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## Young artistes from Europe and Australia star on *Eurovision* stage in Minsk

*Junior Eurovision-2018* finals at Minsk-Arena bring together youngsters from twenty countries — a record number in the history of the contest → **2, 10**

# Song 'lit up' by youngsters

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko meets participants of *Junior Eurovision* at Palace of Independence

By Alexander Pimenov

"You're already winners!" stressed the Head of State, praising the achievements of those taking part in the major international song contest. "You must be proud and happy that you're winners in your country, and now I wish you good luck."

The Belarusian leader underlined that Belarus is famous for its honesty and justice. "Therefore, the strongest contestant will win." Mr. Lukashenko chatted warmly with the youngsters, receiving friendly hugs, smiles and sincere laughter. The event was also attended by *Eurovision* winners and participants from previous years, including Ksenia Sitnik, Olga Satsyuk and Lidia Zablotskaya.

"How are you? Tell me," said Mr. Lukashenko, welcoming the children to the Palace of Independence.

"It's very beautiful here," commented one contestant, before a hubbub of impressions broke forth.

The participants of the contest performed an extract from this year's *Junior Eurovision* — *Light Up!* — which is the contest's slogan. Meanwhile, past contestants from Belarus prom-



Participants of *Junior Eurovision-2018* warmly chat with the President of Belarus

ised that they're continuing to develop their creativity.

The Head of State received a gift from participants, members of delegations and organisers of the children's competition: a symbolic model of the event's main prize, which is in the shape of a microphone, made from transparent glass with coloured lines inside the upper part that symbolise streams of sound.

"Thank you very much, guys, for coming to visit me. I'll always remember," noted Mr. Lukashenko, while bidding farewell. After a joint photo with the Belarusian leader, the children received small gifts of confectionery and books about Belarus.

*Eurovision* Executive Director Jon Ola Sand noted the very high level of the contest's organisation and Belarusian

hospitality. "It's obvious how much work has been conducted and how much energy has been injected. It's fantastic!" he underlined.

Contestants shared their impressions, chatting and taking selfie photos. Touring the Palace of Independence, they heard about the history of the building, which is a landmark for Belarus.

"The atmosphere here is really cool. It's impossible to describe. For me it's a great honour," noted the participant from Ukraine, Darina Krasnovetskaya.

The Belarusian representative at *Junior Eurovision-2018*, Daniel Yastremsky, said that he'd already met the other contestants and made friends. "For the first time in my life, I'm in the Palace of Independence. It's very beautiful here," he admit-

ted, adding that it's an important event for all guests and shows the support of the Head of State.

*Junior Eurovision* entrants shared impressions of Belarus, and chatted about the song they'll be singing in the finals. Russian soloist Anna Filipchuk was thrilled at meeting Mr. Lukashenko and at touring the Palace of Independence, saying, "The President wished us good luck and said that, of course, he'd be supporting us all. I'm glad that I came."

Kazakhstan's Daneliya Tuleshova presented the President of Belarus with a souvenir: a talisman for the house, in whose power she believes. She regularly wears necklaces and bracelets as good luck charms.

Meanwhile, the Australian entrant, Jael Wena, commented on the chilliness of the Belaru-

sian weather, which differs from her own homeland's hot climate. She said, "I like Belarus. It's snowing here and the weather is completely different. It's cold. I enjoy winter." Jael has already been sampling Belarusian dishes, including draniki.

According to the rules of *Junior Eurovision*, only eighteen states can take part but, this year, the EBU changed the rules due to having so many applications. As a result, representatives of twenty countries arrived in Minsk: a record in the contest's history. Young talents from Australia, Azerbaijan, Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine, Wales and France are taking part in the *Junior Eurovision-2018* Song Contest.

## Discussing major issue in the relations with Russia

By Oleg Bogomazov

**Alexander Lukashenko, believes we must ensure equal conditions for citizens and legal entities working in Russia and Belarus**

The recent meeting with the Foreign Minister of Russia, Sergey Lavrov, saw Mr. Lukashenko state, "We have quite good relations with the Russian Federation. I'd describe them as very good relations. In fact, better than with other states. However, we need to solve one issue (which we and our Ministries of Foreign Affairs have been discussing since Boris Yeltsin's time). It's crucial that we create equal conditions for people and legal entities working in our 'shared home', as I call it. Perhaps,

we cannot call it anything else."

The Belarusian Head of State remarked that we need to discuss a number of issues, saying, "I know that you're an experienced professional and can read between the lines. But people write different things, so a face-to-face conversation is always useful."

Speaking of Belarus' major trade deficit, he commented, "If we have a big trade deficit, you understand that we have to look for other ways around the world to make up for it. Everything starts with the economy. Apart from this, the situation is pretty good."

He pointed to the high level of Belarusian-Russian engagement at ministerial level, as applies to our foreign and defence ministries. "There is full understanding, yet issues remain upon which we need to talk openly."

Mr. Lavrov expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet and reported on the traditional joint ministerial session held this time in Minsk. He said, "We had some very useful conversations, discussing our joint battle against attempts to falsify the history of the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War. We also spoke about cybersecurity, the development of integration processes with the participation of the Eurasian Economic Union, the SCO and other organisations across Greater Eurasia, and our common cultural heritage and its promotion abroad."

Mr. Lavrov noted that, during the meeting with his Belarusian counterpart, Vladimir Makei, they also discussed issues of Belarusian-Russian relations, including the implementation of agreements to create equal rights. "We believe we must fully implement existing agreements,

with regard to economic entities and citizens. We've already addressed many issues and will do our best to ensure that relevant organisations of our two countries find solutions."

Speaking with journalists, Mr. Lavrov said that the meeting with the Belarusian Head of State tackled bilateral agreements adopted at presidential level, by the Supreme State Council of the Union State. He mentioned forthcoming events relating to Union State relations, including those in multilateral formats, and said, "We've been studying the implementation of agreements to ensure equal rights of citizens of Russia and Belarus in all spheres of activity. I'm very grateful to the President of Belarus for his support of our foreign ministry collaboration, and for his help in developing relationships within the Union State."



Alexander Lukashenko encouraged conference participants to look at how the construction industry has grown in the past five years, since a new legal framework was adopted in the sector. "Back then, we analysed Belarusian experience, including complaints and proposals. We determined all drawbacks and tried to create a unified and comprehensive legal framework," the Head of State commented.

