



Works to strengthen the slope on Zamkovaya Hill in Novogrudok have begun



President's Sport Club was established 15 years ago



INTERNATIONAL

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Kupala Night celebrations in Turov in the Zhitkovichi District, Gomel Region

## With respect to tradition

At the height of summer, Belarus celebrates Kupala Night — one of the oldest folk holidays dedicated to the sun and the flourishing of the land. It's common countrywide but the major celebration — *Alexandria Gathers Friends* — is held in the Shklov District, in the Mogilev Region. This year, over 110,000 guests and participants came to the bank of the Dnieper River and President Aleksandr Lukashenko also attended — as is traditional. Over the ten years of its existence, the festival has become a vibrant symbol of the fraternal friendship of the peoples of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, and also an integral part of our culture and heritage, a brand of the country. It unites all that Belarusians are known for: national colour, harmony with the environment, love of their traditions and history, striving for a cherished goal and, naturally, hospitality. → **3**



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# Conversation about future

Aleksandr Lukashenko met with major mass media outlets. About 250 representatives of leading media — television, newspaper, radio and news agency staff, as well as analysts and experts — were invited to the Independence Palace.

During the meeting, which lasted five and a half hours, a variety of topics were touched on: both professional and every day.

At the very beginning of the event, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that he had a good attitude towards the availability of alternative opinions: a clear requirement was developed at the level of the President that different points of view must be taken into account in the preparation of any event. “The alternative is mandatory, the competition is necessary, as are the clash of opinions and the brainstorming; all these are right,” believes the Head of State.

The President’s view is that the availability of state media is an important factor for the mass media market, and their number will not be reduced in Belarus.

The Head of State spoke in detail about the current stage of the country’s development, emerging challenges, international co-operation and the situation in the world. The topic of anti-epidemic measures was also touched upon.

Journalists and experts asked the President questions about the work of the media in various segments, as well as about youth policy, integration processes, preservation of sovereignty and

the independence of the country. The Belarusian leader emphasised, “I must admit that Belarus has not experienced such pressure as now during the entire time of its independent development. Everything has entwined into one knot.”

The President spoke in favour of developing the country on the basis of what has already been achieved and against radical reforms, “In the mid-1990s, we left what we are currently offered. We are even offered to return to 1994 (which is very strange) and take the Constitution that was then. What we shouldn’t do under any circumstances is to return to the mid-1990s and take the Constitution that we have left. The Constitution is the main code. This is a document that gives direction to the development of a particular state. Therefore, if we are talking about reforms and changes, then this should be written primarily in the Constitution and developed in law.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko further spoke on the subject of updating the Constitution of Belarus, “As we try to improve things, we should start with the Constitution. If we start with Maidan riots, we will cross out our history. Both our tolerance and prudence will go down the drain. This is why we should create



a new Constitution. Yes, a lot of time has passed, certain changes are in order. Truth be told, you will have to tell me what changes you need.”

Speaking on this topic, he noted that approaches and proposals could be different, including the redistribution of power, “But we have to understand that, first, we will have to bear responsibility for it. Second, we should not allow a clash of the branches of government. I’ve been through that myself... We’ve stepped away from it. This is why we should take ourselves in hand and, as we create the new Constitution, clearly understand what we want, what the country should be like. I’m ready for anything. Except losing sovereignty and independence. This is why it is up to you to decide. All the changes will start with the Constitution, not Maidan riots. And I will try to do my best to prevent these riots.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that we’re currently observing a unique situation. “What do we see in the world today? A redivision of the world order. It’s not a division, it is a redivision. In this situation, it is important to answer the question of where our place is,” underlined the Head of State. He called the current situation unique yet very

difficult and dangerous. “Balancing between these giants [world centres of power] is very dangerous. But what can we do?” he said.

The main task for the country’s leader at this stage is to preserve the country as independent and sovereign, “I do not want to see everything that we have created with our own hands collapse tomorrow, and someone to come into power and start to conduct experiments.”

The Head of State said that our sovereignty and independence are not for sale, “I’ve read in a media review, and our friend Venediktov [Editor-in-Chief of Ekho Moskvy radio station Aleksei Venediktov] says that this is a question of price and it’s only necessary to offer Lukashenko a good price... Listen, there’s no price they can pay me so that I will agree to their terms. There’s no such price! There are no pockets in shrouds. No matter how many billions you have, in the next world you will not need any. These are my beliefs, principles, ideology... therefore, I do not wish to be paid anything. This is not for sale. Sovereignty and independence are not for sale!”

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## A worthwhile example to follow

The Head of State visited the Atlant Plant — the country’s largest manufacturer of household appliances

**We can now say for sure that Atlant is once again straightening its shoulders. Even the notorious pandemic, which the company managed to turn in its favour, has not been a hindrance. The President was satisfied with what he saw, “Well done! You’ve done what all should have done. This is an example to others. You are confirmation of the rightness of the course that we chose.”**

In 2020, the company faced a difficult situation related to the introduction of restrictions on foreign markets due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, procurement and logistics services were able to ensure production with materials and components in those hard times. In addition, a stake was placed on online sales. Director Dmitry Sokolovsky said that the plant did not stop working and was the only manufacturer in our market that produced refrigerators and washing machines. “This is why we were able to meet the increased demand and set a record for sales in March 2020. We sold 90,000 refrigerators. In over 60 years of Atlant’s work, we have never sold 90,000 in March,” he said, adding that the com-



The company feels confident and hopes to finish the year with positive results

pany feels confident and hopes to finish the year with positive results.

Aleksandr Lukashenko stated, “There are positive moments in any crisis situation. It’s necessary to take advantage of them. As I have said, when everything opens again after the pandemic, people will see that there is nothing available. And we will offer our products. This is a shining example: your products were available, and people bought them. Executives did their job on time.”

This year, the development strategy of Atlant JSC until 2025 was approved — based on the maintenance and strengthening of the company’s position in the segments where it has competencies. This, in particular, is in the development of the production of refrigerators

and washing machines. It is planned to ensure a significant increase in exports and wages. Importantly, the growth of wages — in 2020 and in the next five years — will be ensured by increasing labour productivity.

Aleksandr Lukashenko deemed it necessary to launch the production of new equipment with an emphasis on import substitution which will become a priority in the next five years. The President recalled that, some time ago, the decision was made to organise the manufacture of compressors in Belarus. “All enterprises should move in this direction in terms of import substitution. However, such flagships as Atlant, MAZ, BelAZ, MTZ should launch production of two new kinds of products,” the Head

of State said. In this respect, he was informed about Atlant’s plans to organise the manufacture of dishwashers.

One of Atlant’s modern features is the attraction of student participants to production. In summer, the demand for the company’s products increases sharply and there is no way to meet this without additional staff. The ‘Atlant 2020’ labour project unites students from all regions and, this year, over 800 young people will gain new experience and professional skills — benefiting both the company and the young people.

After getting acquainted with the production facility, Aleksandr Lukashenko talked to workers and university students participating in the ‘Atlant 2020’ project. In his speech, the President focused on the issue of electric transport development. “I am an avid fan of electric vehicles. They are the future,” he said. “It is good that this trend has emerged in the world. I saw it coming a long time ago. Samples [of Belarusian electric vehicles] are available. I recently visited a testing facility and saw them... We now know how to make them. We need to make them beautiful and affordable now. I’m convinced that, in the next five years, we will make a good electric vehicle of our own. Besides, we are going to make our own electric vehicles at Geely premises, jointly with China. It is already a reality.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by





# ‘Genuine love of the Fatherland is creative’

## Aleksandr Lukashenko attends Kupala Night festival — *Alexandria Gathers Friends* — held in Alexandria agro-town

“They say not without good reason that heaven is where your heart is. My heart is decidedly and irreversibly attached to this land and to these people. To all the Belarusians. To our wise and strong nation,” the President stressed, adding, “To the nation that, over many centuries of its history, has lived through many disasters and hardships but has never gone on its knees before anyone. To the nation that knows the price of words and deeds perfectly well. To the nation that has earned the right to live in its own country and choose and determine its future on its own.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked that, on the approach to Alexandria, he was thinking about what the most important thing was, saying, “The most important thing is that time implacably moves on. The first festival took place here just a short while ago. Now we’ve seen more than ten festivals in this blessed and kind land, on the banks of this beautiful river, which unites the fates of three Slavonic nations: our Russians, our Ukrainians and Belarusians. I’m extremely happy to welcome you to this hospitable Alexandria land.”

