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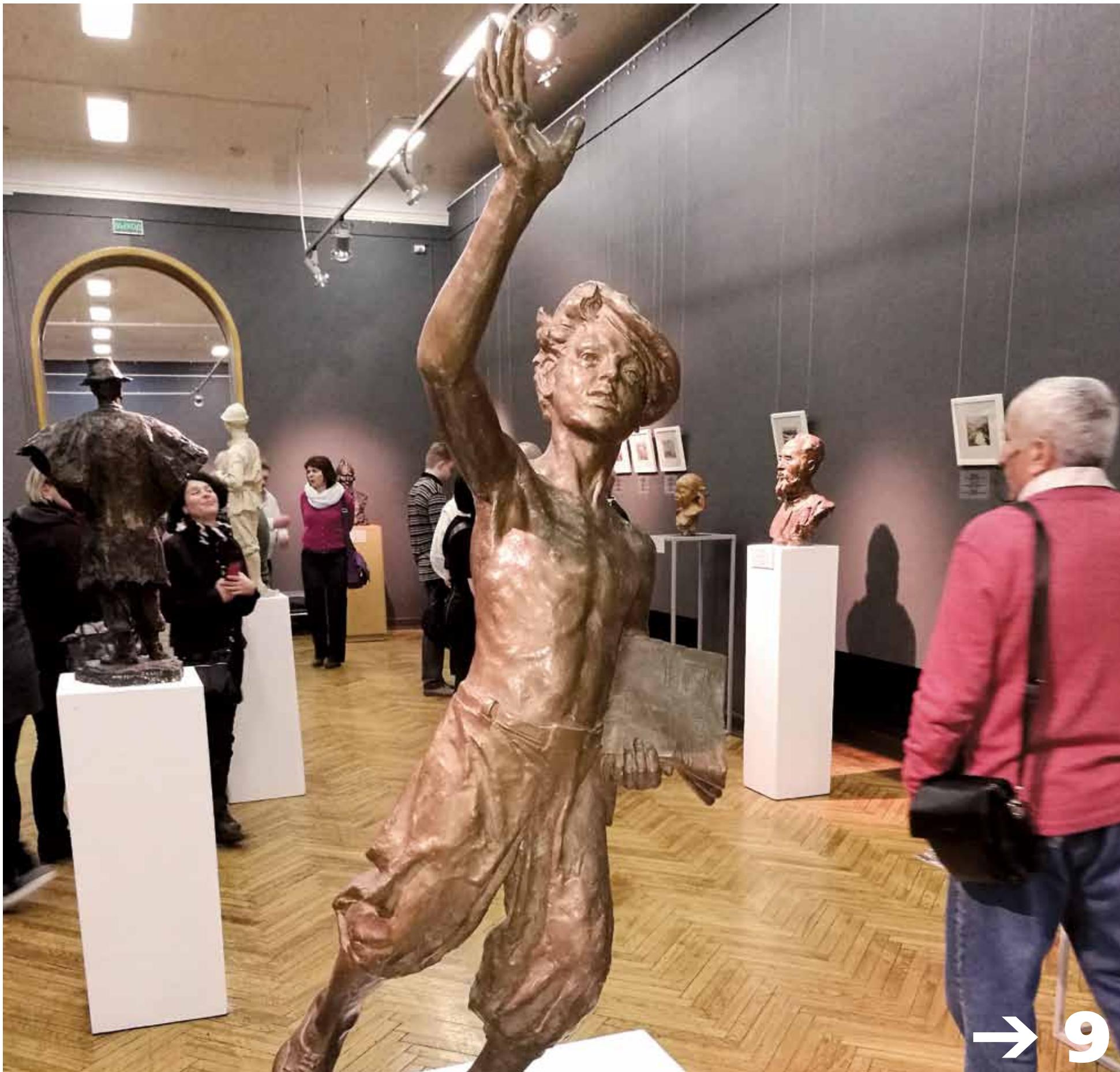
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Bronze magnificence of Sergey Selikhanov's live images in sculpture

Serious partnership with World Bank

Alexander Lukashenko thanks World Bank for assistance and support rendered by this organisation in implementing major projects

By Vladimir Khromov

The President of Belarus has thanked the World Bank (WB) for its assistance and support in implementing vital projects, on meeting WB Senior Vice President for Operations Kyle Peters.

"It's very good that we're co-operating with each other. Perhaps, you don't have many claims against us," noted the Head of State. "Together, we've implemented an ambitious programme, and we're now working on a new plan: a new co-oper-

ation strategy, having found common ground. The main thing is that, thanks to your actions in Belarus, you have given us choices," added Mr. Lukashenko.

"Your work in Belarus makes it possible to rely not only on one or two sources of support for our economy, social projects, and budget, but to gain the very strong support of the World Bank. I'm really grateful to you for that," stressed the Head of State. According to Mr. Lukashenko, when there are no alternatives, no choices, it's very difficult to build economic

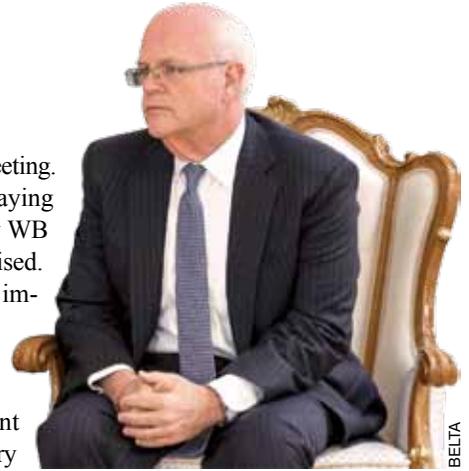
relations and to develop social policy. "When there are choices and alternatives, there are more opportunities for success," the President is convinced.

The World Bank has invested more than \$1.6 billion in important projects in Belarus so far. "We now have a programme worth almost \$1 billion," notes Mr. Lukashenko, assuring everyone that Belarus will continue to fulfil all agreements and promises.

World Bank programmes are well implemented in Belarus, noted WB Senior Vice President for Op-

erations Kyle Peters at the meeting. He underlined that, while staying in Belarus, he could see how WB programmes were being realised. "All programmes are being implemented very well," he stressed.

"My current visit is connected with the development and approval of the new country programme for Belarus, for the next 3-4 years," asserted Mr. Peters. He explains that nine programmes are currently on the agenda, worth around \$1 billion. These tackle in-



Kyle Peters

frastructure, water supply, power engineering, and the transport sphere, with the two sides launching collaboration in the sphere of education.

Local networks to unite efforts

Government session held by the President studies possibility of creating nationwide public security monitoring system

By Alexey Fedosov

The Head of State noted, "A draft decree has been submitted to me, envisaging the creation of a public security monitoring system. Such systems exist in many countries and have already proven efficient. Obviously, the introduction of automated processes for the detection of various threatening events, and the analysis of data, will help improve public order."

Mr. Lukashenko believes this will help release many workers and resources, optimising the structure of certain government bodies. He noted that the process was underway.

However, several issues remain to be discussed before the decree is passed. The country already has a video surveillance system, a telecommunications network, and corresponding equipment. The question is what this system is lacking and what can be gained by introducing the new system. Why can the system not be created under the aegis of a government body which will own all corresponding information?

Mr. Lukashenko has asked for a report on state expenditure in creating the complex, saying, "It's not only essential to modernise the existing system but to upgrade to a modern level, to yield maximum results. Recent events show that we'd benefit from such a system."

Belarus' Interior Minister, Igor Shunevich, says that the draft decree under consideration has been agreed with all interested bodies. The document determines the le-



Local networks soon to be globally united

gal basis for the creation of a public security monitoring system. This will feature video surveillance in public areas, as well as special detectors (for smoke, fire, explosives, narcotics and radioactive substances, including with the use of thermal cameras). There will be a unified set of communication channels for the nationwide data transfer network, and a monitoring system software platform.

"The Head of State adopted our proposal that such a system is appropriate and necessary in any civilised state and has instructed a range of measures connected with the practical implementation of the project. Of course, these

primarily relate to the choice of operator, who will be generating all ideas and will be involved in practical realisation: from buying 'hardware' to exploitation. We've been given corresponding instructions and will be improving this draft decree, adding national peculiarities and opportunities," asserts Mr. Shunevich.

The Minister explains that Belarus doesn't need to reinvent the wheel, as all developed countries have such security monitoring systems, so there's no necessity to work 'from scratch'. He explains, "We already have several elements, including several thousand sites equipped with video

cameras, data transmission lines, servers, and local networks. The new system aims to unite all these resources."

