

Tbilisi hosted official events for the President's visit to Georgia. After negotiations, the heads of states, Alexander Lukashenko and Giorgi Margvelashvili, confirmed their determination to develop economic interaction, as well as contacts across all areas important to our nations.

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INTERNATIONAL

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## May Khatyn bells never stop tolling

Seventy-five years ago, Nazis destroyed the Belarusian village of Khatyn. On March 22nd, 1943, they burnt alive and shot almost all 149 residents, including 75 children. The Memorial Complex established on the site of Khatyn has become a world symbol of numerous victims, suffering and courage of the Belarusian nation in the Great Patriotic War. The fate of Khatyn was shared by hundreds of other Belarusian villages.

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From the address of the President of the Republic of Belarus:

Let the mournful ringing of Khatyn bells warn us against the repetition of this terrible tragedy. Let their brass cry reach the corners of the Earth, reminding us that life is a gift from above and that peace is the greatest treasure. We must always remember this!



# Young talents should be celebrated in home country

Thanks to efforts and successes of the youth, Belarus should stop being ‘terra incognita’ in modern culture, notes Alexander Lukashenko, speaking to creative young people at Belarusian State Youth Theatre

By Alexander Pimenov

The Youth Theatre was an appropriate setting for the meeting, having hosted around forty premieres over the last five years, and enjoying successful tours through Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, France and Germany. It's a true ‘depository’ of talent.

The Youth Theatre welcomed around 300 guests from all over the country, including the best students and teachers from educational establishments in the sphere of culture, winners of Republican and international festivals and contests, and laureates and scholarship holders of the Special Fund of the President.

“I believe that, thanks to your efforts and successes, Belarus will become better known in modern culture. You need to strive to give your art to the whole world, as art knows no geographical or political boundaries. It is international,” the President emphasised, addressing the youngsters.

Mr. Lukashenko commented that talented young people have many opportunities in Belarus, and that the country is happy to see its creative elites find recognition abroad. He added his dismay that Belarusians appear to first need to achieve success abroad before being appreciated at home. “This is our biggest problem!” he asserted, adding that Belarusians seem to have a ‘false sense of inferiority, acquired in the 1990s’. He lamented that some continue to say that the ‘best things’ exist abroad, rather than close at hand.

“Belarus has all necessary conditions for talented young people to launch themselves: good colleges with outstanding teachers, and regular competitions and festivals. Perhaps, we’ve missed something, but I’d like to understand where we’ve failed. Maybe, there’s something wrong with our self-perception, and self-respect as a nation!”

The President noted that Belarusians often win international festivals and the country organises many national contests, but that more promotion is needed. “As soon as the television is switched off, where are these talents? Why aren’t we seeing them, like shining stars? Not enough receive further development. What’s wrong? We must understand our national legacy and remember great names, recollecting our legacy not only in words



At presentation of achievements of creative youngsters

but in practice,” noted Mr. Lukashenko. He underlined the necessity of raising the status of cities and villages where famous Belarusians were born, attracting foreigners, to show them such places. “I expect to see programmes of action from our ministries of culture, information and education, drawing attention to this topic. I can’t stress enough how important it is for us to love our own nation. Those who recognise the treasure within themselves are always happiest.”

The President spoke of the importance of distinguishing true art from false, saying that the Internet and television are full of popular sites and programmes that lack ‘beauty’. He fears that this ‘primitive’ culture can weaken the state, saying, “Within just over twenty years, they’ve turned society upside down, believing that this is better than freedom. Here is the result. Your creativity is very precious to me, being different

altogether. Wherever you express yourself — in literature, academic art, cinema, television, stage or dance — you’ll enrich your audience emotionally and lift their spirits, forming the spiritual body of the nation. It’s important not to pursue easy fame or empty-headed imitation.”

**The Head of State underlined the necessity of raising the status of cities and villages where famous Belarusians were born, attracting foreigners, to show them such places**

Success is more than applause and popularity; it’s a major social responsibility. It’s all too easy to be a ‘third-rate’ personality, making your name by simply drawing attention to yourself. It’s alluring and dangerous.

During the meeting the President also answered young people’s questions.

## Digital economy

Mr. Lukashenko notes that he may soon launch a Ministry of Digital Economy. His decree on the development of digital economy is an example of a creative approach. As he asserts, “Politicians should take creative risks.”

## Graffiti

The President was asked whether he’s ready to take part in the graffiti project, in which everyone will draw on buildings in Minsk. He joked about his lack of artistic ability, saying he’ll probably contribute a picture of the sun and sky. “I’m a bad painter and I’m afraid of heights,” he smiled. Nevertheless, the President is keen to see city authorities adopting this project with enthusiasm, to enliven our urban environment. He added that plans are afoot to install decorative fences on Minsk’s main streets, to ensure traffic safety and decorate the city.

## Sense of justice

The President stresses that his first task, on taking his position, was to bring the nation back from the abyss, building on principles of justice. He believes that success is the providence of those with talent and determination.

## Page on social network

The students asked the President when they can expect the appearance of his page on Instagram. “It’s a great responsibility,” responded Mr. Lukashenko. “If a page is created, there will be questions to answer; thousands of them! I’m too busy to reply to every follower. Those politicians who have such pages often delegate this task to their assistants. I think it’s not honest, so I’m not in a hurry to do this.”

## Historical events

According to Mr. Lukashenko, we should know the history of the Belarusian People’s Republic (BNR) but shouldn’t take pride in those events. The President noted that the period is poorly researched, while available information is controversial. The founders of the Belarusian People’s Republic wanted independence for the country yet were ready to seek anyone’s assistance in reaching their goal. They would have been once again oppressed, in the end. He believes that we should know the truth about this, saying those events ‘should not be taken out of context or plastered over’.

## Eurovision

“I feel content that our country will be represented by a Ukrainian [Nikita Alexeev]. I even see some benefit in this, especially for you. A talented and widely-promoted young boy has won. Moreover, he’s also known in Russia and Ukraine. I hope very much that these countries may give 12 points each to us. What’s bad about this? If our own singers had been at the same high level, we’d have been happy.”

## Creative ideas

The President expressed his opinion whether a promising creative idea could become a ‘guarantee’ for taking a loan from the bank.

“I would like this. We can try if you have such a precious idea that would bring money tomorrow. It’s also very important for the bank to have its risks reduced.”



# Plans outlined in Tbilisi

## President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko pays official visit to Georgia

By Vasily Kharitonov

In April 2015, the Georgian capital hosted the first official meeting between the presidents of Belarus and Georgia. There were no grounds to think that the heads of state were assessing their degree of trust, as their conversation was warm and open, covering internal and external challenges, and possible solutions to mutual benefit. A target of \$200 million turnover was set for our bilateral business co-operation.

As the Georgian leader, Giorgi Margvelashvili, has said, the recent visit of the President of Belarus to Georgia takes up where the last one ended. Mr. Lukashenko noted, “Last year, our countries reached a high level of mutual trade: around \$112-\$115 million. Of course, the figure is small. However, it was once nothing at all, so we’ve done well in just two or three years; it’s a good trend.”

Such dynamics give rise to confidence in achieving our goal of \$200 million, reinforced by the intensity of contacts between representatives of our business communities. The Georgian-Belarusian Business Forum opened in Tbilisi before the official visit of the President, launching with the signing of a package of documents for co-operation by Belarusian enterprises with Georgian partners. Interaction is already worth tens of millions of Dollars. The Belarusian delegation has worked thoroughly, receiving praise from the President. Importantly, we wish to extend beyond simple trade, to launch



Alexander Lukashenko and Giorgi Margvelashvili during their official meeting

enhanced industrial co-operation and joint ventures. The assembly of Belarusian elevators is the first project of its kind in Georgia, and already at a high stage of elaboration. Moreover, our Georgian partners appreciate the readiness of Belarusian specialists to share knowledge and technologies, while training specialists.

