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Festival and city rocking together

The 26th International Festival of Arts successfully took place in Vitebsk → 9

Partners have topics for discussion

Alexander Lukashenko attends opening of the 26th International Festival of Arts — *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk*, speaking at ceremony and presenting his special award: Through Art to Peace and Mutual Understanding.

By Maxim Osipov

On the eve of the event, Mr. Lukashenko met the President of Moldova, Igor Dodon, who was on his first visit to our country

as president.

The presidents discussed various aspects of how best to develop the Belarusian-Moldovan co-operation: mutual interaction in trade and the economic, politi-

cal and social spheres. Another topic for discussion was collaboration through integration. Mr. Dodon believes this aspect of mutual relations is extremely important.



Igor Dodon

Prospects determined during negotiations

Belarus and Spain have signed a memorandum envisaging the establishment of a joint intergovernmental commission for economic and industrial co-operation

During his working visit to Spain, Belarus' Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, held a meeting with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Maria Luisa Ponce. A memorandum was signed between the governments of Belarus and Spain for economic and industrial co-operation, envisaging the creation of a joint intergovernmental commission. The two parties agreed to hold the first meeting of the commission in Minsk in autumn 2017.

The Head of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry was received by the President of the Spanish Senate, Pio Garcia-Escudero. The two sides discussed the prospects for developing inter-parliamentary cooperation and the parliamentary support of future bilateral economic projects.

Mr. Makei also had talks with Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Alfonso Dastis Quecedo. The ministers considered a range of bilateral relations, exchanged opinions on the current international agenda, discussed the prospects for Belarus' collaboration with the EU and interaction in the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

More initiative expected from diplomats today

Belarus should loudly declare itself within the international arena — notes President Alexander Lukashenko, at meeting devoted to foreign policy

Vasily Kharitonov

Speaking of enhancing the role of Belarus in world politics, the Head of State stressed that the country has all reason to do so. "Truly, for most of the world, we're a young sovereign state. However, our state has been forming for several centuries. State formations — existing prior to modern Belarus — were fully-fledged participants of events taking place in our region. Moreover, they sometimes set the tone. Therefore, we've already certain historical experience of an active foreign policy," he added.

The Government should conduct an export audit across all sectors, the President stressed, adding that we need to develop a new export strategy, based on improving its structure. "It's not good enough that over 80 percent of our exports to Europe comprise raw materials and semi-finished products," Mr. Lukashenko asserted. "We must strive to create joint facilities, with the participation of western capital, to introduce advanced technologies and experience, bringing our exporters to international production chains of famous European and global corporations."

Innovative and high technology products are certainly enjoying greater importance. "It's necessary to develop not only 'what we can produce today' but 'what we can produce to be in demand tomorrow'. This is a problem for the industry, which creates the basis of the economy — for industry and scientists. "We'll talk about this in autumn, during a major congress of scientists," said Mr. Lukashenko. "We should, in no case, allow the country to lag behind, either technically or technologically, compared to our trading partners and developed economies in general. We should establish not only an IT park but also an IT country, as has been voiced many times."



At the meeting on priorities in the Belarusian foreign policy

The President has ordered ambassadors to join forces with the Economy Ministry, the Industry Ministry and other organisations, to vigorously attract investors with the most advanced technologies.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, the observed high level of trust, comprehensive strategic partnership and mutually beneficial co-operation with China requires attention to both the implementation of bilateral projects and co-operation within large-scale integration associations. "This especially refers to the initiative of President Xi Jinping: One Belt — One Road. Belarus should use this historic opportunity to become an important transit, logistic, manufacturing and technological link in this new transcontinental integration project," the President stressed.

The Great Stone Industrial Park — named by Xi Jinping as 'the pearl of the economic belt of the Silk Road' is to become an effective tool. According to the President, it should be used to attract the most advanced technology and production from around the world. "I

underline: from around the world, not just from China! Conditions to achieve this have been created," Mr. Lukashenko added.

"I'm expecting concrete results from this work, from heads of foreign offices. Jointly with the management company and the Park's administration, we'll bring in serious investors," he added.

He notes that South Korea can and must become a major foothold in the long arc, having a huge market of almost two billion people. In recent years, states in the region have been demonstrating steady economic growth, modernising their industry and agriculture, and building major roads and other resources, including energy infrastructure. These all create demand for goods and services, which can be provided by Belarusian exports. The time has come to transform political dialogue with leading countries in the region — such as India, Iran, Pakistan — into economic dividends.

The President noted that he enjoys very good relationships with heads of India and Pakistan: coun-

tries demonstrating huge interest in the development of co-operation with Belarus.

The further normalisation of relations with the European Union remains among Belarus' economic priorities. "Our neighbour — the European Union — is going through difficult times, as it's faced a whole number of serious challenges. However, I can assure you that the EU will cope with these challenges. As I've said many times, we need a strong European Union, both economically and politically. The EU is a powerful pillar in the multipolar world. That says it all," Mr. Lukashenko stressed.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, holding the 26th annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Minsk brings recognition for the new role of Belarus. It was the first time Belarus hosted such a large-scale international political forum. "It's important that Belarus has proposed the idea of starting a new Helsinki Process: wide-ranging dialogue between East and West to overcome existing differences in Eurasia," the President said.

Transition period to be used beneficially

By Olga Korneeva

Belarus and EU approve agreement on readmission

The Belarusian Interior Ministry hosted expert consultations regarding the draft Belarus-EU agreement on readmission, involving representatives of Belarusian government agencies and a delegation of the Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission.

"During the meeting, the participants of the event agreed the document in principle. Provisions regarding the transition period during which Belarus won't be accepting citizens of third countries or stateless persons, subject to readmission, have been preserved," explained Alexey Begun, the Head of the Interior Ministry's Department for Citizenship and Migration.

The transition period will be used to create the necessary infrastructure, including accommodation centres for illegal migrants, as part of an international technical project, which is planned for implementation in 2017-2022.

Adequate response to tasks

Alexander Lukashenko asserts Belarus' relationship with Russian language, at opening of plenary session of 19th World Congress of Russian Press

By Vladimir Khromov

According to Mr. Lukashenko, Russian-language mass media have a huge audience and sphere of influence, playing an important role in upholding the Eastern Slavonic cultural code, values and principles. "Through the traditions of our great Russian language, the values of the Slavonic world are manifested as spiritual and moral ideals, as well as a desire to achieve justice, to do good, to serve society, and unite in the face of common disaster. Unfortunately, these simple and understandable guidelines are not always honoured. We can see how tensions are manifested in a number of areas globally, and how conflicts reach boiling point. Blood is shed, and the geopolitical canvas of the world is redesigned. The global information space is changing radically," he said.

