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# The spirit of avant-garde

## President's Address

*The Minsk Times* outlines some comments by the Head of State from his annual State of the Nation Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly

### 'Priority is the creation of a strong and competitive economy'

Our top priority is to build a stable and competitive economy, the economy of tomorrow. This is the basis of our sovereignty. There is plenty of work to be done in this field. But we do not have to start from scratch. Over 25 years of independence, Belarus has resolved many complex problems. The potential that we have enables us to be resilient even in the most unfavourable times. The last year has proven this.

### 'Another point of growth is the national launch of new IT'

Information technology is already widely used in healthcare, education, the banking sphere and customs office. Electronic receipts, school electronic diaries and e-banking have already come into general use. However, the world doesn't stand still. We need to continue to launch informatisation in the sphere of consumer services, trade, housing and utilities and transport while reducing bureaucracy.

### 'The price of one square metre of accommodation shouldn't exceed the average monthly salary'

If we calculate in hard currency, the construction of one square metre of housing on average costs \$500 or slightly more. However, this is more than the average monthly salary and the state must address this. I have instructed the Government to ensure



that the price of one square metre mustn't be more than an average monthly salary.

### 'This year we plan to receive \$40m from the export of medical services'

If I had been told this five years ago I would have said: 'You are dreaming.' We have achieved this in a calm and quiet manner. Today people arrive from Russia in Vitebsk to give birth, let alone Minsk. They come to us and trust us.

### 'This year the average life expectancy should move closer to 75 years'

The President noted that an increase in average life expectancy in the country is an important task.

"This year it should reach 75 years or at least 74. It is not the limit for us, there are further improvements to be made."

### 'The stability and security of our state, as well as independence and sovereignty are held sacred'

For me, for all those present here and for the clear majority of Belarusian people, stability, security, independence and sovereignty are sacred things. If anyone attempts to violate them, we will use the full power of our state, regardless of its effect on relations.

### 'Belarus-Russia relations are traditionally of strategic character'

The level of mutual understanding achieved between the two countries ensures a trusting relationship between the heads of state, which has helped us to discuss sensitive issues frankly and find a compromise. This is evident from our last meeting where we managed to find solutions to all sensitive issues for the good of Belarusians and Russians. However, today Russia and Belarus must deal with lots of troubles, but public officials at all levels should be wise enough not to let them mount up. Problems should be resolved.

### 'Ukraine is not just our neighbour. It is our brotherly state, our brotherly people'

Armed hostilities continue in Donbass. Not a single point of the

Minsk Agreement has been implemented in full. People continue to die, including civilians. The region has descended into social and economic chaos. Ukraine is not just our neighbour, it is our brotherly state, our brotherly people. We have welcomed over 160,000 migrants from Ukraine. We are ready to continue assisting these complicated negotiations, as they have already started affecting the lives of our people and the operation of our state.

### Co-operation with the West

The effort represents a key to investments, modern technologies, resources, and large markets. Dialogue serves not only mutually beneficial economic interests, it is meant to support political stability in the European region. Belarus has been and will remain a reliable partner in fighting the main transboundary threats. A lot can be accomplished in this field if we stop treating each other with prejudice and mistrust and double standards are not used. If we are no longer lectured and have conditions imposed upon us. These factors are not acceptable for us just as they would not be for any other country.

*The Head of State delivered his Address during a joint session of the House of Representatives and the Council of the Republic. Senior government officials of the country were invited to the event, alongside members of the government, heads of state-run public authorities, the largest enterprises and mass media and representatives of the diplomatic corps.*

## Interesting search for new beneficial opportunities

By Andrey Benkovsky

**Belarus' Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov has arrived in Slovakia on an official visit. The schedule of the trip is very intense, with the Head of the Government speaking to his counterpart, Robert Fico, taking part in the Belarusian-Slovak Business Forum and signing a range of important bilateral documents.**



Andrei Kobyakov and Robert Fico

Last November, Minsk was visited by the Chairman of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Robert Fico. The two sides determined such priorities as co-operation in the sphere of pharmaceuticals, power engineering, industry and, particularly the technical modernisation of our enterprises. During the current visit co-operation of efforts in science and technology was named as the most promising area. Moreover, agreements in the sphere of certification and standardisation of products were also signed.

"Since your visit to Belarus, a great deal has been done. Work has been

launched on the implementation of joint projects in the sphere of pharmaceuticals, power engineering and waste utilisation," Mr. Kobyakov told his Slovak colleague.

Another important area is nuclear power. A memorandum on co-operation was signed in Bratislava between the Department for Nuclear and Radiation Security of the Belarusian Emergency Ministry and the Slovak National Nuclear Control Agency. Slovakia is one of the most advanced countries as far as the development of the peaceful atom is concerned. It has three nuclear power stations and at one of these, two additional reac-

tors are currently being built, of the same type as those at the Belarusian nuclear power station. When these are active, nuclear engineering will account for more than 60 percent of the country's energy balance.

Minsk and Bratislava also have several landmark investment projects. For example, a facility for the production of medical preparations, Nativita, has been recently opened in the Vitebsk Region's Beshenkovich. The factory processes and releases innovative medical drugs used to cure oncological and other serious diseases. A decision was made that several Slovak experts will be supplemented with our unique developments, and the prime ministers discussed ways to develop the field.

During the official visit, the issues of foreign trade were raised. We still have plans to achieve more: in 2016, Slovakia was ranked 24th in the list of Belarus' foreign trade partners. In January-February 2017, trade turnover totalled \$20.1m (110.3 percent against the similar period of 2016).



## Friendship is a good sign

**The intensification of bilateral relations is in the interests of both Belarus and Ireland, reads the letter of greeting of Belarus' Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, to the Foreign Minister of Ireland, Charles Flanagan, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Ireland**

Over the past few years, Belarus-Irish co-operation has been steadily developing and now covers a wide range

of areas, including trade and investment, humanitarian activities, education and culture. "Further expansion of bilateral collaboration and its intensification meet the interests of both sides," stressed the letter of greeting.

Vladimir Makei also noted the friendly relations between the two countries. Belarus highly appreciates Ireland's support in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and the help of the Irish people to the Belarusians who were affected by this manmade catastrophe.

# Much can be done working together for the benefit of all

## Presidents of Belarus and Ukraine take part in events dedicated to another anniversary of the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power station



Alexander Lukashenko and Petro Poroshenko during visit to Chernobyl nuclear power station

By Vasily Kharitonov

The sad date of April 26th has forever entered our calendar as a synonym for tragedy and human grief but also as a symbol of great courage. Thirty-one years ago, Belarus was covered by the Chernobyl radioactive cloud. Few believed at the time that Belarusians would manage to cope with this immense challenge. However, in the 1990s, Alexander Lukashenko took the decision to restore the affected area. Each year, the President personally assesses how his instructions have been carried out. Soil decontamination, the creation of new products, gas infrastructure development, the construction of roads, housing, hospitals, schools and sports centres — all these are done to enable people in the affected areas to live a normal life: to sow grain for bread, build houses and give birth to children.

April 26th is a dramatic date not only in the history of Belarus. The catastrophe also affected the Ukraine, radionuclides know no borders. Today both states are trying to overcome the consequences of the catastrophe so the visit by the two presidents to the Chernobyl station and the facilities nearby, was symbolic.