The Head of the Ministry notes that each property owner will have the opportunity to equip with video cameras and connect to a single monitoring system, to ensure security of life and labour. "Of course, it will be an opportunity rather than an obligation for private businesses and individuals," he adds.

According to Mr. Shunevich, the system will unite cameras and special detectors countrywide, raising opportunities for public security provision and prompt response to situations.

Security in the spotlight at meeting between Lukashenko and Putin

The maintenance of security will be one of the main topics on the agenda at the meeting of the presidents of Belarus and Russia, notes Alexander Lukashenko on the eve of his meeting with Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg.



"We cannot relax, needing to remain alert. We must be prepared for anything. There are a lot of challenges in the world. We don't live in isolation, as we know," says the President of Belarus.

"This is one of the main topics today: security. We'll be discussing how we should live in this world and how to protect the interests of our people," notes Mr. Lukashenko.

"Certain issues always emerge in bilateral relations. But you know, against the backdrop of such events, these problems fade away. We can solve such issues quickly and efficiently. If it's God's will, we'll live in peace and will be able to ensure the security of our people," asserts the President of Belarus.

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, stresses that, this year, our two countries will celebrate the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations. "Today, we have an opportunity to discuss what we've achieved to expand bilateral co-operation, and what we have yet to do, looking at our unresolved issues and problems," notes Mr. Putin.

President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, expresses condolences to the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, in connection with the metro explosion in St. Petersburg

New opportunities now launched

President of Belarus pays official visit to Turkmenistan from March 29th-31st

By Vladimir Kharitonov

Alexander Lukashenko's visit to Turkmenistan will be remembered in our history of bilateral relations, being dedicated to the opening of the Garlyk mining and processing facility.

In order to better understand the scale of the project implemented by Belarusian specialists in Turkmenistan, it's necessary to present insight into the history of Garlyk potash salt deposit. It was developed back in the mid-20th century but faced difficulties, so that it was abandoned (despite the colossal resources of the USSR). Accordingly, the work of our experts is notable; they've launched the mining and processing facility from scratch, in the face of stiff global competition.

The President of Belarus notes, "This signals to the whole world that we're able to open any mine and extract potash fertilisers, as well as other mineral resources, using the shaft method, let alone open-pit mining. It was a very important project for us and it's good that we've finished it."

\$700 million has been transferred into the account of the Belarusian general contractor, Belgorkhimprom JSC, for its work on the site, which will continue until 2020. The project is not only generating income but is building Belarus' reputation, showing our skills of design, construction and engineering. Hundreds of organisations have been working on the site, needing to be co-ordinated, to ensure efficiency.

Belarus-made equipment has been supplied to Turkmenistan: machinery by MAZ and Amkodor, electrical engineering devices, and tunnelling machines. All contracts have been signed after tenders, without any preferences given over other entrants. Belarusian and Turkmen potash workers may ally in future, to better face the world market, where supply currently exceeds demand.

Belarus' rich experience can benefit both Minsk and Ashgabat. On the eve of the opening of the facility, Alexander Lukashenko and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow negotiated at Oguzhan Palace, before the president went to open the new Belarusian Embassy building, located in Ashgabat.

"We've constructed a complex of buildings for the Belarusian Embassy in under 18 months, where we diplomats should be able to triple our efforts," believes the Belarusian Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Oleg Tabanyukhov, speaking of raising trade turnover, as discussed by our presidents.

Last year, our countries achieved turnover of almost \$300 million, with more possible. The opening of the new Embassy is another proof that our country has come to Turkmenistan with serious intentions for



Alexander Lukashenko and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow after signing of documents

the long term.

With huge deposits of gas and oil, Turkmenistan has good start-up potential for development. It's now focusing on diversifying its economy. Mr. Lukashenko has praised its efforts, since few nations can boast more than 6 percent GDP growth per year, despite difficult conditions for the world economy. Belarusians who've constructed the facility in Garlyk have made a contribution to helping develop this friendly country.

This is only the beginning. Our country is ready to go further, sharing technologies and training staff. Chatting with Mr. Berdimuhamedow, Mr. Lukashenko accentuated, "We aren't building relations by lodging terms and conditions; we're co-operating as nations who lived long as a single state. You should know that you have a secure foothold and reliable friends in the centre of Europe and can always count on Belarus."

Turkmenistan isn't simply one of the leading players in the region but is a strategic crossing point for the transport corridors of Eurasia. It borders Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and China, making it a convenient venue to enter the markets of third countries and a perfect opportunity to increase our trade turnover many-fold. We've managed to find our niche on the Turkmen market and now need to preserve and expand it, increasing exports of goods and services. Moreover, almost everything is in demand in Turkmenistan: tillers, harvesters, food products, lift equipment and machine tools.

Our machine builders have suggested launching production of a special diesel train able to operate in a hot climate. Meanwhile, leading Belarusian IT companies have gained a strong foothold in the banking sector and the system of state management in Turkmenistan. Why shouldn't we extend these developments for

The visit of Alexander Lukashenko to Turkmenistan will be remembered in our history of bilateral relations, being dedicated to the opening of the Garlyk mining and processing facility



Belarusian Embassy building in Ashgabat

transport and municipal services? Co-operation in jointly producing multi-functional unmanned aircraft also looks promising.

The service sector is also promising, with over 40 percent of foreign students in Belarus coming from Turkmenistan, helping generate Belarus' annual income from exported education services of \$25 million. Turkmenistan needs not only engineers and doctors but other qualified experts. Belarus is ready to open the doors of its professional-technical and secondary special educational establishments, to train Turkmen youngsters. The promotion of medical and tourist services is also likely to expand.

Business negotiations have resulted in a package of agreements tackling co-operation to counteract crime, as well as education, sport, culture and arts. Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Berdimuhamedow have signed a joint statement to strengthen strategic partnership across all areas and the President of Belarus has invited his

Turkmen colleague for an official visit at any time convenient.

Undoubtedly, the major event of the President's official visit to Turkmenistan and, probably, of the whole history of our relations, was the opening of Garlyk mining and processing facility. Seven years ago, Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Berdimuhamedow laid a capsule into the foundations of the planned super-modern facility. This time, they attended the solemn opening ceremony together. In a short period of time, colossal work has been achieved. This February, the first trial tonne of potash fertilisers was released.

Our specialists have used their experience and advanced technologies to create a complex 'turn-key' project: the first such in the history of modern Belarus. Looking at this miracle in the desert, you can see how Belarusian specialists have worked with Turkmen partners under extreme climatic conditions. The opening was celebrated with a spectacular show: of song, dance, theatre, and exhibi-

tion performances by athletes. Every foreign ambassador working in the country was invited.

Our Turkmen friends now have a new branch within their economy, of ore mining. Production of high-demand mineral fertilisers will enhance the development of agriculture and Turkmenistan will become one of the largest exporters of potash fertilisers in Asia. Meanwhile, Belarus has again demonstrated to the whole world the extent of its capabilities. According to Mr. Lukashenko, this is due, primarily, to having retained its production, scientific and technological potential inherited from Soviet times.

In creating the mining and processing facility, Belarus drew upon its experience and resources, as Mr. Lukashenko noted enthusiastically at the ceremony. "It's been an honour for Belarus to help Turkmenistan launch an advanced enterprise. It's been a true challenge to penetrate 0.5km into the earth, to mine this high quality mineral and extract the ore. Now, with our Turkmen partners, we'll be able to build a mine even on the sea bed."

After words of gratitude, Mr. Berdimuhamedow explained that the new enterprise will be manufacturing \$1.4 million tonnes of fertilisers annually. The President of Belarus corrected his Turkmen colleague, noting that experts always underestimate figures, to err on the side of caution, and that more than \$1.4 million tonnes is quite possible.

"Also, 1,500 jobs are being created at the facility," continued the President of Turkmenistan.

Mr. Lukashenko again chimed in, saying that 'even 2,000 won't be enough when the facility is running at full capacity'. He added, "I was pleasantly surprised that the first batch of fertilisers has already been given by the President of Turkmenistan to the country's neighbours [in Afghanistan]. Well done! This is the way we should live, to earn respect. It's a decent act, which elevates the Turkmen nation."

The two presidents launched the facility, pressing a symbolic button to loud applause. Then, they examined the new production machinery and left a record in the Book of Honorary Guests. After Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Berdimuhamedow had departed the site, people remained, keenly discussing the long-awaited event.

