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## For the future of independent Belarus

**Newly-elected President of the Republic of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, assumes office**

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## Together into a new day

The Palace of Independence recently hosted the inauguration ceremony of the newly-elected President of Belarus, with over a thousand guests invited: top executives, deputies of the House of Representatives, members of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly, heads of various levels, diplomats and foreign guests. The event was opened by the Chair of the Central Election Commission, Lidia Yermoshina, who announced the CEC's decision on the results of the Presidential elections and invited Alexander Lukashenko to take the Oath of the President of the Republic of Belarus. Its text includes just 30 words yet they fully reflect the obligations taken by the head of state:

'Assuming the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus, I solemnly swear to faithfully serve the people of the Republic of Belarus, to respect and protect the rights and freedoms of man and of the citizen, to observe and protect the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, and to fulfil strictly and conscientiously the lofty duties that have been bestowed upon me.'

The national anthem then played, and all those present took up the words, following the choir.

Ms. Yermoshina granted a Certificate of the President to Mr. Lukashenko. Then he was addressed with congratulations by the heads of the legislative and judicial branches – chairmen of the Council of the Republic, Mikhail Myasnikov, and of the Constitutional Court, Piotr Miklashevich. Afterwards Mr. Lukashenko had the floor.

The President's speech was interrupted by applause many times. Its keynote is that the country preserves its course for steady development, without shocks and risky social experiments. A person is the major figure, and the whole state policy is subjected to their needs and hopes. We don't create any inconveniences to our neighbours on international arena. We respect each sovereign state and expect the same attitude towards us. This has been an unchanged live of development of the Belarusian state for the last twenty years and it will be continued.

The second part of the solemn ceremony was held on the Square of the State Flag, where representatives of all state agencies gathered. Mr. Lukashenko wore the uniform of Commander-in-Chief to address them.

On behalf of all men in uniform, the State Secretary of the Security Council, Stanislav Zas, read the words of the oath of allegiance to the nation and to the elected President, "We assure the whole Belarusian nation and You, Mr. Commander-in-Chief, that we will be always ready to reliably protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our Homeland. Today, at the inauguration of the President of the Republic of Belarus, we solemnly swear to bear the distinguished title of defenders of the Fatherland with dignity and honour, to selflessly serve the Belarusian nation and the President of the Republic of Belarus, and to protect our Homeland fearlessly, and skilfully, sparing no effort or life."

The triple 'swear' was heard among the soldiers and the serious ceremony concluded with a solemn march by the Guards of Honour.

The 'Together into a New Day' festive concert was later held at the Palace of Independence, dedicated to the President's assumption of office, with masters of arts of Belarus performing on stage.



# For the future of

## Speech of the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, at inauguration ceremony

### Dear countrymen!

Dear representatives of diplomatic missions and top level guests!

Today, I'm addressing you with special excitement. I'm overwhelmed with pride for our close-knit Belarusian society and for our millions of countrymen — citizens of sovereign Belarus.

During the recent Presidential elections, our people once again demonstrated to the whole world the highest

ported me. This is absolutely not my personal success but the victory of the whole nation. This is the victory of the Belarusian people.

I emphasise, without any flattery, that the recent electoral campaign was the first of which all of us have been proud: proud of ourselves and of our people. Belarusians calmly and openly cast their votes and showed who makes decisions in this country. It was a great achievement

other infrastructure sites. We've modernised thousands of industrial enterprises, which — I'm convinced — will generate benefits in the coming five years.

In the shortest possible time, we've solved the problem of food security, also sewing enough clothing for our people. Belarusian agro-industrial complex goods occupy a major share in generating export revenue. This potential will enable us

This is how we should respond to those who say that the system we've created is wrong. I do consider these proposals, as made by officials to the President.

What have we done wrong? Let's see. After a child is born, parents have the chance to stay at home with them until the age of three — bringing them up and receiving free medicines. Moreover, if they forget to come to hospital or a



level of political culture: their unity in the face of external challenges, and independence of decisions. Nothing has divided us in the past, and nor does it in the present. I am confident that nothing will divide us in the future.

Numerous observers — national and international — have had the opportunity to witness that the electoral campaign was held calmly, openly and fully in line with

for Belarusian people. I feel proud to serve this nation.

During these turbulent times, our nation demonstrated its unity and took part in elections. With their votes, people expressed support for the domestic and foreign policy of the past 20 years and more. This policy is not just our heritage. We've endured various challenges and have lived in a great country, which was able to dictate its conditions of existence to the whole globe, while ensuring world balance.

Now, we face different challenges. We sometimes need to form our foreign and domestic policy alone, though we face obstacles and stumble. We've always been honest, never deceiving anyone. We've always taken our own path and have been justified in our actions.

Our efforts have not been in vain. We have much to defend and of which to be proud. We've jointly established a state enjoying stable development. We've constructed accommodation, schools, hospitals, wonderful palaces of culture, sporting arenas, modern roads and

to ensure Belarus' development despite global economic problems.

Due to the high profile of this event, I'd be failing in my duty if I refrained from saying that great expectations have been generated. We live in a free society, 'bombarded' with ideas, upon which we are invited to ponder. The nation needs a clear strategy and leadership. It's a path destined to bring allies and otherwise.

Too much is being spoken and written of reform. Structural reform is mentioned but nobody gives details. If someone supports reforms, be honest and say that we need to break down the political system, the state system of Belarus: that we need to chop it into pieces and give away state-owned property. This is the nature of reform. Someone is ready to pay much for these reforms but we need to consider whether they are really necessary.

Fraternal Russia and Ukraine have already implemented such reforms. It's great that Russians and Ukrainians are present here today. They've already tasted such reform and what are the results?

children's polyclinic, doctors will immediately remind them. From your first day of birth, we care for you and your parents. We also care for future mothers. Nowhere else in the world is this quite the same.

We can care for babies weighing just 500g-700g. This year, and in 2013, we didn't lose a single birthing mother. Sadly, we failed to save one woman in 2014, as doctors realised. No other country in the world boasts such a maternal mortality rate. We are third globally for infant mortality — behind Germany and Sweden, and continue developing alongside them, as leaders.

We've established the strongest system of health protection in the world. This is not just my assessment. As a sign of gratitude and appreciation, Belarus was recently visited by a great number of foreign health ministers and medical scientists, who wished to study our experience. We described in detail our procedures at rural health clinics, district hospitals, and district, regional and central clinics. We ex-

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plained where each person can access assistance.

We've equipped our clinical hospitals and centres with the latest equipment. Any medical equipment can be bought; more important are staff, including doctors. We've trained the most modern medical personnel. When I visit abroad, I'm always asked if we'll help train doctors and engineers. Within the CIS, I'm asked to help train specialists; nowhere else has such a high level of professional technical colleges. I'm asked to help but we cannot accept every foreign student, regardless of the money offered. We lack enough places at our hostels, classrooms and laboratories, as yet. Accordingly, we're building more, with a view to creating more places, knowing that we'll receive fees. Once people have lived and studied here, they gain an affinity for our ideas and our ideology, promoting the world in which we live.

We often hear of reform. What should we do? Ok, let's reform our health protection system — breaking it. If you're ready and want it, it can be done. I've already said, without exaggeration, that I'm ready to conduct reform, but not at the expense of our neighbours. Not long ago, sociological polls showed that people were in favour of reform. However, on having reform explained to them, they were not so sure: increased retirement age, less subsidised medicine and education, and so on. If you're ready, we can move to this system within six months. It is possible. However, here, in this hall, we have the former Ukrainian president. He'll tell you how reforms of recent years have been conducted in Ukraine and what state his country's health care system is in. It's a subject close to my heart. With this in mind, let's learn from others' mistakes.

Once a child goes to kindergarten, there's a cost involved. Do you want to pay for this? You pay so little at present, as almost everything is financed from the state budget. After kindergarten, children move on to school, and receive free meals there. The idea was introduced during the hard times of the Chernobyl disaster, when we had nothing to eat. At that time, I visited the Gomel Region, where I saw that many families lacked enough food. We chose to feed children at kindergarten == offering them good dinners, to ensure their health. Since then, we've provided all schoolchildren with dinners.

After finishing nine years at school, a teenager has the right to decide where to continue their education: at a

higher education establishment or at a technical college — to train in a specialty. Importantly, after graduating from university or college, the state guarantees each person's first job. An alumnus has no need to search for employment, which can be a challenge. The state provides them with their first work place. In this way, people gain experience. Should we do away with this? What aspects of this system need reforming?

We also hear that the spheres of agriculture and industry should introduce private ownership. We may be the last country left in the

world yet to implement widespread private ownership. We can split land, distributing it among farmers, of which we have just over 3,000 at any one time, with some going and others starting up.

At present, it's a challenge to find a talented head for a major company. Do you wish to distribute land between these poor fellows — for them to dig it with shovels? Germans come to us and express envy. Asking them to explain, they reply that they would love to enjoy large parcels of land: of 10-20,000 hectares. They also admit that they would have collapsed long ago were it not for state support.

