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INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

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Over two thousand recruits took the oath at the 72nd Guards Joint Training Centre for training warrant officers and junior specialists in Borisov

## Oath of allegiance to the Motherland

On November 25th, new reinforcements in the formations and military units of the Armed Forces of Belarus took the military oath. More than 8 thousand guys called up for compulsory military service and reserve service took the oath of allegiance to the Motherland. Newly-made soldiers swore to fulfill military duty, defend the independence, territorial integrity and constitutional order of our country in front of parents, relatives, friends and veterans. All these are not just lofty words of a solemn oath, but something that tomorrow may actually have to be defended with arms in hand. Of course, the leadership of Belarus is doing everything so that we live in peace. But for this we need to be able to hold the defence. There is unrest around us. And the future of the country largely depends on our army.

Not only from its training and equipment, but also, not least from the morale of the military personnel. Before uttering the cherished 'I swear!', the servicemen underwent more than one week of initial military training. The soldiers adapted to the daily routine, discipline and learned the basics of military affairs. The new conscription is ready to master its military specialties.



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# CSTO countries strengthen security in the region

A session of the Collective Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation was held at the Palace of Independence



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

## PRIORITIES OF KAZAKHSTAN DURING ITS CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE CSTO

The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, at a session of the CSTO Collective Security Council, proposed a number of priority areas on which it is necessary to focus the activities of the CSTO during the chairmanship of Kazakhstan, which will pass to the republic from January 1st, 2024. Main points:

- **First.** Co-operation of the CSTO with interested countries and international organisations in the field of security, including the UN and its structures. Further deepening of co-operation with the CIS and SCO.
- **Second.** Interaction on issues of military co-operation: finalisation of the regulatory framework on issues of ensuring the operational deployment of the CSTO Collective Forces, continued development of the military personnel training system and the military-scientific potential of the CSTO member states. It is proposed to place special emphasis on unlocking the peacekeeping potential of the organisation.
- **Third.** Development of co-operation to counter international terrorism and extremism. Close attention will be paid to the anti-terrorist component of the collective security system.
- **Fourth.** Combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- **Fifth.** Combating illicit arms trafficking and organised transnational crime.
- **Sixth.** Deepening co-operation in the field of prevention and liquidation of consequences of emergency situations.
- **Seventh.** Combating crimes in the field of information technology.

## PACKAGE OF DOCUMENTS

A total of 15 documents were submitted for signing during the CSTO summit in Minsk. The CSTO Collective Security Council signed a declaration, which is designed to emphasise fundamental principles of the organisation's operation. The document expresses the organisation's stance on topical international security problems.

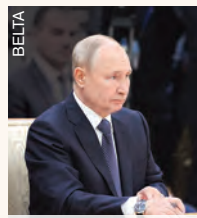
A decision on measures to develop the Collective Security Treaty Organisation's crisis response system was made. The CSTO Collective Security Council also approved a regulation on the joint press centre of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation.

Decisions on a number of personnel matters were signed. Colonel-General Andrei Serdyukov of Russia was appointed Chief of the CSTO Joint Staff. A decision was made on distributing quota-based jobs in the organisation for the next three-year period.

The structure of the CSTO Joint Staff has been adjusted for the sake of improving the performance of working bodies of the organisation as they deal with current tasks and new ones.

The Heads of State also discussed matters concerning the enhancement and development of military co-operation of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation and the organisation's budget.

The next session of the CSC will be held in the fourth quarter of 2024 in Astana.



Vladimir Putin

## ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATION

**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, spoke face to face with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the CSTO summit in Minsk.**

At first, the two Presidents discussed general matters at the Palace of Independence, after that they continued their conversation in a car. By the way, the leaders chose Russia's Aurus car for the joint trip. Aleksandr Lukashenko accompanied his Russian counterpart to the airport.

## BILATERAL MEETINGS

**On the eve of the summit, the Belarusian leader held meetings with the Presidents of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, Emomali Rahmon and Sadyr Japarov.**



Emomali Rahmon

The Belarusian Head of State noted the successful development of the economy of Tajikistan, despite the difficult situation in the region, "I know that the situation is not simple for all of us. Yours has never been simple. You feel heat from the south all the time. I know that things are complicated. But I am always amazed by your ability to keep the economy going in such a situation. I am very glad that you grow gradually but confidently in power engineering. I will be very glad if you sell a huge amount of electricity in that region. It will be a good revenue for the hardworking Tajik people."

As for bilateral relations, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that a good increase in mutual trade is expected this year, "Our trade turnover will be close to \$100 million. We are ready to buy your products, especially agricultural ones, which we, unfortunately, do not have, in any volumes. This is why Tajikistan has contacted us with a request to set up a powerful trade centre here. You have to know that we will do everything to set up the centre."

The conversation with Sadyr Japarov took place behind closed doors, but it is known that among the topics raised were the CSTO, as well as some aspects in the development of bilateral relations.

During a meeting at the end of October with the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Ermek Ibraimov, Aleksandr Lukashenko instructed the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop a country plan for the development of relations with this country.

Belarus is ready not only to significantly expand the range of supplied goods, equipment and machinery, but also to share its accumulated experience in various industries and help with personnel training.



Sadyr Japarov

The summit began with protocol events. In the Ceremony Hall, the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, met the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (the Armenian side decided not to participate in the summit).

After taking photographs together, the Heads of State held negotiations in a limited format under the chairmanship of Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“The year was fast-paced in terms of the development of the geopolitical situation. Since the spring, Belarus has hosted CSTO events almost every month,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted.

The CSTO countries conducted a set of exercises to strengthen the military component of the organisation. In October, Minsk became the venue for a major international conference on Eurasian security, held under the auspices of the Belarusian chairmanship in the CSTO.

“Our organisation remains an integral part of the efforts to ensure the security of the CSTO member states and the Eurasian region as a whole,” the President said.

Last November, during a session of the Collective Security Council in Yerevan, Aleksandr Lukashenko voiced the priority directions of Belarus’ chairmanship both on the internal and external circuits.

*“On the internal circuit, we sought to increase the cohesion of the CSTO member states in order to strengthen the organisation itself, to ensure security and stability in the area of responsibility. Externally, our goal was to bolster the role and importance of the organisation in the system of international relations. Today we can say that the goals set by the Belarusian side in November last year have been generally achieved,” the Head of the Belarusian State said.*

According to him, some of the activities have already been completed. Work

on others is still in progress. Some other goals are long term and have been taken into consideration by both the member states and the CSTO Secretariat.

“The results of the work are a collective success achieved through the effort of all of us — the parties to the agreement. We would not have been able to implement our plans without the support of friends and partners for the priorities of the Belarusian chairmanship. It is necessary to find new solutions to strengthen the security of our states,” the President of Belarus emphasised.

During the meeting in a narrow format, the Presidents discussed current problems of international and regional security, summed up the activities of the CSTO during the intersessional period, and also heard information from the CSTO Secretary General.

Aleksandr Lukashenko voiced the position of Belarus as the country presiding over the organisation this year,

*“Each of us looks at the world through the prism of national interests. This is understandable and justified. We, the Heads of State, bear responsibility for our peoples, their future and security. At the same time, balancing national and collective interests of all CSTO member states guarantees the stability and security of the region as a whole... We got caught up in the whirlwind of the change of epochs. We are witnessing the collapse of the system of international relations. Furthermore, we are participants in the dismantling of the unipolar, if you will, Western-centric model.”*

The President of Belarus drew attention to the fact that a gradual, but at the same time dramatic transition to multipolarity is taking place. This is due to the fact that Western politicians do not want to give up their positions, ignoring the in-

exorable course of history, which, as we know, cannot be stopped.

Under the slogan of the ‘rules-based order’ that replaces international law the West tries to dominate the entire world more and more often. All the known dirty tricks are put to use starting with sanctions, blackmail and ending with the fermenting of inter-ethnic conflicts.

The question is correct: but what are these rules, and who instituted them? A rhetorical question. Naturally, we know who did it and why. There is another essential point: a larger part of the world is unwilling to play by these rules while the language of diplomacy was replaced with sabre rattling a long time ago. International law works exclusively for the benefit of a select few.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that against the background of the odious bellicose rhetoric of individual politicians and the complete loss of mutual trust, there is a deliberate unwinding of the spiral of a new arms race,

*“The fire of regional conflicts, including the use of the latest weapons systems, can spread to other countries at any time. It is no secret that weapons supplied to Kiev go to black markets. Western politicians are not concerned about this, but we consider the uncontrolled movement of weapons and military equipment as a potential security threat not only for our region, but for all countries of the world. Especially now, when a new conflict is raging in the Middle East.”*

The President of Belarus expressed concern about the premonition of a global catastrophe that has gripped the world, that the spark of a regional conflict could ignite the flame of a new world war. This is something that the world is talking about while those overseas are only waiting for countries close

to the CSTO area of responsibility to be drawn into this war.

This so-called controlled chaos is what the United States and the West want.

The Head of State added that against this backdrop complaints about the deployment of Russian tactical nuclear weapons in our country, on our territory are simply absurd. Belarusians don’t threaten anyone — we simply learn so-called diplomatic etiquette from those, who have made the language of force a world trend.

“This is the reality of today — nowadays only the presence of powerful weapons guarantees security in the region and gives the right to speak in the international arena. The very fact that we have gathered here shows that we adequately assess the challenges of the time and are ready to respond to them together. When some of our partners say and do provocative things, it is their problem, first of all. I will say one thing: if you are not okay with something, say it right in the face instead of taking your grievances to the media,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said.

