

International counter-terrorism conference held in Belarusian capital



Sporting Moments photo exhibition by Belarus Segodnya Publishing House opened in Minsk



INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

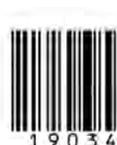
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On Brest's millennium!

The long-anticipated event has occurred: Brest has reached its 1,000th jubilee. The renovated city has celebrated its millennium colourfully, noisily and cheerfully, surrounded by numerous friends, who have arrived from all corners of the world. → **4, 7**



To build a new

President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, takes part in international conference on combating terrorism and outlines problems of global security



competent authorities of other states and relevant international organisations. We mobilise the most modern technologies to fight against global evil. The residents of the Belarusian Hi-Tech Park have also worked on relevant developments. They promote advanced software products, including the use of artificial intelligence. Nevertheless, the global network remains an obvious high-risk area. At the same time, the President emphasises that the threats formed in cyberspace are transnational and hidden. “Criminals’ turning to the ‘dark web’ makes it difficult for the state and the private sector to control them. Terrorists are actively using social networks to promote and recruit new supporters; digital technology is used to ensure financial support. This is another challenge for the global counter-terrorism front,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

The President called on the participants of the conference on combating terrorism to give an honest and principled assessment of the origins and causes of modern threats on a global scale. Speaking about this, Mr. Lukashenko focused on the threats lurking in the Internet, “Everyone uses it. This phenomenon has been created but we do not really know what to do with it. On the one hand, it is good for humanity but we must also consider what evils the Internet can bring to humanity.”

The Head of State is convinced that the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism and other threats requires first of all the political will of world leaders. “If they do not wish it, then our conference (and the many others like it) will be to no effect.”

Is there a more pressing issue for the global community today than security? It is true that there are many challenges on a global scale in the modern age but, if global instability continues and war ensues, then neither global warming, nor the melting of the polar ice caps will be an issue. What will our focus be if civilisation is threatened? In early September, security issues were brought to the forefront of our attention in Minsk. Here, under the auspices of the UN, an international counter-terrorism conference was held, attended by more than 180 representatives from 52 states and 9 international organisations. Speaking at the forum, the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, invited the participants to begin an open conversation.

By **Aleksey Savitsky**

It is clear that only by revealing the origins and causes of terrorism, can we find effective mechanisms to combat it. The Head of State emphasised, “Terrorism has become one of the most tangible threats to global security. It knows no boundaries, neither state nor moral. Its victims are ordinary people, including older people, women and children. Its methods are cruel and inhuman. The technologies used in the preparation of terrorist attacks are developing at the speed of world information and technological progress.”

It is clear that even the most powerful states will not be able to cope with such a challenge. Otherwise, terrorist attacks would not occur from time to time worldwide. “The time has come for all countries of the world to unite their efforts in the systematic fight against terrorists and their accomplices, to start a broad international

dialogue. The need for joint co-ordination of efforts, I think, is obvious to everyone, primarily for the professionals who are present here,” Mr. Lukashenko said.

The leading role in this mission belongs to the United Nations. However, the scale of terrorist activity is such that we cannot rely only on the UN. The President suggested, “I believe that the creation of a united counter-terrorism unit by the UN, OSCE, EU, CSTO, CIS, SCO and other international organisations is the only sure way to counter this threat, powerfully and effectively. The idea of uniting the two regions, the OSCE and ASEAN, under the

auspices of the counter-terrorism conference in Minsk is also relevant and timely.”

Where is the root of the evil?

Fortunately, there are no systemic reasons for extremist activities based on religious, ethnic or social intolerance in Belarus. As the Head of State noted, being in the centre of Europe, our country serves as a reliable outpost in identifying foreign terrorist fighters in passenger and migration flows. This is facilitated by the developed border infrastructure, multilevel security system, successful experience of co-operation with the

DIRECT SPEECH

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Conflict in the south

Another hot topic of our time is the conflict in Ukraine. Belarus is also concerned about the situation. For us, it is no less acute than for our neighbours. Mr. Lukashenko commented, “This is a painful problem for me as a citizen and as the President of the country which neighbours Ukraine.”

The President recalls that, at the very beginning of the conflict, he had a conversation with a high-ranking European figure. He called and asked for the opinion of the Belarusians. He was interested in suggestions on how to act. The Head of State had previously addressed the topic and has commented upon it recently as well, “I didn’t want to interfere, knowing what is happening there and the reason for this conflict. However, following his [interlocutor’s] insistence, the Foreign Minister [V. Makei] was my assistant and I sent him with a plan of concrete actions

Belarus will always be a good partner for the OSCE



Thomas Greminger

By **Aleksey Savitsky**

Major international events are always a good reason for effective bilateral contacts. The Minsk counter-terrorism conference was no exception. On its first day, the President met Thomas Greminger, the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Mr. Lukashenko warmly welcomed the guest with

the words, “I am very grateful to you, the OSCE for the assessment of our role in terms of security on the European continent. Jointly with the United Nations, you’ve organised a significant event in Minsk. We appreciate that. We are grateful to you that international organisations trust Belarus to hold such forums. You must understand — and we are well aware — that this is a responsibility for us.”

The President stressed that Minsk always strives to match the degree of trust it receives from the OSCE and other international organisations in terms of strengthening regional security. He assured the guest, “Belarus will always follow this path. Our country will always be a good partner for you. You can rely on us to strengthen peace and security.”

In turn, Mr. Greminger noted

that, over the past 12-14 months, he has visited Minsk for the 4th time. Addressing the President, he said, “I want to express my deep gratitude for your active participation in the promotion of peace and security, for your active co-operation with the OSCE, for holding contact group meetings [on Ukraine], for promoting a number of initiatives that are also aimed at strengthening peace and security.”

planet together

and personal guarantees. What do you think? Civilised Europe rejected this plan, even when it was outlined in detail. They began to fight for Donbass, for Crimea, for ‘Normandy formats’... I, of course, gladly accepted them, because I knew that it was at least a small step towards normalisation of the situation there. After all, old people and children died and seem to be dying today, as reported in the media. Why has this conflict not been stopped by now? Almost five years have passed. This is because someone needs it to continue.”

As Mr. Lukashenko noted, in the beginning of the Ukrainian conflict, there were reproaches against Minsk. There were those of the opinion that it was not our business. However, it was a matter of honour and brotherly conscience to follow the chosen path. “Firstly, these are people close to us who fight there. Secondly, it’s happening near us. What did we receive as a result? As I feared, we witnessed a huge inflow of migrants in the first year: 150,000 flooded into our country. Several days later, I signed a decree providing them with equal opportunities in Belarus regarding housing, education, kindergartens, schools, universities and employment. Were we afraid to cope with these 150,000 who came to Belarus? Do you think anyone helped us? No. Actually, we didn’t ask for help.”