The President noted that the media write today's history, giving an overview of events and developments, while creating the picture of the world. "This is why professionalism and civic responsibility of media representatives are of immense importance. Of course, readers want sensations. Newspapers, TV chan-



nels, Internet publications — especially in our modern times — thrive on scandal, which they often independently produce. However, such an approach has its price."

"Some say that these go with the job but I can hardly agree. Today, in the context of complex socio-political and socio-economic transformations, when moral standards break down, society won't survive if moral and ethical laws aren't restored. The state will also have a difficult time if its foundation loses integrity, a responsible attitude, and simple decency. I think we all should understand this," Mr. Lukashenko said.

The Belarusian leader commented that politicians, public figures,

government officials and journalists are equally responsible for their choices. "Even if we make mistakes, we should acknowledge them, to prevent conflicts and protect the peaceful course of life. Unfortunately, sometimes, conflicts arise when someone makes a hasty move, gives in to sensationalism or conceals the essence of a problem," he added.

The speed of information distribution and its influence on people's consciousness are gaining in significance. The Head of State notes that people seem to wish to know everything as quickly as possible. «Whether printed in a newspaper, broadcast on the TV or, especially, placed on the Internet and spread through social

networks, information often fails to match reality. As a result, this information becomes a weapon provoking conflict and armed clashes," Mr. Lukashenko said. "While fomenting enmity and hatred, it's impossible to build a peaceful society, or to healthily share opposing opinions, including political and social approaches to life. I hope you'll agree that it's hardly possible to explain everything with ratings in this respect."

The President drew attention to the theme of 'hybrid wars' — including in cyberspace, relating to the economy and politics. "I'm trying to explain that wars in the media space are probably the most important and may even be the first stage in modern

warfare. Rather than artillery, the mass media goes to war, becoming a major component of hybrid wars." Mr. Lukashenko added. "It's hardly possible to argue with the assertion that life has accelerated in many ways. To keep pace with the progress of global development, it's not enough just to run blindly; we need to avoid rushing to share sensations. After all, peace and tranquillity in society depend on you! Let's not forget about this."

Mr. Lukashenko noted that the World Congress of Russian Press has established itself as an important forum for professional communication. "When the question arose on whether to hold the Congress in Minsk, we decided immediately to host the forum, knowing you to have been always responsible. If it were otherwise, we'd have found a reason for refusal. The forum has no closed topics or idle talk: only accurate facts and well-grounded opinions, as true journalism dictates. This makes you different from others, and you should preserve this."

Mr. Lukashenko expressed his hope that the event in Minsk will result in constructive initiatives to clean up lies in the common information space. "Belarus has become a major venue for peaceful settlement. Our country has always been open to new contacts and information exchanges. Let's consider arranging a large-scale international forum in Minsk, a sort of Helsinki-2. Why not invite politicians, scientists, and people of culture and business to join us in discussing issues of peace?" the Belarusian President suggested. He'd like to see the journalistic community making a great contribution to this. "Let's think about this initiative, that's open to all countries and people. I'll always support you in such undertakings," Mr. Lukashenko concluded.

Partners from around the world

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarus demonstrates striking example of unity of two languages — as declared by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, President of the World Association of Russian Press Vitaly Ignatenko, at plenary session of 19th World Congress of Russian Press — Partnership for the Future: Priorities of Modern Civilisation — held in Minsk

Speaking of the Francysk Skaryna Medal, which Mr. Ignatenko received from the Belarusian President, he emphasised, "It's important that the 500th anniversary of book-printing is so widely celebrated in your Republic. Skaryna did much for the de-

velopment of Slavic sciences and languages, also being among the first translators of the Bible," he noted.

The official added that, in recent times, Minsk has become the capital of large-scale international events. "Not long ago, the PA OSCE session ended. During the event, very important initiatives for the whole of Europe and the world were voiced. Now, it's hosting the Russian press event," he said.

The 19th World Congress of Russian Press - Partnership for the Future: Priorities of Modern Civilisation gathered media representatives from fifty-two states in Belarus. The country was welcoming the Congress for the second time, as the 15th event was held in Belarus in 2013. This



Vitaly Ignatenko

time, among its organisers were the World Association of Russian Press, the Ministry of Information of Belarus and the Fund of Co-operation with the Russian Press (WARP Fund).

The World Association of Russian Press — founded on June 24th, 1999 — is an open international non-governmental organisation of printed and

electronic media, agencies, publishers and editors, and TV and radio programmes. According to the WARP Council, Russian-language newspapers and magazines, publishing, radio and television now operate in over seventy countries; a significant share are represented in the WARP or co-operate with it.

Straight talk for Formula of Power

By Alexey Fedosov

Alexander Lukashenko meets UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, President of the World Association of Russian Press Vitaly Ignatenko and Executive Secretary of the World Association of Russian Press, and First Deputy General Director of TASS Information Agency Mikhail Gusman, at 19th World Congress of Russian Press

The meeting focused on global issues, including the initiatives taken by Belarus during the 26th summer session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, on

the organisation of a major new international forum to launch something similar to the Helsinki Process, while discussing the role of the media in modern world processes.

Mr. Lukashenko also gave a brief interview to TASS, discussing the results of the meeting of the Supreme State Council of the Union State in Moscow, the development of Belarusian-Russian relations in the most important directions, and prospects and problems in the functioning of the Union State. A new series of programmes are expected from the Formula of Power cycle, to be released in August.

Megawatts of the Zapadnaya Dvina

The Polotsk hydroelectric power station, which construction took more than five years, has been officially launched. It's planned to commission the Vitebsk hydroelectric power station in late July. The capacities of the country's two largest stations will be enough to provide a medium-sized city with energy.

By Yelena Begunova

Construction of the strategically important site was launched in 2011, with the tender won by Technopromexport Foreign Economic Association JSC, from Russia. The general contractor involved dozens of Belarusian companies in works at the hydroelectric power station, while Czech Marvel supplied water-power equipment for the station. Meanwhile, major construction (conducted upstream, ten kilometres from Polotsk, close to the village of Luchno) involved Ukrainian special-



The Vitebsk hydroelectric power station comes on-stream in July

ists, alongside with those from Belarus. Equipment was assembled by Russians, Belarusians and Czechs, while Serbians supplied resources. The head of the department overseeing construction of the Polotsk hydroelectric power station, current director Vasily Velyugo, considers the station's launch a historic event.

"For a month, until the Vitebsk hydroelectric power station is commissioned (it doubles the capacity of ours) our station will be the largest in the country. Then it will be ranked second, with twenty members of the staff employed. Czech specialists are working to adjust the control systems of the water-power equipment," notes Mr. Velyugo. A navigable sluice is to be built at the



At the Vitebsk power station

Polotsk hydroelectric power station, enabling river transport from Vitebsk to Polotsk. Power engineers are now planning a third electric station (with a capacity of 33MW) on the Zapadnaya Dvina River. The cascade of hydraulic structures will be located close to Beshenkovichi, and specialists promise that it will raise the level of water in Vitebsk. The 'Vitebsk'

and 'Severnaya Stolitsa' steamboats have been cruising there for several years, so it won't be difficult to extend their route.

