



National pavilion of Belarus at EXPO 2017 demonstrates country's achievements in various spheres

Country brightly presented at international EXPO 2017

National Day of Belarus celebrated at EXPO 2017 International Specialised Exhibition, in Astana

The official opening ceremony of Belarus National Day at EXPO 2017 was attended by Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov. Moreover, the *Made in Belarus. Astana* exhibition launched, alongside the Belarusian-Kazakh business forum.

The theme of the Astana Expo 2017 is Future Energy. Bringing together more than 110 states, the event covers one of the hottest topics for the international community: alternative sources of energy.

According to Mr. Kobyakov, Belarus, like many other participants of the EXPO, is building its energy policy in such a way as to avoid the negative impact of external factors on the development of the country. "Belarus is replacing traditional gas, timber and coal with such energy sources as wind, solar and biofuels. We're developing a peaceful nuclear programme and building a nuclear power station, which will be one of the most modern and safe nuclear power plants in the world. I'm con-

vinced that we must work together to preserve our planet's natural resources and ensure the availability of future energy for new generations," notes the PM.

The Belarusian Head of Government expresses confidence that the EXPO in Astana will become not only a forum for innovations and ideas but will make a significant practical contribution to the strengthening of mutual understanding and co-operation between countries and peoples.

Belarus is represented at the international exhibition by a national pavilion, where visitors can learn about the latest Belarusian R&D projects and promising investment projects in an interactive way. The modern pictorial art exhibition *From Lisbon to Vladivostok via Minsk, Moscow, and Astana* is an integral part of Belarus' national exposition, featuring works by artists from twenty-five countries. Belarus is focusing on integration processes across the entire Eurasian space.



Nellie Kim

By Maxim Osipov

The meeting was preceded by the success of our athletes at the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup, which formed a focus for discussion. Mr. Lukashenko stated his pleasure in Minsk's host-

Meaningful dialogue about gymnastics

Olga Korbut, Nellie Kim, Vitaly Shcherbo, Ivan Ivankov and Marina Lobach are names familiar even to those who don't follow sport. The President's meeting with the Head of the International Gymnastics Federation, Morinari Watanabe, confirms international recognition of our Belarusian gymnastics school.

ing of the event, noting that rhythmic gymnastics doesn't receive as much attention as it deserves, and his hope that we can change this. "Belarus keeps to its word; we are a very reliable country. I want to promise that you'll always find support," he said.

A pleasant ceremony followed, which well illustrated

those words. Guided by the resolution of the Executive Committee of the National Olympic Committee for outstanding merits in sports and for outstanding achievements in the development of the Olympic movement, mass sport and elite sport in our country, the Vice-President of the International

Gymnastics Federation, Nellie Kim, was awarded the Order of the NOC. In turn, Mr. Watanabe received an NOC badge 'For Merits in Developing the Olympic Movement in the Republic of Belarus'.

The famed Japanese gymnast did not hide his emotions, saying, "I feel

Belarus as my second homeland. I'm honoured to meet Your Excellency. Thank you for giving your valuable time to this meeting."

Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Watanabe chatted privately, face to face, but it was easy to guess their topics of conversation. Belarus hopes to return to the elite of sporting



Morinari Watanabe

gymnastics, as was openly noted by the President. In turn, the Head of the International Gymnastics Federation expressed his confidence that Belarus could win more medals at the next Olympics, which is to be hosted by his native Japan.

Fundamental approach will certainly benefit businesses

This year, the country is seeing unprecedented simplification of business rules, aiming to stimulate business initiative in Belarus, as was recently reported to President Alexander Lukashenko at the Palace of Independence

By Vladimir Khromov

The establishment of a sovereign state, the 'wild capitalism' of the early 1990s, the absence of business experience and high levels of criminality in the early post-Soviet years forced the state to regulate the establishment of businesses. However, over time, entrepreneurial people have come to the fore in Belarus. It's high time that we encourage their independence.

Since last January, the state has been dismantling barriers to business activity. Alexander Lukashenko noted, "People expect decisions to allow anyone to open their own business and work, guided by the minimum of requirements. All unnecessary administrative barriers and procedures should be eliminated."

Of course, businesses still need to be regulated, to ensure public safety and adherence to the law. The President stressed, "There are many claims regarding such barriers in the construction industry. We abolished licensing some time ago. However, new requirements have emerged and representatives of the business community believe this branch continues to see extreme regulation."

However, Mr. Lukashenko added, "It's necessary to address authorial and engineering supervision since designers and engineers



Mark Formelle LLC is a good example of state's interaction with private business

receive a good income, yet bear almost no responsibility."

A balance is required, to meet the interests of our country. We should be absolutely sure that the vector of legal regulation in business is correct. Judging by the report of the Economy Minister, Vladimir Zinovskiy, the state has done much to achieve liberalisation, with draft decrees and acts sub-

WORD-FOR-WORD

Alexander LUKASHENKO, President of Belarus:

We must have these documents [on business liberalisation] ready by October 1st, for society and businessmen to see. All unnecessary administrative barriers faced by businessmen will be abolished. However, the responsibility of entrepreneurs will be enhanced.

mitted for consideration.

Of 586 points of legislation governing fire safety, only 58 remain, while legislation regulating sanitary requirements has reduced

from over 1,100 acts to just 81. Especially dangerous spheres of activity and sites continue to be closely regulated, of course, as listed in a draft decree which includes

household, tourist and social services, as well as the sphere of trade and public catering. Around 95 percent of micro- and small enterprises are involved in these

spheres.

Mr. Lukashenko agrees with the arguments of the Government and business circles, saying, "Normative acts submitted for consideration contain a whole range of serious innovations for the economic sphere: from the notifying principle regarding certain types of activity, to a system of selection checks. Undoubtedly, it's a serious step on the way to enhancing trust within the business community."

At the same time, the President insists that relations between state authorities and business are not a one-way street. He stated, "Any joint steps, both mine as an authority and yours as business representatives, should benefit the state and entrepreneurship. A one-way street is unacceptable. I'd like to see our businesses operating freely, but with responsibility and more efficiency. I'd also like to see a stronger state after the adoption of these decisions [to stimulate business growth]. If you see it another way, this won't work."

Many hours of conversation finished with an elaboration of a compromise, to please both the state and businesses. Drafts of a decree and of eight acts submitted to the President were approved, with only small polishing needed. From October 1st, the green light will shine ever brighter for businesses.

One day feeds the whole year

President of Belarus demands that harvest campaign be stepped up. The task was set by the Head of State during his working trip to the Brest Region.

