

The MAZ-Weichai engine factory has been launched at the Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park



500 young scientists from 9 countries took part in the 16th international conference — *Youth in Science* — 2019



INTERNATIONAL

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## From letter to digits

Digitalisation, informatisation, computerisation... How do they differ from each other and what are our priorities? The Head of State drew attention to some of the issues of digital development during the recent discussion. Moreover, the President proposed an official meeting on the whole range of the problems of the digital transformation of the country in the near future. → **2**



# Digitalisation advances the economy

Establishment of an IT university, e-government and further digitalisation of the economy were discussed at the Palace of Independence as the Head of State reported on the country's development issues in the digital sphere. Among the participants of the discussion were heads of Government, the Presidential Administration, representatives of state bodies, leading educational institutions, the IT sector and the High-Tech Park.

Aleksandr Lukashenko said while opening the meeting, "You've made some proposals today that aim to contribute to the development of the IT country and other topics related to digitalisation."

One of the items under discussion at the meeting was the prospect of establishing a separate educational institution in the country to train IT specialists. "The initiative to create a new specialised educational institution has been created in the IT community. In addition, the Government has proposals on how to improve the management system of information and digital processes," explained the President. Mr. Lukashenko pointed out that the range of tasks required for the specified subject is wide ranging, "With this in mind, informatisation is among the priorities of the five-year programme of socio-economic development. So far, we have nothing to boast about in this sphere, although — at the 5th All-Belarusian People's Congress — the task was set to create a fully-fledged e-government by 2020."

The President promised to hold a meeting on the range of problems relating to the digital transformation of the country in the near future. "We should start from the basics — clarifying what digitalisation, informatisation and computerisation are, how they differ from each other and what is the priority."

At the same time, according to the President, there is a trend in the country for an increasing number of people to see themselves as only working in IT. "I've said that to plough the soil, to harvest nuts, to create products for mechanical engineering will remain with us for a long time, if not forever, although digitalisation is penetrating all industries, including these. We are not moving away from these skills and are not planning to," he said.

The First Deputy Prime Minister, Aleksandr Turchin, reported to the Head of State that the proposal to establish a high-tech university in Belarus is based on the need to train personnel. "The world economy, under the influence of IT technologies, is gaining a completely different look. New industries are emerging; these generate huge revenues, mostly without using traditional resources and mechanisms. Human capital plays a key role in this. Belarus has always been famous for its people, and our education has always been valued in the



## ACCENT

### Belarus plans to establish a specialised university for IT personnel training

post-Soviet space," Mr. Turchin stated, adding that fundamentally different approaches to education are needed under these new conditions. "Our education system today generally meets

the needs of personnel. However, for successful digital transformation and creation of a new economy, we need specialists of a completely different quality. We don't train people like this yet," he said.

After the meeting, Mr. Turchin told reporters that the President supported the proposal to establish an IT university. "This is a proposal not only from the IT community but also

from our leading universities: the Belarusian State University and the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio-electronics. I think, in the near future, we will submit a draft regulatory legal act to the Head of State that will regulate the activities of this educational institution," he noted.

The new IT university will be founded by the High-Tech Park, the Belarusian State Uni-

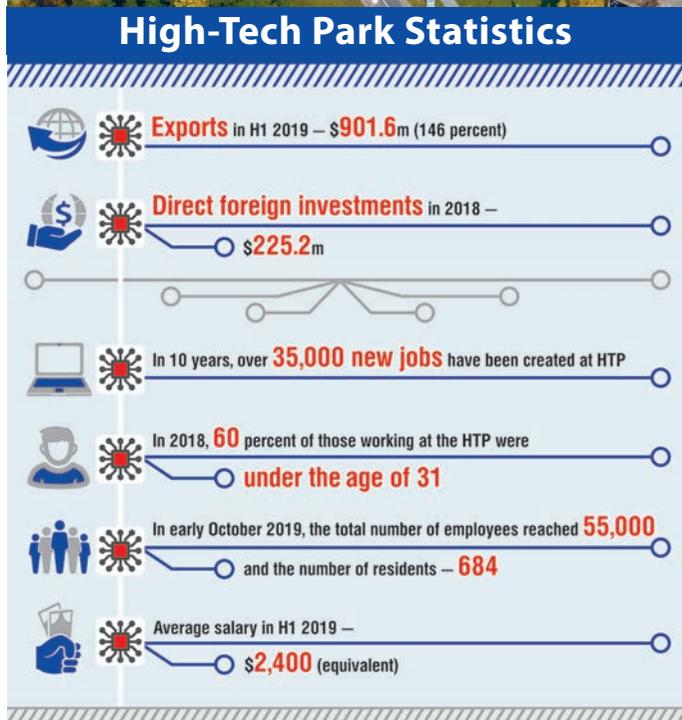
ard. Initially, we plan to take about 180 applicants for training. We assume that education at the university will be paid for without budget funding."

There are also plans to develop a system of grants to support gifted children. Government officials noted that the new university will train personnel not for specific companies and not only for the IT industry but for the country as a whole. "If we are serious about digitalisation of the economy, we will need these specialists in every area. Our task is to create the conditions so that our most talented young people do not leave the country."

At the meeting, the Head of State stressed that, with the creation of a new educational institution, it is important not to forget about existing universities and develop them. In his opinion, competition will contribute to improving the quality of educational services. In addition, as a result of the report to the President, it was decided to give the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation the authority to implement state regulation in the sphere of digitalisation.

The need to create a state regulator in the field of digital development was previously discussed at the level of Head of State. In particular, during Mr. Lukashenko's visit to the High-Tech Park this April, representatives of the IT sector initiated the creation of the Ministry of the Digital Economy in Belarus. This idea has been carefully analysed. Mr. Turchin commented, "It was decided to do this based on the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation, having revised functionality and changing the name of the Ministry."

The Government and the Minister were tasked to ensure the Ministry works at a qualitatively higher level, so that it works in close co-operation with representatives of the IT sector. In the near future, projects resulting from the relevant decisions will be sent to the President for consideration.



**The High-Tech Park has stopped the brain drain: Belarusian programmers have ceased going abroad. On the contrary, Belarus is becoming attractive for foreign professionals: more than 1,000 foreigners work in HTP. In the first half of 2019, HTP residents created 4,360 jobs. Since the beginning of 2019, over 230 new companies have joined the Park.**

versity, the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio-electronics and the major HTP resident companies. It is expected to open by the start of the new academic year. One of the requirements of the Head of State is to ensure that its name is associated with the country.

Mr. Turchin commented, "This will be our attempt to train specialists to a very high stand-

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The President promised to hold a meeting on the range of issues of the country's digital transformation in the near future

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



Andrei Nikitin

### Good opportunity to get acquainted

Andrei Nikitin visited Belarus for the first time and there was much that appeared new for him in the country. “Such a visit offers a great opportunity to learn more about our country, assess its economic and manufacturing capacities and have a new look at bilateral co-operation prospects,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko, welcoming his guest. “Personal involvement of governors in building ties is of paramount importance. If a governor is interested, things will go from strength to strength. It is encouraging that your region and Belarus are interested not only in more vibrant trade but also in more active co-operation across other areas.”

The President stated that co-operation with the Russian regions is high on Belarus’ agenda. “I often say that if certain people think that this is their Russia, they are wrong. This is our Russia as well! People need to get used to it. Russia is more than just a country. Especially for Belarus. This is the ideology, and I cannot give up on it,” he said.

The Novgorod Region is one of the Russian regions with which Belarus has built particularly close ties. Belarus purchases reinforcement materials, chemical substances, sawn timber and ceramics from the region, while exporting leather footwear, milk and meat products, plastic goods and wiring.

Mr. Lukashenko mentioned

# Ready-made recipes contribute to success

Heads of Russian regions are frequent guests in our Palace of Independence. Each time, the dialogue between the President and Russian governors is based on the discussion of what should be done to deepen existing economic co-operation. The meeting of Aleksandr Lukashenko with the Governor of the Novgorod Region, Andrei Nikitin, was no exception: they discussed how to add dynamics to existing economic relations. After all, trade turnover of almost \$100m — though not small — clearly does not correspond to the potential of the two parties. However, the economy was not the only topic of the friendly meeting in Minsk.

that he had often invited Russian governors to build closer ties in the agricultural sector, in particular he suggested supplying seeds and pedigree cattle. After all, the availability of foodstuffs and basic products is crucial for maintaining stability in a state.

