

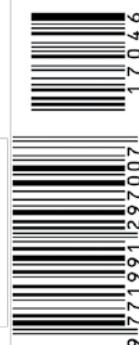
November session of CSTO Collective Security Council crowns Belarus' year chairing the organisation → 3



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Nadezhda Skardino starts and wins

Belarusian biathlete wins World Cup stage in Östersund, finishing ahead of all her rivals to claim her first biathlon gold

→ 11



Heads of State take part in the CSTO Collective Security Council session

By Vasily Kharitonov

CSTO states thankful to summit's host

November session of CSTO Collective Security Council crowns Belarus' year chairing the CSTO

Accepting the honour of the chairmanship, Minsk, last year, formulated its priorities: strengthening the CSTO's influence within the international arena, enhancing the system of prompt response to crisis situations, improving the operative readiness of the CSTO's collective forces, and implementing additional measures to counteract international terrorism and illegal drug trafficking, as well as providing a stable migration situation.

Summarising the year's results, specialists assert the development of the CSTO under Belarus' effective chairmanship. All planned events have been held: meetings, negotiations and joint decisions at various working levels. Not all received media coverage, partly due to the need for confidentiality and security.

However, the practical part included the following events: 'Combat Brotherhood-2017', 'Search-2017', 'Interaction-2017', 'Enduring Brotherhood-2017', and 'Dushanbe-Antiterror-2017' joint

exercise. These, and similar events, aimed to enhance our military interaction, not only to protect against emergencies but to battle terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking and illegal migration, while providing information security. The efficiency of joint operations fighting drug trafficking has been apparent. The 'Canal-Volga River Boundary' area saw 312kg of narcotic substances withdrawn on the territory of Belarus last year, and seventy-nine crimes connected with illegal drug trafficking detected. Similar events are held regularly and are of transboundary character, so their efficiency is measured in weightier figures.

2017 has been intensive in strengthening the collective security of CSTO member states, and our momentum should continue. Opening the session, Mr. Lukashenko expressed confidence that the Minsk summit would facilitate this. "Belarus is a consistent supporter of vigorous co-operation within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, supporting its activity and stronger authority within the international arena. I'm convinced that the current session will bring new impetus to CSTO development and will demonstrate positive dynamics in solving issues of providing common security."

The presidents of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan met behind closed doors, discussing the latest trends internationally, and measures to strengthen CSTO collective security. For the plenary session, a wider range of issues came under discussion. Mr. Lukashenko commented, "I note with satisfaction our shared views regarding modern threats faced by CSTO member states, and the efficiency of our chosen strategy, aimed at their minimisation. Systematic work continues, through our joint efforts, aimed at enhancing the CSTO's international authority and expanding its range of

supporters. Important forms of foreign political co-ordination are being developed and we've managed to secure a common approach towards information security, bringing basic elements of the system of crisis response into compliance with advanced technical requirements. Particular steps have been made regarding peacekeeping. Much has been achieved in 2017 — a jubilee year for the organisation. I'm convinced that further joint efforts to strengthen the CSTO will preserve its progressive and dynamic character. We want everyone to see, in our own states and beyond, that we, the closest states in the world, enjoy open dialogue.

The joint declaration, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Collective Security Treaty and the 15th anniversary of the CSTO, can be viewed as the major final document of the summit. This sums up the results of our common work."

Nevertheless, other adopted documents are of no less importance. They fix common views of CSTO member states on important problems: from the Syrian crisis and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to the provision of information security. Other decisions include the shift of chairmanship obligations from Belarus to Kazakhstan.

Like Minsk a year ago, Astana is now formulating its priorities. The President of Kazakhstan detailed these as the expansion of instruments of interaction for CSTO states in the military sphere, organisation of practical military-technical collaboration of CSTO states, participation of the organisation in the formation of an international system of global counteraction against terrorism, and joint response measures towards cyber-crime threats.

Best Games ever

By Dmitry Alexandrov

Minsk is no novice in hosting major international sports tournaments, boasting considerable experience in holding significant political and professional events. In 2019, it will host the 2nd European Games. On meeting the President of the European Olympic Committee, Janez Kocijančič, the Belarusian Head of State guaranteed that the event would be held at the highest level.

"You have strong support in Belarus. You can



always rely on our country, especially on the eve of a major and landmark event. Not long ago, our representatives reported on preparations for the 2nd European Games. I want to assure you that everything we've promised will be modernised, built and tested by mid-2019. You'll have no problems, regarding accommodation or diet. No prob-

lems will arise regarding athletes, coaches, specialists or functionaries of Olympic committees. We'll do this in a Belarus-like manner: sincerely and openly," Mr. Lukashenko said.

The Belarusian President assured his guest that these will be the best European Games, since the whole Belarusian nation will live through this 'Olympics'.



Janez Kocijančič

Janez Kocijančič noted that he'd no doubts regarding these plans. "You're among the world leaders in this respect. If you promise that everything will be organised well, then it will be so... We're very satisfied with these preparations, which are following the time schedule. I'm convinced that the European Games in Minsk will be the best in history."

Partners have much to offer

By Oleg Bogomazov

"Poland could support initiatives to liberalise EU's trade regime towards Belarus," notes Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Shestakov, speaking at 5th session of Belarusian-Polish working group on trade and investments, as part of Joint Commission for Economic Co-operation

"We're ready to suggest a great deal to our Polish partners; however, we'd like to see return steps from Poland.

For example, our Polish colleagues could support European Union initiatives to liberalise the EU's trade regime towards our country," notes Mr. Shestakov.

He believes that reduced import customs duties for Belarusian-made wooden boards would have a favourable influence on the prime cost of furniture manufactured in Poland. This would bring benefit to both the Belarusian and Polish economies. Professionals can give lots of examples," Mr. Shestakov underlines.

Distant prospects are brought closer

Belarus and Kazakhstan sign agreement on socio-economic co-operation until 2026

By Vladimir Khromov

The agreement on socio-economic co-operation between Belarus and Kazakhstan is the major final document of official negotiations between the presidents of our two countries. It covers the period until 2026 and forms a strategy of strengthening Belarusian-Kazakh relations, while opening up new opportunities in interaction across all areas.

Alexander Lukashenko believes the official visit by Nursultan Nazarbayev to Minsk will considerably enhance the level of interstate interaction. “We support each other everywhere and always. There’s nothing closer on the planet than the three states which have created the Eurasian Economic Union. We should strengthen this friendship and our collaboration, forming a powerful economic basis. We’re ready for this,” noted Mr. Lukashenko.

Nursultan Nazarbayev assessed our 25-year co-operation (dating from the moment of our diplomatic relations being established), saying, “Over these years, we’ve created an economic and political basis for friendship and co-operation, primarily by your efforts... Our relations have today entered a new strategic level.”

The official visit of the President of Kazakhstan to Belarus took place against a rather optimistic economic background. After a sharp decline, mutual trade has begun dynamically increasing, to reach almost \$500 million. The heads of state believe this could easily double again, so negotiations have primarily tackled areas of interaction.

Mr. Lukashenko wishes to see more mutual investment into production, with an expanded sales market for goods and services. He suggests creating our own

transnational corporations within the EAEU. Our governments have already seen some progress.

Integration of large national projects, implemented in both countries, also have good prospects. Astana is setting up an international financial centre while Belarus has the Great Stone Industrial Park. “Mutual participation in these projects should speed up and reinforce the integration of our countries into the world economy,” noted Mr. Lukashenko.

The Astana Centre and the Great Stone Park were initially invented as supporting points along the Silk Road Economic Belt. In this context, the initiative of Mr. Nazarbayev to mutually supplement our two states’ potential in transport, logistics and transit activities is topical.

