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Ahead-of-time win and ticket to play-offs

→ 11

Belarusian tennis players qualify for Davis Cup World Group play-offs

Scientific approach needed for science improvements

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, demands adoption of strategy to facilitate scientific progress, speaking during session at National Academy of Sciences dedicated to problems and prospects of Belarusian science development

By Vasily Kharitonov

Before the session, the President familiarised himself with an exhibition of scientific and R&D accomplishments, featuring the latest products from various ministries, departments and domestic enterprises. According to the Head of State, it's important that our admiration for these state-of-the-art products doesn't overshadow the continuing need for us to solve problems facing Belarusian science.

The Head of State commented that, early in his presidency, various proposals were voiced concerning the future of the National Academy of Sciences. There were even proposals to shut it down but Mr. Lukashenko decided to develop the Academy rather than destroy it, and has been proven wise in this decision.

Mr. Lukashenko toured all the stands, asking questions about practical application of innovations, with particular attention paid to the spheres of power engineering, industry, space technology and biotechnologies.

Around forty organisations presented their latest developments, across such areas as industrial technology, power engineering, information and space technologies, additive technologies and nano-industry, defence potential and security, biotechnologies, medicine and pharmacy. Among the 150 exhibits were innovations in genome technologies, reproductive medicines, technologies



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KBTEM-OMO JSC is bright example of union of Belarusian science and production

for diagnosing and treating oncological diseases, and a programme simulation complex for orbital systems of thermal regulation for spacecraft.

The Head of State underlined that many problems of Belarusian science have been addressed, but pointed out the continuing inertia and cumbersomeness of structures, including the National Academy of Sciences. He believes that there is insufficient strategic planning and unified administration and laments the low knowledge content of our gross domestic product. There are also problems of uneven distribution of funding from the centralised Innovative Foundation.

Mr. Lukashenko also underlined

the lack of significant, major government contracts for buying R&D and innovative products, and mentioned obstacles to the progress of scientific research and development projects and assimilating R&D products into the production sector and social sphere. The President believes that the number of cutting-edge R&D products is insufficient and drew attention to frequently formalistic attitudes to compiling scientific research and R&D programmes. Mr. Lukashenko also mentioned the lack of balance in the financing of state scientific and technical programmes. He feels the operation of scientific institutions operating in social and humanitarian spheres to be ineffective.

Among other problems, the President touched upon those relating to the innovative development of the national economy. Mr. Lukashenko mentioned the low level of innovation-driven development in the production sector and poor effectiveness of government programmes on innovative development. Moreover, he spoke at length about the need to rejuvenate Belarusian science.

He explained that pointing out the problems in Belarusian science are the way forward, since we shouldn't dwell only on our success but upon what needs to be fixed. In particular, he wants to see proposals to develop the scientific sphere, starting with the system of training personnel through

to the assimilation of R&D results into the economy and the social sphere. During the session, the Head of State commented on the salaries of scientists and research staff, asserting that 'nobody should be given money for no reason' and that money should be earned. However, the Belarusian leader noted that the state is ready to provide science with more funding, since the country's economic and social development relies on innovations. Mr. Lukashenko underlined that there can be no 'one-size-fits-all' approach; he wishes to reward 'those who show results'.

The session tackled proposals to solve problems in Belarusian science, including training. The Head of State voiced support for using the results of sci-tech programmes as a basis for dissertation and doctoral theses.

He emphasised, "If we see that the system of science management isn't a good fit for our contemporary world, let the older generation (who created this science) and the younger generation (who are the future of science) make the decision. If the country doesn't need this system and it's unaffordable, we should take a decision. We can't pretend that nothing happens."

The session tackled the form and system of science functioning for the future. Mr. Lukashenko is keen to move on but without destroying anything for its own sake. He believes that it's necessary to improve what we have already.

Parliament is buzzing like a beehive

By Maxim Osipov

Spring session of House of Representatives and Council of Republic at National Assembly launches in Minsk

On the first day of work, deputies of the House of Representatives tackled ten issues, approving the first reading of amendments to the law 'On Counteracting Monopolistic Activity and the Development of Competition'.

Olga Politiko, the Deputy Chair of the Standing Commission on Industry, Fuel-Energy Complex, Transport and Communication, explains the necessity of change. "Investors study the presence of fair competition, and efficient anti-monopoly regulation before deciding to inject capital into the country's economy. The competitive environment is negatively affected by the conflict of

interests between the state being both regulator and owner. For example, a ministry sets the rules for a particular market, while possessing shares in a state enterprise. Anti-monopoly legislation should exclude such cases, so the new law stipulates the responsibility of state bodies regarding their restriction of competition."

Consumers are most worried about prices but the Minister for Anti-monopoly Regulation and Trade, Vladimir Koltovich, is full of optimism, believing that the forecast level of inflation won't be exceeded this year. It's a different issue as to whether the population is pleased with prices.

"We've decided to open a hotline in the Ministry, dealing with overpricing. Already, some trade enterprises have lost their sense of conscience and increased mark-ups from 20 to 40 or, even, 60 percent. I'm especially



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At exhibition at Council of the Republic

concerned about prices for baby food. We'll soon hold a session to listen to enterprises, from the trade and manufacturing spheres, which establish unreasonable prices," promises the Minister.

The spring session of the House of Representatives includes thirty issues and will expand as draft laws become available.

A colourful exhibition, organised by the Information Ministry and dedicated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing, is being hosted by the Council of the Republic which has also opened its session. Books and souvenirs, a printing machine (similar to that used by Skaryna) and other 16th century reproduction equipment is on show, a rousing interest among

senators and guests. The Information Minister, Lilia Ananich, is delighted, saying, "For the first time, the Council of the Republic is hosting a book exhibition and display of an ancient printing machine. We'll be considering the most important topic of national book printing and the 500th anniversary of our book printing. When issues of national legacy are raised at such a high state level and in such a context, we can confidently say that Belarus is thinking about its future and reinforcing this with principles of high spirituality."

The second session focused on the application of the law in spheres acute for society and the state. Unification and harmonisation of legislation in the Union State and EAEU are no less important, alongside preparation for the 4th Belarus-Russia Forum of Regions that is due to take place in June in Moscow.



Necessity of moving further on

Belarus and Russia settle all disputes at meeting between President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, on April 3rd, in St. Petersburg



By Vladimir Khromov

Talks between the heads of state lasted for more than five hours, first tête-à-tête and then in an expanded format, featuring members of delegations.

The meeting began with discussion of the tragedy: an explosion on the St. Petersburg metro. Mr. Lukashenko expressed his condolences to Vladimir Putin, saying, "It's deeply regrettable that this has happened. Unfortunately, we've faced such problems in Minsk as well."

