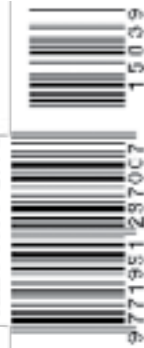


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According to preliminary data from the Central Election Commission, Alexander Lukashenko has won the Presidential elections, being supported by 83.49 percent of voters

## ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO elected President of Republic of Belarus

BELTA



The President took part in voting at polling station #1, in Minsk's Tsentralny District, located within the University of Physical Culture. From early morning, it was busy, with voters progressively appearing, watched by foreign observers, who eagerly shared their assessment of the process. The majority perceived the elections as being held calmly, with no deviation from legislation. It was a full house at the site, which was designated for the President's communication with the press. Initially, a short conversation was planned, which later transformed into a substantive press conference. A free microphone was in place, allowing each journalist (Belarusian and foreign) to ask questions. Mr. Lukashenko bid farewell to journalists only once convinced that all questions had been asked, and invited them to come to Belarus any time to see, listen and draw their own conclusions. He asked only one thing: objectivity. In his conversation with journalists, the President particularly focused on:



Some years ago, at a similar meeting after voting, you promised to invite reporters to your home, to show you place and way of life...

Are you really willing to see my home? I will consult with my family and, then, invite you. At least, I'll try. I have nothing to hide. By the way, I have no residence of my own. Today I came from the house built and used by Piotr Masherov. He should have had a large family — there are 3 or 4 bedrooms, and I don't need them all. Therefore, some were converted into a study and archives, and that was the only reconstruction made. Besides, I planted gardens and harvest crops from previously abandoned lands, but that is not interesting at all. Generally, it is the same house as any other has, except, maybe, its size, but it is not me who shall be blamed for, but the original builder.

Can you guarantee that Belarus within the post-Soviet space will remain the most Russia-friendly state?

It's an absolutely incorrect question. We are not just staying, as we do now, the most Russia-friendly country. It's a brotherly and the closest country for us. You can be sure. I state it in front of Western correspondents, so that Russian mass media wouldn't show it in other way that we turn to this or that side. I see why it happens so. There are some forces in Russia, I have known them for ages, and they do not change their position, and they would like to spoil our relations. They did not succeed and they will not. We will not remain just friends. We are native people and native countries. We will always stick to this position. Of course, with our own point of view. For sure, someone initially did not like our position regarding Ukraine. So what? Now you also support it. If two brothers fall out, the third one will not pour oil on flames. He should do his best to eliminate a conflict, rather than a fight. And we occupy such position. In case we ever were in conflict with Russia — the Ukrainians would take exactly the same position. In case we ever faced a conflict with the Ukrainians — the Russians would take such position. We want peace, and the Russians for us have always been both economically and politically close. Whether others like it or not.

Give us, please, some explanations regarding Russian military base.

We don't need any bases. Simply understand it. I don't play with anyone and don't comment the topic of the day. We and Russia are not just busy building the Union State, we are also in the Collective Security Treaty Organisation. It's a military and political union, like NATO. Within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation we have divided zones of responsibilities. We are in the West. We are immediately interconnected with the structures of the North Atlantic Alliance. It's a fact. On this basis we don't want to make war and always point to this, but we are ready to fight — we build some adequate policy. Due to this within the frameworks of the CSTO, and first of all, that of the Union State, we have concluded with Russia an agreement and a great number of contracts to amend it in terms of ensuring stable economic, political and military-political status of ours. We are here, on the western line, and together with the Russian Federation we have created the corresponding military alignment. Belarusian army is in its basis. 70 thousand soldiers for today. The army is constantly being modernised. We look at the conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, earlier on — in Iraq. We look at the methods applied in war and we make the corresponding conclusions adjusting our Armed Forces to these

conflicts. After Iraqi campaign we literally turned the development of our Armed Forces around. And two more times afterwards. The last time was after the Ukrainian conflict. We adjust our Armed Forces to possible conflict.

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We don't need it today. We need, although all the hot problems are solved, air defence. I've told it already. We had two weak points: Brest and near-Minsk territory. I put a question before the Russians: we have to protect them. Life in Russia was not that bad, but they did lack money. Then I asked them to sell S-300 from the reserve. We bought them. Our specialists modernised them, and we protected these points. But if Russia had supported us with rocketry, we would not have had to spend great money to create such systems as 'Polonaise'. Range is about 200 kilometres. We did it without Russia. Today we work on other systems that will make war against Belarus impossible. Planes, even if it is a regiment, won't cool down NATO, whereas missiles — indeed.

That is why air defence and mighty attack missile systems are aimed to protect Russia and Belarus. You should know, if you say that you want to make war in your territory or from Poland with Russia... Well, the Belarusians, we are going to make war and you have nothing to do with that — don't you say that. We will launch the war against you immediately. We have an agreement about it with Russia. But we will be here in Belarus protecting the Belarusian land. In a few days we will be supported with planes, and non-ballistic missiles on the Russian part.

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# Talking sincerely about vital issues

This election campaign was unprecedented in terms of number of foreign observers and authorities' desire to meet the demands of international organisations in relation to national election law's integration into their standards. Would you like to express any claims or wishes to the candidates and those intended to assess the elections?

Maybe, you are the one who knows some international standards, but I'm not. I would like to be familiarised with some standards that we should meet. As I used to declare earlier, our main principle is to conduct elections according to our Constitution and laws, which are recognised worldwide. That was more than once mentioned by unbiased persons observing our politics, including during this election campaign. Such observers appreciate the campaign itself, the early voting practice and process, and our election laws.

Someone dislike our early voting practice; however, in my opinion, the bastion of democracy — the United States — conduct early voting even few months prior to the election day, and that is just an example of many. So, you'd better adjust their practice according to your wishes prior to criticising us.

Availability of such standards is another issue. In order to meet some standards, these should be set up, either within the United Nations (as we have suggested with Russia) or OSCE (as we've suggested on behalf of the CIS and Eurasian Economic Union). Once these standards are adopted, we will never break them.

But let's put it aside. Should our foreign guests — observers, predictors or, even, dreamers — make any reasonable suggestions beneficial to us, then we would implement them at once. There were numerous innovations of the kind both in Presidential and parliamentary elections. That is why 'election standards' are merely a media cliché, but not a real

norm, unfortunately. Speaking about wishes to my opponents — other three candidates, as I see — I would wish to keep self-respect in resuming the elections. I'm ready to recognise my failure, should I lose, and any other candidate should do the same. That is respect and contribution to Belarusian people and our country. What else? I would wish you, the pressmen, and not only local, to have worthy reports and materials to show. I would wish peace to the Belarusian people, and that is my own duty while I'm President. I would wish to any other person, being the President of our country in such turbulent and uneasy times for us, our neighbours, our region and the whole world, to be able to ensure peaceful life. Maybe, health is the most precious for people. It is the foundation for our mood and any other aspect. But health of our children is even more precious, and that is the only thing worthy to be wished. Anything other may be sold and bought.

May these elections become a key milestone in Belarus-West relations? What may be an obstacle to warming?

These elections, as anything others, may lead to warmer Belarus-West relations if the West so desires, only. We did everything demanded from us by the West in view of the campaign. Nothing and nobody can prevent the West from being an adequate partner unless it desires the opposite.

May we expect some unpopular measures to be taken in order to fulfil certain points of your election programme, should you win the elections?

You know my position, and I'm not going to abandon my general principle in state governance: peace and no revolutions. This is my goal, in economy in particular. Some radical solutions may be taken in, say, policy or legislature, with no grave or drastic outcome, but not in economy. It is never subject to radi-

calism and will always react to the breaking, sooner or later. You have seen me making evolutionary, not revolutionary, changes within two decades. Though not fast in feedback, such way is not painful for people. Once I was asked whether I was ready to fundamental changes and so on. I'm ready for anything, but will the nation sustain? And does the nation really need it? Initiating some abrupt progress and fulfilling it are completely different things! It's easy to say 'come on', but will there be many to reach the end? So, it is not a matter of my will, I'm ready for any reform and transition, including, though not my favourite, revolutionary, should the people desire so. No one can reproach me with infringing people's will in the past. I promised to meet Belarusians' expectations and will implement any revolutionary changes and breakthroughs, if so demanded. It is a matter of people's will, not mine. But I consider evolution more preferable, as far as the society accepts it. Every leader will match the people's pace, a step or a half-step, only, ahead. Should you run as fast as possible, and you will be left alone, even if in progress, with no one to support and implement your so reasonable and beneficial reforms and transitions.

Can you further ensure staying aside from aggression against Ukraine, if elected the President?

Are there still doubts about it in Ukraine? More than once I mentioned this issue. With Turchynov as the Acting President we had a meeting at Prip'yat River when he asked a similar question tête-à-tête, saying that he didn't want to ask in front of journalists being not sure in my response. I called him to ask me in presence of journalists. I had nothing to hide: Belarus should never be a source or site of aggression against any nation, never. Have we managed to keep the promise? Yes, we have. It is very uneasy situation today. Mr. Poroshenko admitted that the Donbass peace treaty created

and undersigned here, in Minsk, became an armistice. Even he, former radical, declared a truce. And, I'm sure peace will follow soon. Then we will have no occasion to guess whether Belarus may be an aggressor or accomplice thereof. I repeat: it is related to everyone, not Ukraine only. But God save the ones rattling the sabre near our borders...

Let's live in peace and put an end to all wars, small and large-scale, everywhere. We are all brothers: Russians, Belarusians, Ukrainians. We have nothing to quarrel about. It's time to live in peace, to stop making troubles and interfering into domestic affairs of each other. I'm not worried about Ukraine's wish to try a 'EU share'. That is their right. However, they should keep in mind that only they will be liable for all consequences. I mean their ability to compete in the EU. There is open trade area for Ukraine, but what do they export? It is not an easy deal. We tried to enter the EU market with our agricultural products, much better than in many other CIS states, and certain companies even managed to stay. But very few persons know how long and how much it did take. It's only one vector, while the EU has everything other than Ukraine and we produce, as well. The market is protected not only with toughest competition, but with tariff and non-tariff barriers, too. We are not worried about the situation, neither Russia is now, as there is no significant progress in EU-Ukraine free trade.

