

Diego Maradona chooses Brest to continue his career: it's not a joke

Legendary in the past Argentine footballer will work for Brest Dinamo → 11



INTERNATIONAL

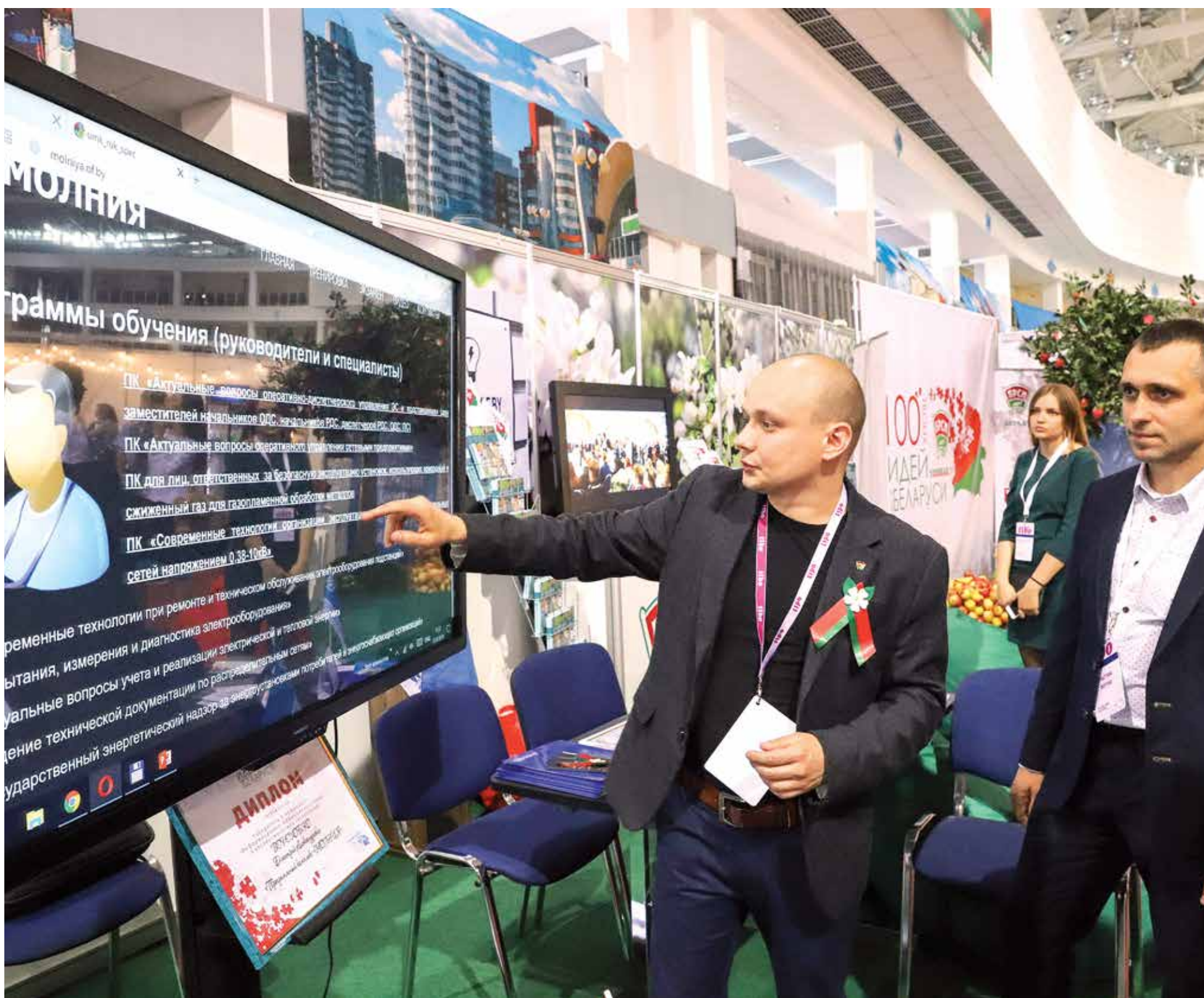
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Principal conversation in Sochi

The Black Sea coast hosts Supreme Eurasian Economic Council session

By Oleg Bogomazov

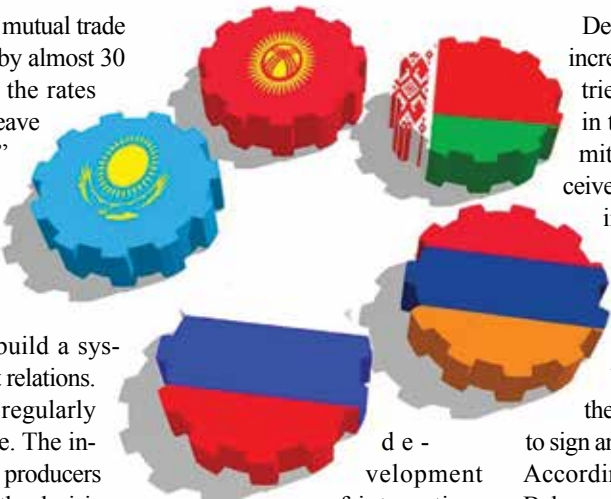
During the meeting with his counterparts from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, principally asked the question about strengthening integration in conditions of increasing threats and challenges. "In this difficult situation, when pressure is put on the union from outside, we need to be organised, stick together and look to the interests of our own countries. It's extremely important to value and fulfil the agreements we've reached and to solve the most complex problems, relying on the rules created by us to respect each other as allies and business partners. Belarus is committed to such further relations."

"Over the three and a half years of its existence, the Eurasian Economic Union has achieved significant results. In

particular, last year, mutual trade in the EAEU grew by almost 30 percent. However, the rates of integration still leave much to be desired," stated Mr. Lukashenko. "Initially the union was established to promote economic co-operation and build a system of equal market relations. However, politics regularly interferes with trade. The interests of individual producers are often put above the decisions we have taken. This contradicts our agreements."

The position of the Belarusian side is unchanged: there should be equal conditions for all, facilitated by the creation of a single market for energy resources. Moreover, Minsk believes that there's no need to delay the process until 2025.

Vladimir Putin also spoke about the importance of further



development of integration.

According to him, it's necessary to continue rapprochement of monetary and credit policies of the EAEU states, as well as to expand efforts to create single markets for goods and services. The President of Russia noted that issues during the session were discussed 'without disagreement'. "We've managed to reach common decisions," said Mr. Putin.

Despite all the difficulties, increasing numbers of countries are taking an interest in the EAEU. At the summit in Sochi, Moldova received the status of observers in the EAEU. For several years, a treaty on a free trade zone with Vietnam has been operating, with Iran being next in line. Furthermore, it's also planned to sign an agreement with China. According to the President of Belarus, the Eurasian Economic Union should prove its attractiveness for other states.

"It's extremely important to value and fulfil the agreements reached and to solve the most complex problems, relying on the rules created by us, to respect each other, as is common among allies and business partners. Belarus is committed to such further relations," asserted Mr. Lukashenko. Belarus sup-

ports the EAEU digital agenda through to 2025 and is ready to take part in digital trade, e-logistics and digital transport corridors. Moreover, the decision was adopted to create several special branch bodies of the union. Mr. Lukashenko stressed that it's important to make everything work towards the solution of concrete problems so that they can make a significant contribution to the creation of the common market without restrictions.

Such meetings are also a good opportunity for presidents to discuss relations between the states in a bilateral format. In this context, one of the most anticipated, were talks between Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin. The President of Belarus invited his Russian colleague to visit Mogilev in the autumn, which will host the Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia.

