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During the presentation of the book *The World Heritage of Francysk Skaryna*

Heritage for the ages

Book entitled *The World Heritage of Francysk Skaryna* presented at the National Art Museum of Belarus

The first Belarusian printed book, The Psalter — considered to be one of the most popular and widespread Christian books — was released in Prague on August 6th, 1517. With this book, the first-printer Francysk Skaryna laid the foundations of Belarusian book printing which was developing in close connection with European and Eastern Slavonic printing. This unique book is dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian printing.

Country needs more people

Generous Belarusian land is able to provide for twice as many people as currently reside in the country. This is backed up by statistics for how much food we produce, how much we consume and how much we sell abroad.

By Vasily Kharitonov

It's likely that the population of Belarus would be approaching this double figure if it were not for the huge losses during the years of the Great Patriotic War. A demographic slump is relatively easy to fall into given the right circumstances, but decades are needed to get out of it. The problem of an ageing population and a fall in the birth rate is however, common throughout Europe. Proactive measures were discussed at the President's session and Alexander Lukashenko outlined his views, "Human capital is our main wealth. Our population has been increasing in recent years. It's essential to preserve this trend and to ensure even greater population growth. Belarus can provide for a population of 20 million people. Our main goal is to reach 15 million, and either we or our children must solve this issue. People are important for the economic security of our country; they are the strength of our country."

At the moment, we have almost achieved a demographic balance, with the fall in the population slowing. These are the first results of the task-oriented state policy aimed at strengthening the institution of the family and stimulating birth rates. Allowances paid to families with children are being increased and, since 2015, a programme of family capital has been introduced, with young families granted preferences



during housing construction. Other measures have also been adopted and it's necessary to continue work in these areas.

Another issue is the need to provide people with worthwhile jobs and much has been done for economic modernisation. However, by launching stimulating mechanisms, it's vital to avoid a reverse effect — a welfare mentality. This is the aim of the Presidential Decree #3. Its implementation raised many questions and the operation of the document was suspended while the Government improved the plans. The draft was also scheduled for discussion at

a meeting and the President underlined the main principle, "Society should know that Decree #3 won't be abolished. I have already raised this issue: we have at least 500,000 unemployed. About 200,000 of them are people with many children, ill or disabled people, those who want to work but cannot due to certain life circumstances. But what are 300,000 people doing? Decree #3 is meant for those 300,000 people who do not work. This is the ideology. There is nothing to conceal from our people."

The aims of the document haven't changed but the approaches towards its achievement are under

review. For example, on the wishes of the President, the major emphasis has shifted to local level, also involving the Council of deputies. Local authorities work directly with people, are aware of the situation in each family and can most accurately determine who can't work because of objective reasons and who simply doesn't want to work.

After the session, the Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Irina Kostevich, told journalists how relations will be built between the state and this category of citizens. It's most likely that they will have to pay for services which are now of-

fered to everyone free and partially free, since these are financed from the budget. What kind of services? The answer to this question will be given later. The Government is now working to compile an exhaustive list while the implementation of the mechanism will be connected with the launch of ID cards to the population. These are an electronic passport in the form of a plastic card which will contain diverse information about its owner, including whether they are employed or not. The relations between and state and such people will be built in a similar way.

Come. Meet. Make friends.

Smiles, flags and flashes: thirty Chinese students come to Belarus as part of exchange programme, following last year's visit by a hundred young Belarusian university students to China, upon Xi Jinping's invitation

By Svetlana Isaenok

Recently, upon Alexander Lukashenko's invitation, students from the Dalian, Northeast, Tianjin, East Chinese and Second Beijing University arrived, having qualified for a two-week Russian language training course, at the Belt of Friendship Summer School. Many students were eager to come but only the best were selected, via a test in Russian language knowledge.

Sergey Kharitonchik, the Vice

Rector for Academic Activity at the Belarusian National Technical University, hopes that some of today's guests will choose to enter the Belarusian educational establishment, to gain a European education. The idea is welcomed by a post-graduate student from Tianjin University, Jan Meiling, visiting Belarus for the first time. She studies Russian language and literature in China, and is proud to have been invited onto the project. "I'm eager to see how your country lives, especially since, not so long ago, our



Friendly meeting of Chinese students

university launched its Belarusian Language Department," she says.

Young Chinese will have a rich programme in Minsk, visiting enterprises and the Great Patriotic War History Museum, meeting sci-

entists and experts, and relaxing at an ethno-cultural complex. The Belt of Friendship Summer School is a long-term project. Meanwhile, Belarusian students will soon travel to China once more.

Law enforcement officials to interact

During the meeting with the Chargé d'affaires of the United States to Belarus, Robert Riley, Ivan Noskevich, Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Belarus, noted that his department is grateful to their colleagues from the USA for assistance with investigating transnational crimes

Mr. Noskevich stressed the importance of interaction between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries in pre-trial criminal proceedings. He thanked the US for their assistance with the investigation of crimes, especially transnational ones.

Robert Riley confirmed the interest of the United States in further strengthening collaboration between Belarusian and US law enforcers, placing a special emphasis on combating cybercrime, violations of intellectual property rights and human trafficking.

‘Progressing ahead of time’ as best strategy for development of relations

Belarus and China have reached a very high level of partnership, notes Alexander Lukashenko, on meeting Xiao Yaqing, Chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, of China’s State Council

By Vladimir Khromov

“2017 has been special for our bilateral ties. Belarus and China are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. We’ve intensified our contacts and organised many joint events, as well as reaching a very high level of partnership between Minsk and Beijing,” noted the Head of State.

According to Mr. Lukashenko, for all of these twenty-five years, he’s been keeping an eye on the development of co-operation between Belarus and China, which has been evolving with his direct participation. “I would never have imagined, twenty-five years ago, that we’d have such relations with the People’s Republic of China. I’m glad that we’ve built such relations with Great China,” asserted the Belarusian leader.

“‘Iron friends’ and ‘all-weather friendship’ are significant terms, which have been included in the lexicon of our relations,” he underlined, remarking that China is a strategic partner for Belarus. The foundation of our co-operation is friendship and mutual understanding, alongside support in bilateral and multilateral formats.

At the meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, our countries reaffirmed the status of Belarus as a crucial partner in implementing the *Belt and Road* initiative. We’re now fulfilling Belarusian-Chinese agreements. This was a keynote of the meeting between the President and representatives of China’s largest corporations, headed by Xiao Yaqing, the Chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, of China’s State Council.

There are plenty of successful examples of co-operation. However, Minsk and Beijing pin special hopes on the development of the Great Stone Industrial Park. The grand players of Chinese business arrived to determine how best to work in Belarus. To understand the scale of activity, we may note that the Commission, headed by Xiao Yaqing, manages state assets of Chinese companies. Last year, their total profit reached \$338 billion, while aggregate incomes of enterprises stood at \$6.75 trillion.