#### Drawbacks in the branch

It's evident that the construction sphere reflects more general national dynamics of development. However, in recent years, despite several adopted decisions, we've failed to break the negative trend. "Its contribution to GDP has fallen. With volumes of contracted works and housing construction having reduced, the problems of non-payment are becoming more obvious, and the financial situation has worsened for construction organisations," asserted Mr. Lukashenko.

The Head of State doesn't believe that rising figures in construction this year are a revival. "It's too early for us to rest on our laurels," he noted. "There are objective reasons for negative trends. As a result of the 2014-2015 crisis, a considerable part of our earned funds has been lost and the volume of budgetary investments has significantly reduced. However, is this the only reason for our problems?"

#### Planning territories

Mr. Lukashenko underlined the necessity for better planning, to encourage citizens to relocate to, or remain in, small settlements. According to the Head of State, their low attractiveness is caused by lack of infrastructure or a comfortable living environment.

Mr. Lukashenko mentioned such large cities as Baranovichi, Bobruisk, Molodechno

and Orsha as places worthy of attracting new residents. "It's necessary to develop their production facilities, offering well-paid jobs, as well as a comfortable living environment. There's no need to build 25-storey apartment blocks. It's necessary to establish low-rise suburbs," believes the President. He has instructed a

pilot project of low-rise residential houses in one of these cities.

He added that individual housing is also needed and blamed local authorities for lack of good planning. He refuses to allow 'concrete jungles' to be built, filled with tower blocks purely because they're cheaper and bring con-

struction firms greater profit. At the same time, there are positive examples in Belarus, where suburbs are beautiful, comfortable and functional.

#### Exporting construction materials and services

The Head of State has charged the Ministry of Antimonopoly Regulation and Trade to

# Results are definitely the most vital

Construction, which refers to key branches and largely determines the state of economy, is oriented towards achieving positive dynamics. Corresponding tasks were set at Republican conference on measures to raise the efficiency of the Belarusian construction industry, featuring the President of Belarus.



New housing development in Minsk

conduct a serious investigation, adopting prompt measures to counteract artificial barriers to selling Belarusian goods on the Eurasian market.

The President emphasises that the country desperately needs export and foreign currency earnings. It's also important that these earnings come quickly, so it's inadmissible to wait interminably for payments.

The Head of State tackled issues of co-operation with foreign companies; for more than five years, various foreign sources have been declaring interest in investing in production of construction materials. "We're ready to sell everything. There's no problem at all. The issue is price. We need to ask why we make certain decisions. If we choose to sell something, including to foreign investors, the criteria must be clear. The first is price," Mr. Lukashenko stresses.

According to the Head of State, when investors are interested in acquiring an enterprise, the question often arises as to the security of the work force, since new owners may dismiss staff. "I ask what I should do with these people, and there is no answer. We don't need such proposals. People are most important," he underlines.

The Head of State added that time doesn't stand still and the construction branch's requirements only increase with each year, so it's necessary to plan ahead. A corresponding base has been prepared, so opportunities should now be acted upon.

Mr. Lukashenko has called on the Government to avoid delay in settling problems in the construction industry. He has instructed them to regulate problematic issues, as specified during the session, by the end of the first quarter of 2019. "If we settle our issues, and there aren't as many as there were five years ago, then heads of businesses won't have anything to complain about," noted the Head of State.

# Good prospects on the horizon

By Vladimir Velikhov

#### Belarus welcomes co-operation with European Investment Bank and implementation of projects in various spheres

On meeting the Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), Alexander Stubb, President Alexander Lukashenko commented, "Our meeting marks a new stage in the development of relations with the European Investment Bank. This is a milestone. We've overcome a few barriers, as there was misunderstanding on both sides, especially from the Western side. Europe and the entire Western world have recently become satisfied that they can work with Belarus, seeing that Belarus is a reliable

partner, especially in trade-economic and financial relations."

Mr. Lukashenko noted that the signing of agreements with the EIB to finance projects aimed at Belarus' development proves that misunderstanding no longer exists. He added that Belarus has received EIB loans worth about 500 million Euros, on 'acceptable terms'. "We select investment projects carefully," he explained, adding that public welfare projects are high on the agenda, relating to housing, water disposal and supply, development of infrastructure and roads. "We'll be responsible partners in this regard," he assured Mr. Stubb, while asking for assistance in developing co-operation between Belarus and Finland, where the EIB Vice President has occupied various high posts.

Mr. Lukashenko commented that Finland is of virtually the same size as Belarus and has advanced technologies. The President pointed out the similarity of our economies and the importance of bolstering technological interaction.

Mr. Stubb noted his positive experience in visiting Belarus in 2008, as Foreign Minister of Finland. He mentioned the productive work of the EIB and Belarus in signing documents governing joint investment projects, including those connected with water and wastewater treatment, and relating to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The European Investment Bank has signed agreements with Belarus worth 160 million Euros, in pursuance of a framework agreement concluded be-

tween Belarus and the EIB in 2017. The agreement aims to finance the upgrading of Minsk's water and wastewater treatment plant, using funding by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The EIB has signed another two loan agreements with Belarusbank and Belagroprombank, allowing lending to small and medium-sized businesses.

Belarus is interested in infrastructure projects such as road renovation, efficient energy consumption, research, design and experimental work, production ecology, and digital transformation. In 2018-2019, the Bank may invest about 420 million Euros in Belarus.

An EIB office may yet open in Belarus, facilitating the work of the European Investment



Alexander Stubb

Bank in our country. The EIB is the European Union's state financial and credit institution, providing long-term finance and expertise for sustainable investment projects in Europe and beyond. The bank is owned by twenty-eight EU member states and, according to international experts, is the world's largest multilateral borrower and lender. The EIB is headquartered in Luxembourg while its network includes more than forty branch offices.

# Ideas for export following results of start-up battle



During Global Entrepreneurship Week, the jury chose five winners of the BEL.BIZ Battle international start-up competition. The victorious teams are to travel to London early next year, to present their ideas to international investors.

By Ilya Kryzhevich

The BelExpo stage gathered ten candidates, who had passed difficult preliminary selection, presenting ideas relating to software development, data processing, blockchain projects, streaming and music services, and technologies for fitness.

Each team had three minutes to present their projects in English to the audience and the jury, explaining the essence of their idea, methods of financing, and the target audience. Then, the judges asked questions on details, business plans and prospects.