Relations reboot to greatly benefit both countries

By Vladimir Khromov

On meeting Ecuador's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, who was paying an official visit to Belarus, the President noted, "This is a time in Belarusian-Ecuadorian relations when we need to take stock of our relations, analyse our progress, perhaps end some projects and determine an action plan for the future."

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that certain political reforms have been recently carried out in Ecuador. "I hope that in this very important period, when working on this plan, you will also agree to top-level contacts with our minister. We are also happy to welcome your President in Belarus at any convenient time," emphasised the Head of State.

Belarusian-Ecuadorian relations and a corresponding roadmap should rely on trade and economic co-operation. "I think we must focus on this in our plans but should agree that Belarus and Ecuador must not make promises that we cannot fulfil. We need to analyse both our progress and plans," noted the President of Belarus. "Nevertheless, we need comprehensive strategic plans for the future. We must do our best to diversify and raise our bilateral trade levels. Our Belarusian-Ecuadorian friendship should rely on a solid foundation rather than simply on words. I strongly hope for a real action plan for the future."

Belarus and Ecuador currently maintain good political relations. The two countries have similar positions on the

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, believes it's necessary to revise relations between Belarus and Ecuador



Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces during her meeting with the President

international agenda, efficiently co-operating in all international organisations, especially in the UN. "We're ready to support your candidacy for the post of president at the next session of the UN General Assembly [the Ecuadorian Government has nominated the Foreign Minister for the post of the president at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly]," said the President.

Mr. Lukashenko underlined that any state, especially at a geographical distance from its partners, is looking for countries it can rely on in co-operation with other countries of the region. "As a rule, these are the closest states. Ecuador is the closest state for

Belarus in Latin America, and we always try to rely on Ecuador in co-operation with other states," noted the President.

Diplomatic relations between Belarus and Ecuador were established in May 1993. In 2014, the countries opened embassies. In June 2012, the Belarusian Head of State paid an official visit to Ecuador, in October 2013 there was a visit of the Ecuadorean President to Belarus. The two leaders had a meeting during the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2015. Inter-parliamentary ties are increasingly thriving. In 2016, Belarus gained observer status in the Latin American Par-

liament (Parlatino).

Last year, bilateral trade almost doubled thanks to the increase in imports of Ecuadorian goods. Major exports include nine export positions, including potash and nitrogen fertilisers, as well as oil products. In January-March 2018, bilateral trade slightly exceeded \$40m (up 83 percent compared to the same period in 2017).

In turn, Ecuador's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, said that trade and economic interaction occupies a major place in relations with Belarus. She stressed that over the last few years, the two countries have advanced in

developing bilateral collaboration. "This is not enough. We need to do much more through joint efforts."

This is the second visit of Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces to Belarus. Last time she visited our country as the Defence Minister of Ecuador. Ms Garces conveyed greetings from the President of Ecuador, Lenin Moreno, to Alexander Lukashenko. "This year, we're celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. This moment is key to reboot relations and give them an additional boost," said the Foreign Minister.

Ecuador seeks to sign a comprehensive co-operation agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the Minister told the media after the meeting with President Alexander Lukashenko.

"Ecuador has a great interest in signing a comprehensive co-operation agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union. Belarus plays an important role in this regional integration union, including in terms of the development of relations with Ecuador," she said, commenting that the meeting with the Belarusian Head of State has been very productive.

She noted that in recent years, Belarus and Ecuador have advanced in the development of bilateral relations. "We've done a lot to further relations between the two countries. Belarus has made a big contribution to the development of the oil sector in Ecuador. There is also potential for further work in the field of energy and agriculture," she said.

Partnership from the point of view of strategic management

Belarus ready for active co-operation with Tajikistan across all areas, noted President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, after his negotiations with the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, during his official visit to Dushanbe

By Vasily Kharitonov

“We’re ready to co-operate in all areas of mutual interest for the sake of our hard-working and friendly nations of Belarus and Tajikistan,” emphasised the Belarusian leader. “This meeting has again confirmed the long and friendly status of our relations based on the principals of respect and trust. We intend to support dialogue in future at the highest level,” noted the Head of State. The negotiations tackled in detail, issues of bilateral trade-economic co-operation, noting the prospects for expanding industrial collaboration and interaction in agriculture.

It should be mentioned that trade with Tajikistan has been developing dynamically, and last year, trade turnover more than doubled and continues to grow. The range of Belarusian exports include tractors, specialised automobile machinery and food products. “Our giants — BelAZ, MAZ and Gomselmash — are represented in your country via a network of commodity producing branches. Since last year, the first assembly production of Belarusian agricultural machinery has been operating here. I think this project will become a starting point to build long-term co-operation ties in various spheres: industry, agroindustry complex, pharmaceuticals and others. Joint production of qualitative and competitive goods will make economic collaboration between Belarus and Tajikistan more efficient and mutually beneficial,” believes the President.

Mr. Lukashenko also noted that Belarus and Tajikistan are united by an aspiration to find reliable business partners and build long-term relations. The Head of State thanked the Tajik delegation and Emomali Rahmon personally for the organisation of the international Belarus-Tajikistan-Afghanistan business forum, and the National Expo of Belarus. He also welcomed business representatives from other countries of the region who attended the forum. “I would like this business forum to serve as a basis for the creation of solid trade-economic relations with Tajikistan and with the countries of the whole region,” noted the Belarusian leader.

Bilateral co-operation is also



Presidents of Belarus and Tajikistan, Alexander Lukashenko and Emomali Rahmon, during their meeting

developing in the humanitarian sphere. The days of Belarusian Culture and Cinema started in Tajikistan, and next year creative teams from Tajikistan will visit Belarus. Furthermore, in the last few years, the number of Tajik citizens who study in Belarus is rising. Four joint departments have been established on the premises of leading Belarusian universities. Moreover, a centre of Belarusian education, science and culture will be also be opened at the Tajik Technical University.

“Tractors, automobiles and other machinery is good. It’s trade turnover and money. However, there’s something more important. That is people and personnel. If there are no specialists, no machinery will help us,” said the Belarusian Head of State.

The President believes that the roadmap for co-operation signed between Belarus and Tajikistan for 2019-2020, will promote further dynamic development of relations, covering a wide range of interactions.

“Emomali Rahmon has today made a proposal to bring our relations to the level of a strategic partnership. I think that this two-year roadmap will serve as a good foundation for our partnership. The government will prepare a corresponding proposal within the shortest possible time,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

Belarus was and remains an important partner for Tajikistan, noted Emomali Rahmon, after his negotiations with Mr. Lukashenko. “For Tajikistan, Bela-

rus has been and remains an important partner in the system of international relations. The relations between the two countries are on the rise,” noted the President. He described negotiations focused on the development of trade-economic and investment co-operation. Ways to increase the volume and diversify the structure of bilateral trade were also discussed. “Growing trade trends of the last few years indicate the large potential of our two countries,” noted Mr. Rahmon.

The presidents of Belarus and Tajikistan released a joint statement after their official negotiations in Dushanbe. The document reads that negotiations had been held in a traditionally friendly, trustful and

productive atmosphere. The two sides confirmed their readiness to bolster political dialogue. Ways to further advance Belarusian-Tajik relations and interaction on the most important items on the international agenda were sketched out. The joint statement focuses on trade-economic co-operation. The presidents underscored the importance of working together in this sphere and expressed their desire to expand collaboration. Mutual interest was expressed in increasing the volume of bilateral trade, in advancing long-term forms of economic interaction and deepening investment interaction.

