



What can the unique coins of Belarus' National Bank tell us?



Three Saviour's holidays: traditions and signs



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Alitana Stepyarova

Artem Aleksandrov at the sports stadium of the capital's newly built school No. 52

Start of the school year

All schools are now making final preparations to meet pupils and, on September 1st, the country will celebrate Knowledge Day. About 3,000 schools, including 189 special educational institutions, will open in Belarus in the new academic year. By the beginning of the new year, 3 schools for 3,060 pupils have been built — ready to welcome boys and girls in Vitebsk, Minsk and the Minsk Region. Overall, 1 million 55,000 schoolchildren, including 114,000 first-graders, will start classes countrywide. → **2**



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Economy in action



Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, agricultural holding companies of this kind should be the locomotive of the agricultural industry since they support weaker farms. “And then we will forget that we need to support anybody,” the Head of State said. “This is a good enterprise, a good place. Good job!”

At the enterprise, the talk primarily focused on the harvesting campaign. The Head of State was informed about the economic and financial standing of Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky and the construction of new facilities on its site. In January-July 2020, the gross agricultural output increased by 4.8 percent against the same period of 2019, while the company’s exports went up 14 percent to exceed \$20m over the same period.

According to the Director General of Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky, Vladimir Lukyanov, the construction of three dairy farms, several poultry farms, aviaries and a turkey meat production and processing facility is currently in progress.

Aleksandr Lukashenko toured the workshops of the enterprise, inspected production processes, met with the employees of the agricultural company and carried out a tasting of meat products.

Addressing the workers, the Head of State said that he came to Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky to relax his mind and to learn more about the company’s development prospects. “Some time ago, your directors asked for support and

help, especially for additional land resources, as they wanted to ramp up the production of fodder. Decisions were made. I see that today your company accounts for almost a half the region’s output; tomorrow you will monopolise the entire Republic,” he said. “Salaries have increased over the past years, your output is huge today. Importantly, your products enjoy large demand.”

One worker later noted that many employees of the agricultural plant live in Fanipol which, he said, lacks good places for recreation and sports. Previously, it was planned to build a sports centre there, but later it was decided to move it to a larger locality: Dzerzhinsk. The company’s employees asked Aleksandr Lukashenko to assist in opening a sports complex in Fanipol.

According to the President, the Government will try to find a suitable option. He instructed the heads of the region to work out and submit relevant proposals for his consideration. “We will try to put a little shoulder to it,” the Head of State assured those present.

‘We cannot allow the country to be destroyed’

In his talk to the company staff, the President focused on pressing issues. He spoke of the situation in the country as being politicised but it should not be viewed as catastrophic.

“You are the working folk, you know that money is earned this way [by hard work]. Sometimes it can be

While visiting Agrokombinat Dzerzhinsky, the President of Belarus noted it as a good example of rural and agricultural modernisation. He first asked about the number of employees and whether any workers wanted to go on strike. The President was informed that the company employs over 4,000 staff.

earned on the streets, but only for a while,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. “Please, do not tear the country apart. We cannot let this happen because we know how much effort it has taken to build it,” he added.

The President noted that, prior to his visit to the enterprise, he had met with top officers of the law enforcement agencies to discuss ways to preserve order in the country and respond to external threats. “They are on duty every day from dawn to dusk to preserve peace and security. I have the feeling that these guys do not intend to let their country be taken away from them,” he stressed.

‘They were masterminding this mess’

The President also commented on developments in and around Belarus and the role of Western states in the current unrest.



“They were masterminding this mess. Russia was afraid of losing us. The West decided to use us against Russia, we see now. They want to establish this Baltic-Black Sea corridor, a sanitary cordon — three Baltic States,

us and Ukraine. We remained the only missing part,” he said.

“The USA is planning and running all this, while the Europeans are playing along. They are doing what they are told. A special centre was set up near Warsaw. We are fully aware of what they are doing there. Their tanks are on standby. When the situation is tense nearby and tanks and jets are set in motion, it is for a reason,” Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised.

He stated that some people in Belarus were paid to protest and some were brainwashed, which resulted in this mess. “Meanwhile military drills are underway abroad. What is that supposed to mean? They are getting ready for invasion, if needed,” the Head of State said.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that these are not only Belarusian problems, as some people in Russia say. “The Belarusian problem is no less important for Russia than for Belarus today. They aim at Russia in the first place. They want to crush us first. It will not work! We will fight back,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

According to the Head of State, the current situation is influenced by both internal and external factors. “I am not trying to intimidate anyone, but this is what is really happening. We have to take this into consideration and resist resolutely. There is no escaping it,” he said.

“At the same time, I want to preserve peace and calm for those who want to work. I do not want to introduce martial law in the country. It is not normal. I want us to live peacefully, just like before. This is my major task — to respond to them over there and to stabilise the situation,” Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed.

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New academic year is about to start

The President of Belarus discussed the readiness of the education community for the beginning of a new academic year with the Education Minister, Igor Karpenko, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Igor Petrishenko

Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “It will be very bad if we do not get off to a good start. You remember that the closing of the previous academic year was fraught with coronavirus anxieties, in particular among parents. Those concerns were excessive, as we now see. We need to kick-start the academic year whatever the cost.”

Another issue which the President asked to pay serious attention to was the protection of teachers against bullying. “This work is already underway, and we have been acting firmly to stop all attempts to insult and bully teachers and doctors. If some have joined the opposition forces, we need to deal with them too. We have state education, state schools, state ideology in Belarus. Those who want to stick to these principles, you are welcome — go teach, work. Those who do not — should not work in schools. This needs to be said openly, sincerely, and honestly,” Aleksandr Lukashenko stated.



At Dolzha secondary school, Vitebsk Region

The President also asked what problems need to be solved on the eve of a new school year. He asked once again to ensure that all children go to school in a more or less equal status. “Make sure that there will not be any visi-

ble differences between children from wealthy families and children from less wealthy. We need to help those who need it,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The Head of State reminded those listening that families with many children are provided with a good social package. In addition, companies — including agricultural and large industrial plants — have also been involved in helping parents. “Some purchase school supplies for children, others buy uniforms,” he noted.

According to Igor Karpenko, as of August 21st, 96 percent of schools were ready for the new academic year. “The process is coming to a close. There are no major issues with preparedness of schools. The state has allocated funds for that and

local authorities also got involved. We are also opening new schools this year,” the Minister announced.

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Tendencies of digital trade

China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park has joined international e-commerce agreement signed as part of the First World Live E-Commerce Conference held during the International Trade Digital Development Forum

The Great Stone Industrial Park, the Djibouti International Free Trade Zones (DIFTZ), the Shenzhen Baojun company and the specialised Committee on

Digital Economy and Digital Trade of the Chinese Research Association of the World Trade Organisation signed an agreement on strategic co-operation

on the project of the International Centre for Selected Products and the Global Port Warehouse Centre for E-Commerce. The participants of the

online conference discussed China's digital trade, coronavirus-related risks for global trade, a digitally friendly world and new trends in digital trade.

Taking part in the conference were representatives of embassies and chambers of commerce, experts, researchers and entrepreneurs from over 30 countries.

Record after record

Belorusneft sets new record for daily depth penetration during drilling of side shafts

At well No. 98s2 of the Rechitsky field, 317m were drilled in one day. The previous maximum reached at well No. 126s2 Rechitskaya was 300m — set by the same team, led by experts Sergei Grebenchuk, Dmitry Velikoborets and Vladimir Zhukovich.

The team works on a mobile Canadian unit K-125 modernised at the Gomel-based Seismotechnika JSC. With its help, a new record was set when drilling in the range of 1,393-1,710m.