Mr. Lukashenko stressed, “We’re starting to create scientific centres and I really want to create joint ventures: for elevators, tractors, cars and complicated home appliances. Irrespective of the direction, we’ll do our best to develop it. However, we need trained personnel.” He noted that he has given all ministries instructions to promote this, to take full advantage of opportunities in Georgia.

Mr. Margvelashvili responded with gratitude, noting his desire to see our partnership guided not only by commercial interest but by more noble goals. The presidents have signed a strategic agreement governing Belarusian-Georgian co-operation, setting goals for co-operation for many years to come. Belarus’

openness has historical grounds, thanks to Georgia’s enduring political support within the international arena. Mr. Lukashenko recalled this warmly, saying, “I’m grateful to the leadership of Georgia, the Government and Parliament, for the support always rendered to Belarus on international platforms: within the OSCE and the United Nations. We’re also members of the *Eastern Partnership*.”

### REFERENCE

Alexander Lukashenko presented a small-sized BELARUS-152 tractor to the President of Georgia, after the reception held on behalf of the Georgian leader, in honour of the President of Belarus

Georgia has always stood shoulder to shoulder with Belarus, even in the most difficult times. “Mikheil Saakashvili and the present leadership have always supported me and the Belarusian nation,” said Mr. Lukashenko. “In this respect, we owe our brother-Georgians for the colossal solidarity shown towards Belarus.” Partnership between Minsk and Tbilisi

has extended beyond trade, to encompass socially important topics. The Belarusian President stressed, “We can share our developments in the sphere of tackling emergency situations. Co-operation between our doctors, medical centres and specialised educational institutions is gaining momentum. This year, Belarusian specialists have taken part in a liver transplantation programme being launched in Georgia.”

Contacts between ordinary people are also important for strengthening friendship. Projects in the field of tourism and cultural exchange play a vital role in this respect. Meanwhile, the political will of our two states’ leaders is leading to successful co-operation in all areas.

The President of Belarus summed up the official part of his visit, saying, “I appreciate the sincere atmosphere of meetings here, in Tbilisi, with my colleagues and members of the Government. We’ve openly and frankly discussed interaction. Our talks with my distinguished

colleague and the delegation of Georgia have seen no closed topics; our dialogue, at all levels, is distinguished by sincere trust and respect. Here, in the centre of Europe, you have a reliable base with which you can communicate and trade. We’re ready for this co-operation and I’m sure you believe me, since we’ve never let you down. Belarus will always be open for co-operation with Georgia, and I will support any joint projects aimed at further expanding and deepening our relations. I really want — as a person, as a citizen and as the Head of State — to see you prosper and live peacefully. Georgians deserve respect and a peaceful existence on this planet. This ancient nation has contributed much to civilisation, as we appreciate and remember. We’re ready to extend a hand of friendship and help, to all our brothers in Georgia.”

On the second day of the visit, the President of Belarus laid flowers at the memorial to heroes who fell for the unity of Georgia. A meeting was also held with Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili.

## Warm meeting and conversation on friendship

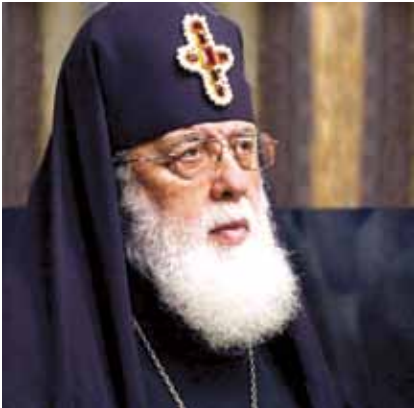
By Alexey Fedosov

### Alexander Lukashenko, meets Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, Archbishop of Mtskheta-Tbilisi and Metropolitan Bishop of Bichvinta and Tskhum-Abkhazia, Ilia II

Alexander Lukashenko noted Ilia II’s words, spoken on his last visit to Georgia, when he said, “We’ve long waited for you to visit us.”

“I appreciate you always finding time to meet with me here, and I promise that I’ll regularly come to visit your lovely city and country. God willing, I’ll always come to meet you. It’s a great honour for me, and a great pleasure. You’re a highly esteemed person, not only in Georgia but throughout the Orthodox world and beyond,” noted the Head of State.

The President of Belarus conveyed



Ilia II

greetings to Ilia II from the Metropolitan Filaret and Metropolitan Pavel. “Our peoples have always maintained good, warm relations. We aren’t strangers but brothers. We’ve had no choice but to build the warmest relations, as independent states,” stressed Mr. Lukashenko, adding that our

two countries have made great progress in developing bilateral relations over the past two or three years, having signed many agreements. “You should know that we’ll always be with you. We’re ready to share everything we have and can do.”

The President emphasised the important role of the church in ensuring the unity of the Georgian people. “In the recent past, the Georgian church played a major part in preserving statehood,” noted the Belarusian leader. Speaking about the situation in the region, Mr. Lukashenko stressed that Belarus advocates for the peaceful settlement of all conflicts. He wishes to see relations encouraged between conflicting parties, overcoming all disagreements. “These relations are possible,” he underlined. “They have always been and they will always be. We must remember that we have our people

behind us and they want to live in peace and friendship.”

Belarus will do its best to maintain good relations and keep interfaith peace and concord inside the country. The President said, “Belarus is a peaceful, quiet place. This is our ‘brand’ and we’ll do everything possible to contribute to peace, not only in neighbouring states, but others.”

Ilia II returned the warm greeting, expressing his hope for further friendship between Belarus and Georgia. “We’re very happy that you support us, and I hope that future relations will continue developing in a positive way,” he said. Mr. Lukashenko and Ilia II exchanged gifts and lit a candle. The son of the President of Belarus, Nikolai, who was present at the meeting, played Schubert’s *Serenade* on the piano, and Ilia II performed a piece he had written himself.





During the Georgian-Belarusian Business Forum in Tbilisi

# Common economic route

It's important that there's reciprocity in Georgian-Belarusian relations. Despite the distance between our nations, we have many points of coincidence. For example, our two countries geographically and economically connect the east and the west. Like Belarus, Georgia is also taking part in the Chinese initiative of the Great Silk Road. While our country can offer Georgian partners entrance to the EAEU market, Georgia can help Belarusian enterprises gain a foothold in the EU.

By Vladimir Khromov

As far as ease of doing business is concerned, Georgia is one of the most attractive countries. Its leadership has chosen to simplify all administrative procedures for entrepreneurs. At present, Georgia is ranked among the top ten countries in the World Bank's *Doing Business* Report,

alongside Singapore, the USA and the UK. Its experience will be interesting to our country, which is also following a path of business liberalisation. Trade between Belarus and Georgia has been expanding for several years, with plans to increase trade turnover to \$200 million by 2020; our 2017 results show that we should come very close to this figure next year.

We need to keep raising the bar, as both our states are eager to do, through bilateral co-operation and collaboration.