Over the past twenty-five years, our two states have been connected by diplomatic relations. Welcoming his guests, the President of Belarus expressed his desire to see intensive and highly promoted political relations, built on the foundation of pow-



Xiao Yaqing familiarises himself with the Great Stone Industrial Park



Chinese delegation at BelAZ

erful trade-economic ties. To achieve this, Minsk suggests reinforcing interaction across a range of areas, including direct investments into the Great Stone Park, with construction of new high-tech enterprises: the enterprises of tomorrow.

Mr. Lukashenko noted, “You understand that, if we build the enterprises of yesterday or, even, today, we won’t be able to sell these products to the European Union or to other markets. We need high-tech enterprises to sell to every corner of the planet.”

As for bilateral projects, company mergers and connection of their potential, military-technical collaboration looks promising.

“It’s quite possible, and would be great, to set up high-tech military enterprises at the Park. These could

WORD-FOR-WORD

Alexander LUKASHENKO, President of Belarus:

We are not ‘ganging up’ against anyone and we don’t interfere in anyone else’s affairs. We’re developing our co-operation on principles of international law. Belarus and China don’t have agreements contradicting these principles. Moreover, they don’t violate the stability of this region or the Asian region. We’re concerned about the wellbeing of our people, both in China and in Belarus. This is our goal... China is embarking on collaboration with an open heart and soul, with countries who are interested. It’s a new era of international economic and political relations: relations without pressure or preliminary conditions, and on a mutually-beneficial basis. This is the policy of the great and wise Chinese people. We welcome this. We speak and will continue speaking about this.

be joint and Chinese enterprises. Chinese corporations working in the military industry should come to this Park,” asserted Mr. Lukashenko.

The meeting also tackled the creation of the investment fund to attract new residents. The fund is designed to be as large as \$585 million and could rise to \$1 billion or more. Moreover, the Park is expected to be included on the list of projects overseen by the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of China’s State Council. This will create additional opportunities for granting assistance in attracting investors.

Apart from the investment fund, plans for boosting interaction between Belarus and China include stepping up research to study market demand for certain products, and offering of professional training and advanced training for employees of company residents of the Great Stone Park.

The agenda of the meeting included issues related to the development of tourism, air travel, and removal of visa barriers.

Belarusian officials have promised Chinese businessmen every support with the resolution of arising issues and implementation of various projects.

Xiao Yaqing emphasises that the delegation accompanying him on his visit to Belarus, which includes representatives of major Chinese corporations, aims to carry out the agreements reached by the leaders of our two countries. “The companies represented in our delegation are among the world’s top 500 largest and strongest enterprises,” stressed Xiao Yaqing.

He also thanked the Belarusian Head of State for the all-round support provided to Chinese enterprises in Belarus, in particular, for assistance with the implementation of the Great Stone project. “We’ve seen that a great deal of work has been done, in various areas, to develop the Park and encourage companies to become residents. This will help us make the project international, creating favourable conditions and a favourable business climate,” the Head of the Chinese delegation is convinced.

Summing up the results of the meeting, the Belarusian leader said that talks and substantive discussion will help make a considerable step forward in terms of co-operation. Presently, the strategy for the development of Belarusian-Chinese relations is based on the principle of ‘progressing ahead of time’.



It's important in today's world for production to be high-tech and goods primarily export-oriented

Why not increase the exports of high-tech products by \$1 billion?

In 2017, the country plans to export \$11 billion of high-tech products, notes the Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology (SCST), Alexander Shumilin, at the *Innovations for Sustainable Development* review of Belarus' innovation development, prepared jointly by the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the SCST

By Alexey Fedosov

Last year, the country exceeded its plans regarding exports of high-tech products, selling around \$10bn of goods and services. In 2017, the target is \$11bn. A year earlier, the share of exports of high-tech and science-intensive products (in total volume) increased by almost 2.5 percent (compared to 2015): up by 33 percent. The share of innovative products by industrial enterprises has increased.

Mr. Shumilin said that Belarus is building its economic development strategy on the basis of inno-

vation. "The third state programme of innovative development is in full swing and we've definitely succeeded. In particular, we've created a serious legislative base in the field of innovation, as well as the Central Innovation Fund. We've started to develop innovation infrastructure and innovative entrepreneurship, and have become a space state. Our nanotechnology and biotechnology spheres are progressing, receiving recognition from international experts," he added.

Mr. Shumilin also paid attention to criticisms expressed by foreign experts. "Our scientists have

no right to take risks, as all state funding must be fully justified. It's not always possible to guarantee success, but experts note that we should begin funding higher risk projects," he noted. According to the official, this year, it was decided to allocate 20 percent of financing to 'riskier' state sci-tech programmes. "We want to show that these projects can produce results, make money and return investment. Maybe their share will then increase."

Experts also speak of the necessity of developing innovative entrepreneurship and market fi-

nancing systems. "We're working in this direction, with ten industrial parks and eight centres of technology transfer. Last year, innovative products produced in tech-parks doubled in volume (in comparison to 2015). In 2016, we launched more than 300 jobs at parks and technology transfer centres," Mr. Shumilin stated.

The *Innovations for Sustainable Development* review focuses on the country's achievements in the sphere of legislative regulation of the commercialisation of intellectual property, centralisation of branch innovative funds, long-term

and strategic planning for innovation, improvement of statistics and data collection methodologies, saving of human resource capacity for the implementation of innovative development, development of information and communication technologies, and expansion of international co-operation. The survey's results indicate that Belarus has managed to cope with the negative effects of the crisis. Comparison of key statistical indicators of innovative activity for 2011 and 2016 shows that — over this period — indicators have reached pre-crisis levels.

Healthy fears

By Maxim Osipov

Attitudes towards insurance are commonly ambiguous, with ordinary citizens and reputable companies often underestimating the necessity. Often, they only learn when seemingly reliable foreign partners fail to pay for delivered products. There are many such cases but it's now possible to reduce them to a minimum.

Several years ago, the State Control Committee sounded the alarm: it was obvious that the export insurance mechanism was operating poorly. In 2011 and 2012, export risk insurance stood at around 1 percent of the total volume of exports of goods, rising to just under 3 percent in 2013 and 2014. At that time, over 20,000 Belarusian companies were involved in foreign trade. The increase in the period



of return for foreign exchange earnings led to a lack of working capital and violated legislation. It was clear that the number of such violators was growing faster than the understanding of the importance of insurance.

Businesses had their own reasons to ignore the mechanism of insurance. Producers, citizens and insurers have different interests, which don't always intersect. However, it's vital to find a point of intersection. Accordingly, the state has decided to identify where common interests can con-

verge, involving all stakeholders — including manufacturers, lawyers and ordinary citizens.

With this in mind, the Finance Ministry has issued for public comment a draft decree 'On Change of Presidential Decrees on Insurance Activity'. The document aims to improve state regulation and further develop insurance activity, as well as the adoption of additional measures to protect the property interests of citizens and organisations. Its text is available on the Finance Ministry's site.

Great woodwork trends

By Maria Drukova

There's no need to focus on just one sales market; rather, we should look for customers across all regions. Bellesbumprom Concern, for example, exports 40 percent of its goods to non-CIS states.

