

INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 23 (789) ● THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 ● WWW.SB.BY



Minsk welcomes participants and guests of 2nd European Games

On June 21st, the opening ceremony of the 2nd European Games will be held at the Dinamo Stadium in Minsk. Over 10 days, the best athletes in Europe will determine the best of the best in 15 sports. Among the main participants will be the ‘cream’ of European sport: world and Olympic champions, record-setters and legends. Thousands of participants, journalists and tens of thousands of fans from all over the continent have gathered in Minsk to support their teams and enjoy the indescribable atmosphere of the grand sporting festival.



Drop in on us

By Sergey Kanashits

It may seem strange but, until recently, Europe was the only place on the world sports map that did not have its own continental Olympics. Back in 1951, the pioneers in this area were Asia and America: Delhi and Buenos Aires held the first ever Asian and Pan-American Games. Since then, the best athletes of these countries have fought for the title of the strongest athlete in their region 19 times. The first Pacific Games were held in 1963 and the African Games — in 1965. Only after half a century, did Europe also think to begin its own competition. The 1st European Games took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2015, and were a great success.

The 1st European Olympiad could well have been the last. Holland, chosen as the host country for the 2nd European Games, suddenly recused itself, which came as a surprise to everyone and gave the organisers an unexpected dilemma: who will host the Games in 4 years, in 2019? Russia put up its candidacy but then WADA began a high-profile investigation of the doping scandal and, on the eve of the 2016 Olympics, in view of the sanctions announced as a result of the investigation, the IOC refused to support Russia in holding international tournaments — including the European Games. As a result, the Games were once again left without a



October 21st, 2016. The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, attends 45th meeting of the General Assembly of the EOC in Minsk jointly with the President of the Association of National Olympic Committees, the President of the Olympic Council of Asia and an IOC member — Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah — and the President of the EOC, Janez Kocijancic

host. The moment seemed critical, as less than three years were left: not everyone could take the risk to organise and hold a large international competition in such a short time.

Belarus took on the initiative. On October 21st, 2016, Minsk was chosen the capital of the 2nd European Games and, on September 1st, 2017, an official contract for the forum was signed in the capital of Belarus by the President of the European Olympic Committees, Janez Kocijancic, and the Secretary General of the European Olympic Committees, Rafael Pagnozzi. The race for the preparation for the 2nd European Games began, and Minsk now confidently reports that everything is ready for the grand event. Belarus is welcoming guests with open hearts.

Casablanca, Hangzhou, Apia, Lima and Minsk are the cities which act as the capitals of continental Olympics 2019, where regional Olympic Games will be held. Minsk has already established itself as a city of sports, cosy and hospitable: everyone who's come here to stay or participate in competitions was surprised by the incredible spiritual atmosphere of the city and the responsiveness of its residents. Moreover, the 2014 IIHF World Championship was named by the Head of the International Ice Hockey Federation, Rene Fasel, as the best in the history of the tournament!

Mr. Kocijancic, said, "We are very pleased with the work that's been done. I don't think that we have any unforeseen problems ahead, so we can say with con-

fidence that Minsk is ready to host the competition. I am sure our Belarusian colleagues will complete everything to the highest standard. The 2nd European Games is a chance to open Belarus to the world. A huge number of applications from the media have already been submitted to the forum, and thanks to reports and news from Minsk, everyone will be able to learn about the friendly people who live in this country."

The Organising Committee of the 2nd European Games is headed by Belarus' Prime Minister, Sergei Rumas, while the preparations are overseen by the President of Belarus and the National Olympic Committee, Aleksandr Lukashenko. Mr. Kocijancic met with the Head of Belarus at the final stage

of preparation to say, "I have visited a number of events in Belarus and I want to mention the availability of excellent infrastructure for global sporting events. All the feedback we received was not simply positive but full of enthusiasm!" In turn, Mr. Lukashenko noted, "It will be the best European Games, as the whole Belarusian people will be involved in these competitions. It's not a local level competition. All our neighbours will know that the European Games are being held here and all doors will be open to them. We invite everyone who wishes, to visit our country."

The 2nd European Games' slogan is 'Bright Year, Bright You'. It's truly a unique event — not only for Belarus but also for the whole of Europe. Welcome!

Games in numbers

2nd European Games in Minsk is the biggest and most significant sporting event in the history of Belarus. The figures describe it well.

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Minsk welcomes visitors

About 4,000 athletes and 2,000 coaches from 50 countries will come to Minsk for the 2nd European Games. 650 international and 410 national judges in different sports will serve the competition, while over 1,000 foreign media representatives will cover the tournament.

Arenas are ready

The competition programme for the Games includes 15 sports. The best athletes of the continent will perform in 12 arenas and only one of these sports complexes — the Regatta Course of the Republican Centre of Olympic Training for Rowing Sports — is located outside Minsk, in Zaslavl. Some venues will host competitions in several sports: Minsk Arena, for example, will feature tournaments in acrobatic, aerobic, artistic and rhythmic gymnastics as well as hosting trampolining and the cycling track.

200 sets of medals in 21 disciplines will be played for by athletes and the largest number of them, 20 sets, will be distributed among the track cyclists. Meanwhile, athletics competitions will be attended by more than 500 athletes. Competitions in eight sports at the Games

will be qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics, while the boxing and badminton tournaments will be held at the status of European championships.

Help and advice offered

8,000 volunteers will work in Minsk during the multi-sports forum. They will offer assis-

tance at sports facilities, work in doping control services, medical services, interact with the media, take part in opening and closing ceremonies and solve many other issues.

Over 24,000 applications have been submitted from those wishing to become volunteers: there was strict compe-

tion. Moreover, many applications came from abroad: the most active candidates were from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and the UK. In total, representatives of 53 countries will work at the event. Contrary to the widespread stereotype that volunteering is a matter for young people, many are older. The oldest volunteer who applied to participate is 81. In Minsk, volunteers will be provided with food and clothing. They'll also be able to live free of charge in hostels and use public transport.

Borders open

More than 20,000 foreign fans are expected to come to Minsk during the Games, enjoying visa-free entry to Belarus from June 10th to July 10th, on the condition they have valid documents for travel abroad and an original or electronic ticket to the competitions or the tournament's opening and closing ceremonies. This visa-free period extends from May 20th to July 10th for participants, official representatives of teams and organisers.

52 hotels and 5 hostels are ready to host foreign participants and guests. 5,000 rooms in 31 hotels are to accommodate ath-



Bright mascot

By Dmitry Komashko,
Tatiana Pastushenko

It's more than fifty years ago that a tournament mascot was first presented at the 1968 Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, where a little man on skis, named Schuss, was chosen as the mascot. Since then, no Olympic Games have been without one and the European Games have also borrowed the tradition.

Four years ago, Jeyran and Nar, a gazelle and a pomegranate, were the mascots of the first meeting held in Baku. They have become true guides to the history of Azerbaijan. Jeyran (the Azerbaijani word for gazelle) is considered to be a symbol of grace, natural beauty and purity and is even protected by the state, while Nar (which stands for pomegranate) is a symbol of life and energy, in whose honour a traditional festival of pomegranates takes place in Azerbaijan.

