

In early November, socially significant objects solemnly open countrywide



Please Accept as a Gift... exposition specially created to mark National Art Museum's jubilee



INTERNATIONAL

The Minsk Times

Socio-political Weekly

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 42 (808) ● THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 ● WWW.SB.BY



'For Joy' of film lovers

26th Minsk International Film Festival *Listapad* has taken place. On festival days, Minsk resembled a multilingual Babylonian kingdom. In the centre of the city, languages from all over the world could be heard: cinema goes from different countries — moving between festival venues — watched documentaries, feature films, and children's films in a wide variety of genres, from drama to horror, almost round the clock. Over the week, viewers watched 154 films from 50 countries. The motto of this year's festival — 'For Joy' — has undoubtedly been fulfilled. → **10**



Mutual interest in co-operation

The President has recently paid a visit to the United Arab Emirates. Aleksandr Lukashenko held a number of meetings with representatives of the country's leadership and business circles. These contacts are the continuation of the long-term friendship and co-operation between the two countries. They should be seen as the development of the official talks between the Belarusian Head of State with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Their talks were held in Minsk this September, during the first official visit of the Crown Prince to Belarus.

The list of areas of mutual interest of our countries was very extensive. It included not only the expansion of trade relations but also the development of investment co-operation in various fields. In addition, taking into account the current level of interaction, the UAE can act as an entry point for Belarusian goods and services to the markets of other countries in the region. This is especially true in view of the preparations for the EXPO-2020 World Fair which will open in Dubai next year and will feature a national pavilion from Belarus.

Igor Platonov

High level of dialogue

In the United Arab Emirates, the Belarusian President met with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to discuss the implementation of the agreements reached following the recent visit of the Crown Prince to Belarus. The two sides also identified further steps to implement them.

Mr. Lukashenko noted the prompt arrival of a delegation of Emirati business circles to Belarus which indicates the real interest of the UAE in the development of trade, economic and investment co-operation. The President assured maximum assistance to the effective solution of any issues.

The sides discussed liaisons in agriculture, industry, banking, logistics and the humanitarian sphere. Special attention was paid to co-operation in the field of sport. The two leaders discussed in detail the situation in the Middle East region and the global context. One of the components of bilateral relations is military-technical collaboration. In this regard, readiness to expand dialogue in areas of interest to the Emirati side — including in the field of research, joint training and exchange of experience — was announced.

Mr. Lukashenko thanked Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for the hospitality and attention given to the Belarusian delegation in the Emirates.

The Belarusian Head of State also met with the United Arab Emirates National Security Advisor, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to discuss already implemented and promising joint projects, including in the field of artificial intelligence and its application in different spheres. "First of all, I want to thank you for the openness you have shown during my visit to the Emirates. Artificial intelligence is not clear to everyone and not everyone understands it — even its active propagandists and developers do not know what it will eventually result in. However, the world is moving in this direction. The Emirates are investing a great deal of money in AI development," the Belarusian Head of State said. He stressed that the proposal to acquaint the Belarusian delegation with the level of artificial intelligence development in the UAE deserves special respect. "This area is still quite closed. Each country, if it is engaged in artificial intelligence, hides its results from others. You show great openness, and we appreciate it very much," Mr. Lukashenko said.

The results of Aleksandr Lukashenko's meeting with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which took place a day earlier, were also discussed at the meeting. The parties appreciated its productivity and absolute focus on the prompt implementation of all plans.

Before that, the Belarusian President met the Vice President, Prime Minister and Defense Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid

an international financial centre in Minsk, with the help of the Emirati side. The concept of the project is currently being finalised.

One of the largest financial funds from the UAE proposed to invest in the construction of a new large-scale business complex which should unite financial and trade businesses in the Belarusian capital. Many countries of the world apply to this major fund but it was Belarus that was chosen by the investor for full-scale co-operation. The international financial centre will focus on the development of the digital

Belarusian side was discussed — so that our pavilion will be presented in the best format and for maximum effect.

Exhibition of great opportunity

EXPO is a unique event. It is held every 5 years and is a kind of Olympiad for states' progress. This is not the first time our country has participated in such a forum. In Dubai, it is expected to be organised on a grand scale. A new futuristic district is being built in the middle of the desert especially for the event, which

sources of energy, economic stability and transportation.

The exhibition will be held from October 20th, 2020 to April 10th, 2021 under the 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future' slogan.

A Belarusian pavilion at EXPO-2020 will organically fit into the architectural concept of the entire exhibition. It is lightweight, futuristic and innovative. Belarus was in fact the first to reserve a place for the construction of its national pavilion and sign an agreement on participation in the world fair.



Next year, Dubai is going to surprise the whole planet



Al Maktoum. They noted a high level of political dialogue between the countries and the regularity of contacts, the intensively developing co-operation in trade, economic, scientific, technical and humanitarian spheres. The sides expressed the readiness to strengthen Belarusian-Emirati co-operation in all areas.

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that Belarus is interested not only in the development of trade relations but also in the implementation of joint projects and exchange of experiences. At the meeting, in particular, they discussed promising projects in the transport, logistics and financial spheres. One of them provides for the establishment of

economy and become the second artery-conductor — after HTP — for the introduction of high technologies in Belarusian business.

There is great potential in the continuation of investment co-operation, including in the field of agriculture. In this regard, the possibility of establishing joint ventures with the subsequent sale of agricultural and food products was discussed. The UAE is also interested in Belarusian experience in the development of information and communication technologies.

In addition, preparation by the United Arab Emirates for the EXPO-2020 World Fair and, in particular, the participation of the

for many years after the forum will be a place for new start-ups and researchers in the field of science and modern technologies.

EXPO-2020 is timed to coincide with the upcoming golden jubilee of the UAE — in 2021, the young state will turn 50 years old. The exhibition is likely to become a springboard for the introduction of progressive ideas of sustainable development and strengthening the reputation of the Emirates as a world centre of great opportunities. It will be a meeting place for leading inventors, scientists and experts who will share ideas on solving the global problems of the planet: the rational use of water and resources, alternative

The concept of our exposition is based on three 'i's: innovation, investment, individual. It will convey to visitors the idea that the elements of progress and sustainable development are projected on a human being, are closely interlinked and will not produce the desired result if viewed separately.

The Belarusian organisers aim to ensure that participation in the EXPO will be a great opportunity to demonstrate the country's achievements and potential. In addition, the fair is likely to act as a good platform for the development of bilateral relations not only with the host country but also with other participating countries.

THE MT REFERENCE

Trade and economic co-operation between Belarus and the UAE is developing steadily. We export engineering products and petrochemicals to the country, while importing propylene and ethylene polymers and petroleum products. As of late 2018, the volume of bilateral trade in goods amounted to \$72.1m, including Belarusian exports worth \$57.9m.

It is important that there is a steady growth in the volume of mutual trade in services, primarily in areas such as transport, information technology and tourism. Issues of trade and eco-

economic co-operation are regularly discussed during bilateral meetings of both governmental delegations and at the level of chambers of commerce and business circles of the two countries. Meetings of the Joint Committee on Co-operation between the two governments are held regularly. The last such meeting was held in May 2018, in Abu Dhabi.

The parties see further prospects for the development of mutual trade and co-operation, including in science-intensive industries and in the field of food security.



Finish line for election campaign

On November 7th, elections to the Council of the Republic were held and, on November 12th, early voting for the election of deputies to the House of Representatives started

Belarus has held elections to the Council of the Republic — the Upper Chamber of Parliament, which plays an important role in the implementation of measures for the economic and social development of the country, the tasks of state-building and the democratic development of society, which is the last point in the passing of a bill through

Parliament, a legal and expert 'filter' guaranteeing a high standard for any future laws.

The Council of the Republic is the chamber of regional representation. Each region and the city of Minsk elected 8 members (each) for the Council of the Republic at meetings of local councils of deputies, by secret ballot. A total of 56 members of the Council of the Republic have been elected, and eight senators can be appointed by the President in accordance with the Constitution. The fully formed Council of the Republic consists of 64 senators and almost all of them work in the Upper Chamber of Parliament

on a voluntary basis, without receiving a salary. The Central Election Commission summarised the results of the elections to the Upper Chamber of Parliament and registered the elected members of the Council of the Republic on November 12th.

