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President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, meet in Minsk

Negotiations and bright applications

President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
pays official visit to Belarus

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Alexander Lukashenko has congratulated Donald John Trump on his election to the post of President of the United States of America, notes the Press Service of the President of Belarus

‘Your victory shows that the American people are in favour of policy based on honesty, responsibility, and search for change. Your active,

sincere and courageous position during the election campaign inspired American society and returned it to true democracy,’ reads the greeting.

The Head of State noted that, in its foreign policy, Belarus has always sought to maintain constructive dialogue with the USA.

“I hope that, under your leadership, efforts to normalise relations between our countries will continue,” added Mr. Lukashenko.

The Belarusian leader wished Donald Trump good health, energy, and persistence in fulfilling his pre-election promises.

Trump elected New president in the USA

By Nina Romanova

Donald Trump has won the Presidential elections in the USA. Hillary Clinton, who was viewed as the favourite, has lost. Political consultants, and commentators, as well as those involved in polls, are confused as to how this could have happened. However, it seems that everything is simple; Mr. Trump stirred up American society, as shown by record figures for voting turnout.

While the Democrats fed voters with ideological clichés, Mr. Trump spoke to people in their own language. If we look deeper, it's possible to understand the fundamental reasons. The consequences of the world financial crisis of 2008 are yet to be overcome. Mr. Trump's victory is a reaction by voters to the activities of those in power, who saved transnational companies rather than looking out for ordinary people. The latter lost savings, their jobs and their hope for the future. Mr. Trump has expressed the mood of the exhausted middle class, who have built America but have felt deceived in recent times.

Mr. Trump appears to have come into power on a wave of annoyance with the political establishment, which has seemed distant from most American voters. The expression ‘Goodbye, Clinton’ has today a broader sense: this is a voter farewell to the American elite, which has isolated itself and lost ties with the real country, becoming too rich to understand ordinary Americans.

The mechanism of selecting these elite has rusted. Famous Italian publicist Marcello Foa has lik-

ened the US system of electing its presidents to that of European aristocratic families, saying, ‘America, electing first Bush senior, then Bush junior, and now suggesting the wife of former president Clinton as president, echoes the disadvantageous situation seen among European aristocracy, as brought down by the French Revolution’.

The mainstream media ‘belongs’ to the Democrats, as do an

misrepresented by politologists as civil society, since they don't represent all of society. How many of the politologists behind Clinton have degrees in arts and humanitarian sciences, and little experience of ‘real business’? Their analysis has proven incompetent.

Will Mr. Trump meet expectations for a better and fairer society? The USA is a democratic country and the powers of any American president are limited. Mr. Trump has the support of Republicans in the Senate, to help polish Mr. Trump's brightest ideas. He is unlikely to build a wall between the US and Mexico but he could cancel Obama's programme of obligatory medical insurance: Obamacare. He won't push for all immigrants to be deported, but he won't accept Syrian refugees and will work to remove those living in America without the necessary paperwork to make them legal.

Regarding the economy, panic is evident on the markets, as when the Brexit vote occurred. However, the UK is yet to see catastrophe and we cannot assume catastrophe for America either.

Is Trump the end of the US global project? These are only words. It's impossible to divorce America from global trade but Trump's presidency looks set to steer the American economy towards growth, while reducing internal consumption, as is seen in many other countries worldwide.

Since the USA remains a world leader, we cannot doubt its retention of its foreign policy towards Europe. Perhaps it will become easier for European voters to select politicians similar to Trump.



Trump pleased with the result

army of analysts, who have built a whole system of monitoring to confirm the advantages of a particular candidate. In this case, all polls, statistical data, rankings and forecasts spoke for Hillary Clinton. It turns out that the system is out-dated. A bubble has been popped.

Has the American public chosen to stop believing ideological clichés, wising up to the emperor with no clothes? We might say that feminist activists, protectors of minorities, Afro-American activists and other marginal groups were

EXPERT COMMENT

What should we expect from the USA election results?



Political experts have assessed the results of the elections. Professor of Radford University, Grigory Ioffe (USA, Virginia), and political analyst Pavel Potapeiko (Minsk) give us their briefing:

Belarus-US relations after the elections

G. Ioffe: *Not all American figures influencing the adoption of foreign political decisions view Belarus as an independent player. Awareness of Belarus remains modest in the USA, so much will depend not on Mr. Trump's personal favours but on how the foreign political paradigm of his country is formed. As far as I know, Mr. Trump's staff will view Belarus as an independent player and conduct a policy with initiative.*

P. Potapeiko: *Much depends on Belarusian diplomacy. It should be mentioned that, in recent times, we've had no reason to reproach our diplomats. They take as much as they can from any international situation. I think that, with the election of Mr. Trump, this line will be reinforced and will receive a favourable response from the USA.*

Confusion of American sociologists:

G. Ioffe: *Before the elections, all significant media, let alone sociologists, were conducting polls. Hardly anyone predicted victory for Mr. Trump. The American Embassy to Minsk held a reception on the eve of the elections, inviting guests to*

cast their own 'vote'. Mrs. Clinton triumphed.

P. Potapeiko: *I'd like to note that, during sociological polls, a range of traditionally Republican states in the USA, for some reason, (judging by the announcements of sociologists and the results of their sociological polls) were in favour of the Democratic Party. Frankly, I felt like lifting my hands in dismay and exclaiming, like Stanislavsky, 'I don't believe it!'*

Opportunity to abolish anti-Russian sanctions:

G. Ioffe: *The US President isn't omnipotent, but he sets the tone. If this tone is supported by a particular number of key figures, the trend of policy usually changes. It's difficult to forecast Mr. Trump's behaviour but it's evident that, if his opponent had won, it might have been a long time before sanctions were abolished.*

P. Potapeiko: *There were and still are people in the House of Representatives and in the Senate of the USA who make money from the sanctions and the struggle for democracy. The topic of sanctions is pressing. We can assume that, before long, the USA will tackle this topic; perhaps, next year.*

Investors are invited to countryside

By Vladimir Khromov

Rural development in Belarus should be raised to a new level, notes President Alexander Lukashenko, speaking at meeting devoted to prospects for development of small towns

At the beginning of the meeting, the Head of State stressed that the issue is much broader than the development of agricultural production

and the localities of certain districts. “Some time in the past, we launched modernisation of our agricultural production and took a certain path. We started from virtually nothing. Moreover, we had to rebuild what we had. As a result, we've gained experience, not only of agricultural production but of rural areas in general,” Mr. Lukashenko said. “Our achievements have enabled us to preserve villages. If we'd failed to do this, not a single person would

remain in our villages today. We've saved villages — as much as possible. While doing much for agrotowns, we've transformed villages.”

According to the President, it's important to look into the future and forecast village needs, so that we can begin planning immediately. Mr. Lukashenko noted that villages embrace people who live there and production facilities. “With this in mind, I've ordered that complex proposals be planned,” he added.

The meeting focused on discussion of proposals for the production sector of several agricultural towns in the Shklov District, creating complex integrated structure on the basis of joint-stock companies: Amkodor Shklov, Novoe Yubileinoe, and Bolshie Slaveni.

“We're looking at agricultural enterprises displaying average, or lower than average, efficiency, and are focusing on the Shklov District,” the Head of State said, explaining

that, otherwise, those living in rural areas, lacking the best conditions, would be critical.

Mr. Lukashenko stated that funded is needed to implement the proposed ideas. “I don't exclude the possibility of attracting investors to this sphere. These might be individuals or not: in any case, they must realise the plan. They must realise the idea of an agricultural enterprise as a holding of the future,” he added.