### Vectors of co-operation

The President does not hide the fact that there were different periods in the partnership between the two countries, including difficult times. However, this is a work in process. It was regional co-operation that prevented our relations from going wrong. All current, disagreements are solvable.

“I believe, along with Dmitry Fedorovich [Mezentsev — the Russian Ambassador to Belarus], foreign ministries and the Russian Government [the presidents have also joined the discussion], we will solve these issues. Do you have a closer ally than Belarus? No. We do not have a closer country than Russia. Accordingly, we must co-operate,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Meanwhile, the President stressed that bilateral co-operation in no way means that it is necessary to abandon other vectors of interaction, “We also

need to see our neighbours in the region — for example, Ukraine, which is close and dear to Russia and Belarus. It’s a Slavic state. The list also includes Poland, the Baltic States and the European Union in general.”

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that this is not just a political position but also an economically justified urgent need. “We are not much valued [in the West]. The obstacle to that is not Lukashenko’s dictatorship but the economy. We are needed by nobody in the EU for our economy as they produce everything [which Belarus also manufactures] — except BELAZ vehicles. Nobody has allowed us and will never allow us to join their market. I criticise them all the time for this. At the same time, they admit our produce is in many ways better than theirs. However, we are not allowed into the market. What is the basis of co-operation with the European Union? We’ve faced problems with Russia in this regard. However, I repeat: we will resolve these issues. We speak at least the same language,” he said.

The President once again stressed that, for Belarusians, Russians are not strangers, as

well as representatives of other nationalities and religions. “We have no bad relations either with Chechnya, or with Bashkortostan, with Muslims, or with Catholics, with Jews, or especially with the Orthodox in Russia. You are dear to us,” the President stated.

However, generations are changing and young people come to power who have not witnessed the times when many people lived in a single state: the Soviet Union. “It is important for us not to lose this relationship and to pass it on to new generations, so that our children understand that we are together. We are not going to fight against the European Union either economically, diplomatically or militarily. We have enough of everything in Russia and Belarus,” the President added.

### Fantastic and successful project

While discussing economic co-operation, the President advised Mr. Nikitin to repeat the project implemented earlier in Sakhalin, “We can offer you modern MAZ buses with different engines and trolley-buses with enhanced autonomous travel. You can see these in Minsk. As I’ve said, we are

ready to share our experience and technologies in animal husbandry, breeding, growing vegetables and equipping dairy farms. We have great experience. We used to practically break everything down and rebuild it. We can, for example (as we once did in Sakhalin) build a complex for you: residential and production. We even transported cows there by plane.”

The Governor of the Novgorod Region commented that a fantastic project was implemented in Sakhalin; it was a good experience for both countries. “If you’re interested, we can build a complex for you at a reasonable price. You will never build it with Russians for such a price — excuse me for saying so. We will build and then bring cattle,” the President proposed, concluding, “Most importantly, you must understand that our goal is to deepen economic contacts and bilateral co-operation since this is the foundation. If there is interest in the economy, everything else will follow. Therefore, your visit is very important. Remember that you are not strangers to us — especially people from the Novgorod Region.”

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by

## Open to constructive dialogue

**An information day for NATO’s Science for Peace and Security programme took place in Minsk. The event was organised by the State Science and Technology Committee and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei Dapkiunas, met NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges Antonio Missiroli and took part in the opening ceremony.**

By Olga Korneeva

The Science for Peace and Security programme is a NATO tool designed to foster the advancement of co-operation and dialogue with all partners through scientific research, innovations and experience exchange. Security-related researches jointly pursued by a NATO



Antonio Missiroli and Andrei Dapkiunas

member and a NATO partner receive funding and expert assistance as part of the programme. Since its inception, the programme has established a broad international network of representatives of the scientific community and the expert community of NATO member states and NATO partner states. About

2,000 experts take part in events of the programme every year, with Belarus participating since 1992. Mr. Dapkiunas met Antonio Missiroli who was the highest-ranking representative of the NATO Secretariat to visit Belarus in the last 27 years. The officials mentioned the gradual improvement of Be-

larus-NATO relations. Belarus’ co-operation with NATO member states and partners in various fields was discussed, including the fight against new challenges and threats such as terrorism.

Mr. Dapkiunas stressed Belarus’ readiness for constructive dialogue and interaction with NATO on the basis of mutual respect and equality. He informed Mr. Missiroli about the results of the high-level international conference held in Minsk in early September to discuss the fight against terrorism using innovative approaches and new and emerging technologies.

The Belarusian diplomat also drew the NATO representative’s attention to Belarus’ initiatives in favour of creating ‘a digital good neighbourhood belt’ and in favour of working out a declaration on the non-deployment of medium-range and shorter-range missiles in Europe. Mr. Dapkiunas mentioned the Belarusian proposals are meant to reduce confrontation, restore trust, and bolster friendly ties between countries.



# It's too early to take a well-deserved rest

Fifty-five years ago, Belarus received confirmation that there are industrial reserves of black gold in the Gomel Region. After more than half a century, oil production in Belarus is developing and the subsoil is being studied in greater depth.

By Svetlana Savelieva

An oil well at the Kartashovskoye oil field in Khoiniki uses high-grade technology for drilling and oil production in Belarus. The path to the oil deposits is drilled by the 'Drillmec HP-1500' unit in echelon design. This is one of the most advanced rigs in the world. They try to use the most sophisticated equipment in Belarus and some developments even belong to the Belarusians.

Drillers manage the processes from a special console. Here, in real-time, they can monitor what is happening hundreds of metres underground. The total height of the rig exceeds 55m above ground, approximately the height of a 22-storey building. Work on the rig never stops, running around-the-clock. In just a month and a half, a new well will appear at this field and, in the future, a new group of four wells will be sited here.

The main argument from the 1960s in favour of the development of oil production in the country, the well at the Rechitsa oil field, is now in operation.

Outwardly, there is nothing to indicate its age, with the well continuing to work with the precision of a watch, but unlike in the last few years, hard-to-recover hydrocarbon reserves are now being mined here.

In general, during the oil production period, fifteen wells produced more than 1 million tonnes of oil each. Behind the scenes at the business they are called the 'millionaires' club'. One of them set a landmark historical record fifty-five years ago. In August 1964, on the very first day of production, one of the wells of the Rechitsa oil field produced more than 120 tonnes of oil. Now it's performing a new 'historic' function as the 'First Industrial Oil' stela was installed on its site.

Recently, the Belorusneft Production Association completed the drilling of the country's largest group of oil wells at the Rechitsa oil field — the record group of wells boasts 14 facilities. It took almost five years to build them, grouped closely together. Thanks to the use of modern technology, separate sites were drilled in record time.

According to Victor Arkhipenko, who heads the Svetlogorsk Drilling Operations Department, all the facilities were drilled to create a grid of wells in the open Lansko-Starooskolsky accumulations of the Rechitsa oil field. Eleven are producing while three are water injection wells. The cumulative oil production from these wells exceeds 120,000 tonnes. According to the experts, this type of cluster drilling in Belarus is effective and fully justified.

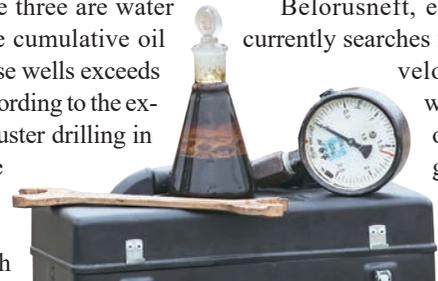
Oil workers approached the 55th anniversary celebrating many achievements and developments. Last year, for the first time in the recent history of the Belorusneft Association, their annual oil production amounted to 1.67 million tonnes. At the same time, new wells yielded almost 100,000 tonnes. For the first time in 20 years, an increase in oil reserves in Belarus has reached ideal production levels. According to the results from this year, Belorusneft plans to increase oil produc-

tion by 20,000 tonnes. Furthermore, their main task now is to level the imbalance in reserve growth and production volume. The constant introduction of modern technology allows further exploration and investigations at new levels.

Belorusneft, established in 1966, currently searches for, explores and develops oil fields, drills wells and produces oil and petroleum gas in Belarus, while also working in the oil sectors of many other countries.

Its enterprises are successfully implementing projects in Venezuela and Ecuador, as well as Russia and Ukraine.

By the standards of oil producers, it's too early to leave the industry for a well-deserved rest at the age of just fifty-five years old. Geological investigations and exploration are conducted annually. It is still possible that many surprises for oil workers remain hidden deep inside the Earth.



