



Minsk confirms political activity

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, takes part in Shanghai Co-operation Organisation Summit and *Expo 2017* opening ceremony → 3



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Graduation party at Minsk's school #199

Goodbye, school! Hello, new day!

Around 58,000 alumni in Belarus have received certificates of secondary general education. Graduation parties were held in the country's schools on June 10th, with solemn events attended by parents, representatives of local executive authorities and mentoring enterprises.

Partners are known for good endeavours

By Vladimir Khromov

Moldova can count on Belarus as a reliable partner, open to co-operation across all areas

On meeting the Prime Minister of Moldova, Pavel Filip, in Minsk, Mr. Lukashenko emphasised that Belarus is happy to welcome guests from brotherly Moldova. The President has visited the country several times. "This is a warm place, not only because the climate is warm but because there

are good people in Moldova, similar to hardworking Belarusians."

The Belarusian leader tackled issues of the economy, saying, "During the recent meeting with the Moldovan president, I said that we'd never attempted to shut ourselves off from you, even in the most difficult times. We did our best to facilitate your work on the Belarusian market. If you wish it to be so, you can use us to advance into the Eurasian market or to the east," noted Mr. Lukashenko. He added that Belarus will continue

to pursue a steady policy towards Moldova. The Head of State also thanked Moldova for assistance and support in the western direction, saying, "Moldovan people treat us like brothers, paying attention to our problems and supporting us, trying to explain to



Pavel FILIP
Prime Minister of Moldova

When Moldova was going through hard times, Belarus extended a helping hand in a very open, sincere and friendly way — such as a few years ago, when we had problems on some CIS markets. We'll never forget this and will do our utmost to maintain these good relations.

certain ardent politicians in Europe the true nature of Belarus and its policy."

The President stressed that Moldova can count on Belarus. "We've always been and will ever be reliable partners for you. Moreover, we don't make the products that you can offer. We've opened up to the cognac market, but are still importing high-quality Moldovan wines in the same volumes."

The Head of State noted that, if Moldovan companies continue to prioritise quality, they'll remain popular on

the Belarusian market. Joint enterprises are being set up but the President wishes to see more such joint ventures, for example, producing baby food and juices, for onward export. Moreover, Mr. Lukashenko underlined that Belarus will always welcome the expansion of Moldova's presence on its market.

Pavel Filip noted that Moldova highly appreciates Belarusian produce for its high quality, and asserted his belief that relations between our two states have

reached a high level. He commented, "When Moldova was going through hard times, Belarus extended a helping hand in a very open, sincere and friendly way — such as a few years ago, when we had problems on some CIS markets. We'll never forget this and will do our utmost to maintain these good relations."

Mr. Filip views investment co-operation as an important area. Moldova is home to more than 87 companies with Belarusian capital. "We're waiting for Belarusian investors," he underlined.

Work with regions is a promising avenue

By Alexey Fedotov

During the meeting with the Governor of the Penza Region of the Russian Federation, Ivan Belozertsev, President Lukashenko sees good prospects for developing manufacturing in Belarus and Russia

"The markets — both local and foreign — for foodstuffs, clothing and equipment are big enough and our manufacturers can co-exist. Demand will grow in the future. You can count on us," noted the Head of State.

"You can feel at home here. We're happy to see you and provide all-round assistance to you. It isn't only because we're interested in co-operation with you. It's because we're close people. We're neighbours and we're destined to live long together," asserted the President. "I'm always happy to meet with the governors who saved our union of Belarus and Russia. Please, remember that we'll do eve-

rything we can for you, for Russians, with great pleasure."

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that the Penza Region is a sincere and honest friend and a reliable partner for Belarus. Despite falling trade turnover in recent years, Belarus and the Penza Region raised trade by 8 percent in 2016, to exceed \$50 million: truly positive dynamics. From January-April 2017, bilateral trade rose more than 1.5 times in comparison with the same period of the previous year.

"It's a good pace. Taking into account the potential of

centres of many Belarusian enterprises, such as Amkodor, Gomselmash, and Orsha Machine Tool Plant, are working well in the Penza Region, with industrial collaboration projects being implemented. However, because of low economic efficiency, joint production of Mogilevfltmash produce has ceased. Mr. Lukashenko has suggested specialists from both sides analyse the situation.

Partners from the Penza Region have practical interest in Belarusian agricultural projects. The delegation was

able to view major achievements in this field at the *Belagro-2017* exhibition.

Mr. Lukashenko described the construction industry, the housing and utilities sector as promising co-operation avenues. "Our

companies have positive experience of building housing and roads, including in Russia. If you need us, we're ready to provide our services and equipment to the region," said the President.



Ivan BELOZERTSEV
Governor of the Penza Region of the Russian Federation

Our capacity for expanding joint efforts is yet to be fulfilled. Taking into account the economic specialisation of the Penza Region and Belarusian regions we're able to create new areas of collaboration, to significantly increase bilateral trade turnover and to strengthen co-operation between industrial enterprises. We do have such an opportunity.

Belarus and your region, we believe that the enhancement of interaction in the manufacturing sector will drive forward other developments," stated the President.

He remarked that dealer

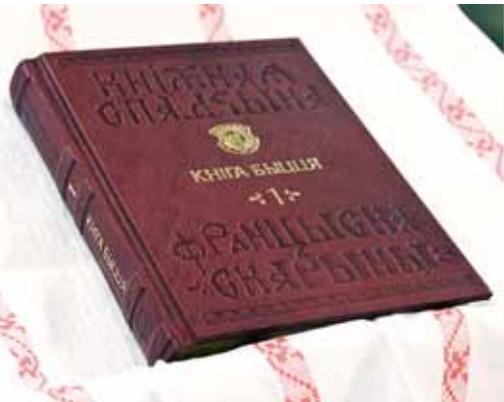
500th anniversary of Belarusian first printer

By Andrey Bogomazov

Francysk Skaryna's Book Legacy facsimile edition to be presented in Minsk in early July

"In the run-up to Independence Day we'll present the 20-volume facsimile edition entitled *Francysk Skaryna's Book Legacy* to the general public. The event will be held at the National Library," noted the Director of the National Library of Belarus, Roman Motulsky. He explains that copies of the edition will be sent to major museums and libraries around the world in the coming months. "We've already given copies of the facsimile edition to the National Library of Lithuania. Similar presentations will be held in other European countries, as well as in China, Kazakhstan, and Israel," added Mr. Motulsky.

Moreover, *Francysk Skaryna's*



Volume from facsimile edition

Book Legacy will be donated to all regional libraries of Belarus.

Mr. Motulsky also announced a major international conference in Prague on June 15th-16th which also will host the presentation of the edition.

The Director of the National Library reminded us that there are 520 books by Francysk Skaryna in the world, most of them are in Russia, Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. About 50 countries have copies of books by the early printer. Belarus is in possession of 28 of these.

Everything is definitely seen clearly from above

By Alexander Pimenov

Russia is keen on the joint development of new space apparatus with Belarus. It refers to the high resolution distant Earth sensing satellite.

The Belarusian part of the satellite is optic-electric apparatus which will be created by Minsk's Peleng company. It's expected that the new version of the spacecraft, unlike its predecessor launched several years ago, will be equipped with Earth sensing equipment with considerably higher resolution.

