



The Belarusian diaspora arrived at historical homeland and visited a creative internship

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A temple complex in memory of the people's heroic deed during the Great Patriotic War will appear in Minsk

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INTERNATIONAL

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Participant of the 'Real Lady' competition Daryana Volnaya, student of the Mogilev Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

## Real ladies

The Mogilev Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus hosted the 'Real Lady' competition for the fifth time. This year it was dedicated to the Year of Historical Memory. The contestants shared about their small homeland, reflected memorable places and events of Belarus during their performances, explained why they decided to connect their lives with the police profession.

Such events allow young participants to release themselves in a different way, to reveal their inner world. However, they also have another important mission — to remind that the future belongs to the youth. They are young, beautiful, smart, talented, they love the Motherland and serve the Republic of Belarus! → 6



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# Belarusian economy handles the pressure

There is no doubt now that an entire historical period ended with Russia launching its operation in Ukraine. A new 'watershed line' between the East and the West is rapidly taking shape due to aggravated confrontation of leading players. This was stated by the President of Belarus at a session of the Security Council, held in an expanded format.

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that the economic war against Belarus has been going on for almost two years and it has a very specific goal, "Taking into account the recent events in Ukraine, we are now being attacked on all fronts, including trade, finance and logistics.

**The main goal is to block our export channels and weaken us through import restrictions, so that in the end all this would affect the welfare of our people. The speed of sanctions and their depth show that they had been preparing for it thoroughly and for a long time. It is clear that they would have been imposed regardless of the development of Russian-Ukrainian relations...**

## The main danger for the Southern neighbour

The President also commented on the actions of global powers, "Many countries, which have followed the great and thoughtlessly joined the sanctions, are now beginning to understand something. Even act. Some Western companies have left Russia and Belarus. Some are coming back. Some did not even leave, just made a statement. In fact, these restrictive measures against Russia and Belarus, imposed by the USA and its allies, are becoming sanctions for the whole world. The established system of trade is being destroyed."

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, sanctions make the states that impose

Ukraine, "Once again I want to tell those who shout 'No to war!'. We don't need this war, because we can end up suffering the most as a result of this conflict, the conflict between the two Slavic peoples. I have been saying this from the very first day of this confrontation between Ukraine and Russia. We once again offered Russia and Ukraine a safe place for negotiations. Our initiative was heard, appreciated and accepted. Belarus hosted three meetings of Russians and Ukrainians where they charted ways towards a peace deal. Istanbul means Western pressure to discourage Ukraine from going to Belarus. They didn't need a peace-making mission in Belarus.

**Feel free to arrange these talks over there. Results are what matters. Because, let me emphasise it once again, a war means a great harm for Belarus."**

Aleksandr Lukashenko also stated, "There can be no negotiations without Belarus. Since you, primarily Western countries, got us into it, naturally Belarus' stance must be presented during these talks. We don't proceed from the fact that we have been put into the same basket together with Russia. No. We proceed from the belief that this war is just over the fence of our country. And it is most seriously affecting the situation in Belarus. This is why there can be no separate agreements behind Belarus' back. I am absolutely convinced and know that Russia understands this position. And there is nothing wrong with it. But it will run contrary to Western designs. But it doesn't mean we should dance the Western tune."

First of all, this position of the Belarusian side should be heard in Kyiv. Aleksandr Lukashenko added, "If even a little bit of reason remains with the leadership of Ukraine, if there is even one drop, they should understand that a period of restoration will begin after the war and it will be necessary to restore the country. If they think that Western countries will come and selflessly rebuild Ukraine just like that, they are sadly mistaken! If they are to build and rebuild some plant in Ukraine, it will not be a plant of the Ukrainian people. It will be a plant owned by the country restoring it. There is a most severe danger that there will be nothing Ukrainian left in Ukraine.

**Even nothing oligarchical. All of it will be dominated by oligarchs from the USA and major European Union countries. This is why you have to find your luck in your own home. As I've been saying for a long time, the three Slavonic nations should recognise what is going on in the world on the global scale, sit at a table, and come to terms. Come to terms as equals."**

## Special operation in Ukraine

The President spoke about the special operation carried out to return Belarusian citizens from the territory of Ukraine at a session of the Security Council, "Things went too far and these scoundrels started capturing our people, primarily drivers of the vehicles, which happened to be there

at the time. They arrested about 1,500 railway cars of ours, captured our automobiles, and I think up to 100 our guys, who were driving these semi-trucks. I warned Ukrainians that we would be forced to stage an operation to free these people. We carried out such a special operation and freed all our people."

The President did not reveal the details but instructed Chairman of the State Security Committee Ivan Tertel to nominate all the participants of the operation for government awards.

## The economy is operating

The Belarusian economy as a whole is handling the pressure. Companies are working, people have jobs, salaries are paid on time, emphasised Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko in his report. In the first two months, the export of goods increased by 21.5 percent (compared to January-February 2021). Aleksandr Lukashenko commented on these figures,

**"In other words, the demand for our products has grown and there are no problems with their sale, because virtually everything that we produce is in demand, first of all, on our main sales market, which is the Russian Federation. We fought for it."**

Roman Golovchenko also outlined other indicators: the foreign trade surplus amounted to \$700 million, the net profit of enterprises more than tripled, the profitability of sales exceeded 9 percent, payment discipline is maintained and the real incomes of households also keep growing.



**Belarus will continue to defend its national interests in the most rigorous way. Any hesitating allies need to understand that without rapid consolidation of our civilisation, without strengthening the political, economic and military ties, we may not be there tomorrow."**

Aleksandr Lukashenko also reminded that issues of mutually beneficial co-operation in industry, cargo transportation, fuel, energy and financial sectors were already discussed with the President of Russia. The heads of the two states share the same assessment of the situation around Belarus and Russia, "New windows of opportunity are really opening up for our countries. With Western companies leaving the Union State market, huge niches are becoming available for us to explore."

The President of Belarus stressed that everything that is happening today, the conflict in Ukraine, all this sanctions policy is only part of the problem on a global scale,

**"It is a part of the global confrontation between the USA and China. A new powerful player has come to the front — China. So, meanwhile, they are trying to get rid of Russia and Belarus as well. This is part of the global matters we are all going to see in the near future. It will be very bad if the union between Belarus and Russia does not survive. It will be really very bad."**

them weaker, and to an even greater extent, they hurt those states. The President cited the example of the EU, which is faced with rising fuel prices, shortages of food and mineral fertilisers. The countries that understand it, China in particular, oppose Western sanctions that destabilise the world market.



Belarusian Defence Minister Viktor Khrenin

At the same time, the President explains, all this did not start because of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, "It began a long time ago. America had to take care of things here in order to reach head-on collision with China. Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus — one thing led to another."

The President recalled that Belarus traditionally tried to establish a dialogue between the parties to the conflict almost immediately after the start of the active phase of hostilities on the territory of



Belarusian Emergencies Minister Vadim Sinyavsky and Chairman of the State Security Committee of the Republic of Belarus Ivan Tertel

The Prime Minister reported that under normal conditions, the growth of the Belarusian economy would exceed the planned level,

**"Nonetheless, the collective West has significantly increased pressure in the unleashed sanctions war in recent months. They have additionally introduced financial and trade sanctions that are so notable to us... As a result, the negative impact on our economy has sharply increased. In order to quickly adapt the economy to the new conditions and mitigate this blow, the government switched to a mobilisation mode of operation. The operational team works every day, if necessary, government decisions are taken within 48 hours."**

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

Aleksandr Lukashenko discussed with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan the possibilities for developing co-operation in the near future

Minsk and Islamabad have similar views on the issues of the world order. The President of Belarus is well acquainted with Pakistan, and the dialogue with its leadership has always developed in a positive way. The Head of the Belarusian State noted,

*“We have built groundwork for co-operation. As far as I know, our joint venture to produce equipment is now up and running in Punjab. We are ready to move on.”*

I had visited Pakistan twice. Belarus had built good relations both with the previous government and with the incumbent one. Despite the situation unfolding in Pakistan today, I am absolutely sure that the Pakistani leadership, the Pakistani elite, has enough wisdom to preserve this giant nuclear state in this very difficult period.”

