

Real integration
impossible
without equal
opportunities



Reflection of
identity lies in the
amazing beauty
of things



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Farewell Bell opens new horizons for promising future

Republican celebration for school leavers held at Belarus' youth capital — Orsha — to gather the best alumni from around the country



Kazakhstan warmly welcomes good friends



Last week, the President of Belarus paid a working visit to Nur Sultan

By Vasily Kharitonov

Alexander Lukashenko took part in the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in the capital of Kazakhstan — Nur Sultan. Forums of this kind are always a great opportunity for bilateral meetings and negotiations with foreign leaders. Immediately on arrival, Mr. Lukashenko went to the Akorda Residence, where he met with the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, to discuss the main direction of bilateral co-operation. “As for our relations, they will always be good, and I have no doubt that we will be able to make further progress,” Belarus’ Head of State said. Mr. Lukashenko also met with the former president of Kazakhstan, Leader of the Nation — Nursultan Nazarbayev. Both politicians confirmed the friendly nature of Belarusian-Kazakh relations.

In the near future, on June 9th, Kazakhstan will hold presidential elections. The country is at the peak of the election campaign. Mr. Lukashenko thanked Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for meeting at this difficult time. “Although this presidential campaign is difficult, you made the right decision to participate. You explained that people should have certainty, and legitimacy for the President. I support what is happening in Kazakhstan. I understand my friend Nursultan Nazarbayev worries a great deal. He has worked with you and told me a lot about you when I met him. You and your colleagues have done much to make Kazakhstan as we see it today.”

The Belarusian President wished Kassym-Jomart Tokayev success, “Kazakhs are very smart people. They have already figured everything out.”

In turn, the President of Kazakhstan stressed the respect with which Mr. Lukashenko is treated in his country, “There is sincere respect for a person who has been working as President of Belarus for many years and is doing everything possible to strengthen the authority and potential of his state. We celebrate your successes and rejoice in them.”

Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Nazarbayev also talked about the upcoming presidential elec-



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tions in Kazakhstan. One of the candidates is the present Head of State — Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Mr. Lukashenko called him a very worthy man. He also stated that Mr. Nazarbayev’s decision to nominate Kassym-Jomart Tokayev as a presidential candidate was wise. “Not everyone understood it initially, but they soon appreciated the logic of the decision. It’s calm and quiet — as it should be. We don’t need upsets, we can get them from outside if necessary,” he said.

Mr. Nazarbayev presented the Belarusian Head of State with the order: ‘First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan — Leader of the Nation, Nursultan Nazarbayev’ — which is the state award of Kazakhstan and was established in May 2001. The order was awarded

to Mr. Lukashenko to mark the 25th anniversary of the idea of Eurasian integration and the 5th anniversary of the signing of the EAEU Treaty, as well as for a special contribution to the deepening and expansion of co-operation with Kazakhstan. Mr. Lukashenko has become the first foreign leader to receive such an award. Mr. Nazarbayev stressed that without the support of the President of Belarus there would be no Union. He also noted that, for the first time, he is meeting with Mr. Lukashenko not as a head of state but as the first president and Leader of the Nation — with new responsibilities.

“All these years we have been the initiators of integration processes. We have always struggled together for this. I will always remember our relation-

ship and am ready to help and support in any direction,” Mr. Nazarbayev said.

Speaking about the Eurasian Economic Union, the first president of Kazakhstan noted that, in recent years, it has been possible to significantly increase mutual trade, co-operation and establish joint ventures. “We need to continue with this. There are difficulties but it will also be problematic without this integration,” he added.

Mr. Nazarbayev said that he has received an offer to become the Honorary Chairman of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council and asked for Mr. Lukashenko’s view on this. The latter replied, “I have already given my opinion. We’ve discussed it with Mr. Putin as well. As I said, you are now freer to take on other roles.”

The communication between the leaders took place in a warm and friendly manner. Nursultan Nazarbayev described the political transformations taking place in Kazakhstan, and the nuances of current state activity. He also noted the great contribution of the President of Belarus to the development of his country, “Under very difficult conditions, you have ensured Belarus’ interaction with us at a high level. You are a real fighter and an example to us.”

Mr. Nazarbayev invited the President of Belarus to visit Kazakhstan, saying, “We have many things to show-off. Kazakhstan is at your service.” Mr. Lukashenko replied saying he would like to visit later this year.

Speaking about the topic of the summit, it is already obvious that the creation and development of the EAEU has been a positive factor in stabilising economic development in the entire region. Joint work towards our common aims has made it possible to mitigate the consequences of a major economic crisis even though there were difficulties on the way. On their road to the adoption of common decisions, the parties faced the national interests of each state and many issues that have not been noticeable in the past were revealed.

Minsk’s position is well known. The EAEU should become a fully-fledged union with equal conditions for all participants, regardless of their location or economic power. The day before the visit of the Belarusian leader to Kazakhstan, Belarus’ Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, met with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, in Moscow. Summing up the results of the last five years’ activity, Mr. Makei drew attention to the fact that the countries have managed to create a system of multilateral economic co-operation during this period — which resulted in an increase in mutual trade turnover between the member states. In addition, other countries are showing interest in the EAEU: around 30 countries have already expressed the desire to conclude agreements on the free trade zone with the five key member states.



Real integration impossible without equal opportunities

Alexander Lukashenko names main task for development of EAEU

By Vladimir Velikhov

Exactly five years ago, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union. It is time to sum up the results of the steps taken and identify the challenges for the future. The recent summit was timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the idea of Eurasian integration. The composition of its participants was unusually extensive. It was not only the leaders of the five 'major' Eurasian states — Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan — who gathered at the round table. Among the participants of the representative forum were the first president of Kazakhstan — Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of Moldova — Igor Dodon (last year, the country received observer status with the EAEU) and the guest of honour — President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon.

The Head of Kazakhstan — Kassym-Jomart Tokayev — opened the summit. He particularly noted the contribution of Mr. Nazarbayev to the formation and development of Eurasian integration, "Taking into account his historical contribution to the formation of the Eurasian Economic Union, the President of Russia — Vladimir Putin — has proposed to assign the title of Honorary Chairman of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council to Nursultan Nazarbayev." Kassym-Jomart Tokayev expressed his gratitude to the Russian leader for this initiative, as well as to all partners in the Union for their unanimous support.

However, the solemnity of the moment does not remove

the accumulated issues in the EAEU. The key topic of discussion was new approaches to the economic agenda of the association. In this regard, the speech of the President of Belarus was specific and meaningful. Mr. Lukashenko noted the merits of integration, despite the short period since its creation, "Of course, the EAEU is still young. It has already proved its effectiveness and independence by providing our countries with an additional source of economic growth to counteract the negative trends in the world."

However, there is a downside — the rate of trade growing in the Union is slowing. At the same time, it is increasing with third countries. Moreover, the EAEU is expanding the use of national currencies in mutual settlements and has managed to extinguish inflation risks and take control of employment issues. "This means that the member states of the Union are increasingly synchronising the processes of their development, gradually bringing together their positions in a co-ordinated macroeconomic policy," Mr. Lukashenko said, adding, "We need to use this experience — in particular, in order to form common sectoral strategies: in industry, agriculture, transport, energy and other areas."

The President of Belarus noted the authority of the Eurasian Economic Union on the world stage, "Sometimes we hear, and we ourselves say, that other states do not want to co-operate with us. They are simply jealous and are somewhere afraid of us. This is com-

petition and is natural, but they can hardly ignore us."