Peleng's Director General, Vladimir Pokryshkin, explains that the creation of a satellite with partners is a sensible cheaper option ensuring it will be better used in the future. He describes how the specifications of the satellite have already been compared with the best world analogues. "We believe that it's competitive, while the in-

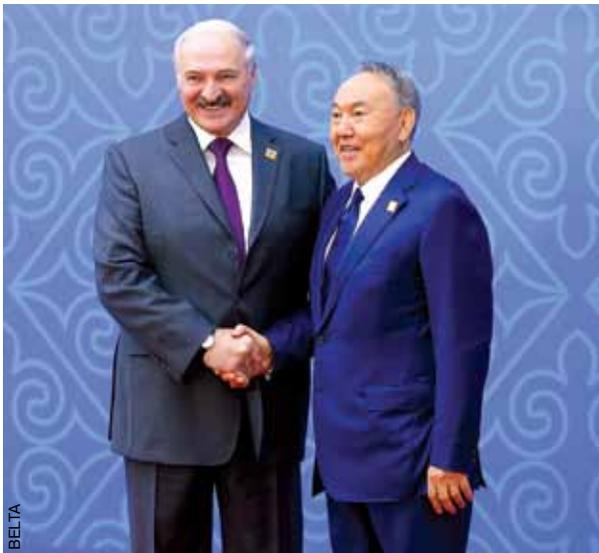


Research works at Peleng

formation received from the satellite in future, will be in demand both in Belarus and in Russia," summed up the Director General.

The Belarusian-Russian commission is being formed to create a new spacecraft which will involve scientists, representatives of high-profile enterprises, experts and

those from Roscosmos Corporation. In the near future, they will visit Peleng JSC and discuss the apparatus' characteristics while determining the terms of its trials. If the discussions are successful, the would-be Belarusian-Russian satellite for remote Earth sensing will be in orbit within 3-4 years.



Minsk confirms political activity

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, takes part in Shanghai Co-operation Organisation Summit and *Expo 2017* opening ceremony

By Vasily Kharitonov

Astana has hosted the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Heads of State Council, and the solemn opening ceremony of the international *Expo 2017*. The President of Belarus attended both events. India and Pakistan have joined as fully-fledged members of the organisation. These two powerful states have been long liaising with the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, as observers, with the decision to allow full membership made at the 2015 Ufa meeting. At that time, Belarus moved from a partner to an observer. So, we have been developing dialogue simultaneously with India and Pakistan, to some extent.

Undoubtedly, the two new SCO members enhance its authority, being strong nuclear powers. Having large populations and a solid level of influence, regionally and globally, they will make a significant contribution. Sadly, their bilateral relations are far from cloudless, historically and politically. However, they're keen to move to a more constructive position, via the platform of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation.

Speaking from the summit, Mr. Lukashenko called the acceptance of new members a 'courageous step', saying, "I'm convinced that, as new members of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, India and Pakistan will not only come closer to settling their problems but will solve them. We'd very much like to see this."

Initially, security was a priority for the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, inspiring comparison with the OSCE. Focus is now moving towards economic dimensions, though security remains topical. Speaking on this, Mr. Lukashenko noted the recent warning of the Russian President, on hypothetical collisions between the USA and Russia. Answering a journalist's question, Vladimir Putin suggested that no one would survive such a collision.

However, according to Mr. Lukashenko, it's possible to prevent it.

He noted, "The SCO works to ensure that, if all members of the organisation desire stability, no one can destabilise the global situation. The SCO has huge potential, so that it cannot be ignored within the international arena. What is especially precious is that the

from the point of view of settling this terrible problem of illegal migration, which leads to global terrorism."

This leads to the necessity of strengthening the economic dimension of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation. In this respect Minsk

who took part in the event tackled this topic in their speeches. Being on the western border of the organisation, Belarus, as a champion of stability, is ready to make its own contribution to SCO strengthening. Belarus' initiative to establish new dialogue

António Guterres. Negotiations with the Iranian Foreign Minister saw Mr. Lukashenko elaborate a new agenda for bilateral interaction.

The President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, took part in the solemn opening ceremony of international *Expo 2017*, in Astana. Before the ceremony, the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, hosted a tour of the national pavilion of Kazakhstan. There were presentations of the *Expo 2017* complex and the city of Astana, focusing on the latter's architectural landmarks. Heads of delegations also examined an exposition dedicated energy sources of the future: a key theme.

A total of sixty delegations, representing high and top-ranking officials, arrived for the opening ceremony of *Expo 2017*. Among them were heads of state and heads of government, from various countries, and other officials, including those who took part in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation summit in the capital of Kazakhstan earlier that day.

Before the ceremony began, Mr. Lukashenko had a few words with the presidents of Turkmenistan, Serbia, and Armenia.

The theme of *Expo 2017* is Future Energy. The expo focuses on one of the hottest topics concerning the international community: alternative sources of energy. The expo will last for three months, ending on September 10th. As many as 115 countries and 22 international organisations have confirmed their intention to participate.

During *Expo 2017*, Belarus is represented by a national pavilion, where visitors can learn about the latest Belarusian R&D projects and promising investment projects in an interactive way. The modern pictorial art exhibition *From Lisbon to Vladivostok via Minsk, Moscow, and Astana* is part of Belarus' national exposition. It features works by artists from twenty-five countries, showing how much attention Belarus pays to integration processes across the Eurasian space.



Kaleidoscope of Expo 2017

Shanghai Co-operation Organisation is growing its influence in a constructive way; there's no place for contrapositions or imposition of ideas."

Mr. Lukashenko gave his view, saying, "Growing social instability in various regions is connected with their level of development. I will say, sincerely, that Europe is suffering from an inflow of refugees. If Europe hadn't fenced itself off, choosing rather to help, it wouldn't face such a problem. The announcement of Xi Jinping that China will be promoting the development of SCO member states and all countries along the perimeter of the organisation, is vital

suggests developing several economic, investment, logistics and humanitarian projects, with active involvement of observer states. Belarus is ready to help in promoting food security on our continent, working to gradually remove all barriers to the free movement of goods, capitals and labour.

These goals harmoniously coincide with the Chinese initiative of the Silk Road Economic Belt. The conversation in Astana can be viewed as a continuation of the recent discussion in Beijing, as part of the *Belt and Road Forum for International Co-operation*. Most of the heads of state

between East and West — similar to the Helsinki Process — remains topical.

Major international events are always a good platform for developing bilateral contacts. As part of the summit, Mr. Lukashenko chatted with the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, who invited the Belarusian leader to visit his country in autumn. He also enjoyed substantial dialogue with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, who plans to visit Belarus in August. There were also meetings with the heads of Russia, PRC, Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and with the UN General Secretary,

Mozyr to join front runners

Nearly 200 experts from fourteen countries discuss modernisation of Mozyr's Oil Refinery at recent scientific and technical conference

By Ruslan Prohorov

The conference's agenda presented attractive projects for investors, with top managers and leading specialists from Mozyr detailing key projects and strategic plans. At present, Mozyr Oil Refinery is the most rapidly developing oil processing facility



Modernisation at Mozyr Oil Refinery attracts the attention of investors

in Eastern Europe. A technologist from the French Petroleum Institute admits, "We've jointly realised more than one project and I can vouch for this plant's tech-

nologies being the most advanced in the world."

