

Principal conversation about challenges, transformations and points of growth

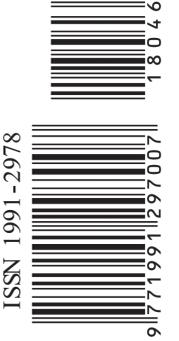


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INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times



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At the meeting with President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko

# Ridding obstacles within Eurasian Economic Union

## Minsk hosts Eurasian Intergovernmental Council session

By Alexey Fedosov

Heads of governments of EAEU member states have synchronised their watches before the Heads of State Summit, which is scheduled to take place in St. Petersburg in early December. The President of Belarus has met delegation heads in Minsk, underlining the necessity of preparing for top-level discussions of vital topics, with economic freedoms occupying first place among them.

He asserts that all obstacles within the EAEU internal market must be overcome. The Head of State notes that four years have passed since the adoption of the EAEU Treaty — aimed at lifting barriers to the movement of goods, services, capitals and workforce, and the formation of common markets. “In honesty, there’s much still to do. First of all, it’s essential to step up efforts

to overcome obstacles within the internal market,” stressed Mr. Lukashenko. “The main thing is that we’re aware of our direction and have knowledge and experience. We’re solving issues slowly, while eliminating barriers.”

The President noted that there are some cases of new barriers replacing old ones. For example, a two-year period of exemptions from the national regime of public procurement (which was introduced by the EAEU Treaty as an exceptional measure) is coming to an end — and these exemptions are reinstated for the next two-year period.

“A logical question arises: do we want to create a single economic space or use legal loopholes for national protectionism? We must clearly understand that the Union will be of value for our economies and external partners only if it becomes a reliable organisation following our rules,”

noted the President of Belarus.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, the creation of common energy markets is a key element. Belarus doesn’t understand why all sides acknowledge the necessity of common railway transportation tariffs yet fail to agree on a symmetrical approach towards gas transportation. “Economic operators expect that the heads of state will finally sign programmes to create common markets for gas, oil and oil products at the meeting in St. Petersburg. We’ve agreed on this, to move towards building a stable basis for fuel and raw materials within the Union.”

The digital agenda is becoming increasingly important for the EAEU’s joint work, with countries having a good theoretical and legal framework. Today’s main task is to determine major digital solutions to support transboundary and inter-industrial co-operation. “Minsk is prepared

to take an active part in the implementation of these proposals,” emphasised Mr. Lukashenko. He stresses that the Eurasian Economic Commission should play a more active role in the resolution of these issues. The commission has already asked to expand its powers several times. “I personally support it, but we must understand that broader powers mean more responsibility,” noted Mr. Lukashenko.

The President of Belarus expressed gratitude to Russia for presiding over the Union, and its efforts to promote integration and include new avenues of co-operation on the integration agenda.

“We still need to address such crucial topics as ecology, renewable energy (which is vigorously developing), space exploration, medicine, sport and tourism, in our treaty. Collaboration in these fields will make an additional contribution to the development

of our Union. At the same time, the expansion of the agenda should be considered carefully, so that it doesn’t impede the resolution of current tasks for the Eurasian Economic Union. We expect balanced proposals from governments in this regard,” Mr. Lukashenko concluded.

The session of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Minsk was attended by Belarus’ Prime Minister, Sergey Rumas, and the Acting First Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan, joined by the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Bakytzhan Sagintayev, the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Muhammedkalyi Abylgaziev, the Chairman of the Russian Government, Dmitry Medvedev, and the Chairman of the EEC Board, Tigran Sargsyan. The heads of EAEU governments discussed prospects for developing integration structure and for improving vital legislation.

## President of Uzbekistan’s visit is being awaited

By Vladimir Khromov

**Meeting Uzbek Ambassador Nasirjan Yusupov, the President of Belarus confirms commitment to roadmap of bilateral co-operation**

Mr. Alexander Lukashenko remarked that Belarus’ collaboration with friendly Uzbekistan is increasingly vibrant. “The main result is that we’ve closed the gap in our co-operation, which emerged during past years. As I’ve said before, this was a substantial achievement by your President.”

Speaking about the leader of Uzbekistan, the Belarusian President noted that Shavkat Mirziyoyev worked on the strategy of Uzbekistan’s development when he was the PM. “This man knows and loves Uzbekistan. He’s done a lot for Uzbekistan. He saw all problems and, when he became President, didn’t have to spend time gaining familiarity with the



state of things, examining personnel. He sees everything from the inside. He settled in very quickly and has succeeded in all fields,” asserted the Belarusian Head of State.

Mr. Lukashenko has said that the President of Uzbekistan can visit Belarus at any convenient time. “We’ll provide all-round assistance to help you organise the visit. We’ll welcome him as our friend and brother, who loves Belarus very much.”

Belarus and Uzbekistan maintain constructive co-operation. In September 2018, the Be-

larusian President paid an official visit to Uzbekistan. As a result, a number of concrete agreements were signed, on expanding interaction in trade, the economy, education, culture and other fields. Belarus and Uzbekistan signed seventeen bilateral agreements and approved an action plan to develop interaction. The legal framework of bilateral relations includes more than 60 agreements.

The President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, may pay an official visit to Belarus in 2019, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Belarus, Nasirjan Yusupov, has told reporters. “The schedule of our President is likely to be determined in January, and the meeting will take place next year. This will be the first official visit of our head of state to Belarus,” said the Ambassador.

*(Brief interview with the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Belarus, Nasirjan Yusupov, is available on page 4)*

## Key issues have been substantially tackled in interview

By Oleg Bogomazov

**Alexander Lukashenko gives interview to Russian federal state information TV channel Russia-24**

The interview tackled the economic development of Belarus and the major drivers of growth, the Eurasian Economic Union, the global agenda and international politics, as well as digital transformations in the Eurasian space.

“Everything is in our heads. We know which way to go and how. We’ve already had experience and the Eurasian Union will soon mark five years since founding. We have examples to study: various unions, including the EU. We understand what we should do and shouldn’t to avoid ‘a Brexit,’” noted the Head of State. “We know everything, but we don’t do everything. You

know that we create problems with our own hands: barriers have emerged to trade although we have agreed on the free movement of capital, workforce, commodities, services and so on. I’ve told Dmitry Anatolyevich [Medvedev] that we see national egoism every step of the way regarding trade. But we know that this shouldn’t happen.”

Mr. Lukashenko highlighted the importance of fulfilling all agreements. “We must fulfil these agreements by all means. This isn’t the case yet.”

The Deputy Director of the Russia 1 TV channel, Sergey Brilev (who took the interview), told Belarusian journalists that the interview was held against the background of high-level EAEU events: the recent meeting of the heads of government in Minsk and the forthcoming meeting of the EAEU heads of state.

# Principal conversation about challenges, transformations and points of growth

The Head of State hears Government report on this year's results and the draft socio-economic development forecasts for 2019, stating that clear vision is necessary for growth

By Vasily Kharitonov

## Capacity to respond to global challenges

Belarus has already passed its mid-point in the five-year plan, with the economy on the rise across most branches. There's relative price stability, incomes are increasing, pensioners are receiving support, and we can see a foreign trade surplus. However, Mr. Lukashenko stresses that many countries in the region are demonstrating similarly good indicators and we cannot afford to be complacent. "We're seeing the perks of the next wave of cyclic growth at the moment, but it isn't endless," noted the President.