The station is located just 11km from the Belarusian border. Despite the overwhelming emotion, one also feels relief to see a new cover over the destroyed fourth reactor. “Don’t worry, the level of radiation here is no higher than in Minsk,” said station employees reassuringly.

The intermediate slabs and walls of the cover, built in haste immediately after the accident, began to decay over time, so it was decided

to build an improved protective system in Kiev. In this way, a new site appeared — ‘Ukrytie-2’ which was examined by the presidents. Mr. Lukashenko called the construction of the sarcophagus a long-awaited-for event for Belarusians, Ukrainians and the whole of Europe.

“This is a unique construction — unparalleled in the world today. Moreover, the construction of this site, with the support of 40 states, is an important symbol of international solidarity,” noted Mr. Lukashenko.

**Alexander LUKASHENKO:**  
 “We’ll manage to cope with the problems we have. Of course, there’s a range of issues which should be settled. Specialists and members of the Government are with us. We’re ready to take concrete decisions after our discussion. I’d like to assure you that all decisions will be strictly observed by the Belarusian side. Our roots are here and the beautiful River Pripyat unites us.

The life time of the new sarcophagus is one hundred years — not short in terms of human life. However, Mr. Lukashenko’s message is clear: we should think about future generations. We shouldn’t skimp on investments in human resources, modern production and technology. Ukraine is currently developing a new strategy to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. Our country has already come a long way and is ready to share its experience and knowledge.

“We’ve implemented several joint measures in monitoring and radiation control, agriculture and the forestry industry. However, the potential of co-operation between Belarus and Ukraine is not yet maximised. I believe our scientists, doctors and ecologists can do much more,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

Ukraine is now experiencing difficult times. Petro Poroshenko spoke at length about current issues, and said that the Minsk agreements should be fulfilled while the border between Ukraine and Belarus should remain a border of peace and friendship. Mr. Lukashenko spoke openly, “Ukrainians have never been strangers to Belarusians. Whether they like it or not, we’re close and no one will be able to divide us. We have a wonderful land and we’ll always be good neighbours.”

The presidents also visited The Wall of Memory where a commemorative bell rings annually on April 26th. Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Poroshenko laid flowers on the memorial and honoured the dead with

a minute’s silence. The two presidents then continued their friendly discussion on Belarusian soil.

Lyaskovichi agro-town is well-known to Ukrainians. In March 2014, it hosted the meeting between the President of Belarus and Acting President of Ukraine, Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament, Alexander Turchinov. This time, the heads of the two states visited the Lyaskovichi church of St. Michael Archangel, where they took part in the Chernobyl prayers. Later they went to chat to local residents who were waiting for them, despite the poor weather. “Today is a difficult but memorable day for our nations, a day with great meaning,” Mr. Lukashenko said, addressing the audience. “With Mr. Poroshenko, I visited the Chernobyl station and saw the marvellous work that has been conducted by

the Ukrainian state together with its partners. They have done much to minimise the awful consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.”

The President focused on the main task, “We’re concerned about one vital thing — how to preserve life in these areas and to make life there as comfortable and secure as it is in this wonderful place — Lyaskovichi. When I first came here, everywhere was dust. The most terrible thing was that people were asking for bread. I instructed the military to

**Petro POROSHENKO:**  
 “We have seen the social standards in Polesie. We saw how roads and clubs should be built, what shops should look like, what should be done in culture and sport. This is the main goal of our work — to create better living conditions for people. We’re very grateful to you for your strong position on defending the openness of the Belarusian market for Ukrainian goods. This is the attitude of a reliable ally, partner and friend.

bring army kitchens to Polesie immediately. Two years ago, the problems with fresh bread in Lyaskovichi were cured.”

Mr. Poroshenko nodded knowingly and replied with words of gratitude for the hospitality he felt on Belarusian soil, “I’d like to state that the Ukrainian and Belarusian nations are absolutely unique. The feeling of friendship, trust and good neighbourliness which we feel daily shows that this peace and friendship should be cherished. Ukrainians and Belarusians, with the help of our partners all around the world, have defended their countries from the atom and enabled us to take decisive measures towards the restoration of Polesie 31 years later.”

The Ukrainian President also spoke about the common concerns of the heads of the two states: what

should be done to enable our people to improve their lives? It’s a big question, but it was partly answered immediately. “We’re already taking important steps. The trade turnover over two months this year increased by 40 percent, with Ukrainians buying Belarusian food products, tractors and automobiles and oil products, while Belarusians import agricultural produce, chemical and processed iron products from Ukraine. We’ve agreed that we’ll simplify trips to each other. The border should be a symbol of peace, friendship, companionship and partnership relations between our countries. We’re looking forward to seeing you in our country.”

Mr. Poroshenko also noted that he had discussed with Mr. Lukashenko the level of social standards in Belarusian villages. “This is very important. Knowing what we can learn and borrow. We have agreed on how we’ll be interacting in power engineering and how we’ll be co-ordinating our efforts when entering the markets of the third countries. We’ll do everything possible to realise this potential,” asserted Mr. Poroshenko.

The heads of state followed with a private discussion. Mr. Lukashenko briefly outlined the conversation, “We’ll be discussing ways to make life better for Ukrainians and Belarusians, especially in the border areas.”

There are many topics for discussion between the two presidents. However, issues of improving the situation in the Chernobyl-affected regions were at the forefront. Three decades of struggle against the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe show that we can overcome any difficulties together.



Zhang Dejiang (C) visits the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park

# Great Stone and Geely cars are only the start of joint works in future

Over the last few weeks, Minsk has been visited by a range of important guests from China. A three-day visit of the Chinese parliamentary delegation, headed by the Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang, takes pride of place. Mr. Dejiang is third in the power hierarchy in China and heads the supreme body of state power — the single-chamber Parliament with almost three thousand deputies. Such active political contacts between Minsk and Beijing emphasises the level of strategic partnership between the two countries.

By Vladimir Velikhov

It was to be expected that the meeting would primarily focus on trade and the economy. Belarus is implementing more than thirty investment projects financed by Chinese loans — worth around \$6bn. The most important of these is the Great Stone Industrial Park. This is probably the most ambitious joint project and is personally controlled by the heads of state. Alexander Lukashenko insists that only high-tech companies with guaranteed sales markets should become residents of the park. “We are creating a powerful infrastructure and offer significant advantages. It is important that all these bring results. On visiting the Great Stone, the President of the People's Repub-

lic of China called it a pearl of the Silk Road. We can't put outmoded businesses here. We need to attract the most advanced companies in the world. Otherwise, businesses won't be able to compete with their European counterparts, or within the post-Soviet space,” said Mr. Lukashenko.

Currently, eight residents are registered with the Great Stone Industrial Park. The Head of the Park's Administration, Alexander Yaroshenko, explains that the key word is “so far.” “The necessary conditions have already been created on the site. We'd like to make this year a landmark from the point of view of the arrival of investors and set ourselves the task of doubling or even tripling their number,” he noted.

China Merchants Group, Huawei Corporation and ZTE communication giant are among the pioneers. There are plans to begin the production of unmanned aircraft, lasers, LED produce and even robots for extinguishing forest fires.