The majority of Belarusian exports to Georgia are for high-tech industrial produce and joint projects are certainly on the agenda, bringing new jobs and expansion of markets. A joint manufacturing enterprise, mak-

ing lifts, is underway in Tbilisi. Last August, Belarusian Mogilevliftmash became part of the Georgian Elevator Consortium, with several dozen lifts already assembled, and plans to produce up to 200 lifts in 2018. Promising projects include the supply of Belarusian electric buses. Tbilisi and Batumi are both keen on ecological transport. To discuss how

soon our electric buses will be running on Georgian roads, the leadership of Belkommash has arrived in Tbilisi to take part in a business forum. Belarus also supplies food products to Georgia, with two chains of shops selling Belarusian products in the capital. Meanwhile, similar Georgian trade chains are to appear soon in our country.

# Investing into housing

Belarusians lead among CIS residents buying Moscow flats

By Alexander Meleshko

Citizens of Belarus are the most common buyers of Moscow flats among CIS state residents, accounting for 42.5 percent of total deals. Residents of Minsk and Brest, aged 35-40, are most commonly buying housing in Moscow, with 25 percent of such cases taking out mortgages in Russia.

Est-a-Tet investment and realtor company has studied buyers of Moscow housing, finding out that Muskovites account for slightly over half of buyers of Moscow flats; of the remainder, people from Russian regions account for almost 30 percent, and those from the Moscow Region, another 20 percent. Residents of CIS states account for around 1 percent of 'newly-appeared' Muskovites, with Belarusians taking the lead, followed by Ukrainians (23.75 percent), and Kazakhs (13.75 percent).

According to the research, Belarusians tend to choose comfort-class housing within the 'old Moscow' district. Almost 70 percent seek out one-room apartments with an average of 38sq.m, while 25 percent of Belarusians choose two-room apartments (62sq.m); three-room apartments account for just 6 percent of sales.

The correlation of men and women among Belarusian buyers is almost identical, with the city of Minsk taking the lead (41 percent), followed by residents of Brest (18 percent). Belarusians have no special



Flat in one of Moscow's new buildings

preferences among Moscow suburbs but tend to choose large housing complexes with developed infrastructure, located within the MKAD (Moscow automobile ring road).

There's no single portrait of a Belarusian buyer; some are parents of students in Moscow, buying housing for their children; others are working in the Russian capital. Usually, Belarusians are engaged in highly-qualified positions, with a good level of income, notes Est-a-Tet's Head of Work with Key Partners, Roman Rodiontsev.

"Belarusians are assisted by loyalty from banks, who give mortgages on almost the same terms as for Russians," Roman adds. "For example, if residents of CIS states want to buy property in Moscow,

they face complex procedures and much red tape, so it's better to rent; Belarusians don't have such problems."

The authors of the poll note that some banks are ready to approve mortgages for Belarusian citizens, even with a minimum package of documents and absence of a permanent place of work. In such cases, buyers need a deposit worth at least 33 percent of the cost, and the risk of being denied is higher.

Pricing also affects buyer activity: in recent years, the cost of housing in Moscow has fallen, as has the number of buyers. As a result, real estate developers are ready to offer good discounts, and banks are offering mortgages at a rate of about 10 percent per annum.

# Belarusian tractors on North American continent

By Oleg Bogomazov

**Minsk Tractor Works to increase supply of tractors to North America, notes MTZ Director General, Fiodor Domotenko, meeting delegation of dealers from Canada and the USA**

MTZ began conquering the North American continent in the 1970s, selling thousands of units annually. Since then, more than 50,000 BELARUS tractors have been delivered to Canada and the USA. "Soon, we'll double or triple supplies," noted Mr. Domotenko, thanking American partners for their loyalty to the Belarusian tractor and its manufacturer.

The delegation visited MTZ's assembly facility and toured the production line, viewing Belarusian tractors with electromechanical transmission. Minsk Tractor Works, and MTZ Equipment Ltd., as the exclusive distributor of BELARUS tractors in the USA and Canada, will soon sign an agreement to supply Belarusian agricultural machinery to the North American continent, in 2018.



# Preserving old markets and winning new ones

## Demand for Belarusian tyres increasing globally

By Alexey Fedosov

Last year, Belarusian industrial giant Belshina JSC managed not only to keep old markets but to win new ones. Will they soon be able to reduce prices and open new production facilities abroad?

### Impressive growth

It's great to read inspiring statistics. Last year, Belshina produced about four million tyres and other products. Of its sales revenue of approximately \$400 million, over half came from exports (\$228m): higher than in 2016.

The domestic market accounts for less than half of all sales, purchasing 770,000 tyres and other products last year, although domestic consumption is growing. Some time ago, Belshina General Director Alexey Yakovlev announced figures, stressing that these were the result of improved quality tyres. "Each manufacturer has its own circle of consumers: some prefer only imported products and others buy Belarusian tyres."

Importantly, demand for Belarusian tyres is annually increasing — as confirmed by growth in sales and results of population surveys. At present, our tyres worthily rival those from abroad, in terms of technical characteristics. Moreover, they offer good value for money, making them increasingly attractive to consumers."

Belshina stresses that new types of products, as yet unannounced, are now undergoing production mastering.

### Vital pricing

All the enterprise's production facilities are currently situated within Belarus but there are plans to open facilities abroad. After all, Belshina's products are exported to al-



This year, Belshina will start manufacture of tyres for quarry machinery

most seventy countries — including remote South Africa, Singapore, and Cuba. Last year, the company mastered three more new markets: Kuwait,

Cameroon and Oman.

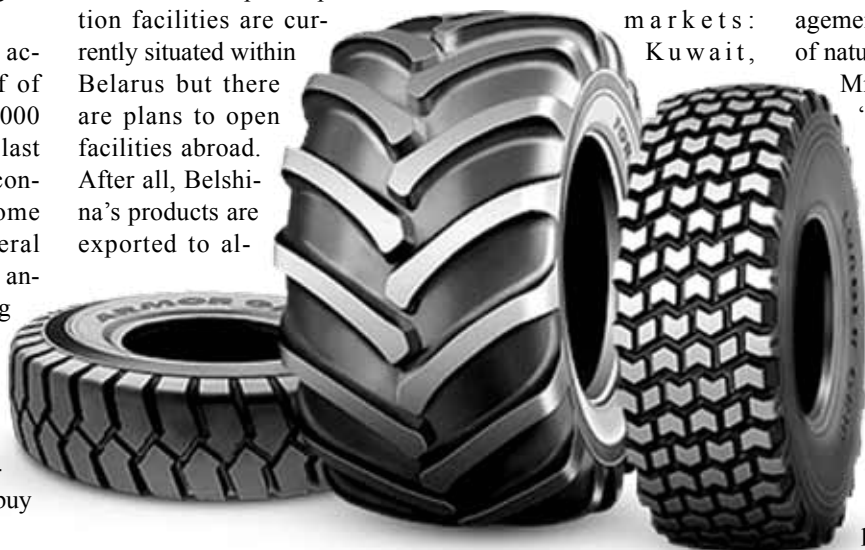
While Belshina is thinking of new production facilities, pricing could be revised. Last November, the plant's management agreed on the supply of natural rubber to Singapore.

Mr. Yakovlev emphasises, "Maintaining quality is paramount. At present, we receive raw materials in strict accordance with the technical specifications developed at the plant. Contracts signed in November will enable us to ensure the supply of natural rubber directly from producers, bypassing third-party trading companies.

This should make it possible to reduce the prime cost."

### Financial regime matters

Belshina sadly lacks its own working capital, as is necessary to ensure steady work and completion of its investment projects. Without the further ability to borrow from banks, the company is seeking alternatives, such as World Bank support. In mid-2017, Belshina negotiated funding to continue modernisation, and information and documents are now being exchanged. Of course, the need for funding will continue. The opening of BelGee Plant last year was a landmark event for Belshina — promising production growth.