By Alina Kasel

"The Belarusian Railway is a well-developed transport system, operating over 5,500km and located at the crossroads of major transport routes connecting Europe, Russia, Central Asia, China, North and Baltic seas," said the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Russian Railways, Oleg Belozеров, noting that the Belarusian Railway is an important partner for all members of the Council in the development of Euro-Asian transport links, the importance of which is increasing. Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Kukharev described the crucial role of rail transport, "It's become the driving force for development in all areas of society. The improving railway service is the most important component of the transport complex — contributing greatly to the economy of the state and carrying out uninterrupted transportation of goods and passengers."

According to Mr. Belozеров, there is huge potential to attract international transit to the trans-

# A trainload of offers

## 71st CIS Rail Transport Council held in Minsk

**Among the issues discussed in Minsk by delegations of the railway administrations from the CIS countries were passenger and freight transportation, the development of new directions and concepts, fleet renewal and international communication. Partners from other countries were also invited to the dialogue.**



port network of the Commonwealth, and the development of international transport corridors in Eurasia is the most important priority of the Council. Among the tasks for the future are the use of traditional advantages

and new technological opportunities, the development of logistics, attention to the competitive environment, alternative modes of transport and diversification of routes. The latter is extremely important: the delivery of con-

tainers from China to Europe and back, as well as from Japan and South Korea, the increase in the reloading capacity of container terminals, such as at the Brest-Severnoy depot, could significantly accelerate movement

and ensure improved loading of container goods.

As for container traffic in Belarus, Vladimir Morozov — the Head of the Belarusian Railway — said that our railway is ready to increase this. Since 2011, the number of container trains has increased 100-fold, and we are ready to double and even triple this volume. Mr. Morozov also commented on information on how the high-speed highway project, which will connect Minsk, Moscow and St. Petersburg, will be implemented. "First, we need an economic assessment: the cost of construction, the volume of transportation, etc. It's a promising idea," he said, adding that further development of the corridor to Western Europe could be interesting. "This would be a benefit for Beijing-Moscow-Minsk-Warsaw-Berlin transport. Our European colleagues are interested but it is also necessary to make a political decision. We must understand that to build it is just one side of the coin: it's also important to consider the efficiency of its use."

# Key to start

The MAZ-Weichai engine factory has been launched at the Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park. The official commissioning ceremony was held with the participation of Prime Minister Sergei Rumas.

By Oleg Nagorny

“Our country has been successfully co-operating with Weichai for 20 years. Since 2014, a range of popular trucks with this company’s ecological class Euro-4 and Euro-5 engines has been produced at the Minsk Automobile Plant. A city bus and hundreds of modifications of cars with gearboxes of the Shaanxi company — part of Weichai Corporation — have also been manufactured. A new stage of co-operation was formalised with the signing of a memorandum on the production of diesel engines,” Mr. Rumas said.

The cost of the project is \$20m, of which \$14m are investments from the Chinese. The MAZ-Weichai joint company was established by two

enterprises — the flagships of Belarus and China: Minsk Automobile Plant and Weichai Corporation. Construction of the plant began in April 2018. The trial launch ceremony took place in November 2018. Since then, the plant has produced a pilot batch of engines.



The plant oversees complete knockdown assembly of Euro-5 and Euro-6 engines for trucks, special vehicles and buses. Annual production capacity has reached 10,000 engines, with possible doubling of this figure.

The plant is responsible for complete knockdown assembly of Euro-5 and Euro-6 engines for trucks, special vehicles and buses. Production capacity (in single-shift mode) will reach 10,000 engines per year; if two shifts operate, then the figure will rise to 20,000. The compa-

ny will meet the needs not only of the Belarusian automotive industry but will also be able to supply products to the CIS and beyond. Moreover, this July, construction of a Belarusian-Chinese plant aiming to produce manual transmissions began at the Great Stone Industrial Park. To manage the construction and the future plant, a joint venture was established: Fast-MAZ JSC — founded by MAZ and Shaanxi Fast Gear, part of the Weichai Holding. The cost of the project is \$17m and the financing will be mutual: 70 percent will be invested by the Chinese and 30 percent by Belarusians. 3.3 hectares have been allocated for the site which is expected to produce more than 10,000 transmissions per year in a one shift operation. If demand is high, production

can be doubled. “This is the next stage of our co-operation. We have no doubt that the new project will also be successful,” Mr. Rumas noted, adding, “Pleasingly, our Chinese partners are not stopping there: some ideas to expand co-operation in the production of individual units and assemblies are being discussed.”

Weichai is one of China’s largest engineering corporations. It is headquartered in Weifang in the Shandong Province and its production sites and branches are located in China, Southeast Asia, Europe and North America. The corporation is among the top 500 companies in China and is a recognised world leader in terms of production of engines, power generators, wheeled vehicles and automotive components.



Another ceremony graced the event: the production of the 1,000th engine by MAZ-Weichai

## Belarusian exposition featured at industrial expo in Czechia



By Olga Korneeva

Belarusian companies showcased their products at the MSV International Engineering Fair 2019 held in Brno, Czechia

The *Made in Belarus* exposition featured 14 companies from such industries as petrochemistry, metallurgy and mechanical engineering. BATE demonstrated starters, generators and eco-friendly waterproof insulation; Belcard — drive shafts; the Belarusian Steel Works — workpieces for reinforced concrete structures; the Borisov Aggregates Plant — water and oil pumps. Belarus’ oil industry stand — Belneftekhim — featured protective wax and hydraulic oils from the Mineral Wax Plant; petrol for any types of engines from the Mozyr Oil Refinery and mobile units for drilling and overhaul of shafts from the Seismotekhnika company.

The Belarusian exposition also featured three institutes of the National

Academy of Sciences of Belarus which demonstrated more than 100 developments, including electronic ceramics, jewellery inserts made from synthetic emeralds, protective coatings and workpieces for medical implants.

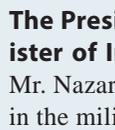
The *Belarus Business Day* Forum was also held as part of the fair, which was organised by the Belinterexpo exhibition company at the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the support of the Belarusian Embassy in Czechia.

The MSV International Engineering Fair has been held in Brno annually since 1958. It has been recognised as one of Europe’s top mechanical engineering expos and a major event for the entire manufacturing sector of Eastern and Central Europe. This year’s event brought together over 1,700 enterprises from 60 countries, featuring national stands from Germany, India, Italy, China, South Korea and Russia.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



The CIS Border Guard Commanders Council has given its highest award to the President of Belarus: the title of CIS Honorary Border Guard. Aleksandr Lukashenko has become the first Head of State to receive this award which is granted only for outstanding merit in strengthening border security and for personal courage in organising state border protection.

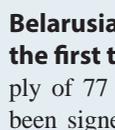


The President has appointed Yuri Nazarenko Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Chief of the Internal Troops.

Mr. Nazarenko comes from the internal troops himself: he served in the military unit, in the Presidential Security Service and headed a special rapid response unit. The new Chief noted that, to solve any issue — including ensuring order in the country and respect for the rule of law, the internal troops have everything they need: human resources, modern equipment and weapons.



Belarus Research Institute has opened in China on the site of the Lanzhou University of Economics and Finance. The main focus of the Institute will be working with Belarusian educational institutions in the field of study and comparative analysis of the direction of development of Belarus and China.



Belarusian dump trucks are entering the Indian market for the first time.

A contract worth approximately \$200m for the supply of 77 BelAZ dump trucks with a capacity of 136 tonnes has been signed with Coal India Limited. Vehicles will operate at the Gevra open pit coal mine. A service centre in the immediate vicinity of the quarry is planned to be opened. The first batch of dump trucks will be shipped to the customer in November and December later this year.



Minsk Days will be held in Shanghai in November and in Beijing in 2020.

In recent times, similar Days were held in Belgrade, Riga, Milan, Omsk, Moscow, Budapest, Tbilisi and St. Petersburg, while the Belarusian capital hosted special days for Moscow, Riga, St. Petersburg, Belgrade and Budapest. In total, Minsk has signed 174 agreements and protocols on co-operation with other cities.

Belarus is on the list of the top 5 countries popular with tourists for inexpensive fast food.

The rating is based on a comparison of burger prices of one of the fast food chains in popular tourist destinations. The top five include Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Belarus. They are followed by Turkey, Moldova, Poland, Vietnam and China. The most expensive burger is in the Eurozone where it costs an average of 4.1 Euros.



By Svetlana Savelieva

The nuances of the international conference on the inclusion of the Avgustovsky Canal and other attractions on the UNESCO World Heritage List were discussed in Grodno by the delegation of Poland's Augustow and the Deputy Chairman of the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, Viktor Liskovich. The conference is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. The first day will be held in Poland, and the second in Belarus.