The most important thing is the extremely small diameter of the borehole, which is 114.3mm. Specifically for such conditions and the geological section of the Pripyat trough, Halliburton and

Belarusian oilmen developed a design for a bit with unique technological parameters which has made it possible to achieve the same result as when using large-diameter chisels: to get a significant acceleration.

Belarusian oil workers have also distinguished themselves in the development of new technologies. They introduced the technology to intensify the oil production of American shale producers: this is cluster multi-stage hydraulic fracturing using Plug&Perf technology. The latter was successfully developed at well No. 67 at the Severo-Domanovichskoye field.

According to Vasily Frolov, the First Deputy Head and Chief Engineer of Re-



chitsaneft, the use of this new technology makes it possible to significantly reduce the time for preparing the well for the next stage of hydraulic fracturing. "When performing point-to-point processing using classical technology on a conventional well, the cycle of cutting

off the completed zone and perforating the next one can last from 2 to 5 days. When using the Plug&Perf technology, it will take 3-6 hours," he said.

An important feature of the new technology is the simultaneous creation of several fractures in a single oil injection.



21st century decor

Installation of new equipment has been launched at the Dobrush Porcelain Factory jointly with Spanish specialists, to ensure introduction of the latest digital printing technologies for decorating porcelain products

The 330,000 Euro equipment from Spanish company KERAjet was purchased as part of an investment project being implemented at the enterprise. The commissioning is scheduled for this September and the introduction of digital printing technology for decorating porcelain products will not only reduce the cost of decorating mugs and plates, but also expand the range.

At the plant, the process of upgrading production capacities has been operating since 2007. The equipment fleet is being updated, modern technologies make it possible to produce high-quality products and expand the range. Now the company's capacity is at 100 percent.

30-35 percent of the product range is updated annually. These are classic models of dishes and souvenirs, as well as items for baking, plates for sushi, French fries, pasta, and asymmetric dishes for serving salads.

In February, the company was visited by the Head of State. Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed the confidence that the products of this enterprise will always be in demand, so it is important that the Dobrush production does not lose markets.

Dobrush Porcelain Factory JSC is the only manufacturer of porcelain tableware in Belarus. It employs over 1,000 people and its range includes about 5,000 articles. More than 75 percent of products are exported — mostly to Russia, Germany, Poland and Romania.

Clean technologies

New FEZ resident to build photo power plant near Brest

A company with Irish capital, Smart Sun, has been registered in the Brest free economic zone as a new business entity. The company plans to build an 8 MW photovoltaic power station in the Airport industrial zone area. A land plot with the area of 9.6 hectares has been allocated for this purpose. The project is planned to be implemented within ten years. The first stage, scheduled for three years, includes the development of the construction site and the launch of the station. The total investment volume will amount to 3.6m Euros.

"The project will enable FEZ residents to use cheaper electricity, which will contribute to the competitiveness of the manufactured products. Theo-

retically, all enterprises located in the Airport industrial zone will have such an opportunity. There are ten enterprises that operate in the zone today," the FEZ administration said.

The project was initiated by the management company Pure Energy LLC, which specialises in the development of infrastructure projects and programmes related to 'clean technologies'. These are the production of energy from renewable sources, waste processing and water treatment, energy efficiency. The company has experience in building photovoltaic power plants in Belarus and Ukraine.

Smart Sun has become the 75th resident of FEZ Brest and the sixth registered since the start of the year.



Based on materials of belta.by

Import substitution in action

The number of furniture manufacturers more than doubled in Belarus over five years

By Igor Svetlov

“The introduction of new woodworking capacities in Belarus gave rise to new small and medium-sized businesses. Since 2015, when Bellesbumprom launched new wood panel factories, the number of furniture manufacturers has more than doubled in the country to total some 1,300 companies today,” said the Chairman of Bellesbumprom Concern, Mikhail Kasko, at a recent meeting of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers.

The official stressed that the sector’s industrial policy is based on the availability of domestic raw materials and their efficient use through deep processing and production of high value-added products. For this purpose, there are appropriate technologies and production facilities. Almost the entire range of products of Bellesbumprom’s companies is both import-substituting and export oriented.

Import substitution measures are in place for those commodity items (as of today there are 43), where imports were on the rise or where the country had no such production. Among them are wooden boards, plywood, cellulose, paper, cardboard and others. Import-substituting products are made by 26 Bellesbumprom enterprises.

According to Mr. Kasko,



in 2019 the production of import-substituting goods more than doubled against 2015. Over the five years, the output of such products reached \$1.9bn. Conditional savings in foreign currency due to delivery to the domestic market in 2015-2019 were almost \$600m. Last year, the supply of import-substituting products to the domestic market went up 1.6 times against 2015.

At present, Bellesbumprom is implementing new promising projects of import-substituting industries.

The Svetlogorsk Pulp and Board Mill continues to increase cellulose production and is considering the installation of a paper-making machine to launch the production of paper for packing flour, sugar, milk powder, formula feed, cement and dry building mixes. The production capacity of the machine will be at least 100,000 tonnes a year.



Newsprint Mill in Shklov

The Shklov Newsprint Mill is completing the project to launch the production of base paper for decorative facing materials. Production capacity will reach 30,000 tonnes per year. The facility is expected to be fully equipped by the end of the year.

In Dobrush, the launch of production of coated and un-

coated cardboard is being completed, including production of bleached chemical and thermomechanical mass from local resources for use in the composition of three-layer coated cardboard. The established cardboard producing capacities will make it possible to fully satisfy the consumer market in the country and save much

foreign currency for imports of such cardboard from Western European manufacturers. The facility will be commissioned by launch complexes until the end of 2020. Starting from 2023, it is planned to annually produce 170,000 tonnes of coated cardboard for the pharmaceutical, printing and cosmetic industries and 30,000 tonnes for packaging materials such as Tetra Pak.

Accordingly, owing to the implementation of the technical re-equipment and reconstruction projects, the total production volume is projected at the level of \$540-560m in 2020, with a 103-105 percent pace of growth.

Given the successful implementation of the projects to set up new enterprises in 2020-2024, the production of import-substituting products will reach \$3.2bn with the growth rate of 168 percent against the previous five-year period.



Dobrush Hero of Labour Paper Factory



NEWS IN BRIEF

Belarusian band *Nevrida* presents best music video at London film festival

The fantasy folk project, *Nevrida*, led by Pavel Taipov was placed first in



the ‘Best Music Video’ category at the 2nd edition of the Eurasian Creative Guild Film Festival held in the UK. “In the music video, we depicted three cultures to show that all nations have something in common — love for their native land — and that music unites,” said Pavel Taipov.

The viewers watched over 200 works in the English language competing in similar categories. The film about the life of Jozefa Bujdo in Belarus, by British film director Michael Sagatis, was also named as ‘Best Short Feature Film’.

Emergencies Ministry aviation helps extinguish forest fires in Turkey

Airmen of Belarus’ Emergencies Ministry continue overseeing the territory of our country but are also assisting Turkish rescuers in extinguishing fires in mountainous and wooded areas. Two Mi-8 planes took off from the Poyraz and Marmaris sites in Turkey to make 157 flights and 815 water



discharges. In addition, 55 Turkish rescuers have been sent to the places where fires have been extinguished. Flight and technical personnel of Belarus’ Emergencies Ministry will stay in Turkey until October.

Belarusian rescuers have been providing assistance to other countries in the fight against natural disasters within the framework of international co-operation for several years.