After half an hour of discus-

sion, the judges were ready to announce their final decision. Inessa Poltoran, the Adviser on Economic Issues of the British Embassy to Belarus, joined UK Investor Nick Jones on the main stage, announcing two startups relating to fitness among the winners: the first was Rocketbody, which is an assistant programme for sports training, while the second was Trainer, which is a personal trainer displaying training routines in a mirror. The jury also chose Lung Passport, which uses an electronic stethoscope connected to a smartphone to record breathing. Belive streaming service, as well as VINchain — a decentralised trading platform



**REFERENCE**  
Each entrant had three minutes to present their projects in English to the audience and the jury, explaining the essence of their idea, methods of financing, and the target audience

for vehicle data are also among the five winners, destined to travel to London next February.

BelExpo saw other projects presented but without being part of the competition. One was the

True Machina start-up. A resident of the Belarusian High-Tech Park, its chief marketer is Tatiana Vilchik. She explains that it's based on a programme with artificial intelligence, generating new inventions. She comments, "The most complex human function — creativity — can be automated. The programme can be used to generate innovations, feeding them to large technical corporations needing cutting-edge, new solutions."



## According to IMF Head of Mission

By Svetlana Savelieva

### International Monetary Fund forecasts growth for Belarusian economy in 2018

"Belarus' economy remains on track to recovery, which is cyclical, not structural. For this year, we forecast economic growth at 3.5-3.7 percent, based on a number of factors: oil prices are higher than previously expected, prices for a number of export commodities are higher, external demand is pretty good and average salary has grown at a fast pace," notes Jacques Miniane, the Head of the IMF Mission to Belarus. In 2019, IMF projects' GDP growth in Belarus stood at 2.5 percent.

Mr. Miniane believes that the national currency of Belarus is seeing confidence. "I'd like to underline work to reduce the level of dollarisation within the Belarusian economy. We've seen progress, including growing trust in the national currency in Belarus over the past 2-3 years. It's an important priority in the work of the National Bank and, in our opinion, should remain a priority."

He notes that macroeconomic factors influence economic vulnerability in Belarus, such as dependence on subsidised energy imports from Russia and a high level of dollarisation. The International Monetary Fund recommends that Belarus take advantage of economic recovery to keep reducing such vulnerabilities and build its growth capacity.

## Twenty-five kilograms per travel

By Oksana Nevmerzhitskaya

**Limits on the import of goods for personal use have been reduced. At present, citizens of EAEU countries, including Belarusians, can import 50kg of goods (worth up to 1,500 Euros) duty-free into the common customs territory. However, from January 1st, 2019, the volume will reduce to 25kg (and 500 Euros value). The changes will affect goods that are imported by road, rail or sea, as well as on foot.**

"Previously, it was assumed that such thresholds would be set for EAEU countries by 2021. The proposal to revise the rules of duty-free import was submitted to the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) by



Russia, stating that the current quotas are among the highest worldwide, which opens the door to abuse of the system. It's feared that goods marked

for personal use may, in fact, be 'sold on' commercially, with rail, road and pedestrian checkpoints most commonly used. Therefore, the proposal

applies only to goods transported by these modes. All parties are supporting the proposal," emphasises Natalia Sachenok, a PR specialist of the EEC Customs Department.

The new decision by the Commission should be implemented by all member-states of the EAEU. According to the Customs Code, national legislation can only tighten the norms adopted by the EEC.

Quantitative values for alcohol and tobacco products will remain unchanged. Adult citizens will be able to import duty-free tobacco and tobacco products to a limit of 200 cigarettes, or 50 cigars (cigarillos), or 250 grams of tobacco, or to a total weight of not more than 250 grams, while no more than 3 litres of alcoholic beverages may be imported.



# River unites neighbours

How can we deepen Belarusian-Ukrainian co-operation in the field of shipping

By Olga Valchenko

In Soviet times, it was possible to sail from Mozyr to Pinsk and Gomel. The famous 'Raketa' travelled to Kiev five times a day, the barges filled with cargo. Today's situation differs greatly. However, the issue of redeveloping the economic potential of our rivers is being discussed. The Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine — held not long ago — was devoted to this very subject: of international river navigation.

One of the most discussed issues at the round table was the construction of a port in the village of Nizhnie Zhary, in the Bragin District. Over fifty representatives of business circles, ministries and departments of Ukraine and Belarus heard about possible investment projects. These include construction and maintenance of a river port, engineering and transport infrastructure, a multimodal hub and a marina for a yacht club (with a recreation centre) in the village of Nizhnie Zhary, and construction and maintenance of a deep-water port on the Dnieper River (103km from Kiev and 931km Kherson), to ensure entry to the Black Sea. These facilities should significantly increase the volume of water transportation.



The main organisation currently engaged in the transportation of goods by water in Belarus is the Belarusian River Shipping Company, headed by Gennady Tsenter. He tells us, "Our main activity is the transportation of Mikashevichi's Granit company goods. Barges of crushed stone and granite travel to Mozyr, Kobrin and Pinsk."

At one time, a single tug, pulling three barges, could carry 3,000 tonnes of cargo, with charges rivalling those of the railway.

River transportation is actually very safe, enabling movement of large-sized and heavy cargoes. Among the items delivered by the company so far are two metal span structures for the construction of a bridge (each 84 metres long) from Krichev to Slavgorod, and a 382-tonne turbine for the nuclear power plant, as well as several huge production units for Mozyr Oil Refinery.

The delivery of a vacuum column and acid torch separator to the plant this year required a whole caravan of vessels. Two tugboats and two non-self-propelled

barges travelled from the Ukrainian port of Kherson, passing 1,100km along the Dnieper and Pripyat rivers in twenty days, carrying 380 tonnes. The goods are just one delivery of three for a heavy oil residue hydrocracking complex: the largest and most expensive but also the most complex project in the history of the refinery. The new equipment will allow the depth of oil refining to be raised from 75 to 90 percent, while increasing production volumes of commercial diesel fuel and hydrotreated vacuum gasoil.

Water transport can greatly simplify the logistics of moving equipment but Mr. Tsenter admits that huge deliveries are in the minority. The total volume of regular traffic has been increasing over the last couple of years, but it's yet to rival figures from Soviet years. Low water levels in summer affect river transport, of course. In 2015, navigation had to be closed on June 22nd and, in 2016, there was no river transportation from June 27th to October 13th. It then became a little easier but, last year, from August 7th to October 7th, there was a 'dead'

## REFERENCE

Regarding tourism, Belarusian rivers have invaluable potential for small vessels and rafting, although infrastructure is still needed

period. This year, river transport ceased on August 11th.