The President added that he was happy that so many guests were gathered together. “We’ve looked into each other’s eyes, talked to old comrades and made new friends. We’ve breathed deep the summer air, which smells of honey and ripening cereal crops in Belarusian fields. We’ve heard birds sing. We’ve seen starry skies without city lights,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said, noting that here, in Alexandria, there’s an opportunity to once again feel the most ordinary things people felt during their barefoot childhood, the things that have become true luxury in the modern world.

“This folk festival, with its surprisingly kind, warm and light atmosphere, has been giving such a wonderful opportunity for more than ten years already. Hundreds of thousands of viewers, craftsmen and farmers, Belarusian and foreign artists, who want to come to the festival (this complicated year is not an exception) have become not just friends but almost relatives — since

genuine friendship and the desire to meet up have always been stronger than any barriers and distances,” the Head of State added.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that there are few holidays that would unite the main Slavonic peoples today, “This is, we can say, a rehearsal of our main meeting, our main holiday which will take place in just a few days in the great Slavonic city of Vitebsk.”

“A genuine love of the Fatherland is creative. This is why we should continue working together to build our Belarus as a fair, safe and strong country. It is particularly topical today when powers that be are trying to divide the world anew, break down the foundations, force their way of thinking and their way of life onto the weaker ones. And most importantly: in these times you should listen to your heart — it will always prompt the most correct way to the future,” believes the Head of State.

The President noted that the year 2020 is the final year of the ‘Year of the Native Land’ campaign. “Look around you. Look how many good and useful things we’ve accomplished in our native land. Recall what it was like as little as two or three years ago. What about five, ten, 25 years ago? It is your huge accomplishment that more than one generation of Belarusians has grown up in the trouble-free, clean, peaceful and beautiful country: the country you and I have created virtually from scratch, on ruins of the USSR,” he stated.

Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that it was not an easy thing to accomplish. “Some things turned out to be even better than they had imagined, some things turned out well, and some things need a lot more work. You and I know perfectly well: a loaf of fresh, fragrant, organic bread is the result of a long, hard and scrupulous job. There is no other way to do it,” he said.

The same approach is true for the country, the President believes. “Work for the sake of results, unite



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in the face of any hardships, overcome any challenges — it is the only way to create the best future for one’s own country and one’s own nation. And definitely when all of us stand together,” he said.

The President recalled what they said in Soviet times: before asking what the Fatherland has done for you, ask yourself what you have done for the Fatherland, for your people. “Then answer this question honestly. Then you will not make mistakes,” he said.

Summing up, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “On this summer evening, I sincerely wish you to enjoy the holiday which takes us back to the origins of our national traditions. Thanks to these origins, we were, are and will remain Belarusians — an original and independent nation.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Andriy Sazonov







## Made in Belarus

In the 1990s, inflation growth was close to catastrophe. Store shelves were virtually empty, while prices skyrocketed. The ‘paralysed’ workshops of the engineering giants symbolised those times. In fact, machine building barely developed since co-operative ties were destroyed after the collapse of the USSR. Overall, industrial production declined by 41 percent in the first five-year period of the 1990s. Radical and bold decisions were needed.

In the beginning of the process, the idea was not to invent new products, modernise the industry or expand markets. The key was to ensure access to enough food for people. It was necessary to give them the opportunity to earn money. Not the fate of a single factory but the whole industry was at stake. Their accumulated experience, teams with unique designers and engineers had to be preserved. Importantly, the Belarusian leader was on board with the machine builders from the very first difficult years — visiting Gomselmash, MAZ, MTZ, Minsk’s Motor Plant and other giants of mechanical engineering.

At present, every Belarusian industrial giant boasts export drivers in its line and the gamble made back then on import substitution, our own knowledge and experience relies on Belarus-made vehicles.

These are the years of the President’s personal patronage when the industry was being brought back to life. His hand was on the pulse of the most acute problems, ensuring strict control of all stages of modernisation. In the course of time, the quality, volume growth and output of products capable of conquering markets came to the fore.

Our pride is the world’s largest dump truck, with a 450-tonne carrying capacity. It’s ‘younger brother’ was able to only lift 25 tonnes. The temperature range is 100 degrees and Belarusian ‘heavyweights’ successfully work from minus 50 to plus 50 degrees Celsius. Belarus-made trucks operate in deep quarries and at an altitude of more than 4km above sea level. The new developments and design solutions allowed them to conquer the market. Every third dump truck in the world is produced in Belarus and they operate in places where only the strongest can manage.

Some time ago, the range of Minsk’s Automobile Plant included trucks only and, at the dawn of the country’s independence, the factory produced only 9 models. At present, the modern and well-equipped MAZ is among the world leaders in heavy-duty, automobile and trailer equipment used by around fifty countries worldwide. Assembly plants abroad are no longer a luxury but a way to quickly reach new markets and, in 2020, the plant produces more than 2,000 models — including unique models made to order and universal vehicles. The company’s range

**They are known to consumers as the best developments of Belarusian science, the locomotives of the economy and brands which make the country recognisable worldwide. Every tenth tractor in the world is ‘BELARUS’. BelAZ vehicles mine diamonds on the other side of the world and account for almost a third of the global market! Minsk-made electric buses transport residents of European cities. Belarusian vehicles dominate the market and are sold to over 80 countries, though this was not the case for many years. Behind us are the most difficult decades, since when the industry has been virtually brought back to life. The first episode of the special *Made* project of the Belarus 1 TV Channel is devoted to Belarusian machine building development and its prospects.**



Aleksandr Kulevsky



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also includes vacuum cleaners for city streets, tractors, cranes and an electric bus. According to Aleksandr Myshko, the chief designer of JSC MAZ — Managing Company of BELAVTOMAZ Holding, says the latter has already gained global recognition. “The whole world is moving towards electricity against the background of ecology and fluctuations in oil prices. We designed the new generation of buses so that they were almost identical in ap-

pearance. It could be a diesel bus, a trolleybus, an electric bus and it can also run on gas and other fuel. We took this into consideration at the start,” he explains.

MAZ’s ‘green’ trend is an electric bus that doesn’t need a network of charging stations: it gets its kilowatts at night in the park. However, Belkommunmash electric buses have been travelling around the cities of Britain for a long time. These right-hand-drive models

meet clients’ needs. The ultra-fast battery charging technology is commonplace. New Belarusian ‘Vitovt’ trolleybuses, with a true media complex under the roof, passenger flow meters, Wi-Fi, sockets for charging mobile phones and air conditioning in the cabin — have gone to conquer Nevsky Avenue.

Factory workshops have been transformed by the world’s first natural-gas-motor-fuel combine harvesters of Gomselmash JSC. During his working trip to Gomel in August 2018, President Aleksandr Lukashenko visited Gomselmash. He ordered then to run an experiment: to send new models to the fields of the Gomel Region for the whole agricultural season and then compare the results. Engineers managed to prove to world experts in combine construction that gas-motor-fuel at Polesie is both safe and profitable. In fact, it is the most powerful motor in its class, boasting productivity of 12 kilos of grain per second.

