

Today: *Cold* or *Warm*?

18.07
2014
+12..+24

Happy Birthday to:

Amanmadov Allamyrat
18.07.1997

Kazakh for special situations

I can't speak Kazakh.
Men Qa-zaq til-de soi-le-se al-mai-myn.

Look out!
Qa-ra-ngyz!

Do you speak English?
Siz agyl-shyn-sha soi-lei-siz be?

I'm stick
Myen auyrp turmyn.

Help!
K'o-mek-te-si-ngiz shi!



Excursion to the Palace of Schoolchildren

The Palace of Schoolchildren proved to be a nice destination right after the experimental section of the Olympiad. This is not only because the Palace has a number of fun tools, such as conic sections and function simulators, to study physics, but also because the Palaca offers soft wrestling area and loud piano. These two proved to be exactly what physics students needed following the exam.

Ashot from Armenia met Vincent from Belgium on the wrestling area. The two guys demonstrated perfect knowledge of physics, skillful use of wrestling tactics, and tried to apply all sorts of laws in their match. But as it often happens in the Olympiad, the friendship won and the two left happy after an exciting exercise. Somewhat excited by their Belgian countryman's performance, Colin and Nil decided to settle their dispute on the wrestling area as well. Their battle, however, was fast. One could see that they have been wrestling each other for a long time.

Some of the volunteers began worrying seeing that their genius guests can be quite brutal. And right at this moment, Hrant from Armenia and Edric from Australia saved the face of "brutal" physicists by playing Bach's Toccata and Ravel's Sonatine on piano. Some guides at the Palace whispered Kazakh proverbs, such as "A talented man is talented in everything" and "These men are of seven qualities and one mystery" (which basically means "awesome"). It turned out that Edric has been doing piano for 12 years and physics for 2 years, which made me think he came to a wrong competition. That's how great the guys played piano.



ORGANIZER

SUPPORTED BY

SPONSOR

Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Republican Scientific and Practical center "Daryn"

Nazarbayev University

Nazarbayev University Research and Innovation System

Akimat of Astana

The Company "Exxon Mobil Kazakhstan Inc."

ASTA News Staff:
Gabit Bekakhmetov (Editor in Chief)
Bolat Moldakhanov (Designer)
Madina Bidauletova
Zhanel Ospanova

IT & Multimedia:
Azhar Rakhletova (Chief)
Assylykan Omashev
Inar Galiyamshin
Maksat Aubakirov

17.07.2014

#5 45th Ph

The Final Round

The final round of the International Physics Olympiad 2014 took place today. The whole section was dedicated to the experimental part of the olympiad. This year, the participants had to solve one problem using various physical equipments provided to them. The olympiad participants spent a total of five grueling hours tackling the experimental problem. However, later on when asked if the duration of the exam was too long, a lot of the participants said that time simply flew by for them while they were immersed in solving their problem. Nonetheless, spending over 5 hours on one tough problem took its toll on most of the participants, who simply looked tired and drained out as they staggered on to the cafeteria to have their lunch.



Al-Farabi, the Scientist from the Steppe

Nomads often boast about their world conqueror warriors, such as Genghis Khan, Atilla, and Tamerlane. Yet, they forget to mention scientists that made important contributions to the world of science and philosophy. Therefore, let us introduce you to Al Farabi, who was born in the ancient Kazakh city of Farab (Otrar) in the southern part of Kazakhstan, right near the famous Syrdarya river.



Al-Farabi (Abū Naṣr Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad Fārābī) known in the West as Alfarabius was a renowned scientist and philosopher of the Islamic Golden Age. He was also a cosmologist, logician, and musician. Through his commentaries and treatises, Al-Farabi became well known among medieval Muslim intellectuals as "The Second Teacher", that is, the successor to Aristotle, "The First Teacher". Maimonides, the most important Jewish thinker of the Middle Ages, called Al Farabi "the Second Master". Al Farabi played an essential role in the handing down of Aristotle's thought to the Christian West in the Middle Ages and making important commentaries on Aristotle's and Plato's works.

In Physics, Al-Farabi thought about the nature of the existence of void. He may have carried out the first experiments concerning the existence of vacuum, in which he investigated handheld plungers in water. He concluded that air's volume can expand to fill available space, and he suggested that the concept of perfect vacuum was incoherent.

In Psychology, Al-Farabi wrote important treatises on social psychology and interpretation of dreams. His works on ideal city is considered a classic work in political thought. In Music, he wrote a classic work called The Book of Music. In Meanings of the Intellect, Al-Farabi discussed the therapeutic effects of music on the soul.

Kazakh treat Al-Farabi with respect and admiration. Some people name their children Farabi. In fact, Kazakh National University in Almaty is named after Al-Farabi. When Kazakh Tenge was first introduced in 1993, the "One Tenge" bill had Al-Farabi on its front side.

Delegate of PRC: Academic Olympics in Astana is a main event in the World of Physics



45th International Physics Olympics which is being held in Astana is the main event of the year in the world of physics. Such is an opinion expressed by the head of the PRC's delegation, Phan Seng. «We came with our strongest team, because the Academic Olympics in Astana is a main event of the year. For such international events we choose a dozen of participants from almost 500 students. Part of them performs at the Asian or the local contests; another part goes to the international Olympics. All in all, we conduct a very rigorous selection. That why this year, as always, we have good chances», - said Ph. Seng.

According to him, the organization of the event deserves a special praise. "The International Physics Olympics in Astana will stay in the memories of its participants for a long time. Everything is organized excellently. From the moment of arrival to the airport the participants were surrounded with attention.

The conditions of accommodation, preparation and participation in the Olympics are of the world-class. We have been to the Nazarbayev University. I liked it, as well as the rest of our delegation members", - he added.

In addition, our Chinese guest has mentioned the successes of students from Kazakhstan in the academic competitions of the world. "Kazakhstan has quickly earned the trust with its results. If my memory serves me, during the period from 2010 to 2013 your team has won three gold, one silver and one bronze medal in various international academic Olympics. That is a very good result. This year, I think, your students will also earn some medal places, because the Olympics are held in Astana, and we know that the children from Kazakhstan have been preparing hard", - concluded the leader of PRC's team.

Leonid Markovich, head of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus: Astana is a young and progressive city



Capital of Kazakhstan is a young and progressive city which impresses all its guests. Such an opinion was expressed during the interview by Leonid Markovich, head of the delegation of the Republic of Belarus.

"First, I would like to thank the organizers for what they did at the difficult time for the International Olympics, when one of the countries refused and Kazakhstan lent its shoulder by offering to host the Olympics. It is very difficult to host an event of such magnitude on such a short notice. But, after coming here, we are convinced that you've done everything in time", - said L. Markovich. He emphasized how Astana appeals to every last one of the delegation members. "We came to Astana for the first time. From the moment we've landed on the Kazakh soil and until this day

everything goes splendidly. The children are living and working at the Nazarbayev University – a modern and high-tech building, and are very happy to be there", - he pointed out.

In addition, L. Markovich expressed his certainty in the fact that, in the future, Kazakhstan will achieve new heights. "I was shocked by the fact that this city is only seventeen years old, she has only graduated from school, so to speak, and yet she is already so beautiful. The things you and your President have done are just fantastic. The streets are broad, the atmosphere is friendly, people are always smiling at us and greeting us seeing our Olympics participant's badges. I am sure that Astana leaves a deep impression in all of its guests. She is a young and progressive city. I think that Kazakhstan has more achievements ahead of it", - concluded our Belarus guest.

Staff and students: registration and activities