The President noted that security is the main issue for talks, continuing the long-term discussion of security issues, which predate the

recent incident. Belarus and Russia have agreed on joint steps to enhance security. "You see what's taking place around us. All we want is to preserve stability in Russia and Belarus. Very few peaceful spots remain in this world. We've agreed on joint steps to preserve the stability of our states," asserted Mr. Lukashenko.

The meeting also settled disputes in the sphere of oil and gas, with the two sides determining a scheme for mutual concessions.

The presidents reaffirmed their readiness to create the necessary conditions for a common market of electricity by July 2019. Moreover, they confirmed their readi-

ness to do everything necessary to develop joint rules for the common gas market by January 1st, 2018, and to prepare an intergovernmental agreement on a common gas market for the Eurasian Economic Union by 2024.

Another important issue of bilateral talks was interaction in the agrarian and industrial sectors. These spheres are to be discussed in detail during the next meeting of the Supreme State Council, to enable the adoption of firm decisions. "We've spent much time discussing agrarian issues and have agreed to include them on the agenda of the Supreme State Council meeting. We've agreed on the same regarding our

industrial policy. In the near future, we'll co-ordinate terms and take decisions on these issues, at the meeting of the Supreme State Council," said Mr. Lukashenko.

Much attention was also paid to discussing collaboration in the agricultural sector. Russian specialists are soon expected to visit Belarusian companies, to ensure compliance with phytosanitary norms and to discuss problematic issues with counterparts.

The leaders of our two countries focused on bilateral relations in the financial sector and high technologies, discussing ways to expand co-operation in the space industry. Russia has decided to meet Belarus halfway in re-

financing the country's debt obligations to the Russian Federation in 2017.

Talks also highlighted issues from the international agenda. "We've discussed issues concerning us, our neighbours, and EU policy. We've exchanged opinions on relations with the United States and ways in which we can develop these relations," notes Mr. Lukashenko.

"Of course, I've asked Vladimir Putin not to forget about Belarus when building relations with big states. He's expected to take part in G20 meetings. I was assured that we'll be supported at all forums in the same way as before," asserts the President of Belarus.

The Head of State thanked the Russian leader for finding time for talks, despite recent events. "Despite this problem, you've held these negotiations. Of course, it's not good that presidents have to deal with issues of this kind but this is life and nothing can be done about it," he added.

Vladimir Putin said that no disputed issues now exist in Belarusian-Russian relations. "We'll move further, strengthening our relations within the Union State and working to improve the legal framework and development of the Eurasian Economic Union," underlined the President of Russia.

Security issues are obviously in focus

By Alexey Fedosov

President of Belarus interviewed by Mir Interstate TV and Radio Company

Alexander Lukashenko shared his thoughts frankly on the topic of integration within the post-Soviet space and his vision for further development of integration structures. He spoke in detail of the state and prospects for Belarusian-Russian relations, as well as the results of the recent meeting with Vladimir Putin.

After the tragedy on the St. Petersburg metro, issues of security and defence have come to the fore. "All other issues relating to daily routine have moved into the background. We're devoting less time to settling them. We're primarily paying attention to the tragedy. There's a lesson

to be learned for us all," Mr. Lukashenko stressed.

The President mentioned the forthcoming Zapad-2017 exercises, saying, "I've received a letter from a group of US congressmen, including from well-known Mr. McCain, who is looking for democracy in Belarus. They assert that we've detained someone here and so on and so forth... These gentlemen also touch upon the issue of our exercises, which they perceive as a danger. We might say that NATO's activity near our borders is a danger. The Russians tend to say that this [NATO activity] is happening on its border but this is only true in terms of Kaliningrad. Primarily, activity is near the Belarusian border."

He continued, "It's important that Europeans, NATO

and the United States understand that we've established a joint grouping on the territory of Belarus and in western Russia. This grouping is alive and ready to act to defend our interests. We aren't going to attack anyone; there's no need. We also can't fight the whole world, as Mr. Putin and I understand. However, we won't part with what we own. Others should appreciate this."

Belarus has no plans to fight but has learnt from the past. The Belarusian President commented upon the American congressmen's letter, saying, "I have an answer for them: let them look to democracy in Western countries. Not long ago, they were using

bombs, poison, tear gas, water cannons and batons, in Brussels, London, Paris and Germany..."

"What's next for these pillars of democracy? Look at what happened after the elections, and during the election of Donald Trump, in the United States of America. I tell them to first look at this 'democracy'. At least we didn't poison anyone with tear gas. Their goal is clear," Mr. Lukashenko added.

The two presidents' talks tackled other topics. "Among them were human issues, as are vital to the functioning of the Union State. We discussed these but have no critical problems in our relations, regarding citizens' movement,

employment, pension or social issues," Mr. Lukashenko underlined.

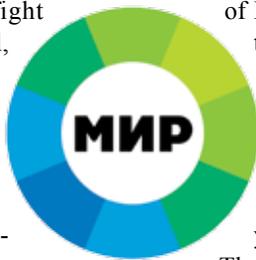
Speaking of CIS prospects, Mr. Lukashenko noted his desire to see the CIS grow, with all states involved. "To ensure this interest, we've decided to promote states' interest in working within the CIS. We've signed an agreement on a free trade zone and agreed more serious co-operation. We're now going to sign an agreement on the free movement of services, as we've partially achieved with the Eurasian Economic Community and, to a greater extent, within the Union State. The experience of integrating at different levels has proven useful. CIS member states need to demonstrate interest," he asserted.

Mr. Lukashenko drew at-

tention to the fact that each country participating in an integration association expects certain benefits, but should approach with caution, since "benefit may be achieved at the expense of your neighbour". He added, "It might be profitable to you in one case and for them in another; you may concede in certain aspects and they in others. However, it's essential to keep an advantage."

He stressed that if a path is unprofitable, no matter how 'humanitarian', no one will pursue it.

The development of trade and economic co-operation between Belarus and Russia came under discussion, as did our Zapad-2017 joint strategic exercises, security issues in the region and the global fight against terrorism.



Diplomacy definitely influencing successes

The opening of new production facilities, the creation of contemporary jobs, and growth in the population's incomes are closely connected with rising exports. Currently, Belarus exports around 70 percent of its goods and its programme of socio-economic development for the next five years envisages growing exports as the basis for developing the national economy. Taking into account modern realities, growing sales volumes are vital, as is the expansion of geography of supplies and entrance to new markets. Solving this task depends on many factors, which can be conventionally divided into two groups: political and economic. Their correlation continues to arouse much dispute. What influences exports most: politics or the economy?

It's impossible to imagine the development of foreign trade between countries in an active political standoff. Many examples currently exist of mutually beneficial trade ceasing between states due to political barriers.