To some extent, 40 countries — including China, Iran, Vietnam, Singapore, Egypt and Serbia — are already showing interest in the Union. The EAEU plans the digital transformation of economies, activation of cross-border ties in the real sector, creation of mechanisms for the implementation of innovative and investment projects. However, the main goal of integration is unchanged: the formation of common markets, freedom of movement of capital, goods, works and services. According to Mr. Lukashenko, the priority should be the qualitative implementation of existing agreements, "Activity on the external circuit and new directions should not cause damage to the main activities on the abolition of barriers, exemptions and restrictions in mutual trade."

The President of Belarus is confident that closer co-operation and an increase in the share of goods produced within the EAEU in the common market will have a tangible positive effect on the integration project. "It is necessary to abandon protectionist decisions at a national level, or the introduction of all kinds of prohibitive and restrictive measures. This is the key to the formation of the solid foundation of our Union and the successful development of the economies of the countries involved in integration. Then there will be no problem attracting new countries that we want to see in the Union. They themselves will want to join. It is necessary to create equal

conditions in all spheres, including energy," he said.

At a narrow format meeting, Mr. Lukashenko suggested that Mr. Nazarbayev should be engaged in an audit of everything that has been done or not done in the Union. In particular, he considers it important to further expand the powers of the Eurasian Economic Commission, primarily in terms of countering the introduction of barriers. "I think that the Honorary Chairman of the Union can help us here, having played a significant role," he stated.

The jubilee summit was held under the chairmanship of Armenia. Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stressed that the EAEU opens new oppor-

need to establish full co-operation between the Eurasian Economic Union, the European Union, the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation and possibly ASEAN. These are not easy tasks but — if we work together — we can promote such ideas." Mr. Nazarbayev stressed that the meaning of the Eurasian economic space is not to close the countries off from the whole world but, on the contrary, to make their Union more open — including considering the advantages of the Chinese *Belt and Road* initiative.

Russia has proposed that work continue on the harmonisation of the legislative framework for the economy. Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, not-

On the fringes of the summit

Alexander Lukashenko met with the President of Russia to discuss the issues of deepening bilateral integration. Earlier, the parties had exchanged relevant proposals. The two presidents considered these issues in outline and instructed the governments to find common ground on all points by June 21st. After that, they agreed to hold a high-level meeting for a more detailed discussion of all Russian-Belarusian issues and further systemic co-operation.

tunities for businesses and economies of the participating countries. In turn, the President of Kazakhstan — Kassym-Jomart Tokayev — urged his colleagues to protect the Union from being discredited in the eyes of the world community. He stressed that the barriers and obstacles to trade that remain within the EAEU can reduce the confidence of domestic and foreign investors.

The expansion of the strategic contours of the Eurasian Economic Union and the strengthening of the idea of integration was promoted by Mr. Nazarbayev who said, "We

ed the possibility of creating large Union corporations, as well as the preparation of an agreement by the Eurasian Commission which will enable the calculation of pensions to consider the entire period of employment in all states of the Union. The entry of this document into force will more fully ensure the rights and interests of the citizens of EAEU countries.

The summit ended with the signing of more than 20 documents. The leaders of the five countries approved the main macroeconomic policy guidelines for 2019-2020.

Serving people is the key mission of law

Belarus is interested in the experience of foreign countries in constitutional law, Alexander Lukashenko said as he met with heads of constitutional courts of foreign countries in Minsk as part of an international conference

By Vladimir Khromov

The President remarked that Belarus hosts a large-scale forum focusing on the modern constitutional development of countries in the landmark year which marks the 25th anniversary of the Constitution. “We appreciate your readiness to share your experience in constitutional law. Of course, we are interested,” the Head of State said and hailed the participation in the forum of the European Commission for Democracy Through Law. Belarus maintains very good ties with this organisation and Mr. Lukashenko said, “We hope to continue international co-operation in this field.”

The Head of State emphasised that legal issues are topical ones, they are important for building a just society where every citizen is protected by the state and the inviolability of the political structure is guaranteed by the Fundamental Law. “The rule of law in the state, the observation of its norms and principles at all levels of political, social and spiritual life of people is a sign of a well-developed society,” he noted. Mr. Lukashenko said that the Constitution which was passed in Belarus 25 years ago gave a strong impetus to the development of democratic institutions in the country. “An age-mate of the Fundamental Law, the Constitutional Court helps strengthen our statehood,” he said. “The main objective of our Constitutional Court is to make annual reports on constitutional legality.”

The President emphasised the role of legal norms for the society and the responsibility of law makers. “Laws are a living matter. They decide fates of people, countries and the whole world. Harmonious development of modern society and world justice depend on those who make and improve these laws, those who monitor the observation of legal norms,” Mr. Lukashenko said.

However, the President noted with regret that the behaviour of politicians in the modern world is not always responsible and is not always in compliance with the law. “What are consequences? It leads to wars, chaos, and so on, when politicians are above the law, above legal acts which exist in the world and are acknowledged at the interstate



Belarus has been a member of the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (Venice Commission) since 1994. The co-operation with this organisation helps raise awareness of representatives of European constitutional courts, the Council of Europe and the European Union about the current development of the legal system in Belarus, rely on the European experience in the protection of human rights and liberties, get objective information about current processes in the constitutional law system of various countries.

level, above the agreements which have the rule of law in certain states. It leads to conflicts and wars in certain regions. If it stays the same, we will face a new world war. I think it will be the last war,” he noted.

In order to prevent such developments, preserve peace and stability, it is essential to observe legal norms at all levels. “We must observe the international law and internal laws. Belarus is not only prepared for it, Belarus always makes a call for it, and will always do its best to maintain peace and stability in the world,” the President concluded.

Mr. Lukashenko also informed that Belarus may amend the Constitution or adopt a new one in the near future. He remarked that Belarus is thinking about a new stage in connection with the changing life. “Processes have accelerated significantly. Our Constitution is lagging behind a little bit. I asked specialists of the Constitutional Court to submit their proposals regarding the possible improvement of our Constitution. Then we will sit down and discuss them,” the President said.

Mr. Lukashenko underlined that reforms take time: you cannot succeed by taking things by storm. “They tried it out in Ukraine and what did they end up with? It is a very rich European country. Are they doing anything wrong? They are doing everything right. This way

or another, we all are following this path. We are also pushed from outside. However, politicians are there to adapt foreign practices for their country, therefore, time is the main factor. People sitting at this table have no disagreements about politics, neither those from the West nor those from the East. Someone is moving faster towards democracy, someone is advancing more slowly,” he stressed.

Mr. Lukashenko noted that Belarus is often criticised for the lack of democracy or inadequate protection of human rights. “I must tell you as someone who worked in

the Parliament and who was involved in the drafting of the Constitution before taking up the President’s office: we thoroughly studied the constitutions of all countries. I took part in this work. There are no extraordinary novelties in our Constitution. We preserved the most acceptable things from the past and borrowed the rest. We, first of all, learned from our neighbours as we had similar development paths and were once one state with many of them. We also adopted a lot from the strongholds of democracy, first of all, from France and the United States,” Mr. Lukashenko noted.

