



The Presidential election in the Republic of Belarus is scheduled for January 26th, 2025

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The craftswoman from Polotsk — Svetlana Boltrushevich — is getting ready for her first exhibition

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VSMU Rector Aleksei Chukanov demonstrating the Order of Peoples' Friendship to students

Education, science and healthcare

On November 1st, Vitebsk State Order of Peoples' Friendship Medical University (VSMU) celebrated its 90th anniversary. The university has a rich and fascinating history, is renowned for its highly qualified educators, talented students, and graduates. Over the years, the university has trained more than 18,000 doctors of various specialisations. Currently, the number of foreign students at VSMU is approximately 1,800. In 1984, Vitebsk Medical University was awarded the Order of Peoples' Friendship for its contributions to the training of qualified specialists, the development of medical science and public health. On the occasion of the anniversary, the Order of Peoples' Friendship was displayed for the first time.

The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, congratulated the staff of Vitebsk State Order of Peoples' Friendship Medical University on the 90th anniversary of its founding. "Today, the university is a major centre for practice-oriented medical education and science. True professionals in their field work here, continuing the traditions established by their predecessors, whose names Belarus takes pride in," the congratulatory message read. The Head of State emphasised that new teaching methods and modern technologies of medical care are being implemented within the university, which elevates the quality of specialist training to a new level.



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We all need a world in which we want to live and develop



Belarus' capital has hosted the 2nd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security. The forum gathered around 600 participants from over 40 countries — including Azerbaijan, Belgium, Hungary, the United Kingdom, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, the UAE, Russia, Serbia, Syria, France, the USA, and more — among which were high-ranking representatives. The conference also welcomed leaders of international organisations such as the CSTO, CIS, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), and SCO, as well as experts from major think tanks across the Eurasian region. One and a half hundred Belarusian and foreign journalists were accredited to cover the conference events. Such a solid representation and a profound dialogue on the Minsk platform have eloquently testified to the high authority of Belarus and personally of Aleksandr Lukashenko on the global stage.

The speech of the Belarusian leader was, as always, candid, sharp, and relevant. Welcoming the guests, the Head of State noted with regret that nowadays, it is possible to count on one hand the platforms where open and constructive expert discussions on international security take place,

“We urgently need an honest conversation and impartial assessments of current events. Even more so, we need effective measures to counter present-day challenges and threats. If we do not unite in this regard and do not develop and implement these measures, it will be a disaster.”

According to the President, the first conference, which took place in 2023, surprised even the most ardent sceptics who doubted that it would be possible to gather representatives from both the West and the East in such turbulent times. Its outcome was the project of *Eurasian Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity in the 21st Century*, the work on which has continued this year. The document is intended to accelerate the processes of political, economic, and other types of consolidation aimed at ensuring the security, strategic stability, and progressive development of our countries and peoples.

According to the Belarusian leader, comprehensive security must, by definition, provide guarantees to states not only in the military sphere but also in political, economic, informational, and other areas. Viewed from this perspective, the scale of the crisis that has engulfed the planet becomes evident. “Having assumed the title of the ‘leader of the free world’ after the collapse of the USSR and the entire socialist bloc, the United States, despite all its potential, has proven unable to be a single global pillar and guarantor of security in the broad sense. Meanwhile, international institutions, which are meant to serve as universal mediators or arbitrators, often demonstrate complete paralysis, limiting themselves to mere empty statements and representative functions,” the Head of State underlined.

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that the absence of a system of checks and balances has led to a degradation of security in all spheres. **“First: politics.** All postulates of democracy have failed. We see that there is democracy for domestic consumption, and democracy for export,” stated the President. “What democratic values can explain

what is happening in the Middle East and Ukraine? Is an option to physically eliminate anyone — be it a political or public figure, a businessman, scientist, or journalist whom, for example, the USA and its satellites deem a threat to national security — the pinnacle of democracy? What does the declaration of the UN Secretary-General as a persona non grata for his principled stance have to do with democracy? How should we interpret the relentless attacks on António Guterres for attending the BRICS Summit, an association of countries that contribute nearly 40 percent of the global GDP?”

The Head of State noted that entire nations are subjected to attacks. In countries that dare to follow their own path, colour revolutions are instigated, loyal leaders and outright puppets are brought to power with the money of Western ‘soft power’ (NGOs). Even in the countries of the European Union, national-oriented politicians who advocate for the interests of their people are faced with criminal charges, fabricated cases, and even assassination attempts. “One of the reasons is the migration crisis. The rampant ‘democracy’ has led to a division in civil society on a frightening scale. We are witnessing a volatile situation in Germany, France, Poland, Moldova, Georgia, and others. Even the USA has been in turmoil during the last decade. I am afraid we may witness a civil war within the USA — everything is heading in this direction,” the President emphasised.

Aleksandr Lukashenko continued, **“Second: military security.** Countries are increasingly forced to use military force to protect their sovereignty, internal stability, or to prevent escalation, which is very important today. The further escalation of the Ukrainian and Middle Eastern conflicts is fraught with irreparable ramifications on a global scale. However, by focusing only on these two hotspots, the world somehow ignores the fact that there are currently around 55 armed conflicts. Thousands of people die in them every day. **Third: the economy.** Illegal sanctions have been imposed on half the world. Entire sectors of the economy have been paralysed by illegitimate restrictions. The right to private property has been destroyed. And to think that for decades, the collective West has been lecturing us what private property should be. So where is it now? State assets

are being seized, and sovereign financial resources are being brazenly embezzled. Gas pipelines are being blown up, and access to the sea is being blocked. Purchasing goods from Western brands is no longer a guarantee of technological security. After all, at any moment, we could be denied supplies of spare parts or servicing. **Fourth: information security.** The media have turned into a real weapon. Post-truth, endless fakes, manipulation of public opinion, appropriation of financial resources, and orchestrating coups d’état have a transnational character and are more dangerous in their power than any military intervention.”

The President added, “My recent contacts with intelligent representatives of the ‘civilised West’ indicate that we are witnessing a certain shift. The West has finally — based on what I know — realised that it is necessary to negotiate on Ukraine.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the worst thing that could happen is total militarisation of the planet. This would ignite very quickly with enormous consequences for everyone. To prevent this, we need to start thinking about how to find a new key to solving current problems and



create functioning mechanisms for ensuring global security. The Belarusian leader is convinced that this key lies in Eurasia with its millennia-long experience in cultural and civilisational interaction. It is here that all the world’s axes intersect. How things will be here in the future will determine how they will be across the globe.

The President of Belarus outlined a number of priority measures for de-escalating tensions in the world, as we see it here — in the heart of Europe:

1. In order to truly defuse the situation and create conditions for dialogue, it is

necessary to remove US nuclear weapons from the territories of Eurasian countries. This deadly arsenal is an anachronism of the Cold War. Then, we will follow suit.

2. It is essential to eliminate the practice of applying unlawful sanctions without decisions from the UN Security Council, and to establish an effective mechanism for international legal guarantees that prevent the use of such means of pressure.

3. It is well worth developing a new contractual and legal mechanism for creating a transparent and comprehensible control regime over new deadly technologies capable of destroying all of mankind, even without nuclear weapons: lasers, hypersonics, quantum and electromagnetic systems, and other advanced developments with properties not yet fully studied.

4. An entire industry aimed at creating and implementing malicious solutions, with global-scale consequences, is developing in the cyber realm uncontrollably. An international legal act on cyber non-aggression should be adopted, which implies the rejection of the use of these weapons against each other, as well as the formation of a control system over their development and use.

The President of Belarus has proposed to hold the next meeting in the Eurasia Plus format so that the voice of each country wishing to contribute constructively to the establishment of global security is heard. “Such a step is intended to mark the beginning of a new political process on measures to build trust, security, and co-operation — similar to the Helsinki process, but one that responds to today’s realities, to which we have repeatedly urged the entire international community together with you,” concluded the Head of State.

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WHAT SHOULD THE NEW SECURITY ARCHITECTURE BE LIKE?

Serbian Deputy PM: absolute lack of international law is the biggest problem in current conditions

Serbia's Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vulin stressed that it is not the problems of the economy and climate change that are the most urgent at the moment, "Despite the aggression from NATO, Serbia has survived. We have been through a lot. Yet, international law did not survive, and this is a big problem of our generation and civilisation. Lack of shame is the biggest problem of our civilisation. Western civilisation is not ashamed of anything. They are not ashamed to expand NATO to the east. Now we would have no problems and would live in peace, but NATO plans to expand eastwards. They are not ashamed to lie as if they will keep their word. They are not ashamed to violate the Minsk Agreements. They are not ashamed of their own lies."



The Deputy PM of Serbia drew attention to the fact that geographically Belarus and Serbia are located in Europe, "As European countries, in the value system of the collective West, we believe in God. We believe in the sovereignty of the soul, in traditional families. These are our values. In contrast, the so-called collective West does not believe in this and does not recognise our right. When talking about Eurasian security, it is impossible to think exclusively about the countries and governments that are geographically located on this continent. We need to think about humanity, which supports values similar to ours. The whole world must show strength and responsibility to reach a new agreement. There will be no future without this new agreement, without a new system of values that will concern each of us."