The Great Stone Industrial Park and the production of Geely automobiles are only the beginning of a considerable programme of joint work. Beijing views Belarus as a key link in the Silk Road Economic Belt project. The Chinese partners will benefit from our country's powerful industrial potential, strong science and qualified personnel.

An imbalance in bilateral trade however, is arousing particular concern. Last year it exceeded \$2.5bn and the trade balance is not

in our favour. We buy \$1.5bn more than we sell. Mr. Dejiang thinks these difficulties can be overcome, since the Chinese market is open to quality Belarusian goods.

Collaboration in the financial sphere is of considerable interest. Our country is keen to attract direct investments by Chinese companies in the banking sector. There are preliminary agreements on China CITIC Bank's entrance to the Belarusian market. Belarus is also interested in placing its bonds on the Chinese financial market. All these issues are currently under discussion but even today we can say that, having common interests and political will, the Belarusian auroch and Chinese dragon will solve the most complex tasks.

## Taxes are in focus again

By Lyudmila Gladkaya

**From July, the tax authorities will be able to ask for confirmation of incomes over a period of up to 10 years. This is envisaged by the changes in the Law ‘On the Declaration by Individuals of Incomes and Property’, discussed by Belarusian deputies last year.**

Valery Borodenya, a deputy of the Standing Commission for Budget and Finances at the House of Representatives, explains why this system is necessary, “I'd like to note immediately that there are no special innovations regarding this law. Only some parts of the existing legislation need to be corrected. What caused these changes? The declaration now made by state officers is regulated by the norms of anti-corruption law. Accordingly, the Law ‘On the Declaration by Individuals of Incomes and Property’ became very field-specific, and needed to be amended.”

Among the innovations outlined by Mr. Borodenya are the following. If the expenditure of a person exceeds their income, a tax inspector has the right to ask for confirmation of earnings for the period of the last 10 years. At the same time, according to the deputy, tax officers should have strong evidence to demand such a report, and this enhances their responsibility.

The term during which a tax inspection can conduct its checks was also stipulated. From June, control over declaration shouldn't exceed 30 days. “A person is sent a notification that an inspection has been launched. They are also required to submit a declaration about their income and property,” Previously, verification procedures could last for several years.”

The second important addition is that a citizen can refuse to give any explanation to the tax inspector regarding where their money has come from. In this case, tax representatives will collect the information themselves on why expenditure may exceed earnings.

The changes won't affect citizens who have saved in order to buy a car, for example. It refers to situations such as when a person might suddenly acquire houses, flats or expensive cars. Mr. Borodenya reminded us that the same approach operates all over the world. “For example, the sphere of cashless transfers is very powerfully developed in the USA and it's easier to compare declared earnings with expenditure as all large purchases are under control.”

## Production with huge opportunities

### Naftan assembles unique equipment

By Maria Druk

Naftan is now assembling some unique equipment: a facility for delayed coking of oil residues. This is a landmark project for the oil industry: after the launch, the level of processing of raw materials will increase to 90 percent. The equipment is of

considerable size: its highest part will rise 113 metres above ground and, considering the 18 metre underground piles on which the lower part of the facility is based, it has a total height of about 130 metres.

The facility for delayed coking will take up about 60 thousand square metres, based on 7,000 tonnes

of metal structures and 50,000 cubic metres of concrete. The weight of each of the two coke drums is over 450 tonnes; the diameter is 8.6 metres and the height is 40 metres. A thick-walled shell of high-alloy and heat-resistant steel can withstand the heat of the coking process (about 500°C). As a result, additional light petroleum products and petroleum coke will be produced from residues of the crude oil.

“When the coking process has completed, a drill enters from above into the drum to cut the coke inside, so such high structures must be mounted,” Dmitry Mironov, the Deputy General Director for Production and Foreign Economic Activity at Neftezhavodmontazh JSC, describes the technical process. “In fact, we are building here the first machine at European level. Similar machines are only operational



On the construction site

currently in the USA and Spain. Not long ago, a facility such as this was launched in Russia. We employ about 300 people on site. Just to join the blocks for example, they need to be manually fixed using 1.2 thousand bolts and all the holes must match.”

Specialists have been engaged in the assembly of steel structures of blocks and coke drums for almost two years. They initially produced parts to be taken to the site and assembled into enlarged blocks. The entire storehouse weighing 2.2 thousand tonnes was divided into 8 blocks weighing 150-380 tonnes. A platform for cranes was prepared next to the site. Two unique cranes — with a capacity of 1,600 and 750 tonnes — arrived on 180 trucks and took three

months to assemble. Later, self-propelled carts for equipment transportation were delivered. The Mammut machinery is known all over the world, thanks to such projects as the lifting of the Kursk submarine and the removal of a new sarcophagus for the emergency reactor at Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

“By now, we’ve assembled two coke drums and three columns. The installation of metal constructions of the blocks located above the drums is now progressing. Based on this progress, I can affirm that we’ve actually managed the task. We are now doing the same things you see on the Discovery Channel — when machinery works on giant objects. This is impressive,” Mr. Mironov cannot conceal his pride. “After the project implementation, Neftezhavodmontazh will become an organisation of a completely different level,” he is convinced. “In the post-Soviet space and in the European Union, the process of deepening oil refining is on trend. So, I think our knowledge and experience will prove useful. Moreover, foreign companies usually take into consideration their partners’ possibilities.”



Naftan undergoing modernisation

## Everything will be clearly seen from above

By Alexey Fedosov

Russia is keen on the joint development of new space apparatus with Belarus. It refers to the high resolution distant Earth sensing satellite.

The Belarusian part of the satellite is optic-electric appa-

ratus which will be created by Minsk’s Peleng company. It’s expected that the new version of the spacecraft, unlike its predecessor launched several years ago, will be equipped with Earth sensing equipment with considerably higher resolution.

Peleng’s Director General,

Vladimir Pokryshkin, explains that the creation of a satellite with partners is a sensible cheaper option ensuring it will be better used in the future. He describes how the specifications of the satellite have already been compared with the best world analogues. “We believe that it’s competitive, while the in-

formation received from the satellite in future, will be in demand both in Belarus and in Russia,” summed up the Director General.

The Belarusian-Russian commission is being formed to create a new spacecraft which will involve scientists, representatives of high-profile enterprises, experts and

those from Roscosmos Corporation. In the near future, they will visit Peleng JSC and discuss the apparatus’ characteristics while determining the terms of its trials. If the discussions are successful, the would-be Belarusian-Russian satellite for remote Earth sensing will be in orbit within 3-4 years.

## Worthy exhibits on show at *TIBO*

Belarus holds first place in the CIS in the index of development of information and communication technologies: this undoubted success was noted by Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union — Houlin Zhao — at the *TIBO-2017* show

By Alexey Fedosov

Novelties of mobile communication, drones and robots, electronic state components, Internet and services which make our life easier are some of the exhibits presented at the 24th International Forum on Telecommunications, Information and Banking Technologies. The event annually demonstrates how technology is changing our lives.

Among the examples is a classic area: the mail; it is of great value to banks as they cannot all run branches in remote areas. In turn, the self-service system — payment and reference terminals — will help retrieve information and allow access to any documentation in the future, thanks to the nationwide automated information system which is already being implemented. *TIBO* also presented an online store of Belarusian goods: [shop.belpost.by](http://shop.belpost.by). Its main principle is based on working with domestic producers only and has justified itself already with tens of thousands of orders being received.