# Digital life of our contemporary times

## In March, the High-Tech Park registered forty-six new resident companies: a record monthly figure in the Park's history

By Yevgeny Kononov

Specialists agree that the boost in residents is due to the adoption of the Decree 'On the Development of Digital Economy'. The HTP Administration recently met with parliamentarians, to explain the major innovations and competitive advantages set to be gained by the economy, from implementation of the decree. HTP Deputy Director Ivan Zhiznevsky underlines, "Experts are calling Belarus the Silicon Valley of Eastern Europe. Last year, exports of HTP services exceeded one billion Dollars, with almost half of this volume being sold to Western Europe, and the USA accounting for 43 percent."

IT services are rendered to such well known corporations as Samsung, HTC, the London Stock Exchange, the World Bank, Microsoft, Coca-Cola, Toyota, Google, and British Petroleum. Around a billion people, from over 150 countries, use mobile applications developed at the HTP.

Of course, the special legal status of



High-Tech Park's business incubator

HTP residents (being exempt from corporate taxes — including VAT, with income tax capped at 9 percent, until 2049) is driving this growth. Residents are involved in developing medical, aviation, space and bio-technologies and cyber gaming, as well as high-tech science-

intensive products.

"Previously, documents were adopted to ensure our brightest specialists would be more inclined to stay; we're now aiming to attract experts from abroad," asserts lawyer Denis Aleinikov, a member of the Digital Economy Council. "We

Legislation governing blockchain technologies is essential, with experts predicting it as the next decade's Internet 2.0

need the best jurisdiction in the world for IT businesses, so we can compete with such world players as Switzerland and Singapore."

Of course, IT training is essential, as the Rector of Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, Mikhail Batura, comments. Higher educational establishments lack enough young IT teachers, which is hardly surprising, since IT companies are paying salaries of at least \$2,500. Meanwhile, the most a university lecturer can hope to receive is \$700 (having a scientific degree). To attract practitioners and improve the quality of curricula, some funds generated by HTP residents are to be directed towards this sphere.



# Khatyn will always remain in the hearts of Belarusians

## President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, addresses his countrymen on occasion of 75th anniversary of Khatyn tragedy

The President's address reads: 'The Great Patriotic War left a heavy legacy for the Belarusian people: the memory of terrible tragedies, of people who witnessed and suffered monstrous crimes, committed in the name of Fascism. Today, we pay tribute to the memory of the residents of Khatyn village, that was burnt by the Nazis, 75 years ago'.

The Head of State commented that the life of a small village irreversibly changed on March 22nd, 1943. Suffering from numerous defeats, the invaders executed the civilian population. 'Those punishers didn't spare old people, women or babies; 149 people died in the fire.' Alexander Lukashenko underlined the horror of parents watching their children die. 'We'll never forget the fear and helplessness of those chil-

dren, who sought protection from adults, not understanding why their lives would be taken. We cannot forgive the grief of a father who survived but lost his son, and the tears of a boy who managed to survive, lying under the body of his murdered mother'.

'Remembering Khatyn, we remember the thousands of brutally destroyed villages. Mourning the victims of these terrible events, we grieve for every third inhabitant of Belarus, who died during WWII. This pain will remain in our hearts forever, as a memory of those cruel crimes against humanity. There is no justification.' The President stated that Belarusians paid a high price for the freedom of their native land. 'We'll cherish the memory of those terrible



Khatyn — a symbol of grief

years and pass it to our children, as immunity against military aggression and nationalistic hostility, understanding that nothing in the world is worth taking a

The village of Khatyn can't be found on Belarus' maps, as it was burnt, together with its residents, by Fascists, in spring 1943; 149 people, including 75 children, were executed. On the site of the burnt village, Khatyn Memorial Complex was established, to commemorate the memory of those killed in the years of the Great Patriotic War.

human life'.

He noted, with alarm, that the world is again forgetting these lessons. Military threats, terrorist acts, and inter-faith and ethnic conflicts fill the pages of 21st century history with innumerable new victims.

'The modern face of evil, hidden sometimes behind a mask of good intentions, is as ugly as that of Nazism. The ideas of superpower and superiority of nations find regular followers and lead to new ills,' the statement says.

'We, Belarusians, the bearers of the genetic memory of the inhuman suffering of the people who withstood the Great Patriotic War, say to everybody: "Let the mournful ringing of Khatyn's

bells warn everyone against the repetition of this terrible tragedy. Let their brass toll reach the corners of the Earth, where it has been forgotten that life is a gift from above and that peace is the greatest treasure." We must always remember this!'

## Bells of grief never stop tolling

### All-Belarusian Peace Prayer read during requiem service at Khatyn Memorial Complex, dedicated to 75th anniversary of Khatyn tragedy

By Vladimir Velikhov

The event was attended by heads of all traditional confessions of Belarus, including the Metropolitan of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of all Belarus, Pavel. He was joined by the Mufti of the Muslim Religious Association in the Republic of Belarus, Abu-Bekir Shabanovich, and by the Archbishop Metropolitan of Minsk and Mogilev, the Chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Belarus, Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz.

Metropolitan Pavel stressed that Belarusians are forgiving people but will never forget the past. Together with the heads of other confessions, he wished for Belarus to never again experience the terrors of war.

The 'May Khatyn Bells Never Stop Tolling' service was held at Khatyn Memorial Complex, leading guests through the events of 75 years ago, through to modern times, in an immersive experience. Wreaths were laid at the Eternal Flame on behalf of the Head of State, government agencies, public and religious organi-



Everyone in the world knows about the Belarusian village of Khatyn. Public figures, political parties, public organisations and associations of the Belarusian diaspora, from various countries, have continued to address the President and the Government, through diplomatic channels. Offering words of sorrow, they also express admiration for the heroic deeds of the Belarusian nation and gratitude for Belarus' work in opposing Fascism.

sations, and the diplomatic corps. The Head of the Presidential Administration, Natalia Kochanova, read a message from the Head of State to all countrymen, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Khatyn tragedy.

Ms. Kochanova noted that the tragedy stirred the whole



world and leaves no one indifferent. "We should value

what we have: peace, tranquility, and the opportunity to work, study and realise our own plans and ideas." She added, "The Khatyn tragedy will always remain in our hearts and in our memory. We should pass this to future generations, so that what happened many years ago on

our land won't happen again. We have no right to allow this to reoccur."

Seventy-five years have passed since the Nazis destroyed the peaceful Belarusian village. On March 22nd, 1943, they burnt it down, shooting 149 people, including 75 children. The memorial created on the site of Khatyn has become a symbol of the countless victims, suffering and courage of the people of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War. Many other Belarusian villages shared the fate of Khatyn.

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the Khatyn tragedy, a series of events dedicated to this tragic date were held in Belarus. All were of international public-political character, stressing the role of Belarus in preserving the historical truth about WWII events, as well as the country's contribution to preventing a revival of Nazism, while promoting peace on earth.

## Impossible to live without this pain

**Youngsters should study unknown pages of Khatyn tragedy, notes Vladimir Adamushko, a representative of the Belarusian Government in Supervisory Board of the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation, speaking at Humanity in the Years of Inhumanity international symposium**

According to Mr. Adamushko, young people should study the history of the tragedy of Khatyn, since this topic isn't being studied adequately. "Pages of history can't be forgotten; however horrible they are, it's necessary to learn lessons in order to avoid them happening again."

A member of the Board of the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Federal Foundation, Kilger Moritz, also believes that it's necessary to discuss historical issues, especially with the younger generation. Some people in Germany are eager to stop discussing the war and its sufferings, wishing to look to the future. However, he believes this isn't correct, since some events are too significant to be forgotten.