Lesik the Fox has become a guide to the culture of Belarus during the Games. According to its creators, the story of Lesik will make people smile, while also helping them learn about the traditions of our country. You may have heard a fairy-tale about the Little Prince who arrived on Earth and found friends. Lesik the Fox was one of them. When the Little Prince flew away, the fox was left alone and wanted very much to find friends. He listened hard in hopes of hearing some, which made his ears grow large. He looked around and, thanks to his big ears and strong paws, learnt that somewhere in Belarus a flower exists that makes dreams come true. It's the legendary Belarusian 'Paparats Kvetka' (fern flower). Lesik

decided to travel to Belarus to find this flower. The trip was long, and he had to walk a million steps, as seen from his fitness bracelet.

Lesik's clothes are also symbolic. The inscription on his capvisor says that 2019 will be the brightest year in his life and in the sporting life of Europe, while the slogan of the 2nd European Games, 'Bright Year — Bright You', is turned into our official country code — BY. The green colour of Lesik's shirt means development and harmony, while his black shorts stand for discipline and determination. The orange fur represents 'cheerfulness' and his blue shoes 'strength of character', while red symbolises vitality.

Lesik has already attended lots of test tournaments and other events dedicated to the 2nd European Games. He recently lit the fire of the multi-sports forum in Rome and, with famous athletes, started the Flame of Peace torch relay race. On competition days, Lesik the Fox will remain in the epicentre of all events — being ready to pay attention to athletes and fans.



letes, coaches, organisers and officials, while tourists and fans are offered rooms in 21 hotels. Significantly, hotel prices have not increased during the period of the event: Minsk City Executive Committee has signed a memorandum on the containment of tariffs for hotel services during the 2nd European Games, according to which, during both the preparation and the Games themselves, prices may increase by no more than 10 percent of the prices in force as of June 1st, 2018 (in Dollar equivalent).

1.6 thousand cafes and restaurants are ready to receive visitors in Minsk. Over 50 catering outlets specialise in Belarusian national cuisine.

More than 50 excursion routes have been prepared by tourist businesses in the city. Fans will be able to choose trips for every taste: they will be offered the chance to get to know Minsk both historic and modern, visit various museums, monuments and sights, theatres and many other places in the city. For those who want to see not only the capital, but also explore Belarus as a whole, larger excursion

routes have been developed. In addition, guests to Belarus can independently plan their travel through Belarus. To facilitate this, the *Capital Area* guide has been released, presenting different directions of tour routes — historical, gastronomic and others.

Passes for fans

384,000 tickets to the 2nd European Games have gone on sale. From the first day, tickets to the opening and closing ceremonies, competitions in beach soccer, athletics, rhythmic gymnastics, 3x3 basketball and karate enjoyed the greatest popularity. Ticket prices are reasonable, starting from 5-7 Belarusian Roubles (around \$2.5-3) for tournaments in many sports. The most expensive tickets are for the opening ceremony: from 150 to 300 Belarusian Roubles.

Feast for the eyes

Audiences in over 120 countries will be able to view TV broadcasts of the Games. It's expected that the audience coverage will reach around 1.5bn people.

SPORTS STARS INVITE TO MINSK



Vladislav Goncharov, Olympic trampolining champion, claimed silver in the individual and synchro jumps at the 1st European Games in Baku:

In 2015, no one knew what the European Games would be like, how people would respond or what problems they might face. Now, compared with the Olympics in Rio, I see that the level of organisation and the conduct of the European event is like that of the Olympic Games. On the eve of the 2nd European Games, I understand that, as they are held in Belarus, at home, it's necessary to try to prepare for them as well as possible. I hope that many people will come to see the performances while we'll try to show them the best we can do. It will be extremely cool!



Veronika Nabokina and Karina Sandovich, gymnasts, claimed three bronze medals at the 1st European Games together with Yekaterina Borisevich, and are preparing for the tournament in Minsk with Yulia Ivonchik:

It was great at the 1st European Games in Baku, where there were many sports disciplines and athletes lived together. Everything was great: both the arena and the atmosphere. Of course, there was also much excitement and it was important to cope with the nerves. We had no time to see other sports and only watched competitions in artistic and rhythmic gymnastics which were held in the same hall as our own event. Moreover, in Minsk they will be held in the same format, with competitions in sport aerobics, artistic and rhythmic gymnastics taking place at Minsk Arena. So, it will be very interesting! We don't feel very nervous so far but, it will probably appear later. Before the 1st European Games, we worried as we didn't know how everything would work out but it's even more difficult to perform in your home country. Even now we hear from everyone that we should win first place. What can we say? We'll try to do our best... We also want to win!



BRIGHT YEAR, BRIGHT YOU

The Minsk Times
Thursday
June 20
2019

3

The route of the Flame of Peace

By Dmitry Komashko

The tradition to light the fire before the start of Olympics originated in Ancient Greece. In our modern times, the trend continued: in 1936, the torch was first brought to the stadium by the participants of the relay race and since then this tradition has become an indispensable part of any Games, not only the Olympics. In 2015, the fire of the 1st European Games was first lit in Baku, while in early May 2019, fifty days before the start of the competition, a torch was lit in Rome which travelled through six European countries and all Belarusian regions to bring the fire of the 2nd European Games to Minsk.

Four years ago, it was easier for the organisers of the 1st European Games in Baku. In order to add symbolism to the flame lighting ceremony, they used a natural phenomenon. The torch was lit from the fire which burns in places of gas discharges in the Ateshgah Museum and historical complex. However, this idea couldn't be used in subsequent similar tournaments. As a result, the European Olympic Committees (EOC) decided to launch the torch relay race in Rome, near the Peace Altar in the Ara Pacis Museum.

Until the last moment, the details of the flame lighting ceremony were kept secret, and ultimately a spectacular and symbolic ceremony ensued. To light the fire for the 2nd European Games, a representative Belarusian delegation went to Rome, comprising of the Sports and Tourism Minister, Sergey Kovalchuk, and the Director of the Minsk European Games Organising Committee (MEGOC), Georgy Katulin, as well as three Olympic champions: Fencer Yelena Belova who earned four gold medals at the Olympiads in 1968, 1972 and 1976; track-and-field athlete Yulia Nesterenko who claimed one of the most memorable victories in the history of Belarusian sport at the Olympic Games in 2004; and Vladislav Goncharov who won a trampolining gold in Rio de Janeiro. They were the stars of the ceremony, which was opened by the President of the European Olympic Committees, Janez Kocijancic, who spoke about the importance of the 2nd European Games for European sport, "It's vital that the European Olympic Committees and the organisers in Minsk work together to achieve common goals. These competitions will help unite

nations and will become a foundation for further achievements. This is an event which will involve everyone — from children to entrants of the competitions and volunteers."