Our wood processing industry is seeing some great trends, with growing exports to EU states. Over the first five months of this year, these more than doubled (compared to January-May 2016). Supplies to the EU generated \$60 million for Bellesbumprom enterprises, while foreign sales globally exceeded \$150 million in total.

Wood boards and plywood are selling well, in addition to furniture, sawn timber, doors and windows, paper and cardboard, wallpapers, matches, packaging and wood fuel. Fibreboard, chipboard and ply are the sales leaders, with demand al-



ready having doubled, on average. Modernisation of wood processing enterprises is paying significant dividends.

Ruzhena Novitskaya, Press Secretary for Bellesbumprom Concern, explains that this year, only Ireland, Finland, Spain, Cyprus and Malta were absent from the basket of EU sales destinations. However, these markets are being studied and are viewed as promising. Moreover, other potential partners abroad have purchased \$3.3 million of goods, to sample.

Taming electric wind

MT reporter tests automobile of the future in city mode

By Yulia Popko

A boom in electric vehicles is forecast for Europe by 2025, with 80-100 million such vehicles on the road. Our country has only around 150 electric cars (far fewer than our neighbours). Belarus is now planning mass production, and is to construct a great many electric charging stations. Our MT reporter spent one day with the lucky owner of an electric car, learning about the advantages of travelling without petrol.

Tesla is one of the most widespread electric cars, with its Model S badge shining proudly from the bonnet. Artur Tumanov, a founder of the Tesla-Cars Club, tells me that it's luxurious, powerful and comfortable.

"I began to use the electric car two years ago and I've never regretted it. The vehicle doesn't require servicing in the same way as a petrol car, as very little is breakable!"

He opens the bonnet, which is empty, rather like a second luggage boot. I couldn't help thinking how handy it would be for bringing back potatoes from my summer house! In fact, additional space is primarily a safety feature.

"Why do you think passengers in traditional cars tend to die when there's a head-on crash at high speed? The engine under the bonnet 'moves' into the salon and injures them fatally. There's nothing similar in an electric car. It has controlled crush zones, which concertina, and keep you safe. One more advantage is that the heavy accumulator — weighing around 700kg — is located under the floor. The battery ensures a record low centre of gravity, so it's almost impossible to turn the car upside down."

While Artur
e x -



you can also look online for other electric car owners, and arrange to visit them at home, to use their charging sockets."

plains the basics of his car's construction and layout he disconnects the charger and he's ready to go.

I worry whether we'll have enough charge, as I don't want to be stranded, but Mr. Tumanov just smiles and steps on the pedal.

"A full recharge is enough for 400km, believe me; more than enough for the city. However, before long trips, of course, you need to prepare your route, making sure you can charge on the way. It's good that public charging stations are planned but

range to visit them at home, to use their charging sockets."

We've driven a long way and I can't seem to get used to how quiet the car is, rather like being on a trolley bus. There's nothing to irritate me, and we turn on the radio, enjoying the ride.

"You quickly become used to an electric car. Then it's very difficult to drive a petrol vehicle again. When you do, you feel that you've returned to the previous century." Mr. Tumanov is used to receiving amazed gazes from pedestrians.

This time, we're in a traffic jam and the driver of the neighbouring

Honda gives us a thumbs-up sign.

Besides the ecological advantages, there are economic benefits to electric cars. "According to most modest calculations, an electric car is ten times more efficient than a petrol vehicle. As I usually charge the vehicle at night, I save a great deal, since I pay the electricity 'night tariff'. Imagine, for 100km, my Tesla 'eats' electricity equal to 1.5 litres of petrol," notes Mr. Tumanov.

During our conversation, he admits that, at first, his friends and relatives thought he was mad for buying an electric car, especially as it was so expensive.

"This certainly is a major disadvantage, as not everyone can spend Br110,000 on a car. However, I think, over time, the problem will be solved and electric cars will become cheaper. The price of all 21st century innovations has significantly fallen as the years have passed."



Electric car owner is convinced that, within eight years, 10 percent of our country's residents will have a 'vehicle of the future'

Humanity exhausted Earth's budget for this year

No more credit in annual 'ecological budget' of Planet Earth

Spanish ABC has reported on the 'ecological budget', which looks at the natural resources able to be replenished within a year: clean water, pure air and non-contaminated soil.

The International Global Footprint Network has indicated that, this year, the 'budget' will be spent one day earlier than in 2016. "This means that, in seven months, we emitted more carbon than the oceans and forests can absorb in a year, we caught more fish, felled more trees, harvested more, and consumed more water than the Earth was able to produce in the same period," announces the organisation.

The equivalent of 1.7 planets would be required to produce enough to meet humanity's needs at current consumption rates. Ecologists have assessed separate countries. For example, Spain annually consumes the resources of 2.3 planets equal to Earth, while Australia consumes 5.2, the USA — 5, and South Korea and Russia — 3.4 each.

Retail trade is on the rise in the country

By Yana Vidnikovich

Retail turnover is gradually increasing, but Belarusians aren't in a hurry to change their consumer habits

The Deputy Minister at the Ministry for Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade, Irina Narkevich, believes that growth in disposable income is lower than the rise in turnover (which stands at 100.3 percent of last year's rate). People continue to spend their savings to maintain a certain standard of living, with citizens continuing to sell foreign currency to do so, according to the National Bank.

The growth of consumer lending, by 17 percent over the first five months of this year, has helped improve last year's trade figures, in addition to sales made in installments. According to Ms. Narkevich, non-food goods are now offered for purchase via installments at almost 30 percent of all shops.

Belarusians aren't skimping in the number of products they buy, but they are choosing cheaper foods (as was the case last year). Such products are not necessarily of poorer quality. Domestic food products account for just over 80 percent of sales.

American travels to Belarus to learn about his ancestral roots

It's widely known that Belarus attracts foreigners with various intent. Some come for business, others for education, or as tourists. One rarely mentioned reason is the desire to seek out your ancestry.

By Jessica Obanor

This is exactly the story of American massage therapist Benjamin Mayer, who decided to travel around Europe this summer, wanting to learn more about his roots. I met Benjamin on the Couchsurfing site, on Facebook, where he mentioned his plans to spend a few days in Minsk. After chatting on Facebook, I realised that he wasn't just a random tourist but had his own special story. I suggested that I meet Benjamin at the airport, to help him find his way around. As we drove back towards the capital, I began asking questions...

Where are you from?

Originally, I'm from Detroit, Michigan but I've been living in Hawaii for the past four and a half years.

What do you do in Hawaii? And why did you decide to move there?

I moved to Hawaii to work at a rehabilitation centre for adolescents and young adults. I worked with 18-25 year olds, helping them overcome addictions and negative behaviour patterns. Before arriving in Hawaii, I worked in therapeutics and I thought to myself 'What better place to work in this industry than in Hawaii?' After a while, I left my job at the rehabilitation centre because I wanted to switch it up, continuing to work as a healer but in a different industry. I thought massage might be a good fit, so I became a massage therapist.

What can you tell us about your job now? And



In the Belarusian countryside

how do you like to spend your free time?

