

INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times

ISSN 1991-2978



**Socio-political Weekly**

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ● NO. 13 (731) ● THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018 ● WWW.SB.BY



## As is traditional, 'spring was called' at the Yanka Kupala Museum, in Vyazynka

'The Calling of Spring' is an ancient holiday bidding farewell to the long winter and welcoming the much-anticipated spring which is accompanied by ritual spring songs and circle dances



# Human grief leaves no one indifferent

**Belarus, in solidarity with Russia where national mourning was declared on March 28th in connection with the tragedy in Kemerovo, lowered state flags and cancelled entertainment programmes on the TV. All day people brought flowers to the Russian Embassy in Minsk, to the Consulate General of Russia in Brest and the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Gomel...**

Flowers, burning candles and soft toys that no one will play with... The area of the Russian Embassy in Minsk has turned into a memorial to the Kemerovo tragedy. People of all different ages and walks of life

came — including schoolchildren and politicians. This grief has no boundaries; it painfully touched everyone's heart.

People should not die tragically — especially those who are at the beginning of their lives. This terrible injustice simply tears into the souls of thousands of people around the world. The catastrophe burns the flame of personal tragedy among Belarusians.

“When you have children, it is impossible to ignore such a misfortune,” we talk to Yulia near the Embassy; she has come with her small daughter. “Realising what happened in Kemerovo, I remembered that it was 75 years since the Khatyn tragedy. That was war but now we live

in peace, yet still people die in fires. Sadly, this tragedy will never end for the parents. I cannot imagine how people who've lost families in the fire will live. God grant them strength.”

Among those who came to the Embassy there were many schoolchildren, as their peers died in Kemerovo. Minsk school pupil Polina Palchonok, says that joining the common grief with adults is the smallest thing that Belarusian children can do. “What can you feel in this situation? It's fear. It is very sad that such a thing could happen in principle. Condolences to those who lost their children and whose relatives have been affected,” she added.

On laying flowers, Russian

Oksana Regeda cannot hold back tears. Her little daughter does not yet understand why her mother cries when there are so many flowers and soft toys around. Oksana has moved to Minsk with her family from Volgograd, but they often return to their homeland. “All countries are offering support to the Russians — despite some political issues. Everyone understands that these are children, who were beginning their lives. Of course, I cannot but project this situation onto my own family and children. It's so scary that it's impossible to find words to talk about it. The events in Kemerovo are becoming a personal grief which will never be forgotten.”

## Condolences from the President of Belarus

**President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, expressed condolences to the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, over the victims of the fire in the shopping mall in Kemerovo**

“It's with deep pain and sorrow that the Republic of Belarus has learned the news about the fire in the shopping mall in Kemerovo which claimed the lives of many people, including children. It's a huge loss for the families of the victims and for the whole of Russia. We express our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wish a speedy recovery to the injured”, reads the message of condolences sent to Vladimir Putin.

On behalf of the Belarusian people and himself, Alexander Lukashenko offered condolences to the Russian President and fraternal Russian people.



Flowers at the Russian Embassy in Minsk

## Sincere expressions of grief and support

**Brest residents carried flowers to the Russian Consulate and lit candles in a sign of respect for the victims in Kemerovo**

A Book of Condolence was opened in the General Consulate of Russia in connection with the tragedy in this Siberian city. The Chairman of the Brest Regional Executive Committee, Anatoly Lis, was one of the first to leave a record. He expressed deep condolences from the residents of the region and from himself personally to the families and relatives of those who died because of the fire in the shopping mall in Kemerovo and wished a speedy recovery to those who suffered. “This is a tragedy not only for Russia but also for Belarus,” noted the Governor. “It's a common pain and we need to survive it. As the presidents of our states said, we need to draw conclusions to prevent this being repeated.”

The General Consul of Russia, Igor Konyakin, said flowers are being brought to the diplomatic representation

office and people call and write letters of sympathy. “We see that Belarusians have seen our pain as their own. The fact that people bring lots of flowers and toys and lit candles speaks of how people here support Russia. We are sincerely grateful to all residents of the city, region and country for the solidarity expressed by them during these days of tragedy,” said the diplomat. Answering the call of their hearts, representatives of public organisations, diplomatic representation offices and residents of the city come to express words of sympathy and support to Russians. A border troop veteran, Nikolay Tikunov, said that in the years of the Great Patriotic War, when his father was at the front, his mother with three elder brothers was in Kemerovo. “The residents of Kemerovo provided support and aid and their family survived, so I'd like to express the sincerest gratitude for what they have done and offer words of condolence. I'm mourning with them,” said the veteran.

## Doing everything to prevent such terrible tragedies in the future

**Belarus' Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov extends his condolences to the Russians over the tragedy in Kemerovo**

“Belarus is mourning the fire victims in Kemerovo with you,” said Andrei Kobyakov at the 10th meeting of the Belarus-St. Petersburg Business Co-operation Council in St. Petersburg. “It's a terrible tragedy in which many children perished. We express our heartfelt condolences to all the people who lost their loved ones,” added the Belarusian PM.

Mr. Kobyakov also stated that the President had ordered checks on the safety of all public places in Belarus, including shopping malls, multi-purpose complexes and other facilities. “We need to do our best to avoid such tragedies in the future,” stressed the Prime Minister.

The Governor of St. Petersburg, Georgy Poltavchenko, thanked Belarus for its support. “We greatly appreciate such a sincere attitude from Belarus,” he said.

## With deep pain in our hearts

**Belarusians together with the Russian people suffer grief in connection with the tragedy in Kemerovo, the Head of the Presidential Administration, Natalia Kochanova, told journalists as she visited the Russian Embassy in Minsk to commemorate those who died because of the tragedy in Kemerovo**

“Russians are brotherly people for us. Sorrow over the awful tragedy that has changed the lives of Kemerovo citizens is echoed in the hearts of our people. Today our thoughts are with the Russians. We are mourning with you,” said Natalia Kochanova.

The Head of State ordered flags to be flown at half-mast and entertainment programmes cancelled in solidarity with Russia, which was observing a day of national mourning for the Kemerovo fire victims on March 28th.

“We mourn with the people of Russia. Belarusians and Russians are the friendliest people. We are together in joy and grief,” noted the Head of the Presidential Administration.

Ms. Kochanova said that it's impossible to express one's own feelings. “It's hard both to speak and keep silent about it. I believe that every Belarusian family is thinking about the tragedy that has happened in Russia, our neighbouring country. We understand that it is simply impossible to find words of solace for the families and friends of the victims. But it is easier to deal with this grief together,” she believes.