At present, France and Germany lack this support. There have been strikes among villagers. It's never been and never will be easy to work the land — regardless of your location in the world. We should all understand that it's impossible to generate wealth from farming; all those starting up should understand this.

Tell me, what should we change in the field of agriculture? We've been strug-

gling for twenty years. What should we reform? We've been criticised for preserving our collective farms. Being frightened, we renamed them as major co-operatives, during the time of Mr. Sidorsky's prime ministership. However, they worked collectively in the past and continue working in the same manner today.

Let's turn to industry now. We only need those industrial enterprises which work well today and will continue to do so tomorrow. No one will pay huge money for them. We've proposed a price for our most promising company: Belaruskali. Its value

is \$32bn, as specialists agree. Has anyone bought a single share in it for this price? No. I've stated in public that we were offered a bribe of several billions of Dollars for us to lower the price to \$15-16bn. If I'd accepted, what would I have told people? If you desire this kind of privatisation, then conduct it without me. I won't share out the legacy accumulated by the Belarusian nation over centuries. This has always ended with tragedy for the Slavonic people: a revolution or a civil war (or both).

To all those 'hot heads' and reform promoters who press me to conduct reform, saying that I have enough public support, I've already replied: let's first start with those who suggest this and will then see what to do further. However, they don't like this idea, suggesting making everything at the expense of the neighbour, at the expense of the nation. My answer is 'no', at least for the coming five years of my presidency.

I'll try to develop this idea further in my State of the Nation Address to the Belarusian people, explaining the politi-

cal and state order — including economic — proposed to us 20-25 years ago. In taking that path, we could have formed a group of wealthy people, with just 5-7 percent of the country's population owning state wealth. The remainder would be poor.

As the first president of the country, I don't wish anyone to blame me, saying that I've behaved in such a way towards the state. I know poverty and hunger. I know of people who look at you with their mouths open and tears in their eyes. Remember this. I primarily address those who enjoy power in this country.

Peace and social justice are mutually dependent. People can take any path; they enjoy favourable conditions for work and education, allowing them to reach their potential and become true masters in their profession. This is our greatest achievement. We've spent so much blood, sweat and health to create this.

This gives us a feeling of security and confidence in the future. Let those who've failed to vote for the present course enjoy this confidence as well. The opposite opinion — if dictated by sincere love for the Motherland — will always be heard. In turn, all reasonable ideas will be used and realised.

Each person in our country enjoys the protection of the law and, accordingly, of the President. This is an unshakeable principle. Only through this can we achieve consolidation in society, promoting creativity. We'll keep to this approach in the future.

I've told you about children, and now I'll speak about old people. You know our attitude and you know it very well. They are the stronghold

of our country: without them, our country would not exist.

You know what previously happened in the villages, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when old people (there were more than a thousand) were simply lost in villages and, even, in cities.

In the cities, we somehow supported them, and created a system. In the villages, unclaimed district hospitals were repurposed as hospitals of nursing care. We gathered all the 'abandoned' old people, so that no one remained unaccounted for. No one! All those who had been left by their children, or who

of state than this. This path is unshakable. Simple humanity is the way of a social state. We cannot turn away from this path, having created it. Seeing difficulties, we cannot change our minds, letting it fall apart. It wouldn't be wise. A wise nation would never make such reforms.

Belarus has a handful of politicians who wish to stir up internal discord but even their own supporters reject their ideology of change. The majority reject their plans.

Our recent elections once again proved to various forces, including those outside of our country, that the coercive conquest of Belarus via 'colour revolutions' and 'squares' has failed! This will never happen.

In our quiet and safe country, we should solve major economic problems, taking solutions to a higher level. The economy of the coming five years is changing dramatically, with much technological, administrative and innovative modernisation.

The efficient management of the economy should be our main priority. At the same time, we require unconditional preservation of jobs and payment of worthy salaries.

Our purpose, not in word but in deed, is to build an innovative economy: a knowledge-driven economy. In the future, our country aims to be numbered among the most developed states. We'll do everything possible to make Belarus one of the most attractive places for investment.

Through co-operation with business circles in leading countries, and co-operative ties with our traditional partners, we intend to keep increasing our exports. At the same time, we'll seek out new markets. In recent years, we've gained the most serious experience in this respect.

A highly-developed economy will guarantee the independence of Belarus.

We are building, as I note once again, a state for the people. Improving people's quality of life will remain a priority, as will introducing the best in education, public health and social protection.

Systems of public health services and education will be preserved, whatever it takes. Without these, we'd lack knowledge, a knowledge-driven economy, and citizens.

As ever, special attention will be given to strengthening the institution of the family: supporting parents with many children, and offering loans for housing construction. Culture, sports, science and youth programmes will receive new impulse for development.

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Our country is one of the few truly stable corners of the world. In quickly developing transport-logistic infrastructure, Belarus has become an essential transit corridor. A huge stream of goods moves through our country, and it will only rise.

Belarus is a peaceful and benevolent country without any fantastic ambitions. We have one simple and clear desire: to build a quiet and happy life in our own house, in co-operation and commonwealth with all neighbours.

We've never brought problems to our neighbours. We were always friendly, going openheartedly and with bread rather than a stone. It will continue to be so. We'll continue to create the Union State with brotherly Russia, if it wants us to do so. We'll develop close interaction with partners within the limits of the Eurasian Economic Union, while firmly defending our own interests. Belarus will continue to be an active player in the post-Soviet territory. This not only guarantees our well-being, but protects against threats.

Peace and order is of supreme value to us. There can be nothing higher. If there is disorder, conflict or war, then people do not need bread, clothes, salaries, enterprises or reforms. Peace and order are vital. Leonid Kuchma can say more. We, I once again underline, will spare nothing to preserve peace and safety in our land. We'll take steps to increase the efficiency of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

Our relations with our strategic partner, great China, are developing quickly. I thank my close friend, Xi Jinping, and the special delegation he sent to this inauguration. We spent three days together: working, debating and talking. I ask you to convey my warmest wishes to Xi Jinping for his support of the Belarusian people.

We are developing our ties with states across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

And we are seeing results. Belarus is open for co-operation as equals, in rights and friendship, with countries of the West, the USA and the European Union, if they wish it. There are no obstacles to us turning the page on the past and starting modern relations from scratch.

We're ready to do so and count on the same readiness from our western partners. It's great that good prospects have appeared in this direction recently. Meanwhile, some people, having heard or having seen our negotiations with representatives of the United States of America or the European Union, are screaming all the way to Vladivostok that I'm changing policy.

As soon as people see our fraternal, warm feel-

ings towards brotherly Russia, our native Ukraine, and other post-Soviet republics, we hear complaints from the West. Do not make us choose!

Let us live calmly on this piece of land. We'll ensure your interests: both in the East and the West. Belarus will do all that you want but don't prompt us to choose between Russia and the West.

We aren't changing our policy. We want to live on our land, ensuring the vital interests of Belarusians here, on this piece of land. Please, note, we don't want anything more. We don't have vital

God has decided our place, at the centre of Europe, at the crossroads of all roads. This road is not always safe. It's often 'hot'. We need to be wise politicians to avoid being burnt, or 'boiled and eaten'.

We'll continue our peaceful foreign policy, as we know the value of Russia for us. We know what the West means for us also, and will proceed from our own interests or those of our neighbours.

The unity and purposefulness of our people, their openness and friendliness, and the clear course held by the administration of the country, has induced the

there. Leave alone those who wish to live peacefully.

Our policy was defined at our Palace of Independence, and at our Palace of Peace. All now understand that Belarusians are tolerant. We are an open nation, promoting mutual understanding and co-operation across the continent. We aim to link states and people. I see this as one of my major duties as President. If I achieve this task, it will bear rich fruits: for Belarus, and for our neighbours and other countries.

We all need to appreciate what's important and act to realise it: our future is in our

selflessness, determination and talent. In one word, we need to show our best qualities and that inner spiritual core due to which our nation came out of any situations as a victor, because it always believed in its powers and harnessed them.

Dear friends, I'd like to repeat again that, of course, we all want to live well. To live normally is a normal desire, a normal requirement of people towards authorities. Moreover, we all want to live very well. However, I'd like to stress again that everything depends on us. If we work better we will live better. This

killed on the battlefield than to betray one's own nation, one's own ideas and everything one has promised. I'd like to declare from this high tribune: this hasn't happened in the twenty years of my service to you and our people and our state, and this won't ever happen.

The last thing is that I've always protected and will continue protecting you and your children!

Yes, I'm strict, and will be demanding of the nation, as I've always said. If I were not, we wouldn't withstand this disorder. We'd be broken into pieces and dispersed, as happened in the mid-1990s, when Western Belarus was supposed to 'go there', and Eastern Belarus 'here'; Polesie was supposed to become an Independent Poleskaya Republic. If anyone has forgotten this, just dip into the mid-1990s and recall that, at that time, we managed to stop the trend within a month by electing a president.