Mr. Lukashenko believes it's impossible to address economic and social tasks without steady, aggressive growth. "We need to look more broadly at forecasts. Our well-being also depends on the capacity of the economy to respond to global challenges, and there are certainly enough challenges today," emphasises the Head of State. In his words, sanctions, geopolitical instability and trade wars are the new 'normal'.

## Growth points and restraining factors

Evaluating the aggregate debt of all states, which amounts to more than half of global GDP, the International Monetary Fund is predicting a new financial crisis. Therefore, the President is keen to hear about the Government's vision for sustainable growth, leading to a competitive economy through 2019 and beyond, with at least \$100 billion GDP. It's an ambitious task but international experts believe we



High performance is the basis of modern economy

have the human potential. "We have specialists who can fulfil these tasks. Therefore, we can cope with anything," the President asserts. However, he adds that 'restraining factors remain': unbalanced payments and strong dependence on one market for our exports.

## Ready for transformation

Mr. Lukashenko notes that trade wars and the WTO crisis, against a backdrop of political instability, discourages investors from taking risks. He is concerned that it may provoke the outflow of capital to supposedly 'safe havens', making it vital that

the Government have a clear-cut plan, including for repayment of state debt.

"We need to determine systematic issues, focusing on discipline, and understanding what must be done and how. Preparedness for organic transformation and the ability to change guarantee success and competitiveness," Mr. Lukashenko asserts. He views the High-Tech Park as a good example, where specialists have studied the needs of the IT sphere and have made suggestions to how legislation should be reformed. The President recommends that the Government learn from its example.

Heads of regions are being urged not to ignore the role of territories in the country's development. He wants people to step forward and take responsibility.

PM Sergey Rumas reported that this year has seen GDP growth of 3.5 percent, although not all regions have seen such good results. However, in the first ten months of this year, all seven key goals have been met, as set by the Government and the National Bank.

According to the Prime Minister, forecasts for next year correspond to the programme of socio-economic development for the country until 2020. The Gov-

ernment plans that, after a five-year period, all goals will be met.

The Chairman of the National Bank's Board, Pavel Kallaur, has told journalists that next year's monetary policy will continue as in previous years, with inflation not exceeding 5 percent. Meanwhile, there will be a flexible foreign currency exchange rate, enabling the economy to adjust to internal and external change. Interest rates will continue to fall and it's planned to bring the refinancing rate to a single digit. Gold-and-currency reserves are to be sustained at two months' worth of imports (at least \$7.1 billion).

Mr. Kallaur stresses that the monetary market is stable, as is the currency market, the payment system and the banking system. A flexible exchange rate is enabling timely absorption of external shocks, allowing us to be confident of withstanding change.

Belarus' Finance Minister, Maxim Yermolovich, reports that budgetary revenue this year exceeds the forecast, with the net surplus being used to serve external debt and pay salaries (including raising wages). He underlines that next year's budget is being formed in line with instructions given by the President. The revenues of the consolidated budget will be increased by about 5 percent, while those of the Republican budget will remain at the same level. Moreover, the social orientation of the budget will be reinforced.

This year, the Finance Ministry plans to start long-term payment of obligations, gradually reducing the debt burden through 2019 and 2020.

## Partners must find path of agreement

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

### Belarus and Poland liaising on competitive policy

Belarus' Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade Minister, Vladimir Koltovich, has joined the President of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection of Poland (UOKiK), Marek Niechcial, in signing a memorandum of co-operation on competition policy and consumer rights. The fifth session of the Belarusian-Polish Commission on Economic Co-operation, in Warsaw, tackled bilateral interaction, covering trade and investment, as well as agriculture, transport, finance,

insurance, and the development of small and medium-sized businesses.

The National Centre for Marketing at the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH) also signed a memorandum of understanding in the area of economic co-operation. Meanwhile, the Polish Aircraft Plant and Belarusian Belkommunmash signed a co-operation agreement. The Belarusian-Polish business forum brought together over fifty representatives of food companies, civil engineering companies, banks, agricultural companies, and other branches of our Belarusian and Polish economies.

## Challenges discussed at Security Council debates

By Oleg Bogomazov

**Permanent Representative of Belarus to the UN, Valentin Rybakov, takes part in UN Security Council open debate dedicated to strengthening principles of multilateralism in maintaining international peace and security**

The discussion was chaired by the People's Republic of China and touched upon a number of today's global challenges, including the effectiveness of the UN system in addressing emerging



conflicts, the role of collective action in maintaining stability and security, and ways to overcome the 'crisis of confidence' between countries.

Valentin Rybakov called on states to strictly follow principles of multilateralism in international relations, as a prerequisite of mutual understanding and respect. He also emphasised the contribution of the Republic of Belarus to maintaining regional security, including through facilitating negotiation processes to resolve the crisis in south-east Ukraine.

# About the crop that is depicted on state emblem

Within a few years, the country's linen industry should double in efficiency

By Vladimir Velikhov

Only a few countries in the world grow flax and most are European states. France is foremost in crop volumes, with Belarus following behind. "It's good that there are few players on the market. We should grow our own flax to avoid having to purchase it [as a raw material from other countries] but this industry should become at least twice as efficient within the coming three years. We can do it!" asserted Alexander Lukashenko, on visiting Orsha Linen Mill.

The President criticised agricultural industry chiefs and governors for the production of inadequate amounts of domestic flax fibre, and poor quality. About a third of capacity at Orsha Linen Mill remains unused, while some flax fibre for processing has to be purchased from abroad, such as from France. Naturally, this affects the price of end products and the company's performance in general.

According to governors, unfavourable weather conditions interfered with plans this year. However, the President emphasises that it's unacceptable to



Fabrics made from linen yarn

purely blame the weather. The Head of State has been assured that flax is a lucrative crop that can generate a good profit, and much has been done in Belarus in this regard. The President heard about the upgrade of the linen mill and injected investment, which has helped boost exports, expand the company's sales geography, and increase revenues and salaries. Moreover, the company pays its debts on time.

Mr. Lukashenko toured production facilities and attended workshops, chatting with enterprise workers while examining samples of manufactured goods: not only fabrics but ready-made clothes for children and adults, denim, curtains, bedding, and hygienic items for medical purposes, camouflage fabrics and several

types of paper. Such goods enjoy demand in Belarus and abroad. The President gave a range of instructions for further development, including mastering and promotion of new goods, stress-



ing the need for deep processing, high value added, additional investment and employment, and avoidance of imports. He underlined the importance of flax, being depicted on the national

emblem, saying, "The world lacks flax, so the further we go, the bigger the market will be."

In order to make the linen industry work efficiently, the President noted the need to determine its problematic issues. Speaking at a session tackling the development of the linen industry and flax processing, he commented that the flax industry deserves attention, since Belarus is a leading producer of flax fibre, and that flax is the only raw material the textile industry needs that has a single, annual harvest. Belarusian companies now have specialised machines for cultivation and harvesting of flax, while linen mills are busy exploring new applications for flax fibre, flax chaff, and flax seeds. "We're now regaining ground in flaxseed oil production, which we had to import several years ago," stressed the President.

Decisions were made several years ago to update flax farming technology, while the optimal time for sowing and harvesting flax was determined. Decisions were also made on the operation of Orsha Linen Mill and on retooling linen mills and flax farming enterprises. Nevertheless, according to the president, work is still inefficient.