The interest in further advancing collaboration in the spheres of education, science and technology, culture and art, healthcare, sport and tourism was also confirmed. The joint statement also mentioned interaction at international platforms. It underscored the mutual desire to help bolster peace, security, and stability on both a regional scale and an international one. The determination to step up co-operation in the fight against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade was mentioned.

“Our countries are linked by strong bonds of friendship, mutual trust and respect. Today we discussed bilateral relations and agreed to raise them to the level of a strategic partnership. I think it will be a good basis for the development of our relations in all areas, from the economy to culture,” said the Belarusian Head of State.

Truly bright palette of achievements and proposals

By Alexey Fedosov

National Expo of Belarus was held in Tajikistan’s capital — Dushanbe — with the red ribbon at the exposition entrance solemnly cut by the presidents of Belarus and Tajikistan, Alexander Lukashenko and Emomali Rahmon

Initially the exhibition was to stay open until May 17th, however, as Emomali Rahmon began touring the show, he commented that three days are not enough to allow everyone to properly study the co-operation opportunities and product range showcased by Belarus. The Belarusian Head of State agreed with his Tajikistani counterpart. As a result, an instruction was given to run the expo for a week instead of three days.

The two presidents were made familiar with the exhibition. They stood for extended



periods of time at some stands and discussed concrete avenues and possible projects for advancing co-operation in various areas. Emomali Rahmon was greatly interested in products made by Belarusian industrial companies. The two heads of state also discussed the further promotion of BelAZ products on the Tajik market.

The creation of joint ventures was mentioned more than once during the tour of the expo. For instance, the Tajikistan President suggested they begin assembling Belarusian lifts in Tajikistan. Production of food and medication was also mentioned. Modern municipal vehicles also sparked interest, particularly, Belkommunmash’s electric buses. It turned out that the Belarusian company had already won the tender for the supply of the first four electric buses to Dushanbe.

Venue to enter markets

President of Belarus and Tajikistan, Alexander Lukashenko and Emomali Rahmon, officially open assembly production of Belarusian agricultural machinery, located in the Tajik city of Hisor

By Alexey Fedosov

On this occasion, the heads of state unveiled a commemorative plaque at the factory, toured the production facility, discussed prospects for its development and chatted to workers. "I will be here in September, [Tajikistan will be hosting a session of the CIS Heads of State Council in September 2018] and I will see how you work. In September you can brief us on the markets you will have entered. We'd like to create a foothold to jointly enter the markets of other countries," noted Mr. Lukashenko addressing the top managers of MTZ JSC and the assembly plant in Hisor.

Speaking about the development prospects for production and sales, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, noted that the country runs a great number of projects supported by international financial institutions that help local agricultural companies purchase machinery.



Tractors from the assembly line, at the enterprise in Hisor

The heads of state were told about plans to localise production in Hisor. Mr. Lukashenko expressed support for the plans to produce part of nodes for the assembled machinery in Tajikistan.

The Director of the Agrotechservice, Jalolidin Nuraliev, told reporters that Tajikistan needs new machinery, because its

vehicle fleet has been worn out. "As of today, we need about 10,000 tractors alone. Therefore, we have decided to launch an assembly facility here. This also dovetails with the programme to create new jobs and to turn Tajikistan from an agricultural country into an agricultural and industrial one," he noted. Meanwhile, negotiations

are already underway to make everything to supply Belarusian machinery, assembled in Tajikistan, to the markets of third countries, particularly Afghanistan. At present, the production facility assembles the tractors 'Belarus-80.1' and 'Belarus-82.1'. Assembly volumes will be expanded to sell on the markets of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. In 2018, it's planned to establish the manufacture of mounded and towered technique of Bobruiskagromash JSC in Hisor and of self-propelled mowers by Gomselmash JSC. In future, it's planned to expand the line-up of the produced technique.

On the premises of the assembly production facility, the project was launched to create a training centre to train mid-ranking technical specialists to maintain and operate Belarusian agricultural machinery. Negotiations are currently underway to involve teachers of the Belarusian National Technical University in the centre's educational programmes.

Discussions in Belarusian capital which are relevant for Europe and the world

By Vladimir Mikhailov

The participation of a top ranking European official in the Minsk forum again confirms the status and importance of the event. The conference also features representatives of the European Parliament, the German Bundestag and the Eurasian Economic Commission. Beforehand, a range of foreign and defence ministers from the European states also announced their intention to speak at the Minsk forum, in particular, former CSTO General Secretary, Nikolay Bordyuzha and NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General, James Appathurai. In total, the event was attended by more than 350 experts, researchers, politicians and officials, including more than 200 representatives of 40 foreign states.

As far as the forum's agenda is concerned, on the eve of the event, the Coordinator of the Foreign Policy of Belarus programme of the Minsk Dialogue expert initiative, Denis Melyantsov, said that the forum will discuss the challenges currently faced by the European region, which conflicts appear between countries, how to prevent and solve them. Special attention will be paid to the development of the *Eastern Partnership* initiative, the Eurasian Economic Union, the *Belt*

OSCE General Secretary Thomas Greminger takes part in international *Eastern Europe: In Search of Security for All* conference, held in Minsk



OSCE General Secretary Thomas Greminger

and Road project. According to the Head of the Minsk Dialogue expert initiative, Yevgeny Preigerman, it is planned to conduct a similar forum in Belarus annually. "The forum should facilitate the building of a general picture where there's a place for everyone who should take part in discussing security in Eastern Europe and, probably, even wider, in Eurasia. These are countries of the West, the European Union, as well as the

USA, Russia and the small states of Eastern Europe and, what is principally, China," he noted.

Mr. Preigerman stated that today there are no venues in the world where such kind of discussion would take place. "Most famous international venues partly turn into an information-propagandist war which is deploying with great force between the West and East. In our opinion, it's a big problem," added the expert.

In a word, the forum tackles large-scale issues, and this is proven by the organisers of the conference *Eastern Europe: In Search of Security for All* conference, including representatives of the Minsk Dialogue expert initiative. These issues include changes of the international order and reforms of international organisations, alongside concrete proposals on how to make Eastern Europe a region of co-operation rather than

confrontation.

Of course, international experts realise that there won't be global agreements on the end of the geopolitical confrontation in the nearest future. On the contrary, the world political situation testifies to the fact that global crises only exacerbate. However, it's impossible to sit back and do nothing, becoming a hostage of this confrontation. The Head of the Minsk Dialogue expert initiative, Yevgeny Preigerman, believes that the voice of small states is very important in the regime of world confrontations. The fact that today there are no venues (on the map of international events especially in the European part of the world) for dialogue to discuss security in the widest sense of the world, only makes everything more complex. This is a huge problem, especially for small states such as Belarus.

Belarus has already recommended itself as an authoritative negotiating venue to settle crises, as is seen by the work of the contact group to settle the situation in the east of Ukraine. However, today we can and should move further. How to do this will be a subject for serious expert discussion, including as part of the *Eastern Europe: In Search of Security for All* conference taking place in Minsk at the moment.

Exchange of views on the eve of the visit

By Alexander Pimenov

Preparation for Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Chinese Qingdao and development of Belarusian-Chinese relations have been discussed at the meeting between the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and the Chinese Ambassador to Belarus, Cui Qiming

“I’ve asked you to come here to consult on some aspects of our relations in the run-up to my visit to Qingdao. We have the SCO Summit. Prior to my visit to China, Belarus will

welcome the official who is second in the hierarchy of the People’s Republic of China. We’ll discuss Belarus-China relations with him, too. No other Chinese national knows as much as you do about our relations. Therefore, I would like to discuss several things with you, not only in relation to my visit to China, but also our next strategy,” noted the Head of State.