Belarusian health resorts enjoy stable demand for health improvement

“More than 20,200 people are now recuperating at our health resorts, where the occupancy rate is almost 80 percent. This is the optimal indicator, taking into account the current recommendations on compliance with anti-epidemic measures and social distancing. There is also a stable demand for sales of vouchers: about 10,000 people are now recuperating using these, including almost 2,000 foreigners. About 100 new guests are registered daily,” said Gennady Bolbatovsky, the Direc-



tor of the Republican Centre for Recuperation and Sanatorium Resort Treatment. About 70 percent of rooms in Belarusian health resorts have already been booked for September.

First 136-tonne BELAZ trucks sent to Indian Gevra coal pit

The contract envisages the delivery of 77 BELAZ-75137 mining dump trucks to Coal India Limited, which accounts for 81 percent of India’s coal production. Two 136-tonne vehicles have already been successfully tested, confirming the manufacturer’s declared load capacity. They have already been sent to the site to begin work. By the end of August, six more BELAZ trucks are to be shipped to the Indian consumer for running-in and further operation. BELAZ-75137 dump trucks are adapted to the tropical climate of Central India. For operator comfort, their cabs are equipped with air conditioning, a seat with inertia belts and led lighting for easy operation at night. Their external digital displays eliminate the risk of overload.



You are precious and ours!

When paying for food or throwing a few coins into a musician's violin case, few might think of what these small pieces of metal mean. The reverse side of Belarusian 1, 2 and 5 Kopecks features a symbol of wealth and prosperity, while 10, 20 and 50 Kopecks depict 'A Tree of Life'.



Numismatics opens its doors only to those who have a mature understanding. Coins help look into history, athletic achievements and important dates. They can even save nature, as seen by the commemorative coins issued by the National Bank of Belarus since 1996.

By Veronika Malyshchits

Creative workshop

It is not easy to get into the Central Treasury of the National Bank where artists work on commemorative coins. As I climb the stairs to the Main Cash Circulation Department, I notice that our artists are protected like real treasure.

There are computers, large electronic tablets for drawing, sketches of drawings on the walls, stacks of books and magazines, reproductions of icons, pencils, brushes, coins in plastic cases, advertising leaflets and much more in a spacious room. Here, our three artists — Svetlana Nekrasova, Oksana Novoselova and Svetlana Zaskevich — work.

The National Bank issues commemorative coins in accordance with the rules and regulations that were developed at the very beginning of this activity: in 1996. The theme determines the functions of commemorative coins: 'Belarus and the World Community' aims to represent the country on the international stage and reflect significant world events, 'History and Culture of Belarus' — to preserve cultural heritage, promote it and create a record for a succession of generations. Svetlana Nekrasova gives an example: Belarusians now actively use ornamentation in the design of the city, design solutions, clothing, jewellery. In the early 2000s, such decoration appeared exclusively on commemorative coins.

The theme of sports is also traditional for these coins: special attention is paid to sports and healthy lifestyle in Belarus. Our coins also reflect the theme of environmental protection which is eternal and important; it's gaining popularity every year. Over the past 24 years, more than 50 coins have been issued — featuring reserves and representations of flora and fauna, including those listed in the Red Book.

High bar

The first commemorative coin in Belarus was issued on December 27th, 1996. It's ded-

icated to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. The theme was no accident: for Belarus, as a UN founding state, it was a significant event.

When creating thumbnails, different technologies are used. Commemorative coins of the National Bank range from one gram to a kilogram. However, a coin dedicated to the St. Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya cross, for example, is decorated with precious stones and gilding and has a diameter of ten centimetres. Collectible coins are considered works of art. They are placed in a special capsule so that they do not come into contact with the air, as much as possible preserved in their

very lucky to work with professionals at the History Museum and its staff. The series tells us about the history of the sashes." Svetlana shows us a fascinating design: the reverse side features the 'Slutsk Sashes. Marks' inscription on the left and around the circle; in the centre, there is a font composition based on woven labels of Slutsk sashes and a stylised fragment of Slutsk's 17th-early 18th century map. In short, the time, place and authorship are indicated.

The design of the 'Holidays and Rites of Belarus' series — widely recognised domestically and globally — was developed by Svetlana Zaskevich, from 2004 to 2008. The Kupala

tle of the 'Coin of the Year 2005' — awarded for first place winners in ten categories — went to a silver 'Belarusian Ballet' commemorative coin. The latter also won the 'Coin with the Best Artistic Solution' nomination," says Svetlana Zaskevich who designed the coin.

Since 2005, the National Bank has received 40 awards and prizes in various categories. At the *Coin Constellation* competition in Saint Petersburg in 2008, the 'Legend of the Stork' coin took first place in the 'Silver Coin of the Year' category, while the 'Legend of the Cuckoo' coin was placed second in the 'Coin of the Year' category in 2009.

ter model is developed (20-30cm in diameter) manually or electronically. The first option is time-consuming and long but this technology, as the artists admit, makes it possible to bring the idea to life — which is reflected in the result.

After approval, the plaster model is scanned with a laser and its electronic version is made. In a special programme, a stamping tool is prepared to create a stamp in order to strike a test sample. The tool is refined by a master engraver manually. The price of coins is high not only because of the cost of the precious metal, but also the painstaking work of many people. At every stage of coin creation, human labour cannot be overestimated.

When the tool and a special metal billet are ready, coins are minted by piece on presses that can withstand high pressure. They are packed in capsules and delivered to Belarus, through customs procedures.

Coin outsourcing

Belarus doesn't have its own mint — which is both good and bad. Actually, it's a terribly expensive process but the advantage is that we can choose any technologies existing in the world. In addition to the classic 'proof' technology, which gives a noble silvery appearance, oxidation is used. In this case, a coin looks old. For example, the combination of these technologies is used in the 'Belarusian Railway. 150 Years' coin.

"My first coin was 'Cycling'. I used a hologram technology to make it. If you look at a bicycle wheel from different angles, there is an illusion of movement," says Oksana Novoselova. There is also an opportunity to experiment with the form and the artist is now working on a concave coin.

"We work most often with Kazakhstani, Lithuanian and recently with Polish mints but the choice of a manufacturer in any case is carried out on a tender basis. For us as a financial structure, the price-quality ratio is important," says Roman Titov, the Deputy Head of the Main Department. At the same time, he adds that, despite the structure and clarity of the banking system, creative people feel free here: they enjoy access to high-quality and expensive equipment, visits to mints, business trips to collect information and develop a concept.



The design for commemorative coins is developed by three artists of the National Bank: Svetlana Nekrasova, Oksana Novoselova (in the photo) and Svetlana Zaskevich

original form. A peculiar feature of Belarusian commemorative coins is their positive message: the theme of good in their ideology is fundamental.

As regards the nature of design, Belarusian commemorative coins are artistic, symbolic, conceptual and have a medal tradition. They all are widely recognised globally.

The longer you look — the more you see

The National Bank has made it a rule to work jointly with specialists in a particular field. Based on scientific materials, they give advice to artists and work together on the content and its implementation.

Svetlana Nekrasova mentions her series of coins united by the 'Slutsk Sashes' theme, "We contacted various museums and, it turned out, there were only five complete Slutsk sashes in Belarus at that time. Therefore, it was decided to make a series of five commemorative coins. We were also

Night, Kolyady, Easter, Bogach, Maslenitsa, Troitsa, Saviour and Dzyady are among them. The eight-pointed star located on the obverse side of the coin symbolises the annual wheel of holidays of the Belarusian national calendar. Moreover, the coins are decorated with crystals, the colour of which is chosen for the theme: blue for Kolyady, yellow for Maslenitsa, and so on.

Awards and recognition

The first recognition of Belarusian commemorative coins on the world arena was wide. They were first put up for international competition in 2005 — making it possible to declare Belarus as a unique country.