I've always been a healer and intuitive with my hands, so massage seemed like a good path. Hawaii is a hot bed for massage therapy. So many people travel there every year, wanting to relax and heal, as much as they can. As a therapist, I work at a corporate resort as well as at a small day spa. I work four or five days a week and the job is completely commission-based. This means that I'm only paid for the service that I do: on average, 10-15 massages per week. It's been an incredible journey so far and I can't wait to continue learning as much as possible in this profession, so that I grow.

When I'm not working, in my free time, I love to do many things, from yoga and hiking to exercise, including swimming. Sometimes, I like to make music, messing around playing instruments: the gui-

tar, ukelele, or didgeridoo. I try my best to be out in nature as much as possible, exploring new places (even if it's just a trip to a cafe).

Is this your first time in Europe? And what made you want to come here?

Yes, this is my first time. The main reason I wanted to come is to see where my ancestors are from, to see the region of the world which I come from. It started when I took a DNA test and found out that I'm 95 percent Ashkenazi Jewish, mainly from Eastern and Central Europe.

I've always wanted to see this part of the world, to give me a better idea of where I come from. Minsk was on my list because my great grandparents grew up in Minsk. I thought it would be interesting to see this place, to know more about where they grew up, and how they lived, and maybe even see the environment on a deeper level.

Which countries have you been to so far?

Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia. Now, I'm in Belarus and the next on my list is probably Ukraine.

On our arrival in Minsk, the weather wasn't particularly tourist-friendly but we managed to walk around and see some interesting parts of the city before the heavy rain started. Benjamin and I visited a few places around the city centre, and had lunch at Cafe Depo, in Oktyabrskaya Street, which is quite popular amongst young people for its rich graffiti art and hipster style, and of course Hooligan Bar. Benjamin was fascinated by the graffiti. As he was eager to see more of Minsk's natural landscapes, we took a walk around Pobedy (Victory) Square and planned to relax there for a while, but the rain succeeded in changing our plans.

After the rain stopped,



Benjamin Mayer

it was time to part ways, as Benjamin had other places to explore, people to meet, and other plans best undertaken independently. This didn't stop me from keeping in contact with our dear American explorer, however. Towards the end of his stay in Minsk, I managed to get in touch so he could tell us more about his visit.

He told me, "Four days was a good amount of time to experience Minsk. I was able to see it in two really great ways: day-by-day city life and a small village outside of the city. I was also able to see Minsk through the eyes of a man who really loves his city. Nikolay and I had been communicating via Couchsurfing. I spent my last day chatting with him, drinking beer, and biking 30 miles around the city. I was able to try traditional Belarusian food, see the most beautiful green parks, and get to know someone

who really loves their country. Nikolay adores his country and it shows. He's proud to be from Belarus, and this energy made me really proud to have roots here. I was super impressed with how hospitable and kind everyone in Minsk is. People were uber-friendly and so outgoing and talkative. Compared to America, Minsk has a collective, societal vibe. America screams individuality, while Belarus has the most nationalistic collective energy I've felt since being in Europe. I didn't have many expectations of Minsk so I definitely wasn't disappointed!"

Would you visit Minsk a second time?

I'd definitely visit Minsk a second time because I'd love to dig deeper into my family history, figuring out the exact village my great grandparents are from, as well as seeing if I have any relative currently living in Minsk.

Five years spent in space

Photos of more than 120 million square kilometres of the Earth's surface have brought an income of \$8 million, over five years of work in orbit, with Russian Canopus-B

By Yulia Vasilishina

"This is a landmark event. Our two satellites have worked for their guaranteed term and will continue to supply information for the benefit of Russia and Belarus. Both countries

have acquired considerable import substitution with their launch. Previously, we had to address foreign space enterprises, paying significant money to receive data," stressed Mikhail Khailov, the Deputy Director General of Roscosmos Corpora-

tion, speaking at the National Academy of Sciences.

A new, space branch has formed in Belarus over this time, using Belarus-made equipment for satellites. Peleng enterprise has a portfolio of orders for space, and Integral JSC is



Everything seen from space

developing electronic components. Over the past five years, our developers have proven that they can create next generation satellites, with

new materials and technologies, including aircraft electronics. Launch of the next satellite is scheduled for 2020-2021.

Lighting lanterns above us

Brest revives tradition of kerosene lamps

By Alexander Mityukov

Would you like your wish to come true? Come in the evening to Sovetskaya pedestrian street in Brest. A wizard will soon appear, dressed in ancient costume, with an iron ladder on his shoulders, ready to light the lamps. He's the only such in Belarus and it's said that if you touch his buttons, your dreams will come true.

Eight years ago, Brest revived its ancient tradition of lighting kerosene lanterns along the main pedestrian street. While lamplighters were common a century ago, it's not a job we see today, but electrician Victor Kirisyuk has stepped into the breach, becoming a hallmark of the city.

You can set your watch by the time of lamp lighting, although they're lit later in the evening during the summer, since daylight lasts longer. The kerosene lamps are lit before the electric lamps come on, usually about 10pm in summer, followed by tourists with cameras. Mr. Kirisyuk's job follows a strict timetable.

Street lighting began in Europe in the 17th century, with the first lamps burning oil. Mr. Kirisyuk approaches the first pole and puts his ladder against it. He takes out a lighter — strapped to his belt — and rises slowly, to open the glass door of the lantern, behind which is the kerosene lamp. Once the wick is lit, he descends, finding himself sur-



Daily ritual of lighting the ancient lanterns by a lamplighter

rounded by tourists.

"Mum, I forgot to make a wish!" a ten-year boy shouts. He returns, ducking between other tourists, to touch Mr. Kirisyuk's button, then runs away.

It's all in an evening's work for Mr. Kirisyuk. Around a decade ago, he could hardly imagine that he'd become a city 'sight' and a symbol of excited expectation for thousands of people. Born in the village of Zalyadynie, in the Brest Region's Ivanovo District, Victor studied at the Pinsk Marine School of DOSAAF, graduating as 'an electrician of above-water ships'. "I served three years in

MT REFERENCE:

In Minsk, the first night lights appeared in the 18th century, mostly placed over entrances and gates to central manors and other important buildings. Complex street lighting was launched at the end of the 18th and early 19th century. Brest followed suit in the 19th century, at the order of the head of the city. Over time, kerosene lamps were replaced by alcohol, but still extinguished manually. By 1851, there were over fifty across the city.

the navy and later moved to Brest, taking employment at Brestgorsvet. I've been in the energy sector for 39 years," he explains.

The ritual of lamp lighting in Brest was revived in 2009, when the city celebrated its 990th birthday.

Lanterns emulate those of the 18th-early 19th century, purchased from Russian company Brestgorsvet, with the ironwork forged by Brest masters. The lamps use eco-friendly oil, produced in Novopolotsk.

To exchange electric lights for

kerosene, Mr. Kirisyuk had to audition. There were several candidates for the position of city lamplighter, so why was Mr. Kirisyuk chosen? Many factors played their role and experience was vital: the Brest lamplighter truly resembles a character from Andersen's fairytales. Moreover, Mr. Kirisyuk can easily communicate with people. He's good natured and intelligent, as befits the city's mascot. Moreover, Victor has no bad habits: he doesn't drink or smoke and has a healthy lifestyle. These help in his work, since he has to climb his ladder over sixty times each evening.