Emergency Ministry training takes place in Brest's shopping centres

# Security above all

The Interior Ministry and the Emergency Ministry have been ordered to examine all public places to ensure their security. Particular attention is being paid to mass events.

By Vladimir Velikhov

The ministries constantly monitor and manage mass events as a daily routine task. Patrol officers and specialists work at railway stations, airports, stadiums and other sports facilities, visit nightclubs, cinemas, shopping and entertainment centres. There are many places where people come to have a good time. To maintain it and allow people to have a quiet life is one of the most important tasks of a social state. The Kemerovo tragedy is a terrible reminder that vigilance must be maintained.

On meeting the Interior Minister Igor Shunevich, the President of Belarus said openly, "Why does this bother me so much? Because, last year, we gave great freedom to entrepreneurship — enabling these people to work, create and bring benefit to the state. At the same time, we warned them that on a legal level they bear personal



responsibility. Explosions or fires cannot be forgiven and if, God forbid, people die, they'll be responsible. God forbid, if anything like the Kemerovo disaster should happen in our country, the Emergency Ministry will not be able to cope alone in such a short time. I have both a request and an order to you: to punish in the most severe way any shortcomings that could lead to serious consequences for people and, unacceptably, for children."

We must once again inspect

all premises to ensure the security of citizens. Alexander Lukashenko focussed the attention of the Interior Ministry and the Emergency Ministry on all buildings — up to residential houses. "Examine them so that we are prepared if something happens," he said.

Mr. Shunevich reported that, before his meeting with the President, he talked to the Emergency Minister to explain the way the two ministries should work together and check significant public places — es-

pecially entertainment venues where there are potential threats to life. They'll act in line with the principle maintaining freedom is good, but it must be backed by certain commitments — including the compliance with security requirements at sites.

The discussion was conducted in the context of the general trends of ensuring internal order in the country. Mr. Shunevich reported on the continuation of the positive trends of 2017. The task of the Interior Ministry is to preserve such dynamics. While informing journalists about the task set by the President, Mr. Shunevich added, "I do not think that people are irresponsible about security issues in Belarus now and I believe that its level in our country is much higher than in neighbouring states. However, I also firmly believe that there is never too much safety and there are regulations and rules that we all must observe."

# Partners always know what to discuss

By Alexey Fedosov

Almost a day after the telephone conversation with Aleksandar Vučić, Alexander Lukashenko welcomed the Special Envoy of the President of Serbia to Minsk

Belarusians have a very warm attitude towards their Serbian brothers, noted Alexander Lukashenko as he met the Special Envoy of the President of Serbia, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister of Serbia Nebojša Stefanović.

"There is no need for introductory words because we maintain excellent relations

with your country. We know each other well — Serbia and Belarus. Our nations are very friendly. We've always maintained very kind relations. I think that whilst in Minsk, you will see that we have a very warm attitude towards our Serbian brothers," noted Mr. Lukashenko.

The President remarked that Belarus knows what problems Serbia faces these days. "I think you too know well the issues we have to deal with. You are not having it easy, neither are we. But we manage and will continue because we are Slavs, we are ancient peoples and know how to overcome dif-



Nebojša Stefanović

ficulties together," emphasised the Head of State.

Alexander Lukashenko and Nebojša Stefanović discussed in detail topical aspects of Belarus-Serbia co-operation and ways of advancing interstate relations.

After his meeting with the President of Belarus, Alexander

Lukashenko, the Special Envoy of the President of Serbia, Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister of Serbia, Nebojša Stefanović, told journalists about the purpose of the meeting with the Belarusian leader and details of the conversation.

"I conveyed President Vučić's personal invitation to visit Serbia within the next few months to President Lukashenko. It will be a very important visit for us. We will welcome Alexander Lukashenko as a special guest. During this visit we would like to touch upon as many economic and political topics as possible," said Mr. Stefanović.

## Telephone conversation

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has had a telephone conversation with the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko

The heads of state discussed the organisation of the Days of Ukrainian Culture in Belarus scheduled for July 7th-20th. The event will include concerts of Ukrainian singers and bands at the Kupalie holiday (Alexandriya Gathers Friends) and the Slavianski Bazaar International Festival of Arts.

Alexander Lukashenko and Petro Poroshenko also discussed preparations for the first Forum of Regions of Belarus and Ukraine planned to take place in Gomel in October 2018.

Moreover, they discussed the development of trade-economic co-operation and interaction in various fields, and the implementation of high-level agreements discussed during mutual visits of the leaders of the two countries.

## Keeping in touch with Belgrade

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, had a telephone conversation with the President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić, on March 28th

The heads of state discussed the current state of affairs and prospects for bilateral relations between Belarus and Serbia, including ways to increase bilateral trade. The two sides discussed a common approach in politics to issues on the regional and international agenda. Aleksandar Vučić informed the Belarusian Head of State about the details of the conflict in Kosovo which took place on March 26th.

The Serbian President invited Alexander Lukashenko to pay an official visit to Serbia. The Belarusian President accepted the invitation. Concrete details for the visit will be harmonised through diplomatic channels.



# Awards find their heroes

**Alexander Lukashenko gave awards to winners of the Olympics and Paralympics in PyeongChang. The solemn ceremony at the Palace of Independence also gave rise to a general discussion about winter sports.**

By Vasily Kharitonov

These state awards are unique — at least, those handed to biathletes Darya Domracheva, Dinara Alimbekova, Irina Krivko and Nadezhda Skardino: the ladies received the ‘Personal Bravery’ medal. This is actually a military award and, as Mr. Lukashenko admitted, some military men tried to dissuade him from the decision — saying that this is not exactly the right cause. However, the President was determined, replying, “When you show such courage and glorify the country, I will give you a similar award.”

The President sincerely thanked those present at the Palace for their inspiring and successful performances. “Really courageous people are gathered in this hall. At the Winter Games, we witnessed a fierce struggle — not only in stadiums but also in the judges’ lobby and even in interstate relations. The Olympic gold in the women’s relay race was a surprise for some, but not for us and our fans,” he said.