The MTS mobile operator showed off its new 'Navigator' service; it improves the quality of life of the blind. In testing, 15 visually impaired people and 35 volunteers have used it so far. The idea is that a visually impaired person has a smartphone with a camera and an application that allows online video to be broadcast to a volunteer assistant. The latter becomes a 'navigator' — the eyes of the blind, describing where to move, reading prices in shops or menus at cafes. Another innovation by the company is its megabook application; this will help students use online electronic textbooks.



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PAVEL CHUIKO

The Belarusian State University presented a student nano-satellite. Two cubic decimetres contain the systems of navigation, traffic, information reception and transmission,

in addition to devices to monitor the Earth. The upper covering is made of solar panels. This satellite is planned to be launched this year.

In turn, the experimental sample of the office supercomputer — SKIF-Geo-Office — is the brainchild of the United Institute of Informatics



ALEXEY BONDARENKO

Problems of the Academy of Sciences; it could be seen nowhere else but at *TIBO*. It is unique in the world — boasting special software, 10 independent computing nodes which work in parallel, a unique cooling system and super-fast speed (about 10 trillion operations per second). It was designed for a certain customer. "We work directly with geologists.

They have great amounts of data and complex calculations which need to be carried out in a short time to improve efficiency and avoid drilling in unnecessary places, explains Sergey Kruglikov, the Deputy Director General of the Institute.

This year, Huawei has been *TIBO*'s general partner. According to the Director of the Belarusian office — Pang Yong, this is a good opportunity to contribute to the development of information and communication technologies in Belarus. "At the forum, we are not simply presenting flagship models of smartphones (which visitors can test) but also demonstrating our 'smart home' concept (a smart home, a smart city). We show how cloud technology could enhance the efficiency of enterprises and state structures, making our everyday life better," he says.

For the first time, the Belarusian Federation of Unmanned Vehicle — recently established in the country — has taken part in the forum. Flying drones entertained *TIBO* guests but the Federation's main task is to show that drones are not toys. The Chairman of its Board — Yevgeny Yermolenko — believes the time has come to establish comfortable — safe and not too stringent — rules to guide development. "Drones can be involved

in business projects, in the US, 8 out of 10 farmers use them. We can also collect information on the state of fields and save fuel and fertilisers with their help. Drones are used to monitor the construction of facilities; if there is a discrepancy with the plan, it is registered immediately and thousands of Dollars are saved," he explained.

## Innovation for good service

By Alexander Pimenov

**Belarusian scientists present an experimental sample of a super-condenser for electric vehicles**

"This is one of the experimental samples of a large capacity energy storage device. It will be used in the Belarusian electric car," noted the

First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of NAS of Belarus, Sergey Chizhik, at the exhibition, held in the National Academy of Sciences.

The storage device is also designed for electric buses. Junior research officer of the National and Practical Materials Research Centre of the NAS, Alexandra Konovalova, describes how, in the near future,

electric buses with Belarus-made super-condensers will be launched.

The advantages of the super-condenser include lightness, small size and quick recharge. "The super-condenser consists of graphene-like materials, developed by the National and Practical Materials Research Centre. It's light and much smaller than usual condensers. Of course, the

final sample will be bigger in size, because the recharge of an electric bus needs more energy; however, it will be compact. This model can recharge up to 20Wh within several minutes while the usual condensers take several days, the final sample will be able to recharge within an hour," adds Ms. Konovalova. In addition, the new condensers will have



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**Super-condenser**

a longer service life, being able to recharge up to three times more often than the previous models.



PAVEL CHUIKO

# Pope of Rome presents Minsk with *Epistle of Apostle Peter*

Unique Bible texts brought to National Library of Belarus from all over the world

By Olga Demenchuk

## Rivalling Dürer

The volume has a thick, leather binding and the edges of its pages are almost black, having been thumbed by untold numbers of hands over the centuries. Neighbouring editions are embedded with precious stones, gathering crowds of awed visitors, their voices hushed in the exhibition halls, as if in church. The unique display at the National Library of Belarus demonstrates the two thousand year old history of a single book, the Bible.

The exhibition is dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing, with a hundred rare editions on display, including handwritten and printed biblical texts from Eastern and Western Europe, from ancient times to our modern day. Among them are Bibles for 16th century church services, and a fragmented German-language edition from the 17th century (printed by Protestant translator Johannes Piscator) which



Library's Deputy Director, Alexander Susha, spent over a year preparing the exhibition

is a real work of art, decorated with a hundred engravings, to rival those of German artist Albrecht Dürer.

Another unique exhibit is a facsimile of the *Epistle of Apostle Peter*, in Greek, dating back to the 3rd century AD. This is the first exhibition of the work in Belarus, thanks to a donation by the Vatican Apostolic Library, and the valuable relic is to remain henceforth in Minsk.

## Five minutes: too much or too little?

"It was decided, a year ago, at meetings of representatives of the Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture of Belarus, to collect and present these rare books under one roof," explains Alexander Su-

sha, the Deputy Director of the National Library.

## Which exhibit has the most interesting story?

For me, the facsimile of the *Polotsk Gospel*, which dates from the late 12th-early 13th century. We've collected the book from several locations, as the main part of the original is stored at the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg, while two pages are kept at the Russian State Library in Moscow, and so on. Our colleagues have presented us with digital copies of their pages. In 2012, the Belarusian Exarchate [Belarusian Orthodox Church] Publishing House joined the Academy of Sciences to issue a facsimile edition.

## Who's most likely to be



The philosopher-humanist's biography is shrouded in myth: historians don't even know the date of his birth or death

## interested in the exhibition?

Philologists, students, and foreign delegations. Some official groups come for five minutes, just for a glance, which

is hardly adequate, while historians might spend half a day in the halls, complaining that they lack time to study everything.

# Skaryna invented the 'medieval Google'

By Irina Mustafina

## How Belarus' first printer was ahead of his time

*Francysk Skaryna and His Epoch* is expected to become the largest jubilee project. The organisers aim to bring together almost all the original editions from the first Belarusian printer. "The difficulty is that almost all books by Skaryna are kept abroad: in Russia, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic — around 50 countries in total. Researchers are aware of 520 surviving copies," notes Roman Motulsky, Director of the National Library of Belarus.

One of the major exhibits will be brought from Moscow, where the State Historical Museum's Department of Manuscripts and Black-Letter Books keeps several Bibles, printed by Skaryna between 1517 and 1519. Our *MT* correspondent

even managed to hold the *Pentateuch* or the *Law of Moses*.

Collector Pavel Shchapov bequeathed this unique exhibit to the Historical Museum in the late 19th century. His father made his fortune through trade and his weaving factory. After attending lectures at the Historical-Philological Department of Moscow University, Pavel decided not to continue in the family business. His passion was for book collecting. Before his death in 1888 he bequeathed his priceless library to the Historical Museum, containing 30,000 rare volumes, including

Skaryna's Bible.

"Even if we just glance through the edition it becomes immediately clear what a great typographer Fran-



cysk Skaryna was," explains senior research officer of the Historical Museum, Galina Shitova. "To make the text of the Holy Writ simple and understandable, Skaryna began to print a foreword — a short summary

of the content. He replaced the Old Church Slavonic words with Belarusian synonyms and decorated the pages with bright patterns. His engravings rival those of Western European masters in their artistic merit. If we look closer, we can see the overlapping sun and moon on many of his engravings — the printed signature of Skaryna."

