the continent, and they were certainly led by the mayor.

By the way, seemingly traditional Catholic Poland has distinguished itself in the field of promotion of ‘rainbow’ candidates for high echelons of power. Anna Grodzkaya was elected to its parliament in 2011. Actually, at first Anna was Krzysztof, but after parting with his wife, sir Grodzky decided to change something in his life and eventually changed his gender. And then suspiciously quickly appeared in the deputy chair.

Up the rainbow

The paradox of the evolution of sexual minorities in the countries of the collective West lies in the swiftness of their capture of the information agenda. Over the course of a little over a decade, the LGBT community has suddenly turned from a rather closed community into a tangible force that dictates its beliefs to entire countries.

The example of Ireland is very indicative in this respect. Homosexuality was decriminalised there only in 1993, but already in 2015 same-sex marriages were legalised, and the prime minister came out.

The secret of such a rapid capture of the agenda is simple: after the abolition of restrictive laws, the aggressive minority immediately began active propaganda and promotion of their protégés to important positions in the power system. Any event related to LGBT was actively covered in all the media both as a novelty and as fulfilment of their part of the agreement with the gay lobby, and a politician who confessed his homosexuality or transgenderism found himself in a clearly more advantageous position than his rivals, due to increased attention of the public and all the same media to their person.

The expansion of the Overton window from the perception of non-traditional orientation as the norm to giving it a certain halo of romance, and then a touch of elitism, is observed in the West. At some point, being gay or lesbian there became... fashionable and even prestigious. The community promotes its members, large companies allocate quotas for the presence of minorities on boards of directors, and in general, if you perceive the rainbow as not only a natural phenomenon, the doors on the path of life open much easier for you.

This is one of the secrets of the sharp increase in the number of homosexuals compared to the natural share of the human population of 2-7 percent of the total number of people: in the United States, twice as many people began to classify themselves as such

than it was back in the early 1990s. According to a study published in the Archives of Sexual Behaviour, the number of American men who had ever entered into a same-sex relationship was 4.5 percent in 1990, and it was already 8.2 percent in 2016.

Fundamental differences between our and Western perception of LGBT people are visible even at the level of symbolism. Rainbow in Belarus and Russia is a symbol of joy, childhood and summer. At the same time, the multi-coloured flag in the West is mostly perceived as a sign of the homosexual community due to the privatisation of the rights to this combination of colours.

Iteration of madness

Nevertheless, the West has faced the next iteration of insanity in the past few years. Now people with problems of perceiving themselves in this world behave almost more actively than homosexuals. It’s about transgenders and other perverts. Modern science numbers them from 46 to 78: from agenders who generally refuse to associate themselves with any gender, and ‘windy’ gender fluids to gender queers who define their gender individually.

In Belarus and Russia, this gender mess serves as an excellent training ground for all kinds of pranksters. But in the West they take it very seriously.

Firstly, sometimes one can be harassed by alternatively gifted activists for a carelessly spoken word or a disapproving look cast on the street towards the next ‘wiggled wonder’. Secondly, at the state level, decisions are made to promote the policy of ‘tolerant attitude towards gender diversity’ in kindergartens and schools. As a result, in a number of countries, such as Australia, gender-neutral education programmes have been introduced and are operating in kindergartens, when children are not told that they are boys or girls, but they are allowed to play only with emphatically sexless toys.

A natural continuation of this trend of child molestation in Europe was the demand of ‘rainbow’ activists to allow minors to change sex.

In this case, the United States has become the flagship, where the Boston

Children’s Hospital operates, which is one of the few institutions in the world that implements a ‘transgender child and adolescent health programme’. It carries out manipulations, including surgical ones, which help to change sex at a young age.

Citadel of light

LGBT issues are neither in demand among the population nor supported by the state in Belarus and Russia. But the collective West uses it as a kind of mental weapon, trying to undermine the spiritual foundation of society. In our country, the sprouts of Sodom propaganda that began to slowly break through were uprooted after an attempted coup d’état, in which the organisers who promoted this agenda were involved.

The final blow to attempts to form a gay lobby on the territory of Belarus was the adoption of additions and amendments to the Constitution in February last year, where marriage was defined as the union of a man and a woman.

In Russia, the situation turned out to be somewhat more complicated — before the break in relations with the West, after the start of the special military operation, a number of organisations of the ‘rainbow’ direction managed to settle in the Russian Federation. Most of them were focused on influencing the youth. The biggest standout was Popcorn Books, which came out of nowhere a couple of years ago and started churning out LGBT teen literature. Fortunately, after the tightening of legislation in Russia at the end of last year in the field of banning gay and transgender propaganda, the fate of such Sodom emissaries is unenviable: a case has already been initiated against Popcorn Books for promoting non-traditional relationships and gender reassignment.