MTZ is also setting trends in the global auto industry and tractors are a special pride of the country. Every 10th one of them globally has been made by Belarusian scientists, engineers, designers and factory workers. ‘BELARUS’ vehicles cultivate the land and provide bread to millions of people. The company is actively developing new directions and is already producing snow-groomers and ice-filling machines which are economical and much cheaper than their foreign counterparts.

There were many sceptics when Belarus first announced its plans to establish its own school for passenger cars but the plant is now operating and Belarus’ BelGee crossovers and sedans travel along the roads of the region. After the solemn opening of the BelGee Automobile Plant in November 2017, the Head of State stressed that the launch of passenger car production in the country was his dream.

“I dreamed that we would one day produce our own car in Belarus. My dream has come true. You are great as is the car. We must produce everything we can domestically, not waiting for others,” he said then.

Gennady Svidersky, BelGee’s General Director, assures us that the strategy is such that the Belarusian market will have the latest developments. “We’re testing them and prepare for production if we observe a steady demand. Our new crossover is selling very well today. Next year, we will also offer BelGee electric vehicles to the market: no less than 1,000 cars,” he says.

The automobile industry is a traction engine not only for the domestic industry, but also for science and the economy. Expansion of sales markets confirms we have made the right decisions in the past. Our modern machinery is a fusion of tradition and innovation which is confidently done. New heights are ahead.



# Effective platform for dialogue

The recent online meeting of business representatives of the two countries — **Belarus-Lithuania: Trade and Economic Co-operation After the Pandemic** — enabled the parties to discuss not only the risks associated with the pandemic but also new opportunities for increasing trade turnover and strengthening business ties between Belarus and Lithuania

By Olga Korneeva

The event was organised by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry jointly with the Lithuanian Business Confederation. The online meeting featured speeches by the heads of the diplomatic missions of Belarus and Lithuania, experts and business representatives of the two countries.

Lithuania is traditionally among the top ten investors in the Belarusian economy. In 2019, it was ranked seventh in terms of foreign direct investment among all investor-countries and was fourth among the EU states. Of the 3,000 companies operating in Belarus with European capital, 575 are registered with Lithuanian investments. In

turn, about 250 enterprises have been formed in Lithuania with the involvement of Belarusian money.

“Lithuania is one of the leading economic partners of Belarus. We view our co-operation as one of the priority directions of foreign economic policy. Lithuania is also an important partner for us in the transit sphere. It is of high value for us to use the opportunities of the Lithuanian Railways and the Klaipėda Seaport for the transit of Belarusian goods for export to third countries,” said Belarus’ Deputy Economy Minister, Dmitry Yaroshevich.

In turn, Jekaterina Rojaka, the Vice-Minister of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania, stressed, “Over recent decades, Bela-



rus-Lithuania trade rose 2.5 times which is truly a big step forward, but COVID-19 has had an effect on economic ties. In truth, we have managed to preserve logistics chains, which is very important. Not only the private sector but governments of various countries have recently switched to using digital channels, which has considerably facilitated mutual relations. Digital exchange of information and opinions helps simplify work while borders are closed.”

The Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

Vladimir Ulakhovich, noted that, in recent years, our countries have developed a trade turnover that many European countries can envy. It’s an important component of co-operation that we must not only preserve but also increase — based on the mutual interest of business representatives of Belarus and Lithuania.

The meeting was attended by over 135 representatives of Belarusian and Lithuanian businesses. The 15th Belarusian-Lithuanian Economic Forum is planned to be held in Klaipėda in the second half of 2020.

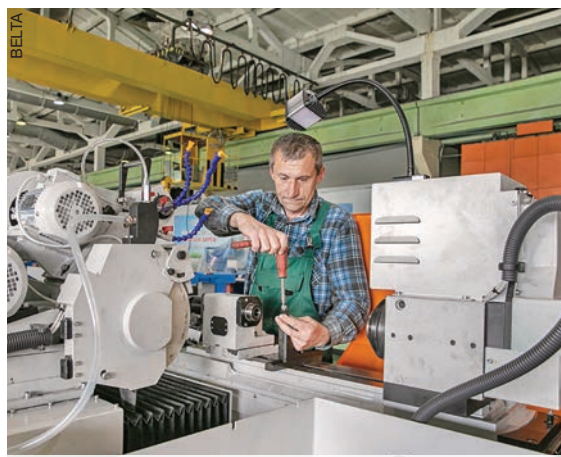
# New sales markets

## Orsha machine tools factory Krasny Borets penetrating new target markets in Europe this year

By Igor Svetlov

Krasny Borets is a leading manufacturer of metal-working equipment in the country, producing virtually all types of grinding machines. Despite the pandemic, the company is operating at a profit. “We constantly work to diversify exports and find new target markets in countries of the European Union and the Middle East. Apart from the traditional markets of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan, this year, Krasny Borets’ products have been shipped to Germany, Lithuania, Ukraine, Czechia, Norway, Turkey, Italy and Poland,” note company staff.

In 2019, 340 machine tools were produced here



At machine tools factory Krasny Borets

and, in January-May 2020, 180 were made — a 40 percent rise on the same period of last year. In January-May 2020, the growth of exports to non-CIS states amounted to 145 percent. The company exports 50-80 percent of its output.

In 2020, in anticipation of the 120th anniversary of the company’s foundation, Krasny Borets intends to make a prototype of an innovative universal numeric-control cylindrical grinding machine with extremely high precision parameters. The product is being designed jointly with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. The equipment is expected to achieve a new level in the creation of precision machine tools, which are unparalleled in the Eurasian Economic Union.

# Reserves up

According to the National Bank Information and PR Department’s preliminary data, Belarus’ gold and foreign currency reserves totalled around \$8,8bn (in equivalent) as of July 1st, 2020

In June, the country’s gold and foreign currency reserves went up by over \$900m (11.6 percent), after being \$3.7m (0.05 percent) down in May.

Belarus’ gold and foreign exchange reserves were bolstered thanks to the revenues from Eurobond sales by the Finance Ministry and higher prices for monetary gold.

The Government and the National Bank honoured their foreign and domestic obligations in foreign currency to the amount of approximately \$287m in June and, according to the country’s main monetary guidelines for 2020, the volume of international reserve assets is expected to reach at least \$7.3bn on January 1st, 2021.

Based on materials of belta.by



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Belarus sent humanitarian aid to Ukraine



Humanitarian aid to alleviate the consequences of flooding in Western Ukraine went from Minsk to Lvov. As a result of the flood caused by severe rains on June 23rd-25th, five regions were affected in Ukraine, with the worst situation seen in the Ivano-Frankovsk Region. Parts of many buildings have been destroyed, there is no gas supply and there are power outages in the affected settlements. Belarus has sent two power plants, motor pumps, tents, pressure hoses of various diameters and individual protective kits to deal with the effects of flooding in the affected areas. The total amount of cargo, collected in the shortest possible time, is 30 tonnes.

### Belarus up to 18th position on SDG Index

This year, Belarus has improved its standing in the global Sustainable Development Goals Index. Countries in the ranking are ranked by their total score, which measures progress in achieving all 17



SDGs. Belarus moved from 23rd to 18th place among 166 countries.

The Executive Director of the Dortmund International Education Centre, Astrid Zam, congratulated our country on this during a video conference with Anatoly Isachenko, the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic. The meeting also tackled issues related to the prospects for holding a Sustainable Development Week in Belarus.

### The original of the Brest or Radziwill Bible is digitised

The National Library of Belarus approved the digitisation of the Bible, which is stored in the Museum of History of Brest. The digital version of the rarity will enable everyone, including scientists, to study the book. The relic returned to Brest last September. A unique copy of the Bible was presented to the residents of the regional centre by the Head of State at a ceremony dedicated to the city’s millennium. The Bi-



ble was printed in 1563 in the Brest printing house on the initiative and at the expense of Mikolaj Krzysztof Radziwill (nicknamed The Black). The uniqueness of the edition is that it has preserved two engraved title pages for the Old and New Testaments.