The international symposium is one of the first in a series of commemorative events dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Khatyn tragedy. Its participants discussed the importance of preserving the memory of the Khatyn tragedy, and other innocent victims of Nazism.





Khatyn, the Shrine of National Memory exhibition

# Documents testify to punishers' inhumanity

By Alexey Fedosov

**Details of Hitler's Nazi crimes, committed on Belarusian land, including lists of victims' names, displayed at Khatyn, the Shrine of National Memory exhibition**

The photo exhibition comprises Belarusian partisan units' documents and German reports on the events of that day, the evidence of former punishers and eyewitnesses of their crimes. Visitors to the exhibition can view a 1940 map, where the settlement of Khatyn is marked, and a copy of a village plan. Also on show are written documents by residents of the village of

Selishche, detailing the burning of neighbouring Khatyn, as well as an order-report from the 118th battalion, on the destruction of the village. There are even exhibits found during digs conducted during the construction of the Memorial Complex.

The exhibits include lists of victims, and of acts, showing that Khatyn wasn't the only village destroyed by Hitler's Nazis. During the period of occupation, from 1941-1944, 628 villages shared the fate of Khatyn, being burnt, with their residents; 186 were never rebuilt after the war.

The exhibition features actual documents as well as digital copies (displayed via eight ban-

ners). Those in digital format can also be viewed online, on the website of the National Historical Archives of Belarus. All are available in the institution's reading hall.

Khatyn State Memorial Complex, the Belarusian State Archives of Films, Photographs and Sound Recordings, and the Zonal State Archives (located in Borisov) helped prepare the exhibition.

*Khatyn, the Shrine of National Memory* exhibition is dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the tragedy of the Belarusian village of Khatyn, burnt, with its residents, by Fascist occupants, on March 22nd, 1943.

# History must be remembered

By Alexander Pimenov

**Book dedicated to 75th anniversary of Khatyn tragedy released in Belarusian, Russian and English, by Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House**

The Director of Khatyn Memorial Complex, Artur Zelsky, relates the chronology of March 22nd, 1943, to readers, detailing the shocking facts of how the Nazis burned alive and shot almost all residents of Khatyn; 149 people were killed — including 75 children.

Using documents from the National Archives, Mr. Zelsky collected information scrupulously, and several times interviewed Victor Zhalobkovich, the only surviving witness. Even decades later, new details of the terrible tragedy come to light. Historians are still wondering what brought about such brutal behaviour. Some believe that the murders were committed in revenge for Berlin Olympic champion Hans Wölke (a favourite of Hitler himself) having been killed by partisans. However, the burning of hundreds of villages seems an extreme reaction.

Mr. Zelsky is convinced that



A book-requiem

the action was part of a conscious policy to destroy citizens. Stories of small children, women and old people being tortured and murdered are almost too terrible to read, but such memories must be preserved, to maintain the truth of the past, and the lengths the Nazis went to, to ensure their control and domination.

"Last year, the Memorial was visited by guests from over thirty countries. I'm convinced that foreigners who fail to visit Khatyn leave Belarus without understanding our past." Mr. Zelsky dreams that, one day, a museum will open at Khatyn. "Khatyn will continue to live while those memories remain alive," he asserts.

# Memory in stone

## Khatyn Memorial remains modern even half a century after its opening

By Lyudmila Minakova

It's hardly possible to list all the projects designed by Honoured Architect and Professor of the International Academy of Architecture, Yuri Gradov. Among them are Breakthrough and Katyusha, The Stargazer, in Mogilev, monuments to Yanka Kupala and Yakub Kolas, and Nemiga metro station. However, Khatyn is never missed, being a memorial complex occupying a special place in his multifaceted work. Jointly with architects Valentin Zankovich and Leonid Levin, and sculptor Sergey Selikhanov, he was awarded the Lenin Prize for Architecture in 1970.

This year, we mark the 75th anniversary of the tragedy and fifty years since the opening of the memorial. Our reporter met Mr. Gradov to talk about the history of the project.

**Mr. Gradov, at the time of designing Khatyn Memorial Complex, you were just over 30 years old. How did you, with a team of young colleagues, dare to work on such a serious project?**

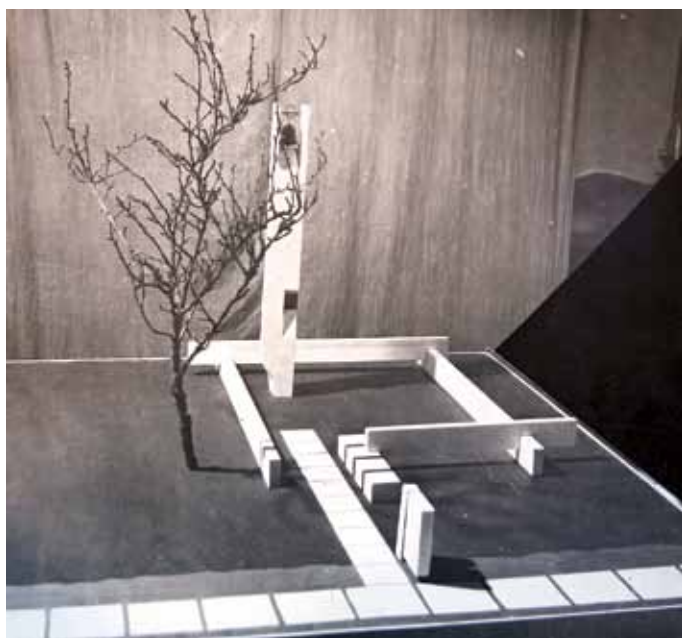
*At that time, all significant projects had to be bid for. I al-*

*ready boasted great design experience, having worked in the capital of Kyrgyzstan — the city of Frunze — for two years, after graduating from the Moscow Architectural Institute. Before coming to Minsk, in 1960, it was there that I built my first works.*

*On arriving in Minsk, Mr. Zankovich and Mr. Levin had just graduated from the Belarusian State University, and worked under my supervision. In 1967, a Republican competition was launched to design Khatyn Memorial. We'd already completed several joint projects, so decided to enter. Around ten projects had been offered, playing very safe, offering traditional architectural designs. However, we decided to do something different, knowing the touching story of Khatyn. We simply 'translated' the story into the language of sculpture, creating something which differed from all the others, and was acknowledged the best.*

**Is this the reason for you calling Khatyn a memorial-document?**

*Yes, because we didn't invent anything. Iosif Kaminsky — who survived by some miracle — is shown carrying his dying son in*



Model of Khatyn Memorial Complex

*his hands. It became the prototype for our 'Unconquered Man' sculpture. Where the village streets had been, we kept lanes, placing a log cabin with chimney on the site of each of the twenty-six houses which had stood. We placed a collapsed roof on the shed where the villagers had been burned alive. We made each element figurative. The roof was made deliberately huge, to reflect the trouble which had fallen on the country. The gates were left*

*open as a sign of Belarusian hospitality. We gave each 'chimney' a bell: each house a 'voice'. On first going to Khatyn, we heard a lark singing, and realised that we wanted there to be sound within the Memorial.*

**In Soviet times, monumental art flourished, giving us Mamaev Kurgan and Kursk Arc. Khatyn looks small in comparison...**

*We were guided by the scale of an ordinary village house, the*



Yuri Gradov

*highest element being six metres. We decided not to compete with nature. Skyscrapers are common, with cities competing to construct the highest buildings. The famous Temple of the Sagrada Familia, by Antoni Gaudí, was constructed to be one metre smaller than Barcelona's Montjuic — in order not to compete with God. The Khatyn Memorial — with its peaceful landscape, white birch trunks and dense forests — reminds us of its pure spirit.*