ACCENT

As Mr. Lukashenko met with heads of constitutional courts of other countries, the First Vice President of the Venice Commission — Herdis Kjerulf Thorgeirsdottir — shared her impressions of Belarus and recalled her famous compatriot, part of whose life was connected with Belarus. She stressed that good relations have evolved between the Venice Commission and the Constitutional Court of Belarus. “It is a great pleasure for us to be here in order to together celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Constitutional Court,” the guest stressed, adding that she had been to Belarus three times already. The first time was 15 years ago. She noted she had had an opportunity to have interesting conversations with a large number of people and confirmed that Belarusians are truly very kind and hospitable.

Ms. Thorgeirsdottir is a native of Iceland, she mentioned that more than one thousand years ago one of her compatriots visited Belarus. Thorvald Kodransson was a legendary Christian missionary and traveller, a founder of Saint John the Baptist’s monastery in Polotsk.



Best startup of Invest Weekend



By Natalia Yemelyanova

LabMap service aimed at decoding laboratory indicators named the winner of the Invest Weekend international investment conference’s start-up competition, in Minsk

In total, 17 start-ups were presented in the finals, and the People’s Choice Award went to the Parkmycar smart system for booking parking. All winners are invited to the finals of the Start-up of the Year international competition, which will be held this December.

The conference featured an exchange of experience between experts in building businesses, investors, representatives of business incubators, accelerators, venture funds, corporations and the founders of the best start-ups. Experts spoke about new trends in the industry and shared tools for building a technology business in modern conditions.

The Start-up Technologies Business Support Centre has been working on a start-up movement in Belarus for 10 years — organising such events as Start-up of the Year, Minsk Start-up Weekend, Invest Weekend, Minsk FinTech Conference and the Battle of Start-ups. The company develops mobile and web applications. In addition, the Centre brings together technology companies in search of investments, venture investors and market professionals, helping them to jointly create the technologies of the future and build on their business.

Investments are rising

By Olga Korneeva

National Statistics Committee announced that, between January and March 2019, foreign investors injected \$3bn into the real economic sector of Belarus (not including banks)

The major investors included economic entities of Russia (40.9 percent of total investment), the UK (20 percent) and Cyprus (10.8 percent). FDI made up \$2.5bn, or 83.8 percent of total foreign investment.

In January-March 2019, Belarusian organisations (not including banks) invested \$1.4bn abroad. The bulk of investment went to economic entities of Russia (62.5 percent of the total investment), the UK (13.7 percent) and Ukraine (12.3 percent). FDI accounted for 92.9 percent of the total investment earmarked abroad.

Balance of scale, quality and efficiency

Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park reaches the point when it's necessary to facilitate movement towards further high-quality development



Prospects of Great Stone Industrial Park development discussed at Minsk conference

By Oleg Bogomazov

Hu Zheng, the CEO of Industrial Park Development Company, delivered a speech at the Belt and Road Initiative and the Construction of the Chinese-Belarusian Great

Stone Industrial Park conference. He stressed that the Great Stone should adhere to sustainable development goals, which presupposes a balance between scale, quality, and efficiency. "Increasing the scale may lead to blind, excessive

investment, badly thought out activities and will upset the balance between supply and demand," Hu Zheng said.

He described how, four years since it was founded, the Park is at the opening stage of its development. "To-

day, it should focus on making full use of its high-quality transport and engineering infrastructure and achieving high energy efficiency," said Hu Zheng. "The Park should aim not only to increase the number of resident companies

but also to assess acquired and spent investment, the scale of economic activities of the residents, production volumes, income from major activities, the actual number of jobs created and its influence on the economy."

Mutual interest

Republic of Korea plans to develop more active contacts with Belarus as part of its external policy

By Olga Korneeva

Meeting with foreign journalists, the Director for Strategy Analysis of the South Korean Foreign Ministry, Son Changho, underlined that with the arrival of the country's new leadership two years ago, new priorities have appeared in the area of foreign political activity. "The Republic of Korea tries to diversify areas of foreign policy with various regions and countries around the world," he noted, adding that 'in line with the new policy, we're promoting co-operation with many states of



the post-Soviet space, including Belarus'.

The diplomat stressed that interest in developing contacts with Belarus is mutual and said this is an important factor for building further interaction across all areas.

At present, the administration of the President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, is implementing a foreign political course aimed at promoting more efficient collaboration with foreign countries. This policy is especially vital considering their aspirations to increase stability on the Korean Peninsula.



Ilham Aliyev visits Belarusian exposition

Not lost among other participants

Potential of Belarus' petrochemical industry presented at the Caspian Oil & Gas international exhibition in Baku

By Alexey Fedosov

The President of Azerbaijan — Ilham Aliyev — visited the Belarusian exposition, while the Ambassador of Belarus to Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Genady Akhramovich, informed the Head of State about the products on display. The Belarusian Naftan Oil Refinery and its branch — Polymir Plant — demonstrated various oils and lubricants, acrylic fibres and all available types of polyethylene. The Mozyr Oil Refinery presented several kinds of gasoline and diesel fuel, furnace fuel, oil bitumen, hydrocarbon liquefied fuel gases and environmentally friendlier kerosene. In turn, Polotsk-Steklovolokno — one of the CIS' leading manufacturers of glass fibre and derivative products — demonstrated roving, chopped fibre and constructional glass-fibre mats that are

used as reinforcing components to make composite materials. The company also presented silica fabrics, which can handle temperatures in excess of 1,000C, chemical reagents, acids, and alkalis. As a novelty, direct-roving — used in the production of composite reinforcement — was demonstrated at the fair.

The Belneftkhim Concern's exposition was organised by BelInterExpo of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with assistance of the Belarusian Embassy in Azerbaijan.

Caspian Oil & Gas is hosted by Baku on an annual basis. Every year, the expo gathers over 300 companies from 30 countries, demonstrating equipment, services and innovative technologies for extracting oil and transporting energy resources, for making and purifying fuel, as well as raw materials for the chemical industry.

Potential seen details



At consultations of foreign ministries

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Belarus and Netherlands confirm interest in expanding economic ties and political dialogue — reported during a regular round of consultations on political affairs between the Belarusian and Dutch foreign ministries

The two sides confirmed their mutual interest in expanding co-operation, including the advancement of political dialogue and economic ties. The Belarusian delegation at the consultations was led by the

Deputy Foreign Minister, Oleg Kravchenko, and the Dutch delegation was headed by the Deputy Director General for Political Affairs of the Foreign Ministry — Pieter Jan Kleiweg de Zwaan.

The representatives of the Belarusian and Dutch foreign ministries discussed the state and prospects of Belarus-Netherlands relations in politics, trade and the economy, amongst other spheres. They touched upon human rights issues, Belarus' dialogue with the European Union, interaction at multilateral platforms and the current situation in the region.

Prices fixed in line with tariff control memorandum

Minsk hotels expected to offer accommodation to 2nd European Games 2019 guests at prices starting at \$15 per day



Hotels ready to welcome guests

By Oleg Bogomazov

The capital's hotels will offer rooms to guests of the 2nd European Games at prices starting at \$15 per day and not exceeding \$500-600 per day — depending on the type of hotel. There are a total of

52 hotels and five hostels in Minsk. They offer 6,000 rooms and can accommodate about 10,000 guests at any one time. As many as 31 hotel complexes with 5,000 rooms have been designated for accommodating official client groups of the Games. "At present, foreign

guests are confirming their bookings. Minsk hotels are busy selling spare rooms directly or via travel agencies. We believe the tourists who will come for the Games will have plenty accommodation options, including budget ones," said Yuri Natychko,

Deputy Head of the Central Office for the Consumer Market of the Minsk City Executive Committee.