Meanwhile, linen goods remain popular, with demand rising. Mr. Lukashenko views them as 'medicine', not only for Belarus as a Chernobyl republic, but also for Ukraine and Russia. He commented, "Linen fabrics are 'rescuing' us. The world has long understood, especially Europe, that flax is needed, while the number of sellers is falling. Therefore, we've been wise in modernising flax production. It was absolutely the correct decision, as experience has proven."

## EXCLUSIVE

# Mechanism aims for efficient work

By Viktor Mikhailov

**MT:** Of course, trade-economic activity is a separate topic in inter-state affairs. What is it today between the two states? How is it manifested?

**Nasirjan Yusupov:** it should be mentioned that over the last two years, trade-economic relations began to develop at a higher rate. In 2017, trade turnover between the two states totalled about \$200m, while we expect to see considerable growth this year.

As an economist, I always say that to import it's necessary to earn foreign currency



**Nasirjan YUSUPOV,**  
Question for Uzbek  
Ambassador to Belarus

and to achieve this it's necessary to export. Belarus understands this and is ready to purchase from Uzbekistan the produce it needs. We in Uzbekistan know agricultural machinery from Belarus well. Minsk Tractor Works is really world famous and each Uzbek agrarian knows that he would be using this machinery with pleasure. Previously, there was a sharp decline in the purchasing of Belarus-made products. However, in the last two years the issue has been developed. Meanwhile, we should not only purchase; we should col-

laborate. It's very pleasant to note that the famous Belarusian Amkodor Holdings, together with Uzbek machine builders is opening a joint enterprise and we'll be producing construction machinery there to meet the needs of Uzbekistan.

Now, the issue is under discussion regarding textile goods. Uzbekistan is traditionally a cotton-producing country and is famous for it. Belarusian textile workers are positive about Uzbek produce. But now we have the situation that Belarus purchases a considerable amount of cotton not directly from Uzbekistan but via third countries. Unfortunately, the old economic mechanism impeded direct supplies but we have found ways to solve the problem. As a result, this will lead to the produce being delivered to Belarus from Uzbekistan becoming much cheaper. Moreover, in future, we aim to enter the markets of third countries, particularly Poland or the Baltic States. By the way, the Belarusian-Uzbek enterprise Pishkutex is operating in Uzbekistan and successfully supplies its produce — yarns — to Belarus.

Another interesting direction is the development of pharmaceuticals. Belarusian pharmaceutical enterprises gained a strong foothold and their pharmaceutical goods are competitive. Unfortunately, it's little known in Uzbekistan. Now, we have a work to, firstly, bring this produce to Uzbek consumers, and, most importantly, to open an enterprise in Uzbekistan to jointly manufacture these medications. We have created special economic zones in pharmacy: where pharmaceutical enterprises are located and favourable conditions for their activity are created.

It's known that the Belarusian pharmaceutical industry purchases raw materials in third countries at a high price. Uzbekistan is ready to offer the same at more affordable prices. If we provide work in this direction, accordingly, this will enable us to expand exports of Uzbekistan products to Belarus, while the foreign currency earned can be spent on the purchase of other goods in Belarus, to be delivered to Uzbekistan. I think that it's a promising direction.

# ‘Skarb’ and ‘Queen Anna’ heading for our plates

Belarusians officially recognised as the main consumers of potatoes in CIS

By Kristina Khilko

## From Brest to Sakhalin

According to forecasts, this year, Russian, Polish and German farmers should see smaller harvests of their favourite root crop, due to our hot and dry summer. However, Belarus won't go short of potatoes, since almost everyone with land grows their own!

Our country is a leading producer and supplier of potatoes in the CIS, offering low prices and excellent quality. Belarus increased its potato acreage by more than a quarter seven years ago, during a state programme to develop potato, vegetable and fruit growing, from 2011 to 2015.

“Seed potatoes are an important export for us. In addition to being bought in Russia, consumers in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Georgia like our potatoes,” explains the Deputy Director General for Scientific Work at the Belarusian NAS’ Scientific-Practical Centre for Potato Growing and Horticulture, Vadim Makhanko. “I’m proud to say that Belarusian potato varieties are successfully cultivated from Brest to Sakhalin. Interestingly, over the past two years, our Belarusian varieties have given the highest yield on Russia’s largest island.”

## Non-capricious tubers

For Belarusians, the potato is the ‘queen of cuisine’, used in around thirty percent of all recipes. According to statistics, almost six hundred kilos are grown

per person annually. Most are exported but around 25 percent of each harvest is eaten domestically — the highest figure in the CIS.

There are over 150 potato varieties registered to Belarus, including ‘Palats’, ‘Uladar’, ‘Zhuravinka’ and ‘Volat’. “We also grow ‘Breeze’ and ‘Skarb’ but new varieties — such as ‘Rogneda’, ‘Manifest’ and ‘Lel’ — are joining the list,” adds Mr. Makhanko.

These varieties are delicious and hardy, surviving drought and poor storage conditions. Belarusian potatoes are better adapted to capricious climates and are pest and disease resistant. Potatoes are no longer stored in bags on balconies but are kept in modern vegetable stores and often sold washed and pre-selected in 3-5kg bags.

## Multi-coloured skins

Modern potatoes are pink and blue, to suit all tastes. The laboratory of the Belarusian NAS’ Scientific-Practical Centre for Potato Growing and Horticulture has conducted a ‘revolution’ in potato selection — cultivating potatoes of different colours: with red, blue and pink flesh. All are natural, with no artificial dyes. These exotic potatoes are similar in taste but rival broccoli, Brussels sprouts, spinach and paprika in their nutrient content.

Our scientists have crossbred wild, coloured potatoes which grow in the tropics of South America with cultivated varieties. St. Petersburg’s Vavilov All-Russian Institute of Plant Growing has provided

exotic tubers but amateur potato growers need to wait for a while: the process of cultivating new varieties is laborious, taking up to twelve years for a new potato to join the state register. Experimental potatoes will be offered for sale no earlier than 2019. Fast food lovers may be pleased to

hear that Belarus will soon start producing frozen French fries, using a variety cultivated domestically. A new facility is being built at a cannery in the Vitebsk Region, in Tolochin, producing up to four thousand tonnes annually.



B&W  
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## ALL VARIETIES

### ‘Queen Anna’ — bagged for sale

This year, Alexander Lukashenko grew 60 tonnes of potatoes in his garden, jointly with his younger son, Nikolay. Among his favourites are Belarusian ‘Uladar’ and German ‘Queen Anna’ and ‘Satina’. Every year, he donates some portion to care homes for the elderly and orphanages.

### Noble ‘pany’ with potato heart

Belarusian cuisine includes at least a thousand ‘potato’ recipes, ranging from simple potatoes baked in the fire to mysterious dishes like ‘Panskie Deruny’ and ‘Kolduny’. However, plain boiled potatoes remain among the most popular.

## Standing out among exhibits



By Svetlana Savelieva

## Agreement to set up Chengdu-European industrial subpark at Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park signed at 1st China International Import Expo

The Great Stone Park has signed a memorandum on trade-economic co-operation with the pilot area for China-

SCO regional trade-economic co-operation.

The largest joint project between Belarus and China occupies a central location at China’s International Import Expo. Brightly-designed and complemented by 3D holograms, the stand offers a digital interactive 3D-layout of the Park, showing visitors progress in construction and the high-tech products of its resident-companies.