Minsk also suggests that Astana unite efforts in building a digital economy,

developing space technologies. Belarus is ready to share its expertise in creating unmanned aerial vehicles and agrarian innovations, and is happy to share experience in housing and road construction. Our industrial co-operation supports increased localisation of joint manufacturing in Kazakhstan. Collaboration in science, education and medicine is also important, with Mr. Lukashenko determining the position of Belarus clearly and comprehensively. He noted, “Kazakhstan is a strategic partner for us. We highly appreciate our close ties and aim for productive interaction across all areas. I guarantee that, if we agree on particular issues, we’ll meet our obligations. You won’t ever have any problems with us, as has always been the case.”

The President of Belarus believes that the most important result of talks



Nursultan Nazarbayev and Alexander Lukashenko

is their ability to drive forward a new stage in bilateral co-operation, focusing on innovations and high technologies. Mr. Lukashenko stressed, “Existing bilateral agreements will enable us to move to

a new technological level.” Mr. Nazarbayev agreed, commenting that both states believe in developing partnerships for the sake of citizen wellbeing. He views this as being a vital motivation in our work.

When bilateral interests successfully coincide

Belarusian-Kazakh Business Forum gathers around 400 representatives of enterprises and organisations

By Alexey Fedosov

Everyone present was keen to develop contacts, enjoying a wide range of spheres of interaction.

Speaking at the forum, the First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus, Vasily Matyushevsky, announced Belarus’ eagerness to liaise with Kazakhstan to promote the move to a digital economy. Digital transit corridors are planned, with Belarus and Kazakhstan aiming to reach \$1 billion of trade turnover by 2020.

Our two counties have been interacting fruitfully in the industrial sphere, with quarry and mining machinery assembled in Karaganda. Belarusian tractors, grain



During the work of the forum

and forage harvesters, as well as motors and bailing machines, are also assembled in Semey, Kostanay, Pavlodar and Uralsk, in addition to various types of communal, firefighting and attachable agricultural machinery.

Of course, more can always be achieved. Several major contracts were signed at the forum, including BelAZ’s agreement with AstanaBelAZServis to supply twenty-five quarry vehicles to Kazakhstan, with a load capacity of 90 and 130 tonnes: a contract worth almost a quarter of

a million US Dollars. Gomselmash is to supply 500 assembly kits for harvesters next year to Kazakhstan’s AgroMash Holding, while Minsk Automobile Works is to deliver a hundred assembly kits for heavy-duty dump trucks and communal equipment to Hyundai Trans Auto. Meanwhile, Minsk Tractor Works is to supply two thousand units to the Belarusian Tractor trade house. Of course, this is far from an exhaustive list, following meetings between business circles from Belarus and Kazakhstan, in Minsk.

Participants of the business forum have their say

Yerlan Khairov, Vice Minister of Investments and Development of Kazakhstan:

Over the last nine months, trade-economic relations between our countries have been showing evident growth. This isn’t the complete potential of our co-operation, but it’s a pleasing trend. It’s beneficial for Belarusian companies to work in Kazakhstan, gaining access to Central Asia and the Chinese market. Investments from Belarus are highly popular in our country, as are Belarusian technologies.

Birzhan Kaneshev, Deputy Chairman of the Board of JSC National Company Kazakh Invest:

We’re the only co-ordination centre for investment management in Kazakhstan, trying to simplify foreign investments’ entry onto the Kazakh market. We’re a ‘one-stop-shop’ and our services can be used remotely — via information resources. We’re always glad to see the arrival of Belarusian partners.

Din Kim, Chairman of the Board of Directors of AgroMash Holding:

Our company is liaising with partners from various states. However, we’re enjoying the closest interaction with Belarusians. Localisation of Belarusian goods in Kazakhstan has risen from 40 to 50 percent. Since 2007, we’ve been producing Belarusian agricultural machinery and have already supplied more than three thousand units to the Kazakh market. The current forum is a good opportunity to reinforce our collaboration and launch new projects.

Vladimir Ulakhovich, Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

We meet quite often. Several months ago, Astana hosted the ‘Made in Belarus’ exhibition and a business forum involving prime ministers. The current forum is special, being the largest to date. It’s great that it took place during the visit of the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to Belarus. It’s a very important signal for business, showing support and a serious attitude.

Land of beautiful mountain rivers

Alexander Lukashenko promises to send leadership of largest companies to Tajikistan to study opportunities for setting up new joint ventures in the country, speaking at negotiations with President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, during his working visit to Belarus

By Alexey Fedosov

Mr. Lukashenko has been giving much consideration to the direction for further development of relations. “The situation in your country has improved,” he noted, “And you have established wonderful relations with your neighbours, especially with Uzbekistan. The problems which once were present, especially in transit issues, no longer exist. At least, they’ve been removed.”

“We need a true foundation for our relations, in the shape of

the economic sector,” stressed the Belarusian leader. “I’ll send representatives of our largest companies, and we’ll try to set up joint ventures in Tajikistan, working both on the Tajik market and on those of third countries. We should discuss this idea and give relevant instructions,” asserted the President, believing that our two countries can work together to access the Afghanistan market, and set up manufacturing facilities there.

As far as politics and diplomacy are concerned, the Head of State said that our two countries

share similar positions. “We’ve always come to an agreement. We’ve responded to your every call, recommendation, and request. When I ask, you’re always punctual and do everything scrupulously. I wish to have such relations with everyone,” noted Mr. Lukashenko.

The Head of State added that, since Soviet times, he has perceived Tajikistan, and its capital of Dushanbe, favourably, with this attitude strengthening upon his visit to the country as president. “We’re old friends. I really love



Emomali Rahmon

Tajikistan, having visited your country and become familiar with your agricultural industry, your manufacturing companies, and your powerful aluminium mill,” said Mr. Lukashenko. “I like your mountains, which I’ve driven through with you, and I’ve seen your rivers. Though you now have low water levels and lack enough

rain, as you tell me, nevertheless, these are wonderful and beautiful mountain rivers. I’ve been to many places around the world but I’ve not seen many such beautiful landscapes. I sincerely wish that the relationship between the people of Tajikistan and Belarus grows to be as beautiful.”

Emomali Rahmon supported the proposal of Mr. Lukashenko to create joint production facilities, saying, “There’s huge potential.” He suggested the study of all proposals in this respect, saying, “The peculiarities of the Tajik market should be taken into account, as well as those relating to Afghanistan. We greatly value our relations — personal and international. Tajikistan highly appreciates them.”

Roadmap to determine degree of onward movement



President of Belarus reaffirms commitment to develop close relations with Venezuela and intention of visiting the country, on meeting Venezuelan Vice President Ricardo Menendez

By Vladimir Velikhov

“With regard to our bilateral relations, these remain friendly and fraternal, politically and diplomatically. We’re ready to offer anything to help Venezuela achieve success,” noted the President. “We’ve agreed to develop a roadmap to deepen our bilateral development, considering the situation which is unfolding. In the near future, in 2018, during my visit to Venezuela, we’ll be able to advance our relations. We won’t only approve the roadmap. We’ll start implementing it.”

The Head of State noted some unresolved issues in bilateral relations but asserted that these shouldn’t hinder the development of co-operation. “If we can’t solve these today, we must put them aside and draw a roadmap to move forward,” stressed Mr. Lukashenko. Otherwise, the President believes, the parties may lose more than they gain, in anticipation of the solution of current problems in bilateral relations.

Mr. Lukashenko under-



Ricardo Menendez

lined that much depends on the current visit by Ricardo Menendez to Belarus and the session of the joint intergovernmental commission, saying, “The content of the new page in our relations depends on this.”