"This day will stay in my memory forever," noted Belgorkhimprom's Director General, Vyacheslav Korshun. "This project is excellent advertising for our science and technology. We've already received new proposals from other countries and we'll be considering them."

After the visit, the President of Turkmenistan bid a warm farewell to Mr. Lukashenko at the airport and they managed to chat briefly.

Upward trends



The financial market is experiencing a positive trend. In March, for the first time in two years, gold and currency reserves exceeded \$5 billion. Inflation is falling: in 2014, it was above 16 percent, falling to 12.5 percent in 2015 and 10.5 percent in 2016. This has brought a fall in the refinancing rate: since March 15th, it has stood at 15 percent per annum, bringing cheaper loans for enterprises and revival of the private sector. Salaries depend on economic growth, with the President reminding that, by late 2017, the average salary should hit \$500 in equivalent. How can we solve this problem and what resources can we use?

Strategic reserve

Oleg MAZOL,
a researcher at the Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Centre (BEROC):

Speaking of rising salaries, we need to take into account the fact that the economic system of our country is based mainly on large, state-owned industrial enterprises; they account for over half of all industrial production and employ 65 percent of the population. Meanwhile, small and medium-sized enterprises are underdeveloped, accounting for just 30 percent of GDP. The dominant position of state-owned enterprises, with preferences in regard to financial resources, energy prices and regulatory obligations, is hampering the development of the promising private sector. Its potential regarding production development, creation of new jobs and wage growth remains largely unrealised.

For example, in the USA, over 20 million small and medium-sized enterprises operate, providing jobs for over half of the country's working population. According to US economists, around thirty percent of American families are engaged in business. In addition, the low level of development of small and medium-sized enterprises makes Belarus vulnerable to external shocks, such as fluctuations in the price of commodities and the macroeconomic indicators of its main trading partners.

Lack of access to loans is hampering our business development, according to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Bank lending is the main source of external financing for small and medium-sized companies in Belarus and abroad. However, the volume of domestic credit to the Belarusian private sector amounted to only 28 percent of GDP in 2015: against 147 percent in developed countries and 48 percent in Central and Eastern Europe.

Most small businesses still rely on their own funds to finance investments. Companies in need of funds cannot gain

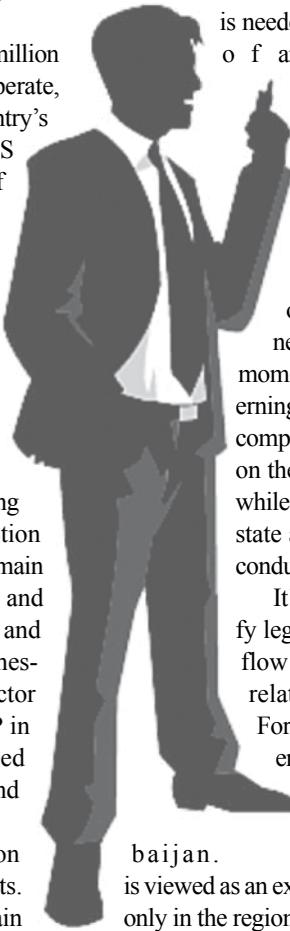
access to external funding, either because they aren't given credit, or because they don't apply, faced with impossible conditions. This problem becomes particularly significant when firms grow larger and can no longer rely on state support programmes.

Other obstacles to the development of business initiatives are tax rates and inadequate personnel training. Accordingly, the creation of equal conditions for all businesses, regardless of their size or ownership structure, is a key task for the state. This would promote sustainable economic growth and provide a medium-term increase in the average wage.

A comprehensive state strategy is needed, with the establishment of an authorised body overseeing economic policy governing small and medium-sized enterprises. It's important to create an institutional 'platform' for dialogue between the state and businesses, on issues of entrepreneurial development. At the moment, economic policy governing small and medium-sized companies continues to be based on the principle of 'top-down', while consultations between the state and the private sector are conducted without regularity.

It's also necessary to simplify legislation and automate the flow of electronic documents relating to entrepreneurship.

For example, the use of e-government services has helped reduce operating costs for businesses in Azerbaijan. Their electronic platform is viewed as an example of best practice, not only in the region but beyond.



Salary based money-making

Valery BORODENYA,
a deputy of the National Assembly's House of Representatives:

The President's goal of increasing incomes has caused much dispute. Opinions are often guided not by the analysis of a possibility or the probability of achieving a goal but by critics who aren't always constructive. Revenue growth is associated with uncontrolled emission, inflation and the risk of devaluation. As an alternative, economic structural reforms are proposed, often related to changing property relations and the state leaving the economy.

Is the administrative approach to the population's income contradictory to the requirements of lowering state participation and expanding entrepreneurial initiative? No matter how property relations change, authorities must continue to meet the challenges of improving public welfare, and promoting efficiency. Regardless of sphere of operation, the private sector shares a desire to raise revenue and salaries. However, these must reflect labour productivity. Money must be earned. Managerial, technological and structural factors influence productivity, from personnel training and motivation, to management innovations, and the organisation of production and labour. It's no secret that the longer a company operates, the more set in its ways it tends to become. However, as regards motivation, our industrial giants are capable of rapid and significant changes.

The second group of factors is connected with mechanisation, automation and computerisation of production, introducing advanced production processes, applying new materials and improving product construction.

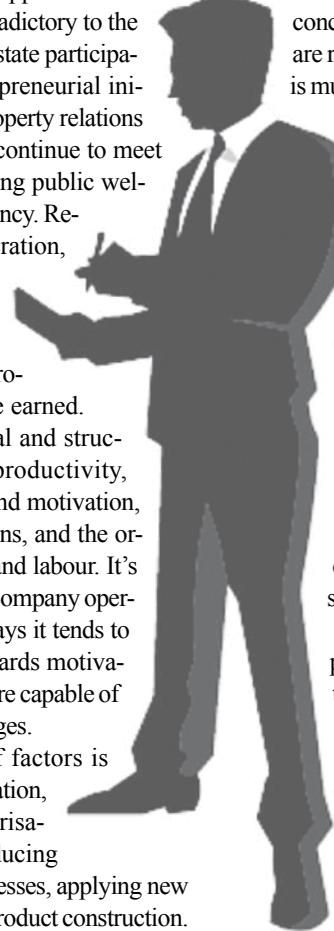
There is great potential for growth and problems can be solved, thanks to the high intellectual potential of the High-Tech Park.

Structural factors include the possibility of producing more expensive and less labour-intensive products, and outsourcing to improve efficiency of production and industrial co-operation. The application of logistics and marketing can accelerate the turnover of capital, despite ever-increasing competition.

Unfortunately, we cannot say that these concepts have become routine yet. They are rather viewed as a set of tools. There is much yet to do. The principles of marketing and logistics can only be fulfilled when every employee takes responsibility for the final product.

State steps to emancipate entrepreneurial initiative and reduce the administrative burden on businesses are helping reform and optimise production in the face of increased competition and growing barriers on new and traditional markets. In this regard, in the medium and long term, export diversification and mastering of new markets are mandatory for sustainable salary growth.

The conclusion is evident: employees are more responsible for the growth of their income than the state. Commercial success depends on whether working teams can form a corporate culture aimed at the creation of a highly competitive product, to optimise costs and master new innovative technologies.



Give me your hand, my progressive robot-friend!

17-year-old student, from Slutsk, has created a stir at scientific and engineering competition, held in St. Petersburg

By Lyudmila Bezrukova

Vladislav Gadalov has managed to speed up the work of a smartphone, without the use of high-capacity batteries, while making it smaller and cheaper. The development has been praised at a recent scientific and engineering competition in St. Petersburg. Vladislav is now a three-time laureate in the 'System Programming and Computer Technologies' nomination, while receiving diplomas from the youth, teacher and business jury.

The Baltic competition gathered 400 participants aged 16-18 from fifty-one regions of Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Besides the traditional nominations of mathematics, physics, ecology, and programming, robotics was added this year.

Every entry was a true innovation, with a team of tenth-graders from St. Petersburg creating a 'robot-hand', controlled remotely, with the help of a 3D-sensor. The manipulator can memorise movements and then automatically reproduce them.