As previously reported, Minsk hoteliers have signed a memorandum on keeping down prices for their services. Hotel prices just before and during the 2nd European Games must not increase by more than 10 percent compared with the prices registered on June 1st, 2018 (in Dollar equivalents under the National Banks' exchange rate).

Demand for accommodation in Minsk is primarily driven by foreign tourists, who account for about 80 percent of the hotel services sold in Minsk. The demand for rooms peaks during the New Year and May festivities. High-occupancy rooms are most in demand before and during events while requests for single-bed rooms drop considerably.

Taxis will not be too expensive

By Natalia Ignatieva



Taxis that don't increase their tariffs during the European Games will be marked with a special logo



The Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade (MART) has signed an additional agreement to the memorandum on the guaranteed level of tariffs for services of passenger transportation by taxi during the 2nd European Games.

The document defines the terms of use of a special logo, developed by the MART, to be placed on the participating cars who have committed to not raising tariffs for taxi services — including those ordered through mobile applications — from June 15th to July 5th, 2019.

The logo will be placed on the outside of the vehicle to inform passengers about the carrier's participation in the scheme. It can be viewed as an act of good faith in the market. In addition, the presence of the logo on vehicles that have joined the scheme will allow the MART to respond quickly to information about any violation of its conditions — by passengers or authorised bodies.

The list of participating taxi dispatching services is posted on the MART's official website. It has now been signed by representatives of the 15 major taxi dispatch services. Any taxi service provider can join the scheme by accepting its terms before the start of the 2nd European Games.

The memorandum on the guaranteed level of tariffs for passenger transportation by taxi during the 2nd European Games was signed on November 2nd, 2018 by the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Minsk City Executive Committee, on the one hand, and representatives of the major dispatching services of Minsk, on the other. From June 15th to July 5th, 2019, charges for taxi services in Minsk should not exceed those of April 1st, 2019.

Virtual 3D models for real buildings

3D models of Grodno's historical buildings will be created in Grodno's Yanka Kupala State University Sci-Tech Park



Grodno today

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

Information Technologies in Construction JSC is a new resident of the Park. The founders of the company were employees and students of the University's Engineering-Construction Department.

The idea of creating a company was presented at the students' start-up projects competition: *InNaStart*. Developers are now constructing the lost historical monuments. Among them is a model of the Boris and Gleb Monastery, which was destroyed. The Farny Roman Catholic Church — a popular place for tourists — is another model. Archive drawings help

visualise the constructions.

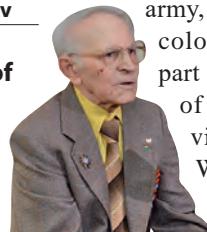
In addition, technology makes it possible to create virtual 3D models of new buildings, such as private houses or apartments. Depending on the complexity of the building, it takes between several hours and several weeks to develop a project. Each element of the building is made by hand.

The introduction of 3D technologies in construction and design is a modern trend. There are no other similar enterprises in Grodno. In the future, manufacturers plan to create bas-reliefs of the historical places of Grodno and promote their products to tourists, as well as enter the international market.

Live up to 75th anniversary of Victory

By Alexander Pimenov

The only survivor of the Brest Fortress' defenders — Piotr Kotelnikov — celebrates his 90th birthday

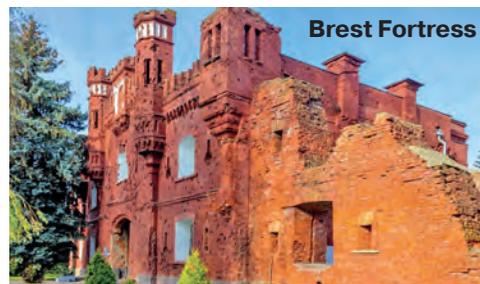


In 1941, Piotr — a pupil of the military band of the 44th rifle regiment — turned 12 years old. "The awakening that morning was terrible. In the first minutes of the war, we — the children of the regiments — rushed to the arsenals for weapons, following the adults, under exploding bombs and shells. We didn't manage to get any rifles however, as the fortress was burning. We were kept busy extinguishing fires in barracks, cellars, warehouses, crawling around gaining intelligence, searching for ammunition, making trips to the Bug River to collect water and helping the wounded, women and children. At the end of June, a group of fighters went for a breakthrough and took us with them," said the veteran, sharing his memories.

Mr. Kotelnikov didn't reach the front-line but worked at a tank factory in the Urals. He devoted over 30 years of his post-war life to the

army, to become a lieutenant colonel. Piotr had to take part in more fighting as part of his international service. He also joined the Western Soviet troops in Germany. For the defence of the Brest Fortress, he was awarded the Order of the Great Patriotic War of the 2nd Degree and received the Red Star Order for fulfilling his international duties.

The veteran now lives in Moscow. Despite his age and state of health, he welcomes each post-war dawn on June 22nd at Brest Fortress. He hopes to continue this tradition in 2019. "My major goal now is to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Victory, to share my memories as long as possible and tell the truth about the war. Unfortunately, some people forget or don't want to remember those who saved the world from the Nazi plague, but we and our descendants remember, and their children will not forget!" said Mr. Kotelnikov.



Brest Fortress

New extensive plans ahead

Belarus and China to draw up road map to enhance joint co-operation in field of humanities



By Alexey Fedosov

Belarusian and Chinese scholars have developed good ties and have already embarked on a number of projects. Currently, 31 organisations of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) have agreements and memoranda with the academic organisations of China. Twenty joint structures, research centres and laboratories with Chinese partners have been established at the National Academy of Sciences.

“The road map, filled with specific content and joint projects, will contribute to the broadening and intensification of co-operation,” stated the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Vladimir Gusakov.

The National Academy of Sciences

of Belarus and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences have been actively developing ties in philosophy and economic research. Belarus and China have also held three scientific forums on humanities and preparations are underway for a fourth. The potential of Chinese and Belarusian scholars will boost collaborative research in history, sociology and cultural development. The President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Xie Fuzhan, confirmed the willingness of Chinese scholars to work with Belarusian research organisations and noted that bilateral relations are maintained at a consistently high level.

The parties considered the NAS’ proposal to set up a laboratory of social sciences at the Chinese-Belarusian Great Stone Industrial Park. This would offer the possibility of conducting joint research in the field of humanities and social sciences as well as opportunities to organise events, conferences and forums.

Xie Fuzhan has been honoured with the ‘90 Years of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus’ medal and a commendation letter from the NAS Humanities and Arts Division for his robust co-operation and rapid development of Belarusian-Chinese scientific relations.



For real mercy and care

By Natalia Yemelyanova

Belarusian nurse receives Florence Nightingale Medal

The head nurse of the National Centre of Rehabilitation and Balneology — Galina Kulagina — has been awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal. The awards ceremony took place during the opening of the *Mission Humanitarianism* exhibition at the National Art Museum of Belarus.

Galina Kulagina graduated from nursing school in 1972. She started out in a TB hospital and was later transferred to a military facility. She has held various nursing roles and worked in different practice settings throughout the 50 years of her nursing career.

“This medal is bestowed only on very distinguished people. Only 12 professionals in Belarus have received it so far. Galina Kulagina fully deserves it. It is impor-

tant that we have people who do their own job well instead of looking for someone to do it for them. The medal is in the right hands. We really appreciate Galina Kulagina’s work,” said Belarus’ First Deputy Health Minister, Dmitry Pinevich, as he presented the medal.