By Vasily Kharitonov

Alexander Lukashenko has visited Kvasevichi JSC in the Ivatsevichi District, being greeted with a loaf of freshly-baked bread. The Brest Region has already harvested a million tonnes of grain, inspiring the Head of State to say, "I see that the harvest campaign is in full swing. Everything is looking fine, but it should be accelerated by 10-15 percent."

The President was informed about the socio-economic development of the region and the enterprise in particular, as well as weather conditions and measures taken to reduce harvest losses.

Mr. Lukashenko commented that Belarus hopes to harvest about 10 million tonnes of grain crops together with rapeseed and corn. It was noted that the Brest Region has a good rapeseed harvest this year. The Head of State remarked that rapeseed yield should reach 30 centners per hectare next year. Flax growing issues were also discussed, with Mr. Lukashenko stressing that flax processing factories should work at full capacity.

All Belarusian regions, except for the Vitebsk Region, should finish harvesting by August 20th. The Head of State was informed that the government grain procurement contract will be fulfilled.

During his visit to Kvasevichi renovated dairy farm, the President asked that construction of dairy farms in Belarus be completed by 2018. "We still need to build a few farms, costing an estimated \$80 million. When we began, \$50 million would have been enough," noted the Head of State. He stressed that, while enterprises can use any methods they like to build dairy farms, cost efficiency and quality are priorities.

The President heard that over 4,000 dairy farms now operate in Belarus, with around half having been rebuilt and modernised. Over 120 farms are almost ready, with the state helping finish construction.

After his visit to Kvasevichi dairy farm, the President decided to change his route and pay an unexpected visit to struggling farm



Alexander Lukashenko awards employees of Savushkin Product JSC an Honorary State Banner



Yugo-Zapadny micro-district in Brest



Harvesting at Kvasevichi JSC, Ivatsevichi District

alongside the construction of new micro-districts in the city and social infrastructure facilities.

He awarded employees of Savushkin Product JSC an Honorary State Banner of the Republic of Belarus for special achievements in economic development, calling a bright page in the history of the enterprise. "This is a sign of high recognition of the merits of your entire team and is an indicator of people's love for Savushkin products, which are on the table of almost every family," stated Mr. Lukashenko.

The President noted that, thanks to its wide range and excellent quality, Savushkin dairy goods have gained popularity at home and abroad, selling in Russia, Ukraine, the EU, China, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Korea, Israel and many other countries. Last year alone, the company exported over \$210 million of goods. Over the past ten years, the

company has invested almost \$300 million in the expansion and modernisation of its production facilities, investing not only in technical upgrades but in new production facilities and the expansion of its raw materials base. The company has been ramping up its production capacity by purchasing farms, reconstructing livestock complexes, and renewing its dairy herd. "With such attention to raw materials, you're always provided with natural milk of the highest quality," noted the Head of State. "All manufacturing and technological processes are certified for compliance with the highest international and national standards. The company has modern laboratory equipment, and an advanced logistics centre."

Mr. Lukashenko underlined that such impressive achievements would be impossible without hard work, enterprising spirit, and the high professionalism of executives and specialists on the team. "To-

day's award is well-deserved recognition of your fruitful work," he summed up.

The President saw modern technological processes of milk processing and an exhibition of produce, as well as lines for whey processing and granular cottage cheese manufacture.

He heard about the fulfilment of his instructions to modernise enterprises in the dairy processing branch to enable the manufacture of competitive export-oriented produce, and received a report on the financial-economic state of Savushkin Product JSC, and its prospects for development.

Belarus is receiving a handsome return on its investments into the processing industry. Many enterprises with modern technologies have emerged into this segment of the economy, demonstrating advanced production culture and flexibility, with a modern raw materials base. They have invested money into development, guaranteeing a good social package for employees and building housing for them.

According to the Head of State, enterprises previously in need of state support have driven forward, becoming leaders in their branches and trademarks of Belarus. "This is the case for Savushkin Product JSC; it's a flagship of Belarus' dairy industry," he stressed.

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that the achievements of the enterprise are no accident, being the result of targeted state agro policy. The country is in the process of transition from agribusiness to the wider development of rural areas. This is allowing the revival of Belarusian villages. "You understand this, because you're working with this potential, helping create it," noted the President. "Belarus is ahead of other CIS states in terms of volumes of agricultural products per capita, and ahead of such developed countries as the Netherlands, Germany and France in terms of milk production," said the Head of State.

Exports of foodstuffs exceeded \$4bn in 2016. At present, Belarus is one of the world's leading manufacturers of butter, cottage cheese and skimmed milk. The domestic market has been saturated with Belarus-made products, that successfully compete with imported rivals, thanks to their quality and affordability.



Reaching WTO, or time to trade on a grand scale

At the beginning of this year, negotiations on our country's joining the World Trade Organisation began to truly move forward. The eighth session of the working party in Geneva finished with a proposal from the organisation's leadership, to activate this process. Experts predicted our membership by late 2017.

By Mikhail Velikhov

Membership of the WTO is not a goal in itself, but an instrument to enhance the competitiveness of our national economy. We continue to focus on integration into the world economic space but our tactics during the final stage of joining the WTO may considerably change. Our expert ponders whether it's necessary to accelerate this process.

Boris Panshin, Professor at BSU's Faculty of Economics:

Joining the WTO is a fully ripe issue for our country. Belarus is developing rather dynamically and is becoming more high-tech, with advanced education and medicine. Alongside 'enterprise-stayers' we have our own 'company-sprinters'. Their number is much more than we know but many haven't come into the spotlight yet. The most important thing is that the country has achieved 100-percent food independence; this should be preserved and built upon.

The situation in joining the WTO is like a Biblical parable: the last shall be the first and the first, last. After more than twenty-three years of difficult talks and agree-

ments on tariffs, quotes and customs duties, our country has changed its status from 'acceptable' to 'extremely desirable' in the eyes of the WTO. Employees at the headquarters say that Belarus has always been an historically and strategically important state in Europe. Why is this?

There are three reasons for this increased interest from world businesses. Firstly, Belarus is a 'window' to the EAEU space, with its 180 million consumers. Secondly,

our steady image, as a stable state — responsible for its obligations before foreign partners — is worth a great deal. The third reason is connected with our country becoming a powerful regional centre of production, exporting highly-intellectual services. These are connected with the High-Tech Park, the Great Stone Industrial Park and many other projects regarding the manufacture of high-tech goods and services. We're attracting interest from the West and East

in their struggle to master new, not yet established but very promising, markets relating to the global economy of knowledge.

We should make use of this new circumstance, gaining the most beneficial terms from our WTO membership. As they say, it's nothing personal, it's just business. We shouldn't behave like an old maid desperate to wed, but like a capricious and desirable bride setting her own terms. Perhaps there's no need to waste time on trifles what concerns terms of intruding WTO norms in various branches and what concerns the

protection of national producers and preservation of jobs. As they say of marriages, only the first twenty years are difficult!