The EOC President awarded an olive tree as a symbol of peace to the Sports and Tourism Minister, Sergey Kovalchuk. He was also the first to accept a burning torch from the President of the European Olympic Committees. Yulia Nesterenko was the first athlete to take the flame on May 12th and symbolically took the first steps on Belarusian soil.

Accepting the torch from Vladislav Goncharov in Rome, Yelena Belova passed it on to two keepers who, after lighting a ceremonial oil lamp, proceeded with an escort to the foot of Mont Blanc. The choice of this peak as one of the first points of the relay race route is not accidental. From the highest point of Europe, the light of the Flame of Peace symbolically illuminates all corners of the continent before taking to the road. As well as Italy, the participants of the torch relay race have already visited Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland. In each capital, alongside the relay race stage, the organisers held presentations of the 2nd European Games and of Belarus — the host country. In Belarus, on



Olympic champion, Yulia Nesterenko, becomes first athlete to carry the 2nd European Games' flame



Flame of Peace lit in Rome 50 days before the start of the 2nd European Games



Mountaineers take the Flame of Peace to the highest peak of Europe: Mont Blanc

May 12th, the residents of the city of Brest were the first to see the Flame of Peace. The route of the relay race ran past the Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial Complex, Kamenets, the Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Pinsk, Mikashevichi, Baranovichi and Kossovo. Then the flame went on to the Grodno Region, where the participants of the relay race rafted along the Augustovsky Canal and ran past Mir and Novogrudok castles. The flame was then welcomed in the Vitebsk, Mogilev, Gomel and Minsk regions. The list of places, landmarks for all Belarusians, on the torch's path are many and varied. They include the Rumyantsev and Paskevich Palace, the Prip'yatsky National Park, Turov and Mozyr, Nesvizh Castle and the Dnieper River, Khatyn and Zaslavl... The organisers of the relay race emphasised that the journey of the Flame of Peace is a unique opportunity to showcase Belarus to the world.

The torchbearers arrived in Minsk on June 17th, four days before the opening ceremony of the 2nd European Games at Dinamo Stadium. The fire will lighten the arena centre to announce the opening of the Games. The holiday is on the way!

SPORTS STARS INVITE TO MINSK

Stepan Popov, sambo wrestler and winner of the 1st European Games in the under 74kg weight category, who was awarded the Fair Play award in Baku for carrying his defeated rival, Amil Gasimov of Azerbaijan, on his shoulders:

I've been thinking about the European Games in Minsk for the last four years. During the Games in Baku I fought against the Azerbaijani athlete in his homeland. At the time, it was easier for me because I knew that everyone was expecting him to win and he was seen as the favourite. I also knew that



I couldn't miss any opportunity to gain the advantage, it took all my effort, but it worked out well in the end. The same could happen in Minsk. It's likely that people will be expecting me to prove my status of acting champion, so it may be much more complex in Minsk than in Baku. Nevertheless, the Games are a major advantage for us. Firstly, they are held in Belarus. Secondly, sambo was recently temporarily recognised by the International Olympic Committee, and we'd like to present our sporting discipline at its best so that it will be included in the Olympic Games in future.

Village welcomes guests



The new building can hardly be called a hostel. It looks more like a hotel built according to European standards — having a spacious hall painted in pale green, 8 elevators and large windows.



In the Athletes' Village, the organisers of the 2nd European Games have done everything possible to make it comfortable and ensure the sportsmen feel at home.

By Kristina Glushko

The campus in Dzerzhinsky Avenue is a landmark place for the athletes who have come to conquer the summits of the 2nd European Games. This 'island' of 9 hostels has become a large and comfortable home for the international participants of the competition. About 6,500 people are accommodated here during the Games.

Housewarming!

In early May, the Student Village passed under the supervision of the Directorate of the 2nd European Games. All nine hostels in which athletes and delegates are housed were then ready for use. Rooms for the new guests are equally well-equipped. They have long, wide beds suitable for heights of up to 180cm, closets, clothes dryers and a fan with a control panel. Each unit has a fully equipped kitchen complete with table, chairs and a refrigerator.

The new 25-storey hostel No. 2, however, which can accommodate 1,800 people, deserves special attention: its construction began in 2012 and work finished in late February of this year. The first two floors of the building are occupied by a walk-in centre, part of the student's polyclinic No. 33, where athletes can get qualified help from the best doctors in Belarus. The offices of a therapist, a surgeon, an ophthalmologist, a dentist and a physiotherapist are situated here, in addition to rooms for various types of massage.

"There is a couch for massage and a hydromassage bath, while for those who want non-contact massage, there is a soft mattress filled with water, where sprays hit the body to help relaxation. During the 2nd European Games, 35 physicians will work here; these are the best doctors from different polyclinics in the city. Specialists from the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Sports have also been invited," explains Anastasia Dalchanina, who heads the department.

Residential rooms start from the fourth floor of the hostel: each has sev-



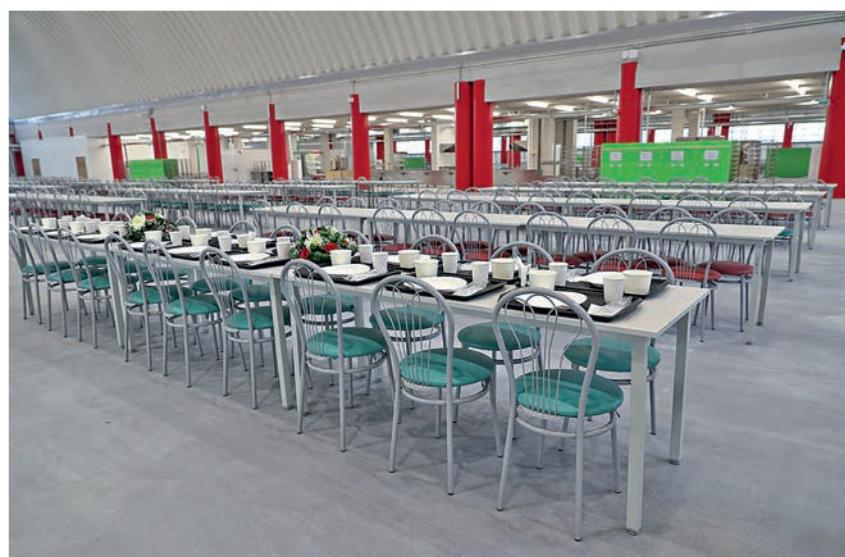
eral apartment-type blocks with rooms, a kitchen, a toilet and a shower. Overall, there are 182 one-room blocks for three people, 174 two-room for 4 and 86 two-room for 6 people. The new building can hardly be called a hostel. It looks more like a hotel built according to European standards — having a spacious hall painted in pale green, 8 elevators and large windows. The beds here, unlike in other hostels, are 2 metres long. "1,300 sportsmen will be accommodated here during the Games: two in each room," noted the Deputy Education Minister, Sergej Rudy.