The Florence Nightingale Medal is the highest international distinction a nurse can achieve. It is awarded every two years to a maximum number of fifty recipients worldwide. The medal is made of gold and silver-gilt and bears a portrait of Florence Nightingale surrounded by the words ‘Ad memoriam Florence Nightingale 1820-1910’. On the reverse, the name of the recipient and the date of the award are engraved, surrounded by the inscription ‘Provera misericordia et cara humanitate perennis decor universalis’ (‘true and loving humanitarianism — a lasting general propriety’).

Minsk ghetto victims commemorated in USA

By Arina Novikova

A joint Belarusian-American commemorative event to observe the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the Minsk ghetto and to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Belarus’ liberation from the Nazi invaders was held in New York

The Permanent Representative of Belarus to the UN — Valentin Rybakov — addressed the ceremony and presented the history of the Minsk ghetto. He also briefed the guests about the efforts Belarus has been making to preserve memories of the Great Patriotic War. He stated that Israel recognises the contribution of the Belarusian people to the saving of the Jews during the war, which is shown in the Righteous Among Nations award.



At New York meeting

The US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism — Elan Carr — stressed the need to involve the younger generation in the fight against anti-Semitism. He expressed appreciation for the Belarusian-American event, which took place at the US Department of State on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

During the ceremony, former prisoner of the Minsk ghetto and member of the underground movement — Savely Kap-

linsky — and the Belarusian partisan who was part of the Jewish resistance, Hone Epstein, received commemorative medals signed by US President Donald Trump and the Chairman of the US Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, Paul Packer.

Commemorative medals were also presented to the participants of the commemorative events on the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the Minsk ghetto in Minsk, in October 2018. The event was also attended by the Charge d’Affaires of Belarus to the United States — Pavel Shidlovsky, heads of missions of the United Nations member states, representatives of international Jewish and American organisations, students of several American educational institutions and representatives of the Belarusian diaspora.

Not too long to wait

By Olga Korneeva

Firefighter from Bobruisk, Yevgeny Los, plans a new Guinness world record

Yevgeny is taking a little time out after his two achievements last year, to rest and develop a training programme. In 2018, the Bobruisker set two records which are registered in the Guinness Book of World Records. Firstly, the young man managed to do 67 push-ups on the uneven bars, carrying an additional load of 40 pounds, in one minute, and during the second attempt, managed 53 push-ups with an additional weight of 60 pounds. He is currently preparing to break the record of an American who managed to do 31 push-ups with an additional 100 pounds, within a minute.

“During training, I’ve already managed to achieve the same as my Internet competitor, who lives in the USA, but I would like to try to raise the bar significantly higher,” noted the two-time record-breaker. “To achieve this, serious preparation and time are necessary. At the moment, I’d like to take a break to have a rest and to give some time to my wife and young daughter.”

Nevertheless, the Bobruisker practices street gymnastics for several hours daily and working out has become his lifestyle. “For me it has become the norm to be always in good physical shape. This allows me to feel cheerful and confident, while also helping with both the physical and psychological aspects of my work as a firefighter.”

According to Yevgeny, he plans to set a new record before the end of this year.

Soon to undergo trial testing

By Svetlana Savelieva

Mobile app for emergency operators developed in Gomel

A student of the Mathematics and Programming Technologies Faculty at the Gomel State University, Vladislav Yefimenkov, has developed an application to locate both ambulances and patients online. The BELTA correspondent was told of the innovation by the Head of the University’s Computing Mathematics and Programming Department, Dmitry Kuzmenkov, who heads the project.

The new application will help the emergency services to react to calls even more promptly. The principle is based on the automatic monitoring of all ambulances in the online application. The information is shown on the emergency station’s operators interactive map, where the location of each team and its status (free, about to attend a call or busy: driving with a patient or to an emergency call) is shown. The location of the caller is also shown.

The application sends information about the co-ordinates and status of the

emergency service to the station using the mobile device of the crew doctor. The operator will be able to determine the nearest free team to the patient; moreover, data about traffic jams and vehicle average speed on urban streets will be shown.

At present, the application is undergoing trial testing at the Gomel city emergency station and it’s planned to connect all the station’s ambulances to the programme.

After adjustments, the innovation can be used in transport and logistics companies, as well as by delivery services.



Power struggle to find next EU leader continues

EU leaders hope to have their proposal for the next EU Commission president ready by the next summit on June 21st, said European Council President Donald Tusk

The leaders from the 28 member states were in Brussels for a summit that highlighted the wrangling among member states in choosing the next European Commission

president following the European elections.

During the informal dinner, however, no names were mentioned, according to Mr. Tusk. "We did not discuss names tonight, only the process," he said.

Jean-Claude Juncker's replacement — who will have the top job in the EU — must first be nominated by the European Council, which is made

up of leaders from all 28 member states. This particular summit pits rival states (Germany vs France) and even regions (north vs south) against one another and it all begins over an informal dinner hosted by Mr. Tusk.

The Council President also said gender balance was his 'personal ambition' when it comes to Commission appointments.

Mr. Tusk's preference was also highlighted by French President Emmanuel Macron, who said he wanted two women and two men for the top four EU posts.

This call could prove beneficial for current EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, who is the lead candidate with Macro's liberal ALDE & Renaissance alliance.

New protection for UK bank customers

New protection for individuals tricked into transferring money to fraudsters has now taken effect

Some 84,000 bank customers lost money — sometimes tens of thousands of Pounds — last year after being caught out through so-called authorised pushed payment (APP) scams.

Only a fraction of the amounts lost was refunded by banks. Now a new code should mean more will be reimbursed.

Ruth Evans, who led the steering group which came up with the scheme, said that it is a 'watershed' moment. "It will mean that any customer of a bank or a payment service provider which has signed up to the code will be fully reimbursed if they fall victim to an APP scam," she said.

Eight banks have signed up and she is hoping other banks will follow suit. She defended the scheme against critics who say bank customers should not be compensated.

"What this code clearly does is gives obligations to the banks to help customers more by ensuring consumer protection standards and preventing, detecting the scams that are made. It also gives responsibility to consumers to make sure that they too are responsible in the way they heed warnings from banks," the official said.

Everest deaths: four reasons why this climbing season went wrong



Over the past two decades, the average annual death rate of climbers on Mount Everest has remained at about six

But this spring, at least 10 people have already been reported dead or missing on the world's highest peak. This is also the season that saw a record 381 climbing permits issued by the Nepalese Government.

Many of the climbers began gathering at Everest base camp at the start of May. At the same time, the authorities were concerned about the knock-on effects of Cyclone Fani which had already struck India and Bangladesh. The weather deteriorated in the Nepalese Himalayas days after the cyclone, forcing the Government to suspend all mountaineering activities for at

least two days.

Climbers had to wait for hours below the summit — both on the way up and on the way down. Many of them were exhausted and their oxygen cylinders were running low.

Nepal's mountaineering regulation requires expedition teams to have liaison officers on the mountains. This time, 59 of them were appointed to accompany the teams but only five of them stayed until the final part of the climb. Some did not even turn up, while most of those who did went home after a few days at the base camp.

Mountaineering experts say there is also an increase in the number of inexperienced climbers joining the growing crowd on Everest. This time round, many of them had just one Sherpa guide with their team, officials at the base camp said.

The quest to get anyone willing to pay has been mainly down to intense competition between operators, particularly old and new ones. With the entry of new expedition operators offering cheaper prices, mountaineers say even some of the established ones have been forced to cut their fees.