### Belaruskali broke its own records

In June, the company set records for the shipment and exports of fertilisers. The Belaruskali mines set an absolute record for ore output: 5,004,057 tonnes. The gross output of potassium chloride totalled 1,142,293 tonnes. The company shipped 1,123,831 tonnes of fertilisers — this is the largest figure in its history. The volume of export deliveries of potash fertilisers in June is also a record: 1,069,600 tonnes (up 16.9 percent compared to the same period last year and up 0.5 percent against the previous record level — set in August 2019). The enterprise also noted that export deliveries for the second quarter of this year was also a record, exceeding the previous achievement established in the first quarter of 2019.





# Keys to the sky

Recently, the real art of piloting was shown in the sky above Baranovichi, with many locals enthusiastically turning their gaze to the heavens... In the city, where the 61st fighter air base of the Air Force and Air Defence Forces is based, our military took up the first combat duty on the world's most advanced multi-purpose Su-30SM fighters. The event was held in a celebratory atmosphere, and even the pilots surprised the watchers with a demonstration performance in military vehicles.

By Yan Zhur

When the 'newcomer' appeared on the runway, all sound was eliminated by the roar of the aircraft engine. Within a few moments a real spectacle unfolded in the sky. The fighter, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Andrei Krivonosov, deputy commander for air safety of the aviation base, attracted everyone's attention. The roar is such that people can feel their eardrums vibrating. The combat vehicle first flew past horizontally, and then, right above my head, it suddenly soars upward: an exciting sight. Once again, over my head, the fighter dives down like a stone, it takes the breath away. However, the plane soon aligns its course and moves away towards the hori-



Belarusian borders reliably protected by latest aviation machinery

zon. At this moment, the noise is such that it seems as if the sky is falling. You won't see anything like this even at military parades.

Before that, the Minister of Defence, Viktor Khrenin, addressing the military, noted, "The young generation of pilots, who quickly mastered this complex type of aviation equipment, took up combat duty. This indicates the effectiveness



Officially taking up combat duty on Su-30SM fighters by the pilots of the 61st fighter air base



Yury Mozolevsky

of our own national school for training military pilots."

Why is such combat duty needed? It is intended to protect the air borders of Belarus. In the language of the military, this is a special kind of duty for specially allocated air defence forces and capabilities which 'are at established levels of readiness to open an enemy air attack, to perform combat missions, to destroy combat aircraft violating

the borders of our state or to suppress its violation in airspace'.

Here is a brief description of the new combat vehicle. Su-30SM is a heavy multi-purpose fighter designed for conducting air combat, gaining air supremacy, destroying air targets day and night, in simple and difficult weather conditions, and also against the background of the earth when active and passive interference is applied. It is able to reflect the massive raids of diverse forces of the enemy, including cruise missiles and protect troops and objects from air strikes.

Pilot Andrei Krivonosov, who showed a master class (loops, half loops and other elements of aerobatics), shared his impressions of the fighter. He says that though it's heavy, you don't feel it at all in the cockpit, "The plane is exceptional, boasting amazing combat capabilities."

During a conversation with journalists, the Minister of Defence drew attention to the following, "The protection of the state border in the air is one of

the tasks that is carried out by the Armed Forces. History has taught us that peaceful politics must be supported by the ability of the state to protect its people. Today, the combat-ready Armed Forces are the guarantors of peace and tranquillity on our land. The army of the young Belarusian state had, at one point, to decide whether to keep aviation and now the combat strength of our Air Force and Air Defence includes modern fighters, attack aircraft, military transport aircraft and combat helicopters. But the most important thing is that these aircraft are piloted by our pilots who graduated from Belarusian universities. It costs a great deal."

Mr. Khrenin also stressed, "We cannot but be bothered by the increasing military activity near our state borders in recent years. We're also worried that with every year, the possibilities of modern technology are increasing. Therefore, a decision was made in favour of acquiring modern Su-30SM aircraft and putting them on combat duty. As Minister of Defence, I have not the slightest doubt that those pilots who stand around the clock on alert, who hold the 'keys to heaven' in their hands, will ensure peace and stability on our land."



Cardiology Republican Scientific-Practical Centre

By Irina Sergeeva

"Everything is changing in this world, as well as cardiac surgical approaches. Previously, these were mostly 'open' operations, but modern technology has developed so much that it is now possible to make small incisions or punctures through a needle to pass a valve through the heart. Construction of a hybrid surgery centre will give such opportunities to the main cardiology centre of the country. Its commissioning is planned for 2024," announced Aleksandr Mrochek, the Cardiology Director.

According to him, the centre needs appropriate equipment and architectural solutions. "Today, all this is embodied in the building under construction. Operating rooms will be equipped with visualisation equipment. Some might put a CT in the operating room for this purpose (this is mainly done by neurologists) but cardiologists need angiographic equipment. Modern angiographs have the function of computed tomog-

## Perspective for many years

### Hybrid surgery centre to be built in Minsk, at Cardiology Republican Scientific-Practical Centre — to be launched in 2024



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raphy, thus making it possible to plan the operation scheme immediately on the spot and change tactics if — for some reason — the surgeon decides to do so. It's a prospect for many years to come for our centre," emphasised Mr. Mrochek.

After the hybrid surgery centre's construction, it is planned to open laboratories for hybrid cardiovascular surgery, as well as a material and technical base for the organisation, training, operation and interaction

of these laboratories. Domestic modern devices (stent grafts, valve-containing stents, etc.) based on hybrid cardiovascular surgery technology will also be developed and tested.

Belarus is constantly working to improve and introduce high-tech methods of treatment of cardiovascular diseases. With this in view, the centre's work will help significantly reduce the death rate of patients with severe pathologies.



Hybrid surgery centre under construction



# Things moving uphill

Large-scale works to strengthen the slope on Zamkovaya Hill in Novogrudok have begun

The ruins of the once majestic Novogrudok Castle attract guests even in their present condition. As the tourist season begins, streams of people with cameras arrive. A history frozen in ruins always evokes mixed feelings. It's possible to turn on one's own imagination and imagine how, hundreds of years ago, knights in shining armour fought battles for beautiful ladies. In the absence of imagination, deadly ancient ruins appear in front of the traveller's eyes, which seem to reach out from the hill. Recently, work began to strengthen the slope on Zamkovaya Hill in Novogrudok. What other changes will there be at the site of these historical events in the foreseeable future?

By Tatiana Kondratieva

## Rock-like slope

The *Reconstruction with the Preservation and Adaptation of the Historical and Cultural Value of Novogrudok Castle* architectural project is divided into six launch sites. The client is the Capital Construction Department of the Grodno Regional Executive Committee. In 2014, the conservation of Kostelnaya Tower of the famous castle in Novogrudok was completed. As a result, it has changed beyond recognition. The picturesque ruins with their authentic bricks are now hidden under a layer of new masonry made on a special line at the Goryn Building Materials Plant. The builders preserved the Vendian masonry and the thickness of the seams. The metal structure that supports the tower can be easily dismantled and with the advent of new technologies it's possible to restore the old look.

"These were the first and second stages of the project," notes Sergey Tsaruk, the Deputy Director General of the Capital Construction Department of the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, introducing us to the project. "We've recently started the third phase: the strengthening of the slope of Zamkovaya Hill. A noticeable crack from the side of the fortified Kostelnaya Tower appeared in 2017. At the same time, experts began to speak about the danger of a landslide and the threat of destruction."

After finalising the design estimates, works continued this year. To strengthen the slope, experts decided to install gabions — metal structures filled with stones. The total length of such a structure in Novogrudok will be about 33 metres. The main task of the gabions is to stop the sliding of soil from a steep slope, which usually occurs after heavy rainfall. In fact, they will become a new retaining wall, its height will be about two metres. The major works began in early May. Before that, stones for gabions were brought from all over the region. According to estimates, about 250 tonnes will be required.

