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Social and political magazine

No. 10 (1069), 2022

Published since 1930

Founders:

Zviazda Publishing House editorial-and-publishing establishment

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www.zviazda.by

E-mail: belarus.mag@mail.ru

Subscription index – 220034

Registration Certificate No. 8 issued
on 16.07.2018 by the Information
Ministry of the Republic of Belarus

Беларусь. Belarus is published in
English and also contains articles in
Belarusian and Chinese

Final responsibility for factual
accuracy and interpretation lies
with publication authors. Should
any article of **Беларусь. Belarus** be
used, reference to the magazine is
obligatory.

The editorial office does not bear
responsibility for contents of
advertisements.

Signed for printing on 25.10.2022

Offset printing. Coated paper.

Format 60x84 1/8.

Conventional printed sheets 11,16

Accounting published sheets 13,49

Circulation –

Order

Republican unitary enterprise

"BudMedyyaPrayekt"

Licence No. 02330/71

on 23.01.2014

220123 Minsk, Belarus,

13/61 V. Khoruzhey Street

Cover designer — Boris Gerchikov

© Zviazda Publishing House
editorial-and-publishing
establishment, 2022

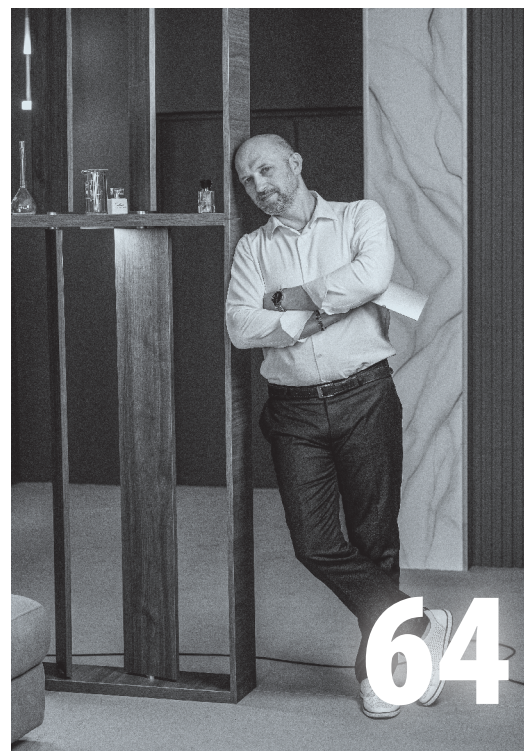
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Premiere at the National Academic Drama Theatre named after Maksim Gorky. People's Artist and laureate of the State Prize of Belarus Olga Klebanovich once again declared herself as a director: she staged the play A Month in the Country based on the play by Ivan Turgenev.



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This exhibition of young Belarusian artists claims to be one of the notable cultural events of this autumn. Traditionally, the Minsk Palace of Arts has become a venue for the largest exposition.



ECONOMIC COMPONENT AS THE MAIN PRIORITY IN PARTNERSHIP



Relations between Minsk and Dushanbe are reaching a new level of strategic cooperation. This is a real fact arising from the results of the official visit of the President of Belarus to Tajikistan. A significant package of agreements and commercial contracts has been signed between the two countries, which amount to tens of millions of dollars.

Can be significantly improved

In Dushanbe, in the Palace of the Nation, the main residence of the President of Tajikistan, negotiations were held between the leaders of the two countries. Traditionally, first in a one-on-one format, then in an expanded composition. Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked Emomali Rahmon for the warm welcome, "I catch myself thinking when I come to Dushanbe (not for the first time) that I am going as to my home. And when they ask me at the gangway of the plane: 'How was your flight?'... Well, how can you fly to your home? I always feel here a very warm attitude not only to our delegation, to me, but also to our people. The peoples are very similar. Similar with their diligence, their talent."

At the same time, the President of Belarus noted that although the two countries are growing in trade, the volume of trade leaves much to be desired, "Of course, we can do much more, especially in this difficult time. You have an interest not only in Belarus, but also further there. We have a great interest in Tajikistan. But as we once set the task for the governments, we can grow in trade at the expense of third countries. Neighbouring countries are in great need of Belarusian products, products of joint production."

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed confidence that the impressive delegation that arrived in Dushanbe, the joint

business forum and the exhibition of Belarusian products will contribute to the growth of not only bilateral trade, but also trade through Tajikistan to third countries, such as Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan really needs our products, and they are interested in developing our joint ties for the purpose of trade," emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Specific areas and projects were already discussed in an expanded format. Tajikistan is interested in everything. The country is developing dynamically, and the President of Belarus did not fail to notice this, "I never cease to be amazed at the speed and scale of the changes taking place in your country. Dealing with daily improvement issues in Minsk, I understand what a titanic work is behind the external appearance of the beautiful and comfortable capital of Tajikistan."

According to the President, the current level of Belarusian-Tajik contacts allows the leaders of the two countries to discuss in a confidential format any, even the most complex issues of both the bilateral agenda and interaction within the framework of international and integration associations, "It was the readiness of both sides to strengthen partnership and allied relations, deepen and develop contacts that made it possible to give cooperation between Belarus and Tajikistan a special status of strategic interaction."

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed gratitude for the support provided by Tajikistan to Belarus in the face of unprecedented pressure from unfriendly Western countries, emphasising that the ongoing events in international politics indicate the beginning of the process of the emergence and building of a new, multipolar system of political order in the world.

Emomali Rahmon, in turn, said, "We value the relations of friendship and strategic partnership with Belarus. They have a high level of trust and mutual support. I would especially like to note the huge personal contribution of the respected Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko to the development of mutually beneficial ties between our countries. Our interstate cooperation at the present stage is progressively developing in the political, trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres. We are ready to make additional efforts for its further enrichment."

There is a roadmap

As a result of negotiations between the Presidents of Belarus and Tajikistan in Dushanbe, a package of international documents was adopted. In particular, with the participation of the leaders of the two countries, a programme (roadmap) of bilateral cooperation for 2022-2026, intergovernmental agreements in the field of promoting mutual trade, youth policy, several dozen international and interuniversity agreements were signed.

After the signing ceremony, Aleksandr Lukashenko and Emomali Rahmon met with representatives of the media. That's what they talked about at this meeting.



President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko:

- It is the economy and trade that are the foundation of our relations. They need to be developed more effectively.
- A lot has been done over the past years, but the potential of the economies of our countries is much higher than the level of mutual trade achieved. To effectively use the available reserves, we intend to intensify contacts between our enterprises, including through such platforms as exhibitions of domestic manufacturers and the Belarusian-Tajik business forum.
- It is important that at present the interaction of enterprises goes beyond the classical foreign trade transactions.
- In these turbulent days, our countries consistently support each other on international platforms as well. I am convinced that we will continue to follow this principle. Belarus is always ready to help Tajikistan if we can do it and if our friendly republic is interested in it.
- As for us, Emomali Sharipovich, we have always been and will remain reliable strategic partners. We have been working together for decades. We are already 'elders'. You are a doyen. You are now our main person in the CIS. We all recognise this. I am there next to you, so a lot will depend on us in the development of the CIS, in our post-Soviet republics. Time is difficult. But crises exist in order to use them to make us stronger. We are ready for this. I am sure that Tajikistan also.

President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon:

- The official visit of the President of Belarus opens a new page in the Tajik-Belarusian strategic partnership. Further development of the Tajik-Belarusian relations of friendship and strategic partnership is one of the priorities of the foreign policy of Tajikistan. We agreed to take additional measures to fill our relations with new practical content.
- The agricultural sector, industrial cooperation and interregional cooperation are designated as priority areas of economic cooperation. In the context of the implementation of the programme for the accelerated development of the industry of Tajikistan, we noted our interest in developing cooperation with the Belarusian side in the light, food, pharmaceutical, chemical and mining industries.
- We placed special emphasis on the problems of regional security. We exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan, on the southern borders of the CIS and the CSTO. They spoke in favour of continuing close coordination between the relevant departments and special services of the two countries.
- Tajikistan this year contributed to the adoption of the Decision of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO on launching the procedure for admission of Belarus to the membership of the organisation.

It's time for new approaches

Simultaneously with the official visit, the Tajik-Belarusian business forum was held, on the site of which an exposition of Belarusian manufacturers *Made in Belarus* was organised. Especially for this, a 'force' of one and a half hundred heads of state bodies, companies and organisations of Belarus landed in Dushanbe. It was felt that after the pandemic and the 'lull' in trade and economic relations that followed it, business clearly missed business meetings and new contracts. Judge for yourself. Initially, following the results of the forum, it was planned to conclude commercial contracts for \$30 million. But in fact, the amount turned out to be much more, reaching \$ 50 million.

Today you can clearly see how Dushanbe is changing and how actively it is being built up. To some extent, this is a consequence of the industrialisation course announced in Tajikistan. On this occasion, the country even developed a national strategy, according to which by 2030 the share of industry in the structure of GDP should increase to 30 percent. Industrialisation is declared the fourth strategic goal of the republic after energy independence, development of transport infrastructure and providing the population with their own food. And here a real Klondike opens up for Belarusian exporters, because literally everything that we produce is in demand in Tajikistan. That is why last year's trade turnover of \$126 million is not at all the figure that Minsk and Dushanbe would like to see.

"Of course, the economic component is the main priority of the visit," says Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Tajikistan Viktor Denisenko. "We have been planning this visit and holding a business forum and exhibition *Made in Belarus* within its framework for a long time. We need to look for new points of contact."

Collaboration on the 'buy-sell' principle is no longer the approach that has prospects. However, the cooperation, the creation of joint ventures is the future of promoting our economic interests not only in Tajikistan, but also in any other country.

A good example of this is the assembly production of Belarusian agricultural machinery Agrotechservice, opened in the city of Gissar in 2018. Every year the company expands the range of equipment that is in demand both in the domestic market and in other countries of the region. In particular, harvesters are assembled here, designed to work in a given geographical and climatic zone. The new machine

has already been tested for grain and corn harvesting. 55 such harvesters will be delivered through Tajik partners to Afghanistan.

Viktor Denisenko also noted good contracts for tractor equipment. It was set for \$5.8 million in the first half of 2022. This is a prospect, because today agriculture forms a quarter of Tajikistan's GDP.

Industrial cooperation in this direction needs to be developed, says Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Tajikistan to Belarus Mahmadsarif Hakdod, "It is necessary to expand the range of manufactured machines. Not only agricultural. We can assemble municipal and other equipment, and enter the markets of third countries. We have such experience."

Partners coordinate plans

Taking into account the fact that the fields in Tajikistan make up less than five percent of the entire territory of the country (the rest is mountains), our food is in great demand there. In the near future, for example, it is planned to open a joint enterprise with the Minsk Dairy Plant No. 1 for the production of dairy products. Mutual interest in the supply of pedigree cattle of Belarusian selection was also noted at the forum.

"We have begun to increase the supply of Belarusian food to the Tajik market quite actively. The assortment is constantly expanding," said the Minister of Agriculture and Food Igor Brylo. "This is both dairy and meat products."

The second area is veterinary medicines. Our partners are very interested not so much in the purchase of such drugs from Belarus, but in the creation of joint ventures here.

As for construction, a joint venture for the assembly of elevators is already operating in Khujand. Good prospects are opening up for manufacturers of building materials and woodworkers.

In turn, Belarus is interested in importing Tajik raw materials for domestic light industry. The chairman of the Bellegprom concern, Tatyana Lugina, told journalists that representatives of the Orsha Flax Mill and the Baranovichi Cotton Association had arrived at the forum to negotiate the supply of cotton yarn and cotton fibre. This raw material is also purchased in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan,

REALITY

*In 2021, the volume of trade with Tajikistan amounted to **\$126.1 million**, including Belarusian exports — **\$122.1 million**. The main export items to Tajikistan are tractors and truck tractors, sugar, oil products, flour, wood products, refrigerators and freezers. From Tajikistan to Belarus, mainly cotton yarn, cotton fibre, nuts and dried fruits are imported.*





Turkey. But Tajikistan has offered a more attractive price in recent years. Therefore, the Tajik market is interesting. In addition, the possibility of cooperation between Belarusian and Tajik specialists in the processing of cotton in Tajikistan itself is being studied. This is one of the ways to reduce the cost of the final product.

Among those who have found partners in the Tajik market is Mogotex, which this year, for the first time in its work on export markets, supplied technical fabrics worth \$250,000. There is an agreement on cooperation in the next year.

The prospects for the presence in Tajikistan of the Vitebsk Carpets textile holding, whose products are very popular among Tajiks, are also discussed.

“In September, we registered a Belarusian-Tajik enterprise, within which we plan to combine some technological processes and enter this market through technological cooperation,” said Tatyana Lugina.

Judging by the results of the forum, it is obvious that the parties intend to fill a certain gap in trade and economic cooperation and bring it to a higher level. There are opportunities for this, you just need to use them wisely.

“For some domestic manufacturers, this is the first meeting with Tajik partners. The talks that are taking place between the business circles of both countries are the groundwork that will give an incentive to increase trade and replenish the treasury of joint projects,” said Mikhail Myatlikov, Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Time to use the reserves

With an emphasis on trade and economic cooperation, a meeting was also held in Dushanbe between the President of Belarus and the Prime Minister of Tajikistan, Kokhir Rasulzoda. Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined the tasks and guidelines: there is progress in trade and economic relations, but we must add more.

“And considering that together with this site, from Tajikistan, we can work for nearby countries and regions, we can add a lot. We just missed something somewhere. Therefore, we are determined

to become more active in this regard, to increase trade between Belarus and Tajikistan. We have a lot of goods that Tajikistan needs. We will be happy to buy your products that you are ready to export: cotton, metals, and agricultural products. And you are interested in purchasing goods, ranging from food, clothing to cars and equipment, elevators, buses, trolleybuses, everything that we produce. The world has shown us what a market is. We have already seen. Therefore, if we are friends, if we do not have problems in relations, so should the trade turnover ... (increase).”

The same applies to investment cooperation. The laws of the market are, of course, harsh, but true friends can always come to an agreement. For example, Belarus and Tajikistan are now discussing the possibility of creating a joint production of carpets. Aleksandr Lukashenko urges not to be afraid of competition in this segment, “We do not create competition here. Therefore, it is necessary to look at excises on imported products. You and I can produce such carpets and we will not even satisfy all the needs in Tajikistan. We need to occupy this market together. Let's work together, especially since your people are familiar with this.”

The Belarusian side is ready to work more closely with the production of cotton and the purchase of this raw material in Tajikistan. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted the success of Tajikistan in the production of environmentally friendly electricity. According to him, Belarus is ready to cooperate with Tajikistan in any areas, “If we agree, be sure that we will be reliable partners. We won't let you down.”

“We have already felt it,” responded Kokhir Rasulzoda. “For us, cooperation with Belarus is of particular importance in almost all spheres of the economy.”

Indicative contracts

- The Minsk Automobile Plant will supply almost \$500,000 worth of equipment to Tajikistan.
- The Belarusian-Tajik business forum and *Made in Belarus* exhibition in Dushanbe exceeded all expectations of both parties. It can be said that the instructions of the President not to leave empty-handed have been fulfilled by the members of the delegation. On the first day alone, contracts worth \$50 million were signed.
- One of the largest deals is with the Slutsk Sugar Refinery.
- “We rely on the supply of white sugar, which is produced in Belarus in large volumes,” said Oleg Zhidkov, Chairman of the Belgospischeprom concern. “We plan to supply more than 15 thousand tons of sugar to the Tajik market.”
- Contracts for 11 million dollars are also taken away in his portfolio by the General Director of the Minsk Tractor Works Vitaly Vovk:
- “We have good partners, we have been working with them for a long time. Every year we increase both sales and production. The state has provided a certain benefit, the assembly production is not charged with VAT. This is a good incentive for development, so we are determined to expand this market.”
- Minister of Industry Aleksandr Rogozhnik said that during the visit the Byelorussian Steel Works also signed contracts worth about \$16 million.

“The main thing is the economy, trade and economic relations. It seems that we have progress in trade. But we immediately determined that the level we reached was not our trade turnover... We are determined to become more active in this regard.”

Success is grounded

Another meeting in the programme of the visit is with the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Majlisi Oli of Tajikistan, Mahmadoir Zokirzoda. They talked mainly about politics, because with the current turbulence on the world stage, the stake on people's, deputy diplomacy has greatly increased. But first, Mahmadoir Zokirzoda warmly welcomed the Belarusian leader, “The people of Tajikistan know you as a wise politician and appreciate you for your openness. It would not be an exaggeration to say that in the post-Soviet space, in terms of the spirit of life values, our peoples are the closest. Tajikistan has a reliable friend, strategic and like-minded partner in the person of Belarus. Tajiks have the warmest, most sincere feelings for Belarusians.”

“I absolutely agree with you. Our peoples are similar to each other. I would even say they are no different. They are kind, hardworking, talented people. And in this regard, we have a certain success in our relations,” stated Aleksandr Lukashenko.

In this context, the President of Belarus did not fail to say kind words about his friend Emomali Rahmon, noting that he had known him for more than a quarter of a century, “We have always had a single position on all issues. We have always supported each other. And this is not because we are friends, but because we think absolutely the same in this regard. For me, he has always been an example of serving his Motherland, a selfless person.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that only the leaders of Belarus and Tajikistan are ready to show determination and defend the sovereignty and security in the country with weapons in their hands. The President of Belarus had to take a machine gun in August 2020. Emomali Rahmon also resolutely defended the independence and territorial integrity of Tajikistan, was wounded during the civil war, but did not retreat.

“He's invincible. A real representative of the Tajik people. He has always been a model of loyalty and reliability for me,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. “That is why we have developed such good relations based on the similarities between the Belarusian and Tajik peoples.”

VERBATIM

Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus,

“Visits of this kind are always important, but this visit is especially important. It was necessary to identify those points, areas of interaction that would allow us not only to maintain the current level of trade and economic cooperation, but also to achieve great results. We succeeded. Clear concrete directions have been identified in which we must move. The roadmap for bilateral cooperation contains 38 activities related to our interaction in various fields, specific projects and programmes. During the meeting of the President of Belarus with his Tajik colleague, with the Prime Minister, the problematic issues related to trade and economic cooperation were discussed, and specific decisions were made to resolve these issues, which will make it possible to intensify our cooperation. It is no secret that close, friendly relations are maintained between the leaders of our countries, and they are projected to a lower level. This allows fellow ministers to openly and confidentially discuss and resolve all issues. As the President of Belarus said, we have no closed topics. All aspects of our interaction were discussed, ranging from agriculture and industry to military-technical issues. I am convinced that this will bear fruit in the near future.”

Presidents at an informal meeting

After the talks between Aleksandr Lukashenko with the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the Majlisi Oli Mahmadoir Zokirzoda and the Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda, which took place in Dushanbe in the first half of the day, the President of Tajikistan arrived at the government residence



where the Head of the Belarusian State lived. Together they went to Takob, the country residence of Emomali Rahmon, located in picturesque mountainous places not far from the Tajik capital. The leaders of the two countries held an informal meeting during which they discussed topical issues.

From Dushanbe, the President of Belarus went on a working visit to Kazakhstan. In Astana, on October 13th-14th, Aleksandr Lukashenko took part in the sixth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State.

Aleksei **Fedosov**

Aleksandr Lukashenko,

“The time has come for Asia, and it is very important not to miss this time!”

T

The important events in the capital of Kazakhstan, to which, without exaggeration, the attention of the entire international community was riveted in October, confirm that new centres of power are rapidly emerging today. And one of them, according to the firm conviction of observers, will be the Asian region. Actually, this was clearly demonstrated by the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia held in Astana.

Our country, which has had observer status in the CICA since 2015, also took part in the large-scale forum. In his speech, the President of Belarus stated that the expansion of cooperation between such platforms as the CSTO, SCO and CICA can lay an important foundation for the successful development of the entire Eurasian space. Addressing the summit participants, Aleksandr Lukashenko openly called for decisive action, “What will be the structure of the new world order, where the new poles of world politics will take shape, and what will be the future balance of power, largely depends on our collective will and political responsibility. Today, more than ever, they are important because we are talking about the future of our children and grandchildren.”

Benefit from collaboration

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia is an interstate forum created in 1992 at the initiative of Kazakhstan, which already unites about 90 percent of the Asian continent. At the current summit, it was decided to join Kuwait to the CICA, and thus the number of members of the platform increased to 28. And Turkmenistan joined the CICA as an observer.

The issues discussed at the platform are the most global: from politics and economics to the fight against terrorism and ensuring global security. Here, in Astana, they talked about the growing strength of the East and the need to form a new world order based on the principles of mutual respect and international law.

The summit, which was chaired by the head of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, was attended by about 50 delegations. The forum also brought together the leaders of 12 states: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Here is what **President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko** said in his speech at the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, “The chain of conflicts that shook the Old World has already reached Asia. Moreover, Western countries offering their peacekeeping services are in fact only adding fuel to the fire and are not interested in de-escalation. Their goal is to quarrel, divide everyone, gain uncontrolled access to markets and resources. Being a part of the greater Eurasia, Belarus cannot ignore the current state of affairs in the region. I am convinced that the time has come to unite our efforts and jointly confront the problems that we are facing and which we cannot overcome alone.

We will be strong only if we can benefit from working together and solve the most sensitive issues of supplying energy, food, fertilizer, building logistics and gaining access to markets. All conventions, protectionism and national egoism must be left in the past.

Our understanding of the goals of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia is to work together to create mechanisms for cooperation on a wide range of issues without harassment or sanctions. We need the most favourable formats for trade, investment, open borders for goods, services, labour, as well as new transport corridors.

After all, the potential of the Eurasian region is enormous. This is a colossal resource base and production capacity, a consumer market that has no equal. It is clear that the role of the continent will increase. The Asian countries alone produce a third of the world's

gross domestic product, and their population is more than 4 billion people.

The Republic of Belarus considers interaction with Asian states as one of the priorities of its foreign policy.

Being in the centre of Europe, we maintain close trade and economic cooperation with our Central Asian partners in the Eurasian Union. Our country is participating in the implementation of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. We are the western outpost of the CSTO, but at the same time we are actively in contact with all our allies in the region of responsibility of this organisation.

Our initiatives, from a broad international dialogue on confidence-building measures to the Digital Neighbourhood Belt, are focused on creating an indivisible, comprehensive security architecture within which states and peoples exist peacefully.

The expansion of cooperation between the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the CICA can lay a powerful foundation for both the successful development of the Eurasian space and the security of the states participating in these associations. We can become a good example of interaction for the European region, where the system of checks and balances created in the 90s of the last century is bursting at the seams and falling apart.



I am convinced that, taking into account the shift in the focus of global politics and economics to Asia, the dynamic development of transcontinental trade and economic ties, pan-Eurasian infrastructure and logistics projects, further expansion of dialogue and cooperation between the states of the meeting is more important than ever.

Dear participants of the summit!

What will be the structure of the new world order, where the new poles of world politics will take shape, and what will be the future balance of power depends largely on our collective will and political responsibility. Today, more than ever, they are important because we are talking about the future of our children and grandchildren.

I am convinced that the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia will play a significant role in responsible decision-making processes that will be able to build a peaceful predictable future. Belarus is ready for such serious work both politically and economically.

Summing up, we can say: **the time has come for Asia, and it is very important not to miss this time!**"

Factors on which the future depends

What did other participants of the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia say?

The fact that the efforts of the CICA member states and CICA observer countries should be directed to the formation of a new peace agenda was stated, for example, by the **President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**. He focused on the following point, *"A particularly important task facing us is to achieve stability in international relations in the face of emerging unprecedented threats. It is critical to re-energize multilateral mechanisms and return to an open dialogue."*

According to the President of Kazakhstan, the future of Asia will depend on the desire to strengthen the dialogue, and the Asian historical experience can become a solid foundation for building a sustainable inclusive world order based on the principles of sovereign equality, peaceful existence and justice.

Today, the world is becoming truly multipolar, and the countries of Asia, where new centres of power are growing stronger, are playing a very prominent role in this. At the same time, the countries of the Asian region are the locomotive of world economic growth. This opinion was voiced by **Russian President Vladimir Putin**. The head of the Russian Federation suggested, *"Like many of our partners in Asia, we believe that it is necessary to launch a revision of the principles of the global financial system, which for decades allowed the self-proclaimed so-called golden billion, which closed all the flows of capital and technology to itself, to a large extent to live at the expense of others. As a first step, we see a more active use of national currencies in mutual settlements."*

Such measures, Vladimir Putin stressed, would help strengthen the financial sovereignty of the CICA states and deepen regional economic integration.

President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov believes that the huge combined trade, economic, investment and human potential fully allows the CICA to create a community of sustainable development in the Asian space. At the same time, he stated that challenges and threats remain in the region, which manifest themselves in new hybrid forms, and the world economy is experiencing new shocks due to international tension, *"Unfortunately, the existing authoritative international organisations are not fully trying to realise the available opportunities to forestall conflicts that directly affect stability in the region. The problem of security in the global world once again calls us to improve trust-based cooperation to ensure an integrated and sustainable system of security and stability at the bilateral and multilateral levels between the states of the region."*

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposed to consider the possibility of a joint appeal of Asian countries to the UN General Assembly with the initiative to form a high-level international negotiating group to prepare and agree with the

Afghan authorities an algorithm for the phased fulfilment of the obligations of the parties. He spoke about the unprecedented lack of dialogue and trust in the modern world, the growing uncertainty of international relations, which provokes the escalation of conflicts and leads to systemic failures of the global economy, *"New geopolitical realities have a negative impact on the stability of the entire Asian region. Crisis phenomena directly affect the states of Central Asia and hinder our efforts to deepen economic integration."*

The leader of Uzbekistan also stated the need to establish systemic cooperation in order to protect young people from radicalism and direct their energy to a creative path.

Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi drew attention to economic terrorism, which is a universal threat to many countries and requires close cooperation from Asian states to build new models, *"Countries that are sponsors of terrorism should not hide behind the fight against terrorism and hide behind financial mechanisms. Such countries cannot be reliable partners in the new emerging world order."*

The new Asia in today's world requires cooperation to build new models that can deal well with challenges in the economy, security, and so on. According to the President of Iran, it is very important among the CICA countries to create joint financial mechanisms using regional currencies to effectively combat economic terrorism.

In turn, **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan** is convinced that the global security architecture should be formed on the basis of a fairer and equitable understanding, *"Humanity is facing common challenges, and the pandemic has demonstrated this. Our problems are common. And we need to find common sense solutions."*

The Turkish leader also stated the need to resolve the conflict in Ukraine as soon as possible, and among the important topics of cooperation he named the sphere of transport and logistics, energy, climate and ecology.

Openness and inclusiveness lead to progress, while insularity and isolation lead to underdevelopment, which is why China calls for the development of cooperation between countries on the basis of justice. This was stated at the summit by **Vice President of the People's Republic of China Wang Qishan**, *"The modern world is experiencing unprecedented tectonic changes in a century. The international situation is becoming less and less predictable. CICA should unite the efforts of all participating countries in counteracting the existing challenges."*

FACT

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The document was signed on the sidelines of the 6th summit in Astana. The document was signed by Chairman of the EEC Board Mikhail Myasnikov and Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat Kairat Sarybay.



It is important to maintain peace in Asia, ensure security, overcoming differences and contradictions. Wang Qishan called for deepening the partnership under the Belt and Road Initiative, promoting comprehensive connectivity and regional integration.

The purpose of the memorandum is to promote the development of comprehensive economic cooperation in the Eurasian region. The parties intend to cooperate in the areas of economics and finance, regional economic integration, transport and transportation, industry, agro-industrial complex, digitalisation, information and communication technologies (ICT), as well as trade and competition policy.

Why Belarus is interested in this community

“CICA is an important platform for meetings of heads of state, which represent a significant part of the planet. This is a platform for discussing topical issues related not only to politics, but also to the economy, trade, cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism,” says Belarusian Foreign Minister Vladimir Makei. “The more Belarus is involved in the activities of various regional, international integration associations, the more beneficial it will be for our country. It is clear that we must be clearly aware of what we will bring to this or that country and what we will receive from it. But we see that here we have the opportunity to reach specific agreements on specific areas.”

CICA status can rise

CICA begins a gradual transformation into a full-fledged organisation. It is expected that in a year the roadmap of the transformation process will be presented, and the transformation

itself will give the site a special status, thereby significantly strengthening the levers of influence of Asian states on world processes. This was announced to journalists by the **CICA Secretary General (until now — Executive Director), Ambassador Kairat Sarybay**, commenting on the results of the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. He said that the summit was a resounding success, a number of historic decisions were made at it, “First of all, I would like to note the statement on the transformation, which launched a structured, inclusive and transparent negotiation process for the gradual and consensus-based transformation of the CICA into a full-fledged regional international organisation.”

According to the CICA Secretary General, the transformation will give the site a special status, thereby significantly strengthening the levers of influence of Asian states on world processes.

Kairat Sarybay also commented on the potential entry of Belarus into the organisation. He recalled that one of the fundamental current requirements for membership in the CICA is geographical belonging to Asia. At the same time, cooperation can be developed on different principles.

“Belarus is difficult to be transferred to Asia, but there are various ideas on how we can develop relations with the regions adjacent to Asia. For the time being I do not undertake to assess the prospect of Belarus’s admission to the CICA under the current conditions, but if these conditions become more flexible as part of the transformation, then why not. Today, Belarus is a very active observer, we see how it was represented at the highest level last year and this year,” commented the CICA Secretary General.

Vasily **Kharitonov**

DIALOGUES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PRAGMATISM OF RELATIONS

The President of Belarus held a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the CICA summit

One of these meetings was with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The meeting lasted about an hour in the presence of foreign ministers and other officials from both sides. The leaders of the states did not make protocol statements for the press, but immediately began negotiations. As they say, the time is now such that there is no time for protocol: there are a lot of topics for discussion, and they are too important.

During a meeting with the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked his colleague for the invitation to the summit, “I really sincerely do not just feel, I believe, as I said today, the time for Asia is coming. Asia, the East — people are very careful, cautious, adjusted. This behaviour should not cause Asia to miss this moment. Everyone is now looking for someone to rely on. And it so happened that the SCO and your organisation (CICA), which was created here on the initiative of Kazakhstan, are, I will tell you, strong. And the fact that you have now begun to develop this organisation, to turn it into a global one, is very correct. Therefore, it is necessary to boldly take the reins of government in the hands of the world and manage.”

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stressed that he was glad to see Aleksandr Lukashenko, especially in Astana, and thanked





him for his contribution to the work of the summit. The President of Kazakhstan stated that the Asian continent shows very good results in its development and it is certainly a region with a great future in terms of economy, “Of course, China is the locomotive in Asia. But there are other states as well.”

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, in particular, mentioned Vietnam, which was also represented at the summit. It is a country with a large and rapidly developing economy.

Aleksandr Lukashenko agreed with this thesis, but also noted the significant role of Kazakhstan in Asia, “You said that yes, there are very serious large states in this organisation. But I do not think that Kazakhstan is a small state and is not able to contribute to the fact that Asian organisations still dominate the world today. And you have done a lot for this.”

“The numbers speak for themselves,” agreed the Kazakh leader. “We will have a GDP of almost 190 billion dollars this year. This is more than the economies of all Central Asia. I’m not here to brag. This is a statistical fact.”

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev assured that he would do everything possible to ensure that effective and multilateral cooperation with Belarus continued to develop, “We are set absolutely in a positive way, tonality. I constantly tell the members of the government that everything possible should be done to increase this volume. Be it trade, investment cooperation, joint projects. In principle, there is no reason to sound the alarm, nothing so terrible is happening. You just need to use the available opportunities. You know better about them, because you have been studying the subject for a long time.”

The President of Belarus discussed the current state of Belarusian-Chinese relations and a future meeting with President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping with Vice President of the People’s Republic of China Wang Qishan. They also discussed the working visit of the Belarusian delegation to China.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. The leaders of the two countries



already talked on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Samarkand about a month ago. But there is a need to compare notes again regarding cooperation in general, as well as to discuss specific issues of relationships, the schedule of visits and contacts.

An exchange of views took place with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani. It was about control and revision of joint projects. Aleksandr Lukashenko invited the sheikh to pay a visit to Belarus.

The Head of the Belarusian State talked to the President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov. They discussed the situation in the region and economic ties between the two countries.

Brief conversations on topical issues were held with the Presidents of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Simona Halperin, Deputy Director General for Eurasia and the countries of the Balkan region of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, spoke with the President of Belarus and took the initiative. We talked about relations with Israel. Simona Halperin who is from St. Petersburg and knows Belarus well, has now met the Head of the Belarusian state personally.