"The *Passion* play (*Rogueda*) after being shown in Paris was awarded the ballet 'Oscar' — the international Benois de la Danse award — in 1996. We, in turn, were awarded a coin 'Oscar': at the competition of the American World Coin News and the Krause Publications publishing house, the highest ti-

An idea and an embossing machine

Artists joke: the birth of a coin is almost like the birth of a child. Nine months are required from the moment the sketch appears to its physical embodiment.

A plan for issuing commemorative coins is approved by the National Bank annually, in late summer. Suggestions on themes are made by the Academy of Sciences, museums of Belarus, public organisations and others. In general, any interested party can send a proposal, though with reservations: the theme must have ideological and commercial potential.

Creative work begins with getting acquainted with the topic, collecting material, developing conceptual directions and ideas. After the sketch is ready, it is approved by the authors of the scientific development, the working group on the issue of commemorative coins of the National Bank and the Deputy Chairman of the Board.

Based on the sketch, a plas-

Energy of the future

Dozens of e-houses will be commissioned throughout the country by the end of the year

The first electricity at the Belarusian nuclear power plant is planned to be produced this autumn. The country's energy security, lower electricity tariffs for the real sector of the economy, the development of electric transport and smart cities — these are what we can get from the nuclear power plant. Another promising area is the use of electricity for heating and hot water supply in the housing stock. The MT reporter learnt how many homes — 'powered' from the socket — will appear in the country.

By Yelena Misnik

Using two counters

Baranovichi city, 11 Ordzhonikidze Street has a lighted facade, glazed balconies and two entrances. A typical new building, it differs from the other houses, seemingly, only in the rich colours on the facade. But it only seems to be so. The ten-storey building with 90 apartments has no common central heating and hot water supply. The comfort and coziness of living in these apartments completely depend on electricity. In other words, heating, water heating and preparing food comes from the socket. This unusual multi-storey building is the first in the country, built in accordance with the comprehensive plan for the development of the electricity power industry to 2025, taking into account the commissioning of the Belarusian nuclear power plant. It was designed and built by the Brestzhilstroy enterprise within eight months. A square metre costs little more than \$370 for new residents. People who need to improve their living conditions received



the keys to the long-awaited apartments last year.

The concept of electricity and heating supply in the house is apartment-based. Each kitchen has a flow-through electric boiler with a capacity of about 4kW; it heats the water supplied to the heating radiators in the living rooms. The bathrooms are equipped with an electric water heater with a capacity of 1.6kW, which provides the apartment with hot water. Moreover, there is also a 70W electric heated towel rail installed in the bathrooms above the washing machine. Resi-

dents can also use the hot water and heating all year round. I learn these technical details from the Head of Brestzhilstroy's Project Management Department, Viktor Gladky.

Each apartment has two modern high-precision electric meters: one takes into account the consumption of electricity for heating and water while the second is for lighting the living space, the household appliances, as well as cooking. The multi-storey building is 'powered' by a transformer substation. The second house, built next to it, also takes power from this substation. The best places to



E-house in Baranovichi

build electric houses are in areas where either heat and gas sources are not available, or they are not powerful enough. The e-house will be under warranty by the Brestzhilstroy enterprise for five years.

"Two e-houses were commissioned on Ordzhonikidze Street in Baranovichi — for a total of 158 apartments. On Professionalnaya Street, three more blocks are being built for 231 apartments," continues Mr. Gladky. "Back in Zhabinka they have built a one-apartment cottage. In the future there will be an e-house for 120 apartments in Kobrin. Design and construction of the same single-family e-houses is planned in the Dubovo area of Baranovichi."

In the future, e-houses should account for about 30-40 percent of the total housing

Electricity instead of gas

At present, these uncommon buildings can be counted on one hand. Another e-house was recently built in Mogilev — the first experience for the regional centre. However, experts are sure that it will not

be the last. The construction of another house powered 'from the socket' has begun and there will be several more such buildings. They are also being constructed in the Vitebsk Region. In the near future, the number of homes that will use electricity for heating, hot water supply and cooking will increase significantly, as announced by the Minister of Architecture and Construction, Ruslan Parkhamovich. This year, it plans to commission 135,000sq.m of e-houses in the country while, in 2021, this volume will be doubled. In the future, e-houses should account for about 30-40 percent of the total housing. The Minister clarified that plans for the construction of such housing in the regions have already been considered.

In addition, the necessary regulatory framework has been approved, enabling the design of residential buildings that use electricity for heating, hot water supply and cooking. Moreover, design is underway of entire residential areas using electricity. It's planned to transfer apartment buildings with stove heating and a gas supply, single-family and block houses and garden houses to this type of energy resource. All this will significantly increase the level of comfort.

Valuable attempt outlined

The Government has approved a list of public health organisations that perform in vitro fertilisation at the expense of the budget. The corresponding decree of the Council of Ministers as of August 17th, 2020, No. 483 is officially published on the National Legal Internet-portal.

The list includes the Mother and Child Republican Scientific-Practical Centre and maternity hospital No. 2 in Minsk, as well as the Marriage and Family Regional Diagnostic Medical and Genetic Centre in Gomel.

To get a free IVF attempt, the family needs to go to the clinic at the place of registration or residence, or to a private medical centre. The couple will be provided with a medical examination and, if necessary, treatment. After that, the presence or absence of medical indications for the use of IVF is established.

The Government outlines medical institutions for free IVF



One IVF attempt is provided free of charge if there are medical indications and no indications for the use of donor cells. The spouses must be citizens of Belarus, and the woman must be no older than 40.

To provide one IVF attempt for free, the spouses personally apply for the appropriate application and documents to regional commissions for the selection of patients. The decision must be made by a commission no later than 15 days from the date of filing the application.

If the decision of a regional commission is not agreed with, the couple can appeal to the Republican Commission on Free IVF Treatment, and then to the court.

The decree will come into force on January 1st, 2021.

Based on materials of belta.by

Three Saviour's holidays: traditions and signs

In August, Orthodox believers celebrate three holidays in honour of the Saviour: Honey Feast of the Saviour, Apple Feast of the Saviour, and Nut Feast of the Saviour, with folk and Christian traditions closely intertwining in their celebrations

By Natalia Yemelyanova



Honey Feast of the Saviour

The first Saviour's Day (also called 'on the water' and the Saviour of Honey Feast Day) falls on August 14th and was established on the occasion of a double victory when the Russian Prince, Andrei Bogolyubsky, won a victory over the Bulgarians, and the Greek Emperor Manuel defeated the Arabs in 1164. The Russian prince and the Greek emperor had the Holy Cross of the Lord amongst their troops. They fervently prayed to it for help and both were rewarded with a miraculous vision along with their troops: from the icons of the Saviour and the Mother of God that had been taken to war — light emanated and overshadowed the troops. The soldiers rushed bravely on against the enemy and won.

In the church calendar, this feast day is marked as the Origin of the Honest Trees of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord. It's accompanied by the removal and procession of the cross and the solemn consecration of rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Therefore, the first Saviour's Day is sometimes called Wet Saviour Day ('on the water').

Among the people, this first feast day is better known as 'Honey Day'. This is a celebration for beekeepers, when they break the first honeycombs in the hives. People say: 'Break the honeycomb on the first Saviour Day' and 'Even a beggar will eat honey on the first Saviour Day'. Peasants believed that from that day on, bees would stop producing honey. The first honeycombs were usually carried to the church: not only for consecration, but also 'to remember ones parents'.

As a rule, the sowing of winter crops began with the first Saviour's Day. 'The



BELTA



first feast day is the first sowing', our ancestors used to say when they brought seeds to the church, while the priests sprinkled holy water on the fields before sowing. Wells were also consecrated. Such folk signs are still alive: 'Roses finish blooming and good dews fall from the first Saviour's Day', and 'Horses are bathed while bees stop carrying honey on Wet Saviour's Day'.