**The site officially opened on July 5th, 1969 but that was its second launch, wasn't it?**

*The Memorial Complex first opened in 1968. The First Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR, Kirill Mazurov, suggested adding more imaginative features, to highlight the tragedy endured by Belarus as a whole. As a result, without disturbing any harmony, we added a symbolic cemetery of villages, as well as an eternal flame, with three birch trees, in memory of every third Belarusian having died during the war; and the 'endless' Memory Wall, which bears the names of victims of Nazi concentration camps.*





# Protests in Barcelona against the arrest of Carles Puigdemont

Thousands marched in downtown Barcelona as news emerged of Carles Puigdemont's arrest in Germany

Thousands of Catalan separatists hit the streets of Barcelona last Sunday, vowing the arrest of former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont in Germany would not stop their push for independence. Some threw garbage cans at Catalan police in riot gear, who responded by beating demonstrators with their batons or firing warning shots in the air. 'This Europe is shameful!' they chanted as they marched by the Office of the European Commission in the Catalan capital. Carles Puigdemont, who is wanted in Spain for sedition and rebellion, was held crossing from Denmark on the way to Belgium, his lawyer said.



## French police surround Trèbes supermarket amid hostage situation

One person confirmed dead as Prime Minister says incident appears to be a 'terrorist act'

French officials have confirmed at least one person has died and one more is seriously injured in an ongoing hostage-taking at a supermarket in the town of Trèbes, near Carcassonne in southern France.

Local media reported a major police security operation was underway in the town after an individual earlier attempted to run down four police officers on their morning run and then

opened fire, injuring one officer in the shoulder.

The same individual, reported by local officials to have sworn allegiance to Islamic State, reportedly then drove to the supermarket and took up to eight people hostage. The armed man entered the busy supermarket at around 11am local time.

Anti-terrorism prosecutors have taken over the investigation and the French Prime Minister, Edouard Philippe, said that 'all the evidence so far suggests these are terrorist attacks'.

## Facebook came under further pressure from lawmakers, investors, advertisers and users

Facebook Inc Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg's apology for how his company handled 50 million users' data did little to ease investor worries about the cost to fix mistakes and lawmakers' dismay that his response did not go far enough

Germany's second-largest bank Commerzbank AG has suspended advertising on Facebook until further notice, *Handelsblatt* newspaper reported, following in the steps of Mozilla, which runs the Firefox web browser.

Allegations that political consultancy Cambridge Analytica improperly accessed data to build profiles on American voters and influence the 2016 presidential election has knocked more than \$50 billion



(£35.4 billion) of Facebook's market value this week.

Five days after the scandal broke, Zuckerberg apologised that mistakes were made and promised to restrict developers' access to user information as part of a plan to improve privacy protection.

## EU demands permanent exemption from US steel tariffs

European Union leaders demanded that US President Donald Trump give the bloc a permanent exemption from new tariffs on steel and aluminium imposed by Washington as part of a trade conflict with China

A joint statement by the 28 national leaders meeting at a summit in Brussels said: 'These measures cannot be justified on the grounds of national security, and sector-wide protection in the US is an inappropriate remedy for the real problems of overcapacity'.

It went on: 'It takes note that shipments of steel and aluminium from the European Union have been temporarily exempted from such measures, and calls for that exemption to be made permanent'.

The summit participants also repeated their 'commitment to strong Transatlantic relations as a cornerstone of the security and prosperity of both the United States and the European Union'.

## Theresa May welcomes EU's Brexit transition offer

Theresa May has welcomed the move by European Union leaders to approve a transition agreement for Brexit, at a two-day summit in Brussels

A deal on the 21-month transition period between March 2019 and the end of 2020 was reached earlier this week.

The European Council President and Chairman of the Summit, Donald Tusk, said EU leaders had included the transition offer as they formally adopted their joint negotiating stance on a future trade relationship with Britain.

## Turkey opens airspace to northern Iraq

Turkey will open its airspace to flights from northern Iraq's Erbil, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said, adding that flights from Sulaimaniya were not included in the plan

In October last year, Turkey closed its airspace to flights to and from Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, in response to an independence referendum.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies





# Exhibition on country's culture is rich in symbolism



By Veniamin Mikheev

'Minhwa' is literally translated from Korean as 'folk painting'. Developing simultaneously with official styles of art, Minhwa masters enjoyed greater freedom for experimentation.

The exposition in the National Art Museum comprises twenty-seven works on loan from Seoul's Gahoe Museum, with scrolls and decorative screens on display, revealing amazing aspects of Korean life, in which mythology, religion and traditions intertwine.

High artistry of the folk painters embodies the country's culture that is rich with symbols and images.

An extensive cultural and educational programme is planned as part of the exhibition alongside excursions, to allow museum guests to get acquainted closer with peculiarities of Korean traditions and customs.

At the opening ceremony, Belarus' Culture Minister, Yuri Bondar, noted that the exhibition allows closer acquaintance with Korean culture and its traditions. According to the Minister, Belarusian interest in Korean culture is growing,

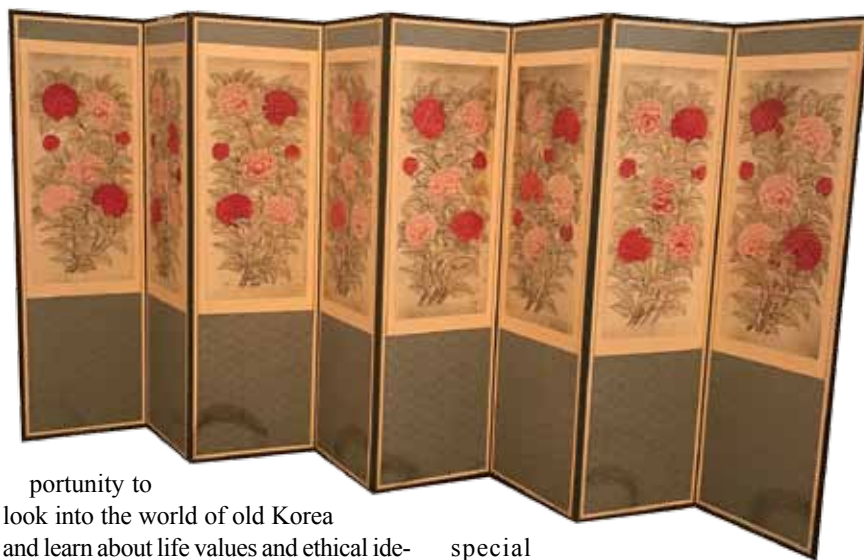
## National Art Museum of Belarus hosts *Territory of Earthly Hopes* exhibition, displaying traditional Korean Minhwa paintings, dating from 19th-early 20th century

encouraged by such events as the Days of Cinema, and various exhibitions. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Korea to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Kim Yong-Ho, notes that the exhibition of Minhwa painting reflects the way of life of Koreans, and their traditional values. The diplomat also underlines the importance of bilateral co-operation, especially in the cultural sphere.

As far as the exhibition project is concerned, it promotes understanding of traditional Korean art while giving the op-

portunity to look into the world of old Korea and learn about life values and ethical ideals, rituals and beliefs of the nation whose history dates back so many centuries.