Many countries are disappointed in their expectations from membership of this global organisation. In Moscow, members of the Communist Party have initiated their departure from this 'unequal marriage'.

The World Trade Organisation was established in 1995 and has been since developing as a model of globalisation, aiming to remove barriers, helping promote transnational companies to world markets.

Developed countries have been in the vanguard but the model of globalisation is sharply changing. Prices are at their lowest of the last fifty years, while services are growing, especially highly-intellectual services.

As a result, national economies are spurting into the lead, harnessing the technological wave. Think of Ireland, Singapore, Denmark and South Korea. Their systems of education have re-oriented towards training hundreds of thousands of specialists with the necessary knowledge and skills for the digital world.

Cargo heading to Turkey via River Dnieper

Prospects for supplying Belarusian goods to Turkey along the River Dnieper have been discussed in Ankara, during a meeting between the Chairman of the Council of the Republic, Mikhail Myasnikov, and the Prime Minister of Turkey, Binali Yıldırım

By Alexander Pimenov

An inter-governmental agreement has been discussed, to create a mutual trade promotion system (a 'green corridor' of cargo customs clearance), aiming to reduce the cost of delivering Belarusian goods to Turkey. Mr. Myasnikov and Mr. Yıldırım have discussed water cargo traffic along the River Dnieper, with a port for 'river-sea' class vessels to be built in the Gomel Region's Nizhnie Zhary.

The meeting also tackled the

dynamics of interaction in the trade-economic sphere and noted that further development of co-operative economic ties is an important step against the background of emerging friendly relations between our two states. Mr. Myasnikov underlined that Turkey is among the most important and promising economic partners of Belarus. One of the priorities of economic collaboration with Turkey is strengthening of industrial co-operation. Belarusian enterprises are already working with Turkish partners, aiming



Navigation of Belarusian rivers in full swing

to set up assembly production of agricultural harvesters, as well as construction, municipal and other special machinery.

Special attention is being paid to

intensifying liaisons in the banking sphere, establishing a banking structure with Turkish capital in Belarus, alongside the opportunity for mutual payments in national currencies.

Fitch forecasts stability

By Oleg Bogomazov

Fitch Ratings confirms Belarusbank, Belinvestbank and the Development Bank of Belarus' Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) as 'B-' with Stable Outlooks

The three banks' Long-Term IDRs, Support Rating and Support Ratings Floors are underpinned by potential state support, in case of need, and are aligned with the sovereign rating (B-/Stable), the Fitch press release reads, on its website.

Fitch Ratings Inc. is an American corporation which, alongside Standard & Poor's and Moody's, is among the 'top three' international rating agencies. It provides independent ratings, assessing solvency, using analytical research and data.

Assisting patient Stephen

Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital using new method of osteoarthritis therapy

By Olga Kosyakova

Over forty patients have been successfully treated with joint fluid medication, injected while monitored by ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus. This is making it possible to delay or even avoid surgery for joint replacement. The Head Doctor of the hospital, Andrey Korolko, tells us in which cases this type of treatment can be used and about other achievements in aiding seriously-ill patients.

Alternative to joint replacement

Over 10 percent of the population suffer from severe forms of degenerative changes in joints. The disease primarily affects large joints: the knee, hip, shoulder and ankle.

“Previously, we treated conservatively, through tablets, capsules, physiotherapy and exercise therapy,” the doctor explains. “Where medical therapy failed and the disease progressed, so that the patient was unable to walk without assistance and suffered from severe pain, they underwent joint replacement.”

This year, the hospital has introduced high-tech treatment of joint diseases, with no hospitalisation required. A patient undergoes medical examination before receiving the injection of the drug into the inter-articular space (without anaesthesia, or the need to stay overnight). Ultrasound is used to track how the medicine distributes and pathological joint changes are assessed. “The method is quite effective,” the doctor says. “We clearly see that the preparation is in the joint. Improvement is registered in over 80 percent of patients. The procedure is prescribed in the second stage of the disease and the medicine relieves pain, signs of inflammation and makes it possible to delay a joint replacement. The course usually envisages two injections, with a break between them of two weeks. Re-treatment is offered no earlier than 6-9 months later, since the drug is effective for a long time. Some patients have no need for surgery at all.”

Both domestically produced and foreign drugs are used for the procedure, with an average price of Br170.



Hyperbaric as an effective treatment method

At centre of medical science

Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital is one of the leaders in our medical field. The multidisciplinary institution not only treats patients but devotes energy to research and teaching. Four national centres operate at the hospital, covering andrology, reconstructive surgery, gastroenterology and coloproctology, plastic surgery and microsurgery, hyperbaric oxygenation and hypobaric adaptation. In addition, seven departments of the Be-



Endoscopic capsule



Valentina Knyazeva in the laboratory

larian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education operate there. Specialists use the most advanced treatment methods, while conducting high-tech operations and investigating cutting-edge med-

ical science. The hospital has signed an agreement with the Republican Scientific-Medical Centre for Cell Technologies, treating venous ulcers with stem cells. “Adipose tissue is collected and bio-materials are sent to the centre,” explains the Head of the Department for Out-of-Budget Activity, Tatiana Ivanova. “Cells are grown there and we then transplant them to patients.”

Exports of medical services are the basis of the hospital’s out-of-budget activity. At present, citizens of fifteen countries are undergoing treatment there for a fee.

Foreigners admit to feeling satisfied that they’re gaining ‘value for money’, despite sometimes facing a language barrier. The hospital liaises with some travel agencies in the field of medical tourism.



Foreigners undergo medical treatment in hospital for a fee

Saving patient Stephen

Stephen, a lecturer from the United States, was taken to Borovlyany for surgery, having fallen ill in January, while in Novopolotsk. He was taken to the local hospital, where he underwent emergency bowel surgery and, six months later, was sent to the Republican Centre for Reconstructive Gastroenterology and Colorectal Surgery, at Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital. This second stage of intervention aims for the complete recovery of his intestine.

Stephen notes, “In America, a patient goes home three days after an operation. Meanwhile, in Belarus, they’re observed and not allowed to leave until they’re in complete recovery. In winter, I stayed at this hospital for a month, covered by insurance case. I’m now being treated on a paid basis. Interestingly, surgery is three times cheaper in Belarus than in my country.”