As we chat, Mr. Kirisyuk keeps working, passing from one lantern to the next. People are a little irritated by me, as it's hard to take his photo nicely with me in the way! Mr. Kirisyuk is used to such attention and is always happy to chat with tourists and city residents. "People enjoy life, sharing their emotions. What else is needed for happiness? If people around me are happy, I'm happy as well," he smiles.

The Brest lamplighter works alone, with no respite for weekends or holidays — in any weather or season. People know him and want to see him. Some time ago, Victor grew a moustache but Brest residents didn't appreciate his decision, so he felt obliged to shave it off!

In the evening, Victor drives himself to work and, early in the morning, he's taken to work by an official car, to extinguish the lamps. In summer, he does so at around 4am, and a little later in winter. Of course, he goes to bed late, so he doesn't gain much sleep. Meanwhile, each lantern needs to be cleaned, with dirty glass replaced and wicks cut shorter. Victor also adds kerosene, to ensure the city will be lit in the evening.

Expectations of gold proved

By Sergey Bogomazov

This summer Belarusian pupils have been bringing home medals from several intellectual competitions they have taken part in. Everyone was convinced that our talented youngsters wouldn't return empty handed from the International Mathematical Olympiad held in Rio de Janeiro.

Belarusian youngsters claimed four bronze, one silver and one gold. The major win for the team was earned by Yegor Dubovik, an alumni of Gomel's gymnasium #51. This is not his first victory: in 2016 and 2015, he took part in the same Olympiad in Thailand and Hong Kong where he clinched bronze

both times. Yegor admits that the current competition was one of the most complex, "I think it was slightly more difficult last year though. I'm very pleased with my result — I finally felt that I have achieved my goal."

His interest in mathematics appeared in the fifth grade when Yegor moved to a new gymnasium. Their form tutor was very good (he was also their teacher of mathematics) and the class was bright and friendly. According to Yegor, this has encouraged him to turn his mind to mathematics. He doesn't believe in inherited talent at least, his parents have no connection with mathematics. "I think everything depends on your own desire and on how much time a person is ready to spend on



Yegor Dubovik

education. Of course, initial inclinations do exist but I believe I didn't have too much of these," Yegor said.

The boy is possibly too modest, though it's difficult to deny that his success is the result of serious hard work. He has spent most of the day on problem solving tasks during the last year. Only now has he earned the opportunity to take a break: alongside diagrams and equations, Yegor is keen on table tennis and computer games.

Birds settle in Turov

By Sergey Mironov

Waders such as the avocet and stilt, unique for Belarus, nesting on the Pripyat floodplain

The closet area of avocet nesting to Belarus is the Baltic Sea shore and abandoned quarries in the Ukrainian Lvov Region. These birds spend the winter on the Mediterranean coast. The first few avocet were noticed in Belarus during the spring migration, but later their nest was discovered. Ornithologists confirm the birds have hatched and now live in the Turov area. This is the first confirmed successful nesting of avocet in Belarus.

Other birds have also been observed in Turov: at least three pairs



of stilt, rare waders with disproportionately long legs. This year, they were seen in several areas of Belarusian Polesie. Since 1996, ornithologists have rarely spotted stilt nests in Belarus although a pair nested in Turov in 2013. The birds are once again nesting in our country.

Extreme heat warnings are issued in Europe

Eleven southern and central European countries have issued extreme heat warnings amid a brutal heatwave nicknamed Lucifer, with residents and tourists urged to take precautions and scientists warning worse could be to come

Authorities in countries including Italy, Switzerland, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia are on red alert, the European forecasters' network Meteoalarm said, and swathes of southern Spain and France are on amber.

As temperatures in many places hit or exceed 40C (104F) in the region's most sustained heatwave since 2003, emergency services are being put on standby and people have been asked to 'remain vigilant', stay indoors, avoid long journeys, drink enough fluids and listen for emergency advice from health officials.

At least two people have died from the heat, one in Romania and one in Poland, and many more been taken to hospital suffering from sunstroke and other heat-related conditions. Italy said its hospitalisation rate was up 15 percent on the normal level and asked people in affected regions only to travel if their journey was essential. Polish officials warned of possible infrastructure failures.



A spokeswoman for the UK travel trade organisation, Abta, reinforced the advice for holiday-makers, saying they should take sensible precautions, keep hydrated by drinking plenty of water, 'stay out of the sun in the middle of the

day, and follow any advice issued by health authorities in specific destinations'.

The heatwave follows an earlier spell of extreme temperatures last month that fuelled a spate of major wildfires, exacerbated droughts

in Italy and Spain, and damaged crops.

Authorities in Italy, which is suffering its worst drought in 60 years, have placed 26 cities on the maximum extreme heat alert, including Venice and Rome.

Iran minister says US sanctions 'violate' nuclear deals

Iran claims the nuclear deal agreed with world powers has been violated by new US sanctions voted by Congress and signed through by President Trump

Iran's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister has vowed to respond appropriately. Abbas Araghchi reportedly says the authority monitoring the accord, which includes President Rouhani, has drawn up 16 measures in response.

The deal struck with Iran is aimed at preventing Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon by imposing time-limited restrictions and strict international monitoring on its nuclear programme. In return, Tehran won relief from punishing international economic sanctions.

Genetic breakthrough could cure hereditary disorders

Scientists have moved a step closer to curing hereditary disorders by safely repairing a gene in a human embryo

A joint team from the United States and South Korea allowed embryos to develop for five days and succeeded in normalising a mutant gene. It is a scientific first and could potentially open the door to preventing up to ten thousand hereditary disorders. This study provides new insight into a technique that could apply to thousands of inherited genetic disorders affecting millions of people worldwide.

Car bomb in Raqqa injures journalists

Several journalists and Syrian Democratic Forces, (SDF), fighters battling the Islamic State group were injured in a car bomb attack carried out by the group in Raqqa

Local and foreign journalists had been in the city covering the SDF's offensive to retake the IS stronghold. The SDF, which is being backed by the US, is said to have taken back half of the city in a battle which began in early June.

However, pockets of resistance continue to contest control of several districts.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



UK 'cyber-hero' Hutchins charged in US hacking case

A British-based cyber security researcher praised for helping stop a global attack earlier this year has been arrested and charged in the United States over an unrelated hacking case

Marcus Hutchins was detained in Las Vegas and has been accused of involvement with malware known as Kronos, which stole online banking details and credit card data.

The 23-year-old from Devon in southwest England was greeted as a hero for apparently helping to stop

the WannaCry attack, which caused widespread disruption — including in the UK's health service.

The charges filed in Wisconsin allege he created and sold Kronos on Internet forums. A US District Court accused Hutchins of advertising, distributing and profiting from malware code. A statement from the US Justice Department said his alleged activity took place between July 2014 and July 2015.