At the same time, workers are adding roads for vehicles to drive up to the site. After all, the installation of gabions is only the first step in strengthening the slope. The main thing is a complex system of bored piles and anchors. They



Serious works to restore the castle began in 2012, when Novogrudok and Lyubcha castles were included in the *Castles of Belarus* state programme

Artyom Turlay



To strengthen the slope, experts decided to install gabions — metal structures filled with stones



The ruins of the once majestic Novogrudok Castle attract guests even in their present condition

will concrete the slope, turning it into a rock, enabling the castle to stand for more than a century. Then the slope will be covered with a polymer net with grass seeds, which will further strengthen the surface of the hill with its roots. This technology has already been used to save the 12th century Kolozha Church and reconstruct the Old Castle in Grodno. More than \$125,000 (equivalent) has already been allocated from the regional budget to carry out work to strengthen the slope of the Zamkovaya Hill in Novogrudok.

## Save for the future

Serious works to restore the castle began in 2012, when Novogrudok and Lyubcha castles were included in the

*Castles of Belarus* state programme. Natalia Zhishko, the chief expert of the Culture Department of the Novogrudok District Executive Committee, tells us about the past and present of the castle, "Actually, the preservation of Novogrudok Castle was begun in the 1920s, when the city was part of Poland. The Poles then preserved the remains of two towers — Kostelnaya and Shchitovka — restored part of the wall between them, worked out the size and drew an approximate plan of the entire castle. After the end of WWII, Petersburg archaeologists came to work in the city. The older generation remember those grand excavations, but the collection later went to the Hermitage. The most valuable exhibit is the St. Jadwiga Cup. It is believed that this was a gift to Mindaugas in honour of his coronation from the Byzantine emperor. Last year, we managed to contact the museum regarding the item. However, they unfortunately replied: 'The condition does not allow for transport of the artefact'."

Excavations were carried out in 2011 with the participation of Belarusian archaeologists, led by scientific head Andrei Metelsky. It was then that the Posadskaya and Dozornaya towers, which require conservation, were identified. The remains of the palace, as well as the 14th century churches, have survived underground, as has an amazing monument — similar to the ancient

buildings of Polotsk and Grodno. It is very important to preserve all this for future generations as it is a calling card of the country.

Today the castle does not give the impression of a medieval celebrity. Expensive works are aimed exclusively at preserving the historical and cultural object, which is already about a thousand years old. But someday (by the standards of history) restorers with advanced technologies will come and do everything right. At present, the Novogrudok ruins can easily earn the money for their own maintenance as thousands of those keen on antiquities from all over the country come to the jousting tournaments.

"During the fourth stage, it is planned to carry out drainage from the inner city or, in a simple way, the courtyard of the castle with its subsequent improvements," Mr. Tsaruk explains the procedure for further actions. "At the same time, design estimates are being developed for the conservation of the Posadskaya, Dozornaya and Entrance towers. This is the fifth launch complex."

Next in line is the Shchitovka Tower — once a reliable guard of the medieval city. It was five-storey and it's possible that between the floors there were wooden stairs. On the eastern wall, the remains of a small bay window — a ledge — is preserved, on which an alarm bell may have hung.

After preservation, a museum exhibition dedicated to the history of the fortress is to be placed in two floors of the Shchitovka Tower. Landscaping is planned to be thematic: for example, paths will repeat the silhouette of the castle, and layouts will give an idea of its appearance. Documentary sources that testify to what the castle really was like have not been preserved. Archaeologists believe that there were seven towers in the fortress, while in other castles there were no more than five. It is too early to speak about completion dates; this depends directly on financing.

Novogrudok Castle is a unique monument of defensive architecture of the Middle Ages, the ancient centre of Novogrudok, the residence of the grand dukes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. It existed in the 14th-17th centuries. The foundation and the remains of the walls have been preserved.





## Cultural life is back in Europe

As museums and galleries are emerging from their coronavirus lockdowns, most are still puzzling over how to reconfigure their spaces in line with new health and safety regulations

The world's most popular museum, the Louvre, has reopened its doors after months of closure, but while visiting it will now be a slightly different experience, its star attraction should at least be free of crowds.

*The Mona Lisa*, normally mobbed by people trying to get their own cellphone snap of Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, can now be viewed by visitors following a one-way route and observing social distancing.

Anyone wanting to visit the Louvre, which shut its doors back in March as the Covid-19 pandemic locked down Paris, will be required to pre-book a time slot. Inside, face masks are com-

pulsory and social distancing of at least one metre will be enforced.

There will be other notable differences. For the time being, the cloakroom will be closed — so it's worth packing light — and some galleries will remain closed, including the French sculptures of the Middle Ages and Renaissance section and the arts of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas.

La Scala reopened with a mini-season of concerts before grand reopening in September.

Milan's La Scala Opera House reopened for a series of four concerts from July 6th-15th before closing again until its official reopening in September.

Those attending the special performances in July have to abide by social distancing rules, with a maximum of 600 spectators compared to the usual 2,000. The bar and cloakroom will remain closed.

The Opera House will reopen officially on September 3rd with Verdi's *Requiem*, followed on September 5th with Beethoven's *Ninth*, both conducted by Riccardo Chailly.

Meanwhile, a topical exhibition is being showcased at the reopening to the Nobel Prize Museum in Sweden. It shows how throughout history, humans have faced challenges in understanding, managing and fighting viruses.

## Pope supports UN appeal of ceasefire

The UN ceasefire initiative is directed at conflicts around the world, from the Congo to Myanmar

Pope Francis has backed a UN initiative for a global ceasefire in light of the coronavirus pandemic. In remarks following his Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, the Pope praised the 'commendable' initiative, which he said 'would allow the peace and security essential to providing humanitarian assistance'.

The call for a global ceasefire was unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council, with the members of the Security Council, including the US, Russia, the UK and China, passing a resolution calling for 'a general and immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations'. The resolution calls on those in armed conflict to immediately commence a ceasefire for the relief and support of civilian populations impacted by the coronavirus.

In his remarks, Pope Francis called for a ceasefire to be implemented 'effectively and promptly', and outlined his support for 'the creation of corridors for humanitarian aid, openness to diplomacy, and attention to those who find themselves in situations of vulnerability'. The Pope also prayed that the Security Council resolution might 'become a courageous first step towards a peaceful future'.

The Security Council resolution has been welcomed by activists previously frustrated with the Council's slowness to respond to calls for a ceasefire. 172 UN member states had individually indicated support by the end of last month, and according to the UN, ceasefires had been enforced in 16 different conflicts around the world.

## Record-breaking artwork

A British artist based in Dubai, who went to Eton with Prince William and whose celebrity clients include Leonardo DiCaprio, has been self-isolating in the Atlantis Hotel for the last 6 weeks creating record-breaking artwork

Sacha Jafri's painting *We Stand Together — Humanity Inspired* will raise money for charity, while breaking five artistic all-time world records in the process.

He said that it will be the largest single painting (110m x 28m) ever created on canvas. It will also be the largest single acrylic painting created on canvas (100m x 12m), the largest oil painting ever created on canvas: (61.49sq.m), and the largest painting ever to hang in a frame: (20m x 14m).

The artwork, which will come to life at Atlantis, The Palm, will then be transported to The Dubai Frame where it will be hung for 48 hours.

As part of the project, Sacha is inviting children around the world to submit their own art themed around isolation and connection which will be added to the painting.

"All of these portals will be full of the children's drawings and artwork that they send in. The idea is that you look through the portals to take you to a better world. And you get there through the hearts, minds and souls of the children of the world," he said.