The President of Belarus asked to convey his congratulations on the convincing victory in the important and indicative regional elections to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. “Everything goes as it should. Some don’t like your victory and are trying to destroy the consolidation that has emerged in Venezuelan society. This is hardly surprising but you shouldn’t attach too much importance to this. It always happens; we’ve gone through this too,” noted

the Head of State.

“The main thing that I highlighted in the meeting with Nicolas Maduro is that you should stay united in Venezuela and believe in your victory. Otherwise, our friend Hugo Chavez will never forgive us,” emphasised the Belarusian leader.

Ricardo Menendez conveyed warm greetings from the Venezuelan President to Alexander Lukashenko. “He’s keeping a close eye on everything, starting with this visit and covering all agreements and meetings. After your meeting with President Maduro, there was much food for thought; we’re currently working on these projects,” he said.

Regarding the situation in Venezuela, Mr. Menendez noted that 2017 saw challenges but will be remembered as a year of peace and restoration.

Belarus and Venezuela have long-term trade-economic and co-operative ties, with several joint enterprises set up in producing automobiles, tractors, oil extraction

and gasification. The manufacture of road construction machinery has been organised in Venezuela using Belarusian technology and Latin America’s largest brick factory has opened, in addition to hundreds of thousands of square metres of housing.

During negotiations in October, the leaders of the two countries agreed to activate a joint inter-governmental commission to plan the solution of obstacles to our bilateral relationship.

“Venezuela is grateful to Belarus for its support in overcoming economic difficulties,” noted Ricardo Menendez, at the session of the Belarusian-Venezuelan Trade-Economic Commission, held in Minsk. “When Venezuela manages to overcome economic difficulties, it will be possible to say that Belarus’ assistance in manufacturing tractors and trucks is partly responsible,” said Ricardo Menendez. He also underlined the importance of trade-economic co-operation with Belarus across all spheres.



Andrei Kobyakov at summit in Budapest

Co-operation as part of the ‘16+1’ summit

Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov proposes strengthening Belarus’ potential to link Europe and Asia

By Oleg Bogomazov

While speaking at the 6th Summit of Heads of Government of Central and Eastern European Countries and China, in Budapest, Mr. Kobyakov stated, “Thanks to its geographical position, Belarus can become an integrating trade link between countries of the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union, countries in the Asia-Pacific region and Europe.”

Establishment of the Silk Road Economic Belt presupposes creation of hubs for co-operation in industry, transport, communication, innovation and finance, and IT. Mr. Kobyakov noted that construction of the Great Stone Industrial Park in Belarus is already increasing cross-border traffic with Lithuania and Latvia. Belarus hopes to become an important trade-lo-

gistical and production-technological platform on the Silk Road. Significant preferences exist for investors joining the Park with new competencies in manufacturing, technologies and management. The Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park is open to companies from China and beyond. At present, most of its residents are Chinese companies but there are some from Austria, the USA, Germany, Lithuania and Russia. Jointly with its Chinese partners, Belarus is working to internationalise the Park as much as possible.

The ‘16+1’ co-operation format was initiated by China to intensify and expand collaboration with Central and Eastern Europe in the field of investment, transport, finance, science, education and culture. The first 16+1 Summit was held in Warsaw in 2012.

Obviously good prospects open up for Midea Horizont

New joint projects with Chinese Midea Group to receive support in Belarus at top level

By Vladimir Khromov

China's Midea Group came to Belarus with direct investments ten years ago. Together with Belarusian Horizont Holding Company, it launched the production of microwave ovens and then water heaters.

Recently, Alexander Lukashenko voiced readiness to support new projects with China's Midea Group, meeting the Chairman and President of Midea Group, Fang Hongbo. The Head of State underlined, "You're always welcome here. We've always paid great attention to co-operation between Belarus and the People's Republic of China, and your company provides testimony to this. It's great that the company intends to expand its presence in our country. We're ready to support any of your projects. You can be sure that we'll continue to provide all



Microwave oven production line at joint Chinese-Belarusian enterprise Midea Horizont

possible support and assistance to the development of partnership relations. We're 'iron brothers' and our level of co-operation is one of the highest in the world. We highly appreciate this. Such companies as yours are the backbone of our collaboration."

The President also emphasised the friendly nature of relations with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and that no topics are off-limits. "We've created the best climate for your investments. You'll always find full understanding and support in the leadership of our country," the President said.

The Chairman and President of Midea Group, Fang Hongbo, said he was satisfied with the results of work in Belarus over the past ten years and expressed his gratitude to the government for its support. "We've received good results and laid a solid

foundation for expanding our presence in Belarus. This shows that co-operation between China and Belarus is expanding, including within the framework of the *Belt and Road* initiative," he noted. "We intend to position Belarus as a hub, covering all CIS

Chinese Midea Group has also been looking at how best to establish joint production of air conditioners in Belarus. "We'll study the market. Afterwards, we'll decide how we might develop this business," noted Zhang Keyu, President of

ing company Horizont, also mentioned the production of air conditioners among new joint projects. "We've decided to prepare a comprehensive action plan with deadlines and investment figures. Together with Midea Group, we'll present it to the Government and then to the Head of State for consideration," he explained.

The 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Belarusian-Chinese joint venture Midea-Horizont has been solemnly celebrated, having been established in 2007 by China's top household appliances manufacturer, Midea Group, and Belarusian Holding Horizont. "Belarus has a good industrial base and qualified personnel; using these advantages, we've secured high quality products. Midea-Horizont intends to expand its manufacturing to include large white goods," added Zhang Keyu.

Midea Group Corporation is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of home appliances in China and worldwide, specialising in the production of air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines, large kitchen equipment, and large and small household appliances, as well as equipment for water, devices for lighting and other goods. Currently, it operates over 200 subsidiaries, with more than sixty overseas branches and twelve strategic business units. The corporation has production sites in China, Italy, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, India, Japan, Thailand and Belarus.

Horizont Holding, established in 2010, includes twenty-five companies, which employ more than 7,000 workers, engaged in various spheres: from the production of household and industrial electronics to construction, logistics and services.

We've received good results and laid a solid foundation for expanding our presence in Belarus. This shows that co-operation between China and Belarus is expanding, including within the framework of the *Belt and Road* initiative



Fang Hongbo

countries, to develop production of microwave ovens and water heaters. We plan to manufacture household appliances such as refrigerators and washing machines."

Midea International Business, a subdivision of Midea Group, while in Minsk.

Yuri Predko, the Director General of the Managing Company of the hold-

On the way to contemporary nuclear power station

By Vladimir Yakovlev

Residents of Gorodok District recently observed a huge road train on the motorway, accompanied by two police cars, carrying a unit to the new nuclear power plant

It was 9 metres in the height and width, weighing as much as a heavy loaded BelAZ truck: over 220 tonnes. To avoid trouble, all other vehicles were prohibited from using the road until the convoy had passed. Moreover, power lines were disconnected and lifted out



Everything was done to ensure that important transport can pass by

of the way.

As station staff explain, the facility will be used to

place fresh fuel into the reactor and then to extract used fuel. It will also help unload

equipment for repair and replacement. A reactor case has already been installed at

FEATURES

The Energy Ministry's press service has reported that about **5,000** Belarusian and Russian builders are now working at **123** nuclear power plant sites. **89** percent of concrete and **88** percent of reinforcement are ready.