Apple Feast of the Saviour

The second Saviour's Day (also known as Great Saviour Day, Saviour 'on the mountain', the Saviour of Apple Feast Day) is celebrated on August 19th. On this day, the Orthodox Church cel-



brates the Transfiguration of the Lord: the mysterious transformation, the manifestation of the Divine majesty and glory of Jesus Christ before the three closest disciples described in the Gospels.



photoey.ru

The Gospels say that Jesus took Peter, James and John and went up a mountain to pray. During this prayer, the Transfiguration took place: the face of Jesus was illuminated with light, while his clothes became whiter than snow. After that, the two prophets Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Jesus. The disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration were frightened, but Jesus reassured them and forbade them to talk about what had happened during the prayer, until Christ was resurrected, as he was destined to. It's believed that this holiday is intended to remind people of the need for spiritual transformation.

Great Saviour's Day was especially revered among the people. On this day, apples and other fruits were consecrated in churches, after which they were allowed to be eaten. Hence the popular name of the holiday: Apple Saviour. By tradition, on this day, all believers baked pies with apples, cooked apple jam and treated each other to them.

The ears of the new harvest were also consecrated on the feast day. It was always said that, 'We'll have an abundance of bread on Saviour's Day'.

The Apple Feast of the Saviour is also called 'the first oseniny', that is, the meeting of autumn. From this day, which was on the border between the summer and autumn cycle of work, people began sowing winter crops and dug early potatoes in some places. In addition, fairs were organised.

Among the people, this day was considered to be when the storks departed. It was noted that, if storks began to prepare for departure a week before the Saviour's Day, then winter would be early and frosty while spring would be warm; if they began to prepare after, the autumn would be warm and winter late, while spring would be cold. The departure of the storks testified to the approach of winter, while the proverbs reminded everyone that 'Saviour's Day has come and the summer has left', 'Saviour's Day has come — take your mittens just in case'.

Nut Feast of the Saviour



The Third Saviour's Day (known as Saviour 'on canvas', the Saviour of Nut Feast Day) is celebrated on August 29th. The holiday was established in honour of the transfer of the mysterious image of our Lord Jesus Christ to Constantinople. There is a legend that, during the earthly life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Edessa fell seriously ill. Learning about the miracles of the Saviour, the

prince sent his painter to him with a letter, asking to heal him from a serious illness. When the painter saw the face of the Saviour, he wanted to depict his features on the canvas, but all the work was in vain, as he could not catch the features of the Lord's face.

Noticing this, Jesus Christ ordered them to bring water, washed and wiped his face with a handkerchief, and — to the surprise of those present — the image of Christ immediately appeared on the cloth. Jesus Christ sent this miraculous image to the prince along with a letter in which he wrote: 'Blessed are you that you believed in me without seeing me. After my ascension, my disciple will come to you and completely heal you from your illness'.

The prince, having received the image and bowed to it, almost completely recovered from his illness. At first the image was kept in Edessa, and later it was transferred to Constantinople. This transfer

happened on August 29th.

The third Saviour's Day is called the Nut Saviour, because, as a rule, nuts have ripened by this time. In Belarus, hazel is considered to be a sacred plant, as it symbolises happiness and fertility.

Among the people, Nut Saviour Day was also called Bread Saviour Day, as it meant the end of the harvest and winter sowing: with 'reaping', 'additional harvesting' and often 'sowing'. People had corresponding sayings for this day: 'It is good if the Saviour is on the canvas, and the bread is on the threshing floor!', 'The third Saviour's Day has been and saved the bread', 'If the third Saviour's Day is good, there will be kvass in winter'. There were also signs such as: 'Swallows fly three times, on three Saviour's days', 'If the crane flies off to the third Saviour's Day, it will be frosty on the day of the Protection of the Holy Virgin'. In addition, the people baked pies and biscuits from the flour of the new crop.

vladtime.ru



Fires in Amazon

Deforestation in Brazilian Amazon has hit its highest level in a decade and experts now fear that it could be even higher this year

According to the National Institute for Space Research, between August 2019 to July 2020, almost 9,205 square kilometres were deforested. This is an increase of 34 percent.

The practice of clearing the land by burning the rainforest is common among farmers in Amazon. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro made promises of broader exploitation of the Amazon land a part of his campaign. Fines for illegal deforestation became

less common after he took over the country.

One year ago, so-called 'Day of Fire' that sparked raging wildfires in the Brazilian Amazons drew the world's attention to the problem.

The latest figures raise concerns about a repeat of the huge wildfires that shocked the world in August and September last year.

"It's a terrible sign," Ane Alencar, the Science Director at Brazil's Ama-

zon Environmental Research Institute, said. "We can expect that August will already be a difficult month and September will be worse yet."

Mr. Bolsonaro has criticised Brazil's environmental enforcement agency, Ibama, for what he describes as excessive fines, and his first year in office saw a sharp drop in financial penalties being imposed for environmental violations. The agency remains underfunded and understaffed.

New dinosaur species

Chinese palaeontologists have found the fossil of a new dinosaur species in the city of Zhucheng, east China's Shandong Province, local authorities said



Experts have identified the fossil of a right ilium as that of an ankylosaurus, and named the new species 'Sinankylosaurus zhuchengensis', according to the Dinosaur Research Centre of Zhucheng.

The discovery of the new species adds to the diversity of the Zhucheng dinosaurs' fauna, and provides more insight into the lives of dinosaurs, said Zhang Yanxia from the Dinosaur Research Centre of Zhucheng.

The findings have been published by the *Geological Bulletin of China*.

Zhucheng is home to one of the largest dinosaur bone concentrations in the world, with a total fossil burial area of 1,600sq.km. Chinese researchers found the first dinosaur fossil in Zhucheng in 1964, and since then more than 10 dinosaur species have been found during excavations.

royal.uk



Queen's private art collection to go on public display

The collection from the Picture Gallery at Buckingham Palace, widely acknowledged to be the highlight of the Royal art collection will be brought together in a gallery exhibition for the first time. Sixty-five paintings that usually hang in the Queen's private gallery in Buckingham Palace are set to go on public display at the Queen's Gallery.

The exhibition has been planned to coincide with renovations at the Picture Gallery, one of the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace and to prepare for the next phase of the re-servicing programme. This major ten-year project will overhaul the Palace's essential services.

Masterpieces from Buckingham Palace, spectacular works by artists such as Titian, Rembrandt, Vermeer, van Dyck and Canaletto can be enjoyed 'close up', and visitors will be encouraged to consider the artists' intentions, why the paintings were highly prized in their day and why we would now consider these works to be 'masterpieces'.

Masterpieces from Buckingham Palace will be accompanied by a display charting the evolution of the Palace's Picture Gallery after the acquisition of Buckingham House by George III and

Queen Charlotte in 1762. Their picture arrangements, a mix of Dutch, Flemish and Italian works, continue to influence the hang in the Picture Gallery to this day. Thirty-four of the paintings in the exhibition were acquired by their son, George IV, who commissioned the architect John Nash to transform Buckingham House into the principal Royal palace in the 1820s.

During Queen Victoria's reign, the Picture Gallery was opened to the public for the first time, when the royal family was not in residence, and a catalogue of the paintings was sold. In 1851, under the supervision of Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, the room was redecorated and rehung, and the paintings were uniformly reframed. Today the Picture Gallery can usually be enjoyed as part of the annual Summer Opening of Buckingham Palace.

Century-old heat record

Death Valley may have just killed a century-old heat record, when temperatures in the California desert soared to one of the highest marks ever seen in human history

One particular thermometer in Furnace Creek, California, hit 130 Fahrenheit (54.4 Celsius) on August 16th, according to the US National Weather Service (NWS). The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) says it's now working to confirm the reading, which could become a new — and more reliable — global heat record.