Many works were dedicated to seasonal holidays or important family events, such as the celebration of the Lunar New Year, as well as the celebration of birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. Some decorated interiors for a long time while others were used only temporarily, for



almost monochromatic works, created on paper or silk, were seen in almost every home, being symbolic decorations, acting as talismans, while performing socio-hierarchical, educational and pedagogic functions.

special occasions. Some were designed for special placement in the home, with its strictly defined female and male sections. Decorated multi-section screens were popular, being an important feature



of any ceremony, determining its character and atmosphere.

In total, the exhibition at the National Art Museum of Belarus features twenty-seven works presented by the privately-owned museum in South Korea, which represent the most widespread genres and scenes of decorative painting. Most motifs have hidden meaning, though often ambiguous, indicating universal human hopes and dreams for a long and happy life, as well as prosperity and a successful career, love and harmony in family relations.

The artists behind many Korean decorative paintings are unknown, called simply 'wandering guests' — vagabond painters who travelled from one village to the next, demonstrating talent despite lack of training. Their work comprises a special segment of Korean artistic culture: Minhwa folk painting, which is alluring in its warmth and naïve spontaneity, its stylistic boldness and inventiveness.

This is the first such Korean exhibition in Belarus, deservedly hosted by the country's major museum. It is sure to draw many visitors, eager to learn of the culture of Korea, its traditions and rich artistic legacy.

## Try and you will surely succeed

By Alexey Fedosov

**St. Petersburg hosts International Forum of Illusionists — won by ninth-grade pupil Gleb Tsarev, from Minsk**

Gleb, aged 15, became interested in magic on finding a guide for novice magicians. "I wondered whether I could manage any tricks, and tried one with a coin. It proved successful, so I went looking for video tutorials on YouTube, also attending seminars involving famous illusion-

ists. I just became hooked," Gleb says.

Last year, he was placed third at the IFI-2017 International Forum of Illusionists and, recently, celebrated another deserved win. Gleb explains, "Our Fierce Coffee act was accompanied by a piece of music composed by my brother's musician friends in Minsk. I drink a cup of coffee each morning and it made me realise that it was a way of 'marking time', which inspired the act."

The young magician happily demonstrates tricks to his peers and asserts that

there are no secrets, since everything is explained online. However, performing on stage is another matter, since you need to establish a rapport with your audience. Dexterous hands are essential, but this can be achieved through training.

All these efforts are well paid, as experienced illusionists can earn up to several thousand Dollars per show. Gleb's first award brought him \$150. He earns much more now but has been reinvesting in expensive props. For example, a single deck of cards can cost up to \$70.



Gleb Tsarev's magic

"I have a laser show: a single installation costs \$1,500 and the lasers (which I need to repeatedly update) cost \$200," he says.



# Do you want to relax and have your interest piqued? Then go to an art museum

Admiring works of art, while sitting quietly on a comfortable couch, is an excellent way of taking a ‘cultural reboot’, as all those visiting the *RELAX* exhibition at the National Art Museum would agree

By Alexander Pimenov

The visual arts can be used for healing and relaxation, for nourishing positive emotions and restoring harmony, as museums around the world will attest. The benefits of art therapy are well-known, and this particular exhibition is especially therapeutic, its theme being ‘relaxation’.

Art works feature people bathing, playing outdoors, reading and sleeping: an abundance of manifestations of what it means to relax. The exhibition opens with ‘The Peace’, where colours and lines are dedicated to what Italians call ‘the sweetness of doing nothing’. All speak of peacefulness, the inner life, silence and liberation from the vanity of living: ‘vanitas vanitatis’.

‘The Body’ section of the exhibition is dedicated to the ‘eternal themes’ of recreation: holidays at the beach, mise-en-scenes of bath life, the grace and beauty of the female nude, and works full of ‘atmosphere’ and associations.

‘The Immersion’ section looks through the prism of the beautiful, mysterious and adventurous world of the *Homo-Legens* book. It illustrates the fun and carefree atmosphere of people spending time together in the broadest sense: from family activities to friendly gatherings and games. The sound track to the exhibition, provided by LG company, is an important part of the exhibition, enabling visitors to plunge into a state of meditation, involved not only visually but through audio. The final part of the exhibition, ‘The Dream’, invites us to lose ourselves in the aesthetic triangle of the symbolic and imaginary. The various imaginative interpretations of the dream theme embrace the every-day, the mythological and the metaphorical.

The exhibition presents a magnificent fusion of Russian and Belarusian art, traditions of the past and the present, paintings, graphics and sculpture. It features works by



Diversity of works at *RELAX* exhibition

Valentin Serov, Ilya Mashkov, Firs Zhuravlev, Boris Kustodiev, Vladimir Makovsky, Alexander Gerasimov, Mikhail Savitsky, Victor Sakhnenko, Boris Kazakov, Nikolay Kazakievich, Anatoly Kuznetsov, Leonid Khobotov, Andrey Ostashov, Alexander Shappo and many others.

“We’ve tried to create a real art space, where visitors not only admire wonderful works

but can seek their own ‘isle of happiness’,” explains the curator of the exhibition, Yekaterina Izofatova. “The *RELAX* project encourages discussions of the museum’s collection. Initially, we wanted to focus on the creativity of female artists: women not only as the subject but the object of creativity. We began by choosing images of women bathing but then realised that we needed a more meaningful

focus. We realised that bathing brings relaxation, so we decided to seek out other such states.”

Using bright colours and a distinctive style (1970s works sitting beside those from the 2000s), the gallery almost makes you feel that you are at sea, with the deck moving. There is no monotony: only lightness, and relaxation. “We plan a concert of electronic music in the museum hall,” says Yekaterina



Izofatova. “We tend to rely on the visual experience of relaxation while forgetting the importance of what we hear. With this in mind, we wish to fill the space with unusual music, creating a modern feel, not only visually but in auditory terms.”

Those wondering where and how to meet spring in the city, should definitely visit the National Art Museum — to swim in the warm sea, feel the heat of an oak, dive headlong into an interesting book, or simply dream in the garden.

“We’re all different, each of us with our own circle of contacts; we spend our free time differently,” concludes Ivan. “Projects of this kind, with the involvement of musicians and DJs, show that we’re open to communication and ready to help others realise their ideas. In this way, we’ll attract new visitors to the museum. We really want the museum to be filled with different people, not because we need to fulfil a particular attendance plan but because the museum will fulfil its brief better, by welcoming everyone.”

Such exhibitions evoke our interest, making the museum relevant and timely: it’s an opportunity to conduct dialogue with visitors.



# Challengeable season has ended with perfect results

Leader of Belarusian national biathlon team — Darya Domracheva — sees brilliant results as season closes, capturing sprint silver and pursuit race gold, at World Cup stage in Norwegian Holmenkollen, and sprint and mass start gold in Tyumen

By Oleg Samsonov

In the sprint, the four-time Olympic champion hit every target and was, as ever, speedy on the track. Darya literally snatched the gold medal from Finland's Kaisa Mäkäräinen, who also hit all ten targets and skied well, finishing just 1.2 seconds behind Darya.

Darya won the final women's mass start — covering the 12.5km distance in 35 minutes and 27.4 seconds and missing only one target. Slovakia's Paulina Fialkova finished second and bronze went to French Anais Chevalier.

Alexander Lukashenko has congratulated Darya Domracheva on her brilliant completion of the 2017/2018 season, which has ended with her gold medal in the last start of the biathlon



Small Crystal Globe awarded to Nadezhda Skardino

World Cup in Tyumen. His letter reads: 'It was a beautiful victory in a very beautiful race. You once again showed your best champion qualities: outstanding talent, exceptional performance and an inexhaustible desire for the highest results'. Mr. Lukashenko wished Darya good health and successful prepara-

tions for the new season.