We need to deliver our timber to Turkey, and Ukrainian raw materials to Belarusian plants. Mr. Tsenter believes in the future of cargo transportation by water but notes that certain conditions are essential. It's not just about building a port in Nizhnie Zhary. Rivers need deepening. 62km from the mouth of the Pripyat to Usova and 107km to Lyubech are waterways on the territory of Ukraine. Our neighbours know that dredging is essential, but Belarus also needs to do the same.

Pleasure boats operate out of Gomel, Pinsk and Brest, with rental for weddings and corporate events proving popular, along regular routes. Boating to Kiev by 'Raketa' used to be seen as very attractive but most people now make the journey by car.

Regarding tourism, Belarusian rivers have invaluable potential for small vessels and rafting, although infrastructure is still needed. In 2016, the Dnieper-Bug waterway launched the cruise ship 'Belaya Rus' from Brest to Mozyr. The ticket price includes not only food and accommodation but a variety of excursions. Foreign tourists are demonstrating increasing interest, with the cruises almost fully booked for 2019. Perhaps, all regions should be more active in water tourism.

# Deep interior of the Earth is obviously full of riches

By Olga Korneeva

Proven deposits of potassium salts in Belarus could last over 160 years

Belaruskali, one of the world's top three potash exporters, is one of the largest taxpayers in the country. Last year, it produced over 46 million tonnes of potassium salts. Our salt reserves are estimated at 7.5 billion tonnes: sufficient for more than 160 years, not counting

other deposits that could be put into commercial use," notes Belarus' Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Andrey Khmel.

As far as oil production is concerned, the goal is to ensure the discovery of oil deposits at a pace in excess of oil extraction volumes. "We're planning to meet this goal this year, with projected extraction of around 1.7 million tonnes. Our reserves should increase by this volume but, of course, exploration, especially of hy-



At Belaruskali

drocarbons, is very costly," explains the Deputy Minister. "Without support from the national budget, we won't meet our goals. For every Br1 invested in exploration, we yield Br5-6 in profit."

# Data reveals everything

## Sociologists study citizens' value systems

By Yevgeny Kononovich

On the eve of the annual Kastrychny Economic Forum (KEF 2018), the Research Centre of the Institute of Privatisation and Management was conducting research into *Life, the Universe and All the Rest: the Value System of Belarusians*. Darya Urban, who authored the survey, tells us about the conclusions we can draw.

"In total, we polled 1,016 people of both genders and ages countrywide," notes Ms. Urban. "According to the poll, almost 20 percent view themselves as very happy, while 68 percent consider themselves to be rather happy and only 12 percent stated that they were not very happy."

**10.8 percent of Belarusians stated that they're completely satisfied with their life, while 30.6 percent are 'satisfied'. So, it's possible to be happy but still dissatisfied with life? Isn't it paradoxical?**

Actually, a large number of people expressed their life satisfaction as neutral. If we take them into account, the results almost coincide. Of course, there are contradictive elements, due to the mentality of Belarusians. It's said that when two Belarusians meet, they'll begin by complaining about their lives to each other, before driving off in their BMW cars. Probably, this is the result of many factors: from our history and culture, to psychology, models of upbringing, and education.

**Does happiness and life satisfaction vary by age, social status, level of income or education?**

There are no direct trends regarding sex, age or education. Happiness is subjective and everyone has their own criteria. Those with higher incomes tend to be happier than those with less but even those who are wealthier can be dissatisfied, despite having more opportunities for self-realisation.

**Crimes which most rile citizens are robbery of property, drug**



**abuse, family violence, bribery and alcoholism. It's clear that people are concerned about security even if they don't face aggression themselves. However, how can we explain the fact that non-payment of taxes is ranked seventh, disrespect towards**

**other people is placed eighth, and travel on public transport without payment didn't reach the top ten? We want to live in a rich country but it seems we don't always take personal responsibility.**

74 percent of citizens condemn

non-payment of taxes, which is a very high figure. However, non-payment on public transport is mentioned by just 58 percent. It's our mentality again, and the degree of freedom people have gotten used to. For decades, we lived under restricted freedom, with the state fulfilling many functions. People simply shifted responsibility onto the state, expecting solutions instead of arranging their life on their own. This has left an imprint on civil responsibility.

**Research demonstrates that people with high incomes are more active, taking part more often in sports, reading and going to the theatre.**

It's difficult to say why this is true, although travel may be the main issue. Those who earn more can go abroad to holiday, and may be more likely to visit theatres and concerts, as well as going to swimming pools and gyms. However, much depends on the individual, their habits and values. Even those with modest incomes can take part in sport, and can travel. Active people tend to be active in all respects — regarding work, hobbies and family life. That 'drive' may also be the reason why they earn a higher income.

**Drinking in the street is viewed as the most widespread disorderly behaviour, with over 53 percent of those polled saying that they often see this. Hooliganism and vandalism, robberies and sale of drugs rank afterwards. What role do you think the police play, as well as our laws, the inevitability of punishment and the personal involvement of citizens?**

We can't speak of only one factor. Psychology has a role to play. If we hear about crime often on the news, people acquire the impression that the level of crime is high. We're keen to know how often people have personally been affected by crime, and it's actually quite rare. Belarusians tend to believe that they live in a safe country. As far as drinking alcohol in public places is concerned, I think it shows that the law isn't always enforced, because the crime isn't seen as severe. The problem should be settled at all stages, starting from school and involving the police, as well as representatives of civil society.

## Italian tourists enjoy visa free regime

By Alexander Pimenov

**Guests from Italy will visit Belarus more often, being able to stay for several days visa-free**

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Mario Giorgio Stefano Baldi, recently met the Sports and Tourism Minister of Belarus, Sergey Kovalchuk to discuss how best to strengthen interaction in sports and tourism, and plan co-operation.

The Italian Ambassador praised the initiative of the Belarusian authorities to increase visa-free stay in the country, to up to thirty days. "The measures have already contributed to more Italians coming to Belarus, to enjoy nature and tranquillity, and to relax," noted Mr. Baldi.

He believes that the tourist potential of Belarus remains untapped but has promised to help increase



the flow of Italian visitors to Belarus. Speaking of the international cycling festival and the Minsk Half Marathon, he expressed admiration for the many modern sports facilities in Belarus and Belarusians' eagerness to take part in sports.

Mr. Kovalchuk noted that Italy's experience in tourist services and enhancing their quality could be useful to Belarus.