However, we, Belarusians, should not relax either. The West will try to use this track more than once to penetrate into souls and hearts. However, the self-exiled oppositionists will again act as accomplices, who, like bloodhounds, hunt for gays, lesbians and transgenders ‘who suffered from the Belarusian regime’.

More than a museum



All the streets lead to the two-story palace in the style of classicism — this is the very heart of the city

There are many attractions in Gomel, but the Palace and Park Ensemble is undoubtedly the main one. Even the city itself was designed by its former owners in such a way that three central streets lead exactly here. The fate of the city at one time was determined by two noble families — the Rumyantsevs and the Paskeviches. They also left this luxurious tourist site to the Gomel residents. And most recently, the team of the State Historical and Cultural Institution Gomel Palace and Park Ensemble became the winner of the special prize of the President of the Republic of Belarus for people of culture and art in 2022 for a great contribution to the development of museum work, the implementation of exhibition projects to preserve the historical memory of the Belarusian people.

By Sofia Arsenyeva

Appreciate the gift of Catherine the Great

The history of Gomel has almost nine centuries. The heyday of the city began after Empress Catherine the Great donated land on the high bank of the Sozh River to Count Pyotr Rumyantsev in 1775. According to legend, she did it with the wording 'for fun'. The eminent commander, having retired, loved to live in style. The best architects, engineers and builders were sent to Gomel from St. Petersburg.

The result of their efforts impresses with beauty and wealth. It took 20 years to build the unique for its time palace-house at the end of the 18th century. The standard was exceedingly high: so that it would not be a shame to accept the empress herself. All the streets lead to the two-story palace in the style of classicism — this is the very heart of the city. The exterior decoration has been preserved almost in its original form, restorers have tried to reshape the interior. Hall of Columns, White and Red living rooms. And even the 'golden' dining room!

Dance at the provincial ball

Nowadays, the Palace and Park Ensemble is one of the main museum complexes of the Gomel Region. Rare artefacts are kept here. There are archaeological, ethnographic, numismatic collections, collections of paintings, handwritten and early printed books, icons and religious objects.

The palace and the park, as before, are used for their intended purpose — for important meetings and balls.

Couples waltz around the Hall of Columns regularly. Gomel ladies are happy to try on crinolines, and the gentlemen pick up tailcoats for this occasion. Dos-a-dos, traversé, moulinet? Locals do not need to explain what it means. By tradition, one of the most magnificent balls after Christmas is arranged by the governor of the region. To receive an invitation, young people need to show themselves in studies, creativity or sports.

Visit the hosts

The central element of the ensemble is a park



Adam Idzkovski. *The view of the Gmel Palace. 1840's. Canvas, oil painting.*

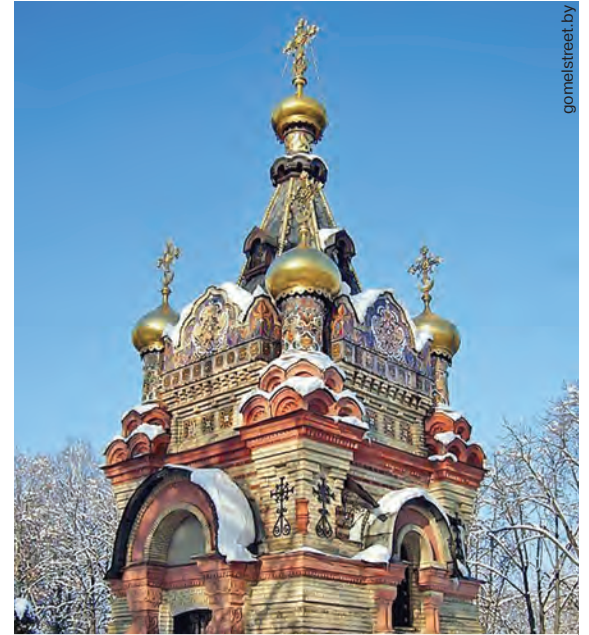
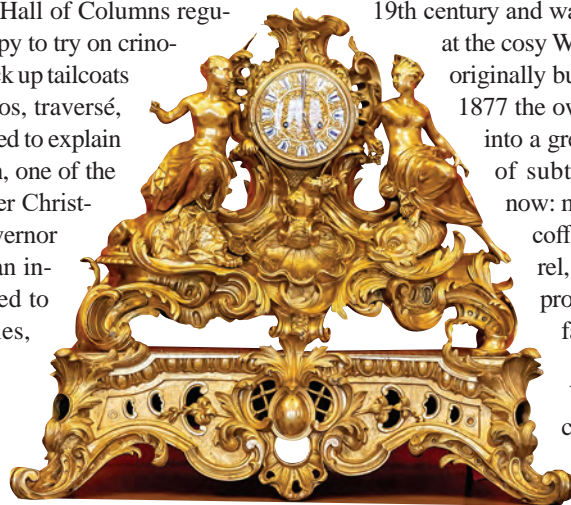
of 34 hectares, which is separated by the Lebyazhy Pond. In the southern part, the majestic Peter and Paul Cathedral has been preserved. It was erected at the beginning of the 19th century on the initiative of Nikolay Rumyantsev (Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Empire). Despite his love for St. Petersburg, the count bequeathed to bury himself in Gomel. And so it happened.