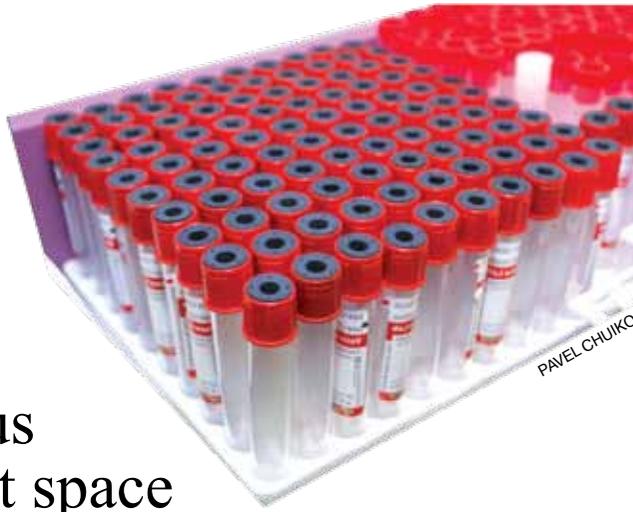
ment. Work is in full swing at the second power block, with two (of four) steam generators already in place. Delivery of these heavy weight items has been accompanied by a special transport campaign.

"Before assembly, all equipment passes through instrumental and visual control," explains Anatoly Bondar, the chief engineer of the nuclear power station. "Everything is being done to ensure that, as planned, the first block will come into operation at the end of 2019; the second block should launch in mid-2020."

the first power block, in addition to four steam generators and many other equip-

Most advanced blood transfusion centre in the CIS

Minsk's City Transfusiology Centre is unique not only in Belarus but across the post-Soviet space



New City Transfusiology Centre equipped with modern equipment

By Inna Kabysheva

The Centre boasts the most advanced global technologies, and treatment methods, implemented by experienced specialists. A great many donors give their blood without payment, helping the Centre complete high-tech operations and organ transplantations, saving human lives. Our *MT* reporters were the first to visit the new building at the 6th clinical hospital.

According to the Head of the City Transfusiology Centre, Olga Klimovich, doctors and engineers were involved at the earliest stages, helping design a facility convenient in all respects, for transfusion service staff and donors. The building feels bright and cozy, across its five floors. On the ground

floor, blood is stored, for use across the whole city. Over twenty modern freezers and liquid nitrogen cryo-storage chambers are in use. Donors travel to the first floor, where comfortable rooms and a convenient electronic queuing system

are available. There are sofas, a counter for filling in questionnaires, and a canteen, as well as three rooms for medical examination. In the waiting room, orange chairs are for those giving plasma, lilac are for blood donors and mint green seats are for people donating thrombocytes.

You can't become confused.

The Centre is designed to handle at least 17m tonnes

of blood annually. The second floor processes donated blood, while the third floor has laboratories, and the fourth houses offices.

Ms. Klimovich admits, "We've put our souls into this building. We used to operate out of the basement of a residential building, where it was impossible to hang air conditioners, because it was an architectural monument. We're waiting to equip two more blocks at our Centre (for cord blood and IVF) but we're content. We boast technologies unique in Belarus and the CIS, and soon plan to start bioequivalent drug trials. So far, not only Belarus-made medicines have been tested here but foreign companies — impressed with the Centre's capabilities — have shown interest recently. Such co-operation will be very profitable, enabling the Centre to make money."



Advice from Dr. Zhukova

Key in the foreground

Important to address problems in advance, with preventative measures

Atherosclerosis (the build-up of plaque inside the arteries) is a major cause of heart and vascular diseases. As vessel walls thicken, the flow of blood to the organs is hampered, reducing circulation to the heart muscle and brain. Atherosclerotic plaque can eventually close vessels completely, bringing on myocardial infarction or ischemic stroke.

With this in mind, preventative measures are vital. Patients are advised to stop smoking, eat a balanced diet and increase physical activity. Smoking is the most important risk factor, raising the likelihood of contracting cardiovascular disease by 20 percent. Belarus is aware and eager to act.

In correcting your diet, it's wise to reduce fat consumption while raising your intake of mono- and polyunsaturated fatty acids: as found in vegetables and sea products. Eat more vegetables and fruits, especially those rich in potassium and magnesium, to help reduce blood pressure and prevent arrhythmia. According to recommendations by the European Society of Cardiologists and the European Society for the Control of Atherosclerosis, there are three categories:

Recommended products should form the basis of your diet, containing little fat and a great deal of fibre: cereals — such as coarse bread, oatmeal, cereal flakes, whole grain pasta, brown rice and dried bread; dairy products — low-fat milk, yoghurt and cheese; soups (especially vegetable and consommé); fish — boiled, smoked, or fried without the skin; seafood — such as oysters and scallops; and lean meat — such as turkey, chicken, veal, game, rabbit, and lamb (once or twice a week, it's permissible to have lean beef or pork). Try to eat only the whites of eggs and consume as many fruits and vegetables as possible, fresh, dried or frozen, but try not to eat fruits with sugars added. Pulses are especially good for you — fresh and dried beans, lentils. Potatoes

are best eaten boiled (whether peeled or not).

Desserts are permissible in moderation: go for fruited ice creams, jellies, puddings made from skimmed milk, and fruit salads.

Some products should be consumed in moderation only, due to their high fat content and lack of fibre: white rice and pasta; dairy products made from semi-skimmed milk; meaty soups; fish fried in non-healthy oils; non-recommended vegetable fats; and fatty meats, such as goose and duck, as well as sausages, salami and pates. The skin of all birds should be avoided where possible, since it's fatty, and you should eat no more than two egg yolks per week. Biscuit made from unsaturated margarines and fats should also be consumed only in moderation, alongside such confectionery products as marzipan and halva. Even Brazil nuts, cashews, peanuts and pistachios should be eaten in moderation. Of course, all alcoholic drinks require moderation.



Exercise essential to health

Undesirable products contain high levels of saturated and hydrogenated fats and/or sugar: croissants and brioche buns, full fat milk, condensed milk, cream, and high-fat cheeses and yoghurts, as well as creamy soups and fish fried in unhealthy fats.

It's important to take exercise, although many people fail to realise. Physical activity helps regulate body weight and reduce predisposition to thrombosis. Being overweight can lead to an increased risk of hypertension, and atherosclerosis, and their complications.

Preventing the onset of atherosclerosis is the key to preventing and treating many diseases of the cardiovascular system.

Tatiana Zhukova,

Doctor of highest category, D.M. Ph.D.



Buon Appetito, Minsk!

Capital hosts 2nd International Week of Italian Cuisine

By Svetlana Sukhorukova

The major event is a calling card of culinary mastery, winemaking and food production for Italy, and is held simultaneously around the world. Belarus is known to be located at the centre of Europe, at the intersection of cultures, attracting tourists from various corners of the world. We carefully preserve our traditions while being open to all that is new and interesting. One of the ways to learn about another country is to sample its cuisine and to discover the gastronomic preferences of its citizens.

Late November saw the opportunity to experience the diversity of Italian gastronomic delicacies, with professional cooks, amateur chefs and guests welcomed in Belarus, for



Italian Ambassador Stefano Bianchi with members of Association of Neapolitan Pizzamakers, Umberto Fornito and Giovanni Capuzzo

the 2nd International Week of Italian Cuisine.

At the solemn opening of the Week of Italian Cuisine in Minsk, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to the Republic of Belarus, H.E. Mr. Stefano Bianchi, stressed, "Italian cuisine uses ingredients and wine of good quality. Italy exports 68 out of 100 varieties of food product, mostly sold worldwide. As we know, good nutrition is essential to good health."