The forthcoming 2nd European Games also came under discussion, with Italy expected to send about a hundred athletes, coaches and officials. Mr. Kovalchuk has promised all possible assistance.

## Go shopping with your own bags

By Vladimir Velikhov

**Zero Waste eco-map for Minsk**

The Zero Waste project is collating information on where to buy goods without packaging, to help reduce the amount



of household waste. The idea is for everyone to contribute by adding points on a map of Minsk via the project's website.

Tatiana Kuznetsova is heading the initiative, being co-ordinated by the Centre for

Environmental Solutions.

She explains, "There are several layers on the map, which users can update as they make discoveries. For instance, you can log 'bag free shops', where cus-

tomers can bring their own bags rather than being forced to use the store's own plastic bags."

The map has been created in partnership with German HEJ-Support, under the aegis of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.



# Normal flights will continue

European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) names Belavia among the leaders of all European air companies in ensuring flight safety

By Alexander Pimenov

Belavia's Director General, Anatoly Gusarov, believes that air safety is something that must be continually monitored and strived for. "We're finishing the development and launch of one of the most advanced technologies in the world to support air worthiness: the AMOS system," he explains. "This will enable us to more effectively control aircraft systems, and forecast various disorders."



The company is keen to reduce the cost of tickets but Mr. Gusarov notes that low-cost carriers only thrive where there is sufficient demand. "We won't ever rival low-cost carriers in price, and won't even try, as we don't have the volume of passengers to permit this. Low-cost carriers can work for routes to Moscow and Kiev and, in summer, to Barcelona, Tel Aviv and Larnaca," Mr. Gusarov admits.

We may be sure that the quality of services from the Belarusian air carrier will only

rise. In the coming two years, Belavia plans to expand its air fleet with five Embraer aircraft and six Boeing 737 MAXs, enabling ticket costs to be reduced, while expanding the route network.

Belavia recently launched a regular flight from Minsk to Chisinau and, next year, the carrier plans to run regular flights to Munich. Flights to Murmansk, Tallinn and other cities are possible for the summer season, and it's hoped to embrace regional airports with a greater number of flights.

## Good beginning laid in Paris

By Olga Korneeva

**Belarusian-French inter-parliamentary co-operation will be ramped at the level of top officials of the French Senate and the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, and at the level of bilateral inter-parliamentary groups**

The agreement to step up inter-parliamentary contacts was reached during the visit of Chairman of the Council of the Republic Mikhail Myasnikov to Paris. During talks a positive assessment was given to the work of 63 French and French-Belarusian companies, including industry giants like Renault, Lactalis, and Danone. President of the French Senate Gérard Larcher pointed out that Belarus is famous for its manufacturing industry, information technology, engineering solutions and qualified workforce. The parties agreed that despite the increase in bilateral trade up to \$366m in 2017, Belarus-France trade and economic cooperation lags behind the capacities of the two countries.

Mikhail Myasnikov and Gérard Larcher welcomed the establishment of friendship groups at the Council of the Republic and the French Senate in 2018, for the first time in the history of bilateral relations. The meeting between the heads of the upper houses of the parliaments of Belarus and France was also held for the first time since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. According to the speakers, this attests to determination of Belarus and France to give a new impetus to bilateral relations.

The Belarusian Speaker signed a distinguished visitors' book of the French Senate.

# Belarusian Polesie is their native home

By Vladimir Mikhailov

**International ecological project implemented in Belarus to preserve one of Europe's endangered birds**

Efforts are made to restore the habitat of the Aquatic Warbler — a globally endangered species — in the Belarusian reserves of Sporovsky and Zvanets. The "Wetlands" project should assist, financed by the Global Environmental Facility and implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Belarus.

The Aquatic Warbler is one of the rarest songbirds in Europe, though it was once found in over twenty European states. In the last century alone, its world population has reduced by 95 percent, as a result of reclamation of almost all lowland bogs. The nesting places of this rare bird species remain only in Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania and Germany. Moreover,



half of the world's population nests in our Republic.

The Belarusian reserves of Sporovsky and Zvanets are important internationally, being the key habitats for the largest population of Aquatic Warbler in Europe. Most of the Sporovsky Reserve is covered by lowland bogs and Sporovskoe bog is one of the largest floodplain lowland bogs in Europe, re-

maintaining close to its natural condition. Fifty-two species of animal and twenty-two types of plant are registered on the reserve's territory — all listed in the Red Book of the Republic of Belarus. Among its inhabitants are many endangered species: Greater Spotted Eagles, Aquatic Warblers, Double Snipers, Black-tailed Godwits, Curlews, European Otters, European

Tortoises and Dwarf Dragonflies. The population of Aquatic Warblers numbers around 500 to 700 male birds.

In recent years, open lowland bogs have become covered by trees, bushes and reeds (no longer being cut for cattle grazing), that is jeopardising their globally important biodiversity. Open bog territory has reduced by 25 percent because of the spread of bushes alone, necessitating the removal of reeds, trees, bushes and grass.

As part of the "Wetlands" project, machinery has been purchased to aid clearing, with plant matter being used for chip fuel, hay and fertilisers. At least 1,200 hectares are to be cleared, creating new jobs at Sporovsky Reserve. It's planned to mow almost 2,000 hectares of grass, for biomass use in agriculture and burning in local boiler-houses. Moreover, mown grass and seeds can be used for speedy restoration of lowland bogs on previously developed peatlands at Dokudovskoe bog.

Zvanets Reserve boasts Europe's largest lowland sedge bog, as well as the world's largest nesting place for the Aquatic Warbler. More than 25 percent of the global population of this endangered bird species nest there, and the site is home to other rare birds: Greater Spotted Eagles, Double Snipers and Curlews. Rare types of plants also find their home there, alongside insects such as *Dytiscus Laticornis* (a species of beetle).

Rampant reeds and bushes are violating the hydrological regime, preventing mowing and negatively influencing the local population of Aquatic Warbler and other bird species. The "Wetlands" project will include not only mowing at Zvanets Reserve but the removal of reeds and bushes over the area of almost 5,000 hectares. As at Sporovsky Reserve, these will be used for chip fuel, mulching, and production of bio-fertilisers. The aim is to see endangered bird species revive in number.





# United States has closed major border crossing

American authorities suspended operations at the border crossing in San Diego after hundreds of migrants tried to enter the United States from Mexico

US Customs and Border Protection suspended all vehicles and pedestrians from passing through the San Ysidro Port of Entry after the migrants illegally tried to cross east and west of the inspection station.