Another project was proposed by sisters Maria and Irina Kolochevskie, from

Minsk: a 'visualisation system for physical processes', which they suggest for application in monitoring cracks in buildings. At present, gypsum sensors and surveillance cameras are used for this purpose but these ensure neither complete data, nor accuracy. The girls' high-contrast webcams register the slightest change in an image, using a special programme to analyse each second. They suggest it could be used by Interior Ministry staff, and by biologists wishing to monitor plant growth.

The unique contest was conceived thirteen years ago, in Hungary, during an international conference, when Ilya Chistyakov — a well-known Petersburg mathematician — met Belarusian colleagues, and became good friends. "When we had some free time, outside of reports

and seminars, we chatted about what's lacking in modern education," Mr. Chistyakov explains. "Our countries share a similar problem in that Olympiads are great for identifying talented youngsters but there's little afterwards to challenge them. It's no secret that many young talents, especially those living in remote locations, are lost to science. Moreover, Olympiads are more like sport-



Vladislav Gadalov becomes 2017 triple laureate of Baltic competition

ing competitions. We want young people keen on such subjects as mathematics, physics and computer science to compete not only in knowledge but in their ability to apply this knowledge. We want them to move deeper."

The first competition was attended by fifty people from Russia and Belarus but, this time, over 1,500 applied. Six hundred received admission to the correspondence selection round and four hundred reached the finals. Meanwhile, the jury comprises well-known scientists from leading universities of St. Petersburg and Belarus, alongside representatives of scientific and production enterprises.

Boris Zadvorny, the Deputy Dean of the Applied

Mathematics Department at the BSU, Candidate of Physico-Mathematical Sciences and Associate Professor, has brought various pupils to the competition over the years, including David Zmeykov, who is now a professor of mathematics and has been working abroad for several years. After returning to Belarus, he began lecturing at the BSU and presides at the International Tournament of Young Mathematicians, which he personally organises.

Long-standing professional contacts are gradually transforming into close friendships. The exchange of knowledge and experience is almost continuous. During the summer holidays, St. Petersburg pupils visit a Belarusian summer school camp

for talented students (at the Belarusian State University's Lyceum). Leading teachers from the BSU and other higher educational institutions give lectures and offer classes in programming, mathematical analysis and linear algebra.

Maxim Zhidal, aged 17, from St. Petersburg's school #564, has attended the camp for the last four years. He can hardly imagine his holidays without it. Although born in St. Petersburg, Maxim has Belarusian roots, as his father comes from Baranovichi, where his mother and other relatives live now. Visiting his grandmother, he tells her about his passion for physics and plans to enter the famous Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology after leaving school.



On the beauty of weather

By Vladimir Yakovlev

World Meteorological Organisation to set up Eurasian office in Belarus

There are only a few branches of the kind globally, with hydro-meteorologists from most Eurasian countries — as well as Mongolia and Israel — keen to become involved. The Head of the Republican Hydro-meteorological Centre, Maria Germenchuk, comments, "The Belarusian office can become a link between the hydro-meteorological services of the countries of Eurasia and the West. Our eastern colleagues work at approximately the same level, communicating in Russian. Belarus will facilitate the transfer of modern technologies in the field of weather forecasting, many of which we've already mastered. The mutual exchange of hydro-meteorological information will also expand."

The office is under construction at the moment and an official decision on its opening will be made at the next Congress of the World Meteorological Organisation in 2018. Given that the National Academy of Sciences recently decided to create a climate research centre, it would not be an exaggeration to say that Minsk may yet claim to be a regional meteorological capital.

Laser technologies and 'Belarus' tractors

'Belarus' tractors using laser scanning heading to Egypt, following Egyptian governmental delegation's visit to Minsk Tractor Works JSC

By Vladimir Velikhov

Laser technologies are used to precisely measure fields and create the necessary incline for artificial irrigation in desert areas. "These systems are very important for Egypt because they can greatly reduce water consumption," stresses a representative of the Egyptian Agriculture Ministry.

"We'll have no problems working with equipment that supports laser scanning of the soil. I believe that this project will have a great future. We can do anything together. The scientific and technological expertise of Minsk Tractor Works allows us to resolve any problem," underlines MTZ's Director General, Fiodor Domotenko. According to various es-

timates, Belarusian tractors account for around 20 percent of the Egyptian tractor market. This African country is now interested in expanding its tractor fleet with powerful tractors, of 200HP and above.

The Egyptian governmental delegation included representatives of several ministries and agencies, headed by the Minister for



At exhibition of Belarusian technologies, in Cairo

Military Production, Mohamed El-Assar. He noted, "We've made sure that MTZ

is a large modern factory that maintains high manufacturing standards." A delegation

of representatives of Belarusian industry enterprises will visit Egypt soon.

Fighting back against strokes

Gomel student develops unique device for speedy recovery after illness

By Stanislav Galkovsky

Maxim Kiryanov's invention has exploded across the Internet. The 18-year-old student from Gomel has developed a robotic glove for use while recovering from a stroke. His robot — using a computer programme — helps the patient regain control of their fine motor skills, and can be controlled even from a mobile phone. The device is smaller than foreign analogues, and at least 100 times cheaper.

Maxim studies at the Gomel State Machine Building College, where we met, Maxim bringing a laptop and two gloves. His invention appears simple: using a rubber glove, with a software box on top and wires passing through, to drive the fingers. The tensioning structure is attached through laundry hooks.

The programme makes the hand bend its fingers. He explains, "One of the two gloves leads and the another is driven; the 'brains' are in the driven — right — hand. The glove connects to Wi-Fi, picks up data from the server and starts working. A doctor

can programme the necessary workout for the hand, adjusting how far the fingers bend, in what order and when to add vibration. Hospital and polyclinics can use my software to create a recovery programme for patients to follow at home; they just need an online connection and a glove device."

The special glove helping patients practise their fine motor skills aids in the recovery process early on, when mobility has been compromised, offering mechanical therapy.

Maxim had his idea for the device while spending time at the cardiological centre. "Chatting with doctors, I learned how expensive it is to organise rehabilitation after a stroke. Incredibly, stroke is the third most common

cause of death worldwide, and the first for disability. In the Gomel Region alone, over 5,000 people have strokes annually. Of these, 70 per cent lose sensitivity in their hands. Modern devices cost up to \$50,000 and tend to be large and heavy, so cannot be taken home. I've developed a compact, portable device with a battery lasting twelve hours. In developing the design and software, I consulted

the Head of the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Gomel Medical University, Natalia Usova. I needed the opinion of a professional to create a device which is convenient for both patients and doctors. It took me two months to complete my work."

Maxim is already a celebrity within his own college. Programming teacher Yelena Polyakova explains that the

boy is always full of new ideas. "In his first year of studies, he created a robot able to navigate the college corridors to measure the level of gases, radiation and temperature. During his second year, he

invented an autonomous watering system for lawns. Jointly with another student, he designed an electronic access system for the hostel. His glove-robot was made during his third year. I wonder how he'll surprise us with his diploma paper," she adds.

The robot-glove won first place at a recent science and engineering contest, the Belarus Science and Engineering Fair, in Minsk. It currently costs Br50 to produce, but larger batch production would reduce this.

"People have been messaging me via my social network pages to tell me that their relatives are recovering from a stroke. They each offer to purchase the glove but I haven't been able to help yet,

as we haven't launched industrial production. We need to complete clinical trials and gain certification. Moreover, it's important to make the design more functional. In future, we'll fulfil individual orders, using 3D printing, and could use the gloves for people recovering not just from strokes but from hand injuries and burns. I'm negotiating with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and am hoping they'll come on board, to help me and all those recovering from a stroke," he says.

Serial production will follow clinical trials and patenting but a serious investor is required. Probably, the NAS will help. If not, Maxim is ready to launch the glove as a start-up project, using crowdfunding. He's convinced that money would pour in from around the globe for such a project, which is important for hundreds of thousands of people.

Saying goodbye to the inventor, I ask about his plans for the future. Maxim replies, "I'll enter a university which focuses on developing artificial intelligence. It's my dream: to develop a classic robot, as we see in films, able to analyse reality and make decisions. Modern science is at such a level of development that these dreams are almost a reality."



Maxim Kiryanov with his innovation

Topical for adults, and especially the elderly

Can consumption of calcium prevent osteoporosis?

A. Stasevich, Turov

It's true that the leading factor in the occurrence of osteoporosis is lack of calcium and vitamin D. In old age, there are physiological reasons, since dipping levels of sex hormones and the kidney's declining ability to process active vitamin D metabolite of — calcitriol — reduces intestinal absorption of calcium. However, there's another factor: a thorough study of nutrition has shown that elderly people consume less calcium than is recommended.