According to Aleksandar Vulin, it was a pleasure for him to have the opportunity to attend the BRICS Summit in Kazan. He added that the forum showed the fallacy of the policy of isolating Russia and the fear of China, as well as the fallacy of the policy of depriving Serbia of the opportunity to choose its own path of development.

Belarus has always advocated and continues to stand for a geopolitical framework based on equality, mutual respect, and the establishment of dialogue. Today, this approach is shared by many countries around the world — this was stated by participants at the 2nd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security.

Hungarian Foreign Minister: powerful forces working now to create hegemony of opinions

Powerful forces are working today to create a hegemony of opinions — as noted by Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó. "Almost a year ago, I had the honour to be here, and unfortunately, the world has become even more dangerous during this year," Mr. Szijjártó said. "It would not be an exaggeration to say that the end of WWII and the present moment are comparable dangers, if not more. In Hungary, we feel great anxiety about the threats and development of current conflicts. To stop this process, it is necessary to communicate; that is why it is an honour for me to be here and briefly tell you what opinion we hold about this problem."

The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade stressed that today, powerful forces are working to create a hegemony of opinion, "If you do not follow the mainstream opinion 100 percent, then your right to voice your own opinion is instantly challenged and questioned. If you are not 100 percent ready to meet the general requirements, you are immediately attacked and blamed. This clearly shows the low standard of political debate in Europe today."



If we do not go back to the principles of dialogue and mutual respect, Europe is going to be less safe and lose its future growth potential, as noted by Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó on the sidelines of the 2nd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security. "I believe, the key and most important word today is 'sovereignty'", emphasised the Hungarian FM. "We, Hungarians, maintain our sovereignty, but there are certain forces that would like us to relinquish some of it. For us, sovereignty means that we do not kowtow to third parties, and always mind our own interests. We look at the world from our own point of

view, and do not expect others to look at it from our point of view."

At the same time, Mr. Szijjártó pointed out that lack of dialogue in the EU made that space far less safe or competitive. "If we do not go back to the principles of dialogue and mutual respect, Europe is going to be less safe and lose its future growth potential," he added.

Swiss expert: dialogue in Minsk enables us to build relations and bridges between countries

Guy Mettan, the founder of the Geneva Institute for Multipolarity (GIM) based in Switzerland, noted the double-edged nature of illegal economic restrictions,



"Security issues directly affect the economies of countries. Sanctions affect both the targeted country and the sanctioning country. This also applies to European countries, particularly Germany, where the economy is in decline due to sanctions."

Assessing the Minsk negotiation platform, Mr. Mettan stressed, "Belarus is the fifth country in the world in terms of the number of sanctions imposed on it. Russia is in the first place. The fact that the dialogue is taking place here — on the Minsk platform — is very important, because it enables us to build relations and bridges between countries."

Bulgarian expert: Eurasian Security Conference focuses on preserving world order

The Bulgarian people has a strong bond with the peoples of Belarus and Russia, as pointed out by Tamas Szekeres, the international co-ordinator from Bulgaria's Vazrazhdane (Revival) Party. "Bulgaria is a Slavic Orthodox country. At the same time, Bulgaria is the ancestral home of the Slavic writing and culture. Unfortunately, the leading Bulgarian politicians are now actively collaborating with the West, but the Bulgarian people is always with its Belarusian and Russian brothers. There are some very important geopolitical reasons for that. The risk of the third world war is growing constantly. We hope it does not come to pass. We need to remember that — although Bulgaria is a NATO country — no one asked Bulgarians if they approve of such an alliance. Right now, it is vital for Bulgaria to act in defence of a fairer world, and that is why we have come to Minsk to take part in this conference. It is a very important forum. I am glad I accepted your invitation," Mr. Szekeres said. "The Conference on Eurasian Security is a significant forum focused on preserving the

world order. It aims to preserve the world where there are no wars. That is why it is crucial to join our efforts so as to maintain peace. We feel the advent of the new world where everyone is equal and respectful of one another. We support the multipolar world," added the Bulgarian politician.



Syrian Foreign Minister: we appreciate endeavours to create security system based on principles of equality

Eurasia is not only a geographical and political term, but a space where a new system of world order can be created — as noted by Syria's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Bassam Sabbagh. "Minsk is a capital that denies hegemony and defends international co-operation and regional integration. My presence reflects our desire to discuss issues related to global and regional security, our belief in the need for comprehensive dialogue and open discussions. Eurasia is not just a geographical or political term, but a space where a new system of world order can be created — the one that developing countries aspire to," Bassam Sabbagh said.



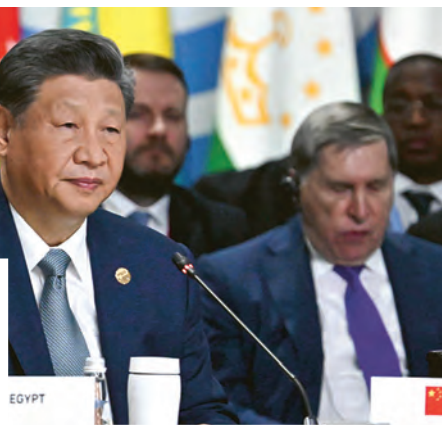
The Syrian official also drew attention to the need to create structures based on co-operation and collective solidarity that will be able to confront the challenges of the modern world. This includes, in particular, the fight against attempts to destabilise the situation and interfere in the internal affairs faced by the countries of the Eurasian region. "My country has been suffering from a terrorist war for a long time, with terrorist elements threatening to destroy its security and stability. Syria appreciates the endeavours of those countries that want to establish a new security system based on the principles of equality and the collective struggle against threats and dangers. In this situation, there will be no place for hegemony and the creation of artificial tests that have dire consequences," Bassam Sabbagh added.

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Community of the future

Belarus has officially become a BRICS partner — this is one of the main outcomes of the 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan



Representatives from nearly 40 countries, including leaders from CIS countries, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, as well as heads of executive bodies from a range of international organisations, arrived in the capital of Tatarstan and discussed — in various formats — strengthening multilateralism to promote equitable global development and security.

The high-level meeting became a significant event on the international stage. The President of Belarus was in high demand — Aleksandr Lukashenko spent two busy days at the forum, which included numerous bilateral meetings and a series of interviews with major foreign media.

The Head of State delivered a compelling speech at the BRICS Summit session held in the BRICS Plus/Outreach format. We invite readers to familiarise themselves with the full text of the President of Belarus' speech.

Dear ladies and gentlemen!
Dear Vladimir Vladimirovich!

I congratulate you on your successful chairmanship. Everything is timely and highly effective.

Over a relatively short historical period, the association has become a centre of attraction. It is with BRICS that an increasing number of countries associate their visions of a just world order — the one that ensures the equality of sovereign states regardless of their size, military, and economic power, the one that recognises the right of each state to independently determine its development ideology and pursue an independent foreign policy.

BRICS is a community of the future. In terms of its potential, it can hasten the end of the era of dominance by the collective West, which has proven unable to take responsibility for the civilised development of international relations. It is in the power of the BRICS member states to ensure that real levers of influence are transferred to the hands of the progressive global majority.

We fully share the BRICS philosophy. Belarus is coming to you with concrete ideas and projects aimed at addressing common problems of humanity. We are ready to become an active participant in the association.

Belarus is traditionally a responsible and effective partner. Its geographical location in the centre of Europe, along with its experience and achievements, allows us to confidently state that Belarus will become another important puzzle piece in

DOSSIER

BRICS Outreach is a regional co-operation format aimed at involving the neighbouring countries of the host country in BRICS activities. This format was initiated by South Africa during its presidency in 2013.

BRICS Plus is a more global format that allows for the engagement of other countries in its work. In 2017, China laid the groundwork for the BRICS Plus co-operation model by proposing to broaden the BRICS circle of friends who would interact with the association on a regular basis.

BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

The Belarusian leader held a negotiation marathon in the capital of Tatarstan. Aleksandr Lukashenko met with President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Phạm Minh Chính, and Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed Ali.

MEANWHILE

Vladimir Zelensky rejected a visit to Ukraine by UN Secretary-General António Guterres after the administrative head of the global organisation had attended the BRICS Summit in Russia's Kazan, TASS reported. The RBK-Ukraine agency, citing a source in Zelensky's office, informed that the UN Secretary-General wanted to visit Ukraine after the summit; however, this proposal was not accepted in Kiev. "Therefore, Guterres will not be here," the source added. Earlier, Zelensky reproached the global organisation for having 'some of its officials who prefer the temptations in Kazan to the content of the UN Charter'.

the emerging image of the BRICS future. Belarus' participation as a member state will expand the boundaries of the association's possibilities, making it more universal and comprehensive.

Let me highlight just a few areas where Belarus can play a significant role.

First: Security

Mutual respect, indivisible security, and guarantees of national development without confrontation or opposition are the principles on which — we believe — our new world order should be built.