Some migrants said they tried crossing only after being denied access to a port of entry

where they could claim asylum.

The shutdown came after hundreds of migrants — many whom are fleeing violence in Central America — assembled on the Mexican side of the border. American military helicopters buzzed overhead as hundreds of Mexican federal police officers blocked the migrants

from entering San Ysidro. The migrants were part of a larger group of roughly 6,000 who'd crammed into several shelters in Tijuana — a situation the city's mayor has called a 'humanitarian crisis'.

In an interview, one of the migrants, Jorge Montoya, 43, described thousands of people

staying in a rundown sports stadium with overflowing toilets. He and others called the conditions intolerable — but when Mexican authorities refused to grant them access to the port of entry, hundreds slogged across the sewage-laden Tijuana River in search of access to the United States.

## EU leaders agree UK's Brexit deal at Brussels summit

**EU leaders have approved an agreement on the UK's withdrawal and future relations — insisting it is the 'best and only deal possible'**

After 20 months of negotiations, the 27 leaders gave the deal their blessing after less than an hour's discussion.

They said the deal — which needs to be approved by the UK Parliament — paved the way for an 'orderly withdrawal'.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said the deal 'delivered for the British people' and set the UK 'on course for a prosperous future'.

The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on March 29th, 2019.

## Flybe says in talks with Virgin Atlantic for possible sale

**British regional airline Flybe Group Plc said Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd was one of the parties it was in discussions with, as part of a formal sale process announced earlier this month**

Flybe said on November 13th it was in talks with potential buyers, as it grapples with higher fuel costs, lower demand and a weak British pound. Shares of Flybe rose 48.5 percent to 14.4 pence after Sky News reported that Virgin Atlantic, founded by Richard Branson, was in talks about a takeover bid for Flybe.

## EU finds no aid given to container terminals by Antwerp port

**The European Commission said it had concluded that deals struck between the state-owned Port of Antwerp and two container terminals operating there did not involve state aid**

The port, which is fully owned by the city of Antwerp, concluded 42-year concession agreements with operators PSA Antwerp NV and Antwerp Gateway NV in 2004 for container shipments.

The agreements were similar to the contracts awarded to other container terminal operators and included a requirement that a minimum quantity of containers is handled each year.

Between 2009 and 2012, the operators did not reach the yearly minimum tonnage requirements and would have been expected to pay compensation to the port.



# Black Friday crosses Europe

**Black Friday has long been a tradition in America, where discount sales the day after Thanksgiving signal the start of the Christmas shopping countdown**

But now it appears it's well established far from its home.

Sue Hayward, consumer and money expert from the UK said, "It's certainly spreading. In the UK five years ago for example, we first saw it as

a phenomenon. That included terrible fight scenes over cheap TVs.

"It was horrific to watch, but it shows you how serious people are taking this desperate quest to find a bargain. And it's not just one day, we now see weeks of Black Friday deals in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. Then of course we've got Cyber Monday, the biggest retail online day the following Monday."

# Pisa's Tower is losing its famous lean

**The iconic Leaning Tower of Pisa is losing its lean as decades of efforts to straighten it seem to be working**

According to the consultant to the international committee monitoring the tilt, Nunziante Squeglia, while the progressive recovery of tilt is good news, the overall structural health of the tower is more important.

The 12th-century tower reopened to the public in 2001 after being closed for more than a decade to let workers reduce its slant.

By using hundreds of tonnes of lead counterweights at the base and extracting soil from under the foundations, engineers initially shaved 43.1cm off the lean.





Famous Belarusian painter and poet Rygor Sitnitsa assesses his forty-year career, with exhibition at National Art Museum of Belarus



# ‘I’m a realist painter who enjoys teetering on the edge’

By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition presents around sixty graphical and pictorial works from four series: *The Manor House*, *Walking Along the Fence*, *The Received*, and *Artefact*. The collection is being called *Tok* [meaning both ‘current’ and ‘barnyard’].

The artist explains, “Blood, energy and life flow like currents, while the barnyard is where our ancestors used to thresh sheaves and gather the harvest. My works feature household items and images of monuments, as found by archaeologists, forming a record of my trips to Russia, China, India, Slovakia and Poland.”

Rygor Sitnitsa’s work is described as ‘sacral realism’, as he elevates the ordinary. He comments, “I try to show young painters that it’s possible to create a picture that can be perceived as a modern art object, using absolutely traditional materials and in the traditional manner, using banal subjects, such as an onion, a mound of potatoes, a wooden fence, or chopped wood.”

Rygor Sitnitsa, a Belarusian painter and poet, is a laureate of several Republican biennale of painting, graphics and sculpture. He holds the Francysk Skaryna Medal and, last year, received the National Award for pictorial art. His works are to be found among the collections of numerous museums worldwide.

At first sight, his pictures seem rather simple, evoking the nostalgia of rural childhood, but they also have hidden sense. “Through simple things, I try to show how we can create modern art,” explains Mr. Sitnitsa. “I’m a realistic painter who enjoys teetering on the edge, thus creating a new artistic reality.”

Having just begun using acrylic paint, he’s finding the medium unexpectedly satisfying, being best known, for a long time, as a master of graphics. Combining the principles of Suprematism and Constructivism, with hyper-realistic interpretation of form, woven with symbolism, he assigns meaning to everyday objects, melding the realistic with the abstract.

The artist uses figurative composition to build the sacred creative space, expanding the boundaries of realism in two directions. First, he creates autonomous documentary forms, then builds a new repertoire independent of nature, using his own formulas for artistic and historical documentation. National Belarusian elements also feature in his work, drawn from history, ethnography and folklore, as part of the pan-European cultural context.

Rygor Sitnitsa was born in January 1958 in the village of Kuritichi, in the Gomel Region’s Petrikov District, to a peasant family. After sixth grade, he moved to Minsk at the recommendation of local teacher Ivan Malinovsky, studying at the Republican Boarding School for Fine Arts. Having graduated from the Graphical Department of the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute, he found employment as a teacher at the Belarusian State



**Rygor Sitnitsa is called a representative of ‘sacral realism’, as he doesn’t simply write a landscape or depict a material subject but elevates the ordinary**

Academy of Arts.

Mr. Sitnitsa’s favourite motif is Belarusian material culture, such as architectural monuments and houses made from rough-hewn timber. His work preserves our national heritage, protecting it for future generations.