The first 'step' of the future cascade is ready, with Polotsk's hydroelectric power station already becoming a welcome addition to the Zapadnaya Dvina River. Cutting the river with powerful sluices has significantly expanded

the riverbed. The increase of the water basin was expected, so a great many works have been conducted in advance, along an 80km section, with four new bridges constructed and five old bridges renovated, while the system of culverts has been improved. Moreover, twenty-six sections of shallow water have been removed, across almost 60 hectares.

Concrete proposals

By Alexey Fedosov

Mongolia keen on Belarusian developments in the sphere of water purification and peat processing

"I have managed to become familiar with some of the achievements of Belarusian scientists. For example, products from peat are very important for Mongolia; these are used to improve the quality of the soil. We're also keen on developments in the sphere of water purification. We need good filters which are created from new materials. In the near future, I will continue to familiarise myself with the work of the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences. I am confident that I will see other developments which can be useful to Mongolia," the President of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Duger Regdel, told journalists before signing a cooperative agreement between the NAS of Belarus and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

The President of the Academy noted possible prospects for cooperation between Belarusian and Mongolian scientists. "We have almost no peat but we do have brown coal. I think that it's necessary to set up a joint venture to process brown coal relying on the knowledge of Belarusian scientists in the sphere of peat processing," he added.



Duger Regdel

It was the first visit of the Head of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences to Minsk. However, Belarus and Mongolia do have joint scientific projects; primarily, these are in the sphere of natural sciences. "It's necessary to cover the areas of humanitarian and public sciences. We'd like to work on a wider scale, enabling joint projects to bring benefits to Belarus and Mongolia and to meet the interests of scientists from the two states," asserted Duger Regdel.

The Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Vladimir Gusakov, mentioned that joint projects with Mongolia are carried out by such organisations of the NAS of Belarus as the Institute for Physics, the Scientific and Practical Materials Research Centre. "Some of our institutes have prepared new proposals regarding projects and submitted them to the Mongolian team," stated Mr. Gusakov.

Business with social focus

Interaction between commercial and social enterprises can be beneficial, as promoted by the First Social Business Forum, which recently united around sixty companies and initiatives at the Polytechnic Sci-Tech Park of the Belarusian National Technical University

By Olga Pasiyak

Over 200 enterprises with various 'social purposes' operate in the country, finding jobs for representatives of vulnerable groups, supporting immigrants and refugees, and helping promote a healthy lifestyle. One of the best examples is the Our Mas-

ters social workshop, established upon the American model, where recovering alcoholics make beautiful interior decorations from plaster.

Commissioned by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, by the end of the year, a working group is to determine the place of social entrepreneurship within our



legislation. House of Representatives deputy Zhanna Stativko believes the First Social Business Forum is a truly significant event, demonstrating how international experience has taken root in Belarus. Its organisers want to draw the attention of major businesses to the possibilities of investing in the social sphere, making impor-

tant projects possible.

The forum, which coincided with the International Day of Social Business (celebrated for the first time in our country), was initiated in 2010. It unites social entrepreneurs, state representatives and those from public organisations, and others who wish to improve our social wellbeing.

With profitability in mind

New industrial giant — Amkodor Semash Holding — launched in the country

By Alexander Pimenov

After the recent opening of the new Elezer Plant in Dzerzhinsk, this holding will become the country's largest manufacturer of agricultural machinery, ensuring absolute import substitution. Moreover, in 2017, over 1,000 jobs will be created in the district centre — just a small part of their ambitious plans.

Vladimir Semashko attended the opening ceremony and commented, "We have launched a programme for mechanical engineering development until 2020 and on until 2025. Machine building will always remain a key industry in Belarus: firstly, because our country has always been associated with such brands as MAZ, BelAZ, MTZ and Gomselmash — which is important both for politics and the social sphere. Secondly, these busi-

nesses provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of people. In addition, we earn foreign currency, ensuring our own domestic production."

The programme of development envisages the construction of new enterprises. Mr. Semashko spoke of several major projects, "In the coming months, large facilities will be launched: a factory producing BelGee passenger cars and a fa-

cility to manufacture whitened and unbleached cardboard in Dobrush. Furthermore, in September, we expect to receive the first products from the Svetlogorsk plant which cost almost \$1bn. Bleached pulp will be produced there."

In addition, this year, construction of a transmission-producing factory will begin. Now, we import these, but will soon have our

own high-tech production. Mr. Semashko explained the necessity to facilitate the industry's development, "Our industrial complex will export 70 percent of its produce. We must earn foreign currency with our skills and knowledge to ensure we have enough money to pay for oil and gas. We do this so that our children and grandchildren feel masters of their own country."

As part of country's strategy

By Vladimir Velikhov

World Bank plans to allocate \$60m to Belarus for the development of small and medium-sized entrepreneurship, was announced by the World Bank Country Manager for Belarus, Young Chul Kim, who took part in the opening ceremony of the second section of reconstruction of the M6 highway



Young Chul Kim

"Over the last four years, as part of our strategy for Belarus, we have increased the amount of credit resources allocated to the country, from \$375m to \$973 at present. Within the next 2-3 months we plan to give another \$60m worth of credit resources for the development of small and medium-sized entrepreneurship in the Republic of Belarus," noted Young Chul Kim.

As far as the reconstruction of M6 highway is concerned, this is the largest project of the WB in Belarus in terms of volume of financing. In total, 9 projects are being implemented in Belarus in various spheres with the participation of the WB. Alongside road construction we also finance projects dealing with energy efficiency, the construction of a waste sorting facility, as well as education and healthcare. "Cost-cutting has been reached in each project and the results are very impressive," underlined Young Chul Kim.

As far as the reconstruction of the M6 highway is concerned, the representative of the WB expressed the opinion that this transport corridor of international importance won't just be a corridor for the quick movement and transportation of cargo but will create the conditions to attract people and investors, also facilitated by the introduction of a five-day visa-free regime in Belarus.

During the second stage, reconstruction will be made on the 67th kilometre of the M6 highway (Minsk-Grodno-border with the Republic of Poland) from 130.4km to 197.7km. Works are being conducted according to the first stage of the plan during which sections of the highway are being worked on simultaneously from both the Minsk and Shchuchin sides. The expected end date of the work is 2019; however, there are plans to complete works along the highway in 2018. The 272km-long road will meet European standards.