The dominance of politics over economics relates also to internal affairs since we can only be competitive globally if we produce good quality products. We need to promote conditions facilitating the development of export-oriented production and the creation of these conditions is more than purely an economic task. Political agree-

ments are essential, being the backbone of export development. However, which measures should be taken?

First of all, the country needs an environment in which enterprises producing export goods or services can be set up and developed, alongside an appropriate strategy. A good example is the creation of conditions for the development of the IT branch. The High-Tech Park is a leader in this sphere, raising export revenue from \$22 million in 2007 to \$820 million in 2016. If conditions granted to the IT sphere were given to all branches of the economy, we'd have many more such positive examples.

Speaking of the situation in the industrial sector, in 2016, passenger cars were the most rapidly growing export position, with revenue doubling and volumes increasing by more than 35 percent. Particleboard exports increased by 78 percent against 2015, placing them in second place. Step-by-step implementation of a corresponding strategy is the basis for growing exports of HTP products, while growth in sales of passenger cars and particleboards is a

situational result.

Exports are the basis of the national economy but we need a corresponding strategy (concept) at political level, to develop export potential, taking into account opportunities and risks globally and nationally. If such a strategy had existed previously and had been consistently implemented, Belarus would have neutralised the negative consequences of falling oil prices

(which, alongside political factors, caused a loss of \$2.74 billion last year).

Speaking about foreign political aspects influencing export dynam-

ics, normalisation of relations and the development of dialogue with neighbouring states and integration associations are essential. We must develop trade with countries across the distant arc. However, looking at global experience, a considerable share of foreign trade falls on countries located within the same region, i.e., neighbouring states.

In this situation, diplomacy comes to the fore. For example, the development of political dialogue with the European Union has led to the abolishment of quotas for Belarusian textiles. This should facilitate raising exports by Belarusian textile enterprises into the EU. Negotiations are also underway to set up an enterprise assembling Belarusian buses in Poland.

Our reputation and image within the world arena are important factors too, so it's vital to take part in trade fairs, conferences and similar events inviting foreign trade partners and investors.

Nikita Belyaev,
Administrative
Director of the
Liberal Club



Interest rates gradually falling

By Mikhail Overyanov

Since April 19th, the refinancing rate in Belarus will fall from 15 to 14 percent, due, says the National Bank, to inflation being lower than that forecast

The processes of de-dollarisation is gaining momentum in Belarus, with the share of national currency gradually increasing in the structure of monetary supply and the tendency of pure supply of foreign currency being preserved on the domestic market.

The Belarusian Rouble is enjoying growing demand. It's enough to note that the portfolio of investment loans of the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus has increased over the past year by 17 percent, to reach Br3.7 billion (as of January 1st, 2017). More than Br800 million has been spent on financing investment projects to realise state programmes and measures. As a result, infrastructure projects comprise 34 percent of the Bank's investment loan portfolio.

This year, the Bank plans to significantly expand volumes of funding to small and medium-sized businesses. Associate Professor Olga Kirvel, of the BSU's Department of International Economic Relations, a Candidate of Economic Science, believes that the necessary conditions are in place, including the reduced refinancing rate.

"Reduced interest rates on private sector loans always bring benefit, making credit cheaper and more available. The public may focus on reduced rates on saving accounts but an internal balance is determined by inflation, unemployment and economic growth. All should be balanced."

Taking into account further dynamics of inflation and the economic situation, the National Bank admits that there may be further gradual reductions in interest rates this year.



Machinery of the future

The soil is a vital resource, which we aim to use effectively and prudently, with the use of machinery developed by the Scientific and Practical Centre for Agriculture Mechanisation, under the National Academy of Sciences, jointly with scientists, farmers and industrial enterprises. In the time of our country's independence, we inherited out of date agricultural machinery, and no means of production of a new fleet. Belarus was obliged to spend foreign currency on importing much needed machinery, making it vital that investment be made into our factories. Scientists and industrialists united in developing this sphere. Now, several decades on, we're in a position to export such machinery. It's no surprise that this major work, taking over a decade, was listed among contenders for the 2016 State Award for Science and Technology.

By Yulia Vasilieva

"Our machinery aims to effectively, and wisely, apply the basic resources of agriculture: various organic and mineral fertilisers, liming materials and pesticides. Every year, volumes worth up to \$1 billion are used. We need to distribute about 50 million tonnes of organic additives, 14,000 tonnes of pesticides, 2 million tonnes of dolomite, and 4 million tonnes of mineral fertilisers: impossible without machinery," stresses the chief research officer of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Agriculture Mechanisation, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Prof. Leonid Stepuk.

He knows what he's talking about, having headed an agricultural enterprise. As a leading force in modernising agriculture, he's convinced that technologies are the path to successful, effective farming.

There's still a long way to go in reducing prime costs, increasing productivity and saving fuel. This is the focus of the work of nominees for the State Award: the First Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food, Leonid Marinich; the Director of the Institute of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of the National Academy of Sciences, academician Vitaly Lapa; and the Head of the Centre for Scientific and Technical Developments at Bobruiskagromash Holding, Candidate of Technical Sciences Vasily

Perevoznikov. They have presented twenty-two machines, which have passed all tests and now have certificates of compliance.

"70 percent of material, labour and energy costs involved in producing a harvest are spent on preparing, fertilising and ploughing fields. If we ignored these steps, we'd receive a smaller harvest or, even, make a loss. Cereal crops need nitrogen fertilisers at least twice in their growing cycle, with strict parameters for usage, with no

more than 10 percent leeway. Lacking machinery for this purpose, we developed our RShU 18 (which remains steady in its delivery within 7 percent of the target)," explains Mr. Stepuk. He adds that each type

of fertiliser has its own machinery and size standards, with mounted, trailed and self-propelled variants, to meet various needs.

Over the last two decades, a system of import substitution has

been developed, allowing us to, even, export machinery. This has ensured our use of solid and liquid fertilisers, preparing and distributing organic additives and chemical pesticides, as well as lime fertilisation. Many of our innovations are now in industrial production and are being sold abroad. These are the result of years of theoretical and experimental research, forming the basis for thesis, monographs, and textbooks for students of agro-engineering. Under the supervision of Mr. Stepuk alone, ten candidates of sciences have been trained, and dozens of patents and certificates of authorship have been granted.

The scientific school ensures the further progress of the branch, introducing new machinery, and encouraging wider use of intensive technologies of cultivation, to raise productivity.