We respect Ukrainians' choice of their way and will adapt to any policy and course of actions. We would never claim against you, unless are related to, and would never counteract — we are relatives. But stop sending guerrilla troops to our country, we are tired of arresting them at the border carrying grenades, bats, guns, ammunition. I'm tired and sick of reading related reports and watching movies and pictures. Let's have peace.

the Parliament I always used to say: look at China. The future is behind this country. Take the stenograph and look at what my opponents said. Communists said nothing while the opponents said: 'No! We are not a banana republic, why should we look to China'. Today any country would be glad to be on good terms with China. We had built such relations before you became a real mighty empire.

As an indicator of our relations I can quote Xi Jinping, and we have known each other well long before he became president. We are good friends. He told me that China is ready to support Belarus in all directions and at any time. And he asked me whether I understood what he said. He said that China was ready to do everything required for Belarus, and support it no matter what happens. It cost a lot. China never talks to the wind. That is why we are on wonderful terms. And the economy today evolves around the Silk Road. We have already started implementing one of the directions proposed by Xi Jinping. One of the sectors is already being developed — the Great Stone Park. The great construction is under way. Here are the cutting-edge technologies and leading industries of the future generations. We invite all companies so that they come to this place with their industries. The only requirement is super-industry of tomorrow. We won't compromise it. We have a lot of companies ready to come here.

Here is the result of our relations with the People's Republic of China for today. And, taking the occasion, I would like to thank the PRC for their support and help in such a difficult time for Belarus as we have now. Credit, investment, and supply and procurement of our equipment and technology in China. For everything. We have no problems with China for today.

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tioned it as well. The tenth plane modernised at our factory in November will go to the Armed Forces, with ten more next year. These are the same 20 planes that I once asked from Vladimir Putin.

But I don't understand you: what happened to you? Let's assume, such a base would be located in Belarus, what problem does it solve? What is the difference for Su-27 to take off from the airfield in Bobruisk or from Pskov or Smolensk or even from Moscow? Absolutely no. 500 kilometres for such a plane is not a distance. Simply correspondents caught it and started kicking about it in mass media frightening the people. Don't be afraid. Here's my honest sincere position.

What is the future of the socio-political life in case of your election?

Today the meetings are conducted by those who can organise these meetings. Nobody hinders anybody. If Korotkevich, Gaidukevich, Ulakhovich can organise meetings, they can do it. We didn't hinder anybody. Even when yesterday some people went to the streets in violation of the law, there were no militiamen there. This was my requirement. Not to touch them before the elections. We'll see what conclusions will be made by the observers here. ODIHR, OSCE... We allowed all those willing to come. A thousand of them came from abroad. I prohibited any movements even where the laws were infringed. But I want to say: the elections are over at 20.00. Begin to live by the law. We won't let either of them or anybody else to destabilise the situation.

You should understand that I'm worried not by this. I said long ago: we know all the oppositionists by name. There are 400 of them with their adherents in our country, from 7 million voters. What is it? It is a drop in the bucket. There are also onlookers who usually follow them, but nobody understands what is going on behind these oppositionists' back...

I say one more time: the elections are over at 20.00. I advise to observe the laws. Not because we are afraid of these 400 people. We are concerned about those onlookers who usually gather around. And it puts me on the alert — I told the Ukrainians for a reason: stop sending guerrillas. We detain at the border hundreds of them, and they can't explain why they go here. They simply didn't think that Lukashenko would be able to close the border. But we closed it. We had to send combat lots of them. But if they had combat weapon, we detained them. You simply don't know it when you walk along the streets.

In the TV spot these events were very correctly linked with those when the garnet exploded at the Verkhovna Rada. People died. Who bore responsibility for it? That's why resume the lawful course...

To conduct the campaigns officially is not a problem. We have specified places, as in Great Britain. If you want, let's look at these places once again. If you want — gather. I will welcome it. Let them gather, discuss problems, criticise the authority and become the opposition. If you continue to live on foreign grants, we won't take this money away, I promise, but we will tell people on whose money and which propaganda you carry on. Everything will be honest

— I guarantee. If you don't cross the line, Rubicon, we will never catch, whack anybody, as in other states, I promise it. As soon as you cross some Rubicon, which is accepted in the society, you know what will be done.

It was declared that sanctions against Belarus will be put on hold. What is your attitude towards it?

You should be glad that sanctions will be put on hold. These sanctions are not against Lukashenko, they are against the state, against Belarusian people. You shall be glad. Then why are you sad? They [the West] became convinced that the sanctions are to the detriment. Belarus is a decent state. We didn't close the transit for the economy of the West, as was demanded from us. We didn't do what we could do in the economy. We didn't make the fur fly and complicate the situation in Ukraine. They understood that we are a normal state. Normal people live here. We did everything what they wanted.

Taking into account the crisis in the Belarusian economy, maybe, it would be easier to cancel the elections?

Who told you that we have such a crisis that we should cancel the elections? You would be glad if the elections were cancelled. Maybe, not you specifically, but in Poland there would be many people who would rub hands and be glad if the elections were cancelled. We can't bring you such joy. We are a democratic state and we conduct these elections. It is the main thing. 'Demos' means people while 'kratos' stands for power. You know it better than me. That's why today people define their authority. You know the powers of the President in Belarus. They are completely different than in Poland. That's why these elections are very important. The people will make up their mind. It is the right of the people. That's why we can't bring joy to separate forces in Poland.

You should also understand one simple thing: why do you look at these elections too simplistically? At first, it is very important which background the winner will have after these elections. As for me, it will be bad if this time fewer people will vote for me in comparison with the previous time. It means that people start to leave me and some amount is not glad with my politics. If Lukashenko wins, for me it is very important to preserve what was in the last elections.

Secondly, it is very important for Poland, for Russia, for the world community, the European Union, America, which result any president will have after these elections. With whom they will talk: with a person, who has the overwhelming support of the Belarusian people or who has slightly passed this plank. As coming from the opposition in the first elections, Lukashenko got, I think, 83 percent of votes in the second round. I preserved this level. It makes two thirds of the population. It is a strong support. And whether we want it or not, I also, when carry on a conversation with some president, always bear in mind how many people supported him. It is also important.

Meanwhile, it's not the main thing. If Lukashenko is elected, the life doesn't stop on it. I must, on the basis of what we have, proceed with very fast movement to reach

the normal level of Belarus' development. This is the main thing for me. I must ensure people's safety. If someone else was elected, something would be forgiven in the beginning. Nothing will be forgiven to me: neither payments, nor the economy, nor the safety, nor the defence, nothing. I will be asked at once: where have you been all these years? That's why I live by these questions and not by the thing whether to cancel the elections or not. To put it mildly, it is a very unexpected question for me.

You said that the elections should be a holiday. So, what would you wish to people for the holiday, to live wealthy and happily?

If we work, we will have everything. Today there is everything in Belarus to live normally. But before you demand something from me or somebody from people, look inside yourself. Are you doing everything to live normally? If you slave away diligently day by day, if you work hard and don't have, for example, a salary, there is something wrong about it. It means that something shall be sought in the authority. If you don't work hard enough and want to live like in the West, will we live normally? That's why before demanding anything from the authority, look first at yourself.

And to wish... I can't wish anything to my people, they have everything. They are talented, wise. There is everything. There is one thing that I want to wish — it is health. The rest will be bought. Earned. We can do it.

What is your attitude to the fact that one of the candidates is a woman?

I'm very glad about it. It is normal. I watched, yes — an oppositionist. But she doesn't shout 'Go to the square', doesn't encourage to break, to destroy and so on. She is a rather sane, normal person. She has her own understanding, like Alexievich. At that, a more deep understanding. So what? How many thousands of people in Belarus have their own understanding? Including the oppositional one. So, will I fight against them? No. It is their right. I must dissuade them. Don't be in a hurry; the life will show who was right. For example, in 2010, Maidan was prepared for us. You didn't hear when I said that Statkevich was governed from Kiev at that time. Go to the premier's seat and govern. He says: how can one sit, if he is not admitted? And they started to break the doors, and there are a lot of examples. I don't want to rake up. Maidan was prepared for us. I knew to what it could lead and assumed the corresponding measures without garnets, without tear-gas, without water jets. Right? Yes. We calmly put them back. And if we didn't do it?

Then they didn't manage to do it. They tried one more time — some claps, chuckles through the Internet — they didn't succeed. Ukraine was broken... At last do you now understand that Lukashenko was right? The elections will show: right or not.

That's why before you think about something private, work off the money on the West, you should think that we live in a concrete country and what is more important for it. I speak about the future and absolutely don't bother about the present. We live in a peaceful normal country. It will be such in future as well.

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**Alexander Lukashenko has won Belarus Presidential elections, earning, according to preliminary data, 83.49 percent of votes, Lidia Yermoshina, the Chair of the Central Election Commission, told journalists. Over 6 percent of voters voted against all candidates: a figure lower in the regions (4.38 percent in the Brest Region). Tatiana Korotkevich received 4.42 percent of votes, while Sergei Gaidukevich earned 3.32 percent and Nikolay Ulakhovich 1.67 percent. Ms. Yermoshina underlined that data was only preliminary. The final results will be announced once regional election commissions and the election commission of the city of Minsk sign final protocols on votes for each candidate.**

## Candidate maximum

It was crowded as never before at polling station #8, located at Minsk State College of Arts, on Sunday. Parents were standing with their children near the entrance to the building, in front of a tent selling confectionary and fresh baked goods, while students from the college sang popular songs. The chair of the commission, Konstantin Yevsevich, personally welcomed observers and showed them where to register. He noted that whole families had been visiting the polling station since morning. Voting booths weren't empty even for a minute, so that ballot boxes (decorated with ribbons bearing Belarusian ornaments), were one third full even before lunch.