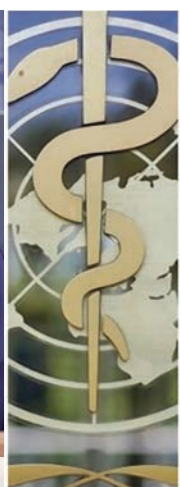
Once completed the piece will be auctioned and it is hoped it will raise over 20 million Euros to support educational resources for children as well as hospitals and healthcare workers.

While Sacha has been keen to raise as much money as possible, he's also very particular about who owns his work.

"I don't want anyone to buy it, store it and sell it four years later, because that's everything I don't believe in. I want someone to be touched. I want someone to stand in front of my painting and cry," he said.



Donald Trump



Tedros Ghebreyesus

## Trump administration moves to formally withdraw US from WHO

The Trump administration has officially begun to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organisation, even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to grip the globe and infections spike in many states across the US

Congress received formal notification of the decision, more than a month after President Donald Trump announced his intention to end the US relationship with the WHO and blasted the multilateral institution as a tool of China.

Democrats said the decision was irresponsible and ill-considered. Tarik Jasarevic, a spokesman for the WHO, said the organisation had received reports of the United States' formal notification. "We have no further information on this at this stage," he said.

Trump and his advisers have blasted

the WHO for failing to press China to be more transparent about the scope and severity of the COVID-19 outbreak, which began in Wuhan, China. Trump has said that China 'has total control' over the WHO, even though it contributes far less than the US to the health organisation's budget. The US has contributed approximately \$450 million a year.

Critics said Trump's WHO attacks are an attempt to deflect blame from his own mishandling of the coronavirus outbreak — and one that will end up hurting the US.



# Their joy and reward

Badges, medals, orders, tokens, coins, signboards and plates: we often see all these on people or buildings, studying the design and execution of such items. *The MT* reporters saw with their own eyes how the medals, orders and badges — awarded for high merit — are created, and learned about the process from sketch to final product.



INSIDE

By Alina Kasel

## All new

In Minsk there is an enterprise that has gone from a small creative workshop that makes interesting interior elements and industrial design, to an enterprise that creates items that are bestowed upon the best of the best in our country. We are visiting the Sens-Geraldika LLC which specialises in the development and manufacture of orders, medals, badges, accessories and souvenirs for all ministries, departments, universities, enterprises, law enforcement agencies and others. The experts who are involved in the production, have been making projects, sketches and final products from A to Z for 30 years already! In addition, each state medal, order and other awards are approved by the Heraldic Council overseen by the President, so the craftsmen treat everything very seriously. Looking ahead, we can say that the heart of the matter is in the love of one's work, maintaining a good reputation and the simple desire to produce products in high quality.

We saw this right away, evidenced by the most beautiful medals, orders, badges on blue velvet, created in different colours, forms and variants... some shine with cubic zirconias, while others are made in one colour. Each medal has its own story and its own future. Soon, completely new medals for the honoured people of the country, which have yet to be finished and presented to them, will become part of the story: 'People's Artist', 'Honoured Artist', 'Honoured Worker of Social Protection', 'Honoured Doctor', 'Honoured Figure of Culture', 'Honoured Employee of the Prosecutor's Office', 'Honoured Coach', 'Honoured Figure of Arts', etc. All are made of brass and decorated with moire ribbons.

Here is the anniversary medal for '75 years of Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945'; it was made recently, but it is already being proudly worn and kept as a special memory. On one side of the coin is a victorious warrior with a waving flag, a partisan with a machine gun and a woman with a bouquet of flowers. The other side depicts the name of the award and a wreath of laurel and oak leaves, entwined with ribbon. The medal inscribed '75 Years of Victory

in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. To the Participant of the Parade' turns out to be no less spectacular. The one side bears this inscription while the other portrays an obelisk from Pobedy Square, an ear, a map of Belarus and the inscription: 'May 9th — Victory Day'.

## Will technology replace people?

A long process, comprising 24 important points, must be completed from the start of a piece of metal to it being made into a medal. Kirill Korolevich, co-owner of the facility, notes, "Everything lies in the nuances, the devil is in the details."



Irina Lukashovich has been working with enamel for 20 years

Vitaly Pivovarchik



In brief, the designers first create a sketch and then agree the design with the customers. Then they prepare the metal, which will become the matrix — the stamp, according to which medals will be made. Once an engraver — now the only specialist — used to cut the metal with a pin under a microscope. Now the computer laser is responsible for this work. A three-dimensional model of the desired image is projected onto the metal and the laser cuts out the necessary pattern to make a print. Subsequently, it will become the main item in the 360-tonne press to press on the medal blanks. The engraver manually adjusts all the elements to make the future pressrun perfect. But this does not always happen: sometimes engravers must work out a lot of details with their own hands in order to get a high-quality product. One of these experts is currently working on a medal which will only be awarded in 2021!

We go to enamels — specialists who paint the medals. They have a syringe with paint and a medical needle in their hands. Emalier Irina Lukashovich, who has worked here for more than 20 years and came here after her



mother, looks through a magnifying glass at a medal for employees of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and puts a micro-drop of the desired colour into the cell — invisible to my eye. After all, the medal itself should shine!

Only after applying a protective and decorative coating for the durability of the colour of metal, coloured enamels and paints, are the medals transferred to a special oven, where they dry out at a temperature of 100 degrees. After that, they are



Kirill Korolevich: 'The main materials we work with are brass and tompek; these copper alloys are easily machined and have high corrosion resistance'



This is what the stamp for the medals looks like

transferred to the assembly line.

## A miser pays twice

It is interesting that the facility uses a lot of rare equipment enabling its workers to make medals and other products: a unique machine for dies, electric brass polishing, electron beam decoration, a machine for applying diamond-like coatings, the country's only vacuum system that produces silver and gold spray. "The main materials we

work with are brass and tompek; these copper alloys are easily machined and have high corrosion resistance. To cover them only we use silver, gold, copper and other metals. Enamel is the decoration. In order for everything to live a long life and not crumble after the award, these materials are needed," concludes Kirill Korolevich. "If you make a medal, which should be an item of pride, a symbol, a memory for many years, it must be made of those materials that will live long."

Otherwise, why is such a medal needed if it is not worthy of the one to whom it was awarded?



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# Men's games

Restrictions are no hindrance for real art. Forced rest allowed stars to return to their favourite hobbies: culinary, craft and horticultural. For the People's Artist of Belarus, Igor Artamonov, aircraft equipment from the Second World War is the source of inspiration. Few people know, but the premier of the Bolshoi Theatre has been doing bench modelling for many years and even receives awards from international competitions. The actor of the Yanka Kupala Theatre, Ivan Trus, on the contrary, is more inclined to earthly techniques, collecting models of tanks and automobiles. The Bolshoi Theatre artist, Ivan Savenkov, is also not idle. The leather accessories made by him are worn by both Sergey Shnurov and Boris Grebenshchikov.

By Yuliana Leonovich

## Aircraft comes first

Igor Artamonov's home collection already boasts four dozen aircraft, with each of them being a work of art. The artist believes there is no avoiding the detail in bench modelling. Otherwise, how can one achieve historical authenticity?

"At the heart of any model are plastic parts that are sold in most stores. Already at the first stages of assembly, the modeller begins to improve the layout, depending on the level of their skills. At first, I download drawings from the Internet and look for photos of real prototypes. All additional parts are made by hand: from engines and wiring to instruments in the cab and seat belts."

Igor Artamonov became addicted to airplanes as a child, independently assembling his first model at the age of 6.

"Why planes? Because my generation was brought up not on Pokemon and Supermen, but on the heroes of the Great Patriotic War. We watched movies and read books — and really wanted to see live military equipment and touch it with our hands."

It's believed that bench modelling as a hobby began in the UK. During WWII, the population was expected to notify the air defence service of approaching German aircraft. To help citizens, the military made small models, which over time turned into ornaments in houses. Igor Artamonov calculates it takes about a year to produce one aircraft.