Another pleasant surprise for guests is the free high-speed Wi-Fi, available in the hostel and throughout the Olympic Village. In addition, those staying in the new building will have access to its laundry, conference halls, gym and cafe.

Starters and dessert

Another new and very important element is a food point, which was built in just 3 months. A kitchen and a dining room for athletes and delegation members are to be found nearby. Excavators and dumper trucks were cruising through the site, while drills and welding noise was heard until recently. Work is now finished, and the complex is receiving guests and rolling out the red carpet.

The kitchen resembles a labyrinth: 20 rectangular blocks where the chefs work are situated around the perimeter. Tenderisers for chops are installed in the meat and fish section, in addi-



tion to powerful meat grinders, mobile stuffing machines and fish scalers... In general, the quality of the lunch menu is indisputable: everything is served to athletes at its best. The same modern equipment has been brought to the remaining stalls: both for hot food and cold, where salads are to be made. Here, chefs will have access to fryers, blenders, slicers and several ovens. Some premises are equipped not only for chefs but also for dishwashers: the latter can use drying racks and electric water heaters.

The canteen is situated just twenty metres from the kitchen: the hall, with an area of 5,500 square metres, has seats for 2,000 and is divided into two blocks. One of them houses a dining room, connected with the kitchen by a production tunnel, and a 60m long food distribution section. Here, sportsmen can choose grilled dishes, European cuisine, pizza, pasta, national Belarusian cuisine, as well halal and kosher

food, diet and vegetarian dishes.

The second block is conventionally called the '24-hour station': at any time, athletes will be able to get cold and hot drinks, as well as fresh snacks. Here, Asian cuisine will be offered, such as miso soup and noodles.

922 people work on site — including 300 cooks. On May 10th, testing was launched: including the filling of warehouses and preparation of semi-finished products, which are kept frozen until the competition.

In addition to the main food point, there are also two lounge areas in the Olympic Village, offering burgers, rolls, cookies, grain and protein bars, hot drinks and fresh juices. The organisers try to provide menu items that are not offered in the main canteen, so that athletes do not have a sense of boredom with the food. Snack areas are also organised: these rehabilitation stations offer food to sportsmen before and after competitions.



ARENAS, PALACES, STADIUMS AND CLUBS AMONG THE VENUES OF THE 2ND EUROPEAN GAMES

Arena awaits a spectacle

The main venue of the Minsk Arena will host competitions in 6 sports: gymnastics acrobatics (40 participants, 6 sets of medals), gymnastics aerobic (56 participants, 2 sets of medals), gymnastics artistic (90 participants, 12 sets of medals), gymnastics rhythmic (52 participants, 8 sets of medals), gymnastics trampoline (48 participants, 4 sets of medals). In addition, 316 athletes will compete for 20 sets of medals in track cycling at the Minsk Arena cycling track. The complex consists of four buildings: a sports and entertainment arena for 15,000, a cycling track for 2,000, a skating stadium for 3,000 and a multi-level parking lot.



Konnichiwa, rivals

Competitions in two Japanese martial arts will be held at the Chizhovka Arena multifunctional cultural-sports and entertainment complex. Its large arena is designed for 8,807 spectators and the small training ground can seat 473. Four hundred judo athletes will compete for 15 sets of medals, while 96 karate fighters, for 12 sets. Interestingly, from 2020, karate will be included in the Olympic programme.



Faster, higher, stronger

504 athletes will compete for 9 sets of medals in athletics — demonstrating their skills in hurdles, pursuit, high and long jump and javelin throwing. A spectacular event will be held at the Dinamo Stadium, whose stands can accommodate over 22,000 spectators.



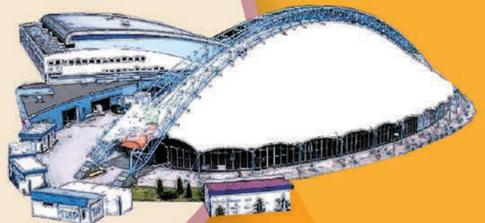
Bow, arrow and ball

The Olympic Sports Complex will host competitions in beach soccer (96 athletes, 1 set of medals) and archery (128 athletes, 8 sets of medals). The complex occupies an area of more than 12 hectares and is located near the Botanical Garden and the Chelyuskintsev Park, in the therapeutic area with mineral waters.



Basketball with borders

Palova Arena sports complex will host 3x3 basketball competitions to gather together 128 athletes who will compete for two sets of medals. Fans will be accommodated in 1,000 comfortable seats.



Rule-based fighting

The Uruchie Sports Palace will host boxing competitions. 316 athletes will perform to compete for 15 sets of medals. The venue consists of three main areas: the main game arena for 3,000, a sports training ground with stands for 300 and a badminton hall.



Palace fights

The Sports Palace in 4 Pobediteley Avenue is scheduled to host competitions in sambo (144 athletes, 18 sets of medals), Greco-Roman, freestyle and women's wrestling (288 athletes, 18 sets of medals). The Sports Palace acts as a venue for concerts, shows, exhibitions and competitions in 22 sports. At sporting events, the hall accommodates 3,311 spectators and 4,500 can come to concerts.



Country's first racket

The table tennis competition will bring together 128 athletes who will play for 5 sets of medals. The event will be hosted by the Tennis Olympic Centre, whose main indoor building has 4 tennis courts with 'hard' artificial turf and seats for 500, in addition to a warm-up room with a wall. 16 outdoor tennis courts and a demonstration court with space for 1,235 seats are in the adjacent area.



Well-aimed and agile as falcons

The Falcon Club will host badminton competitions: 160 athletes will compete for 5 sets of medals. In addition to the arena which covers an area of 1,980 square metres, the sports and entertainment complex has a cinema boutique with 8 halls, the Tennis and Squash Academy, a fitness club, a SPA-centre, shops, bars and cafes. Therefore, guests of the Games will be able to not only watch the sporting event but also relax.



Rowing

The Regatta Course ZASLAVL will host canoe and kayak events for 350 athletes who will compete for 16 sets of medals. A finishing line stand with 152 seats and an intermediate stand for 480 are situated near the rowing channel. The Games will be broadcast on the largest LED display in Belarus (66 square metres).



