

# 'Vital to act rather than stagnate'

## Speaking at session of Executive Committee of National Olympic Committee of Belarus, President notes that he is always objective in making appointments

"No one should be appointed to any position based on loyalty. Don't think that I appoint anyone in an offhand manner. Rather, I seriously examine them," explained Mr. Lukashenko. "The key thing is that they should be dedicated professionals, always doing their best." He explained his

appointment of new top executives in the sporting sphere, saying, "I recommended Igor Rachkovsky as the First Vice President of the National Olympic Committee as I think he is full of promise."

The Head of State remarked that sport has become political and a source of revenue. "The removal of national borders and the advancement of international relations has become the most important trait of sport," he stressed.

Maxim Ryzhenkov has been appointed as the Presi-



dent's Aide for physical training, sports and tourism development, having 'experience of diplomatic service' and being able to 'contribute a great deal

to sport', underlined the Head of State. The Belarusian President also has great hopes for the new Sports and Tourism Minister, Alexander Shamko. Previously he was in charge of rescue and fire-fighting within the Emergency Ministry, including the 'sports team', which won world championships many times. Mr. Lukashenko underlined, "They are not chosen randomly for sport and the government system. They are solid men. Two are generals of high rank, profound knowledge and a love

for sport, who have experience of working in this field."

Mr. Lukashenko explained his reasons behind the appointment of new executives for the sports industry. "I wanted to appoint people from outside rather than among 'sports specialists', because I'm concerned not only by the lack of effort from former executives but also by their corruption. I want to avoid a clan system so I've appointed and recommended those from outside who understand and love sport."

The Head of State continued, "Those who've never practiced sport cannot be sports industry executives. All three appointees have hands-on experience of sport. Believe me, there are no hidden reasons for these appointments."

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that the new sports executives love their country and sports. They are knowledgeable people who can master resources and modernise the system — as they are tasked with doing. They need to take action to move sport forward.



Film Festival Listapad-2012 opens in Minsk

## Best cinema professionals and amateurs to judge best films

### Minsk Listapad International Film Festival being held for 19th time

By Veniamin Mikhailovsky

The film festival opened in the Palace of the Republic's Big Hall, with around 150 Belarusian and foreign screen stars taking to the red carpet. Meanwhile, the Small Hall hosted a screening of Sergey Loznitsa's *In the Fog*, after the opening ceremony.

Russian director and script writer Andrey Zvyagintsev is heading the jury of the main feature film competition and promises to be a democratic

judge. He explains, "I don't understand the idea of being 'a strict judge', it's all about defence of your point of view on what have you seen on the screen. I'm more democratic: the jury comprises five members so I wouldn't attach any special priority to the position of chair. I only differ from the others in having the casting vote, which I can use if we reach a stalemate. Such a situation may not occur although we're likely to argue a great deal in making our decision. I'm

confident that we'll come to a common consensus though."

Mr. Zvyagintsev took part in Minsk's Listapad International Film Festival previously, screening *Yelena*; this won the jury prize in the 'Special View' competition at the Cannes Film Festival and opened Listapad in 2011. Other jury members comprise the director, composer and actor Igor Volchek (Belarus), Ukrainian actor, director and script writer Georgy Deliev, film critic and cinema and theatre researcher



Birgit Beumers (UK) and film expert and critic Nina Tsyrukun (Russia).

An honorary guest of Listapad-2012 is famous film director, script writer, producer Karen Shakhnazarov, who works as the general director of Mosfilm Studios. He is delighted to be in Minsk and admits that his last trip was at least a decade ago, when he was accompanied by now-deceased actor Oleg Yankovsky. "It's always best to attend a film festival as a guest," he smiles.

The chair of the jury for the *Youth on the March* feature film competition, American producer Christine K. Walker, hopes that the Minsk forum will prove interesting and exciting. As president of the independent New Globe Films studio and a founder of Werc Werk Works, Ms. Walker is known for her love of independent film directors. As to whether she'd consider a joint film production with Belarusfilm National Film Studio, she notes that, as a producer,

she is always keen to find new partners. Ms. Walker's passion for cinema makes her open to suggestions from foreign colleagues, including those from Belarus.

Galina Adamovich, who is chairing the jury of the main documentary film competition, is one of the most well-known directors from Belarus, having won prizes at international festivals for most of her works. Her *Oh, My God!* has won over 15 prizes, including the Grand Prix of the Class A International Film Festival in Karlovy Vary.

According to Ms. Adamovich, the effectiveness of a jury much depends on the diversity of its members. "Our jury comprises five members so, if we all agree that a film is the best, it really must be so. It's when opinions differ that discussions become more challenging."

She believes that competition in this year's non-fiction category is very strong, so it will be difficult to choose.

## Scent to express essence of city

By Anatoly Yemelyanov

The developers of Minsk's brand are to create an original fragrance for the city, explains the director of British Company INSTID Research. The director tells us, "We hope to give the city an impulse with which it can be associated. We've initiated several projects with the aim of creating powerful symbols for Minsk, connected with various spheres of perception."

Experienced Belarusian perfumers are voluntarily taking part in developing a Minsk fragrance, headed by young Minsker Marina Mayers. Among them is Oleg Vyglazov — a member of the New York Academy, who has created scents for several famous fashion houses. Natasha Grand, INSTID Head of Research, explains, "We'll define the essence of Minsk, revealing the character of the city." She aims to make the fragrance 'complex yet balanced and harmonised': just as the developers see Minsk. The British company plans to conduct a contest to choose a bottle design and the fragrance will then go on sale in shops domestically. It's hoped that the scent will prove popular as a souvenir and gift. "The question of profit and payment hasn't yet been discussed," notes Ms. Grand.

The British company is developing Minsk's brand throughout 2012, and has already launched a logo and corporate style for the city — as appearing on postcards, brochures, street signs and public transport. The British company is to conduct master classes in design, photography and city decoration, sharing its knowledge with Belarusian experts.