Professor Leonid Stepuk

Figures
Over 8,000 chemical machines have been produced, with approximately 1,500 sold abroad — saving \$90.5 million in foreign currency



Reliable machinery



Export expansion to African continent

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarus hopes to significantly expand trade turnover with Kenya

Belarus' Prime Minister, Andrei Kobyakov, has met the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kenya's Sameer Group, Dr. Naushad Noorali Merali. "East Africa is very attractive for Belarus, as a promising and steadily developing market. We assess the current level of economic co-operation with Kenya as being hugely untapped in comparison with its

potential. Trade turnover of about \$18 million in 2016 is quite low, but we believe that it'll increase manifold very soon," admitted the Prime Minister.

Minsk is aware of Kenya's ambitious plans to develop agriculture, ensure food security, develop road and energy infrastructure, introduce energy saving technologies and improve the environment. Belarus is ready to offer its advanced technologies, equipment and services for the implementation of these projects. "Our country is one of the world's

leading producers of haul trucks, tractors and other farm machinery, trucks, fertilisers and food products. Belarusian products are well-known on the African continent for their reliability, simplicity of operation, and attractive prices. We supply our equipment to almost every African region," added Mr. Kobyakov.

Belarus is ready to offer modern financial mechanisms and attractive terms for the purchase of equipment. These include export lending and supplies of machinery on leasing terms. Belarus is

also interested in providing the region with dairy products, tinned food, baby food and other products.

"Further, promising, areas of collaboration are possible and we're ready to consider proposals in every area of mutually beneficial co-operation," underlined Mr. Kobyakov, expressing readiness to discuss a wide range of issues.

Dr. Naushad Noorali Merali notes that the visit of the Belarusian delegation to Kenya, in October 2016, was an important step

in establishing interaction. He stresses the readiness of Kenyan businesses to engage in fruitful dialogue with Belarusian partners.

Sameer Group unites fifteen companies, with over thirty years of experience in East Africa, in the spheres of agriculture, finance and insurance, banking, the automotive industry, construction, power engineering, development, ICT, and trade. Sameer Group's annual turnover exceeds \$1 billion and the company employs 24,000 people.

Helicopter in action

Not long ago, the Mi-26 helicopter, the largest within the Belarusian fleet, was first used by the Emergency Ministry as a cargo carrier, able to carry an 18 tonne helicopter via an external sling (just under its limit of 20 tonnes)

By Dmitry Umpirovich

Vitaly Novitsky, of the Emergency Ministry explains that the helicopter was carrying a heli-

copter purchased by a Russian company. It was taken from Machulishchi to Vyazma, with two stopovers: in Orsha, and two kilometres from the Belarusian-

Russian border (in the village of Arekhi, near Surazh). The route avoided populated areas and high winds. Mr. Novitsky comments, "The flight was conducted at a

speed of 75km/h, although the Mi-26 can reach up to 200km/h. Meanwhile, it was equipped with additional fuel tanks, allowing it to cover a greater distance."



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Goats from future

By Alexander Pimenov

Scientists extract lactoferrin from goat's milk, arousing keen interest among Japanese and Americans, with potential for profitable export

The goats are unusual, having been genetically engineered by the Scientific and Production Centre on Animal Breeding at the National Academy of Sciences. Their milk contains more than 5g of lactoferrin per litre: a valuable protein present only in breast milk, which enhances immunity. Lactoferrin is sought after in making baby foods, dietary supplements and medicines, with global demand at around 90 tonnes, despite a cost of \$500 per kilo.

Belarusian scientists have begun harvesting the precious substance on an industrial scale. Last October, the Institute of Microbiology of the National Academy of Sciences opened a laboratory to produce lactoferrin, explains Alexander Kostenevich, who heads the laboratory. "It's an absolutely unique project. Japan and USA have managed to extract lactoferrin from cow's milk, using it to manufacture food products and dietary supplements. We've managed to receive human lactoferrin, which differs from that of cows, working more efficiently, and are now setting up industrial production of medicines using lactoferrin."

The next stage is the development of production technology for dried milk powders, followed by a new generation of medicines.

Initially, up to 5kg of pure protein should be produced per year, with plans to export to Japan.

Presentation in Ho Chi Minh

Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park presented at Linh Trung Chinese-Vietnamese Industrial Park, in Ho Chi Minh

The Belarusian Embassy recently organised a presentation in cooperation with CUEC Corporation, hosted by the Chinese-Vietnamese Industrial Park. The event brought together investors from Vietnam, Japan, Korea and the EU states. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Vietnam, Vladimir Goshin, took part, as did the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to China, Kirill Rudy, joined by the Head of the Park's Administration, Alexander Yaroshenko, and the Deputy Director of the Industrial Park Development Company, Kirill Koroteev, who presented the Great Stone Park project.

After the presentation, a discussion took place on the work of foreign enterprises within the Great Stone Park, with at least two companies from China showing interest in the project, and planning a visit to Belarus.

Russian Niva designed by Belarusian

His vehicle climbed to an altitude of 5,728 metres in the Himalayas, and parachuted in to the North Pole, spending over a decade at Antarctica's Bellingshausen station. It ran trouble-free along snowy roads, at 50 degrees below zero, never faltering. It was a true miracle on four wheels, developed by genius Piotr Prusov, from the Vitebsk Region.

By Boris Orekhov

Mr. Prusov fell in love with SUVs in his youth. Born on January 6th, 1942, in the village of Zubki, in the Vitebsk Region, he drove a DT-54 tractor in his youth, and an IS-2 tank, with a mine trawl, in the early 1960s. Helping remove mines in Algeria, he was injured in the middle of the desert and only found several days later, by which time his mother had been informed of his 'death'. A helicopter discovered him with his boots full of blood. He gained the nickname 'twice-born'.

After graduating with honours from Zaporozhye Machine-Building Institute, he was employed at VAZ and, though offered a large salary to stay, being a talented engineer, he asked for transfer to Togliatti. It was fate, and brought about the creation of his Niva.



Designer couldn't have imagined that his masterpiece would prove a hit

Upon Kosygin's order

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Alexey Kosygin, set the task of developing a passenger car for rural areas: a modification of the existing Zhiguli, able to manage potholed tracks.

At that time, almost all jeeps used switchable front-wheel drive and frame construction but the VAZ plant decided to do exactly the opposite, offering permanent all-wheel drive, independent suspension, an integral body frame and a comfortable cabin. As his new SUV had to be produced on the same assembly line as the Zhigulis, Mr. Prusov was obliged to use the same technologies. The problem was that the Zhiguli's transmission became too easily overloaded. As

a result, Piotr asked experienced Anatoly Lefarov, who'd developed the MAZ-501 all-wheel truck in the mid-1950s, for advice.

Americans fail to succeed

Initially, the plant disliked the idea of an all-wheel drive vehicle but Mr. Prusov argued, even offering his resignation. Happily, he won.

"We used existing components so that we only needed to spend a small sum in global automotive industry terms. We designed and launched the Niva for around \$50 million," Mr. Prusov said later.