There became even more voters by the time when the candidate for presidency Tatiana Korotkevich was supposed to appear at the polling station. It is necessary to admit that the small hall was full, failing to accommodate all those who wished

to be there. Some people stayed specially to make a photo with Ms. Korotkevich. Some people wanted to shake her hand personally. There were those who just came to see their neighbour who had become famous rapidly. Several dozen jour-

wife felt more than confident in front of cameras. Having come out of the voting booth, she showed her voting paper with a mark against her name, "It's a historic day for me. For the first time in my life I've voted for myself."

Before putting the voting ballot in the ballot box, she took a photo of it in memory of the event. It was not difficult to guess how her husband voted. Later, he said, "In spite of the busy schedule, my wife has found time and tried as much as possible to take care of the family. I appreciate her for it and fully support in all her undertakings."

As far as Ms. Korotkevich is concerned, she answered journalists' questions, telling about future plans, "The day of

October 11th was not only the voting day for me. I've cheered for my son who took part in school competitions in pioneer ball and I've visited the exhibition. And then... whatever the outcome is, I will stay in politics.

analysts gathered in the hall, including those from Russia and Ukraine. At 12.00, as was stated before, Tatiana Korotkevich came to the polling station with her husband. And if Vitaly was a bit embarrassed by close attention of the press, his

October 11th was not only the voting day for me. I've cheered for my son who took part in school competitions in pioneer ball and I've visited the exhibition. And then... whatever the outcome is, I will stay in politics.



VITALY GIL

## Elections compliant with democratic principles

**According to CIS observation mission, Presidential elections in Belarus are compliant with democratic principles**

"The observation mission of the Commonwealth of Independent States concludes: the elections of October 11th, 2015, were conducted in accordance with the Constitution and the Electoral Code of Belarus.

The elections met the democratic principles and were transparent, open and competitive. The authorities of Belarus and the election commissions of all levels ensured the fulfilment of the rights of citizens to free expression of will," noted CIS observation mission head, Sergei Lebedev.



## Reason for optimism

From early morning, presidential candidate Nikolay Ulakhovich was answering telephone calls from friends and colleagues wishing to send their best wishes on his special day. He decided to visit his polling station, located in the Belarusian State Technological University's hostel #5, together with his wife Raisa, and admitted to our MT reporter on the way:

I have enough reasons to be optimistic. I consider that this phase of my life was successful. I think I've won the major victory — over myself — because I ventured upon a solid step despite the fact that I've never been engaged in politics. I'm sure I won't lose these elections due to the fact that I support the current government.

When the Ulakhovich family appeared at the polling station #54, 70 percent of the population has already voted, according to Natalia Korovkina, the chair of the electoral commission. The deputies of the Italian Parliament, who observed the elections from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, were closely following the process of voting. Mr. Ulakhovich didn't say for whom he had voted, but his wife didn't hide the fact that she had always supported her husband. Ulakhovich's son and daughter also made their choice, and the parents have no doubt: the right one. Mr. Ulakhovich willingly answered the questions:

**Tell us about your impressions of the election campaign.**

*The elections were peaceful and dignified. The media has worked actively and comprehensively, supporting all candidates informatively so I was able to become recognisable in the crowd in a very short period of time and go to the end of the race. Of course I would like to thank my staff too.*

**What's going to be next?**

*I want to take part in the parliamentary elections.*

### Direct speech

**When the first results of the voting were announced, the MT reporter asked Nikolay Ulakhovich to give his assessment:**

I was ready for such result. We must take a sober look at things: Alexander Lukashenko is a prominent politician with great experience, people love him, and he is respected in the world. I sincerely congratulate him and wish to materialise everything! As for me, I think, I have been given a unique opportunity to demonstrate that there is another party that is always ready to support him.



YURI MOZOLEVSKIY



ALEXANDER RYZHICHKA

## This is the party life

Presidential candidate Sergei Gaidukevich arrived at polling station #77 in Semkovo around midday. Voting at the local rural school was active, with queues. One 10 year old boy eagerly helped his father cast his voting paper into the box.

Sergei Gaidukevich also came with his family — his wife Alla, his son Oleg, daughter Maria and her granddaughter Yelizaveta — all in good mood. "You just vote correctly," he instructed his wife for a joke. He honestly admitted that he had put a tick in the voting paper against his own name.

*In general, I vote for strong, sovereign and democratic Belarus, for our future, for a decent life and, most importantly, that there would always be a peaceful sky above our country!*

**What kind of impression has the Presidential elections left?**

*They are held in a dignified manner. In my opinion, there have been provided excellent opportunities for all candidates, much attention has been paid to the media and television campaigns. I would have estimated the work of my election team also to have been done at the highest score... You know, the elections should be a festive occasion, because it is always a movement forward. And, please, pay attention that all members of*

*the electoral commission are with smiles! I've also come and immediately said: 'I congratulate you all!'*

**What are your plans for the future?**

*The party will now prepare for the parliamentary elections, and we hope to achieve certain success there. You know, today the Liberal Democratic Party can boast of so many wonderful young members that will fight on equal ground with any candidate by the time of the next Presidential elections.*

### Direct speech

**Sergei Gaidukevich comments on the first results of the elections:**

The elections have been held in compliance with the Constitution and the existing legislation. The turnout was very high, which cannot but make us happy. It's also clear that the elections have been won by Alexander Lukashenko in the first round. We've also conducted the exit poll, the results of which have completely coincided with those that have been announced by the official sources. The result makes us happy. As a result, the whole Belarusian nation has won. Let us all work together for the benefit of our beautiful country.

## OSCE General Secretary congratulates Belarusian side on successful conduct of Presidential elections

Speaking at the extended session of the CSTO Permanent Council for the Maintenance of Security in Eurasia, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier congratulated the Belarusian side on the successful conduct of the Presidential elections.

Mr. Zannier also thanked the Republic of Belarus for hosting the Ukrainian settlement talks in Minsk. In this context, the OSCE Secretary General said that Belarus is 'a factor and guarantor of stability'.

## Vladimir Putin: Alexander Lukashenko's victory testifies to high political authority and trust of the population

**Alexander Lukashenko recorded a convincing victory at the Belarus Presidential elections, believes Russia's President Vladimir Putin. He has sent a message of greetings to Alexander Lukashenko, BelTA learned from the Kremlin's Press Service.**

**'In the message of greetings Vladimir Putin stressed that a convincing victory of Alexander Lukashenko testifies to his high political authority and the trust of the population, as well as to active support of the country's policy aimed at the socio-economic develop-**

**ment of the country', notes the Press Service. The President of Russia expressed confidence that Alexander Lukashenko's state activities will help promote Russia-Belarus strategic partnership, strengthen the Union State and expand co-operation in the Eurasian Economic Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States and other international organisations. Vladimir Putin confirmed his eagerness to continue constructive joint work for the benefit of the fraternal nations of the two countries.**

## Openness and impartiality are welcome



Kent Harstedt and James Walsh

I entered my polling station in Chekhov Street with a special feeling: my son used to study at the school which now houses the polling station, bringing positive feelings for this place where my countrymen were making their choice on that day. After performing my civil duty and chatting to teachers we know, I decided not to indulge in nostalgia by visiting the neighbouring polling station in Griboedov Street. I could hear professional music, coming from the Minsk State Musical College. Its pupils can perform Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, which is the anthem of the European Union and the Council of Europe.

This thought wasn't accidental, as my colleagues had informed me the observers from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly should pay a visit exactly to this polling station. It happened so that almost on the doorstep, I faced James Walsh, the Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation, as well as Kent Harstedt, Special Co-ordinator and Leader of the Short-Term OSCE Observer Mission.

"How do you like our holiday?" I asked with a smile after the greetings.

I got the same laid-back, friendly response from James Walsh, the head of the delegation, "It was im-

possible to see the whole city, but all we have seen is wonderful. A lot of meetings take place, including with the representatives of the media and other organisations. Of course, people certainly looked very relaxed and calm."

However, such high ranking politicians are not the people with whom you can communicate on the move, so I ask politely to take few minutes to answer my questions. Despite the harsh prejudice accompanying press officers that supposedly journalists will get all the answers at a press conference, James Walsh and his colleague Kent Harstedt demonstrate openness to dialogue.

This episode seemed to me very important. Yes, the European observers will cover mountains of paper with writing, noting all features and intricacies of the elections. However, manuscripts are dead, unless they are not worth a European soul. The one which is sung in the *Ode to Joy* and that today should manifest itself in a Europe-wide solidarity, especially taking into consideration what is going on throughout Europe nowadays.

I thanked them for the opportunity to ask questions. "The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is a very important structure in the

implementation of the European dialogue. Please tell me, how do you assess the process today and how the Minsk peace process has improved the dialogue?" I wondered.

**Kent Harstedt, Special Co-ordinator and Leader of the Short-Term OSCE Observer Mission:**

*This is a very big question; we can welcome the role played by Minsk as a site for peace talks. Of course, we are here because the elections are held. But I do not think anyone would mind if I say that the role played by Belarus as a host country of the talks was great. Of course, for Belarus a lot is at stake, so that in a region that surrounds it, peace and tranquillity will come.*

**Can we talk about mutual openness?**

*Of course. I think that the European countries want to be open not only for Belarus, but for many other countries. However, it must be something that is based on the fundamental principles. Meanwhile, I will not go into details, as I'm here to observe the elections, and we are not discussing politics. I think people in Europe want to see a good life in Belarus.*

**James Walsh, Head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Delegation:**

*I think that in Europe we have seen the consequences of many conflicts in the Middle East, and in Ukraine, and we're very concerned about this. We welcome the positive step Belarus has taken to host the peace negotiations. Of course, Belarus has attracted a lot of public attention, conducting such negotiations; however, it is important to say that now the attention is riveted to Belarus in connection with the elections. We want the elections to be held so that we could tell something good in the end and to avoid the events that took place in 2010... So attention that Belarus has now received, could not be neglected by anyone.*

**Thank you. We agree in the fact that we want to tell only good things to each other.**

### International observers' opinion

## Elections meet international standards

Observation mission from the People's Republic of China believes that Belarus Presidential elections have been organised at high level and meet national legislation and international standards. This was told to journalists by the head of



the Chinese international observation mission, Chinese Foreign Ministry Ambassador, Yu Zhenqi, in the CEC Information Centre

Yu Zhenqi noted that each country has its own practice of provision of the electoral process. "Meanwhile, there are also internationally recog-

nized standards. After visiting electoral districts we've gained an impression that the elections meet national legislation of Belarus and international norms," he said.

