

Reliability and modern style remain the major priorities



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Myths and legends of Georgy Skripnichenko



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Most delicious summer day

The history of the *Motol Delicacy* festival began in 2008 and, since then, it has transformed into a true representation of the Ivanovo District of the Brest Region. The gastronomic festival is known not only in Belarus but also abroad. In 2015, the event gained international status.



Mission highly praised

Aleksandr Lukashenko appreciates the British Ambassador's merits achieved in developing bilateral relations with Belarus

By Vladimir Mikhailov

While meeting the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Fionna Gibb, the Head of State emphasised that he does not meet with all ambassadors who are leaving. "You have done more than anybody else during your service in Belarus, more than all other UK ambassadors, therefore I am very grateful to you," Mr. Lukashenko said. "I believe this is your achievement, and the Foreign Ministry shares this opinion. Thanks to your energy and determination, you have achieved the openness, honesty and justice you have been calling for (and it is equally important for us)."

At the meeting, the President emphasised the importance of further efforts to intensify Belarus-UK liaisons. He thanked the UK for co-operation in the humanitarian field, helping children from Chernobyl-affected regions. "You have helped and still help our children after Chernobyl, with recuperation and rehabilitation. They visit your country. We appreciate your help and support,"



Fionna Gibb

Mr. Lukashenko emphasised. He also spoke about the participation of UK athletes in the 2nd European Games. "Your team performed very well here," he said. The Head of State asked Fionna Gibb to convey his best wishes to the President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), Sebastian Coe. "He will be pleased that we remember him in Belarus. We hope that he will attend the Europe-USA match in Minsk in September," the Head of State said.

"This is just the beginning of our relations. We now need to develop them and find new areas for co-operation. We should not lose any time in doing this. I think that the new Prime Minister and Government [in the

United Kingdom] will step up these relations. I hope that one day you will come back to Belarus (you can come at any time without visas, you are close to Belarus), and we will discuss our newly restored relations. Your period of service as the Ambassador in Belarus will be the foundation. Thank you for everything, I wish you every success," Mr. Lukashenko concluded.

Fionna Gibb, in turn, thanked the Belarusian President for his kind words, especially about her contribution to the development of Belarus-UK relations. "I truly believe that relations between the two countries have improved in these three and a half years," she said.

Recently, Belarus-UK relations have become increasingly positive. Prince Michael of Kent, a member of the British Royal Family, visited Belarus in 2016. The Minister of State for Europe and the Americas of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Alan Duncan, visited the country in 2017. The British parliamentary delegation came to Belarus last year. Groups of parliamentary co-operation have been established in

the parliaments of both countries. The visit of the Belarusian Prime Minister to London was organised in June and Belarusian Capital Markets Day took place at London's Stock Exchange for the first time. Later, the British Trade Policy Minister, George Hollingberry, visited Belarus to attend the opening ceremony of the 2nd European Games and met with the Head of State.

Mr. Lukashenko reiterated that he is not a supporter of the disintegration of the European Union and believes Brexit will be a great loss. According to him, Great Britain is a very powerful country that has done a lot for the European Union. "Together with Germany, France and Italy, the UK made the European Union extremely strong. Naturally, it is a great loss," he said. At the same time, the Head of State considered that this situation could open up opportunities for the building of Belarus-UK relations. The President called for the strengthening of bilateral co-operation. "I don't know what appointment you will take next. Of course, I will be happy for you if you take up a senior position at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I would ask you to tell the Foreign Of-

fice that we need to increase our relations. It's important not to waste time," he stressed, pointing to the tremendous opportunities for co-operation considering Belarus' membership in the Eurasian Economic Union.

After meeting with the President, Fionna Gibb shared her impressions of Belarus. "I really like your country. I lived in the Ukraine, Germany, Canada, Turkey, Iraq, Yemen and Kenya... Now I am living in Belarus, and so far this is the country I love most. It was a great honour for me to work here as an Ambassador. The work was undoubtedly interesting and I value the contacts I established here as part of my work, as well as my private contacts. As I told the President, I hope to retain these connections with Belarus in the future," the diplomat said.

She told reporters that, on her return to the UK, she will work at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Speaking about relations with Belarus, the diplomat emphasised that co-operation is gaining momentum. "Belarus is an important country at the centre of Europe. Both our countries have everything in place to develop relations, in trade above all else," she said.



Not just academic interest

European security in the context of global militarisation planned to become the focus of forthcoming *Minsk Dialogue* forum

By Vladimir Khromov

The *Minsk Dialogue* forum will take place in the Belarusian capital on October 7th-8th, focusing on *European Security: Stepping Back from the Brink*. When commenting on the choice, the Director of the Council for Foreign Relations, Yevgeny Preigerman, noted that the theme may 'seem overly dramatic' but this is the situation which Belarus and other countries are facing now. "This situation continues to become increasingly serious, since an unsavoury historic event has taken place. Another pillar of strategic stability, which came to be after the end of the cold war and the collapse of the Soviet Union, has disappeared. To be more precise, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty has been left by its signatories, the United States and Russia," said Mr. Preigerman. "The forum will become the first platform for us to discuss regional security after the collapse of the Treaty. The latter is such that Europe is now at the heart of an inevitable arms race."

There has been a clear global trend towards militarisation. This has been confirmed by the arms race that has begun and is now gaining momentum. "Militarisation in the absence of a dialogue and in conditions where the channels of communica-



tion between the major players have been destroyed, as well as disintegration of the system of strategic stability points directly towards high military-political risks," adds the expert. "It is especially dangerous for us, citizens and residents of Belarus. We have been caught between these geopolitical contradictions. If, God forbid, a tension breaks out somewhere, then it's likely to break out in our region as well, following the Ukrainian situation." In this regard, Belarus has a practical and academic interest in holding forums such as these.

The forum will focus on strategic stability and arms control, propaganda, counter-propaganda and basic standards of journalism against the background of information wars. Experts will discuss the

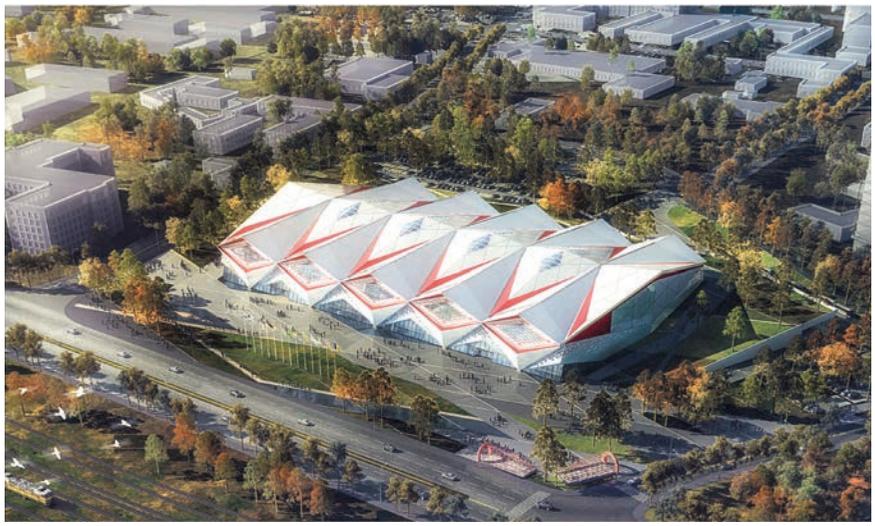
results of the first decade of the *Eastern Partnership* activities, the potential of the *Belt and Road* initiative and prospects for the development of the Eurasian Economic Union. At the forum, all interested parties will be able to openly discuss the present situation and future of European security and look for mutually acceptable security standards for all. The event will bring together senior officials and leading experts from the EU, Russia, the USA, China and countries in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia. "This is a unique combination from the point of view of the geopolitical balance of forces," the organisers said.