Mr. Liskovich confirmed that painstaking work is underway to present the hydraulic structure as a unique natural and cultural complex. This common at-

traction should become the single tourist brand of Belarus and Poland.

The Mayor of Augustow, Miroslaw Karolczuk, commented that a UNESCO expert is expected to visit. "There are many canals on this list which are interesting in terms of technical solutions. However, the Avgustovsky Canal, in its 180 year history, has organically fit into nature, influencing the culture of the region. It is now attracting tourists," he said, adding that the inclusion of the object on the UNESCO World Heritage List will increase its attractiveness to tourists from around the world.

Among the topics of the upcoming conference will be the joint use of the

# Canal known as historical and cultural heritage

In Grodno, a plan to prepare the Avgustovsky Canal for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List was discussed: this unique hydraulic structure will be presented as a natural and cultural complex

canal for tourism purposes and the development of appropriate infrastructure. The projects for discussion include the creation of a canal museum on water, development of common platforms and mobile apps that help tourists to get the necessary information about travel options on both the Polish and Belarusian sides and the surrounding area.

"From our point of view, the work is actively being carried out. In particular, there is a portal for visa-free tourists, mobile applications about cycling routes in the canal area, nearby attractions and interesting places. A similar project is being implemented on the main routes of the region," said Mr. Liskovich.

In general, tourism in the Grodno Region is developing dynamically. Foreigners are attracted not only by an interesting hydraulic structure but also by visa-free visits to Grodno and its surroundings. Next week, the 100,000th visa-free tourist since early 2019 is expected to be welcomed by the regional centre.

Mr. Liskovich reminded us that, on November 10th, the Presidential decree comes into force which includes other areas around the Nieman River in the visa-free zone. "Virtually the entire territory of the region becomes visa-free for groups of foreign guests. Therefore, in the near future, we will reach an even higher level of tourist services," he stressed.

## Driving force of thought



By Natalia Yemelyanova

**National Academy of Sciences of Belarus hosted a youth innovation forum. 500 young scientists from 9 countries took part in the 16th international conference — *Youth in Science — 2019*. A new generation of researchers shared their experiences, made new connections and discussed the prospects for joint work.**

The Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences, Vladimir Gusakov, delivered a speech at the opening of the conference. According to him, the country creates all the necessary conditions for the creative growth of young scientists and their integration into the big science fields. At the level of the National Academy of Sciences, long-term projects are supported and young people can take part in various competitions — including for grants.

The *Youth in Science* conference is one of the largest youth scientific events in Belarus and a prestigious platform for the presentation of projects by the talented youth of the CIS and abroad. The forum presented the largest international and interdisciplinary projects and scientific developments implemented with the participation of young scientists.



Presentations of scientific start-up projects, robotic tournaments, an exhibition of developments by young scientists — 'Young Academy' and a Belarusian-Russian 'Horizons of Science' symposium were held.

The development described in the thesis of Anna Pyanko, a graduate student of the Belarusian State Technological University, will slow down the spread of infection and protect people from pathogenic bacteria. The idea is rooted in the application of antibacterial metal coatings on a variety of door handles, handrails and turnstiles in schools,

gardens, clinics, public transport and distribution lines in canteens... In turn, a joint project of the NAS' Institute of Microbiology, the NAS and the Belarusian State Technological University — 'Phlebiopin' drug — will help keep our forests healthy, ridding them of root rot. Representatives of the Belarusian State University's International Relations Department presented their 'Контрафакт. HET' (Counterfeit.NO) platform for detecting fakes and the BSU joined the NAS Sociology Institute to make an interactive educational resource — Quali.me — which will help master mathe-

matics courses and prepare for exams without tutors. The Aviation Academy showed the introduction of augmented reality technologies in the learning process, the NAS' Joint Institute of Informatics presented computer modelling of drugs (including against HIV), and much more. Some of the start-ups aroused interest among potential investors.

In general, about a third of scientists at the National Academy of Sciences are young people. "This is the optimal figure, which is good for the communication of future generations. Young scientists work in all priority areas of scientific, scientific-technical and innovative activities. The biotechnological sector is developing especially dynamically," stated Andrey Ivanets, the NAS' Chief Scientific Secretary and Chairman of the Council of Young Scientists.

"The trends that are developing at the NAS are presented by the forum participants. In many respects, we are moving ahead. We have many things to surprise you, such as a line of small electric vehicles, a storage device, and what is being done in the field of artificial intelligence: there is no similar Brain Centre anywhere else in the CIS which unites the efforts of physiologists, biologists, chemists and information technology specialists," Mr. Ivanets added.



# The modern life of an unusual village

Shape and model the clay!

**Unusual Villages is a unique project by the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House which is devoted to the Year of the Small Homeland and the support of Belarusian customs. Journalists travel to various areas, cover traditional crafts, talk about folk festivals and rituals. Below we present the modern life of the unusual village of Gorodnaya.**

By Victor Chamkovsky

Stolin District's Gorodnaya in the Brest Region has many attractions, but the main one isn't immediately obvious. It's a special natural porcelain clay. Items made of it are extremely durable and ready to hold any shape. It's thanks to this clay that pottery has been made here for many years and today even foreign potters hunt for it.

"In other villages nearby, no one was involved in pottery, because there was no raw material," says potter Vasily Kozachok. "Clay is only found in our village. Thanks to it, our residents were able to survive both the pre-war famine and the post-war devastation. Demand for pots was felt far outside the village and they were transported up to 300 kilometres away. It was good for both potters and people who bought the items, as they were provided with dishes."

Miracle-clay is taken 3-4 kilometres from Gorodnaya in the coniferous forest. Everything seems simple: simply going with a bucket and shovel and digging a hole in the right place. Excavations are said to have reached three metres in depth. But it's important not only to find the right place. It's necessary also to understand whether this is the right clay. Master potters even try it! In this way a craftsman can assess whether it is oily enough and whether there is a lot of sand in it.

"Our clay has a lot of kaolinite mineral, it's refractory and is able to withstand temperatures of up to 1,500 degrees. It is not soft, like plasticine, but

elastic," Vasily Kozachok reveals the secret. "Poles make large forms from our clay. When I ask them why they are so big, they say that they cannot be made out of their clay. Their clay can withstand 900-950 degrees, and then begins to melt. Ours is resistant and withstands higher temperatures."

But it's not as simple as all that. Forest clay cannot be used immediately. Before being put on the potter's wheel, it must undergo special treatment.

"It's not enough just to dig up the clay and bring it home. We knock it into a large pile or 'babka', as we call it," says potter Grigory Kovalko, sharing his experience. "Then, two or three times, we scrape it onto a paper sheet with a sharp plane to remove the impurities, so that there are no stones or roots, and the clay is clean. If there's a stone in it, then during firing it will break a hole in the pot."

All ages are open to pottery. Grigory Kovalko took up the skill at the age of 10. He became an orphan at an early age and earned his living selling pots. He has not let clay out of his hands for sixty-five years. Vasily Kozachok sat down at the potter's wheel when he was over 50! He worked all his life as a teacher and only then decided to master the work of his father. Today, experienced potter and teacher Vasily Kozachok, together with other master craftsmen, transfer their skills to young people. Since 2003, the pottery centre has been operational in the Gorodnaya House of Culture, led by Vasily. Pupils willingly attend the club and hone their ability to turn clay into utensils. I observe



how one of them sits competently behind a potter's wheel in a work apron. A lump of clay begins to spin and the guy periodically wets his palms in a bowl of water. In just a couple of minutes a small vessel slowly 'grows' in his hands. Making a pot on a pottery table is only half the story. It's necessary to dry it at room temperature, which will take at least a week. Then it needs to be fired in the oven. The stoves of the masters are classic, dug in the ground. Clay items are immersed in the oven, often when more than one hundred jugs and pots are ready. The first firing lasts about ten hours. During this time, they burn it into powder and mix the glaze on the millstones manually. Glazed pots are sent to the second firing at a temperature of more than 1,000 degrees. In an ideal case, the simplest pot will be ready in a month!

The village of Gorodnaya hosts open air sessions of potters bringing together craftsmen from neighbouring countries and further abroad — for example, Sweden and Denmark. Polish potters always take away the clay. In future, Gorodnaya is a great place to attract tourism. Getting a chunk of miracle-clay, spinning it on a potter's wheel and modelling one's own pot under the guidance of a master — this is an experience that can entice guests from all different corners of the world.