Where are the Internet’s borders?

The so-called freedom of the Internet is discussed in many countries today. However, there is still no single answer to the question where the border between freedom of communication, expression and uncontrolled unpunished behaviour in the global digital space is. Each state independently answers the questions of how to behave in the digital space, how to regulate the Internet and so on. Even in this area, without the development of common rules recognised by all members of the international community, we will never be able to achieve the desired results in the protection of our citizens. Our country has been strengthen-

ing friendly relations with neighbouring countries for more than 20 years within the framework of the *Neighbourhood Belt* initiative, which has paid off to the full.

The Head of State proposed, “Perhaps it’s time to take this model as an example for the formation of a new initiative: *Digital Neighbourhood Belt*. This can be done by concluding interstate and other agreements on information security. From our point of view, the key elements of such agreements could be the ideas of digital sovereignty and neutrality, which will first of all guarantee the non-interference of countries in each other’s information resources.”



During the conference

Terrorism is a threat, but not the only one

The President urged those present to look at the problem of global security more broadly and not be limited to the issue of countering terrorism. The fact is that the degradation of the systemic foundations of international security, which have been created since the middle of the last century, is gaining strength in the world. Trust between countries has been destroyed. The latest example is the termination of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, in order to restore confidence, Belarus is

consistently and persistently promoting the idea of the need to resume a broad international dialogue both at regional and global level. The President recalls the initiative of our country to launch a new process similar to the Helsinki process, “Let the heads of state answer the painful questions of the life of our planet in the face of the world community. They are being accumulated. In Europe, the main problem was the problem of Ukraine, further — Syria and the whole Middle East; now, these missiles have come to us as a problem. We’ve proposed the creation of a new Helsinki-2

about it, discuss these problems. Let’s work out some measures and move in the right direction.”

Mr. Lukashenko is convinced that the declaration of the responsible countries on the non-deployment of medium-and short-range missiles in Europe could be a real contribution to strengthening security. At the same time, he notes, “We are not idealists and see all the difficulties that this initiative may face in the conditions of existing contradictions. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and global bans on other weapons of mass destruction also once seemed impossible. I believe that joint actions to preserve the achievements of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles on our continent would be an important step in the global dialogue to restore confidence.”

Sincere farewell

Mr. Lukashenko asked the forum participants to take his words seriously. They lack mentoring or the desire to teach someone. This is the result of many years of observation and a sincere desire to make the world a little bit better, kinder and safer for people.

“I have worked as President for 25 years. I have seen many presidents, participated in and observed many processes. My words are the conclusion of my vast political experience, forgive the immodesty. I think it necessary to share this topic frankly and honestly with you. As a person and as the Head of State, I urge you to reflect on the fundamental issues that were raised in my speech,” said Mr. Lukashenko, wishing the conference participants successful and fruitful work for the benefit of the peoples of their countries and for the sake of peace on Earth. “Know that if you make any proposals in the name of preserving peace and you see at least a small role for Belarus in this process, we will always be ready to fulfil your wishes,” the President stressed.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SPEAKING



Gabriela Cuevas Barron, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

The world is getting faster, and it won’t wait for us. Technology and technological developments should be used as a decision-making tool to combat radicalisation and terrorism. We live in the era of the Internet, nanotechnology, robotics, artificial intelligence and biotechnology. The development of these sciences allows society to build life in a new way, to communicate faster, to make life better. We must use these advantages. However, questions should be asked about the negative effects of such technologies. I’m here because I’m sure we can put an end to terrorism.

conditions created will help us establish a constructive dialogue, goodwill and mutual understanding. We hope that, at this conference, we’ll be able to work together to develop recommendations, especially in the context of the use of innovative technologies in accordance with the theme of the forum. The transnational and cross-border nature of the information space necessitates a speedy resolution at international level of existing differences in both the political and related legal aspects of the problem — ensuring international information security.

Sergey Rakhmanov, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and National Security of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus:



The theme of the fight against terrorism in the modern era is relevant for all, because international exchange is intensifying, and no one is guaranteed from penetration into our territory under different banners of radical elements. To avoid this, we need serious interaction with our part-

ners, exchange of databases, innovative technologies and so on. Even the most stable and prepared country alone cannot cope with the threat of terrorism and ensure its security. A common disadvantage in the world is that the opposing sides do not hear each other very well. We must find solutions. Someone has to be the initiator, the driver of this process. Belarus is one of such drivers in the region and in the world. I think it will achieve results.

John Gatt-Rutter, the Head of the Counter-Terrorism Division at the European External Action Service:



This conference is a great opportunity, including for the European Union, at the multilateral level to discuss how we can counter terrorism. All this is extremely important, and most importantly, the forum is attended by states from different regions. We must work together to fight terrorism. Co-operation on this issue should be established not only between countries, but also between the private sector and the state. After all, today criminals use the most advanced technologies, which

ultimately complicates the work. This is where the new challenges and threats lie.

Valery Voronetsky, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus:



The hosting of this conference testifies to the authority of our country and a positive assessment of its contribution to the fight against terrorism and strengthening security in the region. These are interrelated and I think it is quite logical that the forum is held in Minsk, taking into account the role of our country in modern international life — namely, in the fight against terrorism and other manifestations, such as drug trafficking, illegal migration and so on. The difficulty lies only in the fact that many use the fight against terrorism as an instrument of influence in a particular region. Therefore, this issue should be primarily discussed at the level of heads of state and, first of all, in the regions which are the centres of power and world politics.



Jumakhon Giyosov, the Director of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai

Co-operation Organisation:

I am sure that the high level of the Minsk forum’s organisation and the

New life for ancient city



By Olga Korneevea

Aleksandr Lukashenko attends Brest millennium celebrations

An event like this happens, quite literally, only once every thousand years. It has given the region a reason to renew itself and have a new lease of life. Aleksandr Lukashenko, who arrived in Brest for the celebrations, commented, "Its history is a part of the whole country. Its new appearance makes us all immensely proud. Brest has changed beyond recognition. In a photograph, taken from space by our compatriot Oleg Novitsky, Brest at night resembles a fiery bird spreading its wings. This picture seems to reflect the history of the city, which did not want to surrender to the invaders and was, more than

once, burnt to the ground. Despite this, like a mythical phoenix, it was reborn from the ashes, becoming even stronger and more beautiful."

Path to the future

In early autumn, Brest offers one gift after another. The abandoned forest belt has been turned into a beautiful city garden. The largest school in the Brest Region opened its doors to new pupils. Reconstruction of the Puppet Theatre was also completed; the actors and spectators have been waiting for almost ten years. Meanwhile, the focus of the townspeople's attention was on the construction of the second stage of the Western Bypass at Brest, the crossroads that connected the banks of the Mukhavets River and

the Varshavsky Most, as well as the Kozlovichi border crossings, which also simplified the route for Brest residents from the suburbs to the centre.