Among the participants of the event will be high-status officials, former politi-

cians with experience in the international arena and academic experts. The former US Army Commander in Europe, General Ben Hodges, the former NATO Deputy Secretary General, Alexander Vershbow, the Advisor of the former US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, and the Director of Kissinger Associates consulting company, Thomas Graham, have already confirmed their participation. Alexey Gromyko, a grandson of the diplomat, the Director of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, will take part in the discussion devoted to defusing international tension and focusing on the activities of the USSR's famous Foreign Minister, Andrey Gromyko.

The list of guests and experts of the forum is certainly wider. The organisers have sent an invitation to many famous people and are now waiting for the confirmation of their participation.

The *Minsk Dialogue* forum started its work as an expert initiative in early 2015. Its mission is to provide an open platform without geopolitical dividing lines for research and discussions on international relations and security in Eastern Europe. Regular events for the *Minsk Dialogue* gather together international experts, as well as high-ranking state officials and diplomats.



New champions will be born here

A national football stadium and an international standard swimming pool to be built in the Belarusian capital by 2023

By Vasily Kharitonov

At a meeting to plan the construction, the President of Belarus said, “We will build a stadium and a swimming pool. We need them. It’s not a state if it lacks such important facilities. Football is a popular sport; it’s the number one sport in our country. It involves many people, from cities to small villages. It’s not good not to have a football stadium where the national team and the best of our local teams will play and where the international matches will be held. We should have such a stadium, as well as a swimming pool. Swimming is a sport that brings medals. At the Olympics, it is the athletics and swimming which bring home the most.”

The national football stadium and the international standard swimming pool are being built with China’s technical and economic assistance, which is enshrined in the relevant intergovernmental agreement with China. In fact, it is a gift from the Chinese people to Belarus, with its own meaning. By doing this, China is presenting its capabilities to Europe. Many of their construction and technological solutions are unique. On our part, it is important to create the most favourable circumstances for the implementation of the plan.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “I’ve asked to prepare draft decrees with an emphasis on this, so that once we’ve received the money, don’t need to bother the Chinese. They

will build these facilities using our materials and Belarusians will mainly work there.”

International standards in this case are not a figure of speech. International football federations (FIFA and UEFA) and the International Swimming Federation (FINA) have their own requirements for sports facilities. Compliance is obligatory to ensure that, in the future, our facilities could host world championships. Meanwhile, for our Chinese partners, the qualitative construction of arenas like this is a matter of status. The requirements of the Belarusian side will be fixed by the relevant regulations.

Recalling the background of the plan, the President said, “We have planned for a long time to build these facilities.

Naturally, they need a large budget. It is clear that money like this is always difficult to find since no businessman would invest in the projects. Regarding the state budget, you know what the money is spent on. I once asked Xi Jinping [the Chairman of the People’s Republic of China] to help us in the construction of these facilities. I must say that I appealed not only to China but also to other countries. China and its Chairman responded. You know that just recently, during my last visit to China, Xi Jinping showed us models of these facilities. I would like to stress that the construction of such sports facilities in Minsk, within the framework of co-operation between Belarus and China, is unprecedented and should

set an example for other projects to be implemented in the future.”

The terms of co-operation have already been discussed and, according to Mr. Lukashenko, the Chinese side is ready to start construction in the first half of next year. Efficiency is also required from the Belarusian participants of the project.

It is very important to look into the future. The Chinese partners have planned a very short construction time. How will the facilities operate after their opening? The President said, “It is already necessary to plan the hosting of the relevant international competitions at the highest level at these facilities. It will also spur on the builders and senior staff to finish the work in time.”

Diplomacy as a constructive factor



Federica Mogherini — the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy — plans to visit Belarus in October, as the Head of the EU Delegation to Belarus, Andrea Wiktorin, announced while meeting Prime Minister Sergei Rumas recently

By Vladimir Velikhov

“Federica Mogherini is going to visit Minsk in October and we have already discussed the dates with Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei,” Andrea Wiktorin said. In her opinion, the progress achieved in the relations between Belarus and the European Union is significant. “I am convinced that as long as we listen to each other, we can find a solution to any problems,” said the Head of the EU Delegation to Belarus.

Ms. Wiktorin noted that visits of the highest level to Belarus are becoming more

frequent, the country is active in the *Eastern Partnership*, and Brussels greatly appreciates it. She also noted the efforts of Belarus to resolve the situation in Ukraine. “Belarus takes a very constructive position on the crisis in Ukraine and has played considerable role in its settlement, this role is recognised by the entire European Commission. This contributes to the establishment and consolidation of peace,” the official noted.

In addition, the Government of Belarus expects to sign an agreement with the European Union to simplify the visa regime this autumn.

This was stated by Prime Minister Sergei Rumas at the meeting with Ms. Wiktorin at the completion of her diplomatic mission in Belarus. “I think we will complete all the internal procedures for the approval of the document before the autumn. I very much hope that the agreement will be signed; at least, the Belarusian side will do everything to make this event take place,” Mr. Rumas said.

Among the priorities for the Government’s interaction with the EU is the completion of negotiations on Belarus’ accession to the World Trade Organisation and the develop-

ment of credit and investment co-operation with European institutions. Belarus plans to complete all negotiations on joining the organisation by the WTO ministerial meeting in June 2020 in Kazakhstan. According to the Prime Minister, everything is on schedule.

As for credit and investment co-operation, Belarus has managed to build good relations with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Investment Bank. “The conditions under which the EIB provides resources to Belarus are unprecedented,” Mr. Rumas stressed. “This will

allow us to develop our infrastructure today, and to pay for it in equal instalments over a long period.”

The Prime Minister confirmed the Government’s readiness to further develop relations with the European Union and to co-operate constructively with a new Head of the EU Delegation to Belarus. “It is important that we understand each other better today than four years ago. I hope that we will move forward with your successor towards the complete lifting of sanctions. I think it is in the common interest,” concluded Mr. Rumas.



Geography of exports covers many countries

Much owing to technical improvements and the establishment of new methods, the volumes of timber processed in the country has increased in recent years

By Oleg Bogomazov

According to calculations by Bellesbumprom's specialists, the volume of production at the Concern's modernised factory has increased more than 12-fold from 2010 to 2018. What is especially important is that wood processing has increased from 38 percent in 2006 to 90 percent in 2018. "With the launch of our enterprises in Svetlogorsk and Dobrush, wood processing will increase even more," said the Bellesbumprom Concern's Deputy Chairman, Mikhail Kasko.

Last year, Bellesbumprom processed almost 6 million cubic metres of timber, including more than 5 million industrial wood. The industry is currently working sustainably at nearly full capacity.

In addition, over the first five months alone, the Con-

cern manufactured 16 percent more compared to the same period in the previous year. The biggest growth rate of industrial production, 150 percent, was provided by the cellulose and paper section.

At present, the Concern manufactures more than 80 types of goods, with almost 70 percent being exported. Over the first few months of 2019, exports totalled almost \$240m, 11.5 percent more compared to the same period in 2018. Furniture, fibreboard, paper and cardboard, as well as plywood and chipboard account for the biggest share of exported commodities.

The geography of exports covers around sixty countries, with more than half of goods exported being dispatched to the non-CIS states. In particular, the Concern's present task is to master the European market through increasing its furniture supplies.