I've fulfilled my major obligation to our Belarusian nation. If you lack 'authority' and need the protection of the state, and of the President, I'm always at your disposal.

I understand that certain people voted for me taking into account my future plans and actions. This is a natural thing, especially during the Presidential elections. I am saying all this in case someone doubts that the right person was elected. You've made the right decision. This is not because I'm an exceptional person, or because I'm a man with exceptional wits. There're enough people in this hall who are able to become presidents of our country. It's because we do not owe anything to anyone.

We didn't launder money during the pre-election campaign; we managed to spend little for the organisation of the elections. I did not give any promises in the East or in the West, in America or in Africa. We've held these elections independently, like we have been doing for these more than twenty years. It's the greatest achievement when the President wins thanks to the people, when the people elect him, when money does not play any role and billions are not injected in the election campaign, with money being laundered and put into pockets.

This is the greatest foundation for us to do what we have to do for our nation. When the next presidential election comes please look whose money and people are behind a candidate. I have neither strangers nor money in my team. I rely on you, the Belarusian people. And I am ready to serve you as long as the nation trusts me, till the last breath Thank you!

**Minsk,  
Independence Palace  
November 6th, 2015**



interests in neighbouring states. We want a quiet and peaceful life.

When we receive hints from the West to keep away from Russia, I always say that we cannot distance ourselves from Russia, from Ukraine, or Kazakhstan, because we were born one family. God predetermined this. How can this be broken? Yes, we have our own point of view. Yes, we have our own interests, as we've shown more than once. However, we have the same roots. I always say so.

I came to power in the mid-1990s with this ideology. How can I renounce it? No one should push us against the West from the East. We'll continue normalising our relations with the West, because they are our neighbours too and we have economic interests there. We export 42 percent of our products to Russia, and over 50 percent to the EU. How can we look aside? And why, during this difficult time, would we push away from a multipronged foreign policy?

We are the only corridor left through which the East and the West can freely move and co-operate. This is the answer I give to those who try to make us enemies of Russia, and friends of the West. It may be our curse or our destiny; I don't know.

West to look at Belarus from another angle.

They have seen us as a decent partner.

I once again note that we welcome movement in this direction. We've always said that attempts to isolate Belarus, and other countries, will bring deadlock: a situation in which all lose.

It's easy to support sanctions, but very difficult to remove them, and return to normality. We don't need to back ourselves into a corner. The recent history of Belarus has shown this.

Our country is the safest and most reliable connecting Europe and Asia. These two civilisations will come closer, because there are no alternatives to integration processes. Opposition between the West and the East would only escalate conflict, humanitarian catastrophes, a sharp fall in the standard of living and general degradation.

Regarding neighbouring Ukraine, some have vital interests there. However, innocent people who've not been able to leave Donbass are suffering, while Leonid Kuchma, in Minsk, is applying every effort to bring peace there. What have old people and children done wrong? If people want to shoot others, why don't they go to a field and 'shoot' at each other

hands. We must solve problems from the inside, instead of looking 'outside'. Only persistent work, common sense and wisdom will promote our development.

Belarusians, please don't take offence at my calling some of you lazy. I'll continue to seriously push you. It's not always the authorities at fault, with citizens being always in the right. Before you judge others, look at yourself. Have you done everything in your power to ensure the happiness and success of yourself, your family, your relatives, friends, fellow countrymen and the state? Probably not.

Let us start by reforming ourselves. If we begin by looking at ourselves, we'll stop talking about reform and will simply live well. We'll avoid demolishing existing political and economic systems.

The ancients said: 'When people are united, they are invincible'.

Our history and experience obliges us to reverence in society. We must be united: a single body of Belarusians.

We open up a new page in the history of Belarus. It will be very substantive and interesting. In order to successfully move further we'll need to use our reserves. We need to show our self-possession,

is a simple formula which no one was able to disprove.

Dear friends!

Of course, I'm an ordinary man, and you understand this well. I haven't ever been involved in self-promotion, and there hasn't ever been some 'showing off'. If I work somewhere during subbotnik [a day of unpaid labour] I take a shovel and work in front of your eyes. If I play sometimes on football or ice hockey field I do this as I can. No one 'makes' me there. This is my ironclad rule.

If one begins self-promotion the nation would easily see who you are and this will bring only harm. I'm an ordinary person, so, like you, I can make mistakes. However, I always set an ironclad task in front of me — not to allow systematic mistakes. We haven't allowed them with you. There were different periods. Probably, we've made wrong steps somewhere but time will pass and history will assess and the nation will assess. Nevertheless, in my opinion, we haven't allowed mistakes. Meanwhile, you should remember one thing (I know that the overwhelming majority here, if not everyone, are my supporters): I won't ever betray you! As a person I'm not able to betray. I believe that it's better to be

# Loyal sons of the Fatherland

Speech of the President of the Republic of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, at the ceremony of soldiers swearing allegiance

Soldiers and sergeants, cadets and warrant officers, officers and generals!

Dear compatriots and guests of our Belarusian land!

Leading the country is a great and huge responsibility before the nation and Fatherland.

The president's assumption of office always heralds a new stage in the country's life and another historic period of time, upon which the society pins its hopes for the future.

Together we've already done a lot on the complicated way of state establishment and development.

In our creative endeavours we've been united by love for the Motherland, confidence in our strength and ambitions to secure public welfare. All these years the national security system guaranteed the protection of the peaceful work of the Belarusian nation against any threats.

Today Belarus is a fully-fledged, respectable member of the international community, ready to protect its sovereignty against encroachments.

It's a country of high social stand-

ards where stability and civil accord have been secured.

As the Commander-in-Chief of the Belarusian Armed Forces I primarily prioritise the reliable protection of our country's interests, its constitutional principles and territorial integrity.

The world around us has not become any better. This fact negatively affects Belarus. However, we'll definitely preserve our country.

We value our native land. We will be united, persistent and insistent in our creative endeavours. We will be principled and decisive in defending national interests.

We have always declared and will continue to declare that we have never threatened anyone and never will. Our military goal is to protect our piece of land where a branch of the Slavonic people — Belarusians — has lived since times immemorial. It is a pure, beautiful and educated nation. We will not give away an inch of our land. We won't threaten our neighbours and other countries. We don't need someone else's, but we

will not give away what is ours.

However, we should remember that, while we shall not threaten anyone, any 'who come to us sword in hand, by the sword shall perish', as our great ancestor said. We, men in uniform, are here primarily for this purpose. We will sacrifice our lives in protecting our country, our families and our loved ones.

If we are true men, we will not allow anyone to invade our land and molest our children, the elderly and women. With our lives we should protect our country where the peaceful and prosperous nation will live.

Our country will continue honouring its peacekeeping commitments as part of international treaties and agreements. Belarus' safe future depends only on us and no one else.

For the sake of successful development of the country we have everything necessary: a centuries-old national culture, moral values, economic and scientific potential. And most of all we have excellent and worthy people.



BELTA

Today representatives of all power-wielding agencies, able to ensure peaceful conditions for creation and labour, are standing together here. I'm convinced that under your reliable protection, our protection all of us will work together to overcome any difficulties and achieve goals of the largest scale for the benefit of our

common home — the Republic of Belarus.

Long live the hard-working Belarusian nation and our glorious defenders of the Fatherland.

Hoorah!

Minsk, Square of the State Flag November 6th, 2015

## Guests of President Alexander Lukashenko's inauguration ceremony speak:



**Sergei Lebedev**, Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee — CIS Executive Secretary:

Inauguration is an interim stage in Belarus' steady development. This is a continuation of consistent policy of your country and, of course, of your President, aiming to develop and create conditions for people's better life, alongside education and culture. We are all witnesses to positive changes in the life of Belarus. We see that despite economic difficulties on a global scale and some actions against Belarus, the country is developing. During the recent elections the Belarusian nation has clearly supported to continue this course, by giving credence to Alexander Lukashenko.

armament, have been laid in the Independence Palace during the 'Normandy Four' negotiations.



**Andrea Wiktorin**, Head of the EU Delegation to Belarus:

I hope that Belarus and the European Union will continue developing their relations across those areas in which they take interest, and will apply joint effort for this. Actually, Belarus and the EU do have common interests which are expressed in joint projects. These deal with interaction in the sphere of environment protection, as well as in other areas. Previously I've already worked in Belarus, from 2000-2003, and I wished to return to you. I'm happy that I'm here. I enjoy watching your development and I like your people. I'm greatly impressed how Minsk has changed over the time of my absence. I hope I will have time to see the whole country.

and dynamically, on the principles of mutual respect. Our relationships have received a new impetus after the exchange of top level visits this year. The leaders of the two states have reached important agreements aimed at further strengthening of the comprehensive strategic partnership. We're ready to move further in this direction.



**Mariani Thierry**, a deputy with the French National Assembly:

The positive changes that have taken place in your country in recent times are now apparent. Moreover, the whole world is aware of the Minsk Agreements, which aim to bring peaceful settlement of the crisis in Ukraine.