Russia's first printer Ivan Fiodorov, [who released his *Apostle* 47 years later than Skaryna's *Psalter*] also had his own pictorial signature. If we don't understand the meaning of a word we can now search for it in Google. However, in the 16th century, on reading the word 'elephant', our ancestors could only imagine the sort of animal it was. Skaryna used engravings as reference. If you didn't

understand what the Arc of the Covenant was, there it was depicted underneath the text.

Gorgeous illuminated letters graced the first word of each chapter and section, while the pages were numbered. He even managed to make each line the same size — a considerable achievement at that time. Moscow will also celebrate the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing. Recently the Russian State Library hosted a Russian-Belarusian conference, *500th Anniversary since the Release of the First Slavonic Bible by Francysk Skaryna: The Establishment and Development of the Culture of Book Printing*. The forum was held exclusively for historians and philologists.

The illustrations in the books of Polotsk's first printer showed the reader images of things they'd never seen.

## MT REFERENCE:

Francysk Skaryna was Belarus' first printer. A philosopher-humanist, a writer and a physician, he was born to a merchant family in Polotsk between 1485 and 1490. In 1504, he entered the University of Krakow and, after graduating in free arts, received a Doctor's Degree. Skaryna studied at the Faculty of Medicine for five years, receiving his Doctor's Degree from the University of Padua in Italy. In 1517, Skaryna founded a printing house in Prague, where he published his *Psalter*: the first Belarusian book. Over the coming two years, he translated and published twenty-two more Bibles. Moving to Vilnya (Vilnius) in 1520, he published *The Small Travelling Book* and his *Apostle*. Skaryna died in the early 1540s.



Posters with pre-election canvassing in the streets of Paris

## France divided in two

The announced results from the first round of the French presidential election have revealed a country divided in two

France is split along both geographical and social lines in its support for Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen. On the one hand, an urban, pro-European electorate backing Macron, and on the other an anti-EU, working class supporting Le Pen. Geographically, the division cuts from north-west to south-east.

Macron has seduced mostly big cities, Paris, Bordeaux, Lyon, and the west of the country. It is in the countryside, the north east and south east where Le Pen has her highest support. Macron's voters are mainly

white-collar workers, in contrast to Le Pen who has the support of blue-collar workers. If we look at the last election, 47 percent of those who voted for Socialist President Hollande turned to Macron while 6 percent of Hollande's voters backed Le Pen, who retained 84 percent of her voters from 2012.

The uniting of the political spectrum to keep the far-right out of power has become known as the Republican Front. It was a tactic used when Le Pen's father Jean-Marie shocked France by reaching the second round

of the 2002 elections. Far left presidential candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon was part of the movement, but this time the deal is different.

Political analyst Frederic Dabi said, "It's true that the behaviour of Jean Luc Mélenchon and Francois Fillon's voters is one of the keys to the poll. Among those backing Jean Luc Mélenchon, there is an initial mood of abstaining. Almost one out of two would not want to vote in this second round, but that can change during the campaign."

While Mr. Fillon and Socialist

Benoît Hamon both urged their supporters to vote for Mr. Macron, Mélenchon has stayed silent, awaiting feedback from his voters.

Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen will now face off in the second — decisive — round on May 7th, shaking up not only French politics, but also the European political landscape. The candidates hardly agree on anything from immigration to the country's future within the European Union. Investors believe the stakes are high with possible consequences for the whole region.

## Gulf airlines worry about effects of electronics ban

The US travel ban on people from some predominantly Muslim countries and restrictions on electronic devices have been a major talking point at this year's Arabian Travel Market

Long-haul air passenger arrivals in the states fell by 4.3 percent in the first three months of this year, according to travel analysts Forward Keys. Dubai International Airport reported a 4.3 percent decline in North American passenger traffic for March.

Qatar Airways Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said there is no need for the electronics ban, "There has been some uncertainties with certain categories of passengers, who got a bit concerned about why laptops are not allowed. It is a misperception of security requirements by the American administration, which in my opinion was really not necessary."

Emirates recently said it will reduce its flights to five US cities from May linked to a decline in demand and expand its business elsewhere in the world.

## NASA's Cassini flies inside Saturn's rings and beams back images



NASA's Cassini spacecraft has taken a trip through Saturn's rings for the first time — and has been back in touch with Earth

The probe has sent images through space of its journey to within 3,000 kilometres of the planet's clouds and within 300 kilometres of its innermost ring — the closest a probe has ever been. Scientists say they show part of a massive hurricane on Saturn's surface as well as other features including a strange six-sided cloud pattern first observed over 30 years ago.

The probe is coming to the end of a 20-year mission, for 13 of which it's been exploring the planet. It is due to make 21 more close encounters between Saturn and its rings, to learn about how they formed and what lies below the clouds. All that before a final plunge in September when Cassini will destroy itself by flying directly into Saturn's atmosphere.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

## End to tourism drought in sight as Egypt discovers new tomb

Archaeologists in Egypt have unearthed a tomb dating back three millennia, yet another in a series of major discoveries that are hoped will revive Egypt's floundering tourist industry

Located near the Nile city of Luxor, the tomb is the resting place of Userhat, a judge from the New Kingdom. Excavations are on-going, but a collection of ancient relics, including figurines and masks, have already been unearthed.

Tourism in Egypt has suffered in the aftermath of the country's recent political instability, but it is hoped that the finds will have a positive effect on the sector.

## Middle East set to be tourism hotspot

Egypt — with its economy hard hit by a major fall off in tourism — is using the Arabian Travel Market in Dubai to encourage more people from the Middle East to holiday there

Visitor numbers are around a third of the almost 15 million they reached in 2010, before the 2011 uprising. Fewer than 5.5 million people visited Egypt in 2016. Around 36 percent of visitors to Egypt last year were from Arab countries.

Hisham El Demery, Chairman of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board,



insists the country is safe but admits they have an image problem, "One of the many challenges, actually, that the country has been facing over the past few years, is to have the right image about the country, to correct and portray the image of our country."

### Hotspot

Despite political conflict and violence in the region the World Tourism Organisation says the Middle East and North Africa is set to become a tourist hotspot, creating jobs and boosting economies.

family-oriented tourism, cultural tourism and adventure tourism."

Several destinations taking part in the Arabian Travel Market have introduced visa-on-arrival schemes for people from countries including China, Russia and India.

## The spirit of avant-garde

Large-scale exhibition project of modern painting, *Return of the Image*. On the 130th Anniversary of Marc Chagall, launched in Minsk

By Veniamin Mikheev

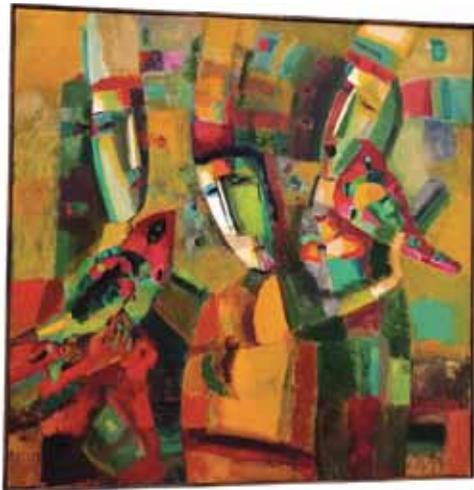
The Culture Ministry of Belarus, the Minsk City Executive Committee and the National Centre for Contemporary Arts are organisers of the exhibition project, with the support of the Belarusian Union of Artists, the Union of Designers and the State Academy of Arts.