Death Valley famously set a record for the hottest global temperature on July 10th, 1913, when one thermometer hit 134F (56.7°C).

However, a 2016 investigation has since called that record into question. Weather expert Christopher Burt dug

into readings from the surrounding weather stations at the time and concluded that it was 'essentially not possible from a meteorological perspective' for that 134F reading to be correct. Mr. Burt has also questioned the credibility of a 131F reading recorded in Tunisia in 1931.

The most reliable modern heat record has been 129.2F, which was also recorded in Death Valley in 2013.

That means the number recorded could become the most reliable high-temperature mark in history, if it can be properly verified.

Death Valley's name is well-earned. It lies in the northern part of the Mojave Desert, along the eastern border of California near Nevada and close to the Great Basin Desert. It's also the hottest, driest and lowest US national park, with elevations up to 86 metres below sea level.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

From taffeta to crimplene

What did fashionistas dream about in the last century?

Nesvizh is hosting an exhibition of dresses and accessories from the private collection, entitled *Fashion and Beauty of the 20th Century*



Tatiana Stolyarova

By Irina Ovsepyan

Lush skirts, patent leather shoes and beaded reticules. More than 400 items from the private collection of Tatiana Fedosova enable us to see the evolution of fashion and style over the last century: from subtle, pre-revolutionary chic to the sparkling metallic sheen of the 1990s.

The feeling that the exhibition evokes is in many ways, perhaps, nostalgic. Window displays and mannequins show clothes and objects familiar to most of us: similar dresses used to hang in my grandmother's wardrobe, my mother wore almost the same sandals in the 1970s, and I myself managed to use this Soviet powder, mastering the subtleties of make-up in the late 1980s. The younger audience examines the exhibits with great interest: contrary to the popular belief that they wore exclusively felt boots and quilted jackets in the Soviet Union, the attention of young people is drawn to the graceful accessories, pumps, stylish dresses and costumes that today's vintage fashion lovers would love.

Tatiana Fedosova began her collection in the early 2000s, focusing on the fashion of the 20th century, not in the abstract global sense, but specifically Belarusian. What was worn in blue-eyed Belarus during the revolutionary storms, in the thunderous pre-war years, the fashionable 1950s and the shocking 1970s? The exhibition in Nesvizh enables us to trace the evolution of Belarusian fashion and beauty clearly, from then to now.

"I don't know exactly how many items are in my collection, since it is constantly being replenished," admits Tatiana. "Although it is very difficult to collect clothes when it comes to Belarus due to objective historical reasons. I believe that one of the pearls and the most spectacular items at the exhibition is the cambric wedding suit from 1918; its previous owner discovered the rarity in her great-grandmother's trunk when she lived in the Osipovich District. By some miracle, it survived the post-revolutionary devastation and the Great Patriotic War and was kept till this day."

The exposition also boasts a delightful outfit from the 1950s, the very famous silhouette 'flower' — invented by Christian Dior and familiar to us from the *Carnival Night* film and the feminine image of Lyudmila Gurchenko. The 'flower' effect was achieved not only by the cut; the fashion of those years required sacrifices, particularly, it was supposed to sacrifice convenience: the dress was worn over a corset that tightened the waist, while a tough, often multi-layered underskirt was hidden under the lush bell-shaped hem, modelling the silhouette. The elegant outfit is put on the mannequin over these same items; otherwise, its appearance



would have been completely different.

Both designers and film actors turn to Tatiana Fedosova for authentic clothes from the Soviet era.

Collecting textiles is not an easy task; any restorer will tell you that fabrics are one of the most difficult items to preserve. Tatiana Fedosova is not an art critic or a museum employee, but her work is related to beauty, as she is a make-up artist and hairdresser. Over her twenty years of collecting she has acquired all the necessary knowledge and skills.

"I have a special wardrobe, there are showcases in my salon and a separate room for my collection. Storing fabrics isn't easy: they don't have to always hang, or always lie, or always be neatly folded. They need to be moved: they are sometimes on mannequins, sometimes on hangers, sometimes folded, sometimes a little crumpled... There are unique dresses from the 1940s-1950s, each of which is stored individually as required by thin silks, taffeta and chiffon. Moreover, natural fibres should be protected from moths," the lady says.

Everyone will find here their own: eye-catching and exciting memories. The 1970s were marked by the emergence of a large number of synthetic fabrics, all these lavsans, nylons and dederons were seen both women's and men's wardrobes. With great affection I look at the yellow crimplene suit: a short sleeve, a straight fit, a wide collar with sharp corners, large buttons — my mom sewed on patterns from a fashion magazine almost the same; it still hangs in the wardrobe: bright, hot and inexpressibly stylish — just in the spirit of today's fashion trends.

There was also a place for accessories at the exhibition, alongside perfumes and cosmetics: bottles mysteriously gleam with multi-coloured facets (and if you open the shop window, delicate aromas tickle your nostrils),



faceted glass sparkles, a mixture of familiar women's things and scarce goods for the elite — like the Leningrad powder-book. Here and there you find things that are well known, but forgotten in the vanity and diversity of modern life. Are you curious about what will remain in the history of fashion from us? Tatiana Fedosova assures me that there are some objects from the 2000s in her collection, however, it is too early to exhibit them. You have to wait, and after 10-20 years the next generation will be quietly nostalgic, wandering through the exhibition halls.



Native land through the camera lens

Five reasons to see cinematic Belarus

By Sofia Arsenieva

To visit Fedos, Timokha and Valet

Few know that the village of Belye Rosy, from a popular Soviet comedy, has a real prototype: in 1983, the village of Devyatovka was only four trolleybus stops from the centre of Grodno. Its fate was predetermined: the city was getting closer to the individual houses, while the streets were being built up with high-rise buildings. Everything we see on the screen was real life on the outskirts of Grodno in those years. Interestingly, it wasn't professional actors but real residents of Devyatovka who were shot in the mass scenes. They still laughingly recall the episode when Nikolai Karachentsov was playing the button accordion while sitting in a stork's nest. He climbed up independently but was unable to climb down as he was afraid of heights. As a result, rescuers were called; they used a fire truck to take the actor down.

The legendary characters of the film — grandfather Fedos, his dog Valet and neighbour Timokha — have forever become honorary residents of Grodno. Their sculptures can be found today in one of the courtyards of Devyatovka.

To meet style hunters on the avenue

The most striking Russian musical of recent years was also filmed in Belarus. Moscow of the mid-20th century was perfectly 'performed' in Valery Todorovsky's *Style Hunters* by the Belarusian capital. The architecture of the Stalinist Empire in the centre of Minsk has remained almost unchanged and 'Broadway' was found on Nezavisimosti Avenue where the buildings are very similar to those of Moscow's Gorky Street in the mid-1950s. The role of the Cocktail Hall — where the characters of Oksana Akinshina and Yekaterina Vilкова playfully waved their skirts — was 'performed' by GUM. An impressive retro fleet of fifty cars and trucks — including GAZ, ZIS, a Pobeda and an American Hudson — were gathered in Minsk for the film.

Sets were built in all three large pavilions of Belarusfilm. Here, the scenes in stores, in a barbershop, in Mel's cramped communal apartment (Anton Shagin) and in the posh apartment belonging to Fred (Maksim Matveev) were shot.

To climb mountains in the Polesie hinterland

Rocks, a serpentine road and even waterfalls are absolutely atypical landscapes for the Republic. But they were created not by mother nature, but by man. This is the only place in



A scene from *Belye Rosy*



Belye Rosy: its characters seem to have left the screen



A cherry-coloured Hudson — once owned by famous pilot Valery Chkalov — was brought from Moscow to the Belarusian capital specially for the shooting of the film

the country below sea level located near the small town of Mikashevichi.