The Head of State expressed confidence that the CSTO countries, no matter what, are able to cope with all the difficulties in their area of responsibility.

*Belarus’ presidency in the organisation embraced the motto ‘Through solidarity and co-operation towards peace and security’. If we are united, then our organisation will be stronger. We have formulated priority aspects of the presidency in a way to lay the foundation for a long-term perspective of development of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. But it is not enough. We have to be stronger and more united.*

Let’s be frank: we still lack the maximum of it. We should move towards it faster. We don’t want to wake up and start acting only after something happens.

**THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF BELARUS IS ASSESSED POSITIVELY**

Following the summit in Minsk, CSTO Secretary General Imangali Tasmagambetov told reporters that the Belarusian side took an active position during its chairmanship of the CSTO, and managed to do a lot within the Organisation.

“Belarus’ presidency is evaluated positively. The heads of state spoke highly of it. Minsk showed a very active stance and the organisation has managed to accomplish a great deal this year. And the year has been complicated,” Imangali Tasmagambetov said.

He stated that the CSTO had to act in the context of the ongoing destruction of the international architecture. Based on this, attention was paid to improving the collective security system. Mechanisms to combat illegal migration, drug trafficking and transnational crime have also received further development. Also, a lot of work has been done to improve the analytical component of the CSTO’s activities, and a major international conference on the topic of security in the Eurasian space has been held.



Imangali Tasmagambetov

**CSTO DECISIONS ARE ABSOLUTELY LEGITIMATE**

On the sidelines of the summit, State Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus Aleksandr Volfovich emphasised that Armenia did not block a single decision of the CSTO summit, “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia have agreed on all the decisions [documents submitted to the summit attended by the heads of state], on the declaration. This is a testimony to mutual understanding, including on the part of Armenia, in addressing issues within the scope of responsibility of the organisation. Of course, we would like everyone to be present today: both heads of state and delegations. But the most important thing is that the Armenian side agreed on all the decisions. There are objective and subjective reasons, apparently, why our Armenian colleagues decided not to arrive in Minsk today. I think Armenia has no desire to leave the CSTO. This will not be for the benefit of the people of Armenia, first of all, and for the benefit of the country.

**On November 21st, Aleksandr Lukashenko received Head of the Belarus President Administration Igor Sergeyenko with a report**

The Belarusian leader outlined a set of topics for consideration. This is planning the presidential schedule (events that must be carried out); organisation of the upcoming elections of deputies, as well as the formation of the composition of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus; preparation for the New Year and Christmas holidays.

Later, in a conversation with journalists, Igor Sergeyenko said that the presidential schedule in 2024, as well as in 2023, will be tense, “The range of problems and issues that the Head of State works on and pays daily attention to is quite wide. We see this by analyzing the agenda of each working week of the Head of State. Accordingly, 2024 will also be quite busy.”

Head of the Belarus President Administration focused attention on

**The President’s schedule will be busy**

two decrees No.367 ‘On setting the date for the elections of deputies’ and No.368 ‘On setting the date for the elections to the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus’ recently signed by Aleksandr Lukashenko. Accordingly, the work of the Central Election Commission at the local level will be organised step by step. In addition, next year the composition of the All-Belarusian People’s Assembly will be formed for the first time in a new capacity. Igor Sergeyenko emphasises that it should include real elected representatives of the people, including representatives of both the deputy corps and civil society.

“The range of issues ahead is quite large. I’m not even talking about the fact that it will be necessary to carefully summarise the results of the economy for the current year. This will also be the subject of discussion

with the President. It is planned to hold several large-scale meetings, which the President spoke about earlier, on specific areas of socio-economic policy. Therefore, everyone, including journalists, will have to work actively,” Head of the Belarus President Administration summed up.

Another topic of the meeting was personnel. The emphasis is on personnel reserves at all levels, primarily in relation to officials included in the personnel reserve of the Head of State. In addition, effective directions in working with youth were discussed. The main task is to select the most capable and talented children to work in the government apparatus and other government organisations and institutions.

They also talked about events, including significant ones, the preparation of which is being worked on by the Belarus President

Administration. Question from journalists: how are preparations going for the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders and the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War? Head of the Belarus President Administration recalled that the composition of the Republican Organising Committee for the preparation and holding of the celebration, headed by Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko, has been created and approved, and preparation work has been organised in all areas.

“Separate proposals have been prepared taking into account the opinions of the regions. The work is being done. These events, I’m sure, should make a splash!” Igor Sergeyenko emphasised.

**Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by**

**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,**

*"Three years ago as I was launching the first unit, I said that a historical day had come: the age of peaceful atom began. And indeed, by receiving this magnificent facility as a gift ahead of November 7th in the complicated year of 2020, we did the right thing by creating this wonder."*

**During a visit to the BelNPP on November 3rd, 2023**

# Peaceful charge for the economy



## What has and what will the use of nuclear energy give to Belarus

**On November 3rd, the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, visited the BelNPP during a working trip to the Ostrovets District of the Grodno Region, where the second power unit was finally put into operation. Our country has joined the club of powers that use atoms for peaceful purposes. Thus, a serious step has been taken in strengthening the energy security and energy independence of our state.**



By Vladislav Sychevich

### Welcome to the club

Since the inclusion of the first power unit of the BelNPP into the unified energy system, the plant has generated a total of more than 20.6 billion kWh of electricity, which has already made it possible to replace 5.6 billion cubic metres of natural gas.

**Experts estimate that the foreign exchange burden on the economy has decreased by more than \$650 million. Just so you understand: for this amount you can purchase about 980 MRI machines and build 1,433,138 square metres of housing with state support.**

According to the Energy Ministry, the Belarusian NPP will generate about 18 billion kWh annually and will provide more than 40 percent of the country's domestic electricity needs. The share of natural gas in the country's fuel and energy balance will decrease to 65 percent. At the same time, an environmental effect has already been achieved: due to the operation of the Belarusian NPP, greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by more than 9 million tonnes.

### Energy of the future

About 30 countries get their energy from more than 190 nuclear power plants, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency. They operate 412 power units. The list of leaders is headed by the USA, France and Japan. According to experts, today in the world a total of almost 370,170 MW is generated at nuclear power plants.

**The starting point for the construction of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant was 2005. Then the Head of State approved the Concept of Energy Security of Belarus and instructed to study the feasibility of constructing a nuclear power plant. On January 15th, 2008, the most important decision in the modern history of Belarus was made to build a nuclear power plant in our country.**

And already on August 9th, 2012, with the participation of the President Aleksandr Lukashenko, a ceremony was held to lay the capsule with a message to future generations.

The Russian project AES-2006, which relates to the evolutionary projects of nuclear power plants with third-generation pressurised water reactors of increased safety, was selected for implementation.

**After all, the main requirement of the President is security.**

The Russian project was chosen based on this criterion. It provides for everything, including the plane crashing into the reactor.

Using similar technology, nuclear power plants have been commissioned in China and India, and are planned for commissioning in Egypt, Turkey, Hungary, and Bangladesh. The fact that the Belarusian NPP is at its best in terms of safety has been repeatedly confirmed by international expert missions, including the IAEA.

Already in August 2020, nuclear fuel was loaded into the reactor of the first power unit of the BelNPP, and on November 3rd of the same year, the first power unit was included in the country's unified energy system. The second power unit of the Belarusian NPP was included in the country's unified energy system on May 13th of this year. On November 1st of this year, the acceptance committee, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Piotr Parkhomchik, signed an act of acceptance for operation of the start-up complex of the second power unit of the BelNPP. Thus, the construction of the plant is completely completed, and this has become a real gift to the residents of the region and the entire Belarusian people.

### The world is for peaceful

**According to IAEA forecasts, the capacity of all nuclear power plants in the world will increase by at least a quarter by 2050. The cost of electricity produced today by nuclear reactors allows it to seriously compete with other types of power plants.**

Renewable energy, along with nuclear power, will meet the vast majority of growth in global electricity demand in the coming years, according to a report by the International Energy Agency.

More and more countries are considering the use of small modular reactors. Interesting fact. Poland is going to build three nuclear power plants, and Lithuania is looking at small modular nuclear power units. And many EU countries are going to create an industrial alliance for those interested in small reactors. These are the states that most loudly criticised Belarus for the decision to build its own nuclear power plant and in every way prevented the implementation of the project.

### Obvious advantages

**At the moment, a trend has emerged in the world called the 'nuclear renaissance'. Even the most conservative IAEA forecasts say that up to 600 new power units could be built on the planet by 2030.**

The increase in the share of nuclear energy in the global energy balance may be affected by such factors as reliability, acceptable level of costs compared to other energy sectors, relatively small volume of waste, and availability of resources.

**The environmental benefits of nuclear generation are due to the fact that nuclear energy has zero direct CO2 emissions, and total greenhouse gas emissions throughout the entire life cycle are minimal and comparable to emissions from wind power plants. Moreover, this figure for nuclear power plants is the lowest of all types of clean generation. Nuclear energy is another artificial high-tech lung of the planet.**

For Belarus, nuclear power plants are a safe, powerful and environmentally friendly source of electricity. Nuclear technology is much more than just electricity. These are thousands of new jobs, nuclear medicine, a quantum leap for agriculture, access to clean water and much more.

