

Words of sympathy to those suffered in the Balkans

On behalf of the Belarusian people and personally himself, the President expressed sincere words of sympathy and support to the President of the Republic of Serbia, Tomislav Nikolić, as well as to the relatives and close people of those died and suffered as a result of the recent flooding.

The condolence particularly reads: 'It's with deep pain and sorrow that people in the Republic of Belarus have learned the news about the numerous victims and huge material damage caused by the flood in Serbia...

I hope that the humanitarian and technical aid that

was provided by the Republic of Belarus will help to quickly mitigate the consequences of the flood and restore the damaged territories while preventing more victims.'

On behalf of the Belarusian nation, the President expressed his sincere and deepest condolences to Chairman of the Presidium of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bakir Izetbegović, over the numerous victims and serious damage caused by the natural disaster.

The condolence reads: 'Together, with the fraternal people of your country, we share the grief of those who lost their relatives and friends in the floods.'

Friends aren't left alone

Belarusian rescuers help fight floods in Serbian Sabac



Belarusian rescuers arrive in Serbia

By Vasily Khmelevsky

Belarusian rescuers helped protect the Serbian city of Sabac and its hazardous chemicals factory from the floods.

Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Serbia, Marko Đurić, and Ambas-

sador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Serbia, Mr. Vladimir Chushev, went to Sabac to meet with Belarusian rescuers who, together with their Serbian counterparts from the Armed Forces and the Interior Ministry, as they work on protecting the 70,000 population

city and its Zorka Chemicals Factory.

In a statement for the Serbian mass media Mr. Đurić conveyed gratitude from the Serbian President, Tomislav Nikolić to the Belarusian President, Alexander Lukashenko and the Belarusian rescuers for the help and support for Serbia in these difficult times.

The Belarusians were also thanked by the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Serbia, who is heading the temporary crisis centre to protect the city, as well as the Mayor of Sabac, who expressed willingness to twin with a city in Belarus. The Belarusians also heard words of gratitude from ordinary people.

Along with rescuers from Belarus there are also teams from Russia, France, Montenegro, Austria, and Slovenia.

On the instructions of the Belarusian Head of State, the Emergency Ministry of Belarus sent a team of 25 people, two helicopters with rescue equipment and motorboats to Serbia. On the same day an IL-76 delivered Belarusian humanitarian and technical aid to Belgrade.

There's much unexplored in our native land

Much to see in our native land

By Vasily Kharitonov

Alexander Lukashenko calls on young people to value and be proud of Belarus, while protecting its independence and sovereignty. The President spoke about this during his meeting with winners of the international subject Olympiads, creative contests and festivals, as well as scholarship holders of special funds of the President of Belarus, aimed at supporting gifted pupils, students and talented youth.

Addressing the participants of the meeting, the Head of State noted that the academic year is coming to an end. He wished success to all those who will have to take exams, and to the remaining, to spend the long-awaited-for holidays in an interested way. In particular, the President advised them to get more acquainted with Belarus and to see its natural beauties.

Mr. Lukashenko remarked that he travels all over Belarus, however mostly by air. "Yesterday, I drove 600km to the east and back inspecting our roads and their maintenance. I was surprised to find out that our nature looks totally different when you travel by car and not by air, especially when you leave the car to look at a forest or river," said Mr. Lukashenko.

"Therefore, I recommend that you to visit the most beautiful places of our country. You

will understand that there is no better place for vacations," the Head of State is convinced. "Love Belarus, appreciate it and be proud of it. Guard its independence and sovereignty. It's being transferred to your hands. Learn to notice the good things around you. This will be your inspiration for new discoveries and victories. I also wish you to have reliable friends, attentive teachers and parents by your side and interesting and smart books."

Alexander Lukashenko also spoke during the meeting that a high level of education and the creative potential of personality are the most important values for Belarus.