Second: Sustainable development

For many countries of the global majority — as well as for Belarus — the task of building sustainable, economically self-sufficient states in the absence of large reserves of natural resources, without geographical and climatic advantages is particularly relevant. Belarus is successfully coping with this.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Journalists from foreign media could not miss out on the opportunity to engage in discussions with the Belarusian leader on the margins of the high-profile event. Aleksandr Lukashenko — on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit — gave interviews to leading media outlets from both the West and the East, including the BBC, Russian television companies VGTRK and NTV, the *Izvestia* newspaper, as well as the Chinese CGTN TV channel. The focus was on the hottest topics, such as the situation in Ukraine and the prospects for ending hostilities, the construction of a multipolar world and Belarus' interest in BRICS, the upcoming election in Belarus and the electoral campaign in the USA, the economic development of both countries members of the Union State and countering external political pressure, friendly relations with the Russian President, and the principled position of the leadership of the Russian Federation.



WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF BELARUS AND THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL DISCUSSED ON THE SIDELINES OF BRICS SUMMIT

At the very beginning of the meeting, the Head of State presented António Guterres with a sculpture of storks, "This is a symbol of peace — our storks. We, António, really need peace."

During the conversation, the Belarusian leader congratulated António Guterres on a 'wonderful feature', "Over my political life, I have seen more than one [UN] Secretary-General, but this is the first time I encounter such determination. You are the first Secretary-General who has openly and honestly stated

their position on key issues of the international agenda. You should know that your position on the Middle East issue is not just in harmony with ours — it is fully supported by the leadership of Belarus, including me." Aleksandr Lukashenko assured, "You should know that we will always stand with you, as far as peace and war are concerned. We advocate peace, peaceful negotiations, and peaceful resolution of any conflicts."

We are ready to offer our unique historical experience on how to become stronger and make others stronger, how to preserve and increase human potential in the face of sanctions pressure and attempts at colour revolutions, how to ensure high social standards and a decent quality of life, how to commercialise innovations, and rapidly master technologies.

Third: Fight against hunger, poverty, consequences of climate change

Belarus is one of the world's leading exporters of fertilisers, a wide range of food products, agricultural machinery, and technologies. We make our contribution to ensuring food security in the world. We are ready to co-operate with colleagues in the field of agricultural science on the issues related to the adaptation of crops to climate change, land reclamation, and the involvement of land in agricultural circulation.

Fourth: Humanitarian sphere

Belarusian education is highly valued worldwide: representatives from over 110 states come to our country to get higher education diplomas in the

most sought-after modern specialities.

Strong scientific schools are a key factor in the successful development of our sovereign state. Among our priorities are energy-efficient technologies, nanomaterials, new energy sources, industrial biotechnology, medicine, and the IT sector.

Belarus has developed a range of competencies in the aerospace field. We are ready to contribute to the implementation of the initiative to create satellite systems for BRICS and, subsequently, the space research consortium. We will be glad to share our expertise, research and practical results.

Dear friends!

Belarus has a high level of interaction and trusting relationships with the vast majority of countries whose representatives are present in this hall. We have a long history of successful co-operation with many of them.

We can now complement our achievements on the bilateral track with new successes in the integration format. Minsk confirms its full readiness for full-fledged membership in our organisation.

Thank you for your attention.

Based on materials of sb.by and belta.by



A man who had sought to escape from the Middle East to the European 'paradise' was lying on a mortuary table in Grodno, his body covered in bruises and impact injuries. His legs were blue. The man could no longer walk, and Poles simply threw him onto the Belarusian territory to die. The day before, Belarusian border guards had found 15 refugees from Syria, Mali, and Algeria in Grodno Region — fortunately, those were still alive.

European democracy as it is

New victims on the Polish border

By Lyudmila Gladkaya

This hypocritical grimace of the EU's migration policy towards people trying to survive at any cost no longer surprises anyone. And even if any European — be it a human rights activist or a politician... indeed, any decent person — shows outrage, they risk arranging a social death for themselves at that very moment.

...We are on the border with Poland. Just a few metres from its barbed wire fence, scraps of a backpack and a bag can be seen — all what remains of the belongings of a group of 15 refugees — 15 people without food and water. They received serious injuries, including spinal injuries, as well as gunshot wounds.



Deputy Head of Directorate at the Main Investigative Department of Belarus' Investigative Committee's Central Office Aleksandr Rudko, spokesperson of Belarus' State Border Committee Anton Bychkovsky, Head of Citizenship and Migration Department of Belarus' Interior Ministry Aleksei Begun, and Deputy Prosecutor of Grodno Region Andrei Skurat during a press conference

Polish soldiers report in their media that, on average, their army uses weapons several times per day at the border with Belarus. They claim to be defending themselves against migrants who allegedly attack them. Yet, they contradict themselves by stating that no perpetrators have been identified or prosecuted. So who is attacking?

Perhaps it is a squirrel. It is clear that the reality is much more serious and cynical. If you recall, a Polish soldier named Emil Czezczo, who fled to Belarus to ask for asylum, testified about the use of weapons by Poles back in December 2021. The details of that testimony were shared during a recent press tour for Belarusian and Russian journalists in the border region by Aleksandr Rudko, Deputy Head of Directorate for the Investigation of Crimes against Individuals and Public Safety at the Main Investigative Department of Belarus' Investigative Committee's Central Office.

Czezczo revealed that since June 2021, he, along with other servicemen and representatives of the bor-

der guard, personally participated in and witnessed organised killings — including mass executions — of refugees, as well as two European volunteers, in the border area.

He stated that the bodies were buried en masse directly in the forest. The refugees were lined up along pre-dug burial pits and shot with service weapons. He mentioned that 60–70 bodies could fit in the pit.

According to Czezczo, his fellow servicemen told him about their involvement in similar atrocities. He also said that the military killed people while drunk, as well as under the threat of using weapon against them by Polish border guards.

The defector confessed to the Investigative Committee that over 11 days in June 2021, he killed and witnessed mass executions of migrants — a total of 241 people, including women and children. Those were overseen by, seemingly, a border guard who introduced himself as Tomek. However, as Czezczo revealed to the investigation, Tomek was actually an employee of the Polish counterintelligence.

...Therefore, those 15 refugees that stayed alive were indeed lucky. Belarusian border guards found them in very poor condition; weakened and beaten, they were pleading for help and received it — in Belarus. Those who could speak told investigators that on the Polish side, they had been assaulted by men in uniform, who unleashed service dogs on them (as evidenced by bite marks, scratches, and bruises on their bodies), used pepper spray, traumatic weapon, and with threats of violence literally threw them onto the opposite side of the border through a gate intended for animals.

"I have an uncle in Germany, so I wanted to get there," a young Syrian shared his story with the reporters. "There is war in my country. The salary, even if you are an

TO THE POINT

The Main Investigative Department of Belarus' Investigative Committee is investigating three criminal cases against officials from Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania under Article 128 — crimes against humanity, Article 123, Part 1 — war propaganda, Article 139, Part 1 — murder, and Article 159, Part 3 — knowingly putting someone in danger of death under the Criminal Code.

engineer, is \$30; and if you are a simple worker — \$20. I have a family, a little sister. I need to help them." He recounted about the dogs, how Polish security forces kicked people in the head and body, threw unextinguished cigarettes in their faces, shouting: 'K*rwa, get up! You dog!'

"The victims are not all dressed for the season," said Ivan Rusakevich, a paramedic examining the refugees with his team. "Some of them are suffering from hypothermia; we have sheltered them. Some have high fevers and are shivering. There are suspicions of spinal injuries, and some have old, festering wounds. The most common injuries include bruises, contusions, and swollen hands. Some have typical marks from bites. There have been instances when we arrived just to confirm deaths. These people have a heavy fate, and got no human compassion in places where they sought it."

This is how EU allies treat even those who seemingly have grounds to be in the EU. Let me cite one case as an example: in October 2021, three Syrian citizens with residence permits (!) in Germany were expelled from Poland to Kamenets District in Belarus, along with three Iraqis who were carrying a deceased relative. The individual had diabetes, and he died because the police refused to provide insulin.

Such incidents occur along the entire border of Belarus with the EU several times per week, if not daily. This shocking information was disclosed by the official representative of Belarus' State Border Committee, Anton Bychkovsky, "These actions remain illegal and inhumane. The construction of the 'iron curtain' and total militarisation of the border area is the hallmark of Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia." The officer is right — not only migrants suffer, but also residents of the border regions.

...Mohammed Awullab, a citizen of Somalia, was brought to the Grodno University Clinic a few days ago. His legs were broken by Poles. The other injuries can be considered minor. His ward mate, Zakarias Saroman from Eritrea, has diabetes and bruised feet. The man was thrown over the fence into the Belarusian territory in a state of diabetic coma. Belarusian doctors have managed to save his life. Assistance is provided to people free of charge. According to Chief Doctor Sergei Lazarevich, the condition of these two

foreigners has been stabilised. The clinic gets about 15 such patients each month. These refugees do not speak either English or Russian; they have a special dialect. They have no documents, and communicate with the doctors using gestures.

Unfortunately, not everyone has been so lucky. Just a week ago, a dead African man was found near the Polish border, barefoot and without warm clothing, covered in blood and showing signs of beating. Nearby, Polish security forces were observing from their side. Over the past three years, 27 people have been killed at the border due to the Polish migration policy. Criminal cases are being investigated, and forensic experts are working to determine the causes of death.

The mortuary in Grodno is the place where, among others, the bodies of deceased migrants are brought. The refrigerator is full of corpses that bear signs of cold injuries and beatings. The main cause of death is hypothermia. In cases where the identity is not established, a serial number is indicated on the grave.