Biscuits from Slodych to be delivered overseas

Slodych Confectionery exporting biscuits to American shops

By Olga Korneeva

"This year, we have ambitious plans: to gain a foothold on the US market. We've met with Walmart's representatives and are planning an exclusive line of biscuits for the US market, for sale from autumn,"

notes Igor Shustov, the First Deputy Chairman of Belgospishcheprom Concern.

Companies within the Concern have also redoubled efforts to enter the Chinese market. "We've been to Shanghai and are now planning to visit Guang-



Production process at Slodych Confectionery

zhou and Hong Kong. We've received Chinese delegates and accompanied them to all our plants. They were quite satisfied with everything they saw. The Chinese side is very interested in our confectionery," adds Mr. Shustov.

The Head of Belgospishcheprom's Department for Domestic Sales and Foreign Trade, Yelena Malinovskaya, highlights that Belgospishcheprom companies have been instructed to branch out into new, promising markets.

From January-April 2017, they supplied \$6.7 million worth of products to these markets, accounting for 4.7 percent of Belgospishcheprom's exports. Belgospishcheprom companies currently export to sixty countries.



Vyshivanka for Yanka

Teenagers and senior couples, young families with children and suited official guests — all of them are making photos against burning letters made of crimson flowers. The letters make words dear to each Belarusian: Yanka Kupala. The flowers are those of fern, and it is on Kupala Night, when these magical flower blooms, that Ivan Lutsevich, our Kupala, was born here in Vyazyinka 135 years ago. This year the republican feast of songs, poetry and craft “With the only thought of the happiness of Belarus...” is a double anniversary: 135 years of the national poet birth and 45 years of the feast itself — it has been held here since 1972.

Lyudmila Ivanova

Exhibition

Vyazyinka greets craftsmen who came from all over Belarus. Here you would find anything: from knitted tablecloth to the grand-grandma’s comb. Well, look: here people are cleaning out suvoi — rolls of homespun fabric certainly some decades old.

— *It’s from grandma’s chests, from attics — says Maryan Yanushkevich, a salesman from Ivenets district, who put his cast-iron presses plainly on the grass. — I am collecting them myself, and it would be great to make a museum. Many people are coming to me to see these. Besides the exhibits brought to Vyazyinka, I also have old carts, some fascinating pieces of furniture. A while ago I worked in Volozhin, at a museum of the community center, and that’s there that I got involved. It is such a pity when you come to a village, ask the elderly if they have any old stuff, and they say they just threw it away.*

Pesnyary

On stage songs and poems go one after another. Among reader there are Alena Stelmakh, Mikhas Bashlakov, Viktor Shnip, Vladimir Skorinkin, Tatyana Sivets, Mikola Shabovich... A famous Belarusian group “Pesnyary” is singing. It was its founder, Vladimir Mulyavin, who started using Kupala’s poems, recalls Yelena Leshkovich, director of Yanka Kupala State Literary Museum:

— *Vladimir Mulyavin admired*



Yanka Kupala so much. He even celebrated his 50th anniversary at his museum. He said it was a big honor for him, and he didn’t need any hall better. It is so great that today’s Pesnyary continue to refer to our great poet. The program “Shchastlivasts” (Happiness) we hear today includes a new song “Genatsvale” which actually appeared with support of our museum. Lately we started great cooperation with Georgia where Kupala came visiting. Among other things, in the project “Georgia

is a country of sun” we tell a story of a beautiful Georgian doctor Eliko Meteheli. She was Kupala’s muse he dedicated poems to... So we offered Pesnyary to make a Georgian cycle of songs based on these poems.

Poet for all

The Belarusian ambassador to France Pavel Latushko taking part in the event has a point when saying that Kupala “laid the basis of the Belarusian national consciousness”. On the stage poet Tatyana



Sivets, the chairperson of the International Yanka Kupala Fund, reads out the English translation of poem “And, Say, Who Goes There?” by Vera Rich so that anyone in any country of the world could understand our classic:

— *His words about striving to “be called people” are close to*

MT REFERENCE

Vyazyinka is included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. Don’t hesitate to come — anniversary of the national poet will be celebrated all year round.

Georgians, Americans, Azerbaijanis and others... In our fund we plan to work more in the Internet, to engage more youth. Look how many young people in national garments are here today. Thanks to Vyazyinka Belarusian poems and songs are not only associated with school for them, but with a holiday, while Kupala becomes not just a bronze monument, but a man of the people who did really cool work of art.

Message of love

Local history expert from Molo-dechno and the festival’s veteran Mikhas Kozlovsky regrets he didn’t put on his vyshivanka (garment with special embroidery) today. His vyshivanka is special — it is a gift from his first teacher Yevgeniya Chaplinskaya.

— *She made it in mid-80s, when I really deserved it, Mikhas laughs. It’s a bit small for me now, but I still wear it, and wore it for Vyazyinka feasts many times. For me Kupala is everything, and I will always come here.*

Mikhas recalls the anniversary of the poet back in 1982: so many souvenirs! Different kinds of posters, pins, statues, and so many poets coming for the holiday. Well, today’s also great — it was so nice when a big bunch of balloons with “Love Kupala” written on them was out into the sky. It is so great that there are so many children in Vyazyinka.

And there really are. Some are in their parent’s hands, some are going for moon bounces and flowered swings. What counts most is that it is here, among oaks, willows and the river, that you learn to write poems — and that was proven well by little Ivan Lutsevich.

Star path of Piotr Klimuk



First Belarusian cosmonaut, twice Hero of the USSR, celebrates 75th birthday

By Pavel Losich

As a child, he dreamt of conquering space and, unlike most boys, succeeded. Mr. Klimuk conducted three flights, spending 78 days, 18 hours, 18 minutes and 42 seconds in space. Recently, the legendary hero received congratulations in the crowded hall of the Brest City Executive Committee. Welcomed with applause, the hero couldn't hide his emotions: that returning to his homeland is the most precious gift.

"I've met my relatives and friends, which brings the greatest happiness to me," he said.

Mr. Klimuk was born in 1942. His father was drafted into the army some time later and he failed to return, being killed in action near Polish Radom. A plaque on a mass grave reads 'Ilya Klimuk — the cosmonaut's father' — among so many other names.

Mr. Klimuk made his first flight in 1973, on board Soyuz-13. This was followed in 1975 by the Soy-



Cosmonaut's autograph

uz-18-2 flight. The cosmonaut's third flight took place in 1978, and he acted as the international crew commander on board Soyuz-30.

The hero now lives in Moscow but has never forgotten his native land. On behalf of residents of the Brest Region, Anatoly Lis — the Chairman of the Regional Executive

Committee — thanked the cosmonaut, saying, "We're proud that the first Belarusian cosmonaut was born in the Brest Region. Thanks to you, not only people of the USSR but foreigners learnt of the existence of the small village of Komarovka. We're delighted that you're celebrating your anniversary at home, among

close friends."