Hutchins appeared in court in Las Vegas and reportedly showed no emotion as the charges were read out.

Fire engulfs Dubai's 'Torch' skyscraper for second time

A fire ripped through one of the world's tallest residential towers in Dubai, forcing hundreds of occupants to flee the 337 metre-tall, 79-storey structure

It's the second blaze to sweep through the high-rise — which happens to be called the Torch tower — in just two years.

The building was evacuated, no injuries were reported, and there was no immediate word on the cause of the blaze.

"We were sleeping and we woke up to the fire alarm and people screaming. We ran down the stairs and it took us about 10 minutes to reach from the 50th floor," notes a resident who gave his name as George.

Dubai's civil defence authorities said firefighting squads put out the blaze at around 4.00am local time and were cooling the building. The government said it was working on providing shelter for those affected.

The incident may revive questions about the safety of materials used on the exteriors of tall build-



ings across the world.

An investigation by the management of the Torch after its 2015 fire found that most of the damage was to the cladding, exterior paneling used for decoration or insulation.

In the UK, police have said they believe the system of insulation and cladding panels on London's Grenfell Tower may have contributed to the rapid spread of a fire there in June in which some 80 people died.

Created with heart and soul

The Republican Gallery of the Belarusian Union of Artists, located in Minsk's Palace of Arts, presents *Mysterious World of Belarusian Icons* exhibition

By Vladimir Mikhailov

The exhibition showcases icons of the IKONIQUE icon-painting workshop, as well as photos of frescoes from churches and mosaics in Belarus, Poland, Switzerland, Montenegro and Ukraine, presented by the friends of the workshop. The exhibition also includes works created at the International plein air of icon painters in Logoisk which was dedicated to the miraculous icon of Belarus.

The exhibition aims to show the beauty of ancient icons which, for various reasons, can't be brought together in one gallery. Some of them have been destroyed in fires, others are in private collections. Those icons which are kept in Orthodox and Catholic churches have a luckier fate.

The miraculous Belarusian icons refer to a time of struggle for the existence of three faiths in Belarus. They have accumulated the peculiarities of the Byzantine canon, the Kiev school of icon painting and the influence of Western late baroque with underlying decorativeness and amazing earthly



Opening of the exhibition was interesting and respectful

Face to face with the image

details. Professional painters from Belarus, Poland and Ukraine decided to lay the foundation of the museum of ancient icons united by the prayers of three faiths. They are confident that the idea of preserving the best examples of icon painters of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania will be expanded. The collection now boasts around 20 icons of the Mother of God — Yurovichi, Maryina Gorka, Zhirovichi, Logoisk, Minsk, Novogrudok, Malorita... Some images were chosen by the painters for the theme of philosophical contemplation on forgiveness and finding one's own way to God.

A Belarusian icon is a unique phenomenon. Unlike in the Byzantine canon, where saints are serious and contemplative, our icons portray a smiling Mother of God as if testifying that the whole of Belarus is under her special protection. The more we study these icons and the more we speak to God, the more blessings from the Mother of God we will receive. Today we feel joy from communication with these icons, created by modern icon painters — descendants of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania," noted Victor Dovnar, who heads the IKONIQUE workshop.

The exhibition in the Arts Pal-

ace showcases straw 'royal gates' by the famous folk master of straw weaving, Larisa Los. Rye straw hasn't been used in any other country to decorate churches. The major part of the church's interior was traditionally carved from timber, then gilded and decorated with precious stones and icons. The straw gates sparkle like gold while small pieces of fabric of blue and red are added for effect. The 'royal gates' have been created in accordance with old technology. This unique tradition was preserved in her creativity by Larisa Los who celebrated her 90th birthday last year.

The creative IKONIQUE icon-painting workshop started in Poland more than 25 years ago, in Podlasie. St. Peter and Paul's Church was painted as well as the Christ

Resurrection Church in Siemiatycze, and the Christ Resurrection Church which is part of the Holy Spirit Church in Bialystok. More than two hundred icons were created in Bialystok, and iconostases in churches in a range of Belarusian cities and in Tashkent were written. Moreover, frescoes were made in churches in Montenegro and Switzerland and in private prayer rooms.

Today the IKONIQUE workshop conducts master classes, takes part in international conferences and its masters pass on the secrets of their work to others.

They are all professional painters and members of the Belarusian Union of Artists and Belarusian Union of Designers. The workshop has been awarded diplomas and certificates for its work on many occasions and even became a laureate of the Konstantin Ostrozhky Award. The head of worship, Victor Dovnar, was awarded the second degree Order of Saint Blessed Prince Daniil of Moscow.

It should be mentioned that the current exhibition in Minsk is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the IKONIQUE workshop.

Painter's successful attempt to capture children's mood and bright emotions

By Alexander Pimenov

The National Art Museum of Belarus has successfully hosted a personal exhibition by Sergey Kaval, *Forgotten Fairytales*, showcasing around twenty pictorial works by the author, created in recent years

During the 20th century, many great artists — Picasso, Miro, Chagall, Klee and others — used children's drawings as their inspira-

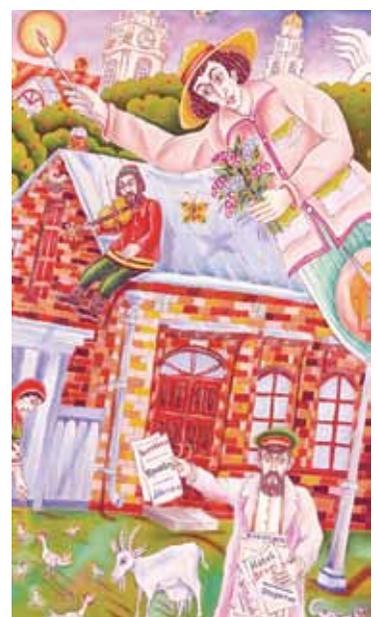
tion. The masters were looking for the spontaneity of perceptions and reflections of the world in children's drawings, they explored the expressive possibilities of limited pictorial means, finally they tried to capture the kind of mood that is natural for children but is almost unachievable for adults.

Sergey Kaval's teachers (a pseudonym, his real name is Koval) were great masters of the past and of children's drawing. Inspired by the mas-

terpieces of world art, Sergey gradually came to excel at the primitive genre, which is spiritually close to children's creativity.

The paintings are full of pure colour, contour drawing, fantasies and fairytale characters. There are some 'regulars' appearing, found in many works by Kaval: a lion with human eyes, swans, couples hovering in the sky... Children's naivety and immediacy of world view are contained forever in these pictures.

Sergey Kaval studied at the Belarusian State Economic University. He is a self-taught painter and works in the genres of primitivism and native art. His personal exhibitions include *The Planet of People* (2010, Svetlogorsk) and *Be Like Children* (2015, Gomel). He is a regular participant at the *Zabor* art project in the Republic of Belarus, Poland and France. His pictures are kept in galleries and private collections of Belarus, Russia, Belgium, Germany and France.