A detailed discussion on the future of winter sports is still to be organised and, as the President noted, a special meeting will be held soon. However, the ceremony was a good opportunity to begin such discussions. Mr. Lukashenko said encouraging words to our brilliant Darya



During the state awards ceremony for the winners and medallists of the Games in PyeongChang

Domracheva, highlighting her excellent post-Olympic performances at the World Cup stages. These successes are also a reason for serious reflection. “Being personally interested in all our athletes, I must tell you that those were special victories,” Mr. Lukashenko added.

Later, during the athletes’ talk with the President after the awarding ceremony, Darya described what helped her on her path to victory, “Representing the country at the Olympic Games is a huge responsibility. Some might think that Olympics are just a word, but when I was waiting for the final stage of the relay race in Korea, I realised the depth of these words. I felt the whole country behind me observing, believing and expecting a result. I want to thank fate

that the expectations of millions of fans were transformed into a victorious ‘Hurray!’ We won for Belarus. We won for our native country. We are grateful to our country for the opportunity to win for it.”

Paralympic athletes are also true heroes. The President admitted that he watched all the championships for the first time and deeply admired the dedication and determination of our sportsmen. “You are great! I could hardly tear myself away from the screen while watching all your races. I was cheering for you no less than for our Olympians. They say there are limited opportunities for disabled people, but I would not say so... You performed so powerfully that it’s hard to imagine that a person who is able bodied would have done the same,”

Mr. Lukashenko said.

A holder of three gold and one bronze medals — Svetlana Sakhonenko — sees the key to success in not being afraid to dream and stay consistent while seeking this goal. “In my childhood, I dreamed a lot. During my graduation ball, I was dreaming of becoming a famous athlete. In my sixth year at school, I told my parents: you’ll see, I will still stand next to our President and he will shake my hand. And here I am... I understand that dreams come true. Let them come true for every athlete.”

Diverse aspects were discussed with the President. He asked sportsmen about the work of servicemen and the quality of preparation. The athletes had many questions in this area. They also discussed the importance of

proper nutrition. Training of present and future Olympians was another issue. Special facilities are now being prepared where athletes will be able to train on snow all year round. Moreover, this is an economically justified project, as up to now it’s been necessary to pay for training outside Belarus. In addition, these facilities will be open not only to professionals but also amateurs. Centres for ski and biathlon training have been established in almost every region and all that remains is to equip them. Our own production of equipment has already been planned, to master the production of skis in Telekhany and ski boots at Marko JSC. Of course, these are not likely to be immediately premium-class products, but they will be suitable for training at primary and secondary levels.

The President shared the news, “We are negotiating with Fischer and the company is ready to relocate its production from Ukraine to Belarus — since supplies from Ukraine to Russia are impossible. It is better for them to work here... If they bring production here, skis for training of athletes at the highest level will be produced.”

While the infrastructure is developing, the demand is growing. The Paralympic schools will receive no less attention than Olympic ones. These people have proven that they can defend the honour of the country on an equal footing — which is great. “This is the ideology of our state. When Domracheva or Skardino embrace challenges, then all the nation gasps. This is typical of the attitude of our nation.” Mr. Lukashenko concluded.

## Red caviar supplemented with black

By Vladimir Khromov

**President of Belarus was introduced to the technology of black caviar and sturgeon production during his working trip to Minsk Region’s Dzerzhinsk District**

The Head of State visited the aquaculture farm — Admiral Husso — of the DG-Tsentr JSC where he was informed about the progress of a project to produce valuable fish in Belarus. The sturgeon hatchery in a closed water supply system opened in Fanipol in the Dzerzhinsk District in early 2016 and its main goal was to produce natural black caviar by the traditional bottom-hole method without additional processing and with a minimum amount of salt. The company also produces additional products from sturgeon and, in 2017, its exports included Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Slovakia, Latvia, Italy and Germany. The President was told in detail about the technological processes and nuances of growing fish and collecting caviar, the

work of the enterprise and plans to expand production. He also personally tasted some of the products and appreciated their quality.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus, Mikhail Rusy, following the visit of the Head of State to the company, it was decided to develop aquaculture farms in other parts of the country on a similar basis. He noted that it was several years ago that the President issued instructions to establish the production of valuable fish species in Belarus. “We have set up eight of them now, including four in the Mogilev Region,” said Mr. Rusy.

During his visit to the enterprise, Mr. Lukashenko discussed the possibility of expanding the scale of production and the range of products. In particular, the establishment of several similar facilities to produce red caviar are likely.

“Overall, Belarus produces 600 tonnes of red caviar. As regards black caviar, we need to reach a volume of production of up to 3 tonnes in the next few



Sturgeon grown in Belarus

years,” Mr. Rusy said. “This will satisfy our domestic demand and more importantly, ensure growing exports.”

The Government and local authorities have been instructed to select water reservoirs and unused capacities to meet the needs of further development of fish farming. “We will prepare a small programme on the subject in the next 2-3 months,” Mr. Rusy added. During the President’s visit to the company, the issue of leasing reservoirs for breeding and fishing was discussed. Mr. Lukashenko emphasised that, in doing so, there

should be no impact for people in areas where they swim and spend leisure time.

A few days earlier, Mr. Lukashenko also visited the dairy-commodity Vyazanka complex which is a part of the Dzerzhinsky agricultural company. The President familiarised himself with the application of modern high-performance technologies in milk production. Plans to construct a dairy complex were announced several years ago and recently, the Head of State was presented with a completed project.

He was told about the auto-

mation of many processes which have made it possible to improve the system of milk production on an industrial basis. The company’s laboratory helps control and guarantee the high quality of products: as a result, all milk sold by the complex in 2017 and since early 2018 has had a higher grading. According to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Leonid Zayats, new technologies make it possible to significantly improve the living conditions of animals and prevent diseases. In addition, attractive conditions are created for the work of specialists in rural areas.

Mr. Lukashenko familiarised himself with the work of the complex in detail and showed great appreciation for it. He also noted its reasonable cost which totalled approximately \$6.5m. As expected, the payback period will be 6 years. During the President’s working trip, issues of the socio-economic development of the agro-industrial complex as a whole, Dzerzhinsk District, the Minsk Region and the work of the livestock sector was the focus of attention.





# Revival among foreign investors is apparent

Belarus seeing ever-increasing interest from Chinese transnational corporations

By Vladimir Mikhailov

This year, experts expect direct investments from China, into the Belarusian economy, to grow significantly: not just in the form of loans but in 'real' investments. Which projects are to the fore?