Of course, it’s not just

about money. Stephen has come to believe in Belarusian surgical skill, having been saved from a potentially fatal situation. “I was told that I was at the best clinic in Belarus,” smiles the American, proudly demonstrating his surgical scar, which looks like a zipper. “When I showed the scar to my sister, she was shocked, saying it was tight and clean. My mother underwent similar surgery in the USA and her scar is less neat. Moreover, my father had an enlarged kidney (weighing around 5kg); American doctors missed his defect and it was discovered only later, in Brazil!” Stephen says. He’s in great spirits, demonstrating no sign of ill health, such as is only possible when you feel yourself out of danger.

“We let our patients go home only after being confirmed as recovered,” explains proctologist Victor Korotysh. “We have many patients with complicated diseases, from

Russia, Georgia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, and Turkmenistan. They find out about us through word of mouth and the Internet. Borovlyany is a brand. Leading experts work at the Centre and people come to receive consultation by particular doctors.

“I told my friends I’d been saved here,” adds Stephen. “Americans tend to go to Mexico for medical treatment, since it’s situated closer. Belarus is farther but your doctors can truly perform miracles.”

Heart rescue

Not long ago, a new branch launched at Minsk Regional Clinical Hospital, offering treatment for those suffering from acute coronary syndrome (heart attack). Head Doctor Andrey Korolko says, “We receive patients from surrounding areas, so we begin treatment while they’re in the ambulance. On arrival, they’re immediately examined by specialists and, if necessary, operated upon. After resuscitation, we move them to intensive care, before they go for rehabilitation.”

Last November, the hospital launched its second unit for magnetic resonance imaging. It’s now possible to perform an MRI under general anaesthesia. The new technology makes it possible to more reliably and more effectively examine patients.

The hospital has twenty-five in-patient departments and twenty-four para-clinic departments. The admission room is newly renovated. “This month, we plan to add three beds to our resuscitation department,” says Dr. Korolko. “We’re already performing clinical tests, closely co-operating with Russia — as part of Union State programmes. We’re also negotiating with colleagues from Poland and Lithuania to jointly launch European Union programmes. We’re considering building a new wing for the polyclinic, as well as a cardio-centre, at the hospital. We’d like our clinic to join the joint project of the Health Ministry and the World Bank on informatisation development. This will further improve the availability and quality of medical assistance.”

Obviously clean work

Minsk's 'vacuum cleaners' soon to launch on Moscow streets

By Vladimir Yakovlev

The unique device — recently produced at the Minsk Automobile Works (MAZ) jointly with well-known German company Faun — will soon be cleaning Moscow streets. The 6-cubic-metre-machine went on show recently, at the *Waste Tech 2017* specialised fair in the Russian capital, with city authorities placing an order. Within three months, it will be servicing Moscow streets.

The Head of MAZ's Department for Sales of Special Machinery and Chassis, Dmitry Korotkevich, says the device can perform both wet and dry cleaning of streets and pavements. Its chassis is Belarus-made, equipped with a Russian YaMZ diesel engine.

The Russians first saw the unique cleaning device at a joint working group session promoting economic co-operation between Be-

larus and Moscow, held in Mogilev. First orders were placed at that time.

A broad range of another cleaning machinery using MAZ chassis and equipment, produced in Belarus and abroad, is also available. In particular, there's a 2-3-axle chassis waste-collection lorry, produced jointly with a well-known European company, able to carry 15 and 22 cubic metres of cargo, using standard Euro containers and large-sized 'boats' for construction debris (up to 8 cubic metres). In Mogilev and Moscow, canal-washing

devices (of 4 cubic metres) — using a MAZ chassis — also enjoy popularity. These are already in demand in St. Petersburg, which is the largest consumer of this machinery (in Minsk, about a dozen such vehicles are used but there are over 200 in St. Petersburg). The equipment is quite expensive and specific in design, but St. Petersburg appreciates the co-operation of the Minsk

Automobile Works, having agreed a 4-year plan with MAZ to update its fleet of canal-washing machinery. This is a great order for the Belarusian partner.

By late 2017, MAZ plans to expand its range of canal-washing machinery, adding a large canal-washing vehicle (of 13 cubic metres and using a 4-axle chassis). Production will be located in Belarus, making the final price reasonable.



Wet and dry cleaning of streets and pavements



Natalia Kivachuk

Driving beautifully

By Yana Vidnikovich

Combine operator Natalia Kivachuk breaks stereotype

This 32-year-old mother and wife works as a speech therapist at the Malorita District's Ol'tush kindergarten. She's also completing her fifth harvesting season. "I'm working alongside my husband, Alexander, for the second year. Last summer, our family was the first to gather a thousand tonnes of grain in the Malorita District. This year, we've harvested even more," she smiles.

Speaking of how she began driving a heavy agricultural truck, delicate Natalia recalls her father. "In June 2012, my father, Yuri Parchevsky, was preparing a harvester for the campaign. One evening, he told me that he was looking for a partner and invited me to join him. I agreed readily," she says.

The vehicle is almost 4m tall, with the driver's cabin situated around 2m above ground. The upper reach is at least six metres. Sitting inside the cabin, Natalia was filled with trepidation, at first. "However, I was only scared for the first five minutes," she recalls. "I had my father next to me and I'd already had driving lessons, as a senior pupil, having attended at the training and production plant at Oltush school. I received an 'A' category pass, enabling me to drive a tractor. I quickly became used to the harvester and our work progressed."

Natalia worked as a combine operator's assistant for three seasons, with her father sharing his secrets and tricks. In 2016, she passed the 'D' category licence, enabling her to drive a combine harvester.

Summer is nearly over but the Kivachuk family have major plans for August. On September 1st, they head to the seaside with their 12-year-old daughter Anastasia. She phoned her parents daily, to learn how the harvest was progressing. It's easy to guess that, after a busy day, Alexander and Natalia were always ready for a hot dinner.

Business built on innovative ideas

Belarusian National Technical University's Polytechnic Technopark nurturing innovative technologies for commercial application

By Yulia Vasilishina

A range of companies and recognised brands occupy the Technopark, including Polymedtech (whose medical products are used in daily practice by our surgeons and orthopaedic traumatologists) and the Fainy.by centre of machine embroidery. Not long ago, the International Innovation Centre opened at the site, with various distinguished guests in attendance, including the

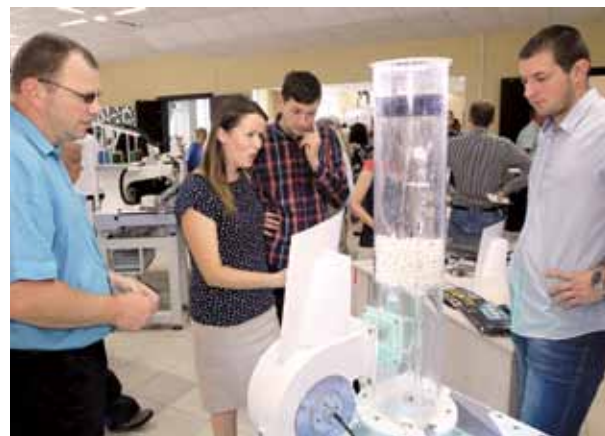
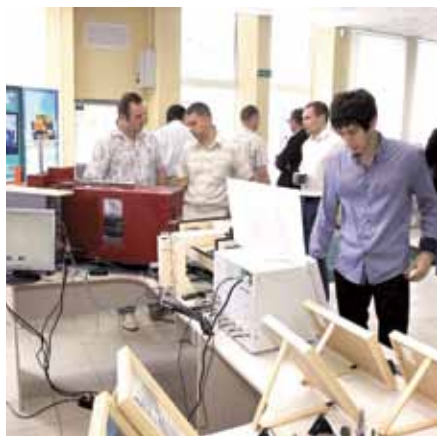
Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, Alexander Shumilin.