Mr. Zhenqi noted that there's no need to artificially impose this or that model of democracy to some countries only because it has done well in other states. "Respect of political principles and respect of the nation's choice all these correspond to true democratic principle," sums up Mr. Zhenqi.

**Peter Bachmeier, Chairman of the Austrian-Belarusian Society, Professor:**

I think that current Presidential elections will change the attitude of Europeans towards Belarus for the better. The EU has already started to develop relations with Minsk, and the Austrian Foreign Minister has been here in May and met President Lukashenko.

The attitude of the Austrians towards your country has always been good. Personally for me Belarus is a country which has preserved past achievements, including education, industry, social benefits and guarantees for people. I believe this deserves to be preserved and to be developed further.



**Mikhail Morgulis, Head of the Spiritual Diplomacy Foundation, USA:**

It's now impossible to speak about the elections and not to connect them with something greater. Everything that is happening in Belarus, including these elections, is happening in the context of several more events. They are occurring in the context of the Minsk Agreements, which were adopted upon the initiative of the President of Belarus, and, of course, in the context of the President's speech in the UN where he very clearly outlined much

of what others were thinking.

Belarus has made a name for itself. The President said in his speech that Belarus feels as a European country and he showed by this that Belarus also takes care and is concerned about Europe's future. I've always called Belarus a gate between the East and the West and I say that anyone who enters this gate will become a friend of Belarus while those who will be flailing around the gate won't ever bring to life their endeavours.

**Leonid Slutsky, the head of the Russian State Duma observation mission, and the head of the observation mission from the Belarus-Russia Union State Parliamentary Assembly:**

If we compare these Presidential elections with the previous elections — either Presidential or parliamentary — positive changes are evident both in the election rights and directly in the practice of organisation of district electoral commissions. Everything is clear both for those who come to vote and for those who work as members of the electoral commissions. I should immediately note declarative principle of organisation of pre-election meetings and demonstrations. In this case a local administration authority can't refuse and this is very democratic and progressive. Many elements of the election rights in Belarus can serve as a flagman for electoral systems of many countries within the post-Soviet space.



**Zakhari Zakhariyev, Chairman of the Federation for Friendship with the Peoples of Russia and the CIS and the Head of the Slavyni Foundation (Bulgaria):**

We all know and see positive role of Minsk as part of the Minsk Process. Without exaggeration, this is the major event of the world policy and the constructive position of your President has played an important role. Everyone takes this into account. I hope to God they don't only take these into account but remove all these, in my opinion absurd and senseless, sanctions. There're already signals about this but not only signals are needed but also concrete actions of the EU in this direction.

**Dragomir Karic, a parliamentary deputy, the head of the group of friendship between Serbia and Belarus and Honorary Consul of Belarus to Belgrade:**

Everything is very democratic and in a civilised manner. People are smiling and cheerful. People visited polling stations in whole families, and even with nursing babies. It's seen that this is a truly family holiday for you. On the other hand, I was glad to see that people do aware of the fact that the destiny of the country is determined during the Presidential elections. Maybe this is why voting turnout already totalled 55 percent as of 14.00. As an observer who has visited many countries I can say that the election process is perfectly organised in your state; conditions for voting are perfect, everything is transparent.





# No need to doubt partners' reliability

By Alexander Pimenov

**Belarus keen to help socio-economic development on Sakhalin Island, notes President Alexander Lukashenko on meeting the Governor of the Russian Sakhalin Region, Oleg Kozhemyako**

Belarus is interested in projects aiming to accelerate socio-economic development within Sakhalin. Mr. Lukashenko believes that

29 projects have already been planned and assures our partners in the Russian region that there won't be any difficulties in working together. He emphasised to Mr. Kozhemyako, "Primarily state-run Belarusian companies will help implement these projects, under state patronage. The guarantees of our Government mean a great deal in this regard."

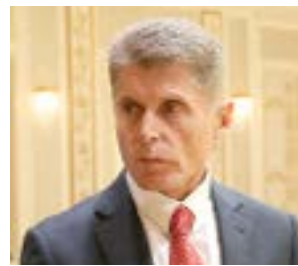
Industrial co-operation, agriculture, and the construction sphere are priority

avenues of interaction. According to the Head of State, Belarus is ready to help the Sakhalin Region modernise its agribusiness. Belarusian companies are also ready to take an active part in the construction of motorways and logistics centres in the Sakhalin Region. Collaboration in the sphere of passenger transport, including vehicles powered by gas engines, looks promising. The Sakhalin Region can count on Belarusian technologies, equip-

ment, machinery, projects and engineering services, as well as consumer goods, for implementing programmes.

Mr. Lukashenko congratulated Mr. Kozhemyako on winning the election for governorship. In the past, Mr. Kozhemyako has held the post of Governor of the Amur Region, which has become a leading trade partner of Belarus in the Far East Federal District over the last three years. Mr. Lukashenko is confident that successful co-

operation with Belarus will promote trade with Sakhalin. For now, Belarus' trade with the Sakhalin Region is insignificant — between \$2 million and \$4 million per annum. Geographical distance is a factor, as are complicated logistics and difficult climatic conditions. Nevertheless, there is interest in stepping up interaction, as confirmed by the fact that an intergovernmental agreement on co-operation with the Sakhalin Region was signed during



the 2nd Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia in Sochi.

Mr. Kozhemyako is confident of the reliability of Belarusian partners and the quality of Belarusian products, and our machinery in particular, having learnt a great deal during his time as Governor of the Amur Region.

# Geography of co-operation expanding

**Alexander Lukashenko accepts credentials from foreign ambassadors**

By Denis Krymov

Thirteen new ambassadors have come to Belarus — representing Austria, Algeria, Vietnam, Guinea, Germany, Cyprus, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Pakistan, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the European Union. The diplomats may now officially launch their work in Belarus, as confirmed by the flags on their cars leaving the Palace of Independence: according to protocol, new ambassadors arrive at the ceremony without flying their flags.

The new diplomats are from diverse countries and continents but Belarus treats all equally, being open to co-operation with all. Mr. Lukashenko voiced Minsk's expectations of each new ambassador in turn.

Of course, relations with the EU remain important; our close proximity inspires us to seek out shared solutions to common challenges and threats to the region. There are plenty of possibilities to expand investment, trade-economic co-operation and the realisation of joint infrastructure projects. To this end, we desire normalisation of relations. Positive dynamics of dialogue in recent times have created grounds to believe this possible, and there are grounds to hope that the period of mutual misunderstanding and mistrust with Germany (among Belarus' major trading partners) will remain in the past.

As regards nearby Austria, positive dialogue is gaining momentum, as confirmed by the recent meeting of the presidents of our two states, in New York. We aim to further enhance our trade-economic and credit-investment contacts.

Constructive collaboration is likely to continue with Latvia, as it already exists at a high level in the busi-



Ambassadors before presentation of credentials

ness sphere. It's time to progress in the political field.

Cyprus is well known to many of our citizens, thanks to tourist trips. However, we need to develop our mutual interests and long-term co-operation, creating necessary mechanisms.

The President welcomed the restoration of Kyrgyzstan's diplomatic mission to Minsk. As the country is joining the Eurasian Economic Union, we will definitely enjoy closer ties.

In relations with Turkey, we are ready to shift to a strategic partnership, with Belarus acting as a conductor for Ankara's presence in the Eurasian Economic Union by setting up its major industrial brand assembly lines in Turkey.

Dialogue is also intensively developing with Pakistan. Its decision to open an embassy in Belarus is the result of a recent top-level meeting. Fundamentals for co-operation are strong, with both sides demonstrating readiness to steadily construct inter-relations.

Vietnam has long been friendly towards Belarus, since Soviet times. The President is convinced that we have much in common and that details will be soon discussed at a Hanoi meeting.

Belarus has many good partners in the Arab world but is building its relations with Saudi Arabia from scratch. Of course, if mutual interest is demonstrated, good prospects are likely.

Africa is also in the sphere of Belarus' foreign political interests, as the continent enjoys huge yet unrealised potential for development. Algeria is one of the most authoritative states in Africa, and is of great interest.

During informal conversation (traditionally held after the ceremony), the diplomats confirmed their readiness to work constructively for both sides' benefit and interests.

After chatting with foreign diplomats, the President met the Governor of Russia's Sakhalin Region, Oleg Kozhemyako, who is already well-known in Belarus and, until recently, headed the Amur Region. As its governor, Mr. Kozhemyako many times visited Belarus, bringing the region to the top position (among those in the Far East) regarding turnover with Belarus. This indicates that distance need not be an obstacle where co-operation is of mutual interest. Past experience will help develop interaction with Sakhalin: importantly, a co-operative agreement was signed with the region dur-

ing the recent Forum of Belarusian and Russian Regions in Sochi.

Belarus is interested in creating territories of advanced social-economic development in Sakhalin. Twenty-nine projects of the kind are planned and, according to the President, the Russian regions will have no problems with Belarusian partners — as has been many times confirmed. Industrial co-operation, agriculture and the construction sphere could become priority avenues. Belarus is ready to help the Sakhalin Region modernise its agro-industrial complex, and construct highways and logistical centres.