Men and women over the age of 65 tend to consume less than 600mg of calcium per day, rather than the recommended 1,500mg for women and 1,000mg for men. The difference is due to differences in the endocrine profile.

Wishing to limit fat intake, elderly people also tend to consume less fat-soluble vitamin D, and

everyone is spending less time in the sun, which prevents this vitamin being synthesised in the subcutaneous tissue.

Another important cause of osteoporosis is that a sedentary lifestyle, as becomes common in old age, exacerbates loss of bone density.

Daily walks, and sea and mineral baths, as well as a balanced diet, rich in protein, minerals and vitamins, are essential. Eat a diverse diet, including sufficient foods containing calcium: dairy products, such as cheese and cottage cheese, are particularly good, as is fresh milk, kefir, horseradish, onion, parsley, wild apricots, dried apricots, and oatmeal.

Unluckily, it's difficult to find enough vitamin D2 in food (it's found in fish oil, such as cod liver oil). The liver uses this

To aid calcium absorption, ensure your blood plasma has a sufficient level of vitamin D (at least

to make vitamin D3, converted by the kidneys, to regulate metabolic processes in the bone tissue and to strengthen the immune system.

Deficiency in vitamin D is a real problem among adults, especially the elderly, leading to osteoporosis, osteohaliteresis, lack of co-ordination of muscle movements and memory impairment. Poor nutrition is the main cause, alongside adverse weather conditions, and bowel disease (leading to malabsorption). Hereditary factors can play their part, as can

lack of exposure to sunlight. Pharmacies in Belarus sell calcium-based and vitamin D-based supplements, for daily

consumption. These can be taken over extended periods, at a dose of 1,000-1,500mg/day. Recommended doses of vitamin D are being revised upwards, especially in complex drug therapy of osteoporosis. It's important to know that it's pointless to take calcium gluconate, since each pill contains just 90mg of calcium.

Calcium citrate is most easily absorbed, and can be prepared at home: grind up unwanted eggshells and add a pinch to citrus juice. Calcium absorption is aided in the gut by phytic acid (contained in large amounts in rye bread), and by oxalic acid (found in spinach and sorrel). Calcium utilization is hampered by fatty foods but is aided by fish oil (1 tsp), which contains vitamin D.

To treat osteoporosis, Belarus has a range of drugs available on prescription. After thorough examination, your doctor may recommend.

By Tatiana Zhukova, doctor of higher category, Candidate of Medical Science



Nordic walking keeps body toned

30ng/ml). Unfortunately, it's difficult to find enough vitamin D2 in food (it's found in fish oil, such as cod liver oil). The liver uses this

Android hair style

Minsk hairdressers offer customers a new service: tablets with unusual software

By Alina Kasel

Our MT reporter recently visited a beauty salon offering not only treatments, but time spent watching videos, films and programmes, and news clips.

PR-Storyga project leader Sergey Kuryan has developed software for use in salons, explaining, "I was sitting, having my hair cut, and it seemed to take ages, with nothing for me to do. About a week later, I was waiting at a car service centre and was watching a video demonstrating how my car was produced and its functions. I was amazed! Firstly, I learnt something useful and, secondly, I was entertained. I realised that the barber's should offer something similar."

Jointly with Sergey, we went to a beauty salon in Chekhov Street, which is using the tablets and their unique software. Director Tatiana Margevich put me



ARTUR PRUPAS

Never bored in the barber's chair when you have a tablet

in the chair, with a mirror in front of me, alongside a 10-inch tablet. A video began playing while hairdresser Natalia began to cut my hair. Interestingly, the video only plays while you make eye-contact.

"The programme reacts to movement from the client's head and eyes," explains Mr. Kuryan. "This tablet contains videos of city novelties. The eye-movement software is my own programme development,

upon which I've had eight software developers working, for more than a year. So far, only two Minsk salons have these tablets, with another in Brest. However, another ten Minsk salons are eager to begin using them.

By late 2017, up to a hundred salons will feature these tablets."

Developers plan to export their product, with talks underway with Russia, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, Latvia, Estonia,

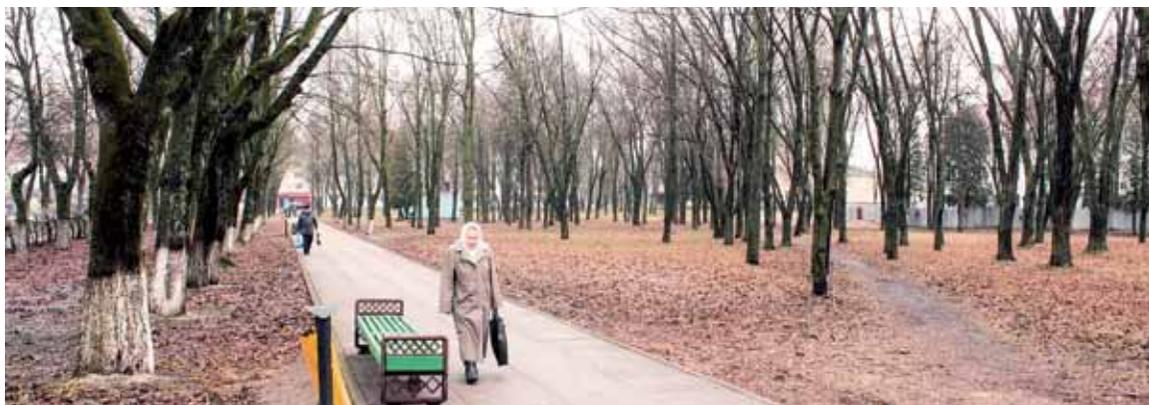
MT REFERENCE

Tablets with new software installed at three hairdressers': two in Minsk and one in Brest

Lithuania and Poland. Before introducing the software, the company surveyed several thousand barbershop customers worldwide, asking whether they needed entertainment during their haircut. 92 percent answered positively.

Of course, the idea has far wider application, such as for the corporate segment and education. A child might ask to watch a cartoon on the tablet, but their mother can agree that a 30-minute English lesson must be performed first. You set the software to ensure that the child has to pay attention, since it stops if they turn their head. Sergey adds, "It can also be used to ensure that employees read their job description, or to give tests after instructions have been watched."

Our photographer turns his head in the chair, checking how the video pauses and starts again. He asks, "If I want to access my social network or read news, can I control the screen with my eyes in the same way as I'd use a cursor or mouse?" Mr. Kuryan comments, "Imagine how much this technology would cost. No doubt, we'll achieve this one day; perhaps, by 2020. We'll see!"



Public garden to house a museum

Arousing interest in history

By Tatiana Bogomazova

Pupils from Baranovichi State Professional-Technical College of Service Trade set up museum commemorating hero pilots

The museum is to be established in the public garden named after twice Hero of the Soviet Union, pilot Mikhail Stepanishchev, close to

the college, in Tekstilny suburb. Pupils and teachers have developed the *Living Memories of a Generation...* project, which not only beautifies the public garden but features a memorial sign to Stepanishchev and gives information on twelve hero pilots in whose honour streets of the town have been named.

"Realisation of this social project

will enable us to create an open-air museum and to develop a new excursion route. The revamped public garden may also become a good leisure zone for residents and guests of the town. Cultivating patriotism among youngsters and maintaining interest in history is also very important," believes teacher Lyudmila Davydova.

Kino-mo project presented in Dubai

By Olga Korneeva

Project by Belarusian developers, Kino-mo, takes place in Cabsat-2017 exhibition, held in Dubai

The project by Belarusians Artem Stavenko and Kirill Chikeyuk, *Kino-mo*, has been named among the best by *USA Today*. Their development enables video images to appear suspended in the air, creating a beautiful 3D-illusion. The technology isn't expensive. Stavenko



and Chikeyuk have won a contest run by the Virgin Media Company, as founded by billionaire Richard Branson. Meanwhile, billionaire Mark Cuban, whose investment portfolio exceeds fifty companies, has signed a contract with the Belarusian pair.

Cabsat is a major event in the sphere of information media and communication equipment in the Middle East. The exhibition has been held annually since 1995.

Brexit is triggered but are London and Brussels agreed on next steps?

But the remaining 27 member states are insisting that the size of Britain's exit bill must first be agreed before substantive talks can begin.