Vsevolod Yevseyev





IT IS IMPORTANT TO TIMELY AND EVEN PROACTIVELY RESPOND TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Belarus confirms its long-established reputation as one of the most active members of the CIS

PRINCIPLED POSITION

It seems that the Commonwealth of Independent States, as a regional integration association, seeks not only to maintain its relevance in modern conditions, but also to testify to the possibility of collective influence on the most acute world contradictions. At a minimum, it declares its ability to reduce dependence on global shocks, to minimise the growing risks and threats for the participating countries themselves. That was the leitmotif of the regular meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State held there, in the capital of Kazakhstan. The President of Belarus also took part in it. At the summit, Aleksandr Lukashenko openly pointed out the most vulnerable areas of integration and called on his colleagues to draw conclusions from what is happening, "Unfortunately, what we have been talking about for so long over the years has come to pass, has become a reality. A real hybrid war is unleashed against all of us... But we have everything to minimise our dependence on global upheavals and hostile steps of aggressive states. It is only necessary to skilfully use these opportunities."



Benefits of an informal meeting

Yes, it should be recalled that the day before, an informal CIS summit was held in St. Petersburg, at which the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States discussed both the prospects for economic cooperation and topical issues on the international agenda, measures to resolve conflicts in the region. The President of Belarus also took part in the St. Petersburg summit. By the way, such high-level meetings always arouse interest, since they are held in the format of a free discussion. And it is precisely with such communication that it is often much easier to agree on certain issues, to come to a common denominator on acute problems.

An interesting detail: just on that day, the host of the summit, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, celebrated his anniversary. And the heads of state, of course, did not come to St. Petersburg empty-handed. Journalists then

asked what gift the President of Belarus had prepared for the hero of the day.

"The tractor... The one I work on, BELARUS. The best. Manually assembled," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

And it wasn't a joke. A photo of a certificate for a BELARUS 1523.3 tractor for Vladimir Putin immediately spread across social media. "To the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin in honour of the anniversary," read the inscription on the certificate.

"With all attachments?" asked the journalists, referring to the attachments on the tractor for carrying out certain works.

"You know, there is a million of them. Therefore, it is optional," replied Aleksandr Lukashenko. "But I will offer him one hitch attachment — a seeder. We will sow bread. May be something else. It is universal. We'll provide crops, for Duda, Morawiecki (leadership of Poland), Europe, so that they do not starve. So that they do not to steal bread in Ukraine, but bring it to poor countries."

Another question from journalists was this: what way does the President of Belarus see from the current international situation?

"Why do we need to get out of some kind of international situation?" retorted Aleksandr Lukashenko. "It is not we who should look for a way out of the international situation. We didn't enter there and we're not going to leave with any attempts. And let them look for (a way out) of this international situation, where they went."

The President noted that journalists do not have all the information about what is happening, "They have been looking for this way out for a long time."

One of the questions to the President concerned the security of the western borders of the Union State of Belarus and Russia in the current situation.

"You have heard statements that they allegedly have already agreed: 'we will move nuclear weapons arsenals to Poland,'" said Aleksandr Lukashenko. "We'll keep thinking. We have already decided, we will think again how to respond to this. Don't worry, everything will be fine."

Economy as a driving force

Welcoming the participants of the meeting in St. Petersburg, Vladimir Putin noted that they represent states that, due to a huge number of circumstances and historical reasons, are Russia's closest friends and allies, "With whom we are connected by relations of true strategic partnership. And with whom we jointly strive to build cooperation in the spirit of good neighbourliness, mutual benefit and consideration of each other's interests."

The summit in St. Petersburg was a good opportunity to synchronise watches before the upcoming annual full-scale meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State in Astana.

“Of course, both at this meeting and at the summit in Astana we will give priority attention to the further development of trade and investment partnerships within the CIS, we will think about how to intensify joint work to increase the stability of all our economies, in particular, through building up bilateral and multilateral cooperation ties, ensuring technological sovereignty,” said Vladimir Putin.

Not tied to the current situation

Meanwhile, economic cooperation within the CIS is consistently expanding. For example, in 2021, Russia's trade with the CIS countries increased (by more than 30 percent) to \$96 billion. And for the six months of this year, it grew by another 7 percent.

“A more energetic transition to national currencies in mutual settlements between the Commonwealth countries will allow developing such positive trends. As a matter of fact, we have been doing this for many years now,” stressed Vladimir Putin. “And it has nothing to do with any political situation. In general, this will help strengthen the financial sovereignty of our states, develop domestic capital markets, and deepen regional economic integration.”

The head of the Russian state noted with satisfaction that the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, took the initiative to create an international organisation under the auspices of the CIS to support and promote the Russian language:

“We are very grateful to President Tokayev for this. I think that this is important for everyone, bearing in mind that the Russian language is, of course, the language of interstate communication.

And, without any doubt, this also has a practical dimension: in Russia, without any exaggeration, millions of citizens of the CIS work, who help Russia in the implementation of development plans, and themselves earn the necessary funds to support their families. Of course, we support the proposal of the President of Kazakhstan and, for our part, will do everything to implement it as soon as possible. Including taking into account the fact that the next year, 2023, has been declared in the CIS as the Year of the Russian language as the language of interethnic communication.”

What is known about Aleksandr Lukashenko's gift to Vladimir Putin

The BELARUS 1523.3 tractor is the flagship model of the Minsk Tractor Plant of an advanced technical level. Under the hood is an MMZ engine with a power of 155 hp. The tractor uses lighting technology with dot optics. The cab with tinted windows has a comfortable seat with air suspension, climate control, electrically adjustable mirrors, radio. Due to the hydrostatic control of the brakes and clutch, more ergonomic placement of the hydraulic system control levers, the productivity has been increased and the conditions for driving the tractor have been improved, as well as the efforts on the controls have been reduced. Wet brakes improve braking efficiency and reliability. The gift will be made on the basis of the base model according to a special specification. The tractor is assembled in the pilot production shop.

“Everyone will be tested”

Returning to Astana, it should be noted that the agenda of the annual meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth included more than a dozen issues. The focus, of course, is again on the economy, geopolitics and security. Traditionally, at first, in a narrow format, the leaders of Belarus, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan exchanged views on topical issues of the CIS and beyond. In this regard, attention is drawn to the detailed breakdown of the situation from Aleksandr Lukashenko, the essence of which is that a hybrid war has been unleashed against all Commonwealth countries, “And Ukraine is just a pretext here. The plans of individual countries for revenge for the lost campaigns of the last century have been hatched for a long time, starting, as you know, from the first days after the victory in the Great Patriotic War, and perhaps even earlier.”

According to the Head of the Belarusian State, Russia and Belarus were at the forefront of economic and financial attacks, “But I think everyone here understands that the true goals of Western strategists are much broader: to divide the Eurasian space into sectors of influence and use our countries as raw materials and industrial appendages. We need to be prepared for a wide variety of provocations along the entire perimeter of the CIS. The recent events in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are convincing and very instructive examples. But this is only the beginning. Everyone will be tested for strength.”

FACTS

- *The Presidents of Belarus and Russia, Aleksandr Lukashenko, and Vladimir Putin, after an informal summit in St. Petersburg, talked in a one-on-one format for about an hour.*
- *In addition to the Belarusian Head of State, the Russian northern capital was visited by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov. President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov was unable to come to St. Petersburg to attend the informal summit. His press secretary explained this decision by a busy work schedule.*
- *During the meeting, the President of Russia proposed to discuss issues related to the problems of ensuring security in the Commonwealth space. According to Vladimir Putin, in addition to Ukraine, where tragic events are taking place, unfortunately, conflicts sometimes arise between other close states of the post-Soviet space. A very transparent allusion, for example, to the history of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. By the way, at that moment, Ilham Aliyev and Nikol Pashinyan were sitting at a common table. Why not try to find solutions to certain problematic issues.*

PRINCIPLED POSITION

Skilfully seize opportunities

Given this situation, the only correct way out is even greater rapprochement and coordination of actions between the countries of the Commonwealth. But is everyone ready for this? Aleksandr Lukashenko looks at things realistically, “So far, alas, I have to state the absence of mutual support in a number of cases.”

The President of Belarus drew attention to the fact that the principled national positions still hinder effective joint opposition to the sanctions pressure of the West. Aleksandr Lukashenko also noted that many interethnic and territorial disputes remained in the post-Soviet space that the Soviet Union could not or did not have time to resolve, “Today, external players are making incredible efforts to turn every, even the most insignificant, dispute into a heated confrontation.”



The economic situation remains no less difficult, the Head of the Belarusian State emphasised. “The ill-conceived actions of individual governments, primarily the West, have caused tangible damage to the global economy. Using the example of Belarus and Russia, you saw how traditional sales markets for national goods and purchases of critical imports can suddenly close, established forms of interstate settlements, sources of investment, and much more can become inaccessible,” noted the President of Belarus.

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced, “We have everything to minimise our dependence on global upheavals and hostile steps of aggressive states. It is only necessary to skilfully use these opportunities.”

National currencies are preferable for settlements

Taking into account all the urgent problems, the summit participants held a meaningful discussion and discussed a wide range of issues related to interaction in various fields, including the fight against corruption, terrorism and extremism, the economic bloc, and humanitarian cooperation.

“Joint activities on import substitution, strengthening of technological and financial sovereignty have been intensified. Energetic efforts are being made to switch to national currencies in

mutual settlements between the Commonwealth countries,” said Russian President Vladimir Putin. At the same time, he pointed out that economic exchanges with the CIS countries are expanding even against the background of the imposed sanctions.

A little later, the Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Mikhail Myasnikov, in an interview with reporters, said that in terms of the use of national currencies in settlements between countries, the Eurasian Economic Union has already achieved good results, “We already have about 75 percent (settlements) in national currencies. Moreover, between Russia and Belarus this figure is much higher, but in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan — an average of 50 to 60 percent.”

Mikhail Myasnikov believes that the time has come to move more actively along this path so that national currencies are also the currency of contracts:

“Then there will be fewer shocks in terms of volatility. Not everyone is ready for this. But we are pursuing this line rather persistently.

“It turns out that this is such a step towards financial sovereignty?” asked journalists.

“Towards collective financial sovereignty,” added the Chairman of the EEC Board.

Reasonable proposals find support

The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, proposed establishing observer and partner statuses in the Commonwealth, “Unfortunately, the CIS currently lacks a norm on interaction within the framework of permanent observer or partner statuses. We believe that in the current realities, it is our Commonwealth with its soft integration format that can become an attractive association for cooperation with interested partners.”

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev also recalled Kazakhstan’s initiative to create an international organisation under the auspices of the CIS to support and promote the Russian language. According to him, up to 300 million people living on almost all continents speak Russian today, “Our idea is to create an international organisation in the image and likeness of the UN using the positive experience of La Francophonie (an international organisation of French-speaking countries), headquartered in Paris. I believe that over time, states inhabited by people who speak Russian well (and there are a lot of such countries, be it Asia, Europe, Latin America) will join this international organisation.”

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev called on the CIS countries to develop new transport and logistics corridors, as well as to create favourable conditions for food supplies in the CIS in order to prevent artificial price increases.

The heads of state of the Commonwealth also supported the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov to organise the Friendship Sports Games in the CIS and instructed the Executive Committee to work on this issue.

Frank answers to the point

On the sidelines of the summit in Astana, the President of Belarus was, perhaps, the most in demand among foreign



journalists. There was even a queue among them to at least briefly talk with Aleksandr Lukashenko. Answering the question of one of the Russian journalists about how the Belarusian leader perceives the statement made in Ukraine at the official level that this country is already a de facto member of NATO, the Head of the Belarusian State noted, “We don’t take it in any way. Wishful thinking can be passed off. All in all, it doesn’t really bother us. They want to be members of NATO, well, that is their choice. With all the ensuing consequences, of course.”

When asked if the Head of the Belarusian State is afraid of the escalation of the situation, Aleksandr Lukashenko frankly answered, “I am afraid. I would not want this escalation and some kind of slide. We have just been discussing this problem with President Putin. Nobody wants it. Neither I want nor Russia. We value human lives. But you understand that it does not depend on us. If the West and individual countries there, you know who, want there to be no escalation, there won’t be. We do not insist on escalation, we are simply defending ourselves.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko, in particular, recalled the desire of the Polish authorities to deploy nuclear weapons on their territory, and now in Poland a sociological survey has been published on this topic, “Already, they say, more than 50 percent are in favour of having nuclear weapons in Poland. For the Americans to move. I don’t think that the majority of Poles there hold this point of view. But this leadership is already escalating the situation. Already supposedly the people are asking for this. Of course, this worries us.”

The Head of State noted that taking into account the current situation, counter-terrorist measures were taken in Belarus and, together with Russia, they began to deploy a regional group in the western direction.

The President was asked how big this group is.

“You know our army, about 70 thousand people. This is the foundation. Well, I think that it is not necessary to demand

10-15 thousand from Russia now. Because there are enough other problems. You know what. Therefore, we will now proceed from this. We are preparing the guys,” emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The journalist recalled the words of the Head of State that the main thing is to prevent Belarus from being drawn into hostilities.

“Can you resist, will you be able to prevent it?” followed the question.

“Absolutely. Even if we are drawn into it, we can resist it. We will keep this direction,” said the President. “It is clear, as they are already openly declaring (I don’t want to name sources): ‘We will go straight ahead.’ The Americans say this at gatherings in Warsaw. We see and hear it. What does ‘straight ahead’ from Warsaw mean? This means through Belarus, as some once walked. They are unlikely to succeed. We see it, we hear it, and it worries us. We are trying to resist this. That’s all politics.”

What agreements were reached at the summit

- *It was decided to declare 2024 in the CIS as the Year of the Volunteer Movement, 2025 as the Year of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War as the Year of Peace and Unity in the Fight against Nazism, and 2026 as the Year of Health Protection.*
- *A programme of cooperation in the fight against terrorism and extremism for 2023-2025 was approved.*
- *An agreement on cooperation in combating corruption was signed.*
- *A decision was signed to grant the Commonwealth an observer status with the CSTO.*
- *Russia’s initiative to declare St. Petersburg the cultural capital of the Commonwealth in 2024 was supported.*
- *Under the auspices of the CIS, an international organisation will be created to support and promote the Russian language.*

Some organisational issues were also considered at the summit in Astana. In particular, a decision was made to appoint Sergei Lebedev to the post of Chairman of the Executive Committee — Executive Secretary of the CIS for the next three-year period. In his speech at a meeting in a narrow format, Aleksandr Lukashenko announced the support of the Belarusian side for the candidacy of Sergei Lebedev, “Experienced, competent, reliable person. We are for it.”

The leaders of the countries also agreed with the proposal of the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, to rename the position held by Sergei Lebedev from 2023 from Chairman of the CIS Executive Committee — Executive Secretary to Secretary General of the CIS.

In accordance with the rotation in 2023, the chairmanship of the CIS passes to Kyrgyzstan. It is already known that the next meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State is scheduled to be held on October 13th, 2023 in Bishkek.

Vladimir Khromov

"WE NEED TO CALM DOWN AND SIT DOWN AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE"

The President of Belarus in Astana gave an interview to the American television company NBC

In particular, the Belarusian Head of State was asked how Russian President Vladimir Putin reacts to the situation in Ukraine.

"Don't you think that he is tense, maybe he is nervous, under pressure?" asked the journalist, noting that Russia has not yet won a victory in Ukraine.

"He is the President of a vast country. You always feel some tension. I am telling you this as President. As for the Ukrainian conflict, you say he does not win there. Well, in this war you also do not win. Today, 50 states

are actually fighting against Russia on the territory of Ukraine. There, too, there is no victory on your part. Therefore, it is necessary to look for ways out of this situation. And I must tell you, unlike you Westerners, President Putin has offered options more than once. It's just that, apparently, they don't want to listen and hear at the moment. And it would have to. This is our position as well. And, you know, the futility of development in the current situation (as it is developing in Ukraine) is also recognised by some members of NATO. And not some, but many of them," said the President of Belarus.

In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko cited the example of Turkey. The President of this country, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, met with the Head of State on the sidelines of the CICA summit in Astana.

"We agreed that in the near future we will hold negotiations at a high level, including the issue of Ukraine. Such a visit will be from my side to Ankara," said the President of Belarus. "I noticed that President Erdogan (one of the key countries in NATO), is not happy with what is happening. And constantly do not even hint, but already demand that we should sit down at the negotiating table and negotiate. The United States should have joined this process in this way, and not sent more and more of the most modern types of weapons to Ukraine. Moreover, no types of weapons, including American ones, will change the course of the situation at the front."

Asked whether it is highly likely that the President of Russia will decide to use nuclear weapons, Aleksandr Lukashenko replied, "Most importantly, do not drive your interlocutor and even the enemy into a corner. Therefore, there is no need to cross those lines, as the Russians say, 'red lines'. You can't cross them. As for nuclear weapons, any weapon is created for something. There are weapons, it is clear that they are created for use. Russia has clearly outlined its position: God forbid there will be an attack on the territory of the Russian Federation, in this case Russia can, if necessary, use all types of weapons. As for the subtext of your question, the Russian leadership has never, including President Putin, set itself the goal of using nuclear weapons in Ukraine. There is no such need."

The President recalled how Russia launched precision-guided strikes on Ukraine in response to actions against the Crimean Bridge, "You have noticed that this is power. And very decent. But that's not all. Russia has, I know for sure, the most modern types of weapons. And do not need nuclear weapons. Russia will cope without nuclear weapons."

However, the Head of the Belarusian State noted, the question arises who benefits from exaggerating this topic

and why, "Not thousands, but hundreds of thousands of people will die (in the case of using nuclear weapons). On the part of Ukraine, including."

Aleksandr Lukashenko also drew attention to the fact that some leaders of nuclear states have already begun to talk about nuclear weapons, "In my opinion, in the UK more than once, Macron began to cling to this topic. Under no circumstances should we even talk about it. This is the end of the planet, if only one state uses nuclear weapons. Because it will set off a chain reaction. In Russia, this is well understood. And no one, I emphasise again, I know this for sure, no one raises the question in this way and does not set as their goal the use of nuclear weapons. I tell you absolutely. We need to look for ways to peacefully resolve this conflict. This is beneficial for everyone, including the United States."

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, Poland is the main initiator of the use of nuclear weapons, "It provokes you, the United States, to some kind of gestures in terms of nuclear weapons. Don't fall for this trick. You are a large technological country, no need to dance to the tune of crazed politicians. There are nuclear weapons, let them be in warehouses where they are. Because if only nuclear weapons move, say, to Poland, it will be a chain reaction. On the other hand, reciprocal steps will follow. So you don't have to go for it. We need to calm down and sit down at the negotiating table."

Aleksandr Pimenov





MISSION POSSIBLE

**WHEN THERE IS A WILL, A DESIRE
TO COOPERATE AND AN INITIATIVE**

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Points on the international agenda as the reorientation of exports to the East, the possibility of food donation, commitment to a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Ukraine were voiced by the President of Belarus during the ceremony of presenting credentials by new foreign ambassadors.

Not just a solemn ritual

This time, ambassadors of 11 countries presented their credentials to the President: the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cuba, the Order of Malta, Myanmar, Palestine, Sudan, and Switzerland. The words of Aleksandr Lukashenko were addressed to the new heads of foreign diplomatic missions that Belarus was and remains a peace-loving state and is ready to conduct an equal dialogue with everyone who wants it, “Belarusians have never attacked anyone in their history. We were not a threat to anyone. It will continue to be so. We are always committed to the peaceful solution of any international problems.”

The presentation of credentials is not just a solemn ritual. In fact, for any ambassador, this is the beginning of his full-fledged diplomatic mission in the host country. And it comes down to not destroying, but developing bilateral relations. This is exactly what the President of Belarus expects from ambassadors. And he said it directly, “I am sure that all of you sincerely respect the Belarusian people, as well as their choice to work constructively from the first days of their stay on our land. Know that Belarus is always open to any reasonable initiatives. I am convinced that in contacts with representatives of our state bodies, businesses, and public organisations, you will see an exceptionally friendly and business-like approach.”

Openness to constructive suggestions


The decision of the collective West to impose sanctions against Russia and Belarus turned out to be just as short-sighted, according to the President's firm conviction. Aleksandr Lukashenko said about this, “Even in the face of unprecedented sanctions pressure, Belarus is successfully developing. This is especially true for our traditional industries and agriculture. We have managed to reorient exports, we are engaged in import substitution, we have increased deliveries to Russia, China and other countries. Of course, we feel the negative effect of Western restrictions due to the openness of our economy. However, these sanctions did not achieve their goals. Including thanks to the broad international support of Belarus.”

The President recalled that this year in the country is marked by the preservation of historical memory. Addressing the ambassadors, he emphasized, “The Belarusian people are very sincere, friendly and hardworking. You will learn how rich our land is, how many areas for mutually beneficial cooperation we can successfully develop. I suggest that you be active in strengthening bilateral cooperation between our states.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Belarus will always meet halfway Belarus will always meet constructive ideas, projects and proposals, they are ready to consider any point of view, and wished the ambassadors success in diplomatic activities for the benefit of the peoples.

Peaceful initiatives are a priority

The President drew the attention of the diplomats to the fact that their mission started at a landmark period for the Belarusians, specifying that on September 17th the country celebrated its youngest state holiday, National Unity Day. Having lost every third during the Nazi genocide, Belarusians, like no other nation in the world, highly value human life, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, “Every human life! It is also for this reason that both earlier and today, when a military conflict flares up next to us, in Ukraine, we have always come forward and continue to come up with peace initiatives in the international arena. We consider the conflict between fraternal peoples to be a great tragedy. It is a direct consequence of strategic intrigues and the greatest stupidity, primarily of Western politicians.”



I am sure that all of you sincerely respect the Belarusian people, as well as their choice to work constructively from the first days of their stay on our land. Know that Belarus is always open to any reasonable initiatives. I am convinced that in contacts with representatives of our state bodies, businesses, and public organisations, you will see an exceptionally friendly and business-like approach.



Opportunity to highlight

The presentation of credentials is also a good occasion to assess the results of joint work with the states represented by ambassadors and to set new guidelines. Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke in detail about bilateral cooperation, placing special emphasis at the same time.

On the UAE



“Over its nearly 30-year history, diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and Belarus have developed exclusively in the spirit of friendship, trust and mutual assistance. Your state has become for us one of the largest economic partners in the region. The participation of UAE investors in the implementation of large-scale projects in Minsk is a clear symbol of fruitful bilateral cooperation. I hope that your active work as the Ambassador of the UAE will not only help strengthen the political dialogue, but also help increase trade and attract major Emirati investors to our country. The doors are always open for you.”

On Brazil



“Brazil is one of the most significant partners of Belarus in the Latin American region. We successfully cooperate in various areas. I am convinced that our countries will not stop at the results achieved and will continue to consistently expand the entire range of bilateral contacts, including in the mining industry, metallurgy, petrochemistry and other areas.”

On Sudan



“The Republic of Sudan is one of our long-standing and trusted friends in Africa. Belarusian companies have extensive experience in mutually beneficial cooperation with your country. We need to continue to actively develop the significant bilateral potential in the fields of industry, agriculture, energy, education and healthcare. I was in Sudan, and at the talks with the leadership of Sudan, we agreed on everything. Today we must move forward. And I wish peace, stability and consolidation of society to the friendly Republic of Sudan in order to successfully carry out the necessary transformations.”

On Bosnia and Herzegovina



“Over the 30 years of diplomatic relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, our states have come a long way of successful bilateral cooperation. Mutual trade has shown growth lately, and many domestic goods have become quite recognizable in your country. The trend is positive, but the pace needs to be increased, especially since there is political support from both sides.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko:

The Belarusian people are very sincere, friendly and hardworking. You will learn how rich our land is, how many areas for mutually beneficial cooperation we can successfully develop. I suggest that you be active in strengthening bilateral cooperation between our states.

On Switzerland



“The desire to make the world safer and adherence to international law are common for Belarus and Switzerland. We are invariably interested in the development of bilateral relations on the principles of mutual respect, open and constructive dialogue. It is obvious that it is precisely such a dialogue, and not sanctions and reproaches, that makes it possible to find solutions to the most difficult issues and move forward, moreover, under any circumstances. We expect from neutral Switzerland a truly balanced and prudent position, valuable ideas and initiatives for the benefit of bilateral cooperation. We are ready for this.”

On Cuba



“Belarus is glad that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are good, reliable friends and promising partners for us. We cherish our special relationship with Cuba, which has traditionally been a close ally and a reliable springboard for expanding cooperation with other states of the Latin region. We consider it important to continue to maintain an active political dialogue between the countries, to intensify trade and economic ties in all areas of mutual interest. There are no closed topics.”

On the Order of Malta



“We are grateful to the Order of Malta for many years of cooperation in minimizing the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant for Belarus. We are grateful for the supply of medical equipment, the organisation of advanced training for Belarusian doctors, and the assistance to our disabled and orphans. We are also actively cooperating with you on the topic of combating human trafficking. I am convinced that such cooperation should be preserved and increased. We will gladly respond to new initiatives and proposals.”

On Argentina



“I hope that with Argentina we will be able not only to maintain friendly and trusting relations, but also to significantly increase mutual trade, to develop more complex cooperative ties in industry and other areas. Our countries have a successful experience of cooperation. Particularly in agriculture. This experience should be extended to new areas.”

On Myanmar



“Belarus considers the dialogue with Myanmar as an important direction of its foreign policy in Southeast Asia. We are interested not only in expanding the range of exports of domestic products to the Myanmar market, but also in strengthening bilateral cooperation ties in the fields of agriculture, science, industry and education.”

On Benin



“We are interested in developing the entire spectrum of bilateral relations with the Republic of Benin, primarily in the fields of agriculture and industry. Belarus has rich experience in the development of agricultural technologies, the production of machinery and equipment, and the processing of products. We are ready to help in creating industrial, agricultural enterprises, training specialists for various sectors of the economy.”

On Palestine



“Belarus has long friendly relations with the State of Palestine, which are based on a solid foundation of partnership and constructive interaction in various fields. We are interested in continuing an active and fruitful dialogue and establishing practical cooperation.”

What are the prospects

Yes, these diplomats came to Belarus from different countries and continents, they speak different languages, but they are similar in the main thing: they consider Belarus a friendly country and expect to develop cooperation with it in all areas. Even before the ceremony of presenting credentials to the President of Belarus, the ambassadors of foreign states talked to Belarusian journalists and shared their vision of the prospects for bilateral cooperation.



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the UAE to Belarus Ibrahim Salim Mohammed al-Musharrah, *“Belarus is a country that surprises me every day, and every time in a pleasant way. We need to pay special attention to areas that are of mutual interest to both states: political, economic, social and cultural. We need to create opportunities primarily for investment. I hope we will have even more projects such as, for example, the Northern Waterfront.”*



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Argentina to Russia and Belarus concurrently Eduardo Antonio Zuain, *“First of all, it is a great pleasure for me to visit Belarus. I am happy to be here, you have a wonderful country, wonderful people! Argentina and Belarus have many areas for cooperation and partnership. I will especially single out the agricultural sector (you have excellent milk, excellent honey!). In the field of mechanical engineering and equipment, technologies. Lots of trading opportunities.”*



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cuba to Belarus Santiago Perez Benitez, *“Cuba is far away, but Cuba is near. Our relations are traditionally fraternal. We are now at a new stage in our relations. We must help each other, as we have always helped. We need to look for and find specific niches so that all our political will is transformed into a qualitatively new stage of economic relations. Belarus has always been against the blockade of Cuba. Of course, we are against illegal sanctions against Belarus, against interference in the internal affairs of the fraternal country.”*



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Palestine to Belarus Ahmed Mohammed al-Madbuh, *“We have big plans! We believe that Belarus is a friendly country, so we plan to develop relations in all aspects: not only political, but also economic and cultural. Two of our large companies operate in Belarus, including in the agricultural sector. We are going to invite businessmen from Palestine to meet with Belarusian businessmen and determine what aspects of the economy can be developed.”*



P.S.

During the ceremony of presenting his credentials, the President of Belarus spoke out on a number of acute problems that the world community is facing today.

For peace in Ukraine

“There is a lot of talk about this conflict today. At the same time, many people say that they would like peace on this land. Especially the Europeans, because this conflict is in our European home. And if the Europeans sincerely want it, peace can be achieved within a few days. Once again I declare this and warn the Europeans: think again and do everything to ensure that there is peace on this land!”

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that Belarus sincerely tried with all its might to prevent this madness, and outlined the Belarusian position, “Do not blame us today for co-aggression or something else. We were, are and will be together with our Russia. We have a closer alliance with Russia than the NATO bloc. What do you want from us? But at the same time, we are saying that we will not fight in Ukraine. Let’s cooperate peacefully. We, Belarusians, have nothing to reproach. We didn’t start the conflict with Ukraine. It was they who, before the Western powers and America, closed the sky for the passage of our aircraft and declared an economic blockade of Belarus. Why are you soaring now and demanding something from us? We fulfil our agreements with Russia. And everyone in NATO, and even more so in America, knew about this before the conflict. But we did not kill anyone and we are not going to kill anyone.”

Moreover, the President emphasised, Belarus has always been a supporter of negotiations, and it was on Belarusian soil that three rounds of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine took place.

“Why did the negotiations turn off, who turned them off? The question is rhetorical. I say this to you, ambassadors, so that you know our position on the most acute contemporary problem and proceed from this. We are doing everything to stop the bloodshed. But someone needs this bloodshed. Who... You are diplomats, you can sort it out.”

All you need is political will

“Grain is already becoming as gold in terms of its price. And not everyone can buy it. Moreover, billions of dollars for weapons are easily found, but there is no money and is not expected to save millions of people from starvation, especially the elderly and children in poor countries.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that Belarus not only ensures its food security, but can also act as its donor, “We are ready to resume cooperation in this vital area, especially in the supply of not only food, but also mineral fertilizers, without which there is no food. All that is needed is the political will of the ruling circles of the West.”

The President in this regard noted that he discussed this topic at a recent meeting with Vladimir Putin, “Both Belarus and Russia have an unprecedented harvest this year. And as President Putin told me, they are ready to put a huge amount of grain, and wheat, first of all, on the international market. Open the ports, open the door, and we will bring you food and grain. Open!”

Vsevolod Yevseyev

Seeing tomorrow is important for partners



The Belarusian press openly announces a future meeting between the President of Belarus and Chairman of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping. In fact, Aleksandr Lukashenko himself made public the fact of the upcoming negotiations with the President of the People's Republic of China. The Head of the Belarusian State spoke about the fact that a thorough conversation with Xi Jinping on many aspects of bilateral cooperation lies ahead, for example, when he received Yang Jianqiang, First Vice President of the Chinese company Citic Construction, at his residence in Minsk. Aleksandr Lukashenko considered the visit of a Chinese investor to Belarus as one of the elements of preparation for the upcoming Chinese-Belarusian high-level talks.

白俄罗斯媒体公开宣布未来白俄罗斯总统亚历山大·卢卡申科与中华人民共和国国家主席习近平的会晤。实际上，亚历山大·卢卡申科本人也发布了即将与习近平的会谈的消息，他说，与习近平未来的会谈内容主要是关于双边合作。例如，与中信建设常务副总经理杨建强谈入驻明斯克事宜。亚历山大·卢卡申科认为，中国投资者对白俄罗斯的访问是为即将举行的中白高层会谈做准备的内容之一。

预见未来对合作伙伴关系来说很重要

FACT

On September 15th, 2022, during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Samarkand, the leaders of Belarus and China adopted a joint declaration on taking relations to a new level, an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership.

Among the top 500 companies in the world

Citic Construction is well known in Belarus. With its participation, several large investment projects are being implemented in our country, and a number of new ideas are being developed. How is cooperation going today and what are the plans? The President was interested in answers to these questions precisely in the context of the forthcoming meeting with the Chairman of the People's Republic of China. No wonder Aleksandr Lukashenko said the following to his interlocutor in Minsk, "I really hope that your current visit will not only clarify the situation on some projects, but also provide an opportunity to look into the future of our relations, especially in the construction industry."

Citic Construction is a subsidiary of China's largest financial corporation Citic Group, which is one of the top 500 companies in the world. Its main activities include turnkey construction of industrial, infrastructure and sports facilities, export-import supplies of mechanical and electronic equipment. The Chinese investor is actively working in Asia, Africa, South America, as well as in the post-Soviet space, including actively in the Belarusian market. And Aleksandr Lukashenko did not fail to point out this moment, "There are a number of issues that we need to discuss, because you are the largest company operating in Belarus. All this is due to the fact that I need to thoroughly prepare for the conversation very soon, as agreed, with President Xi Jinping."