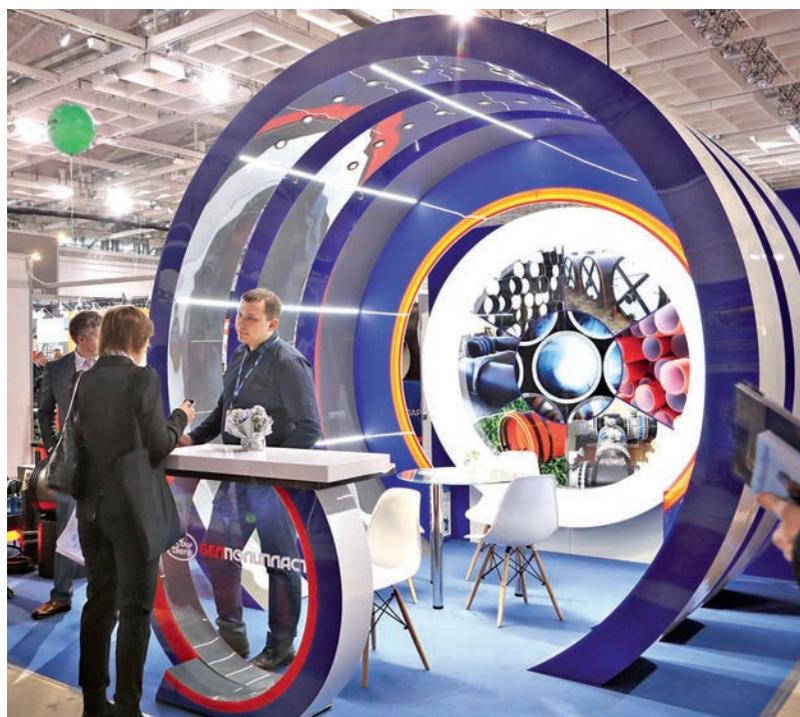
Historical venue for potential business partners to meet

By Alexey Fedosov

Belarusian Industrial Investment Forum, scheduled to be held in Minsk in September, to unite several international specialised exhibitions and conferences

The exhibition project is held under the auspices of the Government and is one of the biggest CIS showcases of modern technology. The forum seeks boost of the hi-tech manufacturing industry, facilitate implementation of cutting-edge technology and equipment, raise investments and build new partnerships.

The international themed exhibitions are to be held as part of the event, as well as the Belarus-Japan Economic Forum, the Belarus-Slovakia Industry and Innovation Forum and a welding competition. The programme will also feature international conferences to discuss modern technologies and new equipment for the manufacturing industry, the prospects for additional technologies and the use of composite materials in the petrochemical industry. There will also be the *Science and Industry, Strategy of Innovative Co-oper-*



ation subcontracting exchange, which showcases innovative solutions, as well as an event to discuss co-operation strategies in science and industry, seminars and presentations. Participants of the international conference will discuss the prospects of establishing a smart industry in Belarus.

The forum has been held since 1997. Over the years, companies from more than 30 countries have taken part in it; national expositions from the Ukraine, the Czech Republic and China were arranged. Russian regions and member states of the Eurasian Economic Union are also showing an increasing interest in the forum.

Finances for beneficial initiatives

By Vladimir Khromov

European Union to support projects to enhance the efficiency of energy and water resources in Belarus

As the Energy Efficiency Department of the Belarusian State Committee for Standardisation informs, the decision is laid down in the *EU4Belarus: Resource Efficiency Facility for Belarus* financial agreement. The budget of the new joint co-operation programme is €15m.

The Brest and Grodno regions have been chosen as pilot locations. The programme will help work out measures for investment activities taking into account energy efficiency, the more effective management of resources and modernisation of municipal and private infrastructure.

The European Union will also support the dialogue on state policy, co-ordination and co-operation between key groups, state bodies, local administration, the civil society and potential investors.

Credits for programme participants

The Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to consider lending €60m to Belarus for the financing of municipal water supply enterprises in October

The project builds on the existing scheme for financing Belarus' water sector, in particular, through investments in water supplies and waste water disposal. Subproject loans from the EBRD will help implement critical improvements in the management of the water industry in the cities and towns participating in the programme, including the modernisation of water supplies and waste water disposal facilities, network repairs, modernisation of pump stations and the acquisition of equipment for maintenance.

The EBRD is an international bank, which facilitates the development of the private sector and an entrepreneurship initiative in 38 economies on three continents. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is the largest institutional investor in the Belarusian economy at present.

Trading in a convenient form

Lithuanian broker of the Belarusian Universal Commodity Exchange (BUCE) has plans to increase the amount of timber it buys through the Exchange

A delegation from UAB Vigidas Pack (BUCE's accredited broker in Lithuania) has visited the central office of the Exchange to agree upon the amount of sawn timber to be purchased through the Exchange and the holding of joint efforts aimed at promoting Exchange auctions among foreign buyers.

According to Vigidas Pack's Director, Paulius Damasas, the company plans to expand the sales markets of Belarusian sawn products by reaching out to buyers from Northern Europe, Egypt, China and the USA. "We have recently been receiving many applications for the purchase of Belarusian sawn timber, not only from the EU but also from more distant regions, such as North Africa, Asia and the United States of America. In this respect, we are ready to purchase much more sawn timber through the Exchange. We expect the demand for this product group to keep growing," the Lithuanian businessman said.

According to the Exchange statistics, Lithuania is now the biggest buyer of timber products at the BUCE. In the first half of the year, Lithuanian businesses purchased more than \$45m worth of sawn timber, wood chips, technical raw materials, fuel pellets and briquettes through the Exchange.

Reliability and modern style remain the major priorities



The Minsk Automobile Plant has produced over 2 million vehicles in its 75-year history with promising new models introduced last week

By Vladimir Mikhailov

Trucks remain flagship models for MAZ, accounting for two-thirds of their vehicle production. To now, more than 1.5m Belarusian trucks have been produced, including dumper trucks and tractors. The second most popular are trailers and semi-trailers which have accounted for almost a quarter of the total output of the plant throughout its history. The proportion of buses is slightly less as their production was only launched in the 1990s. Passenger vehicles account for more than ten percent of sales. The production of cranes and other special vehicles is also developing rapidly.

Two events coincided this year for the Minsk Automobile Plant: the 75th anniversary of the enterprise and the production of their two-millionth vehicle. MAZ was once the leading plant in the Belarusian automotive industry but has been transformed into a widely diversified business. "In the coming years, we plan to accelerate technological development and to be more active in foreign markets," the staff noted.

At the moment, BELAVTOMAZ Holdings employs over 20,000 staff. MAZ is one of the largest manufacturers of trucks and passenger vehicles in Eastern Europe. Overall, the plant produces more than six hundred models



and three thousand modified cars in four environmental classes. MAZ supplies vehicles to more than 40 countries, with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and other CIS countries being their traditional market. In addition, Belarusian vehicles are bought in many EU countries, but primarily, in Poland, Lithuania and Latvia, Africa and Latin America. In the Middle East, MAZ machinery is sold in Turkey and, in Southeast Asia, in Vietnam.

The plant was established before the end of the Great Patriotic War. From 1944 to October 1946, the company assembled cars from components and parts coming under contract from America. In just two years, about twenty thousand cars for the war effort and the

national economy were assembled and repaired.

Bus production at the Minsk Automobile Plant was established in 1992 under the license of German Neoplan. At present, 16 MAZ passenger vehicle models are produced. The company has mastered batch production of trucks and buses of all environmental classes, including the Euro-6. Among the new projects is the development of a series with a unified chassis. The universal vehicle-chassis will be combined with all the engines and gear boxes, various cabins and wheel formulae. Jointly with Weichai, MAZ has built a plant for the production of diesel engines and with Shaanxi Fast Gear, a joint venture for the production of gearboxes was



established.