Belarus is making a great contribution to the security of the region, as is evident in Europe. Alexander Lukashenko has demonstrated Belarus' potential as a serious and constructive mediator between major international players. In my opinion, significant changes have begun happening recently.

for the sake of citizens' wellbeing. The most vital aspect is that we have the opportunity to solve complex tasks in a consolidated and careful manner, as is the aim of every nation which enjoys unity.

Belarus aims to raise its level of information technologies, from 38th place (as we currently occupy in the International Telecommunications Union's rankings). In this sphere, we are active in many environments, shaping public opinion. We can't afford to delay even for a minute, since there is much competition, and efficiency is central to the work of the national information space.

I'm convinced that Belarus will be a rich and happy country, of which we'll be proud and, I'm sure, the whole world will admire.



**Yergali Bulegenov**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan to Belarus:

Our countries have traditionally boasted the relations of strategic partnership: complete understanding and kind trustworthy relations between the presidents. We step forward with many integration initiatives, so the plans for the future are great. Of course, the situation isn't easy and the world is suffering from the crisis. However, all things must pass, I'm an optimist in this respect.

By 2025, all issues, which should be settled for full opening of our borders for goods and labour force, will be left in the past. The Eurasian Economic Union will become an association, having a solid weight. It already has its political weight today when many countries try to establish close relations with the EAEU. Meanwhile, when the Eurasian Economic Union becomes operational at full strength, it will turn into one of the most powerful interstate associations on the planet.



**Leonid Kuchma**, ex-President of Ukraine:

Each time I arrive in Minsk it is with great pleasure. During my presidency, I often visited Minsk, so can compare. Minsk, and your country as a whole, has significantly improved; you should be proud. I see cleanliness and order in your cities and villages, well-cared-for fields, and modern architecture, and my soul simply rejoices.

I'd like to wish the same stability to Ukraine and to all countries and nations. The Ukrainians are now walking a path one wouldn't wish for anyone. According to UN data, during this time of military conflict, more than 8,000 people have been killed in the country. In reality, this figure is probably greater.

I'm pleased that the inauguration ceremony is being held in such a symbolical place, since the foundations of stability, which outlined in Ukraine with the pull-out of heavy



**Cui Qiming**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Belarus:

I think that with President Alexander Lukashenko's re-election a new page will be opened in our relations and they will be developing even quicker. China and Belarus are very good friends and kind trustworthy partners. You learn something from us while we can also borrow something useful from you. This is correct. Our nations are connected by strong friendship. For more than twenty years since the establishment of diplomatic relations the Belarusian-Chinese co-operation has been developing steadily



**Lilia Ananich**, Information Minister:

The country has elected its President, Alexander Lukashenko, thus confirming the course for constructing sovereign independent Belarus. I believe that the pre-election campaign of the Head of State, who has now been sworn-in, determines the vector of our country's development for the coming five years.

Today, Belarus is respected globally, and pursues its own well-considered course. Everything is done for the sake of the nation and

# Delicate adjustment of tax rates

By Vladimir Khromov

## Alexander Lukashenko underlines necessity of preserving stability within the Belarusian tax system

The Head of State has received draft decrees regarding the harmonisation of a number of legal acts relating to the Tax Code, which came

into force on January 1st. The amendments primarily apply to land charges and other administrative procedures, particularly, the collection of state duties, patent and consular fees.

Mr. Lukashenko notes that the taxation system should be flexible. "Of course, everyone is happy when the optimisation of a system leads to reduced taxes," the President under-

lined. "Few people appreciate that taxes are what pay for civil servants, doctors, teachers, and those who are in charge of defence and security."

The President stressed that the tax system should be stable, commenting, "We've promised our people that, within this financial year at least, we'll avoid touching the taxation system. Even better, we'll leave

the system unchanged for five years, while eliminating as many drawbacks as possible."

The President emphasised that, in this difficult period, fine-tuning is more useful than drastic innovations or increased tax rates.

At the end of the session, the Head of State approved the submitted documents and instructed them to be

finalised, to reflect all discussions. He wishes to then see them submitted for signing.

After the session, Belarus' Finance Minister, Vladimir Amarin, told reporters that the amendments are technical in nature and will not affect taxpayers. "We aren't going to raise major tax rates or worsen conditions," he said.

# Banknotes to have four fewer zeros...

New Rouble denomination scheduled for July 1st, 2016 — in line with Belarusian President's Decree

Belarusian banknotes are to lose four zeros, with the lowest denomination (the Br100 banknote) replaced by one Kopeck.

From July 1st 2016, notes of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 Rouble denomination will come into cir-

culation, alongside eight coins, worth 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 Kopecks, replacing old notes, and issued under the 'My Land is Belarus' slogan. Each will be devoted to a certain region of the country and to the city of Minsk, chosen in alphabetical order: a Br5 banknote is devoted to the Brest Region, Br10 — to the Vitebsk Region, Br20 — to

the Gomel Region, and Br500 — to Minsk. The design won't change drastically, with monuments of architecture and city planning depicted.

From July 1st until December 31st, 2016, both old and new money will be legal ten-

der. However, between January 1st, 2017, and December 31st, 2021, old banknotes will be phased out, being replaceable with new, without limitation or commission. Exchange will also be available from January 1st, 2017, to December 31st, 2019, at the

National Bank, other banks and non-bank credit-financial organisations. Between July 1st, 2020, and December 31st, 2021, exchange will be possible only at the National Bank and, from January 1st, 2022, old money will become invalid.



# ...And to become more convenient

By Marina Kudryavtseva

As the National Bank explains, the decision on denomination aims 'to perfect monetary circulation, simplify registration and settlements, sustain optimal banknote structure and significantly reduce state expenses in maintaining monetary circulation.'

It also comments that the denomination process is of technical character, creating no impact on the Belarusian Rouble's purchasing capacity, the national currency exchange rate or the level of inflation. With this in mind, prices for goods and services will be recalculated using the 1:10,000 ratio from July 1st, 2016. To help buyers adapt to the changes, all economic entities will be obliged to fix two

prices during the period of old and new banknotes' simultaneous circulation. Salaries, allowances, scholarships, banking deposits, and company balances will be recalculated under the same principle.

Preparations have been long in the planning, with new money minted in 2008, at the National Bank's order. However, due to the world economic crisis and the worsened economic situation, the campaign was postponed; coins and banknotes have been kept at the National Bank's Central Depository since then.

Taking into consideration the time needed for money production, new Belarusian Roubles from 2009 feature a faximile of Piotr

Prokopovich — who occupied the post of National Bank Chairman of the Board at that time. In addition, the new Br50 banknote bears the inscription 'пяцьдзесят' ('fifty'); its orthography fails to meet the present rules. In line with Belarusian law #420-3, as of July 23rd 2008 — 'On Rules of Belarusian Orthography and Punctuation', this word should be written as 'пяцьдзясят'. The National Bank promises that future banknotes will have this mistake corrected.

The issue of denomination has many times been on the agenda. In

Lukashenko noted that the design of new coins and banknotes had been approved, to 'resemble Euros'. He also stated that denominations would be announced in Belarus six months before launch. "With specialists, we'll decide when to launch; we must be cautious, although we're ready to act at any moment. This step needs certain conditions, such as a certain interest rate. In addition, the market should be free of worries — so that people feel calm. Moreover, the economy mustn't be experiencing crisis," the President said.



## Business and authorities to conduct dialogue

By Alexander Pimenov

### 5th international forum in Minsk to open Global Entrepreneurship Week

Few would refute that dialogue is the best way to find solutions to problems. On November 16th, the 5th International Forum of Entrepreneurship will host open conversation between the state and businesses.

The forum, which opens Global Entrepreneurship Week in Belarus, will bring together businessmen, ministers, ambassadors, banking experts, and representatives of investment funds and international associations.

We can assume that, this year, the forum will be both intensive and efficient: for the first time in over five years, state representatives will be speaking on acute issues, answering questions of concern to the business world.

In particular, the forum will set out a forecast for the next five years, while giving advice on accessing financing and new instruments available for the support of small and medium-sized businesses in Belarus.

Of course, representatives of the business community will be keen to hear from international experts regarding trends in innovative business. A new generation of entrepreneurs is up and coming, seeking a successful development strategy during these turbulent times.

This year, the Development Bank joined in organising the forum. Dmitry Lipsky, the Head of the Development Bank's Financial-Economic Department, notes, "We've been established with one goal: the promotion of economic development. We see huge potential in entrepreneurship and, in our opinion, the Global Week will help reveal this. The 5th International Forum will tackle prospects for entrepreneurial development from the point of view of the state. We'll engage in active dialogue, and are ready to discuss acute problems. No topics will be forbidden and we won't proclaim empty slogans. If the authorities promise something at the event, they'll make every effort to bring these promises to life."

# Expressing our grief

## Sinai plane crash tragedy painful not only to Russia

Belarusians have laid wreaths of flowers in honour of those who died recently, as a result of the plane crash in Egypt. Many came to express their sympathy and sorrow, near the Russian Embassy to Minsk. Speaking for himself and for the Belarusian nation, President Alexander Lukashenko has given his condolences to the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, to the relatives of the passengers, and to the Russian nation. Prime Minister Andrei Kobayakov has also written words of sympathy in the Condolence Book.