Mr. Lukashenko has guaranteed the Russians that they can rely on Belarusian technologies, equipment, machinery, design and engineering services, and consumer goods. Moreover, in today's tough economic conditions, Belarus offers the chance of purchase under profitable financing schemes.

Mr. Kozhemyako openly admits that co-operation with Belarus is of great significance for Sakhalin. As the Amur Region's governor, he gained much 'Belarusian' experience, which will certainly help him in his new activities.

## Telephone conversation

**Alexander Lukashenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin speak by telephone**

The leaders of our two countries have discussed a number of urgent issues on the bilateral agenda, as well as the importance of co-operation within integration associations.

Mr. Lukashenko wished Mr. Putin a very happy birthday.

## Partners listen to each other

By Vitaly Krotov

**Belarus ready to become the gateway to the Eurasian Economic Union for the European Union**

Speaking at the panel discussion, entitled *Belarus: European Partner — Eurasian Market*, Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, Alexander Guryanov, stressed that the country keeps to the principle of integration. When it joined the union, Belarus did not cut itself off from other partners. "We try to be a gateway to the Eurasian Economic Union, including for our partners from Europe. When assessing the laws that are in force in the Eurasian Economic Union, businessmen should not be afraid that the rules established by legislation are not consistent with existing practice," said Mr. Guryanov.

"The main advantage of integration within the Eurasian Economic Union is the elimination of barriers to free movement of goods, services, capital, and workforce. Not all the approaches have been unified yet and not all the processes run smoothly. Nevertheless, the integration is progressing and the partners are listening to each other." According to him, there are no situations when one country sets the rules; they are developed by the Eurasian Economic Commission taking into account the interests of all parties.

The *Belarus: European Partner — Eurasian Market* panel discussion was held at the Milan Stock Exchange, attended by around 250 Belarusian and Italian businessmen, as well as government officials.

During the discussion, the President of the Foundation for Worldwide Co-operation, Italy's former PM, Romano Prodi, announced that Minsk plays an important diplomatic role in settling the situation in Ukraine.

# Economic issues of no matter when health in focus

**National Oncology and Medical Radiology Centre in Borovlyany launches National Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Centre, and National Molecular Genetic Laboratory for Cancer Research**

By Vasily Kharitonov

The two new facilities came under construction in 2013, upon the Belarusian President's order.

According to initial calculations, the schedule was for five years. However, time is money, so President Lukashenko requested the term be reduced significantly. As a result, over Br50bn has been saved. Moreover, the PET Centre and the Laboratory will begin accepting patients three years earlier, saving lives.

The President has received a report on the operation of our health protection system and on oncological matters in particular. Of course, there are many examples, with two key indicators showing the degree of progress: Belarus' rising birth rate and falling mortality. The country boasts almost zero newborn and maternal deaths: a statistic few states can rival.

Unsurprisingly, the President's address aroused great interest at the General Assembly's 70th session. The protection of motherhood and childhood is among global priorities for the new millennium. While most countries dream of achieving high figures in this area, we can confidently assert that we have achieved much.

Positive demographic changes are the result of great planning and forethought. They are not miracles, although they may appear so against the trends in Europe and in most countries worldwide. Targeted efforts to improve the health care system and ensure its structuring (such as distribution of functions between rural



Laboratory diagnostics doctor Alexander Trebukhovskiy

medical and obstetric centres and Republican scientific-practical centres) are paying dividends. It has taken 10-15 years to see results but today's optimistic signs are the beginning of a positive trend, which we can only hope will continue.

Cancer is a global problem and the number of those affected is annually growing. Sadly, our country is no exception. In 1990, first cases of cancer were diagnosed among 26,930 patients in Belarus; in 2015, 45,887 cases were recorded. However, according to statistics, the mortality rate in Belarus is much lower than in other CIS states, rivalling that of the average European level: 40 percent.

It seems most likely that growing figures are the result of enhanced diagnostic ability. A special state programme has been adopted in this

visit to the Republican Scientific-Practical Centre for Oncology and Medical Radiology, a scientific-practical conference launched, entitled 'New Technologies in Medicine'. Mr. Lukashenko met participants, who reported that, over the past 15 years, almost 100,000 oncology-related deaths have been prevented in Belarus, thanks to improved oncological care. Moreover, patients have been able to return to 'normal life', working and taking care of their families. There are enough cancer survivors to fill a small town, like Soligorsk. It's a great way of measuring the efficiency of state support in this special medical avenue.

The newly opened Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Centre and

us to understand all the technological aspects. No matter: results are key. The Centre's equipment makes it possible to detect a single cancer cell in a human organism, finding even the gene responsible, allowing doctors to tailor treatment to individual patients. Only a few states in the world have such personal cancer treatment, but Belarus is among them.

Various medical specialists shared their views at the conference, noting particularly how PET diagnostics are necessary for children's oncological treatment. Until recently, our specialists were obliged to refer young patients abroad, at \$1,000-1,500 per test: a cost that few could afford. Now, diagnosis is available domestically. PET diagnostics are being applied to cardiac diseases also, helping decide treatment, and to neuro-surgery cases, to treat such illnesses as epilepsy, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Belarus is among those states using high-tech approaches, with technologies improving across many branches. Moreover, with a worldwide reputation, our medical services can be used to generate revenue.

Belarusian IT specialists are also highly appreciated worldwide, earning export revenue for the country and earning good salaries, which encourages them to stay. Information technologies have no borders.

Importantly, the Borovlyany institution has received proposals on co-operation from abroad: from foreign patients wishing treatment and from foreign specialists seeking employment.

## DIRECT SPEECH

**Alexander LUKASHENKO:**

"We're paying special attention to health protection and this will continue, being vital to saving lives. This is our target and is highly appreciated globally. Belarus is ranked 53rd for its level of human development (among 200 states): a high result impossible without top-level medicine. Our Republican centres will enjoy leading serious technologies, generating results in transplantology, oncology and cardiology. We should also think about how to promote them to regions, creating the necessary base and conditions. We should involve all our medical public and doctors — to teach them the most advanced technologies. We'll create the material base: tomorrow if not today. You should be ready for this, so that our leading centres achieve their potential.

field, with 80 new methods of diagnosis and treatment developed and implemented so far. Happily, cases of early detection are far more frequent.

Two days before the President's

the Molecular-Genetic Laboratory for Cancer Research are the strongest instruments to protect human health. These are responsible for saving lives, although it may be hard for

# Ring to refresh the capital

**First, second and third stages of road now complete, relieving congestion in Minsk**

By Mikhail Fiodorov

Having cut the red ribbon, the President has opened the second ring road. Just last year, Alexander Lukashenko ordered work to begin. The final 160km still needs to be completed but there's no doubt that the benefits are multi-fold.

The first section of the Minsk ring road was designed for a capacity of 20,000 cars an hour. However, rush hour brings up to 120,000, and a state of extreme congestion. The new road will allow the capital to 'breathe' while easing the ecological burden. Of course, the likelihood is that the volume of transport will increase with time. Owing to well-known events, Ukraine has lost its transit attractiveness. Meanwhile, the road infrastructure across the Baltic States is insufficiently developed. Belarus has

become the optimum route connecting West and East. In addition, Belarus is to become part of the Chinese Silk Way, focusing our attention on road building.

2016 will see the launch of another major project: the reconstruction of the Minsk-Grodno motorway. Also, work will begin at a number of other sites, including new roads

through towns, to help stimulate their development. President Lukashenko insistently recommends developing the road network, to help bring people to settlements. This means new workplaces and sources of income.

The President is keen to attract untied credits, such as that agreed with the Chairman of the People's Republic of China, for \$7 billion of un-

**Having opened the new site, the President chatted to employees and Minsk Region residents, touching upon some important themes:**

### On sanctions

"We've endured a period of sanctions, which are now sending Russia into a fever. We've kept to our traditional course of sovereignty and independence, despite being just an average (according to world standards) state, modest in size. We endeavour to establish world order though we know our

place. We have the right to vote and are founding members of the United Nations. We are proud people. In the last war alone, we lost one third of our population, to prevent 'fascism' from conquering the whole world. Therefore we deserve respect.

Those who introduced sanctions initially didn't want to talk to us. Now, they do, having understood that sanctions lead nowhere. They've seen that we've endured. The Ukrainian crisis has demonstrated that if you start destroying everything, Belarus may also catch fire but it won't be desirable. It's the centre of Europe. Suddenly, we've sobered up. We don't



ted credit, for spending on goods and services. The money won't leave the country, but will work for the economy, helping us overcome crisis trends, and inspiring growth. Building companies are being given strict charges

to lower expenses to the minimum, and must comply with tender rules to win contracts. Our participants (state or private) need to formulate offers unequivocally more favourable than those from abroad.

mind. Let's talk. However, remember that we have national interests and we won't depart from these.

### On dialogue

"We are a sovereign, independent state building normal relations with our neighbours. No neighbour will say that we've created problems. However, we won't give anyone our land. Based on these principles, I've continued to negotiate with leaders of other states. I should say, these negotiations have been successful and positive, with the Europeans and Americans.