The state programme for Belarus' innovative development focuses not only on large production projects but on small and medium-sized enterprises. "We want to increase the contribution of this sector, which boasts talented young people. We need to create modern infrastructure, where young innovators can turn their ideas into prototypes,

to launch businesses. International co-operation is also important, since it's impossible to make money on science and innovation via the Belarusian market alone. We need to be included in international chains," asserts Mr. Shumilin.

This Technopark is among the oldest in the country — celebrating its 25th birthday in November. It has helped in bringing effective co-operation with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, China and other coun-

tries, supporting exports of scientific and technical products. From 2011-2016, its international contracts brought revenue of \$6.2 million. Last year, an agreement was reached with China's Ministry of Science and Technologies, to set up a business incubator of innovative projects at the Great Stone Industrial Park. Start-ups will be born on the basis of Polytechnic, which the future Belarusian-Chinese Park will take under its wing.



At Polytechnic Technopark's International Innovation Centre

Holiday with knights' chivalry

Mstislavl has become a 'Mecca' for those keen on antiquity, with guests from various corners of the country and CIS states visiting the city, which recently hosted its 10th jubilee of medieval culture, *Knight Fest. Mstislavl-2017*

By Andrey Sazonov

For three days, the city was filled with courageous knights and fair ladies, glorified by troubadours. On the first day, there were interesting performances of knights from the Smolensk Region, in the city square, while Mogilev's Borisfen Show Theatre performed the *Legend of the Old Castle*.

Mstislavl became a medieval town, with history becoming a reality and the border between the centuries disappearing. Characters roamed the street as if having come alive from school textbooks: detachments of knights, armour-bearers and archers, and bold horsemen riding across the bridges, attracting the glances of townswomen.

Craftsmen set up their stalls through the city streets, selling everything from fine linen to armour! Meanwhile, dishes of medieval cuisine were there to tempt visitors, washed down with beer brewed to ancient recipes.

The most spectacular shows were seen on Zamkovaya Hill, where knights fought bravely at noon.

Horsemen from the Golden Spur equestrian historical club demonstrated their skills with spears and swords, hitting targets at high speed, and fought for the hearts of beautiful ladies, performing the most complex exercises, lifting a handkerchief from the ground while at a gallop.

When infantry forces joined the event, in shining armour, to the ring of clashing swords, the



Jousting and archery are essential at such events, as are sword fights and enactment of sieges, the burning of a castle, and master classes in medieval dancing. Zamkovaya Hill hosted the event, featuring musical troubadours and actors, fire eaters and circus acrobats.

and Baranovichi won the event, achieving three victories over their enemy.

Of course, the most dramatic



We will remember

By Irina Mendeleeva

Memorial plaque to mid-shipman Ivan Kulakov, born in local village of Petrygi, installed in Mstislavl's Park of Peace, for his heroism in 1961, during a polar circle military exercise in North Atlantic

The head of the Mstislavl district organisation of the Belarusian Union of Navy Sailors, Yuri Vasiliev, is proud of his famous countryman. He tells us, "Mid-shipman Kulakov was serving on a nuclear submarine, armed with a nuclear-tipped ballistic missile, when a nuclear reactor accident occurred. Kulakov was involved in its liquidation, acting several times on his own initiative, going down to the reactor. He first went to repair the breakdown, and then to make sure that he'd done everything correctly. His actions prevented the wreck of the submarine and saved the lives of his comrades. He received a significant dose of radiation, which required him to receive extensive treatment in order to make a recovery. However, he managed to serve in the fleet for some time afterwards."

He died in the 1980s, when he was 71 years old.

Representatives of local authorities came to honour the memory of Ivan Kulakov, alongside friends, relatives and all those who remember his heroic deed.

Carrying cups to coffee houses

By Olga Savitskaya

Graduates of the Ecostart youth education centre, with support from the Centre for Environmental Solutions and the Green Network Society, have presented the *My Cup, Please!* project, promoting the use of re-usable cups for takeaway coffee

By bringing your own cup each time you place your order, you may receive a small discount on your beverage, at participating cafes. Natalia Blyshchik, from the Centre for Environmental Solutions, believes there should be no obstacles to the new trend. She explains, "First, we prepared an official inquiry to sanitary services to clarify the legitimacy of customers' use of their own cups. Sanitary norms don't forbid this. Later, coffee houses interested in environmental issues began to join our campaign."

Participating coffee houses may be found on a special online map, developed by the creators of the project.

event was the theatrical siege of the castle (based on historical events), awakening the glorious pages of Mstislavl's history. Defenders of the fortress stood shoulder to shoulder to face the enemy.

Yavaryna Theatre of Medieval Culture conducted a master class in dancing, and the event concluded with a fiery show and a stylised medieval disco.

Portugal battles dozens of fires as scorching temperatures return

More than 3,000 firemen struggled to put out forest fires across Portugal, after the country requested assistance from Europe to fight blazes that threaten to spread

Exceptionally dry and hot weather ignited Portugal's worst fire disaster in memory early this summer, killing 64 people, and fires have continued to flare up in recent weeks with the arrival of each new hotter spell of weather.

Interior Minister Constanca Urbana de Sousa said the country sent the request for help to Europe because of concerns that high temperatures and high winds in the coming days could increase the number of



A blaze close to the village of Pucarica in Abrantes, Portugal fight fires.

fires. The minister said the request was carried out 'because of a question of prudence' due to the weather forecast for coming days. It covered requests for firefighting airplanes and firemen and is part of a European mechanism for co-operation to

Emergency services said 268 fires broke out last Saturday, the highest number for any single day this year, with 6,500 firemen fighting to put them out. There are fears that many of them could flare up again.

The central district of Coimbra adopted a local state of emergency to deal with fires, as did four smaller municipalities in the region.