Marc Chagall is known to be an unprecedented master of artistic reflections, and transformations in time. His unique creativity combined elements of the French avant-garde with his own particular take on the use of space and time in art. The exhibition, dedicated to his 130th anniversary, inherits Chagall's spirit of fun, representing contemporary Belarusian art with its complex mix of neo-traditionalism, modernism and the newest visual practices. The exhibition showcases the diversity of Belarusian artistic modernity.

*The Return of the Image*. On the 130th Anniversary of Marc Chagall exhibition will take place at three venues until late May. The works of painting, graphical art, sculpture, decorative-and-applied art, as well as conceptual projects by Minsk authors and regional cities, pieces by famous and young painters and students of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts, are on show at the Palace of Arts Republican Artistic Gallery.

The exhibition also showcases Marc Chagall's *Lovers* from Belgazprombank's collection. The pieces by both domestic and foreign painters — participants of Chagall's plein air workshops in 1994, 1997 and 2016 — continue the poetic style of the master. All these works are from the collection of the Marc Chagall Museum in Vitebsk.

Opening the project, Belarus' First Deputy Culture Minister, Irina Driga, noted that this is the third nationwide exhibition of contemporary arts in the history of modern Belarus. "The current exhibition has its own peculiarity, since it coincides with the 130th anniversary



Diversity of exhibition project



since the birth of one of the pioneers of modern art — Marc Chagall. It's very symbolic that its title is 'The Return of the Image'. The event showcases various images: from those of material culture to mysterious and contradictory styles. However, they all illustrate the continuity of the traditions of avant-garde art and the creative journey. The exhibition reminds us that Belarus was the cradle of avant-garde culture in the early 20th century," said the Minister.

Ms. Driga called on people to develop and support modern art. She read the greeting sent by Belarus' Culture Minister, Boris Svet-

lov, to participants and guests at the exhibition.

It was noted during the opening ceremony that this is the first time that modern Belarusian art has been presented on such a large scale. Much was said about the multi-

vector nature of its development, the diversity of forms, genres and subjects which set it firmly within the international artistic cultural context.

The exhibition space at the National Centre for Contempo-

### DIRECT SPEECH

Natalia SHARANGOVICH, project curator, Director of the National Centre for Contemporary Arts:

The major goal of the project is to show modern Belarusian art in all its diversity, with a convergence of images, manners and genres. In total, the Arts Palace houses more than 200 artworks, covering not only traditional painting or sculpture, but also representing an attempt to reveal new aspects to Marc Chagall's creativity.

### MT REFERENCE

Marc Chagall is a truly wonderful phenomenon in 20th century pictorial art. The large-scale exhibition project, *Return of the Image*, dedicated to the 130th anniversary of the most famous avant-garde painter of the past century, who made Vitebsk famous all over the artistic world, is ready to surprise Minsk and guests of the city. The exposition envisages three venues, more than 200 pictures and conceptual art objects and 63 painters who are all finalists of the National Award in Painting. Each work can be examined in detail at the Palace of Arts until May 21st.

rary Arts displays the works by 63 painters who are taking part in the finals of the National Award in Painting. The contest was first organised in Belarus, founded by the Culture Ministry, and it will have winners in 10 categories: painting, graphical art, sculpture, decorative-and-applied art, monumental and monumental-decorative art, art design, photography, young painters, novices, critics and art history. The awards ceremony will be held on May 18th, at the Palace of Arts Republican Artistic Gallery.

One more aspect of the exhibition project must be mentioned — it refers to the *Golden Collection* which showcases the best painting and graphical works by mature and

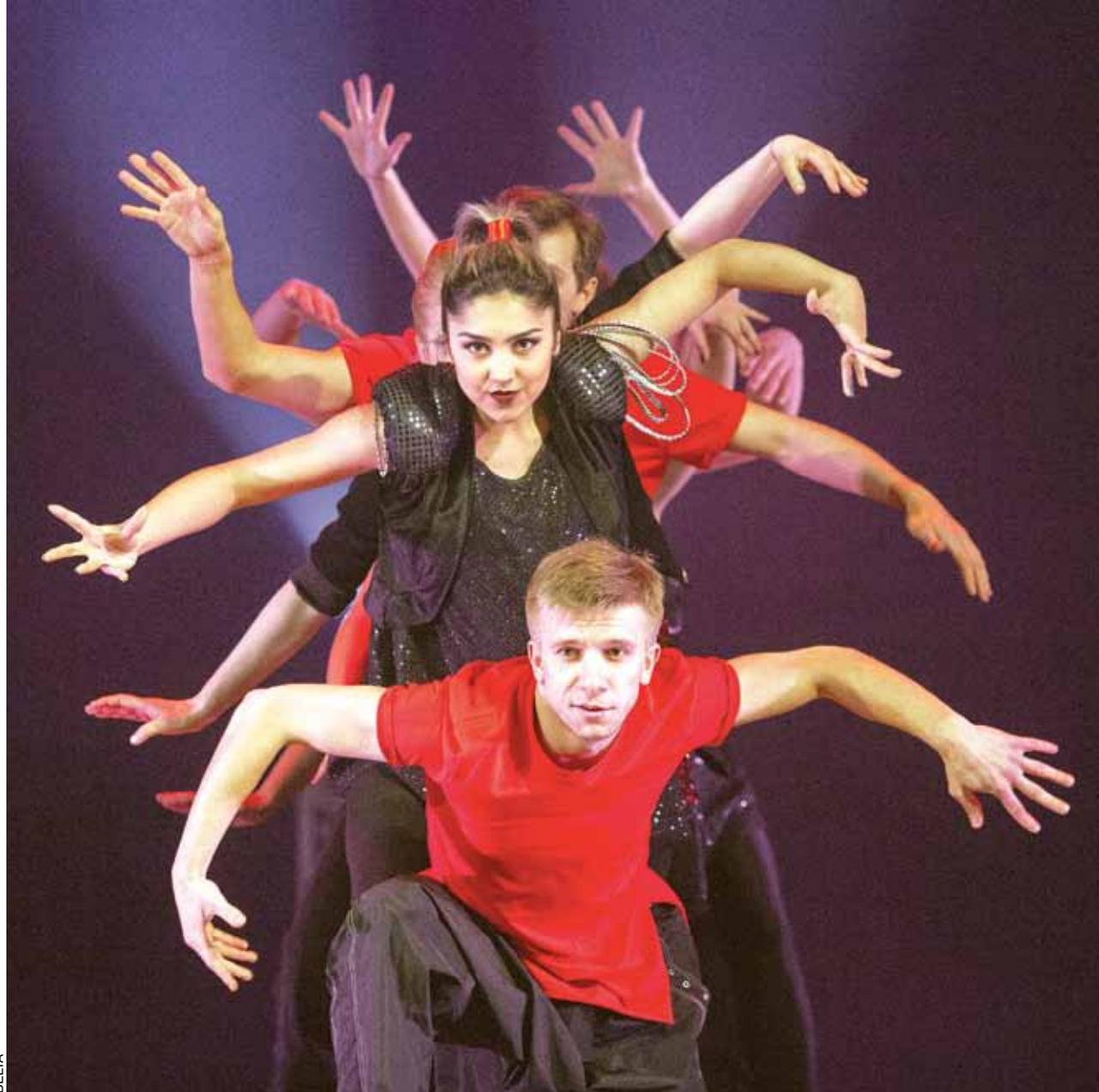
acknowledged Belarusian masters and the brightest representatives of the middle-aged generation of painters. The works are from the collection of the National Centre for Contemporary Arts. The exhibition is held as part of the annual *Artist and the City* project. In total, around 40 reproductions from the *Golden Collection of Belarusian Painting* will go on show in the new, sixth season. All works belong to painters from different generations and with creative views, ensuring that the current exhibition fully represents the world of Belarusian art.