The Head of State personally cut the red ribbon. He emphasised that the Western Bypass is not just a road, it is important to the well-being of the residents of Brest, "We can now remove traffic congestion from the city and redirect them to the bypass."

Another benefit of the Western Bypass is that it will become an important factor in the development of the economic and tourism potential of the region, and of the whole country.

Furthermore, the President noted that the implementation of the project was a good example of the efficient use of time, resources and the ability of local

authorities to work with the residents. The bypass has become a real feature of Brest and the best gift for its millennium anniversary, "Thanks to your work, the desire to make your city more beautiful, comfortable and modern, you have entered it in the history of the second millennium."

Celebrations for everyone

The main event in the millennium began at the main square in the city. In his congratulatory speech, the President drew attention to how the city has changed in recent times, and especially emphasised the historical role of Brest. It was here that many crucial decisions were made, Brest was a pioneer in many new endeavours. It was the first of the Belarusian cities to receive the Magdeburg Right, while in Berestie, Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwiłł Czarny (nicknamed The Black) founded the first printing house where the Brest Bible was printed. The beginning of the Great Patriotic War represents a special chapter in the thousand-year history of the city. Addressing the Brest residents, Mr. Lukashenko said, "Over the past one thousand years, your ancestors wrote a lot of heroic pages in the annals of Brest. You will create the story of the future. In your jubilee year, you showed true love for your hometown not in words, but in deeds. It's

expressed in comfort, in the beauty that you have created over the past three years and in your sincere desire to contribute to the improvement of streets, parks, and courtyards."

There was an unexpected gift for the 1,000th anniversary of Brest from the President. He gave the Brest residents a copy of the very Bible that was published in the printing house of Mikołaj Radziwiłł Czarny 456 years ago.

The President wanted the townspeople to maintain the unique atmosphere of Brest, the desire for progress, and the ability to work for the good of their city and all of Belarus.

From the city residents, an Honorary Citizen of Brest — enamel artist Nikolay Kuzmich — presented Mr. Lukashenko with a handmade piece of art, a crystal vase with cornflowers, based on Maksim Bogdanovich's *Slutsk Weavers* poem.

The Brest Fortress Hero Memorial was not initially included in the programme of Mr. Lukashenko's visit to Brest. However, the Head of State could not have passed it by. There is the tradition that, when visiting Brest, the President always comes here. This time, he also changed the plans. Calmly and without the unnecessary restrictions of official business, he laid flowers, paying tribute to the fallen heroes, the defenders of the citadel.

FOCUS



By Oleg Nagorny

Belarus starts co-operation with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with a clean slate and is committed to building exemplary relations, Belarus' President Aleksandr Lukashenko said as he met with AIIB President Jin Liqun

"We open a new page in our relations. There is nothing yet written on it as we are only just taking our first steps," said the Head of State. "We are committed to building relations that will be an example for others."

Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked Jin Liqun for the bank's readiness to work with Belarus and to invest in the infrastructure of the country. "You know that Belarus is the centre of Europe, a transit country, with a well-developed infrastructure. A good road network is very important for us," he added.

Belarus is an important destination in view of developing ties between the Pacific Rim, China and Western Europe. "We already have plans regarding automobile and rail-

Relations with good prospects

way transportation and commercial activities. We believe it will strengthen your interest in Belarus," believes the Head of State. "Huge European, World Bank and our own funds have been allocated for the development of the road network in the country. Belarus has become a very popular destination, especially due to the events in Ukraine and the Baltic Region."

Speaking about promising co-operation avenues in the short term, the President mentioned, first of all, the development of the road network, and especially the construction of the Lepel-Polotsk road in the north and the Gomel-Brest road in the south. "I have a dream to build these two roads in the near future," commented Mr. Lukashenko.

"Your bank is ready to support the Lepel-Polotsk road project. We are ready to discuss credit terms. As for the second road, if you are interested, we are also ready to discuss options," the Head of State added.

"I know that you also want (and we support it) to invest in the infrastructure of the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park," he continued. There are great prospects for co-operation in the energy sec-

tor, water disposal and the renovation of residential buildings. "There are many issues, and we need to address them as soon as possible. If you support us in this undertaking, we will be grateful to you, and we are ready to co-operate," the Belarusian leader concluded.

Jin Liqun, in turn, said that



Jin Liqun

the meeting with the Belarusian President is a great honour for him. "In our bank we know about your personal contribution to the decision. We are grateful to you for the opportunity to take part in the development of Belarusian infrastructure. Since the approval of Belarus' membership of our bank, we feel supported and are grateful for it. In the last two days, we have had many meetings with the Council

of Ministers and representatives of banks, including the Development Bank. I was impressed by people's eagerness to do their best for the development of the country," he said.

Jin Liqun expressed the confidence that Belarus will become a good partner for the bank. "This is my first visit to Belarus. We have had fruitful talks with the President."

We discussed our partnership opportunities and the role our bank can play in the further social and economic development of the country. I am confident that Belarus will be a very good partner," he said.

The AIIB President also held meetings in the Government, talked to representatives of ministries and banks and visited the Belarusian-Chinese Great Stone Industrial Park. "I

would like to say that Belarusians are lucky. They have reliable authorities, the highly-motivated Government and the Belarusian people themselves are hardworking. It will be an honour for us to work with such a nation," said Jin Liqun.

He emphasised Belarus' strategically important location. "It is a so-called bridge between Europe and Asia; therefore, the transport system and its development are becoming central to the agenda." It's for this reason that the bank has decided to support the Lepel-Polotsk highway construction project.

Jin Liqun said that he had been impressed with his visit to the Great Stone Park. "Over just four years, the Park has developed into something great and we also would like to do something towards its development. We have initiatives and ideas which we will discuss as soon as we are back home," he explained.

When asked the terms for providing financial resources, the AIIB President said that they are similar to those of other international banks. "I know that Belarus has good relations with other development banks. With our bank, you will get a new partner and a new source of financing," he added.

From investment fund to traffic calming measures



The Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park is a mega-project between the two countries. Thanks to it, large investors from many countries can already work in the markets of both Europe and Asia. However, residents of the Park are paying increasing attention to the Belarusian market. It is here that they are ready to begin the development of high-tech start-ups, as well as to introduce new technologies.