...Bruzgi border crossing. I remember how three years ago, Poles were attacking refugees, border guards, and journalists with water cannons here, how they threw stun grenades and used gas. It seems quiet here today, without provocations. But that is not even what I am talking about.

Here they are — the 'gardeners' from the 'blooming European garden' — all shouting about security. They claim that to ensure it, troops and military equipment are being amassed at our border, they are allowed to shoot at people, erect walls and other decidedly non-peaceful structures. However, ensuring security is a joint effort of all interested parties. Belarus is ready for co-operation. What about our neighbours?

"There is still hope for a resolution of the situation," believes the spokesperson of Belarus' State Border Committee. "Yet, this is only possible if the leadership of Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia returns to the legal framework. Solving the problem is not an overly complex task. The solution lies within the universally recognised principles and norms of international law, in the conventions and agreements on border issues between Belarus and neighbouring EU countries."



MYTH BUSTER

The Minsk Times
Wednesday
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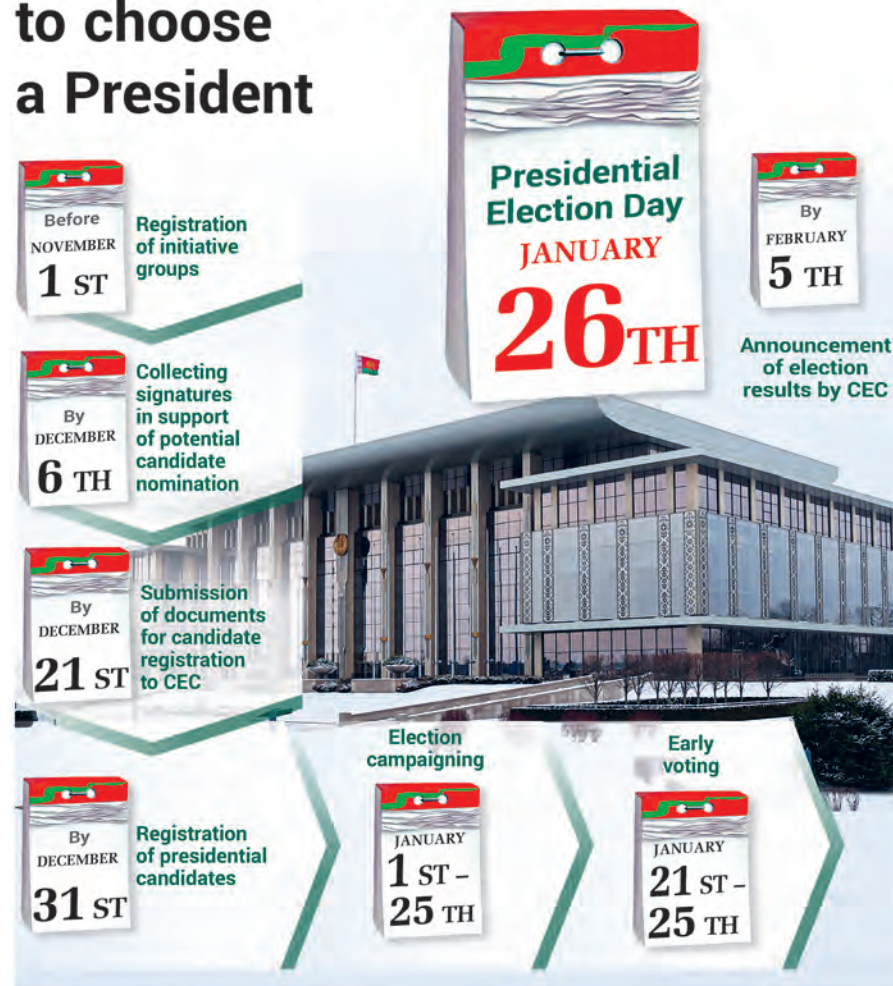
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Election 2025: it is important to know

The Presidential election in the Republic of Belarus is scheduled for January 26th, 2025 — this decision was made on October 23rd at a meeting of the House of Representatives. In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and the Electoral Code, the Central Election Commission (CEC) approved on the next day a calendar plan of organisational events for the preparation and holding of the election of Belarus' President on January 26th, 2025. Let us briefly recall its main points.



Step-by-step guide on how to choose a President



REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

- Be a natural-born citizen of the Republic of Belarus
- Be at least 40 years old
- Have the right to vote
- Permanently reside in the Republic of Belarus for at least 20 years immediately before the election
- Have no – currently or before – citizenship of a foreign state or a residence permit, or another document issued by a foreign state entitling to benefits or other advantages

Source: Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus

RIGHTS OF POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

- equal right to speak at pre-election and other meetings, in print media, on radio and on television
- government agencies, public associations, heads of organisations, bodies of territorial public self-government are obliged to facilitate the organisation of potential presidential candidates' meetings with voters
- right to present a programme of their future activities, the text of which is determined by the candidate
- have up to 30 trusted representatives

On the eve of election day, the Information Centre of the Central Election Commission will traditionally start working in order to promptly inform voters and observers about the voting process.

ELECTION FUNDS

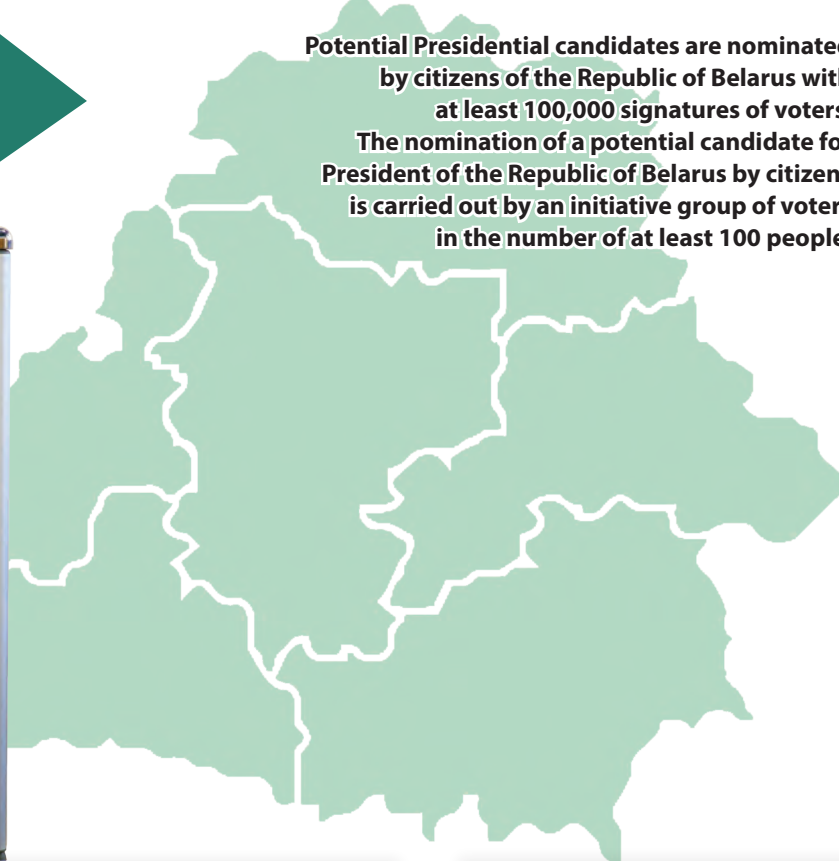
of persons nominated as potential presidential candidates, and presidential candidates may be formed at the expense of:

- 1) personal monetary funds of the person nominated as a potential presidential candidate, and a potential candidate, the amount of which cannot exceed the maximum amount of all expenses from the election fund indicated below
- 2) voluntary donations from citizens of the Republic of Belarus — no more than 30 basic amounts
- 3) voluntary donations from legal entities — no more than 60 basic amounts

The maximum amount of all expenses from the election fund of a potential presidential candidate may not exceed 10,000 basic amounts.



Potential Presidential candidates are nominated by citizens of the Republic of Belarus with at least 100,000 signatures of voters. The nomination of a potential candidate for President of the Republic of Belarus by citizens is carried out by an initiative group of voters in the number of at least 100 people.



IT IS PROHIBITED for the following to make donations to election funds:

- foreign states and organisations
- foreign citizens and stateless persons
- international organisations
- organisations whose founders (participants, owners of property) are foreign states, foreign organisations, international organisations, foreign citizens and stateless persons
- organisations that received — during the year preceding the day of donation — foreign gratuitous aid from foreign states in the person of their state bodies or diplomatic missions, interstate entities, foreign and international legal entities (organisations that are not legal entities), citizens of the Republic of Belarus permanently residing outside the Republic of Belarus or located outside the Republic of Belarus for more than 183 days during the 12 months preceding the month of provision of foreign gratuitous

aid, foreign citizens and stateless persons who do not have a permanent residence permit in the Republic of Belarus, as well as from foreign anonymous donors, if the foreign gratuitous aid received by these organisations was not returned by them or, in case of impossibility of return, was not transferred to the state income before the day of donation to election funds

- citizens of the Republic of Belarus under the age of 18
- state and local government bodies
- organisations that are fully or partially funded from the budget
- organisations registered in accordance with the established procedure less than one year before the date of donation
- charitable and religious organisations
- anonymous donors

The Central Election Commission will organise employees on duty according to the working hours of territorial commissions, including on Saturdays, with the call centre set to start working on November 1st.