Hero of Belarus Piotr Prokopovich also congratulated his friend during the official ceremony, saying, "Piotr Klimuk's life is an example for all our young people: an example of how much can be achieved if we have a dream, and do not give up or succumb to difficulties."

Our trace in the asteroid belt

By Nadezhda Dekola

International Asteroid Day celebrated in Minsk

Over twenty 'Belarusian' asteroids found in database of Centre for Small Planets, by participants of online contest, Researchers of Asteroids, announced by Minsk Planetarium

Belarus, Minsk, Vitebsk, Chagall, Kovalevskaya: these and other names connected with our country have been given to space bodies in an asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Symbolically, the awards ceremony was held on June 30th, on International Asteroid Day.

This year, Asteroid Day is cele-



brated worldwide under the UN aegis and, for the first time, at Minsk Planetarium, as part of an international information campaign aiming to enhance public awareness of the threat of Earth's collision with asteroids and the measures we can take to protect our planet.

"Very little attention is being paid to this problem," notes Alexander Mikulich, the head of the planetarium. "The fall of the Chelyabinsk meteorite showed that even small objects — up to 100m in diameter (which we're currently unable to detect or forecast) — can bring major trouble."

Belarusian senior pupils — participants of the Ash-Nyu Club of Astronomy Enthusiasts at Minsk Planetarium — have joined the project of the International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) searching for asteroids, and have already announced the detection of thirteen new asteroids.



Reconstruction of the cavalry battle in 1812

Dragoons versus ulans in battle

Olga Pasiyak

Guests welcomed to first military historical festival, Mir-2017, travelling back two centuries

The highlight of the event was the reconstruction of the first cavalry battle between the Imperial Russian Army and the great army of Napoleon that took place in June 1812.

The 19th century battlefield was near the castle, making Mir the perfect location to gather those keen to learn more. Hand-

some cavaliers on magnificent horses and romantically-costumed ladies set the atmosphere, while plumes of explosion smoke created the illusion of a real battle, with clinking metal, flashes of antique guns and encouraging shouts of soldiers surrounding the crowd.

The festival was arranged with support from Grodno Regional Executive Committee, Korelichi District Executive Committee, military historical clubs and the youth public association Intelligence. Information. Progress.

Roaring of the Lions

By Nikita Sergeevich

Angelina Pischikova awarded second prize at International Cannes Lions Festival of Creativity, in 'Design' category

Angelina has received a 'Silver Lion' for her unique packaging of CS Light Bulbs, as commissioned for lighting equipment producer Crazy Service. The packaging is both simple and stylish.

It's far from the first time that Angelina has received recognition at competitions, having won gold and the Grand Prix at the White Square Festival, and silver at the Kiev Advertising Festival. She has also



Design by Angelina Pichukova

been among the finalists for 'best packaging proposals' according to Wired magazine.

Interestingly, the last time Belarusian participants were awarded prizes at the Cannes Lions was in 2005, receiving the top award of the 'Golden Lion' in the 'Media' category.



Merkel open to idea of Eurozone Finance Minister

Germany's Angela Merkel has opened the door to having a Eurozone Finance Minister. She made the comment during a joint press conference with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris after a joint Franco-German cabinet meeting.

"I have nothing against a Eurozone budget," said Ms. Merkel. "A European Finance Minister — we can talk about that." The idea of having such a minister and a Eurozone budget are part of Mr. Macron's proposals for reforming the European Union which have met with some resistance in Berlin.

The German leader said she

wanted to breathe new life into Franco-German relations, promising closer co-operation between the two European Union heavyweights with the aim of reforming the bloc. Ms. Merkel added that Europe must take its fate into its own hands. "I believe that we have shown shortly after the new government here was installed that we are ready to activate

Franco-German relations with a new impetus," Ms. Merkel said.

The two leaders announced plans to build a joint fighter jet, with a roadmap planned for mid-2018, as part of a drive to cement their countries' co-operation and strengthen the European Union. "The aim of this fighter jet for a new generation is first to launch a common research and development

programme to be able to plan it together, and then for our two armies to be able to use it together. I confirm to you, it's a profound revolution, but we are not afraid of revolutions," Mr. Macron said.

Singling out cyber-security the two leaders vowed to deepen European integration on defence, counter-terrorism and immigration.



Far-right group sends ship to Mediterranean to help stem migrants flow

A far-right chartered ship is on the way to the Mediterranean hoping to stop the flow of migrants into Europe

The operation, Defend Europe, aims to disrupt human traffickers off the coast of Libya and monitor NGOs who are rescuing migrants from the sea. It's being launched by the anti-immigration and anti-Islam group Generation Identity, which has a presence in France, Italy and Germany. The UN's refugee agency says 83,650 people have reached Italy by sea in 2017, with 10,183 arriving in the country over just three days in late June. Around 2,200 migrants

and refugees have died on the Africa-Italy sea route this year.

Around a third of sea arrivals into Europe this year have come from Nigeria, Guinea and the Ivory Coast. People leave these west African countries mainly for economic reasons. The human traffickers in Libya now expect the migrants to be picked up by NGOs after 12 nautical miles and therefore overpack the small boats and send them to the sea without provisions and a sufficient amount of fuel. By picking up the migrants closer and closer to the Libyan coast, the NGOs are working in concert with those criminals.

Voyaging back into space at 60: Paolo Nespoli

It's an age when many of us would be considering winding down, and cutting back on physical exertion. Not so for Paolo Nespoli, who is about to embark on his third space mission at the age of 60, which makes him Europe's oldest astronaut. At the end of July he will voyage to the International Space Station, where he will remain for some months.

Mr. Nespoli sets off in a year that is heavy with symbolism for him: 2017 not only marks the start of his seventh decade, but also the 60th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik, which, on 4th October 1957, became the world's first satellite to be sent into orbit.

60 may be a European record,



but Mr. Nespoli is not the oldest space-traveller in the world. In 1988, retired US astronaut John Glenn underwent his final mission at the grand old age of 77 as part of the STS-95 crew. He was given his place on the team after a concerted lobbying effort in which he asked NASA to be allowed to fly as a human guinea pig for geriatric study.

Trump lands in Paris for talks and tourism

US President Donald Trump and his wife Melania have arrived in France ahead of Bastille Day celebrations

The pair are guests of honour for the festivities which will commemorate the entry of US troops into World War One 100 years ago.

He's due to hold talks with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron. After a bumpy start to their relations, it's thought both leaders are looking to improve ties by focusing on shared diplomatic and military endeavours, such as Syria and the fight against global terrorism.