By Aleksandr Pisarev

Centre for start-ups

The Great Stone plans not only to attract investors with their technologies but also to stimulate the development of scientific and technological projects. Here, you'll find small companies with promising ideas at the forefront of their aims. It was decided to create a Chinese-Belarusian innovation centre for commercialisation of sci-tech achievements. Xu Baoming, the Deputy General Director of the Industrial Park Development Company, said, "We are faced with the task of attracting high-tech start-ups that need financial support and also a place to work. We plan to provide these as our main mission. However, all those chosen by us will have to prove that their ideas are feasible in the given market."

The *Spark* programme has been introduced at the Park to determine these projects. It gives support at the formation stage and through the attracting of Chinese developers' resources, if necessary. It also provides an opportunity for the companies to express themselves on the international markets for the demonstration and supply of products.

In the selection process, the applied areas, in which research results can be turned into demand in the market, will become a priority. In turn, speaking about co-operation between local developers with Chinese technologies, Xu Baoming drew attention to the fact that representatives of the academies of sciences of China and Belarus are already negotiating to create a joint laboratory for optics research on the Great Stone Park, after its commissioning.

All selected projects will be provided with a workplace and will be consulted on how their developments could bring in money. Xu Baoming is convinced this is important for developers at the initial stages, since projects and start-ups are often engaged only in research and have no idea how to develop their business and transform their ideas into products.

Ideas are the key, money will follow

The availability of funding sources plays a key role in the development of start-ups. To oversee this, an investment fund will operate at the Park. According to Mr. Baoming, the sum of investments in a single project will not exceed \$500,000.



Xu Baoming



Chinese-Belarusian innovation centre for commercialisation of sci-tech achievements likely to become a mecca for high-tech start-ups

The start-up will not receive the money immediately. After selection, a team of developers will be offered an office where they will be allowed to work on the project, free of charge, for six months. After that, if the team presents a viable idea with the possibility of its commercialisation, it will receive financing. A \$20m fund has been established in the Park to assist the *Iskra* programme.

At the same time, to ensure *Iskra*'s successful launch, some issues related to legislation must be settled. For example, the mechanism of venture capital investment is not yet fully functioning in this country. In addition, there is no opportunity to work with the stock market, as happens on the Chinese Stock Exchange.

Officially, the programme will be launched on May 12th, 2020, during the Great Stone's birthday celebrations.

Autonomy of movement

Among the residents of the Park there is a company which intends to provide new technological solutions for our country. The General Director of Les-International Information Technologies, Bu Qing, explains that his company is a subsidiary of the 28th Institute of China Electronics Technology Group Corporation, a major Chinese manufacturer of electronic and information systems and equipment. Les-International will develop a system of traffic controls in Belarus.

To ensure this, detectors and radars will be installed to constantly monitor the traffic situation. Some of these devices will soon be implemented in the Great Stone Park, i.e. cameras which will monitor up to six lanes at once and will be linked to detectors under the road surface.

"We are now testing this system at a crossroads in Minsk, applying our advanced hardware and software. The development of such a system will be a good solution for Minsk, because it is a megapolis and traffic related problems are frequent," the official says.

All devices installed by the company, including cameras that monitor the situation on the roads, speed sensors at different highway sections and traffic light control systems, will transmit information to the data centre where an AI system will analyse the situation and decide how to calm the traffic.

"Similar systems operate in China where there are traffic issues. Your situation is simpler. We plan to build an ex-



Smart city traffic management system consists of many elements

perimental data centre next year to test its operation. It's extremely difficult to develop it in the city," he added.

It is important for our developing businesses to be from the local area. To ensure this, the Chinese company will look for Belarusian partners. Mr. Qing admits that there are areas in which Belarusian companies do not fall behind the Chinese; this will be a good reason for further co-operation. Chinese partners will also train Belarusian specialists.

The 28th Institute of China Electronics Technology Group Corporation can also offer co-operation in creating a smart city. This new focus will be especially beneficial in the future.



Bu Qing

To see and be seen



world skills
Kazan 2019

45th championship for vocational skills, WorldSkills International, was held in Russian Kazan, with our competitors coming top in the history of Belarus' participation, gaining a foothold at the 15th position among 63 participating countries

By Olga Korneeva

Furthermore, four of our competitors were awarded medals for supreme professional skills. In the 'Hairdressing' division, Ksenia Shafranskaya won, as did Aleksey Krupsky in 'Web Technologies', Valentin Artemenok in 'Information Network Cabling' and Yulia Markevich in 'Fashion Technology'. More than 1,300 people took part in the event.

Ksenia Shafranskaya from Brest also became a laureate in the nomination 'Best in the Nation' ('Pride of the Nation') from the national team of Belarus. Hairdressing for a girl can be a family business, her mother works in the same area, and Ksenia constantly hones her skills not only in practice, but also in all kinds of courses and master classes.

Meanwhile, young programmer Aleksey Krupsky returned to Minsk from international competitions with his new agenda. "I'm satisfied with my results and the way I completed all the tasks. I realised that I need to work on the



Ksenia Shafranskaya

speed of my code writing. Now I have identified areas for myself that I can improve. Especially when I saw how cleverly others do it," noted Aleksey.

The juniors also did well; all participants of the JuniorSkills from Belarus aged 14-16, won silver and bronze medals. Maksim Tsarev was placed second in the 'Graphic Design Technology' nomination while Maksim Parfenovich was awarded silver in the 'Drones Operating'. Furthermore, Nikita Strauss claimed

a silver medal in 'Polymechanics and Automation', as did Ilya Melnikov and Milana Kozlova in 'Industrial Robotics' while Ilya Kalko finished third in 'Web Technologies'.

The pair of Belarusian participants in Future Skills, Olga Petrovets and Marina Zhukova, were awarded a silver medal in 'Building Information Modelling (BIM)', while Dmitry Dorokh became the bronze medallist in 'Industrial Design Technology'.

Our country has taken part in this forum for the third time and is steadily improving its position while also expanding the number of disciplines in which participants enter. This year, Belarusians demonstrated their craft in 30 professions, which is twice as many as in 2015 in São Paulo. The Rector of the Republican Institute of Vocational Education, Valery Golubovsky, believes that this progress was mainly facilitated by the experts, "Each year the tasks become more complicated and the time in which to complete them decreases, more complex technical solutions appear, and our specialists are building up their experience. This is very important because they are educators in industrial training. An equally important role is played by the motivation the contestants require to develop their skills and achieve good results. Foreign internships and the exchange of experience has also had a positive impact on our successes."

The next WorldSkills World Cup will be held in 2021 in China.



Natalia Shevchenko, WorldSkills movement development manager in Belarus: Participation in the WorldSkills allowed Belarus to begin training young people in new specialties, particularly, visual merchandising or dry construction technology. Another benefit of WorldSkills is the development of the pedagogical community, the exchange of experience, internships, and partnerships. In the foreseeable future, Belarusians want to apply to WorldSkills International for areas related to IT: blockchain, mobile application development, and cybersecurity.