PERSONAL PROTECTION

The CEC Chairman has explained why the personal data of election commission members will not be published.

Speaking about the safety of the campaign participants, Igor Karpenko noted, "We will not publish personal data of commission members. This does not mean that these people will be nameless. They will work at polling stations and will have badges. It will be possible to contact commission members in case of any questions. However, we will not print general lists."

ALEKSANDR LUKASHENKO ON WHETHER HE WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN 2025

In an interview with VGTRK (All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company) journalist Olga Skabeyeva, President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko answered the question whether he would take part in the Presidential election, the date of which has already been announced.

“Lukashenko has decided to run for a new term,” the journalist posted on her Telegram channel, accompanying her message with the dialogue that took place during the interview. Skabeyeva: Aleksandr Grigorievich, are you running for President? The date [January 26th, 2025] has been announced today. Lukashenko: The date is good. Skabeyeva: Well, I am not talking about the date. Lukashenko: Do you want me to announce this in your programme [60 Minutes]? Skabeyeva: Is it possible? Lukashenko: Well, Olya. Yes, I will run for President. Skabeyeva: We will support you then. Lukashenko: I will definitely go in this case!



Belarus' Central Election Commission has registered initiative groups to collect voter signatures in support of the nomination of Aleksandr Lukashenko, Oleg Gaidukevich, Aleksandr Khizhnyak, Olga Chemodanova, Anna Kanopatskaya, Sergei Bobrikov, Sergei Syrankov as presidential candidates.

To hold the Presidential election in the Republic of Belarus, a total of 153 territorial commissions are to be formed in the country, including 6 regional and Minsk city election commissions, 118 district, 4 city — in cities of regional subordination, 24 city — in cities of regional subordination. All in all, 1,725 representatives have been nominated to the commissions. Political parties and other public associations have nominated the biggest number of their representatives — 1,179 people. From citizens, 443 representatives have been nominated through submitting applications, while from labour collectives — 103.

CALENDAR FOR PREPARATION AND CONDUCT OF 2025 ELECTION

<p>No later than October 31st, 2024 Nomination of representatives to regional, Minsk city, district, city (in cities of regional subordination, except for cities with district division), city district commissions for presidential election.</p>		<p>From January 1st to 25th, 2025 inclusive Election campaigning.</p>
<p>No later than November 1st, 2024 Submission to the CEC of documents required for registration of the initiative group of voters to nominate a potential presidential candidate.</p>		<p>From January 10th, 2025 Submission of lists of citizens eligible to vote, for review.</p>
<p>No later than November 4th, 2024 Determination of places prohibited for signature collection campaign.</p>		<p>No later than January 15th, 2025 Distribution of electoral notifications regarding the time and place of voting, as well as information about presidential candidates.</p>
<p>No later than November 6th, 2024 Setting up of territorial commissions.</p>	<p>From November 7th, 2024 to December 6th, 2024 inclusive Collection of voters' signatures in support of presidential candidate nomination.</p>	<p>From January 21st to 25th, 2025 Early voting for the presidential elections.</p>
<p>No later than December 11th, 2024 Setting up of polling stations.</p>	<p>No later than December 20th, 2024 Nomination of representatives to precinct commissions.</p>	<p>January 26th, 2025 Presidential election day.</p>
<p>From December 7th to 21st, 2024 inclusive Submission to the CEC of documents required for the registration of presidential candidates.</p>	<p>From December 22nd to 31st, 2024 inclusive Registration of presidential candidates.</p>	<p>No later than February 5th, 2025 Announcement of election results by the CEC.</p>
		<p>No later than February 9th, 2025 Conducting a second round of voting, if necessary.</p>

The Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Republic of Belarus has published the schedule for the 2025 Presidential election

Initiative groups of potential candidates are to be registered by the CEC **before November 1st**. The collection of signatures in support of potential candidates will last **from November 7th to December 6th**. Documents required for registration can be submitted by potential candidates to the CEC on **December 7th-21st**. **On December 22nd-31st**, the CEC will perform candidate registration. Potential candidates for the office of the President will receive their registration certificates no later than two days after a successful registration. Pre-election campaigning and propaganda in support of potential candidates **start on January 1st and end on January 25th, 2025**. Early voting will take place **on January 21st-25th**, with **January 26th** being the main voting day. The CEC is to announce the election results **no later than February 5th**. The second tour will take place, if necessary, **no later than February 9th**.

NATALYA KOCHANOVA ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DATE AND THE CIVIC DUTY OF EVERY BELARUSIAN

Commenting on the announcement of the Presidential election date in Belarus, Chairperson of the Council of the Republic of Belarus' National Assembly Natalya Kochanova described the date as the most optimal and convenient, “An election, especially a Presidential election, is always an important event in the life of any country,” pointed out the Speaker of the Council of the Republic. “We understand it perfectly well that during the election, we determine the future of our country and our people, which is why conducting such significant political campaigns is always exciting. Today [October 23rd, 2024], the House of Representatives has decided during its session to hold the Presidential election in the Republic of Belarus on January 26th, 2025. All legislative norms and rules have been adhered to in line with the Constitution and the Electoral Code.”

As Natalya Kochanova underscored, it is also important that the Presidential election rounds out the cycle of electoral campaigns, setting the stage for the next five-year period, “At the beginning of 2025, we are going to determine the fate of our country for the next five years. Objectives and forecast indicators will be set for the upcoming five-year plan. Therefore, this political campaign completes the cycle of the formation of state bodies. This year, we held the Single Voting Day, when we elected deputies at all levels and formed the Belarusian People's Congress, which has a constitutional status. Thus, the parliamentarians were absolutely right when they proposed and supported this date for the election.

In these trying times, when we see the warmongering hysteria escalating at our borders, with fences being built, and endless NATO exercises taking place, as new hotspots emerge around the globe time and again, it is our duty to preserve peace and calm in our country.”

According to Natalya Kochanova, members of the Council of the Republic will do everything possible to ensure that the Presidential electoral campaign proceeds smoothly and actively from the citizens' side. Belarusians have always actively participated in elections because they understand the significance of this event, “Participation in elections is the civic responsibility of every individual, their civic duty. Our people are quite active because they understand what is at stake. At stake is the future of the country and the people. We recognise the crucial role of the first person of the state, the leader, the president — especially in these trying times, when we see the warmongering hysteria escalating at our borders, with fences being built, and endless NATO exercises taking place, as new hotspots emerge around the globe time and again, it is our duty to preserve peace and calm in our country. I am confident that every citizen of Belarus who takes their country's future seriously will fulfil their civic duty.”



IGOR SERGEYENKO ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

The Chairman of the House of Representatives of Belarus' National Assembly, Igor Sergeyenko, has noted that next year will mark an exceptionally important and significant socio-political event in Belarus — the Presidential election in the Republic of Belarus, “The Presidential election will complete the cycle of electoral campaigns under the updated Constitution. The results of the upcoming Presidential election campaign are of paramount importance for every citizen, society, and the state as a whole. It is a landmark milestone in the development of any country, a resilience test for the political system of the state. It is the Presidential election that will determine the future of Belarus and the directions of its further development for the coming years.” The Speaker of the House of Representatives has reminded that — in accordance with Article 97 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus — it is the House of Representatives that calls the Presidential election. The proposal on the date for the Presidential election was submitted to the House of Representatives by the Central Election Commission (CEC).



Based on materials of Belarus' Central Election Commission, sb.by and belta.by

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If you want peace, prepare for defence

The possession of long-range missiles enhances defensive potential



The President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“Belarus has everything it needs to defend itself and to inflict unacceptable damage on the enemy. This is the essence of our strategy.”

During a meeting with the leadership of the national security agencies, on February 20th, 2024

By Aleksandr Tikhansky, military political analyst, Candidate of Sociological Sciences

Psychological warfare

Western European experts are convinced that granting Zelensky permission to strike on Russian rear will not bring about any significant changes on the front, as Kiev lacks sufficient weaponry of this type. It is also emphasised that, in relation to the European states supplying arms to Ukraine, Russia is still demonstrating patience. It understands that Europeans are neither sovereign nor independent, and their decisions are dictated by Washington. However, when it comes to the use of long-range precision weaponry for strikes on Russian territory, the situation is quite different.

Flight missions for such targeting systems can only be conducted by military personnel from NATO countries, while intelligence data for this purpose can only be provided by satellites from the European Union or the United States. “This would mean that NATO coun-

Kiev has long adopted long-range missiles of Western manufacture, yet neither Washington nor Brussels has granted Ukraine permission to use this weaponry against targets within Russia. What should we expect in the future, and how is Belarus developing its domestic missile industry?

tries, the United States, and European nations are at war with Russia. If that is the case, then — considering the fundamental shift in the nature of this conflict — we will make the appropriate decisions based on the threats posed to us,” Russian President Vladimir Putin clearly articulated the position.

According to American analysts, Russia has pre-emptively removed many critical potential targets from the line of fire. Furthermore, CNN has underlined that Kiev has already expended a large portion of the cruise missiles supplied to it, and the West is simply unable to provide more. These missiles are being reserved for a ‘rainy day’ and for a potential global conflict, which is why NATO will not send scarce weapons to other countries.