Belarus will continue to be open for interstate co-operation, the Head of State stressed, “I am sure that you are well aware of what we can do and how we can be useful to Pakistan. Therefore, I will not enumerate everything that you know. If you have an interest in our economy, you are welcome to visit any our company, any institution. You have always been our friend and I think you will, despite some ups and downs of the modern world.”

### Together with Russia in all situations

In a conversation with Sajjad Haider Khan, Aleksandr Lukashenko also touched on the Ukrainian issue, “You are well aware of what is going on in the region regarding the conflict, including Russia and Ukraine. If you have any questions, I am ready to answer them. However, you should know our principled position.

*“Russia is our ally, our reliable ally. We have always been together with Russia and will stand side by side in all situations, in all life changes and difficult events.”*

# Minsk and Islamabad: plans for co-operation



We are for a peaceful settlement of this conflict. We do not tolerate wars, it is inherent in Belarusians at the genetic level.”



Sajjad Haider Khan

The President recalled that Belarus lost a third of the population during the Great Patriotic War and stressed,

*“Wars, conflicts, confrontation are unacceptable to the Belarusian people. This is also the basis of our current position, which is that the issues that are discussed at some international forums cannot be discussed and decisions cannot be made without taking into account Belarus’ interests.”*

I suppose you listened to yesterday’s statement of the President of Belarus at a meeting of the Security Council. We will stick to this position.”

### Friends and allies

Sajjad Haider Khan assured the Head of the Belarusian State,

*“Pakistan views Belarus as a friend and ally in the region.”*

Over the past few years, the two countries signed more than 80 bilateral agreements. Ten more documents are under discussion.”

The diplomat spoke in detail about Pakistan’s interest in an interview with reporters, “Belarus has a lot of experience in agriculture and industry. These are key points of interest for Pakistan, including the establishment of joint ventures in the country. At the current stage, Minsk Tractor Plant is already negotiating with one of the Pakistani companies to open an assembly plant in Pakistan. There are several similar projects on the co-operation agenda. In addition, Pakistan is interested in setting up joint ventures to process dairy products.”

According to the diplomat, Pakistan plans the construction of nine special economic zones, four of which are al-

most ready, “These zones will be located in the Pakistan-China economic corridor and may also be of interest for joint projects with Belarus.”

Last year the trade between Belarus and Pakistan amounted to \$92.6 million, up more than 77 percent compared to 2020. It should be noted that Belarus posted a trade surplus of \$63.6 million. This year also shows positive dynamics. The basis of our exports are tractors and spare parts for them, potash fertilisers, foodstuffs, medicines. We import fruits, rice, leather goods, fabrics, textiles, medical devices and sports equipment. Sajjad Haider Khan is convinced that the achieved level of mutual trade does not correspond to the economic potential of the two countries, “Therefore, we intend to make every effort to increase the volume of trade. We attach great importance to intensification of contacts between the business circles of the two countries. This is a key element of our bilateral co-operation.”

The Ambassador added that at the meeting with the President, the prospects for co-operation in the field of education and culture were also discussed.

**Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by**

## Belarus suspends payments to unfriendly foreign residents

**The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, signed Decree No. 137 On Enforcement Documents on April 7th.**

The document aims to protect national business entities from writing off money from their accounts upon request of foreign residents that commit unfriendly actions against Belarusian legal entities or individuals.

The decree suspends the execution of enforcement documents issued in favour of such residents. In addition, banks and other financial organisations are obliged to refuse to accept payment claims submitted by these resident companies on their own according to enforcement documents without the payer’s acceptance.

## New powers for the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation

**In connection with active development of digital technologies, the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation is vested with additional powers, with the corresponding Decree No. 136 On the State Administration Agency in the Field of Digital Development and Informatisation signed by the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, on April 7th.**

The Ministry of Communications and Informatisation is vested with new powers in terms of managing digital development processes in the state, as well as digital transformation of the state administration system and all sectors of the economy.

For practical support of digitalisation issues and their accelerated implementation, a Digital Development Centre will

be established. It will assist state bodies and organisations in the preparation and implementation of activities in the field of digital development.

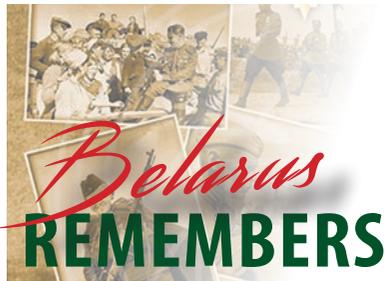
A Digital Development Advanced Research Centre is also being set up. It will form proposals on draft digital development forecasts and indicators of the level of digital development of industries and regions while collecting information to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of activities which are included in the digital development programmes. This centre will be assigned organisational support for the expert evaluation in the area of digital development, involving specialists from state bodies and organisations, alongside Hi-Tech Park residents.

The document expands mechanisms for financial support for digital develop-

ment processes and envisages the possibility of introducing already developed software products. The processes of concluding and implementing contracts in the field of digital development are being simplified.

The topic of Belarus’ digital development was discussed with the President this week. Listening to the report on the draft Decree On the State Administration Agency in the Field of Digital Development and Informatisation, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “We should not put the cart before the horse and do this just because other people do it... Meanwhile, if it is necessary, if it gives a certain effect, we will deal with this issue.”

**Reported by the Press Service of the President**



# Real genocide

Victims of Nazism, witnesses of those crimes share inconceivable things. They tell about crimes against humanity that have no statute of limitations...

Last year, the Prosecutor General's Office opened a criminal case on the fact of the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period. This summer, for the first time, on June 22nd, we will mark a renewed memorable date — the National Remembrance Day of the Victims of the Great Patriotic War and the Genocide of the Belarusian People for the first time. This important decision, established by a presidential decree, was made precisely so that we do not forget our history. Moreover, during the investigation, hundreds, thousands of new cases of atrocities committed on Belarusian land were discovered. Declassified archival documents, the remains of civilians buried in mass graves, which are still found throughout the country today, have become 'living proof' of these very facts.

**Premiere of the joint project of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House and the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Belarus**

"A car arrived, a dump truck, we didn't see such trucks before... We looked at the lifting body of the dump truck... There were many children — and when it was unloaded, the whole mountain appeared. Some of them moved their little fingers, hands... We lived in constant atrocity all this time." It was already the third concentration camp in the open air, in which a young prisoner from the Zhlobin Region tried to survive.

By Lyudmila Gladkaya

## Memories of horrifying images

By telling the prosecutor about what happened, the witness in the criminal case on the genocide seems to be experiencing those horrors again, "They arrived at night, our village was shelled. Nobody slept, people were suited and booted. There were many people in the village and in our house. People were coming from Proskurni and Oktyabr villages... Everyone was rounded up here... The Germans broke into the house, my aunt with a small child in her arms was immediately shot dead. She had six small children."

Sick people lay in the cellar of another house. The cellar was just filled with people. The Germans looked and threw a grenade there...

Now there is a cross in that place. The witness also spoke about the houses of her native village Bolshie Rogi burned right in front of her, and about how the surviving villagers were driven by fascists with dogs to Zhlobin, "The square was surrounded by barbed wire. We spent a night under the open sky. In the morning the Germans came and began to sort people. Able-bodied and young people — in one direction... Children were pulled from their mothers hands and thrown just straight... It was... A bunch of children were in the snow. The children were screaming there, and the mothers were screaming here, tearing their hair out... An empty freight train was already standing on the tracks, and we were all rounded up to



the train. The doors were closed. And we did not know where they took us. Then they 'unloaded' us. In the same way. People just fell out of the train."

The witness continues, "This crowd, like a herd of animals, was herded into an area fenced with wire. Then we were rounded up again, we walked through the mud. Someone walked, someone fell, someone was killed... It's too terrifying to imagine. Then we were transferred to the third camp. There was a lot of snow and water. My mother had five of us. Mom broke off a young pine tree and put us on this hummock. Thus, people sat on the bumps in this swamp. There were watch towers around, Germans with machine guns and dogs. It went like this for probably over a week. It was raining and sleet. I remember that my mother stretched some kind of blanket over us... I remember how many people, how many children lay dead there."