By Natalia Yemelyanova

Together with Wargaming, BelAZ Holding disguised a 90-tonne dump truck in the style of the upcoming Wargaming Fest: Tanker Day. For this purpose, camouflage from the popular 'World of Tanks' game was used.

Camouflage was applied to a BelAZ-75585, a dump truck with a capacity of 90 tonnes. The giant vehicle is 5.5m high and 6.5m wide. The weight of the truck alone is nearly 75 tonnes, which is approximately two and a half T-34-85 tanks, particularly popular among 'World of Tanks' players. 160 cans of spray were used to paint the vehicle and it took about 80 hours to complete.

"The idea of the project came to us thanks to the employ-

ees of the plant, many of whom are big fans of 'World of Tanks'. In order to implement the idea commemorating game's birthday and the upcoming *Wargaming Fest: Tanker Day*, we turned to the developers of 'World of Tanks'. The company supported our initiative and helped with its implementation," said the Deputy General Director of BelAZ, Stanislav Yakubovich.

The Regional Publishing Director of 'World of Tanks', Yuri Kuryavy, notes that the company loves ambitious and creative projects, so happily agreed to create the camouflage for the BelAZ dump truck. Wargaming specialists developed a unique design, while professional artists helped put their ideas into

practice. Multi-coloured arrows, which form the basis of the design, are the main logo of the festival (Europe's largest festival of interactive entertainment) this year. Similar arrows are used as symbols on army staff maps. Bright colours will make the dump truck stand out in the quarry where it will work.

This is not the first time 'World of Tanks' and BelAZ have worked together. Back in 2010, on April 1st, a comedy video, *World of BelAZ*, was released. Instead of tanks, the game featured domestic trucks.

Wargaming Fest: Tanker Day will be held on September 15th, in Minsk.

BelAZ tries new design





Brest celebrates its 1,000th anniversary



Festivities have taken place throughout the city which was unrecognisably transformed for the jubilee. The Western Bypass was commissioned: a necessary addition to the regional centre, with its more than 350,000 people, to reduce congestion on the main streets. In addition, a new overpass between Moskovskaya Street and Masherov Avenue was built, a modern bus station added, a beautiful promenade appeared and the century old city garden was given a second life. Dozens of facilities were modernised. As a result, the city on the Bug River is now full of renovated and updated places. The city is welcoming, elegant and creative — as befits the country's western gates.

By Olga Korneeva

Brest's millennium celebrations offered many different impressions to the city residents and visitors, who came in great numbers: delegations from 12 countries took part in the festival dedicated to the city's jubilee. The celebration programme included over 30 events and the city was transformed into a single major festive platform. Brest became musical, youthful, industrial and cultural... as well as showcasing a large variety of handicrafts.

The new Brest Puppet Theatre building hosted the grand international festival — *Bookcase* — featuring theatrical performances, plays, book games, master classes, concerts, exhibitions, installations, photo zones, quizzes and competitions. For three days, troupes from Belarus, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Estonia and Israel presented 30 performances of different genres to young spectators.

A century old history of the regional centre was revealed near the Berestie Archaeological Museum, where historical reconstruction and installations were organised. An area there was turned into a 'time machine': military-historical clubs from all over the country lined up one after another in chronological order, with warriors of the ancient city, from the early Middle Ages, Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Rzecz Pospolita and WWI present. Each site was a photo zone where people could take memorable pictures and also touch the rare exhibits and high-quality models.

The international carnival was a grand event that amazed spectators with its scale. Thousands of citizens and guests gathered to watch the procession, which was attended by more than three thousand people. Among them were talented citizens and guests, creative teams and historical clubs. The lively show was attended by orchestras from Brest, Baranovichi, Pinsk, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod and Nur-Sultan. In the theatrical elements, participants of the costume carnival tried to reflect the centuries old history of Brest and its modern life. They showed what the city is famous for. Symbolically, a cake more than 4 metres high crowned the procession.

The carnival continued with a concert of creative collectives from Brest and other Belarusian regions. The 1,000th Anniversary Park, in the south-west of Brest, became a platform of entertainment for young people. The celebrations

show devoted to the history and modern life of Brest was presented on a multi-level mobile stage, with the help of computer effects, light, sound and water. The performance was broadcast on several screens and thousands of people enjoyed the show.

"I think the chronicler, describing the events in Berestie in 1019, did not suggest that it was the origin of the great city's history. Brest is a bright and modern regional centre now and the action here is not the apotheosis: it's a prologue of the successful, dynamic development of our city in the second millennium. We'll succeed jointly; we are strong together!" said the Chairman of the Brest City Executive Committee, Aleksandr Rogachuk.

The musical and historical event was divided into several episodes, each of which was dedicated



featured the millennium musical and historical composition: on the bank of the rowing canal, a grand

to a separate milestone in the development of the millennial city: the creation of the settlement, the granting of the Magdeburg Right, military events...



One of the last key parts of the celebration was the oath which — on behalf of all Brest residents — was read by an Honorary Citizen of Brest, artist-jeweller Nikolay Kuzmich. 'Today, while crossing the threshold of the millennium of the city that gave us life, we are swearing allegiance to it. We promise to be worthy children of our native land. We swear to know, remem-

ber and honour the glorious history of our city. We will preserve and increase the glory of Brest. We promise to be its pride. We are now writing the first lines in the book of Brest's second millennium. Let the coming generation — on looking into this book — read our love and devotion to the native city', reads the oath.

The celebrations ended with colourful fireworks: the sky was lit up with volleys of bright lights as Brest stepped into its second millennium...

INSIDE

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Bringing glamour, cinema and charm

Over the years, the Venice Film Festival has succeeded in gaining an ever better reputation thanks to the presence of world famous directors and actors

The 76th annual Venice International Film Festival was held from August 28th to September 7th. During these days of the kermesse shining stars and directors of the calibre of Meryl Streep, Gary Oldman (starring together in the latest Steven Soderbergh's movie *The Laundromat*) and

Pedro Almodóvar (awarded with the Golden Lion for *Lifetime Achievement*) walked down the red carpet astonishing everyone, guided by beautiful Italian actress Alessandra Mastronardi, the very festival's godmother.

Starting with the screening of *La Vérité* by Kore Eda Hirokazo — starring by Catherine Deneuve and Juliette Binoche — the kermesse continued presenting the competition movies *Marriage Story* by Noah Baumbach with Scarlett Johanson, *Ad Astra* by James

Gray with Brad Pitt and Liv Taylor, *Joker* by Todd Philips.

In addition to what happened at La Biennale several and several collateral events — and parties of course — have been taking place at the Lido, joining together the dreamy cinema world with fashion, art, and, obviously, jet set.