With his works expressing his inner gaze rather than being a literal record of what he sees, he has spiritual vision. One of his previous exhibitions, *Subjective Reality*, examined seemingly banal objects, such as fragments of rural homes, painted Easter eggs, a rope of onions and a mound of potatoes, as well as details of Belarusian castles and churches, and the monuments of Ancient Greece. However, his modern, refined style brings symbolic sense.



People’s Artist of Belarus Gavriil Vashchenko has called Rygor Sitnitsa a ‘great master’ who creates ‘such wonderful works’ with simple pencil and paper. He isn’t mistaken.

The Minsk Times  
Thursday  
November 29  
2018



# Young artistes from Europe and Australia star on *Eurovision* stage in Minsk

*Junior Eurovision-2018* finals at Minsk-Arena bring together youngsters from twenty countries — a record number in the history of the contest

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarus has been taking part in *Junior Eurovision* since its launch by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) in 2003. Our country boasts two victories: in 2005, Ksenia Sitnik; and in 2007, Alexey Zhigalkovich. In 2017, Helena Meraai of Belarus came fifth. Minsk first hosted the event in 2010 and its success inspired the EBU to propose Belarus again.

Roksana Węgiel, aged 13, of Poland won the contest this year, singing *Anyone I Want to Be*, earning 215 points from the professional and public jury. Roksana won the first season of *The Voice Kids Poland* show and also enjoys acrobatics, judo and dancing. However, music has always been her greatest passion, as revealed during karaoke. Praise of her voice encouraged her to develop her singing, which resulted in Roksana releasing her first single, entitled *Żyj*. With over 8 million views on YouTube, and more than 200,000 subscribers across her social networks, the young lady has a solid fan base already. Her last single, *Obiecuje*, is also doing well, and Roksana is working on her debut album.



◀ Daniel Yastremsky's performance was interesting in its graphical and lighting solutions; the singer was assisted by the dancers

She believes that setting goals and working hard are the path to victory, saying, "I'm grateful to all who voted for me. I'll continue singing and still have time to think whether I want to take part in adult *Eurovision*."

As to her impressions of Belarus, Roksana underlines that she has felt very welcome. "I enjoyed everything, especially draniki. What will I bring home from Belarus? My major trophy is the crystal microphone," said the young artiste. She added that, recently, she has become very tired and

would like to have a rest but has much work ahead. "Like all artistes, I plan to perform at concerts and release an album, which my fans are looking forward to."

"Belarus is well able to conduct such contests as *Eurovision*," notes Jon Ola Sand, the Executive Supervisor of the *Eurovision* Song Contest.

"I've been visiting Belarus for the past year and would like to note the high level of preparation for *Junior Eurovision-2018*. The organisers have been very professional. Why did we decide to conduct this event in Belarus? We all remember the grand show organised by Belarus in 2010."

He particularly notes the design of the major trophy of *Junior Eurovision*: the crystal microphone is a worthy prize for this major, international contest.

Angéline of France (203 points) and Jael of Australia (201) came second and third in this year's contest, while Belarus' own Daniel Yastremsky, aged 14, finished eleventh, with 114 points, singing *Time*.

Daniel Yastremsky's performance was interesting in its graphical and lighting solu-

tions; the singer was assisted by the dancers. According to journalists, Daniel did his best.

Daniel was born in the US city of Cincinnati, but lives and studies in Minsk, including learning the piano at music school. The young performer — an entrant of television shows and contests — has



◀ Roksana Węgiel — a representative of Poland — has won *Junior Eurovision-2018*

studied at Igor Krutoy Academy and, prior to the *Eurovision-2018* selection round finals, took a promotional tour across Belarus.

*Junior Eurovision-2018* winner Roksana Węgiel has dedicated her victory to her country, Poland, saying, "During the last minutes of the results being announced, I was really worried. All the finalists had performed worthily and any could have won. I'd like Poland to host *Junior Eurovision*."

# Confidently reaching the event's final stage



By Oleg Yemelianov

## Belarusian women's national basketball team defeats Turkey away — 60:56 — in final qualification match of 2019 European Championships

The first quarter of the meeting in Kayseri saw a tough struggle, with the hosts leading 35:32 by halftime. In the second half, Natalia Trofimova's trainees were confident in defence. During the final ten minutes of the match, the Turkish basketballers managed to take the lead four and a half minutes before the whistle — 54:53. However, the hosts quickly received five team fouls, leading to penalty shots. Yekaterina Snytyina managed to score, bringing three points to our squad, and the final score to 60:56.

Yekaterina Snytyina boasted seventeen

points and five rebounds for the Belarusian national squad and coach Natalia Trofimova will surely have been pleased at their defence, which repelled fifty-one attempts to score.

"I'm pleased with the result. The Belarusian team played well. Thanks to staggering support from thousands of fans in the Turkish stadium, we managed to beat one of the strongest teams in Europe, to reach the final stage of the continental tournament. Head coach Natalia Trofimova and the whole coaching staff deserve thanks. Our girls have done well!" said the Chairman of the Belarusian Basketball Federation, Maxim Ryzhenkov. Ms. Trofimova notes that the squad managed to neutralise the leaders of the rival team. "We won on rebounds, which gave us an opportunity to attack again. We also managed to stop their leader, Alben. I'm pleased at how

the girls worked in defence, not forgetting about attacks and forcing their rivals into violating the rules. I'm glad that we've finished this round on a victorious note and have earned the right to perform in the European Championships," stressed the head coach.

Belarus' women's national squad is now practically guaranteed a place in the final stage of the European Championships. The winners of groups and six teams occupying second place will enter the final stage of the Championships taking place in Latvia and Serbia. The last time that the national women's basketball squad of Belarus qualified for the European Championship finals was in 2007, earning bronze.

Tournament standings in Group B: Turkey — 11 points (6 games), Belarus — 11 (6), Poland — 6 (5) and Estonia — 5 (5).

## Warm and solemn ceremony

By Sergey Dudin

### Four-time Olympic champion, Soviet and Belarusian fencer Yelena Belova donates new exhibits to National Olympic Committee museum

The outstanding athlete recently took part in celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Summer Olympic Games in Mexico, where she earned two gold medals.

Ms. Belova has donated her certificate, as granted to her in Mexico, a sign plate bearing the names of the participants of the festive event, alongside a specially signed cofferet. She explains, "Inside, there's a symbol of the Olympic Games — a peace dove — made from precious stones and hand-embroidered with beads."

