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Why pilgrims from different countries go to Tugolitsa church in the Bobruisk District

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Paralympic champion in cross-country skiing Lyudmila Volchok with her daughter Anastasia

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is celebrated in Belarus on October 14th, which is timed to coincide with the church holiday — the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos. A prayer service for the health of all mothers is held today in the churches of the country.

Meanwhile, throughout the week, numerous events are held on around the country to underline the importance of the role of mothers in the life of society: events, celebrations, competitions, round tables, flash mobs in social networks, themed evenings and concerts.

Official receptions for awarding the Order of Mother for women with many children are held in regional, city and district executive committees. Representatives of various fields of activity are rewarded for the birth and upbringing of five or more children.



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Alexsei Viazmitinov

Belarus — Venezuela: reboot

Trade, joint solutions in industry and construction and relaunching successful projects: these and other topics were under discussion between Aleksandr Lukashenko and the Special Envoy of the Venezuelan President



By Polina Konoga

Momentum for growth

Adan Chavez Frias is in Belarus for the second time. He first visited our country five years ago during the visit of Nicholas Maduro to Minsk. Welcoming the guest at the Palace of Independence, Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that he was pleased to pronounce the name of Chavez, “Belarus knows well and remembers its friend — your brother [Adan Chavez is the elder brother of the former President of Venezuela Hugo Chavez]. It’s good that you came at this time. We have lots to talk about, issues we need to discuss.”

The Head of State outlined the importance of the meeting, “We have a very serious, powerful base and foundations for our co-operation, laid back in the days of Chavez and Maduro. It must be said frankly that both Venezuela and Belarus are not fully using the advantages that were created many years ago.”

Indeed, in recent years there has been a serious drop in mutual trade. After 2017, when its value exceeded \$10m, last year saw only \$1.3m. The total export of Belarusian goods in 2020 increased 3.5 times compared to 2019, amounting to \$1.1m.

The President is convinced,

“We have much to rely on in order to counteract any attacks on our states in modern conditions. And we are determined to act in this direction. I think the time has come to revise our relationship and build even stronger relations. It’s strange that we have relations at this level in the trade-economic sphere. Moreover, everything that is in Venezuela is needed by Belarus. What is in Belarus is needed in Venezuela.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also ordered a study of the possibility of his meeting with President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro, “We need to prepare everything necessary so that the presidents can meet in the near future and stake out the areas of our co-operation.”

Points for development

In turn, Adan Chavez Frias thanked Aleksandr Lukashenko for the welcome he was given, “It has always been and remains a

great honour for me to shake your hand and greet you. Be sure that the Venezuelan people feel the same emotions towards the Belarusian people. Mr. Maduro sends you a huge hello. Our attitude towards the Belarusian people has not changed, since the majority of the Venezuelan people are Chavez supporters. They have exactly the same love for you.”

At the end of the meeting, Adan Chavez Frias shared with reporters that the parties



Belarus and Venezuela are separated by an ocean and seven time zones, but this has never been an obstacle for the two countries, relations between whom are very warm and friendly. Unfortunately, in recent years, the trade and industrial turnover between the two states has noticeably decreased. Receiving the Special Envoy of the President of Venezuela, Adan Chavez Frias, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “We need to build a plan for the resumption of our intensive relationship and implement it over the next two or three years.”

confirmed their mutual interest and support. Our countries and peoples have agreed to restart previously implemented projects, outlining new areas of co-operation in the energy, mining, technological, and agricultural spheres.

According to the guest, an agreement was reached that, by the end of the year, the Belarusian delegation will audit existing joint projects in Venezuela and outline new areas of interaction.

Referring to the successful joint projects that the countries have previously implemented, the guest noted the Santa Ines industrial complex in the state of Barinas, “Our main goal is to ensure the restarting of this complex, on the sites of which tractors, trucks and construction equipment are produced. The topic of housing construction is of great importance to us. In addition, it is necessary to restart the construction of agricultural towns, which were designed with the support of the Belarusians. One of the three projects has already been implemented, we need to breathe new life into others.”

The technology sector and the mining industry are also areas where the parties have mutual interest.



By Dmitry Umpirovich

“Thank you for coming to see how Belarus is developing, to see our socio-economic development and socio-political situation... I think that you will convey the real situation about our country to sane people, of whom there are many in Ukraine. Although many people know it: we communicate. People come and we exchange opinions. There are many twin cities, in previous years agreements on co-operation were signed between them, and people really liaise,” said the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament.

The guests honestly admit that our neighbours have little objective information about Belarus. The way Belarus is represented in Ukraine is very different from the reality. Their conclusion is firstly: we have order. Conclusion number two: there is the experience that can be borrowed.

“I am especially attracted by the fact that Belarusian enterprises can not only produce economic results, but also provide for people in social terms. The social security of people is keenly felt. This should be appreciated! In Ukraine, we need people who won’t run away from their country. You need to make it clear how you can transform your life. I am convinced that much that is being done in Belarus will be useful for us,” Oleksandr Moroz said in an interview with journalists.

Ukrainian politicians could see all this with their own eyes during a visit to two of our country’s agricultural enterprises: Mazolovogaz and Snov Agrokombinat. The guests were shown not only how the agricultural process is organised in Belarus, but also what the social aspects of our agro-towns are and what policies the state pursues in the countryside. They were greatly impressed!

According to the portal Ukraine.ru, this visit has certain political implications, “These are well-known and iconic personalities with whom whole stages of the history of Ukraine are associated. It’s no secret that trips of Ukrainian politicians to Belarus are taboo. Those who disobey will be harassed on social networks, the press, ostracised and the punitive authorities will certainly be interested in them. However, a miracle happened: in the Ukrainian networks and media there is a deathly silence, which usually does not happen in such cases.”

There can be only one explanation, they believe: the ground is being tested for the restoration of relations between our countries.

“We consider it abnormal that tension has arisen between our countries, first of all, through the fault of the authorities. It doesn’t have to be that way. It is necessary to apply the methods of public diplomacy. So that people

communicate and see what is happening. So that everyone can make a conclusion for themselves about what may happen next, and about future prospects,” said Oleksandr Moroz. “My conversation with you will not be welcomed by many in Ukraine, but I don’t seek to please everyone. I’m talking about what I’ve seen: a specific case, specific examples, evidence of a possible transformation of people’s lives. This is more important than the words of those who form the policy. I love Ukraine, I’m a true patriot. And I want there to be life

for people with a perspective for children and grandchildren.”

And one more important emphasis from the guests: it is not for Ukrainians to teach Belarusians how to live.

“Because our human rights, in my opinion and in my deep conviction, are not properly protected,” stressed Oleksandr Moroz. “We need to see what is being done, why you have third place in the world in the production of mining dump trucks, why your tractors are working successfully... All this says something.”

Ukrainian politicians visited Belarus

For three days the former speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksandr Moroz, ex-deputy Oleksiy Bereznoy and ex-minister of internal affairs Vasyl Tsushko got acquainted with our country. They managed to do a great many things: visit the regions, look at businesses and communicate with Belarusians and with their compatriots who live and work with us. High-level events also took place: the Chairperson of the Council of the Republic, Natalya Kochanova, met with the guests.

MEANWHILE

The Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Dmytro Razumkov, was dismissed by the deputies. It was initiated by the Servant of the People president’s party. Zelenskyy’s supporters accuse Razumkov of sabotaging some of the head of state’s initiatives, in particular the law on ‘de-oligarchisation’, and believe that the speaker has his own political ambitions, right up to the struggle for the post of the country’s leader. More deputies voted for the resignation than expected: 284 against the required 226. It was supported by many parliamentary factions, including supporters of Yulia Tymoshenko.

A hybrid war has been unleashed against Belarus, the purpose of which is to eliminate a competitor. The Government effectively resists external pressure. What other topics have been tackled by the President of Belarus at a meeting on countering sanctions measures.