**And further. The construction of nuclear power plants ensures economic growth and the creation of new jobs: one job during the construction of a nuclear power plant creates more than 10 jobs in related industries.**

Also, the development of nuclear energy plays a vital role in creating more comfortable conditions for the country's population: in terms of using electricity for heating and hot water supply to residential buildings. The plans for this five-year period include the construction of 2 million square metres of multi-apartment housing 'plug-in'.

**In addition to its macroeconomic significance for the entire country, the BelNPP has a significant positive impact directly on the region where it is located. In just over 10 years, the urban village of Ostrovets has turned into a beautiful, well-maintained city. The social sphere is actively developing.**

### BELARUSIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

- Construction of the BelNPP began in 2011.



- The plant was built according to the Russian project AES-2006.



- The total capacity of the BelNPP is 2400 MW.



#### First power unit:

- included in the unified energy system on November 3rd, 2020;
- the acceptance certificate for commercial operation was signed on June 10th, 2021.



#### Second power unit:

- included in the unified energy system on May 13th, 2023;
- the acceptance certificate for commercial operation was signed on November 1st, 2023.



- Two power units of the BelNPP will be able to provide more than 40 percent of the country's electricity needs.



- To date, the plant has generated a total of more than 20 billion kWh of electricity.



- The operation of the plant made it possible to replace 5.3 billion cubic metres of natural gas, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 9 million tonnes.



- BelNPP ensured a reduction in the foreign exchange burden on the country's economy by more than \$650 million.



- Over 9 months of 2023, electricity consumption in Belarus increased by 1.8 billion kWh and amounted to 29.8 billion kWh.



- Belarus ranks 3rd in the ranking of European countries in terms of cheapness of electricity.



#### • Huge energy intensity

1 kilogramme of uranium enriched to 4 percent, used in nuclear fuel, when completely burned, releases energy equivalent to burning approximately 100 tonnes of high-quality coal or 60 tonnes of oil.



#### • Reuse

The fissile material (uranium-235) does not burn completely in nuclear fuel and can be used again after regeneration.



- Economic development Construction of nuclear power plants ensures economic growth and the creation of new jobs.

- Reduced greenhouse effect Nuclear power plants in Europe avoid 700 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.



Quite recently, some people tried to make waves on the Internet about the alleged re-export of salmon under the Belarusian brand. Like, where else do Belarusians get such a miracle? In fact, it turned out that the miracle is grown in Belarusian industrial 'fiords'. Sceptical jokers can see for themselves: valuable fish species from Belarus are not at all a meme from the Internet, but a completely profitable business. You just have to look at other networks (our fish farms) or take a walk among the fair's shopping arcades. Here you will find sterlet, sturgeon, trout, catfish, pike perch and grass carp with silver carp.

And it happened because the President insisted all this time: there should be more fish on our table. No sooner said than done: the industry, under his constant attention, is making a confident move towards industrial fish farming. The state helps producers in purchasing machinery and equipment for processing, and dates the purchase of fish feed. Visiting a trout farm in the Kostyukovich District in 2019, Aleksandr Lukashenko demanded that fish production must be at least doubled. This is provided for by the state programme until 2025.

This is not a meme: fish production is developing in Belarus, and a Michelin-starred restaurateur has put our black caviar in first place

By Yelena Klimovich, Tatyana Sedunova

### Beluga + sterlet = bester

'It's time for everyone to try how tasty and tender crabs are'. There was such a poster during the USSR, when the great power had heaps of seafood: Far Eastern, Northern, Caspian, Baltic.

But the resources of the world's oceans are running out. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation predicts that by 2030–2040, sources of marine fish will begin to decline, while the price, on the contrary, will rise significantly. We definitely won't have time for frills. What shall we do and what's to be done? There is a solution, and it seems to have been found in Belarus: only its own aquaculture will save the situation.

Belarusian royal fish — sterlet, sturgeon, trout — have already found their way onto store shelves and tables of Belarusians. Now it's the turn of the beluga and even a fish unprecedented in nature (a hybrid of a beluga and a sterlet) — bester. For the second year, the experimental fish farm called Selets has been harvesting beluga caviar, after waiting until the representative of the sturgeon family reaches puberty, which begins at the age of 16. Bester grows faster than sterlet, matures faster than beluga and is less susceptible to diseases. The juveniles turn out to be resilient, as Yuri Bazhenov, director of the Selets Experimental Fish Farm, characterises them, "Some fry reach 100 grammes. At the two-year stage they should be approaching commercial fish. For comparison: sterlet needs to grow for three to four years to reach the market. In 2024, we plan to continue working on all sorts of possible hybrids, and, of course, raise pure beluga."

"Healthy and tasty elite products are in demand in the domestic market. This is noticeable at fairs; we also supply delicacies to restaurants," Yuri Bazhenov emphasises.

Growing valuable species is beneficial for fish farms, but it is necessary to put this area on an industrial basis, the manager is convinced, "The Institute of Fisheries of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Animal Husbandry of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus invites businesses

to start breeding American paddlefish. This species, which is promising for domestic fish farming, can live (and winter) in carp ponds. Paddlefish, like a whale shark, has the habit of swimming with its mouth open, swallowing small fish and plankton that get there. Grows up to 25–30 kilogrammes or more. You can appreciate the merits of an overseas guest in Vileika; in the ponds of the institute's branch, these giants feel at home."

The fish seeks where it is deeper, and man improves the technology of its cultivation. The case with Belarusian black caviar is that story. In the Fanipol workshop of DG-Centre, where sturgeon are raised using a recirculation system and caviar is

# Go fish



BELTA



Vitaliy Pivovarchik



Aleksandr Kulevsky

### NUMBERS IN GROWTH

Fish production this year will increase by two thousand tonnes. Fish production last year amounted to 12.6 thousand tonnes. The country mainly breeds pond fish. Carp occupies about 75 percent of the production volume, silver carp — about 10. "So, this year in the country as a whole, fish production is expected to increase by two thousand tonnes, the growth rate will be about 115

percent," the head of the department of industrial livestock farming and fisheries activities Ministry of Agriculture and Food Valentina Odintsova said.

**The Agricultural Business for 2021–2025 state programme provides for an almost doubling of production volumes of valuable fish species (salmon and sturgeon) throughout the country**

### TROUT IN THE TOP

We found out how much expensive fish is grown in the country. The Agriculture and Food Ministry considers the cultivation of valuable fish species to be a promising direction. Among these, for example, the production of trout occupies more than 70 percent, sturgeon — 10, and catfish — 7. In the Mogilev Region, projects will be implemented in 2024–2026 to create three fish hatchery complexes. It is planned that fish production there will increase to 18 thousand tonnes per year by 2027.



**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,**

*"Why are we delaying, why are we afraid? The technologies are excellent, there are markets. And at a minimum, we need to double fish production, not only in the Mogilev Region."*

During a visit to the Lohva trout farm in the Kostyukovich District on August 14th, 2019



### FIGURES

In 2000, the average per capita consumption of fish in Belarus was 9.5 kilogrammes, in 2022 – 12.9 kilogrammes. The norm recommended by doctors is 21.3 kilogrammes per year. Now, in artificial conditions, the country has learned to grow about 150 species of fish, among which the most valuable are salmon and sturgeon.



emy in Gorki, where the Fish Hatchery Industrial Complex has been operating since 2012, like a fish to water. Practice, scientific activity — when the production site for raising fry is nearby, specialists are formed faster, believes the head of the department of ichthyology and fish farming of the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy, Konstantin Shumsky, "The complex is a branch of our department. The main task is scientific support and supply of personnel for the industry. Every year, students undergo internships not only in the nursery, but also in the Lohva commercial farms. The staff of these enterprises is also made up of our graduates. Master's and postgraduate students write scientific papers on the basis of trout farming. The research is aimed at solving two important problems: increasing the safety of eggs and more rapid development of the fry."

### We are pioneers in the CIS

Graduates of the Belarusian State Agricultural Academy are future specialists who will come to the new generation commodity complex Paluzh in Krasnopolye. Here they will not only grow trout, but also fry from caviar for their own production. Almost all processes are planned to be automated.

A similar project will be in Khotimsk. The complex is planned for completion in 2026. And the most ambitious project for the construction of a broodstock for caviar production is in Cherikov. Now there will be no need to buy caviar abroad; we will be able to produce it at home. There is no such high-tech production in the CIS.

25 million pieces of caviar will be enough for new complexes. About 12–15 million pieces will be for export. The direction is not only profitable, since caviar has good profitability, but also promising. Complicated logistics will allow you not to depend on foreign suppliers. Thus, we will have our own caviar for future production, which means we will have different valuable types of fish already on the tables.

produced using the slaughter method, the water is treated with ozone to achieve its crystal purity. They installed a real reactor in the workshop that makes O3 from O2.

The sterile environment affects the taste of the final product — by the way, it was highly appreciated by the chef of the famous Parisian restaurant Le Cinq, winner of three Michelin stars Christian Le Squer. At a blind tasting in Moscow several years ago, the Admiral brand Husso of DG-Centre took first place.

The President encourages for the construction of such modern complexes. The prospects for growing valuable breeds in Belarus have become much clearer if you have your own feed.

When visiting BNBK a year ago, the Head of State instructed to think through new steps in this segment, taking into account the availability of modern compound feeds from the biotechnological corporation. Many fish farms already use BNBK feed. Thus, Selets will receive about 80 of the 110 tonnes consumed from this manufacturer.