Such a flattering view is the result of many years of work and huge investment. Modernisation

of any refinery is complex and expensive. The General Director of the Mozyr Oil Refinery, Vitaly Pavlov, tells us, "Much has been achieved, to meet today's stand-

ards in technologies and to enable us to produce high-quality goods, competitive across all markets, without exception."

Meanwhile, the greatest feat of modernisation is yet to be fully exploited. Long ago, construction began on a heavy oil residue hydrocracking complex; the biggest such project in the company's history. It is unique in the former USSR and only a dozen operate globally. The complex unites six thousand tonnes of metal structures and equipment delivered from thirty-eight countries. Four reactors, from Japan, are at its heart. The cost of this unique project exceeds \$1 billion and, according to the plan, work should be completed by 2019, with payback over a period of 5-9 years. This will largely depend on the market situation and world oil prices.

The goal is to increase the depth of oil processing from 74 percent (as we have today) to 90 percent, with almost waste-free production. This should raise profits and ensure funds for further development, as well as making steady contributions to the budget.

Innovative ideas and start-ups: wholesale and retail

Belarus is a hub of innovative ideas and projects, and successful start-ups, ranked 45th worldwide. However, our scientific environment lacks the market and opportunity for commercialising projects. Belarus and China have been liaising with countries located along the renewed Silk Road, beneficially bringing ideas into production.

By Galina Kovalevskaya

Recently, the 2nd Association Forum of Scientific and Technological Parks and Areas of High and New Technologies 'Silk Road' (SRSPA) concluded in Minsk. Explaining its major task in simple words, Alexander Shumilin, the Chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee, explains, "Our developers are very talented people, quickly generating ideas. However, we lack



Forum in Minsk dedicated to innovations

a sufficient market. By uniting efforts with China, we've received the opportunity for quicker commercialisation. Extensive production can be quickly set up in China, which is beneficial and comfortable for us. We're keen on China investing into the development and creation

of innovative infrastructure in our country. This forum will give us an opportunity to unite our efforts. The involvement of our country in the *Belt and Road* project will enhance its investment attractiveness and form new productions, innovation centres and infrastructure."

Minsk has been recently visited by more than sixty representatives of Chinese companies working in high-technologies; our co-operation with them promises to be productive and beneficial for both sides.

The Silk Road is more than an opportunity for

selling goods. It's a way of transferring information and innovative technologies. Mr. Shumilin reminds us that pilot projects are being established in Belarus and in China, with twenty-eight sci-tech collaborative projects currently underway. These include developments in radio location, electronics, nano-materials, and genetic engineering.

Recently, Chinese partners allocated \$10 million for the realisation of these projects. The State Science and Technology Committee hopes that co-operation will help activate research and developments, driven by the Belarusian-Chinese Venture Investment Fund (established in summer).

In working order

By Alexey Fedotov

Welfare in the social sphere directly relies on us having a buoyant economy, as the Government has been recently discussing

Emerging economic growth will enable Belarus to achieve positive dynamics regarding real salaries, which are closely connected with growth in labour productivity. Irina Kostevich, Belarus' Minister for Labour and Social Protection, is optimistic, saying that there's less tension in the labour market at present, with the number of vacancies exceeding the number of those registered as seeking employment.

She explains, "Employers are now more sophisticated and desire qualified specialists with hands-on experience; not every job seeker can meet these criteria. Nevertheless, we're seeing a reversal of the tendency for reduced employment. Over the first three months of this year, more than 15,000 jobs were created, with almost 56 percent at new enterprises."

Employment services are ready to act flexibly towards the needs of the



BELTA

Irina Kostevich

labour market, including offering training in sought-after professions, and providing assistance to those wishing to launch their own businesses. At the same time, Mr. Kostevich admits that demand for personnel remains an acute issue. She has called for the creation of a forecast system, based on a 'scientifically grounded macro-economic model, taking into account certain parameters and following the movement of labour resources over the course of time'.

Meanwhile, there are no plans to enhance unemployment compensation. Instead, there are proposals to introduce unemployment insurance, providing support to all who find themselves in difficulties following staff cutbacks. A draft act is being approved.

People and technology are driven by agricultural field

Over five hundred companies from around the world demonstrate newest agricultural machinery, latest technique and innovative developments in the field of agriculture as part of *Belagro* International Agricultural Fair

By Vladimir Khromov

During Belagro's opening, Prime Minister Andrey Kobyakov did not hide his pride for achievements in the industry. "We are now on the list of the top five exporters of dairy products. To occupy this important place in the world production, to support it and strengthen our positions, we need to constantly work over ourselves — being on the cutting edge of science and always complying with the competition which our partners generate domestically and abroad," he said. "Accordingly, it's important for us today to demonstrate new developments, get acquainted with products of our partners, friends and business rivals — to make right conclusions for further co-operation."

In turn, the Minister of Agriculture and Food — Leonid Zayats — spoke to journalists about the efficiency of the agricultural sector, mentioning some figures: from 2011-2015, the budget allocated \$8.3bn to support the agricultural sector, while the foreign currency proceeds from selling agricultural products made \$25bn. "The injected money works for the state's benefit," he concluded, urging agrarians to rationally use all funds.

The fair was rich in new exhibits. Among them was the produce of machine builders who placed their vehicles in the open air — occupying a large territory. Amkodor presented its first tractor; its development from the scratch took almost half a year. The head of the frame-steered tractor design bureau at Amkodor JSC — Sergey Yuzefovich — explains that their tractor differs from MTZ vehicles: this difference lies in the



At Belagro-2017 exhibition

name of Amkodor's department. "Our vehicle consists of two half-frames which are superimposed on each other in the horizontal and vertical planes: 42 and 13 degrees respectively. What does this give? Due to the construction, it is much easier to get out of cloggy areas. It enjoys comfortable operation — similar to driving a car. In fact, we'll enjoy our own niche which is now occupied by St. Petersburg tractors — as an example. We will try to drive a wedge in the neighbouring market," the official added.

The new tractor is now undergoing tests being tested in Amkodor's agro-farm, in Shklov. By late 2017, two more prototypes will be produced, with more powerful engines. The serial production is scheduled for 2019.

Processors were also present at



the fair and Belkoopsoyuz presented its live Scandinavian minks. About 90 percent of Belarusian fur is produced at Belkoopsoyuz's fur farm. Finished products were demonstrated at Belkoopsoyuz stands which

covered over 60 square metres. The site included several leading sectors of Belkoopsoyuz — including the industrial branch and public catering. The Deputy Head of the Department of Industry, Quality and Standardi-

sation at Belkoopsoyuz — Tatiana Kosyakova — commented upon the company's new developments, "This is our bread with bacon, onion and garlic; these additives account for 10 percent of the weight. The bread is sold in our branded stores in Minsk — i.e. Rodny Kut shop in Pobediteley Avenue. The mentioned store also sells bread with addition of oat flakes, wheat bran, flax seed and fruits - apricots and plums. We strive to ensure that our products are natural and useful. Actually, Belkoopsoyuz operates 66 bakeries in the country which jointly produce over a thousand varieties of bread. Bakery and confectionery production account for over 35 percent in the gross industrial production of the branch."

