

INTERNATIONAL

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## Grand Ball at Bolshoi Theatre

New Year Ball brings together guests at the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus on the eve of the ‘old calendar’ New Year — on the night of January 13th. This was the ninth time the celebration has been staged at the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre.

# Supreme honour to be the best

## President of Belarus presents awards to country's honoured people and labour collectives

By Vasily Kharitonov

Alexander Lukashenko has recently honoured the laureates of our 'For Spiritual Revival' Awards, also presenting special awards to figures of culture and art and the Belarusian Sport Olympus winners. The ceremony — held at the Palace of the Republic — annually honours people who serve these goals. It is a strong tradition in Belarus and is unique in the world. As the Head of State noted, it's not surprising that the tradition was born in our country.

"We enjoy a great spiritual



heritage," Mr. Lukashenko said, addressing those present. "This legacy relies on the righteous life of Belarusian saints and in the great works of poets, artists, musicians and architects who were born in our country. It is rooted in the spiritual heroism of those who have preserved faith, love for the homeland, respect for our history and culture — despite the incredible ordeals of the war years and

social upheaval."

The President noted that the world is still troubled today. An invisible struggle for the human soul is in progress. Christian pillars of morality often come under attack and traditional family foundations are being eroded. "The world view and the way of life of people are changing under the influence of information flow. An increasing number of tempta-

tions are emerging. It is getting much more difficult to protect our souls. In the pursuit of material goods and glitz, people are losing their true beauty: the inner light of good feelings and noble deeds which our people — all Slavs — have long been renowned," Mr. Lukashenko added. According to him, for the sake of ratings, television teaches viewers to enjoy negative news and scandalous

talk shows. Social networks deprive people of live communication, while computer games replace real life with virtual reality.

"It is but a fraction of the challenges our society faces today. Such realities slowly but persistently erode the existing system of traditional moral values. It is particularly important not to miss our timing, not to lose our spiritual essence. There is no doubt that culture, art and religion should come to the forefront. Their influence on people's minds is considerable. It is they that shape the images and ideals which many people see as virtues. Therefore, people of culture and art, mass media professionals, clergy, pedagogues and everyone who cares for the world, should pool their efforts for the sake of reinforcing the moral standards of our nation," stated the President.

Mr. Lukashenko underlined that spiritual immunity is needed against amorality and bad taste. Culture and art should always be a source of energy and fortitude for people. "We remember and honour the rich legacy of the past

### Laureates share their views



**Marianna Shchetkina, Chair of the Belarusian Union of Women, Deputy Chair of the Council of the Republic:**

This is the recognition of our association's work. This enhances the credibility of the organisation

and the very big responsibility which inspires us to improve our work and meet the requirements of modern times. At the same time, it's very important to maintain our continuity and traditions. For 25 years, our goal remains unchanged: the strengthening of moral and spiritual values. Our efforts are aimed at supporting families and strengthening family relations, protecting the rights and legitimate interests of mothers and children, increasing the role of women in the socio-political, socio-economic and cultural life of the country.



**Roman Motulsky, Director of the National Library of Belarus:**

Our contribution to the Year of Science is the projects devoted to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing. Our key project is the restoration of Francysk Skaryna's facsimile heritage; we've been working on this for five years. We are proud that the publication has become one of the brands of our country. As many foreign book publishers, librarians and scientists admit, a project of this kind is truly unique. Not only one or two books have been released (common for an edition) but a complete collection of Skaryna's works: twenty volumes and a separate volume of scientific comments. Researches conducted while preparing the project have become the basis for virtually all other publications dedicated to Skaryna.

and national culture which brings harmony to the life of society and strengthens our state. Our association strives to develop interest in the history and culture of the nation, thanks to state support. In 1997, top-level events were organised; they were dedicated to the 600th anniversary of the settlement of Tatars in Belarus. In 2017, we celebrated the 620th anniversary of that event on a large scale. The leitmotif of the holiday was that all those years have passed in peace and harmony. Moreover, the spiritual culture is reviving thanks to large-scale enlightenment activity.



**Abu-Bekir Shabanovich, Mufti of the Islamic Religious Association in the Republic of Belarus:**

This award is a great incentive. It's a guide for how we should build up our work to revive the spiritual

## Multi-vector policy surely proves its value

### Belarus has its own niche in today's foreign political and foreign economic context, reads the Annual Review of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Belarus and Activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017, published on the website of the Ministry

By Alexander Pimenov

The Ministry notes that major foreign policy initiatives brought forward by the President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko — promoting connectivity in Europe and partnership of integration processes, updating all-European dialogue on strengthening confidence and security-building measures and co-operation — are reflected in the unifying agenda which Minsk is offering to other members of the international community.

The international situation in 2017 was characterised by high

instability, a combination of centrifugal and centripetal trends, economic imbalances, and reluctance by world players to forsake their own national interests for the common good. There has been a lack of trust in the European region, and in the wider Eurasian space, and globally. Constructive dialogue and compromise are needed, above all.

In such difficult circumstances, in 2017, Belarus demonstrated resistance to unfavourable external factors and was able to work to

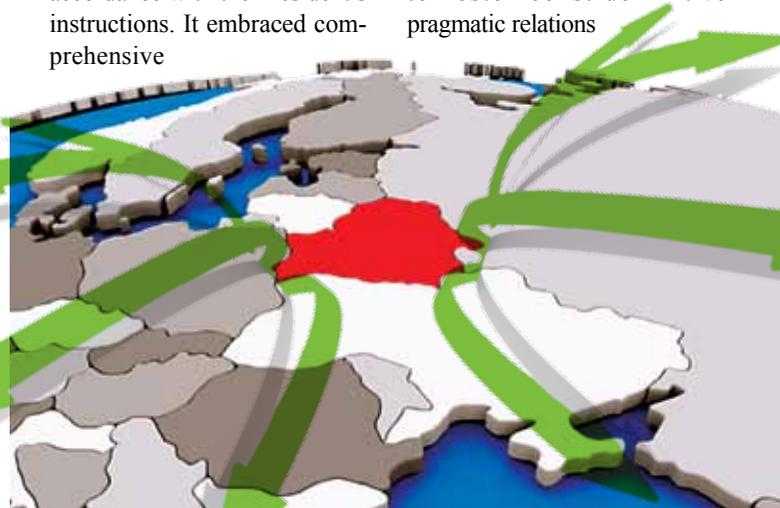
counter and mitigate their impact. As ever, Belarusian diplomacy pursued a well-balanced and multi-faceted foreign policy, in accordance with the President's instructions. It embraced comprehensive

members of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Belarus also continued to foster constructive pragmatic relations

foreign political relations, Belarus has continued to build other geopolitical pillars in 'distant arc' regions: Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.

The Foreign Ministry notes that, in 2017, Belarus completed its first presidency of the Central-European Initiative (CEI) with its head held high. A key message of its presidency was promotion of compatibility in Europe via the development of infrastructural ties between states, in the spheres of transport and power engineering, and digital communications. It promoted the creation of mutually reinforcing mechanisms of collaboration between integrations involving CEI member states, and the strengthening of contacts with neighbouring regions.

According to the Foreign Ministry, such approaches were received positively by partners, meeting a common desire for sustainable ties between Central, Western and Eastern European



Focus on multi-vector nature

protection of national interests, while strengthening regional security and stability.

Amid mistrust between Russia and the West, Belarus remained committed to strategic partnership with Russia, integration within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, and traditional interaction with

with the European Union, the United States of America, and other Western states.

The Chinese vector of Belarus' foreign policy has moved forward, seeing Belarus among the first countries to implement the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative, across several promising spheres.