The Head of State noted that on the sidelines of the recent SCO summit in Samarkand, he held a detailed and meaningful meeting with the President of China, "We discussed all the economic issues of our interaction, including issues that fall within your competence and responsibility, and agreed that after the 20th Congress of the CPC, we will talk more thoroughly about the economy, politics, and military-technical cooperation."

Real interest in cooperation

As for the current visit of the First Vice President of Citic Construction, according to the President, it will not only clarify the situation on some projects, but also allow a glimpse into

事实

2022年9月15日，在上合组织撒马尔罕峰会期间举行的双边会晤中，白俄罗斯和中国领导人通过了关于将两国关系提升到全天候全面战略合作伙伴关系的联合声明

世界500强企业

中信建设在白俄罗斯很有名。在它的参与下，我国（白俄罗斯）正在实施几个大型投资项目，并正在开发一些新的想法。今天的合作进展如何？未来的计划是什么？亚历山大·卢卡申科想要在不久的将来与中华人民共和国国家主席主席会晤时得到答案，总统对这些问题的答案很感兴趣。因此亚历山大·卢卡申科在明斯克对采访者说：

“我真的希望这次访问不仅能澄清一些项目的情况，还能提供一个机会来展望我们关系的未来，特别是在建筑行业。”

中信建设是中国最大的金融集团中信集团的子公司，中信集团是世界500强企业之一。主要业务包括工业、基础设施和体育设施的交钥匙工程、机械和电子设备的进出口供应。中国投资者正在亚洲、非洲、南美以及后苏联地区积极开展业务，包括在白俄罗斯市场。而亚历山大·卢卡申科也指出，我们需要讨论许多问题，因为贵公司是在白俄罗斯运营的最大的公司。我需要尽快按照与习近平主席的约定，为这次谈话做好充分准备。

卢卡申科表示，在不久前的撒马尔罕上合组织峰会期间，他与中国国家主席习近平进行了详细的交谈：

我们讨论了我们合作中的所有经济问题，包括能力和责任范围内的问题，并同意在中共二十大之后，我们将更深入地讨论经济、政治和军事技术合作。

真正的合作兴趣

据中信建设常务副总经理杨建强说，这不仅可以澄清一些项目的情况，也可以让我们看到两国关系的未来，特别是在建筑行业。中信已准备好在白俄罗斯开展工作，并使用最现代的技术建立一些企业。

我们对此表示欢迎，亚历山大·卢卡申科强调。

杨建强感谢与白俄罗斯国家元首会面的机会并说道：

“我是您的忠实粉丝。您在中国有很多粉丝。”

我从2007年开始在白俄罗斯工作，这15年来，我看到白俄罗斯在您的领导下稳步发展，白俄罗斯人民变得更加幸福，国家变得更加美丽，像花园一样。”

杨建强强调，他有兴趣与白俄罗斯企业进行更积极的合作：“多年来，我注意到我们的白俄罗斯合作伙伴，主要是建筑公司的专业水平大大提高，他们已达到国际水平。因此，在白俄罗斯未来的项目中，我们希望更多地与白俄罗斯公司合作。”

The international company Citic Construction has been operating in Belarus since 2007. With its participation, projects were implemented for the construction of cement plants, the organisation of production for the assembly of cars (BELGEE), the modernisation of the Orsha Flax Mill. Today, the company is implementing three investment projects: the construction of a potash processing plant for Slavkali, a multifunctional hotel and business complex in Minsk, and a full-cycle high-tech agro-industrial production for BNBC CJSC.



中信建设自 2007 年以来一直在白俄罗斯开展业务。在它的参与下，实施了水泥厂建设、汽车制造（白俄吉利）、奥尔沙亚麻厂现代化改造等项目。如今，该公司正在实施三个投资项目：为 Slavkali 公司建设钾肥加工厂、在明斯克建设多功能酒店和商业综合体，以及为封闭式白俄罗斯国家生物技术股份有限公司建设全周期高科技农业生产综合体。



■ “There are a number of issues that we need to discuss, because you are the largest company operating in Belarus.”

the future of bilateral relations, especially in the construction industry. The fact is that Citic is ready to work in Belarus and build a number of enterprises using the most modern technologies.

“We welcome this,” emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Yang Jianqiang thanked the Head of the Belarusian State for the opportunity to meet and admitted, “I am your sincere and loyal fan. You have many fans in China. I started working in Belarus in 2007 and over these 15 years I have seen how steadily Belarus has developed under your leadership, how the Belarusian people have become happier and your country has become more beautiful, like a flowering garden.”

The First Vice President of Citic Construction did not hide the fact that he is interested in more active cooperation with Belarusian companies.

“Over the years, I have noticed that the professional level and qualifications of our Belarusian partners, primarily construction companies, have greatly increased: they have

reached the international level. Therefore, in future projects in Belarus, we want to use Belarusian companies more,” said Yang Jianqiang.

Specific plans agreed

A number of joint projects for the future were discussed at the meeting. The plans include, for example, the construction of a nitrogen complex. Just now, Belarusian specialists in China are getting acquainted with the relevant technologies. The construction of a paper production workshop at the Svetlogorsk Pulp and Paper Mill is also being discussed. Chinese partners are also interested in setting up a facility for deep processing of agro-industrial products with a view to their further export to the Chinese market. The Head of the Belarusian State supported this initiative and instructed the designated officials to assist in its implementation.

The guest told journalists some details of the negotiations. He stressed that the meeting with President Aleksandr



China is traditionally one of the three major trade partners of Belarus. From January to July 2022, bilateral trade totalled \$3.1 billion. This is more than 10 percent higher than the same period last year. Belarusian exports almost doubled, exceeding \$972 million.

中国历来是白俄罗斯的三大贸易伙伴之一。2022年1月至2022年7月，双边贸易总额达31亿美元，比去年同期高出10%以上。白俄罗斯的出口几乎翻了一番，超过9.72亿美元。

This year there is also an increase in investment activity from China. According to the results of the first half of 2022, the volume of direct investments from China to Belarus amounted to \$50.6 million, which is more than one and a half times higher than last year.

今年中国的投资活动也有所增加。根据2022年上半年的结果，中国对白俄罗斯直接投资额为5060万美元，比去年高出1.5倍以上。

Lukashenko was very fruitful. The parties discussed, first of all, the development of economic cooperation, to which the leaders of Belarus and China paid a lot of attention on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Samarkand.

“Citic Construction has been operating on the Belarusian market for a long time and has implemented many projects. After today’s meeting, we received support and hope to implement new projects in Belarus that are in demand for the economy of your country,” emphasised Yang Jianqiang.

According to him, it is, in particular, such high-tech areas as the third stage of the Belarusian National Biotechnology, the implementation of the production of vitamins of group B and group C, as well as attracting investments in a project in the field of agriculture.

Vladimir Khromov

商定具体计划

会议讨论了未来的一些联合项目。这些计划包括建设氮综合设施。在华白俄罗斯专家正在了解相关技术。此外，还讨论了在斯韦特洛戈尔斯克纸浆厂建设造纸车间。中国合作伙伴有兴趣建立一个农产品深加工设施，为了进一步出口产品到中国市场。白俄罗斯国家元首支持这一倡议，并指示负责官员协助其实施。

杨建强向记者讲述了会谈的一些细节。他强调，与卢卡申科总统的会晤富有成果。双方首先讨论了经济合作问题，白中两国领导人在撒马尔罕上合组织峰会期间对此高度重视。

“中信建设在白俄罗斯市场经营已久，实施了多个项目。在今天的会议之后，我们得到了支持，并希望在白俄罗斯实施对贵国经济有好处的新项目”，杨建强强调说。

他特别强调了白俄罗斯国家生物技术公司第三阶段的高科技领域，例如维生素B和C的生产，以及为白俄罗斯农业领域项目吸引投资。

弗拉基米尔 赫罗莫夫

The route opens up new horizons

The ceremony of sending the first train with peat in the Belarus - China direction took place in the Great Stone industrial park. The solemn event was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Belarus. The very same shipment of a train of 62 containers with more than a thousand tons of high-moor boiled peat started from the Kolyadichi station near Minsk. The final cargo delivery station is in the Chinese city of Jinan.



新班列 打开了新视野

在
中白巨
石工业园举
行了中国、白俄
罗斯两国建交30周
年暨白俄罗斯 - 中国方
向首列泥炭班列发车仪式。从
明斯克附近的Kolyadichi车站发
出62个集装箱，其中有超过一千吨泥
炭。最终的收货地点位于中国城市济南。

As Deputy Minister of Energy of Belarus Denis Moroz noted during the ceremony, the event opens a new page in the strategic partnership between the two countries. By the way, the ministry has a long-standing partnership with China. The country has implemented many investment projects for the construction of energy facilities with the participation of Chinese companies. Electrical and generating equipment from China is also in operation.

And now a new page of strategic partnership has been opened. Products manufactured by enterprises of the Ministry of Energy went to China. Denis Moroz expressed confidence that this event would become the basis for future strong relationships.

In addition, Aleksei Kushnarenko, a member of the Standing Committee of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly on International Affairs and National Security, General Director of the Beltopgaz Association, during the event, emphasised that the geography of supplies of Belarusian peat products has been expanding since the beginning of the year, “Export of peat products for eight months of this year amounted to 154 thousand tons. This is 137 percent compared to last year. The map of supplies of peat products is growing. This is about 20 countries.”

Speaking about the supply of peat to China, he noted that Beltopgaz enterprises had previously supplied peat there in single, small batches. And now things are different, “Thanks to the capabilities of the Great Stone, a full-fledged train of 62 containers was formed, the first batch was sent to China. It is important to note that payments for products will be made in yuan.”

Aleksei Kushnarenko added that the next batch of 50 containers has already been formed. At the same time, two more enterprises of

Beltopgaz, Vitebsktorf and Glinka, are preparing permits in order to obtain approval from the Chinese Customs Administration and, in the future, supply peat products for export.

“The current composition is a symbol of our further large-scale mutually beneficial cooperation. Our country ranks third in the world in terms of peat production. These products are in demand both on the domestic and foreign markets,” noted the General Director of the Beltopgaz Association.

In turn, Deputy Head of the Industrial Park Administration Oleg Tabanyukhov recalled that President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping recently agreed to take bilateral cooperation to a new level following a meeting in Samarkand, “As a result of the meeting, our countries established all-weather and comprehensive strategic cooperation, and also signed agreements. Both states and their leaders intend to further develop the Great Stone industrial park, the largest joint project. Our work together is extremely important right now. The first train with such a valuable resource as peat went to China.”

Oleg Tabanyukhov noted that this is only the first step towards cooperation in this area. According to the deputy head of the administration of the industrial park, this step has a huge potential that must be used. The Great Stone has all opportunities for creating innovative industries. The opening of peat processing facilities will be another important step in the interaction between the two countries. The park administration is ready to provide comprehensive support and assistance to such a project.

Aleksandr Pimenov

正如白俄罗斯能源部副部长丹尼斯·莫罗兹在仪式上指出的那样，活动打开了两国战略合作伙伴关系的新篇章。顺便说一句，该部与中国建立了长期的合作伙伴关系。我国（白俄罗斯）通过中国公司参与实施了诸多用于建设能源设施的投资项目。来自中国的电气和发电设备也投入运营。

“这是战略合作伙伴关系的新篇章。隶属于能源部的企业生产的产品发往中国”，丹尼斯·莫罗兹表示：“这一事件将成为未来牢固关系的基础。”

此外，Beltopgaz公司总经理兼白俄罗斯议会国际事务和国家安全常设委员会议员阿列克谢·库什纳伦科强调，白俄罗斯泥炭产品供应的范围自今年年初以来不断扩大：“今年八个月内出口泥炭产品15.4万吨。这是去年水平的137%。泥炭产品的供应版图正在扩大，目前大约有20个国家。”

在谈到泥炭向中国的供应时，他指出，Beltopgaz之前就向中国供应过泥炭。现在一切都不同了：“由于巨石工业园提供的机会，将供应62个满满的集装箱，第一批已经发往中国。值得注意的是，产品的结算将用人民币进行。”

阿列克谢·库什纳伦科补充说，已经装好了下一批50个集装箱。同时，Beltopgaz的另外两家企业 -

Vitebsktorf和Glinka - 正在准备获得中国海关部门的批准，以提供泥炭产品。

“当前的项目是我们进一步的大规模互惠合作的象征。在泥炭开采方面，我国（白俄罗斯）在世界上排名第三。这些产品在国内和国外市场都有需求。”

巨石工业园管委会副主任奥列格·塔巴约霍夫回忆说，在最近的撒马尔罕会上，白俄罗斯总统亚历山大·卢卡申科和中华人民共和国国家主席习近平同意将双边合作带入新的水平：

“根据会议结果，我们两国建立了全天候战略合作伙伴关系，并签署了协议。两国及其领导人未来计划继续发展我们最大的联合项目——巨石中白工业园。类似泥炭这样的宝贵资源发往中国，因此，目前我们的工作非常重要。”

奥列格·塔巴约霍夫指出，这只是该领域合作之路的第一步。根据他的说法，两国在泥炭产业方面具有广阔的合作前景。中白巨石工业园具备创新行业的所有可能性。本次泥炭班列首发仪式将成为双方进一步合作的标志。工业园管委会愿意为两国泥炭项目合作提供全面的支持和帮助。

亚历山大·皮梅诺夫



BREST FEZ
free economic zone



free
economic
zone

**FREE
ECONOMIC
ZONE
VITEBSK**

**ZONE ÉCONOMIQUE SPÉCIALE
"MINSK"**

INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS AS AN ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE

Despite the seemingly not the best times by world standards, foreign business is actively investing in the Belarusian economy

Y

Yes, Belarus is still attractive for investors. This, by the way, is evidenced by all the statistics. According to its data, according to the results of the current first half of the year, the country's economy received more than four billion dollars of foreign investment. The main share, about 90 percent, is occupied by foreign direct investment. Their volume increased by almost five percent. Key platforms for attracting investments on a net basis are Minsk, Minsk and Mogilev Regions. But the most common types of economic activity for direct investment in the first half of the year were industry, financial and insurance activities, wholesale and retail trade, car repair and construction.



■ They include the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Slovakia, Germany, Russia. However, the main share of investments is attracted from Cyprus, from the Netherlands, Austria, Great Britain and Poland.

■ At the Stadler Minsk CJSC of the Swiss Stadler concern



More and more residents

Meanwhile, the zone of investment territorial preferences across the country is constantly expanding. For example, Grodno, a regional centre in the west of Belarus, has long been attractive to investors. Favourable geographical position of the city, developed transport and logistics system and comfortable conditions for business attract foreign investors. Recently, a company was registered as a resident of the local free economic zone, which will manufacture a wide range of products from synthetic polymers. The first products of the new resident should appear by the end of this year. According to the business plan, the plant will produce, among other things, an import-substituting line of products from synthetic polymer raw materials. Most of the products will be sold within the framework of the special legal regime of the free economic zone through the development of cooperation ties with residents from Belarus, and will also be exported to the Russian Federation. The total investment in the project will exceed one million euros. It is planned to create thirty new jobs.

It should be noted that the new company has become the third resident of Grodnoinvest FEZ since the beginning of this year. Earlier, a Russian company was registered with a project to organise the production of ecological packaging in the Grodno District, as well as an enterprise with a project to build a container terminal in the Svisloch District. In total, since the beginning of the year, residents of the free economic zone have attracted foreign investment in the amount of \$151 million. Compared to last year, this amount has increased by more than two and a half times. The geography of investments includes twelve countries. They include

the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Slovakia, Germany, Russia. However, the main share of investments is attracted from Cyprus, from the Netherlands, Austria, Great Britain and Poland. Their share in the total volume exceeded 95 percent. It is also interesting to note the fact that two thirds of investments are attracted by residents who implement projects in the Smorgon District.

By the way, in the country in the first half of the year, the composition of residents of free economic zones was replenished with fifteen new enterprises and plans to create eight hundred new jobs. The largest projects are the construction of a greenhouse facility and the construction of a complex for the production of aluminium sections in the Brest Region, as well as the establishment of a production facility for the production of wood pellets and the construction of a hot-dip galvanising plant in the Polotsk District of the Vitebsk Region.

Experts note: the influx of residents is facilitated by the continuous work of the administrations of free economic zones to find new investors, regular presentations of their opportunities at international conferences and exhibitions, as well as decisions taken by the Government in April 2022 to expand the boundaries of these territories for the implementation of significant investment projects.

Investment attractiveness is growing

Foreign investors note that comfortable conditions for doing business have been created in Belarus. And back up their words with actions. During the first half of the year, foreign direct investment on a net basis in the country's economy grew one and a half times. And this is despite the fact, as Dmitry Krasovsky,



Director of the National Investment and Privatisation Agency, notes that the geopolitical shifts of the last six months have become a serious challenge for business. At the beginning of March, the Agency initiated a project for information and consulting support for businessmen — the We care hotline. His employees helped find solutions to situations that enterprises faced due to sanctions, supply chain disruptions, and so on. During the first week, the Agency received several dozen applications from representatives of various fields: from the food industry to IT. But by the summer the severity of the problem had subsided, the business had shown flexibility and was able to adapt to changing conditions.

There is a point of view that now Belarus is in international isolation, and there are no direct investments and cannot be. Those who think so exaggerate too much, according to Dmitry Krasovsky, Director of the National Investment and Privatisation Agency. And he gives some examples from practice. In July, the Agency held negotiations with the international group of companies MODENA, which is one of the largest manufacturers of household appliances and smart home components in the Asia-Pacific region. MODENA management visited Belarus and expressed their readiness to invest. Cooperation with business circles of Turkey, in particular with the authoritative association of independent industrialists and entrepreneurs MUSIAD, is quite active. The issue of organising a Belarusian-Turkish business forum within the framework of the international exhibition MUSIAD EXPO, which will be held in Istanbul in early November, is being worked out.

The investment attractiveness of the country is not a static state, you need to constantly make efforts to be competitive. One

of the important projects in which the National Investment and Privatisation Agency is now actively involved is the development of industrial sites in regions with a population of more than 80,000 people. It is assumed that small industrial parks will be created on their basis, which will become locomotives for regional economies.

New mechanisms for project implementation

Undoubtedly, in modern conditions, the economy of Belarus needs an influx of capital investments and intensification of the investment activities of the business entities. There is no other opinion on this matter and cannot be in principle. For the same purpose, the Government identified weaknesses in the legislation that hindered the inflow of investments, and the Ministry of Economy, in order to promote investment activity, prepared a draft law 'On Facilitating and Stimulating the Implementation of Investment Projects in the Republic of Belarus'. The document is focused on supporting each investment proposal: from small to large scale. The key condition is the compliance of such a proposal with the priorities determined by the Government, as well as a positive effect for the economy of the region or the country as a whole. By the way, the Decree of the Head of State 'On the Creation of Additional Conditions for Investments in the Republic of Belarus', which has been in force for more than ten years, became the basis of the bill.

As for innovations, three fundamentally new mechanisms for implementing projects have been identified. As Deputy Economy Minister Yuri Chebotar said, first of all, this is an investment agreement. His concept is that large projects always get an extended list of benefits. In terms of the size of the projects, the minimum amount of investments for the conclusion of the contract is established. In terms of expanding the list of benefits, a stabilisation clause, exemption from income tax, reimbursement of costs for infrastructure construction, a change in the intended purpose of a land plot, the functional composition of an object, and others are provided.

The second innovation concerns the investment agreement. It was developed taking into account similar Russian experience and is designed to increase the degree of localisation, contributing to the creation of new import-substituting industries. A very significant point here is the state purchase of goods produced by the investor and the absence of requirements for the volume of investments. It is planned to conclude such contracts on a competitive basis.

The third one is a new simplified mechanism as a separate investment component by decision of the executive committee. In accordance with this mechanism, the key incentives for applicants shall include the provision of the most demanded list of benefits. The purpose of such a concept is to balance the interests of investors and the region. To do this, the executive committees will independently determine priorities for the implementation of such small projects, taking into account the specifics of the development of each region. In fact, everyone is convinced that the new draft law will contribute to the intensification of the inflow of capital into the country and, as a result, the implementation of promising and mutually beneficial production initiatives.

Vladimir **Velikhov**



THE EXPRESSION 'TO BE WITH BREAD' STILL MEANS A LOT

**Belarus can confidently consider itself a
self-sufficient state in terms of food**

The matter of a successful harvesting campaign has always been a strategic one for the country. The toughest conditions this year are no exception. It is no coincidence that the Head of State noted at a large conference call on the harvesting campaign, "It is important to provide the population with food, to increase our stabilisation funds, that is, reserves for the future." The result of this hard work was a decent grain harvest. In general, more than ten and a half million tons of cereals, legumes, rapeseed and corn have been harvested, which will meet the country's domestic needs and increase exports.

In accordance with generally accepted world criteria, a country guarantees its own food security if one thousand kilograms of grain is produced per person per year. Based on this, simple mathematics shows that Belarus can confidently consider itself a food independent state.

A matter of paramount importance

At the same time, the importance of the grain industry for the functioning of the national agro-industrial complex is such a priority that it is under the constant control of the President and the government of the country: starting with the planning of the sowing and harvesting campaigns, the formation of the necessary stocks and funds of grain and continuing along the chain of production and export of products of the processing industry.

The harvesting campaign has been completed in the country. And the result in threshed more than 10.5 million tons is impressive. Indeed, the Doctrine of National Food Security of Belarus until 2030, determines 9 million tons as a sufficient volume of grain production. This level of domestic production takes into account the capacity of the consumer market, the growing need for animal husbandry and the export potential of the agro-industrial complex.

Today, the country has built a clear system for planning agricultural production in the context of regions, each of which makes a significant contribution to ensuring national food security. In particular, for sustainable production, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food annually develops work plans for the preparation and conduct of spring and autumn field work, the

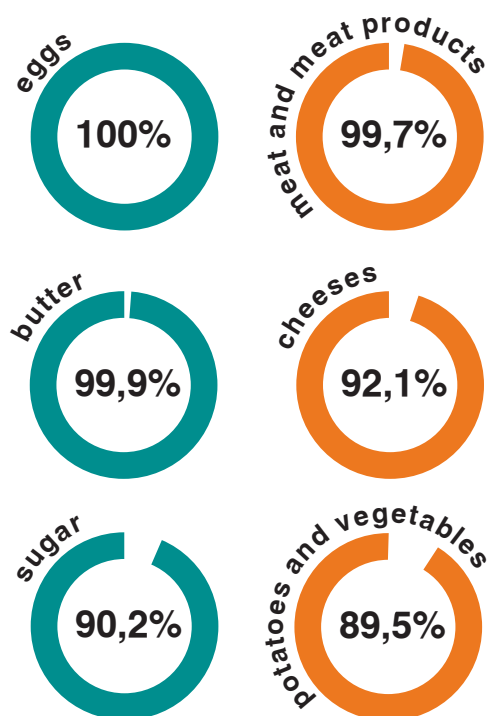
harvesting campaign. The sowing areas for winter and spring crops, the need for seeds, mineral fertilizers, plant protection measures, as well as the technical equipment of production, are carefully planned in agricultural organizations for next year's harvest.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, together with organisations of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, provides scientifically based recommendations for agricultural producers regarding the technology and timing of sowing and harvesting of major crops. Measures are proposed to improve the economic efficiency of production, taking into account trends in supply and demand. Thus, this year the sown area of cereals and legumes amounted to more than two million hectares. The largest areas were occupied by wheat — about 800 thousand hectares, triticale — more than 400 thousand, rye — 340 thousand, barley — almost 380 thousand, oats — 140 thousand, legumes — 114 thousand, millet — 12.5 thousand, buckwheat — almost 35 thousand. Corn for grain this year was harvested from an area of 315,000 hectares. By the way, the main part of grain, almost 95 percent, is produced by agricultural organisations.

The grain area has a harmonious structure

It is known that the Head of State set a number of tasks for the country's farmers during this sowing season, taking into account the needs of the domestic and foreign markets. How are they implemented? First of all, the country's grain area structure is well balanced. At the same time, it is being improved taking into account the emergence of new highly productive varieties and

THE SHARE OF THE SALE OF BELARUSIAN-MADE FOOD IN RETAIL TRADE IN THE 1ST HALF OF 2022



cultivation technologies, as well as climate change. In agricultural organisations, crops are increasing, in particular, winter crops, corn for grain, and buckwheat. The sown area of rapeseed in the period from 2015 to the present has grown from 254,000 hectares to 370,000. This is more than 45 percent.

In accordance with the instructions of the President 'to fully provide themselves with buckwheat and even export a little to the markets of other states', Belarusian farmers have been working to increase self-sufficiency in this crop for several years. The task is rather difficult, but solved successfully. In 2021, more than a third of domestically produced buckwheat was on the shelves of the country. The sown area under cultivation this year was increased to 35,000 hectares, which will significantly replace imports.

Experts note the fact that Belarus has created all the necessary conditions for sustainable grain production, agricultural producers are supported, funds are invested in the modernisation and development of the material and technical base with a significant innovative component, and the attraction of qualified personnel is stimulated. The task of domestic farmers is the observance of technological discipline and efficient management of the land.

Reserve is scientifically justified

Meanwhile, a little more than 800,000 tons of grain are purchased for state needs this year. These are wheat, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, millet. Is this enough? Yes, according to Svetlana Kondratenko, Deputy Director of the Institute for System Research in the Agroindustrial Complex of Belarus, Candidate of Economic Sciences, this is the stock and reserve that is formed annually and ensures the stable functioning of the national food market. The state order also provides for the purchase of 100,000 tons of malting barley and 85,000 rapeseed oil seeds, 3 million tons of sugar beets and 20,000 tons of flax fibre.

For agricultural products purchased for state needs, fixed prices are set with differentiation in terms of product quality. Such a measure performs the function of preventing a sharp rise in food prices and at the same time is aimed at ensuring the stability of the food market.

What are the purchase prices for this year? How have market conditions affected them? It is known, for example, that winter and spring soft wheat with a mass fraction of gluten of at least 28 percent is supplied this year at a price of 492.34 Belarusian roubles per ton, with a mass fraction of gluten up to 23 percent — 450 roubles, up to 18 percent — 394.28 roubles. The purchase price has increased by 20 percent compared to last year. According to Svetlana Kondratenko, purchase prices are a benchmark for the market as a whole. And their justified increase allows to ensure the cost recovery of agricultural producers and to respond to changes in market conditions to the right extent. At the same time, food security priorities are taken into account.

It is profitable to produce and sell grain. In Belarus, as in other developed economies, the purchase of agricultural products for state needs is an important mechanism for ensuring food security. It allows you to increase the sustainability of production, create sufficient funds for the processing industry, reserves, and also provide state support. For example, the purchase price for buckwheat has recently been increased by 44 percent, which is due to the need to stimulate the production of this crop in the country.

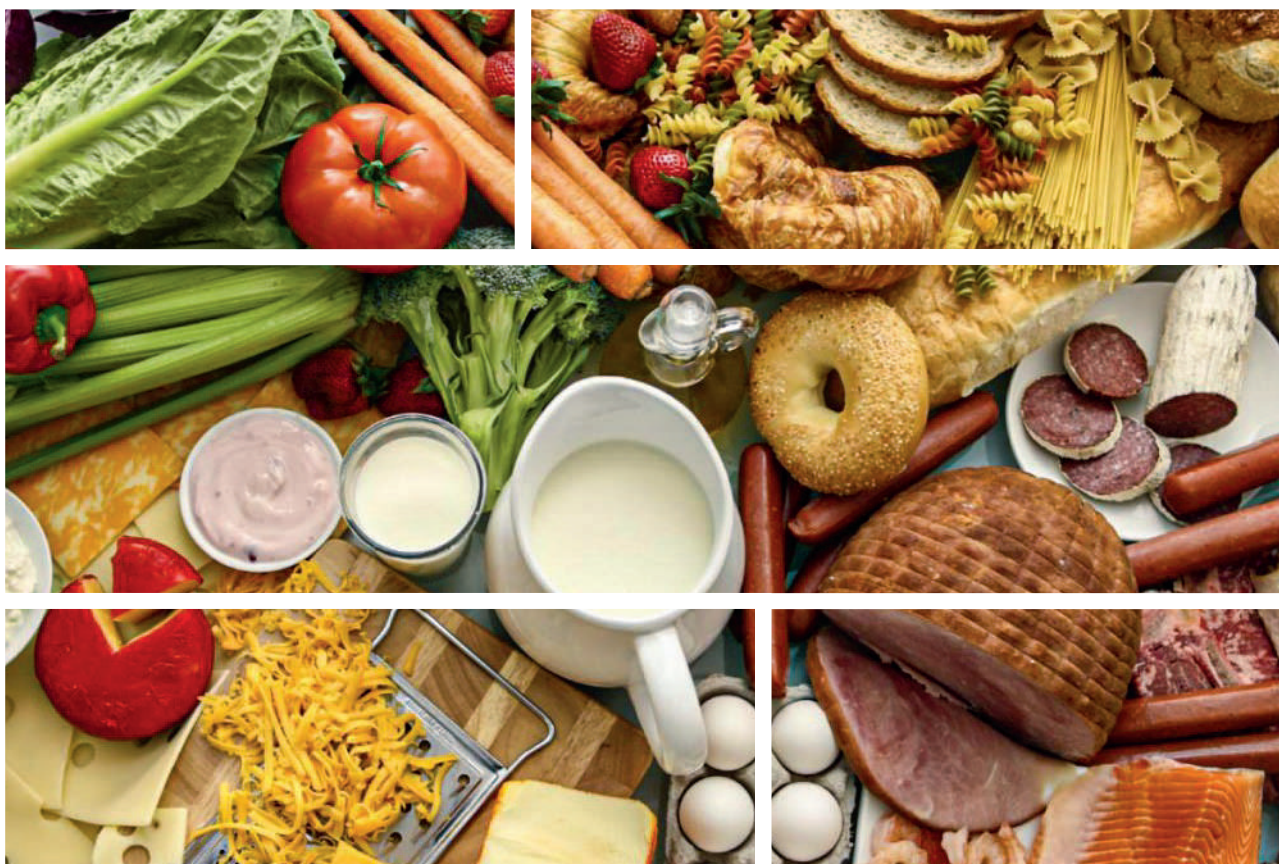
In general, it is profitable for agricultural organisations to produce and sell grain, as the profitability at an average level of costs practically from year to year exceeds 20 percent.

In addition, grain production in Belarus meets the needs of the domestic processing industry and animal husbandry, thereby constituting the raw material base for the export potential of dairy, meat and other types of products with a higher added value and at favourable prices for farmers.

Experts note the fact that Belarus has created all the necessary conditions for sustainable grain production, agricultural producers are supported, funds are invested in the modernisation and development of the material and technical base with a significant innovative component, and the attraction of qualified personnel is stimulated.

Aleksei Fedosov

EVERY REASON TO LOOK CONFIDENTLY INTO THE FUTURE



The world is experiencing a rapid rise in prices and food shortages. In such a situation in Belarus, new and effective solutions are being developed at the highest level, together with experts and scientists, an action plan is outlined to ensure the country's food security.

COMPONENTS OF THE AGRARIAN ECONOMY

Made the right choice

But first, let's find out how well the domestic food market is balanced, what is the position of Belarus in the world market. Not simple issues indeed.

First of all, it is worth noting that food security is the key to the security of the country as a whole, the foundation for maintaining its sovereignty and runs like a red thread through the entire socio-economic policy of the state. The current world practice shows that the options for ensuring food security are quite different: it can be both national production and an orientation towards imports. Belarus has relied on its own production and self-sufficiency. And as time has shown, this choice was certainly the right one. Purposeful work in this direction made it possible to form a solid foundation for agricultural production and led to the fact that now the country is fully provided with agricultural products and food.