Fully charged

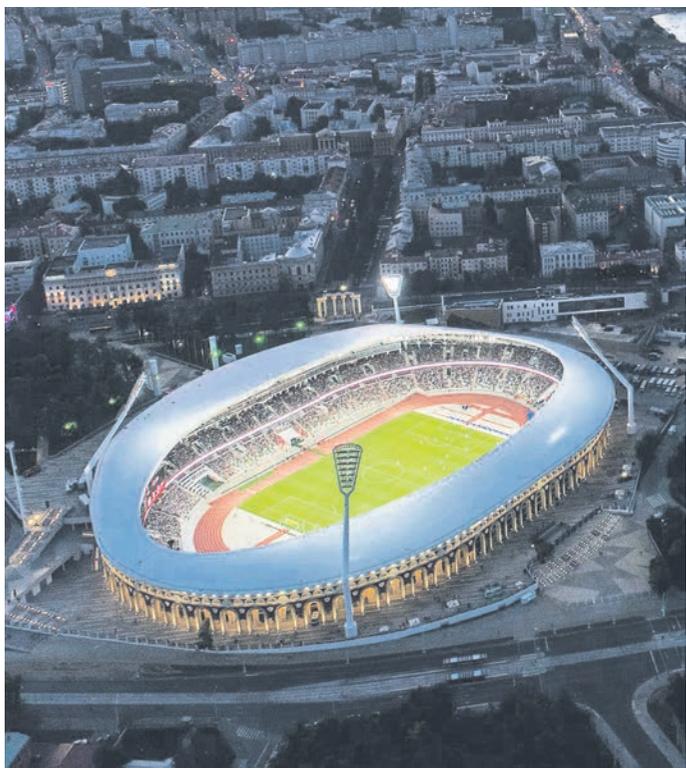
The Marshal Timoshenko Shooting Sports Complex is a venue for shooting rifle and pistol events. 208 athletes will compete for 13 sets of medals. It's one of the shooting sports where participants compete in the accuracy of hitting targets using different weapons: air rifles, small-calibre pistols and large-calibre rifles.



A keen eye

The Sporting Club venue will host competitions in shooting: athletes will need to hit special clay pigeon targets using smoothbore shotguns. 122 participants will compete for 6 sets of medals.





Unforgettable evening

By Sergey Kanashits

June 21st. Friday, 10pm. Dinamo Stadium. This date and time will see the start of a lively show in Minsk: the opening ceremony of the 2nd European Games.

The details of the celebration are always kept secret until the last minute. In Minsk, the tradition is unchanged, though a few details have been revealed.

The Director of the well-known *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* annual cultural festival — Alexander Vavilov — and Russian, Alexey Sechinov, who worked on the ceremonies for the Asian Games in 2011 and the

Universiade in Kazan in 2013, have co-authored the original script for the ceremony. The Belarusian-Russian team have managed to come up with a show that is truly unique to Belarus. Around 1,300 people have been rehearsing various elements of it since March, at different venues in Minsk. The virtual reality elements will be integrated into the production.

Sergey Khomich — who heads the Ceremonies and Cultural Programme Department of the 2nd European Games 2019 Directorate — explained the concept of the ceremony, “The most interesting part of the ceremony is the presentation of the

history and culture of Belarus. About eight blocks are planned, each devoted to a certain topic — such as myths and legends or the medieval past of Belarus. Reference is made to the work of Belarusian writers, including Yanka Kupala, Yakub Kolas, Maxim Bogdanovich. Historical personalities are also included. Among them are Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya and Frantsisk Skarina. The exciting and glorious pages of Belarusian history will be revealed. For us, the opening ceremony is a chance to show our past to European viewers, to present our country to the rest of Europe — thus proving that there is something to see here.”

Open Belarus

By Olga Savitskaya

During the 2nd European Games, Minsk will be alive not only with sports: the grand celebration will last for 10 days and will cover the whole city. The organisers offer many opportunities for those who want not only to plunge into the atmosphere of a large-scale sporting event but also to learn more about the culture and history of Belarus. Let's see where to go and what to visit during the Games.

Learn more about Minsk

We suggest starting to get to know Belarus from its capital. Minsk can be seen as part of diverse walking tours: travel agencies offer a look at the city from many different angles — historical, sporting, gastronomic, etc. If there is no time for a walking tour, tourists will be offered the chance to explore Minsk using transport.

A red double-decker with the ‘Minsk City Tour’ inscription is seen every day on the streets and has long been a tourist feature of the capital. A 100-minute tour allows tourists to visit all the iconic places of Minsk and its main attractions, while dynamically ‘scrolling’ through the pages of the city history. The bus audio guide speaks 8 languages: Russian, Belarusian, English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Chinese. Moreover, every tourist receives a map of the city as a gift after the trip.

There is another format of ‘Minsk City Tour’ around the city: a retro-phaeton which can help visitors discover Minsk from a new angle, with a drive through the secluded streets of the capital in an open-top car. The distinctive vehicle is also a favourite photo opportunity with holidaymakers. If you go by standard bus route, you will then be taken to the most important points of the capital.

The excursion starts at the railway station — the famous Gates of Minsk. The bus then passes along the long Nezavisimosti Avenue, past the building of the Belarusian State Circus, Pobedy Square and the Academy of Sciences. It also drives by the Botanical Garden, the National Library and comes to the historical centre of Minsk — the Upper Town, with its Town Hall, picturesque streets and Troitsky Suburb. Of course, this is not a complete list! Fans will also be able to look at some important sports sites on the Minsk map: the National Olympic Committee, the Sports Palace (which will host the wrestling competitions on June 25th-30th) and the Minsk Arena Sports Complex where — from June 22nd to 30th — competitions in all gymnastic disciplines and track cycling will be held.

An alternative tour, recent-



ly launched in Minsk, is an excursion on a retro bus made by Minsker Alexey Kozlovich. This copy of an old ZIS-8 will take you through the streets to the accompaniment of atmospheric music and stories about the history and sights of the city. Tours start at the Town Hall in the Upper Town (Nemiga metro station) from 10am to 9pm, at a price of 25 Roubles. Moreover, tourists can buy souvenirs from Belarus in the same bus converted to a souvenir shop.

A ‘Tour Open Minsk’ yellow double-decker, in turn, departs from the Yakub Kolas metro station and offers visits to 16 main points of the capital, which every foreign visitor should see: the National Library, the Church of All Saints, the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre and much more.

Outside the capital

Travel companies are ready to offer numerous excursions around the country to foreign fans and guests during the multisport forum. One of the most popular tours is an excursion to the BelAZ plant, which is a real kingdom of giant vehicles. Among other popular routes are trips to Mir and Nesvizh, during which visitors will be offered the chance to visit some of the most valuable monuments of Belarus included on the UNESCO World Heritage List: such as Mir Castle and Nesvizh’s Palace and Park Ensemble.