The programme of the Week of Italian Cuisine in Minsk was intensive, including tastings, master classes, university conferences, TV meetings with chefs, advertising campaigns, culinary shows, and screening of fiction and documentaries. The most interesting events were two grand master classes in degustation, where representatives of the Gae Aulenti Institute of Hospitality and members of the Association of Neapolitan Pizzamakers (As-

sociazione Pizzaiuoli Napoletani) showed the zest of the regional cuisine of the Piedmont Region. Specialists of the Bartolomeo Scappi Institute of Hotel Business suggested that audiences taste the delicacies of the region of Emilia Romagna while famous masters taught guests how to roll dough by hand.

Through the week, the best Italian restaurants of Belarus offered visitors a special menu inspired by the recipes of Pellegrino Artusi — a

forefather of Italian cuisine. Representatives of the Italian Sommelier Association familiarised guests with Italian wines while teachers and experts conducted lectures in Belarusian universities, dedicated to the gastronomic and tourist routes of Italy. More than a thousand events were held in various countries around the world, during the Week of Italian Cuisine, with Italy sharing its cuisine, history and its unique knowledge of food.

Major documents to undergo change

By Lyudmila Gladkaya

Belarus is ready to switch to a two-passport system, allowing residents to hold national and foreign passports. From January 1st, 2019, new generation documents — an ID card and biometric passport — will replace the usual blue booklet with stamps on registration, marriage and children, with a seal and signature. Its final form has not yet been approved but certain changes are likely, including the introduction of new technologies, notes the Acting Deputy Head of the Citizenship and Migration Department at Belarus' Internal Ministry, Pavel Khrishchenovich.

"New documents will enable us to confirm the authenticity of a person's identity, helping prevent criminals involved in international terrorism from entering Belarus. They'll ease passport control procedures, making them quicker, and the new documents will offer greater protection against forgery and unauthorised

information reading."

He adds, "At present, biometric technologies in travel documents are used by most countries, including all states of the former USSR (except Belarus). With this in mind, we're updating our range of identity documents and those needed for foreign travel. They'll be issued in branches of the Citizenship and Migration Department, where photos and fingerprints will be taken. A foreign company is likely to equip a ready-to-operate complex and citizens should rest easy that their fingerprints won't be used to cross-match during forensic investigation. In fact, approximately 12 percent of the Belarusian population cannot be fingerprinted for practical reasons, which will be noted on the chip."

Mr. Khrishchenovich shows me a biometric passport with the 'chip in the cover', which has a polycarbonate personalised page. The new document will be issued only for travel abroad. Children aged 0-14 will have their passport valid for 5 years, while those over 14 will be given documents with ten years of validity.

The ID card will become a single identity document domestically for Belarusians, foreigners and stateless persons permanently residing in the country. It may be issued for children over the age of 14, as well as at the request of legal representatives of a child from the moment of their birth (valid for 10 years).

Foreign experience

Russia. A two-passport system (national and foreign passports) is operational. The former is used as an identity card inside the country, while a foreign biometric passport is needed to travel abroad (issued for a 10-year period).

Ukraine. A two-passport system is also operational. An identification card (issued since January 1st, 2016) is used domestically and a foreign biometric passport (issued since the beginning of 2015) is needed for foreign trips.

Kazakhstan. A two-passport system is applied: a domestic smart card and a foreign biometric passport (issued



District in Kaliningrad of Belarusian origin

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarusian residential district could be constructed in Kaliningrad, notes Governor of Russia's Kaliningrad Region, Anton Alikhanov, at session of Belarusian-Russian council on long-term co-operation of Belarus and the Russian region

According to the Governor, a land lot with all necessary infrastructure in the centre of Kaliningrad could be allocated for the construction of the Belarusian residential district. The leadership of the region is keen to see Belarusian specialists take part in other large-scale construction projects. Moreover, Belarus' assistance is in demand in preparing the city for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Next year, Kaliningrad will continue a large-scale programme on the replacement of lifts in residential buildings, with 30-35 million Russian Roubles allocated for this purpose.

since January 1st, 2009).

Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and other EU countries. An ID card with an electronic digital signature is used as an identity card within the country, and on the territory of EU states and state-participants of the Schengen Zone. A foreign biometric passport is necessary for foreign travel.

USA. About 58m people (16 percent of the 350m population) now have passports, using them for foreign travel. A driver's license is used primarily as an identity document domestically while biometric passports have been issued since 2006.



Far-right rally met with protests in Washington

America's emboldened far-right movement has been demonstrating again, this time in front of the White House in Washington

Police were out in force to ensure there was no trouble, as the marchers were met by an anti-fascist counter-demonstration.

There was plenty of abuse

thrown by both sides but no violence, and police escorted far-right leader Richard Spencer away from the scene to a subway station when he had finished

speaking. Previously the groups had clashed violently in Charlottesville, Virginia and Florida, but this event was mostly peaceful. The far-right, or alt-right as

it likes to style itself promises more rallies, and the anti-fascists have equally promised they will be on hand to oppose them every time.



China's manufacturing activity expanded at a faster pace in November

China's manufacturing activity accelerated in November, official figures show, beating expectations as strengthening domestic and global demand boosted production in the world's second-largest economy

China's manufacturing purchasing managers' index, a gauge of factory conditions, stood at 51.8 for the month, the National Bureau of Statistics said. This was up from

51.6 in October. Anything above 50 is considered growth while a figure below that number points to contraction. Analysts had expected a reading of 51.4.

"The manufacturing industry maintains the momentum of steady increase," NBS analyst Zhao Qinghe said in a statement.

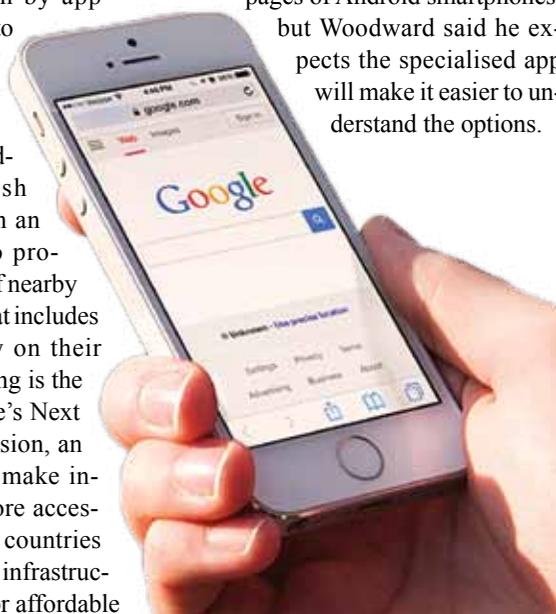
Balanced improvement in supply and demand as well as strengthened market vitality contributed to the growth, he said.

Google launches Dataly application to save mobile data

Google introduced an app designed to help Android smartphone users stay under the limits of pricey mobile data packages in developing countries

Dataly, the new service, lists data consumption by app and enables users to shut off data transmissions by apps of their choosing, Google group product manager Josh Woodward said in an interview. It also provides a directory of nearby Wi-Fi networks that includes user commentary on their quality. The offering is the latest from Google's Next Billion Users division, an internal effort to make internet services more accessible to people in countries where technology infrastructure is not as fast or affordable

as in the United States or Western Europe. Previously, Google announced a peer-to-peer payment app aimed at Indian consumers and a low-bandwidth version of YouTube. Some Dataly functionality is available within the settings pages of Android smartphones, but Woodward said he expects the specialised app will make it easier to understand the options.



New drone technology wins Innovation Radar Prize 2017

A new drone is making a buzz across Europe: its technology means that risky industrial inspections can become safer and more cost-effective

Designed by the Centre for Advanced Aerospace Technologies in Seville, the semi-autonomous drone can lift instruments and press them against structures in just the right way to check their integrity.