TATIANA STOLYAROVA

Flowers and toys near the Russian Embassy in Minsk

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Belarus, Alexander Surikov, has been moved by our sympathy, saying, "Since receiving the first news of the terrible tragedy in the sky

over Egypt, we've seen many flowers brought by ordinary people and by representatives of organisations. In this terrible situation, the Belarusian nation is suffering alongside us."

## First flight becomes last

Among those on board the plane was Roman Seredinsky, 28, who was born in Klichev, in Belarus' Mogilev Region. He graduated from a local school and his mother, and older sister and brother still live in Klichev. Ten years ago, he went to Russia for employment but moved to St. Petersburg two years ago, to work for Alians, in its warehouses. He leaves behind his wife, Marina, and his small son. They had, as we all do, made plans for the future, hoping that their happy life would last forever.

Marina informed Roman's Belarusian relatives of the tragedy, calling his brother's wife, Yulia. "A plane crashed in Egypt. Roman and his friend are thought to have been on board," she said. The pair had been given holiday tickets by their company. Although Roman would have liked to have taken his whole family, he was obliged to take the opportunity alone. Yulia tells us that it was Roman's first such plane trip, and that he had always wanted to take a seaside holiday.

## Storks in the air

Another two Belarusians are also being mourned: Alexander Radlevich, and his wife Alla, who were living in St. Petersburg. They were registered on the plane as Russian citizens but Alexander was born in the Belarusian village of Gulevichi (Kalinkovichi District) and Alla was also born in Belarus, under the maiden name Lazareva.

Aged 59 and 56, they had been to Egypt on holiday. Alla had visited her *odnoklassniki.ru* social network page the day before their flight home, writing, 'My dreams are coming true! My wishes are realised! All goals are achieved! Life around me is wonderful!' Her photos are now accompanied by sad commentary: 'there are no words...tears are overwhelming.'

Alla's friends and relatives wish to remain strong. One of Alla's photos features her granddaughter Ksenia, whom Alla called her 'reason for living'. Her page also contains many photos of Belarus' beautiful landscapes: forests and fields at sunset and storks flying high in the sky. Evidently, she never forgot her homeland...

# Own statute in foreign library

By Victor Korbut

## Two 16th century editions discovered at Latvian National Library: *The Tribunal* (1586) and *The Statute* (1588)

The collections of laws of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania were published in Vilnius by the Mamonic brothers, in Old Belarusian, and are a true bibliographic rarity.

The Director of the Latvian National Library, Andris Vilks, recently presented the editions to the Belarusian National Library's Director, Roman Motulsky, noting that never before have Latvia's book collections been studied with the purpose of discovering Belarusian editions.

Ales Susha, the Deputy Director of the Belarusian National Library and the Chairman of the International Association of Belarusian

Language Experts, also visited Riga. He comments that, in Soviet times, Mirdza Abola studied Latvian libraries, finding various Belarusian books, but her studies went unpublished. "*The Statute* and *The Tribunal* are unregistered in the *Book of Belarus* capital catalogue, of 1986. They exist but nobody knows of them!" Mr. Susha admits.

There is only one copy of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania's Statute, kept at Mogilev's History Museum. The Riga edition lacks the first twenty pages but a 16th-17th century clerk skilfully copied them. The book contains many notes by hand in Polish and Latvian and, no doubt, their study will disclose some significant historical details.



## Advice from Dr. Zhukova

# How to cope with the horrors of varicose veins



What are varicose veins? How can we prevent and treat them?  
A. Dovlatov, Orsha

## Treatment of varicosity

There are three main ways to treat varicose veins: surgery on the dilated veins, the application of sclerotherapy or with medication. Exercise therapy and surgical support stockings are actively used in the treatment.

The essence of sclerotherapy consists in delivering special medication into the veins, which cause agglutination of the walls of a vessel and the closing of its lumina. During surgical treatment, the affected veins are simply removed. At the same time it is important to note that the removal of saphenae does not impede the flow of blood and is a safe procedure. Just 10 percent of blood normally flows through the superficial veins that are affected, while the deep veins of the legs take a much greater proportion. In the majority of cases, after surgery for the removal of varicose veins, the remaining vessels compensate easily. Remember: varicose disease can be and should be treated, as with lack of treatment it can cause unpleasant complications.

## Gymnastics for veins: 15 exercises to prevent varicosity

When going on a long trip, massage your shins during the flight: squeezing and rubbing will help the blood to circulate and help to eliminate haemostasis. Be sparing in the amount of time spent in high heels, if you cannot live without them, then wear them in the office only and when going outdoors change for wedge-heeled shoes (or vice versa, depending on your preference). It is a fact that 7 and 10 centimetres heels look very similar, but the lower heels cause fewer problems.

If possible, finish your morning shower with a cold blast of water, at least on the legs if not the whole body, thus conditioning oneself to the cold and toning vessels. In general, pay attention to the legs and follow preventive activities, and the risk of vascular conditions will decrease.

## Is it possible to cope with varicosity with the help of ointments or pills?

This type of treatment cannot eliminate already existing varicose veins. If a vein has dilated, then you cannot return its former form by means of gel or ointment. Phlebotropic medications are those medicines which tone the venous wall, in the form of pills or gels for local application, they are prescribed to prevent further development of the disease. While varicosity is treated only by means of procedures which agglutinate or seal a vein (or removal of this vein at the worst). Apart from phlebotonics for local application, it is possible to use cooling ointments that make the vessels contract and, thus, tone them. The role of the hereditary

factor in varicosity has not been universally acknowledged, however it is necessary to consider a possible predisposition to the disease as an occasion for regular consultation of a phlebologist. A major factor in the development of varicose veins among women is pregnancy; when planning a pregnancy one should consider the possibility of varicose vein development and take preventive measures. Along with pregnancy, obesity is also a recognised cause. Lifestyle and dietary habits also influence the condition: lack of fresh vegetables and fruit deprives the body of vegetable fibre, which is necessary for elasticity and the regeneration of vein walls.

## Varicose veins — treatment and prevention

- Swimming;
- Renunciation of solarium, and also hot showers, baths and saunas;
- Rest with extended legs;
- Decrease in physical loads — stop carrying weights, do housework in a sitting position;
- Control of sports activity (tennis, cycling and football);
- Preventive consultations by a phlebologist.

The treatment of varicosity requires a complex and individual approach to the disease. Today the most effective method is surgery — venectomy. However to achieve the best results from surgery, such auxiliary methods as medication and compression therapy are beneficial. The purpose of surgical intervention is the elimination of a pathological outflow of blood from deep veins into superficial veins and the liquidation of superficial varicose veins, thus preserving unchanged segments of vessels.

Alternatives to surgical intervention are nonsurgical techniques such as sclerotherapy of the veins, allowing the treatment of large and small veins, and also to get rid of thread veins. When starting the treatment, the patient should understand that it is impossible to get rid of varicose veins, and disease relapse is possible. But timely consultations with a phlebologist will help to reveal the disease at an early stage — at the initial stage of the formation of thread veins. Sclerotherapy or shrinking can remove up to 80 percent of defects. The convenience of the method means that sclerotherapy sessions are held in an outpatient setting, one session lasts no more than 20 minutes. It does not require a long rehabilitation period and after the session the patient can return to a normal way of life. The number of sessions varies depending on character of distribution of affected veins. On average, treatment requires 2-6 sessions.

By Tatiana Zhukova  
Doctor of higher category,  
M.D., Ph.D.

# Romania lurches towards first-ever early elections

There have been several nights of protests in the Romanian capital Bucharest and around the country despite the arrival in office of a new interim prime minister

People are venting their exasperation with what they see as a hopelessly corrupted political class. The centrist opposition is pushing for early elections, but that would delay a new budget until April.

"Maybe we'll have early elections. Let's look at the list very carefully and tell the young protesters, they have our support, and they should be careful who they trust



A man shouts slogans between motorists as thousands of people rally

and vote for," said one demonstrator. Interim PM Sorin Cimpeanu has called on all protesters to submit a list of demands and delegates for a meeting.

"I have discussed with all the

party leaders and I wish to have their support to continue this mission, which in my opinion is difficult. Romania is and should remain a stability factor," he said. The next elections are not due until Decem-

ber 2016 but if a new government cannot be formed the president, who is mediating with all parties, may have no choice but to dissolve parliament, a first in post-Soviet Romania.

## NASA reveals clues to Mars' watery past

Scientists at NASA have revealed what they believe stripped Mars of water, turning it into the arid Red Planet



"What happened to the Mars atmosphere? I'll quote Bob Dylan — 'The answer, my friends, is blowing in the wind,'" said Michael Meyer, lead scientist at the Mars Exploration Programme.

The findings suggest a solar storm blasted away Mars' atmosphere around three and a half billion years ago. Unlike Earth, Mars did not have a global magnetic field to protect its atmosphere.