In order to diversify its for-

FOCUS



At the prize-giving ceremony of the 'Spiritual Revival' Awards

generations. Their eternal light shows us the right way to live even now. The current generation should make the light even brighter so that our children and grandchildren could pick up the baton and pass it on," he noted. "We should set an example of how important it is to appreciate, respect, and thank those who continue the great work of preserving and creating Belarus' spiritual legacy. We must not leave nothing to those who will come after us."

The Head of State said that the world is changing rapidly. Even five years ago, nobody could have imagined how much the Internet will change the way

of life of humankind. "However hard we may struggle, we are stuck in this World Wide Web. It makes people's lives easier by delivering up-to-date information fast. You can see how life is changing, including for the better. On the other hand, the changes bring huge problems we are struggling to contain. We don't know how to tackle some of them yet," he stressed. Mr. Lukashenko encouraged society's elite and creative Belarusians to learn how to use new opportunities themselves and teach children how to live well whilst the World Wide Web influences their minds and hearts. "It is necessary from school age to teach your children

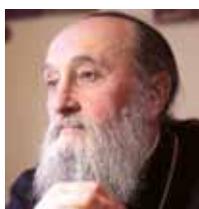
how to use multiple sources, learn many points of view to draw the right conclusions. It is important for youth. You and I were taught that practice is the judge of truth and young Belarusians could use more practice, more experience," stated the President. "We should teach them to doubt everything, to seek different sources, become familiar with different points of view, and use the experience of the older generation as well as their own to choose the point of view that suits the life of our society."

The Head of State believes the awardees make the world better and brighter. Their work creates an atmosphere of good-

ness and mercy. Ancient traditions of Belarusian craftsmen are revived. Interest in the past accomplishments of our ancestors is awakened. Family values are defended. Charity is encouraged. Patriotism is inspired. These people inspire genuine love of high art. By ascending to the sporting Olympus, they glorify Belarus at international level, awakening feelings of pride in our nation.

The President also thanked all those who participated in the traditional New Year campaign: Our Children. These people did a great job, presenting joy to the small Belarusians who are deprived of this pleasure by their fate.

Five awards For Spiritual Revival were presented by the President, honouring labour collectives and representatives of religious associations for their active work in the humanitarian sphere. Among the laureates are the Belarusian Union of Women, employees of the National Library of Belarus and the N.N. Alexandrov National Oncology and Medical Radiology Centre, the Senior Priest of the Saint Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya Church at Ivenets (Volozhin District, Minsk Region) — archbishop Victor Peregudov, and the Mufti of the Islamic Religious Association in the Republic of Belarus — Abu-Bekir Shabanovich.



**Archbishop Victor Peregudov, Senior Priest of the Saint Yevfrosiniya Polotskaya Church at Ivenets (Volozhin District, Minsk Region):**

The fact that our work has been recognised at such a high level indicates that society understands the importance of the Church's social service. It aims to help people in distress, as well as children with physical and psychological disabilities. We are engaged in spiritual care to ensure these children receive their first spiritual experience and find their way to God, also obtaining knowledge and gaining skills in the first and simplest prayers. We run the House of Mercy. We gather children from orphanages and families there. Surrounded by the warmth of our hearts, they can pray there, and visit the church.



**Yekaterina Dulova, Rector of the Belarusian State Academy of Music:**

Our Academy has been active for many years. In my opinion, it is an important component in the artistic educational process.

Participation in the large-scale *Land's Talent* musical show and such projects as *Touching*, and *Easter Festival* are important both for our students and for all those to whom they are addressed. Each of these projects addresses the higher levels of the human soul, playing a significant role in educating people. The President's special award proves that our activities are necessary, important and in demand. These are perceived by society as one of the most important components of the spiritual life of the country.



**Pavel Moiseev, Head of the Department of Anti-Cancer Control Organisation at the National Academy of Sciences' N.N. Alexandrov National Oncology and Medical Radiology Centre:**

The medical direction of oncology obliges us to communicate with patients in a special way; this is the cornerstone of their recovery and our successful work. We build relationships not only with patients but also with relatives: when a family learns of a cancer diagnosis, it changes their outlook on life. The doctor needs not only to prescribe the correct treatment but also explain everything in detail to a patient, offering support. This is as important as the availability of advanced equipment and modern drugs. In addition, a patient can receive moral support from a clergyman: a small church is open here.

states. Belarus' presidency of the CEI has led to it taking a key role in European integration processes.

Minsk is viewed as an important hub of unification for Europe, as confirmed by the 26th Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), held in Minsk for the first time.

In 2017, Belarus made efforts to provide assistance to settle the crisis in neighbouring Ukraine, ensuring all necessary conditions for the conduct of regular sessions of the trilateral contact group and thematic working groups. Last year, there were twenty-six such meetings. Moreover, Minsk welcomed foreign policy advisors from the 'Normandy Four' three times, to conduct working consultations on the settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine. With this goal, a working meeting was organised in the Belarusian capital, between the Russian and American delegations, headed by the aide to the Russian President and the United States Special Representative for Ukraine.

## Conditions are becoming easier but...

By Vladimir Khromov

### Work to simplify entrance to Belarus for foreigners will be continued

President Alexander Lukashenko said at the session discussing the liberalisation of visa regulations, that the Belarusian tourism industry has made considerable progress in recent years. This is currently one of the most progressive areas of industry.

"We now offer a wide range of recreation options and high-quality services for everybody. The interest in Belarus is increasing. In this regard, we have adopted several legal acts to facilitate entry to Belarus. However, we need to continue this work," believes the President. In his opinion, we should do our best to encourage tourists to travel to Belarus and to persuade them that there will be no prob-

lems with border crossing while keeping a close eye on security.

"The current migration policy of the European Union, i.e. the absence of real control over the movement of refugees, has already seen certain negative consequences. It has led to a growing terrorist threat in the region. Therefore, when making decisions we must keep the main thing in mind — the security of Belarusian citizens and of those coming to Belarus at any given time. Security is the main priority, it is more important than the money from tourism," the President emphasised.

However, the Government has prepared proposals aimed at the liberalisation of the visa regime. This concerns the extension of the period of visa-free stay for foreigners when arriving via Minsk National Airport, as well as their stay without registration. There are also plans



At Minsk National Airport

to adopt additional measures to simplify entry to Belarus for the duration of the 2nd European Games in 2019. In future, there may be the option to introduce a visa-free regime for those arriving in Belarus for the purposes of business or pleasure, for a period via any international border checkpoints for citizens of a range of states.

Previously, Mr. Lukashenko signed a decree on the establishment of visa-free entry for a period of up to 10 days for foreigners visiting the Avgustovsky Canal, Grodno and Grodno Region, Brest tourist-recreational zone, which encompasses the Belovezhskaya Pushcha, the city of Brest, Brest, Zhabinka, Kamennets and Pruzhany districts of the Brest Region, as well as the

Svisloch District of the Grodno Region.

Visa-free entry for up to 30 days is currently operating for citizens of Qatar and the UAE, while members of 80 states arriving via the Minsk National Airport, can stay in the country without a visa for up to 5 days.

Foreign investors and others included on the lists compiled by the Administration of the Great Stone Industrial Park can also stay in Belarus without visas for up to 180 days. Moreover, the Decree 'On the Development of the Digital Economy' establishes visa-free entry for foreign citizens employed by High-Tech Park residents, as well as for founders of the HTP residents. In a word, liberalisation of visa-free visits to Belarus is in full swing.



# Calculations are approved

2018 started with new budget, signed by President

By Alexey Fedosov

State treasury revenue will exceed Br20 billion this year, with fewer expenses than earnings; the Br734 million surplus will be spent on repaying debt. As ever, social policy is allocated the majority of funding, with more money being allocated to education and health than in 2017.