Developed within a European research project *AEROARMS*, this technology is aimed for the commercial market. So far countless pipelines at industrial facilities, in particular in the oil and gas sector, need to be inspected manually. It is a slow, expensive and dangerous job.

Terror charges dismissed against German soldier who posed as refugee

A German soldier has been cleared of planning a terrorist attack while masquerading as a refugee

Despite speaking no Arabic, Franco Albrecht, 28, obtained asylum by posing as a fruit seller from Damascus.

He was arrested in April, accused of planning to assassinate politicians and blame the acts on immigrants. However, the Federal Court of Justice has ruled that there is insufficient evidence that a 'serious act threatening the state' was being prepared.

The challenge of being vegan in the Balkans

More and more people are beginning to stand up for the rights of animals in the countries of the former Yugoslavia

In November, a group of vegans of Sarajevo took to the streets to expose what they see as the cruelty inherent in meat, dairy and egg production, showing videos of animal suffering to citizens of Bosnia's capital.

At the same time, in neighbouring Croatia, another group was preparing a vigil for animals outside a slaughter house in the town of Sisak. According to the organisers, it was the first such event in Croatia.

A growing society of vegans from Bosnia, Croatia, and other parts of the Balkans are fighting a difficult battle to gain recognition for, and protection of, animal rights.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Pictures from Oleg Orlov's exhibition arouse diverse associations

Mysticism gaining real features

Minsk's Artel Art Gallery hosts exhibition of works by Oleg Orlov

By Veniamin Mikheev

Oleg Orlov was born in Dagestan but, in 1973, his family moved to Minsk. In 1988, he experienced clinical death following an accident and literally a week later, began seeing visions of paintings he wished to create. He transferred these onto canvas, devoting himself to painting. By the end of the year, he'd painted almost 150 pictures. In 1990, the Museum of Belarusian Literary History hosted his first personal exhibition.

Mr. Orlov often finds inspiration in his dreams, creating abstract works which bear little resemblance to reality. He combines visions and sensations, evoking what seems familiar from our unconscious. Oleg believes that his works tend to strike a chord with people, who perhaps recognise something from a past life.

"We tend to rely on electronic gadgets while failing to notice the eternal around us," he muses, "I want to remind people of Earth's beauty, and that of people's thoughts and dreams. All are depicted in my paintings."

Belarus is Oleg's second homeland; he calls it a country-reserve, since nature dominates. Here, he finds what every master dreams of: tranquillity and harmony with nature. Mr. Orlov is the founder of mysto-essentialism in painting. As he explains, mankind has amassed mystical knowledge and his work aims to explore this little-understood aspect of our humanity.

Mr. Orlov believes each civilisation leaves a legacy of two things: knowledge and works of art. All else disap-



pears. Any sane person who views himself as part of civilisation should study the legacy of previous generations: art inspired by the world of beauty, nature, human thoughts and emotions.

Mr. Orlov likes to use a stained glass or mosaic effect, which he explains is inspired by the eyes of dragonflies. "I thought of how the world is transformed through its grid, each image split into pixels. We may think that we've invented a digital model of the world but God did so millions of years ago! In our age of digital manipulation, artists are realising, more than ever, the beauty of nature, which is pristine."

Mr. Orlov believes the artist's task is to remind people of their intelligence. Life has taught him many important truths. "I'm inspired by the realisation that I'm mortal," he says. "I grew up as an ordinary boy, just like my peers. However, at the age of 19, I experienced a clinical death, as a result of an accident. Happily, my friend was nearby and brought me back. Afterwards,

I realised my purpose and began to paint. I know, now, that any day could be my last, so I must use my time wisely, rather than wasting it."

On the first day of December, Artel Art Gallery hosted Mr. Orlov's exhibition and an acoustic concert, focusing on Mysto-essentialism. Guests were able to chat with Mr. Orlov, asking him questions and listening to music. Works from the past three decades were on show. Interestingly, Mr. Orlov is a great admirer of Alexander Isachev, one of the most famous of Belarusian artists. Oleg can talk about him for hours. Here, he shares his thoughts on the attitude towards the arts.

How many people in Belarus know about Alexander Isachev, do you think?

Quite a few! If you search online, you'll find enough



material to keep you reading for a month. He's much discussed, with diverse people enjoying his work, not just from previous generations but our modern young people. Alexander Isachev is a Belarusian legend. This self-taught man, from the small town of Rechitsa, painted several hundred paintings in thirty years. Many are now in the world's largest collections. 200,000 people attended his first exhibition, at Minsk's Palace of Trade Unions, in 1988. Can you imagine? People queued to enter.



What impresses you about Alexander Isachev's work?

I visited the show absolutely by accident. I wasn't particularly interested in painting at the time, but chose to attend Mr. Isachev's show. When I saw his work, I was struck, as if by cold water; I felt as if a new operating system had been loaded into my head. He opened doors to a completely different world. His paintings feature Egypt, Rome, ancient gods, early Christianity and everything connected with Jesus. He found a place for all human civilisation in his art, mixing elements of civilisations and religions past and present. Importantly, his works are full of spirituality, which our contemporary art often lacks.

Many Belarusian busi-

nessmen call themselves art experts while also viewing pictures as a good investment. Is this the right approach?

Nobody ever loses money on art: paintings or antiques. No matter how much money you spend, you never lose out, as has been proven through the years. Any picture or hand-made article will become more expensive over time; this refers even to works by ordinary artists. The price depends on how good a picture is but also diverse trends, and other influences. There are no examples of works falling in price.

Does Belarus have many art collectors?

Collectors build their collections over many years, choosing each item carefully. Collecting Alexander Isachev's works, we spent our last savings, for a decade. I think our businessmen will become more interested in art over time. There will be a new generation of collectors. If businesses can help Belarus keep its artworks, whether publicly or privately, it's worthwhile.

What would you say to those wishing to visit your exhibition but knowing little about art and its trends?

Try to look at pictures as a small child would do, without prejudice. Just open your eyes and look. I'm convinced that a whole new, beautiful world — of which many cannot even guess — will open up.

Finberg's phenomenon

Famous conductor Mikhail Finberg has successfully headed the National Academic Concert Orchestra of Belarus for thirty years. The tireless maestro is true to himself — ensuring only live sound and the best performers.

By Kristina Khilko

No backing tape

You were there at the origin of the *Slavianski Bazaar*. Do you remember how it all began?

The famous musical forum was preceded by the All-Union Festival of Polish Songs — held in 1988 in Vitebsk. Our orchestra was invited to the event. The city was rapidly put in order. The stage was built in a record 8 months! Architects on the move drew blueprints and immediately handed them over to builders. I remember how I measured the future amphitheatre's stage with my steps. Our best artistes and musicians have performed here for almost 30 years. We should be proud of this.

How has the festival transformed over the years?

At the 'Slavianski Bazaar', audiences hear live performances by singers with the accompaniment of the orchestra. In times when modern pop music often offers backing tapes, this stands out. Unfortunately, less Belarusian national music is performed, but this is our heritage and we should protect and preserve it.