## Much to work towards

National exposition of Belarus being created in Jakarta for autumn 2019

By Alexander Pimenov

“We really want Belarus to become better known in Indonesia,” noted the Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladimir Ulakhovich, at the opening of the Indonesia Business Expo, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two states. “We plan to organise a Belarusian national exposition



## Exhibition in Jakarta

in Jakarta next October, where Indonesian partners and friends will be able to see our new products and gain familiarity with our business, enterprises and culture.”

Although twenty-five years of diplomatic relations isn’t very long, Belarus and Indonesia have strengthened their friendly ties, increased trade-economic co-operation, and seen a number of important state visits.

“We can say that Belarus and Indonesia have great prospects in their collaboration, including in economy, trade and tourism,” stresses Mr. Ulakhovich.

The BelExpo Centre hosted the Indonesia Business Expo, encouraging visitors to learn about the culture and traditions of Indonesia, its history and national dishes, as well as participating in a wide variety of master classes.

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# Belarusian drove five hundred kilometres through Polesie on a longboard to feed aurochs

By Sofia Arsenieva

## Board takes to Belovezhskaya Pushcha

This story could be the beginning of an adventure film. Young cute guy Stas Vulkanov has spent most of his life in the Belarusian village of Kommuna in the Minsk Region. He found a job to his liking — working as a freelance photographer. His weekdays were serene and peaceful but one day the young man decided: his soul needed changes. He prepared a backpack, took a longboard and alone went to a two-week journey through Belarusian Polesie. The characters of Jules Verne's books can definitely envy him!

### What inspired you make such an unusual trip?

*I'm not an adventurer or even a traveller in my soul. As a child, I dreamed of becoming a psychologist but it did not happen. I lived in different cities and changed several professions. In the end, I realised that I feel most comfortable in my native village. No fuss, nature is all around. This is great! The only drawback is that there is no entertainment for young people.*

### Why did you choose longboard?

*Cycling is too easy. A scooter is a little childish and many love hitch-hiking. In turn, the board has been a dream since childhood. It was impossible to find it in the village and — after moving to Minsk — I was too busy for it. Around six months ago, I accidentally came across information about longboards. I remembered my childhood dream and decided: now or never.*

### Did it take long for you to master this new transport?

*I immediately managed to cope with it as it's*



# Galloping through the swamps is truly interesting and exciting



*not difficult. I was riding around village streets for a month. I did not master any tricks: I was simply riding.*

*On the eve of May 9th, I rode with a purpose — going to the nearest villages to lay improvised bouquets of lilacs to the obelisks and graves of soldiers who were killed during the Great Patriotic War.*

### How did you prepare the route and choose the end point?

*I'm ashamed to admit that I have never been to Belovezhskaya Pushcha. I decided to improve myself and look at the pride of the country. The road to the destination was chosen to bypass the highway — through cities and villages: the traffic there is less intense and safer. I also wished to get acquainted with Polesie — a unique region with wonderful nature, culture and traditions.*

### 500km is a long distance. Were you afraid that the longboard would break and you would have to walk on foot?

*No. My board is handmade by a Moscow master. It has eight layers of solid wood and soft wheels. It is designed for long-distance travel. I was not driving but flying. The longboard is only a couple of months old but it looks as if it's five years old. Interestingly, for the first time I fell off the board only in the 300th kilometre. It was funny but tough.*

### People are sincerer in rural areas

#### What did you take with you?

*Each gram of weight mattered and, with this in view, I had a 'Spartan' set: a sleeping bag, a warm jacket, the underwear, a camera with a large lens and a small GoPro camera for shooting videos,*

*chargers. When moving, the backpack seems twice as heavy due to vibration.*

### The mass media often reports recently about wild animals which come to the road and to villages. Were you afraid?

*I tried not to think about it — although I spent the night in the open air in a sleeping bag. By the way, that was an incredible feeling. I advise everyone to try.*

### What did you eat while travelling?

*There was not enough space in the backpack for food and dishware. I ate in roadside cafes and stores. In a single journey, as in war, all means are good. I mostly bought dried fruits, nuts, yogurt.*

### There is an opinion that people in the outback do not favour strangers...

*I've got convinced of the opposite. I was twice allowed to spend a night at strangers' houses. As regards communication, the trip was a challenge for me. I'm not a very sociable person, but I've always wanted to change that. The most amazing meeting took place in a laundry room in Stolin. For two hours (while my clothes were washing), I managed to warmly talk to with stunning local laundresses about everything. I've never thought I could find a common language with people who are much older than me and live by other interests.*

### What was the most memorable place on the route?

*This was David-Gorodok with its almost 900 years of history. The theme of antiquity excites me and local people there try to preserve it — including the Zamkovaya Hill, Tsar David in the city centre, interesting bridges across the rivers of Goryn and Pripyat.*

### There is much talk now that 'villages are dying'. You were travelling along Polesie depths... Is the village still alive?

*It does not even think about dying! If there are farms and fields in the village, it means that someone lives and works there. I was pleasantly surprised when I met young people and heard children's laughter. Only those villages where there is no agricultural enterprise suffer. People leave such places but there are not many of them.*

### In travels, many come to some serious life conclusions. What are yours?

*The end of one path is always the beginning of a new one. I was returning home from Pushcha by trains and managed to get on the wrong train. The road was longer than I planned. I do not consider this a failure: my adventure continued! The road is a great place to test your abilities. Here you fight your fears, work hard, take risks. In summer, I made another journey — sailing along the Belarusian and Ukrainian rivers on a surfboard to the Black Sea coast.*

# Model-maker from Grodno

## Victor Shcherbinsky collects hundreds of large-scale models of WWII machinery

By Nikolay Averyanov

The collection of models occupies a full rack in Victor's apartment, featuring tanks, armoured personnel carriers, engineering equipment, and artillery: 375 in all.

For thirty years, Mr. Shcherbinsky has been making models, having begun in the mid-1980s, when his small son was presented with an aircraft model. "I assembled one model and then another... That was the beginning. Over time, I shifted from aircraft to military armoured vehicles. I believe we must remember our history, knowing what machinery our ancestors used in wars and understanding what and whom they faced. Such hobbies help not only to preserve the memory but also to expand knowledge about certain stages of the war," he's convinced.

He gladly shows off his models, which include a legendary T-34, as was constantly being improved and transformed. There are KV or IS tanks and



rare, multi-towered, armoured vehicles that were produced before the war. He has quite a few trucks, including 'studebakers' and similar vehicles based on them — such as legendary 'Katyushas'. A snowmobile is depicted in minute detail, as was used for combat tasks in winter by the Red Army. The collection also features Wehrmacht 'panthers', 'tigers', 'ferdinands' and other vehicles,



as well as motorcycles, armoured trains and, even bicycles.

All machinery is in original camouflage depending on the time and place it was used. "Modelling requires patience," Victor adds. "Sometimes, it takes only a couple of days to assemble a model — especially if it's interesting and if I work day and night. However, some models may require up to a few



From Victor Shcherbinsky's collection

weeks." Depending on the complexity of the model, the number of parts can vary from a hundred to a thousand. Some are so small that a magnifying glass is needed. The sophisticated collector also makes his own 'kits', using handmade elements. "The family treats my hobby with understanding. Moreover, I always know what I'll receive as a gift!"