## From krump to hip-hop

Students from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine compete in dancing

By Olga Kruchenkova

Vitebsk lived the rhythm of the dance for several days: over 300 representatives of 24 universities from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine competed for the Grand Prix of the 7th International Festival of Contemporary Dance — *Make a Step Forward!* It began with a city intercollegiate competition first held at the Vitebsk State Academy of Veterinary Medicine. The first festival gathered only six teams but it inspired organisers and participants so much that they decided to continue. A year later, the dance battle went international: the agrarian universities of Russia and Ukraine made a ‘leap forward’. The jury and audiences appreciate the creativity of enthusiastic students; among them are future veterinarians, doctors, teachers and engineers. The first dance battles took place in the Veterinary Academy’s club but, for the fourth year in a row, they are hosted by the Yakub Kolas Theatre. Competition days are as popular as the gala concert since they present all styles of modern dancing: show-dance, krump, jazz-funk, hip-hop modern, jazz-modern, contemporary. Moreover, these are exclusively Vitebsk students who participate in incendiary dance duels where they need to out-dance a rival in a minute. This year, the DVORY



One of the acts at the gala-concert of the International Interuniversity Festival of Contemporary Dance

art group from the Vitebsk State Technological University has been unrivalled. The Grand Prix of the festival went to the Otrazheniya Dance Theatre of the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio-

electronics. This team does not advertise itself as a professional troupe. On the contrary, they joke amongst themselves saying they have technical minds and can’t help but dance. They’ve won the champi-

ons cup for the second time; this year, the prize has been supplemented with a laptop. Interestingly, a student of the same university — Vyacheslav Gusev — has been named the best dancer; he represented the Mag-

ic Groove team. The special award of the jury — ‘For the Desire to Dance’ — went to debutante Polina Yermakova from the Ryazan State Agro-technological University; she was the only participant dancing solo.

First place was international: it was shared by three teams from different countries. The victory was celebrated by Oxygen from the Belarusian State Agrarian and Technical University, SuziryaDANCE from the National University of Bio-resources and Nature Management of Ukraine and Echo from the Velikie Luki Agricultural Academy.

The festival’s jury is headed by the Artistic Director of the National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre — Yuri Troyan. It was he who gave life to this forum when he attracted the attention of professional choreographers. Famous teachers and directors come to work in the jury, also holding master classes for children. No doubt, this contributes to the high level of the competition. Willingly or involuntarily, but *Take a Step Forward!* was initially compared with another choreographic Vitebsk festival: *IFMC*. The latter has existed for almost 30 years and gathers professionals from all over the world. Dancing is very popular and it matters little who appears on the stage: professionals or amateurs. The key is to ensure the project is appreciated by students and spectators. After all, in seven years of its existence, the festival has managed to unite over 40 universities and 1,500 creative people.

## Creating beauty with one’s own hands

By Olga Savitskaya

**Minsk hosts 1st International Forum of Handicrafts, gathering over thirty crafters from Belarus, Russia, Germany, Israel, Estonia and the Netherlands, to share experience and teach others to create beauty with their own hands**

These women have long known each other, having been sharing experience online. Eventually, Lyudmila Gurinovich from Belarus, Regina Lani from the Netherlands and Olga Manylova from Russia decided to transform



Lyudmila Gurinovich

their virtual communication into reality, offering master classes. Lyudmila Bulgakova, from Zhlobin, taught decoupage basics at the forum, while Estonia’s Olga Kalinina offered classes in making doll-portraits.

“All our dolls are made from environmentally-friendly materials,” stresses doll-maker Valentina Dementieva. “They’re popular with adults and children as, if you hang them over your bed, they bring sweet dreams.” The forum should become a regular event, with artisans from around the world being invited to share their expertise.

## War and peace through the eyes of children

By Oleg Bogomazov

**The Museum of the Great Patriotic War History will be hosting a unique exhibition for the entire month, entitled *How I See War and Peace*, presented by pupils from Floria Art Studio, at the Republican Centre of Ecology and Local History**

None of the authors of the 27 pictures are more than 15 years old. It’s important to see how such young painters deal with this complex topic. The exhibition is not merely about the Great Patri-



Exploring the exposition

otic War, already history for these young people. It contains the reflections of the growing generation on the eternal ideas of war and peace. The exhibition shows some interesting and sometimes very unexpected views.

Work on the exhibition took a year and was a real challenge

for the youngsters, who had to research deeply into the wartime era and interpret the material in their own way.

“The children needed a whole month to decide what would be depicted on the picture,” noted Floria’s head, Lyudmila Bairova. “We agreed that it should be a unique view and their personal understanding of what has happened.”

The exhibition will last until May 21st. The results will be collated and the four best works determined, with one of these chosen by the visitors.



Tennis players and coaching staff thank fans for their support

# This is the tennis we love

## Belarusian national tennis team has defeated Switzerland squad to play against US in Federation Cup final

By Alexey Grishin

The Belarusian tennis team have reached the final of the Fed Cup World Group. In an incredibly hard fought match, our tennis players defeated the more experienced and higher ranking team from Switzerland. As a result, the Belarusian girls will compete for a major title in the world women's tennis with the US team in November. The President congratulated our team on their victory: 'In the eyes of many fans and a huge TV audience, you've achieved a great deal and played inspiring tennis, showing your superior skills and a determination to win. This is an historic achievement for Belarusian tennis and one of the most brilliant victories for the sport.'

For two days, on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd of April, the country lived tennis. Fans shouted them-

selves hoarse supporting Alexandra Sasnovich and Arina Sobolenko. On March 22nd, Alexandra celebrated her 23rd birthday and Arina turned 19 on May 5th. The girls are young, talented and extremely promising. The Chairman of the Tennis Federation — Alexander Shakutin — clearly knew something when, on the eve of the match against the Swiss, he said that sooner or later the Belarusian team would have a world champion. "I know that we will reach the final. Look at our girls! How can you not believe in them?"

The team's success is no accident, but an example of what happens when a task is treated seriously. Luck comes when there is a long-term plan for the development of a sport and there are competent professionals to turn the plan into reality.