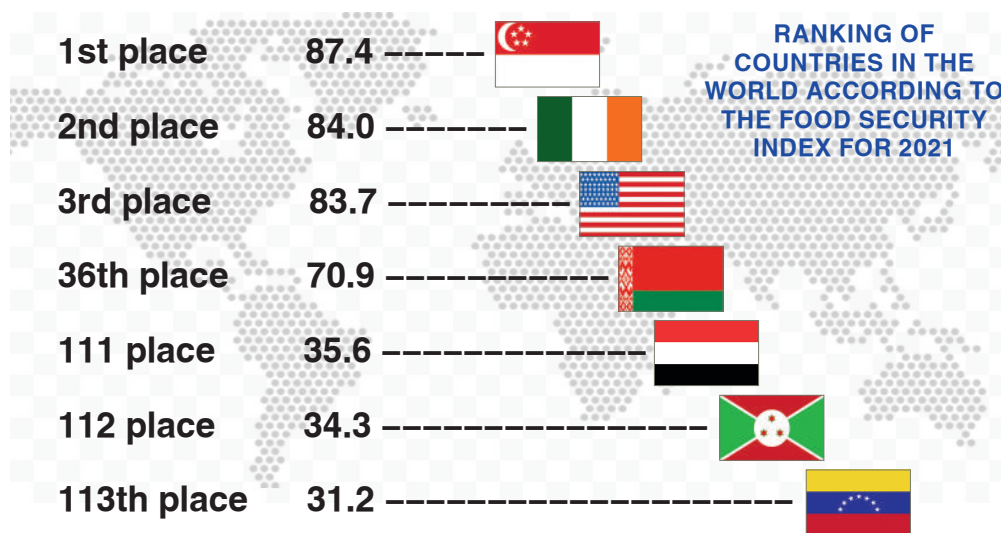
Today in Belarus, without exaggeration, a sustainable and efficient agro-food sector of the economy has been created, which in modern conditions guarantees the availability of food to all residents of the country in terms of price and quality. And these conclusions are confirmed not only by national experts, but also by international ones. Thus, in the Global Food Security Ranking, Belarus occupies the 36th position among 113 countries studied. The experts identified as strengths of Belarus: the absence of a population living below the poverty line (100 points out of 100), the safety of food products in the domestic market (98.4 points), the quality of protein in the diet of the population (96.7 points), availability of micronutrients in the diet (93.0 points), low level of food losses (89.9 points), stability of consumer prices for food products compared to world prices (78.5 points). Therefore, we can say with confidence that the state will continue to be able to ensure food security at a high level.

Focus on innovative approaches

To point out the strengths of national food security, it must be borne in mind that, firstly, Belarus is one of the states with a high level of scientific and technological development. During the years of sovereignty, the scientific potential of the country was not only preserved, but also significantly strengthened.

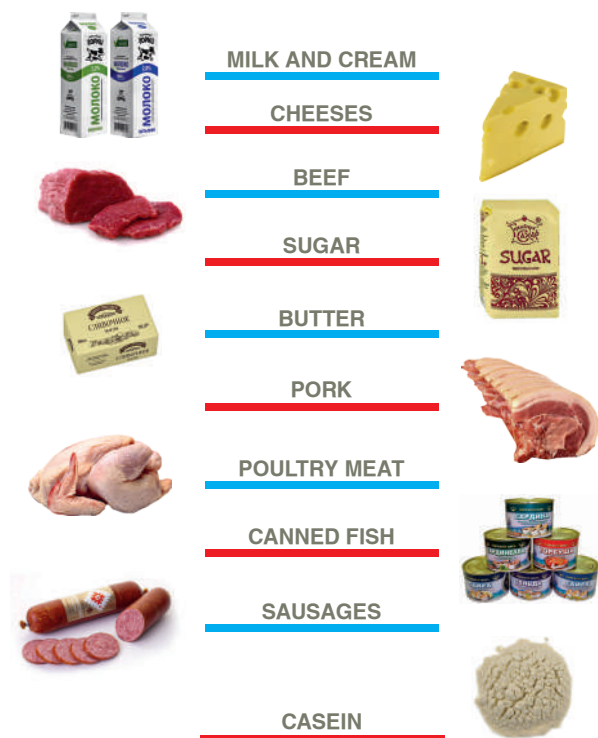
The basis for the comprehensive strengthening of the scientific and technological potential is the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, which actively and systematically participates in solving urgent problems of technical and technological improvement of the sectors of the national economy, including breakthrough areas of science and technology. The concentration of efforts and increasing the efficiency of the work of agricultural scientists requires the implementation and scientific support of the Agricultural Business State Programme of the Republic of Belarus for 2021-2025. The fundamental difference of this programme from previously adopted similar documents was the focus on innovative approaches, such as the latest biotechnological facilities, technical means and technologies that can significantly increase the level of implementation of the country's natural and climatic potential.

Secondly, the domestic agro-industrial complex has a significant export potential, which is being effectively implemented. In recent years, the export of goods from agricultural enterprises and the food industry forms about twenty percent of foreign exchange earnings from total commodity exports, while the agricultural direction is not inferior to such industries as the chemical industry, engineering, and so on. Agricultural enterprises supply almost half of the agricultural products produced to foreign markets. Food exports account for 8-9 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Last year alone, Belarus' food exports reached \$6.7 billion, while the foreign trade surplus exceeded \$2 billion. The current year also shows that farmers do not slow down the pace of positive dynamics.



■ Belarus has established itself as a reliable supplier of agro-food products on the world market

TOP 10 EXPORTED FOODSTUFFS OF BELARUS



■ Domestic agricultural products and food are sold in many countries

As before, there is a steady trend that Belarus has established itself as a reliable supplier of high-quality agro-industrial products on the world market. No wonder the products of the domestic agricultural industry are in demand in many countries of the world. The third essential point is a well-chosen strategy for the development of the agrarian economy, the purpose of which is to provide food at the expense of our own resources. After all, the country has managed to create such a production potential, in which, regardless of the influence of the conjuncture of world markets and other external factors, residents throughout the territory are guaranteed access to food in the amount necessary for a healthy life, and socio-economic conditions are created to support the consumption of basic foodstuffs. at the most rational level. That is why it can be stated with full confidence that the level of development of the domestic agro-industrial complex fully provides the domestic food market, and also effectively develops the export potential. There are simply no weak points as such in the national food system.

Among the world's leading exporters

Of course, many agricultural areas, according to experts, have their own potential. And this is good. This means that even

more quality products can be produced. Although even now the facts speak of real successes. It only takes a few figures. As already mentioned, in Belarus, the level of per capita consumption for all agri-food products provides rational norms. But what is important is that today self-sufficiency in the main groups of food products has confidently stepped over 100 percent. For example, residents of the country are provided with dairy products by 263 percent, rapeseed oil by 228 percent, sugar by 175 percent, meat by 135 percent, eggs by 125 percent, vegetables by 105 percent. It is these industries that determine the specialisation of the country on the scale of the international division of labour. In particular, Belarus is one of the world's leading exporters of animal butter — 4.6 percent of world exports, rapeseed oil — 3.5 percent, skimmed milk powder — 3.4 percent, cheese and cottage cheese — 3.2 percent, carrots and beets — 2.3 percent, meat and meat products — 2.0 percent.

Security to the fullest

How often is monitoring of the state and ensuring food security carried out, what does it show? As you know, the country has adopted the Doctrine of National Food Security of the Republic of Belarus until 2030. This document is focused on increasing the availability of high-quality food and its accessibility for good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle of the population through the development of competitive agricultural production and the creation of socio-economic conditions for the consumption of food at a rational level. The Institute for System Research in the Agroindustrial Complex of the National Academy of Sciences on a regular basis, annually, monitors the country's food security, and its results serve as the basis for making scientifically based management decisions in the development of the agro-industrial complex. As part of the monitoring, the physical and economic accessibility of food, food quality, the level of environmental sustainability of agricultural production, as well as the level of public awareness in the field of food security, are assessed.

So, the calculations of scientists show that the national agro-industrial complex, and in particular agriculture, is functioning steadily and efficiently, food security is fully ensured according to the main quantitative and qualitative criteria. The integrated index of national food security for production in the assessment of ten providing products reached the value of 1.12. In other words, all controlled parameters are better than standard values.

Obviously, the food security of Belarus cannot but be in the focus of attention of state administration, science, and production. It is also obvious that the domestic agro-industrial complex today looks confidently into the future. The food market is well balanced, including the main product groups. A high level of self-sufficiency allows farmers to supply a wide range of high-quality goods to the domestic market, pursue an active foreign trade policy, and increase the positive balance of foreign trade in the group of agri-food products. Of course, in no way can one ignore the fact that for the effective and balanced development of the agro-industrial complex, a set of measures is being implemented on an ongoing basis with the allocation of all necessary resources within the framework of state programmes.

Aleksei Fedosov

FORWARD MOTION STILL AT HIGH SPEEDS

Belarusian mechanical engineering is actively developing: new technologies are being introduced, production is being modernised and work continues in the field of import substitution





Every year on the last Sunday of September Belarus traditionally celebrates the Machine Builder's Day. This year, on the eve of this professional holiday, a thematic press conference was held at the National Press Centre with the participation of representatives of the country's leading enterprises. During it, the Deputy Head of the Scientific and Technical Department of the Ministry of Industry, Sergei Kabishov, focused on the fact that the Belarusian mechanical engineering works steadily and develops. Innovations are being created, new technologies are being introduced, production is being modernised and work continues in the field of import substitution.

Representatives of the country's leading enterprises, in turn, spoke about the specific results of their work and shared their plans for the future. Thus, Taras Murog, First Deputy General Director of the Minsk Tractor Works, noted that, following the results of eight months, the Minsk Tractor Works increased exports by almost a quarter compared to the same period last year, "To be more precise, the measures taken allowed us to increase exports by 24.7 percent."

The Minsk Tractor Works has already produced more than 25 thousand pieces of equipment this year. It was exported both to already traditional regions and to African countries, including to new addresses for the Minsk Tractor Works, such as Zimbabwe, South Africa. They also delivered equipment to Spain.

"We are moving forward, there are many plans for modernisation," emphasised Taras Murog. "The concept of enterprise development until 2030 is being gradually implemented."

Meanwhile, Aleksandr Ignatyuk, Deputy General Director of Minsk Automobile Plant JSC, said that the company has already created a full line of vehicles with replaced components manufactured in Belarus, Russia and other friendly countries, "We expect that this year we will produce more than 11 thousand units of equipment. We fulfil all obligations to our counterparties. By the way, the order for the supply of passenger vehicles to St. Petersburg became a milestone for the company. We have not discarded any area that we have developed before: we continue to develop electric transport, we have developed an electric truck. In addition, we are developing a new niche for us — minibuses. By the end of this year, we will deliver the first batch of ambulances for the needs of our Ministry of Health. Generally speaking, we look ahead with optimism and plan to expand the production of passenger vehicles."

General Director of AMKODOR-MASH LLC Denis Bakei, in turn, noted that over the past eight months, the holding's exports amounted to 200 percent compared to last year. The main sales market for the enterprise is Russia. At Amkodor, they declare with confidence that they are ready to replace all Western manufacturers that have left there.

The General Designer of BELAZ JSC Aleksandr Naskovets emphasised at the press conference that the increase in the export of the enterprise compared to last year is more than 20 percent, "We are working in many areas. For example, we created a battery-powered dump truck with a payload capacity of 90 tons. We are also working on a hybrid, where both a low-power diesel engine and batteries are used. We implement gas related projects."

Aleksandr Naskovets also said that work is underway to replace the imported component of the manufactured equipment. Here we are approaching not to depend on imports. There will be

DISPLAY OF ACHIEVEMENTS



suppliers either from Russia or Belarus. At BELAZ, they saw new manufacturers in the face of those enterprises that had not been considered before. But the new partners were able to prove their worth and show decent quality when fulfilling orders.

Ride behind the wheel of a mining truck? Please!

Meanwhile, industrial tourism is gaining popularity all over the world. Belarus is no exception. People come to plants and factories not only for entertainment, but also to learn more about the history of enterprises, to get acquainted with the production process. Some lucky ones even manage to become factory workers for a while.

BELAZ became a pioneer among machine-building enterprises that opened their doors to tourists. In 2015, the BELAZ — the Brand of Belarus industrial tourism project began to be implemented here. It quickly gained momentum and became in demand. The standard tour programme includes a visit to the Museum of Industrial Glory, a sightseeing tour of the plant, a visit to the assembly shop and an exhibition site with quarry equipment. Here, by the way, you can meet the record holder — a 450-ton giant. This is the largest dump truck in the world. Every year the number of people who want to get into the world of huge machines and see the assembly of these giants is increasing.

“Places of permanent registration of our dump trucks, quarries — this is a closed territory. It is not surprising that the guests of the enterprise are especially delighted with visiting the exhibition of samples of manufactured equipment from babies to giants. You can take advantage of the unique offer and see this miracle technology only when you visit the Belarusian Automobile Plant,” stressed the BELAZ officials.

Something to show, something to see

In general, systematic work is being carried out throughout the country to develop industrial tourism. An appropriate legal and regulatory framework has been developed. Currently, a set of measures is being implemented to develop industrial tourism, said Deputy Industry Minister Dmitry Kharitonchik. According to him, industrial tourism in Belarus is developing in several directions. The first is educational tourism. It is about acquaintance with the history of enterprises, products, production. The second direction is business, corporate tourism: holding exhibition and excursion events for potential and active business partners.

By the way, industrial tourism is not only income generation, but also the promotion of enterprises, brands, products. Career guidance is also up-to-date. It is important to show that modern enterprises are robotic production facilities with decent working conditions. To do this, especially young people, they are introduced to the work of design bureaus, marketing and advertising services, and production workshops.

The most successful industrial tourism is developing at enterprises engaged in the production of final products. Significant results in the development of this direction, first of all, were achieved by BELAZ, Minsk Automobile Plant, Minsk Tractor Works, Gomselmash, Kamvol. At the same time, active work is being carried out to develop tourism activities at BELGEE, Byelorussian Steel Works, AMKODOR and other production sites that have significant potential in the development of this area.



At present, tourist routes have already been developed at all plants and factories, interaction with republican and regional travel agencies has been organised, work is actively carried out with the media, higher and secondary educational institutions, the production of souvenirs and promotional products is being developed, transport and necessary material support for tourism has been organised. 3D tours have been created or are under development, when it is possible to personally drive, for example, a BELAZ mining dump truck. The same enterprise introduced the service of travel on the BELAZ dynamic simulator for individual groups. At the Minsk Automobile Plant, they offer to test drive various vehicles, including MAZ-SPORTavto sports cars. For career guidance, attracting motivated young people to the industry, and implementing a promising youth personnel policy, many enterprises are visited weekly by organised groups of graduate students from various regions of Belarus. Close cooperation has been established with the leading metropolitan and regional universities of the republic. Cultural and patriotic events, such as Holidays with BELAZ! and Holidays with MAZ are actually regular and enjoy well-deserved popularity among young people. It is obvious that industrial excursions for industry specialists, employees of enterprises and their children are designed to popularise the profession of a mechanical engineer and contribute to the development of corporate culture. As a result, there is a steady increase in the number of guided tours and the number of tourists who visited certain enterprises of the engineering industry.

Good role model

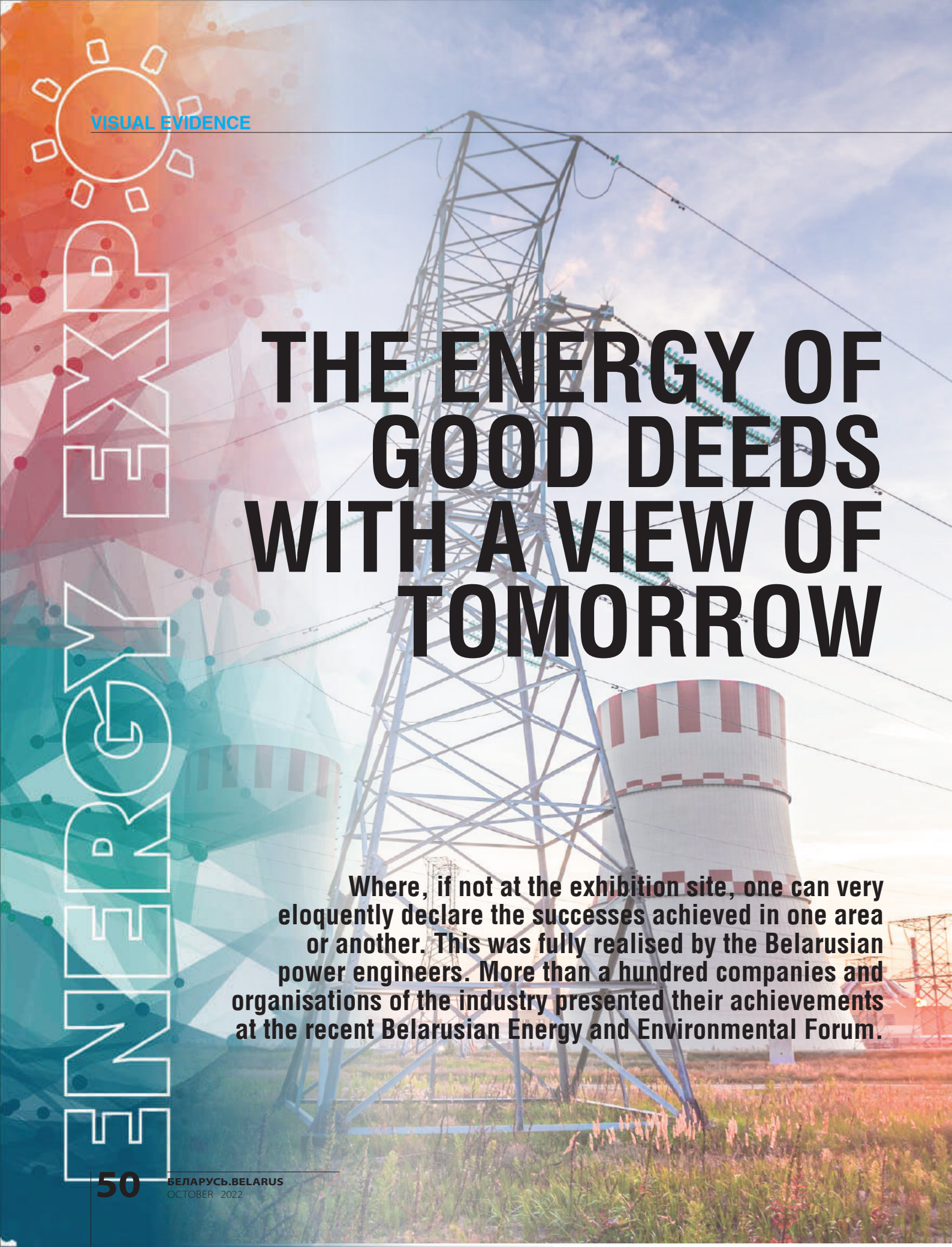
By the way, in order to develop common approaches, commissioned by the National Tourism Agency, employees of the Minsk Tractor Works developed methodological recommendations for preparing and conducting excursions at enterprises and industrial facilities. On-site training workshops for specialists in the tourism industry are regularly held. These events are designed to systematise the work on the development of industrial tourism at



those enterprises where it has already been established, and to greatly facilitate organisational measures in this area in organisations that have just begun to actively develop industrial tourism. In order to use the possibilities of the entire tourism potential of the republic and popularise industrial tourism, enterprises BELAZ, Minsk Automobile Plant, Minsk Tractor Works, Gomselmash traditionally participate in ongoing tourist exhibitions and fairs. A number of leading tour operators of the country have included visiting the flagships of the Belarusian industry in the republican tourist routes. Today, by the way, the main tourist flow to Belarusian enterprises falls on Russia, the CIS countries, China and the United Arab Emirates.

From this we can confidently conclude that the systematically organised work on the development of industrial tourism in Belarus gives its positive results both in commercial and image terms. Moreover, this direction, having shown its high efficiency, will continue to develop at the leading enterprises, setting a good pace for its colleagues, despite any crises and various kinds of restrictions associated with the current economic and geopolitical situation in the world and the region.

Vladislav Yemelyanov



THE ENERGY OF GOOD DEEDS WITH A VIEW OF TOMORROW

Where, if not at the exhibition site, one can very eloquently declare the successes achieved in one area or another. This was fully realised by the Belarusian power engineers. More than a hundred companies and organisations of the industry presented their achievements at the recent Belarusian Energy and Environmental Forum.

Street lighting control systems, high-tech gas equipment and simulators for repair teams, as well as many other items that are already being effectively applied in practice, could be seen at Energy Expo. The forum brought together energy industry specialists and experts who, during the discussions, talked about the promotion of innovative technologies, as well as best practices in the field of energy saving and energy efficiency in the fuel and energy complex and industry.

Much done, more to come

As Minister of Energy Viktor Karankevich noted, the Belarusian energy system works stably, providing a reliable, uninterrupted supply of energy resources to the country's consumers in the required volumes. He also stressed that thanks to the support of the Head of State, the main production assets of the Belarusian energy system have been modernised, which makes it possible to quickly respond to external challenges, consolidate efforts and available resources to fulfil the most important task of strengthening the country's energy security. At the same time, a set of measures for import substitution is being implemented with the maximum involvement of industry organisations aimed at replacing individual equipment, spare parts, components of imported production. Issues related to service maintenance of equipment with the involvement of Russian companies are being worked out.

In addition, the minister said that the implementation of key investment projects in the energy sector continues in the country. According to Viktor Karankevich, the main task for the country's energy complex today is the commissioning of the second power unit of the BelNPP. The construction of peak-backup energy sources continues with the installation of highly manoeuvrable generating equipment with a total capacity of 800 megawatts. The work is being carried out at four large power plants: Berezovskaya and Lukomlskaya state district power plants, Novopolotskaya CHPP and Minskaya CHPP-5.

Another priority task for the industry in the current five-year period is the reconstruction of the power grid infrastructure to meet the growing demand for electricity from both industrial consumers, including free economic zones, and the population for heating and hot water supply. Currently, work is underway throughout the country to modernise substations of various voltage classes, high-voltage and distribution power lines.

"Investment projects, such as the reconstruction of the Belorusskaya high-voltage substation for 750 kV, the Stolbtsy substation for 220 kV with its transfer to a higher voltage class of 330 kV, are under implementation. In the near future, it is planned to put into operation two modern 110 kV substations: Auls in the Grodno Region and Brest-Zapadnaya in the Brest Region, which will improve the reliability of the energy system, create additional conditions for the development of these regions," Viktor Karankevich gave examples.

Separately, attention was drawn to the fact that the terms for the connection of the first power unit of the BelNPP to the network has been adjusted. A decision

was made to carry out additional work and diagnostics of the power generating equipment of the first unit, taking into account the experience of operating similar equipment at other nuclear power plants. The fact is that the exit from the planned preventive maintenance, which the unit underwent, is a very important and crucial stage. Relevant services must ensure that all equipment and process systems will operate reliably until the next scheduled maintenance. This is a very important task.

The minister also spoke about how the implementation of union programmes in the energy sector is progressing. There are three of them: on cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, the formation of united markets for gas and electricity. As regards the nuclear power industry, practically all points of the programme have already been fulfilled. By the end of the year, it is planned to sign an intergovernmental agreement on radioactive waste management.

As part of the implementation of the union programme to create a unified natural gas market, an active discussion is currently underway with the Russian side of the gas price for Belarus for 2023, as well as the principles of market formation. The implementation of the programme for the creation of a unified electricity market is also progressing.

"The agreement on the formation of the market has practically passed domestic procedures and will soon be submitted for consideration to the governments of the two countries," said the minister.

There was something to see

Yes, an exhibition was held in parallel with the forum, where industry organisations presented many developments and modern technological solutions in the field of energy, petrochemistry, energy saving and ecology. For example, the exposition demonstrated an artificial intelligence control system for an employee's personal protection. A short comment from an expert, "It contains two self-learning neural networks. Facenet recognises a face that is already in a single database. The second network recognises the



VISUAL EVIDENCE



- Electric buses of domestic production show themselves perfectly in operation.
- Freight electric transport is developing in the country.



presence of overalls. If some elements are missing, a message about the violation will be sent to the immediate supervisor. The system works at enterprises in Minsk, Brest, Mogilev and Gomel. It was created in 2021.”

In turn, BKM HOLDING, formerly known as Belkommunmash, presented an electric truck of the VITOV series. The machine has a carrying capacity of almost 8 tons, is capable of driving 200 kilometres on a single charge. It recharges in 90 minutes.

In total, more than a hundred developments in the energy sector were presented by industry organisations at the exhibition of the 26th Energy Expo Belarusian Energy and Environmental Forum. According to the Ministry of Energy, energy and gas supply organisations first of all presented their capabilities here in such areas as electrical and gas equipment, electronic components and digital systems, measuring instruments and data storage systems, metal and welding control. In addition, the exhibition featured modern software and hardware systems for automation of distribution networks, new models of split meters, reclosers, electricity meters, innovative design methods and 3D modelling.

Additionally, visitors to the exhibition could see the latest domestic developments in the field of energy saving and energy efficiency, including automatic control systems for street lighting and new models of LED lamps. The exposition also includes modern simulators for training operational and maintenance personnel of the power system.

The special equipment of gas supply organisations was also presented. The models on display included a mobile laboratory for diagnosing steel gas pipelines, a mobile complex for repairing gas pipelines without disconnecting consumers, and a laboratory for metrological control.

The forum worked in Minsk for four days. Its key events were the Energy. Ecology. Energy saving. Electro International

Specialised Exhibition (Energy Expo), as well as the Belarusian Energy and Environmental Congress. The exhibition programme of the forum also included such specialized sections as Innovative Industrial Technologies, Atomexpo-Belarus, Technologies for the Petrochemical Industry, ExpoSvet, Water and Air Technologies, ExpoCity, the E-Trans display of innovative transport. At the exhibition, as already noted, modern technological solutions in the field of energy, petrochemistry, energy saving and ecology were presented.

The business programme of the forum included round tables, workshops, presentations of the participants. On the sidelines of Energy Expo, many negotiations were held between industry organisations and representatives of Russian companies, and a number of cooperation agreements were signed.

Locomotive with the ‘electro’ prefix

The fact that during the Energy Expo forum, experts discussed the vision of the development of electric transport in Belarus, is particularly notable. As you know, despite the general decline in car sales in the world with the onset of the pandemic, the electric vehicle segment was rapidly gaining momentum. The growth of investments in this sector is also not slowing down. Leading automakers plan to switch to 100% electric car production in 2030. In our country, they also do not lose sight of the global trend and make a big bet on the implementation of a comprehensive program for the development of electric transport until 2025. The progress of its implementation and the prospects for the future in this area were discussed by experts during the Electric Transport: Reality and Prospects round table on the sidelines of the 26th Energy Expo Belarusian Energy and Environmental Forum.

Director General of the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus



Sergei Poddubko said that the National Academy of Sciences is actively working with the Ministry of Industry, which ensures the implementation of scientific projects both in terms of manufacturing the component base and in the field of electric transport. For example, now the institute's employees are developing an electric garbage truck together with the Minsk Automobile Plant. It will be silent. The institute is also working on an electric version of the apron bus for airports.

Speaking about the implementation of a comprehensive programme for the development of electric transport for 2021-2025, Sergei Poddubko noted that the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering has innovative projects that are focused on creating new components for electric vehicles in different segments, "We are working on a modern electric drive as part of a high-speed liquid-cooled traction motor with a gearbox. It has been proven that the gearbox significantly increases the electric drive capabilities of heavy electric vehicles. We also assemble batteries today, we purchase cells in Korea. We assemble batteries of any configuration from these cells and equip them with our own control electronics."

At the same time, in the future, a deeper development of the production of power supply elements is planned here. Recently, for example, negotiations were held with representatives of RENERA. This company has ambitious plans in terms of creating its own battery cells. It is not for nothing that the institute believes that cells of Russian production will soon be consumed.

Sergei Poddubko also said that the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus is working on the creation of an asynchronous traction motor. This development has already been tested in production at the Mogilevliftmash plant. The production of synchronous motors was mastered. Now the issue of creating a model range of these engines

with a control system is being considered. In a word, this project has already been launched and is being implemented today. A range of reducers, gearboxes of various types is also being developed. In addition, a monoblock power drive for electric trucks and electric buses with a power of up to 200 kW is under development.

But the director of BELGEE CJSC Gennady Svidersky recalled that last year the Geely Geometry C electric car model was launched on the Belarusian market. This car has been in serial operation for almost the entire current year. Market reviews are positive. It was decided to send an additional number of cars to dealerships at the end of the year. It is planned that their number will increase on the market next year. The power reserve of the electric car is 550 kilometres, all the necessary parameters are provided. However, there was only one wish — attention should be paid to cheaper models.

It is no coincidence that Gennady Svidersky said that for the low-cost segment, negotiations were underway with the JAC company, two car models had already been delivered, on which they had carried out comprehensive tests. They have more modest parameters: a mileage of 310 kilometres, an engine power of 61 hp, but also a lower price, which, according to preliminary estimates, may be about 12 thousand dollars. The Unison plant will be able to present these cars in the future.

Speaking about the novelties of the electric car line from Geely, attention was drawn to the fact that a new low-cost version of Geometry E has appeared. Negotiations are underway to obtain documentation for these cars and adapt them.

Following in line with global trends

Electric transport is developing very dynamically in the world. According to published data, about five million electric vehicles were produced in the first three quarters of this year. By the end of the year, it is planned to reach 6.5 million units. For the past two months, 10 percent of passenger car sales have been steadily occupied by electric cars.

According to experts, Belarus has a unique opportunity to join such dynamics in the production and operation of electric vehicles. The length of our roads is relatively small. Their quality is good. The infrastructure of electric charging stations has been created. However, if we talk about production, then there are some constraints. As the Director of BELGEE, Gennady Svidersky, noted, the company's plant had to completely renew the model range in five years, and these are the costs that need to be recouped, "We cannot take long strides, but nevertheless, as far as electric transport is concerned, this is a priority task for us. We must solve it."

Well, this approach to business is respectful.

Vsevolod Yevseyev

MAKSIM TANK'S LIFE CALENDAR

КАЛЕНДАРЬ ЖИЗНИ МАКСИМА ТАНКА

Максима Танка (1912 – 1995), народного поэта Беларуси, лауреата Ленинской премии, Героя Социалистического Труда, кавалера четырех орденов Ленина, сегодня вспоминают все реже и реже. Внешне и причин для этого вроде бы нет. В сентябре нынешнего, 2022-го, кстати, — исполнилось 110 лет со дня рождения народного поэта.

Наверное, причина только в том, что уходит время одной литературной волны – большой, яркой, иногда тревожно-клокочущей, а приходит время другой волны. И – время совсем другой литературы, где не в цене художественная правда, где “фэнтези” – не просто жанр, а скорее – способ существования слова...





■ Максим Танк с семьёй
■ Maksim Tank with family

Максим Танк был искренним поэтом коммунистической идеи. Сильным и преданным, умеющим совместить эту идею со своими глубокими духовно-нравственными исканиями. Он начал служить этой идее под гнетом поляков, измывавшихся над жителями Западной Беларуси. Выросший на берегу озера Нарочь, вобравший в свою жизнь тревоги, сопутствующие простому крестьянскому существованию, он вместе с поэтическим словом пришел строить новое, привлекательное и вместе с тем полное душевраздирающих тревог, непростых драм время. Он все-таки знал идущую от жизни правду, ощущая всем своим существом...

У Максима Танка (его настоящие имя и фамилия – Евгений Скурко) есть замечательная книга, написанная в начале творческого пути, а изданная, разумеется, совсем в другое время, -- книга дневниковых записей “Листки календаря”... Запись от 20 февраля 1935 года: “Только что вернулся из апелляционного суда, где по милости прокурора И. Ячинского пересматривалось мое дело. Обвинялся я в том, что написал и распространял в Вильно 14 февраля 1934

года антирелигиозные стихотворения, а 30 апреля 1934 года – первомайское воззвание, в котором содержался призыв выступать “против террора и пачификации, в защиту СССР и Красного Китая, против фашистской диктатуры, бороться за Польскую Советскую Республику, за право самоопределения вплоть до отделения...” Для пояснения: пачификация – карательные умирительные акции полиции, армии. И в этот же день поэт записывает то, что, пожалуй, можно сказать и о сегодняшнем времени: “Жизнь с каждым днем усложняется. Драматизм ее серьезнее, глубже, острее шекспировского, потому что на арене истории решаются сейчас судьбы народов, а не одиночек, не отдельных героев”. И Танк уже тогда сделал свой главный выбор... “Я долго искал работу, которой хватило бы мне на тысячу лет. Пока это поэзия: закончил песню, другая стучится в сердце. Но работа эта оказалась гораздо сложнее, чем я думал раньше. Учусь ходить своими тропками, хотя и редко это мне удается, стараюсь избегать дешевой патетики, поэмы, хочу быть таким же естественным и реальным, как та

Maksim Tank (1912 - 1995), People's Poet of Belarus, laureate of the Lenin Prize, Hero of Socialist Labour, holder of four Orders of Lenin, is remembered less and less today. Outwardly, there seems to be no reason for this. This September, in 2022, by the way, is the 110th anniversary of the birth of the people's poet...