On September 1st, for example, on the occasion of Giornate degli Autori went on stage Miu Miu *Women's Tales* with the screening of *Shako Mako* by Hailey Gates and the

world premiere of *Brigitte* by Lynne Ramsay. This last one short film, in particular, offering a good example of what being a woman means in the 21st century (well interpreting the very aim of the entire Miu Miu *Women's* project), opens a window on Brigitte Lacombe's life, one of the most famous female portrayed photographers in the world.

Then the screening was celebrated with an exclusive dinner hosted by Miuccia Prada at Ca' Corner della Regina, attended by famous celebs.

New tech on the block

From its rather obscure beginnings as a way to record transactions for cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, blockchain is now set to revolutionise practically every facet of our lives

Sectors from finance to healthcare are rushing to grasp and apply its disruptive potential. And what better place to find out more than at the Future Blockchain Summit? It's an event held in Dubai that's billed as 'the largest blockchain event in the world'.

Having the ability to securely upload data to the blockchain and access it in real time is a game changer. It can simplify all kinds of processes saving time and cutting costs. Software giant SAP uses the lifecycle of a pineapple to showcase how supply chains and even customs checks can be streamlined using blockchain.

SAP supply chain solution adviser Shahd Abdelrahman walks us through the process, starting with the farmer, "They show if they have any certificates that they have to upload — they would register them themselves. From there, you have a farm worker that would come and pick and harvest these items. So again, you want to make sure that you're tracking the harvest each day. And he just needs to have a simple mobile app on his phone where he records how many kilos he has put, what is the date of the harvest, and also the IDs of these boxes."

Blockchain can also empower patients to track their medicine, ensure it's safe for consumption.



US manufacturing sector shrinks unexpectedly

American manufacturing shrank for the first time in three years this summer

The Institute of Supply Management's manufacturing index came in at 49.1 for the month of August — its lowest level since January 2016. Any number below 50 represents a contraction. The index was last below 50 in August 2016. Last month was the end of a 35-month expansion cycle, according to Timothy Fiore, the Chair of ISM's Manufacturing Business Survey Committee.

Although one month is not a trend, it's yet another data point that suggests a steady downturn at American factories.

US stocks, which were already down before ISM released its report, took a turn for the worse. Trade remains the 'most significant issue' for the manufacturing sector, Fiore said, 'indicated by the strong contraction in new export orders'. The ISM's new export orders index dropped to 43.3 in August, which was the lowest reading since April 2009.

Hurricane Dorian's reach sprawls from Bahamas to Florida

Dorian brutally punished the northern parts of the Bahamas for more than a day

Dorian was moving north after battering the Bahamas. Miles of debris from houses smashed apart by the hurricane stretched across the landscape of the Bahamas' Great Abaco Island as the deadly storm left behind a paradise obliterated.

On Great Abaco, high winds remained but the rain had subsided as residents emerged to gasp at the incredible devastation. Huge piles of rubble were what remained of businesses and homes wrecked by the strongest storm to hit the islands.

Brandon Clement, who was in a helicopter over the island, said that even new homes constructed under more stringent building codes were destroyed by the storm. "One older neighbourhood is gone," he said.

"You can't tell that there are any homes there. It looks like a bunch of building materials were put in a big grinder and

thrown on the ground," he said.

The Prime Minister told reporters after returning from an aerial tour of Great Abaco that he estimated there was damage to 60 percent of the homes there. According to a 2010 census, 17,224 people lived on the Abacos and there were about

police and security forces were sent to the Abacos to prevent violence or looting.

Fortunately, New Providence Island and the capital of Nassau, which generate much of the Bahamas tourist revenue, had not been touched, the Prime Minister said.



5,200 occupied houses, apartments and townhomes with an additional 2,916 vacant units. "We have been attacked by a vicious, devastating storm (from which there was no defence)," Minnis noted.

Minnis also said additional

On Grand Bahama Island, residents of Freeport fervently worked to rescue people in communities where the havoc wreaked by Dorian was much worse than expected.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Nostalgia for the present

Larisa Zhuravovich's *Nostalgia for the Present* exhibition in the ArtHaos Gallery opened a new season, with about three dozen delicate and thought-provoking works arousing great public interest in the artist's creativity



Larisa Zhuravovich



Milanka Karić awards ArtHaos Gallery Director, Lilia Lukashenko, a certificate of gratitude from the Union of Artists of Serbia

By Maksim Nikolaev

A member of the Belarusian Union of Artists, Larisa Zhuravovich, devoted all her creativity to one topic — the authentic beauty of the Belarusian village. And surprisingly — in the bright halls of the capital's gallery, in this whirlwind of rhythm, sound and light, her warm paintings look especially touching and relevant.

Ms. Zhuravovich enjoys what she portrays and this is the most important point. "The Belarusian village is the theme of my whole life," said the artist. "There are still-lives here — this is my favourite genre. And, of course, landscapes and rural scenes are also presented. I wanted to show the beauty and harmony of rural life."

According to the artist, the title of the exhibition — *Nostalgia for the Present* — reflects its main idea. "For a big city, a village is alien, but I live in it, for me it is a real self-sufficient world. I feel acute nostalgia for it, because it disappears very quickly. This is an important part of our reality, and we must not rush to say goodbye to it!" said Ms. Zhuravovich.



The Chairman of the Belynych District Council of Deputies, Andrey Ganchuk, came to Minsk to support his countrywoman. Larisa Zhuravovich is also the creator of the image of the coat of arms of this town! "We are proud that you will be able to see the most wonderful corners of the Belynych area in the paintings of Larisa Zhuravovich. Within a year, in September 2020, Belynych will be hosting Belarusian Written Language Day, and a personal exhibition of our famous artist will be shown in the town during the event," promised Mr. Ganchuk.

Opening the exhibition, the Director of the ArtHaos Gallery, Lilia Lukashenko, spoke about the painful emotions in the artist's work. "Larisa Zhuravovich is an original artist who knows how to show life as it is in its present. Her still-lives, landscapes and sketches of rural life are so believable that they give rise to amazing feelings. This is not just an exhibition of the artist and her creative activity, but the history of the life of the nation. It's a reflection of life, traditions and culture of the Belarusian people," she noted.

Lilia Lukashenko emphasised that the exhibition *Nos-*



talgia for the Present opens a new exhibition season in the gallery. "At the start of the school year, we re-open our exhibition activities. After all, our expositions have mainly educational goals: in the new year, we will continue to familiarise our audience with Belarusian art and artists. There are plans for new exhibits in the

ArtHaos Gallery to open monthly. We invite you to come and see our exhibitions!" she added.