For its 75th anniversary, MAZ organised an exhibition of vehicles in Minsk, presenting its third-generation buses for the first time. The first impression is that they are stylish, comfortable and unusual. Fresh ideas have been expected from Belarusian designers for a long time and Minsk's designers have exceeded expectations. Externally, the three-door low-floor car has become more solid in comparison to its predecessor. A 'hump' on the roof in front of the logo adds to its appearance and developers have even compared this feature to the silhouette of a bison. The stainless-steel frame has an extensive glass windscreen, visually increasing the space within the cabin.

As for the cabin, it's made in line with European standards and is more spacious inside. The layout of the seats has changed. Next to each chair, there are USB-ports for charging devices, appropriate for the time. Handrails covered with fabric, which are convenient to lean on, is in the central area. Usually, the cabin can accommodate more than a hundred passengers and depending on the model there are seats for around a quarter.

It's unknown how long there will be between the launch of the new bus and its batch production. At the moment, the vehicle is undergoing testing. This process, as well as mastering its production, will take about a year and only then buses will begin service.

Phenomenon of 'digital nomadism' gaining popularity

By Alexander Pimenov

Austrian and Belarusian environmentalists discuss sustainable economy and green investment opportunities

Minsk has recently hosted a meeting between Austrian engineer, Fabian Hilpert, and representatives of several ministries and governmental agencies, state-run organisations and NGOs to discuss sustainable economy concepts. "Climate



change is a key issue today. Our generation was the first to suffer from a surge in temperature around the world and is prob-

ably the last generation able to effectively combat the looming climate crisis," staff of the Austrian Embassy note.

Mr. Hilpert presented a project to harness alternative energy and raise green investments. The expert defined the phenomenon of 'digital nomadism' when a person can work remotely from any part of the world over the Internet.

The speaker outlined a set of problems caused by increasing carbon dioxide emissions across the planet and offered a number of solutions to reduce them, the construction of solar parks and reforestation. The fi-

nal part of the report dealt with examples of green investment, including the promotion of environmental start-ups and collaboration between science and business.

It was also noted that Belarus and Austria have similar climatic conditions. They both have great potential in the agricultural industry and are interested in bioresources. According to the Embassy, Austrian agricultural experts are set to visit Belarus in the autumn.

ECONOMY

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Action plan reflected in reality

By Vladimir Velikhov

BelAseptika and Tashkent Pharm Glass launch joint production initiative

To discuss the key points of the interregional project, the delegation of Tashkent Pharm Glass JSC has visited BelAseptika JSC located in Minsk. The agreement on the organisation of the production of antiseptics and disinfectants was signed last August during a visit to Uzbekistan by representatives of the Belarusian pharmaceutical industry. The plan has become a promising project for the implementation of the road map for co-operation, a document which includes 155 instructions for organisations and economic entities in Belarus and Uzbekistan.

In such a short time, the partnership has been raised to a high level. This April, BelAseptika and Tashkent Pharm Glass began a joint venture, BELASEPTIKA. Its production site will be located in Tashkent and the aims have already been defined. Production facilities are now undergoing regeneration.

“The specifications for the disinfectants are ready and per-



Partners discuss aspects of co-operation

mission from the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus, to open a settlement account in the Republic of Uzbekistan for the movement of foreign currency funds, has been obtained. Contracts have been concluded for the supplies of equipment required for installation on the production site,” explains Andrey Lukyanov, a manager of BelAseptika’s Export Department, who leads the project on behalf of Belarus.

Both sides hope that the visit will strengthen relations between Belarus and Uzbekistan in the development of the

pharmaceutical industry. “Our company is currently engaged in the production of medical ampoules, but we have additional plans for the organisation of new industries in the future. This joint venture is a product of the transformations in our country. Unfortunately, chlorine-containing products are still used in Uzbekistan for disinfection of health care facilities, industrial enterprises and social facilities. Thanks to the gradual creation of new technologies and scientific developments by Belarusian partners, we hope to establish

production of modern, highly efficient and safe disinfectants at affordable prices,” notes the Director of Tashkent Pharm Glass, Bekzod Zairov.

The founder of BELASEPTIKA, Khushnud Akbarov, pins hope on a longstanding and mutually beneficial partnership. “It’s one of the projects aiding economic development in Uzbekistan. Special attention is paid to the modernisation of the economy in our country. We are open to attract technology and investment. The Belarusian-Uzbek company will produce a wide range

of professional antiseptics, disinfectants, detergents and cleaners. We plan to sell our new products in the markets of Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan,” he says.

Joint production in Tashkent provides for additional areas of co-operation. BelAseptika offered to implement two more projects. “We are interested in the supply of raw materials from Uzbekistan for the production of medical cotton. We also would like to purchase waste from Uzbek enterprises for the processing of raw animal materials, in particular native bile, which is recycled in Belarus. Meanwhile, we have powerful equipment to process about 900 tonnes of raw animal materials a year for the production of pharmaceuticals,” Mr. Lukyanov adds.

Eight pilot samples of the joint venture’s products have already been manufactured. As a result of this, Uzbekistan will be able to register them in its own region. The antiseptics were demonstrated at the recent exhibition in BelExpo, timed to coincide with the visit of the leaders of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Belarus.

Successful blow to hepatitis

By Olga Savitskaya

According to WHO, about 325 million people in the world live with a strain of viral hepatitis. In terms of mortality, these infections are second only to tuberculosis (annually claiming about 1.4 million lives) while the number of people infected is 9 times more than patients with HIV. The worst thing is that about 80 percent of patients don’t have access to treatment... It only took our country a few years to fundamentally change the situation. Belarus has made significant progress both in terms of the diagnosis of viral hepatitis, and methods used to combat it, as is recognised by leading experts.

The motto of the recent World Hepatitis Day was ‘Invest in Eliminating Hepatitis’ addressed primarily towards various governments. Elimination means eradication, and international experts appreciate the contributions of Belarus to the common cause. We are the only country in the world where treatment for hepatitis C was launched despite the constraints of our budget. Before that, the treatment was long, ineffective and very expensive, the cost of necessary drugs added to the overall cost, which could be several thousand Dollars for a course lasting 3 to 6 months. The

problem was solved radically by the release of our own drugs, which are much cheaper. With the appearance of domestic generics, the cost of treating hepatitis C has decreased tenfold. Furthermore, the effectiveness of our drugs exceeded all expectations: 96 percent of cured patients with the first genotype of the virus, 100 percent with the second, and 94 percent with the third. Every year, between four and six thousand people with hepatitis C receive free treatment. There is progress, over the past 13-15 years, cases of hepatitis C in its acute form have halved.

Today we have about 33,000 cases of hepatitis C registered and every year another 3,000 new ones are detected. Furthermore, about 90 percent of all patients are people of working-age from 30-40 years. It’s hard to believe that some 10 years ago, hepatitis C was considered an incurable disease, in fact, a death sentence, but now we are told it’s possible to recover completely. Another issue is that 9 out of 10 carriers of the virus may not know that they are in trouble; it’s not for no reason that hepatitis C is called the ‘silent killer’. We still have much work to do, because, in order to completely eradicate any disease, one must begin with a timely diagnosis.

Once there was a similar situation with other strains of viral hepatitis. In the early 2000s, the number of cases of hepatitis A, for example, was measured in thousands. Now we are talking only about a few dozen cases a year, and for the most part it affects tourists who picked up the infection abroad. What about hepatitis B? Its situation has also changed drastically, with enormous success thanks to the universal immunisation launched in the 1990s. So now a whole generation is under the protection of the vaccine, the incidence of hepatitis B is drastically reduced.