Probably, the only reason is that the time of one literary wave, a big, bright wave, sometimes disturbingly bubbling one, is running out, and the time of another wave is coming. And the time of a completely different literature, where artistic truth is not worth the price, where ‘fantasy’ is not just a genre, but rather a way of existence of the word...

Maksim Tank was a sincere poet of the communist idea. Strong and devoted, able to combine this idea with his deep spiritual and moral quest. He began to serve this idea under the yoke of the Poles, who mocked the inhabitants of Western Belarus. Growing up on the shores of Lake Naroch, having absorbed into his life the anxieties that accompany a simple peasant existence, he, along with a poetic word, came to build a new, attractive and at the same time full of heart-breaking anxieties, difficult dramas. He still knew the truth coming from life, he felt it with his whole being ...

Maksim Tank (his real name and surname is Yevgeny Skurko) has a wonderful book written at the beginning of his creative career, and published, of course, at a completely different time, a book of diary entries Calendar Sheets... Entry dated February 20th, 1935, “I have just returned from the Court of Appeal, where, by the grace of Prosecutor I. Yachinsky, my case was being reviewed. I was accused of writing and distributing in Vilno of anti-religious poems on February 14th, 1934, and of the May Day proclamation on April 30th, 1934, which called for speaking out against



■ Автограф-сессия с известным писателем
 ■ Autograph session with a famous writer
 ■ Максим Танк в юности
 ■ Young Maksim Tank



terror and pacification, in defence of the USSR and Red China, against the fascist dictatorship, to fight for the Polish Soviet Republic, for the right of self-determination up to secession..." For clarification: pacification is punitive subduing actions of the police, the army. And on the same day, the poet writes down what, perhaps, can be said about today, "Life is getting more complicated every day. Its drama is more serious, deeper, sharper than Shakespeare's, because in the arena of history the destinies of peoples are being decided now, and not singles, not individual heroes." And Tank already then made his main choice ... "I have been looking for a job for a long time, which would be enough for me for a thousand years. For the time being, this is poetry: you finish a song, and another knocks on the heart. But this work turned out to be much more difficult than I thought before. I am learning to walk along my own paths, although I rarely succeed, I try to avoid cheap pathos, poses, I want to be

as natural and real as that line of the sky that, along with the earth, either descends or rises... But I don't always succeed..." May 8th, 1935, "K. brought disturbing news from his Grodno region. He told how the fascist elements were unleashed among them, how they were preparing for the 'night of long knives'.

And in Vilno, picketers, armed with brass knuckles and sticks, often patrol near Jewish shops and shops, persuading buyers to join them, not to buy from Jews, but only from Poles, who have icons of the Matka Boska Ostrobramska in all their windows. On Pogulyanka, I saw the image of the Mother of God next to bottles of vodka and wine, and in a haberdashery store, surrounded by lingerie, stockings, and bras. But the owner of the pharmacy on Mickiewicz Street outdid everyone by placing it next to an advertisement for contraceptives."

With the help of the Communist Party of Western Belarus, Maksim Tank published his first collection of poems

линия небосвода, что вместе с землей то опускается, то поднимается... Но и это не всегда мне удастся...” 8 мая 1935 года: “Тревожные вести привез К. со своей Гродненщины. Рассказывал, как у них распоясались фашистские элементы, как они готовятся к “ночи длинных ножей”.

И в Вильно эндекские пикетчики, вооруженные кастетами и палками, часто патрулируют возле еврейских лавочек и магазинов, уговаривают покупателей присоединиться к ним, не покупать у евреев, а только у поляков, у которых во всех витринах выставлены иконы матки боской остробрамской”. На Погулянке видел матку боску рядом с бутылками водки и вина, а в магазине галантереи – в окружении женского белья, чулок, бюстгалтеров. Но всех переплюнул владелец аптеки на улице Мицкевича, выставивший ее рядом с рекламой противозачаточных средств”.

При помощи Коммунистической партии Западной Беларуси Максим Танк издает в 1936 году первый свой сборник стихотворений – “На этапах”. И эту книгу, и поэму “Нарочь”, вышедшую в 1937 году и посвященную восстанию рыбаков на родине поэта, польские власти конфисковали. В 1937 году вышла книга Максима Танка “Цвет клюквы” (“Журавинный цвет”), в 1938-м – сборник “Под мачтой”. Поэт много печатается в западнобелорусских газетах и журналах. Внимательно следит за белорусской советской и вообще советской литературой. Радует, что получает в подарок от дорогого и близкого человека однотомник стихотворений Владимира Маяковского... “...Читаю и многие его вещи начинаю видеть в другом свете. Дело не в подражании, не в повторении Маяковского. Опираясь на его могучее плечо, мне легче будет подняться на ноги, освободиться от власти изживших себя авторитетов и монополистов красоты и правды”. Поэт пристально следит за событиями в пылающей Испании. Записывает в своём дневнике 20 января 1937 года: “Раздобыл последний номер “дзённика популярного” и у Н. получил один экземпляр “Охотника вольности”, присланный ему товарищами из Испании. Какой неистребимой ненавистью к фашизму и ве-



■ Памятник Максиму Танку в Мяделе
■ Monument to Maksim Tank in Myadel

рой в победу народа дышат страницы газет батальона Домбровского! В рядах борцов за свободу Испании сражается много белорусов. В списке убитых – несколько знакомых. Читаю – и кажется: и в моей комнате слышится гром далеких боев”. Уже в конце 1970-х годов Танк вернется к “испанской теме” и напишет поэму “Николай Дворников”, посвященную политруку батальона имени Хосе Палафокса, в котором на стороне республиканцев воевали белорусские и украинские коммунисты из Польши и других стран. Николай Дворников, член белорусского комсомола с 1927 года и член ВКП (б) с 1929-го, работал на оккупированной поляками территории Западной Беларуси. Стал организатором вооруженного выступления крестьян в Кобринском повете. С октября 1935 года – секретарь ЦК Коммунистического Со-

in 1936 — Prisoner Transport. Both this book and the poem *Naroch*, published in 1937 and dedicated to the uprising of fishermen in the poet's homeland, were confiscated by the Polish authorities. In 1937, Maksim Tank's book *The Colour of Cranberries* (*Cranberry Colour*) was published, in 1938 — the collection *Under the Mast*. The poet is published a lot in Western Belarusian newspapers and magazines. He closely follows Belarusian Soviet and Soviet literature in general. He is glad to receive a one-volume poem by Vladimir Mayakovsky as a gift from a dear and close person ... “... I read and begin to see many of his works in a different light. It's not about imitation, not about repeating Mayakovsky. Leaning on his mighty shoulder, it will be easier for me to rise to my feet, to free myself from the power of obsolete authorities

юза Молодежи Западной Беларуси. Воевал в Испании в 1936 – 1938 годах. Погиб 16 февраля 1938 года в бою с франкистами в горах Эстремадуры. Именем воина-интернационалиста названы улицы в белорусских городах -- в Бресте, а также в Гомеле, где родился мужественный коммунист и антифашист.

Но и тогда, в условиях жесткой политической борьбы, под угрозой ежедневного ареста (в общей сложности в польских тюрьмах Максим Танк провел около двух лет), поэт развивался, вырос, стал в яркую художественную личность. Он не устал работать над собой... Из дневника "Листики календаря" от 20 июня 1937 года: "Я часто открываю давно всем известные истины. Но поскольку я сам доходил до них, мне они не кажутся такими простыми и общеизвестными. У нас в последнее время много говорят о "поэтичности", "красоте". В угоду этим модным литературным фетишам сколько пишется фальшивых произведений! "Искусство – это в сотый раз увидеть по-новому то, что до тебя видели другие", -- писал А. Франс. А у нас весьма настороженно относятся ко всему новому, хоть мы и намного отстали от своих соседей. Пожалуй, никто этого так не понимал, как М. Богданович. После его смерти все еще не нашлось продолжателя его очень своеобразного и плодотворного направления". 28 августа 1937 г.: "Не убирая раскладушки, пододвинул свой стул-табуретку и взялся за стихи. Перевожу Бруно Ясенского – "Песня машинистов".

Чертовски трудно переводить, не имея под руками хорошего белорусского словаря. А из-за отсутствия диалектных словарей просто невозможно выбрать свое близкое, самое точное слово. Все мы пишем, пользуясь очень ограниченной территорией привычной с детства речи, и поэтому, наверно, так затянулся у нас процесс формирования белорусского литературного языка. Правда, процесс этот идет непрерывно..."

И вот – 17 сентября 1939 года: "Не знаю даже, с чего начинать записывать события этого дня. Разве что с восхода солнца, которое хотя и взошло точно по календарю, но это уже был календарь новой жизни, и солнце взошло по-новому.

and monopolists of beauty and truth." The poet closely follows the events in burning Spain. He writes in his diary on January 20th, 1937, "I got the last issue of the 'popular daily' and received from N. one copy of Liberty Hunter, sent to him by his comrades from Spain. What indestructible hatred for fascism and faith in the victory of the people fill the pages of the newspapers of the Dombrowski battalion! Many Belarusians fight in the ranks of the fighters for the freedom of Spain. The list of those killed includes several acquaintances. I read, and it seems: the thunder of distant battles is heard in my room." In the late 1970s, Tank would return to the 'Spanish theme' and write the poem Nikolai Dvornikov, dedicated to the political instructor of the José Palafox battalion, in which Belarusian and Ukrainian communists from Poland and other countries fought on the side of the Republicans. Nikolai Dvornikov, a member of the Belarusian Komsomol since 1927 and a member of the All-Union Communist Party (bolsheviks) since 1929, worked in the territory of Western Belarus occupied by the Poles. He became the organiser of the armed uprising of the peasants in the Kobrin Region. Since October 1935, he was the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth Union of Western Belarus. Fought in Spain in 1936-1938. He died on February 16th, 1938 in a battle with the Francoists in the mountains of Extremadura. Streets in Belarusian cities are named after the soldier-internationalist — in Brest, as well as in Gomel, where the courageous communist and anti-fascist was born.

But even then, in the conditions of a tough political struggle, under the threat of daily arrest (in total, Maksim Tank spent about two years in Polish prisons), the poet developed, grew into a bright artistic personality. He did not get tired of working on himself... From the diary Calendar Sheets dated June 20th, 1937, "I often discover truths that have long been known to everyone. But since I myself have reached them, they do not seem so simple and well-known to me. We have been talking a lot lately about 'poetry', 'beauty'. In order to please these fashionable literary fetishes, how many false works are



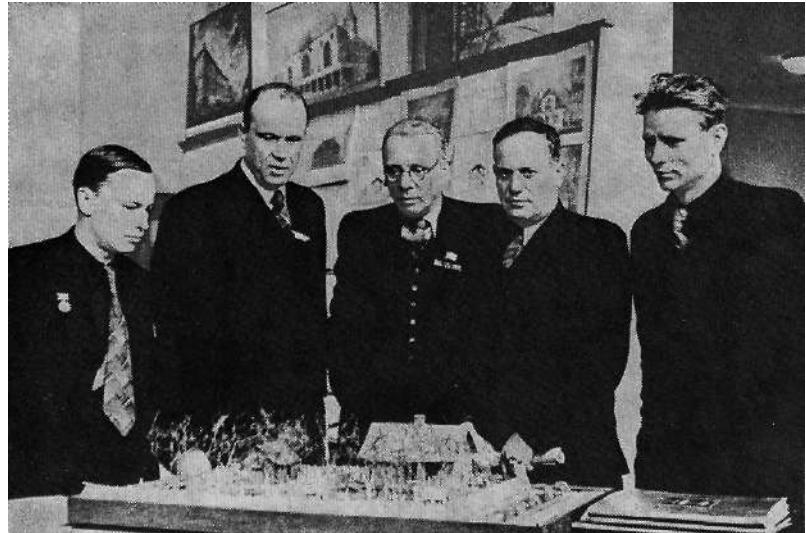
■ А. Кулешов, К. Крапива, М. Лыньков,
П. Бровка, М. Танк

■ A. Kulyashov, K. Krapiva, M. Lynkov,
P. Brouka, M. Tank

Утром приехали на велосипедах слободские хлопцы. Среди них был и Кирилл Коробейник. Они первые услышали по радио и привезли мне эту ошеломляющую радостную весть – Красная Армия перешла границу и идет освобождать Западную Белоруссию. Интересно, что сама идея освобождения Западной Белоруссии с помощью наших восточных братьев не была новой. Но за двадцать лет оккупации она превратилась, я бы сказал, только в литературную тему. И когда заветная мечта осуществилась, мы этому удивились не меньше, чем осуществлению сказки...”

Народный поэт Беларуси Максим Танк издал немало поэтических книг. Его произведения много переводили на русский язык. И его стихотворения звучат на десятках языков народов мира. Но вот слышит ли их миролюбивый, гражданственный голос сегодняшний читатель?.. Может быть, такое богатое классическое наследие требует и достойного общего белорусско-российского внимания. Так хочется придать поэзии Танка, способного достойно пройти через верность (“Однажды я спросил у человека,/ Который прошел через огонь,/ Воду и медные трубы:/ -- Что самое сложное на этом свете?/ И он сказал:/ -- Пройти через верность.”), новую жизнь. Художественный мир ушедшего от нас на развале систем большого поэта достоин этого. Этот мир – отражение нашего жизненного пространства, наших и наших пращуров пространства, и даже завтрашнего дня, Танк настойчиво прописывал в открытых им символах и образах.

Кирилл Ладутко



being written! “Art is to see in a new way what others have seen before you for the hundredth time,” wrote A. France. And we are very wary of everything new, even though we are far behind our neighbours. Perhaps no one understood this as well as M. Bogdanovich. After his death, there was still no successor to his very original and fruitful direction.” August 28th, 1937: “Without removing the folding bed, I pulled up my chair-stool and took up poetry. I am translating Bruno Jasieński’s *The Song of the Machinists*.

It’s too hard to translate without having a good Belarusian dictionary at hand. And due to the lack of dialect dictionaries, it is simply impossible to choose my closest, most accurate word. We all write using a very limited area of speech familiar from childhood, and therefore, probably, the process of forming the Belarusian literary language has dragged on for so long. True, this process is ongoing ...”

And now September 17th, 1939, “I don’t even know where to start writing down the events of this day. Except perhaps from the sunrise, which, although it rose exactly according to the calendar, it was already the calendar of a new life, and the sun rose in a new way.

In the morning, suburban lads arrived on bicycles. Among them was Kirill Korobeinik. They were the first to hear on the radio and brought me this stunning joyful news — the Red Army had crossed the border and was going to liberate Western Belarus. It is interesting that the very idea of liberating Western Belarus with the help of our eastern brothers was not new. But over the twenty years of occupation, it has become, I would say, only a literary theme. And when the cherished dream came true, we were surprised at this no less than the realisation of a fairy tale ...”

People’s poet of Belarus Maksim Tank has published many books of poetry. Many of his works have been translated into Russian. And his poems are heard in dozens of languages of the peoples of the world. But does today’s reader hear their peace-loving, civic voice?.. Perhaps such a rich classical heritage also requires a worthy general Belarusian-Russian attention. The artistic world of a great poet who left us at the collapse of systems is worthy of this. This world, which is a reflection of our living space, our space, as well as our ancestors’ and tomorrow’s space, Tank persistently described in the symbols and images he discovered.

Kirill Ladutko

HIGH STATUS OF TRADITIONS



The guests of the international Slavic Forum of Families in Minsk on children, happiness and real values. And this is about half a thousand representatives of government agencies, churches, public organisations, parliamentarians of two countries — Belarus and Russia.



Participants of the Slavic Forum of Families gathered in Minsk to develop effective approaches that will help protect the spiritual and moral traditions of the family. The event began with a prayer service, followed by a pleasant celebration. About a dozen of the best Christian families in Belarus were awarded. All of them are large families. And they show by personal example how important a strong marriage, fidelity of spouses and continuity of generations are.

Tatyana Kovalchuk from Brest was awarded the medal of St. Euphrosyne of Polotsk. A bank worker by education, she and her husband Igor are now raising nine

children. When the couple got married, they had no heirs for five years. The doctors couldn't find a reason. But after visiting the Intercession Church and praying to the Holy Matrona of Moscow, the patroness of women and children, Tatyana became pregnant. The couple made a kind of vow to happily raise as many daughters and sons as they will be sent from above. Since then, Tatyana, as the Kovalchuks joke, has been on permanent maternity leave.

"Our life with many children has become truly filled, meaningful and happy," says the head of a large family. "I'm surprised when someone says that three children are hard. It can be a bit difficult

for us with nine, but only because there are not enough arms and legs to take everyone to art studios and interest groups. And so children by their very presence give strength. Therefore, childfree is a strange philosophy for us. The joy of continuing life, the feeling of unity cannot be replaced by anything else."

"And do I look exhausted?" adds, laughing, the owner of the medal. The husband, looking tenderly at her, continues, "Many acquaintances, visiting us, ceased to associate large families with burdens and deprivations, and some also decided to expand the composition of the family."

Minister of Labour and Social Protection Irina Kostevich is confident that thanks to the cooperation between the state and the Orthodox Church, the country can overcome any crisis that



■ Family of Igor and Tatiana Kovalchuk



has affected the Belarusian family. It is no coincidence that an agreement on cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Labour and the BOC.

"Belarus has a high divorce rate, there are problems with the birth rate, and not because 'I can't', but because 'I don't want to,' the minister explained. "We need to work together to turn the tide."

"The first task is a strong marriage, where there is love and understanding between husband and wife. The second is that there should be more children in the family. It should be fixed in the minds of people that this only increases happiness. And in the formation of such an idea, we see a significant role of our partners, representatives of the church, spiritual mentors."

Metropolitan Veniamin of Minsk and Zaslavl, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus, is sure that the family should rely on the laws laid down by the Creator, the Creator of this world, which are written in the Bible, "In our time, when the concepts of what a family is and what it should be are blurred, it is important to witness those moments that characterise a real family, where there is a father and mother, children. This is a blessing and a gift from God. The family does not interfere with the self-realisation of a person, as it has recently been presented, but, on the contrary, helps. I personally observe many examples when, after a difficult working day, parents quickly recover at home, finding support in their children, and the desired love and comfort in their spouses."

Elena Kozlovskaya



'GOLD' OF CULINARY EXCELLENCE

“金牌”烹饪大师

A chef from Vitebsk won a prestigious culinary competition in Beijing

来自维捷布斯克的厨师在北京举办的烹饪比赛中获胜

Alena Polesova, master of industrial training of the Vitebsk State Industrial College, won a gold medal at the international competition of vocational skills Masters of the Silk Road, which was held in Beijing.

Alena is a college graduate and has been helping students learn the basics of culinary art for the past three years. Despite victories in many competitions of various sizes, this competition turned out to be not only super responsible for the girl, but also new.

The competition was held remotely: over 200 chefs and confectioners created their culinary masterpieces for an hour and a half in front of video cameras. A month before, the participants received tasks where the ingredients were indicated in Chinese. This could play a cruel



来自维捷布斯克国立工业学院的 Alena Polesova 在北京举办的“丝绸之路”国际职业厨师比赛中获得了金牌。

Alena 是维捷布斯克国立工业学院的毕业生，最近三年她教授学生烹饪基础知识。尽管她在许多不同规模的比赛中获胜，但这场比赛证明了她们的实力，并且对她来说是一个新的体验。

比赛是远程举办的：在摄像机面前，超过200个厨师和糕点师在一个半小时内创造了他们的烹饪杰作。赛前一个月，参与者收到了用中文写的任务。这可能对每个厨师开了个残酷的笑话：例如，“Птица”在俄语中意思可能是不同类型的肉类——鸭子、火鸡等等，还有一道菜从中文翻译过来的意思要么是鱼，要么是牛肉。

这位来自维捷布斯克的厨师不得不向语言学家寻求帮助，她在比赛之前曾5次尝试做比赛用的菜。但她克服了所有困难，90分钟过去，她拿到了意想不到的胜利。

joke with every culinary specialist: for example, 'bird' in our country means different types of meat, for example duck or turkey, and another component of the dish, translated from hieroglyphs, meant either fish or beef.

A cook from Vitebsk had to turn to a linguist for help, and she also perfected the technology of preparing competitive dishes five times. However, the master coped with all the difficulties, 90 minutes passed without excesses and brought an unexpected victory.

As part of the national team, Alena went through the distance stage in Mogilev on the basis of the Belarusian State University of Food and Chemical Technologies. The girl presented two dishes to the international jury: a stuffed chicken roll cooked using sous-vide technology (vacuum-packed cooking technology) and a hot dish of white fish — sea bass. Garnished with vegetables, various sauces, openwork dough chips (personal development of a young master) and even dust from microgreens. According to Alena, the cool 'trick' of this professional competition was the condition to prepare a dish with minimal waste. This not only optimises the workflow, but also encourages the most unusual ideas. That is why microgreen has become a natural colour decoration.

A team of judges evaluated the dishes according to several criteria. First of all, they paid attention to the serving, checked whether the cooking technology was followed, whether it corresponded to digestion, measured temperature and weight, and evaluated the organisation of work. The experts monitored all the preparations online thanks to three cameras located at the workplace.

Alena did not count on a high result, as the competition was too tough. However, almost a month later, at the final broadcast, which was held in Chinese, during the announcement of the winners in various categories, the master heard a surname similar to hers. A month later, well-deserved awards came to Vitebsk — a gold medal and a diploma. As well as an invitation to personal participation when the epidemic situation improves.

"To reach a height at a competition of this level is very pleasant. This is not an

indicator that it is no longer possible to go higher, but a strong incentive for new victories," the girl shares her impressions.

Polesova's treasury of awards has many confirmations of her professional skills, among the latter is silver in the Cooking category of the Eurasian Championship 2022, ahead of her is participation in the World Skills and Prodexpo championships. A spark of inspiration in the eyes of a young master of industrial training is promising, promises hope: it will only get better in the future.

Aleksandra Gvozdeva

作为国家队的一分子，Alena在白俄罗斯国立食品与化学技术大学在莫吉廖夫的基地进行了学习。她向国际陪审团介绍了两道菜：鸡肉卷、采用Su-Vid技术（真空包装烹饪技术）的鱼类热菜——鲈鱼。配菜方面有蔬菜，各种酱料，薯片（Alena独特配方），甚至有芽苗菜。根据Alena的说法，这场专业比赛中有一个很酷的评比条件，留下的垃圾越少越好。这可以优化工作流程，同时，这是个非同寻常的想法。这就是为什么微型蔬菜变成了自然装饰物。

陪审团队根据几个标准评估菜肴：首先，他们关注菜的营养，是否符合食物消化的标准，其次，他们评估烹饪技术，然后测量温度和重量。陪审团通过三个摄像机在线观看了全部烹饪过程。

Alena并不指望好的成绩，因为竞争太激烈了。然而，将近一个月后，在中文的获奖者播报中，Alena好像听到了她的姓氏。一个月后，她在维捷布斯克收到了金牌和奖状。并且她收到了现场参赛的邀请，在疫情有所改善之后。

“在这个级别的比赛中获胜我感到非常愉快。这不是最终目标，而是对新胜利的强烈动力，” Alena分享了她的获奖感言。

Alena获得的众多奖项一次又一次地证明了她能力，在最新获得的奖项中，还包括2022年亚欧“厨师”锦标赛中获得银牌。之后，她还将参与World Skills和Prodexpo世界锦标赛。在Alena眼中，灵感的光芒正在绽放，未来的她必定会更好。


亚历山德拉·格沃兹德夫

照片：《维捷布斯克新闻》，白通社



■ Alena Palesova in the process of cooking
■ Competition dish

Through
life —
with
pleasant
aromas



Vlad Rekunov, director of the Belarusian Association of Perfumery and Cosmetics Manufacturers, author of the elegant cultural aroma symbol of Belarus PaVetra, as well as the creator of perfume compositions for private customers, does not get tired of holding creative evenings, master classes that help everyone who is interested in the world of smells to improve the level of their perfumery culture

EXCLUSIVE PROFESSION

“In each of my fragrances, there are hundreds of emotions and images, a million thoughts. I know a lot about perfumery, give lectures, create corporate fragrances, personal perfumes... I have been living this for 20 years, without a break. And every morning, without getting tired, I look forward to meeting with my fragrant office and workshop.”



Our interlocutor is a media personality. He is the author of unique perfume projects that have no analogues, the Guinness Book of Records record holder, who created the largest bottle in the world: 160 litres! However, we did not ask him during the meeting about the intricacies of the profession, about the modern production of fragrances, just as we did not mention the perfumer from Patrick Süskind's best-seller *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*. We also tried not to ask questions that our interviewee has already answered repeatedly to media representatives. We arrived at a meeting in his small laboratory in Kolodishchi, a beautiful suburb of Minsk, armed with the information necessary for an interview in the field of perfumery. I did not want, as they say in such cases, to lose face. It was interesting for us to understand: who is he, Vlad Rekunov, a very rare representative of a unique profession in our area (and, they say, there are barely about two hundred of professional perfumers in the world). We went to Kolodishchi to 'touch' the fragrances, to train our noses, plunging into the atmosphere in which this student of one of the most titled perfumers of the 20th century, Sofia

Khodosh-Groysman, has been serving as a priest for over 20 years. We also note that this native of Belarus is the creator of the Tresor perfume: the first perfume that beat the famous Chanel No. 5.

“She has the title of the Living Legend of Perfume, as she created many best-sellers for the most famous brands,” says Vlad about his mentor. “In the Alley of Perfume Fame, out of the 25 best fragrances of all time, four belong to Sofia Groysman. Who, if not her, knows the aromas of our country: after all, she was born in Lyubcha near Novogrudok and spent her childhood in Belarus ... Therefore, with great joy I created the aroma-symbol of Belarus with her ...”

And our conversation became possible after a creative evening that Vlad Rekunov held in one of the cultural centres of Minsk: three new original fragrances created by him were presented to the general public for the first time. Vlad's collection already contains more than 1,000 perfume compositions. They include fragrances for Patricia Kaas, Mireille Mathieu, Edgard Zapashny, the fragrance of the Rome Fashion Week at the invitation of Pierre Cardin and many others.

Those who are eager to deepen their knowledge in the field of perfume culture, strive to learn to distinguish smells, or order an individual fragrance for themselves, will not miss meetings with Vlad Rekunov, co-author of several perfume exhibitions, the NIKA Perfume and Cosmetic Forum, one of those who are ready to deepen their knowledge and generously share them. Despite the maximum busyness, Vlad is open for communication. So for the readers of the magazine, he gladly gave an interview.

“Vlad, when did you, an economist by education, begin to be aware of smells? Do you remember the smell of your childhood?”

“Perfumes came into my life quite late. And in a prosaic way: it was a trade in perfumery. Until 2000, I treated the world of smells as an ordinary person, even, I would say, I knew very little about them. Smells were not my hobby either. I belonged to the category of men who use perfume that they are given. They know a little about smells but cannot describe them. In addition, I did not even think about the fact that perfumery and cosmetics are completely different things. And one fine day I



■ In the process of creating a personal fragrance

■ The evening events of Vlad Rekunov are, as a rule, crowded with guests

understood this in an instant: there was an insight. Somehow I suddenly realised that the path of a perfumer is my destiny. And I got to where I needed to be.”

“Has anyone helped me figure this out?”

“As it happens in our life, at the right moment you meet people to whom you will be grateful for the rest of your life. So it was with me. Trade is trade, but while you are doing it, you do not see what is happening behind the scenes of the perfume world. And there they discuss not how to sell the smell, but how to make it, create it, and what emotions it evokes. These are different worlds. Perfumes are one thing, and those who make up scents are another. And those who know how to talk about the feelings and sensations that arise from contact with smells are the third ... That is, in the perfumery world there are many people who ‘touch’ the smell from different angles. I ‘touched’ it from the side of science at the Technological University in Minsk (BSTU). I ‘touched’ it as an organiser of specialised events, when it united all industry operators and shops on the site. I got acquainted with the founders of retail chains such as Zvezda, Cravt, Modum,

Belkosmeks, Belita ... I also held an international conference, competitions of the republican level, where all participants and when the best perfume store is chosen. Of course, I was engaged into production: I visited many Belarusian and foreign factories, I saw how raw materials are processed... All this allows me to look at the world of perfumery objectively. When they tell me that this smell is bad and this one is good, I understand, I know where these smells came from and how, who got them, and why it happened. Did you know that you can buy a penny fragrance, and it will be great? How does this happen? And I know why. As well as the fact that the fragrance, for example, by Tom Ford (American designer and film director) costs 1,100 roubles per 50 ml... I really know how much this fragrance costs him, but it’s better not to talk about it out loud... I make this fragrance with these hands. Myself. Thanks to knowledge, I have an explanation for such simple user things as value for money, which are important for the average person. By immersing myself in all of this, I can answer the questions that people ask. They often tell me: this smell suits me, but I don’t smell it ... Or in Duty Free there

are high-quality aromas ... Or: you need to smell coffee in order to further test aromas ... Who came up with this, why?... There are a lot of such social clichés in perfumery. This area itself is closed, elitist. Historically, information has not been released to the outside. Why? It’s simple: for commercial reasons. True information about how to use perfume, how to choose it correctly and other nuances, all this is closed for reasons of competition. Most factories still do not allow you to see the production. It surprises you! After all, there are suppliers of raw materials, equipment for production, and people connected with this will tell you everything with pleasure. Alas, the old clichés are still alive.”

“Are you a native Minsker? Do you remember the smell of your parents’ house?”

“Yes, I am a Minsker, and my father comes from the Tambov Region, from the places where Tchaikovsky liked to create. He is a military man. Mom is Belarusian-Ukrainian. They moved here from Slutsk, and my parents ended up there by the will of the war. The paternal grandfather and the other maternal grandfather both fought. I am very proud of them.

EXCLUSIVE PROFESSION

One grandfather, Nikolai Nikolaevich Rekunov, has a photo, on which he is on the steps of the Reichstag, he went through the whole war as a private. Fought since 1943. He had an excellent memory. He told how they fought through the Baltic states, named the cities that passed, the numbers of the units and even the size of the nut of some kind in the car, of which we were very surprised in the family. You can read about him in the Honorary Book of Tambov Veterans. He was once awarded the Oka car for the holiday, congratulated annually on Victory Day. Grandpa was proud of it. And the other grandfather was taciturn: Ivan Fedorovich Divin. He went through the whole war as a radio operator. I managed to find out that he, the best radio operator, received 300 Morse characters per minute. You cannot imagine such a speed.

As for smells, my childhood was not about smells. Like all boys, I had a lot of sports, hooliganism, but not harmful. Oddly enough, the area of smells was absent in my family as well. But I remember well how I destroyed my mother's French perfume. And the way my mother was upset..."

"Could you recreate the smell of that perfume today?"

"It is very difficult to recreate an old smell. We will recreate some, but they will not be exactly the same as they were. There are no longer those components that would make the smells identical. Here, for example, yours, Valentina, first French perfume Ellipse Jacques Fath, which you mentioned, cannot be recreated. If you only knew how many people are trying to make it, and how many people are nostalgic for it and ask me to make it... But today there are no components from which this perfume could be recreated."

"Today, perhaps we wouldn't perceive those old smells that we liked in the past?"

"Many of the old scents would sound out of date today. I recently became convinced of this. One girl sent me a rare bottle of perfume from the 80s — JOY: it stuck. I undertook to repair, because I know how to do it. I did it! The smell opened up. But I realised that it is no longer modern. To live with such a smell is as if we all walked around in flared trousers. True, among



young people such retro trousers can already be seen on someone."

"How long does it take you to determine what aroma a person needs? How do you test: by voice, appearance? Does the name of a person, the time of his or her birth, have any meaning?"

"I really like such a characteristic of people as their voice. Most perfumers don't work with this. The voice comes from the depths of the essence, carries very necessary information. The name is also important. Olga and Lilya, for example. Their 'sound aroma' is different, and they also need different smells. In addition, many other factors must be taken into account. My practice shows that you cannot make a choice of fragrance based on a small num-

ber of criteria. For example, once a year a young girl comes who is crazy about heavy oriental fragrances. Here is an exception to the rule. In such a situation, you realise that you do not understand anything. So you are re-learning. There are many such cases. Here, for example, a girl in her childhood burned herself on the oven door, in which grandmother's cinnamon pies were baked. She came to me to order a perfume. And how can I know in advance that she hates cinnamon? She herself forgot about it. That's why I communicate. It takes at least half an hour to talk to a person. In the process of communication, of course, some information is revealed, which contributes to the creation of an individual smell. In some cases, I don't know

■ Vlad's mentor is perfumer Sofia Khodosh-Groysman, a Living Legend Award nominee, author of dozens of perfume bestsellers, including Paris (YSL), Tresor (Lancome), Eternity (CK)

■ Aroma symbol of Belarus. Its creators are Sofia Groysman and Vlad Rekunov.