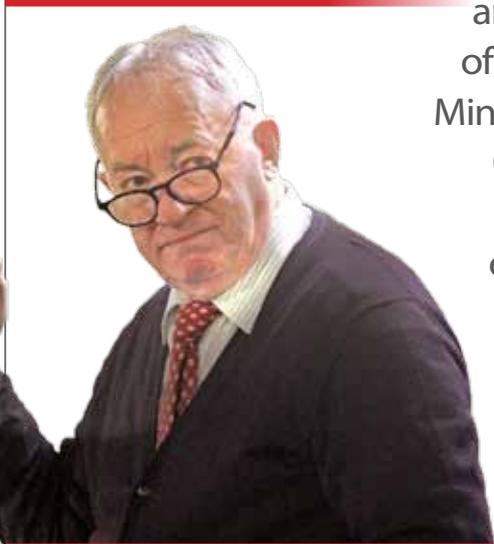
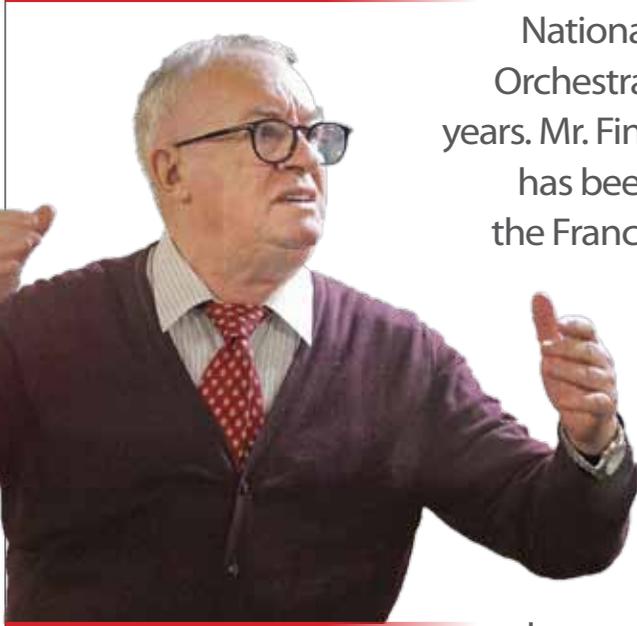
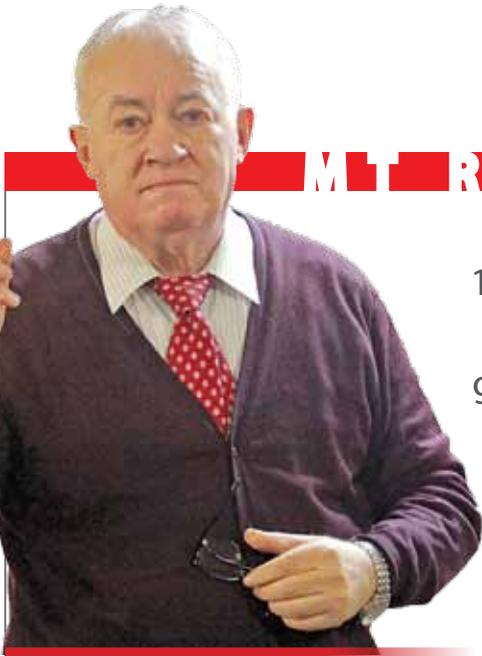
Is it difficult for young musicians to join your orchestra?

We do not accept people without the proper education. Most of our musicians have graduated from a conservatory and completed their post-graduate studies. Graduates of the Academy of Music pass a 2-3 year in-

ternship with us polishing their skills. If the trial period is successful, they are accepted onto our team. The orchestra now has many people's, honoured artistes, laureates of prestig-

ious awards, doctors and candidates of sciences. We have never worked with a soundtrack and we are proud of this. No wonder we are called an 'orchestra of live sound'.

heard on air: there were critics and censorship. The selection was tough and strict. Now everyone views themselves as composers and arrangers even if they just know three chords.



REFERENCE

Mikhail Finberg was born in 1947 in the city of Mozyr in the Gomel Region. Externally he graduated from the Belarusian State Conservatory and then completed post-graduate courses in the 'Conductor' speciality. He is a permanent Artistic Director of the National Academic Concert Orchestra of Belarus for thirty years. Mr. Finberg's creative work has been acknowledged by the Francysk Skaryna Order, a letter of gratitude and a special award from the President of the Republic of Belarus, as well as the Union State Prize in Literature and Art. He is a member of the Council for Culture of the Ministry of Culture of Belarus, the Committee on the State Prize of Belarus. He was a member of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus of two convocations. Mr. Finberg is an Honorary Citizen of Mozyr, Nesvizh and the Minsk Region.



Performances by foreign organists at Musical College

This music will be eternal

By Tatiana Kondratieva

Organs from around the globe heard in Grodno, as part of month-long 4th International Organs of Europe Sound in Grodno Festival, featuring musicians from Japan, Italy, Germany and elsewhere

The Magnus Silesia Royal organ, which is unique in Belarus and the CIS, cited in Grodno's State Musical College, was played throughout the festival. Using the latest in sound engineering and computer technologies, foreign performers were playing each Thursday, to the delight of audience.

Belarusian Prague at photo exhibition in Gomel

By Olga Korneeva

Gavriil Vashchenko Picture Gallery in Gomel hosts exhibition by Minsk photographer Yulia Matskevich, dedicated to 500th anniversary of Francysk Skaryna's publishing of the Bible in the Czech capital

In spring and summer, the exhibition was available to view in Minsk and Vitebsk; now, it's on display in Gomel. Featuring about fifty works by the Minsk photographer, the show explores the architectural beauty of Prague, and its centuries-long attractiveness for Belarusians. "One photo depicts the home of world-level opera singer Mikhas Zabeida-Sumitsky, who has Belarusian roots. Another shows the home of Vasil Bykov, and there are shots of the Lithuanian Collegium. Meanwhile, a whole photographic series is dedicated to Belarus' first printer, Francysk Skaryna," notes the gallery.

Nadezhda starts and wins

Nadezhda Skardino wins World Cup stage in Östersund, finishing ahead of all her rivals to claim her first biathlon gold

By Dmitry Komashko

Alexander Lukashenko has sent a greeting message to the sportswoman which reads: ‘Your bright success has been achieved through hard work. Your will to win has pleased all Belarusians, bringing wonderful moments of joy and pride to the country. This is your first gold medal in a World Cup round, but inspires hope and confidence in the team, at the beginning of the Olympic season’.

Nadezhda’s success is intriguing. Darya Domracheva celebrated her first victory in a World Cup round at the age of 23, while German Laura Dahlmeier won at the age of 19, French Marie Dorin Habert at 28 and Finnish Kaisa-Leena Mäkäräinen at 27. No biathlete over the age of 30 has ever captured gold, but Nadezhda is 32: an age at which athletes start thinking of retirement. Skardino is no exception, having announced her farewell season this summer, despite winning a Sochi Olympic medal. Naturally, she’d love to repeat her success in PyeongChang but has long suffered from eye-related problems. By trial and error, she has constantly updated her rifle, to special order.

Nadezhda’s individual race at the last Olympics clearly won’t be



Nadezhda Skardino skiing laps

her last, due to her determination to succeed. Some might think optimism is premature, since last year’s debut individual races in Östersund brought Belarus only two bronze medals, thanks to Darya Yurkevich and Vladimir Chepelin. Their success was striking.

Lyudmila Ananko — twice champion of Europe and a bronze medal holder at the World Championship, asserts that there’s nothing accidental about Nadezhda’s success as she’s ‘worked very hard’ and ‘deserved this victory as no one else’. ‘I’m even surprised that it’s taken this long for Skardino to achieve success, as she’s been training with so much perseverance. I had no doubt that, sooner or later, her efforts would yield fruit.’

Is the win in Östersund reason for optimism before the Olympics?