New growth reserves

There is little good in sanctions. But it is also a chance to find new growth reserves. Judging by the performance of the economy this year, the Government is able to find effective counter-instruments. Both GDP and exports are growing. Aleksandr Lukashenko urges people not to slow down, and also to take care of each other, *“As the Prime Minister reports to me, there is no drama in the Government. I like the attitude to oppose sanctions. This is how we should work... We need to do everything so that ordinary families and work collectives do not suffer in any way because of our fugitive traitors and their western sponsors-curators who run around Europe and America, begging for sanctions against Belarus.”*

By Dmitry Kryat,
Polina Konoga

People's choice

The President noted that today no one doubts that the main purpose of this frenzied blackmail is not the fight for some mythical human rights or the revision of the election results. According to the President, this is also evidenced by the data of the study of public opinion, and not only by Belarusian experts, “I closely follow the media in Russia, America, Europe and in Belarus.

In Belarus, westerners conducted sociological research, as a result of which the Belarusians unequivocally stated that no Tikhonovskaya had ever won the election and they admit that the current President has definitely won.”

Confronting hybrid war

The Head of State pointed out the true motives of the sanctions pressure, “The goal is to eliminate direct competitors, ruin, destroy key enterprises, and ultimately strangle our economy. And, to put it bluntly, drive people into poverty through the closure of factories and massive unemployment, and at best — to bring them to the streets. We cannot and will not allow this.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko calls a spade a spade. A real hybrid war has been unleashed against Belarus and economic pressure is just one of its elements, “Today we are talking about the economic component, about the economic block of this hybrid war. Hybrid warfare consists of opposition and media warfare. You see, this is the most important area of influence on Belarus. This is an economic war.

This is a political war. And in all other areas too.

We need to not only promptly and coherently respond to all challenges, but also actively take preventive measures.

This is what we agreed with the Government: not to wait for December, but to look for ways out of the current situation.”

Belarus is awaited by foreign markets

The Head of State recalled that Belarus has an open economy, “It is more than 60 percent tied to exports and foreign markets.”

The Head of State recommends the Government act decisively in all directions,

“The attempts to restrict and intimidate us turn against the business and economy of the country that imposes the sanctions.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that the Baltic countries, Poland and Ukraine have already felt the negative consequences of the sanctions against Belarus. The Head of State stressed,

“You understand that we are not somewhere in the corner of a planet or some region. We are at the very crossroads, and it is impossible to close the country, which is located in the centre of Europe. This is crazy. Moreover, we have always been reliable partners in all markets.”

The President orients the Government towards a close study of promising territories, “We are looking especially closely at the African and Asian regions, where as many as 5.5 billion people live — 70 percent of the population [of the planet]. And there everyone wants to eat, but in order to eat, you need to have equipment. We have both. Yes, the current situation is a challenge for us. We are out of our comfort zone or we can get out. But at the same time, it's a moment to open up new opportunities, to mobilise and achieve results, regardless of any pressure.”

In this vein, Aleksandr Lukashenko cited the Russian Federation as an example, “They closed, as they thought, Russia, and Russia — discarding all the issues — looked at its internal reserves and took a giant step forward. This especially tackles those areas that have already been ruined since the mid-90s.



Chairman of the Board of the National Bank Pavel Kallaur and Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko

But together we can do more!”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, this was also discussed during a telephone conversation with Vladimir Putin before the meeting, “We can, we must, and Russia is ready to co-operate together across all areas that Belarus needs. It is for us to decide.”

According to the President, so far this has been achieved, “The results of the economy for eight months are significantly higher than the forecasted figures in terms of production, exports and incomes of the population. I have already said that the key task is to maintain these dynamics until the end of the year. And it will be a huge success, if not a feat.”

Separately, the President inquired about the situation in the potash, oil and aviation industries. At what stage is the agreement with the Russian Federation on seaports and on the opening of new routes? Not forgetting about the old ones.

“Taking into account that special groups have been created in the Government, I would ask you to provide information as concretely and to the point as possible, without going into details. If you need to resolve issues quickly, then there should be no red tape. Once again, I would like to draw the attention of all coordinating bodies. There should be no bureaucracy, all issues should be resolved as soon as possible,” the Head of State said as he outlined his requirements.

Optimistic figures

Analysing the results of the meeting in an interview with journalists, Belarus' First Deputy Prime Minister, Nikolai Snopkov, drew attention to the fact that the Belarusian economy is now demonstrating balanced and high-quality development,

“Three percent GDP growth is a good percentage and it is on a balanced basis. This is confirmed by the growth of exports, which increased by \$6.5bn.

For the first time since 2013, we have a high foreign trade surplus of \$2bn. This is an excellent indicator, I'm not afraid of the word, which forms the gold reserves, currency stability, peace of mind of people, and a normal economic atmosphere in the country.”

The First Deputy Prime Minister added that these trends should continue in the coming year. At the same time, he drew attention to the fact that the sanctions in this situation also affect us,

“But it's not for nothing that a wise Chinese proverb says that any crises are opportunities. Our capabilities are that we look at the situation from a different angle, evaluate business processes, export strategies and the ability of enterprises to purchase components.”

Trade won't stop

Nikolai Snopkov is also confident in stable supplies of Belarusian oil products and potash fertilisers to foreign markets, “Both the export of potash and petroleum products will be carried out on the basis of economic feasibility. Nobody says that now the export will stop. These are, I would say, just psychological statements on the Internet. Business will put everything in its place. The global market demand for these products will put everything in its place.”

Nikolai Snopkov recalled that some time ago, long-term contracts for the sale of Belarusian potash were concluded at the rate of \$210-215 per tonne.



Participants of the meeting: First Deputy Prime Minister, Nikolai Snopkov, Chairperson of the Council of the Republic, Natalya Kochanova, and Deputy Head of the Administration of the President, Dmitry Krutoi

Phone conversation

President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko had a telephone conversation with President of Russia Vladimir Putin

The heads of state discussed current issues in the development of Belarusian-Russian relations, the course of further implementation of agreements in the field of economic integration, as well as preparation of upcoming summits: meetings of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council and the Council of CIS Heads of State on October 14th-15th in Minsk, alongside meetings of the Supreme State Council of the Union State in November.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also warmly congratulated Vladimir Putin on his birthday, wishing him good health, success and the implementation of his plans.

According to the Press Service of the President

From Belarus with love

Forest of Future Technologies: how our country surprises visitors at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai

expo2020belarus.by



The new Dubai World Trade Centre has become the official site for the Expo 2020 Exhibition Centre

By Vladislav Sychevich

The World Expo 2020 has opened in Dubai. It will last until March 31st, 2022, under the slogan 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future'. More than 190 states are taking part in the event. For 182 days, the countries will showcase the latest developments, scientific achievements, export and tourism opportunities, as well as talk about their history, national culture and traditions.

There is lots to see

To begin with, we note that the world exhibition (or Expo) is one of the largest forums and events of the exhibition industry on the planet, where the participating countries present their latest inventions and technologies, as well as the most progressive achievements. Last year, it did not take place due to the emergence of a new global challenge for all mankind: the COVID-19 pandemic. The exposition was moved to the current year. Countries had more time to prepare their stands and surprise visitors. Expo exhibitions have been held every five years since 1851. The current one in Dubai was the first in such a format in the region of the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

The official site for the Expo 2020 exhibition centre is the new Dubai Trade Centre with an area of 438 hectares. The number of visitors is expected to reach 25 million, with about 70 percent from foreign countries.

There is lots on offer

In this largest event in the exhibition industry, our country is represented by the National Exposition of the Republic of Belarus with its own pavilion with an area of more than 1,400sq.m.

Yevgenia Komarova, Head of the International Co-operation Department of the National Marketing Centre, noted, "The Belarusian delegation was headed by the General Commissioner of Section for Belarus — First Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus, Aleksandr Guryanov. The opening ceremony of the Belarusian pavilion was attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the United Arab Emirates, Andrei Luchenok, alongside heads of the national pavilions of Moldova, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Monaco and others. Within the framework of the ceremony, the first agreement on media co-operation was signed between the pavilion of Belarus and Rus-



Expo is an opportunity to study and use the experience of other participants for the development of new technologies in one's own country

A CURIOUS FACT

The first World Expo was held in London in 1851, organised by Prince Albert. More than 25 countries took part in the exhibition and more than five million people came to look at the latest achievements of the 19th century. In order to showcase the exhibits, the Crystal Palace was built in London's Hyde Park. The unique building became the prototype for exhibition pavilions for many years. At world exhibitions, inventions are presented, which subsequently imperceptibly, but firmly enter the life of every person. For example, it was at the Expo that an escalator, a computer, an incubator, an artificial Earth satellite, a diesel engine were first showcased.

sian Emirates Publishing & Advertising."