But the country could face many more weeks of fires before the end of summer.



Eighteen killed in Burkina Faso attack

Gunmen have killed 18 people and wounded several others in a 'terrorist attack' at a restaurant in the centre of Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou, according to the government

Witnesses said three gunmen opened fire on customers seated outside the Aziz Istanbul cafe and adjacent Hotel Bravia shortly after 9pm on Sunday.

Minister of Communication Remis Dandjinou confirmed that the attack was over, with the two assailants

also killed by security forces, who are carrying out checks on neighbouring buildings.

"This is a terrorist attack," Communications Minister Remi Dandjinou told a news conference on Monday. He said the toll was provisional because the security operation was still underway.

A government statement said the nationalities of the victim are not yet known, although a hospital in Ouagadougou said one of those killed was Turkish.

UN accuses people traffickers of drowning migrants off Yemeni coast



Things could hardly get any worse in war-torn Yemen, but at least 55 people have been killed and many more are missing after people traffickers threw migrants into the sea to escape arrest

In the last days some 300 migrants have been abandoned to drown, with bodies being washed up onto the beaches. Most of the victims are Somalis and Ethiopians. "The team again, in the same

area, was patrolling this morning and they found another boat or other survivors of the exactly the same modus operandi. [...] they were the same age, same profile, but they were dropped in the sea closer to the shores so more apparently survived," said the UN's Head of Mission in Yemen, Laurent De Boeck.

Fifty people died last week in a similar incident off the coast near Shabwa, and more keep coming says the UN.

Bus crash in China kills 36

At least 36 people have been killed and more than a dozen others injured in a coach crash in north-western China

The accident happened late at night in Shaanxi Province when the packed bus smashed into the wall of a tunnel. The bus was en route to Luoyang, a city in central China, from Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province.

China has a poor road safety record because of high speeds and aggressive driving. World Health Organisation figures from 2013 estimate that in that year alone, some 250,000 people were killed on China's roads.

Denmark next to find contaminated eggs in food

Denmark is the latest European country to discover eggs contaminated with insecticide in its food chain

Twenty tonnes of the tainted eggs have been sold, according to the country's food safety authority. The boiled and peeled eggs were mainly distributed to cafeterias, cafes and catering firms. The evidence of contamination emerged this month when Aldi pulled products off the shelves after fipronil was detected in French, Belgian and Dutch poultry farms.

Facebook finds a way to China

Facebook has been banned from China for years, but a new app that has shown up in the country might be its way into the market

It's dubbed the Colorful Balloons app, and, according to the Chinese app store's description, it works similarly to Facebook's Moments app.

"Colorful Balloons can group users' phone pictures and videos based on time, locations and characters. It can help you create albums and share them with friends and family," the description reads.

However, the Facebook name is nowhere to be seen. Instead, a company called Youge LLC is credited as the creator. And Colorful Balloon is the only app listed under the developer. The app has a few distinct features that cater to the Chinese market. And in order to sign up, users must register with a Chinese cell number. Facebook and other major tech firms have been shunned from China for many years thanks to the country's strict censorship laws, often referred to as the Great Firewall.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Svetlana Katkova invites audience to *Rendezvous*

Rendezvous personal exhibition of State Award holder Svetlana Katkova opens at Minsk's Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery, presenting over seventy works of art

By Veniamin Mikheev

Opening the show, the Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Artists, Leonid Khobotov, said, "Svetlana is always accompanied by beauty. The exhibition features no ordinary still-life works but a feast of light and colour, paired with subtle philosophy, deep feeling and hopes for all that is good and eternal."

Svetlana Katkova paints all seasons with equal beauty, from joyful spring, with its young foliage, to the honeyed days of summer and the ochre tones of autumn. Even her winter-themed works are enchanting.

"Svetlana is so original," notes Zoya Litvinova, an Honoured Artist of the Republic of Belarus. "Her favourite painter is Vrubel but she's never been totally influenced by anyone. All her artistry is permeated with love, for nature, for children and for those she's close to. Svetlana has managed to portray her soul clearly, through the decades."

A poet once said: 'Everyone writes as they hear. Everyone hears as they breathe. As they breathe, they are trying to write — with no thoughts of pleasing anyone'. Ms. Katkova breathes after looking at her pictures. Her still-life with flowers is the leitmotif of the *Rendezvous* exhibition. Her pictures feature lilac blooms and irises, as well as chrysanthemums. As she admits, she most loves wild meadow flowers, as does her daughter, painter Zoya Lutsevich, who often depicts bell flowers. On show also are beautiful watercolours of Belarusian landscapes, as well as views of Sakhalin Island, and Spanish and Italian locations.

Ms. Katkova's workshop is located inside her house, filled with random artefacts. To list them all would take many pages. These inspire her, as does her house and garden of flowers, the birds flying from tree to tree, neighbouring cats and her pets. Everything which surrounds her is, sooner or later, depicted on canvas or paper, captured in time.

Svetlana grew up among chil-

dren's drawings, as her father, Sergey Katkov, taught schoolchildren in his studio. She met almost all his students, and has been friends with many for a long time, having also studied alongside some of them.

Famous architect Leonid Levin (Sergey Katkov's pupil) asked Svetlana to become involved in producing a memorial in Krasny Bereg, devoted to teenagers who died at the hands of the Nazis during WWII. Svetlana agreed and came up with an amazing idea: turning children's drawings into stained-glass windows. Mr. Levin liked the idea, so Svetlana made sketches and then cardboard models. The memorial shows a school class sitting in an apple orchard, with white concrete desks and a blackboard, behind which are several dozen children's drawings, mounted in frames. They glow, pleasing and surprising. Svetlana was awarded the State Award for the piece.

Every artist has their own image and Ms. Katkova's name is associated with artistic bohemia. Her still-life works and compositions on oriental themes contain mystery, harmony and beauty, showing the

wonders of our created Earth. She is a work of art in herself, adorned with rings, earrings, pendants and bracelets. Her aura is bright and pure, as inherited from her father: famous painter and educator Sergey Katkov who nurtured a whole generation of Belarusian artists.

Ms. Katkova is most well-known as a painter, but trained as a ceramist. She had no plans to enter the Department of Monumental and Decorative Art but places were limited in the Painting Department of the Theatre



Inside the exhibition



Svetlana Katkova's signature



Sharing of impressions

and Art Institute in the 1960s; they went, mostly, to students from the provinces, enabling them to more easily be sent to remote districts for employment after graduation.

"Later, I didn't regret having mastered the ceramist's craft," Svetlana admits. "On the contrary, I'm very grateful to fate for giving me the opportunity to comprehend the whole diversity of modern technologies."