## Gallery at home on festive theme

### Delightful homes in traditional style

By Svetlana Savelieva

**Belarusian wooden houses for suburb of French city of Villerupt, in Lotharingia Region**

The new suburb is named in honour of Jean Gilibert — an outstanding medic, botanic and biologist, born in 1741 in French Lyon. Gilibert also set up the first doctoral academy, in Grodno, as well as one of the largest botanical gardens.

The delightful wooden houses are being built by the Domostroenie branch of Shklov Newsprint Mill, and a contract should soon be signed to supply Belarusian tiles and Belarus-made kitchens.

According to the Belarusian Ambassador to France, Pavel Latushko, seventy-one homes have already been built in Lotharingia using Belarusian construction materials and another 132 should be ready by mid-2019. In 2017, \$16 million of Belarusian furniture, homes and other wooden items were supplied to France, while the first nine months of this year have seen sales worth over \$17 million.

### Brest resident Anna Kovaleva creates Museum of Father Frosts and Snow Maidens at home



By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Anna's fairy-tale shop windows display more than four hundred Father Frosts and Snow Maidens, with the oldest dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most were manufactured in Soviet Union days but modern figurines of the winter magician and his granddaughter (made in Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, China and the Czech Republic) also draw attention.

Made from cotton, papier-mâché,

porcelain, timber, glass, wax, clay, straw and other materials, most of the figurines have been used to adorn New Year trees, or to sit beside gifts, but others were designed as toys, such as weebles and matrehskas.

Anna has been collecting for over a decade but admits that even as a child, she gathered a theatrical collection, which she donated to the school museum, entitled Theatrical Brest, which she headed. "In the early 2000s, I became fascinated by fairy-tales and began buying items at auctions and markets," she admits. Other figures were gifted to her. Ms. Kovaleva plans to keep adding to her collection, adding New Year toys.

INSIDE



# France's 'gilets jaunes' protests spread to Belgium

The 'gilet jaune' ('yellow vest') wave from France reached the centre of Brussels

Protesters in the Belgian capital, inspired by the French anti-tax movement, disrupted traffic and threw rocks at the office building of Prime Minister

Charles Michel. Local media estimated that 300 to 400 protesters were marching in Brussels last Friday morning.

Brussels police fired tear gas and water cannons at the crowds. The protesters blocked the Rue de la Loi, where EU institutions are based, as well as the surrounding area of Trône. Two police vans were set ablaze. The 'gilets jaunes' also detonated bangers outside the European Commission.

The spontaneous demonstration, organised on social media, was not authorised. Among the tensions, Belgian police also arrested a French journalist. Called 'gilets jaunes' because of

their fluorescent security jacket (mandatory in cars in France and in Belgium), the movement started in France on November 17th and is showing no sign of calming down. The first marches were protesting increases in fuel duty, but the movement quickly widened to oppose French President Emmanuel Macron's economic and fiscal policies as a whole. In the south of Belgium, where most speak French, 'gilets jaunes' protests have been organised around petrol stations for a week.

Like in France, the Belgian yellow vests are asking for lower taxes and more purchasing power. Some also want their

leader gone: demonstrators in Brussels chanted 'Michel, resign!', just like their French counterparts, who called for Macron's resignation when marching on Paris' Champs-Élysées.

"Our Prime minister earns 25,000 Euros per month while we get 1,200 Euros to live, raise kids, pay rent and taxes, we never have enough" said one man wearing a yellow vest at the Brussels protest. "We are slaves, we work so that they can live like kings." He added that he wanted money to be more equally distributed in the country: "Less tax, less bills, that's all we're asking for."

## Qatar to withdraw from OPEC and focus on gas exports

Qatar said it was quitting OPEC from January 2019 but would attend the oil exporter group's meeting, saying the decision meant Doha could focus on cementing its position as the world's top liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter

Doha, one of the smallest oil producers in the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, is locked in a diplomatic dispute with the group's de facto leader Saudi Arabia but said the move to leave OPEC was not driven by politics.

Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad al-Kaabi said that Qatar, which he said been a member of OPEC for 57 years, would still attend the group's meeting and would abide by its commitments.

"Qatar has decided to withdraw its membership from OPEC effective January 2019 and this decision was communicated to OPEC," the Minister said. "For me to put efforts and resources and time in an organisation that we are a very small player in and I don't have a say in what happens ... practically it does not work, so for us it's better to focus on our big growth potential," he said. Qatar has oil output of only 600,000 barrels per day (bpd), compared with the 11 million bpd produced by Saudi Arabia, the group's biggest oil producer and world's biggest exporter.

But Doha is an influential player in the global LNG market with annual production of 77 million tonnes per year, based on its huge reserves of the fuel in the Gulf.

## NASA's InSight lander safely on Mars



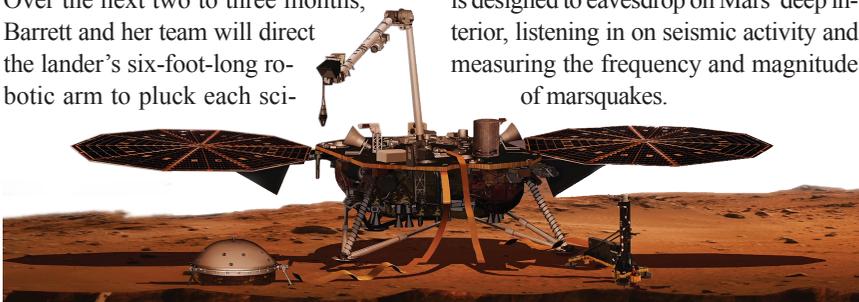
NASA's InSight landed safely on Mars, with scientists now hopeful they'll get a below-the-surface look at the Red Planet

Scientists at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, cheered, hugged and traded high-fives as their prized craft safely landed on the Red Planet and started sending back its first images.

The 800-pound lander is parked on a broad plain north of the Martian equator known as Elysium Planitia — a mostly rock-free area that was faintly visible in the first photo sent back from the lander. Over the next two to three months, Barrett and her team will direct the lander's six-foot-long robotic arm to pluck each sci-

ence instrument from the craft and place it directly on the Martian surface.

"I liken it to playing that claw game at a carnival, but you're doing it with a really, really valuable prize, and you're doing it blindfolded, where you can only take occasional pictures, and then you're doing it via remote control on another planet," Barrett said. The team will begin with InSight's dome-shaped seismometer, which is designed to eavesdrop on Mars' deep interior, listening in on seismic activity and measuring the frequency and magnitude of marsquakes.