China trade with North Korea up 10.5 percent

China's trade with renegade North Korea has risen more than 10 percent in the first six months of 2017

It comes as the US is increasing pressure on Beijing to bring its unruly neighbour into line. US President Donald Trump let his taste for exaggeration out of the bag when he slammed China for a 40 percent hike in trade with Pyongyang. China says it's sticking to all international agreements.

Geng Shuang, from the Chinese Foreign Ministry, says, "I want to reiterate that China is always fully, accurately, carefully and strictly enforcing Security Council resolutions. But all parties should not confuse the idea that at present the Security Council sanctions on North Korea are not comprehensive economic sanctions.

Elephant rescued from ocean eight miles off Sri Lankan coast

A 'Jumbo' rescue mission was launched in Sri Lanka after an elephant was dragged out to sea by strong currents

The animal was initially noticed by a patrol boat belonging to the India's Eastern Naval Command about eight nautical miles off Kokkilai in Sri Lanka's northwest.

A second patrol boat and a team of navy divers were promptly dispatched to aid the distressed pachyderm and under the direction of the Department of Wildlife, they were able to bring the animal to shore, using ropes.

The elephant has now been handed to wildlife officials who are hoping to find it a slightly dryer home.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Festival and city rocking together

On the opening night, festival guests enjoyed a bright show at the Summer Amphitheatre, with the flags of thirty-six participating states flying, alongside that of the festival, with its cornflower motif. Drummers and majorettes from twenty districts of the Vitebsk Region marched through the main street, while two huge balloons bearing the famous musical festival logo flew high.

By Anna Naumova

The same day, Tamara Gverdt-siteli's star was placed on the Star Square; the singer is a holder of the President's Through Art to Peace and Mutual Understanding Award. Later, a very important ceremony for artists taking their first steps to success took place in the same location, and there was the draw for the Vitebsk-2017 26th International Pop Song Performers Contest semi-finals. For the Junior Song Contest, the gala concert and the awards ceremony were held at Vitebsk Concert Hall.

As a tradition, the festival programme featured favourite artistes, who always gather full houses, as well as 'flowers of July', chosen by the grateful audience and new performers. This year, residents and visitors to the city on the Dvina River enjoyed performances by Grigory Leps, Tamara Gverdt-siteli Marina Devyatova, Varvara, Yadviga Pop-



Mariya Magilnaya, a Grand Prix winner at the Vitebsk 2017 children music contest

lavskaya, Dmitry Koldun, Teo and Olga Ryzhikova, Roza Rymbaeva, Londonbeat band, Chris de Burgh and Julio Iglesias Jr. Voice TV show winner Hieromonk Fotiy also gave a performance at the regional Philharmonic, and artistes devoted a performance to Alexander Tikhonovich (who died not long ago).

The Theatrical Meetings at the Yakub Kolas Theatre also gathered



many fans, and there was much promenading through the crowded festival streets, which hosted the 3rd Festival of Street Art — on Seven Winds. Dancers, musicians, artists, fire jugglers and acrobats entertained visitors near the Pushkin

Bridge, on Tolstoy Street, as well as by the Contemporary Art Centre and in Frunze Park.

As to how guests perceive the *Slavianski Bazaar* and its pretty streets, a 77-year-old resident of Vitebsk's Arbat, Stepan Senko, says,

"The Festival is the most positive holiday." Natalia Rastyushevskaya also enjoyed the Festival greatly. From Starye Dorogi, she joined her teacher, Galina Buravtsova, in bringing a hand-made national tablecloth and fifty amazingly beautiful sashes. "It's my second time in Vitebsk and my first time at the Festival. I'm enjoying everything. The city is so wonderful and clean, while its people are friendly and kind-hearted. We'll definitely come again," she said.

The President of the 'Holiday for All' Association, Vytenis Urba, has attended the *Slavianski Bazaar* several times, organising the famous Kaziukas Lithuanian Folk Crafts Fair. There's no need to go to Vilnius: just come to the venue near Vitebsk Concert Hall.

Casanova: man and musical comedy

Lyudmila Ivanova

Vitebsk festival presents musical comedy Casanova — the second joint project for the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts and famous Russian composer and producer Kim Breitburg, following his Dubrovsky musical, which has been popular on the repertoire of the Belarusian State Academic Musical Theatre for almost two years

What makes the plays unique is that all the roles are taken by students and young actors, who perform devotedly, with emotion, and who sing and dance beautifully. What you see on stage is impressive and dynamic. Kim



Scene from the Casanova musical

Breitsburg, a real hit-maker, has created the score, with over twenty popular songs in the musical. The story tells of famous Casanova, in a modern setting. We see the charming womanizer laughing at himself, and entertaining the audience with his trickery. However, he's also tender and sensitive, and his heart knows how to love. Kim Breitburg

says the musical is about loyalty and love, devotion and courage.

The world has never seen such a Casanova before; Vitebsk is hosting the premiere. Fans of the *Slavianski Bazaar* festival will surely recognize Andrey Kolosov, playing the lead. He's sung

in *Casanova*, *Dubrovsky* and *Jane Eyre*, and is a lead singer with the I. Zhinovich National Academic Folk Orchestra and Song Theatre of Irina Dorofeeva. In 2009, he came to Vitebsk as a contestant and claimed second place, receiving, along with the laureate Lyra prize, the Vladimir Mulyavin special prize for acting skills.

Who is the King of Lyra?

Svetlana Yurashova

Minsk hosts rehearsals for 26th International Pop Song Performers Contest 'Vitebsk-2017', with Belarus' Yegor Sharankov among the 21 participants claiming laureate awards and Lyra prizes

Yegor, 19, was born in Svetlogorsk, in the Gomel Region, and has been studying at the Singing Department of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts for the past year. He is a lead performer with the National Academic Concert Orchestra of Mikhail Finberg. As Yegor says, this is his advantage over other contestants, as he'll be singing with his 'own' ensemble at the Summer Amphitheater in Vitebsk. The contest comprises three stages: a semi-final and two days of finals. This year, the chairperson of the international jury is famous

Bulgarian singer Yordanka Hristova.