Regarding World Cup victories, Darya Domracheva now rivals German Magdalena Neuner, each having thirty-four wins. The period after the Olympic Games in PyeongChang has proven very successful for the leader of the national team. At the seventh stage of the World



Darya Domracheva again on medals podiums

Cup, in Kontiolahti, Darya managed to win the sprint and, a week later, finished second in the sprint and first in a tense pursuit race in Norwegian Holmenkollen; two victories in Tyumen soon followed. She is now third in the World Cup rankings.

Speaking at a press conference after her victorious mass start in Tyumen, she stated that it was 'an excellent completion to a challenging season'. Describing how she raced ahead of her four rivals after the final shooting, she said, 'The lag wasn't so great. I concentrated during the last metres and did my best. As a result, I won two races in Tyumen [the sprint and mass start]. This is great but there's always room for improvement. For example, I was placed third in the overall standings, while wanting to be first.'

The four-time Olympic champion notes that she's been in good shape all season but had to change her brand of skis. "There were many difficulties this season and I had to overcome them. With Ole Einar Bjørndalen [Darya's husband], I'll go to Norway, to enjoy some relaxed skiing, and some happy family time," she added.

Nadezhda Skardino has won the Small Crystal Globe for individual races, as was announced in January, when the last individual race of the season was held. President Alexander Lukashenko congratulated Nadezhda on her achievement, saying, "You had a wonderful season, crowned with this honourable trophy and the title of Olympic champion. This success is possible thanks to your talent, hard work and perseverance. Well done!"



Hleb, playing for BATE, beats Bavaria

## Coming back of Alexander Hleb

By Sergey Sechin

**One of the best Belarusian footballers signs contract with BATE**

After his previous leave from the yellow and blue squad, at the end of the 2016 season, Alexander Hleb played for six months for Samara's Krylia Sovetov, before being without a club for quite some time.

After the 2017-18 UEFA Europa League Group Stage draw, Hleb sought to join BATE, wishing to play against Arsenal; however, at that time, he failed to agree terms.

Hleb has been named as Belarus' best football player six times. 'Welcome back, Sasha! Let's succeed together again!' reads BATE's website, celebrating the news of his new contract.

## Lyubov Cherkashina — Athlete Model Role

Lyubov Cherkashina, who won bronze at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, and who chairs the International Gymnastics Federation's Athletes Commission, is among twelve athletes awarded the title of Athlete Model Role, on the eve of the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games

By Yegor Vetrov

The IOC notes that 'the title goes to people who have taken a great deal to sport and who continue to contribute by their example or activity'.

Alongside the Belarusian athlete, the list includes representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Columbia, Portugal, the USA and Chile. The selected athletes will be supporting young sportsmen at the Games in the Argentinean capital, support them, and conducting master classes and joint training sessions.

Lyubov Cherkashina was born in 1987 in Brest. Besides the Olympiad in London, she won bronze



Lyubov Cherkashina

medals at the Junior European Championship, in the team event of the World Championship (in 2003 and 2005), at the European Championship (in 2003) and the World Championship (exercises with the ball in 2011).

Ms. Cherkashina helped win a team silver at the World Championship in 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011, and was European champion in the exercise with the ball and clubs. In 2011, she also claimed bronze in the exercise with the hoop.





Crocuses begin to blossom in Vitebsk’s centre

**EXHIBITIONS**

**NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS**  
*20 Lenin Street*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> April. *Relax* art project    Until 22<sup>nd</sup> April. *Vladimir Khodorovich: Pictorial Art*; dedication to the artist’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> May. *Serving to the Homeland*  
Until 27<sup>th</sup> May. *Territory of Earthly Hopes*

**NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM**  
*12 Karl Marx Street*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> May. Exhibition of Salvador Dali’s graphics: *Divine Comedy*

**GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM**  
*8 Pobediteley Avenue*  
Until 25<sup>th</sup> May. *Red Banner Belarusian Military District: History in Faces*    Until 13<sup>th</sup> August. *Piotr Masherov: His Heart Beats for People*

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS**  
*116 Nezavisimosti Avenue*  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> April. *Fiodor Yastreb’s Poetic Palette*    Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. *Enlightenment. Experience. Progress*

**MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY**  
*4 Sverdlov Street*  
Until 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Exhibition of Slava Novoslavsky: *Life of Beautiful*

**STATE MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY**  
*13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street*  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> April. *Timkovichi: Treasury of Inspiration*

**YANKA KUPALA STATE LITERARY MUSEUM**  
*4 Yanka Kupala Street*  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> April. *Awaken Zhaleika*

**MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY**  
*15 Svobody Square*  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> April. *Treasury of Warmth*    Until 18<sup>th</sup> April. *Look by Leo Timm* (Munich, Germany)    Until 22<sup>nd</sup> April. *Nikas Safronov: Spring of Impressions*    Until 13<sup>th</sup> May. *Bronislav Pilsudsky (1866-1918). From Sakhalin to Zakopane: Ethnographic Travel*

**VANKOVICH’S HOUSE**  
*33a Internatsionalnaya*  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> April. *Ivan Shishkin: Graphics*

**GALLERIA MINSK**  
*9 Pobediteley Avenue*  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> May. *The Art of the Brick*

**TSENTRALNY**  
*13 Nezavisimosti Avenue*  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> April. Through Mother’s Eyes photo exhibition

**THEATRES**

**NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE**  
*1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street*  
29.03. The Magic Flute    30.03. The Sleeping Beauty; *La Bayadère*  
31.03. The Sleeping Beauty; Eugene Onegin    01.04. Vytautas; Under the Accompaniment of Charming Romance  
Tender    03.04. La Traviata    04.04. Little Prince; Opera Gala    05.04. Aida

**BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE**  
*44 Myasnikov Street*  
29.03. Musical Gala    30.03. Blue Cameo  
31.03. Tristan and Isolde    01.04. Flying Ship; How Wonderful This World Is    04.04. Sofia Golshanskaya    05.04. Jane Eyre

**MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE**  
*5 Volodarsky Street*  
29.03. Pygmalion    30.03. Zoika’s Flat  
31.03. Stars of the Seventh Sky; Ideal Husband    01.04. Innkeeper    03.04. Viva Commedia!    04.04. Lady for a Day

**THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS**  
*13 Pobediteley Avenue*  
29.03. Nobody Ever Said Life Would Be Easy    30.03. Night of Romance    31.03 and 03.04. #13    05.04. The Makropoulos Case

**YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE**  
*7 Engels Street*  
29.03. Two Souls    30.03. Local Cabaret  
31.03. Paulinka; Love as Militarism  
01.04. Paulinka; School of Taxpayers; Elza’s Land    03.04. Inspector Raus    04.04. Pinsk Gentry    05.04. Not Mine

**REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA**  
*44 Kropotkin Street*  
30.03. Two Miraculous Umbrellas; Theatrical Workshop with French Accent  
30.03. Adam’s Jokes    31.03. A Two Dogs’ Tale; Theatrical Workshop with French Accent    31.03. Suffering of Common Sense    01.04. Doctor Raus’ Career    03.04. Concrete    05.04. Grandfather

**BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE**  
*20 Engels Street*  
29 and 30.03. The Snow White  
31.03. Adventures of Pin-Pin  
01.04. Mysterious Hippopotamus

**YOUNG SPECTATORS’ THEATRE**  
*26 Engels Street*  
29.03. My Little Enchantress; Teddy  
30.03. Doctor Aybolit; Anna Shalyutina and Yogurt Band. Songs from Favourite Movies    31.03. Cat’s House    01.04. Thumbelina