## Dresden opens its famous Christmas market

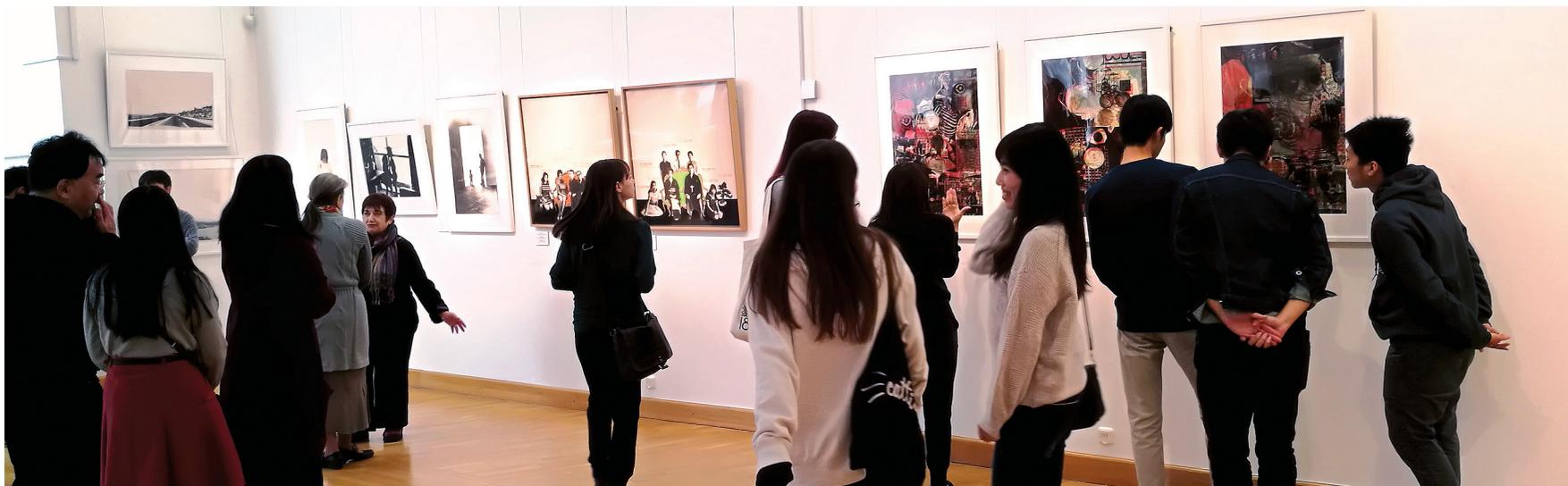
In the German city of Dresden, the festive season has officially kicked off with the traditional cutting of the famous Christmas stollen cake

Known as Striezelmarkt, the market is celebrating its 584th opening and is set to be visited by millions in the coming weeks, despite a heightened security situation throughout German Christmas markets. The Dresden Christmas market, held annually since 1434, is named after an old word for 'stollen', first mentioned in the early 14th century.

Visitors from around Germany came to score a slice of the monster rum and fruit bread, waiting patiently in a crowd of thousands. Slices of the traditional Saxon cake are sold with all proceeds going to charity, as per annual tradition.

Dresden Mayor Dirk Hilbert cut into the two-metre long stollen and declared the market officially open — and the stollen 'very tasty'.

At the market, also known for its landmark wooden turning Christmas pyramid, seasonal visitors kept warm with mugs of mulled wine.



# Interesting meetings with ‘golden age’ of Japanese graphic art

By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition is a joint project with the Japanese Embassy to the Republic of Belarus and the Japanese Foundation, and was organised to coincide with the Japanese Autumn-2018 festival, held annually.

*Photo Images and Materials: Japanese Graphic Art of the 1970s* include works by fourteen painters who have significantly influenced the development of engraving mastery in the modern art of Japan. The 1970s are deservedly called ‘the golden age’ of modern Japanese graphic art. At that time, painters focused on two types of visual arts: photography and engraving. Using various engraving techniques, they achieved bigger ‘substantiality’, transforming our perceptions about internal and external features of the work.

The exhibition comprises of two sections: *The Age of Photography* (devoted to the use of photos in engravings); and *Autonomy of the Substance* (revealing the unique features of materials).

The Japanese Government’s *Grass Roots* programme is donating specialised equipment to the museum and offering major grant assistance for cultural and sporting projects. In October 2016, the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to promote their social integration, as signed by the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, one year before. The convention has already been ratified by 158 countries.

More than half a million people with reduced capabilities reside in Belarus, for whom not all museums provide access (via wheelchair ramps or stairlifts) or audio-guides. Nevertheless, all problems can be solved. In spring 2017, the National Art Museum of Belarus sent an application to take part in the Japanese Government’s *Grass Roots* programme. The project aims to improve the museum environment and exposi-

## National Art Museum of Belarus hosts *Photo Images and Materials: Japanese Graphic Art of the 1970s* exhibition — a true revelation for audience



tional equipment for people with disabilities, and the National Art Museum was selected from more than thirty projects countrywide (and from among other participating states).

Thanks to the project, the museum now has a stairlift and a set of twenty audio-guides, with screens showing text, subtitles or video in finger language. It also has a 3D printer and 3D scanner to create copies of exhibits. Meanwhile, the museum has been hosting various cultural events, including lectures, master classes and concerts as part of this project.

The exhibition comprises fifty works, presenting Japanese engravings from the 1970s. Tetsuya Noda was among the

founders of the trend, transforming photos of his family members into engravings. Later, others borrowed Noda’s style, which resulted in the flourishing of such engravings in Japan. During this period, the idea was widely spread that materials used for the creation of engravings — such as printed

domination of images because of the spread of television and photography, printing industry was still flourishing. During this period, such technologies appeared as silk-screening and offset printing, which enabled to work with photos without any difficulties. The method of ‘albert’ type became common but most works, created using this method, had no traces of being hand-made. In this way the emotional context was removed and the depiction was scrambled.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, a new trend appeared, using stone, wood, paper, cotton and steel

plates, with the materials speaking for themselves, with less handicraft input. The new trend in the Japanese art had begun in the 1950s, with high-quality materials being celebrated for their structure and decorative features.

I witness how a group of Japanese students visited the exhibition in Minsk, transiting from Kiev but having time to attend the museum. The exhibition was a great surprise to them, and they couldn’t hide their delight, looking at the exhibits for a long time. Probably, here, in the National Art Museum of Belarus many of them have discovered the diversity of their own national culture and the distinctness of Japanese pictorial art, in particular.

There’s no doubt that the *Photo Images and Materials: Japanese Graphic Art of the 1970s* was interesting to Belarusian audience. Such events enable us to learn about the cultural legacy of other countries and change our perceptions while gaining spiritual enrichment.



form, paper and ink — ‘speak for themselves’. Engravings, created on the basis of painters’ sketches and materials used by them during creation process were viewed as independent works of art. In general, this trend had a great influence on modern art.

The *Photo Images and Materials: Japanese Graphic Art of the 1970s* exhibition shoes the nature of engravings in Japan in the 1970s, creating a signpost to the diversity of this mode of art. The first section on display explores the role of photographs in creating engravings while the second looks at the materials used for their creation.

Thus, in the 1960-1970s, against the background of

# Fox Lesik for good luck!

## Fox Lesik mascot of 2nd European Games presented in Minsk ahead of next year's event



ARENA



By Alexey Dorofeev

Star Ambassadors of the 2nd European Games — UNICEF Representative in Belarus Rashed Mustafa Sarwar, and Olympic canoeing champion Alexander Bogdanovich — joined representatives of foreign diplomatic missions, famous athletes, representatives of show business and partners of the Games, as well as pupils of children's SOS villages and volunteers, in taking part in the mascot's launch.

Lesik is inspired by the fox in the tale of *The Little Prince*, who taught the boy true friendship, combined with Belarusian folk elements. When the little

prince flew to his planet, the fox stayed behind, wishing to find new friends. The search was long, with the fox having to constantly listen to everything and, as a result, his ears grew noticeably. However, one day, he learned that a particular flower made dreams come true: the legendary Belarusian paprats-kvetka (fern-flower). The fox went to Belarus to find it, taking a million of steps, as proven by his fitness bracelet.