One morning, she says, they woke up, and it was too quiet in the camp, "There were no Germans on the watch towers, and the Russian soldiers arrived! Good Lord, there were so many tears, so many joyful cries! We still did not believe that it was us who had been liberated. We were told that those who can walk, should go. They said to walk the main road and do not touch anything, because it is mined. There were crowds of people. They were walking with joy — they were free! We came to Ozarichi village. It was destroyed too, there was no place to sit on. My mother found a cellar with some frozen potatoes. She found a bunch of straw, made a bed, so we sat there until the morning. In the morning they gave us crackers — so, they fed us."

## 61899

This number was engraved on the hand of a child, concentration camp prisoner Yekaterina Dyatlovich (Holubeva). The same number was on a wooden plate, which the girl, like other captives of the Nazis, had to constantly wear on her chest.

"I don't remember the beginning of the war. I remember it from the time when we lived in a dugout in the forest, our village was completely burned down. My mother had six children. Three girls and three boys. The oldest was then 10 years old, the youngest was a year old.

When the partisans retreated, the Germans began to drive us out of the forest. We walked in columns. I don't remember how long we walked. We were herded to a concentration camp in Vitebsk, it was called the Fifth Regiment (Pyatyy polk). They slept there on the ground under the open sky. The barbed wire was around, we were guarded by the Germans with dogs," says a witness in the Yekaterina Dyatlovich case.

Then people were divided into groups. They were loaded into wagons (the documents say that it was August 13th, 1942) and they were just taken, "It was a long drive... Then there was the Auschwitz concentration camp. They immediately registered us: they tagged us with numbers. The mothers went first, then the children. I have a number on my left hand — 61899. This is my number. From that time on, we had no last name, no first name, nothing. They fastened boards with the same numbers on us.

I remember a ditch around us, an iron fence, and barbed wire on top. The elders said that it is electrified. It was done so that no one could escape... I was in the 27th, 26th and 25th barracks. There were some tests in each of them. For example, in the 27th barrack, they took blood from us. Then they said that many wounded soldiers had arrived and that is why they need our blood. Experiments were carried out in another barrack, I also was a test subject in drug trials... When I had to be treated for tuberculosis of both kidneys, the body could no longer take any antibiotics. This was a result of these tests in the concentration camp."

## "My brother fell ill — that's why he was sent to the crematorium. The crematorium worked 24 hours daily in the concentration camp"

Yekaterina Dyatlovich spoke about the biggest fear of the little prisoners: when in the mornings 'this cart drove around the barracks'. She told this episode coldly, just like a tongue twister, so as not to burst into tears, "My younger brother Lenya fell ill, so they took him away, burned him in the crematorium... Each time, this cart, this overseer, 'drove around the barracks'. Most of them were Poles, there were also Germans. However, I have to tell you: where there were the Germans, it was less harsh and there were not so many beatings. On the contrary, the Poles abused the children very much, they were severely beaten.

And in the morning these Poles drove along the aisles between the bunk beds... My brother fell ill, the Pole saw him when he was lying. She grabbed his legs and put him in this carriage. Sick children or those left without parental care shared the same fate. Everyone was put into this carriage and taken to the crematorium. The crematorium worked 24 hours daily in the concentration camp... When the wind was from the other side, it was impossible to breathe in the barracks. Therefore, they took Lenya and another brother, Volodya. He got sick too."

In 1943, the witness continues, they were told that their clothes were worn out, they would give them new ones, and then they were taken to some room, "They said that we have to choose clothes here. Mothers were sent in the other direction. We didn't see them again. If you only knew what the scream was! What a howl!... So many years have passed. I am already 83 years old, although, even now these terrible cries are in my head... They burned my mother in the crematorium and I don't remember her face..."

## Human shield

More than 546 thousand people were exterminated in the Trostenets death zone.

Nazi concentration camps were one of the main places of extermination of the Belarusian people. Trostenets is the largest camp in Belarus. Everything is intertwined here: the destruction of the civilian population and prisoners of war, pre-planned murder and spontaneous executions of people of different nationalities and religions.

Ozarichi is a complex of three camps located on the territory of the modern Kalinkovichi district. The 'incapacitated residents' of the front line were driven there, mainly the elderly, women and children.

Torture and executions have been widely practiced in the camps, prisoners were starved, and centres of typhus infection appeared.

In a short period, more than 20 thousand people died out of a total of 50 thousand prisoners rounded up in Ozarichi.

We will present you with many other facts of crimes, evidence that the genocide, the cruelty of the Germans is part of the fascist ideology. The cruel desire of some to be superior to others.

So, what is happening today? In fact, the aggressors pursue the same goals. Only the methods of warfare have changed, it has become a hybrid one.

# NATO. 73 years and not a day without a war

## When and where did the United States and the countries of the North Atlantic Alliance leave their bloody trails after the Second World War

By Yevgeny Kononovich

Since World War II, more than 250 military conflicts have taken place in 153 countries. Eighty percent of them were perpetrated by the US and its henchmen in NATO. In fact, there is not a single year out of 73 since the founding of NATO, when the military bloc would not take part in an armed conflict in any part of the world...

*Over the 73 years of its existence, the alliance has not defended anyone, but only attacked, gradually turning into a tool for expanding American influence in the world.*

### Fatal mistake

The United States likes to emphasise its exclusivity, commitment to peace, freedom and democracy. And under these straplines, it is not considered a sin to invade a foreign country, bomb the civilian population, arrange another coup and plunder resources. The owners of the White House and their NATO allies are so convinced of their holiness and exclusivity that they had all but wiped out all norms of morality and law.

The operation of NATO aggressors in North Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and other countries caused large-scale tragedies that claimed millions (!) of lives.

*In recent wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and other countries alone, 244,000 civilians have been killed.*



### FACTS AND FIGURES



Since September 11th, 2001, Americans have spent about \$6.5 trillion on military affairs, mostly in the Middle East and Asia.

For 73 years, the number of NATO Member Countries has increased by 2.5 times — from 12 to 30.

The maximum increase occurred in the period after 1990 — the end of the Cold War. At the very time when the USSR no longer existed, as well as the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, which means that there was no 'Soviet threat' anymore.



The USA and NATO made or tried to stage 'colour revolutions' in the post-Soviet space in Georgia (2003), Ukraine (2004, 2014), Kyrgyzstan (2005), Armenia (2008, 2015), Russia (2010, 2013), Belarus (2020) and Kazakhstan (2022).

### THE MAJOR MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING THE US AND NATO COUNTRIES SINCE 1949

#### 1950–1953 Korean War

US Secretary of State Dean Acheson claimed the territory as part of the American defence perimeter in 1950. Taking advantage of the USSR boycott of the UN Security Council, the Americans led the military intervention of UN forces on the Korean Peninsula. As a result of the war, four million Koreans died, and the peninsula was divided by the 38th parallel.

#### 1959 Laotian Civil War

The American bombing of Laos was part of a covert attempt by the CIA to wrest power from a communist group allied with North Vietnam and the USSR. During the entire period of the war (1959-1975), the United States dropped about 3 million tonnes of bombs on the territory of Laos, an average of 10 tonnes per square kilometre and half a tonne per inhabitant of Laos. The number of dead is still impossible to calculate.

#### 1964–1975 Vietnam War

Many books have been written about American war crimes during this war.

'Human rights defenders' not only killed thousands of civilians, raped women, burned livestock, destroyed crops, but also sprayed poison over the fields — millions of tonnes of highly toxic chemicals. During the war years, three million people died in the country.

#### 1989 'Defending democracy' in Panama

In December 1989, US aircraft attacked the cities of Panama, airborne and disembarked personnel and equipment. The operation lasted only five days. As a result, a regime loyal to the United States was established in Panama. On the Panamanian side, 68 military and about 500 civilians were killed.

#### 1995 The shelling of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The NATO Deliberate Force air operation against the Bosnian Serbs lasted 16 days. According to the latest data, the total number of deaths in the Bosnian War (1992-1995) was about 100,000 people.

#### 1999 Destruction of Yugoslavia

Nineteen NATO countries participated

The United States invaded sovereign states, destroyed the established order there, as well as economy and infrastructure, brought disasters and misfortunes to these lands on various pretexts ('protection of peace, human rights and democracy', 'countering the spread of communism', 'restoring justice', 'fighting terrorism', 'preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction').