"However, it all depends on the model. For example, I was assembling the American Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress bomber for four years. But this is because I'm already at a level where I want to improve every new model. I'm keen to try different materials and technologies."

In the days when there are no performances, the artist has more free time to devote to his favourite hobby.

"Previously, I could give only 3 to 4 hours a week to it, but now I try to spend 2-3 hours every evening. Every year I go to exhibitions with my models in Vilnius and St. Petersburg. Last year, I went to the interna-

## What did famous artists do while the doors of theatres were closed to audiences?

tional exhibition-contest in Kiev for the first time and won three prizes, including the Grand Prix."

Now Igor Artamonov is busy assembling the famous British bomber, the Avro Lancaster. "It's rather rare and old, and I was lucky to have found it. I often bring models from Japan, where prices are more reasonable. Previously, on occasion, I have filled the wardrobe with boxes, but at some point I stopped. I realised that I couldn't buy the time to assemble them all," he says.

## In full view

Ivan Trus, an actor of the Yanka Kupala Theatre, is also involved in the creation of accurate miniature copies of military equipment and weapons during his leisure time. His fascination with 'cars' comes from the same place, from his Soviet childhood.

"Like any boy, I assembled models of tanks, planes and machine-gun crews with my dad. Then I grew up and abandoned this occupation, but about ten years ago I tried to remember it, and unexpectedly got involved once again."

Unlike Igor Artamonov, Ivan does not take his hobby seriously. He notes jokingly that he is fond of modelling



Ivan Trus



The Soviet ZIS-5V was the first to replenish Ivan Trus' home collection of miniature models



Igor Artamonov



All leather products on Ivan Savenkov are of his own design and production



Designer shoes made by Ivan Savenkov

exclusively 'at the level of an actor in a drama theatre'.

"For me, this is primarily a rest from my main work. When you glue something and paint it, the fine motor skills of the hands are involved. So, a person focuses on the details and concentrates, and all thoughts about problems and concerns go away immediately."

While the Yanka Kupala Theatre was on forced vacation, the actor spent his time well. Within two months he has assembled and painted two models: the American Dodge and the Soviet ZIS-5V.

"I tried to stretch out the pleasure and was not really in a hurry. My daughter, however, was trying to help me all the time — primarily with artistic advice. When the models were ready, I could not stand it and officially presented my work to my friends on Facebook. And immediately there was a bunch of questions: Did you make it on your own? How did you make this? Where do you

buy the parts? I don't plan to assemble a collection yet. But who knows where to go next?"

## Skin change

Ivan Savenkov has succeeded in the manufacture of designer leather accessories — from bracelets and watchbands to key holders and bags — no less than in ballet. In 2015, the artist created his own brand — 'Brutal Bros'. Since then, not only passionate fans, but also star rockers, including Boris Grebenshchikov and Sergey Shnurov, have managed to acquire jewellery from Savenkov.

Ivan made the first bracelet from an old belt. This jewellery is still kept in the dancer's collection.

"In one of his last interviews, Tarkovsky spoke interestingly about creativity: 'A person does something because he wants to do it. And only then does he search for the causal relationships of his activity. Or others do it for him'. So here I'm making accessories sim-

ply because I cannot do otherwise. If an idea appears in my head, I will not rest until I bring it to life."

The first bracelet that Ivan made not for himself, but to order, went to Moscow. The buyer simply wrote to the artist on one of the social networks. Then another person wrote, and more... So Savenkov realised that his hobby was, among other things, reliable financial support, "I work with each thing individually, as an artist on a painting. I do not give work to the customer until I understand that it is exactly the way I intended it to be. Therefore, I do not have mass production, all accessories are made for a specific person. Some are ready to wait a few months."

The artist's price tag is far from democratic, and the cost of each item is individual.

"I will explain: in this way people are screened out, for whom the bracelet is just a piece of leather on the arm. Because for lovers, my bracelets are part of the image, a welcome thing, and not a spontaneous purchase. I work for quality, not quantity, a lot of energy and energy is invested in every item. Moreover, I always use an individual approach. I do not use patterns and all the skin is cut manually. This is my method, one might even say, the author's experience. There are simply no other such accessories."

## Photo from the characters' personal archive



# Supporting those who need it

## President's Sport Club was established 15 years ago

Dozens of children's and youth competitions are held in Belarus annually, attracting hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the country to playgrounds, stadiums and ski trails — enabling them to try new sports and taste victory. Every year, the most promising young athletes and coaches receive personal scholarships, and the sports facilities of children's and youth schools and other institutions — where future athletes take their first steps — are being revamped and receiving new sports equipment. All this would not have been possible without the President's Sport Club, which has recently celebrated its 15th anniversary.



**The staff of the President's Sport Club received the Presidential gratitude for their support of the sports-and-recreation movement in Belarus, creating favourable conditions for sports and physical culture, and the organisation of active recreation for citizens**

By Tatiana Pastushenko

### Investing in the future

One of the first and most ambitious projects launched by the President's Sport Club was the programme for awarding personal scholarships to young athletes and coaches. Over this time, about 2,800 of them have been given, exceeding \$9.3m (equivalent). Scholarship holders have confirmed their award more than once — winning more than 1,500 medals at major international competitions.

Each of these figures has its own fate and history. Famous Belarusian kayaker — Oleg Yurenya, winner and multiple medal holder of the world championships, three-time European champion, twice bronze medallist of the European Games — became one of the first scholarship holders of the club. Oleg admits: that financial support gave him the impetus to continue training and strive for new victories. "If I am not mistaken, I started receiving the President's Sport Club scholarship in 2008. I was pleased to be noticed and appreciated. The financial support at that time was extremely important: I didn't receive any wages as part of the national team and the scholarship was virtually my only salary. For the novice athlete that I was then, it was a huge help and incentive to grow further," he explains.

Olympic champions Andrey Aryamov, Nadezhda Skardino, Irina Krivko, Vladislav Goncharov, Anton Kushnir, Artur Litvinchuk, Games' prize-winners Andrey Kravchenko, Ksenia Sankovich, Maria Mamoshuk, Marina Litvinchuk and dozens of other athletes who won medals at major world and continental forums were once scholarship holders of the club. Since last year, the programme functioned in a new way: it does not involve members



During the young football players' 'Leather Ball' tournament for prizes of the President's Sport Club, in 2019

of national teams now but focuses on the reserve — boys and girls who are just starting to perform at international level.

Many former grant holders have participated in other projects of the President's Sport Club. Those who managed to become winners or medallists of the Olympic and European Games were given an opportunity to choose a children's and youth sports institution, which will receive free financial assistance. Following the performances of our athletes at six Olympic Games and European Games in Minsk, 48 such institutions received financial assistance from the club to the sum exceeding \$350,000.

### All ready to go!

The President's Sport Club has given impetus to the development of many sports competitions in Belarus. After taking over the patronage of the major tournaments begun back in the USSR and held in our country now — 'Golden Puck', 'Leather Ball', 'Fastball', and others, these attract many participants and are long-awaited events for thousands of children and teenagers throughout the country.

Back in Soviet times, future stars 'sparkled' in these tournaments: Oleg Blokhin, Andrey Shevchenko and Sergey Gorlukovich performed in the 'Leather Ball'; Vladislav Tretyak, Vyacheslav Fetisov and Valery Kharlamov — in the 'Golden Puck'. In the modern Belarusian history of competitions, there are also many famous names: many years ago, our national team players Pavel Nekhaichik and Sergey Kis-

lyak, who now play for BATE and Dinamo Brest, competed for the 'Leather Ball' awards.