# Energy for the future

The Belarusian nuclear power station is to begin producing energy soon, with its first reactor launched in 2018 and the second in 2020, meeting its deadline via three construction shifts daily; recently, President Alexander Lukashenko conducted a site inspection

By Vladimir Khromov

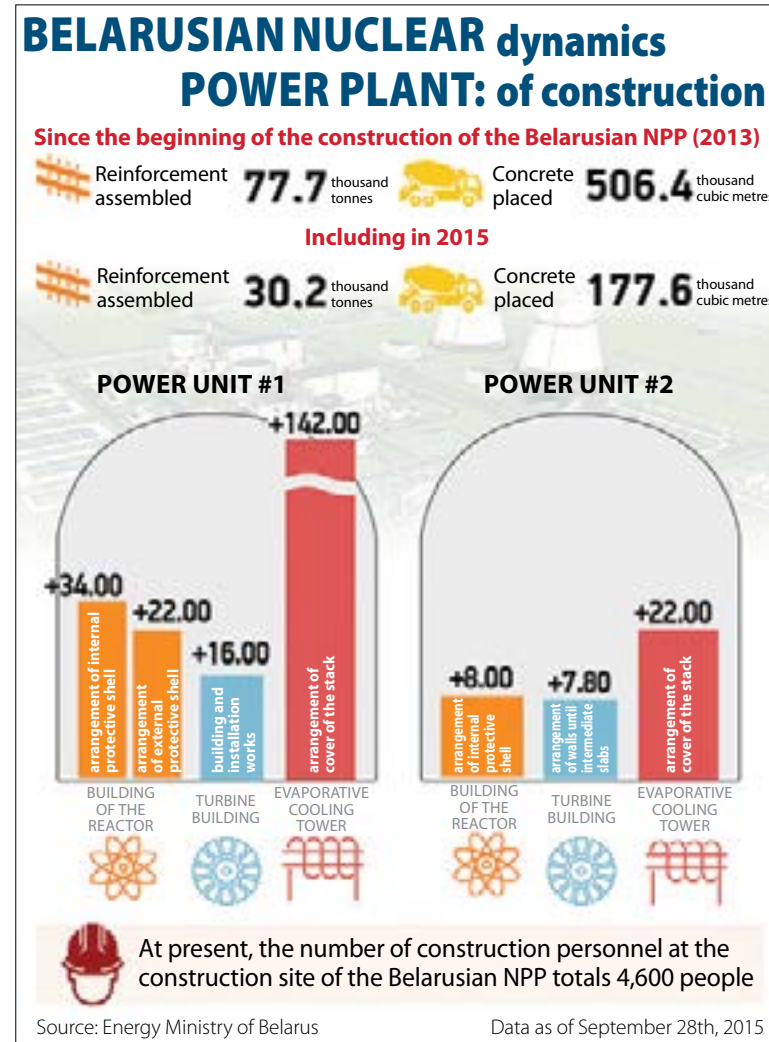
The decree 'On Building the Belarusian Nuclear Power Station' was signed by the President in November 2013, enabling the general contractor, Russian Atomstroyexport JSC, to begin its work. Since then, much has been done: concrete has been poured for the foundations, necessary workshops have been built and, now, the future station is gaining its concrete features. Works on major buildings and constructions, in addition to some supplementary objects, are in full swing. In all, 99 objects out of 131 envisaged by the project are being worked upon. This year is a busy one. Around 25 percent of the planned budget has been spent, 22.2bn Russian Roubles. Already complete are a fire-fighting station and a modern training centre for station personnel (including simulators).

The President toured the centre, also visiting several workshops where pipes and metal constructions are being produced, and viewing the future building for the reactor turbine of block #1. From its top, you can see the whole construction site; the President remained pleased.

A nuclear power station is of strategic importance for Belarus. Its launch will aid the country's energy independence, while 'saving' money in the long run, since natural gas use will fall by 5bn cubic metres a year, and greenhouse gas emissions (and ecological effects) will be reduced. Consumers will see the benefits: even if gas tariffs rise, the cost of electricity will be unaffected.

The Belarusian station is not just an economic or status project; it ensures much more than energy independence. On meeting the Head of the Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation, Sergey Kirienko, the President several times repeated that, if a nation wishes to progress and develop, it needs new projects and should always be ready to learn something new.

"We've agreed with the Russian leaders that the station will be built in the shortest possible time. This won't be at the expense of security but the station will be completed with financial efficiency in mind," reminded Mr. Lukashenko. "The most important



aspect is that Belarusians should work shoulder to shoulder with Russians and foreigners to learn how to make such complicated projects in the future."

Rosatom has signed construction contracts with many countries: 12 nuclear power stations are being built similarly to our Belarusian model and are coming into operation. If this enjoys popularity, then our specialists could help Russian colleagues in the future, with construction at other sites.

While the President was inspecting the construction site, asking questions on the station's future functioning, builders and workers gathered at the training centre. Mr. Lukashenko explained the key motivation for Belarus building its own nuclear power station, saying "We don't live in a desert. We're surrounded by nuclear power stations: two in Ukraine and one in Smolensk. Moreover, St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad are completing construction of similar stations and Ignalina station is also close by. We need not worry about having our own. Some time ago, I had to persuade people — especially in Ostroveti — that we needed our own station. Now, I hope, we're all convinced of having made the correct decision. We should have our own station, for its cheap energy, for the opportunity to embrace new technologies and for the

chance of a completely new face for the Belarusian nation."

In addition to building the nuclear power station, infrastructure sites are also being constructed in Ostroveti: schools, kindergartens and a new block for the hospital. This summer, the Energy Ministry stated that Ostroveti doesn't need special residential districts for station staff but Mr. Lukashenko disagrees, wishing to see the town, and the region, develop. He responded, "We'll turn Ostroveti into the most modern and beautiful town; the most educated people will live there. It's very important for the country. Ostroveti will become an example of how we should be constructing and developing our district cities, of which there are 118 countrywide. This construction site has far reaching goals."

At present, around 12,000 people live in Ostroveti but, as soon as the station comes into operation, reaching its scheduled capacity, the town's population will increase by 40,000-45,000.

## WORD-FOR-WORD

Chatting to Ostroveti District residents and construction workers, the President was asked about literature and his attitude to Svetlana Alexievich's Nobel Prize. Mr. Lukashenko replied, "I'm glad for her, as she is a citizen of Belarus. The award means that, regardless of your position, you can still work and create, write, speak your mind and so on in Belarus. I know her works and have heard much discussion on them. I've read her thoughts in the printed media, which I daily receive. You know, so many opposition members have pretensions to my position — inside and outside of Belarus. I don't distinguish Ms. Alexievich from among them or view her as a major opposition member. Svetlana has written good books. She has her own style. I have nothing against this. Even her early works, such as *War's Unwomanly Face*, were supported by the Soviet government. Her famous book — *Zinky Boys* — is another example of our reality.

In my greeting to Ms. Alexievich, I wrote that it's important that a Belarusian has won a Nobel Prize: the first time since Soviet days. The key now is how she'll use this. If you are a Belarusian citizen, irrespective of being born in Ukraine, then this is your land: your state, whether you like it or not. You may be flying high, but how will you use this image, this legacy?"

# Belarusian writer Svetlana Alexievich wins 2015 Nobel Prize for Literature

## President congratulates Svetlana Alexievich

To Nobel Prize winner, Alexievich Svetlana Alexandrovna

Dear Svetlana Alexandrovna!

Accept my wishes on being awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Your creative work has touched Belarusians and readers all over the world.

I am sincerely glad for you. I strongly hope that this prize will serve the Belarusian state and the nation. I wish you health, happiness and new creative achievements for the benefit of native Belarus.

President of the Republic of Belarus, Alexander LUKASHENKO  
8 October, 2015

By Lyudmila Rublevskaya

Ms. Alexievich's books are well known to our readers: *War's Unwomanly Face*, *Chernobyl Prayer*, and *Zinky Boys*... They reveal personal thoughts and feelings under extreme conditions — such as war, catastrophe, collapse of a political system, and the destruction of 'internal self'. Through these monologues, Svetlana creates a portrait of the epoch and, importantly, of general human history.

Ms. Alexievich's last book — *Second Hand Time* — was simultaneously released in many countries. Some time earlier, this documentary novel was named the highlight at the Frankfurt Book Fair: the most influential in the literary world. Her books nar-

# Music, physics, space and black holes

By Irina Yevseenko

## Philharmonic Society opens its 78th season — comprehensive yet unconventional

The State Academic Symphony Orchestra, under the guidance of People's Artiste Alexander Anisimov, has opened the season with its *Symphony Marathon*, providing an unforgettable impression for all music lovers, with two concerts being performed on the same evening, both seeing a full house: an original children's programme and classical event for adults.

The development of the space topic in the *Icarus on the Edge of Time* multi-media children's performance, when the romance of flight by the first Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin has long faded away, was both unexpected and intriguing. Meanwhile, the appearance of the theoretical physicist and correspondent member of the National

# Her major day

Svetlana Alexievich, the new Nobel Prize holder, praised by Swedish Academy 'for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time'



Svetlana Alexievich has many creative plans

rate the post-Soviet generation's painful crisis of consciousness, affecting pride and honour, and historical injustice, our ability to forgive, and the psychology of victims and those who bring death.

As Svetlana once admitted on meeting readers at the Minsk International Book Fair, "One of my favourite *Second Hand Time* extracts ponders a man who believes that no 'chemically pure' evil

exists. It's impossible to look at a person and state that they are evil. One of my characters recalls that, in the 1930s, his father was imprisoned upon his neighbour Yura's denunciation; meanwhile, he remembers that man helping them to repair the fence and joining them to go fishing. Afterwards, my character learnt that his beautiful aunt — who sang wonderfully — gave information against her

brother, who later died in a camp. On becoming an adult, he asked her why she had done so and she replied, "In 1937, no one was in a position to act fairly. Everything is inter-reliant in life. We have to be guided by our inner conscience; this is where the fight takes place."

The 'fight' for a Nobel Award saw the meeting of worthy rivals. According to bookmakers, first place should have gone to Kenya's writer and playwright Ngugi was Thiong, with second place to extremely popular Japanese writer Haruki Murakami. The top of the list was also occupied by American prose writer Joyce Carol Oates, Norwegian playwright and prose writer Jon Fosse, and American Philip Roth.

Ms. Alexievich's first press conference as a Nobel Prize holder gathered many reporters in Minsk, from various editions and countries. She named Vasil Bykov and Ales Adamovich as her inspiration, noting, "I'd like Belarusians to be proud of this award, as it belongs not only to me but to my characters, my parents and my grandfather, who studied alongside Yakub Kolas. It is the accumulation of humanitarianism. It's not a personal achievement, but it's great that it's happened this way."