The expansion of NATO to the East after the collapse of the USSR became the source of new problems and conflicts in the European region. Back in 1997, the famous American diplomat George Kennan said,

in the Operation Allied Force military operation against Yugoslavia. From March 24th to June 10th, 1999, the aircraft of the alliance carried out about 2,300 missile and bomb strikes against 990 targets in Serbia and Montenegro. The total number of dead civilians was more than 2,500 people, including 400 children, about 10,000 people were seriously injured. The Americans, with the support of their satellites, achieved the breakup of a single country into separate states.

#### 2001 War in Afghanistan

The war in Afghanistan has become the longest conflict in the history of NATO. Fifty thousand dead Afghan civilians, almost completely destroyed economy and millions of refugees were the result of the 20-year military operation called Operation Enduring Freedom. The Americans and their allies were forced to leave the country in disgrace, so the Taliban came to power.

#### 2003 Invasion of Iraq

The war in Iraq turned out to be an even bigger setback for the US and its allies. Having overthrown Presi-



President of Belarus  
Aleksandr Lukashenko:

*"They (the collective West) wanted to remodel the Near East and the Middle East. They invaded. They started with Tunisia (it is not talked about today) and proceeded with Operation Desert Storm in Iraq and so on. The country was virtually destroyed. Did things get better? No. Then they invaded once again. Tunisia, Libya, Syria. Then they reached Iran, saw they couldn't take it on. Twenty years in Afghanistan. And what are the results? They didn't just simply stir up trouble in the Near East and the Middle East. They destroyed the statehood that existed there."*

(November 9th, 2021, in an interview with Igor Korotchenko, a military expert and Editor-in-Chief of the Russian magazine *Natsionalnaya Oborona*)

### IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

Scientists at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University have calculated that 38 million people have been displaced on the planet as a result of the wars started by the United States and its NATO allies since September 2001. It should be noted that this is a conservative estimate, the researchers say. In fact, there may be 60 million such people, which exceeds the consequences of, for example, the Second World War.

*"Expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-cold-war era... Such a decision may be expected to restore the atmosphere of the cold war to East-West relations, and to impel Russian foreign policy in directions decidedly not to our liking."*

In addition to direct involvement in conflicts, Americans and NATO forces often prefer to act indirectly. They support internal protests and riots, train 'revolutionaries', supply weapons and other assistance to the rebels.

According to Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Konstantin Kosachev, the 21st century has finally made sense of it: NATO is not a security guarantor for Europe, but a guarantee of problems for its security. Not a solution, but a source of crises and conflicts,

*"The blindness of one's own power and the certainty of always being 'on the right side of history' makes the alliance absolutely incapable of negotiating. And this is perhaps the saddest conclusion to this anniversary of the 'dinosaur' ideology of the Cold War."*

#### 2011 Air strikes on Libya

In 2011, the NATO coalition invaded Libya without any sanction of the international community, killed the Head of State, Muammar Gaddafi, and plunged the country into chaos. The civil confrontation is still going on in the country. According to various estimates, from 15,000 to 30,000 people died during the armed confrontation.

#### 2014 Intervention in the Syrian civil war

A military coalition led by the United States, with the active participation of Great Britain, Canada and other countries, intervened in the internal affairs of Syria in order to overthrow the country's President Bashar al-Assad. According to various estimates, from 585,000 to 1,000,000 Syrians died during the years of the war.



Dar'ya Titova

**The creative internship for the leaders of amateur artistic groups and public organisations of the Belarusians abroad and foreign Belarusian amateur groups have already become a good tradition. These events have been held by the Centre of National Cultures since 2016 and are in great demand among representatives of the diaspora. From April 4th to 8th, Belarusians from abroad again arrived at their historical homeland to immerse themselves in their native culture.**

# With respect to historical roots

## The Belarusian diaspora visited a creative internship in Minsk

By Olga Korneeva

Twenty eight active participants from Argentina, Armenia, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine and Estonia came to Minsk to study Belarusian songs, dances, hold master classes in arts and crafts, to study Belarusian traditions and rituals in depth to further popularise their native culture abroad.

The internship for Belarusians abroad began with a meeting with Belarusian Culture Minister Anatoly Markevich, which took place in the Museum of History of the Great Patriotic War.

While welcoming the guests, the Minister noted that such events have become an example of cultural diplomacy.

“Alas, today there is a lot of information that does not reflect reality. But when we meet in person, people can see and appreciate the life of Belarusians... Belarus is a land where people complement each other with their deeds and thoughts in peace and harmony, they honour the historical background of our country,” the Culture Minister emphasised.

During the meeting, the most active representatives of the Belarusian diaspora were awarded for many years of fruitful activity in preserving and popularising the Belarusian national culture.



BELTA

Socio-cultural and sports club ‘Vostok’ was among the awardees. Representative of the group Irina Oslovski from Argentina says that her grandparents are emigrants from the Grodno Region. She has Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian roots. However, it is the first time when Irina see the homeland of her ancestors, “From the age of four I have been doing Belarusian and Russian dances. I represent Belarusian

culture not only in Argentina, but also in neighbouring countries. Belarusian culture influenced my character. I feel kinship with this land. I want to learn more about the culture of Belarus, dances and language. I would really like the Belarusian language to flourish in Argentina.”

The guests visited the *Zhyvyjja ramiostvy* (Living crafts) exhibition of arts and crafts of the Belarusian Union of Artists, and took part in master classes. Classes in Belarusian vocals and choreography were held at the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts. Then the internship participants visited the Gomel Region, the Vetka Museum of Old Believers and Belarusian Traditions named after F.G. Shklyarov, Stolbun village hall and Neglyubka village weaving centre. Participants learned about various types of folk art there.

A meeting with the Commissioner for Religious and Ethnic Affairs of Belarus Aleksandr Rumak was the final part of the internship. In addition, the participants made a joint painted Easter egg at the Centre of National Cultures on the eve of the Easter holiday. The national master of Belarus Olga Khachkova was responsible for the art activities.

Representatives of the diaspora unanimously say that they always try not to miss a great opportunity to visit their historical homeland.

# In uniform and in heels

The ‘Real Lady’ competition was held at the Mogilev Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus. As a rule, the profession of a policeman is most associated with the men. However, there are exceptions to every rule, because it is impossible to imagine the police without uniformed employees who perform their professional duty equally with men. Girls in uniform had to compete for the title of the most beautiful, intelligent and creative person.

By Lyubov Solovieva

Seven students claimed to receive the desired crown of the winner. There was a tough schedule, according to which the girls lived for about a month — fashion shows, training in the gym, numerous fittings and work with specialists in the beauty industry and photography. An introduction, an intellectual contest, a creative tour, a fashion show in folk costumes and evening dresses — the programme is traditional for beauty contests, but the creative approach, rich imagination, sincerity of the participants, as well as the ardent support of the hall made it special.

After long deliberations, the jury announced the decision.



Marina Gomyko

**Aleksandra Shabanova, Daria Zyben, Daria Gorbacheva, Daryana Volnaya, Alina Yashchenko, Daria Korsakova, Anastasia Krutsko**

*Alina Yashchenko became ‘Lady Charm’, Anastasia Krutsko — ‘Lady Delight’, Aleksandra Shabanova — ‘Lady Artistry’, Daria Korsakova ‘Lady Grace’. Daryana Volnaya became the runner-up. The title of 1st runner-up went to Daria Gorbacheva. Daria Zyben won the title of ‘Real Lady’.*

The main beauty of the university is 19 years old, she is a second-year student at the Faculty of Police. The girl is from Lida, Grodno Region. While still at school, she studied in the law study class (it worked closely with the District Department of Internal Affairs), which is why Daria decided to enter the Mogilev Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus.

# Future wrapped in green

How the country is improving the environmental safety of packaging

**Bags, milk and water bottles, disposable tableware and cling film — plastic has long been an integral part of our life. About 300 million tonnes of plastic waste worldwide annually is the price of this. Half of the waste is plastic packaging. It is impossible to do without it, but we can use and recycle it reasonably. What does safe and environmentally friendly packaging mean, how can we switch to it smoothly, and what standards should be adhered to?**



By Yelena Kabanova

## Glass and paper

“Approximately 280 thousand tonnes of polyethylene packaging waste is generated in the country every year; about 35 percent is recyclable,” Maksim Tarasov, Head of the Waste Management Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, cites figures.

