

Much skill required to climb Olympus

By Veniamin Khmylevsky

Mr. Lukashenko especially praised marksman Sergey Martynov's success; he confidently defeated his rivals and set two world records. The President additionally highlighted the success of Victoria Azarenko and Maxim Mirny. "Their achievement is all the more notable for having defeated their hosts at Wimbledon!" believes the Head of State, noting, "Alexandra Gerasimenya also achieved brilliant success. Until her result, sovereign Belarus had never won an Olympic medal in swimming; now, we have two silvers!"

Mr. Lukashenko thanked all the athletes who did their best, setting high goals and achieving brilliant results. He also thanked the coaches and all those who led the sportsmen to triumph. "I should stress that we followed every athlete closely. The Olympics are a special competition, requiring huge concentration and psychological endurance," he said, expressing his gratitude to all the champions and medal winners of the London Olympics.

He noted that some of the tasks set failed to be realised by the Belarusian team, "Sadly, not all managed to cope with the tension and tough rivalry. To be honest, some even refused to take part in the Olympics." Mr. Lukashenko stated that Belarus had 'fallen' compared to previous Olympic Games in its number of medals won, with some sports showing quite dismal results. The President promised to seriously discuss



London Olympics medallists Ksenia Sankovich, Alina Tumilovich and Andrey Bogdanovich

this after conducting detailed analysis of the Belarusian Olympic participants' performance. "The Olympics in Sochi and Rio de Janeiro lie ahead, so we need to demonstrate bravery in admitting mistakes, while taking into consideration our experience, working selflessly and with determination towards future success," he added.

Mr. Lukashenko awarded the Olympic Games prize holders and coaches with state awards, while granting honourable titles and announcing the gratitude of the President of Belarus. Additionally, detailed discussions took place regarding how best to enhance sports re-

sults. Goals for the state and sportsmen were outlined, creating a prelude to a major future meeting, to be attended by the President. "Foremost, we'll make a serious study of how best to develop our sports, asking those who failed why they think this happened. We're in no hurry. I've been told today that performance analysis is close to completion. You should know that tough measures will be taken," Mr. Lukashenko said.

TwiceOlympicsilver swim medallist Alexandra Gerasimenya believes that many sports — including swimming — lack expert managers able to nurture youngsters through years of training to-

wards supreme achievements. Accordingly, reserves are becoming weaker, with fewer young talents able to replace famous sportsmen. Alexandra asked the Head of State to help find a worthy candidate to chair the Swimming Federation, able to raise the level of the sport. Mr. Lukashenko unexpectedly settled the issue, suggesting Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Tozik for the post. "He has the resources to attract anyone and he is a man, who is the first in the Government and the country to be responsible for sports development," he said.

The President stressed that the issue of executive staff in sport must be dealt

with seriously, by assessing their achievements to date. "I've always warned that the time will come when you'll need to report on results. You should keep in mind, as I announce publically today, that there will be no easy money in sport anymore. This will come only if results are shown. If you perform well, then you'll receive money," stated Mr. Lukashenko. As an example, he mentioned the rhythmic gymnastics, for which Belarus regularly wins medals at various competitions. "They deserve to have their own venue, so it will be constructed for them. An order has been made and a site chosen, so that all forms of gymnastics can enjoy the best conditions," he added.

Mr. Lukashenko noted that his role as President is to create good conditions for sportsmen, allowing them to train effectively at home rather than abroad. In fact, many leading foreign sportsmen and champions choose Belarus as their training venue. "We may not enjoy the same facilities as America or China but we have everything we need to perform better than in previous years," stressed the Head of State. He believes that we must re-consider how best to inspire coaches — including those tasked with finding and training talented children. "We should also look at other coaches and how much they earn, examining goals and methods. Countries with market economies pay for results while we pay for the job. Honour and respect should go to those showing results," Mr. Lukashenko added.

The vital issue to the country on Union scale

By Ivan Antonov

Belarusian-Russian agreement on terms of supply of Russian gas to Belarus taken to State Duma for ratification

The Russian Government is set to ratify an agreement on the supply of gas to Belarus, with prices fixed for 2012 and subsequent years, pegging prices for gas supplied by the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District of the Russian Federation. The document also defines how tariffs will be calculated for gas transportation services via Beltransgas' pipelines — for domestic consumption and export beyond Belarus.

In addition, the Belarusian-Russian intergovernmental agreement looks at the terms of sale of shares and further activity of Beltransgas. Gazprom acquired the second half of Beltransgas' shares for \$2.5bn last year. Conditions are to be set for Beltransgas' future activity, including modernisation, reconstruction and development of the gas transportation system.

The first 50 percent of Belarusian-Russian Beltransgas shares were bought by Gazprom for \$2.5bn between 2007 and 2010. In November 2011, the Russian gas monopolist acquired the remaining 50 percent of the shares — also for \$2.5bn, making Beltransgas fully owned by Russia. In return, Belarus has received a discount on Russian gas until 2014. This year, the average price of gas should stand at \$165.60 per thousand cubic metres.

attention to the importance of worthy investment projects, for which the Government is ready to provide support; however, he asserts that the number of polished investment projects for 2013 is currently insufficient.

Government ready to provide assistance in upgrading works

Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich urges the acceleration of upgrading of Belarusian enterprises at the Council of Minister's Presidium

By Victor Kharitonov

Mr. Myasnikovich noted at the session of the Council of Ministers' Presidium that it's impossible to considerably increase labour productivity while using outdated production facilities and management approaches. New manufacturing facilities are required, alongside goods which reflect current trends and demand. "To achieve this, we need to build, reconstruct, retool and attract investments, while spending our own

money wisely," he stressed.

"At present, some of our ministries, enterprises and organisations are failing to fulfil the goals they have been assigned. Several are spending their own money ineffectively and that of investment funds. Speaking of modernisation and under performance, we need to look not only at statistical facts but at workforce performance," noted Mr. Myasnikovich. "We need to admit that we lack the required level of responsibility; the performance of

several enterprises and regions is failing to meet the expectations of the Head of State and of life itself."

The Head of Government recalled that, in February 2012, the Council of Ministers instructed all heads of state agencies to complete relevant management decisions (within a month) to modernise existing jobs and create new ones. The aim is for GDP per capita to reach \$60,000 by 2015. The instruction to draw up modernisation plans for each enterprise

was reiterated in May. However, the expected results are yet to be achieved.

As an example, Mr. Myasnikovich noted that 70 percent of municipal enterprises are failing to fulfil their own business plans, with the exception of Brest, Vitebsk and Grodno regional executive committees. The situation is unsatisfactory in the Industry Ministry, which has failed to properly assign business plans to every enterprise. The PM has pointed to drawbacks in the opera-



Modernisation of Sugar Refinery

tion of other ministries and agencies, including the Architecture and Construction Ministry, Bellesbumprom and Bellegprom. Individual regions are subject to criticism.

Mr. Myasnikovich drew