NASA's Mars-orbiting MAVEN spacecraft caught such a storm stripping away the planet's atmosphere, scientists said. "Up until about 3.7 billion years ago, water seemed to be very abundant and active. So the

stripping of the solar wind, the stripping by the solar wind, of the atmosphere, would have occurred in that same time-frame," said MAVEN lead researcher Bruce Jakosky.

"Mars appears to meet all of the conditions required for life or to have met them at the surface in the past. And that begs the question of whether was ever any life there, and if there was, whether it was genetically related to terrestrial life or would represent an independent origin. So as we go into the future, I think these questions about life and climate and the history of the planet as a whole are really at the centre of the exploration," Jakosky continued.



Russian Emergencies Minister Vladimir Puchkov looks at debris

## 'Noise' confirmed in last part of Metrojet's cockpit voice recording

The head of an investigation committee into the recent Metrojet plane crash confirmed a 'noise' was heard in the last second of the cockpit voice recording

Ayman el-Muqadem said debris from the plane was scattered over a wide area, which is consistent with an in-flight break-up.

"A noise was heard in the last second of the CVR [cockpit voice recorder] recording. A spectral analysis will be carried out by specialised labs in order to identify the nature of this noise.

One unidentified reporter asked

why other investigators responsible for listening to the black box were absent from the news conference.

The absence of the representatives of other international commissions caused confusion and raised many questions from people here. This keeps the door open to more speculation and controversy about what caused the Russian plane to crash. Russian and Egyptian emergency workers laid flowers where the Russian Metrojet plane crashed in the Sinai Peninsula. It had been flying from Sharm-el Sheikh to St. Petersburg when it was downed killing all 224 people on board.

## Weak Eurozone demand hits 'Made in Germany' goods

German industrial orders fell for the third consecutive month in September — in particular due to weak demand from other Eurozone countries

The surprise news from the Federal Statistical Office has led to warnings about the outlook for Europe's largest economy. Orders for 'Made in Germany' goods fell by 1.7 percent on the month. Bookings from abroad were down by 2.5 percent; from other Eurozone countries they fell by 6.7 percent.

Over three months the impact of the Chinese slowdown appears to be more marked.

Economists have expressed different opinions: from 'it's a bump in the road, nothing more' to forecasts that German economic growth is set to remain sluggish.

## Facebook tops a billion users a day

Facebook rose by around five percent after the company's quarterly results beat estimates

The social media network now has 1.1 billion users a day, with over 1.5 billion monthly active users — the vast majority using the service on mobile devices. A huge increase in mobile advertising boosted overall ad revenue by 45 percent.

Mobile commercials are growing fast generally, driven by Facebook's growth according to some analysts. Total revenue jumped to \$4.5 billion Dollars (4.13 billion Euros) in the third quarter, up from \$3.2 billion (2.94 billion Euros) a year earlier.

## The Force Awakens for terminally ill Star Wars fan

Terminally ill Star Wars fan Daniel Fleetwood has been granted his dying wish: to see the new The Force Awakens film

The 31 year old from Texas was able to watch an unfinished version of the film a month and a half before it came out in cinemas. His request caught the attention of some of the film's actors after going viral under the hash tag #For-eForDaniel.

Mark Hamill, who plays Luke Skywalker in the film franchise was among those who lobbied for Fleetwood to see *The Force Awakens* and afterwards tweeted his elation that the fan's wish had come true.

Fleetwood, who is suffering from an aggressive form of cancer affecting 90 percent of his lungs, announced in September that he only had one or two months left to live.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



# Polonaise performed with bright inspiration

Republican Art Gallery of Belarusian Union of Artists hosts exhibition devoted to 250th anniversary of Michal Kleofas Oginski's birth



Cultural diversity apparent

By Veniamin Mikheev

The recent *Polonaise* exhibition covered over 1,000 square metres, featuring around 250 diverse works by over 60 artists from the Belarusian school of fine arts, presenting a wide palette of creative directions: pictorial and graphic art, sculpture, decorative-and-applied arts, as well as design.

The globally famous work, *Farewell to Homeland*, which explores deep patriotic feeling, was the keynote of the exhibition, its

melody filling the space with remembrances of lyrical Belarusian landscapes, as reflected in the various delicate images portrayed through the works of art.

In total, the *Polonaise* show truly confirmed that Michal Kleofas Oginski leaves a legacy great in significance. He is more than an historical personality or a character from schoolbooks, tying the past and the present. Undoubtedly, the outstanding composer, musician, prominent state figure and diplomat is an extremely at-



tractive figure for creative apprehension of his personality, as well as for research of his cultural heritage. He was born 250 years ago,



Oginski's exhibition

making 2015 the Year of Michal Kleofas Oginski (as declared by UNESCO), indicating his vital place within world artistic culture.

The composer's artistry and life were full of romanticism and courage: an inspiring combination. Vladimir Korotkevich devoted his *Song of Northern Athens* essay to Oginski, while Oleg Zaletnev composed his *Michal Kleofas Oginski: Unknown Portrait*

opera. Director Victor Dashuk wrote *A Minor Polonaise* documentary, devoted to this famous personality, who also inspired *Oginski Polonaise*, a feature film for children, staged by Lev Golub.

The *Polonaise* exhibition includes works by experienced artists and young novices, hosted by Minsk's Palace of Arts. It will be long remembered as a keynote in the country's cultural life.

## Devoted to Oginski

Belarusians celebrate 250th anniversary of birth of composer Michal Kleofas Oginski this year, supported by UNESCO

By Victor Andreev

The musician's mansion in Zalesie has been restored while diplomat and collector Piotr Kravchenko has donated four late 18th-early 19th century original manuscripts, bought at auction. He presented these at Minsk's House of Friendship, with support from the Polish Embassy.

Mr. Kravchenko's interest in Oginski stems partly from him having been born in Molodechno; the famous family owned much of city in the past. Jointly with his friend Grigory Soroka, the Director of Molodechno's Oginski Musical College, and with sculptor Valerian Yanushkevich and other enthusiasts, Mr. Kravchenko has helped promote familiarity with our famous countryman. A memorial



Rzecz Pospolita — disappeared from the map of Europe. However, his *Farewell to Homeland* polonaise has endured through the centuries. In 2005, I was surprised to hear it in Kyrgyz Osh — performed by a local accordion player, in the city square."

Bass baritone Vladimir Alexandrovich's singing of an Oginski piece in Belarusian impressed guests at the reception. Born in Molodechno, the musician now works for Florence's Comunale Theatre. His talent is one of many 'exported' around the world from Belarus. Sooner or later, however, all return to their homeland.

Previously unknown Oginski family letters and documents, from Piotr Kravchenko's private collection

plaque has been unveiled in Florence (where Michal Kleofas spent his last days), in Belarusian and Italian.

Speaking at a celebratory reception, hosted by the House of Friendship, the Charge d'Affaires of Poland to Belarus, Michal Chabros, said, "Michal Kleofas Oginski lived in hard times, when his Motherland — the

## Ballet fans await spring

By Marina Zubovich

**Red Giselle by St. Petersburg's Eifman Ballet to be performed in Minsk**

The Palace of the Republic is to host the ballet, on March 26th, 2016. *Red Giselle* is justifiably the 'calling card' of the Eifman Ballet Theatre, portraying Russian prima ballerina Olga Spesivtseva's genius and tragic fate. The director is known for his dramatic tension, expressiveness and visual inventiveness, as well as rich and symbolic choreography. The choreographer tells us, "Olga Spesivtseva was one of the greatest

ballet dancers of the 20th century. I was astonished to learn the details of her life. She was a unique actress, kindly treated by fame and adored by fans and critics, but spent 20 years in a clinic for the insane, not far from New York, lonely and without independence. I felt such deep sorrow at this that I felt compelled to create the performance. The ballet isn't a biography of Spesivtseva's life, but an attempt to show the tragic destiny awaiting her on leaving Russia: a fate shared by many. In creating this performance we wanted to pay tribute to the memory of this great ballerina."

## Authentic and vivid chronicle of the time

By Semen Torguev

**Twilight of Middle Ages. Punishment Devices exhibition opens in Minsk**

The collection of 78 items of torture and execution is on display at the Archaeological Museum. The exposition is unique in its items and their origin, since all items are restored by Belarusian Sergey Numatov. Such exhibition is on show in Minsk for the first time.

The residents and guests of the city will be able to see with their own eyes how tricky the human brain

was while searching for the cruelest ways of interrogation and execution. The event showcases devices which received gloomy glory due to their uniqueness; 'Mask for Water Execution', 'The Spanish Boot', 'The Witch's Stool', 'The Mask of Shame', 'Zvezda' (Star) collar for women and 'The Cross of the Witch'. The visitors will be able to assess a copy of the authentic axe and massive 'Iron Maiden'. Moreover, chastity belts for men and women are also on show. There's also an opportunity to try fetters of prisoners, and a photo zone is equipped.