### Cool place

Personnel, technology, raw materials. It is the Mogilev Region that has all these resources, so the region is a cool place for the development of fish farming. Students of the Belarusian State Agricultural Acad-

# Ten years of hell

**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,**

*“A few days after the coup in Ukraine and the Crimean events I said that unfortunately, Ukraine was turning into a battleground for major global players. It is not Ukrainians that wage the war against Ukrainians over there. It is not Russians that are warring against Russian-speaking people. Major international forces use them to wage the war. Therefore, this global conflict represents strong interest for these players if I can say so.”*

**In an interview with Euronews TV channel on October 1st, 2014**

WORLD

## How the collapse of Ukraine began

By Anton Popov

### Coming of darkness

That evening, the rally in the centre of Kiev was not particularly crowded — about 2 thousand people gathered, but the mechanism for overthrowing the legitimate government in the person of elected President Yanukovich and the subsequent separation of the country from Russia was launched. Within three days, the first tents appeared on the main square of Kiev, and the opposition, NGOs and media, lured by the West, unanimously attacked the President and the government. Demands to resume work on an association agreement with the EU and stop attempts to join the Customs Union quickly moved on to anti-Russian slogans.

The situation was complicated by the fact that the problems of corruption and arbitrariness of some local officials, which were immediately exploited by the pro-Western layer of political elites, were practically not addressed in any way.

At that time, Maidan did not yet represent the evil destructive force that it would become in early December. Therefore, when the Kiev police dispersed the camp on the square on the night of November 30th, detaining 35 people, some breathed a sigh of relief. However, the rather herbivorous actions of the Berkut were nevertheless used as a reason for foreign intervention and a transition to more active actions — the West condemned the crackdown, and inflamed by the myth about the ‘brutal beating’ on December 2nd, the radicals began to build a new camp on the Maidan. On December 8th, nationalists demolished the monument to Lenin, and on the 11th, Deputy Secretary of State Nuland arrived in the seething Russophobic cauldron in the centre of Kiev with her then-meme cookies. At this point, only very naive observers had no idea who was behind the rapidly flaring fire.

*At that time, the legitimate Ukrainian authorities still had a chance to turn back history, but Yanukovich lacked the determination to use tough force methods, including the deployment of army units.*



## Recently, one of the largest geopolitical catastrophes of our time — the Kiev Maidan — marked its 10th anniversary

**On November 21st, 2013, the Ukrainian government suspended preparations for concluding an association agreement with the EU. On the evening of the same day, journalist and politician Mustafa Nayyem wrote a post that gave rise to the Euromaidan, “Meet at 22:30 under the monument of Independence. Dress warmly; take umbrellas, tea, coffee, and friends. Reposts are kindly welcome.”**

### Disappointing results

As a result, already on December 8th, Maidan formed its own government — the union of opposition forces included Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Vitali Klitschko, Petro Poroshenko and Yulia Tymoshenko, who was in prison. Dual power took shape in the country.

The situation quickly began to slide into a full-fledged coup d’etat — the Maidan hundreds of Parubiy and the stormtroopers of Yarosh’s Right Sector had already formed into combat-ready units of street warfare, and the West pointed out to the leaders of the rebellion the need to speed up events.

The peak of the confrontation came in February, when, as a result of full-fledged street battles, 78 Maidan protesters and 13 security forces were killed, most of the victims were shot by unknown snipers on Instytutskaya Street on February 20th. The next day, with the mediation of Europeans, an agreement was concluded on holding early presidential elections, the formation of a ‘government of people’s trust’, the withdrawal of law enforcement officers from the centre of Kiev and the surrender of weapons to the opposition. However, predictably, in the evening, after the release of the detainees and the withdrawal of the Berkut, the opposition refused to fulfill the agreements and the militants

rushed to unprotected administrative buildings. At night, President Yanukovich left the capital. Legitimate power collapsed.

*The result of the Maidan was the establishment of the Nazi regime, the destruction of Ukraine’s ties with Russia and Belarus, the country’s loss of political subjectivity and becoming completely dependent on Western countries and transnational corporations. Since the victory of the Maidan, Ukraine has acquired the status of failed state, which the US and EU use as a weapon in the struggle for dominance in Eastern Europe.*

### The city is ruined

The hybrid invasion of Western countries in Ukraine is comparable in its consequences to the Mongol invasion of the 13th century, a series of conflicts between the Muscovite kingdom and Poland and the Great Patriotic War. The country’s population, which was 45.49 million in 2013, dropped to 29 million in May 2023, according to the Ukrainian Institute of the Future analytical centre. The birth rate became half the rate necessary to maintain the population at the same level. Since the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, which became a delayed consequence of the Nazi Russophobic regime coming to

power, 8.6 million people have left the country, and, according to various estimates, up to half a million have died on the fronts since February 2022.

*In 2021, in terms of GDP per capita, Ukraine occupied an ‘honourable’ last place in Europe and 97th in the world. And while the population was rapidly becoming impoverished, the elites were getting rich, profiting from corruption schemes, without losing anything, even if cunning plans to steal people’s money surfaced.*

Ex-Minister of Defence Reznikov never answered for corruption in the purchase of body armour and food, simply disappearing from the screens after his dismissal. Apparently, the case against the leadership of the State Property Fund, whose head Umerov moved to the chair of the Minister of Defence, ‘forgot’ to resign from the board of directors of one of the large Estonian companies, has also been shelved. And this is not to mention Zelensky, who still, as if nothing had happened, owns several offshore companies and a scattering of media businesses at once, and the appetites of his wife Olena amazed even New York boutiques.

Unlike millions of ordinary Ukrainians, the Maidan leaders also settled in quite well. Vital-

iy Klitschko is still the mayor of Kiev — in just one year, he increased his fortune from \$150 million to \$800 (probably now the ex-boxer is already a dollar billionaire). The first post-Maidan President, Poroshenko, successfully expanded his business empire, and since the beginning of the special military operation, he is actively promoting himself as a defender of Ukraine. The bloody pastor Turchynov, who started the war in Donbass, disappeared from the sight of even experts in 2023 — apparently, he decided that he had done enough, and it was time for him to retire. The sinister ‘rabbit’ Yatsenyuk made a decent fortune in 2 years in the prime minister’s chair and now appears in Ukraine only occasionally, preferring to run his Kiev Security Forum from the United States.

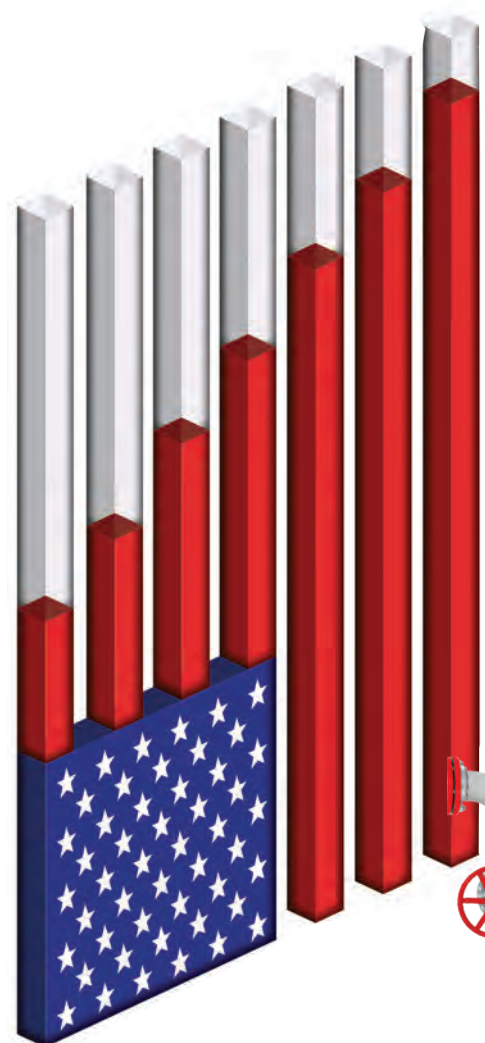
*Most of the Maidan leaders did not have amazing careers, but at the expense of their compatriots they managed to build and expand businesses, and then quietly left the stage.*

Ukraine celebrates the Maidan anniversary in ruins and blood. More and more often in recent weeks there has been talk of a new Maidan, already the third in a row. In an interview with the American Bloomberg, Zelensky accused Russia of preparing an operation to overthrow the Kiev regime. However, if a coup is brewing in Ukraine, then it is definitely not being prepared in Moscow, but in the place where the decisions about the ‘revolutions’ of 2004 and 2014 have matured — in the West. The inability to overcome the crisis at the front, interruptions in the supply of Western weapons, and the growing popularity of Commander-in-Chief Zaluzhny suggest that power on Bankova Street may indeed change. Another question is, will this be able to bring the country out of the hell in which it has been living for 10 years?