Non-recyclable types of polymer packaging are buried at the MSW landfill. It should not be like that. More than 60 countries around the world have introduced certain bans and restrictions on the use of disposable plastic products, mainly bags. Belarus does not stand aside: the government has approved an action plan to reduce the use of polymer packaging and replace it with environmentally safe one. The Ministry of Natural Resources is implementing a plan thanks to which polymer packaging is gradually less used and replaced with en-

vironmentally safe packaging, including biodegradable one. At trade and catering facilities, drinks must be presented in glass containers, and disposable bags and tableware should be made of paper. The use of polyethylene bags and polymer packaging must be minimised.

“We can observe a trend to reduce the production of polymer packaging and increase the production of environmentally safe one. For example, in 2019–2020, more than four billion bags and packages were made of polymeric materials, while in 2021 their number was 2.5 billion,” Maksim Tarasov says.

Work is underway in all areas. The fees paid by manufacturers and suppliers for organising the collection, disposal and use of biodegradable packaging have been halved. The remuneration for organising the collection, neutralisation and use of polymer packaging has been doubled. Work to limit the import of polymer waste into the country is underway.



## Standard approach

The State Committee for Standardisation has developed draft amendments to the technical regulation of the Eurasian Customs Union ‘On Safety of Packaging’ which establishes mandatory requirements for various types of packaging in all member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

The draft amendments prohibit the use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) labels on polyethylene terephthalate (PET) packaging, clarify the defini-

tion of the term ‘disposal’ and introduce new terms and definitions, such as ‘biodegradable packaging’ and ‘recycling’.

They also provide for the labels on all packaging put into circulation in the EAEU where the packaging material is indicated. That is, it is proposed to label not only finished products but the packaging in which they are supplied. Besides, we suggest applying the biodegradable packaging symbol when test results confirm the biodegradability of the packaging.

The implementation of the programme for the development of state standards of Belarus based on international and European standards in the field of establishing requirements for environmentally safe packaging and its testing methods began two years ago. The document provides for the development of 41 state standards for biodegradability control methods, reusable packaging and recycled plastics, glass and paper packaging. Twenty-six state standards have already been developed. Eight standards aimed to ensure confirmation of the biodegradability of plastics in various conditions have been in force since April 1st, 2021.

“The remaining 18 standards will be put into effect in May–September this year,” Nataliya Parkovskaya, Deputy Head of the Technical Regulation and Standardisation Department of the State Committee for Standardisation, clarified.

Among them, for example, there are standards for reusable packaging for the transport of goods. Minimising the generation of waste from packaging will reduce the burden on the environment.

In addition, a standard for paper bags or liners used to collect household waste in view of the main municipal waste groups and their further disposal methods has been adopted.

To develop the production of packaging made of recyclable materials, 15 standards for glass packaging, paper bags and bin liners are being developed. It is planned to complete the development by September, 2022.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Economy Ministry of the Republic of Belarus will redirect more than \$5 billion of exports from Europe to Russia and China

According to Belarusian Deputy Economy Minister Dmitry Yaroshevich, Belarusian export rose by 21.5 percent and exceeded the import growth rate over the two months of this year. In addition, its monetary export reached a nine-year high of \$3 billion.

Active work of government agencies, industries, and the private sector has been launched to redirect export shipments to markets of friendly countries. Naturally Russia and China are the most promising markets for our country. A total of over \$5 billion worth of export can be redirected from Europe to these countries over a short period of time. The export of food, mechanical engineering and light industry products can be fully redirected.

The task is facilitated by the fact that the Belarusian goods have already found their buyers and enjoy demand on these markets. Essentially we will have to increase sale volumes instead of exploring new niches from scratch.



### Belarus switches to Russian rubles in payments for natural gas

According to the press service of the Belarusian Energy Ministry, Belarus is switching to Russian rubles in payments for natural gas as from April. Russia and Belarus decided to get rid of the dollar in all energy settlements.

The switch to Russian rubles in payments for natural gas is stipulated by the documents signed as a result of a meeting of Belarusian Energy Minister Viktor Karankevich, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Russia Vladimir Semashko, and Gazprom Chairman of the Management Committee Alexey Miller in St. Petersburg.

The documents stipulate terms of Russian natural gas deliveries to Belarus in 2022 taking into account the transition of transactions to Russian rubles.

Moreover, as it became known, since April 1st, the price of supplied natural gas has become more profitable than it was provided for by the previous agreement.



### Belarusian products to join China's popular marketplaces

In May, a new project of the Industrial Park Development Company will be presented at China-Belarus Great Stone Industrial Park — focusing on online international trade technologies. The project generally aims to activate commercial ties between Belarus and China and make it more convenient to purchase Belarusian goods in China. To do this, products of domestic enterprises will join China's popular marketplaces.

Kirill Koroteev, the Deputy General Director of Industrial Park Development Company JSC, explained, “We are entering major marketplaces, and Belarus' national pavilion will be registered there. This is necessary to promote products directly to Chinese customers. It will be easy for the latter to buy, and for our companies — to sell. We are now liaising with our partner Sinomach to establish logistics and warehouses in China.”



ECONOMY

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# Racist news coverage

Unless you are a white European, your suffering is unexceptional and less worthy of global outrage, Aanjalie Roane, a representative of Doctors Without Borders / Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), writes in an article for the Canadian newspaper *Toronto Star*

The author draws attention to the media coverage of events in Ukraine. Last month, CBS reporter Charlie D'Agata, reporting live from Kiev, said, "This isn't a place — with all due respect, you know — like Iraq or Afghanistan that has seen conflict ranging for decades. This is a relatively civilised, relatively European — I have to choose these words carefully too — city where you wouldn't expect that or hope it is going to happen."

"While global solidarity for Ukraine's people is urgently necessary,

these Western media narratives reinforce dangerous racist biases that still permeate through much of our humanitarian news," Aanjalie Roane notes. "For people who have experienced recent crises in Syria, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and beyond, the insult is loud and clear: unless you are a white European, your suffering is unexceptional and less worthy of global outrage."

"The MSF staff have witnessed the direct consequences of racist and dehumanising humanitarian news coverage.

While images of forcibly displaced people in Ukraine rightly compel pundits to get 'very emotional', migrants and refugees attempting the deadly sea crossing right now from Libya to Europe — often escaping horrors within Libya's notorious detention centres — are met with scepticism and furrowed brows.

According to Aanjalie Roane, these racist media narratives are not only hurtful — they have also emboldened policies with disastrous impacts on humanitarian action.

# Joe Biden should be removed, US poll says

Just a couple of weeks after the US president was accused of making a gaffe calling for regime change in Russia, an exclusive poll for the *Sunday Express* has revealed Americans would rather see his presidency end. Asked which would be better for America, 52 percent chose 'Biden loses power in the US'.

The findings, in the poll by the Washington-based Democracy Institute, show almost two-thirds of Americans (62 percent) believe Joe Biden will not be re-elected in 2024. They also appear to confirm an expected bid by Donald Trump in 2024 will see him sweep back to power.

Of 1,500 polled, who all identify as 'likely voters', 57 percent disapprove of his presidency, the same as a month ago, while just 39 percent approve of it. And 70 percent believe the US is 'heading in the wrong direction'.

His handling of the war is only approved by 40 percent while 52 percent disapprove, and his overall foreign policy has a 55 percent disapproval rating compared to 42 percent approval.

While a Techne poll for the *Sunday Express* showed almost a third of UK voters had Ukraine as their top concern, in the US just eight percent saw it as their main issue, with the key worry being inflation.

If Donald Trump does run in 2024, according to the US poll results he would beat Joe Biden by 48 percent to 43 percent.