INSIDE

The Minsk Times  
Thursday  
October 24  
2019

7



# The Queen speaks but is overshadowed by Brexit

**Queen Elizabeth II formally opened Parliament and promptly found herself in the thick of Britain's roiling Brexit drama, setting out a legislative agenda for Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Government that began with his vow to leave the European Union by the end of this month**

In a ceremony suffused with age-old pageantry but overshadowed by the frantic search for a Brexit deal, the Queen declared that the Johnson Government 'intends to work toward a new partnership with the Euro-

pean Union, based on free trade and friendly co-operation'.

In fact, Mr. Johnson's hopes for an agreement on Brexit appeared to be on a knife edge, as British and European negotiators in Brussels wrangled in the waning days before October 31st over the vexing question of how to handle trade with Northern Ireland after Britain leaves the economic bloc.

The uncertainty over whether Mr. Johnson will strike a deal in time, the intense manoeuvring that is certain to follow his success or failure and the possibility that Mr. Johnson

himself may be pushed from office in the coming month made this one of the most unusual Queen's speeches of the modern era.

Critics complained that Mr. Johnson was exploiting the monarch by having her lend the trappings of royalty to a brashly partisan exercise. Given that he does not have a majority in Parliament to pass legislation and is lobbying for a general election, the speech, they said, was less a recitation of the Government's agenda than a manifesto for the Conservative Party.

This followed criticism that

Mr. Johnson had misled the Queen when he asked her to suspend Parliament in September. Britain's Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Johnson had acted unlawfully to quash debate on his plan to leave the European Union by October 31st, with or without a deal.

"There has never been such a farce as a Government with a majority of minus 45 and a 100 percent record of defeat in the Commons setting out a legislative agenda they know cannot be delivered in this Parliament," said Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party.

## Boeing and Porsche team up to develop flying electric car

**The US aircraft giant and German sports car maker announced they are teaming up to 'explore the premium urban air mobility market and the extension of urban traffic into airspace' through 'a fully electric vertical takeoff and landing vehicle'**

The announcement did not include any details about the amount of money or other resources the two companies plan to invest in the effort, or a target date or price range.

Porsche's parent company, Volkswagen AG, is the world's largest automaker. It has announced a major push into the development of electric vehicles, setting a target of building 22 million electric cars across its brands over the next 10 years.

"We are combining the strengths of two leading global companies to address a potential key market segment of the future," says Detlev von Platen, a member of the Porsche board in charge of sales and marketing. "In the longer term, this could mean moving into the third dimension of travel."

Boeing's revenue topped \$100 billion for the first time in 2018, although its sales will be sharply lower this year due to the grounding of its best selling commercial jet, the 737 Max, following two fatal accidents that killed 346 people. It has already shown a prototype of a self-driving electric powered flying car earlier this year.

## Japan's PM warns of 'prolonged' effects of typhoon's destruction



**The toll of death and destruction from a typhoon that tore through central and northern Japan climbed, as the government said it was considering approving a special budget for the disaster response and eventual reconstruction**

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe warned of a 'prolonged' impact from one of the most destructive typhoons in decades to hit the country. The death toll has now risen to at least 74. He pledged to do the utmost for the safety and rescue of those missing or those who

had to evacuate. "We put the people's lives first," he said.

Hagibis hit Japan's main island with strong winds and historic rainfall that caused more than 200 rivers to overflow, leaving thousands of homes flooded, damaged or without power. Some 34,000 homes were without power and 110,000 lacked running water.

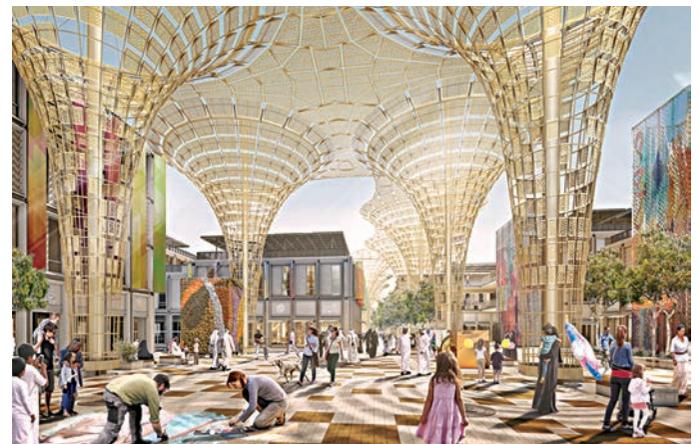
Business appeared nearly back to normal in central Tokyo, and residents in areas where floodwater subsided started cleaning up. Lives, however, remained paralysed in Nagano, Fukushima and other hard-hit areas that were

still inundated. Some residents in Nagano returned to their homes, only to find they not be habitable.

In Fukushima, 11 bags containing possibly radioactive soil and debris removed as part of decontamination efforts from the 2011 meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, were washed from two outdoor temporary storage sites and found downstream, the Environment Ministry said. Most of the remaining 5,000 bags stacked up at the two sites — one in Tamura City and another Iitate — remained in place.

There was no risk to the environment because the waterproof bags were intact and hadn't leaked, the ministry said. It said, however, officials will take preventive measures ahead of future rainstorms.

A massive number of such bags are still being kept at 760 similar sites across Fukushima. Their transfer to a longer-term storage facility near the plant is expected to be completed by March 2022.



## Expo 2020: a year to go

**World Expo 2020 will open its doors a year from now, marking the very first event of its kind to take place in the Middle East**

Organisers hope it'll attract close to twelve million foreign visitors — and it's expected to add over €30 billion to the UAE's economy.

Some 190 countries will participate in the six-month-long event, with over 80 nations already chosen to build their own pavilions. Major construction work has already been completed and the project recently reached a significant milestone.

In mid-September, about 800 construction experts gath-

ered for a mission unlike any other: the crowning of the dome. It will be the very epicentre of Expo 2020. It measures 130-metres-wide and is over 67 metres tall.

Ahmed Al-Khatib, the Chief Development and Delivery Officer for Expo 2020, said, "We had the best team from all over the world — engineers, contractors, specialists — to do this entire process. We have achieved something that really puts a new iconic landmark in Dubai."

The idea behind the 724,000 cubic metre structure is inspired by everyday life.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**

# Belarusian Beauties

by Alfred Mikus

By Irina Sergeeva

Alfred Mikus' *Belarusian Beauties* thematic photo exhibition — dedicated to the 95th anniversary of Belarus' *Alesya (Rabotnitsa i Syalyanka)* women's magazine — was held at the National Historical Museum

The exhibition consisted of photographs reflecting images of Belarusian women created by photographer and photojournalist Alfred Mikus. In addition to photos, the show featured authentic objects of folk life from the collections of the National Historical Museum which not only embody the material component of the traditional culture of Belarusians but also have a certain folk symbolism.

"In the traditional culture of Belarusians, the role of a woman has been exceptional since ancient times. The woman is not only a diligent hostess, a

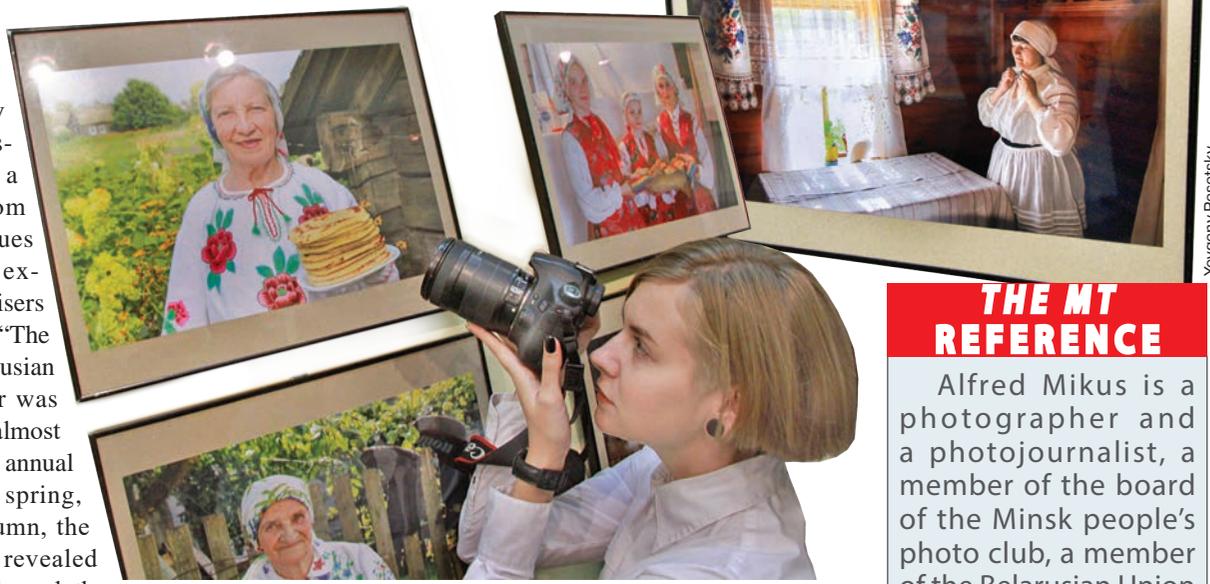
caring wife and mother but also a performer of many rituals, a connoisseur of folklore, a keeper of wisdom and spiritual values of the people," explained the organisers of the exhibition. "The ritual of the Belarusian national calendar was no exception. At almost every stage of the annual cycle — winter, spring, summer and autumn, the female image is revealed in the dynamics, through the performance of certain ritual actions of a magical and symbolic nature, aimed at ensuring, preserving and transmitting traditional values: well-being, harvest, family, marriage, children, health."