Lesik wears shorts and a t-shirt, and a baseball cap inscribed with the slogan of the 2nd European Games. Its colours correspond to the spirit of the competition: black symbolises determination, yellow

is for cheerfulness, green is for development, blue represents invincibility, and red symbolises energy.

The Deputy Director of the 2nd European Games 2019 Directorate, Anatoly Kotov, has told reporters that the organisers received about two thousand mascot entries. He commented, "After the final versions were selected, professional artists worked on them for another six months. We're sure that the mascot will bring joy to everyone during the preparation and hosting of the Games. I want this fox to become a true friend to fans around the world."

Both children and professional artists took part in the

competition, with about five hundred works coming from Minsk and 1,500 from the regions. There were proposals even from Uzbekistan and Egypt. "Of course, the most difficult task was to decide on the winner, so we decided to select a group of laureates: they didn't win but we encouraged them during the presentation of the mascot," says the First Deputy Information Minister of Belarus, Pavel Legky.

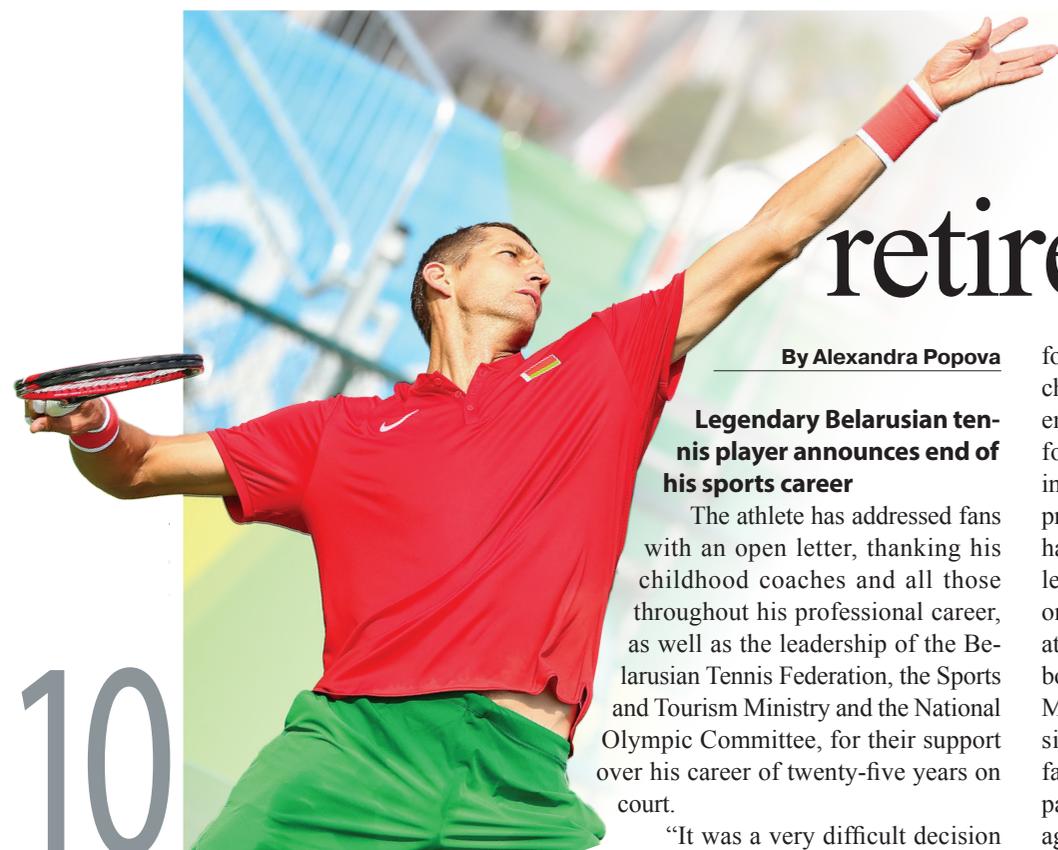
The Belarusian mascot worthily rivals others used at the Olympics since 1968. Jeyran and Nar were mascots of the 1st European Games, and will be happy to meet our Lesik. Maxim Koshkalda, the Marketing

Manager of the Directorate of the 2nd European Games 2019, notes that they considered past experience in creating Lesik. He explains, "Our mascot, like all before, will embody the character of the country and its culture. Lesik is a fox, which is a representative of Belarusian fauna. He has a wonderful history and wants to find friends among those coming to Belarus to find the paprats-kvetka. He wants to make friends with all Europe. Our event aims to unite nations. Lesik is very fit, wearing his fitness bracelet (showing the rapidly developing high technologies in the country and encouraging a healthy lifestyle). Lesik has a cap that shows that we'll have a very bright year, and bears the abbreviation of the slogan of the 2nd European Games: 'Bright Year, Bright You!' This forms the official motto of our country — BY."

He adds, "Lesik has our logo on his chest; it embodies the four pillars on which the idea of the European Games relies: Olympic values, the energy of victory (which unites the desire of athletes to win and the support of fans), the power of dreams that make us rise and move forward, and the brightness of emotions." Mr. Koshkalda notes that figures of Lesik will soon go on sale, including at the airport and at fuelling stations.

At present, Mascot Lesik is already active on social networks and has his own page on Instagram: Lesik\_2019.

The 2nd European Games will be held in Minsk from 21st to 30th June, 2019. More than four thousand athletes will compete for four hundred medals across fifteen sports. Meanwhile, competitions in nine sports will be used for qualifying points for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.



# Max Mirnyi retires from the game

By Alexandra Popova

**Legendary Belarusian tennis player announces end of his sports career**

The athlete has addressed fans with an open letter, thanking his childhood coaches and all those throughout his professional career, as well as the leadership of the Belarusian Tennis Federation, the Sports and Tourism Ministry and the National Olympic Committee, for their support over his career of twenty-five years on court.

"It was a very difficult decision

for me, as tennis has been my life since early childhood. I'm happy that I've managed to enjoy this game for such a long time. Performing at personal tournaments or playing for the country, I've always treated my profession with a high degree of respect and have always worked hard. Therefore, I'm leaving the game without any regrets, and only in a positive mood! I've managed to attain so much more than I imagined in my boyhood, since taking a racket in my hands. My path in tennis would have been impossible without constant support from my family. I'll remain forever indebted to my parents, who brought me up from an early age in the best sporting traditions. Early on,

my father became a key figure in my career, helping me develop, as my coach, manager and friend. My wife and children have always filled me with incredible support and inspired me to push on," comments Max.

Over his career, the 41-year-old Belarusian tennis player was world number one in the doubles and an Olympic champion in 2012 in mixed doubles, together with Victoria Azarenko. He is a ten-time winner of Grand Slam tournaments in doubles and mixed events, twice doubles winner of the ATP tournament (2006 and 2011) and a winner of fifty-three ATP tournaments (once in the singles). His legacy includes opening the Max Mirnyi Centre in Minsk.

10



By Pavel Yemelyanov

To have a chance of reaching the 1/16 finals, the Borisov players had to obligatory beat Vidi, and they succeeded. The first half of the match at Borisov-Arena saw BATE take the evident advantage, almost scoring several times. However, their persistence was rewarded in the 22nd minute, when Nikolay Signevich opened the score after a corner kick by team captain Igor Stasevich.