The fair also presented non-alcoholic beverages of Belkoopsoyuz's 12 companies, in addition to mineral water. Another attraction was the presentation of a Belarusian fast food cuisine: Lepim Sami (Cooking Ourselves) dumpling bar. The Chairman of Belkoopsoyuz's Board — Valery Ivanov - said that cafes in district centres would be restructured: its interiors will be renewed stylishly to attract young people and families with children. Dumpling bars will open there offering ravioli with different fillings and even of different colours — all cooked in people's eyes. Pizzas and smazhni would be then added. The first cafe already operates in Senno and the company plans to launch similar bars in each region by late 2017.

Shortly speaking, guests enjoyed a rich busy agenda of the Belarusian Agricultural Week. Many came and many got the chance to get convinced in this personally.

Cleanness is a matter of technology

By Nikita Sergeevich

Unique street sweeper for cleaning urban streets, unrivalled in the CIS, presented by Minsk Automobile Works at WasteTech-2017 international forum in Moscow

The vacuum street sweeper MAZ5917B2_F10, assembled by Minsk Automobile Works together with German Faun, uses a MAZ5340B2 MAZ-made chassis and German equipment. It replaces several older units, as the enterprise explains. "The vehicle weighs 19 tonnes and is able to sweep almost

any surface, including asphalt and concrete. This 'mega vacuum cleaner' sucks up dust while moistening the surface. Two disc and one cylinder brushes remove a layer of rubbish from the road surface, collecting it into a vacuum unit, which sends it into a 6 cubic metre bin. MinskAutomobile Works hopes that the new vehicle will be able to surprise visi-



MAZ's vacuum street sweeper cleans roads and moistens the surface

tors at the international exhibition in Moscow, enabling manufacturers to strengthen their market position. Moreover, this isn't the only innovation Belarus has brought to Moscow. The MAZ_590314_N10 dump truck has been on show, produced in co-operation with Dutch GeesinkNorba. Its major advantages are that it can be used for collecting debris of all sizes, as well as for transporting larger items, such as tables, wardrobes, sofas and

armchairs. Moreover, the vehicle boasts a powerful compressor, able to squash any item."

WasteTech-2017 has also been showcasing the MAZ4926W2_L30 combined hydrodynamic sewer flusher, created by MAZ together with Danish J. Hvidtved Larsen A/S. It's able to wash and clean storm drains and utility sewerage systems with a diameter of up to 600mm. When will it appear on the streets of our cities? The enterprise assures us that the new machinery will be operational very soon, on the roads of Belarus and on those of other states.

Young girl with grand ambitions

Svetlana Skarazhenok is her father's daughter. She has followed in the footsteps of her father — serving in a special purpose detachment for the third year.

By Kristina Khilko

Army boots and stilettos

On meeting Svetlana in the street, her curls, elegant shoes and dress are to be admired. However, her colleagues know that she is capable of stopping a criminal in the act or entering a burning building.

What inspired you to join the special purpose detachment?

Since childhood, I was fascinated by my father's uniform. I dreamt of being like him. At first, I obeyed my parents, entering the Sociology Department. However, as soon as I received my diploma, I rebelled and told them that I wanted to defend the Motherland. I was selected for a special detachment: the 23rd female platoon of Minsk police's special purpose department.

It's not very ladylike to fight and use a gun...

We are living in the 21st century where it's ridiculous to distinguish between professions for men and women. Belarusians treat military females very well, foreigners however cannot walk by without a smile, asking for pictures and staring in amazement.

Army boots, trousers and military jacket are not the most



Svetlana Skarazhenok keeping in shape

elegant clothes for women...

Yes, but in the mornings I never have the headache of deciding what to wear. We have three sets of uniform. One of them consists of a service coat, jacket, trousers and army boots. The second set is the same but olive coloured. We also have a cam-

ouflage set: our citizens often see it in the streets. It's mottled blue-gray. The beret is our special pride. It must be 'earned' by close fighting, shooting and forced marches.

What about dresses and high heels?

My wardrobe is full of outfits. On

occasion, I put them on to go to the theatre, exhibition or cinema. We are not prohibited from putting on make-up or jewellery during our service if they do not get in the way.

Are skirmishes and pursuit of villains common?

This is the plot of a thriller.

Dangerous criminals are the area of responsibility of the men. Our detachment conducts inspections, ensures order at concerts, sports tournaments, festivals, and also patrols streets.

During inspections, do you find many interesting things in ladies' handbags?

We find knives, scissors, screwdrivers and cartridges. I remember a situation during an agricultural show. A woman was milling near the turnstile. After opening her bag, I found ten tiny chicks!

Do men do what you say?

If I see some men drinking beer in a park I might approach them and politely drop a remark. They immediately apologise, get up and go away. So far, nobody has attacked me.

So do you celebrate two festivals: the 23rd of February and the 8th of March.

I receive more calls and SMS on Defenders' Day than on International Women's Day!

Does the work affect your private life?

Everything is mixed. My boyfriend works here, in a special purpose detachment. Who else could accept the night shifts, frequent trips and little free time?

Slutsk-born developer

Light and cheap AirPhone smartphone prototype, using cloud technologies, presented by Slutsk secondary school #11's 11th-grade pupil, Vladislav Gadlov, at Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles



Vladislav Gadlov in Los Angeles

By Inna Kabysheva

World experts have assessed the invention of the talented Belarusian boy, giving Vladislav a 3rd degree diploma, and a special prize from the American Oracle transnational company — one of the world's largest producers of software and service equipment.

Vladislav worked on his device with his teacher of

informatics, Vladimir Zhuk, creating a phone consuming less energy, and able to go almost a week (making calls and sending SMS messages) without needing recharging. Connected to the Internet, it rivals smartphones.

According to Vladimir Zhuk, Vladislav's device, as presented at the Republican stage of the Belarus Science and Engineering Fair (BELSEF-2017), was im-

proved before his trip to Los Angeles. He tells us, "We introduced some software changes, as Internet speeds of 4G are common in the USA. Vladislav prepared a good presentation in English and performed brilliantly. Of course, a diploma is a significant result. Two years ago, Vladislav was awarded a special prize by the world's largest domain registrar, Go Daddy, at the same contest."

Recently, Vladislav Gadlov became a scholarship holder and laureate of the Presidential Fund. After exams and his school leaving party, he'll go to Geneva for ten days for an internship, invited by CERN company. Then, he'll decide which university he'd like to enter. All Belarusian universities have offered places without the need for exams to enter their IT departments.



New vehicles purchased for ambulance service

Formulae for life: 103

Two dozen European automobiles purchased for Minsk ambulance service, including twenty B class ambulances, with more scheduled for autumn, featuring resuscitation equipment

By Olga Kosyakova

Alexander Zhinko, a doctor with Minsk's city ambulance station, explains the advantages, saying, "The vehicles are equipped in line with European standards and are completely adjusted to meet the requirements of our service.

New ambulances have air conditioning and a system of centralised oxygen supply, as well as a gurney with adjustable stretcher and an evacuation chair (enabling us to carry someone downstairs with ease)."

He adds, "In autumn, we plan to purchase five class C ambulances with resuscita-

tion equipment. Br4 million was allocated to update our ambulance fleet. Within the next two years, around two thirds of our ambulances will have been replaced: 130 in all."