Vladimir Volchkov belongs to this team of experienced profes-

sionals. Alongside Max Mirnyi, he worked wonders on the court in the past as part of the men's team. At present, he is responsible for Belarusian tennis development. At the beginning of his coaching career, Mr. Volchkov worked with Maria Sharapova and he knows well how the most advanced mechanisms of modern tennis work. Despite offers of work abroad, he has returned to Belarus, saying, "I decided to implement my ideas at home after I received an offer from Alexander Shakutin." After the victory over the Swiss national team, Vladimir shared his impressions, "The move began several years ago with an initiative by the President who said that we need to gather the best children of the country in one place and create a competitive system of training. Over the last few years, we've managed to build a good training system, although it is not yet perfect. We are

assisted by a great army of people. This initiative has yielded excellent results so far."

After beating the Swiss in the semi-final, our team have moved up to second place in the rankings of the Fed Cup (we were previously 5th). Belarusians are only behind the Czech team which has won the Fed Cup for last 3 consecutive seasons. However, the Czech tennis players can't win for the fourth time as they lost the away semi-final against the USA (2-3) and spoiled their championship chances. The Americans are now in 3rd place in the team rankings.

The decisive match of the tournament will take place in Minsk, on November 11th-12th. In previous years, Belarus and the United States have met only once in the Fed Cup: in 2012 when the Americans won on their home court — 5:0.

## First in classical distance

By Igor Svitov

### Belarusian runner Anastasia Ivanova wins marathon in Warsaw

The Belarusian covered the classical marathon distance of 42km 195m in 2 hours, 28 minutes and 43 seconds. Second place went to Polish runner Izabela Trzaskalska and Kenya's Viola Yator finished third.

Another Belarusian — Svetlana Kudelich — successfully won the 10km distance, running it in 33 minutes and 12 seconds. She was followed by Polish Katarzyna Kowalska, and Poland's Hellen Nzembi Musyoka finished third.

This was the 37th Warsaw marathon and gathered together approximately 800 female runners from all over the world.

## No slowing down for Minsk

By Kirill Karin

### Minsk cycle racer Stanislav Bozhkov wins overall rating of the international Mersin Tour in Turkey, with second place in the general classification going to another Belarusian — Eduard Vorganov



Stanislav Bozhkov (R)

Stanislav Bozhkov won the first stage of the race and retained the leader's yellow jersey until the end. He later noted that his win was thanks to the well-coordinated work of Minsk's cyclists: Sergey Popkov, Yevgeny Sobol, Konstantin Klimenkov, Alexander Golovash, Anton Muzychkin and Oleg Agievich.

The weather caused amendments to the final fourth stage: because of the hurricane, after consultations with the Commissioner of the International Cycling Union (UCI), the start was cancelled.

As a result, Stanislav Bozhkov won the Mersin Tour. He was also recognised as the most active racer. Eduard Vorganov completed the multi-day race in second position in the overall standings. Third place went to Kazakh, Galym Akhmetov, from the Astana City club.

The Minsk cyclists were also awarded the prize of the 'Best Tour Mersin-2017 Team'.

## Encouraging results

By Semen Bondarev

### The European Judo Championships proved successful for the Belarusian team — with Marina Slutskaya's gold and encouraging results from the young martial artists who are just entering the adult level

The last time our judo athletes were so enthusiastically described was over a decade ago, when Igor Makarov won the Olympic Games in Athens. Since then, the results have not been so good, although the team has been given a lot of encouragement. After their failure at the Rio Games, the team decided to regroup; the new head coach of the Belarusian

team — Leonid Svirid — bravely decided on a complete new approach.

The Warsaw Championship was attended by a virtually new team comprising the young martial artists who've been recently competing at youth level. Yegor Voropaev and Dmitry Minkov demonstrated mature wrestling but failed to reach the podium, finishing in fifth place. A good impression was made by Nikita Svirid who came ninth. However, Marina Slutskaya caused a sensation by winning the first gold medal at this level in the history of Belarusian women's judo!

In the final match, Marina confidently defeated the experienced Ukrainian Svetlana Yaromka, earn-



Marina Slutskaya (second on the left) on the medal podium

ing an 'ippon' (clean victory). The Belarusian has been a key figure in our team for the last 7 years. However, she's had no success at major tournaments. To be admitted to the Rio Games, Marina needed several more rating points which she could have earned at the World Championships

had the coaches seen fit to include her in the team. The recent win feels even better: Marina has proved to everyone that her potential — including for the forthcoming Olympics — is very high. The current youth team is being put together with a focus on the Tokyo-2020 Games.

# 12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Friday, May 5, 2017

## Show of the week



At city holiday — opening of 2017 motorcycle season H.O.G. Spring Challenge — in Minsk

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> May. *Touched by a Moment*  
Until 21<sup>st</sup> May. *On Land and Sky*

#### NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> June. *From Romanian Dinary to Belarusian Rouble*  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. *Field of Flowers*

#### BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 25<sup>th</sup> May. *How I See War and Peace*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> May. Belarusian-Italian Cultural Ties in History and Modernity  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. Exhibition of wax figures: *Miraculous Travel*

#### HOUSE OF PICTURES

89/3 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> June. *Scents of Life-2. Sense and Feelings*

#### PALACE OF ARTS

3 Kozlov Street  
Until 21<sup>st</sup> May. *Return of the Image: On the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Marc Chagall*

#### YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*  
Until 13<sup>th</sup> May. *Athos — Micro-Byzantium*

#### MUSEUM OF THEATRE AND MUSICAL CULTURE

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> May. *Sula. Unbroken-2*

#### MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street  
Until 11<sup>th</sup> September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

#### CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> May. *Our Cosmos*

#### UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square  
1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May. Festival of Landscape Architecture and Design-2017

#### YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

Until 9<sup>th</sup> September. *The Artist and the City: Golden Collection of Belarusian Pictorial Art*

#### BELART

4 Karl Marx Street  
Until 18<sup>th</sup> May. Ivan Kozel: Minsk's Suburbs

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
05.05. Laurencia 08 and 10.05. The Swan Lake 11.05. Turandot

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
07.05. Blue Cameo 10.05. Wedding in Malinovka 11.05. Cherry Orchid

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
06.05. Little Red Riding Hood 07.05. Mysterious Hippopotamus 11.05. Tartuffe

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
05.05. Pygmalion 06.05. He and She; Bridegrooms 07.05. As if by Magic; An Ideal Husband 10.05. Testosterone 11.05. Private Lives

### CONCERTS

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
09.05. Best Waltzes of the World 10 and 11.05. KVN (1/4 finals) 11.05. Golden Voices Gather Friends

#### CHIZHOVKA-ARENA

19 Tashkentskaya Street  
05.05. Mega Disco of 1980-90s

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
05.05. Robbery at Midnight 06 and 07.05. #13 10.05. The Makropoulos Case 11.05. Who Laughs Last

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
10.05. Doctor Raus' Career 11.05. Silent Love

#### BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street  
05.05. Taras on Parnassus 06.05. Thumbelina 07.05. Road to Bethlehem 11.05. Wings of My Youth

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
05.05. Art 06.05. Paulinka 07.05. People of the Marsh 10.05. Office

#### DREAMLAND

80 Orlovskaya Street  
06 and 07.05. ColourFest 2017

#### UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square  
10.05. Ancient music concert (Vivaldi-Pergolesi) 11.05. Pavel Bortnik: guitar music concert

**The Minsk Times**

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