■ Only two perfumers in the world were entrusted by Patricia Kaas to create a fragrance for her. One of them is Vlad Rekunov.

what to ask. The possibility that I can test a person for smells here offline helps me. I have different components (*shows a small test case*). There is a chypre smell here — moss, green damp forest, humidity. These are the smells of people with a low voice, unhurried phlegmatic people, with weight in society. And here is the smell of freshly dried hay, which is reminiscent of a sunny summer day. This is a vanilla direction (sniffing blotters). Here is perfume cannabis... When I talk with a person, I write down for myself his or her reactions to this or that smell, realising that the person likes this direction.”

“Do smells have colour?”

“It would be more correct to say: what colour is associated with the image of each fragrance. Yes, it has its own colour. Professionals talk about seven main perfume classes. If you like the green colour in clothes, then look for your scent among fougere fragrances. Floral? Choose yellow and red shades. An oriental fragrance hides in burgundy tones with gold. Having decided on the perfume class, ask the consultant to show you citrus aromas for the morning (or evening). It is very important to know where you will go with this fragrance: to work, to a party. The same principle applies here as with the selection of clothes: after all, you will not wear an evening dress to the office.”

“Can modern perfumery imitate any smell?”

“Yes it can. We had an exhibition called *Scents of Life*, where unusual smells were exhibited: a shot, gunmetal, a dusty attic... We wanted to show what modern perfumery is capable of. That is, I repeat, you can recreate any smell if you wish, but it is important to understand why this is done, who needs it ... Any such work is not a quick, expensive process.”

“Do you meet customers who do not know at all what smell to choose for

themselves, their loved ones? And do you hit the bull's-eye by talking to a person?”

“I would say that they are the vast majority. Once Janusz Wisniewski (a popular Polish writer) and I sat on the jury at a competition in Minsk, and I told him that men do not understand smells. He strongly disagreed! Then I realised: Janusz means Polish, German men... I talked about our location. But this is not our fault, this is our omission. Once I was in Uzbekistan at a seminar, and I watched how Uzbeks sniffed perfume. They said: this smells, and that smells, but we cannot tell what is the difference. To understand smells, you need to train your nose. That is, some ‘sniffing’ is needed. Men who come to my studio discover with delight that they are beginning to distinguish smells.”

“When you go out, do you use perfume?”

“I don't leave the house without scents, because I feel ‘not dressed’. That's why I always carry it with me. Sometimes

I deliberately don't use it: my sense of smell needs to rest.”

“Do you use only your own fragrances, or do you use others?”

“Only my own. I haven't bought perfume in 20 years.”

“Which of the world-famous perfumers besides Sofia Groysman is your authority? And what famous perfume brands do you respect?”

“There is a perfumer with Italian roots, Alessandro Gualtieri. He is outrageous, extravagant, the author and ‘nose’ of the Nasomatto and OrtoParisi brands. Came to Minsk in 2018. I like his niche creations for their multi-coloured chords, they are far from ordinary. Gualtieri once said that a niche is just an attempt to return perfumery to real perfumers. I like such thoughts. In the history of the development of perfumery, it was Italy that made the leap. By the way, perfume was brought to France by Catherine de Medici (Queen of France from 1547 to 1559) In those days, perfumers were engaged in perfumery. There the Medici delivered their Florentine chemist,



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who made up poisons and smells. Well, it needs to be studied how and when it all started in Belarus.”

“What can you say about perfume and mysticism? As far as I know, some perfumers add an element of mysticism to their creations. Do you add?”

“We know that sometimes strange, inexplicable things can happen in life. For example, hands can have a positive effect on a person’s condition, and for some reason, you might not like high-quality coffee drunk somewhere in a coffee shop. I also assume that the objects that we hold in our hands contain some kind of energy and transfer it from one person to another. Therefore, it is important in what mood, with what thoughts a person prepares food, creates something. After all, I also make a liquid that a person will subsequently apply to his or her skin, the aroma of which will be inhaled. And these are all

very small aroma molecules: smaller than in homeopathy. When inhaled, they enter the human body and have an effect on it. And if I’m in a bad mood, I don’t get down to business. And when I’m working on a fragrance, I might not even answer the phone if I presumably know that the conversation is going to be tough. If I do not attach importance to my inner state, then my fragrances will not be bought.”

“It is clear that there are different smells: libraries, offices, cities, villages and houses. And different countries smell differently (we had the opportunity to make sure). What does it depend on?”

“Every place has its own smell. I have been to Cyprus, there are many white flowers called Frangipani, they are huge, with a very strong smell. It is so enticing, harem, sucking. And in Belarus it is needles, herbs, wormwood, forest... In

addition to the natural smells characteristic of a certain territory, other smells are introduced by a person. Since childhood, we grow up in these smells, which forms our priorities. For example, for Italians, our meat-based jelly is nonsense, but for us, pasta is not preferable every day. Same with scents. The French, like other Europeans, are crazy about lavender, for them it is something spiritual. For Americans, lavender is now cleaning powders, chemicals, so the lavender smell will not be popular there. In India, as in the UAR, Asia, where spicy food is popular, the smell of spices will soar. Scents are shaped by tradition. For example, aromatic candles, sticks, resins are used during various religious rituals. In our temples, as you know, incense is used.”

“Do feelings have a smell. Say, fidelity, or passion? If so, what do you think delight smells like? Loyalty? Betrayal?”



“I was able to look behind the scenes of the perfume world and learn about its secrets. I eagerly searched for knowledge and one day, Providence gave me a chance: an acquaintance with Sophia Groysman, with whom we later created the fragrance of Belarus - PaVetra. I studied and did an internship in France at the perfume factories IFF, MANE FILS, in Belgium at the Synaco Group factory. Returning to my homeland, I opened and began to develop a perfume workshop.»



Perhaps it has something to do with our body, skin? No wonder they say that a person is a huge biochemical laboratory...”

“Yes, I think there is something like that. After all, the skin of different people smells differently. But, of course, with closed eyes it will be difficult to test loyalty or betrayal. Here something else is mixed in, besides the sense of smell, which we feel with some other fibres. It happens when someone sits behind you, you sud-

denly feel the missing hair on the back of your neck suddenly stand on end. You begin to communicate with this person, and you understand that it was not in vain that you sensed what you sensed. That’s why they say: I smell it with my back. If anyone had such feelings, then they should not be forgotten. Yes, all this is from the realm of the unknown. Something, as energy units, we, people, catch, radiate something. But whatever one may say, we are living beings, descendants of primates, and we still need to see and hear.”

“When do you think the sense of smell is sharpened?”

“During fasting. Such experiments have been carried out. Even when the weather changes. It’s autumn now, its smells are very bright...”

“How would you comment on the words of Coco Chanel: perfume is clothing for the soul? Are there any rules on how to dress in it?”

“All the statements of great personalities about spirits, and I read about many things, sounded at a certain point in time. When, for example, the Chanel No. 5 fragrance was created, there were fifty names of fragrances. Coco Chanel was one of 50. Now there are 5 million fragrances on

the market, and maybe more. But the fact that perfume pleases our soul is without a doubt. At the beginning of the 20th century, I read about it, one Russian army officer, I think his name was Aleksandr Likhonin, said something like this: to move forward, you can just walk, or you can keep dancing. And in order for the human race to continue, you can be breed, or you can love each other. You can sit and enjoy the sunset with a glass of wine, or you can not bother yourself with this. Everything in life can be conditionally divided into the area of the necessary and not necessary. Wine, love, music, relatively speaking, belong to the category of unnecessary. Spirits too. But it is with the unnecessary where all the joys of life begin...

Therefore, perfume is both clothing and a state of mind. I would also say: this is a strong support for the soul.”

“Is it possible to experience a shock from the aroma? In what cases does this happen? Can you say about any fragrance you have created that it will surely impress most people who test it?”

“You can experience the shock, of course. The brightness of impressions depends on the sensitivity of a person, if his or her sense of smell is struck by some

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strong aroma. But there are smells that will not cause positive feelings. For example, take castoreum: it was actively used in fragrances of the past: in Poison, Magie Noire. There is a modern fragrance Orto Parisi, in which the castoreum is very prominent, an unpleasant smell is captured. I often have to attend meetings where there are a lot of people, let's say entrepreneurs. I walk among them and, of course, collect impressions... I sniff. When someone walks by in a high-quality fragrance, I have positive emotions. I also conducted such an

experiment: I went to the same store to the seller in the fragrance and without it. So in the first case, the salesperson started talking to me as if I was in a tuxedo and a top hat. That is, emphatically respectful. In another case, it was simply a courtesy. It's also very nice when a woman passes by and she pours a pleasant aroma on you. For me it is always a gift. As for my fragrance, which, as you say, will amaze the majority... I would not talk about it. After all, everything is individual."

"What fragrance can be called the king of flowers?"

"The king of all flowers is jasmine. And the queen is a rose."

"Is there a fashion for smells?"

"Now such a diverse market! Perfumery has always corresponded to the state of society, reflecting what is happening in the world.

For the last eight years, since 2012-2013, aromas with notes of burning and smoke have taken a stable place in perfumery. Therefore, we can talk about fashion."

"At what level is the perfume culture in Belarus?"

"Thank God, we are interested in it... The perfume area is formed by retail chains that offer something. In some cases, people are forced to focus on the available smells as a certain level of quality. And in order for a person to see the difference between such a fragrance and another, more expensive one, the person needs to be shown it. When I gave master classes, I made my students go and smell cheap smells, and then expensive ones. So they trained their noses."

"Have you thought about introducing this training into the educational system?"

"The idea is good, but I don't know how to do it yet."

"Tell us about the Pa Vetra fragrance."

"This is the smell of my homeland. Everyone in it will catch something of their own. This year I want to revive this



- During a master class in Vlad Rekunov's office
- When the prima donna of the French stage Mireille Mathieu came to Belarus, in the workshop of Vlad Rekunov she was given a perfume in a bottle in the form of a microphone

“As a child, my parents noted my desire for harmony around. Over time, this transformed into a thirst for beauty and enjoyment of aesthetics. I still remember well how one night I woke up with delight and the realization that the images in my imagination have a fragrance, and I am ready to embody them! I spent an incredible number of days, nights, hours honing my perfume business. Even then I deeply felt that I was a Perfumer! And this is my life’s work! And so - until now! .. «

project, bring it to the market again. It, of course, will sound differently, and outwardly change. Why did I do it? I really wanted to represent our country in fragrance. After all, Belarus is not only a straw, a tree. When Sofia Groysman started working on this fragrance in 2006, and so did I, it appeared at the level of a symbol. It was a very good fragrance, it had few competitors. The bottle is large, unique, in the form of a sail: 75 ml, perfume (!). I hope we will release this fragrance soon.”

“Do you always need inspiration to create a fragrance?”

“I have moments when I refuse to create smells. Then I turn on the music, relax, knowing that the moment of inspiration will definitely come.”

“What do you think space smells like?”

“When you look at the dark sky, even with the stars, it seems to me that the cosmos is the smell of metal, maybe even red-hot.”

“Do you have any favourite stars?”

“These are my children and wife.”

“Tell us about them.”

“My eldest son Danila is 25 years old, he has been in China for five years. Choreographer, dancer. He learned Chinese, even taught it, now he is acting in commercials. The second son, Zakhar, went deep into chemistry, moved in my direction, and is engaged in entrepreneurship. And four are still small. Timur is 13, studying at the Suvorov Military School in the 2nd year. And then I started having girls. Varvara is 11. Sofia was born when we released the fragrance of Belarus, as Sofia Groysman came, so I named my second daughter Sofia. Antonina is five years old. My wife Alena has three more children from her first marriage. It turns out that her Ksenia, who is 10 years old, is my seventh child. Anastasia is the oldest and middle Polina. When asked

how many children you have, we answer: for two of us, we have 9 children. I can get along very well with them with everyone: I can do it, besides, girls love fragrances...”

“We can say that the perfume culture in Belarus will develop...”

“You can say that. However, first of all, the sphere of our feelings develops. Judging by the fact that interest in the world of fragrances in the country is growing and per-

fume sales are growing, we have good prospects for development. And everyone can participate in testing the ‘level of perfumery culture’. Smell! And know: if you have a great desire to dress in fragrance, then you are on the right track.”

Interviewed by
Valentina and Ivan **Zhdanovich**
Photo from the personal archives
of Vlad **Rekunov**

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A man with grey hair, wearing a light green suit and a patterned vest, stands on a stage. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The stage set features large, dark tree trunks with green vines climbing them. The background is a bright blue sky. The floor is covered with green grass. The overall scene is a theatrical production.

LOVE QUADRANGLE, OR ABOUT A BORING PLAY AND ITS BRILLIANT REALIZATION



Premiere at the National Academic Drama Theatre named after Maksim Gorky. People's Artist and laureate of the State Prize of Belarus Olga Klebanovich once again declared herself as a director: she staged the play *A Month in the Country* based on the play by Ivan Turgenev.



■ Veronika Plyashkevich as Natalya Petrovna Islayeva



■ Sergei Chekeres as Mikhail Aleksandrovich Rakitin, and Andrei Senkin as Aleksei Nikolaevich Belyaev

If you are tired of clip news and the same way of thinking, of superficial feelings, of quick viewing/scanning of texts and videos on social media, if your empathy has weakened from fast food news, put your gadgets aside... Forget about your favourite bloggers for a while with their short, albeit bright posts, take a break from instant messengers and emoticons, and go to the Russian Theatre (that's how we call the Gorky Theatre in the old fashioned way). Buy a ticket for the play *A Month in the Country*. If, of course, you will be able to: the premiere performance collects full houses, and they ask for an extra ticket a block from the theatre...

170 years have passed, and the play is not outdated

"Long, boring..." This is how the critics characterised the play *A Month in the Country*, which the writer Ivan Turgenev completed in 1850. Even the author himself called it 'impossible in the theatrical

sense'. Oddly enough, written in salon-artistic, fantastically beautiful Russian, this watercolour story about love and passion, long read in detail, has become one of the most staged stories in the world. On the Russian stage in the last century (1909), it was also staged by Konstantin Stanislavsky, a theatre reformer, creator of a unique system, director, actor and teacher.

Russia, Ukraine, Great Britain, USA, France, Ireland, Spain... And this is not a complete list of countries where the leading theatres turned to Turgenev's play. Such great Russian actresses as Maria Yermolova, Olga Knipper-Chekhova, Maria Savina starred in it ... Initially, the play was called *Two Women*. The centre of the story is two bright women of different ages and status, who turned their attention to the same man. Everything in the work revolves around Natalya, the main character, the wife of a wealthy landowner Arkady Islayev, who finds herself in an ambiguous situation. Having discovered

that she, a married lady of 29 years old, as well as her 17-year-old pupil Verochka, is in love with Aleksei Belyaev, a young student, teacher of her teenage son Kolya, Natalya is ready, as they say, to throw herself headlong into the affair. And family friend Mikhail Rakitin has long loved Natalya Petrovna and, of course, notices 'oddities' in her behaviour. The action of the play takes place in the early forties of the 19th century ...

Since then, there have been many adaptations of this love quadrangle. For example, Russian actress Vera Glagoleva, a laureate of the Union State prize, made the film *Two Women* based on the play, starring British actor, Oscar nominee Ralph Fiennes (Mikhail Rakitin) and famous Russian actor Aleksandr Baluyev as Arkady Islayev, the owner of the estate.

They also turned to the work in Minsk: in the Russian Theatre. As Olga Klebanovich says, the play was offered to her by the artistic director of the theatre Sergei Kovalchik. When the rehearsal

period was underway, Olga Mikhailovna admitted to reporters, "Once, a long time ago, together with the director Modest Abramov, I began to rehearse this play with Natalya Petrovna. But we didn't get to the point of the show. Now, when I re-read it, I realised that there are a lot of layers and themes in the play. Turgenev is more of a Westerner in spirit, it was not for nothing that they had such heated arguments with Fyodor Dostoevsky when, for example, they met in Baden-Baden. Turgenev himself doubted the further stage fate of *A Month in the Country*. He called this work not even quite a play, but rather sketches from country life. I think he invested a lot of himself there, recorded his admiration and admiration for Pauline Viardot, his muse, whom he selflessly loved for many years. This story is very easy to turn into a banal melodrama, but I think we will go further and come

out with something else. For me, all the heroes of this story are a little 'overheated', they all have a 'sunstroke'. Summer, heat, village... And I wanted to smile a little and make fun of human weaknesses..."

With drive inside

The cast of the Gorky theatre really went further: they reached the level where, in my opinion, they dragged all of us, the spectators. I assure you that already after the first act of the performance, I personally, a sophisticated theatre journalist, was stunned by the fact that the production captured me en-

"Today requires a completely different narrative. So that everything is in rhythm and not for long. I think that Turgenev's play did not suffer from the fact that we shortened it a little. "A Month in the Country" is associated with Chopin's music. It is such an elegant, "crystal" piece..."



PREMIERES

tirely. I haven't experienced anything like this in drama theatres lately. I will not be mistaken if I say about the powerful involvement not only of me, but also of other viewers. There was such silence in the hall that it seemed that the audience was not breathing. I had no time to think, to analyse something already during the first act: I listened to the subtext of the play. My mind was quiet and did not issue any value judgments. It seemed that I was all attention, heated by the fire of the characters' feelings. It was like meditation, I thought during the intermission. All that I was able to say to my colleague was the following: the complete absence of protractedness, 'chewing' of the text with such large dialogues...

And later I realised: what kind of happiness it is to delve into your inner world. To feel how pleasant it is to empathize with the characters, realizing that our life is not a chaotic kaleidoscope of unrelated fragments, but something integral, where everything is connected to each other by an invisible thread. And to feel: the world of clips has not enslaved me, and I am able to emerge from it and concentrate on the performance. Getting involved in the stage action, I was glad: my ability to focus on the life of the human spirit is alive.

Yes, in the play *A Month in the Country* directed by Olga Klebanovich, I would say that the main character of the stage story is the human spirit, which, of course, is not indicated in the theatre programme. But thanks to this nameless spirit, incomprehensible, mystical substance, everything in the performance pulsates, excites, encourages not to miss a single word from the context of the play. You notice both the gestures of the characters and the movement of bodies, you follow the facial expressions... In other words, all, without exception, the actors in this performance are characterised by deep psychologism, which the director focuses



on. In the professional slang of stage directors, this is called: the depth of all the expressive means of the performance. For Klebanovich, this is the length of mise-en-scenes, paintings, images, dialogues ... A kind of masterfully knitted canvas in which a loop falls into a loop, and there is not a single hole. It would seem that this is such a bore, if the characters on stage endlessly talk to each other. Of course, boredom is deadly if the pronunciation does not help to reveal the cauldron of experiences in the inner life. In the play *A Month in the Country*, it seems to gush, something like steam from under the lid... This is the very case when passions rage even behind one phrase, thrown as if by the way, behind a short glance,

hand movement, even eyebrows. They are readable, tangible even when they are hidden deep inside, like the hero of Sergei Chekeres, Honoured Artist of Belarus (Rakitin). And this is such a drive! Not external, eventful. It, I repeat, inside.

As Olga Klebanovich put it, in the play she is excited about the psychological lace that love wove, the overflowing of mental states... And she added: "Dostoevsky and Turgenev are modern. What they knew about the human soul has not been surpassed by any of today's sages." It's hard to disagree with her. The stage director breathed life into a completely dialogized play on the stage of the Russian Theatre, in which everything connected with everything.



- Veronika Plyashkevich and Andrei Senkin
- Daria Polyakova as Verochka
- Ruslan Chernetsky as Arkady Islayev (right)
- Oleg Kots as Arkady Ivanovich Bolshintsov and Sergei Savenkov as Ignaty Ilyich Shpigelsky

The living soul of the play

Humanitarians know: Turgenev's style is the soul. All expressive means of the performance are artistically filled with it. Costume designer Tatyana Lisovenko dressed everyone in wonderful pastel costumes... Stage designer Aleksandra Kernozhitskaya planted oak trees with impressive, graphically detailed trunk bark and strong birch trees in the name of the Islayevs... Why not a vivid image of a well-established order in a strong owner, where everything is subject to a measured life... However, the owner himself is building a dam on the river... The water-colour background of the performance is also created by the village houses, painted in popular style. There is a blue sky and clouds above them... There is also a place in the performance (I note that it is very successful in the semantic and figurative structure of the narration) of a thunderstorm with lightning and rain... And the light score plays in unison with the stage action to the fullest. Good and poignant music by composer Andrey Popkov. Especially his romance song about life and love, which sounds bright in the finale.

Weaving lace...

The stage image of the performance is complemented by a bench in the garden, chairs at a table on the proscenium, a secluded place in the house where the main characters spend time — Mikhail Rakitin, an exquisite aesthete, a constant admirer of the young mistress of the estate Natalya Islayeva (Veronika Pyashkevich) and a friend of her caring husband Arkady Islayev (Ruslan Chernetsky, Honoured Artist of Belarus). Rakitin, the good son Kolya (Matvey Savenkov) and the young pupil, the very charm of youth — Verochka (Daria Polyakova) — these are the laces that make up the life of Natalya Petrovna. A dignified and decent order reigns in the relationship between the characters, the hostess is loved and prosperous. But, oh Gods, how boring this well-being is for the charming heroine of Plyashkevich ... And the inner cry of a young and beautiful woman, not burdened with worries, is already heard at the very beginning of the performance. As well as the conflicting feelings that cover her, permeate the atmosphere...

"Lace is a beautiful thing," says Natalya to Rakitin, "but a sip of fresh water on a hot day is much better." What is this, if not a vague desire for love, but not one that is deeply hidden behind the philosophical reasoning and chivalrous nobility of Rakitin, behind the calm feelings of a spouse, but the desire for bold, fresh love... Hence the sharp words against a friend, and a change of mood, and befitting a noble environment external restraint in dealing with the inhabitants of the estate. As well as awareness in oneself of one's sensual nature, to which the eternally busy husband and enamoured Rakitin does not respond. Veronika Plyashkevich paints the image of Natalya with pastel strokes, but the colours of passion burst into this pastel. She is betrayed by dishevelled hair, reddened cheeks, short breath... And there is an amazing well-trainedness in this image, characteristic of well-educated representatives of the nobility, which allows you to pull yourself together and extinguish your feelings for a short time. The lace umbrella is also symbolic, which cannot protect its owner from a thunderstorm raging in



■ Kirill Rakitin as Belyaev in another cast (left)
■ Olga Zdyarsaya as Natalya Petrovna



her soul. A bow with an arrow of Cupid also appears in one of the scenes. And a kite, as a symbol of freedom and temptation... They are made by the hero of Andrei Senkin, student-teacher Aleksei Belyaev, who breaks into Natalya's life like a fresh wind.

The actors involved in the play are inimitable. Each one is great. Islayeva's mother, Anna Semyonovna (Tatiana Garkusha), concerned about Natalya's behaviour, governess Lizaveta Bogdanovna (Inna Savenkova), without whom the estate is not an estate. She, as part of it, is a lonely lady, eager to get married. Schaaf, obsequious German tutor of Aleksandr Polozkov, touching in his naivety Afanasy Ivanovich Bolshintsov of Oleg Kots, master of comedy episodes, skillfully play their parts in the score of the performance. This

Oleg Kots's character, who has views on Vera, although he is mostly silent, or manages with interjections, is so funny with his uncertainty, timidity in dealing with ladies, that you just roll with laughter. Dr. Shpigelsky, performed by Sergei Savenkov, is a realist who is characterized by pragmatism, prudence, and sanity. In this role, it is easy to slide into cynicism. But the actor, as they say, insured his character against this quality. The servants are also good: Katya of Yelena Stetsenko, this organic, charming actress, for whom the whole life in the estate is a joy, as well as the conscientious servant Matvey by Vasiliy Grechukhin, who diligently fulfils his duties. Unfortunately, I did not see the performance with the second cast, but I heard from the director that Olga Zdyarskaya (Natalya), Kirill Nikitin (Aleksei Belyaev)

and Yelena Pastrevich (mother) play their parts outstandingly.

Turgenev's dramatic material requires from all actors, without exception, a great artistic flair and a level at which the truth of feelings predominates. They, the actors, were able to achieve it. The result is a 'driving' Turgenev, which, I believe, will be of interest to young people as well. Unless, of course, the clip-like laces did not completely enslave them. After all, the performance is about love, which can elevate the soul, or inspire to actions that you wouldn't want to remember later. To find out how Natalya Petrovna and the people who love her will act, it is enough to read the play, or at least its summary. But it's better to go to the Russian theatre. Whoever does this will not regret it.

Valentina **Zhdanovich**

Giselle for all times

NEW VERSION

The hit performance
of the world ballet
was applauded this
fall at the Bolshoi
Theatre of Belarus





Igor Kolb, choreographer-director, “The ballet *Giselle* is my first premiere as a choreographer-director in the anniversary season of the Bolshoi. Prior to my appointment as chief choreographer, literally three days before my arrival in Minsk, I was asked to transfer *Giselle* by the Mariinsky Theatre to the Belarusian stage. (Mariinsky is the State Academic Mariinsky Opera and Ballet Theater in St. Petersburg, one of the leading musical theatres in Russia and the world. It is more than two centuries old, it is one of the symbols of Russian culture). How did I work on the performance? Initially, *Giselle* is a version of ballet masters Marius Petipa and Jean Coralli with a large archival list: what and when in this ballet was changed, added and removed. I grew up on the version of the Mariinsky Theatre. This is a classic of choreography, the history of ballet, so it was important for me that the original version of the choreography be preserved. I took the canvas of the Mariinsky Theatre as the basis of the performance, it retains all the first editions, which, thanks to this theatre, are still alive today. But it was important for me to make not a transfer of the performance, but a modern incarnation, attractive to today’s audience, artists. Did it work? The main performers will tell about it. And the viewer. For 180 years there has been a ballet *Giselle*. In every performance, every time the audience has something to say to both the stage directors and the performers.

I admit that people in general inspire me. On the way of each person there is always someone who will encourage him to think or even argue. I am one of those who listens to other people’s opinions. Unless, of course, they are not superficial, but thoughtful. I can’t say that the offer to take on *Giselle* immediately pleased me: a transfer is a transfer. To express something new, one had to dive deep into the materials. What I managed to copy in St. Petersburg, I studied already in Minsk. Every day I forced myself to think about what *Giselle* should be like today. I would like to repeat, to create something in Belarus that would be interesting to modern viewers. The artists themselves contributed to my work. At first, of course, I was visited by a feeling of dissatisfaction: something was going wrong. But step by step everything was built. I thought for a long time: how will the sixth version differ from the first one, which appeared at the Bolshoi Theatre in 1956. Gradually, the history of the theatre was opened up, additions were added that dictate the stage canvas of today, as well as the technical capabilities of the theatre. Many ideas came from the wonderful stage of the Bolshoi: its comfortable stage space allows you to think broadly. I hope I didn’t miss anything that could be used. In addition, it seems to me that we will surprise the viewer with the additions that we have come up with. And I am also pleased to say that I was inspired by the main performers — Lyudmila Khirova and Even Capitaine. They will dance their parts at the first viewing and at the premiere.”

Nikolai Kolyadko, conductor, Honoured Art Worker of Belarus, “You will hear new musical fragments in the ballet. And they will sound for the first time in the world. I was very surprised when Igor Pavlovich found them in the clavier. No one has ever played the inserted padded from the first act. Nowhere in the world! But there is only a piano version, a clavier. There was no score. Therefore, we turned to the composer Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, and he made an orchestral version. So we have a world premiere!”

Lyudmila Khirova, Honoured Artist of Belarus, performer of the part of Giselle, “Many ballerinas dream of dancing Odette-Odile in *Swan Lake*. For me, the role of Giselle is a dream role. We worked a lot: both in the morning and in the evening, throughout September, as well as at the end of last season, we rehearsed *Giselle* every day. It was a busy time. The new *Giselle* is nothing like the one I danced five years ago. But every rehearsal I go out and relive this story. The performance doesn’t bother me. And now I’m worried: we will soon go on stage. Wish I could finally enjoy this and relive the dramatic story of Giselle.”

Even Capitaine, a graduate of the Ballet School of the Paris National Opera in France and the Belarusian State Choreographic Gymnasium-College.

Soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus since 2016, performer of the role of Albert, “For me, it was also a dream to dance in *Giselle*, because this is a classic performance. When I came to watch the previous version, I felt awe. Unlike Lyudmila, I did not dance other versions, I learned the part for the first time. Prior to that, I watched various productions of *Giselle*, both on the Internet and live. What Igor Pavlovich showed me made it possible to embody such Albert as I always imagined him. Albert is a cheerful, rich, self-confident and even impudent young man, with an excellent position: he has a castle, a retinue, a bride, a wonderful future awaits him ... But Albert still lacks something. Therefore, he seduces a simple girl, and without realising it, falls in love with her. At the end of the first act, my Albert realises that he played too much, which is why the tragedy happened. He feels guilty and regrets what he did. In the second act, he discovers in himself a new, truly in love Albert.”

Valentina Zhdanovich, author of the text, “In continuation of the major key. I remembered how I studied in the second year of the Philological Faculty at Kiev University. I walked somehow in great sadness after classes: 18 years old, my home is far away, the desire for love... Autumn, rain, sadness... I pass by the opera house and see a repertoire poster with the ballet *Giselle*. The time is just before 19.00, when

the performance begins. I buy a ticket and make it to the stalls. It was the first ballet in my life that I saw live. As a child, I wanted to become a ballerina... Therefore, for me personally today, meeting with *Giselle* is an event: I will see the performance of my student youth. I remember how on that gloomy rainy evening I left the theatre in a completely different mood. It seemed that wings had grown behind my back: despite the sad end of the story of *Giselle's* love for the Duke, I watched a life-affirming performance.”

Igor Kolb, “Did I have any disagreements in the process of working on the play with Nikolai Kolyadko? There were no serious disagreements. It is very difficult to quarrel with him: Nikolai Sergeyevich loves to joke, he bypasses sharp moments in this way. Sometimes this makes me nervous. I am a team player. For me, teamwork is very important, the balance of desires and views in the direction of a particular creative path. There can be no conflicts and misunderstandings, but there can be a creative dialogue, and if there is a dispute, then there must be a creative purpose.”

Nikolai Kolyadko, “Jokes aside when the work is serious. I am very grateful to Igor Pavlovich for offering me such a project. The orchestra and I did everything possible in our power so that Igor Pavlovich succeeded. After all, he is a new person in the Bolshoi... Caring, creative,

hard-working. With many ideas. I want to wish him that his ideas become a reality in our theatre. Recently I recalled the play *Swan Lake*: I stand at the control panel, and Igor dances the part of Prince Siegfried. I think that even now he, a former soloist, could do it well...”

Igor Kolb, “In *Giselle* there is the theme of the cross. The construction of the cross meant a lot to me. In the first act, the everyday scene of the dance of the peasants was slightly rebuilt by me from a straight line into a cross. This is also the theme of the second act: the Wilis are dancing, and *Giselle's* exit is formed into a cross. Last year, I still did not realise how one is related to the other. The other day I went to the temple, and it was a holiday, the Exaltation of the Cross of the Lord. And suddenly I realised what a big holiday it is. Somehow, my crosses in *Giselle* converged with Orthodox crosses. The cross on the stage will be visible especially well from the benoir and higher seats.”

Lyudmila Khitrova, “During the rehearsals, Igor Pavlovich did not disregard any of our steps. Not a single gesture, glance... And not even one of my hair in my hairdo. At each rehearsal there were tips, comments, changes, clarifications, additions were made... It was insanely interesting. We are immensely grateful to him for giving us so much time and giving. It is a great happiness for an artist to work with such a person who has vast





experience, which he willingly shares. We absorb his advice like sponges, we catch every word. Today's performance will be different from the one in which I danced 5 years ago. I'm talking about my part too."