# Why does the United States provoke and incite conflicts in different parts of the world

**November 18th, The Washington Post newspaper published the article 'The U.S. won't back down from the challenge of Putin and Hamas' signed by President Joe Biden. In it, he declared that Washington stands firmly 'with the Israeli people', not forgetting to declare the exclusivity of the United States as an essential nation. At the same time, Biden did not say a word about the need to end the conflict and ceasefire, and most importantly, about the role of his own country in inciting contradictions and American interests in the region.**

**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,**  
*"I will express my opinion: I think that the USA is sensing changes in the world. Multipolarity and things like that. They do not need this. How can they resist? They are trying to sow chaos inside countries, just as they tried to do in our country, and to reignite dormant conflicts across the globe. Divide and conquer. That's their politics. The whole Europe is preoccupied with Ukraine and does not care about the Middle East, or other issues. The Middle East escalation will affect the whole Arab world, and Africa. You know the situation in the East — Taiwan and so on. They seek to organise something there, as well. They need to stir up trouble across the globe. By doing so, they want to maintain their dominance in the world."*  
 During a working trip to the Minsk Region on October 27th, 2023



# Business on blood



## Rockets in exchange for loyalty

The cornerstone of American strategy at all times has been the goal of world leadership. During the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, it was successfully implemented relying on military force. The American nation has formed its own civilisational code, the essence of which is to extract benefits based on expansion and violence.

It is no coincidence that Israel, constantly in need of weapons to maintain its own statehood, was for decades the main recipient of American military assistance in the Middle East. Moreover, the main goals of this 'aid' are declared to be promoting international development and ensuring US national security interests in the world.

Since 1987, annual military assistance to the Jewish state has been carried out on an ongoing basis. Arms supply programme to Tel Aviv (Foreign Military Financing, FMF) is the largest of all similar programmes that Washington implemented before the start of the Ukrainian conflict.

**During 1998–2007, Israel received an average of \$2.4 billion per year, and from 2008 to 2017, about \$3 billion annually.**

In fact, the United States has been deliberately arming Israel for the past 40 years. The White House has put into practice its own doctrinal guidelines, which make it possible to have a reliable ally in the Middle East region with military power and capabilities that allow it to effectively influence the military-political situation as a whole.

## Cynical calculation

Wars and armed conflicts are the real engines of the economy. The American political elite has learned this well. While bringing grief and suffering to some, they provide progressive development and fabulous profits to others. It is no coincidence that since the 40s of the last century, Amer-

ica has been interfering in all world processes, skilfully inciting conflicts, 'helping' those at war from the outside and receiving considerable dividends from wars.

No less pragmatic is the US policy towards Israel.

***In fact, the United States has been exploiting Arab-Israeli tensions for decades to establish its own dominance in the region, control its natural resources and ensure sustainable demand for its own military products.***

Indirect confirmation of this is Trump's interview with CBS, where he stated that over 15 years of fighting in the Middle East alone, \$6 trillion was spent. And the amount of just one defence contract, signed between the United States and Saudi Arabia in May 2017, amounted to \$110 billion.

The war has always been viewed by Washington as 'an opportunity to transform the system of international relations and assert American leadership in the world', and US participation in it 'is not a matter of necessity or survival. It's a matter of choice and calculation'. These postulates have remained unchanged since 1941, when G. Luce's article *The American Century* was published, revealing the foreign policy aspirations of the White House.

***In this regard, the events of October 7th, 2023 take on a completely different colour and can be considered as an analogue of September 11th, 2001, as a geopolitical provocation that led to the disruption of the processes of normalisation of the situation in the Middle East region and revived historical contradictions.***

At the same time, no one cared about the fate of the Palestinians and Israelis, and exclusively strategic tasks were solved.

## Freedom the American way

Today there is a war in Gaza, civilians are dying, the number of victims is in the

tens of thousands. Israel, including with the help of American weapons, continues its ground operation in the Palestinian territories. The degree of mutual hatred and bitterness reaches its limit, resulting in crimes against humanity.

The situation is no less difficult in Ukraine, where people are dying every day and diplomatic efforts to peacefully resolve the conflict are blocked by Washington.

At the same time, the US President, from the pages of an American newspaper, declares that the Middle East and Ukrainian conflicts will lead to 'tremendous progress, greater hope and greater freedom'.

Based on this, Biden's words make sense.

***The equal sign put by the head of the White House between the President of Russia and Hamas, who, in his opinion, 'are fighting to wipe a neighboring democracy off the map, collapse broader regional stability and integration and take advantage of the ensuing disorder', is an attempt to protect the collapsing 'American World' and the right to do whatever they want.***

## War by proxy

Practice shows that Washington is doing everything possible to continue military operations in Gaza and Ukraine. This is building up its grouping in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region, supplying weapons and forming coalitions, blocking resolutions in the UN Security Council and financing the war. Today, no one remembers that the United States was the main lobbyist for the elections in Gaza, as a result of which Hamas became a legitimate government, and the coup in Ukraine was the work of American intelligence services. Accordingly, the wars in Palestine and Donbass are also a consequence of Washington's policies.

The current US President does not hesitate to say this when it comes to the Ukrainian crisis, "We are keeping American troops out of this war by supporting the brave Ukrainians." That is, the United States is fighting Russia with the forces of Ukraine, preserving its own resources and not taking into account the losses of the 'Untermenschen'.

***The war in Ukraine, Gaza, attempts to resuscitate smouldering conflicts are links in one chain, aimed at preserving the Western world, based 'on rules' that do not exist.***

For those involved in warfare, this means pain, suffering, death, grief and loss. Therefore, preventing Belarus from being drawn into war is the most important task of the political authorities.

It is no coincidence that Aleksandr Lukashenko's Address to the Belarusian people and the National Assembly in 2023 was devoted to the conditions for maintaining the country's sovereignty and independence. Close attention to the Armed Forces and the military organisation of the state, the development of the economy and defence potential, the preservation of historical memory and social justice, foreign policy and alliance building with Russia, the deployment of a regional grouping of troops and the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons, clarification of the National Security Concept and the development of the Union Security Concept states — all these are steps to maintain peace on Belarusian land and strategically contain those who are accustomed to solving their problems at the expense of others and with the wrong hands.

**By Nikolai Buzin, Doctor of Military Sciences, Professor, Assistant to the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly**

# Frustration of hopes

Quite recently, one of the last international documents of the Cold War era in the field of arms control has sunk into oblivion. We are talking about the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE): on November 7th, the process of Russia's withdrawal from it was completed, accusing the West of refusing to comply with the updated version of the treaty back in 1999, and the very next day the United States and NATO announced the timing of their withdrawal — The United States will officially end its participation in the CFE Treaty on December 7th, Canada on February 7th. The UK, Türkiye and a number of other countries also announced their termination of participation in the implementation of the treaty. And although the treaty in recent years has been more of a formality that the West has diligently not observed, its collapse symbolises the final dismantling of the security system in Europe and the refusal of the United States and NATO to constructively co-operate in the field of arms control.

## How the West destroyed the world's security architecture



By Anton Popov

### Penultimate autumn

The CFE Treaty was signed at a time when the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact were inexorably approaching their collapse. In November 1990, 16 NATO countries and six ATS states, having signed a corresponding document, agreed to comply with restrictions on the number of tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and attack helicopters in the territory from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains.

*Since the agreement was signed by representatives of two rival military-political blocs, quotas were determined both for both alliances and for individual countries. As the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted, at that time the treaty was a fairly effective means of strengthening European security.*

So, in the mid-1980s, the USSR had about 80 thousand tanks in service, and the Department of Internal Affairs could field another 12–15 thousand. There were fewer MBTs in NATO arsenals, but their number was close to 30 thousand. In other words, both sides gathered huge armies, which, by the mere fact of their presence, escalated the situation to an explosive level — if a gun hung on the wall for the entire performance, it would definitely fire in the finale.

However, the collapse of the USSR, and then the Warsaw Department of Internal Affairs, which followed a little more than a year after the signing of the CFE Treaty, disrupted the barely formed security system.

*On the one hand, the Soviet Union was a necessary component of maintaining its balance, on the other, as soon as NATO emerged as the formal winner of the Cold War, it immediately began to absorb the countries remaining after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.*

The way out of the situation was to make changes to the already adopted document, taking into account the current situation. In 1999, such amendments were adopted

as part of the agreement on the adaptation of the CFE Treaty, but only Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine ratified it. The remaining 30 states that had already joined NATO or were at the stage of admission to the alliance rejected the document.

### Credo — safety

*Until recently, the CFE Treaty was based mainly on the peacekeeping efforts of Belarus. The Republic ratified the document, and since 1992, when it came into force, it has destroyed 1,773 tanks, 1,341 armoured combat vehicles and 130 aircraft, and regularly exchanged information with other signatory countries.*

However, alas, the West perceived our peacefulness as weakness and tried to stage a coup. The riot was suppressed, the rebellious crowds dispersed either to places of detention or abroad, and the country's leadership was faced with the question of reconsidering relations with the countries that took part in the preparation of the 'colour revolution' and provided refuge to the unlucky rebels.

*One of these retaliatory measures was the suspension of the CFE Treaty in relation to Poland and the Czech Republic. The law signed by Aleksandr Lukashenko is a logical and adequate response to the unfriendly plans of Warsaw and Prague.*

### A lie raised to absolute

The collapse of the CFE Treaty was only a matter of time, since other documents of a similar nature, regulating the number of various types of weapons and their qualitative composition, had already sunk into oblivion. Of particular note is the collapse of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Short-Range Nuclear Forces, as well as the actual suspension of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms.

*It is significant that both agreements, which, like the CFE Treaty, were the result of the colossal political*

*and social tensions of the Cold War, were destroyed due to the actions of the United States.*

Russia's withdrawal from both the INF Treaty and START III (Treaty between Russia and the United States on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms) was only a statement that the treaties simply stopped working. A striking example was the agreement on medium- and short-range missiles — the United States began almost openly to work on some ammunition, which in no way fit into the framework specified in the document, and when they were caught in this, they traditionally turned the tables, and then no less demonstratively withdrew from the contract.