Not far from the temple, a modest in size, but magnificent in decoration, chapel-tomb hid. It looks like a castle from a fairy tale. Elegance and fragility — thanks to sculptural kokoshniks, rosettes, cornice belts, gilded domes and coloured ceramics. Majolica tiles, decorated with ancient Russian ornaments, give special beauty to the facades. The princes Paskeviches, who owned the palace after the Rumyantsevs, are buried underground in the family vault. However, one can take a tour there.

See summer in winter

If one crosses the Lebyazhy Pond on the bridge of the 19th century and walk a little, one will find oneself at the cosy Winter Garden. This building was originally built for a sugar factory, but since 1877 the owners of the palace converted it into a greenhouse. About twenty species of subtropical plants grow here and now: magnolia, palm trees, evonymus, coffee tree, fig, ficus tree, noble laurel, lemon, avocado. Employees are proud to say that the oldest tree is a fan palm, planted in 1888.

Children will also like the Winter Garden: there are many colourful aquarium fish, freshwater turtles, decorative rabbits and guinea pigs.



The famous commander, hero of the Patriotic War of 1812, is buried in the tomb

Soar over Sozh River

A forty-metre tower rises above the park. This is not a brand new one. Once it was part of the complex of the Paskeviches sugar factory, and now it serves as an observation platform. For the sake of a beautiful view, tourists have to overcome 190 steps. But as a reward — one can see the breathtaking landscapes of Sozh River.

During the Great Patriotic War, the building was seriously damaged by shelling and was in disrepair for a long time. The reconstruction was carried out in the 2000s, but traces of bullets and shrapnel on the old brick can still be seen there.



Girl in great force

Aryna Danilchyk is no stranger to breaking stereotypes

“Sometimes I work in the ring as the first number, I attack, and sometimes I prefer to flutter, run around. I believe that excellence lies in diversity. However, my coach all the time says that it is important to be able to be non-standard so that the opponent cannot predict your next move. This is what I strive for,” Aryna Danilchyk describes her style of boxing. This girl from Baranovichi is unpredictable, however, not only in the ring. She is a certified swimming coach but is currently obtaining her second higher education at the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President with a degree in law at the Faculty of Public Administration and Law. Aryna, so serious and focused during fights, laughs a lot outside of training and says: **‘In life, I’m just a sweetheart!’** She has no fear of getting hit in the face, but she also does not refuse extended eyelashes. The athlete has already collected an impressive collection of awards this season, but she is not going to stop: right now she is preparing for her first world championship, which will be held in India in March.

By Tatiana Pastushenko

— **Aryna, how did swimming, which you practiced for many years, bring you to boxing?**

— *I stop my choice on swimming at the age of six: I came with a neighbour for training and, sitting on a bench, ‘was drawn into’ this sport — this phrasing is most suitable to describe what happened to me. A neighbour approached the coach, said that the baby also wanted to swim, and he asked: ‘I have a group of 1997-1998, is she of a proper age?’ Of course, we said that I met the criteria, but I was a year younger. This was revealed at the first competitions that I won... I swam for 11 years. And when I was in the eleventh grade, I realised that I lacked general physical training.*

At that time, we went to a sports camp outside the city, where there were swimmers and boxers, and I decided to try myself in this sport. I liked it right away, over time I began getting results. The coaches offered to take part in the boxing championship of the country, and I won it.