## Modest growth

A recent report by the Centre for Integration Studies, run by the Eurasian Development Bank, reads that Asian investors, particularly those from China, are showing enhanced interest in Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) members. This

year, significant growth of direct injections is expected into Russia and other EAEU states. Experts believe that Belarus is of increased interest to Chinese transnational corporations. In 2016, following injections into machine building and transport, FDI from China more than doubled, to exceed \$0.5 billion.

The figures are modest, especially taking into account that the same year saw less than \$100,000 of direct investments from China. However, injections are increasing.

Geely, Zoomlion and Weichai projects are attracting Chinese money into our

country for coming years. At present, we're primarily using loans given by China, which are bound with agreements to purchase Chinese technologies and equipment. Loan sums many times exceed those of investments: worth billions of US Dollars.

'In its relations with the People's Republic of China, Belarus is gradually moving from standard forms of credit towards new mechanisms: of realising joint projects and developing investment co-operation via direct investments,' reads the Belarusian Embassy to China's website. Recent

years have seen the establishment of the joint Belarusian-Chinese investment fund — set up by the country's largest bank — Belarusbank, and China's CITIC Construction Co., Ltd. Moreover, during the state visit of President Alexander Lukashenko to China, a memorandum was signed between the Belarusian Government and EximBank of China, to promote direct investments by Chinese companies.

## From industry to food

In the coming years, we expect a considerable inflow of Chinese investments into the

Great Stone Industrial Park, via mass construction of facilities by already registered Park residents and new residents.

In the last three years, China has been expanding investments into our agro-industrial complex, though volumes of injections are modest, as yet. Meanwhile, China's food needs are growing; in December, our country agreed to supply food products worth over \$100 million through 2018. We are the thirteenth country and the first CIS state to be allowed to supply beef to the Chinese market, which is the world's largest importer of this product.

# Geely is gaining momentum

The country has launched a programme of preferential loans for the purchase of Geely cars. The conditions are very attractive. Moreover, new models of the Belarusian model will go on sale soon. Their cost will be lower than Geely's flagship model — the Atlas NL3, as promised the First Deputy Industry Minister and BelGee Plant's Acting General Director, Gennady Svidersky.

By Oleg Bogomazov

"Since the start of production, 303 Geely Atlas NL3 cars have been sold in Belarus. In Russia, 500 cars have been shipped and we now have an order for two and a half thousand vehicles. We are studying the possibility of starting sales in Kazakhstan and there are also plans for Serbia," he explains.

However, absolute figures are not the focus for the company now: its philosophy is different. "We are not pursuing the level of sales or volumes and we are not going to fight with competitors on price.

It is much more important to create conditions for our future development. Our main task today is the production of vehicles that will be competitive in the world market. If we have such cars, then we'll definitely be able to occupy a niche," Mr. Svidersky adds.

This is likely to be promoted by the programme of concessional lending for the purchase of Geely cars. Just 10 percent of the cost will secure a purchase. The maximum period to repay the loan is seven years. Initially, a reduced rate of 1.9 percent per annum is applied for buyers. This percentage can be offered for two or



Geely showroom in Minsk

three years, depending on the amount of the down payment (if over 10 percent is paid, then the loan lasts for two years, if 25 percent — for 3 years).

At present, the plant is testing its sedan FE3. It is planned to be produced in the budget price category. The cost of Geely's

basic version — the Atlas (with two-litre engine, mechanical transmission and forward drive — is \$17,000 or more. The high-specification model — with 4-wheel drive, automatic transmission and a 2.4-litre engine in the Luxury package — costs about \$25,000.





# Ancient pages survive through the centuries

Unique documents from 16th-17th century go on show in Grodno, revealing history of St. Bridget Roman Catholic Church

By Vladimir Kozyrev

Almost 300 archive pages — many of which were badly damaged and are now almost crumbling — have found new life, thanks to the work of Bialystok's Podlasie Museum. The restoration is part of a cross-border co-operation programme between Belarus and Poland.

In 1965, these valuable documents were sent to Grodno History and Archaeology Museum by Bridget Roman Catholic Church. The Museum's Director, Yuri Kiturko, tells us, "Our Polish colleagues from Podlasie Museum in Bialystok — which is twinned with Grodno — received corresponding grants and offered their as-



sistance in restoration. They spent two years on this painstaking work."

Important documents have been processed using special methods, including disinfection against mould. Three hundred archival pages have been restored and the work continues. In autumn, the restored monastic charters, decrees and prayers, as

well as the inventory and valuation of property of Bridget Roman Catholic Church (built in 1635) will undergo scientific inventory. In addition, Grodno will host a scientific-practical conference, and some of the restored archives will go on display at an exhibition entitled *Sacral Heritage of the Nieman Region*.

Roman Catholic priest Antony Gremza notes, "Foreign museums, including in Belgium and the Netherlands, have repeatedly tried to acquire restored documents from the Middle Ages, but our archivists have done everything possible to keep them at home. Eventually, they've acquired new life. Apart from being a rich historical heritage, they represent an invaluable source of knowledge."

## Palestinian classical poet's verse in Belarusian language

By Olga Korneeva

**Verse by classical Palestinian poet, Mahmoud Darwish, read at Minsk's House of Friendship, in Belarusian**

The evening, dedicated to the Day of Palestinian Culture, was organised by the Belarus-Palestine Society, together with the Palestinian Embassy to Minsk. According to Nina Ivanova, the Chair of the Belarusian Society of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries, the meeting was primarily dedicated to the creativity of Mahmoud Darwish, a 'forefather' of Palestinian national culture and world famous poet. His works reveal the life, customs and traditions of Palestine, with his date of birth — March 13th — named as the Day of Palestinian Culture.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Palestine to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Khaled Arikat, underlines that the roots of the country's cultural legacy reach back into history. The work of Palestinian poets reflects the country's difficult history. Mahmoud Darwish's verse soulfully reflects the hardships of the nation and its aspirations for peace.

Belarusian poet Nikolay Metlitsky introduced the Belarusian-language collection, released in Minsk, which celebrates the creativity of Mahmoud Darwish, as well as that of other poets connected with Palestine.

# Healthcare issues are on global scale

**World Health Day has been celebrated annually on April 7th, since 1950: on that day, in 1948, the World Health Organisation Charter came into force**

Each annual World Health Day has a theme, and involves various promotional activities: on April 7th and afterwards. In 2018, attention is being focused on the need for universal health care. The high cost of health services is a global problem, with citizens in the richer countries of Europe, America and parts of Asia spending at least 10 percent of their household budget on health services. Belarus continues to provide universal health care, free of charge, while constantly improving the care being offered, thanks to medical advances. Maternal and infant mortality has fallen, and treatments for cardiovascular and oncological diseases rival any worldwide.