On the first day of the event, the Belarus pavilion was visited by over 4,700 people.

The theme of the Belarusian stand at Expo 2020 is *Forest of Future Technologies*. It reveals to visitors that Belarus is not only a country with rich natural resources, but also a high level of human development, which is the basis for creating innovative products. The pavilion route is built on the concept of three 'I's standing for 'Innovation. Investments. Individual'. Visitors will be able to get to know Belarus better, as well as learn about the investment and innovation potential of our country. In order to make our pavilion as memorable as possible, the latest technologies have been used: interactive walls, virtual reality glasses, holographic images, etc. Moreover, special video content has been prepared about the originality and colour of Belarusian culture, its natural resources and artistic heritage.



The theme of the Belarusian stand at Expo 2020 is *Forest of Future Technologies*

Focus on business

The main emphasis in the pavilion is placed in the business area, where our enterprises of the petrochemical branch, industry, leading universities of the country, scientific institutes and organisations present their capabilities and potential, said Valery Sadokho, Director of the National Marketing Centre.

"In this zone, visitors will be able to see a 4D bioprinter, 'Busel M40' unmanned aerial vehicle, 'TurboSfera' energy-saving turbine generator unit and much more. In addition, visitors will get acquainted with the latest Belarusian IT-developments in the field of medicine, agriculture and education," he said.

Days for showcasing the Vitebsk Region have already taken place as part of the exhibition while the Days of Minsk will take place in early November. The Minsk Region exhibitions are planned

Celebration of the National Day of the Republic of Belarus at the world forum will take place on November 22nd. The Belarusian Investment Forum is expected to take place at the same time.

for December, as are the presentation of the economic potential of Belgospishcheprom and Belneftekhim concerns. Next year, presentations of the Brest, Grodno, Mogilev and Gomel regions will be held.

Celebration of the National Day of the Republic of Belarus at the world forum will take place on November 22nd. The Belarusian Investment Forum is expected to take place at the same time. The main attention of the Arab side — both government and business — will be drawn to our country.

The delegation of the Chinese pavilion and the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic have already visited the pavilion of the Republic of Belarus. The site also hosted negotiations with Emirati trade partners on interaction in organising tourism to Belarus, the supply of dairy products to the UAE and other countries of the Middle East region, as well as joint projects in the petrochemical industry.

"I would like to note that participation in Expo 2020 contributes to the solution of a number of the most important strategic tasks," continued Mr. Sadokho. "First of all, this is an image event aimed at positioning Belarus in the international arena as a promising and reliable partner. It is also a good opportunity to search for new sales markets and strategic partners and attract investment in high-tech and knowledge-intensive sectors of the domestic economy. Moreover, it is also a presentation of the country's economic potential, the most significant innovative developments, technologies in various fields, their high quality, availability and environmental friendliness. This will allow demonstrating the competitiveness of Belarusian products, their compliance with the requirements of the best world standards. In addition, Expo provides an opportunity to study and use the experience of other participants for the development of new technologies in their country. Millions of visitors from different countries of the world had the opportunity to get to know the tourism potential of Belarus better, evaluate its national identity, historical and cultural heritage, sports achievements, folk art, cuisine and traditions."

Towards new horizons

140 millionth tonne of oil produced in Belarus

The 'jubilee' tonne of hydrocarbons was produced at a field in the Rechitsa District, which has been in operation for more than half a century. The oilmen celebrated the achievement of the next landmark milestone in their usual manner — without leaving the wells. Both equipment and people work here 24/7 without interruption: there is no other way.

By Ruslan Proleskovsky

Aleksandr Kuzminich, operator at the Rechitsaneft Oil and Gas Production Department, knows from his own experience what efforts are used to ensure the continuity of the process. His seniority is based on thirty years of experience, "Of course, during this time, a lot has changed, with new technologies appearing and being actively used. Today we are producing heavier oil fractions from deep wells, developing two horizons at once. After all, the Belarusian black gold is still a valuable resource. I remember well the emotions I experienced in 1998, when the 100 millionth tonne of oil was produced. At present, it is already 140 million. I hope I will also see the 200 millionth tonne in my workplace."



Oil treatment unit, shift supervisor of the oil processing and pumping shop Dmitry Martyanov

Nowadays, about 70 oil and gas condensate fields are being developed in Belarus.

All of them are located within the boundaries of the Pripyat Trough. Almost half of the recoverable hydrocarbon reserves are concentrated within the largest fields: Rechitskoye, Ostashkovichskoye, Vishanskoye, Yuzhno-Ostashkovichskoye and Yuzhno-Sosnovskoye.

According to experts, all large deposits have already been discovered. Exploration continues for small deposits containing 100-500 thousand tonnes of recoverable reserves. A large-scale complex of geological exploration work is preliminary carried out: the location of the deposit, as well as its geometry and the volume of resources, are determined. Exploratory drilling is

then carried out, enabling the operators to explore more structures. At the same time, the stake is placed on modern technologies, they make it possible to keep production at a high level.

As Sergei Lasitsa, Head of the Re-



control systems and automation of production processes are being improved. Today we are approaching the introduction of a new method — the so-called digital deposit. It consists of the integration of all information and control



Oil and gas production operators Sergei Zabolotsky and Aleksandr Kuzminich

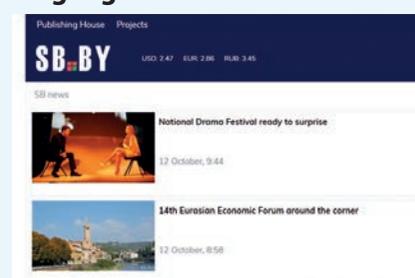
chitsaneft Oil and Gas Production Department, noted, production volumes have been increasing annually over the past four years, and this year is no exception, "Thanks to the implementation of the programme of geological and technical measures, it was possible to improve the efficiency of well drilling and field development. By the end of the year, it's planned to reach the production volume of 1 million 730,000 tonnes. Progress in our industry does not stand still: methods of production working with reservoirs are developing,

systems of the enterprise. In fact, we are talking about technology using artificial intelligence. This will allow automatic analysis of the operation and monitoring of the state of each well around the clock in real time."

In honour of the significant event, oil workers have unveiled a memorial plaque in the Rechitsa District. It should be noted that the 140 millionth tonne of oil was produced in the anniversary year for the entire enterprise. In February, Belorusneft celebrated the 55th anniversary of its foundation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Internet portal of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House has launched the English language version



It's available online at sb.by/en.

Visitors are offered informative messages and expert comments, as well as visual content about key events in the political, socio-economic, cultural and sports life of Belarus. This site also hosts the latest publications of our newspaper *The Minsk Times* — the English-language newspaper of the Belarus Segodnya Holding.

Factual and objective information about Belarus and its population is in great demand by media partners of the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House from near and far, which cover events in our country, including in English.

There is a significant audience in the world, ready to hear news from Belarus and the Belarusian position on what is happening in the country and abroad.

A branch of the Belarusian embassy opened in Vladivostok

The ceremony was attended by the Governor of the Primorsky Krai, Oleg Kozhemyako and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to the Russian Federation, Vladimir Semashko, TASS reports.



"We made a decision to move the embassy office from Khabarovsk, because the emphasis in the development of the Far Eastern Federal District has shifted," said Vladimir Semashko. "We are a country with an open economy, we must be able to promote 70 percent of our GDP, that is, products and services in different countries. Russia for us has always been, remains and will continue to be our main partner in all respects."

For the last eight months we have had a trade turnover similar to the whole of last year, added the Ambassador.

Exhibition on the Nuremberg Trials presented at the Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War

A temporary exposition, entitled *Nuremberg Alarm. With No Statute of Limitations* has opened in the Belarusian State Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War.

More than 200 unique items were presented at the exhibition, most of which are on display in Belarus for the



first time. Among them are original documents and items related to the preparation and course of the Nuremberg Trials. The main trial of the 20th century began on November 20th, 1945, and ended on October 1st, 1946. The International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg remains the largest legal act of representatives of different countries and ideologies, united for the trial of Nazism.

Belarusian Corner opened in the historical centre of Ankara

The Belarusian Corner has opened in the historical centre of the capital of the Republic of Turkey — the Fortress of Ankara, the Belarusian Embassy in Turkey reported. Here everyone can get to know works of art and fine arts by Belarusian masters. The Belarusian Corner is the initiative of the Turkish collector and philanthropist, Erol Ugurlu, who has Belarusian and Russian roots, implemented jointly with the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Ankara.

The opening of the exposition of paintings and handicrafts by Belaru-



sian artists and craftsmen was timed to coincide with the opening of the Turkish-Russian House of Friendship of Diplomats and Artists, which also houses the works of Russian and other art workers from the CIS countries.

Migration crisis becoming global



The European Union is seriously concerned: there is a growing risk that the migration crisis of 2015 will recur. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Frontex, has summed up preliminary results of the first eight months of this year, and they are disappointing for the old Europe. As of September, there were 64 percent more illegal crossings of external borders than a year ago (almost 104,000). The growth is explained by the lifting of restrictions on coronavirus.

By Varvara Morozova

The illegal top list still includes the Central Mediterranean route, which is especially popular with migrants from Tunisia, Bangladesh and Egypt, as well as the West African and West Balkan routes.

This summer, as every year, Frontex carried out Operation Minerva in three Spanish ports. Residents of the Iberian Peninsula need help screening those arriving from Africa, as drug dealers in the Strait of Gibraltar have a new lucrative business.

Alongside hashish, criminals began to transport illegal migrants to Europe. The gendarmes explain this interest by the desire of drug dealers to try a new business, no less profitable than the drug trade. Carriers receive hashish from wholesalers for each trip from 20 to 30 thousand Euros.

The income from the transfer of illegal immigrants is no less: from potential immigrants (mostly Moroccans and Algerians) they take an average of 2,000 Euros.

For North Africans, the amount is, of course, very big, but they are guaranteed a safe journey and the ability to avoid detention upon arrival in Spain.

Operation Danube

An international operation to combat organised cross-border crime took place in Central and South-Eastern Europe in

September. Border inspections yielded impressive results: in just a week, 144 suspected smugglers were arrested, 6,656 illegal migrants were identified, 76 forged documents and 13 stolen vehicles were found.

Frontex states that human trafficking is one of the most lucrative forms of organised crime, generating billions of Euros. And who will freely give up easy money?

Now it becomes clear why Poland did not allow observers from the agency to enter the border zone, although the European Commissioner for Internal Affairs Ylva Johansson requested this. Poland claims to be in control of the situation. Apparently, 'management' is translated from Polish as 'introduction of an emergency regime' so that journalists and human rights activists could not observe what is happening.

Recently, Polish border guards detained four more foreign citizens suspected of aiding illegal migrants. Among them are citizens of Tajikistan, Georgia and Syria.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian border guards inspected a ship with a cargo of fabrics that arrived from Turkey to the port of Odesa and found illegal migrants from Syria. During interrogation, they confessed that they were heading to Italy to visit relatives.

Both migrants reported that they paid 7,000 Euros for the opportunity to get to Italy.

Former Mayor of Italian Riace, Do-



menico Lucano — once known as a refugee rights activist — has been sentenced to 13 years and two months in prison. He was found guilty of facilitating illegal migration, extortion, perjury and embezzlement of funds allocated from the budget for the maintenance of immigrants.

The municipality of Riace financed the accommodation of thousands of immigrants, settling them in the nearby small town of Locri, in which there are almost no local residents. The 'guests' were also given the opportunity to study without interruption from work, as well as to enter into fictitious marriages.

For the proposed 'exemplary' model of refugee integration, the authoritative American magazine *Fortune* put Domenico Lucano in 40th place among the 50 greatest world leaders.

THERE MUST BE DIALOGUE

It is beneficial for the West to point the finger at Belarus and to create a stir on the border in order to divert attention from the real problems. PhD in Political Science, Professor of St. Petersburg State University, Natalia Yeremina, on the portal sputnik.by drew attention to the fact that there is no big threat and a sharp surge in migration across the border with Belarus,

"The fact is that there are other channels of migration, more widespread and well-known, and migrants are more likely to follow the traditional routes: through Hungary, Spain, by sea — and will penetrate into the EU.

Right now, a serious challenge for the EU is to prevent a sharp surge in migration flows. The experience of the migration crisis that it has already gone through. But it is important to understand that the EU will not solve the problem with migrants alone if it does not enter into negotiations with Belarus. There must be dialogue."

WHEN THE EARTH SHAKES

People are fleeing not only from war, poverty and unemployment. Climate migration has already begun in the United States: in summer, the United States experienced a series of devastating forest fires, hurricanes and floods. Due to climate change, the World Bank predicts mass migration. *Groundswell Part 2* report says that global warming will lead to the appearance of 216 million internal migrants by 2050.

Climate change on the planet will also affect other countries, whose residents will be forced to leave their homes and move to countries where you can breathe clean air. It will be extremely difficult for people below the poverty line to do this, so the world will face another wave of refugees in need of help.



Recently, the US authorities dismantled a Haitian refugee camp in the city of Del Rio. A little earlier, on the border of Texas and Mexico, almost 15,000 migrants who had left Haiti after the devastating earthquake, lived in makeshift reed huts.

Nuclear powers build capabilities while Doomsday Clock time has reduced tenfold over the past 30 years

100 seconds to midnight

Twenty-five years have passed since the opening of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty for signature. In this regard, UN Secretary General António Guterres published a post on Twitter, in which he expressed concern: humanity remains unacceptably close to nuclear annihilation. "Now is the time to lift the cloud of nuclear conflict for good, eliminate nuclear weapons from our world and usher in a new era of trust and peace," wrote the UN Secretary General. At the same time, the nuclear powers continue to build up their capabilities, and the time on the Doomsday Clock has decreased tenfold over the past thirty years. For the second year in a row, the finger is closest to nuclear midnight — 100 seconds...

By Ulyana Bushui

Reminder of inevitability



The symbolic Doomsday Clock first appeared on the cover of the University of Chicago magazine *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* in 1947. The magazine itself has been published since 1945, covering the issues of the danger of weapons of mass destruction, climate change and new technologies. It was founded by members of the *Manhattan Project* — a US nuclear weapons programme, in which scientists created the first three atomic bombs in human history: the Gadget, and the Little Boy and Fat Man — dropped on Japanese Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The founder and first editor-in-chief of the *Bulletin* was Dr. Eugene Rabinowitch, a native of the Russian Empire, a student of Einstein, graduate of the University of Berlin, scientist and poet.

In the first years, the clock — which symbolises the tension in the international situation and progress in the development of nuclear weapons — was 'tuned' by Eugene Rabinowitch himself, in consultation with his colleagues. After his death in 1973, the decision to transfer the clock hands was made by the magazine's board of directors, together with experts, including 18 Nobel laureates.

The clock has existed for 74 years already, and during this time its hands have changed their position 25 times (including the initial setting of 7 minutes in 1947).

The farthest — 17 minutes from midnight — the clock hands were pushed back 30 years ago. This happened in 1991 on a wave of optimism that arose after the end of the Cold War and the conclusion between the USSR and the United States of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. In all subsequent years, the arrows moved only forward.

During the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962), the world was on the verge of a nuclear war. However, since the crisis was resolved very quickly (within 38 days), the clock did not have time to react, and its readings did not change. From 1960 to 1963, the clock showed 7 minutes, in 1963 this time was increased to 12 minutes.

The farthest — 17 minutes from midnight — the clock hands were pushed back 30 years ago. This happened in 1991 on a wave of optimism that arose after the end of the Cold War and the conclusion between the USSR and the United States of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. In all subsequent years, the arrows moved only forward.

In 2020, the clock began to show 23:58:20 — closer to nuclear midnight than ever before. Midnight itself symbolises the moment of a nuclear cataclysm.

The authors of the project emphasise that the clock does not predict anything and, moreover, does not show the exact time, but serves as a reminder that the end of the world is inevitable if people do not think about the consequences of their actions.

In a state of readiness

In mid-June, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published its annual report assessing the current state of arms, disarmament and international security. According to the data, in early 2021, the number of ready-to-use nuclear warheads increased, but the total number of nuclear weapons that countries possess decreased.

In January 2021, nine nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea — collectively had 13,080 nuclear warheads. This is 320 units less than at the beginning of 2020.

More than 90 percent of the reserves are in the United States and Russia, while the rest is shared by Great Britain, Israel, India, China, Pakistan, North Korea and France.

The total number of nuclear weapons includes ready-to-use and reserve charges. Thus, the number of nuclear weapons ready for use increased from 3,720 to 3,825 units. About two thousand of them (almost all belong to Russia or the United States) are on high alert.

Experts point out that the number of ready-to-use warheads in Russia and the United States remains within the framework of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-3 or New Start), which was signed in 2010 and continued until 2026. In the United States, 1,800 ready-to-use warheads have been deployed at bases, and in Russia — 1,625.

The other seven states are also improving their nuclear weapons. For example, the UK plans to increase the limit on the number of such weapons from 180 to 260. China, India and Pakistan are also expanding their nuclear arsenal while North Korea is working on its nuclear programme. Due to the closed nature of this country, the number of warheads is not known exactly. According to experts, we are talking about 40-50 working missiles.



FIGURES

In 2020, the nine nuclear powers spent \$72.6bn on building up their arsenal. This is \$1.4bn more than in 2019. The data is cited in the annual report of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). The authors note that in terms of time, these countries spent \$137,666 every minute on nuclear weapons.



Doomsday Clock

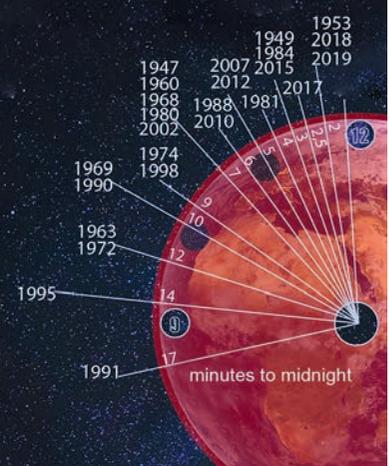
1949: Test of the atomic bomb of the USSR

1953: Test of the US hydrogen bomb

1984: Deterioration of relations between the USA and the USSR

2015: Global warming

2021: COVID-19 pandemic, nuclear arms race, climate change



Mahatma Gandhi went down in history as one of the founders of the struggle for Indian independence while also laying the foundation for future ideas of pacifism in the 1960s. Despite the fact that he was an ambiguous person, no one denies his enormous influence on the promotion of the idea of non-violence. We have collected the most interesting facts about the Indian thinker.

By Margarita Mironova

1. 'No' to violence, 'yes' to equality

There was no place for violence in the life of Mahatma Gandhi. He not only made great efforts to achieve independence for India from Great Britain, but also reconciled many of the warring ethnic and religious groups in this motley country. He called for the struggle to be waged peacefully, without the use of weapons and damage to property. And it was thanks to his authority that the Indian authorities officially banned discrimination against the untouchable caste — the lowest in the traditional Indian hierarchy. Unfortunately, in conservative Indian society, tangible inequality has not been eliminated to this day.

2. Pupil of Tolstoy

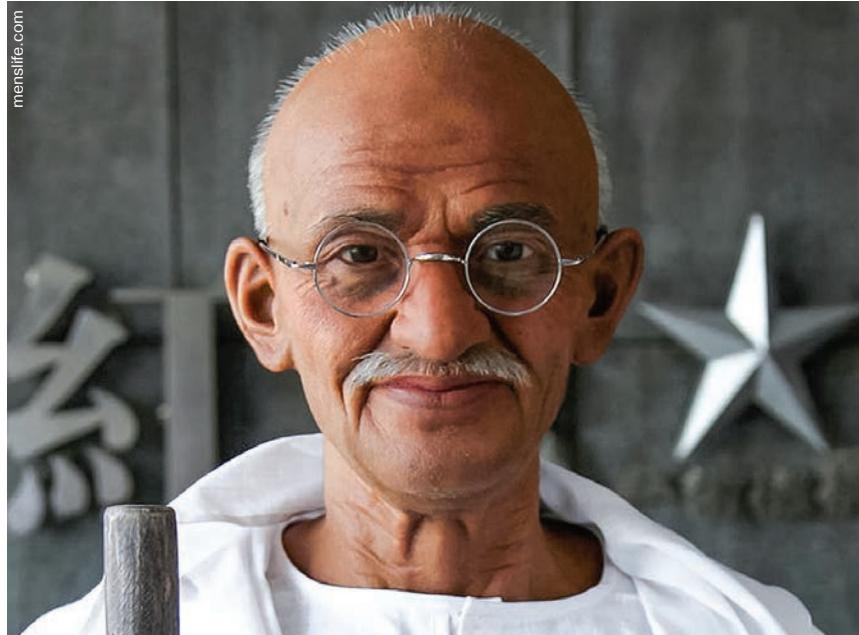
In 1908, Leo Tolstoy received a letter from the Indian revolutionary leader Taraknath Das, who asked the Russian classic for support in the issue of Indian independence. Tolstoy responded by publishing an open letter in which he expressed his support, while stating that resistance can only be non-violent. Later, this idea of non-violent resistance had a decisive influence on the views of Mahatma Gandhi.

3. Churchill's dislike

Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill hated Mahatma Gandhi, calling him a 'petty lawyer', 'half-naked fakir' and other unflattering epithets. This was largely due to Churchill's rather aggressive policy towards India, which was the complete opposite of Gandhi's views.

4. Life in Africa

In a short biography of Mahatma Gandhi, it is mentioned that in his youth



152 years of Gandhi: the most interesting facts about the Indian thinker

he lived and worked in South Africa, where there is still a huge Indian diaspora. During that era, apartheid was legalised in the country, and the Indian population was oppressed in much the same way as the native Africans. Gandhi went to South Africa to fight for the rights of Indians, while the problems of the local population did not bother him much, because of which he was even accused of racism.

5. Indian gentleman

While studying in London, the young Mahatma demonstrated to everyone

around that a native of India can be as gentlemanly as the native Englishmen. Despite the sidelong glances in his direction, Gandhi was extremely polite, courteous and showed a remarkable ability to learn.

6. Family difficulties

When Gandhi was only 13 years old, his parents married him to a woman of the same age, who became his faithful wife. Later, in their marriage, they had four sons, three of whom also became activists of the Mahatma Gandhi movement. But Gandhi renounced his eldest

son, because he did not support his father in non-violent approaches to the struggle. His son did not even come to say goodbye to his father at his funeral.

7. Alternative treatment

Gandhi did not trust modern medicine and allowed himself and his family to be healed only by traditional means such as incense and washing with water from the sacred river, etc. Even after the death of his wife, he denied the usefulness of drugs. Only when Gandhi himself fell ill with malaria, after much persuasion, was he forced to take quinine, which put him back on his feet.

8. Faith and controversy

Religion played an important role in Gandhi's life. It is known that he considered marriages between representatives of different varnas (estates of society from which castes emerge) unacceptable. When his youngest son wanted to marry a girl from another varna, Gandhi opposed this marriage for a long time. But over time, he changed his mind and called for the elimination of the caste system.

9. The only one worthy

For his work, Mahatma Gandhi was nominated five times for the Nobel Peace Prize, but never received it. Later, the Nobel Committee recognised this as a mistake, and in the year when Gandhi was killed, no one received the prize. The committee stated that there were no worthy candidates from among the living.

10. All for the sake of others

For most of his life, Mahatma Gandhi walked barefoot and wore the simplest clothes. He received many donations, which he invariably gave to charity, leaving nothing for himself.



First movie in orbit

A Russian actress and a film director rocketed to space on a mission to make the world's first movie in orbit

Actress Yulia Peresild and director Klim Shipenko blasted off for the International Space Station in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft together with cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov, a veteran of three space missions. Their Soyuz MS-19 lifted off as scheduled from the Russian space launch facility in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, and arrived at the station after about three and a half hours.

Shkaplerov took manual controls to smoothly dock the spacecraft at the space outpost after a glitch in an automatic docking system. The trio reported they were feeling fine and spacecraft systems were functioning normally.

Peresild and Klimenko are to film segments of a new movie titled *Challenge*, in which a surgeon played by Peresild rushes to the space station to save a crew member who needs an urgent oper-

ation in orbit. After 12 days on the space outpost, they are set to return to Earth with another Russian cosmonaut.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the mission will help showcase Russia's space prowess.