The final decision regarding the lifting of the ban on strikes against Russia using Western missiles rests with the United States. However, it is essential to consider a very important factor in this regard. The fact is that ATACMS is a purely American ‘toy’, whereas Storm Shadow involves the US, the UK, Italy, and France. Therefore, the decision to use these missiles must be a collective one. The leadership of these countries has not granted such permission to the Kiev regime either.

Thus, all conclusions suggesting that Kiev has received the long-awaited permission are merely words.

Western propagandists are attempting to frighten Russians by claiming that Ukraine will soon be allowed to strike their territory with long-range precision weaponry. In reality these are more of intimidation tactics today.

Long-term plans

ATACMS does not pose any significant challenge as a target for air and missile defence troops. The S-300 and S-400 Triumph systems, which possess non-strategic ballistic missile defence capabilities, effectively combat aerial threats. Additionally, the S-350 Vityaz medium-range surface-to-air missile system can simultaneously engage 12 ballistic targets of the ATACMS type.

Hence the answer to the question of why Belarus needs missile armament and long-term plans for the development of its domestic defence industry. President Aleksandr Lukashenko has sent a message to our belligerent neighbours that Belarus adheres to the principle of peaceful dispute resolution. At the same time, we are ready — and, most importantly, able — to defend our national interests. The Head of State expressed the essence of our defence industry back on May 22nd, 2020, during a visit to

LIMITED QUANTITY

Before the special military operation, the United States had about a thousand ATACMS missiles, of which they have already supplied nearly a hundred to the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In this scenario, the US will be able to provide no more than 200 additional missiles. These missiles have already been used by Kiev — one of the largest ATACMS attacks occurred on June 23rd in Sevastopol, resulting in injuries of varying degrees to 124 people, including 27 children.

the experimental testing site of the research and production LLC OKB TSP, “No one is immune from war. Unfortunately, we must prepare for it in peacetime. You cannot get away from it. If you do not prepare now, God forbid, you will reap the bitter fruits later.”

We realise that the development of missile armament and the overall strengthening of the army require considerable financial resources. Nevertheless, the armed forces’ combat readiness remains one of the top priorities, and the Head of State is convinced that we cannot economise on defence.

In recent years, the missile industry in our country has been consistently associated with the Polonez multiple launch rocket system (MLRS). This weapon was first unveiled to the public in 2015. Since then, the system has been continuously improved, and at a commendable pace, as evidenced by the results of this work — its range has increased from 200 to 300 kilometres.

Flight range

The nomenclature of missile weapons produced by the Belarusian defence industry is constantly expanding. This includes the Shershen anti-tank missile system, the Sapfir grenade launcher, the Belarus-developed Buk-MB2K air defence system, also known as Citadel, and the Uragan-M MLRS that was upgraded in our country and has already successfully completed firing tests. The first domestically produced anti-aircraft guided missile intended for Citadel — its launch took place on February 19th, 2020 — even bore the signature of the Head of State.

Additionally, we have mastered the repair and modernisation of guided aircraft missiles, having equipped them with laser and infrared image seeker heads. Belarusian design engineers have devised the first small-size cruise missile Askalon, fitted with a turbojet engine capable of reaching speeds of up to 700 km/h. The practical flight range is 310km.

The focus in present-day military conflicts is increasingly shifting towards the AI confrontation, driven by the necessity to preserve human lives. Belarusian specialists are keeping their finger on the pulse in this regard.

Therefore, the implementation of the rocket and missile engineering programme is the milestone that should conclude the next cycle in the development of the entire military-industrial complex of the country. Our major task is technological sovereignty and autonomy of the Belarusian army — both in terms of technology and weaponry.



SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

The domestic Fleita MLRS, created on the basis of a light armoured vehicle, is of great interest to our army. Thanks to a modern automation system, the deployment time in the field takes no more than one minute, and preparation for firing takes around 30 seconds. The use of such systems on remotely controlled robotic complexes allows for the preservation of personnel. Another example of the latest multiple launch rocket systems is Shkval, with a calibre of 122mm. The system is equipped with guides for domestically produced munitions, as well as an automated fire control system, satellite navigation equipment, and a weather station. The time spent by combat vehicles in the launch position has been reduced, which is critical in combat conditions when equipment must change position after striking. Belarusian developers have managed to increase the power of the munitions and double their range to 40km.



The race for success, feigned optimism and forced smiles... The United States often positions itself as the ideal of freedom, almost a paradise. However, facts are stubborn things, and they show that about a quarter of Americans are deeply distressed. A significant part of them are on illegal heavy drugs while many people take antidepressants. In addition, doctors say little about the fact that under the influence of psychotropic drugs, people often die from overdose, whereas addiction to such pills is akin to nicotine or alcohol. The thing is that the illusion of a happy and carefree life sells very well and annually brings billions of dollars to pharmaceutical companies. This is what foreign publications write about this problem.

By Yulia Demeshko

An innocent pill?

In order to understand at what point the American nation got hooked on all kinds of drugs, it is worth recalling some facts from the history of the issue. At the beginning of the 20th century, morphine was used as an analgesic, heroin was used to treat cough, and cocaine was believed to cure depression, syphilis and alcoholism. It was only after a while that it became clear that all these substances cause the strongest addiction and lead to death.

A striking fact of recent history — the infamous Sackler family founded several pharmaceutical companies in the USA and began to actively market its addictive painkiller OxyContin, which was chemically related to heroin, yet the manufacturers modestly kept silent about this. According to *The New York Times*, some people were even prescribed a week-long course of such drugs after wisdom tooth extraction, when it was enough to take a simple analgesic during a very short period of time. People — without even realising it — began to get hooked on opioids en masse, which led to a real opioid epidemic in the 1990s. According to the *Euronews* investigation, about 500,000 Americans died from OxyContin overdoses at that time. Over time, the drug was banned, but this did not solve the problem. New drugs have appeared on the market, with a new composition, yet with the same basis.

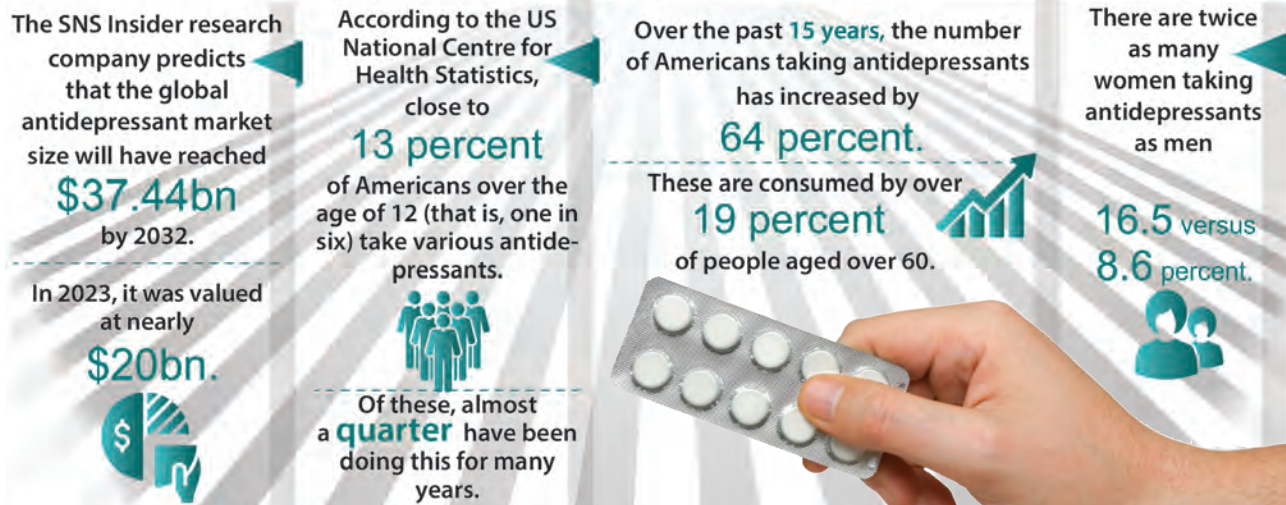
According to the BBC, for every one million Americans, approximately 50,000 doses of opioids are currently taken per day. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — the US national public health agency — in 2021 alone, about 80,000 Americans died from using a relatively new drug fentanyl, which is an opioid analgesic 50 times more potent than morphine.

At the same time, it is necessary to distinguish between opioids (which have already caused a number of loud scandals in the United States) and seemingly ordinary antidepressants. Some of them can still be bought in the USA without a prescription. But are they that harmless? The CDC has stated: in 2024, the number of US deaths involving antidepressants was on a par with those from heroin overdoses. The *Newsweek* magazine refers to a study that has revealed that uncontrolled use of antidepressants is associated with violent crimes among young people aged 15-24 years old. This is not to mention the growing number of suicides in individuals taking medications. However, even knowing that such an outcome is possible, doctors continue to prescribe these drugs to a huge number of patients.

The psychotropic epidemic claims many lives every year

THEY WANTED TO BE HAPPY

GLOOMY STATISTICS



GREAT DEPRESSION 2.0

Despite the blatantly criminal activities of US pharmaceutical companies, Big Pharma is not the only one to blame for what is happening. According to the American Institute of Public Opinion founded by George Gallup, events in the world and the country led to the fact that in 2023, the proportion of US citizens suffering from depression reached a historic high. According to the study, depression affected 17.8 percent of Americans.