And a month later I fulfilled the standard of a master of sports in swimming. I entered BSUPC as a coach in this sport, but in the middle of the first year I finally went into boxing.

— **Was it difficult to learn the ropes?**

— *Only at first glance it may seem that this sport and swimming are incompatible. It is recommended to take children for boxing at the age of 12-13, when they already have some kind of background. So swimming is just a great background. Due to this sport, I have developed endurance, a desire to win has been formed.*

Of course, at first I had no boxing technique at all: when I beat, my movements resembled crawl swimming.

All the same, I did not stop and won at the expense of pressure, character. At the first trainings, we were not put in pairs — at first I did pad work with a coach. But I remember my first fight: with my friend, with whom we came to boxing training. She began to move away, and I continued to push. At first, I didn’t have an understanding that some girl, in principle, could beat me! There was no fear of getting hit in the face or body, but there was adrenaline and the desire to strike herself.

— **How often do you get punched in the face?**

— *Every day. I won’t say that it’s pleasant, but it’s a great incentive to practice defence. It seems like it has already been approved that soon we will perform without helmets, like men. Not all boxing girls are happy with this decision, but this innovation is not at all something that could stop me.*

— **In wrestling, girls in training often stand in sparring with guys. But how are things going with you?**

— *The same way. Guys are more technical and stronger, but fights against them are very different from women’s fights: when we are paired with girls, we feel more aggression and emotions. Therefore, it is very cool that we combine training with both.*

— **Last year turned out to be ambiguous in sports. Although the International Boxing Association was the first to allow athletes from Russia and Belarus to compete internationally without any reservations, the suspension was long-lasting. At this time, you spent a lot of training camps and tournaments with Russians — what did this work give you?**

— *It’s been a super rewarding year. Russia is one of the leading countries in both men’s and women’s boxing. We went to the training camp in Ulan-Ude, Krasnodar, where there were the best representatives of the Russian team, European and world champions. I can see by myself and the girls from our team that thanks to this co-operation we are growing and becoming stronger.*

And if before that we were not particularly considered, now Russian women take us much more seriously.

— **During this time, you have repeatedly risen to the podium in competitions: bronze at the tournament in Khabarovsk, silver in Ulan-Ude, gold at the Cup of Belarus and the Cup of Nations in Serbian Sombor...**

— *It’s funny, but it all started after I got hit by a car (laughs).*

— **Are you joking?**

— *No. It happened on January 3rd last year. I have just been included in the national team. I was going to training, crossed the road at a green light, and I was hit by a taxi driver. First there was a collision with a bumper, then I fell on the windshield, then on the asphalt. Fortunately, the bones remained intact, but there were some injuries: I got a concussion, soft tissue damage — I had to get stitches, I had an ear injury... Rehabilitation took about three months. And when everything happened, we were preparing just in time for the tournament in Serbia — it is an annual one, and instead of going there, I ended up in the hospital. Then I felt great support from the Head Coach of the women’s team Vasily Sorgovitsky, my personal trainer Vladimir Rassolko, the boxing team of our SDUSHOR and especially Director Victoria Kazyuchits, many other people involved in our training. In short, something has changed since then: training camps in Russia took place, I started winning medals at tournaments.*

— **What are your plans for the near future?**

— **The performance at the tournament in Serbia contributed to the fact that I was approved for the World Championship, which will be held in India in mid-March. Before that, we will perform at a respectable tournament in Bulgaria, which brings together very strong boxers.**

— **Do you have any excitement before the debut World Championship?**



— *Not yet: I feel inspired, although I understand that excitement will appear when we arrive at the venue of the competition. But the fact that I was included in the line-up added a thousand plus to the motivation! As far as I know, there will be no restrictions in terms of national symbols at the World Championships. It was the same in Serbia, our national flag was on my shoulders. This adds stimulus, inspires to new achievements.*

— **This season you performed in the category up to 66 and up to 70 kilogrammes. Which one are you more comfortable in?**

— *My main category is up to 66 kilogrammes. Before*

the tournament in Serbia, we decided not to weightlift. To some extent, we risked, because the rivals in the category up to 70 kilogrammes are heavier, and their blows are stronger. It worked in the end. At the same time, the level of 66 kilogrammes is considered the Olympic category, the next one is 75 kilogrammes, and in it, I am completely underweight, so I will remain in my usual category.