On the same day, early voting in the elections of deputies to the House of Representatives began. The main day for voting is November 17th. In Belarus, early voting lasts 5 days and is convenient for voters who, for any reason, are unable to vote on the day.

The practice of early voting is widespread in the USA. Most states enable citizens to

vote over a period from several days to 2 months without waiting for an official election date. Its mechanisms differ. In Illinois, for example, early voting is only possible by mail, but within 60 days. In Montana, early postal voting begins 75 days before the election date, and a month and a half before the election, the same opportunity becomes available at the polls. A similar practice is applied in Western Europe: in the UK, for example, 15 to 50 percent of citizens traditionally vote by mail, in Germany — about a quarter of all voters, in Switzerland — 90 percent, and even more. The time periods for early voting are also different. In Nor-

way, it is 4 weeks, in Switzerland — 5, in Sweden — 6 weeks.

During the present parliamentary elections in our country, early voting will last the traditional 5 days: from 12th to 16th November inclusively.

At the same time, honesty and transparency of voting remain the dominant issue. Last week, 863 international observers have been accredited: 477 from the CIS, 337 from the OSCE ODIHR, 28 from PACE, another 21 sent by electoral bodies of foreign states, in addition to 17,357 national observers. The CEC predicts that, closer to the voting day — November 17th, this figure will more than double.

Fruitful relations

By Olga Korneeva

This week, Aleksandr Lukashenko has paid an official visit to the Republic of Austria. According to the Austrian Ambassador to Belarus, Aloisia Worgetter, contacts at such a high level testify to the openness and willingness of the parties for dialogue.

"Relations between our two countries are developing dynamically. The visit of the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, Alexander van der Bellen, to Belarus, dedicated to the opening of the memorial in Blagovshchina, is memorable. During the visit, bilateral talks were held at Presidential level, laying the foundation for subsequent work. Mr. Lukashenko will pay an official visit to Austria soon. I believe that when contacts at such a high level are held, this facilitates openness, communication and readiness for dialogue," the Ambassador said on the eve of the visit.

She recalled that fruitful relations between Belarus and Austria began back in the years of the Soviet Union. For example, specialists from the largest Austrian steel concern took part in the construction of the Belarusian Steel Works in Zhlobin.

"For Austria, as a small country, that construction project for the Belarusian Steel Works was a large-scale co-operation project. So it was in the 1980s that a solid foundation was laid



Aleksandr Kushner

for trustworthy Belarusian-Austrian relations," noted the Ambassador. "A successful project at the present time is A1, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. Another example of collaboration is Priorbank, which is the second of the most successful banks in the Republic of Belarus. All these projects have existed for a very long time and show how long-term and strong relations between Belarus and Austria can be," added Ms. Worgetter.

THE MT REFERENCE

Austria is consistently among the largest investors in the Belarusian economy and plays an important role in the modernisation of Belarusian enterprises in a number of industries. 82 enterprises with Austrian capital, as well as 20 representative offices of Austrian companies, are registered in Belarus.

Proposals on developing Eastern Partnership

Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei presented proposals on developing Eastern Partnership for the period up to 2030 during events held in Sweden to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the initiative

Last week, Belarus' Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei paid his first working visit in the history of Belarusian-Swedish relations to Sweden. He took part in a high-level meeting on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the *Eastern Partnership* initiative upon the invitation of the Swedish Foreign Minister, Anne Linde, and the Minister for International Development Co-operation — Peter Eriksson. Foreign ministers of the other countries in the European Union initiative also took part in the meeting. They included Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, as well as Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister and representatives of the European Commission.

In his speech, Mr. Makei presented Belarus' proposals on developing the *Eastern Partnership* initiative up to 2030. He drew attention to the key problems the initiative faces. Mr. Makei stressed that *Eastern Partnership* should become a region of stability and prosperity aiming for concrete results and urged the European Union to continue supporting negotiations on Belarus' accession to the WTO and start work on the framework agreement.

Mr. Makei emphasised the advisability of the European Union simplifying imports from the *Eastern Partnership* member-states. He called for tighter manufacturing co-operation between European companies and companies residing in the initiative's countries.

Mr. Makei met with his Swedish counterpart — Anne Linde — to exchange opinions about Belarus' relations with the European Union and the future of the *Eastern Partnership* initiative. Belarusian-Swedish relations were discussed and human rights touched upon.



mfa.gov.by

Mr. Makei also met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Sweden, Andreas Norlen. The meeting focused on Belarus-Sweden interparliamentary co-operation and interaction within the framework of multilateral regional initiatives.

Based on materials of belta.by

Constructive criticism contributes to progress

Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations — Valentin Rybakov — criticised the work of the Human Rights Council as he spoke at the Plenary Meeting for the Presentation of the Human Rights Council Report at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Valentin Rybakov emphasised the important role of the UN Human Rights Council in the international human rights efforts. He noted that this organisation should focus on real work to promote human rights and to improve national capacities for the better protection and promotion of human rights. Mr. Rybakov spoke in favour of the mechanism of the *Universal Periodic Review* launched in line with the



minsknews.by

UN Human Rights Council's mandate. This mechanism is meant to exercise non-selective monitoring of human rights situations in all countries without exception.

At the same time, the Belarusian diplomat criticised the work of the Human Rights Council pointing to some persistent issues in its activities: polit-

icisation and double standards, absence of impartial evaluation of human rights situations in various countries, excessive focus on individual countries during discussions. He emphasised that the Human Rights Council is turning into a repressive body and is running afoul of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda that does not provide for legalisation of political coercion, sanctions and threat of sanctions. The head of the Belarusian diplomatic mission opposed the country mandates that do not contribute to dialogue between states.

Taking into consideration the critical financial situation and the need to save resources in the United Nations, Mr. Rybakov urged those present to consider the revision of the agendas of the United Nations General Assembly Third Com-

mittee and the Human Rights Council and to remove overlapping resolutions, which will help improve the efficiency of the Human Rights Council and save human and financial resources.

The Permanent Representative of Belarus emphasised that the Human Rights Council should be strengthened, but not by means of giving it the additional functions of a judge. The head of the Belarusian diplomatic mission also spoke in favour of developing co-operative mechanisms and discussion platforms in the Council that will promote the exchange of best practices in various areas of human rights, including in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Based on materials of belta.by

Important and necessary gifts

It's not the first year that November 7th has seen the long tradition of celebrating socially significant objects. But each time these events are perceived in a different way. After all, underlying them is an increase in quality of life and the well-being of our people. Answering journalists' questions recently, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, "We have preserved this holiday and created appropriate ideology for it: finishing construction, harvesting, summarising... Gifts for the people."

By Natalia Yemelyanova

Laying a ski trail



New workshop to produce plastic skis launched in the town of Telekhany at Brest Region's Ivatsevichi District

The unique product was created following a Presidential directive in just one year. A historic building, where wooden skis were produced for many years, was reconstructed for the new purpose. The workshop boasts the most modern equipment from leading foreign and domestic manufacturers. Experts studied the foreign experience and took the best examples from it. It was a joint project by the Academy of Sciences, the Technological University, the Presidential Administration, the Ministry of Sports and Tourism and the Industry Ministry. The work was worth Br14m and the new skis will give an additional impetus to the development of Telekhany.

The Telekhany product is competitive in price and quality and is aimed at mass consumers. There are 16 models of cross-country skis in the 1 to 2.1m range. So far, the company plans to produce 5,000 pairs of skis per month but, in 2020, the volume of production is expected to increase to 50,000 pairs and to double in three years.

Outpost renewed



Peschatka border checkpoint, which bears the name of the Hero of the Soviet Union, Ivan Barsukov, recently celebrated a housewarming party. The 'residence permit' remained the same for border guards, but the living and service conditions have changed dramatically. Large-scale reconstruction of the outpost became possible due to financial support from the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus.

Reconstruction of the Peschatka border checkpoint began a year ago. Since this time, much has changed. The windows and roof were replaced at the facility, while the houses in which families of officers live, as well as equipment storage facilities, were thoroughly repaired. The site has also changed. Now the outpost is not only equipped with modern equipment, but also has an aesthetically pleasing appearance.

It's important to create the right conditions for those who fulfil their duty at the border. They protect our independence, freedom and confidence in tomorrow's peace.