It underwent serious testing, being driven thousands of kilometres, from the snowy Arctic to sandy Turkmenistan. Over a set

distance of rough terrain in Dimitrovgrad, the Niva outperformed not only a UAZ vehicle (produced serially) but the best foreign SUVs of those times: the Range Rover and Land-Rover-88. Where foreign cars failed to go, the Niva endured.

The first fifty serial cars were assembled in February 1976, dedicated to the Soviet Union Communist Party Congress. The Niva was priced at 9,000 Roubles, the same as the Volga. It proved so popular that 80 percent of VAZ SUVs were exported, so that it became difficult to purchase one within the Soviet Union.

Piotr Prusov's innovation made a great impact on SUV production worldwide.

Silichi rivals the Alps

Logoisk area called 'Belarusian Switzerland' for quiet beauty of nature and wonderfully hilly landscapes

By German Moskalenko

Search for duke's treasure

The first mention of the town, in 1078, is connected with Grand Duke Vladimir Monomakh conquering of Polotsk. The heart of ancient Logozhsk is a citadel, a fortress having stood, a thousand years ago, on the bank of the River Gaina, surrounded by a deep moat. According to chronicles, in the 12th century, fifty years after Monomakh, his grandson also besieged the town.

Traces of former magnificence can be seen even now. The ancient park preserves ruins of a luxurious manor, some outbuildings, and an arched bridge. Local residents believe that, somewhere, treasures from the Tyszkiewicz dynasty are buried. The family owned Logoisk for four centuries. Brothers Eustach and Konstanty founded Belarusian scientific archaeology, establishing Belarus'

first museum with a European collection of ancient exhibits: a sword of Peter the Great, engravings, two hundred pictures and ancient artefacts from Pompeii, as well as a rich library of hundreds of manuscripts. Sadly, during the revolution, many rarities were lost.

Drinking life-giving water

Once, there were many spring wells in the duke's park, and nearby. They appeared and disappeared. A cascade of man-made waterfalls began at the palace, as



St. Nicholas Church, in Logoisk

VITALY PIVOVARCHIK



Khatyn

ALEXANDER STADUB



Ruins of Tyszkiewicz Palace

VITALY PIVOVARCHIK



Holy spring in duke's park

VITALY PIVOVARCHIK

in Peterhof, and some of this water system remains today. The springs are thought to have healing powers, with the most popular burbling near the bottom of the hill upon which St. Nicholas Church stands. People from Minsk come to take the water, saying that if you drink it regularly, your eyesight improves. Two bathing places are located nearby, inspiring a dip even in icy temperatures. St. Nicholas Church is more than 150 years old, with an interior richly decorated, painted by masters from Sergiev Posad.

Admiring the town from Panenskaya Hill

Wonderful views of the town and surroundings can be enjoyed from Panenskaya Hill. No one remembers how it got its name, although several stories exist. Some say that the young duke used to meet his clandestine sweetheart there. As she came from an ordinary family, their love ended tragically; she discovered he could no longer see her, and she flung herself down the steep slope in despair.



Victor KOLEDA,
Chairman of
Logoisk District
Executive
Committee

The Logoisk District boasts dozens of springs, with crystal-clear healing waters, as well as rich history: from a meteorite fallen thousands of years ago and the pilgrimage of Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya, through Pleshchenitsy, to the harsh days of the Great Patriotic War. More than a hundred military burials, mass graves and obelisks testify to the last-ditch battles fought on its soil, and demonstrate the brutality of the invading army. Khatyn and Dalva memorial complexes are known all over Belarus and far beyond its borders. The Logoisk District offers not only the ski facilities of Logoisk and Silichi, but agro-estates and recreation facilities for tourists, alongside hunting areas and other places of interest. Come and see for yourself!



SERGEY LOZUK

Silichi rivals Swiss Alps

pages in our history. The whole Soviet Union helped construct the memorial, which opened in 1969: white marble was brought from Russia while granite was delivered from Ukrainian open pits. Architects Leonid Levin, Yuri Gradov and sculptor Valetin Zankovich also designed Brest Hero Fortress Memorial.

Ride like the wind

Twelve years ago, the first visitors were welcomed by Silichi Ski Centre and, immediately, Logoisk became a 'Mecca' for everyone keen on winter sports. Its wonderful tracks, of up to 100m elevation, attract Belarusians and guests, primarily Russians. You can ride a snowmobile, skate, roller-ski, mountain bike or go carting. Logoisk resort is located just 10 minutes drive away, offering similar facilities; in summer, you can play paintball, try archery, or horse ride in picturesque surroundings.

Listen to Khatyn's bells

Few people in Russia or Belarus can have failed to have heard about Khatyn. In March 1943, this small village was burnt down by Hitler's soldiers, together with its inhabitants. Today, Khatyn is a memorial complex commemorating more than 9,000 villages and settlements destroyed during the Great Patriotic War.

Khatyn has become a symbol of the courage and resilience of the Belarusian nation, while its fate is one of the most tragic



On the streets of Alexandria, after the explosion

State of emergency declared in Egypt

Egypt has declared a state of emergency following bomb attacks on two Coptic churches which left at least 45 dead

Both blasts were caught on camera. One hit St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria killing at least 17 and injuring dozens more. The other tore through the inside of St. George's Church in Tanta during a Palm Sunday service, leaving at least 27 dead and around 78 or more injured.

Self-styled Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for the attacks which are the latest on the religious minority, prompting anger and fear

Security forces were deployed across the country following the attacks. Among the dead were at least

three police officers. The blasts have come just weeks before an expected visit by Pope Francis intended to show support for Egypt's Christians, who make up about 10 percent of the population.

among Egypt's Christian community. Both blasts are thought to have been caused by suicide bombers.

Ancient Rome aqueduct has been uncovered by archaeologists

A 2,300-year-old aqueduct uncovered by workers on Rome's new metro line has been hailed as 'a sensational discovery of enormous importance' by the city's Superintendency for Archaeology

Archaeologists first stumbled across the impressive ruin at the end of 2016. Meanwhile, the team has only recently presented the results of analysis of the structure, along with that of other recent finds, at a conference hosted by Rome's Sapienza University.

Simona Morretta, who led the team of archaeologists, said the 32-metre stretch was likely part of the Aqua Appia — the oldest known Roman aqueduct, which dates back to 312 BC.

It measures two metres tall, and is made up of equally-sized blocks arranged in five rows. As for location, it lies 17-18 metres below Rome's Piazza Celimontana, slightly to the south-east of the Colosseum in the historical centre.

"It was thanks to the concrete bulkheads used for work on the metro that we could get down to that level," explained Morretta.