While studying at the Institute, Svetlana began participating in exhibitions. In the mid-1970s, she joined Zoya Litvinova in painting Minsk's Vilnyus cinema and the Palace of Railway Workers, and later decorated the Planeta and Zeleny Lug restaurants in Minsk. She also worked on a social and cultural centre in Slutsk and at a working village in Mikashevichi. Even now, these works seem vibrant, rather than mere relics of a past time.

"It's no secret that, during Soviet times, artists were dependent on remaining in favour: with the art factory, the artistic council, with exhibition committees, and with certain

political leaders. Like my father, I've never painted 'leader' portraits; I've kept away from politics and tried to remain independent," she explains.

Women tend to find it more difficult to gain fame in the art world. Svetlana notes, "There are many temptations and distractions; it's easy to squander yourself on meetings and table talk. I believe that artists need to remain passionate."

In her youth, Svetlana demonstrated her determination and huge capacity for work, even taking her baby daughter to her studio. Later, when the child grew up and her musical abilities became apparent, Svetlana took her daughter to a music school, where she had the chance to join a choir. As the school was situated far from home, travelling time was arduous each morn-

ing and evening. Svetlana worked a great deal through the night, needing to make a living. Without art, she felt she could not live. Now, in middle age, she works while travelling and at home, creating more works than you can imagine over the past two to three years. They fill her workshop, and other rooms, while some adorn a local hotel.

Svetlana Katkova is an artist by vocation, as well as profession. Everything she touches demonstrates her personality and taste. Her wardrobes are draped in painted silks while her large oval table, which can accommodate up to twenty-five people, is made from an old grand piano. She has decorated an old chest of drawers, given to her by friends, so that it's worthy of the most exquisite house. Svetlana's neighbours only wonder that she grows no fruits or vegetables in the vegetable garden near her home.

As to whether she draws directly what she sees, Svetlana admits that she never does. "My compositions are always fantasies. I love flowers, as did my father; I remember him always keeping a bouquet of wildflowers, to have ready for sketching." It seems that Svetlana has inherited his sensibilities.

‘Peshekhodka’ blurs boundaries between performers and audience

Musical project gathers citizens and guests of capital on streets of Upper Town, to demonstrate Minsk’s enchantment

By Yelizaveta Artsueva

Music is heard from several different locations, while small groups of people spontaneously gather along the street. Characters dressed in colourful costumes stroll past, and loud laughter is everywhere, while couples dance on the pavement. At first glance, it’s bemusing. Are people crazy? They certainly look happy. After circling the streets and investigating all corners, you realise that the capital is celebrating a holiday. It’s Saturday, making it time to relax and spend the evening at ‘Peshekhodka’: a weekly festival gathering street musicians and dancers willing to share their creativity.

A man with a saxophone entertains passers-by, while Nikita Kamenetsky and his accordion gather a crowd on Muzykalny Lane. ‘Peshekhodka’ boasts diverse attractions, including the Hangmeleon artistic workshop, teaching people to play the exotic ‘hanga’ instrument. Those fond of singing can enjoy karaoke, with a huge



‘Peshekhodka’ still boasts many fans in new season

teddy bear sitting patiently on the pavement for the winner. There’s a wide choice of songs to perform and many are keen to enter.

“Louder, friends!” encourages host Alexander Shumsky, addressing the crowd. One man approach-

es the microphone, saying, “This reminds me of Moscow’s Arbat. I hope, someday, someone will write verse about ‘Peshekhodka’, as they do about Arbat.” Before breaking into song, he recites a poem about Moscow; all present understand

that he’s confessing his love for Minsk.

After walking a little further, you come to the Art-Terrace, entering a world of dance, with a variety of music compelling people to stop and observe dancing couples.

DanceCafé and Kacheli schools offer lessons, teaching the lindy hop, hustle and tango, danced with elegance and passion. In the evening, a ‘hotter’ programme is scheduled, with street dancers and louder music, moving to a different rhythm. Hip-hop has arrived!

You can wander around the Town Hall, drinking coffee on the terraces lining the streets of the Upper Town, listening to live music. Every Saturday, there’s a rich programme, including shows for children, and performances by rock bands and cover artistes. There’s something for everyone.

‘Peshekhodka’ blurs the boundaries between performers and the audience. Walking around the city, you’re suddenly picked up by musical rhythms, starting to dance, copying the movements of professionals. You can easily grab the microphone too, becoming a street musician yourself.

If you’re in Minsk on a Saturday and need to relax, head to the Upper Town for the great atmosphere of ‘Peshekhodka’.

Attending friendship festival

By Yana Vidnikovich

Belarus takes part in international friendship festival in New York

Belarusian band *Bycity*, selected by the art directorate of the city to present Europe at the festival, has sung to NY residents in Belarusian, with performances of *Water Flows into the Ravine*, *Jingles are Ringing* and *One for the Road*.

The General Consulate of Belarus in New York helped arrange the event, with representatives of the



Belarusian diaspora, serving sweets, candies, zefir and honey at the international village. Meanwhile, national costumes and Belarusian souvenirs were on show in

the ‘Belarusian hut’.

Together with representatives of 193 UN member states, the Belarusian flag was carried during the parade of flags, by Iosif Kaplinsky, a

veteran of the Great Patriotic War and the head of the Belarusian community in New York. The event finished with festival participants singing *We Are the World*.

Customs has donated exhibit

By Pavel Losich

Brest’s Saved Artistic Treasures Museum gains new exhibit: an icon of Christ the Almighty, dating to second half of 19th century

A resident of Baranoviichi was caught trying to smuggle the icon out of the country, and arrested at Varshavsky Most border checkpoint, last October. The icon

was assessed and was found to have been created in Russia in the late 19th century. It’s of significant cultural value, as the head of Brest Customs, Alexander Pikhun, emphasises. He tells us, “Over the last 18-24 months, we’ve had twenty-six such cases. Due to the work of customs, more than 460 items of historical and cultural value have been confiscated.”

Third title earned within 18 years

Belarusian tennis player Vera Lapko (218th in WTA rankings) wins ITF tournament in Lendisville, USA, with prize of \$25,000

By Kirill Karin

In the finals, 18 year old Vera defeated Anna Karolína Schmiedlová (seeded 196th) from Slovakia — 4:6, 6:4, 7:6 (7:4) — in three sets. Their match lasted 2 hours 12



Andrey Vasilevsky (L) and Hans Podlipnik Castillo

minutes.

On the way to the finals, the Belarusian beat 1st seeded Sabina Sharipova from Uzbekistan, Olivia Tjandramulia from Australia, Mi-haru Imanisi from Japan and Maria

Sanchez of the United States.