Mr. Lukashenko asked



Cui Qiming

that, prior to his meeting with the President of the People’s Republic of China, Xi Jinping, he would like to discuss with

productive,” added the Belarusian leader.

The President also sug-

gested discussing some areas of concern. “Issues are inevitable, because the scale of our co-operation is tremendous, in particular, in the Great Stone Industrial Park. I would like to know your take on the issues and your point of view,” he said.

A visit of the President of Belarus to China is scheduled for June, to take part in the SCO Summit that will be held in Qingdao. It’s expected that the Belarusian Head of State will meet the President of the People’s Republic of China, Xi Jinping, to discuss acute issues of bilateral relationships.



At the exhibition, held as part of Atomexpo-2018 Forum

Nuclear energy and synergy of success

The Belarusian nuclear power plant is still under construction, but the country is already occupying an increasingly strong place in the nuclear club — as confirmed at the 10th Atomexpo-2018

By Maxim Osipov

I attended the forum with an extensive list of the most important questions in modern times, but I had no opportunity to ask them: the sharpest and most ambiguous issues were commented upon at the very start. Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Semashko, opened his speech with a reference to whether Belarus would become an atomic country. “We have a single main task: to launch the first energy block by late 2019. The working schedule is already agreed with Rosatom’s management during the meeting at the construction site of the Belarusian nuclear power plant on May 5th. The terms are difficult but absolutely real,” he stressed.

In general, since 2009 — when the 1st Atomexpo Forum was organised, fifty energy blocks of nuclear power plants have been connected to global energy networks. Another 30 will begin their operation in the next two years. Unsurprisingly, the international community is paying special attention to Belarus, which has firmly

embarked on the path of building its own nuclear power station. It’s hardly possible to overestimate the new plant’s benefits for domestic use.

Mr. Semashko told journalists, “Around 5-10 years ago, we imported up to 7.5bn kW/h from Russia against our annual power consumption in 32-33bn kW/h. Those figures varied in different years but were never lower than 5bn. Another 2.5bn were exported from Ukraine. We’ve ceased these imports now since we have modernised our own power engineering. Moreover, we even sold 0.42bn kW/h abroad in the first quarter of this year! Now we are doing everything possible to wisely and properly enter the unified energy market of the Eurasian Economic Union.”

Other practical results of commissioning a Belarusian nuclear power station have often been discussed. E-transport is developing in Belarus and the National Academy of Sciences’ Scientific-Practical Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation has announced the beginning of works aimed at the electrification of agri-

cultural machinery. Intelligent energy-saving lighting systems and smart houses are appearing. As for analysts not related to the energy sector, many of them even predict that construction of a Belarusian station will entail a socio-economic revolution — not only in the Ostrovets District and neighbouring areas of Belarus, but also in bordering Lithuania.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Energy Minister — Mikhail Mikhadyuk — commented openly on some of the less clear issues, “In line with the project, a nuclear power plant operates for 60 years. However, as seen from world experience, the term of its service could be easily extended for another 20 years. During this time, a whole cluster of new enterprises are emerging around the station and throughout the country. Even now, many Belarusian companies supply industrial equipment to the NPP under construction. They have already adapted to this, carefully studying and observing the requirements for the quality of equipment. This trend will continue in the future.”

The most important thing is that inflation remains steady

By Vladimir Velikhov

World experts continue to record strengthening of the Belarusian economy

It’s well-known that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has recently improved its forecast. It predicts that this year, the economy of Belarus will increase by 3 percent (rather than 2 percent as previously calculated). The same 3-percent increase is expected by the Bank’s specialists for next year. In a word, the country fits the global trend. At the beginning of this year, most international expert bodies came to the conclusion that 2018 will be the first year after the financial crisis when the world economy will work almost at full capacity. According to the calculations of the World Bank, growth rates of the world economy in 2018 could exceed 3 percent.

Belarus has almost completely proven this forecast already and expects to continue, efficiently responding to current challenges and threats. Economists see more serious consequences in the improvement of the EBRD forecast for our country. Doctor of Economic Sciences, Alexander Luchenok, the Head of the Macroeconomic and Financial Policy Department of the Economy Institute, at the National Academy of Sciences, believes that additional opportunities will appear for economic development. It means that there is the potential to enhance the general standard of living, including raising pensions and allowances for families with many children. The economic growth we’re now seeing is a positive phenomenon and it’s good that it’s being noted by international organisations.



Furthermore, such assessments, forecasts and ratings give good reason for large foreign businesses to see our country in a new way. Mr. Luchenok suggests that the growth of GDP, even by 1 percent, changes the country’s attractiveness from an investment point of view, though other aspects do have a major role to play in this regard. Discussing the results of socio-economic development in the first three months of 2018, Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov, confirmed that at present, inflation is being restrained within given parameters. Nevertheless, as far as some commodities are concerned, primarily food products, the growth of prices exceeds the general level. This was also emphasised by the Head of State, so the risk of enhancing the forecast figure on inflation should be minimised by the end of the year, and this is a top priority task.



By Yulia Vasilishina

Guests to the 25th International Forum of Telecommunications, Information and Bank Technologies — *TIBO-2018* — hosted at the Minsk-Arena — were welcomed by a tank. This seemed logical: The World of Tanks game authored by a Belarusian company has become one of the country's business cards on the world market, similar to the brainchild of the sensational project of our compatriot Kino-mo (a device for projecting moving holographic images in the air) after its victory in the British start-up competition, *Pitch to Rich*. Smart clothes, solutions for medicine, transport, business and trade were also on show. Below are the most interesting *TIBO* exhibits.

Robot Vasilisa

The central stand of the exhibition is IT-Country Belarus: it's a place to get acquainted with the robot Vasilisa which answers calls from Belavia's customers. The name has not been chosen accidentally: it brings associations with the airline brand — the cornflower. The robot-operator has been 'employed' at a call centre in October 2017.

"It uses technologies of synthesis and speech recognition and machine learning. The robot-operator is able to solve individual, frequently asked questions. The call immediately goes to the robot and it decides whether the question can be automatically processed. If the robot thinks that an operator is needed, it will redirect the client," explains Alexey Pautov, the IT Director of Communications Technologies (Belavia's partner). Vasilisa is able to conduct a dialogue and ask leading questions. It now answers 23-27 percent of calls and is constantly studying. The ultimate goal is to teach the robot to book tickets.

Hypervsn device

This is Kino-mo's device project for demonstrating 3D images literally soaring in the air. The project is now active in two countries: the development centre is situated in Minsk and the main office is in London. The technology is already being promoted in Belarus — for advertising campaigns, in stores and offices. It makes it possible to broadcast any image non-stop for 24 hours and is already used in over 80 countries.

Cobot

Collaborative robots are named like this to ensure brevity. Speaking of their uniqueness, Victor Khamenok — the Head of Belarusian Rozum Robotics, the first developer of such robotic manipulators in the post-Soviet region — explains, "These new generation robots can work with people. Heavy industrial



High-tech parade

25th International Forum *TIBO-2018* offers many surprises



robots were dangerous and were hidden in special rooms. Our robot however, can interact with a person. This is a completely Belarusian development. We do everything ourselves, including

high-precision electric motors, electronics and software.

Any routine or dangerous work is ideal for the cobot. For example, in footwear production, it can apply glue on a sole for

24 hours, smoothly and without tiring. In the coming months, these robots will work in several Belarusian and Russian enterprises of food, light industry and banking.