In 2015, WHO launched a large-scale programme to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030. Our country announced that it plans to reach this goal earlier, by 2028. The current progression of events shows that we are well on track to meet this target.



Introduced innovations have been proven to fulfil their value

Domestic software for 2nd European Games saved the country millions of Dollars

By Oleg Bogomazov

The IT-bloc — which included a large number of complex systems used by spectators, athletes, organisers, volunteers and the media — was created by the Minsk-based IT company, Synesis Sport. Their developments also include the chat bot Lesik, application and official portal minsk2019.by, as well as a messaging system for organisers and volunteers and the LOOM event management system.

“As a rule, during the preparation for such events expensive systems are often used. It seemed extremely risky to develop our own system, especially as we had just one year before the start of the European Games. However, as we applied Belarusian systems (rather than buying a ready-made template) we’ve

managed to save a hundred million US Dollars,” explains the co-founder of Synesis Sport, Nikolay Pititsyn.

The organisers of the recent European Games in Minsk began to use the services on October 1st, 2018. At that time, the first modules of the LOOM event management system were launched.

The service processed registration forms, distributed places in hotels, compiled the schedule of services at sports facilities and planned the work of volunteers. Furthermore, the module which controlled the volunteer’s movements conducted online tests to determine their language skills.

International experts were also involved in the project and the best foreign experiences were taken into account, with innovations also being introduced.

Most delicious summer day

Motol Delicacies
celebrated at Ivanovo
District of Brest Region



By Alevtina Chernovolova

The history of the *Motol Delicacy* festival began in 2008 and, since then, it has transformed into a true representation of the Ivanovo District of the Brest Region. The gastronomic festival is known not only in Belarus but also abroad. In 2015, the event gained international status. This year, the guests were treated not only to traditional Belarusian dishes, representatives of Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Latvia and Algeria also came, bringing their own cuisine.

Initially, the festival was held annually but has since taken place every two years. The hosts have more time to prepare and to surprise the guests with new ideas. It is worth saying that Motol residents have exceeded the expectations of thousands of tourists who come here, offering them shopping stalls on the central streets of the agricultural town. Local people offer dishes of fish, meat and potatoes, in addition to desserts.

“Preparation of *Motol Delicacies* is a ritual and we meticulously plan the details, including the decoration of tables and the menu. We try to surprise our guests to make them appreciate our food. We all represent different professions but come together as a team,” says local resident, Tamara Zhaliy. She meets us at farmstead, at the entrance to the festival area. Here, liver sausage, duck with apples, pies and stuffed fish are offered.

Among those attending was the Chairman of the Regional Executive Committee, Anatoly Lis. “It is nice to see so many people here who’ve come not only from different parts of our country, but also from abroad. The Motol festival is growing and expanding. This agro-town is rich in its traditions and famous for its culinary skills,” the Governor said during the opening ceremony.



Motol has long been known for its textiles and weaving products and many have heard about the famous local sausage. Actually, the site is an example of the effective development of entrepreneurship and business initiative. Two dozen private enterprises and about 70 individual entrepreneurs successfully operate here. “Over the years, our culinary festival has become very popular, enabling us to exchange experiences, develop and strengthen international ties. It also contributes to the attractiveness of our small homeland. It is very important that the traditions and customs of the people have not disappeared, passed down from generation to generation, preserving the identity and flavour,” the Chairman of the Ivanovo District Executive Committee, Alexander Tkachuk, believes.

Residents of multinational Motol keep the secrets of cooking many traditional dishes and Jewish cuisine is a central part of them. It’s no wonder, the first President of Israel, Chaim Weizmann, was a native of this place. “We took traditional Jewish cuisine as the basis and have cooked many interesting dishes, such as falafel, patties fish and tsimes,” explain Yelena Pilipenko and Gulmira Sidorovich. The women share recipes that might be appreciated by both meat lovers and vegetarians. Falafel are fried balls of crushed beans, soaked and ground. Onions, carrots



and spices are added to the mixture which is then separated into balls, which are then deep-fried. The forshmak also looks delicious. This dish is made from herring, boiled egg, green apple and white bread soaked in water and vinegar. The ingredients are minced, seasoned with vegetable oil and served.

Many guests, having tasted *Motol Delicacies* once, come to the festival again, among them is Daria Masyuk, from Ivanovo. “Each time, I have new experiences and try different dishes. It is very interesting to try classic Belarusian cuisine, something which is impossible to cook now as we lack a proper oven or the recipes,” she says. She has come to Motol with her friend Daria Grin. “I’m here for the first time, but I want to come again. There are many good first im-

pressions and everything is so delicious,” she admits.

Yelena Motina and her daughter Diana also attended the festival for the first time. They came from Latvia, bringing dishes of their national cuisine. Treats are relished by the guests. “We’ve taken peas fried in fat, bacon rolls, caraway cheese and have almost nothing left, everyone tries our dishes,” Yelena says, noting that almost everyone is surprised by peas cooked in a pot. “It may not look very presentable but, after tasting it, everyone loves it. Grey peas need to be soaked overnight and then mixed with lard and onion. The mixture should then be cooked in an oven for approximately two hours, at a temperature of about 120 degrees,” she says, also appreciating the generosity of Belarusians and their hospitality.

Gourmets appreciate the meat treats cooked by the employees of Ivanovo’s Napoleon Orda Regional Museum Complex. “We treat guests, telling them about the cuisine of the 19th century. Babka [baked grated potatoes] and draniki [potato pancakes] were the main dish of the nobility, who also loved sauerkraut and cucumbers. People worked hard and the food had to be high-calorie. Visitors to our festival will also need lots of strength,” said the Director of the Museum Complex, Olga Kravchuk.

All those coming to the festival are offered dishes cooked from 19th century recipes. The two-day holiday has a rich programme, which is interesting not only for tourists but also for experts. During a scientific conference, experts discussed the possibility of tourism as a driver of economic and cultural development of the region. “Gastronomic tourism is now a trend. When we were launching *Motol Delicacies*, it looked like a wonder. Later, other regional culinary festivals were established. However, the Motol festival remains unique; there is no other such a large-scale festival dedicated to food in Belarus,” the Chair of the Country Escape Belarusian Public Association, Valeria Klitsunova said. “Food is a key element of culture, it always accompanies rituals and each dish has its own history. Motol is rich in these. We want the local festival to become more meaningful each time.”

Europe battles with regulations as two-wheeled vehicles take off

As electric scooters become increasingly popular across Europe, cities are struggling to regulate their use following a spate of accidents

The two-wheeled vehicles, which can travel at speeds in excess of 50km/h, have been involved in hundreds of incidents, including several deaths. Germany is now looking to enforce 'clear' and 'binding' laws, its transport authorities say. Regulators must decide if scooters are for pavements, cycle paths or roads.

As the vehicles have small, electric motors to power them, it is proving tricky to establish the safest spaces for both users and bystanders.

The scooters, which are now available in more than 100 cities across the world, have been flooding streets since the introduction in recent years of sharing schemes similar to the cycle hire projects.

The vehicles are also growing in popularity due to their low environmental impact compared with other modes of transport.

An explosion in the popularity of motorised scooters appears to have caught governments off guard, and companies that manufacture and supply scooters are not currently required to provide certain safety features — some scooters only have one brake and can be difficult to stop when travelling at speed.

Since January 2018, at least 11 deaths have been linked to the scooters in cities including Paris, Brussels, Barcelona, Stockholm and London.



The use of electric scooters in public is permitted in many European countries, such as Germany, France, Austria and Switzerland.

But laws in the UK and Ireland ban them from pavements and roads — the only place they can be ridden is on private land, with the permission of the

landowner. Riders caught using them in public in the UK face a £300 fixed-penalty notice and six points on their driving licence.