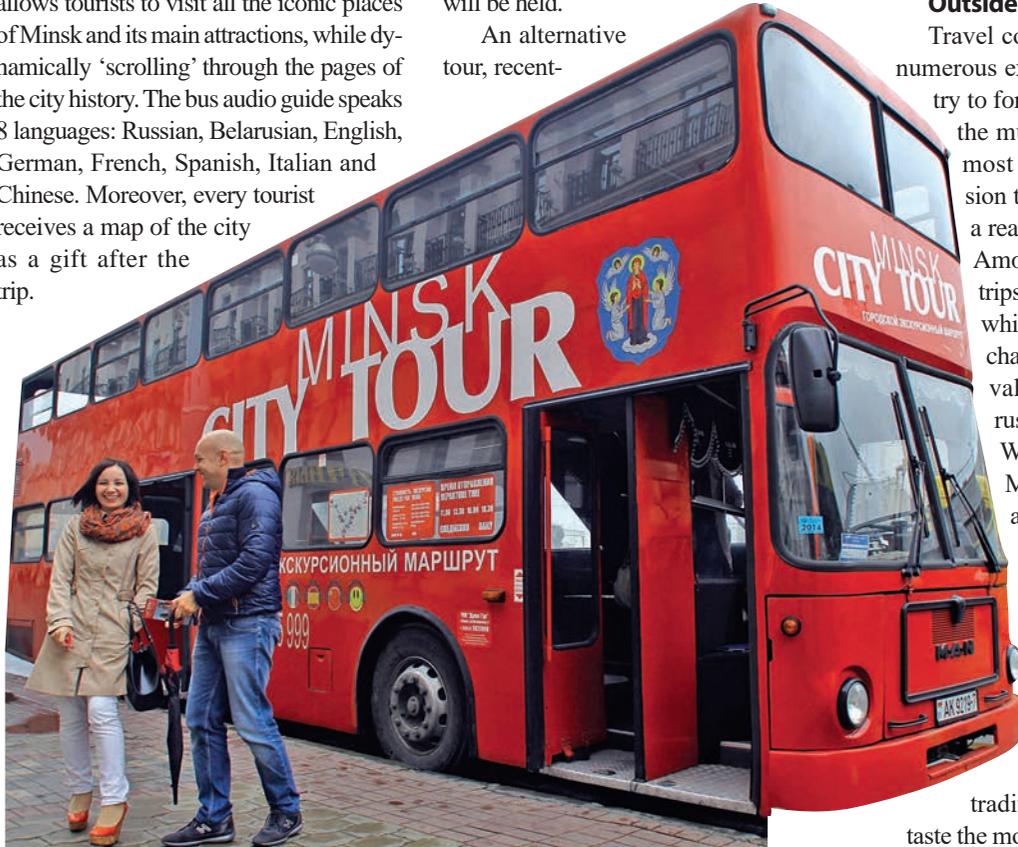
Surely, many foreigners will remember an excursion to the Dudutki Ethnological Museum, where visitors are plunged into the atmosphere of a Belarusian village, learn about traditional Belarusian crafts, traditions and rituals, as well as taste the moonshine, ride horses and see



the only operating windmill in the country, pottery craftsmen and much more.

Fans are also offered much longer tours. For example, one of the excursion routes will take them to Budslav, Glubokoe and Mosar. Tourists will visit the Church of the Ascension of the Most Holy Virgin Mary which has the miraculous icon of Virgin Mary and which is visited by tens of thousands of pilgrims every year. In Glubokoe, they’ll see the Orthodox Cathedral of the Nativity of the Virgin, the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church and the Yakimovichs’ manor. After that, the tourists can go to Mosar to enjoy the local magnificent arboretum, and much more.

Several excursions include a visit to the iconic historical places of Belarus. One such tour is to Khatyn and the Mound of Glory. This trip is dedicated to the historical events of the Great Patriotic War: the Khatyn Memorial Complex was created in memory of the village burned along with its 149 residents, while the Mound of Glory was established in honour of the ‘Bagration’ military operation, when Belarus was liberated from the invaders.





Sporting Belarus on show at the National Library



Games exhibition project at the National Art Museum



Entertainment for every taste

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Welcome to exhibitions! Art of sports

Of course, no fan can pass by a sporting show and there will be several of the kind in Minsk during the multi-sports forum. The large-scale exhibition project — *Games* — is one of the most striking exhibitions as part of the cultural programme of the 2nd European Games.

It unites works of different artistic genres, but all are focused on sport — featuring the difficulty and drama of the struggle, the moment of victory, the emotions of a cheering crowd at the stadium and exciting scenes from matches and training. Visit, and you will not be disappointed!

Where: National Art Museum (20 Lenin Street)
When: until July 3rd

Be sure to visit the National Library where — apart from an observation deck with stunning views of Minsk — the *Sporting Belarus* exhibition project is being presented. Here you will see high-profile victories by Belarusian athletes, souvenirs with sporting symbols of all-Union and national competitions, Soviet Spartakiads, world and European championships — from the first performances of Belarusian athletes on the world stage as part of the Soviet team and, later, as part of the national team of Belarus.

The show also features rare shots of our sportsmen, a photo chronicle of the 1980 Olympics and much more. There is also a book exhibition devoted to the 15 sports included in the programme of the 2nd European Games, their basic rules, history and development in Belarus.

Where: National Library of Belarus
When: until December 31st

Surely you will enjoy the *Sport is High Art* exhibition featuring a collection of archival photographs and films of sporting competitions, all-Union Spartakiads and portraits of outstanding athletes. The exhibition reflects the era when the cult of a healthy, strong body was associated with the country's youth and strength.

Where: National Centre for Contemporary Arts (3 Nekrasov Street)
When: until August 4th

aging how shopping malls, bakeries and artisan workshops looked long ago. It's a chance to 'walk' through ancient Minsk. The main exhibit — the late 18th-early 19th century foundations of a building — is particularly impressive.

Where: Upper Town Archaeological Museum (6 Kirill and Mefody Street)
When: until July 10th

Be sure to walk through the picturesque Loshitsa Park

interiors of the time looked. The museum adjoins a wooden building with a tower; here, visitors can learn about both urban and rural culture. In addition, works and tools of Belarusian craftsmen are on show.

Where: Loshitsa Estate (8-2, 10 Chizhevsky Lane)
When: until July 10th

The *Minsk Residence Permit* exhibition allows visitors to look at Minsk from an unusual perspective. The

All the exhibits are iconic objects of a bygone era: furniture, appliances, crockery, clothing, books, old magazines, photographs and records. These original articles once belonged to Minsk and many are now difficult to find. Be sure to look at the views of Minsk by famous Belarusian artists.

Where: Leonid Shchemelev City Art Gallery (10 Revolyutsionnaya Street)
When: until June 30th

Cultural enlightenment

Did you know that Minsk is also worth visiting for its exhibition of Salvador Dali's works? Until the end of the month, the capital hosts an international exhibition project featuring over 100 sculptures, graphic pieces and jewellery as well as applied artworks created by one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Note the entrance to the National Art Museum, where Dali's two monumental sculptures are situated.

Where: National Art Museum (20 Lenin Street)
When: until June 30th

The *Art-Minsk 2019* festival is in full swing in Minsk during the Games. 16 exhibition halls and galleries feature a variety of styles and trends in Belarusian art, works by 240 artists and over 800 pieces of art — including paintings, drawings, photos and sculptures.

Where: Palace of Arts (3 Kozlov Street)
When: May 29th — June 30th

Yanka Kupala, Yakub Kolas and Maxim Bogdanovich are great names in Belarusian literature that have become national symbols. Be sure to devote a couple of hours to get to know their life and work, see their personal belongings, books, manuscripts and documents kept at Minsk's museums.