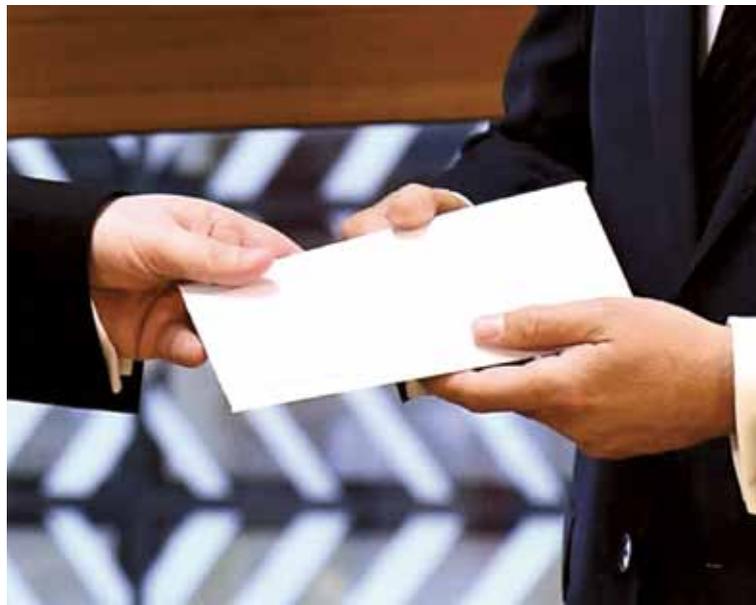
Prime Minister Theresa May was asked about an exit fee which some say is around 50 billion Pounds (58 billion Euros)

"Well you talk about an exit fee that the EU is demanding. There's been a lot of speculation. Actually, there isn't a formal demand, the negotiations haven't started yet. I'm very clear about what people

here in the UK expect, but I'm also clear that we're a law-abiding nation, we will meet obligations that we have (...)"



For the Prime Minister a trade deal remains her focus, "I believe that what we'll be working for and what I believe we can get is a comprehensive free trade agree-



One day after the letter triggering the formal Brexit divorce was accepted and received with regrets in Brussels and the UK is getting its wish list in order for the forthcoming tough talks

ment. We are looking, we would like to see as friction-less free trade as possible, tariff free across borders so we can continue that trade with the European Union."

Trade, London's future as a top global financial centre and the ensuring of the rights of EU citizens in the UK and Britons on the continent are all issues close to Mrs. Theresa May's heart.

But while the UK is hoping for a special relationship with EU, Council President Donald Tusk said 'there are no winners from Brexit just damage limitation'.

Uber to shut down its cab-booking service in Denmark

The brakes have been applied to the US online cab-booking company Uber in Denmark

This because of a strict new taxi law that is coming into force, requiring the likes of seat occupancy sensors and fare meters. Uber says it will cease operations in Denmark on April 18th.

There are mixed opinions on the issue. One man in Copenhagen said, "I think it's a pity because I've used it myself." But another man said, "It's unfair competition which is why I think it's good they close."



Uber says it had about 2,000 drivers and 300,000 people using its online application in Denmark. It has faced widespread accusations of unfair competition, not meeting regulations imposed on traditional taxi firms. Uber said in a statement: 'For us to operate in Denmark again the proposed regulations need to change. We will continue to work with the government in the hope that they will update their proposed regulations and enable Danes to enjoy the benefits of modern technologies like Uber'.

Environmental activists protesting against Bayer-Monsanto merge in Brussels

Environmental campaigners have turned out in Brussels to demand the EU blocks a deal that would create the world's biggest seeds and pesticides company



Activists during protest campaign

They want to see a merger of Bayer, from Germany, and America's Monsanto scrapped.

"We think these co-operations have already a toxic grip

on our food supply and if these mergers are allowed to happen then we think it will be a marriage made in hell," said Adrian Bebb, from Friends of the Earth,

organisers of the Brussels protest.

"It's going to be bad for farmers, it is going to be bad for the consumers and it is going to be bad for nature. We think the European Commission should stop these mergers from happening."

A petition letter signed by 200 organisations has been delivered to the EU's Competition Commissioner. Bayer and Monsanto say the merger would bring billions of euros of investment and create several thousand new jobs.

Monsanto has hit the headlines for its genetically modified seeds, condemned by some environmental activists.



Raising of the statue from the mud

Not Ramses II but Psamtek I

A statue discovered in the mud on the site of the ancient Egyptian capital of Heliopolis, is not Pharaoh Ramses II but King Psamtek I, who ruled between 664 and 610 BC

Initially archaeologists thought it was Ramses II, until one Psamtek's five names was found engraved on the statue. Khaled Abu Alela is from the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, "The size of this statue shows the magnitude of the temple in ancient Egypt, because the statues length is about 8 metres,

which means that the temple gate was at least 15 meters high."

The statue was uncovered by an Egyptian-German archaeological team, and was partially submerged in water. The huge effigy had split into a number of parts, the body alone weighs three tonnes. Psamtek I is thought to have brought stability to Egypt after years of turmoil, he ruled some 600 years after Ramses II and sat on Egypt's throne for about 50 years.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies

Bronze magnificence of sculptor Sergey Selikhanov's live images

March saw the centenary of the birth of one of the greatest sculptors of Soviet times, whose works characterise their age in their depth of figurative solutions, spiritual content and historical authenticity. The National Art Museum's exhibition is dedicated to Sergey Selikhanov's legacy.

By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition comprises around fifty sculptures and sculptural sketches, as well as twelve pictorial and graphical pieces from the collections of the National Art Museum and other museums from across the country, from the collection of the Belarusian Union of Artists and from the master's family. The exhibition is supplemented by dozens of copies, including those from the archives of the Belarusian State Archive-Museum of Literature and Art.

Since the days of the Italian Renaissance, sculpture has given us an artistic reflection of the physical world, capturing the appearance of national heroes and commemorating important events. Throughout the 20th century, sculpture has competed worthily with other art forms.

Sergey Selikhanov was a versatile artist, creating not only portraits and epic works, monumental heroic and dramatic sculptural compositions, but memorial reliefs and graphic artworks, from clay and plaster, granite and marble. His skills were masterful across all mediums.

Undoubtedly, the events of the Great Patriotic War, which he endured, influenced Selikhanov's creativity, as did its heroes. His landmark sculptures include the 'Unbowed Man' monument at Khatyn Memorial Complex, dedicated to victims of Fascism, and 'The Soviet Army during the Great Patriotic War', the haut-relief on the Victory Monument in Minsk, which honours Soviet Army soldiers and Belarusian partisans who died in the war years. He created the monument to Soviet Union Hero Kostantin Zaslou, in Orsha, and a monument to Soviet Union Hero, pioneer Marat Kazei, in Minsk. Huge in scale and in concept, they have spiritual grandeur in honouring the heroic deeds of the na-



tion. The artist's portraits of famous people and his contemporaries were typical subjects for Soviet art and have become classics of Belarusian art, including portraits of artist Alexander Mozolev, and of People's Artist of the USSR Gennady Tsitovich.

His creative trips to China from 1956-1957 and to South Africa in 1960 were notable pages in Selikhanov's life.

His China trip resulted in a series of thirty-six portraits of members of the intelligentsia, as well as ordinary people, depicting, with historical authenticity, such characters as his 'Chinese Coolie' and 'Peasant from Hangzhou', and his portrait of Chinese painter Qi Baishi. Each is expressive and dynamic.

The master's



Exhibition showcases not only Selikhanov's sculptures but his other works

works dedicated to the workers of Soligorsk document a rapidly changing time of Belarusian industry, capturing the life and labour of miners, through a series of portraits and compositions.

"Sergey Selikhanov based his work on new principles: on the interaction of sculpture and architecture, and on the relationship between the environment and the viewer," notes curator Anastasia Karneiko, senior researcher of the National Art Museum's Department of Modern Belarusian Art and curator of the *Belarusian Sculpture* collection. She tells us, "The understanding of space, expressiveness, highlights and textural contrasts gave individuality and unique creative expression to his works."

His works gained recognition as landmarks of 20th century Belarusian art, serving as an example to coming centuries, as the Director General of the National Art Museum, Vladimir Prokoptsov, notes. "Even if he'd only created a single work, such as the one in Khatyn, he would have entered Belarusian art history."

The exhibition marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of the sculptor who created the 'Unbowed Man' for Khatyn Memorial, is moving in the extreme. It demonstrates the power of the artist's legacy, which has rendered so many faces eternal, no matter the changing times. Modern audiences are fascinated, as are his remaining friends and colleagues, who witnessed the last minutes of his life. Mr.