“The main financial document is prepared proceeding from the conservative scenario of economic development,” comments the Chair of the Parliamentary Commission on Budget and Finances, Lyudmila Dobrynina. “We already have experience of budget calculation in previous years, which is a starting point of confidence in forming budget revenues. Moreo-

**S**ocial policy is main focus for budget expenditure, as ever, with education and health receiving more funding than ever before

ver, our economy is gaining momentum, with GDP and exports are growing.”

Candidate of Economic Sciences Vyacheslav Yaroshevich believes the budget is too conservative against planned economic growth, saying, “From the standpoint of political economy, there’s no surprise: parameters of the kind are applied in states which must fulfil their obligations to creditors. These are lenders who insist on a budget surplus to ensure the return of their funds,” he explains.

Alexander Lukashenko has approved the main directions of monetary policy for 2018. It will retain the strategic focus on price stability, with inflation not exceeding six percent. Taking into account the repayment of Government and National Bank internal and external liabilities in foreign currencies, international reserve assets are likely to stand at least \$6 billion by late 2018.

In addition, the President has signed a decree ‘On Tasks of Socio-economic

Development for 2018’. The Government is to ensure economically sound growth of wages in the country, through creating high-performance jobs.

“Economic growth of 6-7 percent per year should become a benchmark for us,” comments Victor Margelov, the Chairman of the Republican Confederation of Entrepreneurship. “Large enterprises cannot provide such acceleration, while small businesses have enough potential even under modern conditions. However, state assistance is needed. It’s unwise to believe that the free market will solve all problems, ensuring sustainable growth for entrepreneurship. The state needs to systematically stimulate modern, innovative businesses, using well considered targets.”

# Promoting our products

By Ulyana Bushueva

**Belarusian producers conclude a major contract with a Chinese company for the supply of beef and poultry**

The end of last year proved productive for exporters and producers in the meat and dairy industries. The Belarus Meat-Dairy Company and the Chinese Drex Food Group Co. signed an agreement for the establishment of a Belarusian-Chinese trading office to promote Belarusian products to the world’s largest consumer market. In addition, the two parties concluded an agreement for the supply of beef and poultry to China.

According to Alexey Bogdanov — Head of the Department for Foreign Economic Activity at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the trading office will be registered in the free economic zone of Shanghai, aiming to promote a wide range of Be-



larusian food in the Chinese market. He also pointed out that relations between our two countries in the sphere of agriculture and food have been developing very successfully over the last year. “Dairy products are the focus of the trade. We increased sales to the Chinese market 10-fold,” Mr. Bogdanov added that Belarus has also opened up the market for beef exports.

The Meat-Dairy Company and Drex Food Group Co.

**FIGURES**  
Supplies of dairy products to China in **2017** grew **10-fold**

Ltd. signed an agreement for the supply of 1,000 tonnes of beef and 1,000 tonnes of poultry. During the recent visit of the Belarusian Minister of Agriculture and Food — Leo-

Made in Belarus

nid Zayts — to China, Drex Food Group Co. Ltd. signed a contract for the supply of \$50.8m worth of Belarusian dried milk products. President Dai Shiwei emphasised how last year’s joint co-operation brought good results.

In addition, the Chinese partners signed an investment agreement for the construction of a dairy farm in the Vitebsk Region; the facility will make use of innovative technologies.

# BelAZ places focus on virtual money

By Oleg Bogomazov

**BelAZ — Management Company of Holding BelAZ, considers proposals to sell its produce for crypto-currency, with corresponding information released on the enterprise’s official website**

The information notes that cash is gradually disappearing into the past, it is being replaced by bank cards and electronic wallets. However, a couple of years ago there appeared a novelty that could turn the entire financial world upside down — virtual money.

BelAZ always tries to keep up with the times, while also making its produce more affordable. The enterprise is considering offers to sell its production for crypto-currency until January 30th.

# Less paper, denser forest

By Vladimir Velikhov

**Era of digital economy inevitable and we must enter earlier than we previously supposed**

Experts forecast that, within some 20-30 years, Internet technologies will have become more important than oil, while such exotic notions as bitcoin and blockchain will become common. In this respect, the decree on the development of a digital economy is aimed not only at those working in the IT area. The Chairman of the National Bank's Board, Pavel Kallaur, sees advantages for the banking environment.

"We're not just ready to perceive innovations but are testing some. The banking system has two projects based on blockchain technology. Of course, these are experimental, but the most interesting results can be achieved for products used in trade financing. Undoubtedly, we'll be developing new projects across other

areas," he notes.

Electronic document flow has become



a reality for the National Bank, with Mr. Kallaur stating, "We've calculated that we've saved six hundred trees within the past year. Now, let's imagine this saving on a nationwide scale. If we add robots and software products making repetitive operations in an automatic mode, we release very many people who are involved in dead work. Specialists who possess modern knowledge will be in ever greater demand," explains Mr. Kallaur.

The country's major banker has an ambiguous attitude towards

crypto-currencies, saying, "These are a volatile asset and not very convenient for payments. Some are interested in buying or 'mining' crypto-currency. However, prices may drastically rise, or fall, overnight. Those who want to play can do so but our central banks are cautious in regard to a national crypto-currency. Our legal means of payment should be used within the country. The decree allows HTP participants to use crypto-currencies on international bargains, so we have a standard attitude towards them."

# Record setting inflation news

By Alexey Fedosov

**Belarusian economy expected to grow in 2018, notes Belarus' Prime Minister, Andrei Kobyakov, in interview with Belarus 1 TV Channel**

"GDP is expected to increase by 3.5 percent in 2018. In 2017, we expect to register growth at 2-2.1 percent," he commented, stressing that the challenges for 2018 are more complex than those of last year. "In the coming three years, we should register growth within our five-year plan. The third year of our five-year period is crucial," he added.

Speaking of 2017 results, he mentioned, "Foreign markets — especially those of our major economic partner, Russia — have stabilised. Exports are evidently increasing, with an almost 20 percent rise. This is a very good result. Exports have helped growth in other industries, primarily the manufacturing sector. The turbulent period has ended to some degree, or has become less pronounced. Now, we're focusing on enterprises' financial recovery."

Export diversification will continue this year, using the 'one-third/one-third/one-third' (Russia/the EU/overseas) formula. "This task requires significant growth in manufacturing output, changes to the quality of manufactured goods, and new products. Some documents adopted in Belarus in 2017 aimed at achieving these goals," Mr. Kobyakov said, stressing that 2017 inflation is likely to be the lowest in the history of sovereign Belarus. "It's a positive record. We had comparable inflation only in 2006 (in December 2006, inflation stood at 6.6 percent, against December 2005). This figure will be lower for 2017." At the same time, the PM noted that the Belarusian economy has not yet overcome its dependence on external factors. "This challenge needs to be resolved in the medium term," he concluded.

# Investments flow under the stone

**Head of Great Stone Industrial Park's Administration — Alexander Yaroshenko — tells of 2017 results and 2018 plans: this year, the number of residents may grow to thirty-five**

"The most important milestone in development of the Great Stone Park in 2017 was the adoption of Decree #166. The innovations envisaged by the document, including ready-built infrastructure and promotion of the Park and conditions for doing business, have enabled us to achieve a serious breakthrough," he says.

The Industrial Park has received a major impetus for its further development and transformation into a key platform of the Silk Road Economic Belt. In early 2017, eight residents were registered and, by the end of the year, the number had reached twenty-three. Of these, fourteen companies have

Chinese capital and four firms are Belarusian. Five come from the USA, Russia, Lithuania, Austria and Germany.