Despite numerous changes in the social life of Belarusians, the traditional ritualism has not turned into a museum ex-

hibit nor has it become frozen in time. Society still shows interest in various manifestations of traditional culture. Not only scientists and cultural figures but also amateurs collect folk heritage, restore the lost and give new life and new meaning to the traditions. The female image in the circle of calendar ceremonies still remains attrac-

tive, filled with primordial wisdom and shrouded in mystery.

During the opening of the exhibition, folk costumes made by craftswoman Aleksandra Metlevskayaa were on show. Each of them was created based on research conducted during ethnographic expeditions and in accordance with local traditions.



Yevgeny Pesetsky

## THE MT REFERENCE

Alfred Mikus is a photographer and a photojournalist, a member of the board of the Minsk people's photo club, a member of the Belarusian Union of Photo Art and the FIAP International Association of Photography, a winner of numerous diplomas and medals of international photo exhibitions and an expert jury member of many international photo competitions



Aleksey Stolyarov

By Valentin Pepelyaev

The national competition will be held from 5th to 7th November at Belarus Cinema. According to the programme co-ordinator, Nikolay Lavrenyuk, 83 applications have been submitted this year. "We had serious selection criteria. After all, *Listapad* is an international festival and the requirements for films are such that they are in tune with the trends of world cinema. In my opinion, the best works were chosen for the competition," he said.

Among the documentary works this year are: *Coach* by Olga Abramchik, *One Family* by Natalia Zhamoidik, *Summa* by Andrey Kutilo, *My Grandmother from Mars* by Aleksandr Mikhalkovich, *Pure Art* by Maksim Shved and others.

The programme also includes new films by previous winners Nikita Lavretsky and Yulia Shatun. The audience will also have a chance to watch *The Last Summer Day* by Yulia Shatun and Nikita Aleksandrov, *Beach / Forest / Vestibule* by Kirill Galitsky and Svetlana Ko-

## Turn to the screen

5 feature films, 9 documentaries, 6 animated films and 4 non-competitive films are included in *Belarusian Panorama*: announced the Minsk press conference that revealed the programme of the 26th Minsk International *Listapad* Film Festival. The speakers also spoke about non-competitive documentary and game shows, as well as events for the 'Industry' platform which will open at Belarusfilm Studio's Bel:Cinema site. In addition, an original and ironic video exhibition of the festival was presented.



zlovskaya, *Sasha's Hell* by Nikita Lavretsky, *Lake of Pleasure* by Aleksey Poluyan and Lothar Herzog's *1986*. "Despite the fact that the latter was shot by a German director, we decided to include it in the national competition, because it is entirely shot in Belarus, is completely unique in its spirit and is dedicated to the Chernobyl tragedy," added Mr. Lavrenyuk.

The 26th Minsk International *Listapad* Film Festival will be held from 1st to 8th November under the slogan 'For Joy'.

The jury of the national competition — chaired by famous Polish film director, Krzysztof Zanussi — includes Belarusian documentary filmmaker Olga Dashuk and Freddie Olsson — film selector for the Gothenburg Film Festival.

Among the films outside the competition are *Nothing* by Yulia Dublevskaya, *On the Threshold of Silence* by Kirill Yerokhin, *Fish of My Days* by Dmitry Rachkovsky and Andrei Krivetsky and *Mousetrap* by Daria Yurkevich.

This year, the main theme of the 'Industry' platform will be financing. "It's nice to see in the national competition works that were announced at the pitching sessions 5 years ago, which now have reached the big screen," noted a co-ordinator of the 'Industry' platform, Lizaveta Bobrikova. "We are glad that, this year, the Belarusfilm Studio has provided us with the venue and our events will be held at the Bel:Cinema site from 5th-8th November."

## Best Slavic heritage object

By Olga Korneeva

Brest Hero Fortress Memorial bestowed major award of Ziva Award 2019 established by Forum of Slavic Cultures

The awards ceremony took place in the city of Bar in Montenegro. This year's competition featured 25 museums from Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Russia, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Croatia, and Czechia. Belarus was represented only by the Brest

Hero Fortress. Over the year, a jury of 13 museum experts from Slavic countries and the European Museum Academy visited all participating museums. The jury announced its decision on October 4th. The Brest Hero Fortress won the award for the best Slavic heritage site. The award for the best Slavic museum went to Russia's State Museum of Political History.

"This is an important event. The international cultural community has acknowledged the significance of our memorial complex in preserving the

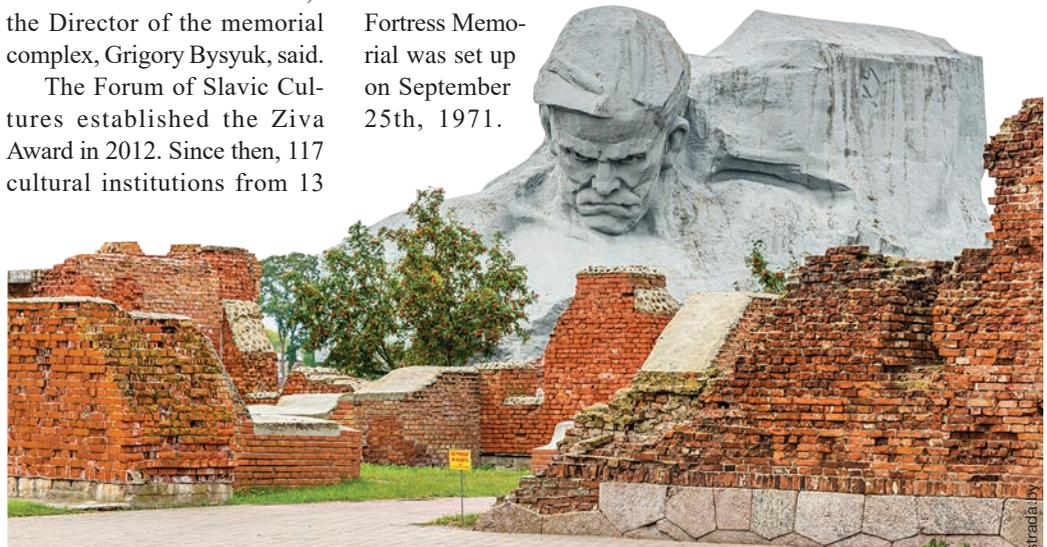
memory of the country's defenders. This is a prestigious award. It will enable Belarusian museums to gain prominence in the world. Our museum is interesting, our expositions draw a lot of visitors from abroad," the Director of the memorial complex, Grigory Bysyuk, said.

The Forum of Slavic Cultures established the Ziva Award in 2012. Since then, 117 cultural institutions from 13

countries have been nominated.

In 2018-2020, Brest Fortress is undergoing major overhaul and restoration. Following the restoration, some facilities will be turned into museums. The Brest Hero Fortress Memorial was set up on September 25th, 1971.

The Museum of Defence, in turn, was launched on November 8th, 1956. Over this period, more than 25m tourists have visited the legendary citadel.



strada.by

# Family of the Year: everyone wins!



A large family has more than just children and worries, but also more love and creative imagination. Here it is, the secret of happiness for the participants of the fourth Republican *Family of the Year* competition, which brought together seven winners of the regional stages in Minsk.

By Lyudmila Gladkaya

... The Nikitins! The Kachuras! The Kulakovs! The Kotiks, go ahead! It's great to walk onto the stage of the Palace of Culture of Trade Unions with such support. There were two tasks in the finals, with families presenting their social projects, as well as traditions and customs, and telling stories about their family.