The solemn part was almost completed when member of the Serbian Parliament, Milanka Karić, took the floor, "I was asked to convey many thanks to Minsk and your wonderful audience for the hospitality and warm welcome rendered to Serbian artists and their paintings during the exhibition, which was held at the ArtHaos Gallery in June," she said. "The close spiritual and cultural ties of our peoples indicate how close we are and how fruitfully our co-operation is developing in various fields."



Anastasia Mironchik — who captured silver at 2nd European Games — is in the forefront of the photo taken by Belarus Segodnya photo reporter Yuri Mozolevsky

Sport in a flash

By Igor Svetlov

The 2nd European Games are already history. The first sporting event on such a scale in Belarus gave us a lot of emotions and experiences. On Monday however, the main arena of the Games, the Dinamo Stadium, hosted its first ever track and field event for teams from Europe and the USA. The *Sporting Moments* photo exhibition by Belarus Segodnya Publishing House — which opened at the Victoria Olimp Hotel on the eve of the event — was organised between the two top events, uniting them with the emotions depicted in the photos.

Belarusian athlete Anastasia Mironchik-Ivanova was among the first visitors to the show. While looking at the photos, she got very excited, feeling almost as if she was once again in the arena. “During the competitions, none of athletes think about how they will look in the photos. Everything happens very quickly in modern life and there’s no time to catch the moment and enjoy it. Now, looking at these shots, I understand how cool such competitions look through the photographer’s eyes! Every vein, muscle tension, facial expression and genuine emotion are seen in the eyes. I have goose bumps when I see these pictures,” she said.

The Head of the Belarusian Athletics Federation, Vadim Devyatovsky, didn’t manage to visit much else during the 2nd European Games but could hardly hide his emotions while touring the exhibition. “Such photos touch one to the core!” he admitted.

It’s certainly true that beautiful sports stories often begin with pictures like this. “Pro-



These pictures beautify the photo exhibition

fessional photographers are able to delicately capture the moment and things we don’t notice in the thick of events. Such shots are very important since they can also inspire someone to change their attitude to sport. How can we, for example, remain indifferent looking at the photo of ‘flying’ Anastasia Mironchik-Ivanova or Elvira German surrounded

by adoring fans? I also noticed the photos of Tatiana Kholodovich who managed to win a gold at the Dinamo Stadium during her last attempt. The photographer managed to perfectly show her experiences! I am sure that large-scale sporting events taking place in our country will give us many more reasons for pride and memories,” he said.

Director — Editor-in-Chief of Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, Dmitry Zhuk:

The 2nd European Games were a serious test for any journalist and photographer — especially those who tried to show the whole picture and were not simply looking for a sensation. The Games are primarily associated with emotions and we, the fans, visit such events not just to see the result but to feel pride in our country and experience emotions. Therefore, we are very grateful to our athletes for the moments we experienced and we believe they will give us many more reasons for pride in the future.

Beijing opera on Minsk stage

Chinese Culture Days held at Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre of Belarus

By Natalia Yemelaynova

Belarus’ Culture Minister Yuri Bondar pointed out in his welcome address that humanitarian relations between Belarus and China are developing dynamically primarily due to shared principles of domestic and foreign policy and the absence of fundamental disagreements. “Personal contacts and trusting relations between the heads of state contribute to the effective development of bilateral relations,” noted the Minister.

According to him, China and Belarus have old historic and cultural traditions. “Inter-state relations are based on friendship between the nations, while spiritual affinity is the very foundation of this friendship,” he stressed. The Minister is convinced that the Chinese Culture Days strengthen mutual understanding, long-standing friendship and solidarity between our states.



The importance of cultural ties and exchanges between Belarus and China was also emphasised by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to Belarus, Cui Qiming, at

the grand opening of the cultural event. The diplomat noted that interaction between the two countries in the field of culture and tourism is becoming more active. “On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, as well as the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival, I’m glad to meet with Belarusian friends again, take part in the opening ceremony of Chinese Culture Days and enjoy together the

famous classical Beijing opera-performance,” noted Mr. Qiming.

As part of the Chinese cultural event, the Bolshoi Theatre hosted two shows of the opera performance: *Female Generals of the Yang Family*. Artists of the Beijing Opera Chinese State Theatre demonstrated their skills to the Belarusian audience.

Female Generals of the Yang Family is a striking example of traditional Chinese opera, combining singing and folk music, acrobatics, choreography, pantomime and, of course, martial arts. Moreover, the performance amazes the audience with complex visual images, thoroughly elaborated costumes and original graphic make-up. The stage performance was accompanied by music played on traditional Chinese instruments, which gave it a greater national flavour. The action takes place in China in the 12th century. During the war between the dynastic principalities of Song and Xia, General Yang, the leader of the Sun army, is killed. At that difficult time, the women of the Yang family decided to lead the army and protect their lands from invasion...

One of the key areas of Belarus-Chinese co-operation is the arrangement of Belarusian and Chinese days of culture. The countries hosted such events in 2011, 2012, 2015, and 2017.

Famous Belarusian athlete leaves as a queen

By Irina Sergeeva

Two-time Olympic champion in academic rowing Yekaterina Karsten announced the end of her record career. The athlete, who even her rivals called Great, put an end to her fantastic career, which included seven Olympics, two Olympic champion titles and six world championship gold awards.

“I want to announce the end of my sporting career and, in this regard, thank everyone who helped, supported and organised my training. This is the Ministry of Sports and Tourism, the National Olympic Committee, the Rowing Federation, as well as my partners, doctors, massage therapists, teammates, husband,

fans and journalists,” said Yekaterina Karsten at a press conference in the National Olympic Committee of Belarus. The athlete noted that she was preparing for the eighth Olympics in her career, but recently became injured and decided to skip the world forum and end her career.

“On the eve of the World Championship, I was injured, breaking my tenth rib. I had to miss the world forum. The rib will take a long time to heal, and much rehabilitation time will be needed. I had a similar injury before the Olympics in London. Then it did not allow me to compete for the medal, although many did not even believe that I was performing with a fracture. Now I know that I will not be able to get in good shape for the last qualifying competitions scheduled for next



Yekaterina claimed her last Olympic medal in 2008 in Beijing

year, and I decided to end my career,” said Yekaterina.

The news about the absence of Karsten as part of the national team, was met by many with sadness, but most were not surprised. Yekaterina is 47 years old. Olaf Tufte, the oldest participant in the current World Cup, is four years younger. At the same time, he is a man and acts as

a stroke-oarsman in the Norwegian fours boat. Karsten however, has fought for most of her sports career alone. The champion recently won the Belarusian championship, ahead of her nearest rival by a massive 25 seconds.

According to her head coach, Anatoly Kvyatkovsky, Yekaterina is tired and would have ended her career long

ago, but she wanted to help: to become an example that young people will aim for.