The WHO reports that at least half of the world's population has no access to basic health services, with about 100 million people finding themselves in extreme poverty, living on no more than \$1.90 per day, and being required to pay for health services from their own pocket.



**World Health Day goals**

- Universal health coverage, giving everyone access to quality health care, as needed, without experiencing financial difficulty.
- No one should have to make a choice between good health and other essential needs, health care being vital to individual and national well-being.

To ensure truly universal health services, the system needs to focus on people, rather than on illnesses or in-

**Important to take care of health**

stitutions. The word 'universal' means 'for all': without discrimination, or exception. Everyone, wherever they are, has the right to receive necessary health services, without falling into poverty.

Structured dialogue is essential to develop the required measures. Ministries need to implement policies to improve health, while promoting economic growth and social development. Parliamentary committees

and groups dealing with health issues need to act as the link between policy-makers and those implementing campaigns. Meanwhile, professional associations need to protect the well-being of workers.

In addressing individuals, the WHO calls for us to:

- give feedback on our needs, sharing opinions and expectations.
- communicate in the media cases that have affected our communities or us, as individuals.
- organise events, such as discussion forums, debates, concerts, marches and interviews, in order to provide people with opportunities to interact with representatives on health issues, through the media and social networks.

Access to basic, quality health care and financial protection not only contributes to improved health and life expectancy but helps protect countries against epidemics, reducing poverty and hunger, and creating jobs, economic growth and gender equality. The nation's health and prosperity depends on each of us.

**By Tatiana Zhukova,**  
doctor of highest category and  
Candidate of Medical Sciences

Advice from Dr. Zhukova



# Even prominent Pushkin visited this place twice

According to one of the versions, the town of Chechersk, in the Gomel Region, thought to have received its name from 'chechera' or 'tetora' — standing for 'a blackcock' (a bird once very common in local forests)

By Boris Orekhov

## Visiting Cro-Magnons

Many centuries ago, mammoth herds occupied the land and our ancestors hunted them. Men then began to settle on Belarusian territory, with a primitive settlement thought to have been established near the village of Berdyzh, five times older than the Egyptian pyramids. It's believed that Cro-Magnons lived there, 26,000 years ago.

The site was discovered only in the early 20th century, when villagers were digging over a plot to plant vegetables and came across bizarre stones. They showed the finds to a local teacher and, very soon, an archaeological expedition had arrived, discovering the remains of three huts from the Upper Paleolithic Age. Stone scrapers, copy tips, knives and primitive utensils were found, in addition to the bones of reindeer, woolly rhinoceroses and mammoths. A monument is to be erected, devoted to this ancient animal, on the site.

## Finding oak tree in town hall

Throughout its history, Chechersk has been part of the Kievan Rus, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Rzecz Pospolita and the Russian Empire. It flourished under Count Zakhary Chernyshev. Empress Yekaterina the Great presented



Bust of town's founder, Duke Chernyshev



Checherskaya Lyutnya instrumental band

the town to her commander, who later became governor-general of Moscow. As a fan of St. Petersburg, Chernyshev wanted to make a small copy of the city and, accordingly, constructed many unique buildings. The main attraction is the town hall, which has five towers. Depending on the angle at which you stand, you can see classical, Gothic and Oriental elements. In the centre of the building is a huge column: the trunk of a great oak, upon which the building was constructed. A winding wooden staircase leads to a viewing platform, offering a panorama of the town, from a height of 30m. A watchman would stand guard there, informing city residents of the time of day, with the help of chimes (sadly destroyed by fire in the last century).

## Pray to miraculous image

The local Transfiguration Church is another wonderful monument. Built in the form of a rotunda (similar to the Roman Pantheon), it has a diameter and height of 15 metres. The design is rare in Belarus. Yekaterina II — who came in 1783 for the consecration of the church — prayed in front of its icons. The time-darkened

holy images, created by Italian masters, remain today.

People from all over Belarus come to light a candle before the miraculous icon of Ioann Kormyansky. Fifteen years ago, a woman brought it, with blood dripping, from a village she'd visited to venerate the relics of Ioann Kormyansky. After much prayer, the icon ceased bleeding and became fragrant. Experts have confirmed its uniqueness and it has been recognised as a local shrine of the Gomel Diocese.

## Bowing to heroes

During the Great Patriotic War, a major part of the area was controlled by partisans. *Komsomolskaya Pravda* journalist Lilia Karastoyanova is buried in the heart of the town, on Zamkovaya Hill. The daughter of Bulgarian Communists came to the USSR with her mother in 1927. In late 1942, she was sent to the Chernigov-Volyn partisan detachment. When she had her documents registered in Moscow, an NKVD officer smiled, calling her 'Partisan Lilia'. She began calling herself Lena Karastoyanova, working as a correspondent for *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. This name became her military pseudonym. She wrote pamphlets and articles for a par-

tisan newspaper, helped the wounded and died heroically in a battle near the village of Budishche, when a bullet pierced her heart. For her bravery, she was posthumously awarded the Order of the Great Patriotic War.

## Walking with Pushkin

Chechersk is part of the popular Golden Ring of Gomel tourist route, having been visited not only by Yekaterina the Great but by other royal representatives, including Tsar Alexander II and Tsar Nikolay I. Its economic and legal affairs were overseen by courtier and poet Gavriil Derzhavin, and Alexander Pushkin visited the town twice: during his travels to the south, in 1820 and 1824. He's thought to have stayed in the summer house of the Chernyshev dukes, which remains well-preserved.



The most unusual town hall in Belarus, with towers made of wood but looking like stone



Transfiguration Church, built in 1783





# Carlos Alvarado wins presidential elections

Carlos Alvarado Quesada promises ‘government for everybody’ after run-off where he trounced conservative who threatened to wind back tolerance

The centre-left’s Carlos Alvarado Quesada has decisively defeated a conservative Protestant singer in Costa Rica’s presidential runoff election by promising to allow gay marriage, protecting the country’s reputation for tolerance.

A former minister and fiction writer, Alvarado Quesada, 38, had 61 percent of the vote with results in from 95 percent of poll-

ing stations, a far bigger lead than predicted by opinion polls that foresaw a tight race.

“My commitment is to a government for everybody, in equality and liberty for a more prosperous future,” he told thousands of cheering supporters blowing horns and waving Costa Rica’s red, white and blue flag.