Probably the most famous Belarusian ice hockey player — Lidia Malyavko who now plays for SKIF Nizhny Novgorod — took her first steps in the 'Golden Puck'. "I've been playing hockey since I was eleven," Lidia recalls. "I played with boys but there were no chances to compete: championships and tournaments were not held. Then I decided to try to get through to the 'Golden Puck'. According to the rules, girls were allowed to play

### FIGURES

Over **1,500** medals have been won by the club's scholarship holders at major international tournaments, including 41 (20 gold) at Olympic and Paralympic Games. **300,000** children annually participate in the national competitions: 'Snow Sniper', 'Golden Puck', 'Leather Ball', 'Fastball', 'White Rowboat' and 'A Ball over the Net'.

in the tournament so I joined the Olympia team of Grodno. We won regional competitions and went to the Republican final stage in Vitebsk. There were debates since the commission overseeing the organisation of the tournament was worried about how the girls would play against boys. However, the situation was resolved in my favour and I was allowed to compete. It wasn't difficult for me to play against boys. I really wanted to go on the ice and prove that I was as good."

Lidia succeeded, becoming the first girl in the 'sovereign' history of the tournament recognised as the best striker (scoring 9 goals).

Another, undoubtedly, bright project of the President's Sport Club is the Republican biathlon competition among children and teenagers: 'Snow Sniper'. Since its launch in 2007, the event has instantly taken the leading position in terms of attracting many participants. The tournament scheme envisages school, district and regional stages — followed by the national final and the coaches are able to notice the fastest and most accurate players countrywide, even in the most remote villages.

Aleksandr Lukashenko, who took part in the awards ceremony in 2018, also spoke about the importance of the tournament, "The value of these competitions is that they involve the best children: the 'seeds' of our country have been taken over by the coaches. We will do everything possible to ensure they'll grow into new great athletes like Domracheva, Bjorndalen, Aidarova and Popov in the future."

### Search with a scientific approach

Finding and raising a champion is not an easy task. It is even more difficult to distinguish the athlete in a young person who would be able to pass a difficult path to international victories. Previously, coaches' intuition was key in this search but now science has also contributed. The President's Sport Club has joined the Education Ministry and the Ministry of Sports and Tourism to launch a new project: *Olympic Talent*. It's based on a new approach to identifying children's predisposition to engage in specific sports. The project started last November and, to date, 77,000 of 4th-7th grade pupils have already been tested.

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The President's Sport Club supports not only those who have already chosen a sport and are training to become champions. The *Bold Step* project — launched this year — aims at children and teenagers who experience difficult situations. They are offered kickboxing and Thai boxing training at the Interior Ministry's centres of sports training. They still have a long way to go, but they have already taken the first steps towards their healthy future.

## ARENA

### ● First Belarusian Amateur Football Festival — BrandsBall Cup — to be held in Minsk

On September 4th-6th, participants from different countries will compete at the international championship among corporate football teams and for a cash prize of more than \$4,000 (equivalent) at the Olimpiyski Sports Centre. The amateur tournament will be organised as a professional event, with football fields, qualified referees and online broadcasts of all matches. 40 teams will play as part of the football festival and 30-minute (2x15) matches will be played in a 5x5 format, under FIFA mini-football rules. Any legal entity within the CIS and EU countries can register. The maximum number of team members is 15, with an unlimited number of substitutions.



### ● Brazilian midfielder Silas moves to Dinamo Minsk

The 24-year-old midfielder has signed a contract with the 'white and blue' team but its terms have not been disclosed. In the new team, he will play under the number 96.

Silas started his career in Internacional's youth team and, in summer 2017, he moved to Lugansk's Zarya where he played in the group round of the Europa League.

The footballer spent the 2019/2020 season on loan at Israel's Ironi; he played 20 matches but showed no significant results.



### ● A record contract in the history of world sports signed

A quarterback from the National Football League's Kansas City — Patrick Mahomes — has signed a new

contract which has become a record in the history of world sports.

According to the NFL's official website, 24-year-old Patrick Mahomes, who plays for Kansas City, brought his team to a Super Bowl victory last year. The club became champions for the first time since 1970. The quarterback was named as the most valuable player in the game (MVP), becoming the youngest player in the history of the League to receive this title.

The club decided to extend the player's contract, which expires this year. Over the next 10 years of playing for Kansas City, Mahomes will receive a record \$500m.

Previously, the record was held by Los Angeles Angels baseball player, Mike Trout. In 2012, he signed a 12-year, \$430m contract.







## Photo of the week

The lavender season currently reigns in Belarus. Provence in miniature has been created by Yelena Denisenko, in her family garden near Mogilev.

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On July 16th, 1990**, the Museum of the History of Mogilev was established, and was opened to visitors in 2002. In 2006,

a branch of the museum was set up: the Buinichi Field Memorial. The museum archives boast collections of archaeological finds, including jewellery from the 10th-11th centuries, collections of tiles, dishes, toys, cradles, weapons from the 16th-18th centuries, photographs of 1941-1946 reflecting the combat record of the 1942 Order of Aleksandr Nevsky separate motor engineering battalion of the 33rd separate motor engineering brigade of special purpose, etc. *Mogilev of 1941: Days and Nights of Courage* exposition is deployed in the branch of the museum at Buinichi Field.

**On July 17th-August 2nd, 1945**, the Allied Conference of World War II was held in Potsdam, a suburb of Berlin. The chief participants were the USSR (I.V. Stalin), Great



Britain (W. Churchill, C. Attlee) and the USA (H. Truman). The conference decided on the demilitarisation and denazification of Germany, on the western border of Poland while also confirming the transfer of Konigsberg and the surrounding area to the USSR. An important decision at the conference was the provisions for reparations.



**On July 19th, 1450**, Uzda was first mentioned in written sources as the courtyard (estate) of the Korsakovs in the Minsk District. At present, it's a town — the centre of Uzda District of the Minsk Region.

**On July 19th, 1980**, the official ceremony of the lighting of the Olympic flame took place on Tsentralnaya (Central) Square in Minsk. At the 22nd Olympic Games in Moscow (July 19th-August 3rd), 28 Belarusian athletes became Olympic champions: T.M. Ivinskaya (basketball), B.V. Isachenko (archery), N.I. Kirov (running), O.N. Logvin (cycling), A.S. Portnov (springboard) and others; they won 11 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze medals.



**July 19th** is Metallurgist Day in the Republic of Belarus. It's celebrated annually on the third Sunday of July. This difficult profession requires considerable physical effort and awareness of responsibility for one's own work. Metallurgist Day is a holiday for all those who connect their lives with fire, all who produce steel — that the country needs so much — from ore. Today, Belarus occupies one of the leading places among CIS countries in terms of production of metallurgical products.

**July 20th** is World Chess Day. It's celebrated on the day of the founding in Paris (1924) of the International Chess Federation (FIDE). FIDE's activities are aimed at the distribution and development of chess around the world, as well as the promotion and raising of the level of chess culture and knowledge. According to FIDE, today chess is recognised as a sport in 107 countries around the world.



**July 20th** is International Cake Day. The celebration was founded by the Kingdom of Love club in Milan, which unites enthusiastic creative people. The day is dedicated not only to a sweet treat, but also to friendship and peace between countries and peoples. Its motto is 'I CAKE YOU', which means 'I will come and bring you a cake'.



**On July 22nd, 1895**, Pavel Osipovich Sukhoi was born (Glubokoe, Vitebsk Region) — aircraft designer, Doctor of Technical Sciences (1940), twice Hero of Socialist Labour (1957, 1965), a laureate of the Lenin Prize (1968) and USSR State Prize (1943, 1975). In 1925, he graduated from the Moscow Higher Technical School. He is one of the founders of jet and supersonic aviation. He created a combat multi-purpose aircraft Su-2 and armoured attack aircraft Su-6. Sukhoi designed over 50 aircraft models, more than 20 of them were mass-produced. On aircraft of his design, world records were established in terms of length, speed and flight altitude. Gomel's State Technical University was named after him, while monuments were unveiled in Gomel, Glubokoe and Luninets. He died in 1975.