*The underlying reason for Washington's violation of the ban on the development of medium- and short-range missiles established in 1987 was preparation for confrontation with China and Russia.*

### From Nevada to Novaya Zemlya

*The most troubling factor in the growing military tensions relates to treaties aimed at nuclear deterrence. START III was the first to crack.*

The reason for Russia's suspension of its participation in March of this year was the US refusal to engage in dialogue on issues of strategic nuclear weapons. This did not cause an immediate crisis in the spirit of the Cuban events of the fall of 1962, but a certain surge in tension in the already strained relations of the superpowers definitely occurred.

*In conditions when Washington is planning to inflict military defeat on Russia at the hands of the Kiev regime, and in the future to dismember the country in a series of civil wars and rebellions, it would be unreasonable to allow observers into nuclear missile sites and provide sensitive information to a potential enemy.*

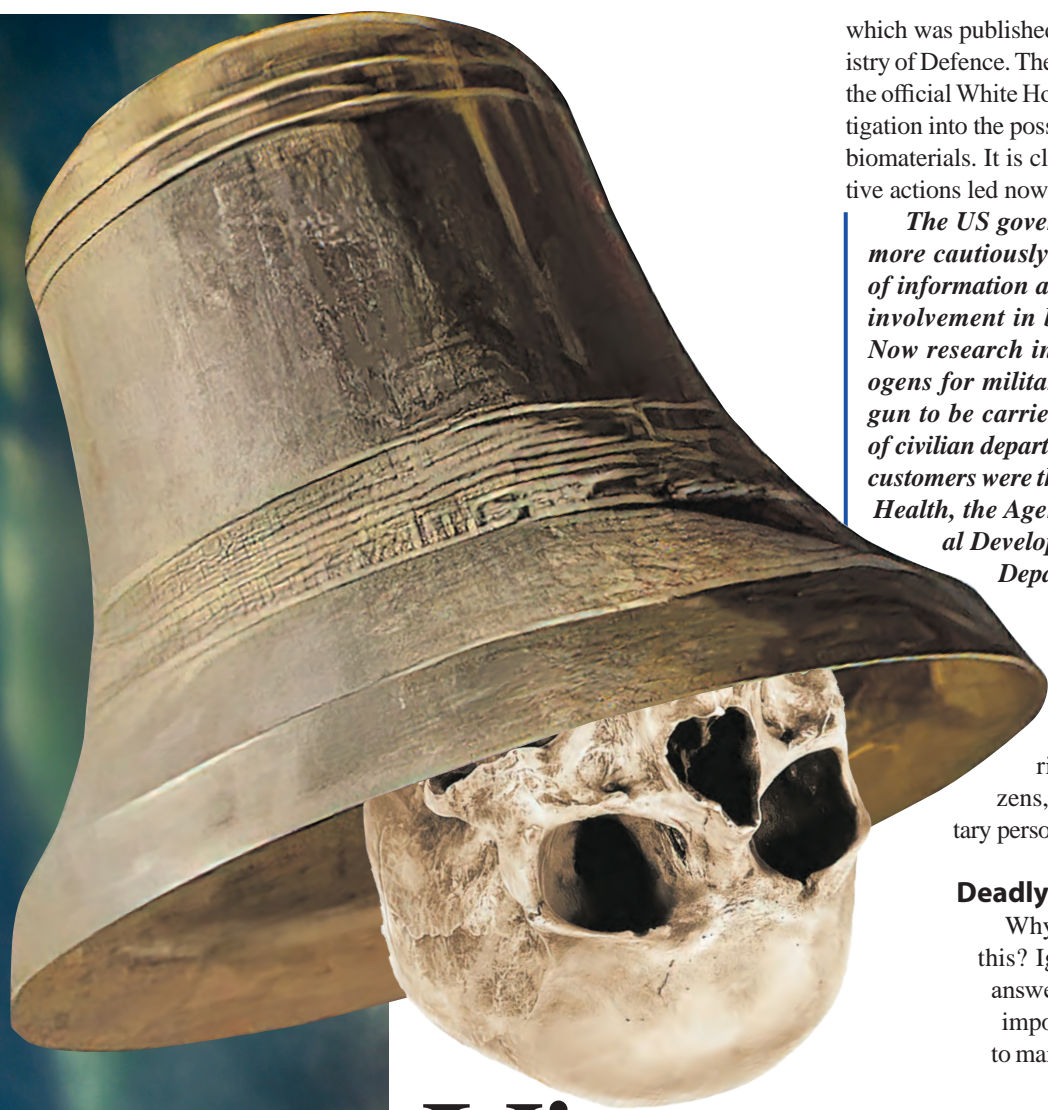
After START III fell, one of the last major documents was the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. This agreement was signed in 1996, but never came into force — some countries that possessed a nuclear bomb refused to sign the final document, and the United States did not ratify it. In the face of growing tension between Moscow and Washington, as well as information emerging that the United States may be secretly preparing to conduct tests at one of its test sites, the Russian leader decided to play it safe.

*The withdrawal of the instrument of ratification does not mean that the Russian Federation itself will immediately begin preparing its educational explosion — as the Russian authorities emphasize, this can only be a response to similar actions by the United States.*

However, everything is heading towards the fact that in the coming years we will still see nuclear mushrooms rising above the test sites again. On the day that Russia withdrew its instrument of ratification, the Americans simulated a low-yield nuclear explosion - this can hardly be called a coincidence. Moreover, the United States is interested in at least somehow demonstrating its strength, especially after the unexpected failure of the next launch of the Minuteman-3 missile from the Vandenberg base. In an environment where foreign policy failures follow one after another, this accident further undermines the position of the hegemon, so Washington can easily resume tests in an effort to increase its relevance at least in the eyes of its allies.

The collapse of the security architecture in Europe and throughout the world certainly carries enormous risks and threats. In the current situation, it is especially important to maintain stability in Belarus and promptly respond to emerging threats from within and without. And then we will be able to get through the period of chaos, establishing new connections and establishing much broader and more useful contacts than we had before the crisis.





The terrible scenario of the destruction of all life on Earth due to experiments with bacteriological weapons is still more reminiscent of the plot of a Hollywood horror film. However, the reality is that the collective West, has crossed the line between terrible fiction and reality in order to maintain its dominance over the rest of the world. This facet was the boundless activity of the United States after the collapse of the USSR to create biological laboratories around the world, and primarily around its key competitors — Russia and China.



# Virus attack

## Is the planet facing a biological apocalypse

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

### Guinea pigs

For a long time, these Pentagon programmes remained unnoticed, latent, and no one spoke about them out loud. Meanwhile, Washington constantly increased allocations for the creation of a network of clandestine laboratories on the territory of the 'occupied states' (where the 'velvet revolutions' took place and the government became pro-Western). Thus, according to the Russian side, the United States has located about 46 biological laboratories on the territory of Ukraine. After the start of the special military operation, in mid-March 2022, the Russian Ministry of Defence stated that the department had at its disposal documents on 'the implementation of military-biological programmes of the United States and its NATO allies on the territory of Ukraine', including the study of the bird flu virus.

Then the Ukrainian authorities, led by Zelensky, and US representatives tried to distance themselves from these accusations. The subsequent collection of evidence of US involvement in such biological activity forced Washington to urgently close down all its laboratories and move them to other countries. On November 13th, the head of the radiation, chemical and biological defence forces of the Russian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov, said that the activities of the Russian Ministry of Defence helped stop the implementation of US military biological programmes in Ukraine. This has led to Washington now being concerned about transferring unfinished research to the countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

Earlier, Igor Kirillov reported that the American authorities were interested in information about the activities of Prestige Biotech, data about

which was published by the Russian Ministry of Defence. Then, as a matter of form, the official White House initiated an investigation into the possible use of dangerous biomaterials. It is clear that the investigative actions led nowhere.

*The US government began to act more cautiously after the first leaks of information about the Pentagon's involvement in biological research. Now research into dangerous pathogens for military purposes has begun to be carried out at the request of civilian departments. For example, customers were the US Department of Health, the Agency for International Development, and even the Department of Energy.*

In July 2022, the Russian Ministry of Defence reported that researchers used various categories of Ukrainian citizens, including local military personnel, as 'guinea pigs'.

### Deadly experiments

Why did the US even do this? Igor Kirillov gave the answer, "The first and most important goal for them is to manage the situation, and

the second goal is to make money by displacing competitors."

The use of biological weapons to destroy the population of the main countries — competitors of the Anglo-Saxon world inevitably leads to a sharp weakening of the socio-economic conditions for the development of the state. The country is forced to spend enormous financial resources on diagnosing the disease, treating it and rehabilitating patients.

*In addition, the 'infected society' is easily susceptible to any psychological and information manipulation: it tends to fall into a state of panic and inappropriate, unpredictable behaviour (there are many examples during the COVID-19 period).*

In August 2023, the Russian Embassy in Washington openly accused the United States of spreading biological laboratories around the world, building up the perimeter of Russia's borders with them to create artificial foci of infections. The embassy added that 'the Pentagon's activities in Ukraine are of particular concern. The United States has involved dozens of government institutions and private companies in the country in its projects'.

In March of this year, the parliamentary commission of the State Duma of the Russian Federation to investigate the activities of US biological laboratories in Ukraine approved its final report. The investigation began a year ago.