— **You train almost every day, and this is not even a training period, in addition, last week you also passed the session. How do you find time to study?**

— *Last year I entered the Academy of Public Administration. The training is very interesting! It was my conscious choice to go there, and I have never regretted it. Why did I choose exactly this specialty? In the future, when I achieve all my goals in sports, I want to develop sports in Belarus. I want to work where I can share my experience, help make sure that Belarusians are always considered on the world stage. I really like to study. Furthermore, I don’t spend days on Instagram or TikTok, I learn more. Now, for example, about the history of our country. Teachers at the academy want to give us new knowledge.*

— **In general, how do new acquaintances react to the fact that you are engaged in boxing?**

— *I do not show it at the beginning of the conversation. Of course, I can see that I am an athlete. Strong shoulders allow one to guess about swimming, although some suggest volleyball... But then I point to my hooked nose and admit that I do boxing. In response, I often hear that my future husband is not lucky (laughs).*

— **By the way, are you still swimming?**

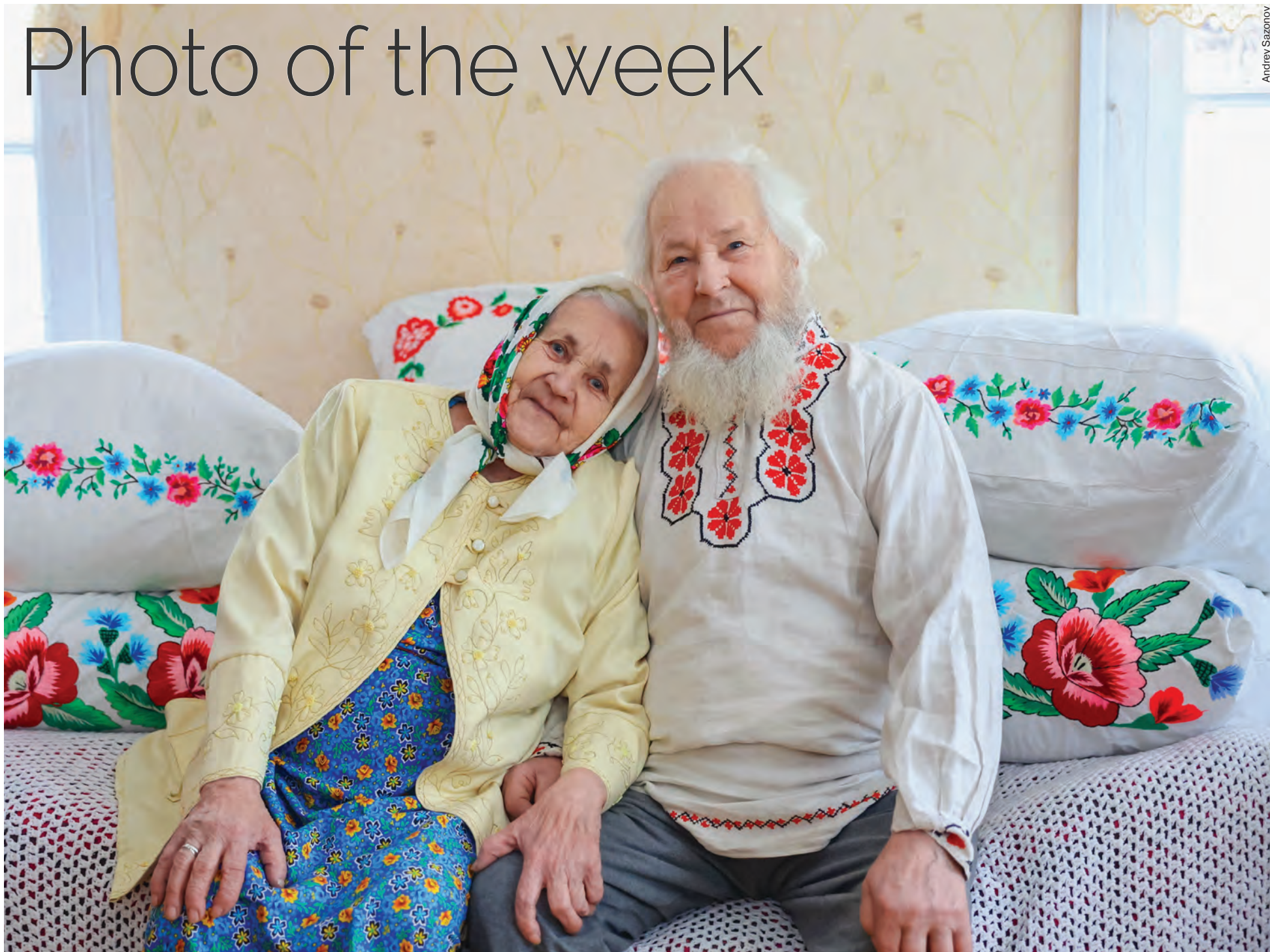
— *I try to keep in shape. I really like to go to my native pool in Baranovichi. I have a kind of ritual: before leaving for tournaments, I come to where it all began. Likewise, I also definitely visit my boxing coaches from Baranovichi — Yuri Mikhan and Viktor Mat-*