The largest granite quarry in Europe began to be developed in the 1970s and is still used for its intended purpose. Although, in recent years, workers have increasingly shared the site with filmmakers. Three years ago, the Russian action film *Black Dog* based on the work of the Belarusian writer, Nikolai Cherginets, was filmed here. These 'mountains of the blue-eyed land' were chosen by the American director, Vadim Perelman. This winter, the *Lessons in Farsi* drama was warmly appreciated by critics of the Berlin Film Festival. The last shooting in the Mikashevichi quarry took place less than a year ago: of the fairytale story *Mistress of the Mountain*; it will soon be screened on TV.



Granite quarries near Mikashevichi

To go to the alternate present

Aleksandr Kott filmed the second season of the popular *Other Side of the Moon* mystery series in Minsk. Its main character, Misha Soloviev (Pavel Derevyanko), finds himself in an alternative world where the USSR still exists. The images of the capital of a large country turned out to be perfect in many ways thanks to the monumental architecture of Minsk.

The huge Palace of the Republic was masterfully turned into the building of Kosmostroy where people are chanting: 'Mars is ours!' The glass National Library has become a place of reconciliation, where 'social assistance to friends who are divorcing' is being rendered.



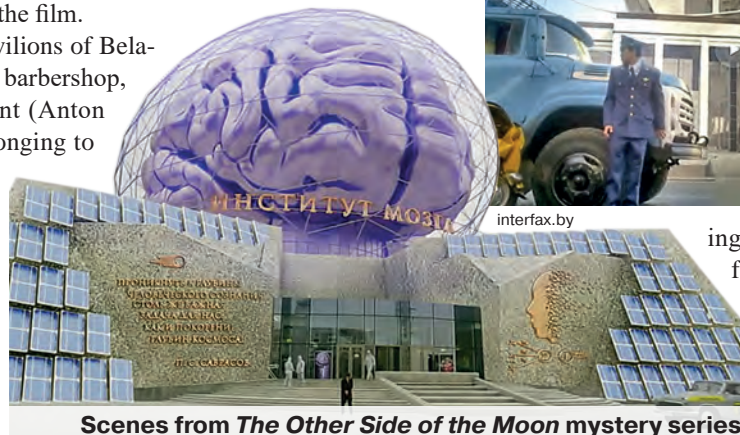
interfax.by

In turn, the new Chizhovka-Arena was transformed into a 'thermal terminal' where high-speed airships depart. At the same time, there was no need to fantasise about a regular train station: Minsk-Passazhirsky station looks very futuristic even without the computer graphics.

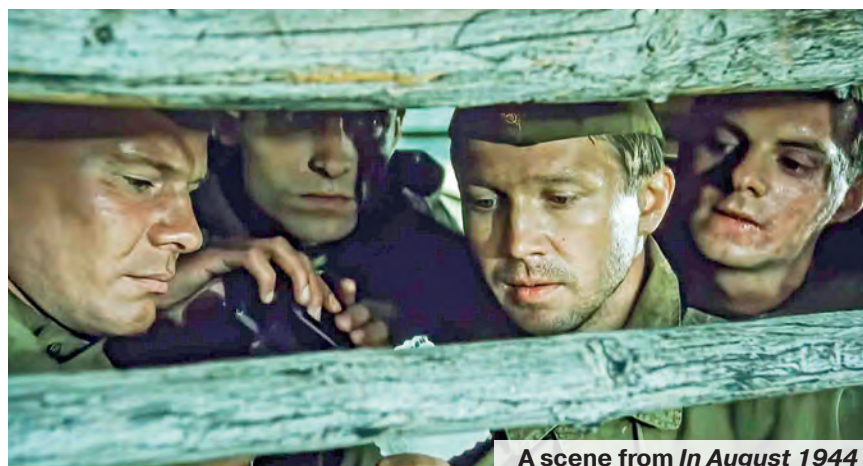
To hide in Smolewood

The Belarusfilm National Film Studio has been nicknamed 'Partyzanfilm' for a long time as no other company can boast such an impressive list of films about the Great Patriotic War. Elem Klimov's *Go and See* tops this list as it is seen as one of the world's best film stories about the war. It's also impossible to imagine May 9th without such films as *In August 1944* and *The Brest Fortress*.

The lion's share of Belarusian and Russian films about the war were shot on a nature reserve in the Smolevichi District of the Minsk Region — known as Smolewood. The fake village is hidden in a forest on the lake shore, covering 80 hectares. It has a dozen houses under thatched roofs, partisan dugouts, trenches and even a pier. "There is no other such site anywhere on the territory of the former Soviet Union," Belarusfilm employees proudly admit. Life during the shooting of 'forest' scenes is quite comfortable here as there is a hotel and a café which attract ordinary tourists as well. Some might be interested in a room where Sergei Bezrukov spent the night...



Scenes from *The Other Side of the Moon* mystery series



A scene from *In August 1944*

Flying over the waves

How our athletes master wakeboarding

It all started with Gagarin. It was the first cosmonaut who once received a boat and water skis as a gift from the Queen of England, and then brought them to the USSR. In Belarus, water skiing began to develop a little later, but since then it has become one of the most titled sports: 33 world titles and six world records. At the same time, very soon, a completely new page may open in the water life of the country.

By Dmitry Komashko

Skiing

Oleg Devyatovsky is one of those who paved the way for our water skiers to reach world championship podiums. The brother of the famous track-and-field athlete, Vadim Devyatovsky, is now head coach of the national team and claims that the team's results are growing every year, "I started in 1983. The Yuri Gagarin Water Ski Club in Novopolotsk is one of two centres that developed water skiing in Belarus. At that time it was already quite a popular and successful sport, although not widespread due to its specific nature. It is expensive: a water skier needs a boat, area of water and equipment. Moreover, training on the water is for the initial stages. After all, you can't attach a group of children to a boat right away."

Nevertheless, there were successes. A winch installed in the Novopolotsk swimming pool made it possible to train on the water all year round, though only in one of the types of water skiing programme — figure skating — which led to the success of our water skiers in this particular type of all-around event. There was simply no opportunity to ride a boat all year round in the country. Later, a similar winch was installed in Minsk, but in the 1990s it was dismantled. According to Oleg Devyatovsky, the situation with water skiing centres in the country has not changed much compared to the initial stage. There are still two of them: the Water Sports Olympic Reserves Centre in Minsk and the Specialised Children and Youth Sports School of the Olympic Reserve No. 3 in Novopolotsk. But there are enough interested children.

The expert notes, "Every year more than a hundred children in Novopolotsk and Minsk are enrolled in initial training groups in water skiing. Moreover, our national team is still one of the world leaders, especially in the electric competition. However, despite its non-Olympic status, there are professional water skiers in the national squad. They are there on a regular basis, with a salary and support. The President's Sports Club awards scholarships to the most talented young athletes, but it is more difficult with the development of infra-

structure. Water skiing facilities are not cheap and we also need coaching staff. Therefore, it is more logical to develop those centres that exist and to strengthen their material and technical base. And it is in this direction, with the enormous support of the state, that water skiing is developing in our country and demonstrating significant success in Europe and on the world stage."

Boards

Despite the fact that water skiing is still difficult to compare to the top most popular sports in the country, the Internet is full of invitations to get on the water but not on skis — on a board. It is called a wakeboard, or wake and is developing in leaps and bounds. Oleg Devyatovsky notes

water. In the end, it turned out that I was able to make my childhood dream come true. Wakeboarding is available to everyone. A person can ride a board in about ten minutes of training and do some simple tricks in a couple of months. A minute of skiing even in Minsk costs a little less than a Dollar. Plus, a lot of promotions, discount coupons, gift certificates have appeared, which are willingly given and received. For normal workouts, even 2-3 hours a week is enough, and you can get pleasure from 15 minutes."