# Listapad solidly secures the title of 'cinema event of the year'

## Minsk launches 22nd International Listapad Film Festival, dedicated to 120th anniversary of world cinematography

By Mikhail Vetrov

The festival's opening ceremony was hosted by Minsk's Moskva cinema house, with the festival's directorate welcoming guests in the lobby. These included Director of the Minsk International Listapad Film Festival and Director of the Art Corporation Centre of Visual and Performing Arts, Anzhelika Krashevskaya, Feature Film Programme Director and Programme Director of the Children and Youth Film Competition, Listapadzik, Igor Sukmanov, and Documentary Film Programme Director, Irina Demyanova.

Belarus' Deputy Prime Minister, Natalia Kochanova, read the greeting from the Head of State and awarded a special prize of the President of Belarus 'For Preserving and Development of Traditions of Spirituality in Cinema Art' to People's Artiste of Russia, Vadim Abdrashitov.

Mr. Abdrashitov admitted that he is impressed and touched by this award. He noted that he was very pleased to receive it on the Belarusian land because his career and life



During the opening ceremony of 22nd Minsk International Listapad Film Festival

is connected with Minsk — the city which, according to him, has significantly improved over the last decade.

After presenting members of Listapad's international jury and partners, who helped organise the holiday under the slogan 'Eye of Pleasure', it was high time to launch

the event by the traditional plate breaking. An honorary obligation to break the festival's plate was entrusted on the Director General of the Belarusfilm National Film Studio, Igor Porshnev. 22nd Minsk International Listapad Film Festival has been launched!

The French atmosphere was viewlessly reigning at the festival and this is felt everywhere: in the slogan, invented by François Truffaut, in the choice of director Guillaume Nicloux's *Valley of Love* (which opened the festival) and even in music which was heard from the state

during the opening ceremony.

Fanny Ardant, a theatre and film actress, a director, is an honorary guest of this year's event. Shots from the films with her participation were screened and when famous actress entered the stage the whole hall stood in ovation.

This is the first time Ms. Ardant visits Minsk but she admitted that she had read about Belarus. "I knew that it's a historical city. Its history is somehow tragic but life is in full swing here. I haven't ever enjoyed travelling but have been always keen on cinema and due to it I could travel, meet people and get acquainted with them. I was very glad today to be with you at the festival's opening ceremony and to spend several days in this city," the star shared her emotions. The actress presents her second work as a director in Minsk — *Obsessive Rhythms*.

In total, the festival week will present 184 pictures from 60 countries. The results of the festival's contests will be also summed up in Moskva's cinema that is being held under the patronage of the President of Belarus.

## Format of narration: from personal diary



By Victor Mikhailov

**Compelling personal exhibition by famous graphic and pictorial artist Sergey Balenok — at Minsk's Modern Fine Arts Museum**

Mr. Balenok's *Everything As Always* show features his new works (painted in 2015) and graphic pieces and etchings from 2005-2014. The exhibition also includes some canvases never before showcased to the public.

Each work by Mr. Balenok narrates a certain story: with its own drama, language and plot. Etchings are his unique personal diary, where a composition acts as the plot and an image appears as a code. Sadness and

grief are the format of his narration.

As a rule, he tends to tackle 'everyday' situations: human relations, nature and urban life. His style is sharp, smart and slightly melancholic, opening a door onto his inner thoughts, while allowing us to bring our own interpretation.

**Sergey Balenok's works show originality**

Sergey Balenok was born in Ukraine, graduating from Lvov's Polygraphic Institute. From 1980, he worked for various editorial offices in Minsk, later becoming 'a free artist'. At the moment, he is employed at Minsk's Museum of Modern Fine Arts. Mr. Balenok has presented several personal shows — including at the National Art Museum. His works are held by galleries in Rimini, Eindhoven, Krakow, Polotsk and Minsk, as well as in private collections in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Ireland, France, the Czech Republic, Canada, the USA, Israel, Turkey, China and Russia.

## Bach over Neman wave

By Tatiana Kondratieva

**International Festival of European Organs, in Grodno, opens in city on River Nieman**

The festival of organ music is to last for a month, with musicians from Poland, Italy, Germany and other countries presenting wonderful concerts. Alexey Solodukhin comments, "This year, only foreign

musicians will perform — playing the Magnus Silesio Moderno Royal organ at our college's concert hall. It is the only one of its kind in Belarus and within the former Soviet space. Its electronics reproduce the original tone of real European organs, allowing the audience to imagine themselves at the Dome Cathedral, at Cologne Cathedral or elsewhere."

## Energy, charm and artistry

By Victoria Serova

**Virtuoso Russian pianist Denis Matsuev to play a symphony-jazz concert in Minsk**

The musician will present his *Classics and Jazz* programme at the Palace of the Republic in what is sure to be a landmark event for Minsk's cultural life. Mr. Matsuev's long awaited concert is expected to be an unforgettable treat for all his fans. The mere mention of his name is enough to guarantee a full house of classical music lovers eager to hear his brilliant performances of widely known masterpieces and bold improvisations. This is not Mr. Matsuev's first visit to Minsk. People from all over Belarus have previously flocked to hear the great pianist. This time, the musician will surprise his followers with a unique jazz symphony, showing a synthesis of different musical trends in a combination of bright symphony music and modern jazz rhythms.

Mr. Matsuev has played sell out tours in the best concert halls in the



Denis Matsuev

world. Audiences at this concert, on December 14th, will appreciate the musician's individuality and his wonderful ability to combine his mastery of playing, deep musical empathy and innovative approaches to performance. Belarusian music lovers will enjoy some of the masterpieces of world classical music performed by one of the world's most talented modern pianists.

# European Cups — equator passed

BATE Borisov and Dinamo Minsk play in Champions League and Europa League group stages respectively

By Kirill Karin

## Playing to the utmost

It was no surprise that BATE Borisov lost to Barcelona 0:3. They hoped only not to disgrace themselves and can be deemed successful, despite failing to score. They played boldly and in an organised manner, without showing too many nerves, which is a move in the right direction.

After the match, BATE's head coach, Alexander Yermakovich, asserted, "They played to the utmost. It's difficult to compete with such a team. We've learnt much about true football from the game." BATE defender Denis Polyakov, added, "We lost 0:3 but we don't feel ashamed of the game." After four rounds, BATE is ranked last in its group, with three points, but is still in with a chance of playing in the Europa League.

## Lost chances

In the fourth round of the Europa League Group Stage, Dinamo Minsk has lost to Spanish Villarreal at Borisov-Arena — 1:2. The Minskers opened the score, with Maxim Vitus sending the ball into the Spaniards' net after Fatos Beqiraj's pass in the 69th minute. It was the first goal for Dinamo in the tournament's group stage.



DIMITRY TKACHEV

Dinamo fails to prove a match for Villarreal

However, three minutes later, Villarreal equalised, thanks to a penalty taken by Roberto Soldado, followed by another goal from Soldado in the 86th minute.

Dinamo Minsk has lost its chance now, being ranked last in the

tournament table, and not a single point earned.

After the match, the head coach, Vuk Rasovic, noted that his trainees showed ability to play well against a strong rival and shouldn't have lost to the Spaniards. He blames loss of

concentration after taking the lead with the first goal and underlines that his team will try to earn points in its remaining matches, against Viktoria and Rapid. Moreover, he plans to give the squad's younger players more time on the field.

## National record is renewed in Colombia

By Yegor Glebov

**Tatiana Sharakova sets personal record in omnium individual pursuit, during first round of 2015 UCI Track Cycling World Cup, hosted by Colombian Cali**

Tatiana covered the 3km distance in 3 minutes and 33.984 seconds, almost 1.5 seconds quicker than her own personal record (set previously at the World Championship in France). She outstripped American Sara Hammer and British Laura Trott.

Ms. Sharakova came second in the elimination race, won by



Tatiana Sharakova

Laura Trott, and was 15th in the scratch, as well as 8th in the flying-start heat.

## Start of the season is almost near at hand

By Kirill Pirogov

**Belarusian men's and women's national biathlon teams set off to Finnish Vuokatti for training**

This year, both squads will be training until November 18th; afterwards they will move to Kontiolahti which will host the final preparation stage for the season. The training camp in Finland involves Nadezhda Skardino, Nadezhda Pisareva, Ana-

stasia Duborezova, Anna Sola, Irina Krivko, Maria Panfilova, Dinara Alimbekova, Vladimir Chepelin, Yuri Lyadov, Dmitry Dyuzhev, Sergey Bocharnikov, Victor Krivko, Maxim Vorobei, Roman Yeletnov and Vitaly Kozlovsky. On November 25th, the team will go to Swedish Östersund to take part in the first stage of the World Cup that is launched on November 29th with supersprint mixed relays and mixed relays.



## First stage definitely conducted brilliantly

By Igor Leshin

**National team of Belarus wins international Euro Ice Hockey Challenge in Liepaja, defeating Japan 3:0**

After victories over Italy (1:0) and Latvia (4:3) Dave Lewis' team was in with a good chance of winning the Euro Ice Hockey Challenge, meeting Japan with high spirits. Only one change was made to the line-up, with Alexander Borodulya, from Yunost, taking over from Neman's Maxim Samakov in goal, within the first few minutes.