Selikhanov's heart stopped at the very moment when he was showing them his last work, unwrapping his plastiline model. His name has long entered encyclopaedias of art but many of the works are on show for the first time at the exhibition.

Sergey Selikhanov was born on March 8th, 1917 in revolutionary Petrograd. His father came from the Orsha District of Belarus and, after his death, his family returned. Selikhanov spent his childhood in Orsha and his adolescence in Vitebsk, where he graduated from the Art College. He also created oil drawings on cardboard. Few know that he received his higher education as a painter. The exhibition showcases his works, inspired by his trip to China,

when he visited the country's largest cities and captured them in sculpture. Those from this journey occupy a special place, portraying not just outstanding personalities, but ordinary residents of the provinces.

His 'Unbowed Man', erected at the Khatyn Memorial Complex, is his most well-known, and three miniature copies of are on show at the exhibition: a model in gypsum, a palm-size sketch and a photo of the sculpture. Meanwhile, a statue of young hero partisan Volodya Shcherbatsevich is on loan from the Museum of Great Patriotic War History.

Sergey Selikhanov was famous for his monumental sculptures but also found his artistic expression as a portrait painter, working initially with pencils during military actions, his fellow soldiers being his life models. He returned to this medium only in the 1950s.

Konstantin Selikhanov, a grandson of the sculptor, is already a famous painter and sculptor. For the exhibition, he has recreated several of his grandfather's works, which existed only in plastiline. Some pieces had to be restored. Almost fifty figures, busts and frozen emotions from the Selikhanov dynasty occupy the halls at the National Art Museum; this autumn, the Belarusian sculptor's works will open in Beijing.

Selikhanov created the last sculptural portrait of the iconic Chinese painter Qi Baishi (the 'Van Gogh of Asia'). Several busts of children, peasants and workers were conjured from Selikhanov's trip to China in the 1950s, revealing so much with their eyes alone. Despite the abundance of art in contemporary Beijing, Chinese art experts have no doubt that this exhibition will draw crowds.

Sergey Selikhanov remains unique in having portrayed so much of our humanity. Though bronzes are not as popular as they once were, their grandeur in capturing the titans of the past cannot be denied.

Festival expands artistic borders

Director of *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* Festival of Arts, Alexander Sidorenko, shares his view on novelties of forthcoming musical, song and theatrical event

By Tatiana Khoroshilova

From July 11th-19th, Vitebsk will host its traditional *Slavianski Bazaar*. Here, its Director comments on the programme.

Is it true that tickets are sold out for some concerts already?

Our prices are reasonable — even for concerts of top stars. This is probably why tickets have already sold out for some concerts.

Every year, you try to attract a global star. Who's performing this time?

Julio Iglesias Jr. will come to Vitebsk for the first time, to perform on the main concert stage. We've contacted Kim Breitburg's 'Kasanova' musical staging, which features young Belarusian actors and students. We've already received many applications for the street festival, and the puppet event is always popular. Theatres from Sweden, Italy and France plan to come.

What's new for the song contest?

The number of national selection rounds, applied by various countries, will be increased. For example, the Mayor of Acapulco has requested a qualifying round in his city, and there will be one in Riga.

Tell us about the countries participating...

The festival enjoys great interest. We're launching a special Italian project — with a concert and an exhibition — and we'll widely represent Ukrainian artists. The Ukraine broadcast of



For the third year in a row, festival welcomes international puppeteers and street artists

the 2016 'Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk' enjoyed the highest ranking on Ukrainian TV. This year, we're likely to see

the Grigory Verevka Academic Choir, as well as Irina Bilyk and Oleg Vinnik. In the past, we welcomed Belaru-

sian, Ukrainian and Russian masters, and the practice is being revived.

In your speech at the



PAVEL CHUIJKO

Russian-Belarusian Theatrical Workshop, in Moscow, you mentioned the establishment of theatrical stagings as part of the Bazaar...

Yes, eight performances will be staged. For the third year in a row, we're hosting an international puppet programme, in addition to street art. The Theatrical Workshop focuses on the important issue of co-operation, and there's the 'Theatrical Meeting' programme. All need greater support. Every year, leading theatres come to Minsk but, in recent times, we've moved towards non-repertory theatres, which are cheaper. If we receive support from the Ministry of Culture, this project could be developed.

Which young contestants deserve attention?

I love the participants from Italy and the United States.

What's the festival's main purpose?

The motto of the festival is 'Through Art to Peace and Mutual Understanding'. It aims to bring people together. I'm convinced that cultural co-operation is much more efficient than politics. We long ago crossed the borders of the Slavonic world. Over the years, the festival has been attended by artists from more than eighty countries around the world, with core partners established. In the past, only Cuba hosted qualifying rounds but these are being held in several countries across Latin America at present.

Verses by Belarusian poet in Spanish

By Vladimir Velikhov

Madrid hosts literary evening dedicated to Maxim Bogdanovich's creative legacy

The Belarusian diaspora and Spanish intelligentsia interested in Belarusian culture attended the event organised by Vera Kukhareva and Larisa Malysheva. The two women have organised many such Belarusian cultural events in Spain, Ms. Kukhareva being a representative of the Madrid Irreverentes Publishing House and Ms. Malysheva being a co-ordinator of cultural projects. The Belarusian Embassy to Spain and Minsk's Museum of Maxim Bogdanovich also provided assistance. The focus was upon Belarusians abroad, introducing Spanish citizens to the creativity of Maxim Bogdanovich, and his rich literary heritage, as a giant of Belarusian national literature.

The event took place at Cósmico art café in the centre of Madrid, evoking an early 20th century atmosphere, with photos of Maxim Bogdanovich and his books on display, and guests invited to dress up in costumes from that time.



At literary evening

There were readings of Maxim Bogdanovich's verse, from various years, and extracts from his letters, as well as reading of recollections by the poet's contemporaries, in Belarusian and Russian. Writer Miguel Anhel de Rusa read translations of Bogdanovich's works by poetess Ángela Espinosa Ruiz.

At the initiative of Vera Kukhareva and with support from the Belarusian Embassy to Spain and Minsk's Museum of Maxim Bogdanovich, a collection of translations of the poet's verse will be released, in Spanish, in Madrid, later this year.

A citizen of Belarus, Lyudmila Nester, presented her own translations of Bogdanovich's verse, *The Emigrant Song* and *Sonnet*. Meanwhile, Gomel poetess Darya Doroshko read her touching verse, dedicated to Bogdanovich.

The organisers of the event were delighted by attendance at the literary-musical evening, which gathered so many representatives of the cultural community of the Spanish capital. They believe that Spaniards will have gained closer acquaintance with Belarusian poetry from the early 20th century and the history of its establishment.

Guttenberg visits Francysk Skaryna

By Lyudmila Ivanova

Belarusian museums have been preparing for the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing for several years

This was noted by the Deputy Director for Research and Publishing at the National Library of Belarus, Ales Susha, at a recent press conference. He notes that the international exhibition dedicated to

the history of printing will feature fragments of the Gutenberg Bible, which is considered to be the first volume in the age of book printing, according to European experts.

The event will be held for the first time in Belarus and Mr. Susha is cautious in his prediction for its success. The National History Museum is working on a reproduction of Skaryna's printing press, similar to collector Vladimir Lihodedov's

achievement. The State Museum of Belarusian Literary History is not in the most advantageous position, being under a state of 'repair'. Nevertheless, it's sure to please visitors with its retrospective mobile exhibition, *Life in Words*, in addition to its *Skaryniana in Belarusian Literature and Art* exhibition. Polotsk is the birthplace of Francysk Skaryna and is to host the Day of Belarusian Written Language. The local Mu-

seum of Belarusian Book Printing is already offering Skaryna's traditional lessons and there are plans to present the enlightener's life as part of a puppet show. On August 25th, the *Polotsk in Engravings of Modern Artists* open air workshop will launch.

Mr. Susha is hopeful that the Belarusian book printing anniversary will inspire many wonderful cultural initiatives across the regions.

First trophy of career

Belarusian tennis player Yegor Gerasimov wins singles match at Open Harmonie Mutuelle in French Saint-Brieuc, with a prize fund of 43,000 Euros

By Alexey Grishin

In the decisive match, the Belarusian, ranked 404th worldwide, defeated German Tobias Kamke (ranked 155th by the ATP) across two tie-breaks — 7:6 (7:3), 7:6 (7:5).