Firemen in the neighbourhood

A new emergency rescue fire department opened in Minsk's Frunzensky District. City-wide, this is the 30th firefighting unit, but for the 100,000 residents of Kamennaya Gorka, it's the first and is long-awaited. Previously, rescuers could take up to 11 minutes to arrive, now this time will be cut in half. In a fire, every minute counts. Already, just a couple of months before the official opening, 32 emergency fire calls were received and fire crews went to help people on more than 100 occasions.



Fifty rescuers will serve in three shifts in the depot in Kamennaya Gorka. The equipment is the most advanced: 4 fire engines, a rapid response vehicle, tank trucks and a 50-metre car lift, in addition to a closed car wash, automatic ventilation for removing exhaust fumes, and a hose base. Moreover, rescuers have at their disposal a cutter-spreader that can lift a 20-tonne stove and cut a 26mm fitting, air bags, and elongated hoses for working in confined spaces, as well as breathing apparatus using compressed air. A stationary gas station is also provided for cylinders.

Medicine within walking distance

Last week, the Grodno Region was full of news about the opening of landmark and important sites. Recently, a new children's outpatient clinic for 70 patients per shift opened its doors in the new Olshanka micro-district of the regional centre.

The new medical facility is located next to the adult outpatient clinic, which is convenient for residents. It has been five years since the opening of the first children's clinic in Olshanka. Since then, a great deal of new housing has been built,



mainly occupied by young families. The number of children has increased 3.5 times: up to 11,000. Therefore, it was decided to build a new outpatient clinic. The opening of such small outpatient clinics in densely populated areas is highly important, as they bring medical care closer to the population.

Last week, a street was inaugurated in Grodno in honour of local lore histo-

rian Victor Sayapin, the author of more than three dozen books about the city. The street appeared in the neighbourhood of Grandichi, which began to be developed last year. It will become one of the main highways encircling the area of a multi-story residential development. In addition, a new trolleybus route was launched in the regional centre, running between Grodno Azot JSC and Olshanka.

Resource offers promising start

An engineering resource centre has opened on the premises of Orsha State Mechanics and Economics College

Demand for local graduates is always higher than supply. Titans such as the Krasny Borets Machine Tool Plant and Orsha Aircraft Repair Plant are the main customers of the personnel. It's in their interests that young professionals do not have to retrain. Now, special training stands, including industrial machines, ensure fewer issues when graduates begin work.

The resource centre in Orsha is oriented, first of all, to the training of workers necessary for the industrial complex of this region. Resource centres are also used as platforms for vocational train-



ing of students, vocational guidance for schoolchildren, retraining and advanced training of personnel, as well as for the training of contestants of the national and international competitions *WorldSkills*.

The resource centre complex, equipped with modern training equipment, includes mechanical workshops for the milling, turning and processing of materials on small-sized and industrial computer-controlled machine tools, as well as a building which houses four laboratories.

To educate our future

A kindergarten officially launched in Lida's new residential district

A kindergarten for 230 children was built in Industrialny where a large amount of housing is currently being constructed. The majority of residents are young families, many of whom have children.

"I'm convinced that this is the right investment — in the education of our future," said the Chairman of the Grodno Regional Executive Committee, Vladimir Kravtsov, at the opening ceremony. He stressed that a programme for the construction of preschool educational institutions is being implemented in the Grodno Region where at least two kindergartens are put into operation every year. In recent years, more than 10 such facilities have been launched — not only in Grodno but also in district centres, including Shchuchin, Ostrovets



and Lida. Further kindergartens are under construction at the moment.

A modern design combining functionality, convenience, safety and aesthetics has been developed for the new educational institution. Only natural materials were used in the decoration. There are well-equipped sleeping rooms for children, a canteen, sports and music halls. There are also computer and sensory rooms, in addition to a swimming pool. The necessary personnel have already been employed.

Healthy pastime is ensured

Residents of Minsk's Shabany residential district are getting more involved in sports: a modern swimming pool has been opened. 'Volat' consists of two pools — 25m for adults and a smaller one for children; it can take up to 700 visitors a day. Locals say the area has been missing such a facility.

"The Zavodskoy District is quite large and, of course, it must have a well-developed infrastructure," said the Head of the Presidential Administration, Natalia Kochanova. "We see that more housing has been built but there was no sports facility of this kind. The Head of State requested the building of as many swimming pools in Minsk as possible, so that people have an opportunity to go for sport or simply swim for pleasure. Now we see an example of the type of pool that should be built.



It has taken 10 months to build and it's not expensive. I'm convinced it will enjoy popularity among the locals. Construction of swimming pools will continue where necessary. This is the fourth facility for an area populated by 234,000 people; the figure is not sufficient, so the programme will continue."

The swimming pool is primarily needed to serve the population but sportsmen will also train here. At the suggestion of athletes, a dry swimming room is available.

A vast area has been landscaped around the one-storey building. It's expected to attract local residents and act as a venue for festive events, which the district lacked until recently. Moreover, Shabany residents can now enjoy another 'present': a modern workout area equipped with numerous outdoor simulators has opened close to 'Volat'.



New settlers in the capital's metro

Stadler Minsk demonstrates the M110 electric train model, made for the Minsk metro, which has already passed its tests and is currently running-in

By Irina Sergeeva

In January 2017, Minsk metro and Stadler Minsk signed a contract for the purchase of ten metro trains for the capital (six four-carriage trains this year and four five-carriage models to be supplied next year). Two trains are already in the metro depot while another has been delivered to the site recently. The remaining three four-carriage trains will be shipped within a month. It's expected that the new trains will begin transporting passengers in the first half of 2020.

Last week, journalists were able to assess the new four-carriage electric train, as its first passengers. A smooth ride, airy and with no need to shout to be heard. Modern technologies used in the new rolling stock ensure reliability, comfort, and

sound proofing thanks to insulating materials. The carriage body is an all-metal supporting structure made of aluminium alloys with a lifespan of fifty years. According to Stadler Minsk CEO, Philipp Brunner, this will give the metro savings on depreciation and maintenance. The developers guarantee each train 560,000km from commissioning.

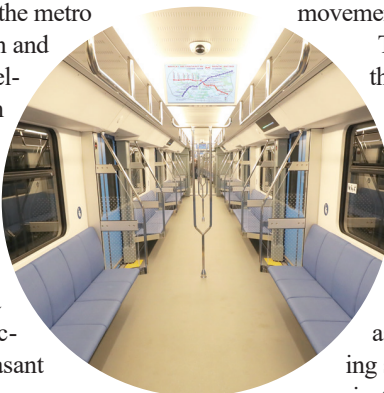
There is air conditioning and video surveillance systems in the cabin while a place to recharge electronic devices is a pleasant bonus. The train carriages are painted in the colours of the Minsk coat of arms: blue, white and red. The interi-

or boasts light colours and streamlined shapes. The maximum width is 2.65m and its height is 3.69m. The spacious inter-carriage connection secures additional space for passengers and freedom of movement throughout the train.

The concept is based on the principle of modularity that allows the possibility of the Minsk metro using trains from four to eight carriages. The lead carriages have specially designated places for wheelchairs, as well as additional folding seats. Digital video cameras installed on the body of the lead carriage ensure good visibility for the driver along the entire length of the train.

One of the most significant innovations is the automatic train operation system, which ensures additional controls, safety, reduced electric energy consumption and compliance with the train schedules. However, it will be fully used to automatically stop trains only on the third line, where protective barriers at the stations are installed. On the first and second lines it would be necessary to completely change the infrastructure to allow this.

"We've designed this train specially for the Minsk metro. We're proud that we have used our resources as well as we have. Of course, we would like to use it to attract more customers within the CIS. We can adjust trains for their infrastructure needs," said Stadler Minsk CEO, Philipp Brunner.



New promising avenue

Belaruskali joins Chinese Migao to commission an enterprise to produce potassium nitrate. The ceremony to inaugurate the first start-up complex of Belkali-Migao JSC took place at the industrial site of Belaruskali's fourth mine administration.

By Igor Svetlov

The new factory is the first joint project between Belaruskali JSC and Chinese Migao Corporation Limited — a leading manufacturer of specialised potash fertilisers on the Chinese market. The enterprise also represents Belarus' first factory making potassium nitrate.