*The commission received full confirmation that it was NATO military facilities that were created in Ukraine, which were disguised as scientific activities.*

Despite the public coverage of the facts of illegal activities, the States did not calm down: in November 2023, it became known that the Americans were going to locate a biological laboratory in the Norwegian Arctic zone — on Bear Island, a few hours by water from Murmansk.

In response to these messages, a member of the State Duma Defence Committee, Lieutenant General Andrei Gurulev, said that Russian scientists should develop biological weapons 'that will only act on the Anglo-Saxons'. He assured that Russia is already taking measures to protect against biological weapons, in particular, 'anti-plague stations are being massively built and modernised. This is a defensive component, but in such a situation we also need a strike component — one that will allow us to use the same thing, only against our enemy'.

United Russia deputy Oleg Matveychev believes that the Ebola virus was developed by the United States against Africans, and bird, cow and swine flu — against other ethnic groups. The parliamentarian did not specify which ones exactly.

*LDPR leader Leonid Slutsky compared the creation of biological laboratories with the activities of the Nazis during World War II.*

A number of experts believe that US biological laboratories may be involved in the mass death of seals in the Caspian Sea.

As a result of increasing pressure on Washington, they recognised the fact that COVID-related research was being conducted in biological laboratories in Ukraine. The corresponding statement was made by the coordinator for strategic communications at the White House National Security Council, John Kirby. According to him, in laboratories located on the territory of Ukraine, Ukrainian and American scientists conducted 'research on the prevention of a pandemic'. At the same time, Kirby emphasises that we are talking exclusively about scientific activity; no research related to biological weapons (as has been repeatedly stated by the Russian Ministry of Defence) has been conducted in Ukraine.

The US State Department went further and issued a statement on the benefits of American biological laboratories, which was signed by the United States, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Jordan, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the Philippines. The Pentagon programme ostensibly aims to 'protect the health of people and animals' in their respective countries.

*Thus, it is clear that the United States actively invested in laboratories and used them to develop viruses capable of destroying people selectively, by race.*

Active disclosure of facts and publicising their projects led to the fact that Washington is forced to gradually curtail its programmes in the territory of post-Soviet countries. However, understanding the dependence of NATO states on the White House, the United States continues to use the territories of these countries to create a new infrastructure of biological laboratories around Russia.



souzveche.ru



Let's get ready for the cold, friends! Now is the time to master the recipes for delicious and unusual drinks from Belarus, which will come in handy on long winter evenings.

# Fragrant and warming

lofi.ru



mylynparas.ru

By Sofia Arsenyeva

## Krambambula

The funny name comes from the German word *krambambuli* — this is how European students jokingly called strong alcoholic drinks. But it was on Belarusian lands in the 17th century that the classic recipe for *krambambula* — a tincture with honey and spices — was developed. The soft, aged drink was served only at the tables of real tycoons — nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves and black pepper could then be afforded by truly wealthy people.

But now you can try it in all restaurants of Belarusian cuisine. Or cook at home. For a non-alcoholic version, grind the spices in a mortar, add water and bring to a boil over low heat. Then add honey and cook for fifteen to twenty minutes. Ready!

## Kisel

It was known in Rus' long before the advent of potato starch. The Primary Chronicle even mentions an episode when oatmeal jelly saved an entire city from starvation during the siege of the Pechenegs. The Slavs prepared it exclusively with grain sourdough (most often with oats) — it was both tastier and healthier. The body will definitely thank you for such a warm meal — jelly improves



the functioning of the gastrointestinal tract and lowers cholesterol levels.

And although nowadays, store shelves are full of jelly concentrates, it is still better to cook it yourself. For sweetness and aroma, we use dried berries. Belarusian housewives use cranberries, lingonberries and blueberries.

## Herbal teas

Herbal infusions, like those from my grandmother in the village, today seriously compete with classic black loose-leaf tea. Why? The palette of tastes is wider — once again. Good for health — two. No one has cancelled import substitution — three.

To hunt for fragrant herbs, you can go to the Central Botanical Garden at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus or to the St. Elisabeth Monastery. Mint, thyme, cornflower... They will select a blend to suit any request and mood. If you want to immerse yourself in theory, you

should look into the excursion and tourist complex Apothecary Garden on the banks of the Naroch Lake. In the phyto-lounge they organise delicious tastings and help you create original herbal compositions.

## Solodukha

This drink looks and tastes very similar to trendy smoothies. But its roots go back to ancient times. His recipe is originally ours, Slavic. In a clay pot you need to mix (or, as Belarusian housewives say, 'beat') water and flour. Leave on a warm oven for a day, or even two, until the mass becomes thick and thick. An option for urban people is to turn the oven on low (there the process will go faster). Then add honey and a handful of dried apples, pears, and wild berries to the prepared pulp. Bring to a boil, stirring with a wooden spoon.

You can still enjoy traditional malt from the oven in the Kopyl Region. And yes, it is from these places that the



famous singer Aleksandr Solodukha comes from.

## Hot chocolate

Belarusian chocolates and sweets are traditionally among the top souvenirs brought from a 'blue-eyed country'. And this is not surprising: the largest confectionery factories in the country have retained the Soviet recipe — no palm oil or fat substitutes, only natural cocoa beans and cocoa butter.

A nice bonus is that there are cafes at the Kommunarka and Spartak brand stores where you can enjoy a cup of a thick, tart drink in a comfortable environment. Belarusian hot chocolate is not inferior to Belgian in taste and aroma. The menu includes not only the classics — milky and bitter, but also unusual items — with a creamy scoop of ice cream, liqueur or whipped cream. For a bite, you can always take a piece of Leningrad cake or handmade candy. Belarusian-style Dolce Vita!



# They wanted and they did it

**This hasn't happened in a while! It's even somehow strange to realise that now fans don't collect their stingy tears in their palms, counting with them the number of defeats of the national football team, but on the contrary, their eyes sparkle and, while it's tense, they try to smile. Under the leadership of Carlos Alos, it seems that things have moved forward: the team has not lost in four matches in a row, and in the last two matches of the qualifying round they even gained a victory. When was the last time something like this happened?**

By Sergei Kanashits

Well, this was 8 years ago, in the fall of 2015, in the qualifying tournament of the 2016 European Championship, which our team also finished in fourth place, having lost by that time all chances of reaching the final round, a powerful finishing spurt. We beat Luxembourg at home — 2:0, then away from the Slovaks — 1:0. By the way, at the same time there was the same series without defeats — four matches: then they played a draw with North Macedonia — 0:0, and then began the selection for the 2018 World Championship with bravura, holding out in a duel against the French in Minsk — the same 0:0. This is where the fairy tale, however, ended, grey everyday life began, which later turned into a complete nightmare and disaster: in the selection for the 2018 World Cup — one victory, for the 2020 European Championship — one, for the 2022 World Cup — again, one and only, alone and lonely. And now there are three again at once. Hope immediately raised its head, faith rose from its knees, and love opened its arms. Renaissance? Or just running in circles in a confined space?

Time will answer all questions, and today, when there is a reason to rejoice after a long sadness, it would be stupid not to give in to this bright feeling. Under Carlos Alos, the Belarusian national team really began to show good results, as the tables shown here clearly demonstrate. It cannot be said, however, that the game has changed a lot and that the Spaniard introduced something radically new into the composition and tactics, which did not exist under Georgy Kondratyev. Essentially the same team, only with much more luck. Kondratyev was not at all friendly

The Belarusian national team finished the qualifying round for the 2024 European Championship on a positive note



with fortune, as if he had once offended her deeply and forgot to apologise. Although the words of Alos, which the head coach said after the final victory over the Kosovo team, are perceived with a touch of irony — it seems that the coach arrives in a state of mild euphoria, “I have not seen a team in the group that is stronger than us,” he said. On the other hand, Alos not only has the right to say such words, because under him the Belarusian team really played with everyone on equal terms, but, perhaps, he was obliged to say them. From the point of view of psychology and ordinary pedagogy, this is exactly what the leader's speech should be, trying to break his squad's complex of inferior losers, which in recent years has literally grown into the skin of every individual football player and the entire team as a whole. Everything is correct, as it should be. Not the slavish rheto-

ric that was read in literally all the speeches of previous mentors, ‘we will try, but you understand where we are and where our rivals are’, but clearly, confidently and definitely: we do not concede in anything, we are ready to fight and win!

After all, look at what happens: under Carlos Alos, even Denis Laptev, who had previously kept a proud silence in scoring for three dozen matches, scored! And Dmitry Antilevsky, who scored the most amazing goal against the Kosovars! It turns out that we have a forward of quite a European level, who all these years, like the epic Ilya Muromets, simply slept on the stove. And three goals scored against the Swiss! By today's standards are fantastic! And what about rotations in the lineup! Unexpectedly, it turned out that the coach does not have a meagre selection of a dozen football players who, in spite of

everything, continued to take to the field as if on galleys, but a wide range of fairly well-rounded and versatile performers who, if convinced of this, are capable of playing not worse than Xherdan Shaqiri or Manuel Akanji. But just the mention of these names at the beginning of the qualifying cycle filled us with sacred horror, hypnotised and paralyzed us, which ultimately resulted in a shameful starting 0:5 against Switzerland. The ever-memorable 0:8 from Belgium is from the same series.