Igor Kolb, "At one time, as a soloist of the Mariinsky Theatre, I performed the parts of both Albert and Hans. I danced for the first time at the age of 19, it was Albert, in his second season at the Mariinsky Theatre. With ballerina Diana Vishneva on tour in Brazil, in São Paulo. The performance then transformed... When, over time, I decided to switch to Hans, I realised how little I did in the part of Albert. I paid little attention to interactions, relationships within the love triangle of Giselle-Albert-Hans. Both parts are close to me. Therefore, in the current production, I did not just direct the artists, but forced them to focus on interaction with each other. It is very important in the first half of the first act. Otherwise, if there is no this interaction, you no longer believe the actors dancing on the stage.

What inspired me when working on a new production? Everything: people, weather. Nature. Leaves falling on the streets and in the parks, which corresponds to the first act of the play. Because there are vineyards in the performance at harvest time, and an autumn wedding, and slightly yellowed foliage. It seems to me that the date and autumn time of the

premiere are chosen perfectly. There are about the same colors as we have on stage outside the window. In general, in order to work, I do not need to be specifically inspired by something. I go, I see smiling, rejoicing, or sad people, and this already affects me. Therefore, I say: when you are in a bad mood, go out into the corridors of the theatre. Because our colleague Yelena Balabanovich, passing by, laughs very contagiously. Thus, it supports me. (*Laughter, applause.*) Inspiration is a natural thing. Not artificial. It's about 'here' and 'now'. I generally relate to people who are here and now. Even our communication today before the performance matters to me.

The first person to whom I asked the question in the theatre: how to dance Giselle today was Lyudmila Brzhozovskaya (ballerina, teacher-repetiteur of the Bolshoi Theater, People's Artist of Belarus). By the way, we tried to show the continuity of traditions. We made an exhibition for the premiere: it is about the whole history of *Giselle* in the theatre. Among the exhibits are photographs, programmes, posters from previous productions. There is also a photo of all the first performers of the main part, including Lyudmila Genrikhovna. She actually supported me in my work day after day: there were ideas, suggestions. We even argued along the way. Here is how she spoke about this ballet, 'I have always loved the performance of Giselle and really

looked forward to it. But at the same time I was very afraid, because you need to be able to dance it. Somehow I got to the Moscow Bolshoi Theatre for an impeccable production with Galina Ulanova in the title role, and never again have I seen such a beautiful Giselle. Yes, many people dance this part well and correctly, especially in the second act. But only Galina Ulanova managed to make the image so beautiful and light."

Lyudmila Khitrova, "What is my Giselle like? Very much in love. Romantic. And, of course, kind."

Igor Kolb, "I am one of those people who has to keep busy all the time. When one job ends, there is a slight panic: something passes, and I miss something ... I am greedy for work. Extremely. According to the contract, I am in the Bolshoi for three years. Therefore, it is important for me to know which of the performers will occupy certain positions in the next three years. I care about the youth who came to us. As a rule, I clearly plan not only my time, my schedule, but also the time of the artists. We live in a world where everyone needs to be understood and everyone's needs taken into account. As a leader, I must always look a little ahead. Well, maybe, for example, like this: Lyudmila Khitrova will come up to me and say that, for example, she wants to go on tour... Therefore, I should not depend on one cast in the performance. This is our reality. I will



THE NEW VERSION

■ Igor Kolb — choreographer-director,
Lyudmila Khitrova — Giselle, and Even
Capitaine (Albert) after the performance

And the very first premiere of *Giselle* by Adolphe Adam took place on June 28th, 1841 at the Academy of Music and Dance in Paris. And already in 1842, the performance was staged in St. Petersburg by the French choreographer Antoine Tityus Dochi. Later *Giselle* was applauded in London, Milan, Boston...

say more: I already know who is in the first year at the choreographic college, who is in the second and third year, who will come to us, perhaps when my contract ends. In the second cast, the part of Giselle will be danced by Yelizaveta Musorina, a graduate of the Minsk Choreographic College, the hope of the theatre, and the part of Albert by Artyom Bankovsky."

Test by the classics

I must say right away that the cast successfully passed this test at the Bolshoi Theatre. And the first premiere of the play *Giselle* in the new season sounded especially fresh. On that day, we did not think about all the previous five editions of the play. A lively, sincere conversation between directors and soloists with journalists on the eve of the performance added mood colors to the perception of the stage action. The anticipation of the ballet celebration did not disappoint. The soloists and the corps de ballet danced magically, with the temperament characteristic of the leading masters of the Bolshoi stage, with sincere feeling and deep insight into the proposed circumstances. I note that not in all ballet performances the internal mono-

logues of the characters are heard so perceptibly, the scenes change unobtrusively, as happened in *Giselle* staged by Igor Kolb. Such psychologism can be envied in the drama theatre. Thanks to this, the love story of *Giselle*, a simple peasant girl, for the aristocrat Albert, sounds so piercing, catches our feelings. As for the technique of the soloists, it is flawless. The light score of the performance is pleasant and unobtrusive. The scenography by Nikolai Okunev, although based on the previous edition, looks quite solid and aesthetically pleasing. The costumes of the main characters and costumes in the second act have been changed.

What is the meaning of the ballet *Giselle*? Why is this simple story so compelling? Of course, it is about great love and its life-affirming power. The work of Adolphe Adam is based on an ancient Slavic legend about the Wilis, dead young unmarried girls betrayed by their lovers. And since this happened in their lives, it is as if they are now forced to avenge themselves and their 'unfulfilled' love, killing young men at night, dragging them into their dances. *Giselle* will join the ranks of the Wilis in the second act. But even being

there, in the other world, she saves her Albert from death. Let me remind you that at the end of the first act, the deceived Giselle dies of grief, having learned from Hans, who is in love with her, that Albert, who pretended to be a simple guy, is a duke, and besides, he is married to a noble lady.

One of the innovations on the stage of the Bolshoi in the new *Giselle* is that animals also appear in the course of action. In the first act, a pony appears on the stage with a stroller in which the newlyweds are sitting: this is how the details of the life of the peasants are highlighted. And the hunting scene is complemented by beautiful dogs.

"I doubted whether it was right or not to put animals into action," admitted Igor Kolb. "ut I found in the sources that in 1841 at the Grand Opera House in the first act, the hunting scene included people riding on horseback. And I thought that the little pony would not embarrass anyone in the peasant wedding scene."

So it was. On the contrary: both ponies and dogs did a wonderful job with their roles, which undoubtedly entertained and delighted the audience.

Valentina Zhdanovich



ON TOUR AND AT HOME

THE BOLSHOI THEATRE OF BELARUS CONTINUES TO AMAZE OPERA AND BALLET LOVERS WITH CREATIVE PROJECTS IN ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Life in the Bolshoi is in full swing. Projects that have become traditional, as well as new ones, follow one after another. Already in early October, the theatre went on tour: first to Thailand, to the International Festival of Dance & Music, and then followed to Moscow, to the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia.

In Thailand, Bolshoi took part in the International Festival of Dance & Music, which was held in Bangkok on the 24th time. Ballet dancers from Belarus presented four performances on the main stage of the Thailand Cultural Centre — The Nutcracker, Carmen Suite and Sheherazade, as well as Sleeping Beauty. Leading Belarusian ballet soloists

conquered the capital of Thailand: People's Artists Irina Yeromkina, Anton Kravchenko, Honoured Artists of the Republic Lyudmila Khitrova, Marina Vezhnovets, Yuri Kovalev, as well as Artyom Bankovsky, Even Capitaine and other stage masters. The Artistic Director of the Theatre Valentin Elizariiev headed the tour.

And on October 25th and 26th, the audience of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia could hear one of the most beautiful Belarusian operas - Vladimir Soltan's King Stakh's Wild Hunt (based on a detective story by Uladzimir Karatkevich) staged by the Chief Director of the Bolshoi Anna Motornaya. Also in the Moscow Bolshoi,

the Minsk Ballet Company presented the legendary ballet by Pyotr Tchaikovsky The Nutcracker directed by Valentin Elizariiev. According to Moscow colleagues, tickets for this performance were sold out at the beginning of the month.

And in Minsk, meanwhile, as usual, there were repertoire performances, opera and ballet, in the evenings. The projects of the month included the music by composer John Williams (Hollywood), who created the music for the films Harry Potter, Schindler's List, Hook, Memoirs of a Geisha, Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Indiana Jones. The main musical themes from these movies were performed by the Symphony Orchestra of the Bolshoi



■ Poster for the event dedicated to the memory of opera diva Svetlana Danilyuk
 ■ Scenes from the performances *King Stakh's Wild Hunt* and *The Nutcracker*



Theatre of Belarus. It was a powerful show. There were more than 60 talented musicians on the stage of the theatre, and there was a video sequence of the most iconic scenes from films that everyone knows and loves on the screen. Maestro Wilhelm Keitel (Germany) was behind the conductor's stand. Conductor, pianist, impresario, one of the most prominent organisers of cultural events not only in Germany, he has been cooperating with the Bolshoi Theatre for more than 15 years and, like no one knows, how professional our artists are. It should be reminded that with this programme the orchestra of the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus has repeatedly toured the cities of Europe.

"I have been working with the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus and its artists for many years, so I can honestly say that when I come to Minsk, I get the feeling that I am at home. And meeting with musicians whom I really know by name is like meeting with a family," admitted Wilhelm Keitel. "High professionalism, level of performance, musical training, discipline... I can only express words of admiration for Belarusian artists!"

At the end of the month, a new creative cycle Stars of the Bolshoi was opened in the beloved theatre. It started on the evening in memory of the legendary opera diva Svetlana Danilyuk. The singer arrived in Minsk in 1966. Tall, stately, with a bright appearance, she captivated the audience with her unique voice and became a true star of the Belarusian opera.

In the first part of the evening, the audience saw the documentary Svetlana Danilyuk, created in 2021 at the Letopis studio of the Belarusfilm National Film Studio. Svetlana Danilyuk's creative and human destiny, full of ups and downs, appears in the film in a variety of and often changing angles: both in the bright light of the rays of theatrical spotlights and spotlights, and in the chamber, almost

intimate illumination of her thoughts and feelings, hidden from all the world. On the stage, Svetlana Danilyuk played many different roles: from the queen to the village teacher. People's Artists of the USSR Tamara Sinyavskaya and Vladislav Piavko, world opera star Maria Guleghina, People's Artists of Belarus Aleksandr Anisimov, Nina Lomanovich, Natalia Gaida, Natalia Rudneva, Honoured Art Worker of Belarus Margarita Izvorska-Elizaryeva, Honoured Artist of Belarus Viktor Skorobogatov and other took part in the film. The narration in the film is conducted on behalf of the son of the singer and at the same time the director of the film — Maxim Fedoseyev. And in the second part, the leading stage masters of the Bolshoi Theater performed romances by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and Sergei Rachmaninov.

An exhibition dedicated to the memory of Svetlana Danilyuk is still open in the foyer of the theatre, where you can see photos of the singer and costumes for the iconic performances of the opera diva.

The director of this project was Oksana Volkova, Honoured Artist of Belarus. She also pleased her fans with virtuoso vocals at the end of the evening.

Mikhailina **Cherkashina**



DOLLS AND PEOPLE, OR MEETING WITH CHILDHOOD

The 3rd International Festival of Puppet Art Dolls over the Neman, which was held in Grodno, will be remembered by the townspeople and guests of the city for a long time. An impressive costumed procession of characters with puppets in their hands, watching performances, as well as the possibility of interactive spectator participation in them pleased with the mystery of the unity of a person with puppets.



It so happened that it was possible to hold this fest only after a long break, which lasted from 2014. The idea to gather representatives of the ancient theatrical genre in Grodno belongs to the Chief Director of the Grodno Puppet Theatre Oleg Zhyugzhda.

"I wanted to show everything new and the best from our friends," Oleg Zhyugzhda told about his idea. "Russia was represented very widely at this festival. It was a pleasant surprise that two Russian puppet theatres, Perm and Orenburg, brought performances created by me as a stage director. Russian and Belarusian puppeteers have long-term close friendship."

This time the organisers were able to bring together six Russian and six Belarusian theatres, 150 participants from different parts of Belarus and Russia: Vitebsk, Brest, Mogilev, Gomel and Grodno, as well as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Orenburg, Omsk, Ryazan, Perm. The theatres presented one production each at the festival. An exception was made only for the Grodno Puppet Theatre as having a special status as the organiser of this festival. The theatre showed the children's play *The Little Mermaid* and the adult *Old World Landowners*.

Back in 2013, the history of the puppet art festival began. Then theatre groups from around the world gathered for the first time on the Grodno stage to show their skills. The result impressed both the audience and the participants themselves.

The festival started with a colourful costume procession.

"I serve as a costume designer in the puppet theatre, so I couldn't but take part in this procession. We changed into our costumes, each of them has its own story. These costumes are special in that at different times they were on stage, they were popular in different years. All of them are from performances that created and continue to create mood

for our beloved spectators," Nadezhda Shatalova, costume designer of the Grodno Region Puppet Theatre, said without hiding her emotions.

Among the participants of the procession there were still quite young attendants of the Grodno Puppet Theatre. "We have recently started working in the theatre. For us, this is a bright incredible start. It is a pleasure to be a part of this great festival. Glad to be a part of it. For us, this is a wonderful experience," said Dmitry Karabun and Nikita Maloyko.

"We are in Grodno for the first time. We brought the play *Time to Play*, it was staged based on the fairy tale of the modern English writer Julia Donaldson *The Paper Dolls*. We opened the festival in the morning. In general, Grodno is a very pleasant town. The theatre and the city are cosy. The atmosphere is hugging and enveloping," shared her impressions the actress of the Omsk Puppet Theatre, actress Irina Sergeyeva.

And the Ryazan Puppet Theatre showed in Grodno a performance for adults *Spotted Dog Running at the Edge of the Sea*, which received the prestigious Golden Mask, Russian theatre award. This is the first performance in the world, which was staged on the stage of the puppet theatre based on the work of the same name by Chingiz Aitmatov.

The programme of the festival was built in such a way that it would be interesting for everyone: both children and adults.

"Our play *Shakespeare During the Plague, or the Tragedy of Jesters*," said Andrey Tetyurin, artistic director of the Karabaska Puppet Theatre in Perm, "was staged by Oleg Zhyugzhda and prepared in collaboration with Ukrainian artist Vera Zadorozhnaya. Only in the puppet theatre can Pushkin and Shakespeare meet, as they met in our play. This is not the first time we have been to Grodno, we have come here on tour twice before. Three times we were in Vitebsk at the Slavianski Bazaar. The audience is always different. They come to the performance in different weather, in different moods. Our task is to distract them from everyday worries and touch their spiritual chords. We are talking about the eternal: about love, devotion and friendship."

The organisers did not set limits in the choice of topics. The Brest Puppet Theatre, for example, presented the drama *Sotnikov* based on the novel by Vasil Bykov, about how moral values change in wartime. But the Mogilev Puppet Theatre has prepared a fairy tale *The Giant-Egoist*, which can captivate even a three-year-old child.

The festival in Grodno managed to demonstrate and emphasise the main feature of the genre: no matter how well the viewer knows the plot of the books that became the primary sources for creating puppet performances, a surprise will still await him or her in the hall. And although the puppet cannot show a brilliant play of emotions, it is in its power to reveal to the viewer the hidden meaning of many works and situations that are well known to us. Besides, we all come from childhood.

Inga Likhtarovich



THE WORLD STILL NEEDS DIVERSITY

This exhibition of young Belarusian artists claims to be one of the notable cultural events of this autumn. Traditionally, the Minsk Palace of Arts has become a venue for the largest exposition.

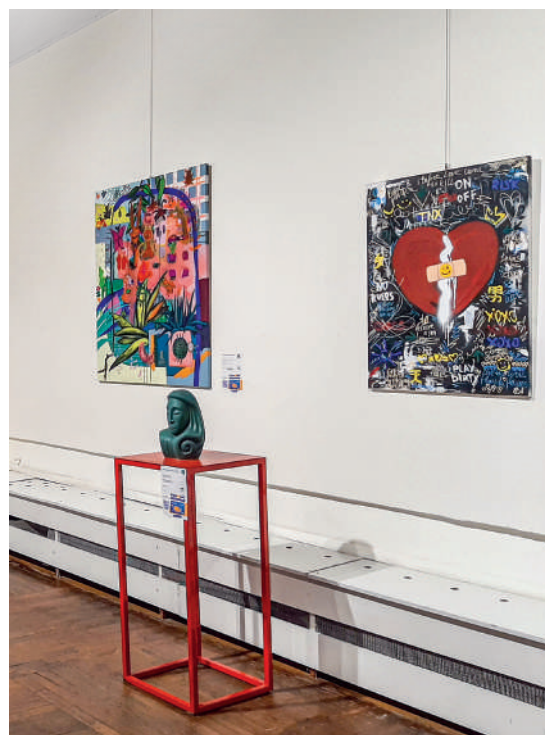
VARIATIONS ON A THEME



This year, the organisers really did their best to show the public a characteristic cross-section of contemporary art and the trends of the current Belarusian art scene. The Autumn Salon has been held in the capital since 2015. The authors present to the audience the works created by them in various visual forms: painting, graphics, photography, sculpture, arts and crafts and even video art. This time, a professional jury selected over 400 works by 246 authors from Minsk, Brest, Gomel, Zhlobin, Novopolotsk, Polotsk, Bobruisk, Mozyr and other cities of Belarus out of almost eight hundred applicants. It is impossible not to notice that within the framework of the project at the Palace of Arts, a rich cultural programme awaited visitors: lectures, excursions and master classes. One of the memorable events was the Night of the Autumn Salon that combined music and meetings with artists.

But above all, the tour of the exhibition made it possible to place unobtrusive accents on its content. For example, in the hall on the second floor, the works of the Brest artist Fyodor Bazhin involuntarily caught my attention. These, without exaggeration, were real Instagram works in rich colours.

Any Belarusian knows first-hand that in our country, not gold is mined from the earth, but potatoes in large quantities. Therefore, four works by Darya Karpova under the general name *Zalataya Bulba* (Golden Potato) also could not leave visitors indifferent. Belarusian fine art has always been famous for its graphics and there was quite a lot of it at the Autumn Salon. However, the most interesting works this year were concentrated in the Art-Belarus Gallery. There, in particular, the original series of Alesya Skorobogataya, dedicated to tree mushrooms, was also



VARIATIONS ON A THEME

located. And Hanger by Olga Melnik-Malakhova simply riveted attention with its existentiality and mysticism. It was impossible to pass by this work at the very entrance.

The exhibits of the Autumn Salon were divided into several sections. The first floor of the Palace of Arts contained mainly graphics and photos, the second one — experimental works. More traditional paintings were presented in the gallery, and it was from there that the organisers suggested that visitors begin viewing the exposition.

By the way, to summarise, the words ‘boldness’ and ‘breaking patterns’ were mostly used at the opening of the Salon. This was expected from young authors. And they did not let the audience, thirsting for a spectacle, be disappointed. Artists impressed with colour, shape, unusual materials.

Meanwhile, the exhibition, along with paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture and arts and crafts, had a place for several installations. Some of the visitors sat on a special chair for meditation, others tried to unravel the idea of the artist, peering into the video broadcast on a laptop. Some decided to take the nails lying near one of the paintings in order to add to the author’s idea specially intended for this.

And after walking through the halls, one could share one’s impressions not only with one’s followers on Instagram, but also with the organisers: the audience was traditionally handed out voting tickets, where they could enter the names of three artists they liked.

Discovering new names is one of the priorities of the work of the Union of Artists, notes the First Deputy Chairwoman, art critic Natalya Sharangovich, “What is the most pressing issue for us today? Attracting young people to participate in exhibitions. Usually, after all, as it happens: young people graduate from high school and understand that they need to earn money further. And this process of earning money very often leads the young people away from the exhibition process. Because a lot needs to be invested here: money, time, effort... Buy materials, make quality work, arrange it, bring it... But those young artists who went through this, in fact, only benefited after participating in exhibitions: they were talked about, written in the media. Thus, gradually the exhibition process begins to drag them out. There are young guys who exhibit with us not for the first time. They participate in one project, another, and thus gain the necessary number of republican exhibitions to join the Union of Artists. And this is also our goal: to stimulate, seek and find new names.”

The second aim of the Union of Artists is to help local art integrate into the republican one. The trend to show the metropolitan public the work of artists from the regions is quite accurate: there is indeed a request for this. And it was not in vain that the festival featured authors not only from regional centres, but also from district centres and other places. Natalya Sharangovich draws attention, “Again, after such a festival, many artists understand that they are interesting in the capital, their art is in demand. A distinctive feature of the artistic field of Belarus



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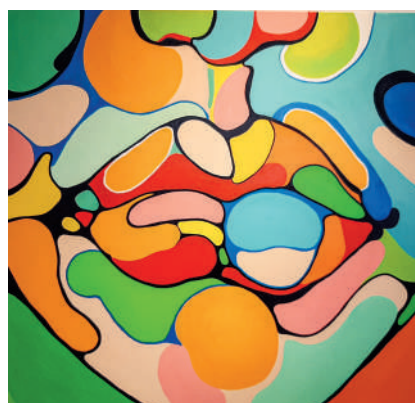


is not that it is dispersed, but that it is concentrated. When artists from other cities are displayed in Minsk, they are filled with confidence and energy. Such a strong response, as in Minsk, they do not get anywhere else.”

It remains to be added that the audience could buy any work they liked at the Autumn Salon. And this is also important: the artist must have the right to dispose of the work at his or her own discretion. Natalya Sharangovich is even more frank, “An artist should sell his work, and this is absolutely normal. If the price does not suit you, you can contact the author directly and come to a compromise solution. I think there will be no problems. Another thing is that with this festival we are trying to create a model of the contemporary art market. Although the exhibition itself is non-commercial, it makes no sense to come to it with a full wallet of money. But we cooperate with the artcenter.by online platform, which is engaged in the sale of works of art.”

Under each item at the Autumn Salon, a QR code was placed, by which it was possible to learn more not only about the work you liked, but also about its author. Yes, in order to get to the exhibition, a work of art must meet the main requirement, which is high-quality performance. The theme and direction of art do not play a role. As well as the profession of the author. Having a professional art education is desirable, but not necessary, adds Natalya Sharangovich, “For example, the work of an artist from Vitebsk, Olga Zhebina, who writes under the pseudonym O.ZHE, was presented here. She graduated from the Vitebsk Technological University, worked at one of the enterprises as a fabric artist, then moved to Minsk. She is not an artist by profession, but she has





natural talent. This is almost a ready candidate for joining the Union of Artists. At first, Olga was embarrassed to exhibit, but then she took part in the Autumn Salon ... And she got involved. And this is also our goal: to stimulate, seek and find new names."

And yet, what does it mean to be a young artist in Belarus? You can talk for a long time about vocational education, creative opportunities and about being in demand. But if you try to combine all this at one point, it will turn out something like this: to have the opportunity to present your works at the Autumn Salon with Belgazprombank, which was held for the eighth time this year.

Usually, on the first day of the 'salons' there is an increased interest: experienced visitors know that on the opening day, the exposition can be viewed for free, while they are still getting their part of the emotions, feeling the spirit of bohemian life. First of all, through a meeting with the creative elite and the very youth for whom this is really a holiday. The young artists who gathered

for the celebration later willingly posed with their works and looked at others with interest.

Although this celebration is common for all of them, no one cancelled the audience voting.

Based on previous years, it is already clear that even with the work of a professional jury, the audience prize is perhaps the most significant and affects the ability to become a star for the general public. In other words, a well-known name, more opportunities to exhibit further, and, of course, to sell their works. For example, all this happened for Alesya Skorobogataya, who won the audience voting more than once. Now her works again attracted the audience.

Indeed, if one was able to take a leisurely look at the exhibition, one could easily notice that a number of names had become famous thanks to the previous salons. And then you mentally return to what you saw before and begin to compare how the artist has changed over time. This opportunity is due to

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the fact that authors up to 40 years old can exhibit at the Autumn Salons with Belgazprombank. Even the Chairman of the Union of Artists of Belarus, Gleb Otchik, was presented at the current salon with his painting. This exhibition equalises everyone before the public.

How, in fact, is the Autumn Salon different from many large exhibitions? Yes, everything that was presented in the exposition could be purchased. Well, almost everything. Therefore, there are proposals for every taste: from traditionally understandable painting with soothing landscapes and still lifes with flowers to figurative art, which is usually liked by the public. There are also interesting and complex experiments of young graphic artists, works of arts and crafts, sculpture and art objects, as already noted, video art, photographs.

And, of course, one should almost always expect some kind of cockiness, unkemptness, energy and boldness from young authors. It seems that they (or the curators) at the current exhibition tried very hard to make the exposition such that in no case would they alienate the viewer, but, on the contrary, would attract and liberate. Sometimes it might seem that the author is allegedly playing with you through colours and shapes. Or through familiar things: it was enough to look at a rethought vyshyvanka (embroidered shirt) or sneakers that supposedly fly forward on their own. And sometimes it even seemed that we, the audience, were being provoked to think about what fine art is today. For example, through the inscription 'Look deeper'...

I caught myself thinking that all the works that were presented at the Salon were actually capable of provoking



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disputes and discussions about the state and future of the artistic community of Belarus (after all, these young people will grow up and subsequently determine the level of creative thought). One can't but think about it. But while closely examining the exhibition, I still wondered more: what is the main thing for young artists? I think it's humanity. For the sake of which they create their works and about which they write portraits, reflect the figures in an unexpected way, presenting the image of their contemporary. All this to the fact that contemporary art, and young people represent it in the first place, actually reflects the life of the country. And these 246 authors from various regions of Belarus, whose works were placed under the roof of the Palace of Art, actually draw and embody the future. To capture it, including for history.

However, from contemporary art, as well as from the art of modernity, people also expect a reflection of today's life with a number of its acute questions and answers to them in a figurative form. It is important that the visual language, the language of art, become the language of communication and help answer these questions. So that it is not a series of fashionable games, but becomes something that helps a person to understand the problems of modern life.

Some people think that tradition is exceptionally good. If there are no alternative ways of understanding some phenomena. The Autumn Salon is just interesting because of its unexpected neighbourhood, which allows you to see the context where certain artists exist. One way or another, everyone responds to those images that are close, nearby in everyday life.

Belarusian art is what it is, because... The continuation of this phrase can be very different for viewers and specialists who see world trends. Therefore, views from the outside are interesting. Especially if they have different approaches. Belarusian art is largely a descendant of post-Soviet art, many art critics say. But does the movement of art go only along one track, where someone pulls ahead and it is imperative to learn a single globalist language? Yes, many artists speak it. But how will Belarusians be interesting among others if there is no sentimentality, softness of intonation that distinguishes them? The world still needs diversity. No, one cannot, of course, deny the development of new technologies and forms of expression, but it is important to preserve one's identity in this endeavour. The language of expression itself may be outwardly similar, but there is a separate issue, intonation, content. After all, the world is actually more complicated.

Veniamin **Mikheyev**

ГОЛАС РАДЗІМЫ

Весткі з Беларусі



ГАЛОЎНАЙ КНІЖНАЙ СКАРБНІЦЫ – 100 ГАДОЎ!

Стагоддзе Нацыянальнай
бібліятэкі Беларусі ўнесена
ў календар памятных дат
ЮНЕСКА



Рыхтавацца да векаваго юбілею Нацыянальная бібліятэка пачала задоўга да адзначаемай даты. Ствараліся віртуальныя рэсурсы, на якіх выкладаліся архіўныя фатаграфіі і дакументы, запісваліся ўспаміны людзей, якія ў розныя гады займаліся захаваннем і папулярызацыяй нацыянальных кніжных скарбаў, адбіраліся кнігі і дакументы для будучых выставак. І нават непасрэдна Дзень нараджэння супрацоўнікі «алмаза ведаў» (так называюць бібліятэку за незвычайную архітэктурную будынку) правялі за дзелавымі сустрэчамі — прымалі калег з усёй Беларусі і дэлегатаў з шасці краін: Азербайджана, Арменіі, Казахстана, Кыргызстана, Расіі і Узбекістана. Сотні гасцей! Гэта вядучыя спецыялісты бібліятэк, музеяў, архіваў, навукова-даследчых арганізацый, адукацыйных устаноў, выдавецтваў, распрацоўшчыкі інфармацыйных рэсурсаў, прадстаўнікі дзяржаўных структур. Такім маштабным атрымаўся IX Міжнародны кангрэс «Бібліятэка як феномен культуры». Стагоддзе ўстановы мае сусветнае значэнне і ўнесена ў календар памятных дат ЮНЕСКА.

Пералічваць усе юбілейныя мерапрыемствы можна доўга. Адбылася сустрэча з ветэранамі бібліятэчнай справы. Прайшлі музейныя заняткі з юнымі чытачамі, прысвечаныя юбілярцы. Ладзіліся выстаўкі выдавецкай прадукцыі, электронных інфармацыйных рэсурсаў і сэрвісаў і гашэнне паштовай маркі «100 гадоў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы Беларусі»; XXVI Агульны сход некамерцыйнага партнёрства «Бібліятэчная асамблея Еўразіі» і віртуальныя сустрэчы (Прэзідэнт Міжнароднай федэрацыі бібліятэчных асацыяцый Барбара Лізон, дырэктар Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Кітая Ксён Хуамінг і выканаўчы дырэктар Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Катары Так Хьюісм змаглі перадаць свае віншаванні і пажаданні, дзякуючы сучасным тэхналогіям).

Прайшла ўрачыстая цырымонія ўзнагароджання супрацоўнікаў бібліятэкі міністэрствамі і ведам-

■ Стары будынак бібліятэкі. Так званая «Ленінка» прымала чытачоў на працягу 70 гадоў



ствамі. Госці перадалі Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы каштоўныя падарункі, сярод якіх карціны, што будуць упрыгожваць установу, кнігі і лічбавыя копіі рарытэтаў, якія ствараліся на беларускіх землях, але захоўваюцца ў бібліятэках замежжа. Узнагароды атрымалі і ўдзельнікі XXXРэспубліканскага конкурсу «Бібліятэка — асяродак нацыянальнай культуры», на які бібліятэчныя ўстановы краіны прадставілі лепшыя праекты па папулярызацыі чытання, збору, захаванні культурных і духоўных каштоўнасцяў,

расказалі пра новыя формы працы з чытачамі.

У гэтыя ж дні Нацыянальная бібліятэка ладзіла шматлікія экскурсіі. Яна нават абзавялася новым электронным памочнікам — гасцей сустракае робат, ён расказвае пра цікавыя факты, звязаныя з бібліятэкай, забаўляе самых юных наведвальнікаў, жартуе і адорвае кампліментамі.

Для чытачоў юбілей стаў сапраўдным адкрыццём. У бібліятэцы адначасова праходзіць шэраг выставак, дзе ўстанова раскрывае свае сакрэты,

падказвае, якія каштоўнасці можна знайсці ў яе фондах і дазваляе здзейсніць падарожжа ў часе. Гэтымі магчымасцямі скарысталіся і карэспандэнты «Голаса Радзімы».

Пабываць у мінулым

Сваю гісторыю Нацыянальная бібліятэка Беларусі вядзе з 1922 года, калі 15 верасня Савет Народных камісараў Беларускай ССР прыняў пастанову «Аб стварэнні Беларускай дзяржаўнай бібліятэкі і абавязковай рэгістрацыі ўсіх твораў друку, якія выходзілі ў межах ССРБ». Але нельга забываць, што самыя каштоўныя калекцыі пачалі фарміравацца яшчэ задоўга да стварэння такой установы. І тут можна звярнуцца да гісторыі кнігадрукавання на нашых землях.

За пяць гадоў маладая бібліятэка завязала кантакты з партнёрамі з больш чым 20 краін Еўропы і Амерыкі, а па колькасці экзэмпляраў і каштоўнасці калекцый увайшла ў трыццатку лепшых бібліятэк свету. Імклівы рост фондаў і колькасці чытачоў падштурхнулі кіраўніцтва краіны прыняць рашэнне аб будаўніцтве для бібліятэкі новага «дому». Так з'явіўся знакаміты будынак (які гараджане называлі «Ленінкай») на Чырвонаармейскай вуліцы. Тут бібліятэка прымала чытачоў на працягу 70 гадоў.

Больш дзесяцігоддзя пра гісторыю ўстановы дазваляе новая выстаўка «Нацыянальная бібліятэка Беларусі: учора, сёння, заўтра», якая адкрылася напярэдадні юбілею. Тут сабраны архіўныя фотаздымкі, зробленыя ў розныя часы дзейнасці ўстановы. На адным з іх фатаграф заспеў першых супрацоўнікаў бібліятэкі і іх дырэктара Іосіфа Сіманюскага. Архіўныя здымкі даюць уяўленне аб тым, у якіх умовах абслугоўваліся чытачы. На выстаўцы змешчаны дакументы і выданні розных часоў, падрыхтаваныя бібліятэкарамі, дзе таксама можна знайсці старыя фатаграфіі. А за шкляной вітрынай на экспазіцыі размешчаны праект бібліятэкі, над якім працаваў архітэктар Лаўроў у 1929 годзе.