2018 will be the first year of fully-fledged functioning for the Industrial Park, with residents launching production. The China Merchants Group logistics sub-park has already begun work and Chengdu Xin-

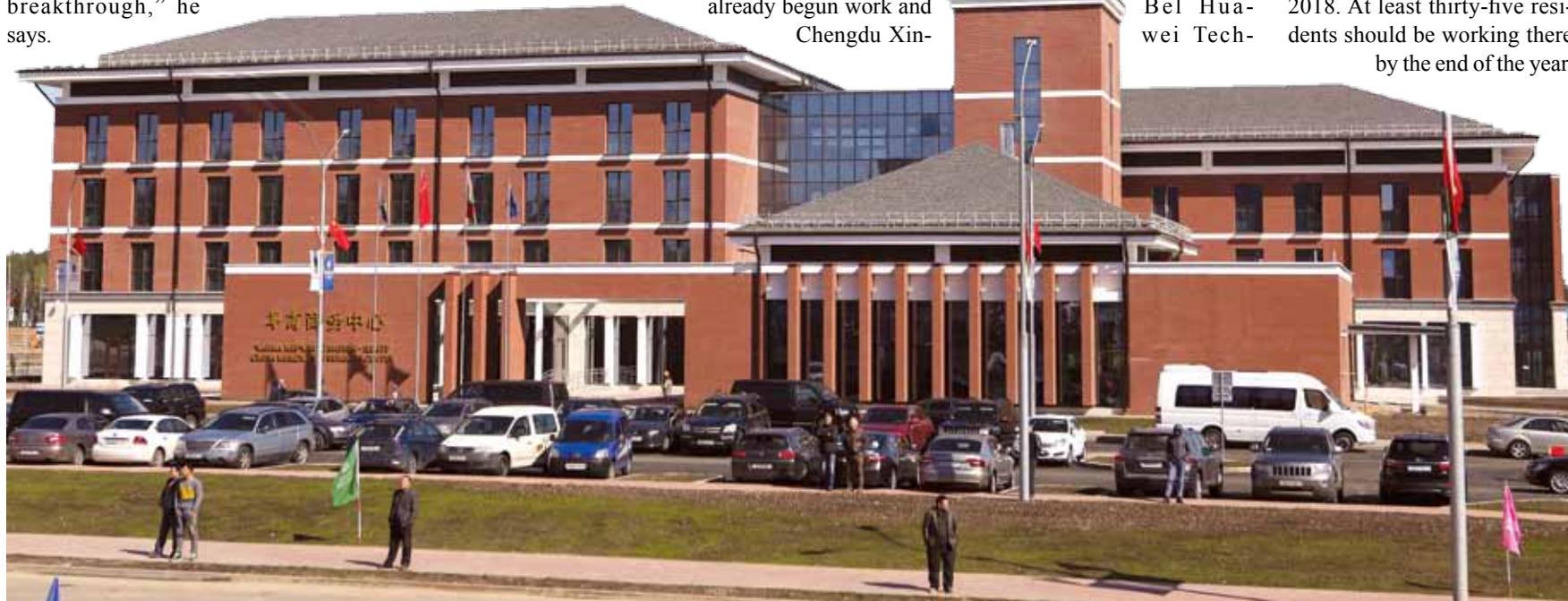
zhu Silk Road Development will begin producing supercondensers. In addition, centres of research and development are to open at Bel Huawei Tech-

nologies and YTO Technology BLR. Companies involved in production of LED devices have also announced their readiness to start operating at the Park.

Park residents' activities and stories of success will be the best advertising for the Park, helping us reach goals for 2018. At least thirty-five residents should be working there by the end of the year.

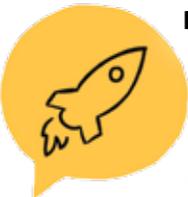


New avenue



Construction of the first stage of logistics sub-park in the Great Stone Park finished

Let them teach me



BSU student develops research network for young scientists

Yelena Moskalenko, a first-year student at the Socio-Cultural Communications Faculty, has received a grant for the implementation of her project at the *Social Weekend 10* contest. The idea is to create conditions to encourage student and school business ideas, while uniting youngsters keen on science. At present, the derzaj.by website has around a thousand users (including researchers, consultants and even sponsors), offering information on how to prepare a research project. It also features advice on gathering together a team, finding a scientific tutor and receiving consultations from experts on how to implement your ideas.

For those keen on Chinese language

Belarusian State University releases textbook on learning Chinese script

Associate Professor Yulia Molotkova, of the Chinese Philology Chair at the BSU's Philology Faculty, has been working on her book since 2010. Unique in Belarus, it draws on scientific experiments in the sphere of studying Chinese script, as conducted while teaching basic courses at the BSU's Faculty of Philology.

Ms. Molotkova has looked at the linguistic peculiarities of the system, as well as psychological patterns in learning, developing an efficient teaching method, based on characters having common characteristics: in how they are written, how they sound, and their meaning.

Alongside theoretical material, the textbook contains practical exercises and a thousand hieroglyph-characters, designed to help students master writing in their first year of study. The textbook is aimed at linguists, Chinese language teachers, students and Master's Degree students, as well as all interested in learning Chinese language.

天主阿門為我們罪在和我們

Internet from the beaver

Sculptural statue of beaver in Bobruisk now 'gives' free Wi-Fi

This is the first such sculpture in the country, providing wireless Internet at a speed of 100Mbit/s. Traffic goes through the GPON-network, providing Internet access at high speed, using a router to offer wireless technology.



# Holding wind rose

## Modern wind farm to be built in Oshmyany

By Oleg Bogomazov

The historical centres of Olshany and Zhuprany remain the most significant points of attraction in the Oshmyany District. Proximity to the Lithuanian border mean that a transport and logistics centre is being built at the Kamenny Log checkpoint, launching by May. Another major investment project is the wind park, whose construction might launch this year, since Oshmyany enjoys good breezes.

Development path

The backbone of the Oshmyany District's economy is based on nine industrial enterprises, a large construction organisation, eight communal agricultural enterprises and twenty-four farms. These provide jobs, wages and quality of life.

District heads are convinced that the social sphere must be guarded, to ensure well-being. In this respect, the area has many reasons for pride: in 2017, a new outpatient clinic was built in Golshany. The maternity ward's repairs are almost complete and Golshany school of arts has been updated, as has kindergarten #6 and school #1. In addition, a modern gym has opened for the elderly.

Last year, a sixty-apartment house was built in Oshmyany and forty-five large families will soon move in. In 2018, another significant, thirty-apartment social housing site is planned for the city, constructed using a Chinese loan, to provide housing for child-orphans and families with disabled children. Some apartments will find use as commercial premises.



Quite easy to find job in the town



Oshmyany today

Matter for young

Over 300 specialists return to the district annually, with the two main cities inhabited mostly by young families — indicating that young people have faith in finding employment in Oshmyany. There are currently two hundred vacancies in the district and only one hundred jobseekers. Jobs range from factory workers and shop assistants to confectioners! Importantly, on-the-job training is widely offered. Some might think that young people find it boring to live



Miroslav SAROSEK,

Chairman of the Oshmyany District Executive Committee:

How should the district develop? Of course, we see our transit potential, with the launch of a transport and logistics centre. This project will bring other opportunities, with land available to purchase, and roadside facilities being updated. A number of our enterprises are looking for strategic partners, including some projects in agriculture seeking investors. We're now negotiating with Polish, Lithuanian and, even, Arab businessmen.

in a remote area, where they may lack nightclubs, but the local house of culture organises events, and a club of intellectual games has opened not far from the district centre. A centre of traditional cultures is to open soon, with the site also boasting a 3D-cinema, bowling and other novelties.

Golshany Castle remains the centre of attraction for tourists, with the northern tower, which is on the reserve list of the joint Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian programme, being renovated. However, residents of the Oshmyany District try to give each corner of their land special colour. For example, a stone is being unveiled in Zhuprany; according to legend, Napoleon is said to have waved farewell to his army on that spot. The grave of Frantishek Bogushevich and the surrounding grounds have also been improved.