Yegor will perform three songs: Belarusian folk song 'Oy, dube, moy dube' (Oh my oak tree) in the semi-final, as adapted by talented musicians Andrey Katikov and Vladislav Pashkevich in an experimental fusion of the traditional with the unconventional. On the first day of the finals, where songs are accompanied by the orchestra, Yegor will perform, for the first time, *Kryzhy* (Crosses) which uses the verse of Yanka Kupala for its lyrics. For second day of the finals, Yegor has chosen the world hit 'We are the champions', as sung by Queen. Yegor began studying music when he was seven and has already won several international singing contests, reaching the national junior and senior Eurovision finals, and participating in such TV shows as *Singing Cities* — 1, *Star Ring* and the Ukrainian

project *Voice of the Country* — 7. Yegor calls the latter 'a school of life' for an artist, helping to develop skills and gain experience. His performance in the young singers' contest Vitebsk — 2017 will add to his list of accomplishments, being his biggest venue to date. Many of Yegor's fans are supporting him in Vitebsk, including friends, university peers, his voice coach Tatiana Ligorskaya and, of course, and family. Yegor's parents are not musicians, and he is grateful to them for accepting his willingness to pursue a musical career, despite their wish for him to be a doctor. Yegor began studying to enter the medical university, but, as his prom night drew closer, music and singing became ever more attractive, and finally won him over.

Only three days are left before the contest starts. Good luck, Yegor — we're rooting for you!

Charming beauty of marine art

To experience the outrageous force of nature or feel a calming sea breeze on a sunny day, come to the National Arts Museum and see an exhibition devoted to works by famous marine painter Ivan Aivazovsky



Veniamin Mikheyev

The Aivazovsky and marine painters exhibition is dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the birth of this distinguished landscape artist, with almost a whole floor dedicated to his works: several dozen by Aivazovsky and other marine painters. The canvases transport you to a place where the waves beat against the cliffs, where a purple sunset over the ocean ends the day, and where clouds cling to the masts of sailboats.

“The sea is my life,” Aivazovsky once said. His works are like an encyclopedia of the states and varieties of sea. “I always felt, and feel now, the poetry of nature, which I try to portray with my brush. The charm of a southern night sky, a southern sunset, or the horror of a storm or tempest inspire me to paint,” Aivazovsky confessed in his notes. The ever-changing nature of the sea finds expression in Aivazovsky’s seascapes, such as *Foggy Morning*, *Marina and Morning at Sea*. We see that it can be enchanting and mysterious, as in *Night in Amalfy* and *Island of Rhodes*, or menacing and raging, as in *Tempest*. Each state is depicted with poetry, and skill. “The plot of each painting takes shape in my head as the verse does in the mind of a poet; after making a sketch on paper, I begin and don’t leave the canvas until I’ve said everything I want with my brush.” Aivazovsky said. The romantic painters are known for portraying the strongest feelings.

Ivan Aivazovsky began his career as a painter in the first half of the 19th century. However, the main period of his artistic life covers the second half. Interestingly, at that time, his contemporaries preferred other artists, such as Aleksey Bogolyubov and Rufin Sudkovsky, as their portrayal of the sea, shores and boats were thought to be more realistic. These painters were far from the Romantic tradition. Aivazovsky’s apprentice, Lev Lagorio,

didn’t choose to be a romantic artist either. Like some of his contemporaries, he opted for simpler composition and a more somber palette, as in *Seashore*, which is on display at the exhibition.

The art of the 2nd half of the

19th century and the early 20th is diverse, embracing various approaches. Nikolay Dubrovsky, also being exhibited, used colour to create a light and airy feel, while others are saturated and intense. For these artists, realism was all. In his plein-



Painting by I. Aivazovsky after restoration



air watercolour *Seashore*. Crimea, master of colour Vasily Surikov studied fragments of nature, to find proportion and balance. In *Sea*, by Arkhip Kuindzhi, colour and light become tangible.

Amsterdam, by Valentin Serov, demonstrates acute perception and rejection of usual patterns. Konstantin Korovin spent a lot of time at plein-air events, and managed to create a fresh impression of marine landscapes.

Curiously, in the 20th century, artists were becoming more attracted to the modest nature of the North. A range of artists worked in the Polar Circle, each portraying it in their

own way. Albert Benois’ *On White Seas* is compelling in its intensity, while Leonid Turzhansky’s paintings, with sea and boats in shades of grey and brown, create an impenetrable wall. Vitold Bialynitsy-Birulya gave subtle, pearly-blue seas and lyrical shores, cloaked in mist, while Herbert Silinsh is more expressive and emotional.

As a subject, the sea offers endless possibilities, whatever an artist’s style of painting. Ivan Aivazovsky’s romantic and emotional perception of

nature offers something different from the realists and the impressionists. His contemporaries recall that he could paint a picture in one breath, in just ninety minutes. Those who try to ‘fake’ his masterpieces rarely succeed, as they take too long in applying paint, creating a different finish, which experts easily spot.

This exhibition features originals, with some provided from museum archives. Mr. Aivazovsky’s admirers will, no doubt, flock to see his masterpieces, revealing the deep beauty of the sea, the charm of sunlight and the softness of southern nights.

Gold won at the first attempt

Dmitry Nabokov from Belarus took the first prize in high jump at the European Athletics U23 Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland

By Igor Svitov

Dmitry Nabokov won with 2 m 24 cm cleared on the first try. Christian Fallocki from Italy was No. 2, with 2 m 24 cm, at the second attempt. The bronze was won by Viktor Loginsky of Ukraine: 2 m 24 cm, however, more times to clear than the competitors.

All the athletes tried to clear 2 m 26 cm but failed.



Dmitry Nabokov touched the heights

Another representative of Belarus in the jump sector, Pavel Seliverstov, took the

fifth place with 2 m 22 cm. After two unsuccessful attempts at 2 m 24 cm, Pavel

took a chance with 2 m 26 cm. Unfortunately, he did not manage to clear.

In the top five teams

By Oleg Bogomazov

Belarusian athletes won six awards at the European Championship in kayak and canoe in Plovdiv, Bulgaria

On the last day of the competitions in double canoe, Andrey Bogdanovich and Denis Makhlai took the silver medal prize in the 200 m race. The Belarusian canoeists were by 0.51 sec slower than Russian athletes Alexander Kovalenko and Ivan Shtyl who won with 35.62 sec. Johnatan Khaidu and Adam Fekete of Hungary came in the third place.

Yelena Nazarova took bronze in 200 m canoe single. At the finishing gate, she was outraced by Olesya Romasenko of Russia, the winner of the competition, and Kincho Takach of Hungary, who came second. For Yelena, it is not the only award won at the 2017 European Championship. Before that, she was No. 2 with Kamila Bobr in 500 m



double canoe race. Other champions of the continental forum include Roman Petrushenko and Vitaly Belko who won silver in 500 m double kayak race.

In 500 m kayak single, Nikita Borikov and Olga Khudenko came in the second place.

Men kayak four consisting of Roman Petrushenko, Dmitry Tretyakov, Nikita Borikov and Vitaly Belko came third in 500 m.

In total, Belarusian rowers won four silver medals and two bronze medals. In terms of the medals won, Belarus is in the top five teams of the tournament. Most medals at the championship were won by rowers representing Hungary (16), Germany (10), Russia (10) and Poland (9).