Where: Yanka Kupala Literary Museum (4 Kupala Street)
Yakub Kolas Literary-Memorial Museum (5 Akademicheskaya Street)
Maxim Bogdanovich Literary Museum (7a Maxim Bogdanovich Street)



Belarus' first Olympic champion — Sergey Makarenko — at the opening of the Olympic Belarus: Bright Pages exhibition

Minsk: past and present

The exhibition dedicated to the history of the Upper Town of Minsk is devoted to the formation and development of the city from ancient times to the early 20th century. Visitors to the show will be surprised by the archaeological finds and be able to look through the electronic *Chronicle of Minsk*, while im-



European Martial Arts. From Volcano's Smithy to Mars' Arts show features around 200 unique exhibits

and visit the Loshitsa Estate Museum. This is a former manor house, an architectural monument of the 18th-19th century which clearly gives an idea of how the residential

interiors of the 'khrushchevka' and 'brezhnevka' flats, including living and children's rooms will tell — or remind — people of how an ordinary Minsk family lived.

Fantastic ten



By Kristina Glushko

No large sporting event can do without its fan zones: special areas for sports lovers, where amazing energy, drive and unity reign during the competitions. The organisers of the 2nd European Games have given special attention to the concept of ten fan zones across the country. Below we'll explain where these lively sports-themed 'islands' for fans are, how they look and what entertainment programmes are on offer.

In Minsk, a fan zone near the Sports Palace was the first to welcome guests: it opened on June 19th — from 7pm to 4am, on the first day.

“During the 2nd European Games, fans can cheer for their favourite athletes here from 10am to midnight. On the opening and closing ceremony days (June 21st and 30th), the venue will be open until 4am,” explains Olga Grigorieva, responsible for the organisation of the cultural programme at the Ceremonies and Cultural Programme Department of the 2nd European Games 2019 Directorate. “On June 21st, two more locations will open in the capital: venues near Minsk Arena and Chizhovka Arena will be open for fans daily from 10am to 11.30pm (and until 1am on the opening and closing days).”

Each fan zone in Minsk has its own format: national, family and dance. While the area near the Sports Palace is called the ‘European’ fan zone: where

every day there will be presentations by the countries participating in the 2nd European Games.

Fans of the multi-sports forum will enjoy many great entertainments. During the day, the fan zones will broadcast events from the Games — enjoying their best moments and medal ceremonies. In the evening, they will turn into concert venues, where pop stars and artistic groups will perform. Moreover, all kinds of food and drinks outlets will be available. Fans will also be able to buy souvenirs, such as a Lesik the Fox toy, to remind them of their time at this amazing sports festival held in the Belarusian capital.

Among other things, the fan zones will host demonstrations of sports not included in the main programme. Among them will be the increasingly popular pétanque [bowling with a met-

al ball — editor’s remark] and fascinating skateboard tricks. On International Skateboarding Day (June 21st), a great show, with the participation of world and Belarusian skateboard stars, will take place near the Sports Palace from 6pm to 9pm. In addition, master classes, autograph sessions and demonstrations by famous athletes will be organised in the zones. To keep up to date, follow the information on the European Games’ website (www.minsk2019.by) and on so-

Fan zones ready to welcome guests cial networks — so as not to miss a meeting with your favourites.

Volunteers will be on hand to help. Any sports lover will be able to quickly get information related to the European Games from them. These volunteers will also help organise concert and entertainment programmes, as well as sports and children’s activities. In Minsk, up to 25 volunteers will work in each fan zone and up to 30 people will help in the regional and district areas.

Revelling in Minsk

Three fan zones will open in the capital, each with its own format. For example, fans at the venue near Chizhovka Arena will be able to watch live broadcasts of the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the competitions, on large screens. In the evening, Teo, German Titov, Sasha Nemo, Alexey Khlestov, Dyadya Vanya, Alena Lanskaya and other artistes will perform on the stage.

The fan zone near Minsk Arena is dance themed. Apart from broadcasts of the Games’ events, it will host performances by the *New Jerusalem* band, Victoria Aleshko, Inna Afanasieva, Shuma and others. In addition, on June 22nd, 23rd, 29th and



30th, guests will be offered master classes in fitness and a show with questions about the 2nd European Games.

The fan zone near the Sports Palace (with both international and national themes) will introduce guests to the countries participating in the 2nd European Games and their cultures: Azerbaijan (June 20th), Israel (June 21st), the UK (June 22nd), Georgia (June 23rd), Italy (June 24th), Hungary (June 25th), Turkey (June 27th), Latvia (June 28th) and Russia (June 29th). The organisers promise



that many foreign performers will play in Minsk. For example, Nino Katamadze will sing as part of Georgian Day and, on June 30th, a vibrant and diverse Day of Culture and Traditions of Belarus will be held.

Village will bring joy

Of course, the athletes who perform at the Games are likely to remember Minsk not only as a superb



sporting venue, but also as a hospitable and interesting city. From June 18th-30th, the Centre of Belarusian Culture will be in the Athletes’ Village. Visitors will be able to enjoy a display of folk costumes, musical instruments, straw and wood products. From 10am to 9pm, master classes devoted to making clay pots and Belarusian ritual dolls will be held.

From June 20th-29th, the Village will host concerts with popular Belarusian artistes. For example, June 22nd will mark Ethno-Folk Day, featuring the orchestra and dance group of the *Khoroshki* Ensemble, as well as the *Maracasy* cover band and the *Ili Ili* band. On June 23rd, a *Rock Day* concert is planned, with Dyadya Vanya and

New Jerusalem performing. At the *Jazz Style* concert (June 24th), there will be Inga Kiseleva and the *La Mance* and *Road Dogs* band, while, on June 27th, German Titov, Anna Sharkunova and the *Tsvet Aloe* band will be part of the *Pop Music* concert.

Musical pause

On June 21st, the 'Festival' zone of the 2nd European Games will open at the Dreamland Aquapark (80 Orlovskaya Street). Its official opening is scheduled a day later and is expected to feature a popular Belarusian band — *LSP* — which has recently enjoyed a sell-out show at the Minsk Arena. On other days, the visitors will be entertained by no less famous artistes — such as Lugalize (June 23rd), Tony Tonite and Slim (June 27th), *Dai Darogu* and *Neuro Dubel* (June 29th).

It's possible to spend both day and night here, without being afraid of missing any important moments of the competition, as large screens will broadcast the tournament events. In between, guests will be welcomed at any of the locations offered by the organisers: a cyber zone with an exhibition of technological developments, an art gallery, an arena with master classes in dance, yoga and fitness. An area showcasing national traditions with a knights' camp, a tilting-yard, souvenirs and Slavic cuisine is also worth visiting; here, visitors can immerse themselves in a hitherto unknown culture, attend artisan classes and see historic entertainments. Dishes cooked using old Slavic recipes will be offered, as well as popular domestic beverages.



There are lots of fun activities for kids too, they can make a figure of their favourite animal in the sandbox, organise a race with cars and design-sets (a beauty zone will be prepared for girls), solve educational puzzles, play with animation and enjoy the rides!