Negotiations for true action plan definitely bring good results

President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, pays official visit to Belarus

By Vasily Kharitonov

The official visit of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Belarus is the first by the head of the Turkish Republic to our country. However, our states enjoy long-established relations. Welcoming his guest, the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, noted that kind personal relations have connected us for at least a decade. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who worked as Prime Minister from 2003, before being elected to the supreme state position, nodded in agreement.

Belarusian-Turkish interaction is felt at the level of ordinary citizens, since many Belarusians have holidayed in hospitable Turkey, and we're all familiar with its light industry goods. Turkish builders are also well known in Belarus, and our businessmen have been liaising for some time, with mutually beneficial results. So far, about \$1.5bn of Turkish investments have been made into the Belarusian economy.

At a political level, the presidents of the two states assert almost complete mutual understanding and coincidence of views on key problems regarding world order. They confirm their interest in strengthening contacts across various directions. Thus, the visit of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan can't but become a catalyst for more intensive interaction.

There's great potential to grow further. Last year, Belarusian-Turkish trade turnover totalled slightly under \$630 million. Meanwhile, ideas awaiting implementation and those only recently launched demonstrate potential yet to be explored.

Minsk Automobile Works has assembled its first trucks in Izmir and an agreement is near completion regarding the establishment of Gomselmash harvester assembly production in the city of Bandirma.

Turkey is interested in Zhodino heavy-duty dump trucks and Belarusian road construction machinery. Business is gradually shifting from pure trade towards a more advanced form of collaboration: production co-operation. Alexander Lukashenko suggested that Recep Tayyip Erdoğan focus on such a strategy.

Minsk's initiative is perceived by Ankara with interest. Up to 500 businessmen from Turkey and Belarus gathered on the day of the Turkish President's visit to Minsk, to discuss promising joint projects. Co-operation, investments and financial integration are key areas for the expansion of business interaction. Minsk and Anka-



At the opening of the Belarusian-Turkish business forum



Cathedral Mosque

ra plan to reach \$1 billion annual turnover within the shortest span of time, and there is no reason why this shouldn't be achieved.

In a joint communiqué, the heads of state named machine building, tool building, the agro-industrial complex, transport and logistics, textiles, science and innovations as priorities of economic collaboration. Moreover, they noted determination to coordinate foreign policy and mutual support within international organisations.

A concrete plan of action has been outlined, aiming to develop inter-state co-operation for 2016-2017, alongside almost a dozen other negotiated documents. A joint inter-governmental economic commission will oversee co-ordination, with the first session planned for Q1 2017.

Evidently, the visit of the Turkish President has brought some serious, concert results. The heads of state have set definite areas of trade-economic liaison.

Turkey is confidently reinforcing its influence across its region and, undoubtedly, Belarus is keen to have a strong partner there.

In breaks between negotiations, Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Erdoğan solemnly opened the Cathedral Mosque in Minsk. The beautiful building, in warm rose tones, is visible from a distance, making a wonderful addition to the skyline. Construction was launched in February 2004 but works were delayed due to financing problems. The Turkish Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) helped the endeavour and a Turkish company was used as the general contractor. One of Eastern European's largest religious buildings now stands on the site of the former Tatar sub-

urbs. Mr. Lukashenko has called the opening a landmark event for the Muslim community and for all citizens countrywide.

"We appreciate peace and calm, so we're constructing churches for all confessions. Any citizen of our country has the right to find their path towards faith. No one has the right to hinder them, and no one should force someone to act differently. Belarus has been long famous for its traditions of religious tolerance and mutual respect between people of various nationalities. We're proud of this; it's the foundation on which the viability of our state rests."

The President of Turkey expressed sincere admiration for the peaceful way in which representatives of various confessions live side by side in Belarus. He stated, "Such a palette and such diversity is perceived not as a potential threat but as beauty and a symbol of wealth. Unfortunately, one can't see such a beautiful picture and such a beautiful landscape in many countries of the world. This mosque will become a symbol of friendship between our Belarusian and Turkish peoples."

Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Erdoğan cut a symbolic ribbon at

the grand entrance to the mosque, toured its interior and left a record in the Distinguished Visitors' Book. Then, the President of Turkey conducted a Friday prayer.

The presidents also took part in a Belarusian-Turkish business forum, with Turkey represented by about 200 businessmen (including many heads of the country's largest companies) and civil servants. Meanwhile, almost 300 Belarusian enterprises registered for the forum.



President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, plants a tree on the Alley of Honorary Guests, near Independence Palace

DIRECT SPEECH

Alexander LUKASHENKO:

In our tete-a-tete negotiations, we stated that we have no closed topics for co-operation. We're building collaboration for the sake of our nations and not to the detriment of third countries. I'm confident that our agreements will promote further strengthening and developing of Belarusian-Turkish relationships. Turkey is a priority partner for us; we highly appreciate our friendship and aim for efficient interaction across all areas.

DIRECT SPEECH

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN:

Belarus, under the leadership of President Lukashenko, continues to enjoy serious progress economically and with its foreign policy. We're attentively watching the situation. While the world faces serious regional problems, Belarus is working hard for the sake of peace, stability and the welfare of this region and its country. In this way, it makes a significant contribution to regional and global peace, via its neutral and well-considered position.



Section of reconstructed P23 Minsk-Slutsk-Mikashevichi motorway

Roads go beyond horizon

Reconstruction of P23 Minsk-Mikashevichi highway to attract economic investments, notes Belarus' Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Kalinin, during solemn opening ceremony of section of road through Slutsk District

By Vladimir Velikhov

"A good road offers security and comfort, as well as a source of attracting investments and transit flow," noted Mr. Kalinin.

The Deputy Prime Minister remarked that several reconstructed sections of road opened in Belarus this autumn, as part of a state infrastructure programme to promote favourable economic conditions. Mr. Kalinin notes that \$15 million has been saved during reconstruction of 28km of the

P23 highway. The recently reconstructed M6 Minsk-Grodno highway has also been newly launched. "By 2020, we plan to finish a 80km long section in the Grodno direction, promoting attractive conditions for transit flow, for business and for Belarusian drivers," asserts Mr. Kalinin.

The Minister for Transport and Communications, Anatoly Sivak, joined the Chairman of Minsk Regional Executive Committee, Semen Shapiro, at the ceremony. According to Mr. Sivak, where roads have at least

10,000 vehicles passing over them daily, they warrant 1st grade road construction. The P23 highway is expected to serve up to 30,000 vehicles daily in the years to come. The 28km section of the P23 highway has taken two years to complete, since November 2014, and was financed not only from the Republican budget and the Republican Road Fund, but using a loan from the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus.

Minskavtodor-Tsentr has overseen the reconstruction, which in-

cludes a transport junction, four bridges, four pedestrian underpasses, three cattle creeps, a leisure complex and a trading outlet.

The Ministry for Transport and Communications and Minsk Regional Executive Committee have praised the workers involved, some of whom took part in an improvised parade of road machinery at the end of the launch ceremony.

This year also sees the completion of the second stage of the second ring road around Minsk.

Numbers for a million

By Mikhail Somov

One-millionth fibre-optic Internet subscriber of Republican unitary enterprise Beltelecom GPON network connects in Gomel

The new technology launched in 2011 in Minsk and Grodno. More than a hundred settlements enjoy access to the GPON network, with almost half of all Belarusian flats already receiving high-speed Internet, notes Sergey Turomsha, RUE Beltelecom's Deputy Director General.