In total, 160 ambulance crews work at Minsk city ambulance station and 200 ambulances are in use.

Paradise made by our own hands

Agro-tourism is rapidly developing in Belarus. The number of estates has multiplied since 2006 — at that time there were only 34 in the country, and now the figure is almost 2,300. This year, Belarus has won first place in the Agro Tourism category of the National Geographic Traveler Awards.



By Boris Orekhov

The reasons are plain to see. Having grown tired of city life, people are rushing to the outdoors to reinvigorate their lives and taste ecologically clean products directly from the vegetable plot, which can't be found in the supermarkets.

Monastic dinner

Today Belarus has more than two thousand agro-estates. They are in the most picturesque parts of the country. The leader is the Grodno Region with nearly 400. And it is no wonder, after all, agro-tourism in the Grodno Region is a centuries-old tradition. In the 17th century, the trailblazers of eco-friendly recreation were monks from the Camaldolese order. In the village of Radzivilki, 20 kilometers from the center of modern Grodno, the holy order of eremites organised an entire agro-complex.

They cultivated vegetables, grapes and made cheeses. Noble families from towns and cities arrived here to relax in the green surroundings of Radzivilki, while today tourists are welcomed. The Bartashevich family from Grodno put new life into this ancient place. Curiously, many agro-estates in the Grodno Region

have been established and are run by former city residents.

Initially, the Bartashevich family simply sold their shop in Grodno, and spent the money on the purchase of a derelict estate in Radzivilki, to restore and create an agro-tourist complex. "It is impossible to say how much money has already been invested here," says head of the family Victor Bartashevich. "The money could have been used to build a large manufacturing business and the income may have been larger, but we've concentrated our efforts instead on the comfort of our guests and their wellbeing.

Eco-friendly food is guaranteed by poultry, turkey, potatoes, beet,

carrots, and an orchard. Nearby is a pond with plenty of carp, crucian and perch. Our hospitable hosts set the table in an ancient refectory, constructed by the Camaldolese monks with vaulted ceilings and walls made of clay bricks. Each dinner is a journey into history.

Cosy haven in the forest reserve

Every year Belarus holds a competition for the best agro-estate. Last year 'Farmstead at Rysia' 10 kilometres from Volkovysk won the award. The story is very similar to Radzivilki's. A city family, tired of the concrete jungle, moved closer to nature and consequently far from the noise, one more piece

of paradise was made, where the hosts are happy to receive visitors. There are five comfortable small houses on the river bank near the forest reserve. Here visitors can not only enjoy the open air and try the fresh products, but also learn the ancient crafts of pottery, woodcarving and weaving. The uniqueness of this agro-estate is that it provides conditions for the recreation and rehabilitation of disabled people, with the help of hippotherapy — horse riding.

BEST AGRO-ECO-ESTATES OF BELARUS

Since 2013, the country has held a competition for the 'Best Agro-eco-estate of the Year'. Last year, the Grand Prix went to complex 'Farmstead at Rys' (in the Grodno Region, Svisloch District). As well as rest in green surroundings, the estate offers guests the opportunity to visit the craft village and has all the necessary facilities for the rehabilitation of disabled people. Previously, the main award had gone to the 'Mazichi' estate (in the Brest Region's Kobrin District) for the atmosphere of a Belarusian village, ethnic cuisine and high level of service. In the category 'Eco-estate of the Year', the winners were 'Homestead Yedishki' (Vitebsk Region, Braslav District), and the 'Cheerful Hut' estate (Minsk Region's Kopyl District). 'Homestead Stolinskiy' (Stolin District in the Brest Region) and 'Over the Niemen' (Grodno Region, Lida District) received an award for 'Style and Harmony'. The title of best 'Ethnic Complex' went to 'Guest House' (in the Mogilev Region, Bykhov District). While the estate 'In Zarechnaya Street' (Brest Region's Kobrin District) and 'Marchukova Hut' (Grodno Region's Shchuchin District, urban-type settlement Zheludok) won in the category for 'Belarusian Traditional Cuisine'.



FACT FILE

The greatest number of agro-estates in Belarus is found in the Vitebsk and Minsk regions — nearly 600 in one region. In 2015, 294,300 people used agro-estates. Average duration of visit — 4 days. Citizens of Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, Germany and the USA more commonly visit estates. Minimum cost for the night — from 700 Russian Roubles.



British PM seeks lifeline after bruising election result

British PM has lost control of her party, Parliament, policy manifesto and Brexit

UK Prime Minister Theresa May, clinging on in Downing Street, appealed for the support of her members of parliament (MPs), after losing the Conservatives a cherished government majority in last week's election. Many MPs are angry over what they see as an unnecessary vote that has cost several lawmakers their seats and are demanding she run a more open, collegiate government after her first months of a dictatorial regime.

With her government majority at zero, May has no control over Parliament a week away from the Queen's Speech, when new laws are presented, and the scheduled start of Brexit talks. Her only chance of an overall working majority is with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), a fringe political party in Northern Ireland, which is demanding a package



UK Prime Minister Theresa May

of measures on finance in return for support in Parliament. At one of its most important moments in its history, the country is rudderless and facing a constitutional crisis.

In throwing away her majority on an early election, May has lost

control of the Conservative Party, Parliament, her policy manifesto and Brexit. On June 19th, the Queen, in traditional state coach and full regalia, will travel from Buckingham Palace to Parliament to unveil the new government's legislative agenda.

On that same day, UK and EU officials in Brussels are due to start negotiations on Britain's exit from Europe. Ms. May should be able to use these two set-piece events to shape the country's future. Yet she no longer wields power over either.



This 'tree' has the environmental benefits of a forest

Air pollution is one of the world's invisible killers

It causes seven million premature deaths a year, making it the largest single environmental health risk, according to the World Health Organisation.

In urban areas, air quality is particularly problematic. More than 80 percent of people living in areas where pollution is monitored are exposed to air quality levels that exceed WHO limits. And given that by 2050 two thirds of the global population will be urban, cleaning up our cities' air is a matter of urgency.

One well-established way to reduce air pollutants is to plant trees, as their leaves catch and absorb harmful particulates. But planting new trees is not always a viable option.

That's why the 'CityTree', a mobile installation which removes pollutants from the air, has been popping up in cities around the world, including Oslo, Paris, Brussels and Hong Kong.

Each 'CityTree' is just under 4 metres tall, nearly 3 metres wide and 2.19 metres deep, available in two versions: with or without a bench. A display is included for information or advertising.

Ryanair makes big profits and vows lower fares

Ryanair is vowing to cut ticket prices by up to seven percent after posting record annual profits

The low-cost Irish airline earned a net profit of more than 1.3 billion Euros last year, even though fares were discounted by an average of 13 percent.

Despite a positive outlook, however, the company said it must be prepared for any possible turbulence ahead.

Kenny Jacobs, the Chief Marketing Officer of Ryanair, said, "For the industry in general I think uncertainty over Brexit, that is the single biggest issue. Other than that there is over-capacity in Europe as charters are moving out of Turkey, North Africa, into mainland Europe. They will continue to be the two biggest challenges in the coming year. And, finally, it will be security events."



But despite concerns about the impact of terrorist attacks on travel, Ryanair says it expects to increase its net profit in the current year by about eight percent, reaching up to 1.45 billion Euros.