In July 2017, a boulder in the Bride's Stone Park joined the State List of Intangible Historical and Cultural Heritage. It's a tradition to touch the stone before marriage, to ensure a long and happy family life.

# Whole book is dedicated to ancient bell-ringing traditions

By Olga Korneeva

The mysteries of Belarusian bell-ringing history and traditions in the 11th-early 21st century are revealed in the *Bell-Ringing — the Soul of the Nation*, released by Belarus Publishing House

The book was released with an electronic supplement of video information and ringing of the bells and represents fundamental research on campanology, based on unique archive and expedition materials, revealing the mysteries of the history and traditions of bell-ringing in Belarus. It contains the recollections of

members of the Association of Bell Art of Russia, who represent the origins of the restoration of this church art.

The book was released with the financial support of the Information Ministry and its release is dedicated to 1030th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus, celebrated in 2018.

# A distinctive destination, or five reasons to visit Myadel

Town near famous Lake Naroch known since 14th century. In 1324, its fortress was attacked by Teutonic knights, but the siege was broken, protected by unknown forces.

By Alexander Ponkratov

## Finding idol's gold

The castle was destroyed only four centuries later by the Swedes, during the North War. Mystery surrounds the ruins, where archaeologists have found the foundations of the fortress, with a palace and three towers. According to legend, a huge golden idol was kept there, with precious stones for its eyes almost as big as fists. It protected the citadel from enemies and many believe that the precious statue remains in the castle's tunnels. Some even come to search for it. The Myadel District is an embodiment of ancient and contemporary history.

Another tourist attraction is Nanosy-Novoselie agro-estate, where an ancient windmill still operates. There's also a unique museum of samovars, many of which have appeared as props in films and have toured Russia and further abroad.

## Learning the Nara legend

Belarus is 'blue-eyed', being blessed with lakes. The largest 'diamond' is located in the Myadel District — Lake Naroch, created during the ice age.

It's said that, long ago, a forester lived there with his beautiful daughter, Nara, who was in love with a bold young



View of Lake Naroch in winter

man. He gave her a small mirror and told her to take care of it, explaining that it was magical, made from spring grains and able to show the future.

On looking into it, she saw only a lake and a gull above the waves, and had no idea what to make of the image. Soon after, a local duke, having seen her beauty, ordered his servant to seize the girl. Nara's young man helped her to escape, hiding her out of sight. He led the chase to follow him, and was killed. Learning of his death, Nara dropped the mirror in despair and a lake appeared where the largest of the silver fragments fell. Meanwhile, the young girl turned into a gull, flying over the water of Lake Naroch, calling ever for her beloved.

## Tasting smoke-dried eel

The banks of Lake Naroch are perfect for relaxing. Before the Great Patriotic War, it was a resort for the nobility from Warsaw and Vilnius. After the war, sanatoriums and health resorts began to appear. Now, dozens operate year-round, offering the most contemporary treatments, helping people to rest and recuperate. The most famous sanatoriums are Belaya Rus, Naroch, Sosny, Priezerny and Sputnik.

The area is a paradise for fishing, hunting and for those wishing to sample local delicacies; mouth-watering smoked and dried eel is a true delight,

although it's forbidden to fish for it on Lake Naroch.

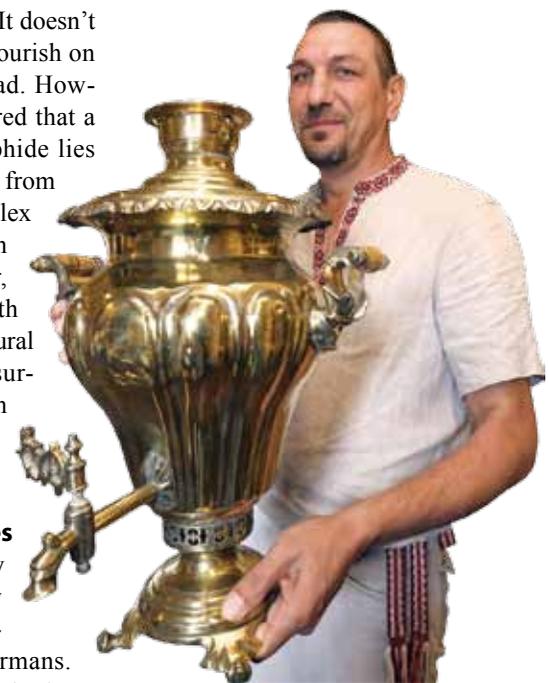
## Guessing the mystery of the dead lake

Israel has the Dead Sea, and Goluby Oзера, inside Narochansky National Park, not far from Myadel, has something similar. It's the most mysterious of Belarus' lakes, thought to be home to malevolent water spirits, mermaids, witches and wood sprites, who inhabit its deep waters and its banks. It doesn't have any fish and no plants flourish on the surface, so it's called dead. However, scientists have discovered that a huge cloud of hydrogen sulphide lies on the bottom, preventing life from developing. This natural complex has several unique lakes, each with its own colour of water, from bright blue to black. With few settlements nearby, its natural beauty remains untouched, surrounded by high hills, virgin forests and plentiful rivers and forest springs!

## Investigating WWI pillboxes

The banks of the legendary Myadel lakes have seen many battles, with the Mongol-Tatars, Swedes, French and Germans. One of the bloodiest fights took place during WWI, when the Myadel area was

occupied by Germany. In March 1916, Russian troops began an attack, known as 'Operation Narochanskaya', to help Frenchmen bleeding to death near Verdun. However, the Germans released toxic gases and the attack stalled. Within ten days, around 80,000 Russian soldiers and around 40,000 Germans had been killed. Military history experts are still investigating the concrete pillboxes which remain from that time.



Museum of samovars operating in Nanosy-Novoselie agro-tourist estate



The Mother of God Catholic Church in Myadel — an 18th century architectural monument



Many enjoy sailing along the lake



# Train services to the stranded Swiss ski resort were resumed

Rail services to 13,000 visitors and residents in the Swiss ski resort of Zermatt have finally resumed after being halted for two days due to heavy snow and risk of avalanche

The Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn train was able to ease out of Zermatt station after teams cleared huge snowdrifts that built up on the tracks in after over a metre of snow fell in just 24 hours covering railways and road.

Although used to winter weather, on this occasion the

local authorities had to bring in extra help to get people moving again.

“The piles of snow were artificially blown up to secure the tracks,” said Zermatt’s mayor Romy Biner-Hauser. “But the snow buried more than expected. And for that heavier machinery was needed. It needed

to be brought to work on the tracks.” Local officials had initially hoped to get trains moving earlier, but the timetable was delayed after helicopter crews spotted a new snow mass left over from an avalanche days earlier. The choppers spent the last two days ferrying people to lower ground.

Other people had to stay and stick it out, stocking up on food and virtually clearing the shelves of local stores, not knowing when the transport links would reopen. Switzerland’s avalanche institute, SLF, lowered the avalanche risk from the highest level, five, to four.



## France’s first panda makes public debut

**The first giant panda cub to be born in France made its public debut, five months after its birth**

People from across the country travelled to Beauval Zoo in central France to see the 11-kilogram cub for the first time. Yuan Meng, or ‘making a dream come true’ in Chinese, was named in a ceremony in December. His parents are on loan to the zoo from China as part of a reproduction programme, and he was born via artificial insemination. His

parents are due to return to China in 2022, while Yuan Meng is expected to stay in France until the age of two or three, when he will be sent to a Chinese panda reserve. French First Lady Brigitte Macron, who has been named the panda’s ‘godmother’, said he is a symbol of historic ties between the two countries. Reproduction between pandas is notoriously difficult and the species was declared endangered in the 1980s. However, conservation efforts have boosted their numbers.