# Standards of living are falling in the EU

The conflict on the territory of Ukraine and Western sanctions against Russia lead to higher prices in the EU, lower living standards and social consequences for the countries of the community — as stated by Eurogroup Chief Paschal Donohoe at a press conference following the Eurogroup meeting

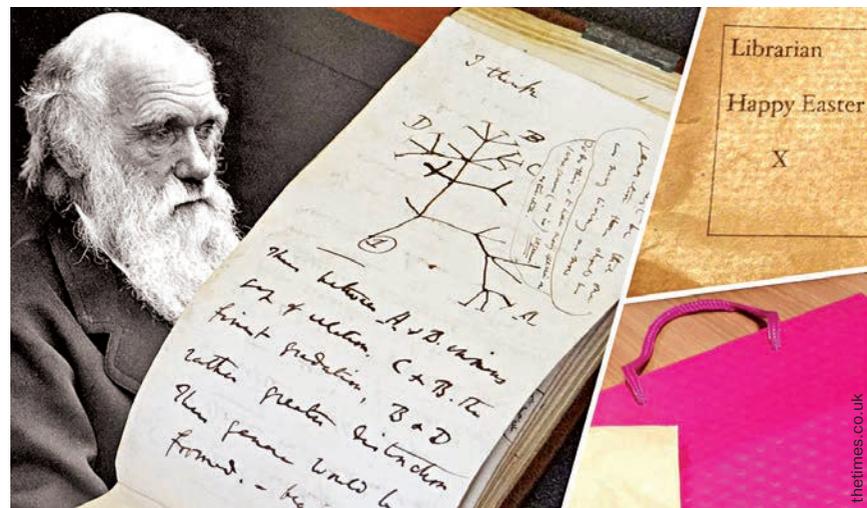
"Rising energy and food prices will lead to lower living standards in the EU and will have social consequences," he said.

"Today at the Eurogroup meeting, we focused on the consequences of the war on the Euro area economy. We can see these clearly in energy and increasingly in food prices and the disruption of supply chains. For governments, citizens and businesses this creates uncertainty. We acknowledged that economic growth will slow down this year," continued Mr. Donohoe. "However, we entered this latest economic crisis with a strong recovery taking place within the Euro area (after the COVID-19 pandemic), so for many economies we are still looking at

positive growth figures for 2022."

In turn, the Managing Director of the European Stability Mechanism, Klaus Regling, said at the same press conference that the crisis in Ukraine affects the European economy to a greater extent than the world economy. "The markets have high inflationary expectations, which is explained by rising energy and food prices. In the second quarter, the Euro area expects an economic downturn," he said.

According to the European statistical agency Eurostat, this March, inflation in the Euro area reached 7.5 percent year on year. Some economists do not share the Eurogroup's optimism and predict the EU will experience stagflation in 2022."



# Darwin's notebooks have been returned

'Stolen' Charles Darwin notebooks returned to Cambridge University Library after going missing more than 20 years ago

Two 'stolen' Charles Darwin manuscripts have been anonymously returned to a university library.

The leather-bound notebooks, which were wrapped together in clingfilm, were left in a pink gift bag on the floor at Cambridge University Library, with a typed note wishing the librarian a 'happy Easter'.

They were first found to be missing from the library in 2001 after a routine check discovered that the small blue box containing the scientist's work had not been returned to its proper place. Staff initially believed the books had been classified incorrectly and extensive searches of the building, which is home to around 10 million books, maps, manuscripts and

other items, were carried out. It was not until October 2020 that they were reported as stolen to Cambridgeshire Police and the force alerted Interpol.

Almost 18 months later, the books — one of which contains Darwin's famous 1837 *Tree of Life* sketch — have been returned in good condition and with no obvious signs of damage.

Dr. Jessica Gardner, who became director of library services in 2017, described her joy at their return, "My sense of relief at the notebooks' safe return is profound and almost impossible to adequately express. I, along with so many others, all across the world, was heartbroken to learn of their loss and my joy at their return is immense."



# Test tube disaster

## New details of the development of biological weapons in Ukraine

By Roman Rud

New dreadful events have somewhat obscured the scandal with American laboratories in Ukraine, but this does not mean that the investigation of the frightening incident with biological weapons has stopped. It continues to be carried out by both Western media and virologists, and specialists from the Russian defence department. Since we last covered the progress of this investigation, it has been updated with new details concerning the production of covert weaponised strains.

### Fateful laptop

An old laptop that once belonged to Hunter Biden, the son of the current US president, perhaps, is the most expensive gadget on the planet today. It is difficult to imagine the amount that the American authorities would be willing to pay for this apparatus, if only the information from it would never become public.

As you know, the laptop was found in one of the repair shops in Delaware back in 2020. The owner of the repair shop made a copy of his hard drive, which was given to former New York Mayor Giuliani and personal lawyer of then US President Trump. Later, the gadget was seized by the FBI, but it was too late: the contents of the device leaked to the press. There were so many damaging information! There were photographs that testified to the Biden Jr.'s involvement in the criminal spheres of drug trafficking and prostitution, as well as secret codes and ciphers for accessing classified Pentagon information, and facts about Joe Biden's corrupt ties with foreign businessmen... However, it's not our current area of concern.

*Emails obtained by the DailyMail from the fateful laptop show that the son of the current US President could be behind the funding of the US military bioweapons programme in Ukraine.*

According to them, he secured funds for Black & Veatch and Metabiota companies — the main Pentagon contractors for working with pathogens in Ukraine. The President's son and his colleagues invested \$500,000 in Metabiota through their company Rosemont Seneca. US reports indicate that the US Department of Defence awarded Metabiota an \$18.4 million contract between February 2014 and November 2016, of which \$307,091 were allocated to 'research projects in Ukraine.'

However, this correspondence shows that the Pentagon's goals in Ukraine were far from scientific — in one of the memos, Metabiota Executive Vice President Mary Guttieri outlines to Biden how they can 'defend Ukraine's cultural and economic independence from Russia.'

A letter from the director of the Co-operative Threat Reduction Programme Robert Pope to the Minister of Health of Ukraine Ulana Suprun also has come to light.

*This document testifies to the active assistance of the Minister in the creation of the Central Depository of Especially Dangerous Microorganisms and the adoption of a very strange (for the Minister of Health) decision to place this object of increased danger in the capital of Ukraine — Kyiv.*

### PEOPLE ENGAGED IN THE CREATION OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS COMPONENTS IN UKRAINE:

1. Robert Pope was at that time the Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) staff worker and the director of the Co-operative Threat Reduction Programme, the purpose of which was to involve post-Soviet countries in military biological activities.

2. Joanna Wintrall, head of the DTRA office in Ukraine, led the coordination of military biological projects and the selection of performers. The American projects UP-4, UP-6, UP-8 were implemented under her supervision to study deadly pathogens, including anthrax, Congo-Crimean fever and leptospirosis.

3. Lance Lippencott — head of the Ukrainian branch of Black & Veatch, the main contact person for the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Since 2008, his company has been conducting projects for the Pentagon to study potentially

The documents confirm the fact that Germany is implementing its own military biological programme in Ukraine. The actions of the Federal Republic of Germany, previously unknown to the general public, pose the same threat as US biological experiments and require detailed study.



### German trace

Meanwhile, it turned out that the Americans were not alone in their desire to turn Ukraine into a testing ground for biological weapons. During the plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament, Gennady Gatilov, Permanent Representative of Russia to the UN Geneva Office, has also openly declared the existence of German biological laboratories in Ukraine.

"It should be pointed out that the documents confirm the fact that Germany is implementing its own military biological programme in Ukraine," he said.

The diplomat added that Germany's actions, previously unknown to the general public, pose the same threat as US biological experiments and require detailed study. So far, it is known that these studies are funded by the German Foreign Ministry and the Bundeswehr. The goal of the programme is to study the potential of deadly diseases such as Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever in Eastern Europe.

The latter was commented on by a former member of UN Commission on Chemical, Bacteriological and Biological Weapons, a well-known microbiologist Igor Nikulin,

*"This undertaking has deep historical roots: the notorious Dr. Mengele conducted experiments with prisoners with the Crimean-Congo fever during the Second World War in the Dachau concentration camp. So they had some experience in this, and the Germans decided to continue their development."*

According to the expert, Germany is not an independent subject of world politics, and its limited role has been delegated to it in the common biological programme of NATO. At the same time, of course, it is difficult to talk about the peaceful humanitarian orientation of work at these facilities if military virologists work on them, producing pathogens in huge volumes. In the event that biolaboratories are really engaged in the development of biological weapons, then the one who ordered the start of these studies is simply insane, Nikulin is sure. He told the Federal News Agency,

*"Only an absolute madman can unleash a biological war, because even chemical or nuclear weapons operate in a specific territory, but biological weapons are self-replicating, they will continue to spread around the world, like SARS-CoV-2: in a few months it will already be in dozens of countries".*

That is, it is impossible to control the consequences of an infection released from a test tube, no matter what the officers expect.