Sweden has banned the use of any motorised scooters capable of speeds beyond 20km/h from its cities' bicycle lanes. In Paris, fines of €135 were recent-

ly introduced for riding electric scooters on pavements, and a €35 penalty is issued to users parking vehicles in doorways or blocking pavements. France is also expected to give cities more power to regulate scooter use later this year, although it is not clear what measures will be implemented.

Italian architect Stefano Boeri unveils plans for creating Africa's first 'vertical forest'



Home to the ancient pyramids, Egypt is no stranger to architectural innovation. So it is no surprise that it is set to become the first African nation to host a 'vertical forest'

Italian architect Stefano Boeri has unveiled plans for three cube-shaped 'vertical forest' apartment blocks for Egypt's new administrative capital, currently being built in the desert 30 miles east of Cairo.

Mr. Boeri is an architect on a mission. A manifesto published

on his firm's website commits to 'a global campaign on urban forestry' that spans city farms, roof gardens, green facades and other forms of public greenery. His signature tower blocks, first erected in his home city of Milan, are adorned with lush foliage which not only looks beautiful but also provides environmental and health benefits.

Working in conjunction with Egyptian designer Shamaa Shalash and Italian landscape architect Laura Gatti, Mr. Boeri's practice — Stefano Boeri Architetti — has unveiled de-

signs for three buildings covered in planted terraces in Egypt.

Each of the three will measure 30 metres by 30 metres, and rise seven storeys high. The expert estimates that the trio, designed for property developer Misr Italia Properties, will hold 350 trees and 14,000 shrubs of over 100 species overall.

According to Mr. Boeri's website, the vertical forest scheme is a 'project for the environmental survival of contemporary cities' designed to promote the 'coexistence of architecture and nature in urban areas'. They seek to regenerate urban environments without expanding the city's sprawling footprint. Each tower of trees aims to provide its human residents with an average of two trees, eight shrubs and 40 bushes each.

The inaugural project in Mr. Boeri's home city Milan opened in 2014. In September 2018, 'Vertical Forest' was named among four finalists for the RIBA International Prize, a biennial award honouring the world's best new buildings.

The purported benefits of this garden architecture transcend aesthetics. Greenery, supposedly, provides shade to apartments, psychological benefits to residents and a home to wildlife.



Disney earnings miss forecasts as costs rise for its streaming future

Walt Disney Co reported a steeper earnings decline than Wall Street expected as the company poured money into its ambitious plunge into streaming media and began folding in assets purchased from Twenty-First Century Fox

Shares of Disney, which had risen 27 percent this year and hit an all-time high recently, dropped as much as 5 percent in after-hours trading to \$135.

Excluding certain items, Disney earned \$1.35 per share for the quarter that ended in June, below average analyst estimates of \$1.75 per share.

Disney, the owner of ESPN, a movie studio and theme parks, is investing heavily in digital media platforms to challenge the dominance of Netflix Inc.

Its biggest digital bet, a family-friendly subscription service called Disney+, is scheduled to debut in November. Shows aimed at adults will be concentrated on Hulu, which Disney now controls.

The direct-to-consumer and international unit reported an operating loss of \$553 million from April to June, wider than the \$441 million loss analysts were expecting, and up from a

\$168 million loss from a year earlier. Costs piled up from consolidation of Hulu and spending on Disney+ and the ESPN+ streaming service, Disney said.

Future digital investments will lead to a roughly \$900 million operating loss in the direct-to-consumer unit in the quarter that ends in September, the company said, compared with expectations of a \$593 million loss.

For the just-ended quarter, executives said Fox's film studio performed worse than expected while the costs to broadcast cricket through Fox's Star India were higher than anticipated.

"Some of the other misses seem to be related to the integration of Fox," said analyst Jim Nail at Forrester. "I would speculate that they have decided to take all their lumps this quarter and put all this 'bad' news together, clearing the board for better results next quarter."



At the exhibition of Georgy Skripnichenko's works at National Historical Museum

Fascinating myths and legends of artist Georgy Skripnichenko

Exhibition of pictorial and graphical works by the painter marches successfully through the halls of the National Historical Museum and Minsk's Artel Gallery, leaving enthusiastic reviews behind

By Veniamin Mikheev

Georgy Skripnichenko — the first and most significant representative of Belarusian surrealism, a superbly talented painter, whose works belong to the golden collection of the Belarusian artistic legacy — was vivid both in life and creativity. His external appearance emphasised his artistic life — never dull, and full of creative ideas, while his bohemian style relied on complete devotion to art, manifested in great diversity of genres, formats and techniques. He created single works and whole series of pictures, often returning to his previous pieces. He didn't like to sell them because he cherished them like children, putting his heart and soul into each one.

The exhibition showcases Mr. Skripnichenko's works taken from both his family and private collections. Fortunately, during his lifetime, one of the Belarusian banks helped him release a volume of his works which is now seen as a bibliographic rarity. Another album, with the painter's graphical pieces, was released after his death, though the artist himself selected the works for this edition. Both are on display at the exhibition.

The apparent similarity between the artist's and Salvador Dali's work often arouses the desire to draw parallels between the two masters. However, when we delve into the world of images from the paintings by Georgy, all the comparisons dissolve, revealing the complex, sometimes mystical quality of his creativity. Just as Mr. Skripnichenko himself aroused the admiration of those who were



touched by his charm, so his works fascinate viewers today. Though comparisons can cause the loss of something unique and individual to the artist, the title of 'Belarusian Salvador Dali' has been to Georgy.

The exhibition gives viewers the opportunity to get to see paintings never before on show, as well as a special selection of graphic works from the master's catalogue.

I recall November and December 2016. For two months, the National Art Museum of Belarus advertised an exhibition project in memory of Georgy Skripnichenko (the artist died four years ago) — a grandiose event giving a great amount of attention to the personality of one, albeit very talented master. At that time, over 50 paintings and graphic works from the collection of the artist's family were on show, relating to different periods of his work: from early works to the more mature, showing the development of his art in a modern way.



“Allegory and metaphor, improvisation and unbridled fantasy were an organic form of existence in art for Georgy Skripnichenko,” says Yekaterina Izofatova who heads the museum's Department of Contemporary Belarusian Art.

In his creative world there was a place for fabulous and seemingly unrealistic landscapes, variations on the themes of classical art, biblical and mythological characters, famous historical figures and images of his contemporaries, a kaleidoscope of human states, suffering and comforts, anxieties and hopes. Everything that the artist explored turned under his brush

with a subjective creative eye, attracted the most attention.

Favourite motifs of the artist's works include female images, often with portrait features, in a surreal interior. These works are characterised by a touch of dream-like fantasy, the transformation of reality in a historic-romantic vein. They are peculiar picture-parables.

At this exhibition, the vivid and original artistic language of Mr. Skripnichenko involves the audience in an associative game from the very first moment. There is no irony, everything is serious and honest.

Few Belarusian artists can boast that their works are on permanent display at the country's major museum. Among these is Mr. Skripnichenko, who paved the way for recognition with his talent and skill. He considered himself a realist artist though the external, formal side of his paintings does not confirm this fact. He has landscapes and still-lives, but most of the work is of a different character. These paintings contain realistic figures and objects; they are all carefully portrayed, but they are only details of the author's overall plan.

Mr. Skripnichenko liked to interpret space and time and to reflect them with his own images — sometimes understandable only to him. He is an ironic artist; he knew how to think about serious things with a grin. It was no accident that the names of the paintings were complex, probably because he combined things that were not quite compatible in life on his canvas but has always sought to leave the meaning on the surface — for those attentive viewers.

into an allegorical picture of time and the Universe.