His rival, Fabricio Alvarado Muñoz, a 43-year-old former TV

journalist known for religious dance songs, quickly conceded, sinking to his knees, arms raised, in front of supporters.

“We didn’t win the election,” he said, adding that he had congratulated his opponent in a telephone call and, in another sign of Costa Rica’s cordial politics, promised to help him resolve the country’s problems.

The election had exposed di-

visions in the Central American tourist destination known for laid-back beach culture and pristine rainforests, but where some rural communities remain socially conservative. It could also reflect the mood elsewhere in Latin America, where elections are being held this year in several countries that have backed same-sex unions, provoking a conservative reaction.

## Barclays to pay \$2bn fine over mortgage fraud claims

**Barclays has agreed to pay \$2bn for allegedly causing billions of dollars of losses to investors by engaging in a fraudulent scheme to sell residential mortgage-backed securities between 2005 and 2007**

The department said the firm misled investors about the quality of the mortgage loans backing those deals and committed violations of mail fraud and bank fraud. According to the Justice Department’s statement, Barclays disputes the allegations. The settlement resolves the British Bank’s largest outstanding legal issue in the United States, and could offer reassurance to investors who had been braced for a potentially larger fine.

## France’s Sarkozy to face trial for corruption

**Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy will face trial over charges he misused his influence to secure leaked details of an inquiry into alleged irregularities in his 2007 election campaign**

The case came about after investigators used phone-taps to examine separate allegations that late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi funded Sarkozy’s campaign and began to suspect he had kept tabs on a separate case through a network of informants.

Sarkozy’s lawyer was not immediately available for comment.

## Facebook launches new data privacy tools

**Facebook is trying to correct course after a major data harvesting scandal by giving the social network’s 2 billion users an easier way to manage their data**

The company announced a suite of new, more intuitive privacy controls, including a way to download and delete data, a redesigned settings menu, and additional shortcuts for controlling private information.

“Most of these updates have been in the works for some time, but the events of the past several days underscore their importance,” said Facebook’s Vice President and Chief Privacy Officer Erin Egan and Ashlie Beringer, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, in a blog post.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



## Heavy snowfall blankets Germany and Poland

**Winter is making a late return to northern Germany, bringing snow and freezing temperatures**

Heavy snowfall fell overnight on the island of Ruegen which was also battered by strong winds. Traffic in the area was hampered by falling snow with reports of several road accidents, closures and traffic jams.

Parts of Poland were also under a blanket of snow. Weather

warnings were issued by the National Institute of Meteorology and Water Management for eight out of 16 Polish provinces.

The snowfall produced a number of surreal scenes including a snow-covered beach in Miedzyzdroje, on the Baltic Sea.

The weather conditions have put pressure on the country’s roads ahead of holidays, when many people were driving across Poland to visit relatives.

## Louvre Museum hosts Delacroix first retrospective



**Eugene Delacroix, one of the greatest French painters, is being honoured with a retrospective exhibition at the Louvre Museum in Paris**

The exhibition will bring together more than 180 of his works, ranging from his most

famous paintings, drawings and prints to the last little-known compositions.

It shows the tension that characterised the art of this master painter who strove for individuality while admiring the Flemish and Venetian masters of the 16th and 17th centuries.





# It's important not to miss even the smallest nuances when examining pictures

National Art Museum hosts *Vladimir Khodorovich. Painting* exhibition, dedicated to the 70th anniversary of this famous Belarusian painter

By Veniamin Mikheev

There was a time when Vladimir Khodorovich graduated from the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute's Painting Department (now, the Belarusian State Academy of Arts). He is a participant of numerous exhibitions, including international, and a prize-winning laureate of the Republican painting contest.

Vladimir Khodorovich is an



acknowledged still-life master. In his creativity, the author organically combines the accuracy of nature and the deep spiritual heritage of Belarusian culture. Confident and delicate writing underlines the importance of the items on display. Black-letter books, ceramics and embroi-

dered rushniks are the cultural layer depicted by the painter, who aims to restore national self-awareness via a love of the homeland and art.

Vladimir Khodorovich's painting combines delicate nuances, tender silvery colours, strict composition, rhythm and



softness of shapes. The talent of the artist is expressed in landscapes from a different angle. Poetic mood, special views of nature and a deep personal feeling attracts spectators both in a modest urban landscape and natural scenes, leaving no one indifferent.

The works of the author are kept in the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus, the Modern Fine Arts Museum in Minsk, Mogilev's Regional Art Museum (named after Pavel Maslennikov), as well as in private collections and galleries both in the homeland and beyond.

# Open rehearsal, a trip backstage and more

By Svetlana Veremeeva

**Brest Academic Drama Theatre presents a new interactive project: *Night at the Theatre***

The large-scale cultural event dedicated to International Theatre Day involved the whole theatre troupe. On greeting connoisseurs of theatrical art, its General Director Vyacheslav Garbuzov expressed his confidence that the *Night at the Theatre* will offer each of them positive emotions and unforgettable impressions.

On the theatrical evening, visitors enjoyed a unique opportunity for the first time to try themselves as actors, while looking backstage to learn how performances are created and learning scenic secrets and all about theatrical machinery. It was an evening of open doors at the theatre.

At the same time, non-stop fascinating events took place at different venues; everyone could choose an event to suit them. While in a small hall, a play-reading based on the *Hardly Perceptible Avengers*

was taking place, the rehearsal hall was hosting the *Discover an Actor in Yourself* training. The theatre bar alternately became a stage for the documentary solo performance of actor Anatoly Barannik (*Bilingua*) and a musical cocktail by actresses Taisa Osipova and Darya Starosotnikova, as well as special guests of the theatre: Irina and Igor Pashechko (*Musical Fusion*).

The large stage of the theatre hosted an open rehearsal of a play from its repertoire; its spectators were given the op-

portunity to play an excerpt from the production. Meanwhile, the small hall invited guests to a premiere based on Sergey Yesenin's works: *For Nettles, Shore*. This was an independent work by actor Alexey Shcherbakov. In the lobby, the interactive play of *Pirates of the Nightmare Seas* and the theatre of shadows' *Nutcracker* were staged for children. In addition, they were entertained by mimes and face painting. Photo zones were also open. An Honoured Artiste of Belarus — Mikhail Metlitsky — told

*Fairy-tales for the Night*.