Гэты будынак установа атрымала на сваё дзесяцігоддзе.

Фотавыстаўка перадае гісторыю бібліятэкі. Можна пабачыць, як яна аднавілася пасля Вялікай Айчыннай вайны (супрацоўнікі ўзяліся за гэтую справу літаральна праз тыдзень пасля вызвалення Мінска і ў лістападзе 1944 года ўжо абслугоўвалі чытачоў). Фотападарожжа дазваляе ўгадаць, як жыла ўстанова ў розныя дзесяцігоддзі, зазірнуць у чытальныя залы, а сталыя чытачы, магчыма, пазнаюць на кадрах сябе.

На адкрыцці выстаўкі прысутнічалі даўнія сябры і партнёры. Намеснік дырэктара Нацыянальнага архіва Рэспублікі Беларусь Алена Стуканавы заўважыла, што сёння цяжка знайсці ўстанову, гісторыя якой была б настолькі поўна і дакладна прадстаўлена. У Нацыянальным архіве толькі на картачцы фонда, у якім захоўваюцца дакументы, звязаныя з галоўнай бібліятэкай краіны, яна бачыла запіс: «Гісторыя арганізацыі фондастваральніка ўдакладненая цалкам».

Доўгія гады з Нацыянальнай бібліятэкай супрацоўнічае член Беларускага саюза мастакоў, Беларускага саюза дызайнераў, арт-крытык Ларыса Фінкельштэйн. Такому сяброўству ўжо паўстагоддзя — менавіта гэтая жанчына пачынала рабіць першыя мастацкія выстаўкі ў памяшканнях бібліятэкі. Яшчэ ў яе старым будынку. Плошчаў тады не хапала і карціны размяшчаліся нават пад столы.

Сучасная бібліятэка мае шыкоўныя выставачныя залы, тут ладзіцца багата разнастайных праектаў з творцамі.

Архіўныя здымкі дапаўняюцца работамі сучасных фотамайстроў. Гэта пераасэнсаванне незвычайнай прасторы. Фатаграфы шукалі сімвалы, дэталі, па якіх чытачы могуць пазнаць будынак і яго памяшканні, падавалі бібліятэку праз розныя ракурсы.

Новы будынак, які ўжо стаў візітнай карткай краіны, бібліятэка атрымала ў 2006 годзе. Гэта была ўсенародная будоўля, у якой задзейнічалі будаўнікоў з усёй Беларусі. Выкарыс-



■ Праект бібліятэкі распроцоўваўся ў 90-я гады
■ Гэта была ўсенародная будоўля, у якой задзейнічалі будаўнікоў з усёй Беларусі

тоўваліся перадавыя тэхналогіі, прымаўліся нестандартныя рашэнні. Так, упершыню на тэрыторыі СНД тут была зманціравана сістэма тэлеліфтаў — кнігі падаюцца чытачу ў спецыяльных цялежках, што дазваляе скараціць час дастаўкі заказанай літаратуры да 20 хвілін.

Кнігасховішча ў «алмазе ведаў» размяшчаецца не пад, а над зямлёй. Дзякуючы такой навацыі прасцей падтрымліваць мікраклімат у будынку.

Дарэчы, праект Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі з'явіўся яшчэ ў 1989 год-

дзе — яго на творчым конкурсе на лепшае архітэктурнае рашэнне новага будынка бібліятэкі прадставілі архітэктары Вінаградаў і Крамарэнка. Праўда, будоўля была адкладзена на цэлае дзесяцігоддзе. «Што і добра, — упэўнены прафесар, доктар архітэктуры жылых і грамадскіх будынкаў архітэктурнага факультэта Беларускага нацыянальнага тэхнічнага ўніверсітэта Сяргей Сергачоў. — За гэты час у практнай справе з'явіліся новыя тэхналогіі. Гэта дало магчымасць не спрашчаць складаную архітэктурную. З'явілася но-

вае інжынернае забеспячэнне. Сёння будынак Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі ўваходзіць у энцыклапедыі і сусветныя даведнікі па архітэктуры. Да таго ж, гэты архітэктурна-будаўнічы аб'ект зручны ў карыстанні, чытачу тут утульна і ён можа разлічваць на якаснае абслугоўванне. Адзіная ідэя з праекта 1989 года не была здзейсненая — на фотавыстаўцы можна пабачыць, што макет будынка быў выкананы ў залацістых колерах. Можа яно і да лепшага, ва ўсялякім разе, фотамастакі паказалі, як сучасны будынак упісваецца ў прастору, як у яго шклянёй паверхні адлюстроўваюцца аб'екты і горад.

Даведацца пра сучаснае

Адкрыццё новага будынка дазволіла бібліятэцы ператварыцца ў шматфункцыянальны сацыя-культурны цэнтр. Тут адзначаюцца дзяржаўныя святы і знакавыя даты, юбілей пісьменнікаў, мастакоў, даследчыкаў, праводзяцца круглыя сталы, кансультацыі, канферэнцыі, лекцыі і нават заняты. Школьнікі больш даведаюцца пра знакамітых асоб Бацькаўшчыны, для самых маленькіх наведвальнікаў працуе дзіцячы пакой.

Бібліятэка прымае шматлікія дэлегацыі, якія часам прывозяць падарункі. Спецыяльна да юбілея супрацоўнікі вырашылі дастаць гэтыя скарбы са сховішчаў і прадставіць на адметнай выстаўцы «Бібліякомпас. Навігатар па падарунках бібліятэцы». Большасць экспанатаў выстаўляюцца ўпершыню.

Адкрываецца экспазіцыя кнігамі з калекцыі дароў Прэзідэнту Рэспублікі Беларусь, перададзеных на захоўванне ў фонд галоўнай кніжнай скарбніцы краіны.

Прадстаўлены на выстаўцы і ўзнагароды, атрыманыя бібліятэкай за паспяховую працу ў здзяйсненні выдавецкіх праектаў па захаванні і папулярызацыі кніжнай спадчыны, за актыўную дзейнасць у галіне міжнароднага гуманітарнага супрацоўніцтва. У экспазіцыі змешчаны кнігі, дзе пакінулі словы падзякі і звароты да чытачоў класікі беларускай літаратуры.

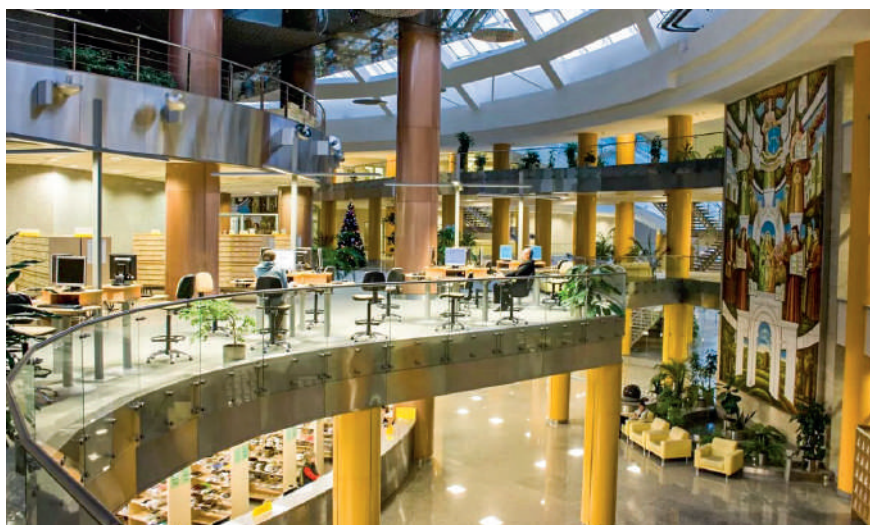


Яўген Пасецкі

- Выстаўка «Нацыянальная бібліятэка Беларусі: учора, сёння, заўтра»
- На ўваходзе ў бібліятэку чытачоў сустракае новы «супрацоўнік»
- Так выглядаюць залы сучаснай бібліятэкі



Яўген Пясецкі



туры Пімен Панчанка, Іван Навуменка, Іван Мележ, Іван Шамякін, Янка Мазур, Аляксей Дудараў і іншыя, а таксама выданні з аўтографамі мастакоў і вучоных.

І зазірнуць у будучыню

Пытанні будучага ўстановы абмяркоўваліся падчас Міжнароднага кангрэсу «Бібліятэка як феномен культуры». Асноўнай тэмай на ім стала — «Лічбавая трансфармацыя бібліятэк: пераамнасць і вектар развіцця».

— У фондах бібліятэк знаходзіцца багатая інтэлектуальная спадчына, важнейшы складнік духоўнага і матэрыяльнага багацця, культурнага, інфармацыйнага патэнцыялу нацыі, — заўважыў на адкрыцці кангрэса намеснік міністра культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь Сяргей Саракач. — У Беларусі сфарміравалася бібліятэчная сетка, якая ўключае ў сябе каля сямі тысяч публічных і спецыяльных бібліятэк сукупным аб'ёмам фондаў больш за 180 мільёнаў экзэмпляраў. Бібліятэкі актыўна асвойваюць інавацыйныя пады-

ходы ў сваёй дзейнасці, інтэнсіўна развіваюць бібліятэчныя тэхналогіі, укараняюць новыя формы працы.

Ва ўмовах лічбавай трансфармацыі грамадства Нацыянальная бібліятэка шмат увагі надае фарміраванню і развіццю інфармацыйнай інфраструктуры, актыўна працуе над стварэннем лічбавага кантэнту, генеруе ўласныя электронныя прадукты, набывае рэсурсы буйнейшых вытворцаў і прадстаўляе доступ да нацыянальных і сусветных інфармацыйных крыніц. Карыстальнікі атрымалі доступ для работы з ліцэнзійнымі базамі дадзеных буйных кантэнт-правайдараў рэсурсаў і мільёнаў дакументаў адкрытага доступу. Дзякуючы аблічбоўцы ўласных дакументаў і атрыманню лічбавых копіяў дакументаў ад праваўладальнікаў актыўна фарміруецца фонд электроннай бібліятэкі галоўнай кніжнай скарбніцы краіны. На сёння ён складаецца з 640 тысяч паўнатэкставых дакументаў.

Генеральны дырэктар Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Беларусь Аксана Кніжнікава выказала сваё бачанне перспектывы: «У аснову нашых дзеянняў неабходна закласці чаканні чытачоў у адносінах да бібліятэкі. Гэта шлях няпросты, але мы павінны па ім прайсці, своєчасова вырашаючы праблемы».

Алена **Дзядзюля**



Народны паэт, пражайк,
драматург, публіцыст,
крытык, перакладчык,
педагог, грамадскі
дзеяч. Шматграннасць
творчых здольнасцяў
і самабытны талент
Якуба Коласа не
перастаюць здзіўляць
даследчыкаў. З нагоды
140-гадовага юбілею
Песняра яны сабраліся
на канферэнцыі,
аб'яднанай новай тэмай
у асэнсаванні творчай
спадчыны пісьменніка.

Марыя Міцкевіч:

**«КОЛАС БУДЗЕ
ЖЫЦЬ У НАШЫХ
СЭРЦАХ І НАШЫХ
ДАСЛЕДАВАННЯХ»**



Аляксандр Каваленя:

«Творчы здабытак і навуковая дзейнасць Канстанціна Міхайлавіча Міцкевіча — прыклад самаадданай працы, грамадзянскага служэння Айчыне, найкаштоўнейшага ўнёску ў гісторыю беларускай літаратуры і мовы. У яго мастацкіх творах адлюстроўваецца цэлая эпоха культурнага жыцця Беларусі. Кожны яго тэкст, кожная яго праца прасякнуты глыбокім унутраным нацыянальным пачуццём.»

Канферэнцыя «Вялікі Пясняр беларускага народа Якуб Колас — адзін са стваральнікаў сучаснай беларускай літаратурнай мовы» сабрала вучоных, выкладчыкаў ВНУ і школ. Даследчыкі адзначалі, што і сёння пакінутыя пісьменнікам літаратурныя і моўныя скарбы дапамагаюць выхоўваць падрастаючае пакаленне.

— Творчы здабытак і навуковая дзейнасць Канстанціна Міхайлавіча Міцкевіча — прыклад самаадданай працы, грамадзянскага служэння Айчыне, найкаштоўнейшага ўнёску ў гісторыю беларускай літаратуры і мовы. У яго мастацкіх творах адлюстроўваецца цэлая эпоха культурнага жыцця Беларусі. Кожны яго тэкст, кожная яго праца прасякнуты глыбокім унутраным нацыянальным пачуццём, — заўважыў акадэмік-сакратар аддзялення гуманітарных навук і мастацтваў НАН Аляксандр Каваленя.

Якуб Колас стаў адным з першых правядзеных членаў Акадэміі навук Беларусі, са снежня 1929 года — членам прэзідыума і віцэ-прэзідэнтам. Ён многа зрабіў для развіцця і ўзбагачэння сучаснай беларускай літаратурнай

мовы. У якасці навуковага рэдактара ўдзельнічаў у падрыхтоўцы першага выдання руска-беларускага слоўніка, які пабачыў свет у 1953 годзе. Гэты слоўнік мае дзясятка перавыданняў. Працаваў Пясняр і над правіламі беларускай арфаграфіі і пунктуацыі. На працягу некалькіх гадоў узначальваў арфаграфічную камісію. Не здарма Інстытут мовазнаўства Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук носіць імя Якуба Коласа.

Загадчыца аддзела сучаснай беларускай мовы Інстытута мовазнаўства Валянціна Русак звярнула ўвагу, што да гэтага часу адсутнічае поўнае лексіка-графічнае даследаванне моўнага багацця пісьмовай спадчыны Пясняра. Яна паабяцала, што ў бліжэйшы час вучоныя падрыхтуюць слоўнік мовы Якуба Коласа ў пяці тамах, які ўзбагаціць ранейшыя ўяўленні пра вялікі ўклад пісьменніка ў нацыянальную культуру, а таксама паспрыяе далейшаму вывучэнню літаратурнай спадчыны класіка.

Прафесар кафедры тэарэтычнага і славянскага мовазнаўства БДУ Ніна Мячкоўская звярнула ўвагу калег

на тое, што трылогія Якуба Коласа «На ростанях» з'яўляецца крыніцай сведчанняў па гісторыі беларускай мовы ў першай чвэрці XX стагоддзя. І гэта нягледзячы на тое, што падзеі ў першых дзвюх кнігах Колас пачаў апісваць праз дваццаць гадоў пасля таго, як яны адбываліся. Гэта фактычна ўспаміны. Пісьменнік пачаў працаваць над першай кнігай пасля вяртання на радзіму ў 1921 годзе (у часы Першай сусветнай вайны яго сям'я вымушана была пераехаць у Расію). Даследчыца адзначыла аўтабіяграфічнасць і дакументалізм першага беларускага рамана. Біяграфія галоўнага героя і пісьменніка супадаюць да тыдняў. Тут узгадваюцца і гады, калі Колас пачынаў сваю педагогічную дзейнасць, і першы зезд беларускіх настаўнікаў, адным з арганізатараў якога ён выступіў, апісваюцца мясціны, дзе пабываў пісьменнік. Праз галоўнага героя Колас адкрывае чытачу свае думкі, ацэнкі, веды. А праз размовы яго з іншымі персанажамі паказвае, як развівалася мова ў пачатку XX стагоддзя.



Канферэнцыя — выдатная магчымасць для даследчыкаў асэнсаваць ролю, якую адыгралі знакамітыя творцы, што паўплывалі на развіццё айчынай культуры. Якуб Колас паспеў праявіць сябе ў розных галінах, і нельга забывацца, колькі многа ім было зроблена для станаўлення беларускай школы. На гэты аспект звярнуў увагу мастацтвазнаўца Алесь Суша. Так, кар’ера Коласа пачыналася менавіта з педагогічнай дзейнасці. У свой час яго нават называлі «першым беларускім настаўнікам першай беларускай школы». Справа ў тым, што ў часы Расійскай імперыі пэўны час навучанне на беларускай мове было забаронена, і Колас адзін з першых паспрабаваў змяніць сітуацыю і нават займаўся з дзеткамі нелегальна, за што патрапіў у турму. Уласна, самая першая кніга Коласа — гэта падручнік «Другое чытанне для дзяцей беларусаў». Колас бачыў гэту кнігу не толькі як дапаможнік для навучання чытанню і пісьму, але і як падручнік па выхаванню годнага і адданага краю грамадзяніна. Тут апрача вершаў, падаюцца апавяданні, народны фальклор, казкі ў мастацкай апрацоўцы Якуба Коласа. Выданне аказала выключны ўплыў на педагогічную думку і станаўленне адукацыі на беларускіх землях.

Колас працаваў не толькі ў школах, але і на курсах для педагогаў, выкладаў у Мінскім педагогічным тэхнікуме. Фактычна, ён рыхтаваў першае пакаленне ўжо легальных беларускіх настаўнікаў. Як паказаў час, з Педагогічнага каледжа выходзіла і багата таленавітых пісьменнікаў...



- Унучка Якуба Коласа Вера Міцкевіч
- Праўнучка пісьменніка Васіліна Міцкевіч

Дыялогі навукоўцаў



Спадарожніца Коласа рабіла усё, каб стварыць умовы, у якіх яе мужу будзе камфортна займацца творчасцю, яна была яго дарадцам, сябрам і першым крытыкам. А, галоўнае, стала для Коласа пучыводнай зоркай.

Шмат для захавання спадчыны пісьменніка робяць яго нашчадкі. Унучка Якуба Коласа Марыя Міцкевіч, звяртаючыся да ўдзельнікаў канферэнцыі, запэўніла: «Колас будзе жыць у нашых сэрцах, і нашых даследаваннях». Яна нагадала, што сёлета сваякі пісьменніка ўдзельнічалі ў шматлікіх праектах, прымеркаваных да 140-годдзя класіка. Так, праўнучкай Васілінай Міцкевіч былі падрыхтаваны розныя выстаўкі. Адна з іх «Якуб Колас — дэпутат» была прэзентавана падчас адкрыцця дзявятай сесіі Палаты прадстаўнікоў Нацыянальнага сходу сёмага склікання. Выйшла факсімільнае выданне зборніка вершаў Коласа «Водгулле» (упершыню гэта кніга пабачыла свет 100 гадоў таму).

Але адной з найбольш значных падзей нашчадкі лічаць выхад кнігі, прысвечанай жонцы Якуба Коласа — Марыі Дзмітрыеўне Каменс-

кай «Табой я жыў, табой живу...», на прэзентацыю якой былі запрошаны і ўдзельнікі канферэнцыі. Сустрэча прайшла ў Дзяржаўным літаратурным музеі Якуба Коласа.

Некалі сястра Песняра, якая шмат гадоў перапісвалася з Марыяй Дзмітрыеўнай, заўважыла: «Каб не такая жонка брату надарылася, можа, ён такім вялікім не стаў бы». Сапраўды, спадарожніца Коласа рабіла усё, каб стварыць умовы, у якіх яе мужу будзе камфортна займацца творчасцю, яна была яго дарадцам, сябрам і першым крытыкам. А, галоўнае, стала для Коласа пучыводнай зоркай. Адна з укладальніц кнігі, галоўны захавальнік фондаў музея Якуба Коласа, праўнучка пісьменніка Васіліна Міцкевіч, прыгадала, што ў сваёй эпістальнай спадчыне паэт адзначаў, што такая жанчына, як Марыя Дзмітрыеўна, трапляецца адна на дзесяць тысяч.

Новая кніга пагружае чытача ў глыбокія пачуцці, па-новаму раскрывае асобу творцы і яго блізкіх, дазваляе нават па-іншаму зірнуць на некаторыя творы класіка. Так, у той жа паэме «Новая зямля», якую крытыкі ахрысцілі «энцыклапедыяй сялянскага жыцця», адначасова пісьменнік паказваў, якімі былі стасункі ў сям'і.

У кнізе сабраны вершы і лісты Коласа да жонкі, фотаздымкі, малюнкi, ліставанне Марыі Дзмітрыеўны з роднымі і сябрамі, вершы, якія прысвяцілі ёй розныя пісьменнікі, успаміны сыноў Данілы і Міхася. Сюды ж увайшлі дакументы, якія знаходзяцца ў фондах музея Якуба Коласа і перапіска з сямейных архіваў, якая беражліва зберагалася нашчадкамі. Многія дакументы друкуюцца ўпершыню. За імі стаяць цёплыя пачуцці, шчымлівыя гісторыі і факты, пра якія родным, як падзялілася адна з укладальніц кнігі і даследчыц творчасці Коласа, яго ўнучка Вера Міцкевіч, было няпроста ўспамінаць. Так ў кнізе змешчаны апошні ліст, які пісьменнік даслаў сваёй жонцы ў маі 1945 года, адказаць на які яна, цяжка хворая, ужо не змагла...

Алена **Дзядзюля**

ЯК МЯНЯЕЦЦА ПРЫДАРОЖНЫ СЭРВІС

Дарогі — візітная картка краіны. І Беларусі тут ёсць чым пахваліцца. Для аўтамабілістаў і турыстаў, якія вандруюць па рэспубліцы, важным пунктам з’яўляюцца кропкі прыдарожнага сэрвісу. З кожным годам ён прырастае новымі аб’ектамі: адчыняюцца кафэ, гасцініцы, аўтазапраўкі і рамы, у якія турысты могуць зазірнуць падчас вандроўкі. Пашыраецца пералік паслуг, ствараюцца ўмовы для камфортнага і бяспечнага адпачынку, як саміх кіроўцаў, так і іх пасажыраў.

Як паведаміў начальнік упраўлення развіцця аўтамабільных дарог Міністэрства транспарту і камунікацый Сяргей Лявончык, патрабаванні да размяшчэння аб’ектаў і іх нападуння кантралююцца заканадаўствам. Разам з Міністэрствам спорту і турызму вядзецца актыўны маніторынг і аналіз існуючых пунктаў. Кантралюецца колькасць пабудаваных і абсталяваных аб’ектаў сэрвісу, кемпінгаў. На базе некаторых з іх можна пазнаёміцца з рэкламна-інфармацыйным матэрыялам аб турыстычным патэнцыяле краіны.

Рэканструюцца і будуцца новыя аб’екты, якія ўлічваюць патрабаванні сучасных аўтападарожнікаў. Так, праекты заправачных станцый аб’яднання «Беларуснафта» носяць стандартызаваны модульны характар. Падарожніку зручна, калі касы размяшчаюцца ў звычайным месцы, ён ведае, дзе знаходзіцца санітарны пакой, дзе набыць ежу, тавары, неабходныя ў дарозе, дзе вырашыць тэхнічныя пытанні, звязаныя з абслугоўваннем аўтамабіля. Сёлета ўжо ўведзена ў эксплуатацыю

пасля рэканструкцыі і будоўлі дзевяць такіх комплексаў, якія ўключаюць зоны харчавання і гандлёвыя кропкі, а да канца года будуць уведзены яшчэ шэсць.

Аўтазаправачныя станцыі размешчаны па ўсёй тэрыторыі Беларусі. На сёння іх 575. Усе яны адпавядаюць неабходным патрабаванням і аказваюць паслугі, якія запатрабаваныя ўладальнікамі аўтамабіляў.

У сярэднім па Беларусі адлегласць паміж запраўкамі на трасе — 40 кіламетраў, для параўнання: ў Расійскай Федэрацыі яна большая за 200 км. Варта адзначыць, што ў межах саюзных праграм рэалізуюцца праекты па ўзвядзенню прыдарожных збудаванняў па стандартах, прынятых у абедзвюх краінах.

Паспяховы вопыт па развіццю прыдарожнага сэрвісу ў Беларусі ўжо пераймаецца ў некаторых рэгіёнах Расійскай Федэрацыі.

З 2011 года адно з патрабаванняў пры пабудове аб’ектаў прыдарожнага сэрвісу — стварэнне ўмоў для людзей з абмежаванымі магчымасцямі. Так на новых аб’ектах, а таксама на тых, што адкрываюцца пасля рэканструкцыі, ствараецца безбар’ернае асяроддзе, як унутры будынкаў, санітарных збудаванняў, так і на тэрыторыі комплексаў: стаянак, парковак, праходаў.

Абавязковае патрабаванне да аб’ектаў прыдарожнага сэрвісу — наяўнасць стаянак. Пры іх пабудове ўлічваецца, што на тэрыторыі будзе спыняцца не толькі легкавы і грузавы транспарт, але і аўтобусы з турыстамі.



■ Прыдарожны рэстаран на трасе Мінск-Гродна



■ Прыдарожны рэстаран на трасе Мінск-Магілёў

На заўвагу вандроўніку



■ Вольга Журко працуе ў прыдарожнай кавярні



З'явіліся і пляцоўкі для караванераў — такіх пунктаў прыпынку для ўладальнікаў «дамоў на калёсах» у краіне ўжо два дзясяткі. Тут вадзіцелі могуць падзарадзіць акумулятары, набраць вады і атрымаць увесь комплекс неабходных паслуг.

Сёння аўтазапраўкі становяцца зручнымі для сем'яў, які падарожнічаюць з дзецьмі. Для малых робяцца гульнявыя пляцоўкі, усталяваныя арэлі. Не забываюцца тут і на бяспеку дзяцей — такая тэрыторыя агароджваецца.

Аб'екты прыдарожнага сэрвісу развіваюцца з улікам тых запытаў, якія паступаюць ад падарожнікаў. Абавязкова ў кожным пункце працуе бясплатная кропка Wi-Fi. У кавярнях пры запраўках аўтаўладальнікі сустракаюцца з дзелавымі партнёрамі,

працуюць за ноўтбукамі і зараджаюць гаджэты. Паступаюць нават запыты на прадастаўленне памяшканняў для правядзення міні-канферэнцый і прэзентацый. Адна з такіх залаў, дзе партнёры збіраюцца на нарады, створана на новай заправачнай станцыі побач са сталічным аэрапортам. У рэгіёнах часта ў аб'ектах прыдарожнага сэрвісу святкуюцца дні нараджэнняў, заязджаюць сюды і вясельныя пары.

Вядома, што ў Беларусі ствараюцца ўмовы для пераходу на экалагічныя віды транспарту. У краіне плануюць асвоіць масавую вытворчасць электрамабіляў. Нацыянальная Акадэмія навук сумесна з Міністэрствам прамысловасці рэалізуе падпраграму «Развіццё электратранспарту» дзяржпраграмы «Навукаёмістыя тэхналогіі і тэхніка» на 2021—2025 гады. Вучо-

ныя распрацавалі нацынне для электратранспарту: электрарухавік, рэдуктарныя вузлы, сістэмы кіравання рухавікамі, батарэямі. У верасні гэтага года, калі праводзілася электралі «Minsk Electro», айчынным інжынерам прэзентавалі адну са сваіх новых распрацовак — спартыўны электракар. Сёння яны шчыруюць над стварэннем мадэляў, якія могуць выкарыстоўвацца ў прамысловасці.

Пакуль вучоныя ствараюць электрамабілі, транспартнікі актыўна развіваюць інфраструктуру. Дзяржаўным аператарам па ўсталяванню станцый па зарадцы электрамабіляў з'яўляецца кампанія «Беларуснафта». Менавіта на яе сайце ўладальнікі экалагічна бяспечнага транспарту могуць атрымаць інфармацыю, аб тым, дзе на тэрыторыі Беларусі можна «падсілкаваць» сваё аўто. На сёння ў краіне працуе ўжо 600 электразарадак, яшчэ 33 будуць пабудаваны да канца года. Новыя станцыі будуць з'яўляцца і далей з улікам развіцця і павелічэння колькасці электратранспарту.

Яўген Кручкоў



ІХ АБ'ЯДНОЎВАЕ ІНІЦЫЯТЫВА І КЛОПАТ

На пасяджэнні Кансультатыўнага міжэтнічнага савета пры Упаўнаважаным па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў прадстаўнікі нацыянальных аб'яднанняў абмеркавалі пытанні аб магчымасці супрацоўніцтва з Беларускім фондам міру. Сёння гэта адна са

Маўр, Кандрат Крапіва, Іван Мележ, Іван Шамякін, кампазітары Ігар Лучанок, Яўген Глебаў і Эдуард Ханок, калектывы “Песняры”, “Верасы” і “Сябры”. З 1991 года Беларускі фонд міру дзейнічае як самастойная арганізацыя, але ён

актыўна супрацоўнічае з падобнымі аб'яднаннямі ў іншых краінах.

Сёння Беларускі фонд міру аб'ядноўвае каля ста тысяч членаў. Яшчэ каля мільёна валанцёраў далучаюцца да разнастайных пра-



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старэйшых і найбольш уплывовых грамадскіх арганізацый Беларусі, праграмы якой скіраваныя на міратворчую, дабрачынную і гуманітарную дзейнасць.

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У мінулым годзе арганізацыя адзначыла 60-гадовы юбілей. Яна працягвае традыцыі Савецкага фонда міру. Першым кіраўніком беларускага падраздзялення быў знакаміты скульптар, народны мастак БССР і СССР Заір Азгур. У розны час з арганізацыяй супрацоўнічалі пісьменнікі Янка

■ У Гарадоцкім раёне адноўлены помнік партызанам «Гаспадар лесу»



■ Юныя міратворцы Гомельскай вобласці



грам, якія ладзіць арганізацыя. У склад праўлення Беларускага фонду міру ўваходзяць кіраўнікі асноўных рэлігійных канфесій Беларусі. Максім Місько прапанаваў і кіраўнікам нацыянальна-культурных аб'яднанняў таксама далучыцца да арганізацыі, тым больш, што прадстаўнікі розных народаў, для якіх Беларусь стала домам, вельмі актыўна ўдзельнічаюць ў дабрачынных мерапрыемствах, выступаюць з канцэртамі ў дзіцячых установах.

Фонд міру клапаціцца пра захаванне памяці аб гістарычных падзеях, дапамагае дзецям у іх творчых праектах, не забываецца на людзей, якія патрапілі ў складаную жыццёвую сітуацыю. Так, калі ў 1986 здарылася аварыя на Чарнобыльскай АЭС, фонд актыўна ўключыўся ў збор дапамогі для пацярпелых раёнаў. Праз яго збіраліся сродкі і перадавалася гуманітарная дапамога. Арганізоўвалася аздараўленне беларускіх дзяцей з забруджаных раёнаў за межамі рэспублікі. І з пачаткам

пандэміі Беларускі фонд міру адным з першых уключыўся ў работу. Быў распачаты збор сродкаў для забеспячэння бальніц ўсім неабходным – ад масак і касцюмаў індывідуальнай абароны для медыкаў да апаратаў штучнай вентыляцыі лёгкіх.

Сёння пад апекай фонда знаходзяцца дзіцячыя дамы і ветэраны вайны. Па ініцыятыве актывістаў на дамах і кватэрах ветэранаў па ўсёй рэспубліцы ўсталяваны памятныя шыльды, якія сведчаць, што тут пражывае чалавек, які ў гады вайны змагаўся за мір на зямлі.

Асаблівае значэнне ў дзейнасці Беларускага фонду міру надаецца клопату аб ветэранах. У прыватнасці, аказваецца дапамога ўстановам аховы здароўя ў абсталяванні палат для камфортнага знаходжання паважаных пацыентаў. Плануецца зрабіць ветэранскія палаты ва ўсіх бальніцах рэспублікі. На сёння іх ужо тысячы. У палатах маецца неабходнае медыцынскае абсталяванне – спецыяльныя ложка, пульсаксіметры,

танометры, тэрмометры, а таксама бытавыя прыборы — халадзільнікі і тэлевізары.

Адна з задач Беларускага фонду міру — захаванне памяці пра герояў і ахвяр Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Па ініцыятыве арганізацыі ў Гарадоцкім раёне на Віцебшчыне адноўлены помнік партызанам “Гаспадар лесу”. У Полацку, на месцы лагера для савецкіх ваеннапалонных з’явіўся мемарыяльны комплекс “Урочышча Пяскі”. З ініцыятывай аб яго ўзвядзенні зноў жа выступілі беларускія міратворцы. Летам 2020 года быў адкрыты мемарыяльны комплекс “Боркі”, прысвечаны спаленым вёскам Магілёўскай вобласці.

Сумесна з Нацыянальным архівам Беларускага фонду міру працаваў над праектам “Павышэнне статусу выражанага жыхароў спаленых беларускіх вёсак”. