



**Vibrant finale to the Games**  
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INTERNATIONAL

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## Poignant symbols of a memorable time

July 3rd in the modern history of sovereign Belarus is not only the national holiday — the Day of the Republic. This day also marks the liberation of Minsk in 1944 from Nazi occupation and is symbolically reflected on an epic scale in the picture by the famous

Belarusian painter, Valentin Volkov. The work is entitled *Minsk. July 3rd, 1944* and occupies the most honorary place in the permanent exhibition of the National Art Museum of Belarus.





# Vibrant to the

By Vasily Kharitonov

**2nd European Games closing ceremony at Minsk's Dinamo Stadium was the culmination of the sporting celebration**

The sports forum conducted by Belarus finished with a colourful closing ceremony attended by athletes from fifty countries of the world. Together with the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, many high-ranking guests watched the ceremony in the VIP box, including the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, the President of Armenia, Armen Sarkissian and the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach.

A construction by the National Library was installed in the centre of the stadium, onto which the highlights of the competitions were projected. The ceremony began with a performance of the Belarusian anthem, followed by a parade of flags, athletes and the honouring of 2nd European Games volunteers. The Belarusian band *Aura* performed the song *Bright Year, Bright You*.

The participants of the Games made a circle of honour in front of the stands and took their place in the centre of the arena together with the volunteers. During the ceremony, the centre was turned into a dance floor. The flag of Belarus was carried through Dinamo Stadium by Marina Litvinchuk, a two-time champion of the European Games.

Volunteers were honoured at the Dinamo Stadium to the accompaniment of the specially written song, *We Are the Light*, performed by the former member of *Iron Maiden*, Tony Moore, and a young Belarusian singer, Kristina Svetlichnaya.

In addition, there followed a salute to the 8,000 volunteers who helped to conduct the Games.

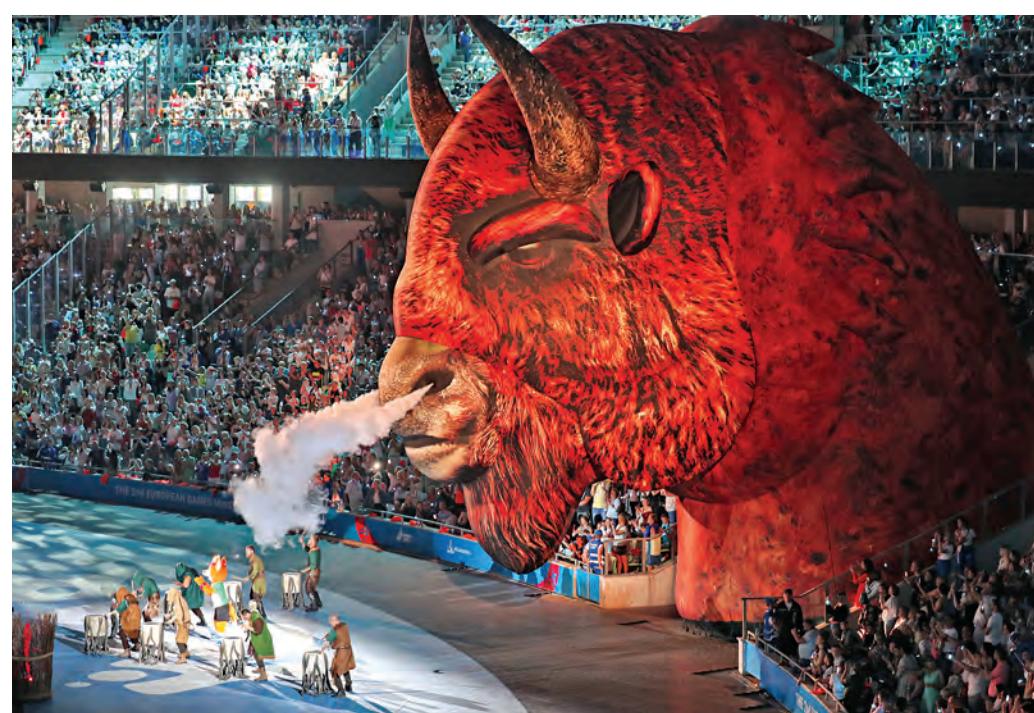
Fans from the opening ceremony remember well the appearance of the auroch — one of Belarus' symbols. Now, it was time for it to reappear in a new guise dedicated to modern Belarus. In its performance, the auroch wished luck to the new generation of Belarusians. While the mascot of the Games, Lesik, and a small child — symbolising the younger generation of Belarusians — were listening nearby.

During the competitions at the 2nd European Games from June 21st-30th, 200 sets of medals were awarded across 15 sports. The medal standings were won by the athletes from Russia, who claimed 109 awards, including 44 gold. Nevertheless, the Belarusian athletes showed one of the best results in the history of performances at large international events, winning 69 medals, including 24 gold.

Belarusian fans will surely remember the victories in canoe and kayak races by Marina Litvinchuk, Olga Khudenko and Artem Kozyr, and excellent results of track-and-field athletes, Elvira German, Tatiana Khodorovich and Maxim Nedosekov, as well as the uncompromising struggle of Vasilisa Marzalyuk, Irina Kurochkina and Kirill Grishchenko.

The 2nd European Games Minsk 2019 were a feast of bright unforgettable memories and strong emotions, asserted the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, during the closing ceremony of the sporting festival.

«It was a feast of bright unforgettable impressions and strong emotions. We had everything — joy, happiness, and disappointment. This is what sport is all about. It was



# finale Games

a celebration of friendship and unity and lively competitions, which united millions of residents of Europe into one big family,» noted the Head of State. «We opened all the doors of Belarus wide for our guests. Belarus is a medium-sized country on a European scale. It lives and grows according to its own laws and traditions stemming from time immemorial.»

Mr. Lukashenko noted that, for ten days, Minsk arenas were awash with the atmosphere of mutual respect created by residents and guests of Belarus, by everyone who loves sport and who believes in the power of the Olympic mission, which is aimed at preserving peace. «The Flame of Peace — the symbol of the 2nd European Games — became the embodiment of this great idea,» stressed the Belarusian leader.

The President addressed guests of Belarus and Minsk Hero-City, saying, «You've had a chance to visit a beautiful country that is very comfortable for life and recreation. You've been introduced to kind and hardworking people, who live without war or conflict. And if you want to hear such quiet again, feel free to come to Belarus.»

The 2nd European Games have also become an important cultural event for Belarus, with more than fifty cultural activities dedicated to the 2nd European Games being held.

Mr. Lukashenko thanked everyone who helped organise and host the Games and all those who have contributed to the history of these competitions. The Head of State also thanked the organisers for their impeccable preparations and hard work during the actual course of the competitions and official events. He also thanked the judges for their honest work and unprejudiced decisions.

«And, certainly, I would like to

thank all the athletes who selflessly defended the sporting honour of their own countries, the athletes who made history at the 2nd European Games with their outstanding records and shining victories,» noted Mr. Lukashenko.

The President expressed special words of gratitude to the volunteers, who had worked nearly round the clock, helping guests and athletes feel at home in Belarus. «Without your help it would have been impossible to create such a warm, sincere and well-wishing atmosphere,» he added.

Mr. Lukashenko also thanked all the fans, whose ardent support had inspired athletes, charging them with belief in success and leading them to highly coveted victories. «The athletes admit they just couldn't perform poorly in the face of such strong support from the spectators. And the athletes did their best primarily for your sake, our fans,» stressed the President.

The 2nd European Games in Minsk were a bright multi-sports forum. The statement was made by the President of the European Olympic Committees, Janez Kocijančić, during the closing ceremony. «The Games were a true feast of European and international sport. Together with our friends and organisers from Belarus, we've arranged a bright multi-sports forum, which is second in scale only to the Olympic Games,» noted Mr. Kocijančić.

The IOC President congratulated Belarusian athletes on earning second place in the total medal standings. He noted that it's a wonderful achievement for the host country.

In conclusion, Janez Kocijančić spoke in Belarusian to express words of gratitude to the country and its leader for the warm welcome, adding that he highly appreciates it.

# Whirlwind of co-operation marks a historic moment

Among the VIP guests who took part in the closing ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games was the President of Tajikistan — Emomali Rahmon. He arrived in Minsk in advance: last Friday, when the Tajik leader held talks with the President of Belarus — Aleksandr Lukashenko.

By Vladimir Velikhov

The heads of state have not just known each other for a long time but are also great friends. Therefore, there was no doubt about the outcome of their meeting from the very beginning. The Belarusian Head of State summed it up as follows, «I am absolutely convinced that the results of the talks will open new horizons for the further development of comprehensive co-operation between our countries.»

On the first day of the visit, the main topic was business. At previous meetings, the heads of state had agreed to develop a road map for co-operation, which has been done and the action plan is being implemented effectively so far. Things change however, and all major plans need reviewing at times. Some elements require adjustments, some — acceleration in their implementation. A great future lies in the promotion of the idea of triple co-operation between Belarus, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Some time ago, this scheme was proposed by Emomali Rahmon and it was willingly supported by Mr. Lukashenko. It is now demonstrating its practical relevance. At least, this is evidenced by the richness of contacts between representatives of the business circles of the three countries.

Later, during the talks in the expanded format, Mr. Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that the annual meetings of the presidents of Belarus and Tajikistan are becoming a tradition. The symbolism of the fact that the current visit took place during the completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games, as well as on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from Nazi invaders was also noted. It is well-known that Tajik soldiers also took part in this heroic mission.

The President of Belarus stressed, «We have once again seen the similarity of approaches to the assessment of the global and regional situation. Minsk and Dushanbe traditionally support each other on international platforms. I believe this will continue.»

The main document signed at the end of the meeting was the agreement on strategic partnership between Belarus and Tajikistan. This wording emphasises the particularly high level of friendly co-operation between Minsk and Dushanbe.



## RESULT

Following the talks, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Emomali Rahmon signed 11 documents on the development of co-operation in various fields. The agreement on strategic partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Tajikistan was the major of them. The heads of state also adopted a joint statement, which emphasises the desire of both Minsk and Dushanbe to develop mutually beneficial partnerships and strengthen friendly ties.

Mr. Lukashenko specified its essence and meaning as follows, «It is a natural result of building friendly, truly constructive relations. Its implementation will give impetus to further work in all areas. Between our countries there are no closed topics for co-operation, we enjoy complete understanding with the President [of Tajikistan]. If we agree, everything will be fulfilled on time.»

It's now possible to definitively say that the Belarusian-Tajik partnership has already identified the main direction of co-operation. These form the basis of interaction and set the tone for it — being an example of how to build models of co-operation, at least in a basic sense, since, in mutual trade, the optimal level is yet to be achieved.

Speaking about the main areas of co-operation, it's primarily industrial interaction. The most striking successful example of this is the joint production of agricultural machinery in the Tajik city of Hissar. Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Rahmon visited this enterprise jointly when it was just starting. The plant is now gaining momentum, and the President

of Belarus is convinced that this is not the limit and there is still much to aim for.

Moreover, Mr. Lukashenko made calls to increase the pace of co-operation and expand its range, stating, «Currently, the crisis phenomena in the world adjust the development of economic relations. Therefore, it is important to look for new forms and methods of work — including taking into account the tools available in Belarus to support exports. In parallel with the projects in mechanical engineering, it is necessary to expand the dialogue in the field of agriculture, including agricultural education. It's necessary to work on increasing mutual purchases of food and light industry products, and to develop co-operation in the field of live-stock breeding.»

The progress is evident. Minsk clearly welcomes the launch of a joint company producing dairy products in Dushanbe. The Belarusian experience in this industry, as well as technologies and raw materials, make it possible to create unique enterprises for Tajikistan which will produce environmentally friendly, high-quality products and open

up opportunities for increasing exports to China, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Direct co-operation and joint production of high-quality competitive goods should become a driving force for the further development of economic liaisons between our countries.

Work with third countries is a special strategic plan. In particular, the Afghan connection is of great interest. Tajiks and Afghans are similar peoples and they speak the same language. The proportion of Tajiks in Afghanistan's population is estimated at about a quarter. It is easy for the two nations to communicate and negotiate, primarily on business issues. Mr. Lukashenko expressed gratitude to the Tajik side for helping to organise the second Belarus — Tajikistan — Afghanistan business forum. There are very good prospects for the three sides.

The President of Belarus expressed confidence that the bilateral agreements and programmes signed at the end of the meeting will give impetus to the intensification of interdepartmental, regional and business co-operation. They will expand liaisons in the field of

information, innovation, sports, tourism and other areas.

Having once again focused on the importance of signing the agreement on strategic partnership between our countries, Mr. Lukashenko stated figuratively, «As the President [of Tajikistan] said, this is a historic moment. Here, we've outlined a qualitatively new status for bilateral relations. We confirmed our intention to actively develop them in all areas of mutual interest. This is a natural result of the great path that Belarus and Tajikistan have taken in building interstate relations.»

The President of Tajikistan agrees that most of the agreements reached earlier at the highest level are being implemented. He also said that the current level should not only be fixed, but also resolutely move to new heights.

Dushanbe reaffirms its readiness to further strengthen the political dialogue with Minsk, expand trade and economic co-operation and cultural and humanitarian relations — and in every way contribute to the expansion of direct ties between the regions and economic entities of the two countries.

The Tajik leader also touched upon the theme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Games in Minsk which he mentioned several times during the negotiations — without hiding his admiration. «The high degree of organisation clearly shows the world community that the Belarusians pay great attention to the promotion of Olympic values and the development of physical culture and sports,» he noted.

The presidents also focused on the international agenda. «Tajikistan and Belarus are important participants in regional and interregional processes,» Mr. Rahmon stated. «In this regard, we spoke in favour of strengthening the potential of our co-operation within the UN, CIS, CSTO and Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, in which Belarus has the status of a dialogue partner, as well as other multilateral co-operation structures, which both sides are members of. We exchanged views on a range of regional and international issues of interest to us.»

Mr. Rahmon congratulated Mr. Lukashenko and all the people of Belarus on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the country from Nazi occupation and invited the Head of State to pay an official visit to Tajikistan.

# Good example to all of how tourism should be developed

By Oleg Bogomazov

The UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Secretary General — Zurab Pololikashvili — was among the high-ranking guests at the closing day of the European Games in Minsk. The President of Belarus welcomed the official.

Aleksandr Lukashenko told his guest, «Tourism promotion is very high on Belarus' agenda. Belarus is an open country and we have many things to show the world.» It was noted that citizens of more than 80 countries can enter Belarus visa-free via Minsk National Airport and stay for up to 30 days. Apart from that, foreign tourists do not need visas to visit Belarus if they have tickets to the 2nd European Games. If needed, they can also use the visa-free entry to visit Russia. «We have no borders; therefore, tourists can take advantage of it,» the President said.

Taking into consideration that the UNWTO Secretary General is Georgian, Mr. Lukashenko added that Belarus also has a visa-free regime with Georgia. «I know that you provide substantial assistance to countries at seminars and consultations. I

hope that you will feel home here in the future, too,» he said.

In turn, Zurab Pololikashvili thanked the Belarusian President for the invitation to visit Minsk and for finding time for this meeting. «Belarus will never have a bigger friend than me in the UN. I will never forget the support for my candidacy on the part of Belarus. I really appreciate it. It is very encouraging,» he noted.

Mr. Pololikashvili expressed readiness to keep promoting co-operation in tourism with Belarus. The World Tourism Organisation is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of sustainable and universally accessible tourism. It offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide. The organisation unites 158 countries and Belarus joined UNWTO in 2005. UNWTO suggests drafting a road map for promoting co-operation with Belarus.

**P.S. An international forum on agro-ecotourism is planned to be held in one of the regional cities of Belarus next year. «We plan to announce 2020 as the year of eco- and agro-tourism. The idea is to support new directions and go beyond the large cities. Belarus is a very good example for everyone of how to develop eco-tourism,» Zurab Pololikashvili emphasised. He hopes that the upcoming event will attract participants from many countries and the experience of Belarus will encourage them to develop this tourist destination.**



Furthermore, Mr. Pololikashvili suggested holding a UNWTO General Assembly session in Minsk in 2023 to discuss the most burning issues of the tourism industry. The guest explained he had come to Belarus during the 2nd European Games for a particular reason. In fact, major sporting events always draw a great number of tourists. The Secretary General said he'd like to see how this multi-sports project is progressing, because UNWTO has plans to focus on sports tourism in the near future. With this in mind, the organisation studies proposals and projects that might involve international sports organisations, individual clubs and renowned athletes.

# Meeting in an informal setting

Presidents of Belarus and Russia, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin, met at the Zaslavl state residence

By Vladimir Mikhailov

The meeting was held in an informal setting and took place in a gazebo in the grounds of the residence that had been a gift of Uzbekistan President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Aleksandr Lukashenko presented a number of 2nd European Games 2019 souvenirs to Vladimir Putin, such as a bog-oak panel picture with attached medallions symbolising the 15 sports represented during the event, an exclusive box of chocolates, and the Games' mascot — Lesik the Fox. A figurine depicting two judokas was another gift as the Russian leader is well-known for enjoying judo.

The President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, who has been in Belarus on an official visit, joined the meeting between Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Putin, which continued with the three presidents.

Mr. Lukashenko spoke of plans to arrange a meeting in this format during negotiations with Emomali Rahmon in Minsk on June 28th. He noted, «There are many issues we could discuss.



I think Vladimir Putin may join the negotiations. The three of us could talk together which I think you will appreciate. We also have things to discuss within the framework of the CIS and CSTO, as well as our defensive union.»

After the meeting, the three heads of state attended the closing ceremony of the 2nd European Games at the Dinamo Stadium.

# Games worth being proud of

Aleksandr Lukashenko has met the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach

By Olga Korneeva

«I'm very pleased to arrive in Belarus after taking part in my first Junior World Championship here many years ago,» noted the IOC President at Minsk National Airport. Mr. Bach also commented on the conduct of the 2nd European Games and said that Belarusian athletes had shown very good results and taken a high place in the team standings. «I believe that the whole of Belarus is pleased with the organisation of the Games, as well as with the performance of your athletes,» he said.

The meeting with the President of Belarus tackled the further development of co-operation between Belarus and the IOC. Thomas Bach said that he first visited Minsk fifty years ago as an athlete. «I cherish very fond memories of that time.»

A medal celebrating the 125th anniversary of the International Olympic Committee



was presented to the President of Belarus during the meeting.

Chatting to journalists after his meeting, the IOC President commented on the organisation of the 2nd European Games, as well as the successful performance of the Belarusian team. «In my opinion, it's a reason for the whole Belarusian nation to be proud,» he said. Mr. Bach attended some competitions, familiarised himself with the sporting infrastructure of Minsk and attended the closing ceremony.

# Solid ground for improved prospects

By Vladimir Khromov

Aleksandr Lukashenko advocates the enhancement of closer ties between Belarus and Japan, in particular in investment, as he noted when meeting Hiromichi Watanabe — the Minister for Reconstruction and Minister in charge of Comprehensive Policy Co-ordination for Revival after the Nuclear Accident at Fukushima.

The Head of State emphasised that he closely follows developments in Japan. «We have chosen to build very close ties with Japan, in particular, in investment, despite the distance between us. If the Japanese Government is ready for that, the process will take off very soon. «If your country has an interest in this part of the world — Europe — you can use Belarus as a springboard for advancing your interests,» he said.

Mr. Lukashenko noted that Belarus and Japan have a history of meaningful co-operation, in particular, in mitigation of the aftermath of various catastrophes. «Japan was the first country to lend us a helping hand after the Chernobyl catastrophe. Apart from that, you supported our country and our people living in the Chernobyl-affected areas. Our researchers joined efforts to find ways to mitigate the Chernobyl aftermath. It turned out that our joint solutions were useful after the Fukushima disaster,» the Head of State said. «In other words, we are open to co-operation. If the Japanese Government is also interested, let us begin,» said Mr. Lukashenko.

In turn, Hiromichi Watanabe thanked the Belarusian Head of State for the invitation to at-



tend the closing ceremony of the 2nd European Games. He noted that this sports event helped to bring people and countries together. «I believe we need to deepen our co-operation in culture and sport,» the Minister said.

Hiromichi Watanabe thanked Belarus for helping Japan overcome the aftermath of the disastrous earthquake that happened in March 2011 in the east of the country. The earthquake caused a tsunami along the northwest coast of the main island of Honshu, which was the reason for the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. After the meeting, the Japanese Minister told journalists that he had discussed different topics with the President, also focusing on economic ties and the investment climate. «We confirmed that it's important to continue co-operation to strengthen friendly ties,» the Minister said.

FOCUS

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# Slow and steady wins the race

By Olga Korneeva

**At the Republican Ball of Graduates of Higher Educational Institutions, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko hoped for young people to realise their dreams and work towards tangible, practical results**

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed the special importance of the event in the alumni's life. «During annual meetings with the best graduates — 'the golden fund' of our youth — I feel special joy and pride, because you are our future. I very much hope, you are our better future,» the President said. «You were brought to this hall, at the Republican Ball of Graduates, through a Road of Success. Though only the first steps have been taken on this path, you have worked hard over your past years as students.»

The Head of State noted that the student years are the best and happiest of one's life. However, Mr. Lukashenko gave an



other point of view. «These may be joyful and happy years but also the most difficult in the life of a person who studied hard at University and did not go there simply to get a diploma,» he explained.

The President noted that foreign students from over a hundred of countries also receive higher education in Bela-

rus. «The demand is enormous. We can't even accept all who want to come, as we lack accommodation, educational and laboratory classes, buildings and rooms,» he added. The most successful foreign students were invited to this year's ball. «Let it become a new tradition,» Mr. Lukashenko suggested. «I think that, during their studies,

the hospitality of Belarus has become dear to these young people. If anyone wants to stay or come back, we will always be happy to see you! Your true friends live here.»

This year, the Ball of Graduates was held on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the country from Nazi occupation. «Today, while ad-

dressing you — young people, I want to say do not forget those who won the right to live on their land and, most importantly, under a peaceful sky. We should be grateful to these people who died for our present life,» emphasised the Head of State.

It is also symbolic that this 'start' of graduates to adulthood has taken place during the main sporting event of the summer: the 2nd European Games in Minsk. «This is a good sign. Take an example from our best athletes (there are a lot of them), whose victories and medals not only give us strong emotions but also strengthen the image of our native country. Be a generation of conquerors of the most difficult peaks,» Mr. Lukashenko said.

The best graduates and teachers of educational institutions received the Presidential thanks. The Head of State personally presented them with these awards, stressing that the graduates were receiving their first state awards and this event is of great importance.

## Lessons of the past should never be forgotten



By Alexey Fedosov

**Aleksandr Lukashenko addresses UN states on occasion of 75th anniversary of Belarus' liberation from Nazi occupation**

The address was distributed at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on June 24th. There, upon the initiative of the permanent mission of Belarus to the UN, a commemorative event timed to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Belarus' liberation took place. Among those taking part were heads and representatives of permanent missions of UN member states, the UN Secretariat, representatives of the Belarusian expatriate community and the mass media.

«WWII — one of the cruellest in the history of mankind — turned into the Great Patriotic War for us. It disrupted every home and every family. During the years of occupation, Belarus lost a third of its population. The fascists constructed over 260 death camps and other places of mass annihilation, burned about 10,000 villages and destroyed entire towns in Belarus. Nevertheless, the spirit of the Belarusian nation was not defeated. Belarus did not give up. The largest partisan and underground movement in Europe was active here. Due to the selfless struggle of our people as well as all the peoples of the Soviet Union and the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition, the enemy was defeated», reads the address.

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that July 3rd — the day of Minsk's liberation — became our national holiday known as Independence Day. The courage and heroism of the Belarusian nation and its enormous contribution to victory over fascism has gained worldwide recognition. Belarus became one of the founding member states of the United Nations.

«Unfortunately, nowadays — when former allies in the fight against Nazism increasingly find themselves in a state of misunderstanding or confrontation with each other — the problem of preventing a new world war is becoming more acute. I am convinced that we should seek a new large-scale international dialogue to strengthen peace and overcome existing contradictions in relations between states. Belarus is ready to become a platform for discussing all constructive initiatives in the sphere of international security and development. For the sake of the future, we ought to keep in mind the terrible lessons of the past, keep and pass on to the next generations the true history of the great feats of our heroes and liberators. We should teach our children to appreciate life, respect other nations and cherish peace,» stressed the Head of State. «Since ancient times, while welcoming each other, people would say: 'May peace be upon you'. The United Nations was created to maintain and to strengthen peace. Together we can accomplish this historic mission!»

The commemorative event in New York was opened by the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations, Valentin Rybakov, who emphasised the importance of preserving memory and the historic truth about the war. The head of the Belarusian mission drew the attention of the participants of the event to the address of the Belarusian President. Later it will be distributed as an official document of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in all languages of the United Nations.

The *Brest Fortress* film featuring true, tragic events from the beginning of the Great Patriotic War and the heroic defence of Brest Fortress by Red Army soldiers was screened during the event.



## Recalling unforgettable times



By Svetlana Yevgenieva

**Belarus Publishing House presents congratulatory soldiers' 'triangle' letters for Independence Day**

The Belarus Publishing House has prepared over 25,000 congratulatory letters in the form of soldiers' 'triangle' letters, for the 75th anniversary of the country's liberation from Nazi occupation. According to the Head of the Publishing and Printing Department of the Information Ministry, Yelena Pavlova, the publishing house has developed ready-to-print files and produced congratulatory letters in the form of the once-popular soldiers' 'triangles' for veterans of the Great Patriotic War, family members of servicemen, partisans and underground workers who died during the conflict, certain people affected by the consequences of the war, as well as members of the Belarusian partisan and underground movement who live outside the country.

Moreover, 3,000 'triangle' letters have been passed to the Foreign Ministry to be distributed among the embassies. The remaining letters were sent to the committees for labour, employment and social protection of regional executive committees and the Minsk City Executive Committee. These have been completed and mailed or personally delivered to veterans on the eve of Independence Day.

# Highlights of a great holiday



## Their achievements and successes shape state history

By Vladimir Velikhov

### Aleksandr Lukashenko attends a ceremony to present state awards

«We are meeting in the run-up to the celebration of our main national holiday — Independence Day. I am delighted to see you — talented, hardworking and committed professionals: the people whose successes and achievements shape the history of the country, unite the nation in pride for their fellow citizens, develop the image of a strong, successful, creative and beautiful country,» the Head of State said.

Mr. Lukashenko said that Belarus is marking the 75th anniversary of its liberation from the Nazis. «While recalling the great deeds of the winning nation that gave us our future, we understand our full responsibility for the future of our children and grandchildren. We should live every day with an important goal in mind, which is to protect the peace for which lives were sacrificed during the years of the Great Patriotic War, and to keep the traditions of the postwar generation. These traditions are continued in our suc-

cesses and achievements,» the President said.

Representatives of different professions were present at the meeting. However, they are all united by a sincere desire to work for the benefit of Belarus. He thanked members of the law-enforcement bodies, security services and internationalist soldiers for their devotion to duty, for bravery and courage in the line of duty. «Your patriotism is the best example for the younger generation,» Mr. Lukashenko said.

Among the recipients were workers of the healthcare, science and education sectors, and representatives of Belavia, Belaruskali, Marko — the true Belarusian brands, well-known far beyond the country's borders.

Prestigious awards were bestowed on outstanding figures of culture and art. «You make our lives more interesting and spiritually richer,» the President said. As he said, this was clearly demonstrated at the opening ceremony of the 2nd European Games.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, everyone's achievements, diligence and discipline are the main conditions for the coun-

try's economic security and independence. He presented state awards and thanked everyone for their dedication, responsible attitude and exceptional results in their professional activity.

The future of the country largely depends on the development of science, commented the Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences — Sergey Kilin. Speaking at the awards ceremony, he expressed gratitude to the President of Belarus for the great attention paid to the development of national science. «Without your decision — and this is a drastic decision to develop science evolutionarily rather than revolutionarily and to improve it — we would have failed. Thank you very much for that. Scientists are realising the instructions given by you — working also on new avenues,» he noted.

Mr. Kilin underlined the importance of the fact that scientists are successfully working in various areas — space, nano- and biotechnology. «I think that the future, which depends on science, is in our hands,» said Mr. Kilin — who was awarded the 'Honored Figure of Science of the Republic of Belarus' title.

By Arina Novikova

This year, Independence Day was celebrated by the country in a new format. For the jubilee date — the 75th anniversary of Belarus' liberation from Nazi occupation — festive events were united into a nationwide campaign: Belarus Remembers!

On July 3rd, at 10am, the festivities began with the patriotic procession *Belarus Remembers!* that moved from Nezavisimosti Avenue to Pobedy Square and became the final part of the Republican campaign that was launched in May on the eve of Victory Day.

In general, about eighty celebrations took place on this day in Minsk. The area around the Sports Palace has traditionally been the major venue. From 11am, a rich concert programme started for Minsk residents and guests of the capital, as well as an exhibition-fair of craftsmen and sports competitions. One of the highlights was the *Minsk Strong Battle* international power extreme tournament. A food court (more than 250 metres long for 2,000 seats) was also available.

The culmination of the celebration was the parade of the troops of the Minsk garrison, which began at 9pm with a flypast over the capital, followed by 25-foot parade units and 26 parade units of military equipment. The procession ended with a parade ground of the honour guard company of the Minsk Military Commandant Office.

«In total, more than 5,000 servicemen took part in the parade, more than 280 wheeled and tracked vehicles, as well as about 50 airplanes and helicopters, in the mechanised



column. This year, soldiers from eight states took part,» said the Head of the Information Department, the Press Secretary of the Main Ideology Department of the Defence Ministry, Vladimir Makarov.

Then the audience could admire the dramatised episode: *Belarus Heroic*. Festive fireworks could be seen in the Minsk sky immediately after the *Let's Sing the Anthem Together* action. Traditionally, it was produced from six firing positions.

The festival finished with a 1.5-hour-long gala-concert, held near the Minsk Hero City Memorial.

«The cascading solutions of the stage platform and a set of staged special effects with changing light made it possible to create an impressive show production,» noted Inna Adamovich, a consultant at the Main Department of State Special Cultural Events and Professional Art of the Culture Ministry. «The performance of a popular Russian singer, Rita Dakota (a native of Minsk), as well as of Tima Belorusskikh was a surprise.»

Festive events took place in all regions, with ceremonial laying of wreaths, concerts, honouring of veterans, thematic exhibitions and much more.

## Photo documentary exhibition dedicated to 75th anniversary since liberation

By Natalia Yemelianova

### We Hastened This Day as Best as We Could exhibition, devoted to 75th anniversary since Belarus' liberation from Nazi occupation opens in the Atrium Gallery of the National Library of Belarus

This is the second part of the *Towards Victory* project; the first part opened in May and was represented by a book and artistic exhibitions.

The exhibition stands show the whole history of the liberation of Belarus from Nazi occupation. Documentary data and photos of war events tell us about the treacherous attack on the Army Group Centre, as well as tough battles near the Brest Fortress and the heroic deeds that took place there. Through these collected materials, one can learn more about the genocide, the terror of Nazi invasion, the Soviet prisoner-of-war camps and the lives of the civil population, as well as the

resistance — a partisan movement which was deployed in Belarusian territory.

The exhibition reflects the results of the desperate struggle for freedom: the Belarusian 'Bagration' operation, Minsk's liberation on July 3rd, 1944 and the awarding of the honorary title 'Hero City' to the Belarusian capital. The exposition is supplemented and decorated with a construction of a red star which almost ignites a fire of memory and victory in the project's artistic gallery. Flags from the archives of the Belarusian State Museum of the Great Patriotic War History are also part of the display.

The National Library of Belarus is one of the organisers of this large-scale project, as well as the National Archives and the museum.



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Alexander Karlyukevich

All those who are interested in Belarusian book publishing know well the exhibitions and fairs which present new Belarusian products. Among them are Warsaw, Beijing, Moscow, St. Petersburg and Prague. However, new locations are joining — such as Lvov and Poltava. Recently, Belarusians took part in the world's oldest book fair in Lisbon.

We were happy to talk to the Director of Yakub Kolas Printing House JSC — Igor Malanyak — who headed the Belarusian delegation.

**Belarusians have taken part in the Lisbon fair for the first time...**

*True. At least, we do not know of any previous participation by Belarusian publishers and printers in this grand exhibition project. The fair in Portugal is held from May 29th to June 16th and impresses visitors with its endless rows of kiosks and pavilions where the products of publishers — not only books but also newspapers and magazines — are presented. The event traditionally takes place at the*



*Edward VII Park, where the fair has been held since the 1930s, becoming a true cultural heritage event in Portugal.*

**What was unusual for you during the 89th Lisbon Book Fair?**

*There were many lectures and meetings with writers. To be honest, we lack such live interaction here. We are learning how to develop the environment of communication between the writer and the reader. It was evident that the visitors enjoyed buying books — both new and second-hand. A flexible system of discounts was also amazing: children's literature enjoyed up to 50 percent discounts. So, parents go to the fair with small children and the venue attracts crowds of teenagers.*

**In what languages are the books presented at the fair published?**

*Of course, it's primarily Portuguese. However, there are many books in English, Russian and other languages. There were books in Belarusian and those were presented not only as part of our exhibits.*

**Does this mean we can establish book-selling logistics with Portugal?**

*Why not? The country is not situated so far from Belarus. Moreover, according to the statistics, Belarusians go to Portugal to relax and on business. We can now publish books in English and even Portuguese which, of course, could be in demand in Lisbon.*

*We should also not forget that there is a 'Druzhba' [Friendship] bookstore in Minsk which sells books in different languages. With this in mind, I hope for the development of trade co-operation with Portugal and Lisbon.*

**Apart from the Yakub Kolas Printing House JSC, which other companies worked at the Belarusian stand at Lisbon?**

*Our country was represented by the Narodnaya Asveta, Khudozhestvennaya Literatura and Nachalnaya Shkola publishing houses. My colleagues in the exhibition business and co-operation in book publishing have discovered a new book world for themselves. I believe they will take on the experience which will prove useful in Belarus. In fact, it's hardly possible not to learn something new at the show with 328 representatives of the book printing business on offer. As a rule, the Lisbon fair is visited by about 500,000 people.*

**Do writers actively participate in the fair?**

*It seems they are the main participants. After all, autograph sessions, speeches, poetry reading, discussions, presentations by authors and other events are common.*

**Well, good luck to you with the new worlds of the book world! We'd love to see a solid bridge built between Minsk and Lisbon in terms of attention to the book, book publishing and fine literature.**

## Polesie icon painting at Slavianski Bazaar

By Svetlana Savelieva



**Icon painting exhibition of Belarusian Polesie to go on show at Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk International Festival of Arts**

The presentation of the exhibition from the archives of the Belarusian State Museum of Folk Architecture and Rural Life will take place on July 9th in Vitebsk's Town Hall. It will display 42 icons from the 19th and early 20th centuries, from the historical and ethnographic regions of Western and Eastern Polesie and the Dvina River area, acquired by museum employees during numerous expeditions over the last forty years.

Folk icons occupy a special place in the icon collection of many Belarusian museums. Researchers at international level are engaged in studying this artistic phenomenon, since folk (native icons) are a heritage of Belarusian, as well as

Ukrainian and Russian cultures. «The similarity of stylistic features, colours, types of numbers and ornamental decoration is seen in folk icons of the Bryansk, Gomel and Chernigov regions,» say the museum's employees.

Tackling the peculiarities of Belarusian folk icons, specialists note that they were painted as part of common Christian canons, but they reflect the emotions and feelings of icon painters themselves. They are united by being painted on board using oils, and often with no base coat. Boards for the icons were not always very thoroughly prepared and often had defects. All these features allow us to suppose that many folk icons were done not by professional icon painters and were primarily used for household purposes. Researchers believe that they were created by local craftsmen who earned their living in this way.



## Exhibits already known

By Natalia Yemelyanova

**Winners of The Art of Books competition on display during Belarusian Written Language Day**

The winners of the 16th International CIS Contest — *The Art of Books* — and the 58th *Art of Books* National Contest are to be exhibited in Slonim. The Head of the Publishing and Printing Department of the Information Ministry — Yelena Pavlova — explained, «We will showcase several thousands of Belarusian publications on Belarusian Written Language Day. These will be primarily the best books which have won *The Art of Books* contests.»

Taking part in this year's competition in Baku were about 80 publishing houses from seven CIS countries: Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. Belarusian books won 20 awards, including the Grand Prix. «Out of 11 categories, we took eight, also taking second place twice. Nine publications got special diplomas; one of them — 'The Pearl of Cultural Heritage' — went to the three-book *Primer. Facsimile Reproduction*,» the official added.

Belarus ranks first in the number of awards over 16 years of CIS contests. «Each year, our works receive awards. We have won a total of 151 diplomas and nine Grand Prix awards over the history of the event,» says Ms. Pavlova.

This year, the Gran Prix went to the Yanka Kupala personal encyclopaedia released by the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House. Its Director — Vladimir Andrievich — emphasises it is not easy to win at such a prestigious international event. «Belarusian books always stand out not only with their design but also with their social themes and research. We were unmatched in some of the categories,» he noted.

The Director of the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House — Ales Badak — added that *The Art of Books* is a competition among professionals. «We often win because we have preserved a good school of professional designing and book publishing,» he said.

According to a well-established tradition, new cultural facilities open in the cities which host the Belarusian Written Language Day. 'Sonnet' is one of them; it is coming on stream in June in test mode. The official launch ceremony will take place during the festivities.



# Symbols of a memorable time

July 3rd in the modern history of sovereign Belarus is not only the national holiday — the Day of the Republic. This day also marks the liberation of Minsk in 1944 from Nazi occupation and is symbolically reflected on an epic scale in the picture by the famous Belarusian painter, Valentin Volkov. The work is entitled *Minsk. July 3rd, 1944* and occupies the most honorary place in the permanent exhibition of the National Art Museum of Belarus.

By Veniamin Mikheev

However, in different exhibition halls, but in the same artistic space, one can see the works of those Belarusian artists whose lives are connected directly with the years of the Great Patriotic War. This is especially symbolic at a time when the country is celebrating the liberation of Minsk from the fascist invaders. Domestic fine art has been able to preserve a most solemn attitude to the events of the past war. None of the major painters whose names entered the golden treasury of national culture could stay away from this topic in their creativity, as on June 22nd, 1941, Belarus found itself at the very epicentre of the military events of the Second World War. At the end of August, the entire region was occupied by German troops. By 1942 however, the Central and Belarusian headquarters of the partisan movement were already established at the headquarters of the Supreme Command. It is not surprising that Belarus was known as a ‘partisan republic’ and, in June-July 1944, the country was liberated from the Nazi invaders.

The fate of the art of Belarus is closely connected with the course of those military events. Some artists were at the front, while others joined the partisan movement. They found for themselves more convenient forms of reflecting reality: small sketches, drawings from the front, posters and cartoons, portraits. After liberation, creative missions were made at battle sites, creating images of war heroes.

The era reveals a whole world of feelings and experiences, with its psychological and moral issues. Each generation of painters was looking for their own key to uncovering that world. The art of the 1940–1950s, which in its essence is a point of reference for the development of the military theme, is usually



blamed for the peculiar and sometimes excessive staging (window dressing) of those events. However, considering those works, one should not forget that this was an attempt to convey sincere feelings. Being at the same time a document of the era, a personal experience of the artist and part of a general spiritual uplift, they can only be properly understood in context. The art of that time was a direct response to the very recent events of the war.

Leading artists of the first post-war generation necessarily found convincing pictorial solutions for their paintings,

which determined the creative longevity of their works. Large-scale multi-figure compositions by Yevgeny Zaitsev, Sergey Romanov, Ivan Akhremchik, Valentin Volkov, sculptural portraits of Zair Azgur and Andrey Bembel became classics. An important role in the formation of the military-patriotic subject of fine art was played by front-line drawings and sketches in which the authors recorded everyday moments of war. The leading place among them was taken by the partisan epic, which revealed the diversity of life and moral aspects of the war.

In the course of time, attitudes toward the military theme began to change. Other motives and accents began to appear, with disclosure of the deep philosophical meaning of events, the connection of times, generalisation and journalism becoming the major focus rather than documentary accuracy. The military-patriotic themes were successfully developed by Leonid Shchemelev, Georgy Poplavsky, Victor Gromyko, Nikolay Nazarchuk, Nikolay Nazarenko and Boris Arakcheev. Moral motifs, which are almost never seen in their previous works, become dominant, with canvases depicting the drama of human destinies.

*Partisan Wedding* by Mai Dantsig, *Birth* by Leonid Shchemelev, works by Mikhail Savitsky, where ordinary events were transformed with the help of metaphors and symbols, became innovative in revealing the topic. With lyrical touches, this theme is presented in one of the famous paintings of Fiodor Baranovsky — *Bath*. A cheerful household story that glorifies female beauty creates a stark contrast with the inhuman tragedy of wartime.



Undoubtedly, for older artists, war was part of their biography. Many of their works became just an epic image, often built on the specifics of real stories. However, as the military events recede, the more often artists turn to figurative interpretation. The war began to acquire a ‘human’ face. New authors not only reflected certain real circumstances and actions of the characters in their paintings, but they also searched for associations, conveyed emotions and rejoiced, expressing all this standing at an easel. For artists, it naturally opened up an opportunity to reflect their secret, intimate thoughts and feelings.