Before halftime, BATE continued to take the initiative but didn't achieve any further success. As far as Vidi is concerned, the Hungarian squad obliged BATE to work hard in defence but only once forced goalkeeper Denis Shcherbitsky to show his skills and mastery, five minutes before halftime, when he saved the ball after a dangerous penalty kick.

In the second half, Vidi immediately went on the attack but couldn't stop BATE from scoring again, in the 85th minute, thanks to Mirko Ivanić coming down the left flank and sending the ball into the near corner of the goal, thus bringing the score to 2:0.

In the first round, BATE beat Vidi in Budapest with the same score of 2:0. Strangely the Borisov team lost to PAOK at home (1:4) while Vidi twice defeated the Greeks without difficulty — 2:0 and 1:0. However, such are the variances of the game. BATE could have perhaps secured a place in the playoffs ahead of schedule but apparently chose to keep fans in suspense! Now, we'll look forward to December

# November frost is no hindrance to a good game

## Borisov BATE beats Hungarian Vidi with a score of 2:0 in home match of fifth round of Europa League



BATE footballers take lead in the game

13th and hope that, in Greece, the champions of Belarus will play as well as they did last Thursday at Borisov-Arena.

It used to be difficult to single

out any particular BATE players but Denis Shcherbitsky has done exceptionally well, particularly in saving a dangerous penalty kick during the match. We may

say he has improved the most and it would be no surprise if he suddenly left to pursue a career in one of the top championships. It would be a pity to lose such

a goalkeeper, of course. The team's defence performed virtually without a mistake in the last match, with a great midfield line up: Alexander Hleb, Stanislav Dragun, Igor Stasevich and Mirko Ivanić.

Meanwhile, Nikolay Signevich scored brilliantly. In almost every match, he has the chance to score but this goal seemed particularly enchanted. Fans have even begun to call Signevich 'our Kerzhakov' who because of his failures to score in Russia became a character of jokes: for example, the dog — who bit Kerzhakov — couldn't get to the booth for three days. Actually, BATE's forward was close to join the folklore: i.e Signevich calls on the phone: 'Hello, is this a laundry?' — 'No! You are dialing the wrong number! Nikolay began the match against ViDi with a miss but he came through, and we hope more success will follow, in the match against PAOK.

In another match of the fifth round of Group L, English Chelsea (having already secured a place in the playoffs) defeated Greek PAOK in London 4:0. The tournament position after five days is: Chelsea — 15 points, BATE — 6, Vidi — 6, and PAOK — 3.

To reach the playoffs, BATE needs to defeat PAOK in the final round in Thessaloniki. The same day, Vidi will play against Chelsea in Budapest. The two best teams from twelve groups will go through to the 1/16 finals of the Europa League and will be joined by eight clubs taking third place in the Champions League groups.



Master class from Arina Sobolenko

# On court with first racket

By Tatiana Pastushenko

**The new tennis season will soon be starting, gathering several Belarusian players in late December: Arina Sobolenko will compete in Shenzhen, Alexandra Sasnovich and Vera Lapko in Brisbane, and Victoria Azarenko in New Zealand's Auckland. Our athletes have been training hard.**

Arina Sobolenko has returned to Minsk after a short rest in the United Arab Emirates, to start training for the new season. She found time in her busy schedule to visit Smena sports school, where she herself trained years ago, and gave a master class for

young athletes.

Every child was keen to play against Arina, lining up patiently. She played easily with the children and then took photos with them, also signing autographs and giving gifts. Ms. Sobolenko admitted, "It's nice to see so many youngsters. Perhaps, in the future, they'll become top players. I hope they'll succeed and, soon, there will be far more tennis players in Belarus."

Last season, when Arina won her first titles and climbed to record 11th



At photo session

place in the world rankings, she said, "Of course, I'm happy, but I could have performed better. This season, there have been many matches that changed my outlook and taught me a great deal. It's difficult to highlight the brightest and I'm now setting even higher goals. I hope everything will be great. I'll spend next week in Minsk, engaged in general physical training, before going to Thailand where I'll continue to prepare for the new season."

## Festival of the week



Minsk hosts International Modern Dance Festival Bizon

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Deafart* Until 13<sup>th</sup> January. *Latvia is 100: History, Art, Traditions*  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> December. Universe of Yazep Drozdovich  
Until 7<sup>th</sup> January. *Aleksander Szturman (1869-1944). Travelling Artist*

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> December. *Silence Time*  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> January. *Art of Chocolate*  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> January. *Devoted to Belarus*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Belarus in Great War of 1914-1918*  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> January. *Pencil and Brush*  
Until 20<sup>th</sup> January. *ESTAMP*  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *Maly Trostenets: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale massacre*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> February. *Shop with Cites*  
Until 7<sup>th</sup> April. *Fantasy Land*

#### GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

8 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 27<sup>th</sup>. January. *We Are Coming To You, Belarus*

#### OUTLETO TRADING CENTRE

44 Zhukov Avenue  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> January. *Tropics* exhibition of exotic animals

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> December. *Strusto, Dauble, Richi, Savonar* Until 16<sup>th</sup> December. *Gunars Binde. Retrospective*

#### LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *Somewhere to the West of Minsk: Daily Life of Western Belarus*  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> December. *20th Century Avant-Garde*

#### MAGIC MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> December. *Tournament of Three Magicians*

#### VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 23<sup>rd</sup> January. *Grass*

#### NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

3 Nekrasov Street  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Vilno Festival of Analogues Photography and Cinema*  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> December. *Orientalis*  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> December. *Technologies*

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
06.12. *Romeo and Juliet* 07.12. *Macbeth*  
08 and 09.12. *Anastasia* 11.12. *Gypsy*  
*Strings Follow Heart* 13.12. *Don Pasquale*

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
06.12. *Bridegrooms* 07.12. *Red Hot Mamas* 08.12. *private Lives* 09.12. *How to Become Rich* 11.12. *Circle of Love*  
12.12. *Intimideate Apostle* 13.12. *Dangerous Liaisons*

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
06.12. *In Search of True Self* 07.12. *Abduction of Yelena* 08.12. *Who Laughs Last* 09.12. *Battlefield* 10.12. *The Same Place Next Year* 11 and 12.12. *Nobody Ever Said Life Would Be Easy*  
13.12. *Mechanical Man*

#### YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
06.12. *Elza's Land* 08 and 09.12. *People of the Marshes* 09.12. *Inspector* 11 and 12.12. *Kupala Night Dream* 13.12. *ART*

#### NEW DRAMA THEATRE

16 Liza Chaikina Street  
06.12. *Christmas*

#### BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street  
06.12. *This Is All She* 09.12. *Ticket for Brest Train* 10.12. *Wings Flying*  
11.12. *Oedipus* 12.12. *Method* 13.12. *Adam's Jokes*

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
06.12. *Rich Brides* 07.12. *Invented Not By Us* 08.12. *Playing Friendly Family*  
13.12. *Hotel of Two Worlds*

#### BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street  
07 and 08.12. *Inspector*  
12.12. *Suffering of Tender Heart*  
13.12. *Dog in the Manger*

#### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
07.12. *House Upside Down 2*  
09.12. *Romeo and Juliet*  
10.12. *Dragon*

#### PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
07.12. *Belvedere*

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
08.12. *Man in Front Of Mirror*  
12.12. *Husband Like Many*  
13.12. *She and Her Men*