Pilipka

Pilipka plays first violin

Belarusians focus on folklore motifs and collect festival awards

By Anna Kurak

Belarusian animation veteran Valery Kozlov has a studio that resembles a true artist's workshop. Creative mess is everywhere, with cartoon images in every corner. "In animated cinema, an artist doesn't simply draw: they act out the characters, choosing how they'll move and their facial expressions," Valery explains. "People often enter our office saying, 'Is this a door to a children's fairytale?' In fact, it's not fairytale heroes who live here but those who paint them."

Maintaining reputation

"Last year, we celebrated a jubilee: Belarusian animation turned 45! In these years, we've produced over 200 works," says Igor Galinovsky, the Director of the Animation Film Studio, with pride.

The history of Belarusian animation began in 1971 when young directors Vladimir Golikov and Marta Lubyannikova came to Minsk to make a puppet film — *Neznaika-Poet*. Some time later, thanks to Mr. Golikov, the first pavilion for cartoons opened at the Film Studio. Vladimir and Marta are rightfully 'parents of Belarusian animation'. In the 1970s, they shot *Kvaka-Zadavaka* and *Timka and Dimka*: these characters performed one of the most popular children's songs of all times — *True Friendship Cannot Break...*

What are Belarusian animators' recent achievements?

We're trying to maintain our reputation and justify the legend-



During the work on the *Toshka i Kompaniya* animated film

ary past. We're now working on the *'Stars of the Seventh Sky'* animated musical, whose characters are voiced by Belarusian pop celebrities. This is the first project of the kind in our country and I can already show you a fragment [colourful characters appear on the screen, singing in surprisingly familiar voices]. The film is to be full-length and, in 2019, we plan to premiere it in cinemas.

We tend to focus on educational plots, such as creating a cycle of car-

toons about the history of Belarusian cities' coats of arms, called *'Tales of Bygone Years'*. Our young audience will love our *'Fish Nicknamed Not Allowed'* series.

Old and new technologies

Do you use modern methods?

Sadly, we lack funds for 3D-animation, as we're a state-funded studio. However, our financing is steady, and we can raise funds from outside, generating income from hosting foreign companies. It may seem that we're making 'obsolete' films but the world is demonstrating declining interest in 3D animation; many eminent animators are returning to classic techniques of drawing and doll making. This is what we do

well. Belarusian filmmakers work with sand, plasticine and cut paper. However, painted cartoons remain in first position. Each second has 25 scenes; this means, fifteen thousand pictures are needed for a ten-minute long cartoon.

Wow! Do you have a large team of employees?

There are about thirty people on our staff, with most artists and composers working freelance. Many joined us as young specialists or technical workers but are now known and loved in Belarus and abroad. For example, in 2013, Yelena Petkevich's film about Johann Sebastian Bach was awarded a 'Golden Eagle'. In 2014, our studio received the first

three prizes at the Russian 'Golden Knight' Festival. At the same time, Igor Volchek's *'Rondo Capriccioso'* cartoon was named among the world's best animated films at the International Festival of Animated Films, in Japan.

Western films are like chips: tasty but useless

Don't you plan to compete with western companies?

It's hardly possible to say that western animation competes with us. We work under different conditions, with different budgets and in different techniques. In the end, our goals differ. Western cartoons resemble chips and sweet soda: they're tasty but not useful. If consumed in large quantities, bad consequences follow. Our animation is more like buckwheat or oatmeal porridge. It's not so attractive at first glance but, over time, its benefits are evident. Our animators don't use gimmicks to attract viewers, as western animation does. In this respect, Belarusian cartoons are somewhat similar to those that were produced in Soviet times.

The Head of the Belarusian Cinema History Museum, Igor Avdeev, comments on modern Belarusian animators' tasks:

First of all, our animation supports the status of the Belarusfilm National Film Studio. Domestic animators often turn to national themes and base their works on Belarusian history and culture. They use folklore and our literature and this is their advantage. We're engaged in popularising Belarusian cinematography. Among the best works are, definitely, many animation films. Not a single day is spent without them at the museum — especially during the school holidays.

I Will Always Love You praised by jury

By Yana Vidnikovich

Belarusian Anna Mikitich has won the Wings of Talent contest, in Italian Rimini, held as part of the Talent Regatta International Festival of Children and Youth. Her teachers, Konstantin Drapezo and Alexandra Kirsanova, members of the famous Belarusian Alexandra & Konstantin duo, the first representatives of Belarus at the Eurovision International Song Contest, are delighted.

The musicians were invited to headline the festival with a solo performance, accompanied to Italy

by their students, who were participating in the competition. Anna Mikitich, from Ivatsevichi, won the Grand Prix in the singing contest.

Anna met Alexandra and Konstantin at the Republican *New Names of Belarus* contest, organised by the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus, in 2016, and they became Anna's producers. The young singer believes her participation in the Italian competition has been a great opportunity to show off her vocal skills outside of her homeland. Her performance of *I Will Always Love You* (as sung by Whitney Houston) was highly praised by the international jury and brought her

the main prize of the competition.

Yanka Kupala secondary school pupils Polina Karnitskaya and Anastasia Kravchenko, from Sennitsa, shared second place.

Meanwhile, in the instrumental nomination, first place went to Minsk gymnasium #16 pupil Maxim Zakharynsky, and second to *Ledentsy* band, comprising Alisa and Yelizaveta Nosik, from Sennitsa secondary school.

The children have been taught by famous teachers for several years, with some performing internationally for the first time and others having already won diverse competitions.

In the choreographic genre, Belarus was represented by honoured *Druzhiba* (Friendship) Dance Ensemble, an amateur team from Gomel, who also captured an award.

The gala concert and the awards ceremony were held on a large open air stage in the 15th century Castle Sismondo, with the Italian audience welcoming the Belarusian performers warmly.

In the five years of its organisation, the *Talent Regatta* Festival has welcomed participants from nine countries. It's held with support from the Sardinia Italian-Belarusian Co-operation and Education Centre, and the Centre of International



Anna Mikitich is pleased

Co-operation, under Belarus' Education Ministry, and with help from Special Presidential Fund laureate Galina Laminskaya, who leads the project.



Performance of Belarus' national team in group exercises

Ten medals and positive international assessments

By Kirill Karin

Belarusian gymnasts claim 2 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze awards at the home stage of the FIG World Challenge Cup 2017 — BSB Bank

Leader of the national team Yekaterina Galkina clinched gold with the ball and bronze medals with

the hoop and ribbon. Belarusian Alina Gornosko collected silver with the ball and ribbon. She also claimed bronze with the clubs and individual all-around silver.

Two silver and one gold medal was taken by the Belarusian national squad in group exercises.

For the leading rhythmic gymnasts the FIG World Challenge Cup 2017 — BSB Bank in Minsk was a dress rehearsal ahead of the 35th Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships 2017 in the Italian town of Pesaro. Taking part in the current competitions were representatives of 24 countries, with Belarus sending eight gymnasts.

mic gymnasts the FIG World Challenge Cup 2017 — BSB Bank in Minsk was a dress rehearsal ahead of the 35th Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships 2017 in the Italian town of Pesaro. Taking part in the current competitions were representatives of 24 countries, with Belarus sending eight gymnasts.