Speaking of her attitude to this raving success, Svetlana notes that she isn't affected by public matters, believing that what occurs inside us is more important. The awards

ceremony for Nobel Prize winners will take place on December 10th: the day when the award's founder, Swedish businessman and inventor Alfred Nobel, died.

Truly, Svetlana has been working for inner freedom. She isn't a 'state figure', being rather an artist pondering modern global problems of life and death. She isn't afraid of speaking or writing her mind and, as a result, regularly draws fire upon herself, inspiring negativity from those who aren't members of the literary circle. Their reaction may derive from envy. However, as Belarusian writer Vladimir Korotkevich once said, lightning only strikes tall trees.

"Nobody likes to hear the truth," Svetlana often remarks. Some view her as not fully Belarusian, as she writes in Russian. Not long ago, she was displaced by a 'patriotic' literary club, which viewed her as disloyal to the ideas of the 'Russian world'. Much idle talk has been heard but, eventually, art won out. Her Nobel Prize sets the record straight. I personally consider Svetlana Alexievich to be a Belarusian writer. Owing to her, our literature, culture and country have gained incredible recognition. At present, we are witnessing an historical event. Probably, one day, some other Belarusian writers will receive Nobel Prize awards, but Svetlana is the first: it'll be remembered forever.



# Promising prospects

By Olga Zharkova

## Belarus and Argentina sign memorandum on mutual understanding in sphere of agriculture

Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, Alexander Guryanov, has joined Argentine's Secretary for International Economic Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Carlos Alberto Bianco (in the capacity of Deputy Minister) in signing the memorandum.

The two met at the first session of the Belarusian-

Argentinean Joint Commission on Trade-Economic Co-operation, hosted to coincide with Mr. Guryanov's tour of Latin America. The parties discussed the state and prospects of expanding trade-economic co-operation, including implementing joint projects, strengthening business contacts, and developing legislation to govern bilateral interaction within the international arena.

Mr. Guryanov also met the Undersecretary for Foreign Policy at the Argentine-

an Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maria Carolina Perez Colman, to discuss issues from the bilateral and multilateral agenda and to plan co-ordination between our two foreign ministries. The parties have agreed to intensify ministerial interaction and to collaborate within the UN and other international organisations.

Mr. Guryanov also presented a consular patent to Christian Desideri, the Honorary Consul of Belarus to the northern provinces of Argentina.

# The slower you go, the farther you'll reach

## Working group to develop co-operation between Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and Belarus is near ready to launch

Dmitry Yegorov, Director of the Belarusian Unison car assembly enterprise, noted during the presentation of the first Belarus-made business-class sedan Peugeot 508, "The working group in charge of advancing co-operation with Fiat

Chrysler Automobiles is almost ready. Once the first session takes place, we'll know where we're headed."

He notes that it's too early to talk about specific investments and the possible model range. "The process has just begun. However, just like any enterprise, we're interested in raising output. We must think about the future. Plans need time to bear fruit in the automobile

business. For instance, negotiations with Peugeot took 1.5 years. Negotiations with General Motors took over a year. It's a complicated and lengthy process," he remarks.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles intends to set up two assembly enterprises in Belarus. One premise is being located at the Unison Joint Venture, while BelavtoM-AZ (or other companies) may follow.





At the exhibition in the House of Paintings

# Art exhibition unlike any other

Chagall, Matisse and Dalí introduced to Minsk's House of Paintings Gallery

By Veniamin Mikheev

Today, visitors can see 229 works at the House of Paintings, including Marc Chagall's biblical-themed works, colourful prints by Salvador Dalí, and images from Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Larisa Bortnik, the Director of the Gallery, notes that Henri Matisse's collage works are among the most popular at the exhibition. At the end of his life, the artist could no longer hold a brush, so began cutting figures from coloured paper.

Each work has its own space, so that none encroaches on another, and there is adequate room for commentary. Meanwhile, installations cover the floor: melting watches akin to those of Dalí; Matisse-style fish; and soaring lovers, who appear from Chagall's pictures. Citations from the 'Secret Life of Salvador' can be seen throughout the exhibition.

The exhibition comprises four sections; two (having 229 works) are already exhibited. The first, featuring works by Chagall, Matisse and Dalí, lasted just a month, while the second runs until the end of 2015, also featuring works by Chagall and Dalí. The other two sections will arrive in Belarus next year, including pieces by Kandinsky, Picasso and Miró.

Dalí once said that it was ridiculous to paint an apple as it is. However, why not hang fruit from the ceiling! Besides his works from the early 1950s, on show are 100 'Songs' by Dante, gathered in Minsk for the first time.

A century ago, Chagall (who was from Vitebsk) painted 'a window to Paris'. Works by the great avant-garde artist will be in Minsk for 100 days, until Matisse's birthday. The great Fauvist will leave the House of Paintings earlier, so be careful not to miss out.

Ms. Bortnik notes, "Matisse's exhibition introduces elegant, graceful female figures, ingenious in their simplicity. Until now, I've only seen



Author — H. Matisse

his works on calendars; today, I'm seeing them with my own eyes. As an art historian, this means a great deal. They're creating such an unexpected impact on me, being naïve yet full of bathos, and skillfully constructed."

Negotiations for the exhibition were simpler than might have been expected, as the show is touring various countries and cities. "We only needed to agree on when the exhibition would arrive in Minsk," Ms. Bortnik explains.

The annual insurance for such

an collection is \$1 million, and rent for a month costs about \$10,000. "When we speak about art, we tend not to mention the financial side. The focus is on aesthetics and enjoyment, so the cost seems irrelevant," reflects Ms. Bortnik.

Hundreds of books and thousands of articles have been written about each of the featured artists, as well as many feature and documentary films. Each has their own dedicated museum, being legends of the highest order. Minsk enjoys few such exhibitions.



Author — S. Dalí



Author — M. Chagall

Naturally, those who own priceless works of art rarely allow their treasures to appear at private galleries, fearing for their safety, including during transportation. However, Russia currently has three similar collections, owned by Russian businessmen.

The current Minsk show arrived from Irkutsk, having previously been in New York. The works are touring Russia, and originally appeared in their entirety, in one place, being exhibited for three months. Negotiations to receive the works took six months; two parts have been achieved, with the third due to arrive soon, including the most valuable works by Chagall and Dalí.

The fourth section, featuring works by Picasso, Kandinsky and Miró is due to arrive at the House of Paintings in late 2016. An ironclad agreement has now been signed. Naturally, costs involved differ for each section.

Minsk residents have seen works by Marc Chagall and Salvador Dalí before but never in such volumes. The most valuable items are Henri Matisse's collages, which are the only examples, without copy. Lithographs and xylographs can be reproduced effectively (if the original blocks, zinc sheets and wood are still intact) and can be thought of as appearing as the artist originally intended, but who else can cut a paper figure but the original master? His hand must have held the card and the glue. Created between 1948 and 1954, when he became

wheelchair-bound, Matisse sought to express himself through bright paper, scissors and glue, producing works stunning in their visual simplicity. These pieces, which now hang in Minsk, are considered to be his best works. To miss them would be a tragedy.

## Alexander Khatskevich: 'We've played aggressive football and it yielded result'

Belarusian footballers win European Championship qualification match, defeating Slovakia in an away match — 1:0

By Yegor Glebov

On the eve of their match against Slovakia, the Belarusian team faced not a simple situation: seven players were dismissed due to traumas. Among them were Sergey Kornilenko, Alexander Hleb, Timofey Kalachev, Yegor Filipenko, Igor Shitov, Ivan Maevsky and Roman Begunov. Head coach Alexander Khatskevich had to propose an experimental line-up which, eventually, was a success. Actually, the game played no tournament significance for Belarusians: our players already lost their chances to join the EURO-2016 finals. In turn, it was a decisive match for Slovaks: whether they'll travel to France or will have to settle this issue during the last stage.

The hosts immediately attacked, hoping to press Belarusians with their activity. However, their strategy did not yield fruit: our footballers confidently repulsed attacks, also demonstrating sharp counter-attacks. By the middle of the first half, the Slovaks strongly pressed their opponents, even having several chances to break Andrey Gorbunov's goals. Once, the ball was steadily approaching the net but Stanislav Dragan managed to turn it away from the goal line. Some time later, Stanislav scored: after Renan Bressan's corner kick, he headed the goal. After goalkeeper Matúš Kozáčik's failure, Slovaks got truly



In the absence of Alexander Hleb, Renan Bressan (C) took the functions of playmaker

embarrassed. Until the break, they could hardly recover their strength.

After the break, the hosts attempted to recapture the initiative but, after five yellow cards and Maxim Borodachev's removal in the 65th minute, Belarusians managed to demonstrate worthy football and even attack. Slovaks only succeeded to hit the bar and then Vladimir

Weiss produced a penalty kick which was efficiently saved by Gorbunov.

After the match, Mr. Khatskevich noted that his trainees played aggressively — especially in the first half. Their style yielded a positive result. After the break, it got more difficult for Belarusians to play. 25 minutes before the final whistle, our team 'lost' one player but still managed to

show their killer instinct.

Slovakia's coach — Jan Kozak — admitted that Belarusians played well, much surprising their rivals. According to him, Slovak footballers lacked responsibility in their performance. As a result, they lost — disappointing their fans who hoped the hosts would join the European Championship's finals after the match.

## Dmitry Asanov has earned his Olympic ticket

Belarusian boxer Dmitry Asanov has earned bronze at the World Championship, being defeated in the semi-finals (under 56kg category) by the European champion and prize winner of the London Olympiad, Michael Conlan of Ireland



Dmitry Asanov

After being beaten in the first round, the 19-year-old Belarusian boxer managed to recollect his spirits in the second round. Two out of three judges, who assessed the fight, couldn't determine the winner.