It is puzzling to consider how, in the information vacuum of Soviet society, with a negative attitude towards the traditions of modernist art, images could be created balancing on the verge of reality and surrealism, combining the fantastic and the naturalistic, physical and material.

He first began with landscapes, sketches and portraits. However, even while studying at the Minsk Art College in the 1960s, there was a gradual departure from the descriptive realist style to the realities of the inner world. Even then, Georgy opened up opportunities for a rich intellectual game without rules, a flight of improvisations, which later effectively and unpredictably combined in graphic and pictorial works.

The figurative system gradually emerged where the artist's thoughts on plots drawn from the Old Testament, ancient mythology and world history, painted

Love topic is always relevant

The Yakub Kolas National Academic Drama Theatre premieres *Once Again About Love*, a play based on the stories of Vasily Shukshin

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

The play includes five stories based on the tales of Vasily Shukshin: *Raskas*, *Stepka's Love*, *Bespaly*, *Boots* and *Autumn*. The production was directed by the Honoured Artiste of Russia, Yuri Pakhomov. He also created the staging and organised music for the play. Andrey Zhigur is the Artistic Director and Ales Zam-

kovsky translated the stories into Belarusian.

The characters in this performance are ordinary people, who feel and openly express tenderness, passion, betrayal and spiritual suffering. Everything in the play is united by a single topic: love.

Director Yuri Pakhomov creates a close and intimate dialogue between the actors and the audi-

ence, demonstrating touching life pictures filled with unique humour, simplicity and originality.

The atmosphere of Mr. Shukshin's stories is recreated by Vitebsk's artistes. The cast features Natalia Aladko, Georgy Loiko, Vladislav Zhuravlev, Artem Geryak, Polina Krashenskaya, Alexey Stoma, Artem Blokhin, Svetlana Sukhodolova, Raisa Gribovich, Yevgeny

Beresnev, Victoria Shamardina, Piotr Laman, Vadim Asvetinsky, Gennady Gaiduk, Svetlana Zhukovskaya, Alena Chistobaeva and honoured artistes of Belarus — Galina Bukatina, Tatiana Likhacheva and Viktor Dashkevich. They perform several parts each, changing them as the storytellers transform into the characters and the main characters take on minor roles. In the

clear imagery of Vasily Shukshin, it's easily possible to recognise oneself, as well as neighbours, friends and colleagues who we meet daily at the shops, on public transport and at work. Although the atmosphere of the play remains set in the 1960s and 1970s, the theme of the production is timeless. The recognition of pure love will definitely be of interest to young and old alike.



A scene from *Once Again About Love*

Delving deep into history

By Olga Korneevea

Archaeologists and volunteers discover fragments of the countryside residence of the 12th century Polotsk dukes on the banks of Cherstvyaty Lake in Ushachi

This archaeological excavation has already lasted a month, but only recently have they found fragments of the countryside residence of the 12th century Polotsk dukes. Historian Vasily Voronin previously suggested the hypothesis that the land owned by the 16th century Polotsk estate could date from an earlier period. "We've managed to confirm that there were royal possessions here. Now we have found a definite location, but similar constructions are also present in other places," said Marat Klimov, a senior research officer of the History Institute of the NAS of Belarus.

During the first excavation, specialists unearthed a household building. Now they are working at the second excavation site where



they have already discovered a stove and a royal brooch from the 12th century, as well as an arrow head and ceramics. All these confirm the fact that a person of high-status lived here.

"For the first time in the history of Belarusian archaeology we have identified similar fragments from residences outside cities. At present, we can't confirm the names of the dukes who may have lived here. Theoretically, Vseslav the Magician could have also fought here," adds archaeologist Marat Klimov.

It is known that, during the civil war, the prince's residence burnt down, as human remains were found, yet it's not known what period they belong to.



By Natalia Yemelyanova

A famous musician from Turkey, Fazil Say, to perform at 14th International Yuri Bashmet Festival in Minsk

On October 2nd, the Main Hall of the Belarusian State Philharmonics will host the performance of the East-West Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Rostislav Krimer. The

Opening a music world of images to the audience

concert will feature laureates of the most prestigious international competitions and pianists from leading orchestras. As a guest soloist, Fazil Say, a pianist and composer who gives concerts not only in Philharmonic halls but also stadiums, will perform. His albums have received many prestigious international awards.

"Fazil Say is the number one pianist in Turkey, a composer whose works are performed all over the world. He is a musician who is able to hypnotise the audience with his performance, opening a world of images to the listener," said the Artistic Director of the fes-

tival, Rostislav Krimer. "We are extremely pleased that he is eventually coming to Minsk."

The pianist will perform his *Silk Path*, as well as a concert for piano and orchestra of Mozart's music. After the interval, Viennese classics will be performed.

The 14th International Yuri Bashmet Festival will be held in Minsk from September 27th to October 12th. Musicians from around the world will perform at Minsk's best concert halls. Among them will be the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London which will give a concert in the Main Hall of the Palace of the Republic.

Evening full of joy

Guitar virtuoso from Italy, Tom Sinatra, gave a solo concert at Brest's ball which was held in the Brest Academic Drama Theatre in honour of the 75th anniversary of the city's liberation

By Aleksandr Pimenov

Tom Sinatra visited Brest for the second time and he is a favourite of the local audience. At the *January Musical Nights*, the artiste captured people's hearts not only with his virtuosic playing, but also with his special charm and charisma.

One of the best guitarists in the world came to the ball and has recently returned from a US tour. He admitted to the Brest audience that he'd thought about the city even while he was away. The performance by the instrumental music star lasted more than two hours without a break. Tom Sinatra played the guitar, mandolin and piano, performing original works and popular pieces from Rossini, Nino Roth and Frank Sinatra. Almost all of the maestro's songs were followed by shouts of 'bravo' and thunderous applause.



Tom Sinatra at his concert in Brest

Talking to journalists after the concert, Tom Sinatra called the night 'full of joy'. "At this concert, I gave my whole self: my energy, emotions and everything that was inside me. Belarus has a surprisingly attentive audience that understands me. I am very happy to be here," the musician said. His immediate plans include concerts in Italy and America, as well as work on his eighth CD which is due out next spring.

Tom Sinatra didn't announce another performance in Brest but didn't rule out the possibility. Not long ago, he got married to a woman from Brest who organised his concerts, Olga Begeza. "There are many surprises in an artiste's life. A year ago, I had no idea that I would find my soul-mate here. However, now I'm very connected to Brest. It is a very beautiful city, clean and cultural. It has a future, as amazing people live here. Never lose it," the musician said as he left.

Two games and two different outcomes

BATE defeats Sarajevo 2:1, Soligorsk Shakhtyor loses to Italian Torino at Stadio Olimpico 0:5; these are the results of the first Belarusian team matches of the 3rd qualifying round of the European Football League

By Vladislav Mikhalevich

From the very start of the match in Zenica, the Borisov team took their fate in their own hands and their tactics came to fruition. Moukam and Skavysh tore through the Bosnians' defence with short passes on the left side. Afterwards, the French BATE captain passed the ball to the centre of the penalty area from the goal line. Dmitry Baga was the first to receive the ball, he only needed to complete a clean pass from his partner.

After the ball was lost, the hosts took the initiative and tried to turn the tables but couldn't manage it until half-time. The second half began with Sarajevo's attacks, driven by noisy fans in the stands. However, it was again BATE which scored, Skavysh ran to counter-attack and was struck in the legs in the opponents' penalty area. Moukam approached and scored in the centre of the goal, under the crossbar. As a result, Sarajevo's frustrated fans began to



cause problems on the field and the referee decided to take the teams off until the uproar had subsided. The break benefited the hosts, who managed to score afterwards, Janjic headed the ball into Chichkan's net.