Gender pay gap law could have a significant impact



A new British law is coming into force that could provide a significant boost for those campaigning for more gender pay equality

Thousands of UK employers are now obliged to record the figures for their workforce's pay, showing the different pay rates for men and women. The government says the law is fair and could add billions to the economy. The first results must be published no later than next April.

Any employer with 250 staff or more will have to take part in the scheme, some 9,000 companies em-

ploying more than 15 million people. Currently British women earn on average 18.1 percent less than men doing the same work.

The hope is that by bringing the figures into the open companies will be pressured to make changes. However, beyond the idea of equal pay is women getting any work at all, or getting positions of real power and influence. The few that do insist they will not be the last. One woman who has reached the very top in her chosen field, Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, is convinced many others will follow her.

"When I took office as the first woman First Minister in Scotland, one of the things that really moved me at the time was the number of girls and women who contacted me to say how much it meant to them to see a woman in the most senior political role in the country, and that underlined for me the importance of two things: Firstly, the importance of making sure we have role models for girls to look to, but secondly underline the importance to me for women in positions of influence to genuinely lead by example," she says.

Japanese Olympians join schoolchildren for education programme launch

More than 600 schoolchildren in Chiba in Japan have taken part in the official launch ceremony for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic organising committee's education programme

More than 3,400 schools in Tokyo have already been certified to run the programme, which aims to educate students about the value of sports and the spirit of Olympic diversity and multiculturalism.

The children were joined by Olympic weightlifting medallist Hiromi Miyake and Paralympic wheelchair tennis medallist Yui Kamiji, who both said they hoped to encourage children to become part of the next generation of Olympians.

Teachers at certified kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high schools now have access to an education application that can be download from the Tokyo 2020 website, and a range of textbooks about the Games.

Upstart Tesla elbows Ford aside in market value

A seven percent jump in its share price means newcomer Tesla is now valued at more than the mighty Ford Motor Company



Tesla only delivered some 78,000 electric cars last year, a tiny fraction of Ford's output of 6.7m, but sales are up 70 percent in the first quarter of this year and vehicle deliveries are hitting new records. Tesla is now valued at \$49bn, while Ford is at \$46bn.

Tesla is currently constructing the world's biggest building in Texas, a huge battery factory company founder Elon Musk hopes will bring down battery prices. He also launches his affordable Model 3 car later this year as he bids for the mass market. Last month a Chinese investor bought a 5 percent stake in the company.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Keen and insightful look at native lands

The National Art Museum hosts *Polish Landscape. Franciszek Ryszard Mazurek. Painting* exhibition, organised with the support of the Polish Embassy and dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Poland and the Republic of Belarus. It is the first time that the artist's paintings are being exhibited in Minsk.

By Alexander Pimenov

Franciszek Ryszard Mazurek is a landscape painter and a member of the Association of Polish Artists. The exhibition showcases approximately forty of his paintings, depicting the beauty and diversity of Polish landscapes. Franciszek Mazurek conveys the poetry of his homeland and his nostalgia for it across the seasons.

Since 1987, Franciszek Mazurek's creativity has been presented at more than fifty personal exhibitions in Eastern and Western Europe. His works have been seen in group exhibitions in Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Russia, Romania and Hungary.

Museum and private collections in Europe, the USA, Canada and the UAE host Mazurek's paintings. The artist has received the Silver Cross of Merit, the Medal of Merit for Polish Culture of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Golden Cross of Merit from the President of the Republic of Poland, and the bronze Gloria Artis Medal of Merit for Culture, given by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.



Franciszek Mazurek, on the left

Artistic project is confidently moving along expected path

By Veniamin Mikheev

International exhibition of contemporary art, From Lisbon to Vladivostok via Minsk, Moscow and Astana, opens in capital of Kazakhstan

The exhibition is being hosted by the National Art Museum of Kazakhstan, with the support of the Belarusian Embassy to Kazakhstan, the Foreign Ministry of Belarus and Minsk City Executive Committee, upon the initiative of the Belarusian Embassy to France and with assistance from other foreign institutions of Belarus. The exposition is held under the honourable patronage of UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova.

The Belarusian Ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal and Monaco (concurrent), Pavel Latushko, underlined in his letter of greeting, dedicated to the opening of the exhibition, that this unique art project, which began in Minsk and has been successfully presented in Moscow, now arrives in hospitable Astana, welcoming artists from twenty-seven countries.

'As one of the initiators and co-organisers of this international project, we're delighted that the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation — UNESCO — has taken patronage of the exhibition,' Mr. Latushko wrote.

Initially the exhibition opened on December 21st, 2016, at Mikhail Savitsky's Art Gallery in Minsk. It moved, on March 14th, 2017, to the Business and Cultural Complex of the Belarusian Embassy to Russia.

The Belarusian-initiated art project unites works by twenty-eight artists, including acknowledged masters Zurab Tsereteli, from Russia, Victor Alshevsky, from Belarus, Lyuben Genov, from Bulgaria, Tudor Zbirnea, from Moldova, Luis Rodrigues, from Portugal, and Corneliu Vasilescu from Romania, as well as younger artists.

The creativity of the project's participants is diverse, yet united in showing the flavours of Europe, with its common cultural space.

Artist Victor Alshevsky, the curator of the exhibition and a participant from Belarus, comments that the project aims to demonstrate European creativity to residents in the world's capitals, allowing people to compare and understand our spiritual culture and 'unity of spirit'.

Mr. Alshevsky underlines that the artists have chosen which works to display, and those chosen to represent their countries has been decided beyond Minsk, with resulting diversity. However, there is unexpected harmony in the exhibition now gracing Astana.

European culture is a humanitarian counterbalance to political and social conflict, with its embracing of contemporary trends, while built upon many centuries of traditions. It's good to see Minsk having become a negotiating venue for settling international conflict in the European region. Meanwhile, it is also a centre of cultural diplomacy, with this international, integrated art project.

More than a thousand rare documents in exhibition

By Vladimir Mikhailov

Richest archives of Slutsk's Holy Trinity Monastery on display at Documentary Heritage of 16th-19th Centuries in Belarus: Archives of the Holy Trinity Monastery in Slutsk exhibition, at National History Museum, in Minsk

The exhibition is dedicated to the Year of Science and the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing. Due to the museum's co-operation with the National Historical

Archives, it's become possible to digitise more than a thousand rare documents. The most precious are on show alongside black-letter books, icons and photos, which capture the interior of Slutsk churches destroyed in the troubled years.

Holy Trinity Monastery was first mentioned in 1445. After the Brest Unia was signed, in 1596, the monastery was granted a royal charter, confirming its Orthodox status. Over the next two centuries, it was a stronghold

of Orthodox faith in the Rzecz Pospolita, with archimandrites of the monastery serving under the Metropolitan of Kiev across the Grand Duchy of Lithuania since 1659.