One of the most popular events of the holiday was an excursion to the theatre's museum. The head of the literary and dramatic part — Vera Shelest — acquainted guests with the history of theatrical life in the regional centre. Many learnt with surprise that Vera Komissarzhevskaya had performed in Brest in the past: this took place in the so-called Winter Theatre located at the Peterburgskaya Hotel. At present, the building hosts the Regional Museum of Local Lore.





# White Cloud attracts crowds to museum

International exhibition dedicated to the 90th anniversary since the birth of Chingiz Aitmatov organised by the National Art Museum of Belarus jointly with Embassy of Kyrgyzstan in Minsk

By Alexey Pimenov

The *White Cloud* exhibition presents picturesque and graphic works of Kyrgyz artists based on works of the writer Chingiz Aitmatov whose artistry greatly influenced the culture of Kyrgyzstan.

Yuristanbek Shygaev, Zhylykchi Zhakypov, Talant Ogobaev are artists of the same generation who became known in the late 1980s-early 1990s. Having inherited national traditions, they rethought them in accordance with their creative individualities. The focus is on the past and present of Kyrgyz people.

The works on show are characterised by restraint of emotional expression and lack of detailed action. The same motifs are common



ent art-ists. This unity creates an image of Kyrgyzstan which includes such

for differ-ists. This features as the monumentality of plastic thinking, the structure of the composition based on the desire of authors to make



the audience stop what they were doing to peer at it and comprehend it.

Pictures by People's Artist of Kyrgyzstan and Honoured Worker of Culture — Yuristanbek Shygaev, Honoured Worker of Culture of Kyrgyzstan — Zhylykchi Zhakypov, and Talant Ogobaev will surely arouse interest among visitors to the main museum of Belarus with their new take on the proposed topic. There are many admirers of Chingiz Aitmatov's artistry in the country.

## Belarusfilm's peculiarities

By Olga Korneeva

**Order and good organisation at Belarusfilm impresses Russian film director, screenwriter and producer Timur Bekmambetov during his visit to the National Film Studio**

"The issue is not in the quantity and diversity of the collection but if there's a professional system, it has been preserved here. If funds are increased, the collection will expand, because correct methods of preservation and selection of movie artefacts has been observed over many years," noted the film director.

Mr. Bekmambetov was also impressed by the attitude of Belarusfilm's employees towards their work. Whilst other film studios have similar costumes and property, Belarusfilm stands out by the fact that 'there are people who preserve this correctly, know everything about these items and love them'. Mr. Bekmambetov compared the creation of film with work in a factory: to assemble machines and produce films we need technologies and people who are aware of the peculiarities of the process.

The atmosphere of Belarusfilm's departments is like his first impression of Minsk. "One has more feelings of life in Moscow but there's also more chaos there. Fewer major events happen in Minsk but there's order here. The same refers to architecture: houses stand separately, and no one has added to them. Here one has a feeling of orderliness and conservatism," said the film director.

## Spaniards to lean Belarusian poets

By Svetlana Veremeeva

**Collection of translated verse by Maxim Bogdanovich presented in Spain**

The presentation took place at a literary-poetic evening dedicated to the creativity of the Belarusian poet, held in the Honorary Consulate of Belarus, in the city of Alicante. *The Sounds of My Fatherland* — has been released in Spanish with support from the Foreign Ministry and the Belarusian Embassy.

Works by Maxim Bogdanovich were read aloud at the creative evening, organised by representatives of the Belarusian diaspora, including *Snow*, *I Would Like to Meet You in the Street*, *Slutsk Weavers*, and *Venice Star*. Among those invited were Belarusians living in Spain, diplomats and local residents.

## Boys and girls, light up!

By Yevgenia Zabolotskikh

**Eurovision for the young will take place in the capital of Belarus for the second time. This time the contest, featuring talented youngsters from various countries aged 9-14, will launch on November 25th. As in 2010, when Junior Eurovision was first held in Belarus, the young talents will perform on the stage of the grandiose Minsk-Arena, seating 15,000 spectators.**

At the end of October, they will begin to fill the Minsk-Arena with tonnes of lighting and sound equipment. Moreover, an entire children's town will be constructed for the entrants. The opening ceremony

however, will take place elsewhere.

The red carpet will be rolled out at the BelExpo Exhibition Centre, with guests welcomed by 14-year-old Helena Meraai. Half-Syrian and half-Belarusian, she represented the Republic of Belarus at *Junior Eurovision* in Georgia last year, performing *I am the One* and taking fifth place.

Entertainments will be also prepared for the participants who will be sent on excursions to see Belarusian castles and to learn about our culture. The excitement of the event is apparent from the slogan of this year's *Junior Eurovision* — 'Light Up!'

Belarus first hosted *Junior Eurovision* in 2010 when our country was represented by



Daniil Kozlov with his *Light of Music*. This year's event has also recently acquired its logo, invented by designer Maxim Bukas. The work by the young man was chosen out of three hundred entries by the European Broadcasting Union.

On the one hand, his 'Star' reminds us of a traditional Belarusian ornament whilst it also resembles sound waves. "Each performer is on their own musical wave," notes Mr. Bukas. "But together they create a positive flow of energy."



# Returning to WTA top-100

Reaching the semi-finals of the prestigious tournament in Miami, Victoria Azarenko returned to the top-100 in the WTA rankings

By Oleg Samsonov

Belarusian tennis player has moved up 94 places and is ranked 92nd in the update rankings.

The top-100 also includes Alexandra Sasnovich (49th) and

Arina Sobolenko (in 60th place).

The table is still topped by Simona Halep of Romania, while the American Sloane Stephens, who recently won the Miami tournament, pushed into the top-10, moving from 12th to 9th position.



Victoria Azarenko

## Silver from Tbilisi

By Yegor Vetrov

**Belarusian judoka Marina Slutskaya ranked second at Grand Prix in Tbilisi**

On the way to her final in the over 78kg weight category, Marina was the victor in a tough struggle against Anastasia Sapsay of Ukraine. In the semi-finals she confidently beat Anne Fatoumata M'Bairo of France, by 'ippon'.

In the decisive match, Marina Slutskaya faced another French representative, Romane Dicko. This time, the Belarusian athlete missed a 'move' from her rival who was awarded 'ippon'.

A year ago, Marina took first place in Tbilisi. In the current season, the Belarusian judoka has already achieved the first place position at the January stage of the Grand Prix in Tunisia.