The Belarusians played in the majority for the first five minutes of the match. Sadly, Dmitry Ambrozheichik received two penalty minutes for an incorrect attack, which slightly reduced the attacking impulse of the squad, who went on the defence more often. Nevertheless, in the 16th min-

ute, the captain of the Belarusian team showed his mastery against defender Takafumi Yamashita, sending the puck into the Japanese goal's near corner. In the second period, one minute before the whistle, Pavel Boayrchuk increased our advantage to 2:0.

During the last 20 minutes of the game, Stanislav Lopachuk took the final score to 3:0, pushing us into the lead and leading to the team winning the tournament in Liepaja.

Our squad will enter the next stage of the World Championship in mid-December, finishing with the Arosa Challenge Cup in Switzerland from December 18th to 19th.

The matches at the international tournament in Latvia were the first stage for our national ice hockey team in the 80th World Ice Hockey Championship, which is to be hosted by Moscow and St. Petersburg from May 6th-22nd, 2016.



Dmitry Zhirmont

## New title on the track record

By Igor Grishin

**Belarusian tennis player Dmitry Zhirmont wins international Paf Open Tallinn tournament, with a prize fund of \$10,000**

In the decisive match 26 year old Belarusian, ranked 295th in the ATP rating, defeated Belgian Clement Geens (positioned 428th) who was seeded fourth at the tournament. In the first set Dmitry lost (4:6) yet managed to turn events around and win two sets in a row — 6:4, 6:0.

In the semi-final Dmitry Zhirmont confidently beat Russian Yevgeny Tyurnev (ranked 724th) — 6:2, 6:0.

## Rise in FIFA rating

**Belarus' national team up 28 positions in International Federation of Association Football rating, now ranked 70th**

In October, Belarusian footballers played two final selection matches for the 2016 European Championship, beating Slovakia away (1:0) and drawing against Macedonia (0:0). Alexander Khatkevich's team now boasts 479 points. 209 national squads are ranked by FIFA, with the next rating released on December 3rd. Belgium is topping the ratings, above world champions Germany, and the 2014 World Championship runners-up, the Argentineans.

## Good place in medal standings

**Belarusian athletes win 12 awards at 20th WACO World Championships, in Belgrade**

Andrey Khamenok, Yevgeny Telitsa and Yekaterina Kovaleva all took gold, with the latter also claiming a special award for 'best low-kick wrestler at the World Championship'.

Silver went to Piotr Romankovich and Artur Isayanets while bronze medals were claimed by Yelena Leshkevich, Sergey Skiba, Yelena Muratova, Yuri Zhukovsky, Pavel Shelest, Maxim Spadarenko and Timur Mamedov.

The head coach of the team, Mikhail Stepanov, notes that all athletes have demonstrated their determination. He tells us, "Experienced athlete Yuri Zhukovsky was injured in the first fight so we tried to discourage him from continuing. However, being a true fighter, he pushed himself for two more matches and claimed bronze."

The tournament featured 1,987 athletes from 66 countries. Belarus was represented by 27 kickboxing masters and was ranked 5th in the medal standings overall.

# Illusion of the week



Modernity illusion laser show, under the guidance of Yevgeny Novoselov, amazes audiences at Gomel's Circus

## Exhibitions

### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street

Until 9th November. *A*

*Pilgrim of Freedom*

Until 16th November.

Exhibition by Mai Dantsig

Until 6th December. *Korea's Life*

Until 11th December. *From*

*Realism to Impressionism* (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century painting)

Until 30th December. *Celebrating*

*Victory Day in Museum*

### NATIONAL HISTORY

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 6th December. *Wonderful*

*World of Watercolours*

Until 6th December. *The Silver Age*

Until 31st December. *Major*

*Presentation of Museum Relics:*

*79 Steps Inside History*

### MUSEUM OF MATURE AND

#### ECOLOGY OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 6th March. *Jungles*

*behind the Window*

### MAXIM BOGDANOVICH

#### LITERARY MUSEUM

7A M. Bogdanovich Street

Until 1st December. *Maxim's Garden*

### ZABRODIE

#### ETHNOGRAPHICAL COMPLEX

Zabrodie village

Until 30th November. *Molotov Drive:*

exhibition of retro technique

Until 26th December. Museum of the

First World War and Retro Machinery

### NATIONAL LIBRARY

#### OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 27th November. *Promise of*

*Dreams and Rainbow Trace*

Until 29th November. *Plainair-2015*

Until 30th November. *Great*

*Mummies of Egypt*

## Theatres

### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square

13.11. The Fountain of Bakhchisaray 14.11.

Sounds of Music concert; The Flying Dutchman

15.11. Winnie-The-Pooh and All, All, All...;

La Esmeralda 17.11. The Tsar's Bride

18.11. Romeo and Juliet 19.11. Strauss Invites

### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC

#### MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street

13.11. Sofia Golshanskaya 14.11. Aladdin

and His Magic Lamp; Shalom Aleichem!

15.11. Red Riding Hood. Generation NEXT;

Once in Chicago 17.11. Blue Cameo

18.11. Mister X 19.11. Yunona and Avos

### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL

#### ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street

13.11. Pesnyar 14.11. Private Lives

15.11. Woe from Wit 17.11. Bridegrooms

18.11. Esfir 19.11. Pygmalion

### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL

#### ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street

14 and 15.11. Wedding 17.11. The Seagull

18.11. Pinsk Gentry 19.11. Second

Youth Theatre Forum

### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue

15.11. Merchant Yepishkin's Theatre

16 and 17.11. Even a Wise Man Stumbles

18 and 19.11. The Battlefield

19.11. No One Ever Said Life Would Be Easy

### REPUBLICAN THEATRE

#### OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street

13 and 19.11. Adel 14.11. Two Wonderful

Umbrellas 15.11. A Two Dogs' Tale; Feint-Kruaze

17.11. Lift 18.11. White Angel with Black Wings

### MAZ HOUSE OF CULTURE

117A Partizansky Avenue

16.11. Faryantiev's Fantasies

# Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

## November of decades and centuries past comes to life

**November 13th.** In 1928, Honoured Coach of the BSSR and the USSR Boleslav Rybalko was born. From 1970-1972, he headed the coaching staff of the USSR freestyle wrestling team, which won the Munich Olympics. Among his trainees were Alexander Medved and Vladimir Letun.

**November 14th.** In 1933, writer Leonid Prokopchik was born, who wrote essays on his native land and scripts for *Napoleon Orda* and *Belarusian Town Halls*.

**November 14th.** In 1938, Honoured Artiste Valery Soroko — a violinist — was born in Minsk.

**November 15th.** In 1938, ethnographer, historian and teacher Victor Titov was born. He developed a concept of Belarus' division into historical-ethnographical districts, while studying our national ethnography, folk culture and Polish-Belarusian ties.

**November 16th.** In 1945, Belarusian art expert and cinema worker Oleg Belousov was born. He founded Belarusfilm Studio's cartoon workshop and was its artistic leader.

**November 17th.** In 1914,

Soviet Union Hero Kuzma Gnidash (Gnedash) was born. He led partisan groups within Belarusian territory during the Great Patriotic War, taking part in reconnaissance and guerrilla missions.

**November 16th.** In 1999, a memorial to Tadeusz Kosciuszko was unveiled in his native Merechevshchina, near the Brest Region's Kossovo.



**November 18th.** In 1924, a full cavalier of the Order of Glory — Ivan Timoshenko — was born. During the Great Patriotic War, he fought at the 2nd and 3rd Ukrainian fronts and, until 1970, served with the Soviet Army (reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel).

**November 19th.** In 1879, Dmitry Tyapin was born in the Mogilev Region — a cavalier

of three George crosses and an honorary soldier of the Soviet Army.

**November 20th.** In 1954, Belarusian gymnast and Olympic champion Antonina Koshel was born.

**November 14th.** In 1896, the first Belarusian telephone station (for a hundred numbers) came into operation.

**November 14th.** In 1909,

triotic War. Napoleonic troops were completely smashed and the retreating French Army lost its direct path to the West.

**November 15th.** In 1925, the first wide-band radio station — PB-10 — began its work in Minsk. At 6.30pm, 'Minsk is speaking' was uttered live for the first time.

**November 15th.** In 1932, the Belarusian State Conservatory opened (since 1992, known as the Belarusian Music Academy).

**November 15th.** In 1962, the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers was established.

**November 16th.** In 1884, the first Belarusian stationary wooden circus began its work: the Nikitin Brothers' Circus.

**November 16th.** In 1871, the Smolensk-Minsk-Brest railway line came into operation.

**November 16th.** In 1993, the Minsk Radiotechnical Institute was reorganised as the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics.

**November 17th.** In 1871, a college of organ players was set up in Minsk, becoming the only such Belarusian establishment and enjoying huge popularity.