"It was clear that there was going to be a difficult match at Borisov-Arena, because Sarajevo are a good team," said BATE's head coach, Alexey Baga, commenting on the result. The return match will take

place on August 15th at Borisov-Arena and the winner will later face the strongest team out of Astana (Kazakhstan) and Valetta (Malta).

Meanwhile, Soligorsk Shakhtyor suffered a major de-

feat at Turin's Stadio Olimpico, the score 0:5. The hosts had an advantage in the 2nd minute when a pass from the right side was received by Andrea Belotti. In the 15th minute, the second ball entered Andrey Klimovich's goal, after a corner kick from the left side. Shortly before the end of the first half, Pavel Rybak had a good chance to score but, at close range, sent the ball above the crossbar. After half-time, the performance by Sergey Tashuev's trainees completely broke down and Andrea Belotti scored two goals from the penalty area. Later, Lorenzo De Silvestri and Kevin Bonifazi ended the match, to the Belarusians' defeat.

The return match will be held on Thursday, at Minsk's Dinamo Stadium. The winner of the Belarusian-Italian two-match 'duel' will face the best team out of Pyunik (Armenia) and Wolverhampton (England) in the fight to enter the group stage of the Europa League. The first match in Yerevan was won by the English club, 4:0.



Mastery of the skies

By Yevgeny Kharlanchuk

The Helicopter World Cup 2019 stage near Vitebsk gathered participants from five countries

The third World Cup stage attracted 19 teams from Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Poland, and the Czech Republic at the Kukovyachino airfield of Vitebsk aeroclub. For three days, the sportsmen competed in parallel fender and parallel slalom, in 'General' and 'Master' classes.

Near Vitebsk, sportsmen of all ages and skill levels gathered. Among them was the most successful crew from Russia, Yuri Yablokov and Konstantin Podoinitsyn, the winners of the last two world cups. Despite the competition, the participants from different countries are friendly and Belarusians

are worthy rivals for the Russians. Among the former are the pupils of Vitebsk's aeroclub, Nikita Laptev and Vladislav Kurs. "For me, helicopter sport is more of a hobby. I joined it in 2007, when I was an 11th grade pupil," pilot-instructor Nikita Laptev commented. "In 2012, I went to the World Championship in Moscow, where I won bronze in the junior category. I also won bronze medals last year at the World Championships in Minsk, as well as taking the second team place."

Poland will host the final stage in September, while the recent third stage of the Helicopter World Cup 2019 has been organised by the Helicopter Commission of the World Air Sports Federation (FAI), the Belarusian Air Sports Federation, and the Vitebsk aeroclub of the DOSAAF society.

Drew Shore moves to Minsk Dinamo

The official website of Dinamo-Minsk HC says an agreement has been reached to sign a contract with the 28-year-old American striker

By Yuri Makarenko

Previously, the hockey player played in the National Hockey League for Florida, Calgary and Vancouver. In Europe, he played in Swiss Klotten and Zurich. During the past season, Drew moved to KHL's Kunlun and will now continue his career in Minsk.



Drew Shore

Along with Enroth, Elliott and Gragnani, he is joining Minsk's Dinamo team in August.

The Director General of Minsk's Dinamo, Dmitry Baskov, commented, saying that Drew is universal, able to play both attack and defence positions. "He has excellent skills: skating, match strategy, passing... winning

over 60 percent of tackles in the last KHL season. In previous years, he helped his team, scoring an average of 0.7-0.8 points per match. It is important that he is moving to Minsk at the peak of his career and is well known to Craig after the Swiss championship. I think Drew will face no problems adapting to the team," noted Mr. Baskov.

Premiere of the new season

By Natalia Svetlova

Mogilev's Borisfen to play in the first draw of the Eurasian Basketball League

The tournament, which starts in October, will also feature two Armenian clubs from Yerevan, Aragats and Urartu, as well as Russian Arsenal

(from Tula), Moscow's MBA and Kazakhstan's Barys from Atyrau.

In the first stage, the teams will hold a two-round tournament (home and away matches) and then the four strongest will determine the champion and winners of the tournament as part of the final four, in March 2020. The deciding

stage will be held at the site of one of its participants.

In the new season, Borisfen's basketballers will also play in the European FIBA Cup, the championship and the Cup of Belarus. Last season, Andrey Krivonos' trainees won silver at the national championship for the first time, behind Minsk's Tsmoki.

Carnival of the week



Flamboyant carnival crowns Vulica Brasil Festival in Minsk

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 18th August. *Ancient Money of the East: Silver and Paper*
Until 18th August. *Spitak Tragedy: Retrospective of Memory*
Until 1st September. *Minsk and Sport. A Time Travel*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 20th September. *Prospective*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 14th September. *Sport is High Art*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

47 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 1st September. *Kazimir Malevich and 21st Century*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 M. Bogdanovich Street
Until 15th September. *Vasil Bykov: Stipples of Life*
Until 26th August. *Fairy Enchanting World*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 31st August. *Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait*

Until 15th September. *Ladies Tricks*
Until 15th September. *European Martial Arts: from Vulcan's Forge to the Arts of Mars*

YANKOVICH HOUSE

33A Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 12th September. *Poetry of Silver*

HIGH PLACE

2A Gertsen Street
Until 18th August. *Commonwealth*

YANKA KUPALA LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 17th August. *Being Honoured to Present — Ovanes Tumanyan*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 1st September. *Dangerous Beauty*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street
Until 1st September. *Life with Cold Blood*

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 22nd September. *Pictures of the Elusory World*

LOSHITSA ESTATE

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

THEATRES, CONCERTS AND PARTIES

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
15.08. Comedy about Penny Pincher
16.08. Love and Pigeons
19.08. House Upside Down 2
20.08. Mad Money
21.08. Happiness Is

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
15.08. Simpleton
20.08. Clinic

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
15.08. Opera and Operetta World Masterpieces
17.08. Days of National Cultures. Day of Ukraine's Culture
17.08. Classics by Town Hall: State Chamber Orchestra of the Republic of Belarus
22.08. Chopin and Music of 20th-21st Century: Summer Musical Nights at Upper Town

MELOMANY

23A Svobody Square
18.08. Lucine Lou Gevorkyan: acoustics

STANDUP COMEDY HALL

45 Kuibyshev Street
15.08. Underdog StandUp
16.08. Stand Up: Main Party
17.08. Stand Up: Nikita Shevchuk
18.08. Accelerations

GRAFFITI

16 Kalinin Lane
16.08. Cassiopeia

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritysky Street
16.08. 1980s-1990s Disco
17.08. Dai Darogu
17.08. 1990s-2000s Disco
18.08. 1990s Disco

COYOTE

117A Nezavisimosti Avenue
15 and 22.08 Retro Party

RIVIERA COUNTRY CLUB

Ratomka village, Minsk-Molodechno highway
16.08. Grand Piano on Minsk Sea Shore: Ludovico Einaudi, Queen, Elton John and others

ZAIR AZGUR MUSEUM-WORKSHOP

8 Zair Azgur Street
22.08. MorkvoTsvet / .K (tochka K)

MARRIOTT

20 Pobediteley Avenue
16.08. M Terrace: Maria Razumova

KILLFISH

4 Tolbukhin Street
15.08 GetUp Stand Up
21.08 Stand Up. Open Microphone

BRUGGE CLUB

6A Partizansky Lane
16.08 Summer Minsk Metal Fest

EXPEDITION PICNIC-HOTEL

Oktyabr village
16-17.08. Expedition-Tour International Festival