Fertilisers will be made using Migao Corporation's technology by converting ammonium nitrate and potassium chloride. The enterprise now has all the technology specialists and repairmen it needs.

The annual output capacity of the first start-up complex of the new factory will be 80,000 tonnes of potassium nitrate and 62,000 tonnes of granulated nitrogen-po-



tassium fertilisers. The company intends to sell the products to the European Union, Turkey, Russia and China. There are plans to later penetrate the markets of North Africa and Latin America.

According to Belaruskali's Director General, Ivan Golovaty, the production of potassium nitrate has a great deal of promise. "The potassium nitrate market is not that large. Once the two stages of the enterprise are completed, the share of Belarusian potassium nitrate on the global market

will be close to 5 percent. While the average price for a tonne of potash fertiliser stands at \$250-290, potassium nitrate is priced at \$800 per tonne. The profitability of the enterprise will be close to 40 percent," he noted.

Potassium nitrate is an innovative product for Belaruskali and the country as a whole. The substance is primarily used as a premium mineral fertiliser in agriculture since it contains two staple nutrients at once (nitrogen and potassium) and virtually no chloride.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Belarus takes part in China International Import Expo in Shanghai.

The national exposition of Belarus is one of the largest at the forum and consists of seven pavilions. The central pavilion is designed as a scale model of the National Library building. Belarus presents innovative petrochemical products, flax and pulp and paper products and agricultural machinery, as well as transport and logistics services. In total, 100 domestic organisations and enterprises



are taking part in the exhibition. Over the first few days of the exhibition, Belarusian companies signed contracts and agreements worth over \$150m.

The ministries of defence of Belarus and UK have signed a plan of military co-operation for 2020.

Previously, London hosted a working meeting of representatives of the two countries' defence ministries. On the Belarusian side, the delegation was led by the Head of the Department of International Military Co-operation — Assistant De-



fence Minister for International Military Co-operation, Oleg Voinov. As a result of the meeting, a plan for military liaison in 2020 was signed. The UK Defence Ministry also organised briefings for the Belarusian delegation on various aspects of bilateral co-operation.

Belarus and Latvia will work on a fan-friendly train schedule during the 2021 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship.

LDz and Belarusian Railways will work together to provide a fan-friendly connection between



the capitals of the two states. For this purpose, it is planned to develop a special schedule of trains, to work on increasing passenger traffic. It is also planned to search for solutions that will allow passengers to travel by train between Minsk and Riga faster. There is already an agreement on attracting new types of cargo, as well as the development of additional logistics proposals and a competitive tariff policy.

Belarus and Japan have signed three contracts for the supply of \$226,000 of medical equipment.



The documents have been signed under the programme of the Japanese Government: *Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects*. The Embassy of Japan has been implementing this programme in Belarus since 2004, providing assistance to victims of the Chernobyl accident. A total of 51 projects worth over \$4m will be implemented in Belarus. So far, more than 200 healthcare institutions have received the necessary medical equipment countrywide.



The decoration of the National Library of Belarus has become even more interesting: a 'literary' auroch has been installed in the lobby of the building.

The 'Auroch' sculpture is both a symbol of Belarus and a collective image of the strong printing tradition of our ancestors. It was made from details of old printing presses and typographic fonts, which makes it a monument to both printing and literature. Among the letters of the alphabet decorating the sculpture are our special 'ŷ' and 'i' characters. The high-tech style sculpture was created by designer Gennady Kotlinsky as part of Vladimir Likhodedov's project.



gazeta.by

Old song of the auroch

An auroch is a special animal for Belarus. This giant of the forest is our symbol. The operation aimed at saving it — which lasted for over two decades — has proven a success: we truly have something to be proud of. After all, we have not only preserved an endangered species but reached first place in the world for the number of wild aurochs and, since last year, in terms of the population as a whole, now close to 2,000 on our reserved lands.

By Vera Arteaga

Giants' proud movement

It's hard to believe now but, a century ago, the auroch was seen as a rare species. By 1926, its population was only about fifty animals, living not in forests but in diverse zoos around the world. The first aurochs in Belarus — in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha — were registered in the post-war years. However, the population rescue actually only started in the 1990s.

Active measures were taken. For example, it was planned to increase the number of these forest giants in Belarus to 600 in 2011 but the results exceeded this by 165 percent. Along with the growth of the population came a further problem as the aurochs began falling ill. The reason for that was genetic: most animals were close relatives. Scientists then proposed to divide the herds into micro-populations and settle them over a larger area, since the number of herds of 400 or more animals was considered critical.

FACT

Belarus ranks first in the world in the number of wild aurochs, while the share of the species' population is **35** percent of the world's — which accounts for more than **4,400** animals.

Since then, there are now 11 micro-populations of European aurochs in Belarus: Berezinskaya, Ozerskaya, Bobruiskaya, Borisov-Berezinskaya, Ozeranskaya, Nalibokskaya, Polesskaya, Lyaskovichskaya, Naidyanskaya, Krasnoborskaya and Dyatlovskaya. The first three are the largest and number up to five hundred animals. All of them, scientists say, are successful and sustainable. With the growth of the population, animals start choosing the habitat themselves — which is no bad thing since, in this case, people's influence is excluded and normal biological processes occur.

Selection issue is acute

Many years ago, scientists decided it was time to move from quality to quantity in

relation to the aurochs, and to establish breeding centres. Since our aurochs have among their ancestors only a dozen animals, they suffer from inbreeding. Nevertheless, according to Pavel Veligurov — a researcher at the laboratory for the population ecology of terrestrial vertebrates at the National Academy of Sciences, we will not get away from these close ties. All our aurochs are relatives and the expert explains, “We should not think it's a great problem. Time passes, populations develop and move away from each other not only geographically. I would not say that aurochs are so sick. There are sick individuals but there are only a few of them — not dozens.”

As regards progress in the creation of an auroch breeding centre, financing is the prob-

lem. Mr. Veligurov continues, “It's not just a single free-standing building. It's a complex — including a laboratory where analyses are made and samples of material are stored. We also need an auroch-nursery of several enclosures — to separately house a breeder flock, males, young aurochs for resettlement and couples which are selected not simply on their appearance but taking into account their pedigree, to increase genetic diversity.”

Passportisation is one way of solving the problems. Samples from live aurochs are already being collected for animals' passports but no documents are yet issued. The problem is how to identify this material. There are a lot of animals, they are not chipped. As a result, it is impossible to determine which of them is which, in principle. As part of the UNDP/GEF *Wetlands* project, scientists plan to issue five documents for aurochs from the Nalibokskaya population by the end of 2019. Germany is the only country to have made passports for their aurochs. However, populations there are small and scattered throughout

the state: the staff know all the animals well. There is no difficulty in determining which of them provided a sample.

Future of Belarusian aurochs

The state programme of environmental protection (where a special article is devoted to measures aimed at the protection of aurochs) ends in 2020, according to Mr. Veligurov. “The coming programme will include an updated scheme of resettlement for these animals. We are working on the latter now. If we succeed in implementing what we have in mind, we will be the first country in the world to create a self-sustaining population of 1,500 animals. In the future, aurochs may appear in the Grodno Region's Mosty and Slonim districts, Minsk Region's Dzerzhinsk and Uzda districts, Mogilev's Cherikov District and in the south-east of the Vitebsk Region. There is one condition: these areas must have open meadows and pastures. Thanks to this, we will be able to combine large populations into a single habitat.”

Ruins surprise

Large-scale restoration works have been launched at the East Fort of Brest Fortress. In less than a year, a new museum will open here with seven exhibition halls. Specialists and builders from the Brestrestavratsiya enterprise are currently working on the site, with the project being financed from the Union State budget.



Seven halls in the museum will embody the history of the fort

Pavel Losich

By Pavel Losich

Traces of bullets will remain

The East Fort is located near the North Gate of the Brest Fortress. It isn't easy to spot as the fort actually has no external walls. Massive horseshoe-shaped emplacements are dug into the thickness of the earthen ramparts. To get into the middle of this horseshoe, you need to go around the embankment, where the builders and equipment are working. The senior foreman of the Brestrestavratsiya enterprise, Sergey Maznev, describes the scope of the project, "We're breaking the masonry on the cornices — it was made at the beginning of the 1990s from hollow bricks, apparently to stop the destruction of the site and to conserve it. The main task facing us is to make the place as similar as possible to what it was before the war. For this, we also use original bricks. However, traces of bullets will remain, becoming part of the new exhibition."

Mr. Maznev describes how the fort will look when work is completed, "The left side is a closed gallery. There will be a museum on its second floor while the first floor will house offices and technical areas will be located in the ramp. On the right side there will be an open gallery. Here we will restore the arches and put new lattices in."

The foreman says the project is far from simple and much work lies ahead. In addition, from time to time, the builders still find ammunition from the war, "In the short time that we have been working here, there have been five such cases. Once the workers dismantled the concrete floor and began to level the ground when they found five F-1 grenades and work was suspended. Military engineers from the combat engineer and pyrotechnic group searched the area and found another 268 similar gre-



The project is not simple, and there's much work ahead

nades and 240 fuses. All from the time of the Great Patriotic War and which subsequently had to be taken away and destroyed. Another find included 174 bombs. These were also taken to a safe place and detonated by combat engineers."

We go upstairs to the second floor and draw attention to the brick that lies underfoot. The year 1865 is stamped on it. One of the workers comments, "Every tenth brick here has such a mark. The years are different: 1861, 1862, 1865... Everything is done to a very high standard. Even the arches are in excellent condition and look at these walls! Here, hold the tape measure. Almost two and a half metres thick!"

Employees of the scientific and exhibition department of the Brest Hero Fortress Memorial said that the East Fort was the last organised centre of resistance on the site of the Kobrin fortification. Therefore, the preservation of it is an important job. "East Fort will be one of the most interesting tourist sites. This is the last part directly related to the protection of the fortress but has

still not been added to the list of museum sites. It is included in the tourist route through the fortress area, but not in the sightseeing tour of the memorial. For tourists, access to the gun emplacements is closed."

Pages of history

...The East Fort was built 160 years ago. In June 1941, gunners were stationed here, as well as weapons and equipment. Major Piotr Gavrilov was one of the leaders of the defence of the fort. He managed to unite under his command those who were in the fort at the time the war began and those who approached it during the retreat. Units were formed from fighters, commanders were appointed and communication was established between units. An improvised hospital operated in one of the emplacements.

In their attempt to occupy the fort, the Germans dropped smoke bombs, used tear gas and assault guns. With no result. The East Fort was destined to become the only place in the fortress that German



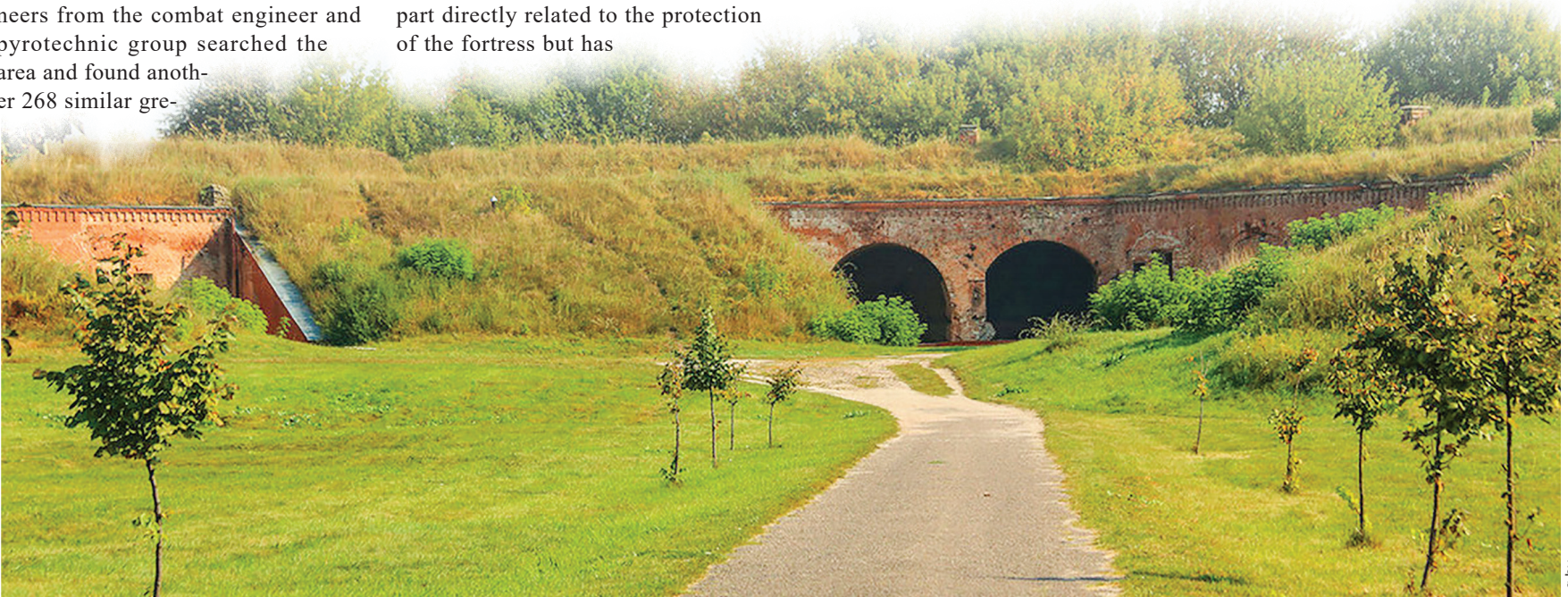
From time to time, builders find ammunition from the war

bombs were aimed at. On June 29th, 1941, a 1,700kg bomb completely destroyed the right corner. The explosion shocked not only the fortress, but also the city. After that, the assault on the fort began and many fighters were captured...

Seven halls

The scientific concept of the museum's future exhibition — *Defence of the East Fort* — has already been approved. It will include a permanent exhibition in the gun emplacement halls and a street exposition with observation platforms and emplacements open for visitors.

Seven halls of the museum will become the embodiment of the fort's history, enabling visitors to learn about its protection, about the fate of the fighters, their children and wives, as well as about the work of the hospital and the final day of confrontation. One of the halls will be dedicated to the last defender of the fortress — Major Gavrilov. He was captured on July 23rd and released in May 1945. After 12 years, Piotr Gavrilov was awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. This last defender of the fortress, as he requested, was buried in the Garrison Cemetery in Brest.



INSIDE

The Minsk Times
Thursday
November 14
2019

7

b-g.by



Biggest ever Leonardo da Vinci exhibition has opened in Paris

Louvre launches *Da Vinci* exhibition, 500 years after his death

It took more than a decade to prepare and was almost thwarted by a diplomatic row. Now, one of the world's most expensive art exhibitions — to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death — has finally opened to the public.

The Louvre museum in Paris, home to Leonardo's *Mona Lisa*, opened its doors to a display of more than 160 Renaissance-era paintings and drawings, some of which are on loan from Queen Elizabeth II and Bill and Melinda Gates.

The exhibition, which is expected to attract more than half a million vis-

itors over the next four months, aims to provide a deeper understanding of the artist's working methods using his notebooks, infrared imaging technology and virtual reality.

The Louvre has partnered with HTC Vive Arts to create its first virtual reality experience. Called *Mona Lisa: Behind the Glass*, it presents the opportunity for guests to approach the painting and have a personal encounter with it in the virtual space. The seven-minute immersive experience sees participants donning a headset and stepping in front of a version of the painting with the protective glass and frame removed. Along with the famous masterpiece, the viewer can see the vivid details of the oil painting,



including the texture of the wood panel seen through the paint layer.

The VR experience combines moving image, sound and interactive design to create something engaging for visitors. Guests can see first-hand how Leonardo da Vinci used the sfumato technique, which involved numerous layers of thinly applied paint making the transition from shadow to light almost invisible.

Leonardo da Vinci was an engineer, designer, scientist and artist who was fascinated with the human form and the behaviours of animals and plants.

He also designed weapons, tools and utensils, and his notebook includes interpretations of architectural building techniques.

China has just switched on the world's largest 5G network

The country's three state-run telecom operators launched services for the next generation wireless technology

China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom are all offering 5G plans that start at 128 Yuan (\$18) for 30 GB of data per month, giving Chinese Internet users access to the ultra fast service.