"We have been pioneers in space and maintained a confident position," Peskov said. "Such missions that help advertise our achievements and space exploration in general are great for the country.

Speaking at a pre-flight news conference, 37-year-old Peresild acknowledged that it was challenging for her to adapt to the strict discipline and rigorous demands during the training.

"It was psychologically, physically and morally hard," she said. "But I think that once we achieve the goal, all that will seem not so difficult and we will remember it with a smile."

2021 Nobel Prize winners

The award ceremony is scheduled to be held in Oslo on December 10th, 2021, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. In 2020, the ceremony returned to its former venue, the Atrium of the University of Oslo Faculty of Law, after being held in Oslo City Hall during the period 1990–2019.

Three winners were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2021 'for groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of complex systems'. Syukuro Manabe and Klaus Hasselmann were chosen 'for the physical modelling of Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliably predicting global warming'. In addition, Giorgio Parisi received the prize 'for the discovery of the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems from atomic to planetary scales'.

Another science-based prize, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2021, was split between two scientists, Benjamin List and Scottish scientist David MacMillan, 'for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis'.

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2021 was also awarded to two people, David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian, 'for their discoveries of receptors for temperature and touch'.

Moving away from the sciences, Abdulrazak Gurnah received the Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 'for his uncom-



promising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents'.

Meanwhile, the Nobel Peace Prize 2021 was given jointly to journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov 'for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace'.

Economists David Card, Joshua Angrist and Guido Imbens were awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their work drawing conclusions by observing the cause and effect of real-world economic actions.

Father Fiodor's life work

Why pilgrims from different countries go to Tugolitsa church in the Bobruisk District

In Tugolitsa, founded in 1924, there was never a church and locals went to Bobruisk to pray, baptise their children and get married. In 2005, they turned to the Bobruisk diocese with a request to organise a parish in their village. It was decided to arrange it in a building from the 1960s, where at one time there was a kindergarten and a post office, which had been empty for a long time and had fallen into disrepair. It took several years to agree on all the issues and repairs. In 2017, Rector Father Fiodor held the first service in the new church in honour of St. Sergius of Radonezh.



Andrey Sazonov

By Olga Kislyak

Grandma's prayer book

Although Fiodor Kashenok was born in Kaliningrad, in the family of a sailor, he considers Belarus to be his homeland. The ten-year-old boy was brought here by his mother, a native of Chausy. Once Fiodor discovered the 1840 prayer book in the closet of his grandmother: shabby, with no cover. Then he became interested in engravings and at the age of 14 he decided to learn the Church Slavonic language.



Andrey Sazonov

"In a bookstore I saw a textbook, according to which in 1904-1915 they taught rural children reading and writing. I mastered the alphabet and writing and wrote in a notebook with ink and a quill pen, which could be easily found in the private sector."

Nevertheless, after school, Kashenok chose a completely earthly specialty: a cameraman. After graduating from the specialised school of culture, he worked for a year in a club, located in the village of Antonovka, Chausy District, and at the same time he taught fine arts at a local school. But over time, he realised that the worldly life was not for him and submitted an application to the Minsk Theological Seminary.

"The competition was big: 150 applications while the recruitment was 40 people... I didn't get it the first time, I had to go to the preparatory department."

It is not enough to learn — it is necessary to be carried away

Fiodor restored the first old book even before he became a seminary student. *The Spiritual Poetry* of 1910 was given to him by his grandmother's sister, Valentina Bolozhko — Darya — who lived in the village of Romanovichi, Mogilev District.

"The book was in a deplorable state. I looked for a special paper similar to the original, cut it into 'ribbons', glued the pieces of paper to it. I did it in a week.

I knew little about restoration, but the process carried me away. Moreover, I also inherited the *Psalter* of 1880 and the *December Menaia* of 1788 from my other grandmother — Anastasia Dushko (Olshevskaya)."

...In a small room on the table there are brushes, matte tracing paper, newsprint (paper for restoration is even brought to Father Fiodor from Germany), twine, linen threads and a special binding machine.

"We scrape off the wax from the rarities, soak the pages in a solution of washing powder for 30 minutes, glue the damaged areas with a carbon copy, and sew them together again," explains Father Fiodor. "The cover of the *Menaia* was wooden, covered with blue satin. But I had to replace it with a leather one. The embossing was done by Grodno masters, the cover itself — by Bobruisk masters, from a tannery. We 'disassembled' the book, restored it and bound it again. Folios from the 18th century were made not of newsprint, but of fabric. You cannot cut it off, therefore you need to work extremely carefully so that the edges are even."

Father Fiodor has already restored about 500 ancient books — handwritten and Church Slavonic texts from the 17th-19th centuries. The restoration of one takes from a month to three years!

Together with him, the parishioner Ksenia Berezovskaya, who specially moved to Tugolitsa from Grodno, mastered the art of restoration and binding. She is a restorer, a psalm-reader and a cook (there is a kitchen

at the church, where they prepare meals for Sunday school pupils and pilgrims).

Plunging into the past

Father Fiodor has not only been reviving old books for 25 years now. He has created a unique museum, which contains about 300 exhibits, at the church. Ancient icons (he gives them to Aleksei Lipsky of Minsk for restoration), objects of peasant life, antique furniture, pre-revolutionary photos, coins, church utensils...

Things get to the museum in different ways. Local villagers donated a spinning wheel, a fragment of a loom from the middle of the 20th century, their great-grandmother's towels and pottery. Father Fiodor brought Kuznetsovsky porcelain from Nizhny Novgorod, as well as the pictures showing the dressing room during WWI. The icons of the 18th-19th centuries were donated by priest Pavel Lukin while Raisa Putilina of Bobruisk donated the icon from the 1880s 'The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem'. Meanwhile, the vestments of the priest, brocade of the late 19th century were presented by Archimandrite Kirill Badich from Khotimsk. This garment, embroidered with golden threads, is very heavy, and it is not easy to serve in it.

A corner of peasant life adjoins a noble one, which displays photographs of the Shchigelsky family (1914-1935), merchants Ageiko and Kerkevichs. Moreover, there is also a chic neo-Renaissance oak sideboard from the early 20th century with handles in the shape of a lion's head.



Andrey Sazonov

It was donated by a parishioner from Brest, the delivery was paid for by the Bobruisk's enterprise Krasny Pishchevik (the rarity costs about 5,000 Euros). Next to it there is a German piano, a 19th century wall clock that regularly counts time, a kufar chest — pasted over from the inside with pictures from an old fashion magazine — handed down by the descendants of the peasant poet, Pavlyuk Bagrim.

There are pre-revolutionary photographs of priest, Stefan Semenov, from Glusk (his son Aleksandr was a famous doctor) in the exhibition. The grandson knew very little about his grandfather. Father Fiodor filled this gap by working with the documents of the National Archives of Belarus. Relatives of the executed priests often turn to him, passing old photos of loved ones and asking to trace their fate. And he helps.

Father Fiodor's special pride is vinyl records. He received them from a resident of Tambov. One of them bears the voice of Tsar Nicholas II. It is turned on once a year, on special occasions. An exception was made for us, they brought in an antique gramophone with a bell and a handle. The feelings are inexpressible, as if you're plunging into the past...

When the time came, they sacrificed silver

At the request of the villagers, Father Fiodor also restored a wooden chapel in the village of Voronovichi, which had been burned down in the 1970s.

"To put it in its former place, the locals cut down the bushes, took out 15 trailers of garbage and collected money for construction. They decided that everyone will pay for their own personalised log. The money was collected quickly, in two weeks they made a blockhouse. A capsule with the names of the donors was laid at the entrance. However, there was not enough for the roof, therefore, we went to Minsk, to the St. Elisabeth Convent.

Having listened to the service, we went to the porch with a donation box, into which the parishioners threw money. When we returned home and calculated what we had collected, we were amazed. The amount was exactly what was needed for the roof of the chapel!"

When the time came to buy church utensils, Father Fiodor asked the parishioners to donate silver items that could be melted down, and people carried torn chains, rings, earrings... Of these, a master from Minsk cast a liar with a cross for communion and a star — one of the sacred vessels used in the liturgy.