The third round was won by the more experienced Irish boxer, with a final result of 30:27, 29:28, 29:28. Dmitry Asanov has earned bronze at the World Championship, thus

guaranteeing himself a ticket to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Tickets are being given to all World Championship prize winners in the under 56kg category.

Asanov's ticket is the first and only one for Belarusian boxers. Among other wrestlers at the World Championship, Mikhail Dolgolevets went further than the others, reaching the quarterfinals of the under 81kg category. Taking into account that there are no Belarusians in the APB and WSB series tournaments, their last chance to reach the Games will be the qualifying Olympic tournament, being held next June, which will determine 39 participants for the Rio Olympiad.

## Pleasant news from across the ocean

By Igor Leshin

NHL Columbus official website announces signing of contract with Belarusian national ice hockey team defender Oleg Yevenko

"Oleg has worked hard on the ice, and off, really earning this contract. We expect him to continue developing his game during the forthcoming season," comments Jarmo Kekäläinen, the general manager of the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Yevenko has been working with the Columbus training club, and recently took part in two exhibition matches, against St. Louis and Pittsburgh, where he earned 'plus 2' in game effectiveness. His powerful manner of play was noteworthy, as was his 'battle' against St. Louis tough guy Cody Beach. The Belarusian grenadier has received good press and feedback from Columbus coaches.

The agreement is bilateral, allowing Oleg to be sent into the American Hockey League (AHL) if he fails to perform as expected.

The Columbus Blue Jackets is an extremely young club (in NHL terms) having debuted during the 2000/01 season. It has only twice qualified for the play-offs. Last year, it earned 89 points across 82 matches in the regular championship and failed to gain a place in the Stanley Cup.

## Baseball players win tournament for first time

Interliga ends with victory for Minsk club

The 'final four' event, held in Minsk, saw the capital's team defeating Severnye Zvezdy from St. Petersburg, in its first match, then Lithuanian Vilnius, with much struggle and minimum advantage. In the match for 3rd place, Belarusian Sakhar'ny Storm, from Skidel, beat St. Petersburg.

Minsk head coach Alexander Sechko, who is also General Secretary of the Belarusian Baseball Association, notes that his wards have been champions of Belarus five times now, having recently defeated their main rival, the Brest Bisons. Since 1993, the capital's baseball team has operated under Minsk's football club, using the facilities for matches and training, for adults and children. About 100 youngsters train with the baseball school of Minsk club.

This season, the national team of Belarus played in Vienna in the second division of the European Championship and managed to keep its place. In the Austrian capital, Belarus took victory over Poland's national team, but suffered defeat from the Israelis, Lithuania, Austria and Sweden. In its duel with the Swedes, the Belarusian squad lost crucial points at the end to the strong Scandinavian team, who eventually took first place, gaining a ticket to the elite division of the European Baseball Championship.



Minsk's cyclists in the group of leaders

## Minsk — best in China

Minsk bicycle club — featuring Sergey Popok, Anton Muzychkin, Konstantin Klimenkov, Stanislav Bozhkov, Dmitry Zhigunov and Andrey Peshkun — wins team racing at first category six day China Tour

In their fight for leadership, the fourth and fifth stages were decisive. In the fourth stage, Stanislav Bozhkov left three racers behind, bringing his team to second position. In the fifth stage, three Minsk sportsmen — Popok, Klimenkov and Bozhkov — remained in the leading group, while Italy's Nippo Vini Fantini (leading at that time) managed to preserve only two of its

representatives.

On the final day, the Belarusians' teamwork brought them first place. Moreover, Sergey Popok sped forward near the finish line, to take stage victory for the team. Minsk enjoyed even more success in China. Stanislav Bozhkov's activity enabled him to win a mountain qualification, coming third in the overall standings. Sergey Popok was placed fifth and, in some stages, Anton Muzychkin, Konstantin Klimenkov and Dmitry Zhigunov were in the top twenty.

Having received an invitation from the organisers, Minsk will continue its performance in Asia — taking part in China Tour 2.



# Premiere of the week



Premiere of the *Fro* performance, based on Andrey Platonov's story, on stage at Brest's Puppet Theatre

## Exhibitions

### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street

Until 2nd November. *Great Patriotic War in Art*

Until 6th December. *Korea's Life*

Until 11th December.

*From Realism to Impressionism (19th-20th century painting)*

Until 30th December. *Celebrating Victory Day in Museum*

### MUSEUM OF MATURE AND ECOLOGY OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 6th March.

*Jungles behind the Window*

Until 17th January. *Mummies of the World*

### WANKOWICZ HOUSE-MUSEUM

33A Internatsionalnaya Street

Until 25th December. *A Prophet of his Time. Adam Mickiewicz. Illustrations and Medals*

### MAXIM BOGDANOVICH LITERARY MUSEUM

7A M. Bogdanovich Street

Until 1st December. *Maxim's Garden*

### PICTURE HOUSE

89/3 Pobediteley Avenue, office 3

Until 31st December. *Great Classics of the 20th Century*

### MINSK

11 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 30th November. *Month of Photography in Minsk-2015*

### CAT MUSEUM

11 Dzerzhinsky Avenue

Until 31st October. *Cats in the City*

### ARTS PALACE

3 Kozlov Street

Until 8th November. *Autumn Salon art project*

### FIRST RSDRP CONGRESS HOUSE-MUSEUM

31A Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 31st October. *1960s: Fashion and Style*

## Theatres

### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square

16.10. *Laurencia* 17.10. *The Tsar's Bride*  
18.10. *La Bayadere*; Little Chamber House  
20.10. *Turandot* 21.10. *Anyuta*; One Hundred  
Words about Love 22.10. *Magic Flute*

### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street

16.10. *Yunona and Avos* 17.10. *Buratino.by*; A  
Simple Wonder 18.10. *The Golden Chicken*; Silva  
19.10. *Dubrovsky* 20.10. *Blue Cameo* 21.10. *True  
Story of Lieutenant Rzhevsky* 22.10. *The Nutcracker*

### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street

16.10. *Caught by the Net* 17.10. *Love Circle*; A  
Husband Leaves His Wife 18.10. *Pygmalion* 20.10.  
*An Ideal Husband* 21.10. *Oedipus* 22.10. *He and She*

### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street

16.10. *Office* 17.10. *Not Mine* 18.10. *People of the  
Marsh* 20.10. *The Seagull* 21.10. *Pinsk Gentry*

### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue

16.10. *The Makropoulos Case* 17 and 18.10. *Even  
a Wise Man Stumbles* 19.10. *Master and Margarita*  
20.10. *Aisedora. A Love Dance* 21 and 22.10. *Pygmalion*

### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street

16.10. *Eternal Song* 17.10. *Living till the Premiere*  
18.10. *Two Wonderful Umbrellas*; *Mister X* 20.10.  
*Maybe?* 21.10. *The Broken Nest* 22.10. *Paradise Circles*

### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Square

16.10. *Para Pa Param* 17.10. *Comedy about  
Penny Pincher* 18.10. *Prostokvashino Holidays*

### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Square

18.10. *There's No Such Country as Holland*

# Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

## October of decades and centuries past comes to life

**October 16th.** In 1937, Romuald Loiko — a Doctor of Agricultural Sciences — was born in Pinsk. The talented researcher managed to prove that grape, apricot and walnut can successfully grow in Belarus. Under his guidance, the Museum of Fruit Growing was established at the Institute of Fruit Growing.

**October 17th.** In 1919, an Honoured Architect of Belarus — Georgy Sysoev — was born. He was among the authors of the Brest Hero-Fortress Memorial and Orsha's Zaslavov Monument.

**October 18th.** In 1914, a conductor, a teacher and an Honoured Artiste — Piotr Kirilchenko — was born.

**October 19th.** In 1732, Tomasz Husarzewski was born — a historian, a teacher and a representative of the enlightening branch in the historical science of Poland, Lithuania and Belarus.

**October 20th.** In 1885, Alexander Burbis — a public and theatrical figure — was born. He was among the organisers of the Belarusian Red Cross Society. He's known as an actor and director and one of the founders

of the Belarusian professional theatre.

**October 21st.** In 1905, a USSR Hero who participated in Belarus' liberation — Nikolay Massonov — was born. The Colonel commanded a rifle division and demonstrated extreme bravery in fights for Bobruisk's liberation.

**October 22nd.** In 1933, Igor Dobrolyubov was born — a film director, an Honoured Figure of Arts of Belarus and a People's



Artiste of Belarus. He directed *Ivan Makarovich*, *Belye Rosy* and *Quail Crying* films.

**October 16th.** In 1930, a decision On Correspondence Education was made by the Central Committee.

**October 16th.** In 1973, the Belarusian Institute for Design of Capital Repair and Reconstruction of Housing-Public Buildings (Belzhilproekt) was established.

**October 16th.** In 2001, Minsk's Loshitsa Palace-and-Park Estate was taken under the state protection.

**October 16th.** In 2003, the first Boeing 737-500 — purchased by Belavia — landed at the Minsk-2 National Airport.

**October 19th.** In 1680, Minsk's Monastery of Franciscans was established; it closed in 1832.

**October 19th.** In 1859, the first Belarusian Minsk-Bobruisk telegraph line was put into operation.

**October 19th.** In 1994, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus announced the Belarusian Rouble to be the country's single currency.

**October 20th.** In 1924, studies for the Minsk Musical College's first students began.

**October 20th.** In 1928, the Minsk City Executive Committee made a decision to erect a monument to revolutionary Ivan Pulikhov in the capital.

**October 20th.** In 2003, the Olympiysky Palace of Water Sports opened after reconstruction.

**October 21st.** In 1943, Minsk's ghetto was demolished; this was among the largest death camps in Eastern Europe.

**October 21st.** In 1994, CIS heads of state signed the CIS Memorandum: Major Directions of Commonwealth Integration Development.