"This is a serious achievement. There're 2.4 million flats in high-rise buildings countrywide and, by 2020, every one will have fibre-optic connection, with a speed of up to 100Mbit/s, IP-television ZALA and IP-telephony. This will bring new opportunities for the development of Internet services," he explains.

The Pinsikh family is the one-millionth subscriber, and is delighted with the gifts from the operator: a modern TV set, a tablet and free 'YASNA 50 Plus' annual package of services. The head of the family, Pavel Pinsky, tells us that it was a great surprise. "Agents were stopping people at our apartment building entrance, suggesting connection to high-speed Internet. We have three children and all have gadgets, plus there's a computer, so we decided that we definitely need fibre-optic access. As soon as we connected, we immediately received a call saying that we were the one-millionth subscriber, so should await guests and gifts. We still can't recover from this astonishment."

High time we come out of the shadows

Presidential Decree obliges many Belarusians to officialise extra earnings and legalise business

By Vasily Malashenkov

Mikhail Myasnikovich, the Chairman of the Council of the Republic, began the battle against those who work illegally and avoid tax back in 2012. At that time, he was in the position of Prime Minister of Belarus. He notes, "Parasitism and dependency should be stopped; such people should be contributing to the pension fund, and paying income tax." He has threatened drastic action against those who employ people without registering them, allowing people to dodge income tax. Mr. Myasnikovich notes that about 400,000 workers are in this position, costing the budget around \$2bn, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Payment for idleness

It took three years to decide the best course of action and, in April 2015, the President of Belarus signed Decree #3 'On Preventing Social Parasitism.' Although the word 'parasite' is not found in the Decree, there is reference to citizens' duty in contributing to state expenses. The government in-

troduced an annual fee of 11,700 Russian Roubles for those not officially working, and paying no tax for more than six months, which people have dubbed a 'tax on parasitism'.

Authorities gave six months for citizens to prepare themselves for the new tax, promising a discount of ten percent for those unemployed if they presented themselves to the Department of Revenue Services by May 31st, 2016. Those identified by inspectors would receive notice, and a deadline of November 15th, after which they'd receive a penalty or the obligation to fulfil community service for up to fifteen days.

"We're still working on a database, using information held with state bodies and organisations," notes Sergey Shkut, Press Secretary of the Ministry of Taxation. "It's impossible to automate the process completely, as there are citizens working outside the

country."

Working in craftsmanship

Thousands of Belarusians have expressed a desire to take up employment following the introduction of the Decree. In Minsk, there's a new programme of online-registration for the unemployed, to cope with the stream of applicants.

Internet forums have been discussing possible loopholes in the law. One such is to register as a craftsman (making items by hand) since this requires a fee of just 685 Russian Roubles annually. According to the Department of Revenue Services, the number of registered craftsmen has doubled

lately.

Another option is to conduct activities under the 'declarative principle'. This covers tutors, nurses, hired shepherds in villages, wedding photographers, entertainers and

WORD TO LEGISLATOR



VALERY BORODENYA

The Deputy of the House of Representatives, Candidate of Economic Sciences:

The decree was adopted in good time and taking into account the situation as it was in 2015. Circumstances have changed, as the economic conjuncture has worsened, and unemployment has grown. The document, probably, looks less attractive than it did. However, the principle is correct, in that citizens should contribute to state expenses. The most important thing is that the Decree aimed to dismiss the belief that you can be morally in the right while deceiving the state. As to introducing patents for the self-employed, this enables participation in state expenses. People may freelance or work under other schemes. We need to give such workers a chance to contribute to a common cause.

many others with their own small businesses, whose income is under the amount needed to register as a private entrepreneur. The tax rate depends on the region and the nature of business being conducted but fees are only paid for those months when a person is working. For example, someone working as a toastmaster would only declare income during the wedding season. Last year, there were 2,000 declarants.

A third legal solution may appear for those who work without official status, as Mr. Myasnikovich explains, saying, "We need to introduce a patent for self-employment. By assigning legal status to the self-employed, we'll stimulate business activity among those who lose their job. It should encourage those involved in 'shadow' employment to come out of the shadows."

Trade fair confirms serious intentions

Over forty Chinese companies present their products at exhibition of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China, hosted by Minsk

By Alexander Pimenov

The Original Products of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China-2016 exhibition aimed to deepen and expand co-operation between Belarusian and Chinese enterprises, with Belarusian and Xinjiang businesses holding meetings and presentations. The Chinese guests also visited Belarusian companies.

Heads of commercial companies and departments of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China attended the opening ceremony for the trade fair, alongside representatives of the Chinese Embassy to Minsk, the Economy Ministry, and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce.

The exhibition of Xinjiang products is a step forward in implementing Belarusian-Chinese intergovernmental agreements — as noted by the Adviser of the Chinese Embassy to Belarus, Lo Chzhanhoy, speaking at the opening ceremony.

Regional co-operation is an important part of trade and economic contacts, to which our two governments attach great importance. This September, Belarus was an honorary guest at the 5th EXPO



At the *Original Products of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China-2016* trade fair

China-Eurasia, in Urumqi.

“Belarus’ representation was very serious, and our parties agreed to co-operate more actively,” Mr. Chzhanhoy said. “China is willing to continue making joint efforts with Belarus to promote

co-operation across political, economic, cultural and other fields. The present exhibition is a definite step for our two governments in implementing the important consensus of state leaders; it has significance.”

Mr. Chzhanhoy expressed confidence that the platform of Minsk’s trade fair was being fully used to achieve even greater co-operation. The recent show fits into the programme of comprehensive strategic partnership between

Belarus and China for 2014-2018. Participating companies represented such areas as agriculture, food processing, consumer goods, machinery, instrumentation, electronics, information technology, mining and construction.

Investments and business love comfort

By Vsevolod Mitrokhin

Creating a comfortable environment for investment and business is a priority for Belarus, asserts the Deputy Head of Belarus’ Presidential Administration, Nikolai Snopkov, speaking at October Economic Forum in Minsk

Forum participants believe that Belarus’ economic growth relies on improving the efficiency of manufacturing. In this regard, Mr. Snopkov said that increasing investment in science and education is a priority, alongside ensuring smooth access to financing for small businesses, and creating a comfortable environment for investment and business within Belarus.

Belarus’ First Deputy Economy Minister, Alexander Zaborovsky, noted, “It’s vital that the instruments of our economic policy embrace sufficient countercyclical measures, so that, in the event of the situation deteriorating, we have reserves, and potential to sustain economic growth.”

High placement in the rankings isn’t a goal in itself

By Yevgeny Kononov

It’s always a delight when others recognise our successes and especially so when prestigious organisations do so. The World Bank has ranked our country 37th in the global *Doing Business-2017* report, bringing us closer to the desirable top 30 states for an attractive business and investment climate.

The international competition applies strict rules, requiring great efforts from countries wishing to maintain their place, and even greater for progression up the ladder. Just as athletes must work on their weaknesses, so do we need to work to remove obstacles to business development.

Access to credit resources and an improved tax system are among the areas for focus. The first piece of good news is that the Belarusian Fund for Financial Support of Entrepreneurs is giving loans to small businesses at an interest rate of less than 10 percent per annum, in Belarusian Roubles, with re-



payment within five years, offering such loans on a competitive basis.

“The major condition is the creation of new jobs,” explains Belarus’ First Deputy Economy Minister, Alexander Zaborovsky.

Other innovations include the shift of all administrative procedures into electronic format and the introduction of a system to assess the influence of regulations on businesses.