Once the pontifical cathedra was founded in Minsk, in 1793, Holy Trinity Monastery became a pontifical residence. In the 1930s, it closed and its buildings were demolished in the 1950s.

The monastery had a rich archive, its first act dating back to 1517. Monastery documents illustrate the spir-

itual, political and cultural life of old Belarusian society and are now kept at the National History Museum.

At the opening of the exhibition, the Head of Slutsk's church deanery, the sacrist of St. Michael the Archangel Cathedral in Slutsk, Archpriest Igor Shtepa, expressed his gratitude for restoration of the spiritual heritage of the Belarusian nation and reminded everyone that Duchess Sofia Slutskaya originally gave her special protection to Holy Trinity Monastery. Her holy



Stamps from monastery collection

relics were housed inside the monastery until 1930.

Father Igor also spoke about the Church-Historical Museum of Slutsk-Soligorsk

Eparchy, established in 2015 within the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Parish, in the Soligorsk District's village of Chizhevichi.

Unusual art objects for original open air workshop

Tower of Babel from used cable reels to be erected in village of artists near Grodno

By Mikhail Bogomazov

The unusual installation will appear in the village of Salatye (Grodno Region), next to the Three Beavers homestead. The used cable reels will be the main building material for the tower, with a base diameter of about 10 metres and height of 9-10 metres. The tower will be divided into several sections and, during a summer open air workshop — gathering twelve artists from Belarus, Lithuania and Poland — each will paint a section.

“The choice of material isn’t entirely random. Many years ago, a neighbour — Grodno blacksmith Yuri Matsko — bought them for firewood, but it was too difficult to dispose of them, due to the metal,” explains Yuri Remsha, who came up with the idea of transforming the reels into art. In 2015, the first open air workshop was held in Salatye.

The settlement is now called the village of artists as, over time, local houses have been bought by artists from the city, encouraging the organisation of open air workshops which decorate not only gardens but the streets of the village and neighbouring settlements.

In 2015, artists worked only with reels but, in 2016, they were supplemented with old wooden pallets and tree branches. Creativity is everywhere, with guests greeted by an unusual cannon-pencil, a flying saucer in the forest, made from pallets and reels, a wooden tractor parked near a house, and a Tour de France cyclist passing by. The Tower of Pisa was also made during an open air workshop.



Grodno blacksmith Y. Matsko and one of the authors of the idea, Y. Remsha

Belarusian language in the capital of Spain

By Vladimir Velikhov

Courses to study modern Belarusian language organised in Madrid, at Lingualandia Language Centre, for representatives of the Belarusian diaspora and Spanish citizens

The idea of organising courses is the work of Belarusian Svetlana Yaskova, who heads the Lingualandia Centre, and is a member of the Consultative Council for Belarusians Abroad.

The first lesson for Belarusians and Spaniards keen to learn modern Belarusian language launched on April 1st, 2017.

In just two and a half hours, teacher Sergey Manyuk put Spanish students at ease, and helped them become familiar with the Belarusian language, while reminding our countrymen of what they’d studied previously.

The lesson was attended by two Spaniards who’ve previously studied Belarusian independently. They astonished everyone with their knowledge. Some were learning for the first time, while others were expanding their vocabulary. Everyone admired the euphony of the Belarusian language.

The Belarusian Embassy to Spain will donate a small collection of Belarusian books to the Lingualandia Centre, to help with the educational process.

Ancient clocks continue to tick on

Alexander Kistanov’s collection includes over 150 rare clocks: cabinet, wall, pendulum, and even some with a cuckoo, from all over the USSR, featuring such brands as Yantar, Molniya, Pobeda and Zarya

By Olga Korneeva

The man from Uzda doesn’t just collect clocks but gives them new life where others have thought them irrevocably broken. Alexander worked at a furniture factory for many years and then registered as an individual entrepreneur. Sadly, he failed to succeed in his own business and now works at the local House of Culture. He became interested in collecting by chance, finding a

broken watch in the street, which he decided to restore. He succeeded and vowed to continue.

“I’ve been -attracted by engineering and mechanics since childhood, always being fond of working with small details. I discovered books from the 1960s and 1970s, and surfed various Internet sites and forums on the topic. As a result, my hobby became an obsession. Most of my collection comprises watches donated by friends, acquaintances and

neighbours. Some were given by children. However, I bought or exchanged most at auctions,” Alexander comments.

His most expensive clock is handmade and comes from the People’s Commissar. Made in the Soviet Union, it had no rival in Germany, Austria or France. The collector also boasts a pre-war German Junghans watch, and those sold exclusively in formerly Soviet Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the GDR.

Alexander’s family are enthusiastic about his hobby. Initially, his wife Natalia wondered why he was pursuing this interest but, on seeing her husband’s joy in restoring old watches, she changed her mind. She tells us, “I cannot imagine my house without clocks now. If these



Alexander Kistanov

were taken away, the house would become empty. Our guests are surprised, saying that our home is like a museum.”

Interestingly, Alexander has

never thought of making money from his collection. He simply loves to show the timepieces to friends and acquaintances, and to tell the story of each clock or watch.

Ahead-of-time victory and ticket to play-offs

Belarusian tennis players qualify for Davis Cup World Group play-offs

By Alexey Grishin

The first day of the competition opened with a match between Yegor Gerasimov, aged 24 (ranked 263rd by the ATP) and Gerald Melzer, aged 26 (ranked 109th). The game lasted 83 minutes and finished with a confident win by the Belarusian. Gerasimov's serve was impressive, with fourteen aces and winning first service in 90 percent of cases. In the second singles match, Ilya Ivashko, aged 23 (positioned 172nd) defeated Jürgen Melzer (ranked 156th) after a tough struggle; two of four sets went to a tie-break.

On the second day, Max Mirnyi and Yaroslav Shilo lost their doubles match to the Austrians, followed a difficult four sets, with two games finishing in a tie-break. Play lasted 3 hours



Winners are interviewed

and 6 minutes. The tie-break in the second set was especially tough, with the Belarusians (initially losing 1:5) moving to 5:5 before losing to their opponents.

Ilya Ivashko brought the decisive point for the Belarusian national team. In the first singles match of the third

day, he defeated Gerald Melzer in four sets, experiencing serious problems only in the first and second sets. Later, Ivashko's advantage was indisputable and he brilliantly won the final twelve games 11:1. The Belarusian's serve (with fourteen aces) was too much for the Austrian.

One more singles match should have been held but it wouldn't have influenced the result, so was cancelled. Therefore, the outcome of the Belarus-Austria matches was 3:1 in favour of Belarus, allowing them to proceed to the World Group for the first time in a decade.