Boeing says it has corrected simulator software of 737 MAX jets used to train pilots

Boeing Co makes corrections to simulator software that mimics the flying experience of its 737 MAX jets, which were involved in two fatal crashes, and the company provides additional information to devise operators

The spokesman, Gordon Johndroe, said the changes will ensure that the simulator experience is representative across different flight conditions and will improve the simulation of force loads on the manual trim wheel that helps control the aeroplane.

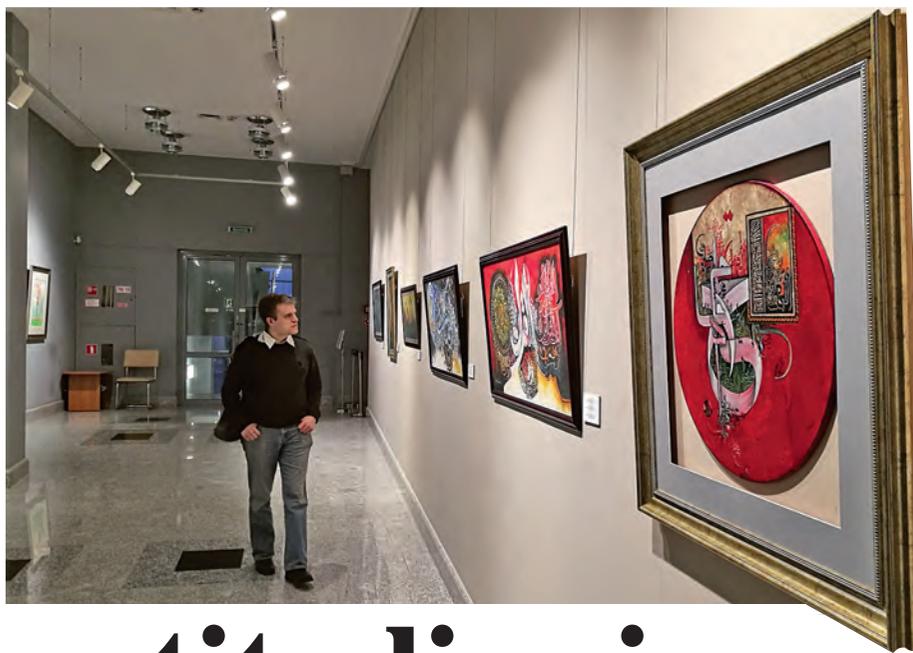
The comments came after it was reported that Boeing recently discovered that the flight simulators airlines use to train pilots could not adequately replicate

conditions that played a role in the 737 MAX crashes.

"Boeing is working closely with the device manufacturers and regulators on these changes and improvements, and to ensure that customer training is not disrupted," Mr. Johndroe said.

The 737 MAX was grounded in March following a fatal Ethiopian Airlines crash that killed all 157 on board just five months after a similar crash of a Lion Air flight of a 737 MAX killed 189 people. Boeing said it had completed a software update for its 737 MAX jets and that is also submitting a plan on pilot training to the US Federal Aviation Administration.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Reflection of identity lies in the amazing beauty of things

By Veniamin Mikheev

Although the exhibition is already over, its impact and informative content is well worth reporting on. Initially, Belarus' National Art Museum hosted the show entitled *The Art of Pakistan*, which then moved to the Minsk Institute of Culture's Gallery. In both places, it aroused great interest among the audience. The artefacts were kindly provided by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the Republic of Belarus. We have produced an interesting selection of photos illustrating the exhibition, on show at the National Art Museum.

The Art of Pakistan is based not only on its Muslim heritage. It goes back to the pre-Islamic traditions of the peoples of the Indian subcontinent. In the middle of the third and to the middle of the second millennium BC, a highly developed civilisation existed in the Indus River valley. The city of Mohenjo-daro — located in Pakistan, in the Sindh Province — was one of its centres. Starting from the third century BC, a system of art was formed in the



Gandhara area which flourished during the Kushan Kingdom. The remains of stupas, reliefs, statues of Buddha and the Buddhist complexes of Dharmarāja and Jaulian have survived. However, with the adoption of Islam in Pakistan, the active development of new types of architectural monuments — such as mosques, minarets, mausoleums and defence structures in Multan, Peshawar and Lahore — began.

The Islamic religious culture partially borrowed techniques and stylistic features from previous eras, but also introduced many new ideas.



Art which brings people closer

For example, the complex, sophisticated and extremely decorative art of calligraphy stands apart. Based on the authority

and sacred status of the Quran, calligraphic art has become an extensive field where both the conservative tradition and the most daring experiments co-exist. The exhibition in Minsk featured works by a number of contemporary Pakistani artists such as Zulfiqar Ali, Tahir Bin Qalandar and Irfan Rahman.

In contemporary art, Pakistani artists draw inspiration from both world and national culture. In their works, the legacy of Mughal miniatures, ancient Indian paintings, the experience of European realistic art and modernist trends are noticeable. The modern

masters of Pakistan's arts and crafts are known for their silver and gold ornaments, pottery, carved wood and bone objects. Pakistani carpet-makers today hand-weave carpets of wool or silk, in light tones with decorative, geometric or floral patterns.

The exhibition in Minsk was a combination of traditional and modern works of art with a number of artistic photographs which depicted landmarks and objects of Pakistan. Among them was, for example, the second highest mountain in the world — Chogori Peak or Rohtas Fort — included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The show, hosted by the country's main museum and a Minsk gallery, offered paintings, ceramics, weaving, national women's costume and acces-



sories, various interior items, as well as photographs reflecting the nature and architecture of Pakistan. An extensive print section was also on show, allowing visitors to familiarise themselves with the peculiarities of Pakistan's art.

The culture of Pakistan is unique in its combination of different traditions based on Islamic heritage. However, it's impossible to ignore the fact that the pre-Islamic traditions of the peoples of the Indian subcontinent add originality to Pakistani national colour. The fusion of the many cultures of the different communities living in the state allows local craftsmen to create items unique in their beauty and originality. This was acknowledged by the organisers and the numerous visitors who attended the exhibition with genuine interest.

When comparison only enhances the beauty

A joint Belarusian-Chinese exhibition — *China Through the Eyes of Belarusian Artists, Belarus Through the Eyes of Chinese Artists* — opens in Beijing

By Alexander Pimenov

In the summer of 2016, ten well-known Belarusian artists — V. Prokoptsov, K. Kachan, I. Kosobuko, E. Sumoreva, V. Kozhukh, N. Mishchenko, M. Isaenok, V. Kostyuchenko, P. Prokoptsov and V. Vasyuk — at the invitation of the Chinese — took part in an open air workshop in Chongqing, where they painted pictures reflecting Be-

larusian artists' views on the natural world of China.

Two years later, a group of teachers and students of the Institute of Fine Arts at Yulin Pedagogical University visited Belarus and captured local architectural monuments — including those on the UNESCO list. Among their pictures were also some unique Belarusian landscapes, as described by the Chinese visitors.

As a result, the present show in Beijing features works of Belarusian artists who took part in the open air workshop and paintings created by Chinese artists staying in Belarus last October. The exposition accurately reflects how the Chinese viewed Belarusian nature and how Belarusian artists portray the splendour of Chinese mountains and rivers.

The show is organised by the Belarusian Confederation of Artistic Unions with Belarus' National Art Museum. It is held with the assistance of Belarus' Foreign Ministry, the Belarusian Embassy in the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Culture.