Another great-grandfather used to raft timber in Belarus along the same river. There were blacksmiths, craftswomen and bakers in the family and, most importantly, there were always many children...

When Minsker Dmitry Bychkovsky married his Olga, she admitted that her great-grandmother had 5 daughters and 3 sons. "Wow!" exclaimed her spouse. Exactly 22 years ago, the couple first became parents. And today they are followers of the family tradition: they also have 5 girls and 3 boys. Dmitry Ivashko from Nesvizh is not

**Just a couple of minutes before walking onto the stage**



Aleksandr Kushner

The ancestors of the Kulakov family from Vitebsk, for example, were always connected with the water. One great-grandfather worked as a ferryman, connecting people on the left and right banks of the River Dnieper in Ukraine.

deprived of female attention: there are five daughters in the house. How many helpers does their mother Anastasia boast! All the girls are creative, talented and athletic.

There are 108 names and 5 generations altogether on the



The Nikolaev family from Mogilev recognised as 'Family of the Year'

family tree of the Kotik family from Brest. Sergey and Natalia have three children. During the finals, they took out treasures from an old chest in turn: here is a book from 1902, here is our great-grandmother's diary of 1931, and front-line letters from our great-grandfather — dear to our heart. "Oh, mum, this is your 'vyshivanka' (an embroidered shirt)," said lively six-year-old Andrey, delightedly.

An amazing story was told by Nadezhda Nikitina and Nikolay Nikitin from Gomel, who have twins. "During the war near

Odessa, the Nazis killed my grandmother's daughter who was one and a half years old," Nadezhda told us. "My grandma planted an apricot kernel near a small hill in her memory. The war ended and the family moved to Belarus. However, many years later, we found that place: now there is a strong apricot tree near the hill. And so the family tradition was born: to plant trees on Victory Day, and the apricot kernel became a talisman of our family."

Each family presented in-

teresting social projects. The Nikolaevs showed how they built the 'House of Kindness', where the bricks are bought to fund clown therapy in the city's orphanage, performances and games for children with special needs in the regional children's hospital... The Bychkovsky family had a very special position, "Despite the fact that our family has eight children, we dreamt of giving happiness to a child who, by chance, lacks any parental attention. Recently we've got Pasha, he's from the orphanage. We are his foster parents for now."

Sincere and touching stories left no one indifferent. Here and there, handkerchiefs could be seen in the hall. It was difficult to restrain one's emotions even for people in military uniform. "Wait a minute. These are engraved with the person's name," said the assistant to the Defence Minister, Major General Leonid Kassinsky, taking his watch off and presenting it to the smallest participant, while congratulating the finalists. "Now you will certainly become a general!"

"As a father, I was very touched when I saw so many active and talented children," Health Minister Vladimir Karanik admitted while handing out the diplomas. "As a citizen of my country, I was proud that we've managed to maintain the continuity of generations in the state: we remember our history and are optimistic about our future." The Health Minister was pleased to note that almost all families paid attention to a healthy lifestyle in their social projects. "Thank you for finding the strength to bring up so many children and develop the right values in them."

Diplomas of the 3rd degree were awarded to the Kotiks, Kulakovs, Kachuras and Ivashkos while the 2nd degree diplomas were presented to the Nikitins and Bychkovskys. The family of Nikolaev from Mogilev became the 'Family of the Year'. Yelena and Sergey bring up five children: Andrey, Olesya, Vladislav, Aleksandra and Stanislav. They admit that they are very proud of their creative and friendly family.



Cheerful and friendly Ivashko family from Nesvizh



Everyone sings and dances in the Kulakov family from Vitebsk

INSIDE

# Complete medal collection captured

Belarusian water skiers win gold, silver and bronze in ski jumping at the World Beach Games in Qatar

By Irina Sergeeva

A gold medal in ski jumping was won by Aleksandra Danishevskaya. The second attempt was the most successful for the Belarusian, who performed a jump of 49.5m. The competitors failed to exceed this. Another Belarusian, Anna Streltsova (49m), won bronze and Jutta Menestrina (49.3m) of Finland was awarded silver.

“It was a little unusual to perform on sea water: water skiing competitions are more often held in fresh water, but we have already adapted to the final. For the first time, water skiing was presented at a large scale sports forum. I must ad-



Stepan Shpak, Aleksandra Danishevskaya and Anna Streltsova

mit that this gold from the World Beach Games in Doha is the most important result of the season,” Aleksandra said after the tournament.

Belarusian Stepan Shpak was considered one of the favourites in the water ski jumping for men and, having confidently made all three attempts, he posted the best result of 59.2m in his second attempt. Only Russian Vladimir Ryzanin could surpass the achievement of the Belarusian, with 59.9m. Bronze went to Chilean Emile Ritter, jumping 59.1m.

The head coach of the national team of Belarus, Oleg Devyatovsky, summed up the performance of athletes at the

competition in Qatar, “The water skiers had to compete in difficult weather conditions, and the men’s qualification round was consequently cancelled. However, in the final, all the Belarusian athletes showed that they have the right to be among the elite of this sport. Aleksandra Danishevskaya was extremely pleased with her win, though Anna Streltsova was viewed as the favourite. However, the young water skier showed her potential. It’s a great finish to the season for our team.”

Thanks to the gold, silver and bronze awards, Belarus is among the top five teams at the sports forum in Qatar.

## Smashing and stunning girl

By Sergey Kanashits

The Belarusian team returned from the AIBA Women’s World Boxing Championships, hosted by the Russian city of Ulan-Ude, with one medal won by Yekaterina Kovaleva in the heaviest weight category. There would be nothing surprising in this, as Yekaterina is an athletic and determined individual, if it were not for one detail: Kovaleva has only been boxing for six months!

The 28-year-old Belarusian beauty attracted attention as soon as she left the plane at Buryat. Long-legged and just under two metres tall, she towered above the rest of the athletes. When journalists found out that our Yekaterina was also a kickboxing star — a double world champion — the attention on her intensified. Some even rushed to call Kovaleva ‘a Vitali Klitschko in a skirt’: the famous Ukrainian super champion, we recall, also started in the ring using his hands and feet.

Her life is a complete adventure. Yekaterina Kovaleva dreamt of fighting since childhood. For a decade she practiced karate, and then moved to taekwondo. She worked on the security team of a nightclub in Mogilev. Then she left for a contract in Bahrain, which was a gamble, where she successfully worked as a sports instructor. Afterwards she moved to Qatar to train sheikhs, who were delighted with her. During this time, she managed to twice become the best kickboxer in the



Yekaterina Kovaleva

world, and then left for Miami, where she practiced mixed martial arts for two years and even tried wrestling.

“I never give up,” Katya says about her main sporting and life principle. The current bronze at the World Cup (in the semi-finals Kovaleva lost to American Danielle Perkins) is further proof of this.

Yekaterina Kovaleva dreams of repeating the path of Vitali Klitschko: starting with kickboxing, to become professional world champion.

*I have a goal: to become a world champion. And I will reach it. It doesn’t matter who gets in the way — Perkins or anyone else.*

**When did you get the idea of wearing boxing gloves?**

*I decided to bring a little glamour to boxing! As they say: who, if not me? Seriously, after the doctor recommended I shouldn’t continue to practice mixed martial arts and kickboxing (the consequences of an old injury, which forced me to leave taekwondo), there was no other option but boxing.*

**How long have you been boxing?**

*In total no more than six months. I tried it in Turkey and even performed in the national championship for the Fenerbahce club. Then, in August, I went with the national team of Belarus to the European Championships, having trained for about three weeks. I lost there to the future champion and realised that with such gaps in technique I couldn’t hope for serious results. In order to grow, I needed a good coach.*

**And what are your plans for the future now? Will you go to Miami, Dubai, Doha or Istanbul again?**

*No, now my address is Minsk. I will continue to work under the guidance of Sergey Pytalev. I will become the world champion and turn professional.*

**Aren’t you afraid?**

*There is only one thing that terrifies me — spiders!*



● **Minsk’s Yunost reached the play-offs of the Hockey Champions League.** To join the knock-out round, they needed to defeat the outsiders of Group D — Finnish Lahti Pelicans — at home. Unfortunately, Yunost didn’t succeed. In the course of the meeting, the Minskers had to recover from a score of 0:2, and in the penalty shoot-outs the hosts weren’t able to hit Lahti’s net, losing — 2:3. However, Yunost was saved by the Swiss. In a tough struggle Lausanne managed to beat Ocelari Trinec — 5:3 — enabling the Belarusian hockey players to keep second place in the tournament table.