Long-awaited return

By Kirill Karin

Victoria Azarenko, who gave birth to her son in December 2016, announces her return to WTA tour at Premier category tournament, Bank of the West Classic, in Stanford, being held from July 31st to August 6th

'I'm very glad that my return will take place at the Bank of the West Classic tournament in Stanford. Motherhood is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I'm looking forward to launching a new stage in my career,' Victoria Azarenko's fan group quotes her words on VKontakte social network.

Victoria Azarenko, who won the tournament in Stanford in 2010, was given a wild-card from the organisers. Victoria has been on maternity leave since May 2016. In the WTA rankings, renewed on April 3rd, the Belarusian dropped from 48th to 317th place, since her 1,000 point Miami victory no longer qualifies for inclusion.

A good present to mark the jubilee of the handball club

By Igor Svitov

Brest club wins bronze in SEHA League 6th final

Meshkov Brest HC reached the Final Four of the SEHA League for the fifth time, having twice previously been vice-champions of the tournament. Sadly, they lost on penalties to Hungarian Veszprém during the semi-finals, though they beat their rivals from Croatian Zagreb.

The match for third place saw a goal after just four minutes, with Belarusian club's line player Rastko Stojković realising a penalty. The hosts then seized the initiative, and goalkeeper Ivan Peshich defended well, allowing Meshkov to lead 14:10 by halftime. Zagreb's first goal came in the seventh minute.

In the second half, Zagreb changed tactics and closed the gap, thanks to great work from the Croatian goalkeeper. However, by halfway, the Belarusians were ahead by four goals again, and kept their lead until the end, with a score of 23:19.

Brest lost to Zagreb last year, in the match for SEHA League bronze, but has now taken 'revenge' and earned a worthy prize to celebrate its 15th anniversary (marked on April 9th).



During the match between Meshkov Brest and Croatian Zagreb

Sergey Bebashko, head coach of Meshkov Brest HC:

This was an important match — taking the club's jubilee into account. The nervous mood was evident, as we really wanted to win. It wasn't easy to restore the team psychologically, after losing the fight for gold. I can't speak of defeat; we dropped out, losing on penalties, rather than being properly beaten. The tournament needs to take some measures: the SEHA League is great but, for some reason, we went to extra time and the penalty was registered.

Zagreb has played very well in defence, making it difficult for us to attack and score. I'd like to praise the team. We fought hard to reach third place in this prestigious tournament.

Vyacheslav Shumak, a line player with Meshkov Brest HC:

This was a great match. Both teams played well in defence but we were stronger. The Final Four is held in Brest and is a major handball festival in our city. We're grateful to the fans who came to support us. The atmosphere was wonderful. Thank you all.

Youth show their mettle

By Semen Bondarev

Two medals brought home by weightlifters from European Championship in Croatian Split

We're used to Belarusian weightlifters' success: in recent years, they've captured medals at virtually every competition. However, times have changed, with doping scandals and disqualifications significantly altering teams. Some leaders (Darya Naumova and Darya Pochobut from the women's team) decided to take a rest after the Olympics, obliging our team to invest in new 'hopes' for the coming Games. It's given a chance to those who 'behind the scenes' last season.

Among them is Lyudmila Pankova, aged 20, who was placed third in the under 53kg weight category. Her six attempts were a success. In the first exercise (the jerk),



Anastasia Mikhalenko

Lyudmila lifted 83kg but her final snatch was decisive, reaching 106kg. Across the two exercises, she captured bronze, despite having been sent only with the goal of accumulating experience.

Another 'Belarusian' bronze went to Anastasia Mikhalenko, in the under 69kg weight category. After her jerk, the sportswoman was eighth, having lifted 95kg, and her later attempts failed. Meanwhile, in the snatch, she confidently lifted 122kg and 127kg. Her third attempt was decisive, at 130kg.

Holiday of the week



Orthodox and Catholic believers celebrate Palm Sunday

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 16th April. *The Radziwills: the Fates of the Country and the Family* Until 17th April. *Roman Sustov's Graphics: Arrival* Until 17th April. 100th Anniversary of Sergey Selikhanov (1917-1976) Until 23rd April. *Polish Landscape. Frantisek Rishard Mazurek. Painting*

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 16th April. Interactive exhibition: *Anatomy of Miracle* Until 1st June. *From Romanian Dinary to Belarusian Rouble*

BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 16th April. *Army Changes*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 1st May. *Vladimir Akulov: Moments of Life* Until 30th June. Exhibition of wax figures: *Miraculous Travel*

MUSEUM OF BELARUS' MINIATURES

25 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Museum of Miniatures of Belarusian Sights permanent exhibition

HOUSE OF PICTURES

89/3 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 16th April. *Path to Shambala*

TSEKH

16 Oktyabrskaya Street
Until 29th April. *Kurasovshchina is My Love*

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

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

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 21st April. *My Life in Art*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlow Street
Until 7th May. Cinema posters by Andrzej Pągowski: *Kieślowski Anew*

CENTRAL BOTANICAL GARDEN OF BELARUS' NAS

Kalinin Square
Until 30th April. *Lemon Tree Nursery; Colours and Songs of Tropics*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

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

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
13-15.04. Oksana Volkova and Her Friends 18.04. The Magic Flute 19.04. Don Quixote; Italian Fantasy 20.04. Carmen

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
13.04. Tours of Daugavpils Theatre: Business Class Ward 15.04. Little Red Riding Hood. Generation NEXT 18.04. Wedding in Malinovka 19.04. Mary Poppins

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
13.04. Kolyady Night 14.04. Art 15.04. Paulinka 16.04. Not Mine 18.04. Pan Tadeusz 19.04. Local Cabaret 20.04. Abduction of Europe, or Ursula Radziwill's Theatre

CONCERTS

PRIME HALL

65 Pobediteley Avenue
14.04. *Splin*

HOUSE OF CULTURE OF RAILWAY WORKERS

7 Chkalov Street
19.04. Concert of legendary *Pesnyary* band soloist: Valery Skorozhonok

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
13.04. Pygmalion 14.04. Lady for a Day 15.04. Pane Kokhanku 16.04. Oedipus 18.04. Testosterone 19.04. Singer 20.04. Innkeeper

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
19 and 20.04. *Wolves and Sheep*

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
13.04. Silent Love 19.04. Doctor Raus' Career 20.04. Medea Syndrome

BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street
14 and 15.04. Doctor Upon Not One's Own Will 18.04. Taras on Parnassus

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
13.04. Konstantin Raikin
17.04. Buffoon Theatre of Parody led by Vladimir Vinokur in concert
18.04. *Drozdy* band 19.04. *Didula*
20.04. Inna Afanasieva
20.04. Concert of organ music: Valery Shmat