By mid-2017, the Economy Ministry plans to launch an interesting project with the World Bank. Approximately \$36 million will become available for small and medium-sized businesses, at an interest rate of no more than 7 per-

cent, with a repayment period of up to fifteen years. Moreover, 17 million Euros will be allocated in grants to innovative business proposals.

The Ministry for Taxes and Duties sees prospects in reducing the tax burden via optimisation of tax privileges (around twenty of these have been already removed) and via expansion of the taxation base.

Other departments are to become involved, with the Ministry for Architecture and Construction simplifying procedures for planning permission, relating to construction and design. Deputy Economy Minister Dmitry Semenevich tells us, “We’ll try to avoid any impendent, including avoiding the need for additional approvals from other state bodies.”

Problematic areas have been highlighted, with paths of solution tagged; now, it is simply a matter of taking action. As Mr. Zaborovsky states, a high ranking isn’t a goal in itself; we need to see balanced economic growth and enhanced living standards for every citizen.

Reserves to be used to the full

By Vsevolod Overyanov

Mogilev Region and Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship of Poland to strengthen economic co-operation, notes the Chairman of the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee, Vladimir Domanevsky, and Marshal of Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, Piotr Calbecki, meeting in Mogilev

According to Mr. Domanevsky, the regions have a good history of co-operation. Unfortunately, in recent days, trade-economic relations have slightly fallen off, despite huge potential existing to develop and reinforce economic interaction.

“We need to shift from trade relationships to closer co-operation between our enterprises and to the establishment of joint production facilities to manufacture competitive goods, for sale to third countries,” believes the Chairman of the Mogilev Regional Executive Committee. “We should fill our programme of co-operation with serious content, and concrete projects, moving towards implementation. At present, only six enterprises exist with Polish capital in the Mogilev Region, but we’re ready to do all we can to promote a rise in their number.”

Piotr Calbecki confirmed interest from Poland in inter-regional collaboration shifting to a whole new level. He noted that the Mogilev Region remains a strategic partner for the Voivodeship. He suggested holding a joint business meeting of representatives of business circles in Torun (Poland) in spring 2017.

He explains, “We’re sure that this meeting will be productive for both sides and will bring new impetus to mutually beneficial co-operation between our two regions. The Mogilev Region is, for us, a gateway to new sales markets, as we are for the Mogilev Region to other EU states. These gates should be open wider.”

Both expressed interest in implementing a range of joint projects tackling the production and processing of agricultural goods, the manufacture of medicines, and cosmetics, and further interaction in the spheres of education, science and culture.

‘I like to analyse and compare facts’

BSU Faculty of Philology senior teacher Gordey Khomichev was named the best Russian literature teacher abroad in 2015 and won the 16th Pushkin Contest of Teachers and Specialists in Russian Philology in 2016, pitted against hundreds of talented teachers of Russian philology globally

By Vera Arteaga

Some call you a strict teacher, but one who commands attention. How do you maintain students' interest?

I think students should be involved in the process of discussion. I don't give lectures in the way people expect, as continuous monologues. In the ancient world, this technique was called heuristic conversation. Rather, I lead students to a certain point, then ask a question. Based on the answer, we find the truth together. They can read information from a book at home.

Is public speaking important in this Internet Age?

It's always been important and will continue to be so. After all, we make our first impression through our ability to properly express our thoughts. We need a good basis in liberal arts; only then can we involve ourselves in rhetoric. If you don't have this, you either avoid public speaking or use rhetorical tricks and sophisms (those which Plato called imaginary knowledge). Rhetoric without profound knowledge is like a house of cards; it will collapse on removing a single card. Yet, nowadays, such techniques are more and more often used. A good speaker refers to good literature, and to the world of art. This is the basis of public speaking, as are acting skills and the ability to deliver a speech. These qualities can be inherited or can be taught and polished.

What about you — do you have acting skills?

I can't say for sure. I like the theatre very much and often go. It's interesting for me in terms of interpretation. For example, I'll read a literary work, then watch one performance and another, to compare them. For me, it's not so important that the staging agree with my vision

of literature. Rather, I look at how convincingly the actor has interpreted their role. Sometimes, I see something new in a character, something I didn't notice when reading the book. Generally, reading books at different ages, we interpret them differently. For example, when I was a student, Emile Zola's saga 'Les Rougon-Macquart' [a twenty volume saga] didn't spark my interest. Now, the situation is different; I've immersed myself in this book and have enjoyed it hugely. Back then, my age made it impossible. Now, looking at the relationships portrayed, I can identify with those I see in my own environment.

Maybe it's time to revise the recommended reading lists for schools and universities?

Our perception of any work of literature differs as we mature. There's no telling if a person will find time for it later on. Therefore, in my opinion, it's better to read at school, and then re-read, rather than not to read certain works at all. Although, for example, at school age, I'd chose to read Tolstoy's 'Anna Karenina' rather than 'War and Peace', because I think this work is more realistic. Maybe, it's time to raise the



Diplomas for the laureate

question as to which works by classical writers we give youngsters. What was emphasised in Soviet times may now have lost relevance.

What do you read when you have free time? Which literary characters do you like?

I read classics — and that's it. I like Zola, Chekhov, Saltykov-Shche-



Gordey Khomichev named best teacher

drin, and Dostoevsky. None of our contemporary writers have caught my imagination, except for Tatiana Tolstaya, whose writing has many similarities with the classics. As for characters, maybe Chichikov: I don't admire his penchant for business but his philosophy. I like to analyse and compare facts.

With your analytical mind, you should be in science.

If all goes well, this academic year, I'll defend my thesis. It's about developing communication skills for those learning to teach languages.

What's missing from the knowledge of modern students?

Knowledge of the arts. Besides teaching with the Faculty of Philology, I teach with other departments. Future interpreters of the English language are trained at one, while Russian language is taught in the context of stylistics and speech culture. We analyse literary texts. When I asked who wrote the tragedy 'Macbeth', only one girl timidly sug-

gested: "Shakespeare maybe". The rest of the students didn't know.

Don't they read enough?

It's not about not reading; they are constantly online. However, they're interested in news, and books on personal growth. It's as if, right after reading a book, this will immediately happen. Many future teachers lack general arts knowledge. I have a lukewarm attitude towards introducing some modern techniques in teaching, such as pedagogical workshops and case technologies, since teaching can be lost among the process of looking at 'pretty slides'.

What's the answer?

To enhance the prestige of the teaching profession, then, the best will choose it.

As a literate and knowledgeable person, when you hear poor command of speech do you feel like correcting it? How do you deal with it?

I correct only during a lecture. In reality, I realise that everybody has their own circle. Besides accuracy of speech, there are such things as relevance and accessibility. So, I take a philosophical approach to mistakes.

Real features of modern life

By Veronika Bogomazova

In Belarus, as of early 2016, there were approximately 1,841 elderly women for every 1,000 men: 1,834 in cities and 1,859 in villages

According to the National Statistics Committee, the total number of women in the elderly age group accounted for 65 percent (1,267.3 thousand), men — 35 percent (688.2 thousand). At the beginning of 2016, 1,955.5 thousand elderly people lived in Belarus, accounting for around 20 percent of the country's population.

Every year, the International Day of Older People is celebrated on October 1st, following the UN General Assembly's decision of 1990 — aiming to attract the world's attention to the problems and needs of the elderly, maintaining their sense of usefulness to society and raising public awareness about the demographic aging of society.

‘Elektroniks’ of their time

By Vladimir Volchikov

Youngsters from the 1970s dreamt of becoming friends with ‘Elektronik’, the electronic boy from the film, while today's youngsters can create smart machines themselves

Recently the HTP's business incubator hosted a national selection round for the World Robot Olympiad, being held this year in India. The national championship brought together almost 200 million entrants — winners of city and regional competitions, with only the best qualifying for the Republican contest.

The Director of the Robotics School, Igor Belevich, notes with satisfaction that the younger generation is gaining interest in this sphere. Three years ago, the Republican championship gathered just 25 entrants; now, this figure has grown 8-fold. He tells us, “We try to bring youngsters from the world of users into the world of creators.”

One of the missions of the Belarusian robot movement is to popularise the profession of engineer. From his rich experience of communicating with schoolchildren, Mr. Belevich asserts that they know very little about engineering specialties, either as juniors or seniors, despite this profession being intellectual, creative and promising. Many participants of robot competitions will pursue a path in robotics. Touching the magic world of technology, youngsters tend to enter fully into this occupation.

Mr. Belevich adds that our enterprises are potential employers of the brightest engineers but tend not to pay attention to technical creativity in schools. Nevertheless, the Belarusian robotics championship is gaining a great many more partners.

President Nikolić reads Skorina in Serbian

61st International Book Trade Fair becomes important event in Belgrade's cultural life

By Kirill Ladutko

As is traditional, Belarus presented many innovations. According to guests and participants, our stand was one of the most interesting, with editions about the country and its heroic past attracting the greatest attention, alongside illustrated albums describing the modern development of Belarus. A whole range of books has been translated from Serbian into Belarusian.

The Belarusian delegation, headed by Belarus' Information Minister, Lilia Ananich, organised several meetings at the National Library and the Culture Ministry, as well as in the Serbian Skupstina

(Parliament), where representatives of the deputy group gathered, promoting the development of relations with Belarus. Fiction and promotional works by Belarusians about Serbia and Yugoslavia (recently published in Minsk) were presented in the Serbian Parliament.

The delegation met the President of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolić, discussing various aspects of Belarusian-Serbian relations, and Mr. Nikolić especially noted the warmth and mutual understanding his country enjoys with Belarus. He thanked Alexander Lukashenko for his support for the Serbian people during difficult times for Belgrade, despite obstacles.

During the meeting with the Information Minister of Belarus, the Serbian President paid much attention to the unity of Belarusian and Serbian positions in counteracting the destruction of spiritual and moral foundations in society. As an example of interference, he cited a book by Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andric, a Serbian prose writer who created *The Bridge on the Drina*, about Ottoman invaders taking sons from their mothers, inculcating new values in them and demanding obedience. Of course, eventually, the Serbians rebelled. History's lessons should not be forgotten.

During her meeting with the President, Lilia Ananich said that

information is often destructive in character and that it's time we counteracted this, taking steps to strengthen the information space between Belarus and Serbia. She explained, "Belarus suggests playing an active role by uniting all efforts. The time has come to think about a joint Belarusian-Serbian media project."

The conversation also tackled a landmark date for Belarus and the whole Slavonic world: in 2017, our country is celebrating the 500th anniversary of national book printing. A joint scientific-practical conference is planned and, undoubtedly, at Belgrade's next book trade fair, there will be discussion on the en-

lighteners and scientists of our two states, looking at Slavonic book printing and the role of Frantsisk Skorina in its development.

The Belarusian delegation presented Tomislav Nikolić with editions of *Castles of Belarus* and *Frantsisk Skorina on the Languages of the Nations of the World*; among other translations, it contains a Serbian adaptation of universal truths about patriotism and respect for our roots. Tomislav Nikolić read, in Serbian, words by Skorina from the foreword to *Judith*, which has relevance to both our nations. He read them with spirit and warmth, addressing Belarusians and Serbians alike.



President of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolić, and Belarus' Information Minister, Lilia Ananich



Belarusian polar researchers return to the Antarctic

Over-wintering!

By Vladimir Yakovlev

Ninth polar expedition anticipates long, hard overwintering in the Antarctic

On the eve of travel, participants of the expedition joined heads of the Academy of Sciences in giving a press conference. Alexey Gaidashov, who heads our polar missions, says that a whole new stage is being unveiled. He tells us, "Firstly, this year, we celebrate ten years since Belarus joined the Antarctic Treaty. Secondly, our country is starting to

implement the next state polar programme, for 2016-early 2020. The main difference is that the country has set ambitious aims: finishing assembly of the first stage of the Antarctic station and over-wintering for the first time, around 2020-2021."

Six people are taking part in the expedition, which includes an extra person since the last. They'll establish the next Belarusian polar accommodation section, adding to the sections set up on the sixth continent last season. Of course, the main task is our scientific research,

under five key directions. Vladimir Gusakov, the Chairman of the Presidium of the NAS, tells us that about three quarters of the scientific and other equipment being taken by our explorers is being made in Belarus. Many of the designs are headed for export.

Hundreds of Minsk residents, both students and veterans, came to chat with the polar researchers, having photographs taken, and collecting autographs. The romanticism of remote adventures appeals to all ages.

Post-office gaining speed

By Dmitry Umpirovich

All international mail is set to be delivered much faster, thanks to a logistics centre at Minsk national airport, including delivery of orders placed with foreign online stores

It used to take at least three or four days to process mail but this has now been reduced to one or two, explains the First Deputy General Director of Belpost, Yelena Skripchik. She tells us, "In January, the module at Minsk national airport handled, on average, up to five thousand international shipments daily. By October, this figure had doubled. At peak capacity, we can work around the clock, handling up to 100,000 pieces of mail daily."

Thirty-seven new jobs have been created, even though much

of the process is automated, thanks to a conveyor. Customs officials are working side by side with Belpost employees, using two special x-ray machines which allow mail to be checked rapidly for prohibited contents. These can accurately identify illegal substances, explains the head of Minsk-2



Mail is processed

Customs, Andrey Mikhalkovich. He notes that more than 99.9 percent of mail does not breach the law. However, this year, officials opened six criminal cases relating to the import of narcotics substances via international mail.

Donald Trump and Barack Obama hold talks at the White House

President Barack Obama and his successor Donald Trump have held talks at the White House after the Republican businessman's shock election victory



Broadcasting of the 2016 US presidential election results on TV

The behind-closed-doors meeting, which lasted around 90 minutes, was held to discuss the handover of power. In an attempt to bury past differences, both men displayed a conciliatory tone.

Speaking to reporters, President Obama said he and the President-elect had held an 'excellent' and 'wide-ranging meeting'. Obama also said he was 'rooting' for his successor and would do everything he could to help him.

"Most of all, I want to empha-

size to you, Mr. President-elect, that we now are going to do everything we can to help you succeed because if you succeed then the country succeeds," Obama said. For his part, Trump said it was a 'great honour' to meet the president and said he looked forward to future meetings.

"I very much look forward to dealing with the president in the future, including counsel. He explained some of the difficulties, some of the high flying assets and

some of the really great things that have been achieved. So Mr. President, it was a great honour being with you and I look forward to being with you many many more times in the future," Trump said.

The public display of unity and respectful tone stood in stark contrast to the often bitter exchanges which characterised the divisive election campaign.

Ahead of the vote Obama had called Trump, who has never held elected office, 'uniquely unquali-

fied' to be president. Trump has vowed to overturn many of what Obama sees as his achievements over the past eight years, including the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare.

He has also said his immediate priorities will be to restore the country's infrastructure and doubling its economic growth. The president-elect was accompanied to the White House by his wife, Melania, who held talks with First Lady Michelle Obama.

World biggest space telescope is ready

The world's largest and most complex space telescope is finally ready after almost two decades

Named after former NASA administrator James Webb, it will be far bigger and powerful than the Hubble Space Telescope, which it will replace.

When it is launched into space in 2018, it will be able to peer back in time, teaching us more than ever before about the origins of the universe. It will also

be tasked with looking for signs of life on other planets.

"We have done two decades of innovation and hard work and this is the result. We are opening up a whole new territory of astronomy. So we will see things that we haven't been able to see before because this telescope is much more powerful than even the great Hubble telescope," said NASA Senior Astrophysicist John C. Mather at a press conference.

The Telescope is equipped with a mirror five times larger than Hubble's. Powered by the Sun, it will be able to spot faint light from the very first objects that illuminated the universe and study every phase in the history of our universe following the Big Bang more than 13 billion years ago.

"We would like to know how we got here from the Big Bang. I'm hoping that we will find something that nobody



knows is out there. So some little thing that happened in the early universe, that came before the galaxies, some

way the black holes were formed, we don't know where they came from. So that is a wide open topic for scientists.

Balloons released in memory of Paris terror attack victims

A year on to the day, France has been remembering the country's murderous terror attacks in Paris

President Hollande and the city's mayor Anne Hidalgo released 130 balloons — one for each person who died in the atrocities.

As well as the uplifting commemorations, ceremonies were held at each of the venues where the attacks took place.

Two plaques were unveiled at the Bataclan concert hall. The venue suffered the most casualties as three gunmen caused terror — they claimed in the name of Islam.

A first plaque contains the names of the victims. The second was unveiled by two people who both lost their children in the attacks.

The Stade de France to the north of Paris is where it all started. Suicide bombs went off — mercifully outside the stadium rather than inside. A Portuguese man, Manuel Dias, became the night's first victim.

Ceremonies have also taken place at the series of bars and cafes in the French capital, where gunmen roamed, mowing people down at random.

The Bataclan reopened for music on Saturday night. The thousand tickets to see Sting play sold out in under half an hour; victims' relatives were among the audience.

The former Police frontman opened his performance with a minute's silence, telling the crowd 'we will not forget them'.

European judges solve Rubik's Cube legal puzzle

The Rubik's Cube, a multi-colored three-dimensional puzzle, that has been a fixture in children's toy boxes for forty years

Invented in 1974 by Hungarian Erno Rubik, 350 million cubes have been sold worldwide.

And the fiendishly difficult puzzle has kept lawyers and judges busy for a decade.

The British company, which owns the rights, registered the shape as an EU trademark in 1999. A German firm challenged that in 2006, the shape of the cube alone is not enough to protect it from being copied.

It took its legal challenge all the way to the European Court of Justice and judges agreed.

The ruling means other companies can create similar puzzles.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Truly interesting interpretation of rural life and labour

Larisa Zhuravovich's rural scenes inspired by her own love of nature, and her village life

By Veniamin Mikheev

Around fifty pieces are on show as part of Larisa's personal exhibition, entitled *Several Words about Pastels*. A member of the Belarusian Union of Artists, Larisa tells us, "Pastels are easy to use and offer lightness of touch. I've been working with them for many years. They've been my constant compan-

ions for the past decade. I wanted to study their more 'serious' features, in a monochromatic and multi-coloured palette. It's interesting how pastels can suit serious themes. Of course, I've worked in many genres with them, creating still-life works, portraits, landscapes, interiors and multi-figure compositions."

The exhibition at the National



Art Museum showcases an autobiographical series, entitled *My Childhood*, in the style of old se-



Larisa Zhuravovich's works show lightness of touch

Days, using mixed media: gouache and water-colour paints.

The author's world is depicted in an original manner, alongside rural life and its labours, showing our unity with nature.

pia photos. On show also is the *Evening in Old Polesie* triptych, as well as a series of works, *In My Studio*, which reveals Larisa's inner world by the artefacts which surround her. Visitors will also enjoy the 2014-2015 series *Spring*

Visitors will be able to judge the impact of pastels; certainly, they inspire an emotional response.

Modest and unpretentious, Larisa perceives her world with a straightforward, open mind, portraying her themes with sincerity.

Magic Flute and Tosca operas are to be accompanied by Shakespeare's sonnets

By Kristina Khilko

In the 84th Bolshoi Theatre season, three premieres await ballet fans: *Paquita*, by Ludwig Minkus, staged by Pavel Stalinsky; on December 1st, *Sonnets*, by Peter Warlock and Ralph Vaughan Williams, choreographed by Alexandra Tikhomirova, based on Shakespeare's poetry. Next summer will see the staging of a modern ballet by Mikhail Krylov, called *Orr and Ora*.

In March, Mozart's famous *Magic Flute* opera will receive a new staging, in

Minsk, by European director and producer Hans-Joachim Frey. Meanwhile, Puccini's *Tosca* will also see a new interpretation; the director is yet to be announced.

Some plays will be taken off the repertoire, won't they?

'*Nabucco*' and '*The Barber of Seville*'; unfortunately, audiences have been dwindling. The operas won't be removed utterly. We'll later revamp them for a relaunch.

Will you go on tour?

In December, we plan a tour of Germany and Egypt. In late April, we're taking the ballets '*Spartacus*' and



Mozart's opera is staged in Minsk through the medium of Russian language for the first time

'*Swan Lake*' to the Netherlands, and we'll perform in Belarus as well: in Mogilev, Novopolotsk and Gomel. We do this traditionally, every new season.

Are there any changes

within the theatre troupe?

The troupe has increased by sixteen people. The orchestra has noticeably 'grown younger' and, following her injury, People's Artist of Belarus Olga Gaiko

is returning to the stage. Her fans will be happy.

Figaro here!

Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre of Belarus gives unusual staging of Mozart's opera.

Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* held the stage at the Belarusian theatre for over three decades, and is returning after a three-year break, staged by Mikhail Kislyarov, the chief director of the Moscow Chamber Musical Theatre named after Pokrovsky. He is joined by musical director Oleg Lesun.

The directorate of the theatre insisted on performing *The Marriage of Figaro*

in Russian rather than in Italian. The libretto, by Lorenzo da Ponte, translated by Tchaikovsky and Pavlova, was taken as the basis. Baritone Alexander Krasnodubsky and Sergei Lazarevich perform the title roles.

"Finally, soloists will understand what they are singing about!" the director jokes. The *Marriage of Figaro* is a bright, audacious comedy. The stage direction is simple and clear, as this classic text needs no bold experiments.

Shall Belarusian audiences see the Pokrovsky Theatre on tour?

We're looking forward to your invitation!

Minsk International Film Festival distributes prizes

Grand Prix of 23rd Minsk International Film Festival — Gold of Listapad — for ‘Best Film’ goes to *Lily Lane* — produced by Hungary, Germany and France

By Mikhail Vetrov

Anna Zamiecka's *Communion* (Poland) received the Grand Prix for ‘Best Documentary’, while the Listapad Silver Award, in the ‘Film as Art Phenomenon’ nomination, went to *Mimosas* (Morocco, Spain, France and Qatar).

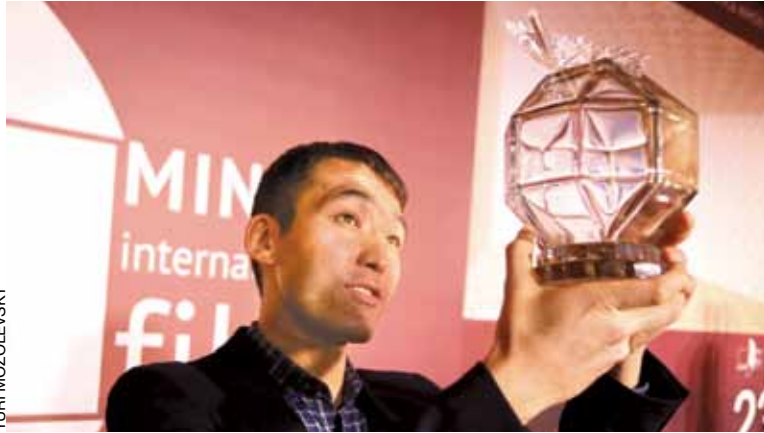
Listapad Bronze Audience Award went to Kristina Grozeva and Petar Vylchanov's *Glory* (Bulgaria and Greece). Ivan Tverdovsky's *Zoology* (Russia, Germany, France) won the Victor Turov Memorial Award for ‘Best Film’ in *Youth on the March* feature films competition.

Among the winners of the national film competition were Victor Krasovsky's *Dead Souls* (Belarus, ‘Best Feature Film’), Ruslan Fedotov's *Salamanca* (Russia and Belarus, ‘Best Documentary Film’), and Natalia Surinovich's *Dasha and the Man-Eater* (Russia, ‘Best Animation Film’).

Rafiq Aliyev and Javid Tavakul's *The Lesson* received the Golden Listapadzik Award (People's Choice), while Michel Gondry's work was named the best film in the children and youth film competition.

The special prize of the President of Belarus — ‘For Humanism and Spirituality in the Cinema’ — went to Japanese Hiroyuki Kurokawa's *Prayer of Lyra*. Meanwhile, the prize for ‘Best Documentary of the Young Documentary Film Competition’ went to Israeli Mayan Schwartz's *My Friend, Yaniv*.

In the main competition of feature films, prizes were awarded for: ‘Best Direction’ (*I, Olga Hepnarová*



YURI MOZOLEVSKY



YURI MOZOLEVSKY

Winners and laureates of 23rd Minsk International Film Festival

by Tomáš Weinreb and Kazda Petr — Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and France); ‘Yuri Marukhin Memorial Award for Best Cinema-

tography’ (*Sieranevada* by Barbu Bălăşoiu — Romania, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia); ‘Best Female

Role’ (Mikhalina Olshanska from *I, Olga Hepnarová*); ‘Best Male Role’ (Adrian Titieni from *Graduation*, directed by Cristian Mungiu — Ro-

mania, Belgium and France). Lia Bugnar was named ‘Best Supporting Actress’ for her role in *Graduation*, while the film itself was awarded a special jury prize. ‘Best Supporting Actor’ went to Adam Voronovich (*Red Spider* by Marcin Koszałka — Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia).

The diploma ‘For Young Energy’ went to Estonia's *Days That Confused* (directed by Triin Ruumet) and the ‘Modern Look at Tradition’ prize went to Kyrgyz *Father's Will* (directed by Mukul Bakyt and Dastan Zhapart Uulu).

A special jury award for the *Youth on the March* competition went to *The Saint* (Lithuania and Poland), directed by Andrius Blazeivicius.

The cinema press jury awarded a diploma ‘For Creation of a Space Odyssey Within One Family’ to *Sieranevada* (Romania, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia).

Overall, the festival programme featured 159 films from fifty-two countries.

Ticket to childhood

Traditional *Animaevka* International Festival, featuring animation films, held in Mogilev

By Irina Mendeleva

More than 380 animations from 45 countries were introduced at the 19th International *Animaevka-2016* Festival held in Mogilev.

Almost a third of the films offered were chosen by a commission of experts. While the jury chose the winning entries, families enjoyed film shows, theatre performances and participated in master classes held by professionals. Over the 4 days, the visitors met famous directors, visited thematic exhibitions and aimed for prizes in educational competitions.

This year, 439 works from Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan and other countries were entered for this traditional exhibition of children's fine and applied arts.

The well-known Russian duet, ‘Pankoff LaVa’, came to *Animaevka* for the first time. Larisa Pankova and Valery Pankov performed a superb musical programme entitled *Hits from Animated Cartoons* in Mogilev, as well as in Bobruisk and Bykhov. They sang songs from Disney cartoons, which are favourites for many people. The soloist of the duet was the first Russian actor to

be cast as a voiceover in one of Disney's animations.

Chairman of the jury and Honoured Worker of Arts of the Russian Federation, Leonid Nosyrev, said it was difficult to choose the winners as all the works are interesting and show talent, “It is really difficult to judge people from the world of art. It is important to encourage them, to inspire confidence in their efforts.”

After much debate, the Grand Prix of the festival, the ‘Crystal Pencil’ and winner's diploma went to the Russian film *Nalim Malinych*, a fairy tale from the series *Mountain of Semiprecious Stones* by director



Children and their parents enjoyed films and theatre performances

Stepan Biryukov. The main prize in the nomination for best technical piece also went to Russia. Cinematographer and Honoured Artist Vera Kudryavtseva received the prize. While Belarusian director Yelena Pitkevich took the best in the cat-

egory, ‘Art Solution’ with the film *Marc Chagall. The Beginning*.

The visitors departed to meet again in Mogilev next year at the 20th anniversary *Animaevka*. The year ahead will be a busy one as they prepare for this important event.

Meeting the challenge

Belarus' national handball team defeat Serbia in away match of 2018 European Championship selection tournament, with nine goal lead

By Alexey Grishin

In defeating Serbia, the national team of Belarus has regained some faith in its abilities and the possibility of qualifying for the next round. The Serbians aren't considered to be a very powerful squad so their defeat is hardly a great triumph, although, in the first match of the European qualifications, the Serbians did manage to claim victory over group favourite Poland. Meanwhile, the Belarusian squad gave away two victorious home points to the Romanians.

After being defeated by the Ro-



Victorious game for Belarus' national team

manian squad away 23:26, at the beginning of the 2nd qualifying group round, Yuri Shevtsov's trainees needed to beat Serbians in Niš. They began confidently, taking an early lead and maintaining it throughout the match, playing one of their best games of recent months.

Boris Pukhovsky scored eight points for the Belarusian team, while Andrey Yurinok and Artem Korolek each took seven, Sergey Shilovich claimed six, Dmitry Bikulenkov

three, Vladislav Kulesh and Denis Rutenko two each and Alexey Shinkel one. In the three previous matches against Serbia, the national squad of Belarus was defeated.

In another match of the second round, the national team of Romania played Poland in Cluj, and beat them 28:23, taking the lead in the tournament table. The Poles, initially considered major favourites of the group, suffered a second defeat in a row. In the first round, they lost to the Serbi-

ans in Gdansk — 32:37.

In matches against Romania and Serbia, our national team scored fifty-nine goals, with twenty-nine of these scored by representatives of Meshkov HC.

The selection round of the continental tournament will resume in May 2017. In the third round, Belarus will welcome Poland either on May 3rd or 4th, while Serbia will play an away match against Romania.

Winning easily on the track

By Semen Bondarev

Belarusian cyclist Roman Romanov wins scratch event in second stage of World Track Cup in Dutch Apeldoorn

In the men's 15km team race, Roman finished ahead of Christopher Lethem (the UK) who was placed second, and Belgium's Moreno de Pou, in third place. Another Belarusian, Yevgeny Korolek, who also took part in the race, came sixth.

The Belarusian team did well in Apeldoorn, with Vladislav Novik, Yevgeny Veremchuk and Artem Zaitsev finishing sixth. In the women's omnium (which featured four races during the World Cup stages, rather than six), Belarusian Tatiana Sharakova came seventh.

Dance bringing meaning to life

Belarus' national team earns six medals at IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport European Championships, held in Slovakian Kosice

The Belarusian national squad comprised five pairs, who performed across five programmes and claimed one gold, three silver and two bronze awards. All are pupils of the Belarusian Relief Fund for Disabled Sportsmen.

The gold medal in the class 2 European dance programme went to Anna Gorchakova and Roman Usmanov, with second place taken by Belarusian Irina Nakeichik and Yevgeny Yarmoshko. Meanwhile, Veronika Kasach and Alexey Zukhtikov claimed silver in the class 1 European dance programme, and came fourth in the Latin American programme. Darya Kulsh and Alexander Lyakhovich claimed silver in the class 1 Latin American programme. Darya was also third in the singles programme while Anna Sirotnyuk and Igor Kuleshov were ranked third in the class 1 Latin American dance programme.

The success of our athletes has been achieved with support from the Sports and Tourism Ministry, the Republican Centre for Paralympic Training, the President's Sports Club, the Paralympic Committee and the UNDP Office in Belarus.



Domracheva relies on experience of Norwegian coach

Norwegian coach Roger Grubb to assist Darya Domracheva in training for 2018 Winter Games, as the biathlete announces to Norwegian NRK TV Channel

By Igor Svitov

"I respect Roger Grubbe as a coach, and I know that he has much experience, especially for athletes in my situation. There are only a few specialists who can train an athlete after she's given birth," Darya said.

Roger Grubb is also head coach of the junior national team of Norway, and

believes he can help the triple Olympic champion return to professional sport. "We view co-operation as mutually beneficial. Clearly, we have much to learn from Darya. She is married to Ole Einar Børndalen and wants the best for the family. We're now planning training for the 2018 Olympics in Pyeongchang," the coach commented.

The Balkan pass

Belarus' national football team plays two last games of year: a friendly match against the Greeks and a selection match for 2018 World Championship against Bulgarians

By Kirill Karin

The match against the national squad of Greece was viewed by everyone as preparation for the forthcoming game against the national team of Bulgaria. The score in Athens — 1:0 — was pleasant but didn't allow us to draw major conclusions regarding our team's readiness for facing the Bulgarian squad in Sofia. Even the head coach of the national football team of Belarus, Alexander Khatskevich, noted after the match, "Both we and the Greeks viewed this meeting as preparation for the forthcoming selection matches, so the score isn't really important. In fact, the game left more questions than answers for our team."

By defeating Greece, our team won its third friendly match victory in a row. However, Belarus is yet to win an official match this year, which is cause for concern.

Sofia's Vasil Levski Stadium may have hosted Be-



Hosts stronger in Sofia

larus' major match of the season. For some, the result was no surprise; for others, it dispelled all illusions, since the score was 1:0 but not in our favour.

After a less than successful start in the World Championship selection round, both squads needed to earn points but only the Bulgarians managed to do so. Ivelin Popov scored the only goal, in the tenth minute of the game, using a pass from Spas Delev.

The Belarusians tried to catch up, taking the initiative and having the opportunity to

equalise the score more than once; however, none of their attempts hit the back of the net.

The national team of Belarus has suffered its second defeat in this selection cycle, after a devastating loss in Rotterdam to the Dutch squad — 1:4. It now has only two points, earned at Borisov-Arena in its games against France (0:0) and Luxembourg (1:1). In its group, the national football squad of Belarus is now ranked fifth, last but one, which leaves very little chance for moving forward to the next round.



Belarusian State Philharmonic hosts opening of Days of Tajikistan Culture in Belarus

EXHIBITIONS
NATIONAL ART MUSEUM
20 Lenin Street
Until 21st November. Light and Air: pictorial art by Natan Voronov
Until 30th January. Celestial World on the Earth
Until 5th February. Russian Pictorial Art of 19th-20th Century

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS
12 Karl Marx Street
Until 15th December. Time of Silent Stars: from Black-and-White to Red
Until 29th January. Belarusian Trade in History
Until 28th February. Time of Miracles: Winter Holidays and Entertainments
Until 1st June 2017. From Romanian Dinary to Belarusian Rouble

HOUSE OF PICTURES
89/3 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 11th December. Great Classics of 20th Century: Pablo Picasso, Huan Miro, Vasily Kandinsky

EXHIBITION HALL OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM
9A Bogdanovich Street
Until 13th March. Noisy Feathered Rainbow

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN NATURE AND ECOLOGY
12 Karl Marx Street

Until 22nd January. Exhibition of Carnivorous Plants

WING OF LOSHITSA PALACE-AND-PARK COMPLEX
Chizhevsky Street
Until 9th December. Speaking Machines: History of Sound Recording

LEONID SHCHEMELEV CITY ART GALLERY
10 Revolyutsionnaya Street
Until 31st December. Pictorial Art Opening

HOUSE-MUSEUM OF FIRST RSDRP SESSION
31a Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 4th December. World of Ancient People

CAT MUSEUM
11 Dzerzhinsky Avenue
Until 30th November. Cat in Leaves
Until 30th November. Halloween Weeks in Cat Museum

POBEDA
20 Internatsionalnaya Street
Until 20th November. African Sun

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY
5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 30th November. Inside
Until 10th December. Family in Culture of Eurasian People: 20th Century

THEATRES
BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE
1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
17.11. The Barber of Seville 18.11. The Sleeping Beauty 19.11. Prince Igor
20.11. The Nutcracker, or Another Christmas Story; Eugene Onegin
22.11. Evening of Modern Ballet; Harmony of Duet 23.11. Anyuta
24.11. The Tsar's Bride

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE
44 Myasnikov Street
17 and 18.11. The Swan Lake
19.11. Buratino.by; Shalom Aleichem!
20.11. Town Musician of Bremen; Gypsy Baron 21.11. Dubrovsky
22.11. Blue Cameo 23.11. My Fair Lady
24.11. Modern View (Suchasny Poglyad)
State Dance Ensemble of Belarus

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE
5 Volodarsky Street
19 and 20.11. Testosterone
22.11. Singer 23.11. Lady for Day
24.11. Oedipus

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE
7 Engels Street
17.11. November. Andersen
18.11. Pan Tadeush 19 and 24.11. Local Cabaret 20.11. Paulinka
21.11. Seagull
23.11. Art

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS
13 Pobediteley Avenue
16 and 17.11. #13 18 and 19.11. Even a Wise Man Stumbles 20.11. Who Laughs Last 21.11. Master and Margarita
22.11. The Makropoulos Case 23.11. Abduction of Yelena 24.11. Mechanical Man

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA
44 Kropotkin Street
17.11. Quiet Rustle of Leaving Steps
18.11. Lift 19.11. Wolf-Sailor; Love of People 20.11. Living till the Premiere
21.11. Whether Tomorrow Comes
22.11. White Angle with Black Wings
23.11. Maybe 24.11. Eternal Song

BELARUSIAN ARMY DRAMA THEATRE
3 Krasnoarmeiskaya Street
17.11. Plague on Both Your Houses
18.11. Don't Leave Me 19.11. I'm Your Officer

BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE
26 Engels Street
17.11. Belarusian Vaudevilles 19.11. Thumbelina 20.11. Road to Bethlehem

REPUBLICAN PALACE OF TRADE UNIONS' CULTURE
25 Nezavisimosti Avenue
18.11. Kazanova