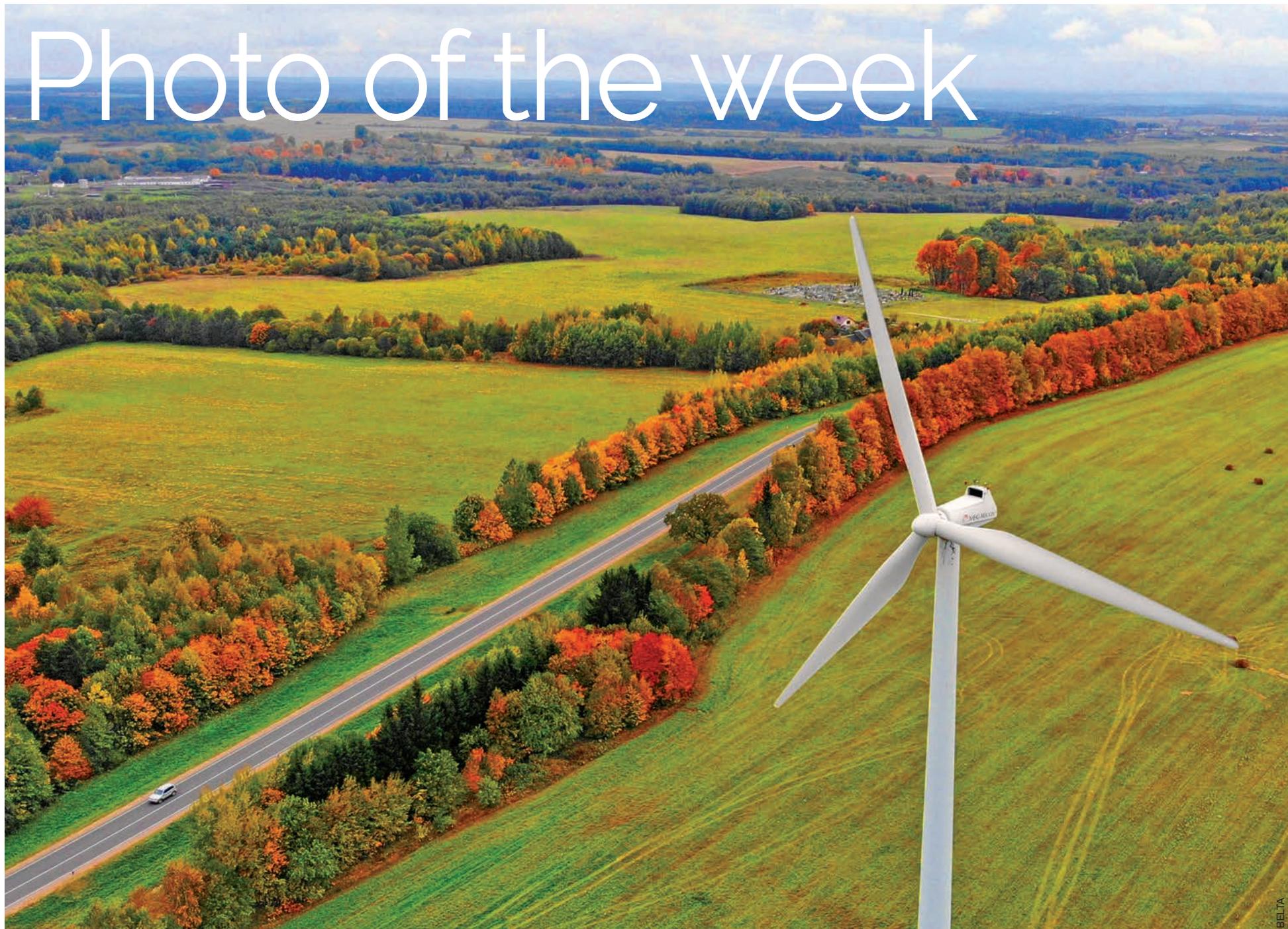


● **UEFA Euro 2020 qualifying tournament matches took place.** The sixth team guaranteed participation in the final part of the tournament was the Spanish national team. The meeting of the Spaniards, playing in Group F, with their Swedish rivals, ended in a 1:1 draw, but this was enough to solve the tournament issues. The Swedes, however, have yet to compete for second place in the tournament table with the Romanian national squad. On the eve of the match, the Romanians missed a chance to catch the Scandinavians on points: their game with the Norwegian team ended in a draw — 1:1. In the Group F outsiders match, the Faroe Islands team beat their rivals from Malta — 1:0.

The results of the remaining matches are as follows. Group D: Switzerland-Ireland — 2:0, Gibraltar-Georgia — 2:3; Group G: Israel-Latvia — 3:1; Group J: Finland-Armenia — 3:0, Liechtenstein-Italy — 0:5, Greece-Bosnia and Herzegovina — 2:1.



● **Russian biathlete Adelina Sabitova will be playing for the national team of Belarus.** The athlete from Udmurtia, who has just turned 22, was not part of the Russian national team and didn’t represent the country at international events. At the Russian Championship this year, the athlete was 44th in the sprint. It is reported that the Russian Biathlon Union has already approved her transfer to the Belarusian team.



## Photo of the week

October paints the nature of Belarus in delightful ruby and amber colours

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marks Street  
Until 6<sup>th</sup> November. *Old and New: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Jewellery Art*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 7<sup>th</sup> November. *September 17th 1939: You Are From Western and I'm From Eastern Belarus*  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> November. *Doll Stories*  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> November. *Constellation of Images*

#### NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street  
Until 26<sup>th</sup> October. *Lithuania. 999.9*  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> November. *Presence*

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 M. Bogdanovich Street  
Until 24<sup>th</sup> October. *Caucasus Works by Lev Tolstoy*

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 3<sup>rd</sup> November. *Art Release*  
Until 17<sup>th</sup> November. *Summer Tales*  
Until 19<sup>th</sup>. January. *Lady's Articles*

#### VLADISLAV GOLUBOK PARLOUR

14 Starovilenskaya Street  
Until 24<sup>th</sup> November. *Football is Game of Millions*

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlov Street  
Until 27<sup>th</sup> October. *Fashionable Vernissage*

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street  
Until 19<sup>th</sup> January. Oman: *Pearl of the East. Handicraft Legacy*

#### MINSK CITY HALL

2A Svobody Square  
Until 3<sup>rd</sup> November. *Minsk Images*

#### TROITSKY SUBURB

7A Bogdanovich Street  
Until 12<sup>th</sup> March. *Robo Art*

#### LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 21<sup>st</sup> November. *Not Only Banksy: street art from private collections*

#### LOSHITSA ESTATE

8 Chizhevsky Lane  
Until 27<sup>th</sup> October. *Belarusian Diamond in Crown of Palladium Orthodox Icons*

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
24.10. Figaro's Wedding  
25.10. Anna Netrebko and Yusif Eyvazov  
26.10. Tosca  
27.10. The Fountain of Bakhchisaray / Heart, You Wish No Rest  
29.10. The Bat  
30.10. Spartacus  
31.10. Madame Butterfly

#### YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
24.10. Two Souls  
25.10. ART  
26.10. Evening  
27.10. Waltmaster-Accordion  
29.10. Tolerance / Harvest  
30.10. Pan Tadeush  
31.10. School of Taxpayers / Prudok Radio

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
24.10. Vanyushin's Children  
25.10. Family Weekend / Zhmurik  
26.10. Love Until Unconsciousness  
27.10. Goat's Island  
29.10. Bankrupt  
30.10. The Fool  
31.10. Bigamist

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
30.10. Hunt for Men

#### BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street  
24.10. Chernobyl Prayer  
25.10. Lift  
26.10. Flowers for Algernon  
27.10. Padam... Padam...  
28.10. Everything is OK  
29.10. Serezha  
30.10. Ticket to Brest Train  
31.10. Three Giselles

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

33 Mashеров Avenue  
24.10. Forgetting Herostratos!  
25.10. No. 13  
26.10. Mixed Feelings / Aisedor. Dance of Love  
27 and 29.10. Wolves and Sheep  
30.10. Battlefield  
31.10. In Search of True Self

#### CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street  
25.10. Immersive show-performance: Diabolo and Senhorita Prim  
26.10. Night at a Hotel  
29.10. Clinic  
30.10. Mothers  
31.10. A Man as a Present

#### CONTEMPORARY ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
24.10. House Upside Down  
27.10. Oscar