The donation ceremony was both warm and solemn, with the General Secretary of the NOC of Belarus, Georgy Katulin, taking possession of the items on behalf of the museum.

# Don't miss out on this spectacular event

By Dmitry Komashko

Maxim Koshkald, who heads the Marketing, Commercial and Advertising Department, gives press conference on growing interest in European Games, saying tickets and TV rights are already in high demand worldwide

"Although these Games are European, interest in them has reached even the most remote parts of the planet. The television rights are already sold in China and, even, in Latin America. The Middle East is also demonstrating interest. One hundred and sixty broadcasting countries is an achievable goal," underlines Mr. Koshkald.

Income from the sale of television rights should be apparent by May. The first wave of tickets will go on sale on December 1st, with the best seats expected to sell first, followed by two later waves.



There will be a colourful show to launch the event, including presentation of the long-awaited Games mascot. Applications are already being received for the 375,000 seats available (and this could rise to 535,000). 14,000 have already been sold, with another 10,000 being reserved for representatives of European Olympic Committees, and 5,000 for participants and team representatives. Meanwhile, 7,500 have been bought by sponsoring companies.

Apart from standard tick-

ets (which enable guests to cross the Belarusian border without visas from June 10th to July 10th), the organisers have provided VIP-programmes. The cheapest seat is to cost \$2.50 and the most expensive will be \$25 (for 3x3 basketball and beach football matches). Lower prices are set for boxing, wrestling, cycling, gymnastics and athletics. The cheapest tickets are for shooting and archery.

Taking into account that 111 sessions are included in the programme, the organisers hope to raise just over \$2 million from ticket sales. Definitely, the opening ceremony would be the most expensive and popular event: ticket prices are not yet set but, according to the organisers, the event will be worthy of its price.



## Broadcasting for mutual benefit

By Olga Korneeva

### Euronews TV Channel to cover preparations for 2nd European Games

The Director of the European Games 2019 Directorate, Georgy Katulin, has signed an agreement with Euronews International Sales Director Kjell Stein, making available 532 videos about Belarus and the 2nd European Games 2019. Moreover, Euronews's *Focus*, *Metropolitan* and *Postcards* programmes will air stories about Belarus' travel and tourism industry. The TV channel will also broadcast a series of reports on Minsk's preparations

for the major continental sports forum.

"Coverage of the 2nd European Games is impossible without broad participation of mass media outlets. Euronews is a special partner of the Directorate and, in line with our agreement, will report on preparations for the 2nd European Games. The joint experience will come in useful in the future, as we organise coverage of other major sports and socio-political events. Euronews's broadcasting will help us attract even more fans and tourists, not only from Europe but from around the world," notes Mr. Katulin.



## Festival of the week



Vitebsk hosts 31st International Festival of Modern Choreography (IFMC)

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Deafart* Until 30<sup>th</sup> December. *Universe of Yazep Drozdovich* Until 7<sup>th</sup> January. *Aleksander Szturman (1869-1944). Travelling Artist*

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. *Signs of Independence: Polish Money from 1915-1939* Until 2<sup>nd</sup> December. *1918: Birth of New World* Until 8<sup>th</sup> January. *Art of Chocolate*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> December. *Belarus in Great War of 1914-1918* Until 15<sup>th</sup> January. *Pencil and Brush* Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *Maly Trostenets: exhibition-chronicles of large-scale massacre* Until 1<sup>st</sup> February. *Shop with Cites* Until 7<sup>th</sup> April. *Fantasy Land*

#### PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

11 Sovetskaya Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. *Belarusian Lawyers of 19th Century*

#### FIRST RSDRP CONGRESS HOUSE-MUSEUM

31A Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 2<sup>nd</sup> December. *Flittering Flowers*

#### OUTLETO TRADING CENTRE

44 Zhukov Avenue  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> December. *Aquaforum-2018* exhibition of aquarium fish  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> January. *Tropics* exhibition of exotic animals

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> December. *Strusto, Dauble, Richi, Savonar* Until 16<sup>th</sup> December. *Gunars Binde. Retrospective*

#### LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *Somewhere to the West of Minsk: Daily Life of Western Belarus* Until 4<sup>th</sup> December. *20th Century Avant-Garde*

#### CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. *Cat and Autumn*

#### MAGIC MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> December. *Tournament of Three Magicians*

#### NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

3 Nekrasov Street  
Until 24<sup>th</sup> November. *Violeta Bybelite: Own Body*

### THEATRES

#### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square  
29.11. *Rigoletto* 30.11 and 01.12. *Le Corsaire* 02.12. *The Flying Dutchman* 04.12. *Tenors vs Basses* 05 and 06.12. *Romeo and Juliet*

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
29.11. *The Visit* 30.11. *A Glass of Water* 01.12. *Don Quixote* 02.12. *Small Sunday Adventure* 04.12. *Dangerous Liaisons* 05.12. *Pygmalion* 06.12. *Bridegrooms*

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
05 and 06.12. *Searching for True Myself*

#### YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
29.11. *Weltmeister-Accordion* 30.11. *Local Cabaret* 01.12. *Love as Militarism* 02.12. *Pan Tadeush* 04.12. *Radio Prudok* 05.12. *Tolerance (Le Dieu du carnage)* 06.12. *Elza's Land*

#### MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
29.11. *Jane Eyre* 30.11. *Merry Widow* 01.12. *Blue Cameo* 02.12. *A Glass of Water* 05.12. *Tales from the Vienna Woods* 06.12. *Silva*

#### BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street  
29.11. *Three Giselles* 30.11. *Doctor Raus' Career* 01.12. *Woe from Wit* 02.12. *If There's No Tomorrow...* 03.12. *Dora or the Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents* 04.12. *Concrete* 06.12. *This is All She*

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
29.11. *The Goat Island* 30.11. *Zhmurik* 01.12. *Little Fool* 02.12. *It Wasn't Invented by Us* 05.12. *Leaving Nature* 06.12. *Rich Brides*

#### BELARUSIAN ARMY THEATRE

3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street  
01.12. *Romeo and Juliet* 05.12. *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*

#### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
01.12. *Dragon* 02.12. *Crazy Money*

#### NEW DRAMA THEATRE

16 Liza Chaikina Street  
29.11 and 04.12 *Factory Young Girl* 01.12. *Zhanna* 05.12. *It's Important to be Serious* 06.12. *Christmas*

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
30.11. *Comedy* 04.12. *Cuckold*