The company says it aims to add an extra 10 million seats of capacity and lower fares by five to seven percent. The airline says it also expects to make more savings from more fuel-efficient planes with more seats and from a five-year pay deal with staff.

"The gap is widening between Ryanair and our competitors," Chief Executive Michael O'Leary said.

Amazon shares pass \$1,000 for first time

Shares in the company Amazon have gone past the 1,000 Dollar mark for the first time

It is a major new milestone for the online seller, which has grown into one of the world's biggest companies in terms of market value.

Its capitalisation is reported to have reached \$500 billion last week. Based in Seattle, the company began mainly as a bookseller on the web in 1995.

Oldest Homo sapiens fossils discovered

The oldest fossil remains of Homo sapiens, dating back to 300,000 years, have been found at a site in Morocco

This is 100,000 years older than previously discovered fossils of Homo sapiens that have been securely dated. The discovery was presented in the journal *Nature*.

This marks the first discovery of such fossils in North Africa, and widens the 'cradle of mankind' to encompass all of Africa, the researchers said. Previous finds were in south or east Africa. The fossils, including a partial skull and a lower jaw, belong to five different individuals including three young adults, an adolescent and a child estimated to be 8 years old. Stone tools, animal bones and evidence of fire were also found within the same layer at the site.

But what the researchers found to be most remarkable about these fossils is that they capture a moment in time of evolution.

An underwater kite built to harness tidal energy

It looks like a big toy, but it's a technological jewel designed to produce energy from the tides

It is a prototype kite, very different to those used for flying. Its design allows it to glide underwater at speeds up to ten times faster than the tides themselves. The sea inlet of Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland, the largest in the British Isles, covers 150 square kilometres. Its tides regularly rise to an amplitude of four metres at speeds averaging 1.4 metres per second.

For these natural reasons, researchers studying how to produce energy from tides chose this location to test the first submarine glider of its kind. The kite is heavily equipped with sensors and communication tools.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Pictures 'breathe' with warmth, elevated mood and optimism

Painting of Alla Zamai exhibition at National Art Museum dedicated to the painter's 85th birthday

By Venimain Mikheev

Alla Zamai was born in the Rostov Region. After studying at Rostov Art College, she graduated from the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute, having studied under People's Artist of Belarus Valentina Volkova. She has

been taking part in exhibitions since 1957, and is a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists. For many years, Alla taught at Minsk's children's art school and worked as a magazine illustrator. Today, her works are kept at the National Art Museum of Belarus, at the National Centre of Contemporary Arts and at other museums

countrywide.

Alla Zamai's creativity is diverse, covering thematic pictures, landscapes, portraits and still-life works. She has depicted the Second World War, the Chernobyl tragedy, the joys of childhood and adolescence, and the beauty and

poetry of nature, working with vivacity, optimism, warmth and light. Besides being displayed in Belarus, her paintings have toured France, America, Italy, Israel, Belgium, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.

The exhibition at the museum primarily showcases works from

her studio, alongside those donated by the Belarusian Union of Artists, the National Centre of Contemporary Arts, the Belarusian State Museum of Great Patriotic War History, the State Museum of Belarusian Literary History and the Yakub Kolas State Literary-Memorial Museum.



Hussars come to Golshany

By Katerina Charovskaya

The ruins of Golshany's legendary castle attract lovers of medieval culture. Winged Hussars, romantic noblemen, bird-catchers dressed in fur-trimmed coats, archers in coarse linen suits, and bearded Scottish mercenaries with drums gathered at Golshany Castle Festival, recently, to celebrate the 595th anniversary of Princess Sofia Golshanskaya's marriage to Polish King Jagiello, which founded the Jagiellon dynasty.

The traditional component of a medieval show is a performance by a travelling theatre. A thrilling show took place near the castle walls, featuring a range of characters usual for those times: jesters in patchwork costume, a sad beauty, and a noble gentleman. Young people



At Golshany Castle Festival

fought with clubs and batons and Alexandra Rudko, from Grodno, offered an archery master class. She attends annually, explaining, "There are always many people wishing to try their hand at archery.

Interestingly, children learn much faster than adults. Probably, this is because they simply shoot, while adults try to emulate what they've seen in historical films."

This year, Culture Minister Bo-

ris Svetlov was among the guests. He's convinced that such festivals not only entertain us but contribute to the country's economy. "The future relies on it," he asserts. "I'm confident that our festivals can be interesting to foreign tourists. How can we now attract them? Firstly, we need to turn to our compatriots who, for various reasons, have immigrated. There are many Belarusians whose ancestors left their homeland a hundred or more years ago. It would be interesting for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to come here and learn more about their roots," he says.

The Minister expresses his hope that future festivals will be held against the backdrop of reconstruction; Golshany Castle's Northern Tower has passed the first stage of agreement on receiving funding, from abroad, as part of a cross-border co-operation programme.

Tourists to travel in carts

By Alexander Pimenov

New ecological tour, Photosafari, developed for Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park

The route covers the southern border of the Pushcha, where the woods flow into open meadows and marshes, where traditional reserve research areas are located. During the photo-safari, tourists will be given the rare opportunity to see wild animals in their natural habitat, photographing red, roe and fallow deer, and taking selfies in gorgeous surroundings.

A 16-seater vehicle, driven by 'Belarus' mini-tractor, will allow everyone a prime view of the countryside, and the animals they've come to see. The Pushcha already boasts a network of automobile, cycle and hiking paths, to take visitors to the most beautiful spots.

Since early 2017, 125,000 people have already visited the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park.

Giovanni Vavassore's map: tracing Belarusian history

According to Belarusian collector and historian Vladimir Lihodedov, there are very few old maps that actually identify Belarusian lands. However, they do exist, and one will soon be launched to the public as part of the historical-cultural project *In Search of the Lost*. This unique version will be recreated from the original map, made by Giovanni Andrea Vavassore in the early 16th century in the Republic of Venice.

By Galina Ulitenok

Venetian heritage

Little information exists about Vavassore and his life. Ilya Andreev, a Belarusian cartography researcher, explains, "Giovanni Andrea Vavassore was a wood engraver, a publisher and a printer for the Venetian school of cartography. The exact date of his birth is unknown, but it's thought that he died before 1572."

By the late 15th and early 16th century, the Venetian Republic had achieved significant economic development and prosperity. Its ships sailed the Mediterranean and Black seas, reaching as far as the harbours of the North Sea. The frequency of voyages by Venetian trade ships contributed, not surprisingly, to the development of the science of cartography, and the Venetian Republic produced several distinguished cartographers: Marco Beneventano, Bernard Sylvanus, Matteo Pagano and Giovanni Andrea Vavassore.

Vavassore was a member of the Artists' Union. He published a book of patterns for embroidery and lace, which was probably the first special edition for women. However, he's primarily known for his geographical maps. While they may not have boasted the latest geographical discoveries of the time, they were truly informative and were of high quality. These maps are very rare today and some are only available as copies of the originals.

Among the major and most well-known works of Vavassore is his map of Constantinople, most likely dated around 1520. He also prepared maps of Spain (1532), France (1536), the Eastern Mediterranean (1539), Greece (1545), Great Britain (1556), Hungary (1553), the world map of Caspar Vopel (1558), Italian Friuli (1557) and Toscana (1559).