Definitely! The girls are looking good and this victory would certainly give confidence to the whole team. It’s psychologically difficult to perform if you feel that you are unwell and cannot move properly — while

Nadezhda Skardino:

This is my first victory at the World Cup and I’m feeling 100 percent. In previous years, I was number two in the team but wouldn’t say that I was in the shadow of Darya Domracheva. Rather, attitudes towards me relied on my results. This season, the team has undergone changes and two coaches are working with us. Alfred Eder has returned, which we appreciate. His method of training is perfect for me. Many people call me a Decembrist, as I usually show the highest results at the beginning of the season. However, I hope to show my mettle in January, February and March also.

everyone is expecting you to produce results. We can certainly ask a reasonable question: whether Skardino began running too early. However, it seems to me there’s no reason for concern. We might have worried if she suddenly appeared to be much stronger than the others.

Nadezhda has announced this as her final season. Might the victory change her mind?

We’d better ask Nadezhda! Probably, she was speaking of the last Olympics. The situation has become even more confused! With the present situation, it’s quite possible that Skardino will be able to participate in an-

other season while moving towards the Olympics. At least she has a fair reason to hope.

Is Darya Domracheva’s result a good one, coming fourth three times in a row?

This is quite normal for the first stage of the World Cup. If Darya suddenly had won with three penalty minutes it would arouse more questions. Regarding speed, she’s similar to Marie Dorin Habert, Kaisa-Leena Mäkäräinen and Tiril Eckhoff. I’d say that Darya is following her own path, which seems correct. She’s been gradually accelerating, ever since the start of the Olympic season.

New format for queen of sports

By Igor Svitov

Athletics to gain new format at 2nd European Games, as agreed by European Olympic Committee (EOC) and European Athletics Association (EAA), introducing new programme of Dynamic New Athletics



According to the President of the EOC, Janez Kocijančič, and the President the EAA, Svein Arne Hansen, the new format of the competition will be presented at Minsk’s Dinamo Stadium in June 2019, gathering thirty teams, with twenty sportsmen on each, including men and women. They’ll perform in the ten most popular track and field disciplines: running, jumping and throwing. Competitions will be held in line with the knock-out system, for five days. The top six teams will later go through to the finals.

The scoring system will be simple: first place in each discipline envisages twelve points, with sixth place giving two points. The programme will close with the baton relay. Before the start, teams will be divided according to the number of points scored in previous disciplines. ‘The new format of the competition will make athletics more spectacular at the 2nd European Games, in Minsk. This tournament formula will enable young athletes to perfect their mastery while performing alongside experienced sportsmen,’ Mr. Janez Kocijančič explains.

Athletics is among fifteen sports at Minsk’s 2nd European Games, with around 6,000 sportsmen from fifty European expected to arrive in June 2019.

First racquet again

By Kirill Karin

Arina Sobolenko wins tournament in Indian Mumbai

In the finals, the second seeded Belarusian tennis player confidently beat Slovene Dalila Jakupović — 6:2, 6:3, after over an hour of intense play.

Owing to her victory in India, Arina, 19, has significantly improved her position in the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) ranking. Previously 96th,



she’s now 73rd (as of November 27th) — her best result so far.

Ms. Sobolenko has regained her title of Belarus’ first seed, ahead of Alexandra Sasnovich (88th), Vera Lapko (135th), Victoria Azarenko (209th) and Olga Govortsova (324th).

The WTA rating is still topped by Romanian Simona Halep, followed by Spain’s Garbiñe Muguruza and Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki.

Victory over principal rival

By Igor Grishin

Brest Meshkov HC confidently beats Slovenian Celje in 10th round of Champions League, playing at home

The last time the two teams met, in Slovenia, for a Champions League match, they only achieved a draw — 33:33. The return match was tough, with each squad equally skilled. It was only midway that Brest took the lead. However, Celje still managed to equalise, obliging the teams to push harder. Just before halftime, Brest took a one point lead, leaving the score at 15:14.

In the second half, Brest Meshkov HC truly came into its own, repeatedly attacking its opponent’s goal, winning 29:24 by the final



A moment of the match

whistle. ‘We’re so delighted. We lost our last four matches in the Champions League and were feeling despondent. At first, it was difficult to play but we knew that it was an important match and we rose to the occasion eventually. I hope that,

after this victory, the team will revive, progressing from one victory to the next,’ noted Dmitry Nikulenkov, a centre back with Brest Meshkov HC.

In the tournament table, the club from Belarus is now ranked sixth.

12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, December 7, 2017

Jubilee of the week



Gomel's State Circus celebrates its 45th anniversary with festive performance, *Circus Revue and the Show of Bears*

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 10th December. *Treasures of Ancient Egypt* Until 12th December. *Lenin '17*
Until 17th December. *Mikhas Rogalevich: Song of Life*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 10th December. *Churches of Vitebsk Region* Until 10th January. *Fashionable Century*

BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 24th December. *We Fly in Sky Alone*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 31st December. *Francsyk Skaryna and His Epoch* Until 15th January. *Passenger from Nastrom*

HOUSE-MUSEUM OF 1ST RSDRP CONGRESS

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 14th January. *Minsk 1917*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 31st December. *Meeting the Master*

STATE MUSEUM OF HISTORY OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE

13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street
Until 29th December. *Kandrat Krapiva: from Childhood to Maturity*

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 28th December. *Valentin Yelizariiev: Ballet as Art of Soul*

MINSK GALLERY

9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 14th January. *13th World Miracle*
Until 15th January. *Robots and Transformers* Until 15th January. *Museum-Factory of Fir Tree Toys*

CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

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

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street
Until 25th March. *Water Residents*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF MODERN ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 9th December. *Winter Garden: Research of MicroPOP Imagination in Modern Japanese Art*

THEATRES

NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street
07.12. Portraits of Edith Piaf; Corsair
09.12. The Firebird 10.12. Orr and Ora
12.12. Rigoletto 13.12. Georgy Sviridov's music 13 and 14.12. Swan Lake

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
07.12. Women's Revolt; Tales from the Vienna Woods 08.12. Tristan and Isolde
09.12. Buratino.by; Wedding in Malinovka
10.12. Adventures of Kai and Gerda (Snow Queen); Jane Eyre 12.12. Blue Cameo 13.12. Shalom Aleichem!
14.12. The Sleeping Beauty

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue
07.12. The Battlefield 08.12. Robbery at Midnight 09 and 10.12. Wolves and Sheep 11.12. Master and Margarita
12.12. Even a Wise Man Stumbles 13.12. Forgetting Herostratos 14.12. #13

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
07.12. Lady for a Day 08.12. Oedipus
09.12. Miraculous Rings of Almanzor;
Hot Mothers 10.12. Inn Keeper 11.12. Tricks of Khanuma 13.12. Zoyka's Flat
14.12. Taming of the Shrew

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
07.12. Jeweller's Jubilee 08.12. Pinsk Gentry 09 and 10.12. Kolyady Night
10.12. Evening 12.12. Tyke 13.12. Two Souls 14.12. Not Mine

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
07.12. Circles of Love 09.12. Poet's Diary 10.12. Three Giselles

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
07.12. Warsaw Melody 08.12. Zhmurik; Bigamist 09.12. Fool 10.12. Chelestino's Career 12.12. Sasha, Take Garbage Away 13.12. Masculine, Singular 14.12. Playing Happy Family

YOUNG SPECTATORS' THEATRE

26 Engels Street
07.12. Savage Hunt of King Stakh
08.12. Doctor Not Upon One's Own Will
09.12. Wolf and Seven Goats
10.12. Doctor Aybolit

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
07.12. Two Dozen Red Roses 08.12. Man Delivered to Home 11.12. Attention, Women! 12.12. Night on the Christmas Eve 13.12. Project; Simply Good Song
14.12. Husband As Many

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