## Champion 'sitting' on the tractor

By Denis Andreev

**BATE begins the football season with a new style: Minsk Tractor Works (MTZ) officially becomes its official sponsor. MTZ symbols are now depicted on the corporate styling of the Borisov team but it's not the strip which is most interesting item in this deal.**

Sponsor contracts in Belarusian sports often experience problems with content: the directors of large enterprises sometimes don't even know how their money will be spent. It seems a good idea to support sport and the new agreement between BATE and MTZ is interesting and indicative from both sides. Such a serious sponsorship deal (though only for a year) is a lifeline for footballers. Their leaving the Champions League at the qualification stage could not help



BATE won its first match

but affect the financial well-being of the team. In turn, the Minsk plant — as BATE Chairman Anatoly Kapsky, admits — has proved to be so generous that it has even forced the former main sponsor — Belgosstrakh — to make way for it. Mr. Kapsky has not announced details of the total amount of the contract, but states that the club has managed to preserve most of its leaders. Mirko Ivanić has extended his

contract with the club and talks with Nemanja Milunović are continuing. As usual, the team has set ambitious goals for the future.

The new partnership is significant since the tractor producer has approached this co-operation with footballers with pragmatism. On signing the agreement, MTZ General Director Fiodor Domotenko noted that, in previous years, BATE had twice applied to the plant with a proposal for sponsorship. The study of the issue began with the Parizh-Mosar tractor rally. The first sporting sponsorship experience proved a success. Sales have grown and the success of the tractor biathlon (BATE representatives plan to take part in it next winter) has strengthened the confidence that, with a cautious approach, co-operation between industry and sporting brands can be useful.

## Youth champion

**Belarusian boxer Dmitry Asanov wins EUBC U22 European Boxing Championships in the under 60kg category, held in Romanian Târgu Jiu**



Dmitry Asanov

By Igor Grishin

In the decisive match for the gold medal, the athlete from Molodechno achieved his victory by the unanimous decision of the judges (5:0), defeating Russian boxer Albert Batyrgazyev. In the second round, Dmitry landed several 'telling' blows which decided the match.

On the way to the finals the Belarusian was stronger than Turkish Necat Ekinci, also beating Otar Naveriani of Georgia in the semi-finals.

In Dmitry Asanov's career, the gold medal of the EUBC U22 European Boxing Championships is one of the most significant. Previously he took silver at the 1st European Games in Baku and bronze at the 2015 World Championships in the adult category. Both medals were earned in the lighter category, under 56kg.

## Date set for stadium launch

By Dmitry Komashko

**Minsk's Dinamo Stadium is due to launch on June 1st this year (having been postponed from late 2017). Just twenty days later, the venue will welcome its first competition, hosting track-and-field athletes from the national teams of Belarus and the Balkan States.**

The Acting Minister of Sports and Tourism, Vyacheslav Durnov, is confident that all works will be completed on time, telling us, "It was decided to open the stadium one year before the start of the 2nd European Games. Builders assure me that everything is on schedule and the arena will be commissioned on June 1st. Afterwards, there will be twenty days to test all systems and services."

No launch show is planned for the stadium, but the Belarusian Athletic Federation will be hosting its tournament at the highest organisational level. In 2019, Dinamo is to host opening and closing ceremonies, as well as track-and-field competitions, during the 2nd European Games. Later, participants of the first ever Europe-USA match will appear on the track.





## Exhibition of the week



Galleria Minsk Trade Centre in Minsk hosts the *World of Future* exhibition

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 22<sup>nd</sup> April. *Vladimir Khodorovich. Painting: dedication to the artist's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday* Until 15<sup>th</sup> May. *Serving to the Homeland* Until 27<sup>th</sup> May. *Territory of Earthly Hopes*

#### UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE ART GALLERY

1 Oktyabrskaya Square  
Until 10<sup>th</sup> April. *God's Body* Until 10<sup>th</sup> April. *Theatre: Insight*

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

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

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 8<sup>th</sup> April. *Belarusian ABC-Book: 400 Years of History* Until 15<sup>th</sup> April. *Fiodor Yastreb's Poetic Palette* Until 28<sup>th</sup> April. *Natalia Kaminskaya: Personal* Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. *Enlightenment. Experience. Progress*

#### STATE MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN LITERATURE HISTORY

13 Maxim Bogdanovich Street  
Until 16<sup>th</sup> April. *Timkovichi: Treasury of Inspiration*

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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

#### GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY MUSEUM

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

#### VANKOVICH'S HOUSE

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

#### MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 27<sup>th</sup> April. *World of Sergey Drozdov's Author's Dolls*

#### HOUSE-MUSEUM OF FIRST RSDRP CONGRESS

31a Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 22<sup>nd</sup> April. *Sports Alphabet*

### THEATRES

#### NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street  
05.04. *Aida* 06.04. *Anyuta* 09.04. *Madam Butterfly* 10.04. *The Swan Lake*; Musical Nights at Bolshoi: *Romance Charming* 11.04. *A Masked Ball* 12.04. *Spartacus*

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
05.04. *Grandfather* 06.04. *Medea Syndrome* 10.04. *An Uninvited Guest* 11.04. *If There Is No Tomorrow* 12.04. *Adam's Jokes*

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
05.04. *The makropoulos Case* 06.04. *An Unnamed Stare* 07 and 10.04. *Pygmalion* 09.04. *The Same Place Next Year* 11 and 12.04. *Nobody Ever Said Life Would Be Easy*

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
05.04. *Not Mine* 06.04. *People of the Marsh* 07.04. *Evening* 08.04. *The Black Lady of Nesvizh* 10.04. *Pan Tadeusz* 11.04. *Inspector* 12.04. *School of Taxpayers; Shabany*

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
09.04. *Cuckold*  
11.04. *Family Dinner at Half Past One*  
11.04. *Husband Like Many*

#### BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street  
07.04. *Merry Circus* 08.04. *Morozko* 10 and 11.04. *Snow White* 12.04. *Interview with Witches*

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
05.04. *Vanyushin's Children* 06.04. *Leaving Nature* 10.04. *Love of Three* 11.04. *New Affair of My Husband* 12.04. *Bigamist*

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
05.04. *Private Lives* 06.04. *The Twelfth Night* 07.04. *Pygmalion* 10.04. *He and She* 11 and 12.04. *Fourth Planet*

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
05.04. *Jane Eyre* 06.04. *The Swan Lake* 07.04. *Town Musicians of Bremen* 11.04. *Wedding in Malinovka* 12.04. *Tristan and Isolde*