Now, as you know, stocks of pathogens have been hastily destroyed, and the personnel and documentation of Western laboratories have been evacuated from Ukrainian territory. However, this is unlikely to cover all traces, not only of the Americans, but also of their NATO partners. There is no way to justify the development of biological weapons on the territory of third countries, which is a violation of international law.

dangerous bioagents — including UP-1 to study rickettsia and tick-borne encephalitis in arthropods in the North Western Ukraine and UP-2 on the introduction of remote monitoring of the incidence of tularaemia and anthrax at Ukrainian biological facilities.

4. David Mustra is closely associated with another Pentagon contractor, Metabiota. Mustra oversaw biomonitoring and information transmission, previously led military biological projects in Ukraine and Eastern Europe under the Co-operative Threat Reduction Programme.

5. Mary Guttieri is a representative of Metabiota in Ukraine and a confidant of Hunter Biden. Her company is known for its developments in predicting outbreaks of infectious diseases and was involved by the Pentagon in modelling the epidemiological situation in the post-Soviet space.

Source — Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation



DETAILS

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# With the protection of St. George the Victorious

A temple complex in memory of the people's heroic deed during the Great Patriotic War will appear in Minsk. It is expected that it will become not only an ornament of the Chizhovka microdistrict, but also a centre of spiritual transformation.

By Olga Kosyakova

## The protection of the Soldier Patron

Lyudmila Pasyukova is the daughter of repressed parents, an orphanage, a young prisoner of a fascist concentration camp. She worked at the Minsk Motor Plant, when one day she was injured. The injury limited her, but she still tried to walk. And somehow, walking in Chizhovka, she thought: 'There is everything there, but there is no church.' The idea to build a temple inspired a Minsker so much that her energy was revived. Until recently, Lyudmila went with a money-box and collected money for the construction. At the community meeting, it was decided that a temple complex would be built on the banks of the water reservoir in memory of the people's heroic deed during the Great Patriotic War. The church, which was built at the first stage, was dedicated to the *Icon of the Mother of God of Minsk* and the 55th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi occupation. The main church under construction was named after the Patron Saint of Military, Great Martyr George the Victorious.

According to the maps of the early 20th century, swamps were located in the area of modern Goloded Street. During the Soviet period, the Chizhovskoye water reservoir appeared. When houses were erected, sand was brought to the current construction site. A huge hill has grown with the view of the incomparable scenery. Here they decided to build a temple in honour of the Holy Great Martyr George the Victorious. When one looks at the church under construction from below, it seems that it will be the highest church in Minsk. Such an illusion is created by the landscape and architecture of the temple complex. According to the project, in addition to two churches, it also includes a parish house, which will connect the churches into a single ensemble.

Deacon Mikhail Streha, cleric of St. George's parish, says that 27 thousand cubic metres of soil were brought here in order to prepare the territory for construction, "The project has a complex design of the site. To make the green zone look harmonious, it needs to be properly leveraged. We are planning to plant trees. By the end of construction, they will become higher."

Now the height of the main temple is 21 metres, but it will be 40 metres with a cross.

The architect Aleksandr Trukhin worked on the design of the temple complex. We pass inside, stop under an imaginary dome among brick walls. Scaffolding still occupies a significant part of the space in the prayer hall. Nonetheless, it is already clear: there are enough space for parishioners. The project includes a lift for people with disabilities. Downstairs, it is planned to build a small hall for meetings and events, a library, and technical rooms.

"The third generation of parishioners has already grown up here. We need a parish house because we have a big Sunday school. Our community is like a complete family," says Father

Superior Archpriest Aleksandr Streha.

Prayers for construction are constantly performed here. God's help and support of St. George the Victorious is especially tangible.

Father Aleksandr was offered to build churches immediately after his ordination to the priesthood, "We fight for every brick, like our Soldier Patron did. It's a miracle that the temple is being built. Prayer is the origin and crown of everything. The temple of the Lord is not in buildings, but in hearts. Parishioners actively participate in the construction of the church. Meanwhile, their inner temple grows. There are changes both at the spiritual and at the everyday life. People are becoming 'churched'. For them, the church becomes a special meeting place with God, the centre of spiritual and mental life. Temple architecture protects from daily vanity."

## People need hope

The water reservoir on one side, ring road — on the other. The parish is isolated from the big city. However, in pre-COVID-19 times, up to a thousand people could pass through the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God in a week. There are about four hundred permanent parishioners. They are the main donators. The parish has no major benefactors.

"Our largest one-time donation is a floor slab. It is the Lord who builds. And if God wants, then even if bit by bit, but we will raise money, the temple will be constructed. Let me give you an example. We needed to buy concrete. The man who financially helped us more than once had a difficult time. Where to get money? And then someone transfers the amount that is needed to the account. The Lord sent us such masons who do their best."

Deacon Mikhail adopts the experience of managing the construction of the temple, "These are not typical tasks for a monolithic spread. And it was necessary to find specialists who would perform the work. On the trip, we met a man from the construction industry. He helped us find workers who are now also getting to know church life. At the same time, building a temple is not a means to an end." Father Aleksandr believes that the main purpose of the Father Superior is to build a community, conduct social work, deal with issues of catechesis, preaching, "It is important that people solve all problems with love. We must fight for the youth. Offer them not just food, drink. They must have hope. We made a coffee shop for socialising. In the summer, we hold open-air film screenings. In addition, we accept and distribute humanitarian aid, clothes, shoes, food to the poor."

Another type of social service of this parish is the spiritual care of the pa-



tients of the Hospice palliative care hospital. According to Father Aleksandr, compassion is the most essential thing there. Since 2005, he has been conducting prayers and talks in the hospice, "In this room, a person meets with God through an adversity. Reconciles with relatives, frees himself from resentment and anger. When a patient comes to this, a miracle happens for me. We need to pray for help and reason why we face such difficulties. It is not a problem for God to heal, but is a person always ready to receive healing?"

In support of his reflections, the Father Superior cites an incident that happened to his ward, "The woman was not able to walk. We have made an unction. And she got up. Her energy was revived. The patient was discharged, but I saw her again in the hospice five months later. What happened? Maria became much better, she could take care of herself. But, instead of thanking God for the relief of suffering, the woman went to the witch doctress. She wanted a complete cure. However, Maria again fell ill just after a visit to the doctor. Then she repented for a long time with tears in her eyes."

## Complex decoration

There are always fresh flowers next to the icons in the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God. The parishioners bring them. *St. George the Victorious, Our*

*Lady of the Gate of Dawn, Vladimir Mother of God* — these and many other holy images were collected by the faithful here. Among them are modern and ancient masterpieces. The chased icon of the Patron Saint of the temple under construction was made by a parishioner Vikenty. It is usually taken in Cross Procession. And one family brought *Our Lady of Kazan* from home, an icon, presumably from the end of the 19th century. The image of St. Sebastian of Karaganda with a piece of relics was brought by a parishioner from Karaganda. *The Great Martyr George the Victorious* icon, a gift from the previous Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow, resides in the altar. He laid a capsule in the wall of the temple in honour of the *Icon of the Mother of God of Minsk*. This church is not by chance situated by the water. In the old days, the miraculous image to which the temple is dedicated appeared at Svisloch River. His list is also in the Chizhovka church. There was a time when Korziuki village was located there. The village has been replaced by the city. However, residents who have moved to different parts of the country come to their native parish on major holidays. The connection with the spiritual home is not interrupted. The parishioners believe that the temple complex will become not only an ornament of the Chizhovka microdistrict, but also a centre of spiritual and mental life of people.



# Consistency is the mother of mastery

## Belarus President's Team became the winner of the National Amateur Ice Hockey Tournament for the Prize of the President's Sports Club for the 13th time

In the second match of the final series of the 15th tournament, the team of the Head of State beat the Minsk Region team with a score of 5:1 (1:1, 1:0, 3:0). Earlier in the first game, the President's Team won with a score of 6:1.