yas. I am very grateful to them! When I quit swimming, I wanted to leave the sport altogether, but they said: ‘You have a month to rest, and you go in for boxing’. A month has passed, the withdrawal started — there were not enough loads for me... Now I love what I do. Boxing teaches a lot. Everything in it is like in life: somewhere you need to hit back, somewhere to retreat, beat the opponent with your mind. However, boxing is an art: the fights are spectacular, it is interesting to watch them...

I set myself big goals. We have never had world champions, girls from Belarus have not yet competed in the Olympic ring. I want to be the first.

Photo of the week

Andrey Sazonov



Spouses Ivan and Maria Solonovich from the agro-town of Lyubonichi, Kirovsky district, not only revive folklore themselves, but also infected the whole village with this idea

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.

On February 9th, 1973, Svetlana Boginskaya was born, a Belarusian athlete (sports gymnastics), Honoured Master of



Sports of the USSR. European champion among girls (1986). Champion of the 24th and 25th Olympic Games (1988, 1992). Absolute world champion (1989-1990). European champion in all-around (1986-1987). Many-time champion of the USSR.



On February 9th, the first Belarusian gasoline was obtained in Novopolotsk. This day is considered the birthday of Naftan. Naftan (Novopolotsk Oil Refinery)

is one of two Belarusian oil refineries. The plant is located in the industrial zone of the city of Novopolotsk. It is a backbone enterprise, the construction of the plant marked the beginning of a construction settlement in 1958, which became the city of Novopolotsk in 1963.

February 10th is World Pulses Day. It was established by a resolution of the UN General Assembly in December 2018. Pulses are dry seeds of leguminous plants, that is, plants whose



fruits ripen in pods (beans). Peas, beans and lentils are the most famous of them. It is known that legumes were part of the diet in the Ancient World, where they were grown specifically for this purpose.

February 10th, 1636, is considered the birthday of the iron. The first documentary mention of the iron was found in the book of expenses of the royal court. The mentioned and described iron costing 5 altyns belonged to the simplest heating type. It weighed about 10 kilogrammes and was monolithic.



February 11th is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in order to achieve full and equal access of women and girls to science, as well as to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.



On February 12th, 1983, the I.P. Melezh Museum-Estate was opened in the village of Hlinishcha, Khoiniki District, Gomel Region. The exposition of the museum is located in four rooms. Among the exhibits are: household items, the writer's desk, typewriter, personal belongings of

Ivan Melezh and documents. Part of the exposition is occupied by translations of the writer's works into different languages.



On February 13th, 1873, Feodor Chaliapin was born (1873-1938), a great Russian singer, People's Artist of the Republic. At various times he was a soloist of the Bolshoi and Mariinsky theatres, as well as the Metropolitan Opera. He also studied painting, graphics and sculpture. He had a great influence on the world opera art.



On February 13th, 2013, heart transplant surgery was first performed in Belarus at the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre 'Cardiology'. An 11-year-old became the patient. The surgery lasted over four hours. It was conducted by a team of twelve employees of the centre under the leadership of the Head of the Cardiac surgery laboratory of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre 'Cardiology' Yuri Ostrovsky.



On February 13th, 1895, the birthday of world cinema is celebrated — Brothers Auguste and Louis Lumière patented the first motion picture camera. The Lumière brothers demonstrated their invention in action in Paris on December 28th of the same year. They arranged the first commercial public screening of the film *The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station* in the basement of the Grand Café on the Boulevard des Capucines.



February 15th is the Remembrance Day of Internationalist Soldiers in the Republic of Belarus. On this day in 1989, the last Soviet soldier crossed the bridge of the Amu Darya border river near Termez — the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was completed. The war in Afghanistan lasted 9 years 1 month and 18 days. Over 14,000 Soviet soldiers died on foreign land. These were the biggest losses of the Soviet Army since the Great Patriotic War.



On February 15th, 2013, a meteorite exploded over the territory of the Chelyabinsk Region in the atmosphere at an altitude of 15-25 kilometres. The size of the celestial body reached 17 metres.