Application for drivers

They will appreciate the mobile service *aisDrive* by Intellectual City Systems, which is unique since it unites the maximum number of necessary functions: with its help, it's possible to pay for parking, refuelling or call a tow truck in the same way as we call, for example, Uber. The application has already been tested by over a thousand users.

Smart clothes

Would you like to pat your friend — who lives overseas — on the shoulder? It's now possible. Smart clothes *Teslasuit* make it possible to transmit sensations on the Internet! This development is demonstrated by a HTP resident — company *VRTEK*. At once, several systems are integrated into trousers and a jacket — including EMC, electromyostimulation to track, motion capture, temperature control and allow bio-data collection. As a result, a unique integrated solution has become possible, with a wide application — from sports training to computer games with deep immersion and the transfer of sensations.

For everyone

For those who have always wanted to sing karaoke but were shy to do it, the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics offers the *Dectone* application — a singing simulator. The screen shows how you sing and how far away you are from the note. Anyone can try — just like in the exhibition by the *Delovaya Set* (Business Network) which enables visitors to assess the speed of their reactions and their state of health. In the first case, a hoop with sensors is put on one's head and, in the second instance, a person will be asked to put their palm on a special device. The analysis takes a couple of minutes.

In turn, the *Ixsoid* interactive device by the MTS stand, aims to show children that a person with whom they communicate on the Internet may not be what they describe themselves as. This is an element of an interactive exhibition which MTS will launch in Minsk this autumn and later throughout the Republic, jointly with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF. It will become a continuation of the project — *Children on the Internet* — to train the younger generation on safe behaviour on the net. Another general partner of the forum — Huawei — attracts visitors with the presentation of its flagship smartphones Huawei P20 and P20 Pro whose cameras are recognised as the best in the world.

Normal life is possible with a heart clip



Among professionals

Heart surgery without seams and incisions are already a reality: specialists of the Cardiology Republican Scientific and Practical Centre have mastered the innovative method of mitral valve surgery. The modern MitraClip technology is low-trauma and enables patients with severe heart failure to be operated on and discharged from the hospital within two days.

By Inna Kabysheva

The prolapse (sagging) of the mitral valve is viewed by doctors not as a cardiac defect but a minor anomaly of heart development: around 15 percent of all people live with this diagnosis and operations are rare. However, in especially severe cases, the valve — acting as a kind of ‘a shutter’ aiming not to let blood from the atrium into the ventricle back — fails to cope. Patients then complain of fatigue, sometimes shortness of breath



Heart surgery conducted at Cardiology Centre

and their hearts grow in size. Moreover, transplantation may be required. In this case, it is important to conduct a life-saving operation, doing everything possible to ensure that their life does not turn into a torment in anticipation of the

donor organ. According to Alexander Mrochek, who heads the Cardiology Centre, the new technology could become ‘a bridge’: a special clip connecting the valve flaps will enable the heart to continue functioning properly for a long time.

“Initially when such operations were introduced globally, their results were rather contradictory. The technology has been worked on now and our doctors have taken it for their use. The procedure can hardly be called an operation:

through a puncture in the femoral artery, a clip is inserted and — under control of an angiograph — is delivered to the valve. It is then put on valves which have become stretched, restoring heart functions. We’ve recently conducted sev-

eral operations of the kind and one patient received two clips at once. We worked jointly with surgeons from Greece: they know the methodology well and have trained our specialists. We now need to clarify which patients need such an operation,” Mr. Mrochek commented, adding that the Centre will undertake careful selection processes.

Previously, such operations were conducted on an open heart. Patients were offered two options: either to improve their own valve or replace it with a mechanical or biological prosthesis. This was a temporary solution for many: approximately 10 percent of those operated on required a second operation in 10-15 years. The new technology will make it possible to avoid this.

Blossom season is hard for allergy sufferers

Pollinosis, or seasonal allergic rhino conjunctivitis (from the Latin ‘pollin’) is a seasonal disease caused by an allergic reaction to plant pollen.

Approximately 100 plants can be allergens, and the smaller their pollen is, the more dangerous. The greatest danger for allergy sufferers is produced by pollen from the elm, birch, maple, oak, alder, ash, hazel and acacia. The first signs of spring allergies occur about a week before flowering, as the wind brings pollen from southern regions. There is a belief that allergy in May-June is caused by poplar seeds; actually, due to their size, they cannot penetrate into the respiratory tract and are not an allergen. Probably, people suffering in this period are allergic to pollen of plants whose flowering coincides with the appearance of poplar seeds. In addition, poplar ‘fluff’ is not a pollen, but a filler of poplar fruit.

During seasonal exacerbation, most people suffer from ‘cross’ allergy: allergic reac-

tions not only to pollen but also certain fruits and plants emerge. For example, in the case of pollinosis with a reaction to birch pollen, a cross reaction will involve allergy to carrots, hazelnuts, apples and peaches in the period from April to late May. If wormwood is known as to be allergic, then an allergy to citrus, honey and sunflower seeds often occurs.

The symptoms of pollinosis appear almost at the same time each year. Most often it is like a common cold with redness of the eyes (conjunctivitis), dermatitis (rashes, itching of the skin), as well as fatigue, irritability, perspiration in the throat and a cough. Sometimes there are attacks of breathing difficulty and temperature can slightly rise from time to time.

Up to 20 percent of people suffering from allergies do not even know it, since they associate allergic manifestations with the common cold. However, despite the similarity of symptoms, it’s possible to tell the difference. In an allergy, the

temperature usually does not rise (or only slightly), sneezing is frequent and nasal discharge is fluid and transparent like water (and does not change with time). Moreover, there is itching in the ears, nose, throat and mouth. Itching and runny nose



Blossom season in Minsk

become stronger in windy and dry weather and weaken on rainy days. Symptoms of colds usually last no more than a week, while allergic manifestations can bother a person for a long time — sometimes all year round. In case of an allergy, a person usually feels better in the evening than in the morning,

and at home rather than outside.

If you have the symptoms below, you should definitely consult the doctor. The specialist will diagnose pollinosis simply enough, comparing its appearance with the plant blossom time, also conducting skin

- who have undergone an operation to remove their tonsils,
- with weak immunity, and low stress tolerance.

In the period of exacerbation, the following rules should be followed:

- take daily antihistamines (antiallergic) drugs as prescribed by the doctor,
- take a shower daily,
- close windows and doors in the daytime,
- refrain from walking in dry weather,
- ventilate the room (when the concentration of pollen is minimal) at night or after the rain,
- stay near reservoirs in regions with the minimum concentration of an allergen.

During the period of remission, the rules are simple: to strengthen one’s immunity (sports, balanced nutrition, rejection of bad habits) and annually undergo treatment with an allergist.

By Tatiana Zhukova, doctor of the highest category, Candidate of Medical Sciences



UK Windsor thronged with cheering spectators

A royal wedding is much about the crowds outside as well as the invited guests. It's the people on the streets that really give the event that special atmosphere. Tens of thousands of people from all over the world turned the streets of Windsor red, white and blue.

"It was so exciting, we couldn't sleep," said one woman with her children. "We woke up at quarter to four this morning and we came from Enfield, North London just to be here for the day."

"The singing in the choir was

amazing and the gospel choir was beautiful," said another married couple. "Very dignified but with elements of tradition and certainly when they were exchanging vows and looking at one another so lovingly. Lots of cheers here and corks popping,

confetti throwing and obviously we joined in with the singing."