This is the third singles title in Vera's professional career. The young tennis player is set to turn 19 in September and has already won prizes of \$10,000 in Astana (2016)



Vera Lapko

and Sharm el-Sheikh (2015). In 2016, she won the singles tournament at the Junior Australian Open.

Belarusian Andrey Vasilevsky, partnering Chilean Hans Podlipnik Castillo, has won the doubles

in Slovenian Portoroz, with a prize of 43,000 Euros. In the final match, lasting for 1 hour and 26 minutes, the pair defeated Czech Lukáš Rosol and Horvath Franko Škugor, to win in two sets — 6:3, 7:6 (7:4).

One more brilliant victory

Swimmer Pavel Sankovich wins first place in 50m backstroke at 3rd World Cup round in Eindhoven — in a 25-metre swimming pool

Pavel has set a 50m backstroke national record, swimming with a time of 22.84 seconds. The previous record also belonged to Pavel (23.01) — set in 2016. Fourth place over the same distance was taken by Belarusian Victor Staselovich. The Belarusian team's Ilya Shi-

manovich took bronze in the 50m breaststroke, while Yevgeny Tsurkin finished second in the 100m butterfly finals, and Yegor Dodolev was sixth.

The World Swimming Cup, held in a 25-metre pool, will continue in autumn, in Asia. On Sep-



Pavel Sankovich

tember 30th, the world swimming series will be held in Hong Kong and, on October 4th, it will be host-

ed by Doha (Qatar). In November, the World Cup rounds will be held in Beijing, Tokyo and Singapore.

Position unchanged

By Igor Svitov

Updated FIFA ranking places Belarus 71st, as before

The top three places belong to Brazil, Germany and Argentina. Among the former USSR states, Ukraine's team boasts the highest rating, being 27th, while Russia is 62nd.

The Belarusian team will soon continue its qualification for the World Championship 2018. On August 31st, it will play an away match against Luxembourg and, on September 3rd, will host the Swedes. After six matches in the qualifying cycle, our team has five points.



Beach, sun, volleyball

By Semen Bondarev

Belarusian duo of Alexander Kovalenko and Alexander Dedkov come second at International Tournament of European Volleyball Confederation in 'Satellite' category of beach volleyball — held in Yantarny, in Kaliningrad Region

Kovalenko and Dedkov began with a confident victory over Max Jo-

nas Karp and Sievers Milan of Germany — 21:12, 24:22. In the second round, the Belarusians beat Russians Alexander Likholetov and Ruslan Bykanov — 18:21, 21:16, 15:6, but were then defeated by French Youssef Krou and Quincy Aye — 15:21, 12:21. In the consolation round, the Belarusian team claimed victory over Russian Ruslan Dayanov and Yuri Bogatov, and managed to join the top four strongest teams.

Medals from another stage

By Alexey Grishin

Belarusian graces claim four medals at FIG World Challenge Cup in Kazan

The event brought together 145 gymnasts from 33 countries, with Belarus being represented by eight sportswomen, who managed to show a high level of skill.

On the last day of the tournament, our Belarusian graces earned silver in the exercise with five hoops, losing only to the Russians; bronze went to Japan. In the exercise with three balls and two ropes, our Belarusian team finished third, behind athletes from Bulgaria (who claimed silver) and those from Russia (who won the event). In individual competitions, Yekaterina Galkina of Belarus was awarded silver for her exercise with the ball, while first place went to Arina Averina of Russia and third place to



Yekaterina Galkina (R)

Lina Ashram of Israel.

One day earlier, Yekaterina Galkina was placed third in the individual all-round competition (hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon), scoring a total of 67,900 points.

The tournament precedes the major start of the season, the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championship, which is due to take place in Italian Pesaro from August 29th to September 3rd.

12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, August 17, 2017

Festival of the week



G-Drive Festival in Minsk unites stage of SMP RDRC Russian Drag Racing Championship and Unlim 500+ Belarus competition of supercars

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 31st August. *Aivazovsky and Sea Painters* Until 19th September. *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love* Until 20th September. *Masters of Polish Drawing*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 20th August. Exhibition of children's graphics: *Her Majesty Letter*

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 31st August. *Summer Story* educational programme Until 3rd September. *IND-BEL-ART*. Exhibition of Belarusian painters, dedicated to 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Belarus

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 18th August. *Since Ancient Times: Kupalle* Until 26th August. *Poetry of Human Soul*

VAN GOGH HOUSE

9 Zybitykaya Street
Until 1st October. *Vincent Van Gogh: Artist of Star Sky*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street
Until 11th September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 9th September. *The Artist and the City: Golden Collection of Belarusian Pictorial Art*

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 1st September. *Made in USSR* Until 10th September. *Pictures and High Fashion*

UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE ART GALLERY

1 Oktyabrskaya Street
Until 22nd August. 1st International Exhibition of Sand Graphics — *Outside Time*

LOSHITSA ESTATE

8/2 Chizhevsky Lane
Until 27th August. *Wonderful Animals*

CAT MUSEM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 31st August. *Summer of Cat Platoshka*

THEATRES

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
17.08. Comedy about Penny Pincher
20.08. Cinderella
21.08. Two Hen-Pecked Husbands
22.08. Happiness Is
23.08. Love and Pigeons

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
19.08. Divers 20.08. He and She
22.08. Bridegrooms
23.08. Testosterone
24.08. Viva Commedia!

CONCERTS

CHIZHOVKA-ARENA

19 Tashkentskaya Street
19 and 20.08. Friendship Cup-2017

SVOBODY SQUARE

Minsk
18.08. Naka Piano (rock)
19.08. Teleport (indie)

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
17.08. Night of Russian Romance
19.08. Days of National Cultures
23.08. Sonorus Musical Capella: Action. Passion. Illusion 24.08. Frédéric Chopin

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
18.08. Re:Public Street Musicians Festival
19.08. Disco from 1990s and 2000s

TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolyutsionnaya Street
17.08. Harmonix College 18.08. Янkey / Inomarki 19.08. Mary Rose / Canada
20.08. Long Acoustic Way 23.08. Cross. B.Band 24.08. Rage Against the Machine

GRAFFITI

16 Kalinin Lane
24.08. Krama band in concert

LOSHITSA PARK

10 Chizhevsky Lane
17, 21 and 24.08. Khatkha Yoga

SULA PARK-MUSEUM OF INTERACTIVE HISTORY

Sula village
19 and 20.08. Viking Path Festival of Early Medieval Times

ZORKA

10 Odintsov Street
17, 21 and 24.08. Open Air Yoga

POBEDY PARK

Pobediteley Avenue
19.08. Free boxing training sessions
22.08. #Followminsk

DREAMLAND

80 Orlovskaya Street
19 and 20.08. Light Balloons

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