Recreated by Belarusian enthusiasts as part of *In Search of the Lost*, Vavassore's map



Dmitry Lihodedov, Dmitry Shapovalov, Vladimir Lihodedov and Ilya Andreev

is a well-known edition of the world map: Opera di Giovanni Andrea Vavassore detto Guadagnino (1520-1530). His map was, in turn, based on Bernard Sylvanus' map, included in the Venice edition of the Ptolemy in 1511.

Speaking of his decision to join the initiative on the map's restoration,

Mr. Lihodedov explains, "No more than five or six copies of this map have been preserved worldwide. With this in mind, it's unlikely that many Belarusian history lovers will have the chance to hold the original in their hands or examine it thoroughly (though many interesting facts can be discovered there)."

The lands between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea are marked as SARMATIA DEVROPA, and the rivers of Dnieper (boristene f.), Zapadnaya Dvina and Don (Tanai

fiu) are delineated: upon the cartographic picture, the latter flow from the mystical Ripher Monte mountains.

Interestingly, the Dnieper is present on one of the map's marked climatic zones — per boristene; this indicates the involvement of these territories in world affairs of that period.

Matrix of the past

How did the process of the ancient map's restoration begin? As is often the case

ably, the Bible was printed on the recreated printing press.

The exhibit, and the idea of recreating the incunabula, generated enormous interest. Reconstruction of rare graphic works has become a reality. Ilya Andreev invited Mr. Lihodedov to recreate an ancient geographical map — a gem of cartography.

It took little time to persuade Mr. Lihodedov, who says, "We managed to restore the old matrix, which took about a year. This was painstaking work but, in my view, it's been a success. Only a specialist can see differences from the original; importantly, we've used no 'ageing' effects. Our work replicates the five century-old original — including its paper, which I made personally, using flax as the basis and following an ancient technique (used

in Europe in the 15th-16th century). Professionals participated in the preparation and printing: graphic artists Boris Tsitovich and Dmitry Shapovalov, in addition to my son Dmitry Lihodedov."

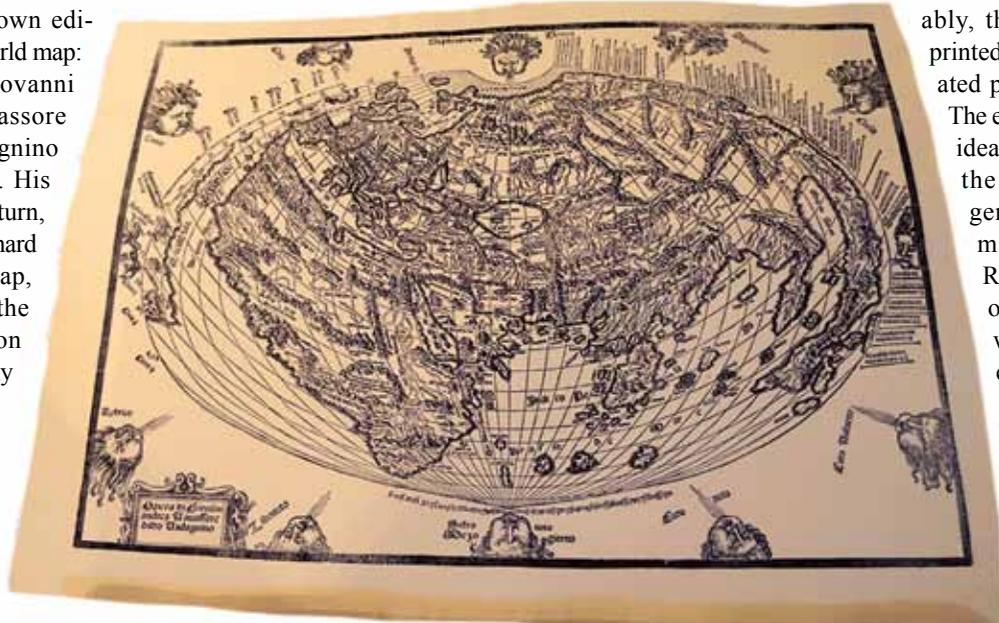
The joint decision was made to release twelve copies of the map, on three different types of paper.

Recreating the lost

Modern people tend to search for practical convenience in everything. Reproducers of old books are convinced, despite the care needed in their work, that a practical approach is necessary. With vivid national colours and craftsmanship of the highest level, these rare reproductions make wonderful gifts, as do recreated historical Slutsk sashes. As the reproductions are being featured in museum collections, they should raise awareness and appreciation among visitors, teaching them about this intricate process of book-making and map-making from centuries past. Maps of this kind are an essential part of a comprehensive cartographic exhibition.

Most importantly, we're preserving Belarusian national historical and cultural heritage, and recognising its deep relationship with world culture. It's hardly possible to overestimate the practical significance of this aspect. What better use of our practical skills than to create works with spiritual and cultural significance?

Musing on his plans for future projects, Mr. Lihodedov says, "The Vavassore map is our first experimental step in the reconstruction of old maps, including Belarusian. We're now studying the possibility of recreating Skaryna's *Small Travelling Book*. Sadly, no completely preserved original has yet been discovered; we have only fragments. We'd like to collect them together, to release an album. Meanwhile, authenticity of production and printing is vital."



Vavassore's world map

Breaking series of four unsuccessful matches

Belarus' national football team achieves first victory in 2018 World Championship qualification match, beating Bulgaria in sixth round of qualifying group A, at Borisov-Arena — 2:1

By Yevgeny Samoilo

Before the match, the head coach of the Belarusian national football squad, Igor Kriushenko, said that his trainees would try to break their series of unsuccessful matches, pleasing fans with a good game, and they lived up to their word.

The first half saw the hosts take the initiative, with Pavel Savitsky, Sergey Balanovich, Denis Laptev and others making several attacks on Bulgaria's net. In the 16th minute, Dmitry Aliseiko took a perfect penalty kick, which was well-saved



Belarus' national football team performs well at Borisov-Arena

by Nikolay Mihaylov. However, feeling the aggression of our Belarusian team, the Bulgarians began to go on the attack, almost scoring twice. Luckily, Belarusian goalkeeper Sergey Chernik saved the day.

Belarus' team again upped their game; in the 32nd minute, Denis Laptev took a penalty shot, which Mikhail Sivakov converted, taking the score to 1:0. After halftime, the Bulgarians attacked again, sending the Belarusian players into defence. However, in the 80th minute, Pavel Savitsky pushed into the penalty area from the left flank and spectacularly

sent the ball past the Bulgarian goalkeeper, who unwisely left his goal unprotected. With the score at 2:0, the Bulgarians continued to press forward and, in injury time, managed to reduce the gap but nothing more.

The national team of Belarus has broken its goal-less series of four matches and achieved its first victory in the current selection cycle, under coach Igor Kriushenko.

Mr. Kriushenko is delighted with his squad, and pleased that fans now have something to celebrate, after several unsuccessful matches, without any goals.

Group A has seen Sweden beat France — 2:1, while the Dutch have defeated Luxembourg, in Rotterdam — 5:0. After six rounds, Sweden has 13 points (goal difference 12-4), France has 13 points (11-5), the Netherlands has 10 points (13-6), Bulgaria has 9 points (9-12), Belarus has 5 points (4-11) and Luxembourg has just 1 point (6-17).