Now Belarusian rowers and fans will have to learn to support different athletes. To be honest, it's difficult to imagine the Olympics without Yekaterina the Great.

It is symbolic that Yekaterina decided to stay in Belarus to continue her sport.

THE MT REFERENCE

Yekaterina Karsten is the first two-time Olympic champion (1996, 2000) in the history of independent Belarus and a six-time world champion (1997, 1999, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009). The first-ever full holder of the Belarusian Order of the Fatherland was awarded the Order of Honour and 'For Merit of Labour' medal. She is also a laureate of the Belarusian Sports Olympus Prize.

From water to snow

Minsk hosted the Belarusian Open Aerial Skiing Water-Ramp Championships

By Arina Novikova

The prestige of this sporting event is growing year by year, says the head coach of the national freestyle team, Nikolay Kozeko.

“A good indicator is that the number of countries participating in

About 50 athletes from nine countries took part in the competition. The winner of the tournament was the Belarusian athlete, Aleksandra Romanovskaya. The judges scored the Belarusian

lowed by Pirmin Werner of Switzerland (121.00).

Among the foreign athletes in Minsk, world champions from Switzerland, Carol Bouvard and Nicolas Gygax, performed at the event, as did Australian Laura Peel, her teammate Danielle Scott, a silver and bronze medallist at many global competitions, as well as professional athletes from Germany,



Magnificent trio: Anna Guskova, Aleksandra Romanovskaya, Alla Tsuper

these competitions is growing. This suggests that the prestige of the tournament is increasing every year. Freestyle athletes from Europe and Australia have arrived. I think the Canadians, Americans and Chinese will participate next time. Strong teams gathered at Belarus' open championship for the ski jumping,” said the head coach.

rusian jump 122.35 points. Her teammate, 2018 Olympic champion, Anna Guskova (108.75) took second place on the medal podium, while the winner of the 2014 Games, Alla Tsuper of Belarus (107.54), won bronze.

In the men's tournament, the Swiss, Noe Roth (130.00), was awarded gold, while silver went to Belarusian, Stanislav Gladchenko (129.85), fol-

Kazakhstan, Russia, the Czech Republic, the Ukraine and Brazil.

Nikolay Kozeko also noted that the national freestyle team has experienced significant changes in their training process. According to him, Belarusians are one of the strongest in the world at this sport, adding that athletes will begin training on the snow in the first week of October.

New President of International Basketball Federation



By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Hamane Niang of Mali has been elected as the new President of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), following the decision at the 21st FIBA Congress held in Beijing, as the men's FIBA Basketball World Cup draws closer

Mr. Niang had previously been Vice President of FIBA and President of FIBA Africa. Furthermore, he headed the Basketball Federation of Mali and

was Sports Minister of Mali. The Malian official replaced Argentinean Horacio Muratore.

According to the Belarusian Basketball Federation, during the meeting of the congress, an awards ceremony took place to honour the national basketball federations that have achieved the greatest success in their work. The Belarusian Basketball Federation was among the top three and was awarded a memorial prize as an organisation showing considerable progress from 2017-2019 in developing women's teams.

Challenges and serious ambition



By Igor Svetlov

Coach of Minsk Yunost, Mikhail Zakharov, appointed head coach of the national ice hockey team of Belarus

This decision was made at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation.

“It's a great responsibility, especially ahead of the 2021 IIHF World Championships in Minsk. At present, we have no players at Kalyuzhny's level, but we will be working to resolve the matter together with the coaches of all the

hockey clubs,” said the new head coach of the Belarusian national squad.

He also added that new foreign players would benefit the Belarusian team. Mr. Zakharov signed a two-year contract. The coaching staff under Mikhail Zakharov will be determined at a later date.

Mikhail Zakharov is the Honoured Coach of the Republic of Belarus and USSR International Master of Sports. He was named the best coach in Belarus three times.



Photo of the week

Lida celebrates its 696th birthday on a large scale — hosting a knights' tournament and a festival of malt, hop and water

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marks Street
Until 15th September. *Andrey Andreevich Gromyko — Diplomat of Soviet Epoch*
Until 29th September. *City Dear to My Heart*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 20th September. *Prospective*
Until 5th October. *City Contrasts*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 14th September. *Sport is High Art*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 M. Bogdanovich Street
Until 15th September. *Vasil Bykov: Stipples of Life*
Until 24th October. *Caucasus Works* by Lev Tolstoy

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 15th September. *Ladies Tricks*
Until 15th September. *European Martial Arts: from Vulcan's Forge to the Arts of Mars*

VANKOVICH HOUSE

33A Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 12th September. *Poetry of Silver*

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 22nd September. *Pictures of the Elusory World*

DREAMLAND

80 Orlovskaya Street
Until 15th September. *Festival of Sand Sculptures*

LOSHITSA ESTATE

8 Chizhevskiy Lane
Until 27th October. *Belarusian Diamond in Crown of Palladium Orthodox Icons*

OK16

16 Oktyabrskaya Street
Until 29th September. *Mythologeme of Millennium*

EXPIRIMENTUS

9-517 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 31st December. *Organismus*

HOUSE OF NATURE

9A M. Bogdanovich Street
Until 12th October. *Best Toys from USSR*

HIGH PLACE

2A Gertsen Street
Until 15th September. *Minsk-Hannover*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
15 and 16.09. Prince Igor
17 and 18.09. Anastasia
18.09. Masterpieces of World Opera
19.09. Bohemia

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street
12.09. Pelican
13.09. If There Is No Tomorrow
15.09. Profession of Love: jubilee night of Aleksandr Gartsuev
16.09. Doctor Raus' Career
17.09. Gender Tricks
18.09. Love of People
19.09. Three Giselles

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

33 Masharov Avenue
12.09. Mechanical Man
13.09. Battlefield
14.09. Midnight Robbery
16.09. Pygmalion
17.09. A Very Simple Story
18.09. Forgetting Herostratos
19.09. Wolves and Sheep

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
17.09. Show of Jurymen
18.09. Comedy

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
12.09. Pygmalion
14.09. How to Become Rich
15.09. Bridal Shower
18.09. Dangerous Ties
19.09. He and She

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street
12.09. Two Souls
13.09. People on Marshes
14 and 15.09. Black Lady of Nesvizh
15.09. Elza's Land / ART / Harvest
17.09. Nobleman Zavalnya, or Belarus in Fantastic Stories
18.09. Local Cabaret
19.09. Tolerance

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
12.09. Veronica Decides to Die
17.09. Featherhead
18.09. Clinic
19.09. Night at a Hotel

MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
12.09. Merry Widow
13.09. Tristan and Isolde
15.09. Jane Eire
17.09. Giselle
18.09. Once in Chicago
19.09. My Fair Lady