At Beijing meetings

CULTURE

The Minsk Times
Thursday
June 6
2019

9

Exhibits speak with eloquence

Great Patriotic War History Museum acknowledged to be most visited last year



Museum exposition arouses sincere emotions

By Vladimir Mikhailov

The Belarusian State Great Patriotic War History Museum, the Brest Hero Fortress Memorial Complex and the Nesvizh National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve were acknowledged as the most popular museums in Belarus in 2018. This information was published on the Belarusian Statistical Committee's website in the review of the International Day of Museums.

The Great Patriotic War History Museum was placed first in the rating of the most popular museums, welcoming 571,000 visitors. Brest Fortress attracted 522,000 guests and the Nesvizh Muse-

um-Reserve was attended by 422,000. Fourth place went to the Gomel Palace and Park Ensemble, visited by 333,000, followed by the Mir Castle Complex (320,000) and the Khatyn State Memorial Complex (237,000).

There are currently 159 museums in Belarus — including 97 combined, 43 historical, 13 art, 4 literary and 2 natural history museums. In 2018, over 5,000 temporary exhibitions were organised for visitors, in addition to over 132,000 excursions. Seven million people attended them.

Each museum has a unique history and is proud of its exhibits, the number of which is growing every year.

As of late 2018, the main museum archive comprised almost 3.5m artefacts.

There are also private museums in the country and the Dudutki Museum Complex of Ancient Folk Crafts and Technologies enjoys the greatest popularity: last year, it welcomed 110,000 guests. The Dukorsky Maentak Museum Complex was visited by 68,000 people and 46,000 went to the Sula Park-Museum of Interactive History.

While preserving identity and promoting national culture, the museums of Belarus adhere to the best traditions of world museum practice in their activities and serve the spiritual development of society.

Belarus and Belarusians at MGIMO

Moscow State Institute of International Relations hosts *Belarus and Belarusians* exhibition which features articles from the National History Museum of Belarus

By Svetlana Savelieva

The exhibition has been organised by the Belarusian Embassy in Russia and the Belarusian community at MGIMO University. "The exposition showcases a historic review of the major stages of Belarus' development (ancient period, early states, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the Polish-Lith-



Exhibition gathers many visitors

uanian Commonwealth, the Russian Empire, the Soviet Byelorussia, the Republic of Belarus), while displaying Belarusian tangible and intangible culture," said Senior Counselor of the Embassy, Vasily Chernik, at the opening ceremony. "The exhibition presents the cultural heritage of the Belarusian nation as an

inalienable part of the international community."

The show is made of mobile stands with documents, high-quality pictures, photos and explanatory texts in Belarusian and English. The opening ceremony included a poetry reading by Belarusian students of MGIMO University and a Belarusian cuisine tasting.

Popular approach to country's musical art

By Olga Korneeva

Belarus debuts in the Chinese Music of the World project at the National Centre for Performing Arts

The Republic was represented by the Vetakh group from the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts. The team was established in 1997, by Vyacheslav Kalatsei, from among the professional musicians and young people of Minsk, as a post-folk group of strings, pipe music and singing based on the authentic traditions of Belarus. A traditional dance performed by Nikolay Kozenka became the third 'act' in the band's repertoire. The group has performed at prestigious venues in Belarus and abroad, from Europe and

the Dnieper to the Atlantic.

Before the concert, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to China — H.E. Mr. Kirill Rudy — noted that Belarusian musical art is a unique phenomenon. The country first performed its folk and dance traditions at the Music of the World project in the Year of Education of the Republic of Belarus in China.

Launched in 2010, the project aims to promote intercultural exchanges and popularise the musical art of the peoples of the world. It has offered more than 120 performances. The project has already featured Brazil, Spain, Mongolia, Romania, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Estonia amongst others.

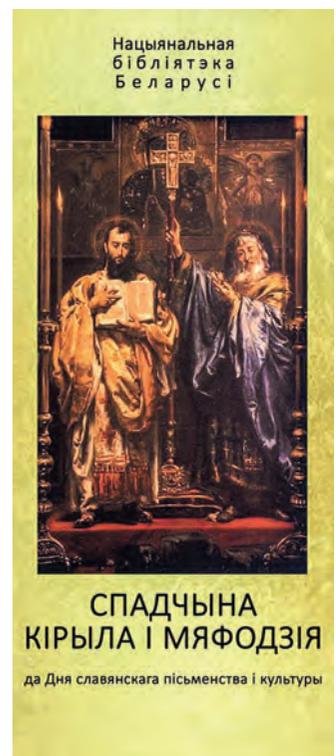
Rich spiritual heritage of two enlightening brothers

Book exhibition about the heritage of Kirill and Mefody opens at the National Library

By Natalia Yemelyanova

On May 24th, many countries of Eastern and Southern Europe remember the great Slavonic enlighteners, Kirill and Mefody, while, in Belarus, this day is celebrated as the Day of Slavonic Written Language and Culture.

In this regard, the National Library has prepared a book exhibition, entitled *The Heritage of Kirill and Mefody*, to show the importance of the work of these enlightenment brothers for the development of European civilisation. The event showcases around fifty documents printed within 120 years. They include the original editions of Josef Dobrovský, Ivan Malyshevsky and Piotr Lavrovsky — the first researchers of the life of Kirill and Mefody. In addition, works by Russian and Western European authors are also on display, as are the first Kirill-and-Mefody collections and textbooks in the Church Slavonic language. The expo-



sition is augmented with a facsimile edition of the Ostromir Gospel (1056-1057), the Anthology of Svyatoslav (1073) and the Turov Gospel — the oldest manuscript in Belarus (11th century).

In 863, the Prince of Great Moravia, Rostislav, invited missionaries from Byzantine to translate the Bible and introduce divine services in the Slavonic language. For this purpose, the brothers Kirill and Mefody created the Slavonic alphabet and translated the Bible into the Old Slavonic language. In this way, the peoples of the Southern and part of Central and Eastern Europe received access to the unique spiritual heritage of ancient civilisations.

Daring trio

Veronika Nabokina, Yulia Ivonchik and Karina Sandovich talk about themselves, their sport and the 2nd European Games

By Tatiana Pastushenko

At the 1st European Games in Baku, our acrobats Yekaterina Borisevich, Veronika Nabokina and Karina Sandovich won three bronze medals. Meanwhile, a new line-up is preparing for the Games in Minsk: Yekaterina Borisevich — who has retired from the sport, married and given birth to a child — is replaced by Yulia Ivonchik who has returned to the team. The girls talk about themselves and their expectations from the home tournament.

a weight of about 85kg. Our top girl needs the most serious physical training since she must constantly work with her own weight.

On the European Games

I'm not excited yet. This will probably come later. I was anxious on the eve of the 1st European Games as we knew nothing about what they would be like. It's much more difficult to perform at home, as all we hear from everyone is that we must win gold. Just imagine, even a taxi driver has said this to me! We began talking and he said, "Go and win a gold!" What could I say? Of course, we'll do our best.

Karina Sandovich
19 years old,
15 years in gymnastics

Veronika Nabokina
23 years old,
17 years in acrobatics

On acrobatics

I was born in Gomel. During my first year at school, a coach came to our class and suggested we try gymnastics. My parents didn't think twice. I attended gymnastics classes for six months and began to make progress. My coaches offered me the chance to try acrobatics. That's how it all began. In general, the difference between gymnastics and acrobatics is huge: in gymnastics, everyone acts for themselves and, in acrobatics, we work as a team. Another difference is that there is a lot of different apparatus in gymnastics, while we have mainly free exercises — albeit of three types.