The seventh round will begin on August 31st, with the national team of Belarus playing in Luxembourg, the Bulgarians meeting the Swedes and the French facing the Dutch.

Yunost acquire hockey player from USA

By Alexey Grishin

Silver prize winner of 2016/2017 Extraleague, Minsk Yunost, reinforces its line-up on the eve of the championship, with the Minsk club signing up US forward Ryan Walters

Ryan was playing with Rapid City Rush, in the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) and was the most 'resultative' player for Rapid City Rush last season, earning 69 points in the regular championship.

Good height of Pavel Seliverstov

By Kirill Karin

Belarusian jumper ranked second at international tournament in Polish Opole

In his best attempt, Pavel Seliverstov showed a result of 2.28m, behind Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar, who cleared 2.37m. Third place was occupied by Polish Wojciech Theiner (2.20m).

Pavel Seliverstov is a bronze winner of the 2017 European Athletics Indoor Championship. During the winter season, he managed to clear 2.32m. This season, Dmitry Nabokov may rival him in the Belarusian national team, with a jump of 2.28m at the recent Belarus Cup in Brest.

Personal success for team



Olga Mazurenok (centre) claims silver

By Fiodor Spassky

Olga Mazurenok of Belarus takes silver, at European 10,000m Cup event, held in Minsk

Olga, a leading track-and-field athlete, covered the distance in 32 minutes and 13.73 seconds, only surpassed by tournament favourite Sara Moreira of Portugal (32 minutes and 3.57 seconds).

"It was difficult to compete with my rival from Portugal," asserted

Olga, giving an interview after the competition. "She's a leader in Europe in this distance. Sara was even displeased with her time in Minsk, while we, Belarusians, were more focused on finally achieving a good team result."

The national squad of Belarus occupied first place in the team standings, with two more runners also finishing among the top ten. Svetlana Kudelich came fifth (32 minutes and 48.62 seconds) while Anastasia Ivanova was sixth (32

minutes and 54.98 seconds). Nina Savina finished in twelfth position, while Lyudmila Lyakhovich was placed nineteenth. The winner in the team standings was determined from the three best results.

The President of the European Association of Athletics Federations, Svein Arne Hansen, attended the event, alongside the Vice President of the International Association of Athletics Federations and the President of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, Sergey Bubka.

In total, seventy-nine athletes from eighteen countries took part in the European 10,000m Cup, held at the Stadium of the National Olympic Athletics Training Centre.

The European 10,000m Cup has been held since 1997. Last year, Turkish Mersin hosted the twentieth meeting, with men's gold going to Daniele Meucci of Italy (28 minutes and 24.71 seconds) while Esma Aydemir of Turkey (33 minutes and 33.38 seconds) claimed the women's gold. The overall standings were topped by Italy (men) and the UK (women).



Time to move 'forward'

By Semen Bondarev

Sergey Kornilenko, who plays with the national football team, has announced his retirement from the Belarusian squad. Playing with Samara's Krylia Sovetov, in a forward position, he made a trip to a Minsk training session to announce the news and bid farewell to the team and coaching staff.

After a small ceremony, the website of the Belarusian Football Federation released these words from the footballer: 'I'd like to express gratitude to all the fans who've supported

me and the team over the past fourteen years. It was always pleasant to join the national team and to help it fight on the field... It was an honour for me to play for the country and I admit I'll miss this. However, everything in life has its time. It's high time that I retire from the national team and give way to younger players'.

On June 14th, Kornilenko will be celebrating his 34th birthday. He has played seventy-eight matches for the national football team of Belarus (surpassed only by Sergey Gurenko and Alexander Kulchii), scoring seventeen goals (surpassed only by Maxim Romashchenko).

Ball of the week



Graduation evening at Suvorov Military School in Minsk

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 25th May. *Breath of Eternity*
Until 25th June. Exhibition dedicated to 70th anniversary of artist-restorer A. Shpunt Until 3rd July. *Great Rembrandt*

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 24th June. *Skorina — Enlightener-Humanist* Until 24th June. *Symbols of Soviet Epoch* Until 25th June. *Rabbinical Dynasty of Medalie*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 30th June. Exhibition of wax figures: *Miraculous Travel* Until 10th August (Labyrinth Gallery). *Francysk Skaryna. Extensive Man* Until 20th August. Exhibition of children's graphics: *Her Majesty Letter*

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 26th June. *Polish Writers from 1920s-1930s* Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

BELARUSIAN STATE CIRCUS

32 Nezavisimosti Avenue
15, 17-18, and 21.06. *Fantastic Stories*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

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

GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 31st July. White Pole Museum of Ice-Cream

ZAIR AZGUR'S MUSEUM-WORKSHOP

8 Zair Azgur Street
Until 30th June. Galina Gorova's sculpture: *Thoughts and Forms*

YAKUB KOLAS SQUARE

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

VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

33a Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 20th July. Exhibition of Sergey Drozdov's author doll: *Male Sight*

TSENTRALNY

13 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 18th June. *Childhood for Everyone*

HOUSE-MUSEUM OF FIRST RSDRP SESSION

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 6th August. *Path of Weapon: from Blade to Sort Rifle*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
15.06. *Fogs of Time / Slow Fire; Bravo, Karant!* 16.06. *Grand Pas Paquita. Small Death. Six Dances* 18.06. *Ballet Summer in Bolshoi: gala concert of world ballet stars* 19.06. *Carmen* 21.06. *Opera + Jazz* 22.06. *Eugene Onegin*

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
15.06. *Shalom Aleichem!* 16.06. *Wedding in Malinovka* 18.06. *Blue Cameo* 20.06. *Cherry Orchid* 21.06. *Sofia Golshanskaya* 22.06. *Merry Poppins*

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
18.06. *Pan Tadeusz* 19.06. *School of Taxpayers* 20.06. *Seagull* 21.06. *People of the Marshes* 22.06. *The Black Lady of Nesvizh*

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE (SMALL STAGE)

12 Engels Street
15.06. *Shabany* 16.06. *Woyzeck* 19.06. *Love as Militarism*

PALACE OF TRADE UNIONS

25 Nezavisimosti Avenue
21.06. *Opera in Pyjamas*

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
15.06. *Lady for a Day* 16.06. *Tricks of Khanuma* 17.06. *Testosterone* 20.06. *Taming of the Shrew* 21.06. *Lady for a Day* 22.06. *Inn Keeper*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
15.06. *Mechanical Man* 16 and 17.06. *Nobody Ever Said Life Would Be Easy* 18.06. *A Very Simple Story* 20.06. *Who Laughs Last* 21.06. *Abduction of Yelena*

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
20.06. *Medea Syndrome* 21.06. *Career of Doctor Raus* 22.06. *Grandfather*

BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street
15 and 22.06. *Cat's House* 16.06. *Road to Bethlehem* 19.06. *Thumbelina* 21.06. *My Little Enchantress*

BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street
15.06. *Pippi Longstocking* 17.06. *A Wolf and Seven Goats* 18.06. *Mysterious Hippopotamus* 20.06. *Belvedere* 22.06. *Interview with Witches*