The first period of the final meeting on the ice of the Minsk Olympic Arena turned out to be extremely tough — the score was opened only in the 10th minute of the game, when Vyacheslav Morshenok hit the gates of the President's Team. The guests were ahead for a very short time — in less than a minute and a half, Mikhail Grabovski scored the equaliser. After the first break, none of the opponents wanted to concede, there was a lot of power struggle on the court, and the judges had to send off violators of hockey rules more than once. As a result, in the second period, the visitors saw only one goal — in the very middle of the second period, Alexei Yefimenko managed to score the second goal against the Minsk Region team. In the final



Belarus President's Team

third of the match, the President's Team stepped up their pressure and within 30 seconds Artyom Antonenko and Artem Karkotsky scored two goals in a row. A minute and a half before the end of the meeting, the guests were in the numerical majority, and even substituted the goalkeeper with the sixth skater, but still could not save the game. Moreover,

Nikolai Lukashenko managed to run away to an empty net and marked the end of this match. He was recognised as the best player of the final match together with the captain of the Minsk Region team Vitaly Klimenkov.

According to the results of the competition, the best players in their positions were: goalkeeper — Dmitry Filippovich

(President's Team), defender — Sergei Rabiza (Minsk Region team), centre — Oleg Antonenko (President's Team). Oleg's son, centre of the winning team Artyom Antonenko, scored 23 points (11 goals and 12 assists) and was the first in the race among the top scorers. Prizes were awarded to the laureates by Chairman of the Minsk City

Executive Committee Vladimir Kukharev, Sports and Tourism Minister Sergey Kovalchuk and Head of the Presidential Sports Club of Belarus Dmitry Lukashenko.

As always, the fans were not left without gifts. Just after the game, they received dozens of toys from the players of the President's Team. In addition, during the intermission, the most active fans took part in competitions right on the ice, the winners of which became the owners of prizes from the President's Sports Club.

At the preliminary stage of the tournament, the ice team of the Head of State gained six victories in six matches and, having scored 12 points out of 12 possible, took first place. Hockey players of the Minsk Region finished second, the team of the Brest Region took the third place, and the strongest hockey players of the Gomel Region closed the quartet.

Based on materials of belta.by

## The NOC of Belarus summed up the results of the 'Razam z Kamandai!' (together with the team) campaign and launched the #repeatafterthechampion challenge

By Sergei Kanashits

Although Western politicians are trying to take sport beyond the boundaries of traditional nobility and fair play, making it only a leverage to achieve their vile goals, the National Olympic Committee continues to work to preserve and enhance the good old traditions.

Sport should unite people and the nation, give the good and joy, develop the body and temper character. The headquarters of the NOC of Belarus hosted the awarding ceremony for the winners of the 'Razam z Kamandai!' campaign for development and peace. The NOC announced the #repeatafterthechampion challenge on its official Instagram page. Its basic idea is that famous athletes show exercises that users should try to re-do and post the result on their pages. The project will last until June 23rd — International Olympic Day. Biathletes Anton Smolski and Dzinara Alimbekava were the first instructors, offering a practical option for home training for everyone who wants to keep themselves in great shape.

According to the head of the NOC Information Department Victoria Mennanova, new challenges will appear once a week. It is planned that our famous athletes and famous champions, participants and medallists of the Olympic Games in Tokyo and Beijing will take part in the challenge. Thus, then the silver medallist of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Iryna Kurachkina will show her own exercise. The further list will include: Maksim Nedasekau, Ivan Litvinovich, as well as glorious representatives of kayaking, and, of course, the magnificent and graceful gymnast Alina Gornosko. When repeating her task, however, special caution will be needed: everyone knows the incredible stretching of these girls, and what seems elementary to them, may be beyond human capabilities for an ordinary person.

# Do as we do!



Anton Smolski with an Olympic medal in front of the participants of the meeting



Parting words of Dzinara Alimbekava

### Anton Smolski, silver medallist of the Beijing 2022 Games:

"I want to thank everyone who supports us. Some of the fans worried about me, sitting in front of the TV, someone, as a sign of support, constantly wrote in social networks, even when there were not very good races on my part. It happens that I read a message from a complete stranger and I understand how much people worry about me. It motivates and makes you ready to work toward a strong result."

It should be noted that the day before, Alina Gornosko became one of those who presented gifts to the winners of the 'Razam z Kamandai!' campaign at the NOC headquarters. Everybody could take part in it. To do this, it was necessary to take a photo or video in a sports facility or objects associated with the Olympic movement and winter sports, and supplement the

photo with bright wishes to the Belarusian athletes at the Beijing Games. In addition to the solemn part, a lot of smiles, good mood and a tour of the interior exposition of the NOC of Belarus became an important part of the programme. Because sport is created for peace, and it unites people. One way or the other, this is still the case in our country.



## Photo of the week

Seagulls on the embankment in the centre of Minsk

Andrey Sazonov

### DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



**On April 15th, 1452,** Leonardo da Vinci was born (1452-1519), an Italian painter, sculptor, architect, scientist and engineer of the High Renaissance.

His creations, discoveries and research were more than one era ahead of his time. His brush is credited to *Madonna Litta*, *Lady with an Ermine*, and *Mona Lisa (Gioconda)* — the most famous painting in the world. The polymath considered himself not an artist, but a scientist and engineer. He is considered to be the inventor of a parachute, a bicycle, a prototype of a tank, a searchlight and a catapult.

**On April 16th, 1934,** the Decree of the Central Executive Committee of the USSR established the honorary title of Hero of the Soviet Union — the highest distinction for personal or collective heroic feats in service to the Soviet state and society.



**On April 16th, 1945,** Berlin Strategic Offensive Operation by the Soviet Union began, one of the last major offensives of the European theatre of the Great Patriotic War. It lasted 23 days — from April 16th to May 8th, 1945, and was conducted under the leadership of three



Marshals of the Soviet Union — Zhukov, Rokossovsky and Konev. On the evening of May 8th, 1945, the German Instrument of Surrender was signed, which was the end of the Great Patriotic War.



**On April 17th, 1932,** the Central Botanical Garden of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus was founded in Minsk. Its collection fund includes about 10 thousand species, life-forms and varieties of plants. The main areas of work are the introduction and establishment of plants, the scientific foundations of amenity planting and environmental protection, biochemistry and biotechnology of plants. The garden maintains scientific ties and exchanges materials with many botanical gardens and research institutions in more than 40 countries.

**On April 17th, 1997,** the Belarusian state petrochemical concern Belneftekhim was founded, one of the largest industrial complexes in the Republic of Belarus. The concern combines enterprises and organisations involved in the production, processing and transportation of oil, oil products supply, chemistry and petrochemistry, a number of scientific, engineering, construction, repair and commissioning organisations.



**April 17th** is Easter in the Catholic Church. Easter Sunday is a Christian holiday in honour of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



The joy of the resurrection of Christ and the joy of the beginning of a new life materialises in receiving gifts and bestowing them on Easter morning on children, friends, relatives, and acquaintances. The main attribute of Easter are eggs painted in different colours and shades.



**April 18th** is International Day For Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day). It was established in 1983 by the decision of the General Conference of UNESCO at the proposal of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The commemorative date has been celebrated since 1984 in order to draw public attention to the protection and preservation of the world cultural heritage.

**April 18th** is World Amateur Radio Day. The date was not chosen by chance. It was on this day that enthusiasts created the International Amateur Radio Union in Paris in 1925. This Day was designed to unite all people involved in amateur radio communications.



**On April 18th, 1902,** fingerprinting was used to identify a criminal for the first time in the world. It is a method of identifying a person by fingerprints, based on the uniqueness of the skin pattern, that is, each person has an individual pattern of papillary lines. These lines do not change during life and regenerate their original form after skin damage.



**On April 19th, 1927,** the Belarusian State Academic Symphony Orchestra, one of the oldest collectives of the former Soviet Union, was established. Since 1937, it has become the main collective that became part of the Belarusian State Philharmonic. Since 2001, Alexander Anisimov has been a Chief Conductor and an Artistic Director of the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Belarus.



**On April 20th, 1957,** the first issue of the *Vyasyolka* Magazine was published, a Belarusian children's literary and artistic monthly periodical. It includes stories, poems, fairy tales by Belarusian writers, translations of works by foreign writers, the best works of children's literary and artistic creativity and riddles for the inquisitive and savvy young ones.