"Certainly, you know better than others what it means to win. It is very relevant today, in particular, taking into consideration our sports events. You know how much determination one needs to pull oneself together, to come forward and win. This skill will come in handy many times in your life. After all, we put great hopes in you. There is a special attitude to young talent in our country. A high level of education and the creative potential of a personality are our most important values," noted the President. "Your achievements are an indicator of the efficiency of domestic sciences and the country's potential in various fields."

For many years, Belaru-

sian school-children have held leading positions in mathematics, physics, informatics, chemistry and biology — the disciplines that make up the foundation of science. Over the past five years, Belarusian youngsters have won 27 various medals in mathematics, 23 in physics, 19 in informatics, 16 in chemistry and 12 in biology.

According to the President, the state programme to support gifted youth, which has already been operating in the country for several years, is bearing fruit. Over 250 executives in various organisations used to be scholarship holders and laureates of the special funds of the President of Belarus. Over the past three years, fledgling scientists defended 114 Masters' and 6 Doctors' theses. "The whole country knows the names of those who showed extraordinary talent and hard work," noted the Head of State. "Today, they are working for the benefit of Belarus. Despite their achievements, these people do not stay complacent. They are facing important tasks, and the requirements set to them are tougher, because they are an example and benchmark for those who are following suit."



Veronika Tsyrukunova, finalist of the children's TV musical contest *I Sing!*

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that Belarus is doing its best to maintain peace and stability, so that Belarusian people could live in a peaceful country, fulfil their potential and never know what a war is. However, the President urged young people not to forget the lessons that history taught. "A huge price was paid for everything we have now and everything we will create in the future," he said.

The President also thanked educators for the successes and achievements of the youth. "It is a personality of a teacher, an educator that encourages students to study and create," the Head of State emphasised.

Mr. Lukashenko handed over certificates, lapel badges and diplomas to laureates of the special funds of the President of Belarus, alongside students who won gold medals at international Olympiads and took first place at international competitions and festivals, as well as the finalists of the *I Sing!* children's TV project.

Book improves marks

An unusual educational project has started in Svetlogorsk

The basis of it was practices in German and Austrian schools. If a pupil goes to the library during the summer holidays and reads the necessary quantity of books, he or she receives a special registered certificate. Having shown this certificate to a teacher, pupils can improve their mark by one point for the first term on reading or on Belarusian and Russian literature. Svetlogorsk pupils from the 1st to 9th form participate in the project, called *Library and School: Partners in the Field of Education*. The author of the project, manager of regional children's library, Lyudmila

Gradulenko explained the details, "The Summer Reading Club will run from June 1st till August 31st. Children from 6 till 10 years old should read 10 or more books and 11 till 15 year olds — over 20 books. These do not have to be only books of the school programme, but also any books they wish. Children must keep a reading diary, and then retell the book's contents. In my opinion, independent reading is one of the major educational factors. For the present, certificates will improve the marks only on literary subjects, but library workers do not exclude the idea of such disciplines as history and geography being included in the list of Summer Reading Club."

Green light to the south coast of the Crimea

By Anna Bogdanova

The news that trains from Belarus will stop going to Ukraine and the Crimea at the end of May has caused a quite a stir, but currently you don't have to change your plans for your summer holidays. Representatives from the railways of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have finalised the summer schedule of the movement of trains to the Crimea through Ukrainian territory. It will come into effect from June 1st.

Representatives of the Belarusian Railway are in no hurry to divulge all the details of the agreement. According to Alexander Zakharevich, the Head of the Belarusian Railway's Passenger Service, common work on co-ordination is continuing up to now, and it is working successfully.



Vladimir Yakunin, Russian Railways CEO, has also said that these negotiations are very constructive. He has noted that the advance booking of train tickets, which go through Ukraine territory, will possibly begin soon.

Against the background of currently events, this agreement is very symbolic. Our countries haven't lost the ability to conduct constructive dialogue, and it is hoped that this method of problem solving will also be used in other fields. Everything begins with little steps.