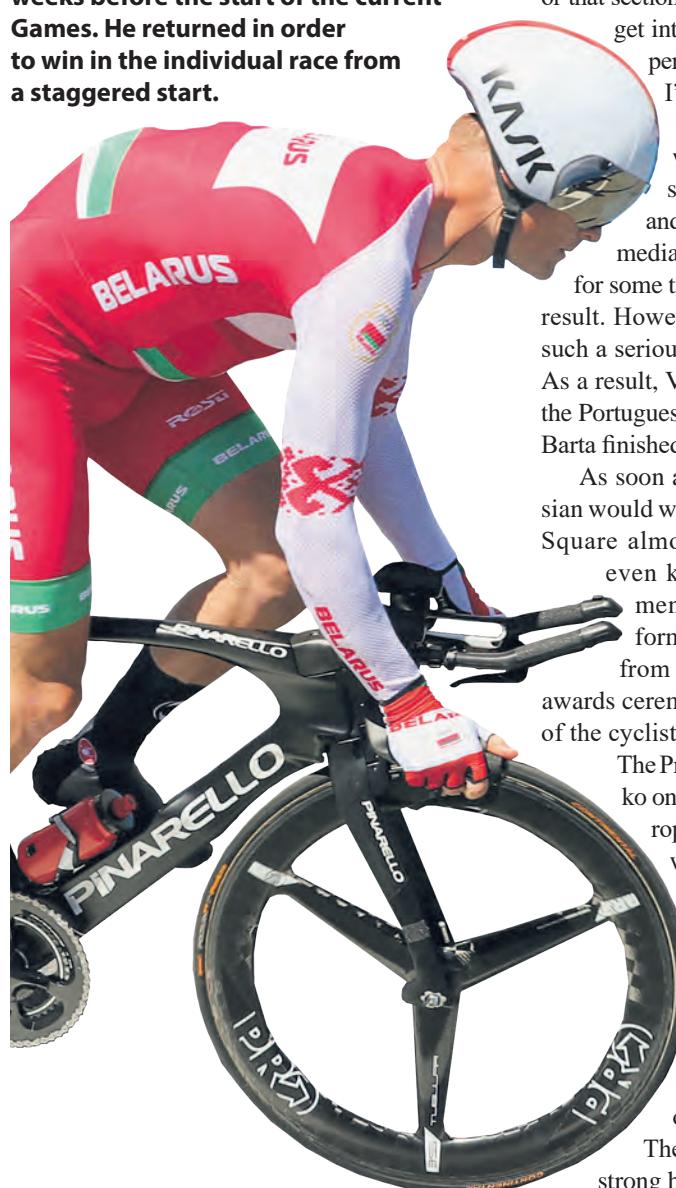
We can safely say that, in the 21st century, the military-patriotic genre was further developed. But the difference is that, if before the war was spoken of ‘in the first person’, the authors were guided by their own memories, today the artists ‘interpret’ the topic associatively, shifting it to a historical perspective, to displaying joy for Victory. Nikolay Opiok, who heads the studio of military artists at the Ministry of Defence, believes, «Our task is not to lose the best that was achieved by our predecessors. We have no taboo topics. It all depends on the ability and courage of the artist, and their civic stance. If someone wants to delve into history, let them not look for only the most spectacular moments of it. It is important to show not only victories, but also defeats, joy and pain, strength, courage and boldness. You need to be honest before history and modernity.»

For seventy-five years already, there has been a peaceful sky over Belarusian lands, the blue of which is reflected not only in the eyes of children, but also in paintings. Peacefulness and philanthropy are the national traits of Belarusians, and domestic art will never become tired of glorifying this through the efforts of its talented creators.

# He returned to win

By Nikita Avramenko

**This season, winner of the 1st European Games in Baku and 2015 world champion, Vasily Kirienko, missed more than a half of a year because of heart problems but returned several weeks before the start of the current Games. He returned in order to win in the individual race from a staggered start.**



Because of his seven-month absence, Vasily Kirienko dropped in the cycling rankings and had to start the race in the first group. The sportsman said, «It was hard to cycle when you understand that all the major rivals will start later and orient towards your result. My colleagues helped me using radio link and prompted me on how best to behave at this or that section of the track. I knew I could hope to get into the top three when I watched my performance on a loop after the finish. I've rarely managed to do better.»

Tensions were especially high when Kirienko's major opponents started: Portuguese Nelson Oliveira and Czech Jan Barta. Both cyclists immediately began to make up ground and for some time even were outstripping his best result. However, no one managed to withstand such a serious effort during the whole distance. As a result, Vasily managed to draw away from the Portuguese by more than 20 seconds and Jan Barta finished third.

As soon as it became clear that the Belarusian would win, the fan zone near Oktyabrskaya Square almost 'exploded'. Fans who didn't even know each other before this moment were hugging one another and formed a queue wanting an autograph from the two-time champion. After the awards ceremony they were chanting the name of the cyclist for a long time.

The President congratulated Vasily Kirienko on earning a gold medal at the 2nd European Games. 'Today you've shown wonderful moral and determined qualities on the track and conducted a tactical race, thus ensuring a comfortable win over your tour rivals', the greeting reads.

Aleksandr Lukashenko believes this victory was facilitated by the support of thousands of fans over the whole distance.

The President wished Vasily Kirienko strong health and further successes.

## Comments of guests and participants of 2nd European Games



**Simon Clegg,**  
European  
Games  
Executive  
Director:

We have enjoyed an amazing atmosphere that unites people from Belarus and foreign guests. They come and enjoy a sporting holiday. Hosting such an international forum enables Belarus to announce itself globally — not only on TV. A TV picture will not replace real communication and a visit to this incredibly beautiful city. Many Europeans have not been here yet. Changes in the visa regime related to the Games will definitely be a catalyst for tourists to visit your city. It will also increase your attractiveness for investments.



**Yuri Pitersky,**  
Director  
of the Brest  
State  
Regional School  
of Olympic Reserve:

After successful performances by our athletes, we see a surge of interest in sports, primarily among children. Applications to sports sections are growing. Even if children don't become professional athletes, they will improve their health. The main thing here is the promotion of sports and a healthy lifestyle.



**Sergey  
Yeliseev,**  
President  
of European  
and All-Russian  
sambo federations:

I believe that what is happening in Minsk will give Belarus an opportunity to make a leap forward in the development of sports. After these Games, many children will begin to engage in different sports. Any such complex multi-sports event gives a boost to the development of sports in the country.



**Vilmantas Liorancas, President of the Lithuanian Badminton Federation:**

I think that everything is organised at a high standard. There are always a lot of volunteers ready to help. It is very important that such large-scale competitions take place in the country. Thanks to them you show Belarus to the whole world.

## The stands erupt with shouts of 'Come on!'

The trampolining competition at Minsk Arena finished with a triumph by Belarusians, with gold medals earned by Anna Goncharova, Maria Makharinskaya (both in synchro jumps) and Vladislav Goncharov (in the individual programme)

By Kristina Glushko

To say that we were anticipating this success means nothing. We expected and hoped for it! A strong squad of young people arrived from Vitebsk which is home to most of the athletes in our national team.

Vitebsk is a true 'goldmine' of trampoline gymnasts, as all the champions of the 2nd European Games were born here: Anna Goncharova, Vladislav Goncharov and Maria Makharinskaya. Of course, residents of the regional city couldn't miss such a large-scale competition



and we met Vladislav Goncharov's chief choreographic coach, Alesya Belchikova, in the stands crowded with thousands of fans, as well as young athletes who dream of repeating their successes and standing on an Olympic medals podium.

«There were a great many people who wanted to come and support our athletes,» said Alesya Belchikova. The support team prepared well with cheers and chants, alongside the flags of their native country. The fact that youngsters came from Vitebsk was seen from far away thanks to the city coat of arms on a wide green flag.

Recalling the young Vladislav, Alesya Belchikova

tells us, «He has always been very purposeful and serious. He has fulfilled everything I asked of him. It's no surprise that he has won the Olympiad, outstripping seemingly unbeatable Chinese sportsmen. I also taught choreography to our second athlete — Maria Makharinskaya. She is an emotional and ambitious young girl, yet very diligent. Unfortunately, she failed to get into the final in individual jumps though she did manage to finish fourth. However, we're very pleased for Anna Goncharova who also performed and finished first.»

It's a true pleasure for the young sportsmen to see the performance of prominent ath-





By Tatiana Pastushenko,  
Dmitry Komashko

There was constant noise, tribunes painted in the colours of the Belarusian flag, hundreds of autographs distributed by athletes... Despite the strong winds and the downpour covering Zaslavl from time to time, the final of the kayak and canoe competitions was exciting and brought a whole raft of medals to our team. On the first day, the Belarusian rowers captured two medals, with gold going to Marina Litvinchuk and Olga Khudenko in the double kayak over 500m, while bronze went to Oleg Yuren for his 1,000m race. Our athletes followed this with eight more awards, including four gold, two silver and two bronze. Among those who welcomed the champions at the finish line was the President.