On physical training

I occupy bottom position in our group of three when making pyramids and other combinations, I keep the girls supported. This is not difficult but probably looks it from the outside. Technique is the key and, on mastering it, it becomes quite simple to lift

On partners

Our partners have changed many times but the present group of three is comfortable: we find a common language easily and have no serious disagreements. Although we sometimes get tired of each other: at times like this, we just need to have a rest. We communicate not only during training but also in our normal lives and even holiday together.

On weight

I perform on the top. My height is 150cm and my weight is 35kg. The main task for me is to keep this weight. I don't eat sweet, fatty, fried, flour or fast food — almost everything. During workouts, I work on my own elements on special 'stalls', do exercises for flexibility and stretching. In many ways, all the elements we perform depend on me. The girls will do their job, but if I make a mistake, then no part of the



Ladies ready to win medals in Minsk

routine can be performed. It's a great responsibility.

On cosmetics

I love make-up. It's not a problem for me to come to a training session in make-up. This is another of my hobbies. I also make-up the girls at competitions. If I leave the sport, I will have something to do.

On the Games

It was great at the 1st European Games in Baku. Many sports were represented, and the athletes lived together. The hall and the atmosphere were wonderful. Of course, there was also some chaos and it was important to cope with the nerves. It was not possible to follow other sports: we had no time and only attended the competitions in sport and rhythmic gymnastics which took place in the same hall as us. They will be held in the same format in Minsk: the Minsk-Arena will host events in acrobatics, sporting aero-

bics, gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics. It will be interesting!

Yulia Ivonchik
24 years old,
19 years in acrobatics

On choices

In my childhood, I watched rhythmic gymnastics competitions when girls sat in the splits and did other beautiful moves. I began to copy them at home. My parents noticed that I was standing on my head all the time and decided to take me along to the sport. Fortunately, there was an acrobatics school not far from my house.

On the group of three

I have been friends with Karina and Veronika for a long time: previously, we performed in the same line-up. I then moved to another team and Yekaterina Borisevich performed with the girls. When one girl moved from

my group, I also gave up the sport. At the age of 21, I got married and spent little time on training; I got a bit tired as I'd given a lot of time to training and performances. A year later, the coaches persuaded me to return. Oddly enough, I quickly joined line-up.

On family

My husband is also an athlete. In the past, he took part in mixed martial arts and triple jump. At present, he keeps his form in the gym. Of course, we do not love leaving each other and training camps are a challenge for us. However, he treats my work with understanding and is happy to take over domestic affairs if necessary.

The competitions in sporting acrobatics will be held on June 22nd-23rd at Minsk-Arena: 40 athletes will compete for six sets of medals

For tourists' benefit

By Svetlana Yevgenieva

First information points for guests of 2nd European Games open on June 19th

The information points will be found in competition venues and at major transport hubs. The first will open on June 19th — a few days before the Games, so that guests who arrive in advance can get information support.

Volunteers will offer everyone advertising and information materials and free tourist maps which show the



Everything is ready

cultural and historical places and attractions of the city, they will also be able to assist them in finding the way to their hotel or sports facilities. Information points near the

sports complexes will open according to the competition schedule. Those near services (railway stations, airports) will open a few days before the start of the Games and will close several days after their completion.

As the Head of the Main Department of Sports and Tourism at the Minsk City Executive Committee — Mikhail Prokopenko — notes, all the elements of the 2nd European Games are in a high degree of readiness and are already hosting test competitions.

Joining list of best gymnasts

By Olga Korneeva

Belarusian athlete Ivan Ivankov inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame, with the official ceremony held in American Oklahoma City

Ivan Ivankov is a double world all-around champion (1994 and 1997) and double European all-around champion. He is also an 11-time world medalist. Apart from Ivan Ivankov, now working in the United States, those honoured in 2019 are: Shawn Johnson of the United States, Russia's Maria Filato-



Ivan Ivankov

va and China's Li Xiao Peng.

Other Belarusian gymnasts inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame are Olga Korbut, Nellie Kim, Svetlana Boginskaya and Vitaly Shcherbo.

SPORT



The Minsk Times
Thursday
June 6
2019

11



Opening of the week

Summer cultural-tourist season launches in Minsk's Troitsky Suburb

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS
20 Lenin Street
Until 21st June. *Two Worlds of the Russian Icon: 17th Century Artefacts from the Collection of the Museum of Russian Icon Painting (Moscow)*
Until 30th June. *Salvador Dali*
Until 3rd July. *Games*
Until 8th July. *Travelling Along Rhine*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM
12 Karl Marx Street
Until 24th June. *Surrealistic Vision of Georgy Skripnichenko*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS
116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 11th August. *Fantasy Land*

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS
11 Sovetskaya Street
Until 27th June. *Impressions*
Until 2nd August. *Killed Strongmen of Belarusian Land*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS
47 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 9th June. *Knight's Affair*

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY
15 Svobody Square
Until 15th September. *Lady's Tricks*
Until 15th September. *European Martial Arts. From Volcano's Smithy to Mars' Arts*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY
12 K. Marx Street
Until 1st September. *Dangerous Beauty*

TROITSKY SUBURBS
7A Bogdanovich Street
Until 2nd August. *Live Singing Birds*

DREAMLAND
80 Orlovsкая Street
Until 15th September. *Festival of Sand Sculptures*

VLADISLAV GOLUBOK PARLOUR
14 Starovilenskaya Street
Until 28th June. *Robo Art*

LOSHITSA ESTATE
8 Chizhevsky Lane
Until 27th October. *Belarusian Diamond in Crown of Palladium Orthodox Icons*

VANKOVICH'S HOUSE
33a Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 10th July. *Images of Epoch in Works by Czeslaw and Stanislaw Moniuszko*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE
1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
06.06. The Bat
07.06. Anyuta
09 and 10.06. Salomea
11.06. Corsair / Jubilee Among Friends

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE
5 Volodarsky Street
06.06. Oscar and Red Lady
08.06. He and She
11.06. How to Become Rich
12.06. Dangerous Ties

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS
13 Pobediteley Avenue
06 and 07.06. Mixed Feelings
08 and 10.06. In Search of True Self
11.06. Night of Anton Chekhov's Miniatures
12.06. Unnamed Star
13.06. Battlefield

MUSICAL THEATRE
44 Myasnikov Street
06.06. I Want Your Husband
07.06. The Bat
09.06. Hello, I'm Charlie's Aunt
10.06. Secret Marriage
11.06. My Wife is a Lier
12.06. Once in Chicago
13.06. Jane Eire

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE
7 Engels Street
06.06. Harvest / Inspector
07.06. Love as Militarism
09.06. Kupala Night Dream
10.06. ART / Shabany
11.06. Black Lady of Nesvizh / Prudok Homeland
12.06. People on Marshes
13.06. Jeweller's Jubilee

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE
44 Kropotkin Street
06.06. Concrete
10.06. Hunting for Self
11.06. Lift
12.06. Adam's Jokes
13.06. Three Giselles

MINSK CONCERT HALL
5 Oktyabrskaya Street
12.06. There Is No Such Country As Holland

NEW DRAMA THEATRE
16 Liza Chaikina Street
12.06. Zhanna
13.06. Bonus Session of Psychoanalysis

OK16
16 Oktyabrskaya Street
07-09.06. Air
11.06. We Shall Live Here
12.06. From College