## Four children among dead in California massive mudslide

**Four children were among 17 people killed in a massive mudslide in Santa Barbara County, California, and the search continued for 43 people reported missing**

Search efforts continued in a Southern California community devastated by a mudslide last week, as the number of people reported missing rose to 43, authorities said. Among the 17

killed were children ages 3, 6, 10 and 12, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office said.

The 17 victims were killed when a devastating mudslide occurred in the Montecito area of Santa Barbara County, early morning after a heavy down-pour struck areas burned by the huge so-called Thomas Fire that scorched hillsides last month, officials said.



## Revolutionary new ‘battery’ could let us bottle sunshine

**A plastic-like material may do for solar power what high-performance electrical batteries have done for iPhones and Tesla cars**

Solar energy is clean, abundant, and irritatingly inconvenient: it doesn’t work at night or on cloudy days. You can convert sunshine into electricity and store it in a battery, but that’s complicated and expensive. And much of the time, what you really want isn’t electricity but heat for tasks like cooking or warming homes.

What you want, in other words, is a way to bottle the heat of the noonday sun and then uncork it on demand. That sounds almost impossible, but some very determined scientists have found a way to make it happen — and they’re convinced the technology could be transformative.

A team led by Dr. Dhandapani Venkataraman, a chemist at the University of Massachusetts, reported last month on a new polymer that is stunningly effective at absorbing and releasing heat. Dubbed AzOPMA, the plastic-like material could be the key to the development of a high-efficiency ‘thermal battery’ that could do for solar tech what high-performance electrical batteries have done for iPhones and Tesla cars.

## Huge reserves of water ice discovered on Mars

**Huge ice sheets more than 300 feet deep have been discovered on Mars, making it possible that human astronauts could have access to almost limitless water**

“Astronauts could essentially just go there with a bucket and a shovel and get all the water they need,” said one of the report’s authors, Shane Byrne of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at the University of Arizona. It has been known for some time that some locations on Mars have water ice just below the surface — but until now, there has been no accurate way to know just how much.

The new data, collected in high-resolution three-dimensional images from two US satellites, reveal at least eight locations where massive shelves of water ice are deposited from just below the Martian surface as far deep as 100 metres, or roughly 330 feet, according to the report, which was published in the journal *Science*.

“The discovery reported today gives us surprising windows where we can see right into these thick underground sheets of ice,” Byrne said.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**

# Desired return to homeland

Work by Paris School painter, Grodno-born Ossip Lubitch, donated to the National Art Museum of Belarus

By Vladimir Mikhailov

“We start 2018 with a landmark event: one more step was made to return to the homeland, works of art by our fellow countryman who belonged to the so-called Paris School,” noted the Director General of the National Art Museum of Belarus, Vladimir Prokoptsov, opening the event. “Ossip Lubitch’s *Small Bouquet of Flowers* is a gift to our museum from the Honorary Consul of Belarus in Zurich, Atanasios Akratos.”

The gift was given with the help of two Belarusian diplomats: the Charge d’affaires of the Republic of Belarus to the Swiss Confederation, Pavel Matsukevich, and an employee of the Belarusian embassy in the Swiss Confederation, Vladislav Sakhaschchik.

“Belarus and Switzerland have become closer due to the *Small Bouquet of Flowers*,” noted Mr. Akratos. The ceremony was also attended by the Head of the Foreign Ministry’s Department for Western Europe, Alexey Zhanov, the Chairman of the Belarusian Union of Artists,



Near Ossip Lubitch’s work

Rygor Sitnitsa, and researcher of the Paris School of painters from Belarus, Vladimir Schastny.

Ossip Lubitch was born in Grodno in 1896 and spent his adolescence in Odessa, where he attended art school. In 1919, with a group of painters, he went to Berlin to create interiors for theatres and cinema houses. In 1923, he received a contract for the interior decoration of cabarets in Paris. He worked as a graphical painter and an artist. In 1934, the famous French painter, Georges Rouault, wrote his poetic introduction to the album of watercolours, *The Circus* — the most famous cycle of works by Ossip Lubitch.

His works went on show at the Salon d’Automne (Autumn

Salon) in Paris and were included in the Paris Painters exhibition in Brussels’ Palace of Fine Arts in 1936. Despite Paris’ occupation by the fascists during WWII, Lubitch stayed in the city, experiencing great difficulty. In peacetime he took part in collective exhibitions and organised personal shows. His works were presented at the *Russian Painters of the Paris School* exhibition in the museum and library of Saint-Denis and the Paris House of Thought (France, 1960 and 1961). He died in the late 1990s in Paris. Ossip Lubitch’s picturesque canvases are kept in museums in France, the UK, Switzerland, the USA and Israel. One of the largest collections of



Vladimir Prokoptsov and Atanasios Akratos

Lubitch’s engravings is in the National Library in Paris.

In Belarus, the name of Ossip Lubitch became more widely known in September 2012, when the National Art Museum launched an exhibition project entitled *Belarus-born Painters of the Paris School*. The project grew from a corporate collection of the works of art of Belgazprombank JSC. Starting in 2011, the bank has been searching out, buying and returning to their home works by our fellow countrymen. At present, this collection boasts 14 pieces by Ossip Lubitch and many of these can be seen in the Art-Belarus Gallery.

The National Art Museum of Belarus has only one work by Ossip Lubitch — an etching brought from Paris and donated to the museum in 2012 by the painter’s daughter, Dina Lubitch.

The Director General of the National Art Museum of Belarus, Vladimir Prokoptsov, views the acquisition of *Small Bouquet of Flowers* as the return of a cultural treasure from abroad: part of an ongoing effort to retrieve our historical and cultural icons, as declared in the Code of Culture.

Many experts have suggested supplementing the code with an article outlining a mechanism for retrieving historical and cultural treasures from abroad. An initiative group is currently working on this. According to the Charge d’affaires of the Republic of Belarus to the Swiss Confederation, Pavel Matsukevich, as Lubitch didn’t reside in Switzerland, no one thought to look for his works there, the discovery was accidental.

“We don’t know how the picture found its way to Switzerland. Judging by the inscription on the reverse, we can assume that it was given as a birthday gift to someone named Greta in 1932. We don’t know the circumstances,” explained Mr. Matsukevich.

Experts believe the gift will be a starting point for deeper study of the creativity of the Paris School painter. “Despite the modest format of this work, the gift itself is important both for public consciousness and for artistic circles,” noted the Deputy Director General of the National Art Museum for Scientific and Enlightening Work, Alexey Khoryak.

## Under a shared sky

By Olga Korneeva

**Festival in Grodno to bring together around 2,000 representatives of various national cultures**

Representatives of 141 nationalities live in our country, in concord and understanding. In order to unite diasporas, preserve their national identity and facilitate mutual understanding and enrichment of cultures, every other year, Grodno hosts the Republican Festival of National Cultures. This year, it will take place on June 1st and 2nd, when Grodno’s streets will be filled with bright colours and the flavours of various nations.

It’s still six months before the great event but most preparations have been conducted. Selection rounds have taken place across all regions, with diasporas demonstrating their cultural traditions, history, customs, decorative-and-applied arts and national cuisine.

“In December, the best groups performed in the Main Hall of the Belarusian State Philharmonic at



At festival in Grodno

the solemn opening of the festival,” notes the Director of the Republican Centre of National Cultures, Olga Antonenko. “The concert featured more than 300 people, including representatives of Armenian, Georgian, Korean, Gypsy, Jewish, Moldovan, Chuvashian, Tatar-Bashkir, Venezuelan and other national cultures. Delegations demonstrating their historical homeland most vividly are invited to the festival in Grodno. Usually around 2,000 people take part in the final stage

of the forum. In 2016, the festival was attended by around forty nationalities and, this year, we hope that the number will increase. We’ve noticed interesting representatives from the South African Republic, China and elsewhere during selection rounds.”