The size and cheers of the crowds lining the streets of Windsor must have left the newlyweds in no doubt of the enduring popularity of the British royal family. Many in the crowd had

been there since the early hours of the morning, not just to catch a glimpse of the royal couple, but to watch the wedding service on the giant screens.

People were simply enjoying the moment, immersed in the story of when Harry wed Meghan.



Experts warn Hawaii volcano could blow again

Hawaii's Kilauea volcano spewed ash nearly 9km into the sky and scientists warned this could be the first in a string of more violent explosive eruptions

"This has relieved pressure temporarily," US Geological Survey geologist Michelle Coombs said. "We may have additional larger, powerful events."

Residents of the Big Island were warned to take shelter from the ash as toxic gas levels spiked in a small southeast area where lava has burst from the ground during the two-week eruption.

The wind could carry Kilauea's ash plume as far as Hilo, the Big Island's largest city and a major tourism centre, the County of Hawaii Civil Defense warned in an alert.

Venezuela election won by Maduro amid widespread disillusionment

Venezuela's leftist leader Nicolas Maduro won a new six-year term, but his main rivals disavowed the election alleging massive irregularities in a process critics decried as a farce propping up a dictatorship

Victory for the 55-year-old former bus driver, who replaced Hugo Chavez after his death from cancer in 2013, may trigger a new round of western sanctions against the socialist government as it grapples with a ruinous economic crisis.

US President Donald Trump's administration is threatening moves against Venezuela's already reeling oil sec-

tor. Venezuela's election board, run by Maduro loyalists, said he took 5.8 million votes, versus 1.8 million for his closest challenger Henri Falcon, a former governor who broke with an opposition boycott to stand.

"They underestimated me," Maduro told cheering supporters on a stage outside his Miraflores Presidential Palace in downtown Caracas as fireworks sounded and confetti fell on the crowd.



Gina Haspel confirmed as CIA's first female director

The US Senate has voted in favour of appointing the CIA's first female director

The confirmation of Gina Haspel, a veteran of the spy agency, follows a partisan fight among lawmakers over her role in the its post-9/11 interrogation programme.

She replaces former CIA Chief Mike Pompeo who was recently made Secretary of State.

Haspel has been criticised for her role in a programme that detained and interrogated terror suspects at covert sites abroad following 9/11.

There she oversaw the use of harsh interrogation techniques such as waterboarding.

Mercedes-Benz to make Tesla-rivalling electric compact car

Daimler will invest 500 million Euros in Hambach, France, to start producing a small compact electric Mercedes-Benz in addition to its electric cars currently manufactured there for the Smart brand

It plans to launch more than 10 electric vehicles for Mercedes-Benz Cars by 2022 as US rival Tesla struggles to ramp up production of its Tesla Model 3.

"The Smart plant in Hambach will become a part of our global compact car production network with the lead plant in Rastatt, Germany," Mercedes-Benz Production Chief Markus Schaefer said in a statement on Friday. The investment will expand assembly facilities and reshape the site's infrastructure.

Bulgarian truckers protest against proposed EU rules during summit

Hundreds of truck drivers blocked roads across Bulgaria as European Union leaders met in Sofia, protesting against proposed EU rules they say would cost their jobs and put their firms out of business

Transport company owners described the initiative, known as the Mobility Package, as a protectionist measure designed to help rival firms in Western Europe. The Bulgarian Transport Association said around 120,000 drivers from the country would lose their jobs under the proposed rule changes.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Language of watercolour — attractive in all relations

Exhibition by Mikhail and Valery Svistunovs — *Language of Watercolour* — is a true revelation for both experts and connoisseurs of the genre



effects of watercolour, its complex language and rich vibrancy. Freedom to use the technical capabilities of watercolour is manifested in his works through precise architectural drawing, the harmonious contrast of colour spots, space and balance, the unobtrusive static character and tectonics of the image. The presence of the fourth, temporal dimension is very clearly pronounced in his works.

Watercolours by Valery Svistunov are rather cosy, intimate and somewhat homely. A gentle but complex language, flexible, refined style, subtle nuances and omissions, intricate network of associations — these are the characteristic features of his work. Fluid gradation of light and shadow, slight transitions of the light and aerial perspective create an almost physical sensation of a spring atmosphere, filled with the smells of grass and flowers, a sense of freshness and renewal in nature.



of their native land. However, each of the artists has his own creative style, his understanding of the features of wet-on-wet technique, which requires quick work, freshness and fluency in conveying impressions.

Mikhail Svistunov felt keenly the features of the source material, the stylistic

Watercolours by Valery and Mikhail Svistunovs have been successfully exhibited in museums and art galleries of Belarus, as well as in Germany, Poland, France and other countries. However, it's the first time their exhibition is going on display at the National Art Museum and it has been given its proper attention.

By Alexander Pimenov

Brothers Mikhail and Valery Svistunovs, talented representatives of the Vitebsk art school, are students of the re-

markable artist and talented teacher, Ivan Stolyarov. Their works are filled with admiration for the beauty of Belarusian nature and worship the discreet harmony and grandeur of the havens and expanses

Philosophy from the Heavenly Empire in creative performance

National Art Museum of Belarus hosts *Chinese Painting of Ideas* exhibition, from the National Art Museum of China

By Veniamin Mikheev

This project is a response to the exhibition of masterpieces of our collection in Beijing in 2017. Our colleagues from China selected 22 works of painting, graphics and sculpture to demonstrate the collection of the Chinese museum, as well as to show the Belarusian public the results of a complex dialogue between the traditional and modern art of China in the 20th century.

The core of the exhibition is 'sei' — a traditional style of Chinese painting. Its name comes from two words: 'se' — to write and 'i' — the idea, the meaning. The principle of this style is to transfer the idea, the very essence of objects in free form. The sweeping strokes in the 'sei' works unfold deep,

polysemantic images, representing freedom of thought. Grace, precision, dynamics and harmony — these are the main peculiarities of the works by Chinese artists Chen Dayu, Chen Zizhuang, Yang Zhiguang and many others whose works go on show in Minsk.

Oil paintings represented at the exhibition reflect the connections between tradition and modernity, East and West. Sculptures add volume and vitality, expressing the authors' view on history and aesthetic heritage. In the works of Wu Weishan, Liu Kaiqu and Liu Huanzhang, the essence of complex and multifaceted Chinese philosophy is reflected, centering around the triad of the great teachings of the East: Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism.



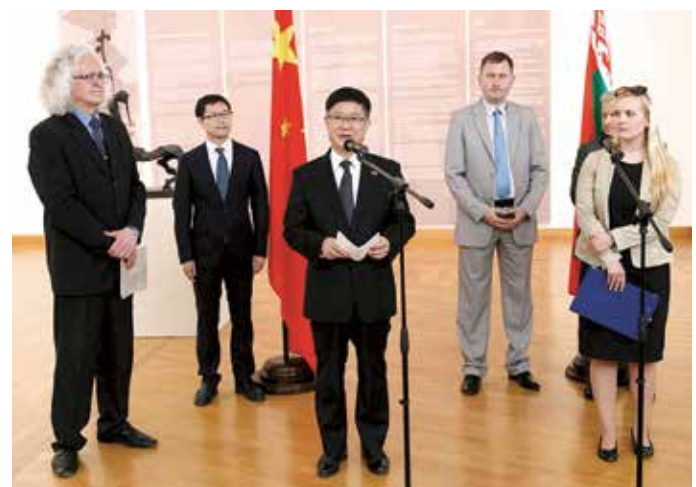
Exposition attracts much attention

It should be noted that since the end of the last century, Chinese national painting has been experiencing a period of genre restoration. It's interesting that in this period between avant-garde European painting and 'se-i', several similar features have been revealed. This is the

above-mentioned expressive manner, aspirations to reflect mood and to use simple forms. For example, the major task of the 'se-i' — to express ideas via art — is very similar to the approach of the western conceptual painters. The only difference is that conceptual painters used

other artistic devices.

It's quite possible that the timeliness of Chinese painting gave it its second wind. It's no accident they say that everything new is old but forgotten, while the Chinese used to rely on their traditions during their history.



Exhibition opening ceremony

Collecting corks is a challenge

Anton Kozlov from Vitebsk is a capsophile, having been collecting beer corks since 1993. He now has over 19,000, from 160 countries, including some from Guadeloupe, Suriname, Sao Tome and Principe.

By Alexander Pimenov

“It’s possible to study geography with these corks,” he smiles. “It’s also possible to test people’s decency and understanding. Some time ago, I sent a letter to all brewers countrywide, telling them about myself and my hobby. I asked them to help me enlarge my collection, if they could. Some didn’t respond, but others were pleasantly surprised and respectfully responded. When exchanging corks online, with foreigners, it’s important to be reliable. There are no guarantees but there are black lists. There’s also an online book of gratitude. Without boasting, I can say that I have 300 positive feedback reports.”

Anton well remembers the day when he became interested in corks, in the 1990s. On meeting friends, they unscrewed their bottles and noticed that two had different corks, due to rebranding. His passion for collecting came from his father, Alexander, who was keen on toy cars, vinyl records and cassettes. Now, Anton’s son, Georgy, aged 10,



Anton Kozlov and his collection

is interested in children’s drink corks, which feature superheroes. He’d love to hunt down a rare cork used for a Venezuelan soda, featuring a scene from *Star Wars*. Meanwhile, Anton dreams of acquiring more corks and is proud of those already in his collection, including some from Soviet times, from 1969 to 1973.

Anton is a member of the Vitebsk club of collectors of beer attributes: Dvina Corks. With a dozen like-minded people, it celebrates its 25th jubilee this year. Collectors plan to celebrate this date stylishly — producing a small batch of beer under a special label... and plugged by unique corks.

Publishing houses take pride of place

By Oleg Bogomazov

Belarusian editions presented at the 13th St. Petersburg International Book Salon

This year, during the planning of the exhibition, special focus was given to editions dedicated to the Year of the Native Land in Belarus, as well as to jubilee anniversary books of classical writers of Belarusian literature. In total, more than 500 book varieties on different topics were on show at the stand in St. Petersburg.

A working meeting of the Belarusian delegation with staff of the Book Store of Writers took part as part of the expo, where representatives of the leadership of the trade outlet noted that books by publishers from Belarus enjoy huge popularity among the residents of St. Petersburg, as well as guests of the city.

Furthermore, the presentation of book souvenirs from Mastatskaya Litaratura and Belarus publishing houses also went on display at the forum. The 13th St. Petersburg International Book Salon was dedicated to the 315th anniversary of the foundation of the city, featuring representatives of 22 countries. New works of artistic, children’s, educational, popular scientific, historical and reference-encyclopaedic literature were presented by 255 publishing houses from Russia, as well as CIS and non-CIS states.

Show business not a toy

“Who’s won the *Eurovision* Song Contest?” a taxi driver wondered, while taking me to Lisbon airport. “Netta from Israel,” I replied, “Really? Are you talking about that cheerful pretty lady? It’s great.” Netta is known by everybody, including taxi drivers and schoolchildren. For the seven months of preparation for the *Eurovision* Song Contest, Israeli producers managed to transform a virtually unknown girl from a nightclub to a European star. Her contest song — *Toy* — spread quickly over European radio stations as soon as it was completed by the clever composers, who turned out to be true *Eurovision* experts. *Toy* is the third attempt to join the European singing trend for the author of Tel Aviv’s official anthem — Doron Medalie. It proved successful. In co-authorship with poet and arranger Stav Berger, they composed a heartfelt composition in support of women who have survived sexual harassment. The theme is now very current: a hotline already operates for Mr. Weinstein’s victims welcoming ladies with ‘your call is very important to us’.



ALEKSEEV presented Belarus in semi-finals



Netta Barzilai of Israel wins major prize

As a result, Netta Barzilai came to Lisbon as a well-known actress with a 100 percent hit: her *Toy* had 25m YouTube views and a fashionable refrain — ‘I’m not your toy, you stupid boy’. The singer was supported by all those who are oppressed and deprived. *Eurovision* is not only a grand TV

show with a live broadcast — so admired by eccentrics of all kinds. Last year, during Jamala’s performance, a streaker ran onto the stage. This year, an unknown person in a bandana — representing neo-Nazis — burst onto the stage and tried to snatch the microphone from the Englishwoman Su-

Rie. Thankfully he was soon removed by security. Moreover, the *Eurovision* Contest is a single international ‘home’ for gay and lesbian people; accordingly, the message of the independent fervent Netta appeared to be on the rise. As a token of gratitude, the singer promised to support a love parade in Tel Aviv, and to perform there with her new songs. The Israeli Barzilai led the way all the way from the bookmakers and most importantly, on YouTube — the track went out to the people.

Israel really wanted this victory, it was important for the country to declare itself on the agenda of acute political processes, its representatives have not won *Eurovision* for twenty years in a row, since the time of the legendary hit Dana International *Viva la diva*. In addition to the powerful production corps, the largest delegation from Tel Aviv arrived in Lisbon: several hundred fans and journalists who ‘pumped’ the press centre and Altice Arena during Netta’s speeches, so that live broadcasts from journalists could transmit events. I remember how, after the victory,

the Netta team led by the artist herself to the press center for the final interview, and from the first seconds sang and danced *Hava Nagila* with such energy, that all the questions of the journalists somehow disappeared by themselves. Before us was a friendly team from Israel, who had snatched victory from the main competitors: the Swedish-Greek project — Eleni Foureira — and the impressive-voiced Austrian Cesár.

Winning *Eurovision* is possible, but contestants without experience of stage performances will find their way blocked even before the semi-final stage. To win, we need a team of strong professionals from show business and an artist with an inner core. Listening to the press conference, it’s clear that Netta is a confident person, who clearly knew what she wanted right from the start, and to achieve her goal she used the whole arsenal of her musical and vocal capabilities. If an artist is embarrassed or afraid it would be better to stay at home and not to dream of any *Eurovision*.

Diego Maradona chooses Brest to continue his career: it's not a joke

Legendary in the past Argentine footballer will work for Brest Dinamo

According to the Dinamo-Brest football club's press service, the Argentinean has signed a three-year contract with the club and has taken office as its Chairman of the Board. Diego Maradona will oversee the strategic development of the team and interact with all its structural subdivisions — including the Brest Children's Academy. It's been announced that the sportsman will take up his post after the end of the World Championship in Russia.

Diego Armando Maradona, 57, is one of the greatest players in the history of world football. He was the captain of Argentina's national team for many years (1977-1994) and, largely thanks to his skill, the Argentines became world champions in 1986 in Mexico and, in 1990, took silver at the World Championship in Italy. Maradona played 91 matches as part of his native team, scoring 34 goals.

As a coach, Diego Maradona has been working since 1994. Initially, he headed the Argentinean clubs Textil Man-



Diego Maradona pleased that he will continue his career in Belarus

diyu and Racing and, from 2008 to 2010, he trained the national team of Argentina. At the 2010 World Championship in South Africa, Maradona's footballers reached the quarter-finals to later be defeated by

Germany (0:4). After completing his work with the team after the world event, Maradona did not train for a long time but, in 2011, became the coach of the UAE's Al-Wasl club. After slightly less than a year, he left

the team and, until May 2017, stayed outside football. He then returned to the UAE to coach Al Fujairah. Sadly, he failed to succeed and, in late April 2018, left his post.

Outside his football life,

Diego Maradona is known for his extravagant words and deeds. Belarusian media is still spreading rumours of Diego's three-year contract with Brest-Dinamo. Anatoly Baidachny — who headed the national football team of Belarus from 2003 to 2005 — comments, "A variety will be introduced to our football: the arrival of one of the best players in the world in the history of football." He believes people will care little about Brest-Dinamo's rivals at the beginning: the fans will come to the stadium just to look at the legend.

The Argentine coach has also received offers from Turkey, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia but he has personally chosen the Belarusian club. Recently, Dinamo won the Cup of Belarus for the third time, defeating Borisov BATE — 3:2. In his Instagram video message, one of the best players of the 20th century addressed Brest's footballers, saying, "I'd like to congratulate my guys from Dinamo-Brest on their cup win."

Victory in Saint Gaudens, with Paris next in line

By Yegor Vetrov

Vera Lapko wins tennis tournament in French Saint Gaudens

In the tournament finals, Vera Lapko defeated her rival from Holland — Quirine Lemoine (ranked 313th in the WTA) — 6:3, 6:4. The match lasted 1 hour 15 minutes. It should be noted that the Belarusian tennis player has already won her second tournament in a row, previously winning the tournament in Moscow's Khimki.

The victory in Saint Gaudens enabled Vera to jump to 77th in



Vera Lapko is in good form

the WTA ranking.

The Belarusian tennis player will now go to Paris to try to qualify in the main draw of the Grand Slam series tournament

at Roland Garros. Three more representatives of Belarus out of the top-100 will start their performance at Roland Garros from the main draw.

Golden run in Manchester

By Oleg Samsonov

Famous Belarusian runner Alina Talay finishes first at international Great City Games tournament

She covered the 100m hurdles in 12.74 seconds, followed by the Norwegian Isabelle Pedersen (13.03 seconds) and Aliicia Barrett of the UK (13.42

seconds). Alina Talay's result in Manchester is one of the best in the summer season. Meanwhile, Elvira German of Belarus posted an even better result on May 13th, when she covered the same distance in 12.73 seconds, setting her personal record.

According to the information of the Belarusian Athletics federation, Belarusian hurdle



Alina Talay

runners demonstrated their best results in May in the 100m hurdles in Europe. The best result of the season was seen by Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto-Rico (12.40 seconds).

Impressive and bright performance of sambo wrestlers in Greece

By Kirill Karin

Many awards brought home by Belarusian wrestlers from the European Sambo Championship in Greece

Vladislav Sayapin won gold, defeating Georgia's Mindia Lileashvili in the under 68kg finals. Among the women in the under 60kg category, Belarusian Kristina Kazanoy lost to Russia's Anastasia Shevchenko in the final to take silver. In the under 48kg category, Leyla Abbasova of Belarus won bronze, jointly with Romanian Daniela Chiss. In the under 90kg category, Alexey Stepankov also won bronze, sharing his third place with Serbian, Dmitry Gerasimenko. In the combat sambo section, Eduard Muravitsky (under 74kg) lost to the Ukrainian Eduard Rudnev in the decisive battle for the gold medal, to win silver.

Furthermore, in the under 64kg category, a Belarusian national team leader — Tatiana



A moment of competitions

Matsko — proved to be stronger than Valeria Anisimova from Russia. This was not Tatiana's first victory in international competition: last year, she won the European Championship in Minsk and the World Championship in Sochi. The sports-woman also won the 1st European Games in Baku.

On the second day of the European Championship, Belarusians won three more bronze medals: Ksenia Danilovich (under 52kg), Andrey Kazusenok (100kg) and Yevgeny Alexievich (under 82kg combat sambo).

On the first day of the competition, Belarus won six awards — including Vladislav Sayapin's gold.

Night of the week



Museum Night organised in Minsk on a large scale and in an original way

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 27th May. *Territory of Earthly Hopes*
Until 31st May. *Aivazovsky and Marine Painters*
Until 26th June. *Chinese Painting of Ideas*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 K. Marx Street
Until 13th August. *Divine Comedy by Salvador Dali*
Until 10th June. *Under Muse's Heel: Footwear History Facts*

CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 30th June. *Legacy of Belarus: Dedicated to Minsk's 950th Anniversary*

GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

8 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 13th August. *Piotr Masherov: His Heart Beats for People*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 1st July. *My Homeland — Tale of Times* project
Until 31st August. *Enlightenment. Experience. Progress*
Until 15th September. *ABCs from Around the Globe*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 2nd June. *Touch of Beauty*

VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya
Until 27th May. Photo exhibition by Margarita Trenina: *Fairies* artistic cycle (as part of the *Close* exhibition)
Until 18th July. *Dreams of the Past*

MINSK GALLERY

9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 27th May. *World of the Future*
Until 31st May. *The Art of Brick*

MUSEUM OF MODERN BELARUSIAN STATEHOOD

38 K. Marx Street
Until 26th June. *Man. Cosmos. Belarus*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

6 Kirill and Mejody Street
Until 1st July. *MotoVeloMinsk: Two-Wheeled History*

HIGH PLACE

2A Gertsen Street
Until 26th August. *Hello from Minsk*

BELARUSIAN STATE CIRCUS

32 Nezavisimosti Avenue
25 and 26.05. *Circus! Circus! Circus!*

THEATRES

NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street
24.05. Festive concert
25.05. *Carmen*
27.05. Reporting concert of Choreography College; *Magic of Sound*
28 and 30.05. *The Nutcracker, or Another Christmas Story*
29.05. *The Tsar's Bride*
31.05. *Rigoletto*

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
24.05. *Swan Lake*
25.05. *Sofia Golshanskaya*
27.05. *Golden Chicken; A Thousand and One Nights*
29.05. *My Wife is a Liar*
30.05. *Strauss-Gala*
31.05. *Cherry Orchid*

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
26 and 27.05. *How to Become Rich*
29.05. *Innkeeper*
30.05. *Red Hot Mamas*
31.05. *Private Lives; Husband Leaves His Wife*

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
24.05. *Three Giselles*
25.05. *Doctor Raus' Career*
28.05. *Chernobyl's Prayer*
30.05. *Suffering from Common Sense*
31.05. *Living till the Premiere*

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
24.05. *Goat's Island*
25.05. *Leaving Nature*
26.05. *Male, Singular*
29.05. *Family Weekend*
30.05. *Caught by Love*
31.05. *Playing Happy Family*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
24.05. *Who Laughs Last*
25.05. *The Battlefield*
26.05. *Mechanical Man; Pygmalion*
27.05. *Two Arrows*
28.05. *Master and Margarita*
29 and 30.05. *Wolves and Sheep*
31.05. *#13*

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
24.05. *Pan Tadeusz*
25.05. *Radio Prudok; Inspector*
36.05. *Local Cabaret*
27.05. *Paulinka; Jeweller's Jubilee; Shabany*
29.05. *Tolerance*
30.05. *School of Taxpayers; Love as Militarism*
31.05. *ART; Elza's Land*

BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street
24.05. *Silk*
26.05. *Wolf and Seven Goats*

YOUNG SPECTATORS' THEATRE

26 Engels Street
26.05. *Merry Roger*