Test of strength before World Championships

Hosts claim 22 medals at International Boxing Tournament, held at Minsk's Sports Palace

By Alexey Grishin

Belarusian athletes have taken the highest step on the medal podium three times at the 25th International Tournament in memory of USSR Hero Victor Liventsev, with Yana Burim (51kg), Vadim Pankov (75kg) and Sergey Korneev (91kg) winning their final matches. Moreover, Vadim, who brilliantly managed the decisive fight against the Englishman Jordan Reynolds was awarded a special prize from the organisers as the best boxer of the tournament. Meanwhile, Anastasia Abushenkova (54kg), Yulia Apanasovich (57kg), Alla Yarshevich (60kg) and Alina Veber (75kg) as well as Nikolay Shakh (56kg), earned silver in their decisive matches. The favourite at the World Championship, Mikhail Dolgolevets (81kg), failed to take part in the match for gold due to health issues but still brought home silver for the team.

As far as bronze medals are concerned, these were

claimed for our team by Olga Stepanenko (51kg), Galina Bruevich (60kg), Aksenova Antonina (60kg), Victoria Kebikova (75kg), Pavel Lazakovich (52kg), Yevgeny Shabelnik and Dmitry Deshkevich (both 60kg), Yevgeny Dolgolevets (69kg), Andrey Mikhailov and Victor Deshkevich (both 75kg), Vladislav Smyaglikov (91kg), Yevgeny Mednik and Dmitry Doronin

(both over 91kg).

This year, more than 100 boxers competed for medals, representing 15 countries: Azerbaijan, England, Armenia, Belarus, Tunisia, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Wales, Scotland and Estonia. For the first time in all the years of the event female entrants took part in the tournament.



Emotions run high in the ring

Results are obviously not in our favour

By Igor Svitov

Results for Belarusian football clubs after the qualifying rounds of the European Cups

BATE Borisov footballers were defeated by Prague Slavia after two meetings of the Champions League qualifications and will be fighting to get into the group stage of the Europa League. In the first match of the 3rd qualifying round of the Champions League, Alexander Yermakovich's trainees lost to the Czech champions in Prague with a score of 0:1 and then won at home, at Borisov-Arena 2:1; however, the Czech players qualify due to the goal scored in the away match.

After an away defeat, BATE Borisov footballers were hoping to open the score as quickly as possible and please their fans who 'packed' the stadium. They managed to do this in the 5th minute

when Nikolay Signevich used the mistake of the Czech goalkeeper Jan Laštůvka, and opened the scorecard. After that, the guests seized the initiative and forced the Borisov players to concentrate on defence. Slavia's persistence was rewarded one minute before the break: Slavia's captain, Milan Škoda, managed to equalise the score — 1:1. After the break, Alexander Yermakovich's trainees rushed forward again and BATE captain Igor Stasevich put the team ahead in the 46th minute — 2:1. To gain victory after two meetings, Borisov players had to score one more goal but all their efforts were in vain.

In the second round of the qualification, BATE footballers defeated Yerevan's Alashkert — 1:1 (at home) and 3:1 (away). Now, the champions of Belarus will have to fight for entrance into the



Return match at Borisov-Arena

group stage of the Europa League — the second most important continental tournament. The draw for the play-off matches of both tournaments took place in the UEFA headquarters in Swiss Nyon, determining Ukrainian Oleksandriya as

BATE's rival. The first match will take place on August 17th at Borisov-Arena while the return meeting will be held on August 24th.

The following day, Minsk's Traktor Stadium hosted a return match of the third qualifying round

of the Europa League where Dinamo Minsk accepted Cyprian AEK. The first meeting of the squads (held previously) finished with a victory of the Cyprian footballers 2:0; however Sergey Gurenko's team weren't going to surrender without a struggle. In the 47th minute, Anton Saroka scored a penalty and took the hosts into the lead. Dinamo Minsk footballers played well in the match and had several chances to score the second goal and bring the game into overtime. Meanwhile, Artem Bykov, who received his second yellow card in the 85th minute, significantly worsened the chances of the Dinamo squad. In extra time, Acorán Barrera, who came off the bench, snatched the ball in his half after a corner kick and successfully sent it into the net, bringing the score to 1:1. Thus, Dinamo Minsk was knocked out of the Europa League.

Silhouettes of the week



Minsk's Dreamland Park hosts *Freaky Summer Party* art picnic

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 19th September. *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love* Until 20th September. *Masters of Polish Drawing*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 10th August (Labyrinth Gallery). *Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man*
Until 20th August. Exhibition of children's graphics: *Her Majesty Letter*

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 31st August. *Summer Story* educational programme

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 11th August. *Since Ancient Times: Kupalle*

LOSHITSA ESTATE

8/2 Chizhevsky Lane
Until 27th August. *Wonderful Animals*

VAN GOGH HOUSE

9 Zybitykaya Street
Until 1st October. *Vincent Van Gogh: Artist of Star Sky*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street
Until 11th September. *Miraculous World of Butterflies*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

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

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 1st September. *Made in USSR*
Until 10th September. *Pictures and High Fashion*

CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 31st August. *Summer of Cat Platoshka*

KOMSOMOLSKOE LAKE

Pobediteley Avenue
Until 17th September. *Art-Islands* project

CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 30th June 2018. *Legacy of Belarus: Devotion to Minsk's 950th Birthday*

THEATRES

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
10.08. House Upside-Down 11.08. Midsummer Night's Dream or King Lear
13.08. Barmaley 14.08. Love and Pigeons 15.08. Mad Money
16.08. Figaro.tut
17.08. Comedy about Penny Pincher

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
10.08. Night in Hotel

TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue
13.08. TheatreHD: Revolution — New Art for New World

CONCERTS

SVOBODY SQUARE

10.08. Belarusy art band

UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square
12.08. Classics at the Town Hall 12.08. Days of National Cultures 17.08. Night of Russian Romance

RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street
12.08. Re:Public Street Musicians Festival

GRAFFITI

16 Kalinin Lane
11.08. Yann Zhanchak
12.08. Postoronnih Net
13.08. Used Friendly

TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolyutsionnaya Street
10.08. Skarlet 11.08. Tomato Jam / Merlyn Monroe 12.08. Sheldon Cooper / Top Gun 13.08. Devil Dandies
16.08. Place to Be
17.08. Harmonix College

RAUBICHI HOMESTEAD

Raubichi village
09-12.08. Remara Educational Fest (Open Air)

LOSHITSA PARK

10 Chizhevsky Lane
10, 14, 17.08. Khatkha Yoga 12.08. A-Fest 12.08. City Karaoke Picnic at A-Fest

KARETNY DVORIK

8 Kirill and Mefody Street
12.08. Major charity concert by Relikt band

POBEDY PARK

Pobediteley Avenue
12.08. Free boxing training sessions
15.08. #Followminsk

YANKA KUPALA PARK

10-11, 17.08. Cycling School. Minsk

DREAMLAND

80 Orlovskaya Street
12 and 13.08. 1,000 Adventures family quest picnic