

FROM THE EDITOR

Good mood and moment of truth

I am not a fan, I mean I don't attend matches and don't follow favourite team everywhere, but I like all this fans' aura, when fans take off their T-shirts at 15 degrees below zero and yell something to support their favourite club for all 90 minutes of the match. Maybe, it's not aesthetic, but really devoted. Why not, if everything is within the legislation and the law is not violated. I'm a fan in my heart. I like beautiful game: skills and dedication on the court, field or ice. I support real masters: their striving for victory, their ability to win and not to lose dignity in front of stronger opponents. We experience positive emotions from victories and negative from loses. However, they make us feel alive and last week was rich for emotions.

Darya Domracheva finally performed successfully at the Biathlon World Championship in the Czech Republic. She received the title of the champion in one of the disciplines after a series of unsuccessful performances. I watched this on TV. I was sure that she deserved victory, proving that she is one of the best biathletes in the world. Sometimes it seemed that if the distance were longer, Norwegian Berger would be the first. It was broadcasted that fans supported biathlete at the beginning of the track and then at the stadium in Czech Nové Město na Moravě. This support means a lot for athletes. Read our *Domracheva returns to podium!* (p. 11). I'd like to quote Darya's words about her professional credo, "Everything can happen in life, but black stripe will end sooner or later." The athlete said about her plans that she should work... but I see this as a key for the future success.

Sport life is colourful and fans' mood changes fast. I saw this on Sunday evening, when few hours after Darya's victory, Dinamo Minsk hockey players, performing in KHL, lost their chance to get into play-offs. The mood was spoilt, but there was a feeling that the team should work more to win. Probably, they will learn the lesson and will win next time.

Meanwhile, later good news arrived: Victoria Azarenko has won the Premier tournament in Doha. She has won for the second time in a row. Moreover, Victoria has defeated her main rival — Serena Williams. Before that, Azarenko lost to the American tennis player in eleven out of twelve meetings.

According to commentators, the victory was beautiful and very important. Like many other people, I'm interested in the process of sport games and, to be exact, if there will be a turning point in the rivalry between the two very good tennis players. I think that for them it's also not most important who tops the rankings. This is what I think as a fan, and I hope that I am not mistaken.

By Victor Kharkov

Practically everything to be seen from above

Useful geospatial data from Belarusian satellite to be shared

By Alexander Pimenov

A contract has been signed by the Geoinformation Systems scientific and engineering enterprise of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, with the Innoter Geoinnovation Agency (GIA Innoter), to provide geospatial data.

According to the terms, the national operator of the Belarusian satellite is providing GIA Innoter with micro-frames of panchromatic and polyzonal imagery (files of RPC-coefficients for the total area of 2,740sq.km).

The Director of Geoinformation Systems, Sergey Zolotoy, tells us that data provided by the Bel-

arusian operator will be used by GIA Innoter for research, in conjunction with American company Geo22. Satellite images will be used to determine the qualitative and quantitative characteristics of woodlands and wood species and to assess damage caused by forest fires, air pollution and illegal logging, for the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation of Nepal.

As in many other regions of the planet, forests in Nepal are being cut down and contaminated, leading to the extinction of birds, animals and plants. Nepal has been classified by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a high-risk ecological zone in Asia.



At Minsk Flight Control Centre of Belarusian space apparatus

Singing songs after kind action

Several important Belarusian ministries join National Academy of Sciences in discussing Union State programmes for security, defence, law enforcement and collaboration in the defence-industrial and military-technical spheres, with Union State Secretary Grigory Rapota in attendance

"We've studied all Union State programmes — focusing on their degree of fulfilment, expedience and scale of expenditure," explains Mr. Rapota. "We've studied all that's been achieved so far. The 2012 budget was executed satisfactorily, as we've already reported to the Union State's Council of Ministers. Meetings with general contractors are well-established, helping bring problems to light early on."



After the meeting, Grigory Rapota meets Pesnyary Belarusian State Ensemble

Speaking of plans for 2013, the Deputy State Secretary of the Union State, Alexey Kubrin, noted, "Existing and new Union State programmes aim to develop defence and law enforcement infrastructure, as well as promoting staff training and qualifications. Serious work is afoot

to develop the GLONASS system, producing new composition materials — including for the aviation industry. All Union State programmes have an innovative aspect."

Peaceful space exploration is an area for co-operation, with a Russian rocket having already taken the

first Belarusian satellite into orbit, as part of the Cosmos-NT Union State programme. According to Sergey Korenyako, from the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences' United Institute of Informatics Problems, another joint project is now undergoing approval and several other

Union State programmes are focusing on space. Some relate to the use of Nanotechnologies-SG and Standardisation-SG.

Belarus is known to be strong in developing broadcasting technology, including the processing and sending of space data to consumers. Meanwhile, Russia is expert at making boosters and space craft. Naturally, progress needs to be swift, before technology becomes obsolete. All areas of innovation are highly competitive, with the leaders taking the largest slice of the pie. The Union State's Standing Committee has also been looking at ownership of the results of Union State projects.

Mr. Rapota has invited legendary folk group Pesnyary to give a concert to mark Belarus-Russia Unity Day, having visited them at their studio. "I've long wanted to meet you," he told the musicians. "Who among us didn't listen to your songs in our youth? Pesnyary was among the most talented Soviet groups, while Vladimir Mulyavin was a musical idol. Talks are now underway to erect a monument to him in his native Yekaterinburg."

The musicians presented a lyre (a symbolic musical instrument) to Mr. Rapota and he, in turn, presented them with a large collection of ballads composed and performed by amateurs.