However, the problem with the treatment of this disease lies much deeper. The *Al Jazeera* TV channel, with reference to *World Happiness Report*, has noted that it is young Americans who most often suffer from depression. Among the reasons are 'the cost of living, university fees, and gun crimes'. In addition, the article talked about the growing crisis of loneliness caused by the active use of social networks and the entire entertainment industry on the Internet.

This is the case of the Valium tranquiliser — not that long ago, American doctors prescribed it literally for everything — insomnia, depression, migraines, alcohol dependence and even stomach problems. They recommended taking these pills even without a specific diagnosis, including for children under 18. The argument was simple: every person is prone to anxiety from time to time and needs a quick sedative. This is how the drug became the most prescribed medicine in the USA and the first to have sales exceeding \$100m.

Pain corporations

The reason for this psychotropic problem is rooted in the US healthcare system. The USA does not have free medicine that would be funded from citizens' taxes. In contrast, it boasts a well-developed insurance mechanism, with medical services paid for by the patient or their employer.

The insurance policy for middle-class Americans covers virtually no treatment other than pills. Instead of a full course of therapy, a person buys medicine because it is easier and cheaper. This is how the pharmaceutical industry, aka Big Pharma, gets profit. Six of the world's ten major pharmaceutical concerns are concentrated in the US.

In no other country do drug manufacturers enjoy such power and influence as there.

Moreover, it is in the United States that advertising of psychotropic drugs on television is still allowed. The BBC has cited such an example. In 2015, the American Medical Association (AMA) called for a ban on antidepressant advertising, but just a few months later, during the commercial break of the final NFL game — the most expensive advertising time on TV — a minute-long video about an opioid drug was shown. It was only in 2017 that the White House recognised the fact of the opioid epidemic in the United States, and Donald Trump declared it a 'nationwide public health emergency'.

The *Guardian* has published a high-profile article about the detention of the founder of one of the companies selling opioids — curiously, a relative of those very Sacklers. His corporation's aggressive marketing consisted in the fact that the manufacturers hired doctors as speakers at educational seminars to advocate prescribing high doses of psychotropic drugs to patients who, in fact, did not need them. False experts eventually received more than \$1m for this. This is not counting the fees to 'scientists' who write articles about the harmlessness of psychotropic drugs.



My Ancient Polotsk — a panel picture presented to the President

By Anna Naumova

Let it serve as a talisman

“There is deep significance in the fact that Aleksandr Grigorievich [Lukashenko] was presented with the panel picture *My Ancient Polotsk* by the Belarusian Women’s Union,” noted Svetlana Boltrushevich, a member of the Belarusian Union of Folk Art Masters. “This land is inextricably linked with the birth of our statehood and the name of St. Euphrosyne. The heavenly patroness of Belarus, who selflessly loved people and the Motherland, laid the foundation for the women’s movement on the Belarusian land. **It took me a month and a half to make the panel picture. I wanted it to serve as a kind of talisman: with respect and kindness — from Polotsk. I am very glad that our President now has this piece of art.**”

Her hometown with more than a thousand years of history is an inexhaustible source of inspiration for Svetlana, “Strolling through the ancient yet modern city of Polotsk, you get charged with cool energy. You want to live and create! My mobile phone is always at the ready — I take photos of the beautiful things to later transfer them to a new panel picture.”

Talent by inheritance

An active Polotsk resident — a seamstress by education, a construction materials technician, and a lawyer — is not used to sitting idly by. Svetlana with her husband Aleksandr restored old furniture, made a collection of New Year toys of cotton wool for the home Christmas tree, and even got excited about the idea of mastering the Richelieu technique. According to the craftswoman, she draws so much inspiration from the world around that there are not enough hours in the day to implement all ideas. It is not sur-

We have learnt about the creative plans of Svetlana Boltrushevich, whose unique panel picture was presented to the President

With respect and kindness — from Polotsk

Five years ago, Svetlana Boltrushevich from Polotsk changed her profession from a lawyer to a creative one. Today, the original works of the deputy director at the Polotsk District Centre of Crafts and National Culture are recognised far beyond Vitebsk Region. One of them — a panel picture with views of ancient Polotsk made in the traditional patchwork technique — was presented as a gift to the Head of State at a meeting with active members of the Belarusian Women’s Union in spring. Now the craftswoman is getting ready for her first large personal exhibition.



BY THE WAY

Svetlana Boltrushevich’s personal exhibition is planned to open next year in Vitebsk. The craftswoman will present works of art created based on the panel picture given as a gift to the President. The exposition will certainly include handmade dolls, including those dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory.



prising that Svetlana Boltrushevich has a lot of victories under her belt, including at international competitions. Although she joined the Centre of Crafts and National Culture not so long ago, all her life has been associated with creativity — thanks to her grandmother Sofia Kozhemyako from the village of Yachnoye, Stolbtsy District. The seamstress, famous throughout the district, instilled in her granddaughter respect for and interest in labour, so that the girl could create beauty and cosiness with her own hands. For Svetlana Boltrushevich, her grandmother embodied a myriad of talents, “She sewed outfits for the whole district, embroidered and knitted amazingly. One of the bright episodes of my childhood is when my granny tasked me with an intricate embroidery of a peacock. Years later, I found out that the overseas bird ‘flew’ from the painted carpet ‘malyavanka’ by Belarusian primitivist painter Alena Kish. It turns out that my grandmother saw it somewhere and copied the plot.”

Doll clothes marked Svetlana’s breakthrough in sewing. Now outfits by the craftswoman can even be sent to haute couture fashion shows. When Svetlana showcased her linen collection — dresses and suits complemented with ethnic gerdan decorations [narrow braided beaded strips worn around the neck] — at the regional festival-competition *Fashion Divertissement* during the *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* International Festival of Arts, it was a real sensation! The most frequent question from the guests of the festival was: ‘Is this for sale?’

Knitting was tricky for Svetlana at first, but over time, she could easily knit chic cardigans for herself and her three children. The eldest son Ivan is an officer now and serves in a military unit in Slutsk, daughter Sofia studies at the Military Academy of Belarus, and the youngest Kolya is nine and dreams of becoming a rescuer fireman.

Grannies lead the way

Svetlana Boltrushevich considers granny dolls to be her cre-

ative feature. Around five years ago, she decided to take part in the *Zabava* traditional toy and doll competition, “I wondered if I could surprise the jury with cute granny dolls, whose image has been with us since childhood. I worked hard for several months to make a collection of my 30cm grannies. Each one had its own character and appearance: some of them wore national clothes, some followed the fashion of past years. Neat kerchiefs, aprons and belts, tiny felt boots, fur coats and shawls... How many kind, heartfelt stories are associated with these dolls! Once, a visitor at an exhibition was impressed to tears: ‘This is my granny!’”

Not long ago, Svetlana formalised her craftsmanship activity and now offers her products



for sale. Notably, granny dolls are among the most popular items. One granny unexpectedly became the star of the *Grandma Has Arrived!* Belarusian-Russian project. The craftswoman recounted that she had given the doll, named Sofia Vasilievna, to a teacher from Lyceum No. 590 in St. Petersburg. Later, touching photo greetings began to arrive in Polotsk — the teachers of the lyceum, having introduced the children to the doll granny, took to sharing memories of their own grandmothers. During the labour lessons, they even made objects for Sofia Vasilievna that always come in handy for the diligent housewife. How do you like the miniature wooden rolling pin for pies, which, as we know, are always tastier at grandma’s?

Photos from Svetlana Boltrushevich’s personal archive

New wave of talent in Belarusian biathlon



A young biathlete dubbed the 'next Domracheva' and plus one athlete in the men's team — the season has not yet begun, but Belarusian biathletes are already making headlines

Gleb Orlovsky



Yelena Kulak

By Tatiana Litvinova

The start of the new biathlon season is just around the corner. Our shooting skiers have already begun training on snow in Russia's Khanty-Mansiysk, and in mid-November, they will hold their first winter event within the International Biathlon Club League (IBCL). Before heading off to training camps, the athletes underwent testing, the results of which were quite intriguing in some aspects. "We have Darya Domracheva's testing data from her youth and in adult sports. So we make comparisons and assessments of both the nation-

al team athletes and young biathletes against these models," shared Roman Malukha, the head coach of the women's national team, during the *Sport-Kadr* TV programme. "Yelena Kulak had an excellent test regarding the development of her lactate system. However, it is important not to rush but to proceed methodically, as there is a risk that even though an athlete performs well in their youth, we might lose them in adult sports. It is crucial to do everything consistently."

Another Belarusian athlete — Gleb Orlovsky — is being gradually prepared for the transition to senior biathlon. Roman

Sinichenko, the head coach of the men's national team, has recently remarked in an interview with sport5.by when talking about his team's composition, "Our approved national team roster is complete, plus we will have the young athlete, Gleb Orlovsky, with us. We are testing him, monitoring, and trying him out."

This summer, the biathlete was already involved in training with the national team, but Roman Sinichenko says he still needs to prove himself in competitions.