Knee high Baltic

Brest hosts 10th Baltic Youth Games, welcoming nearly 1,300 young sportsmen from eight countries, competing in sixteen sports. Our athletes perform wonderfully — capturing 130 gold medals.

By Anna Petrochenko

The Baltic Youth Games is the first such large international sporting event for the regional centre. The programme included light and heavy athletics, rowing and canoeing, academic rowing, archery, boxing, football, basketball, handball, volleyball, table tennis, judo, free-style and Greco-Roman wrestling, fencing and swimming.

Among those present at the opening ceremony was Belarus' First Deputy Minister for Sports and Tourism, Vyacheslav Durnov. He asserts, "Definitely, major tournaments should be held in the regions, as this raises their sporting status."

The Chairman of Brest Regional Executive Committee, Anatoly Lis, praised the organising committee, underlining, "In all respects, such major events are important and we're happy to host them. If we organise the Baltic Games well, then participants will be keen to return."

Mr. Lis admits that the Baltic



At Baltic Youth Games in Brest

Youth Games have brought joy to the city. Brest boasts great sports infrastructure and, accordingly, there's been no need to build new facilities. Of course, we needed enough hotel accommodation for participants but these were pleasant worries.

The Belarusian team was represented at the Baltic Games by 380 young men and women. The Head of the Department for Sports and Tourism, for Brest Regional

Executive Committee, Nikolay Glushenya, congratulated sportsmen on their great performance. "Of course, we're happy with the result. 186 sets of medals were competed for and our youngsters won 258 medals — including 130 gold," he said.

Young sportsmen from Sweden, Germany, Russia, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Belarus attended and will next meet in two years' time, in 2019, in Sweden.

ARENA

■ Yekaterina Galkina has won two gold medals at the World Cup in Rhythmic Gymnastics. In the individual all-around, she scored 71,150 points, ahead of Russian Yulia Bravikova and Yekaterina Selezneva. She also took gold in the exercise with ribbons, scoring 16,700 points: her best result this season. Yekaterina also won two bronze medals in Berlin: in her exercises with the ball and clubs. Another bronze medal went to the Belarusian national team in group exercises — featuring Anastasia Rybakova, Maria Kotyak, Anna Gaidukevich, Anna Shvaiba, Margarita Ovadinskaya and Aarina Tsitsilina. The girls scored 17,950 points in their exercise with hoops, finishing behind Ukraine and Russia. The next scheduled event for gymnasts is the World Cup — to be held in Minsk from August 4th-6th.

■ Yevgeny Korolek has won the Minsk Grand Prix in road cycling. The 145km race along the Belarusian capital's streets attracted hundreds of participants from Belarus and abroad. Yevgeny competed against Estonian cyclist Norman Vahtra and Latvian Emil Liepinsh and was, eventually, recognised as the best young rider of the Minsk Grand Prix. Last year, Belarusian Sergiy Popok won the race. A day earlier, another Russian cyclist,

Yegeny Sobol, came third in the 176km Minsk Cup, behind Ukrainian Yegor Dementiev and Andrey Bratashchuk.

■ Minsk Dinamo (ice-hockey club) has officially received a new coaching team, led by Gordie Dwyer. The Canadian expert has already been introduced to the squad and has held his first training session. As the club's director, Anatoly Kurilets, says, "Under the leadership of Mr. Dwyer, the 'aurochs' will show a worthy result in the new season." The Canadian will be assisted by Sergey Stas (responsible for defence) and Konstantin Koltsov (training attackers). Sergey's brother, Andrey Stas, has signed a contract with Omsk Avangard, taking Russian citizenship. Accordingly, the former captain of the Belarusian team will no longer be able to help the national team.

■ Maxim Mirny has been knocked out of Wimbledon, having lost the mixed doubles, partnering Russian Yekaterina Makarova, in the quarterfinals, against Ken Skupski and Jocelyn Rae (7:5, 4:6, 7:9). Maxim stayed in the tournament longer than his fellow Belarusian tennis players: Andrey Vasilevsky, Alexander Bury, Alexandra Sasonovich, Arina Sobolenko, Lidia Morozova and Victoria Azarenko.

12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, July 20, 2017

Fest of the week



In the streets of Vitebsk during the festival

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 19th September. *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love*

BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 30th July. Other Side: unknown photos from USSR's occupied territory and Soviet-German frontline (1941-1945)

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 31st August. *Summer Story* educational programme

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

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

MINSK GALLERY

9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 31st July. *White Pole Museum of Ice-Cream*

HOUSE-MUSEUM OF 1ST RSDRP SESSION

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 6th August. *Path of Weapon: from Blade to Sort Rifle*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

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

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 10th August (Labyrinth Gallery). *Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man*
Until 20th August. Exhibition of children's graphics: *Her Majesty Letter*

PUSHKIN LIBRARY

4 Gikalo Street
Until 30th July. Exhibition of live exotic butterflies

LOSHITSA ESTATE

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

CAT MUSEM

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

KOMSOMOLSKOE LAKE

Pobediteley Avenue
Until 17th September. *Art-Islands* project

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 31st July. *Artistic Images of Native Land*
Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

THEATRES

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
20.07. *Swan Lake* 21.07. *Yunona and Avos* 23.07. *Blue Cameo* 25.07. *Jane Eire* 26.07. *Sleeping Beauty* 27.07. *Grooms*

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE (SMALL STAGE)

12 Engels Street
25.07. *Love as Militarism*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
20.07. *Two Arrows* 21.07. #13 22.07. *The Same Place Next Year* 23.07. *Even a Wise Man Stumbles* 24-25.07. *Nobody Promised Easy Life* 26.07. *Mechanical*

CONCERTS

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
21.07. Mourad Bouraoui

SVOBODY SQUARE

Minsk
22.07. *Classics by Town Hall*

UPPER TOWN

23A Svoobody Square
20.07. *Music of Soul*
26.07. *Liga Artis quartett*

Man 27.07. *Night of A.Chekhov's Miniatures*

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
23.07. *Two Souls* 24.07. *Not Mine* 25.07. *Art* 26.07. *Pan Tadevush* 27.07. *Black Lady of Nesvizh*

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
26-27.07. *Night in Hotel*

TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue
23.07. *TheatreHD: Michelangelo: Love and Death*

NTSI IN NEKRASOV STREET

3 Nekrasov Street
27.07. *Belarusian Sea dance performance*

ST. SIMEON AND ST. YELENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

15 Nezavisimosti Avenue
20.07. *Antonio Vivaldi: Seasons*

TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolutsionnaya Street
20.07. *Markuts band* 21.07. *The Feedback* 22.07. *NGE / Ze Brocks / The Silicon* 23.07. *Devil Dandies* 26.07. *Cross.B.Band* 27.07. *Babantsuika*

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