Yegor Gerasimov reached the main draw of the tournament after two qualifying rounds. In the first,

he defeated Austrian Gerald Melzer, followed by victory over Italian Simone Bolelli, Swiss Marco Chiudinelli and French Corentin Moutet.

This is the first trophy of Yegor's career. He was granted 6,190 Euros and eighty ranking points for his victory at the tournament in Saint-Brieuc.



Yegor Gerasimov

Three gold medals at World Cup in Moscow

By Semen Bondarev

Belarusian sambo wrestlers earn three gold medals at Anatoly Kharlampiev Memorial World Cup stage

Yekaterina Prokopenko (under 60kg weight category) defeated Daniela Poroineanu of Romania in the finals, while Vladislav Sayapin (68kg) took victory over Artur Te of Kyrgyzstan. Moreover, in the under 74kg weight category, Ilya Khadkevich was unrivalled, defeating Mavrik Nasibyan of Armenia. The Belarusian team also claimed two silver awards at the Moscow tournament. Tatiana Matsko (64kg) lost to Sofia Kabulova of Russia while, in the 48kg category, Leila Abbasova was defeated by Russia's Yelena Bondareva. Nine more Belarusian sambo wrestlers were awarded bronze medals.

The Belarusian national men's team was placed second while the women were ranked third over all.

Timely refreshment from across the ocean

By Kirill Karin

American basketballer Alex Bentley to play for Belarus' national team

Alex, 26, has taken Belarusian citizenship to play for the national squad at the European Championship, taking place in the Czech Republic in June.

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, she was selected with the 13th overall pick in the 2013 WNBA draft by Atlanta Dream. She then moved to Connecticut Sun for last summer's matches. Alex has been playing in Europe this season, in the Turkish League, for Adana (Mersin) and leads in the number of points and efficient passes.

Two years ago, Alex was voted into the WNBA All-Star Game.

Previously naturalised Belarusian Lindsey Harding was playing for Belarus; however, after the Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro, she announced her retirement from the Belarusian national team.



Alex Bentley to bring North American 'flair' to national team

Dave Lewis: 'We intend to fight for World Hockey Championship medals'



Dave Lewis chats to journalists during open training

By Alexey Grishin

Head coach of Belarusian national hockey team Dave Lewis talks of training in preparation for 2017 World Championship

I was pleasantly surprised when I saw that many experienced players had come to the training camp, since it's not obligatory. It indicates a serious approach.

Thirty players are now being trained with the team. Are there more candidates?

Andrei Stas and Kevin Lalande are to join us. Geoff Platt is recovering from the playoffs and Nick Bailey's season is nearing its end, so we're uncertain about them. We're also expecting players

from the Belarusian Championship to join us, while about six are being invited from Neman and Yunost.

Do you plan to change your approach after the failures of 2016?

Our approach remains the same: we're going to fight for medals at the World Championship. However, some of our ice tactics will change. We need to work on our short-play, working in a more disciplined manner and capitalising more efficiently on the power-play.

How far is the goalkeeper responsible?

We can blame the goalkeeper for some goals but the team is blameworthy in other cases. Our task is to change the system, stopping our rival from having the chance to score.

Are you considering any Be-

larusian hockey players for the team who are currently playing in North America?

Yes, but they'll arrive later.

What about Charles Linglet?

I spoke with him after he scored during overtime, in the playoff finals. He was happy to receive my call but we'll discuss his prospects after Eisbären closes the season. It's clear that he needs time to rest.

Artur Gavrus and Kirill Gotovets aren't on your list of invited players...

They're injured, so won't play in the championship.

Will Andrey Stas remain as captain?

Last year, he managed his responsibilities quite well. However, I must talk to Andrey to be convinced that he's ready again to take on this role.

Demand for meticulous specialists

By Igor Svitov

Belarusian coach Andrey Skabelka heads Avangard Omsk HC

Andrey, 46, has signed a long-term agreement with the Omsk club, with terms unannounced. The team's official website states: 'Skabelka is one of the most promising KHL coaches of recent years. He is demanding, using contemporary expertise to unite a team for serious tasks. We welcome the head coach to Omsk and hope for his success with Avangard!'

Skabelka has formerly worked with Novokuznetsk's Metallurg, with Gomel, with the national team of Belarus, with Nizhny Novgorod's Torpedo and with Sibir. During his



Andrey Skabelka

time with Novosibirsk's club, he achieved the greatest successes, taking his squad to bronze place in the 2014/2015 Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) and to the finals of the Eastern Conference that season.

12 AGENDA

The Minsk Times Thursday, April 6, 2017

Shot of the week



Spring sun awakens butterflies

EXHIBITIONS

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street
Until 16th April. *The Radziwills: the Fates of the Country and the Family* Until 17th April. Roman Sustov's graphics: *Arrival* Until 17th April. 100th Anniversary of Sergey Selikhanov (1917-1976) Until 23rd April. *Polish Landscape. Franciszek Mazurek: Pictorial Art*

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street
Until 9th April. *Vladimir Mulyavin: Heritage of Great Maestro* Until 9th April. *MirRazh* Until 9th April. *Belarus' Documentary Heritage from 16th-19th Century: Archives of St. Trinity Monastery* Until 16th April. Interactive exhibition: *Anatomy of Miracle* Until 1st June. *From Romanian Dinary to Belarusian Rouble*

BELARUSIAN STATE CIRCUS

23 Nezavisimosti Avenue
07 and 12.04 *Show of Giant Fountains. Amazing City*

LOSHITSA ESTATE

8 Chizhevsky Lane
Until 1st May. *Embroidered Beauty* Until 9th May. *Loshitsa Park Legend*

HOUSE OF PICTURES

89/3 Pobediteley Avenue
Until 16th April. *Path to Shambala*

YAKUB KOLAS STATE LITERARY MUSEUM

5 Akademicheskaya Street
Until 30th September. *In Waves of Endless Movement: Along Kolas' Automobile Paths*

MUSEUM OF BELARUS' MINIATURES

25 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Museum of Miniatures of Belarusian Sights permanent exhibition

CENTRAL BOTANICAL GARDEN OF BELARUS' NAS

Kalinin Square
Until 30th April. *Lemon Tree Nursery; Colours and Songs of Tropics*

UNIVERSITY OF CULTURE ART GALLERY

1 Oktyabrskaya Square
Until 13th April. *Valentin Yelizariev: Report from Present*

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue
Until 1st May. *Vladimir Akulov: Moments of Life* Until 30th June. Exhibition of wax figures: *Miraculous Travel*

MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane
Until 21st April. *My Life in Art*

THEATRES

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square
06.04. Eugene Onegin 07.04. Tamar. Scheherazade 08.04. Rigoletto 09.04. La Esmeralda 11.04. Figaro's Wedding; Lady's Confession 12.04. Gisele, ou les Willis 13.04. Oksana Volkova and Her Friends

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street
06.04. Yunona and Avos 09.04. Golden Chicken; Spring Concert 11.04. Blue Cameo 13.04. Tours of Daugavpils Theatre: Business Class Ward

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street
06.04. Three Giselles 07.04. Maybe 08.04. Golden Heart; Adel 09.04. This Is All She 11.04. Portrait 12.04. If No Tomorrow 13.04. Silent Love

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street
06.04. Evening 07.04. Art 08-09.04. The Black Lady of Nesvizh 09.04. Two Souls 11.04. Pinsk Gentry 12.04. People of the Marsh 13.04. Kolyady Night

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street
06.04. Taming of the Shrew 07.04. Run 08.04. The Visit 09.04. As If By Magic; The Twelfth Night 11.04. An Ideal Husband 12.04. An Intimidated Apostle 13.04. Pygmalion

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
06.04. Blue Rose 07.04. My Grandson Veniamin

MODERN ARTS THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street
08.04. Mad Money 09.04. House Upside-Down

BELARUSIAN REPUBLICAN YOUNG SPECTATOR'S THEATRE

26 Engels Street
08.04. Poliana 09.04. Road to Bethlehem

BELARUSIAN STATE PUPPET THEATRE

20 Engels Street
07.04. Belvedere 08.04. Wash-Em-Clean 09.04. Morozko 13.04. Why People Grow Older

THEATRE-STUDIO OF CINEMA ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue
06 and 07.04. Mechanical Man 08.04. Pygmalion 09.04. Two Arrows

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