So who are those who stand out from the entire reserve today? In fact, 19-year-old Yelena Kulak

and 20-year-old Gleb Orlovsky have quite a lot in common. Both hail from Minsk Region: from Logoisk and Stolbtsy districts. They underwent training in an experimental group at the Novopolotsk Olympic Reserve School and have repeatedly won the Belarusian Biathlon Federation Cup — a youth tournament modelled on the World Cup format. Interestingly, they have also stood on the podium together as the biathletes have often triumphed in mixed relays.

Yelena Kulak has more competitive experience at the international level — currently, in Belarusian-Russian competitions, due to well-known reasons. She has participated in the Commonwealth Cup and the spartakiad of the strongest, which took place in Zlatoust in February. At the end of summer, the biathlete became

the winner of the national junior championship in summer biathlon for the second consecutive time. When communicating with journalists, she admitted that she was pleased with the achievement, yet 'chasing the leaders of the national team is currently completely unrealistic. They are very experienced and strong, and competing with them is difficult'. Meanwhile, Gleb Orlovsky created a minor sensation at the same tournament. In the mass start, which Anton Smolski and Ivan Tulatin missed, the young biathlete made it onto the podium. He became the silver medallist, finishing just 18.5 seconds behind the winner — Maksim Varabei — having the same number of misses. By the way, he finished almost the same time ahead of bronze medallist Mikita Labastau.

SPORT

ARENA

Wrestling and bronze

Iryna Kurachkina has won a bronze medal at the World Wrestling Championship in non-Olympic weight divisions. Competing in the women's under 55kg category, the Belarusian defeated Russian Olga Khoroshavtseva, German Nina Hemmer, and Ukrainian Oleksandra Khomenets in the preliminary rounds. In the semifinals, Iryna lost to the future tournament winner, Japanese athlete Moe Kiyooka, but secured victory over Hungarian Ramóna Galambos in the bronze medal match. For Kurachkina, who is a silver medallist at the Tokyo Olympics, this award is her third bronze earned at global competitions, and for the Belarusian team, it is the only medal at the World Championship in Albania.

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Belarusian swimmers have claimed five medals at the third stage of the Swimming World Cup in Singapore. Ilya Shymanovich showed the second-best time in the 100m and 50m breaststroke, and finished third in the 200m breaststroke. Alina Zmushka became second in the 200m and 100m breaststroke, and closed the top three in the 50m distance. Anastasiya Shkur-dai showed the second result in the 200m backstroke. Our athletes have secured 17 awards at three stages of the World Cup.

First star

Aliaksei Protas became the first star in the NHL match between Washington and Montreal. The Belarusian playing at the centre position for the Capitals' team scored a goal in the third period, and provided an assist to Alexander Ovechkin. The match concluded with a victory for Washington, with a score of 6-3. Protas spent nearly 15 minutes on the ice and gained a +2 plus/minus rating. Overall, in nine matches this season, Aliaksei has accumulated 9 points (3 goals + 6 assists). Incidentally, Alexander Ovechkin, who scored in the match against Montreal, netted his 858th goal in the NHL.

Dance advances

In Minsk, the results of the *Become a Champion!* national dance sport competition have been announced

By Sergei Kulyagin

Over 950 performances by dance pairs over two days — the popularity of the now traditional national dance sport competition *Become a Champion!* is growing year by year. "The competition at the Minsk's Sports Palace was, as always, held at a high organisational level. Each time, they add to the development aspect. This includes the decoration of the dance floor, the selection of music, attracting new partners, and media coverage, as well as the work of the professional judging panel," noted Oleg Streletsky and Maryia Sabanskaya, who confirmed their championship title in the *Youth + Adults* Open category. "For us, stepping onto the dance floor was more of a test of our strength and another step in our preparation for the international competition that will take place at the same venue in December this year. Since our main competitors were not present — as they were competing at the same time in a tournament in Russia — we simply enjoyed the dance, and in parallel, achieved a high result."

Fans watched the participants of the latest stage of the Grand Prix series *Become a Champion!* with particular interest. The competition was fierce and the tension was at its peak, as the young athletes aimed to score the maximum number of points to qualify for the project's final. This will take place in December in the format of the international dance sport competition *Alliance Trophy*, where participants will be judged according to the sporting system.

"We plan for *Alliance Trophy* to elevate its status this year and transform into a serious international tournament," commented Anton Yuspa, Chairman of the Belarusian Dance Sports Alliance. "Negotiations are already underway with participants from Europe, as well as China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other countries."

A serious bid to participate in international competitions was made by the young dancers from the Imperiya



The official media partners of the dance tournament are the Belarus Segodnya Publishing House, the SB.BY portal, Alfa Radio, the *Nash Sport* magazine, and the *Sportivnaya Panorama* newspaper.

Yeva Bronshtein and Roman Segen — trainees from the Imperiya Dance and Sports Club in Grodno

dance club in Grodno — Roman Segen and Yeva Bronshtein. They became winners in the *Junior 1* category in the Latin programme. "We intend to keep going, train and grow professionally, so that in the near future we can become champions of Belarus in 10 dances," Roman Segen confidently stated the couple's plans.

Following the results

of the competitions in the *Children 2* Open category in Standard and Latin, victory was celebrated by Miron Yartsev and Maria Chechera (Minsk), while in the *Children 1* Open category in Latin, the winners were Yaroslav Tereshchenko and Vera Proskushkina (Gomel). In the *Junior 2* Open category, Timur Cherednichenko and Yulia Kanashevich (Minsk) rose to the top step of the podium in the Latin programme.

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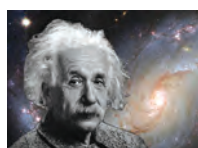
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Photo of the week

Large-scale filming of a promotional video is taking place across the country, featuring renowned drifters of international calibre from Brazil, Thailand, Japan, Australia, and the Netherlands, as well as champions from Belarus. The promo video will showcase an autonomous drift car and highlight one of the country's strengths — IT innovations and cultural landmarks.

DATES. EVENTS. PEOPLE.



On November 6th, 1919, scientists at a joint meeting of the Royal Society of London and the Royal Astronomical Society announced the confirmation of Einstein's general theory of relativity. That meeting marked the beginning of Einstein's truly worldwide fame.

November 7th, 1919 is the date when the Gomel Palace and Park Ensemble was inaugurated. It was established as an art and historical museum based on the collection of paintings, sculptures, and decorative applied arts gathered by the owners of the Gomel palace — the Paskevich princes — in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Its territory houses the Gomel Park of Culture and Recreation, the Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace, the functioning St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, the Paskevich princes' chapel-tomb, the hunting lodge, the *Winter Garden* conservatory of flowers, and a one-storey mansion.



November 8th is International Day of Radiology (IDoR) and Radiologist's Day. Both holidays are linked to an important date and

event in the history of physics and medicine. On November 8th, 1895, German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovered X-rays. Not only did this discovery introduce a new discipline in medicine, but it also represented a groundbreaking advancement in the diagnosis of a whole range of diseases and injuries, and subsequently in treatment methods.

On November 8th, 1929, the chemical-pharmaceutical factory — plant of medical preparations Belmedpreparaty, RUE — was established in Minsk, becoming the cornerstone of Belarus' pharmaceutical industry. Today, Belmedpreparaty is the largest pharmaceutical enterprise in the country, providing the population with effective, safe, and high-quality medicinal products. A significant number of the produced medications are classified as essential.



On November 8th, 1939, the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus was opened. During the Great Patriotic War, the collection that could not be timely evacuated was almost entirely lost. Only a small portion of the artworks, discovered by Soviet soldiers at the end of the war in the cities of East Prussia

and by Minsk residents in the devastated city, was returned. The museum is now the largest collection of national and foreign art in the country, housing over 30,000 exhibits that form 20 collections of art monuments from Belarus and around the world.

November 9th, 1818 is the date of birth of Ivan Turgenev (1818-1883) — a renowned Russian writer and poet, publicist, playwright, and a classic of the 19th-century Russian literature. Turgenev's creative work received high praise both in Russia and in the West, while his literary influence is felt in both Russian and foreign literature. Turgenev's body of work includes six novels, numerous short stories, novellas, articles, plays, and poems. Among his most famous works are *Mumu* and *Fathers and Sons*.



On November 10th, World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated. The popularisation of science is of vital importance for engaging citizens in society. In this regard, scientific centres and museums are not merely sources of information about scientific achievements; they provide a space where people can gain a deeper understanding of the world around them.

November 10th, 1919 marks the birth of Mikhail Kalashnikov (1919-2013) — an outstanding Soviet and Russian firearms designer, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Lieutenant General, twice Hero of Socialist Labour, Hero of the Russian Federation, and the creator of the legendary Kalashnikov assault rifle. The AK-47 he developed during the war was recognised as the invention of the 20th century and became associated with Russia in the West. Based on the AK-47, the designer created over a hundred standardised models of automatic weapons.



On November 11th, 1983, the first computer virus was written. An American student from the University of Southern California — Fred Cohen — created a programme demonstrating the possibility of infecting a computer with a virus that could replicate itself at a speed ranging from five minutes to one hour. Viruses can damage or completely destroy all files and data of a user, as well as the operating system as a whole. There are known tens of thousands of computer viruses that spread through the Internet worldwide, causing viral epidemics. The first antivirus software was developed in 1988.