Today Father Fiodor conducts services in Tugolitsa and Voronovichi. He is glad that people are drawn to faith and are interested in history. On Sundays, tourists from the capital and a professional guide from Mogilev come to the museum at the church. Pilgrims to Tugolitsa travel from all over Belarus, as well as from Kazan, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Georgia and Greece.

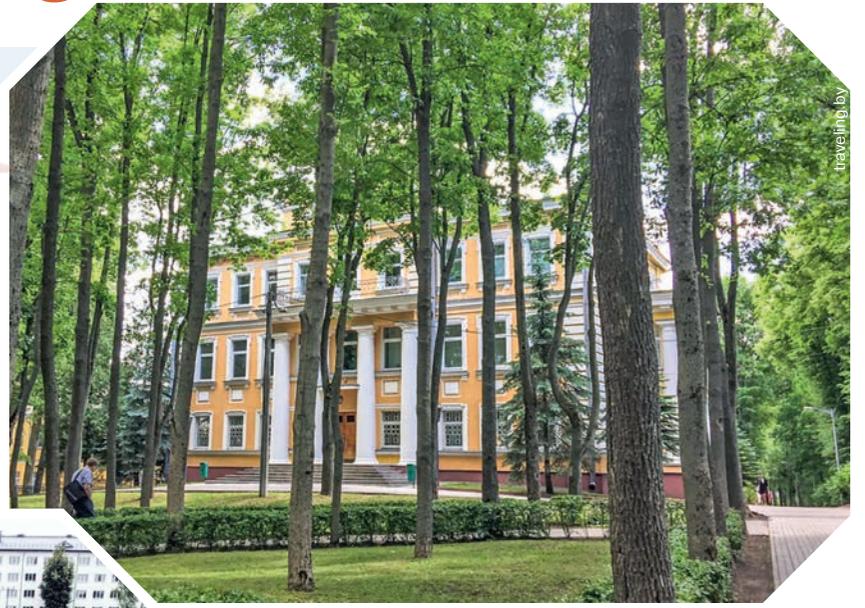
Ancient parks of Belarus

By Sofia Arsenyeva

Drinking champagne in a Napoleonic style

Vitebsk welcomed the French Emperor favourably in 1812. At least, it seemed so to Napoleon himself at first. “Gentlemen, the campaign ends here. The army needs rest,” he said, approaching the banks of the Dvina River. In honour of his 43rd birthday, he even held a feast in the Governor’s Palace. However, then — either affected by champagne or the blissful atmosphere of the August evening — he suddenly went out on the openwork balcony and called on his colleagues to move to Moscow. That momentary weakness cost Bonaparte his crown and country.

A hundred years later, a memorial square was laid near the Governor’s Palace in honour of the heroes of the Patriotic War (known commonly as Uspenka). The view of the city from the steep bank of the river is stunning here. Just two steps away, the Marc Chagall Art Centre — which houses his original pieces — is located.



Counting the steps of friendship

One of the youngest parks in Mogilev is located in a place that has long been chosen by the residents of the city on the Dnieper: near the St. Nicholas Monastery. The last Russian Emperor, Nicholas II, visited the white stone monastery more than once and lush gardens always bloom around it.

In our time, the Podnikolye Park is found at the entrance. Pedestrian and bicycle paths pass throughout the area, which also has numerous gazebos, benches and children’s playgrounds. A lilac garden, a rope town, an indoor ice rink with artificial ice, an amphitheatre, a miniature park and much more will soon open here.

In the meantime, a unique staircase with a cascade of fountains decorates the site. It was opened exactly for the Forum of the Regions of Belarus and Russia three years ago and has 250 steps of friendship: it’s the staircase height which is like a seven-story house. However, it’s easy and pleasant to climb: there are benches and handrails to ensure reliable support.



Visiting Suvorov

Fans of battles should definitely go to Kobrin. A unique Belarusian military-historical museum is located in this town on the southern border of Belarus. Its exposition is richer than some of Minsk’s museums and includes a hat of Peter III, boots of his son Pavel I, a sabre with a scabbard which King Frederick the Great gave to General Hans Joachim von Zieten, a luxurious saddle from the times of the Russian-Turkish wars decorated with semi-precious stones, among others. Where do these rarities come from? Actually, they were provided by the best Russian museums to Kobrin only because this place once belonged to Generalissimo Aleksandr Suvorov.

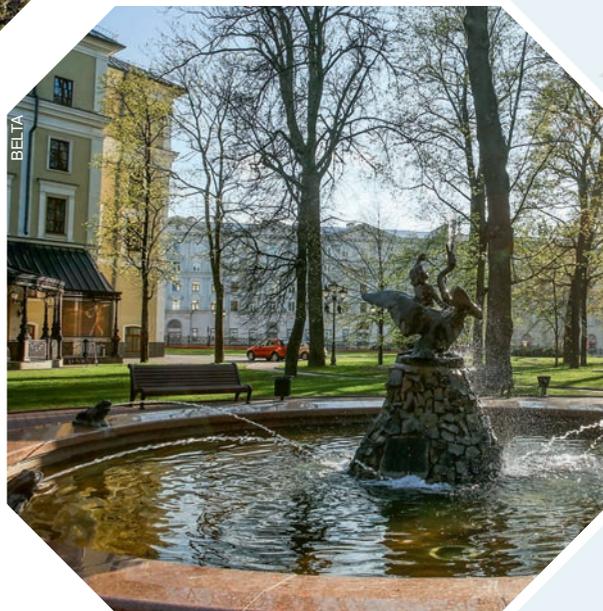
The Commander’s house, the wooden church where he prayed on Sundays, and even his favourite park have been preserved in the city. Peacocks lurked here among paths strewn with colourful foliage. Moreover, any Kobrin resident will be glad to show the pond where Suvorov swam. It’s not a myth, but an historical fact!



Whirling in a waltz over the Sozh River

The pearl of Gomel is its Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace and Park Ensemble. Its history dates back to the 18th century when Yekaterina II granted the village of Gomiy to General Piotr Rumyantsev. He built a palace on the bank of the Sozh River, while his descendants constructed the majestic Peter and Paul Cathedral nearby. In 1834, Field Marshal Ivan Paskevich bought the estate from the Rumyantsevs and laid out a luxurious park with unusual plants around it.

Exquisite interiors and rich decoration still greet visitors to the palace. Gifts from monarchs, trophies of military leaders, works of art and rare furniture are kept here. The beautiful park attracts citizens and tourists at any time of the year, but it is especially good in autumn. It seems wonderful to drive up to the front entrance on a britzka (light carriage) on a fresh night to spin off the third round of the waltz on the parquet. Dosado, traverse and moulin dances are still performed here on special occasions.



Going back to the provincial past

In the heart of Minsk, there is an untouched corner in the spirit of the late 19th century: Aleksandrovsky Park. It meets all the best traditions of the provincial city. A sculptural fountain with a Boy with a Swan is at its centre — created by Theodor Kalide, from Berlin. As stated, there are about two hundred of his ‘twin brothers’ around the globe since the sculpture was truly fashionable some time ago.

The Kupala Theatre is located in the north-eastern part of the park. It’s airy and rich in decor and details. 130 years ago, it was built under the patronage of Prince Nikolai Trubetskoy, the then Governor of Minsk and a well-known patron of the arts.

Interestingly, at present, after many reconstructions, the theatre looks almost the same as it did in the past. It has even preserved the first public toilet in Minsk which is now used as a cash register. According to legend, this lavatory is an exact miniature copy of the mansion whose owner failed to pay the architect for his work. This is how the creator took revenge on a greedy client and also gave Minsk one of its most popular sights for those wishing to take wonderful photos.

Aliaksandr Bahganovich has changed his paddle to a stick: the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation has a new head



In the same boat



Under the new leader, the course of Belarusian hockey will remain the same — towards great victories

If our hockey success will now be the same as the rowing and canoeing, then no one, I think, will object. The basic laws and principles of sport are the same everywhere, so you should certainly not be surprised at the appearance of a rower in the hockey industry. Moreover, Aliaksandr Bahganovich boasts not only a unique career as an athlete (winner of the world and European championships, Olympic champion and winner of a silver medal at the Games), but also solid experience in the socio-political sphere, being a deputy of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the sixth convocation; he was also a member of the Standing Commission on National Security. Moreover, he is familiar with hockey firsthand, since he plays in the amateur championship of Minsk, and last season he played as a forward for the Varyag team in the second league.