Coverage is already available in major cities like Shanghai and Beijing, and will extend to more than 50,000 base stations before the end of the year. All three operators are sharing infrastructure in order to increase the pace of roll-out and save costs.

"China will have 36 percent of its mobile customer base on 5G by 2025," said Tim Hatt, the Head of Research of GSMA Intelligence. "Because of its huge population this translates into 600 million subscribers — roughly 40 percent of the entire global 5G market by that time."

Other countries including the United States and South Korea launched 5G services in select areas earlier this year. But China's commercial network is the biggest, according to Bernstein Research, giving the county more influence over the technology's global evolution.

"The scale of its network and the price of its 5G services will have a pivotal impact throughout the supply chain," Bernstein analyst Chris Lane said in a research note.

China has more mobile Internet users than any other country, with about 850 million people using their smartphones to surf the Internet.

Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker and a leading smartphone brand, is playing a major role in China's 5G network rollout.



Britain orders immediate moratorium on fracking

Britain orders immediate moratorium on fracking due to earth tremor concerns

Britain will impose an immediate moratorium on fracking, the Government announced, saying the industry risked causing too much disruption to local communities through earth tremors. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Government had previously signalled its support for the shale gas industry as it seeks ways to cut Britain's reliance on imports of natural gas which is used to heat around 80 percent of Britain's homes.

But fracking, which involves ex-

tracting gas from rocks by breaking them up with water and chemicals at high pressure, is fiercely opposed by environmentalists who say it is at odds with Britain's commitment to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The announcement comes as Johnson gears up for an election on December 12th.

"Exploratory work to determine whether shale could be a new domestic energy source in the UK... has now been paused — unless and until further evidence is provided that it can be carried out safely here," the business and energy department said in a statement.

Storm Amelie hits regions in France, Spain and Italy

Storm Amelie has battered regions across the Atlantic coast in France, northern Spain and Italy with winds of up to 100mph. Torrential rain has caused severe flooding across parts of the European countries. There have been several reports of injuries caused by the storm and a 37-year-old woman was killed by a falling palm tree in Mallorca when out walking with her husband and daughter.

The first autumn storm of 2019 has left more than 140,000 homes in the south of France without power and, in Italy, families living in Sesta Godano have been evacuated.

Across France several rail services have been cancelled and roads were closed due to flooding and debris. A church steeple has also collapsed in Mimizan; a small town located in south-western France. The famous French Riviera has been affected by flash flooding and strong winds.

Sixty people were left isolated from their homes in San Pietro after part of the only road to their houses collapsed. A water pipe was also broken leaving them without water.



Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Gifts of art

'Please Accept as a Gift' is the usual standard phrase which, according to the prescribed formula, begins a letter donating something to the museum. Behind this simple phrase lies the noble desires of those who replenish the collections of the National Art Museum, the main spiritual treasury of the nation. A large-scale exhibition, entitled *Please Accept as a Gift...* has recently opened at the museum. The exposition which was specially created to mark the 80th anniversary of the National Art Museum, displays art objects donated to the museum over the past twenty years. These include genuine pearls and items that in other ways would most likely not fall into the archives.



By Irina Ovsepyan

These gifts are one of the main sources of augmenting museum collections: artists and sculptors donate their works, generous patrons and people who have made unusual findings in their own attics are also eager to help museums. So the works of Ernst Neizvestny, Marc Chagall, Paul Klee, Vitold Byalynitsky-Birulya, Mikhail Shemyakin, Boris Zaborov, graphic architect Iosif Langbard, Napoleon Orda, Piotr Sergievich, Vitaly Tsvirko, Leonid Shchemelev and many Belarusian artists are represented in the National Art Museum.

"As we're so grateful to the citizens, various organisations, diplomats, and restorers who have donated many wonderful art objects, we decided to display some of these gifts on the 80th anniversary of the museum," said curator of the exhibition, Nadezhda Usova. "Of the many donations, art critics have selected about 170 most striking exhibits relating to different periods of Belarusian and foreign art and they will become the core of the exhibition."

Seeing Paris and returning home

Thanks to the generous donors, the works of the artists of the Paris School — Pinchus Kremegne, Michel Kikoine, Marc Chagall — appeared at the National Art Museum...

"These are acquisitions of the last five years," says Nadezhda Usova. "Now, thanks to these gifts, our museum boasts the works of Belarusians who lived and worked in Paris. Most importantly, we finally have our own Chagall!"

The black-and-white engraving depicting the path of Christ to Calvary is one of the later works of the great avant-garde artist. And although this is one of several editions, the value of the work is raised due to the artist's autograph. A colour lithograph of the famous German artist Paul Klee — also from a limited edition with the author's signature — arrived at the museum as a gift. There is a further small but valuable collection: three lithographs of Napoleon Orda with views of Nesvizh, Grodno and Mir Castle.

From the theatrical stores

The canvas *Bell Ringer* by Piotr Sergievich — a Belarusian and Lithuanian painter of the Soviet period — was donated to the museum by the Yanka Kupala Theatre.

"*The Bell Ringer* was kept backstage in the Yanka Kupala Theatre," says Ms. Usova. "We restored it and are showing it for the first time in many years, since only a few saw this work by Sergievich in the Yanka Kupala Theatre as it was not put on public display."



Aleksey Matyush

Wonderful babies

Sculptor Andrey Ostashov pleased the museum workers with a series of works entitled *Our Children*. Small graceful bronze figures, made in a unique and recognisable manner, are a joy to behold.

Mr. Ostashov today is one of the most sought-after sculptors in Belarus, well-known abroad, his exhibitions are held by the Russian Museum. It is no surprise as his works are fascinating. In addition, the works of Pavel Voinitsky, Vitaly Chernobrisov and other Belarusian masters can be seen in the National Art Museum.

Cranes flying to Polesie

Gavriil Vashchenko's large-scale canvas *Flash of Summer Lightning* is dated 1996. One of the artist's typical works — cranes flying into the sunset — is dedicated to his native Polesie. Being a native of the Polesie land, Mr. Vashchenko has been addressing the theme of his homeland and the nature of his beloved home

throughout his life. It is not without reason that the artist was awarded a gold medal at the Exhibition of the Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR for the painting *My Polesie*, in 1975.

Eternal images

The ex-president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, made a landmark gift to the National Art Museum: the image of one of the apostles belongs to the Belarusian-Pinsk school and dates from 1908. The icon is painted on a board covered with decorative carving, so-called Belarusian carving. It came to the museum in a very poor state and was put in order by the museum restorers.

The collection of icon paintings was replenished thanks to private donors; people seem to find



Aleksey Matyush



minsk2019.by



minsknews.by



Aleksey Matyush

the most valuable things in their attics and generously donate them to the museum fund. The Belarusian Customs Service, which regularly rescues cultural property from illegal export abroad, also presented several rare items, including an unusually colourful image of St. John the Theologian.

Donating to the National Art Museum is a worthy civic act, testifying to the integrity of those who care about increasing and preserving the various manifestations of their country's culture. The National Art Museum sincerely thanks all the donors who have provided invaluable assistance not only to the museum, but to Belarusian society as a whole.

ACCENT

Over the past twenty years, nearly five thousand exhibits have been donated to the collections of the National Art Museum as gifts

Andrey Ostashov presented the museum with a series of bronze sculptures

Hurry to live and feel



26th Minsk International Film Festival *Listapad* has taken place, with viewers watching 154 screenings over the week: from the novelties of art house to classical intellectual cinema. The geography of the event was wide, encompassing five dozen countries, with debuts from Sudan and Senegal.

By Victoria Popova

The forum once again excited the audiences, forcing them to think, argue and exchange impressions... Everyone was looking for 'their' own movie in the programme and sometimes found it among young or well-known filmmakers. The motto of this year's festival — 'For Joy' — was more than fulfilled. Minsk residents and guests of the forum saw new cinema in all its diversity and experienced unforgettable emotions. At many film screenings, viewers were able to chat with the directors, screenwriters and producers.

On festival days, Minsk resembled a multilingual Babylonian kingdom, with languages from all over the world being heard in the centre of the city: cinema devotees from different countries, moving between festival venues, watched documentaries, feature films and children's films in a wide variety of genres: from drama to horror, almost around the clock.