In general, it's like this: it's probably worth refraining from tossing caps and using too loud words. However, it is also impossible not to notice positive changes. There is also reason to express cautious hope that Carlos Alos may succeed in working with the Belarusian national team. We wish him and all of us good luck. It will be very useful.

## ARENA

### ● Belarus President's team claim second win in new season



The Head of State's team defeated the Minsk Region team with a score of 9:4 (1:2, 5:1, 3:1) in the second round of the Republican Hockey League on the ice of the capital's Olympic Arena.

Prior to the meeting of the two best teams of the previous season, the Belarus

President's team, the reigning champion, beat the team of Brest Region (7:2), while the silver medallist Minsk Region solved the team of Grodno Region (8:3) and the team of Vitebsk Region (13:2).

The President's team is a 14-time winner of the national amateur ice hockey tournament, with the teams of Gomel Region and Minsk Region holding one title each.

### ● Football players of FC Dinamo Minsk became eight-time champions of Belarus

In the match of the penultimate round of the 33rd national championship, Vadim Skripchenko's team defeated local FC Belshina in Bobruisk with a score of 4:0 and became unattainable for their only

competitor — FC Neman Grodno.

The championship leaders completely dominated the match and Alyaksandr Sarchywka, Ivan Bakhar, Alyaksey Hawrylovich and Daniil Zorin scored four times. The capital's Dinamo won the previous championship title 19 years ago — in 2004.

### ● The Belarusian team won six medals at the Russian Short Course Swimming Championships

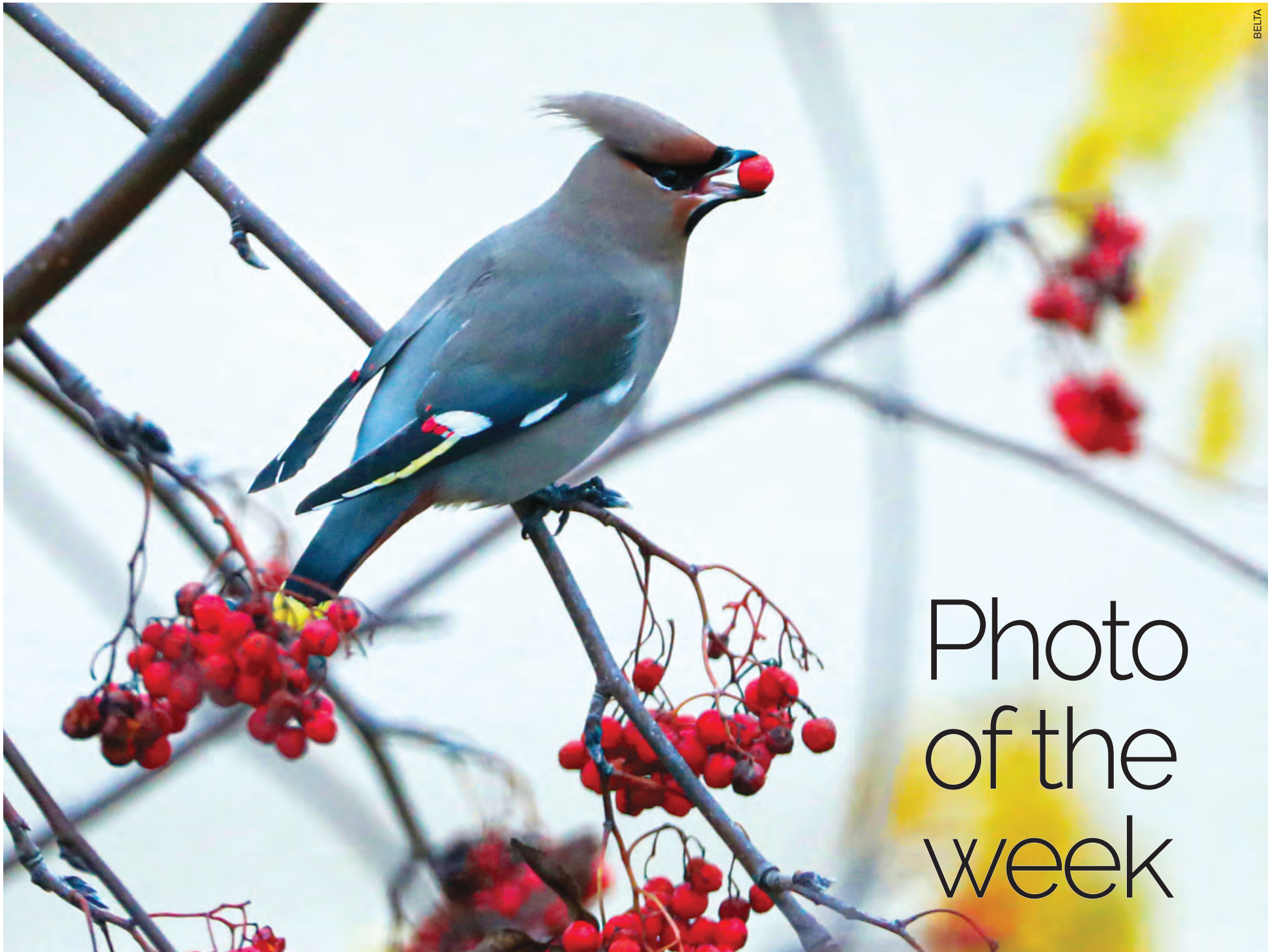
The Russian Open Short Course Swimming Championship was held at the Nevskaya Volna aquatics centre in St. Petersburg. Representatives from Russia, Belarus, Montenegro, Ghana, Nigeria and

Madagascar took part in the tournament.

The first and only gold of the forum for Belarus was brought by Ilya Shymanovich in the 50-metre breaststroke. Previously, he became a silver medallist in the 100 metres.

Alina Zmushka won three personal silver medals at the tournament — in the 200-metre breaststroke, 100-metre and 50-metre events. The Belarusian team also won silver in the men's 4x50 metre medley relay, where our country was represented by Viktor Staselovich, Hryhory Pekarsky, Ilya Shymanovich and Ruslan Skamaroshka.





BELTA

## Photo of the week

The waxwing loves to eat rowan berries

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On November 24th, 1974**, scientists from a French-American archaeological expedition discovered the skeleton of an adult female

humanoid creature (hominid) in Ethiopia, named *Australopithecus afarensis* (after the place of discovery). A little later, the find was named Lucy. This is the oldest and best preserved remains of an adult erect walking ancestor of humans, who lived approximately 3.2 million years ago.

**November 25th, 1867**, is the day of the invention of dynamite by Swedish chemist, engineer and inventor Alfred Nobel.

Although until the mid-20th century, dynamite was used in the mining industry and road-tunnel construction, it was dynamite, as a weapon

of terrorists, that made the name of Alfred Nobel, who professed the ideas of pacifism all his life, known to the whole world.



**On November 25th, 1918**, Rosika Schwimmer (1877-1948) became the first female ambassador in the history of world diplomacy. She headed the Hungarian diplomatic mission in Switzerland.

Mrs. Schwimmer was a politically educated and versatile person. She spoke out in defence of women's rights, child protection, peace, and developed vigorous pacifist activities during the World War I.



**On November 26th, 1943**, the city of Gomel was liberated from the Nazi invaders in the Great Patriotic War. The Battle

of Gomel, with which the liberation of the BSSR began, is an outstanding feat of the Soviet army and people's avengers. The valiant troops of the Belarusian Front liberated the first regional centre of Belarus, the most important railway junction and a powerful enemy stronghold in the Polesie direction.

**November 26th** is World Development Information Day. It is held on the initiative of the participants of the WIF-2000 World Informationological Forum and the International Informatisation Academy of (IIA). Now there is an avalanche-like increase in the mass of different information. Failure to control its quality and volume can lead to so-called 'information stress'.



**November 26th** is International Shoemaker Day — a professional holiday for craftsmen and artisans involved in the design, manufacture and sewing of shoes, as well as workers involved in this production and shoe repair specialists. Making shoes and mending them is a very ancient craft, and initially the work of a shoemaker was exclusively manual labour. This profession is revered and in demand even now.

**On November 27th, 1903**, Pilip Pestrak (1903-1978) was born, a Belarusian writer, Honoured Cultural Worker of Belarus, participant in the revolutionary movement in Western Belarus. He spent almost 11 years in Polish prisons and was released by the Red Army. During the Great Patriotic War, he was a participant in the partisan movement in Belarus. He is the author of the *Meet Me at the Barricades*, *Srediborye* novels, poetry and prose collections.



**On November 27th, 1971**, the surface of Mars was reached by an artificial space flying object for the first time. This object was the descent module of the Soviet automatic interplanetary station Mars-2.



**On November 28th, 1958**, Vladimir Karvat was born, the first Hero of Belarus. He served in the Air Force in the Far East from 1981 to 1994: flight commander, squadron commander, deputy regiment commander for flight

training. Since August 1994, in the Armed Forces of Belarus, head of air-fire and tactical training at the air base. During a night training flight on May 23rd, 1996, Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Karvat took his burning plane away from the village of Bolshoye Gatishche, Baranovichi District, and died.

**On November 28th, 1748**, member of the Minsk magistrate Jan David Scheibe was allowed to open a pharmacy for public use by a charter of the Polish king Augustus III. The city really needed a pharmacy. The pharmacist was given great benefits; he was completely exempt from city duties. Other persons were not allowed to create pharmacies. Scheibe's pharmacy was the only one in the city for 34 years. And only in 1782 permission was given to open another pharmacy in Minsk.

