



## Socio-political Weekly

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### Underground waste bins: preferable and hygienic

Smorgon begins production of containers to hold rubbish underground  
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### Brand name of boat master

Nikolay Yurkevich keeps traditions of wooden boat building for three decades  
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### Wonderful world of star wanderer

Vitebsk Region's Glubokoe hosts *Wonderful World of Uncle Yazep* exhibition, devoted to 125th anniversary of artist Yazep Drozdovich's birth  
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# Christmas gives hope and great love, filling life with expectations

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko visits All Saints' Church in Minsk, to celebrate Christmas

The Head of State joined the Metropolitan of Minsk and Slutsk, the Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, Pavel, in lighting a Christmas candle on the side-altar of the church, in honour of John the Baptist. They also exchanged gifts, with Mr. Lukashenko presenting the Metropolitan with a tea set bearing images of Holy Spirit Cathedral. In turn, the Primate of

the Belarusian Orthodox Church presented the President with a reproduction of an ancient Gospel.

Students of the Sunday School of All Saints' parish welcomed the Head of State by singing religious Christmas carols, as did the men's choir. Mr. Lukashenko then chatted with Metropolitan Pavel over a cup of tea.

Before visiting the church, Mr. Lukashenko's younger son, Nikolai, joined him in laying flowers at the Monument to Patriarch Alexy II. He also sent greetings to Orthodox Christians of Belarus on the occasion of Christmas, noting that it is a time for families to unite in fun and friendship, in an atmosphere of peace.

## Holiday of kindness

Visiting Praleska Children's Medical Rehabilitation Centre in the Volozhin District's Rakov, President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko notes that children remain priority in state social policy → 2

## Plans targeting the future

As the New Year gains momentum, we cannot help but reflect on the events of the past — such as sessions of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council and the Supreme State Council of the Union State of Belarus and Russia. Negotiations in late December at Moscow's Kremlin testify to the importance of coming tasks. → 3

## Greater achievements require exact calculations

Preserving balance in the financial market is the main task for the government for 2014, with the past year having proven far from the most successful. Although the economy grew, it lacked the pace predicted, due to various external and internal factors. → 5

## Scientific evolution utterly reliant on dynamic action

Scientists discuss and approve draft programme to update scientific policy → 7

## Yelena Turova: 'Directors always play the role of Columbus'

Director, poetess and scriptwriter Yelena Turova tells us about her work as an animator, cinema special effects and the Vileika ghost → 10

## Jubilee Christmas tournament is prelude to major hockey cup 2014

Belarusian President's team wins 10th Christmas amateur ice hockey tournament, recently held in Minsk → 11