But, of course, special attention was paid to Belarusian films at the forum where the national competition was held for the sixth time. The figures are impressive: viewers saw 5 feature films, 9 documentaries and 6 animated domestic films. The co-ordinator of the national competition, Nikolay Lavrenyuk, noted that there were more than 83 applications for participation in the contest this year.

The programme director of the festival, Igor Sukmanov, is optimistic about the new generation of Belarusian directors, "The national competition was seen by us as a springboard for young filmmakers, and we wanted to formulate the concept of national cinema for ourselves. Now we see that this new group of authors exists, and their names are well known. Nikita Lavretsky, Yulia Shatun, Aleksey Poluyan — these are the directors who were launched by the festival and, hopefully, they have become a close-knit team. However, the film industry is open for new names and talents, it's not limited to any one group."

Virtual reality day was a real surprise, enabling anyone to completely immerse themselves in the world of art by wearing a helmet and special glasses. Cinema at 360 degrees per second transported viewers to another point on the planet. Virtual reality technologies helped viewers not just to watch



LISTAPAD-2019 PRIZES MAIN FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

- **Grand Prix Golden Listapad for Best Film**
Atlantis, directed by Valentyn Vasyanovych (Ukraine)
- **Best Director Award**
Corpus Christi, directed by Jan Komasa (Poland, France)
- **Best Screenplay Award**
The Criminal Man, by Dmitry Mamuliya, Archil Kikodze (Georgia, Russia)
- **Yury Marukhin Memorial Award for Best Cinematography**
So Long, My Son, by Kim Hyun-seok (China)
- **Best Actress Award**
Inhale-Exhale, by Salome Demuria (Georgia, Russia, Sweden)
- **Best Actor Award**
And Then We Danced, by Levan Gelbakhiani (Sweden, Georgia, France)

what was happening, but to be the main character in the film.

In addition, the results of the national film schools' competition were summed up at the Museum of Belarusian Cinema History. The competition was attended by 22 young documentary filmmakers from 15 film schools.

The winner of the children and youth film competition *Listapadzik* was the picture *My Extraordinary Summer with Tess* by Steven Wouterlood. The film about a sunny summer was especially warmly received in the grey rainy autumn. A special jury prize was awarded to the Indian submission *Bulbul Can Sing*.

Looking at the festival prizes that the jury so generously handed out, we can see that the winners (according to both professionals and viewers) are primarily films about modern life. The trend includes filmmakers who make pictures about moral anxiety, giving answers to the question of why we live as we do, and what our prospects are



The Grand Prix *Golden Listapad* for Best Film went to the Ukrainian director, Valentyn Vasyanovych. In his *Atlantis* we find an amazing fusion of hard naturalism and a poetic view of reality. The action takes place in the near future — in 2025. *Atlantis* can be called anti-utopia, although it retains all the signs of a realistic story. The director offers his view of a future life in the Donbass after the military conflict. The local natural landscape is poisoned. Many enterprises are destroyed or closed. People are confused. Life needs

strong point is its visual images: how quickly a person gets used to it all, there is one step between Eros and Thanatos, the love scene burns with excitement, and is shot very cleverly. The jury, led by Carlos Quintela from Cuba, was full of admiration.

The second most important prize of the main competition — 'Best Director Award' — was awarded to Polish director Jan Komasa for his *Corpus Christi*. The plot of this entry was probably the most original — we have not seen anything like it before. In a penal colony,

20-year-old Daniel is undergoing a spiritual transformation, he finds understanding with priest Tomasz and wants to become a priest himself. Unfortunately, because of a criminal record, this is impossible, and he is sent for correctional labour to a small town where Daniel impersonates a pastor. The appearance in the provincial parish of a young priest changes the life of the town, with local residents enjoying the former criminal and ridding themselves of their collective injuries with his help. But the protracted pastoral game cannot last long and the deception will soon be revealed. How will all its participants come out of the embarrassing situation? The role of Daniel, played by Polish actor, Bartosz Bielenia, deserves special mention. Bartosz could easily claim a separate prize from the jury for his strong performance and piercing look alone.

The 'Best Actor' prize however, went to Levan Gelbakhiani, the lead actor in *And Then We Danced*. This movie by the Georgian director, Levan Akin, led the audience vote for a long time, until they saw the Polish drama *Corpus Christi*. The Audience Award for Best Feature Film went to Jan Komasa and his story about the young pastor.

In the national competition, whose jury was led by the Polish master filmmaker Krzysztof Zanussi, Belarusian film directors Kirill Galitsky and Svetlana Kozlovskaya received the 'Best Feature Film' statuette for their *Sands/Woods/Carriage* — a chilling twenty-minute story about how He approached Her on the beach and turned the rest of her day into a nightmare.

It is worth noting that the festival hosted a special screening of Krzysztof Zanussi's premiere picture *Ether*. The film was presented to the audience by the director himself, a Polish cinematographer, who at the festival was awarded the Prize of the President of Belarus 'For the Preservation and Development of the Traditions of Spirituality in Cinema'.

The President's Prize 'For Cinema Humanism and Spirituality' was bestowed upon the Chinese director and screenwriter of *Wushu Orphan* — Huang Huang.

Another exciting, sleepless and inspiring *Listapad* festival has ended and we are looking forward to the release of the best of the festival's films.

Gold suits him

Minsk has hosted the first in the new season stage of the UCI Track Cycling World Cup. There hasn't been such a stellar and representative team at Minsk-Arena velodrome for a long time: as winners of the Olympic Games, world and European championships, World Cup stages and other prestigious events gathered together. The cyclists' interest in this tournament is easily explained: alongside the struggle for medals, there was also the draw of points — necessary for qualifying for the Olympics in Tokyo. In the tense struggle on the track, our athletes didn't lose out to the stars: first, the leader of the women's team, Tatiana Sharakova, won the bronze medal in the points race, and then gold was earned in scratch by Yevgeny Korolek.

By Tatiana Pastushenko

Yevgeny Korolek is 23 years old, and today he is the leader of our men's track cycling team. Two years ago, the athlete became the European youth champion in the scratch race and, last year, became the adult world champion in this discipline. At the recent European Championship in the Netherlands, Yevgeny was close to adding to his already impressive collection of awards, until an unfortunate fall put him in fourth place.

Korolek's 'scratch' crown is a non-Olympic discipline. If the cyclist manages to qualify for the Olympic Games, he will not be able to compete in it; he will have to bet on other events in the programme. So far, among the possible options for Yevgeny are the madison and omnium. At the home stage of the World Cup, Korolek and Tishkov finished 13th in the madison. Yevgeny says that they could have performed better, "During the race there was one crisis moment in terms of tactics. We couldn't change in time and lagged behind our rivals by one lap. Nevertheless, we gained some intermediate points, allowing us to get ahead of other racers and earn rating points. Now we need to work on some components of this race, such as shifts, keeping on the opponent's wheel and giving some space, but not allowing a big clearance. This is important as, during the race, the average speed is almost 60km/h. If you lag behind your rivals, then, to catch up with them, you'll need to accelerate to about 65km/h, and this is almost beyond the limit."

According to Yevgeny, there are quite a few nuances in the madison.



Vitaly Pivovarchik

They are primarily due to the fact that the race is not individual, work in pairs involves a well co-ordinated tactical struggle. The new format of the competition also adds complexity: from this season, the distance in the madison has been increased from 120 laps to 200.

Korolek is still thinking about his prospects in another Olympic discipline — the omnium. In this race, as in the madison, the format has also changed. The four disciplines currently included in it — scratch, the tempo race, elimination race and points race — are held within a very short time: in less than four hours.

However, this does not frighten Yevgeny, "When you are in good shape, recovery is quick, and it doesn't matter how much time passes between starts. For me, if there is a long break between races — about two

hours — then my body cools down, and I need to warm up again, so the non-stop mode suits me. Until now, I've only tried the omnium in international races rather than at the World Cup stages. I think I will have a chance to get a start in this discipline and, perhaps, I'll try to prove myself in it."

Yevgeny Korolek and Roman Tishkov will skip the next stage of the World Cup, which will be held in Glasgow, as the cyclists will go to Cyprus to do highway training, "We'll be preparing for the upcoming three stages of the World Cup in New Zealand and Australia, including working out the subtleties of the madison. Another major event of the season is the World Cup, which will take place in March. This will be the final stage of selection for the Olympic Games, and only after this tournament will we know whether we will perform in Tokyo or not."

Shakhtyor's beautiful victory

Soligorsk's Shakhtyor volleyball players defeated Finnish Ford Store Levoranta (Sastamala) in the first match of the Champions League qualification — 3:0 (29:27, 25:22, 25:13)

The match was held at Minsk's Uruchie Sports Complex and gathered 1,200 spectators in the stands who witnessed the beautiful victory by Victor Beksha's squad. The Finnish volleyball players managed the first goal of the game but couldn't bring victory despite having the advantage. Having lost the starting segment of the match, the rivals

lost their energy and allowed Shakhtyor volleyball to win the meeting.

The best player of the match was Shakhtyor's defender, Maksim Shkredov, who scored 15 points, five of which were earned on the block. The best server and passer was Aleksey Kurash, who scored 2 aces.

"At the beginning of the match in Minsk, the rivals showed how they can play. However, we managed to work well in defence and seize the initiative. During the game, my players didn't make any serious mistakes," noted Shakhtyor's head coach.

In the upcoming return match, the Belarusian club needs to win at least two games in order to advance to the next round. The meeting in Sastamala is scheduled for November 14th.



shakhtior-vc.by



Weightlifting Belarus

Silver tournament medals

Belarusian athletes win eight medals at the international weightlifting Olympic qualifying tournament Alexander Cup 2019, dedicated to the memory of two-time Olympic champion Alexander Kurlovich, in Grodno

Belarusians Dina Sazanovets (weight category 81kg) and Maksim Mudrevsky (89kg) climbed to the highest step of the medals podium in the double event (clean and jerk).

Silver medals at the prestigious tournament went to Darya Naumova (76kg),

Gennady Laptev (67kg), Vadim Likhovrad (73kg) while their team partners Yulia Asaenok (49kg), Piotr Asaenok (81kg) and Yevgeny Tikhontsov (96kg) earned bronze awards.

In the men's team standings, Belarus took first place, followed by the Chinese squad. Armenian athletes closed the top three. Among the girls, the best were the Chinese athletes, with the Belarusian team ranked in second place and the Russian team placed third.

More than 60 athletes from Azerbai-

jan, Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Uruguay were fighting for the awards.

Alexander Cup 2019 is a silver level licensed tournament. Participation in such events is mandatory for athletes applying for a place at Tokyo 2020. The previous qualification competition for Belarusian weightlifters was the Mediterranean Cup, held in October in San Marino, following which Belarusians won seven awards.

ARENA

• The number of spectators at Dinamo Minsk home matches in the KHL in September-October increased by a quarter and amounted to almost 13,000, compared with the same period last season



The Belarusian club became the leader of the KHL championship of the 2019/20 season for average attendance. As for the rest of the KHL teams, a significant increase was recorded in HC Sochi, whose home matches on average were visited by 33 percent more fans than last year.

• International Olympic Committee will allocate additional \$10m to combat doping, stated IOC President Thomas Bach at the WADA's World Conference on Doping in Sport, held in Polish Katowice



It was noted that half of these funds will be used to improve the conditions of the samples, which will be stored for 10 years for re-examination. The second part of the funding will be aimed at improving the efficiency of detection of prohibited drugs and methods used by athletes.

According to Thomas Bach, additional investments will increase the efficiency of WADA. Under the auspices of this organisation, new methods of testing athletes are being investigated, which will be applied at the 2020 Games. Moreover, the International Anti-Doping Agency recently conducted a re-analysis of hundreds of samples from the Olympics in Beijing and London, which gave more than a hundred positive results.

The WADA's World Conference on Doping in Sport was held in Katowice from November 5th to 7th, discussing the results of twenty years of WADA's work. There was one further item in the programme — the approval of the ex-Minister of Sports of Poland, Witold Baska, as the new Head of WADA.

• Belarusian athletes take third place at FIDE World Youth Under-16 Chess Olympiad in Turkey



Denis Lazavik, Maksim Tsaruk, Ivan Runets, Artem Sinyavsky and Aleksandr Tarasenko, of the national team of Belarus, were placed third in the prestigious competitions. The Azerbaijan team took the highest step of the medals podium. The silver was won by Uzbek athletes. In total, chess players from 48 countries took part in the tournament.

SPORT



Photo of the week

12th International Beauty Festival **WIND ROSE HAIR** — 2019 and the Belarusian championship in hairdressing, nail service and make-up — **Style and Beauty** — once again gathered the best Belarusian and foreign beauticians and hairdressers from all areas of the beauty industry in Minsk

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

12 Karl Marks Street
1st December. *Memory Keepers: Museums and Collectors*

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street
Until 24th November. *Nadya. Devotion to 115th anniversary of Nadezhda Khodosevich*
Until 1st December. *Devotion to Small Homeland*
Until 10th January. *Russian Impressionism*
Until 19th January. *Oman: Pearl of the East. Handicraft Legacy*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 15th November. *Constellation of Images*

NATIONAL CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

3 Nekrasov Street
Until 1st December. *Art of Live Fire* — based on results of 16th International ART-ZHYZHVAL Ceramics Open Air Worksop

YANKA KUPALA LITERARY MUSEUM

4 Yanka Kupala Street
Until 5th December. *I'm Free in My Spirit*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlov Street
Until 8th December. *Solaris. Donatas Banionis*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY

12 Karl Marks Street
Until 12th January. *Dangerous Beauty*

VILNIUS

55 Kalinovsky Street
Until 1st December. *Pictorial Art by Dmitry Mshar*

TROITSKY SUBURB

7A Bogdanovich Street
Until 12th January. *Best Toys from USSR*
Until 12th March. *Robo Art*

LIBRA

37 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 21st November. *Not Only Banksy:* street art from private collections

MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square
Until 17th November. *Summer Tales*
Until 8th December. *Stars Captured by Camera of Oleg Lukashovich and Aleksandr Alekseev*
Until 19th January. *Lady's Articles*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
14 and 15.11. *Anna Karenina*
16.11. *The Players*
17.11. *Vitovt*
19.11. *Viy*
20.11. *Giselle, or Vilisy / Romance Night*
21.11. *Iolanthe*

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
20.11. *Love of Three, or Easter for New Year*
20.11. *Happy People*
21.11. *Husband Like Many*

BELARUSIAN DRAMA THEATRE

44 Kropotkin Street
14.11. *Doctor Raus' Career*
15.11. *This Is All She*
16.11. *Adam's Jokes*
17.11. *Three Giselles*
19.11. *Lift*
20.11. *Silent Whisper of Passing Steps*
21.11. *Portrait*

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

33 Masharov Avenue
14.11. *Even a Wise Man Stumbles*
15 and 16.11. *Wolves and Sheep*
17 and 19.11. *Mixed Feelings*
18.11. *The Same Place, Next Year*
20.11. *Nobody Promised an Easy Life*
21.11. *Unnamed Star*

YANKA KUPALA THEATRE

7 Engels Street
14.11. *Future-Tellers*
15.11. *Love as Militarism / Paulinka*
16.11. *Nobleman Zavalnya, or Belarus in Fantastic Stories*
17.11. *School of Taxpayers*
19.11. *Inspector / Tolerance*
20.11. *Jeweller's Jubilee / Paulinka*
21.11. *Pinsk Gentry / Evening*

CHAMBER DRAMA THEATRE

5 Frunze Street
15.11. *Night at a Hotel*
16.11. *Mothers*
20.11. *Featherhead*

MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
14.11. *Cinderella*
15.11. *Anna Karenina*
16.11. *Dear Pamela*
19.11. *Wedding Bazaar*
20.11. *Hello, I'm Charlie's Aunt!..*
21.11. *Foreigner's Letter*

YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street
14.11. *Playing Happy Family*
15.11. *Trickster Club*
16.11. *A Man from Podolsk / Bigamist*
17.11. *Sanya, Vanya and Rimas*
19.11. *Love Until Unconsciousness*
20.11. *Not Invented by Us*
21.11. *Dear Pamela*