The extraordinary conference and election of a new head of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation was forced by dirty political games, which, alas, have become ubiquitous

in modern sports and are used to put pressure on our country. Dedicated to his beloved work and coping well with his duties, Dmitry Baskov (hockey in general and its youth component in particular under the leadership of Dmitry Yurievich made significant progress and even his ardent ill-wishers agree) was forced to accept the rules of the game and admit that kicking back is sometimes simply impossible. So that the whole sport does not suffer as a whole and so that young hockey players have the opportunity to fulfil their dreams, he left his post.

Meanwhile, the International Ice Hockey Federation, having removed Baskov from hockey for his patriotism and loyalty to the state, made perhaps the most shameful and controversial decision in its history, thereby recognising its involvement and direct dependence not on hockey rules, but on the political situation.

Opening the extraordinary conference of the Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation, Dmitry Baskov said, “I think many did

noc.by



Aliaksandr Bahdanovich: ‘There is a lot of work to be done’

not expect to see me here, but it just so happened that although I have not been acting as chairman of the federation for several weeks, only the conference can relieve me of my post — this is spelled out in the charter of the federation. It is with great regret, but no less gratitude and pride that I suspend my professional career in hockey. During the 35 years that I spent in this sport, it managed to become not just a hobby or just a job — for me hockey has largely determined

my whole life, not only professional, but also personal. And I’m grateful to those people who have helped me in the development of our sport over the years. Together we managed to discover many new names and give impetus to the development of national teams and the national championship. This path wasn’t easy, not everything turned out as we would like, but I can say with confidence that throughout this time in hockey I honestly devoted myself to it — regardless of the position and regalia, I tried to listen to experienced

There is no doubt that it will be so. The Belarusian Ice Hockey Federation is an integral organisation, bringing together real professionals, as well as people who care greatly for their work. Perhaps, at first, the new head of the federation may lack specific hockey knowledge, but that will come with time, as colleagues will help and prompt him. Overall, taking the reins of government, Aliaksandr Bahganovich was optimistic and inclined towards serious work, “I would like to express my gratitude to the ice hockey federation and the conference delegates for supporting me. I know that the federation has developed very well in recent years, many media projects have been implemented, reforms have been carried out both in children’s leagues and in professional ones. I will support the direction taken by the previous leadership of the federation. I saw how friendly the team is, how sincerely and benevolently they treat the former chairman. We

will continue this work, but we will also introduce innovations that will help improve the national championship and attract children to this sport.

There is a lot to do, we will work hard.”

All true specialists have one thing in common: they prefer deeds to words. Aliaksandr Bahganovich is clearly from this cohort: otherwise, he would not have been an Olympic champion.



ARENA

● Belarusian athletes win four medals at the Junior European Rowing Championships in Germany

The best result at the end of the continental regatta was achieved by



the coxed women’s eight. Karina Minkova, Veronika Anatsko, Milana Dorokhovets, Polina Zolotareva, Alina Savitskaya, Kira Kovalenko, Tatiana Gubar, Ulyana Bogrova and cox Kristina Ivanova held a decisive race from start to finish among the leaders.

Silver in Munich was won by the men’s doubles four consisting of Anton Bondar, Ivan Makarevich, Ivan Bubovich and Pavel Sinenko.

Bronze medals were achieved by the

men’s coxless four and the women’s double sculls. In the four oared races, Belarus was represented by Nikita Vitkovsky, Vladislav Rezanovich, Andrei Gubko and Denis Branch while Viktoria Vasilyeva and Anastasia Rusak competed in the women’s double sculls for Belarus.

● Kiryl Maskevich won silver at the World Wrestling Championships in Norway

Belarusian athlete Kiryl Maskevich (87kg) fought in the final with the representative of Serbia Zurab Datunashvili and lost 1:9. Bronze medals in this weight category were won by the Georgian athlete, Lasha Gobadze and Arkadiusz Kulnycz from Poland.

In the weight category of 60kg, Belarusian athlete Maksim Kazharski lost in the bout for bronze to Azerbaijani Murad



● Belarusian women handball players draw with rivals from Germany in EURO-2022 qualifying match

The game in Trier ended with a score of 24:24.

The first half of the match was played with a slight advantage for the Belarusians, who looked good against the background of one of the strongest national squads on the continent. After the first half of the meeting, the Belarusians were

Mammadov — 0:2.

In the 67kg category, Maksim Nehoda of Belarus finished the fight in 1/8 finals, as did Belarusian Mikalai Stadub in the weight category of 97kg.

leading with a score of 13:12.

The Germans managed to equalise, but later both teams played on equal terms and neither of them was able to finally seize the initiative.

Natalya Vasilevskaya was the most efficient in the Belarus team, accounting for five goals. However, Diana Ilyina and Karina Yezhikova also scored four goals each. Among the German women, Julia Maidhof was the most successful at the forefront of the attack, having distinguished herself 10 times.

The next selection match for the 2022 European Championships will be played by the Belarusians on March 2nd, 2022, against Greece.





Photo of the week

Fox hunts for mice in the Nalibokskaya Pushcha

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On October 14th, 1921, Aleksandr Kostroma was born — a full holder of the Order of Glory. During the Great Patriotic War, he was a partisan demolitionist, since 1943 — a machine gunner at the front. He distinguished himself in the battles for the liberation

of Belarus, Poland and in the battles on the territory of Germany. He died in 1993.

On October 14th, 1926, the first book about Winnie the Pooh and his friends was published by the classic of English children's literature, Alan Alexander Milne.



October 14th is Mother's Day in the Republic of Belarus. The date of its celebration is timed to the great Orthodox holiday: the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos. The origins of Mother's Day are deeply respectful of mothers. Throughout their life, each person associates



the warmest feelings, vivid and unforgettable memories with the image of a mother. She gives the first lessons in morality, spirituality and kindness.

October 14th is World Sight Day, celebrated on the second Thursday of October at the initiative of the World Health Organisation (WHO). This date is marked on the calendar



to draw global attention to the problems of blindness, visual impairment and rehabilitation of people with visual impairments.

October 14th is the Day of Standardisation in the Republic of Belarus. It is also an international date designed to draw people's attention to the importance of actions related to the creation of uniform standards, and to emphasise the importance of standardisation for the entire world economy.

On October 15th, 1961, a regional museum of local lore was opened in Krichev. It is located in the palace of the famous Russian landowner Potemkin — an architectural monument of the 18th century.



The most significant collections include antiques bought for the interior of Potemkin's palace, weapons from the 11-20th centuries, folk costumes and coins from the times of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Rzecz Pospolita, as well as paintings by famous Belarusian and local artists. Later it was renamed the Historical Museum of Krichev.



carrying out communication between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and UNESCO, informing the organisation about the needs and priorities of Belarus in the field of education, science and culture while also providing consultative, informational and cultural assistance to state and public organisations of the Republic of Belarus.

October 15th, 1581, marks the beginning of the ballet era in France and around the world. At the court of Catherine de Medici in the Louvre, the Italian conductor Baltazarini staged the first performance *Le Ballet Comique de la Reine* (meaning *The Comic Ballet of the Queen*), linked by a single plot and combining music, word, dance and pantomime. Since then, the genre of court performances called 'ballet' began to develop in France.



October 15th is the Day of Workers of the Pharmaceutical and Microbiological Industry in the Republic of Belarus, who help to take care of the preservation of the most precious thing in the world: human health and life.

October 16th is World Anaesthesiologist Day. On this day in 1846, the US physician William Morton, who was later considered the ancestor of general anaesthesia, performed ether anaesthesia while removing a vascular tumour from a patient. After Morton's convincing demonstration of ether anaesthesia in the presence of a large group of respected physicians, it was widely recognised that effective pain relief could be used in surgery.



October 16th is World Food Day, celebrated by the decision of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations on the day of its creation (October 16th, 1945).

On October 19th-20th, 1996, Minsk hosted the 1st All-Belarusian People's Congress — a large-scale people's forum that brought together representatives from all regions of the country to discuss the most important issues of the life of society and the state. The All-Belarusian People's Congress has become a special form of democracy, a democratic institution enabling



the citizens of Belarus to more widely exercise their right to participate in state affairs.