The commercial issue has also played in favour of fans of the board. The ring cable road — the only one in the country — was installed near Minsk



BELTA

that now a person can pay for skiing and wakeboarding not only in the Water Sports Olympic Reserves Centre — where the country's only ring cable car is installed — but also on numerous private reversible cable cars installed throughout Belarus. Several years ago, one of the leaders of the Belarusian water skiing team, German Belyakov, took in the situation. Nowadays he, like many other enthusiasts, offers wakes to the masses and talks about the secrets of the enormous popularity of this sport, "Even as a child, when I started water skiing, I was worried that I could not give a ride to everyone who asked. There were a lot of those who wanted to, among my friends, but only those who were engaged in the sports school were allowed into the

on the Ptich River. It costs about \$500m. Reversible systems — which are enough for a wakeboard — are much cheaper. Mr. Belyakov says that Belarusian wakeboarders have found an even more elegant solution, "It was decided that the installation can be done by ourselves. We designed, found people who helped us make metal structures and in the end we put everything together — and the installation happened! It was the village of Mezhdurechie near Novopolotsk in 2012. Today I'm a manufacturer of wakeboard systems in Belarus. Already 19 such installations have been installed across the country: in Ushachi, Berezino, Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk, Braslav, Grodno..."



Even the first test track was by no means idle. There were a lot of people who wanted to try and come back again, even though the guys did not have wetsuits and the weather was not always good. Today, Mr. Belyakov says, wakeboarding in Belarus is experiencing a real boom, "In 2012, as soon as the first installation was built, we decided to hold competitions, inviting all those who wished. There were no professional judges. Half of the participants could barely stand on the board. It was very funny, but today the situation is completely different. There are guys who are professionally engaged in wakeboarding. Children's training camps are even organised in Logoisk. For professionals, the weather conditions are quite normal. In the end, water skiers achieve significant results, and our conditions are not much different from those in which, for example, rowers train. The only difference is that there is substantial government support in these sports while we are developing by ourselves."

Wakeboarding is one of the sports that is closest on the reserve list to get into the Olympic programme. Judging by the popularity it is gaining all over the world, the chance to see these guys at the Games — sooner or later — is quite large. As freestyle, wakeboard and water skiing have grown from the mass sport, according to Mr. Belyakov, they have turned out to be much more massive, popular and recognisable than expected, "A few years ago, for most people, wakeboarding was something completely exotic. Today, when we install systems even in very small towns, people come up to us and say: 'Oh, there will be a wakeboard! Great!' This is a significant moment. Considering the cost of training (you can ride a wake for about \$4 (equivalent) with all the equipment, our sport has every reason to develop in Belarus."

SPORT

ARENA

● Meshkov Brest HC wins the Belarus Cup for the 12th time

In the final match of the Cup draw in Pinsk, the Brest club defeated SKA Minsk with the score of 26:25 (15:13).

In a tough game for third place, the Gomel handball players beat Mogilev's Masheka with a small margin — 32:31.

In the semi-finals, Meshkov Brest defeated rivals from Gomel with a score of 33:22, while the Minsk team was stronger, beating Masheka — 36:29.



● Bayern Munich win Champions League

Bayern Munich players have won the Champions League by defeating Paris Saint-Germain of France with the score of 1:0, in the final. For the Bavarians, this is the sixth European Champion Cup in history.

In the decisive match of the 65th main continental tournament, the German champions in Lisbon played better than the best team in France. However, the Hans-Dieter Flick's squad managed only once to hit the Parisians goal: at the end of the first hour of playing time, the winning goal was scored by the Munich club's French player, Kingsley Coman.

The Bavarians Polish forward, Robert Lewandowski, became the best striker of the Champions League: he scored 15 goals.

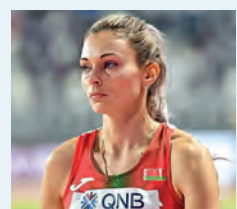


In the semi-finals of the League, Bayern defeated French Lyon — 3:0, while Paris Saint-Germain defeated German Leipzig with the same result.

● Belarusian long jumper Anastasia Mironchik-Ivanova claims gold at the Gyulai Istvan Memorial Event

The Belarusian produced a winning jump of 6.77m in the first attempt in Hungary. She was ahead of Ukraine's Maryna Bekh-Romanchuk by one centimetre who reached 6.76m in the fifth round.

Elvira Herman of Belarus clocked 12.96 seconds to clinch bronze in the Women's 100m Hurdles. In addition, hammer thrower Anna Malyshchik of Belarus also took bronze with her 70.59m best.



The Minsk Times
Thursday
August 27
2020

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Photo of the week



Andriy Sazonov

At the *Krasnopol'sky Glechyk* Regional Festival of Folk Crafts and Arts

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.

On August 27th, 1955, the first edition of *The Guinness Book of Records* was published in the UK on the initiative of the Guinness Brewing Company.



The idea came from Hugh Beaver, who proposed to create an authoritative source for visitors of Irish and British pubs to resolve their disputes about the record of this or that phenomenon.



August 29th is the International Day against Nuclear Tests, approved by the resolution

of the UN General Assembly on December 2nd, 2009. The date is intended to intensify the efforts of the UN in states around the world, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations in the issue of ending nuclear tests. This is a prerequisite for creating a secure world.

On August 29th, the world celebrates one of the most unusual nature



conservation holidays — International Bat Night. Its main goal is to draw public attention to the problems affecting bats and their protection, as well as to debunk myths around the animals, which many people experience an unjustified superstitious fear of, considering them vampires. In fact, bats are amazing mammals that, thanks to their skeleton, have mastered the art of flying.



August 30th is Miner's Day in the Republic of Belarus. It's celebrated on the last Sunday in August, with courageous

people celebrating their professional holiday, whose hard work is the key to the successful development of the country's economy. Miner's Day was officially established in 1947. The first celebration of the day took place on August 29th, 1948.

On August 31st, 1920, the first Soviet battle tank emerged from the gates of the Krasnoye Sormovo Plant (Nizhny Novgorod),



marking the beginning of the Soviet machine tool industry.



educational, methodological and cultural centre for training specialists in basic specialties for the socio-cultural sphere of Belarus.

On September 1st, 1985, at the bottom of the Atlantic, off the coast of the Canadian island of Newfoundland, the US marine archaeologist Robert Ballard and his French colleagues discovered the wreckage of the passenger ship, Titanic. The largest maritime disaster of the 20th century occurred on April 15th, 1912 in the Atlantic, en route from Southampton (UK) to New York (USA). During its maiden voyage, the Titanic — the world's largest passenger liner at the time of its construction — collided with an iceberg and sank after 2 hours and 40 minutes.



According to various sources, from 1,400 to 1,517 people died while around 700 were saved.

Since then, approximately 5,000 artefacts have been recovered from the wreckage.



September 1st is the Day of Knowledge in the Republic of Belarus, celebrated on the first day of the new school year. Traditionally,

on this day, official lessons dedicated to the beginning of the school year are held in schools. First-graders are greeted with special ceremony. The first of September is a celebration for all schoolchildren, students and their parents, filling the hearts of many thousands of people with the feeling of a holiday: from schoolchildren to professors, united by an indefatigable thirst for knowledge and the joy of creativity.

September 1st marks the beginning of World War II (1939-1945). On September 1st, 1939, Nazi Germany attacked Poland. In Poland, this day is celebrated as War Veterans Day.