There are plans to expand the geography of entrants and to refresh the format of the holiday. In particular, accent will be placed on traditional customs, folk festivities and puppet theatres from various states.

## Audience awaits spectacular and bright holiday

By Oleg Bogomazov

**Ancient town of Zaslavl, near Minsk, welcomes Festival of Belarusian Chamber Music for 18th time**

The Belarusian Chamber Music Festival, *Zaslavl-2018*, includes four programmes, with each deserving its own attention. In total, twenty-seven works by Belarusian composers are being performed, including by Stanislaw Moniuszko, Yevgeny Glebov and Dmitry Smolsky. The event includes performances by groups part of the National Concert Orchestra of Belarus: ensembles of flautists, clarinetists and trumpet players, as well as a strong orchestra and a big band. A contest of young performers is being organised, welcoming pupils of musical



Music of Zaslavl

schools. Moreover, a major pop concert will take place.

Professor Mikhail Finberg, the Director and Artistic Leader of the Honoured Band, the National Academic Concert Orchestra of Belarus, notes that over the past eighteen years of conducting this festival in Zaslavl, audiences have grown up with the event. The People’s Artist of Belarus believes that the festival has encouraged audiences to better understand and love music, and their town.

# Poetry of the painter's soul is emotionally reflected on his picturesque canvases

National Art Museum of Belarus hosts *Poetics of Landscapes in Works by Semen Domarad*, showcasing works from the author's studio

By Veniamin Mikheev

Semen Domarad was born in Bobruisk. He made his first steps in art under the guidance of his father Vladimir Domarad, a prominent graphic artist. He studied at the art studio, then at Minsk's Art College, and finally in the Belarusian State Theatre and Art Institute (now the Belarusian State Academy of Arts). He studied under famous Belarusian artists, including Gavriil Vashchenko, Vladimir Stelmashonok and Anatoly Baranovsky.

During his creative life, Semen Domarad worked in different genres: monumental painting, portrait and still-life. But in the last twenty years landscape has been his favourite genre. For a long time, Mr. Domarad was known as one of the best Belarusian watercolourists. And although in recent years he gave preference to painting, his work is still influenced by watercolour techniques.

Though treated in a realistic manner, his landscapes remain surprisingly romantic and poetic. The artist avoids sharp contrasts, his colours are soft, but emotionally saturated, full of light and air.

Undoubtedly, his artistic world view is impressionistic, and his landscapes are 'mood landscapes'. The painter seeks to capture the impression of a passing moment. He often depicts spring and au-

tumn, evening and morning — the transient states of nature, when its variability manifests itself in a particularly intense way.

"However, my favourite season is spring," says Mr. Domarad. "After long winter the first sign of green greatly impresses me. I'm also attracted by autumn because of its richness and diversity. It also represents many different emotions and states of mind. I work hard and often re-paint when I'm displeased with the picture. Many of the pictures



Semen Domarad faithful to landscape in his creativity



At the exhibition

*When I was involved in monumental painting I didn't have to create pictures in oil though I painted many watercolour paintings. I may perhaps one day also exhibit my watercolours here, in the country's major museum.*

The works of Semen Domarad have an audience not only in Belarus, but also abroad. His personal exhibitions, for example, were held in Germany and Austria. Last year alone, the artist's works were exhibited at the Palace of Independence in Minsk and at the Russian House of Science and Culture in Berlin.

Semen Domarad's works can now be seen at the National Art Museum, the National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Mogilev's Regional Pavel Maslenikov Art Museum, Maxim Bagdanovich Literary Museum, the Belarusian Union of Artists, the National Library of Belarus, the Palace of Independence in Minsk, as well as in private collections in Belarus, Austria, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia, China, Great Britain, USA and Canada.

At the opening of the exhibition, many of his colleagues requested that Mr. Domarad to paint more pieces, while also assuring him that what has been created won't be lost. Undoubtedly, the author has established himself as a painter with an expressive manner of working which can leave no one indifferent.



In Snowy Winter, 2015

in this exhibition are done in oil and previously they were different scenes."

**What do you want to say with this exhibition?**

*I simply show one of my sides: landscape painting. I'm a large-scale painter by speciality, focussing on frescos and mosaics... However, from the 1990s, I had to paint differently because the situation in the country changed. However, it wasn't long before the idea of 'have to.' was replaced with the notion of 'with pleasure'.*

## Through the pages of a rich historical heritage

The National Library of Belarus plans to release a facsimile edition of the Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, notes Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences and Director of the National Library of Belarus, Professor Roman Motulsky, at the presentation of the book *Belarusian Thinkers of the 16th-17th Century. Selected Works in the Legacy of Law* project

By Alexander Pimenov

Mr. Motulsky described how the National Library is

working on the new project and searching for sponsors. He believes that an edition such as this will become a

landmark of legal book culture.

Legal experts have recently shown considerable interest in the restoration of the country's historic heritage. The National Library of Belarus also took part in work on the eighth book in the *Legacy of Law* project, entitled *Belarusian Thinkers of the 16th-17th*

*Century. Selected Works.*

Mr. Motulsky underlined the importance of the release of this book in the year of the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book printing. People in other countries consider Belarus as one of the first countries in Europe to have its own books. "Today we have 21 volumes of the *Heritage of*

*Francysk Skaryna* facsimile edition which testifies to our tradition. Furthermore, during this research, a whole range of new names to be proud of were discovered." Mr. Motulsky also said that this year celebrates the 400th anniversary since the release of the book *Bukvar (ABC)*, published in Belarus.



Nadezhda Skardino wins Small Crystal Globe

# Suspense maintained to the very end

One of the best snipers of world biathlon, Nadezhda Skardino, has once again converted her skill into a prestigious award, with the 32-year-old Belarusian earning the Small Crystal Globe in the individual races

By Igor Grishin

Nadezhda came seventh in individual race at the World Cup stage in Ruhpolding. She has also won her first 15km race with four firing ranges.

The suspense in the struggle for the Small Crystal Globe was maintained to the end, as

the Ukrainian Yulia Dzhima finished in fourth place. To the audience's delight, only Valentina Semerenko and Darya Domracheva were placed between Dzhima and Skardino, so Nadezhda's earned points were enough to claim the trophy.

In the individual race, vic-

tory was celebrated by the Italian, Dorothea Wierer, who did well on the firing ranges, hitting all the targets. Silver went to Kaisa Mäkäräinen, while bronze was won by the Canadian Rosanna Crawford.

It was not only Skardino who pleased the Belarusian fans. The leader of Belarus'

team, Darya Domracheva, was ranked one place above Nadezhda, getting into the flower ceremony once again. Irina Krivko needed less than 4 seconds to get into the top ten, while Dinara Alimbekova also did well. Only Darya Yurkevich failed to reach the top 70 with her two misses.

## No stage without earning a medal

By Sergey Teishin

**Belarusian Anton Kushnir earns bronze in aerials at the Freestyle Skiing World Cup stage in American Deer Valley**

The 2014 Sochi Olympic champion was awarded 124.78 points from the judges, with victory claimed by Maxim Burrov of Russia (131.67) and silver going to Chinese Guangpu Qi (131.67).

Another representative of Belarus, Maxim Gustik, who managed to get into the finals, finished fifth (112.99). Other Belarusians finished beyond the top ten: Stanislav Gladchenko in 13th, Dmitry Mazurkevich placed 19th and Denis Osipov — 20th.

A week ago, Anton Kushnir won the World Cup stage in Moscow.