A gastronomic area will delight guests with a variety of flavours and aromas. There will be food for vegetarians, for those who love seafood, meat and sweets.

Lovers of classical music will be able to enjoy concerts in the Philharmonics (50 Nezavisimosti Avenue). On June 22nd, it will host the *Grand Piano Marathon*, when the best Belarusian pianists and piano duets will perform for 12 hours. Workshops and an exhibition of instruments are also planned. On June 23rd, guests can enjoy the *Moonlight* concert-poem — a unique show combining music, light (the audience and artistes will be almost in the dark at points), dance, literature and painting.



By Tatiana Pastushenko

How will athletes, fans and journalists move around Minsk during the 2nd European Games?

The event embraces 15 sports, 12 arenas and almost ten thousand participants, officials, journalists and volunteers who need to access many sites. The organisation of transport services during the 2nd European Games is one of the most difficult tasks which — in one way or another — affects every resident of the capital. Work on it began long before the launch of the multi-sports forum and the results so far are excellent.

For athletes

During the 2nd European Games, the sportsmen will reach the competition arenas using special branded transport. Buses will come to the athletics bus station in the closed section of the Athletes' Village; here, platforms with the schedules can be found. The organisers have taken care to ensure there is no overlap in the arrival times of athletes to arenas.

The Head of the Department of State Traffic Police at the Minsk City Executive Committee's State Interior Department, Vadim Garkun, explains, "Such a large-scale event has certain requirements in terms of transport and security. For example, one of the strict requirements of the organisers was to ensure the delivery of athletes from their places of residence to any site of the Games in no more than 20 minutes. Taking into account that the Athletes' Village is situated in Dzerzhinsky Avenue and the main sports facilities are located along the main capital avenues — Nezavisimosti and Pobediteley, the decision was made to allocate special traffic lanes. They are found in Dzerzhinsky Avenue, Nemiga Street and Pobediteley Avenue and are marked with straight stripes, the letter 'A' and logos of the 2nd European Games."

For fans

To ensure convenience for fans, 5 special express routes (branded shuttle buses) have been launched in the city to connect competition venues and metro stations. For example, it's possible to quickly and comfortably get

Reaching the arenas with ease



to Pushkinskaya, Nemiga, Akademia Nauk stations from Minsk Arena, and back. Another shuttle bus picks up fans at Chizhovka Arena to take them to the Avtozavodskaya station. Meanwhile, the fifth express route connects the Marshal Timoshenko Shooting Sports Complex and the Uruchye metro station.

On the opening and closing days of the 2nd European Games (June 21st and 30th), the fan zone near the Sports Palace will be open until 4am. The organisers have ensured that fans are able to get home comfortably. The metro will be open until 4.30am and its entrance will close at 4.10am. Public transport will operate even longer — until 5am.

The Head of the Department of Organisation of Passenger Transportation at Capital Transport and Communication state company, Alexander Kaptyukh, says, "First of all, the opening and closing days of the Games — when about 20 thousand people will gather at the Dinamo Stadium — are expected to be significant for the transport department. After the ceremonies, it is important to ensure the fastest possible delivery of participants and guests to their bases. We are helped by the stadium's location: within walking distance of four metro stations and 57 land transport routes. The transport department have planned to meet the schedule of the competition."

For journalists, judges and staff

A bus hub operates for judges, journalists and staff of the 2nd European Games 2019 Directorate in Gorodskoy Val Street. This system provides for the possibility of moving between sports facilities in four directions: buses will run at intervals of 15–20 minutes along Dzerzhinsky, Pobediteley, Nezavisimosti and Partizansky avenues. Stops are organised only at those points where the competitions are held, or the participants of the Games live. Moreover, all participants will be able to use public transport free of charge on Games days with an accreditation certificate.

Logo in focus

There is good news for those who prefer to travel by taxi to public transport: taxi prices are 'frozen' in line with a memorandum signed by the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Minsk City Executive Committee and representatives of the largest dispatching services of the country. The document envisages a guaranteed level of tariffs for taxi passenger transportation. According to the memorandum — signed by 17 taxi services whose cars are now marked with a special logo, from June 15th to July 5th, taxi tariffs should not exceed that of April 1st, 2019.



BRIGTH YEAR, BRIGTH YOU

The Minsk Times
Thursday
June 20
2019

11



SPORTS PROGRAMME

DAILY COMPETITION SCHEDULE

SPORT	Events	June 2019	21 Fri	22 Sat	23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	29 Sat	30 Sun
Archery	8	Olympic Sports Complex	●	● ²	● ²	●	●	● ²	● ²			
Athletics	10	DINAMO Stadium			● ⁹		●	●		● ¹		
Badminton	5	FALCON Club				●	●	●	●	●	● ²	● ³
3x3 Basketball	2	PALOVA Arena	●	●	●	● ²						
Beach Soccer	1	Olympic Sports Complex					●	●	●	●	● ¹	
Boxing	15	Sports Palace URUCHIE	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	● ⁷	● ⁸
Canoe Sprint	16	Regatta Course ZASLAVL					●	● ⁵	● ¹¹			
Cycling	24		21 Fri	22 Sat	23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	29 Sat	30 Sun
- Track (20 events)		MINSK Arena Velodrome							● ⁴	● ⁵	● ⁵	● ⁶
- Road (4 events)		Minsk City		● ¹	● ¹		● ²					
Gymnastics	32	MINSK Arena	21 Fri	22 Sat	23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	29 Sat	30 Sun
- Artistic (12 events)									●		● ²	● ¹⁰
- Trampoline (4 events)						● ²	● ²					
- Aerobic (2 events)						● ¹	● ¹					
- Rhythmic (8 events)				● ¹	● ⁷							
- Acrobatic (6 events)				● ⁴	● ²							
Judo	15	CHIZHOVKA Arena		● ⁵	● ⁴	● ⁵	● ¹					
Karate	12	CHIZHOVKA Arena									● ⁶	● ⁶
Sambo	18	Sports Palace		● ⁹	● ⁹							
Shooting	19		21 Fri	22 Sat	23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	29 Sat	30 Sun
- Rifle & Pistol (13 events)		Shooting Centre		● ²	● ²	● ³	● ¹	● ³	● ¹	● ¹		
- Shotgun (6 events)		Sporting Club		●	● ²	● ¹		●	● ²	● ¹		
Table Tennis	5	Tennis Olympic Centre		●	●	●	● ¹	● ²	●	●	● ²	
Wrestling	18	Sports Palace	21 Fri	22 Sat	23 Sun	24 Mon	25 Tue	26 Wed	27 Thu	28 Fri	29 Sat	30 Sun
- Freestyle (6 events)							●	● ⁴	● ²			
- Women (6 events)								●	● ²	● ⁴		
- Greco-Roman (6 events)										●	● ³	● ³

Men's Events: 91
 Women's Events: 89
 Mixed Events: 20

OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONIES

Jun 21 Fri | Jun 30 Sun | DINAMO Stadium

● - Medal Competition Day
 ● - Competition Day