We have yet to look closely at the results shown at the Zaslavl rowing canal but, in the meantime, we must remember the champions' names: Olga Khudenko, Marina Litvinchuk, Artem Kozyr and Alena Nozdreva.

Olga Khudenko and Marina Litvinchuk are the record-setters of our team in terms of the number of medals won. They jointly won gold and bronze in the two-person kayak race at 500 and 200 metres, and silver in the four at 500 metres. In addition, the ladies won gold each in the individual disciplines: Khudenko — at the shortest distance (200m) and Litvin-

# Medals shine in Zaslavl

chuk — the longest (5km). After her victorious finish, Olga Khudenko didn't realise what had happened for some time: she had defeated Danuta Kozak, five-time Olympic champion and winner of 30 gold medals at world and European championships, for the first time.

Olga realised the significance of her victory only a few hours after the final 200 metres, which she called 'rowing with obstacles' because of the strong wind. Though the subsequent bronze disappointed the Belarusians, Khudenko pointed out they took the main win as a pair over 500m, which is included in the Olympic programme.

Our canoeist, Alena Nozdreva, is also aiming for the Tokyo Olympics. At the age of 20, she already boasts an impressive collection of awards from European and world championships. It has been supplemented with a gold from the European Games: it was a matter of principle for her to win it.

«Women's canoeing is being included in the programme of the European Games for the first time, and we had to show that our sport is growing and developing. The medals won by our team — Nadya Makarenko's and Olga Klimova's silver and my gold — are the best proof,» said the sportswoman.

Long before the start of the 2nd European Games, three-time world champion in sprint — canoeist Artem Kozyr — also enjoyed a success. At the 1st European Games in Baku, he was placed sixth and, at the European Championship, his best result was second. So, the gold won by the canoeist at Zaslavl was his first victory at continental forums. «The 2nd European Games differ from all previous European championships as I was preparing for them for a year. I approached June 27th with great determination and was aiming to give it everything I had on the day,» he said.

## PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, watched a canoe sprint race held as part of the 2nd European Games Minsk 2019 on June 27th. He viewed the event alongside the other fans. The Head of State said a few kind words to the athletes and wished them more victories during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The 2nd European Games champion, Marina Litvinchuk, took a selfie with Mr. Lukashenko and received a box of chocolates from him. The President also talked to other fans, who were pleasantly surprised by his presence in the stands as it added more emotion to the sporting victories. People took pictures with the Head of State, who gifted a bar of chocolate to a small child watching the competition in the arms of his parents.

Mr. Lukashenko also talked briefly to a representative of the Polish Press Agency, who asked for the President's impressions. Mr. Lukashenko hoped the next European Games in Krakow would be as good as the Games in Minsk. «Get ready. We will bring our strongest team. We should shake up our neighbours a bit — in the spirit of sportsmanship, of course. Say hello to our friends,» said the President.

It turned out to be more than convincing, and the final chord of the 2nd European Games at the rowing in Zaslavl was the performance of Marina Litvinchuk — at the marathon distance of 5,000 metres. Looking on, as the Belarusian canoe fought against her rivals, Marina's friend and teammate, Olga Khudenko, was almost in tears. She later explained, «I'm so happy Marina has done it. This was her distance, and she really wanted to win — though the victory required a huge effort for her.»

The head coach of the Belarusian national team, Gennady Galitsky, also spoke about the win. He could hardly keep still when watching the competition, saying, «It was very important for the girls to win at home — to demonstrate that right now they are the strongest in Europe. Of course, their rivals will advance closer to the World Championship and the Olympics but our sportswomen will not rest. Such performances are very inspiring and motivating.»

The team coaches accepted numerous greetings and praise for the athletes. It was their day and their celebration. All their thoughts are about the future. In just a couple of months, our rowers will begin to fight for Olympic qualification at the World Championship and, according to the head coach, Vladimir Shantarovich, success at the 2nd European Games inspires us to pin our hopes on high results next year in Tokyo.

# Perfect performance!



**Belarusian cyclist Tatiana Sharakova becomes a champion of the 2nd European Games**



**Dmitry Asanov of Belarus (weight category 60kg) becomes a boxing champion of the 2nd European Games**

The 2nd European Games are now almost history, with a vibrant celebration for athletes and fans taking place in Minsk. The participants fought for medals across 15 sports and, after the final results, the Belarusian athletes are among the leaders of European and world sport. It was clear several days before the end of the sporting forum that their results would be higher than the 1st European Games in Baku. In the capital of Azerbaijan, the Belarusian national team claimed 43 medals, including ten gold, while during the home event, we earned 69 medals: 24 gold, 16 silver and 29 bronze.

# AGENDA

The Minsk Times

Friday, July 5, 2019

## Photo of the week



At city holiday. Vitebsk — 2019

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> July. Travelling Along Rhine

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 20<sup>th</sup> July. We Hastened This Day as Best as We Could  
Until 11<sup>th</sup> August. Fantasy Land

#### PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

11 Sovetskaya Street  
Until 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Killed Strongmen of Belarusian Land

#### NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> August. Sport is High Art

#### NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

47 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> September. Kazimir Malevich and 21st Century

#### FIRST RSDRP SESSION HOUSE-MUSEUM

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 7<sup>th</sup> July. Miraculous World Under Microscope

#### MINSK CITY HALL

2A Svobody Square  
Until 14<sup>th</sup> July. Olympic Collection of Vladimir Potanin

#### TSENTRALNY CINEMA

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> July. 4,383 Days with Sports

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> July. Sport in Writer's Life

#### HIGH PLACE

2A Gertsen Street  
Until 14<sup>th</sup> July. Paper Dreams

#### VILNIUS GALLERY

55 Kalinovsky Street  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> August. Yakub Kolas and Vilno

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. Amy Winehouse: A Family Portrait  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> September. Lady's Tricks  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> September. European Martial Arts. From Volcano's Smithy to Mars' Arts

#### TROITSKY SUBURBS

7A Bogdanovich Street  
Until 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Live Singing Birds

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
05.07 La Bohemia  
07.07. The Bat  
08.07. Anastasia / French Fantasy

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
09.07. Hot Mothers  
11.07. Bridal Shower

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
05.07. In Search of Lost Self  
06 and 08.07. Mixed Feelings  
09.07. Mechanical Man  
10.07. Battlefield  
11.07. Who Laughs Last

#### YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
08 and 09.07. Nobleman Zavalnya, or Belarus in Fantastic Stories  
10.07. Prudok Homeland / ART  
11.07. Tolerance

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
07.07. Love of Three, or Easter for New Year

#### BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street  
05.07. Concrete  
10 and 11.07. Serezha

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
05.07. About Fedor-Archer  
08.07. Rich Brides  
10.07. Hotel of Two Worlds  
11.07. Playing Happy Family

#### MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
05.07. Comedy  
07.07. Women's Revolt  
09.07. Swan Lake  
10.07. The Bat  
11.07. Giselle

#### BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street  
11.07. About Theatre with Smile

#### CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street  
10.07. Corporate  
11.07. Night at Hotel

#### TERRITORY OF MUSICAL

25 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
10.07. Stand Up musical: Pocket Theatre