Flying somersault from Kushnir



MAZ at Dakar Rally stage

## MAZ maintains strong position

By Kirill Karin

**Belarusian driver of team MAZ-SPORTauto, Sergey Vyazovich, is among the strongest in the sixth stage and holds third position in the Dakar Rally's overall standings**

The team noted that the sixth stage of the rally was one of the calmest since the beginning of the race. There were no serious accidents and racers could concentrate on the competitive driving. Argentinean's

Federico Villagra won in the truck race, finishing in 3 hours 22 minutes 23 seconds. The head of the team, MAZ-SPORTauto's Sergey Vyazovich, was six minutes behind the leader and finished in seventh place. Another Belarusian, Alexey Vishnevsky, was ranked 12th while his partner Alexander Vasilevsky finished 22nd in the final standings. In the truck race, Eduard Nikolaev of Russia continues to hold first place, followed by Federico Villagra (+52 minutes).

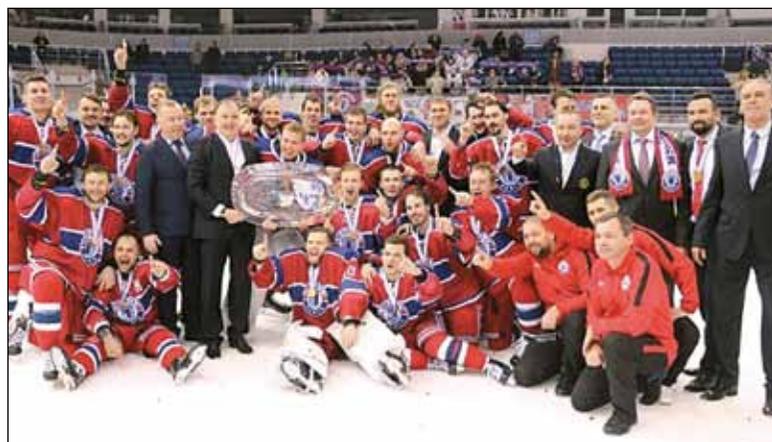
## Mikhail Zakharov: 'Yunost has never been last in the KHL'

By Alexey Mazurov

**Yunost Minsk wins IIHF Continental Cup**

In the decisive match for victory in the Continental Cup, the players of Minsk Yunost defeated Nomad from Kazakhstan at the Chizhovka-Arena, with a score of 5:2. Pavel Razvadovsky scored twice, while Konstantin Zakharov, Alexey Yefimenko and Maxim Parfeevets scored one each.

As a result, Yunost has won the Continental Cup for the third time in its history. In addition, the club has won the right to play in the Hockey Champions League.



Winners with trophy

After the victory, Yunost's head coach, Mikhail Zakharov, shared his impressions of the game at the press conference. "The goal was not to miss a puck when the score was 3:1," he stressed. "Our guys are great. They played well on the goal crease, making beauti-

ful passes. The fourth goal was spectacular. Our rivals were tough and uncompromising: Nomad players controlled the puck well and attacked 'three on two' after our mistakes. I congratulate everyone on this victory!"

Answering the

journalists, Mr. Zakharov noted that each Yunost hockey player would have been capable of performing at Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) level. "The whole team would have succeeded, we would certainly have won," he added.

## Holiday of the week



**Kolyady Festivities** Christmas holiday in the Polotsk District's Bogatyrskaya village

### EXHIBITIONS

#### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM OF BELARUS

20 Lenin Street  
Until 21<sup>st</sup> January. *Valery Shkarubo: Pictorial Art* Until 2<sup>nd</sup> February. *Devotion to 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victor Gromyko* Until 20<sup>th</sup> February. *Saints of the Undivided Church*

#### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM

12 Karl Marx Street  
Until 28<sup>th</sup> January. *ARTEfact Games*  
Until 17<sup>th</sup> February. *Dungeons of Light*

#### BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *Fighting for Homeland*

#### GALLERIA MINSK

9 Pobediteley Avenue  
Permanent exposition of Experimental Science Museum: *EXPERIMENTuS*

#### MIKHAIL SAVITSKY ART GALLERY

15 Svobody Square  
Until 4<sup>th</sup> February. *Reflection*

#### LEONID SHCHEMELEV CITY ART GALLERY

10 Revolyutsionnaya Street  
Until 21<sup>st</sup> January. *Kolyady Miracle*

#### VLADISLAV GOLUBOK PARLOUR

14 Starovilenskaya Street  
Until 28<sup>th</sup> January. *Time to Search*

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 15<sup>th</sup> February. *Valery Slauk's Graphics* Until 28<sup>th</sup> February. Exhibition of experiments: *Science Museum*

#### MUSEUM OF THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL CULTURE HISTORY

5 Muzykalny Lane  
Until 21<sup>st</sup> January. *Kolyady Sketches-2017*

#### GAL-TVORCHESTVO

47 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 1<sup>st</sup> February. Exhibition of dolls: *Fragile Dreams*

#### CAT MUSEUM

23 Internatsionalnaya Street  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. *New Year Season in Cat Museum*

#### MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY

117 Kazinets Street  
Until 25<sup>th</sup> March. *Water Residents*

#### REPUBLICAN SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL LIBRARY

7 Pobediteley Avenue  
Until 31<sup>st</sup> January. Reserved Corners of Belarus: Brest Region

#### CHELYUSKINTSEV PARK OF CULTURE AND REST

84/1 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
Until 30<sup>th</sup> June. *Legacy of Belarus: Dedicated to Minsk's 950<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### THEATRES

#### NATIONAL ACADEMIC BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Street  
18.01. Figaro's Wedding 19.01. Giselle, ou les Wilis 21.01. The Little Chamber House; Don Quixote 23.01. Tsar's Bride 24.01. Firebird; Scheherazade 25.01. The Magic Flute

#### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street  
18.01. Jane Eyre 19.01. Cherry Orchid 20.01. The Nutcracker; The Bat 21.01. Town Musicians of Bremen; Clandestine Marriage 22.01. Dubrovsky 23.01. Blue Cameo 24.01. Once in Chicago 25.01. A Thousand and One Nights

#### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street  
18.01. Double Eternity 19.01. Circle of Love 20.01. Stars of the Seventh Sky; Innkeeper 21.01. Divers; He and She 23.01. Lady for a Day 24.01. Pygmalion 25.01. Red Hot Mamas

#### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street  
18.01. Local Cabaret 19.01. Kolyady Night 20.01. School of Taxpayers

#### PALACE OF TRADE UNIONS

25 Nezavisimosti Avenue  
20 and 21.01. The Nutcracker (ballet for children) 22.01. Chekhont's Leapfrog

#### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue  
18.01. Wolves and Sheep 19 and 20.01. Nobody Ever Said Life Would be Easy 21.01. The Makropoulos Case 22.01. The Same Place Next Year 23.01. Two Arrows 24.01. Pygmalion 25.01. #13

#### REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street  
18.01. Medea's Syndrome 19.01. Belarus. Didactics 20.10. A Two Dogs' Tale 21.01. Live Until Premiere 23.01. This Is All She 24.01. Pelican 25.01. Sufferings Over Common Sense

#### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street  
21.01. Adventures of Hare Pif; Comedy 24.01. Day of Surprises

#### YOUTH THEATRE

17 Kozlov Street  
18.01. Sanya, Vanya and Rimas 19.01. Lesson of Love: Kosciuszko Story 21.01. Warsaw Melody 23.01. Family Weekend 24.01. Zhmurik; Masculine, Singular 25.01. Bigamist

#### YOUNG SPECTATORS' THEATRE

26 Engels Street  
18.01. Taras on Parnassus 19.01. Belarusian Vaudevilles 20.01. Wolf and Seven Goats 21.01. Cat's House 24.01. Wings of My Youth 25.01. Savage Hunt of King Stakh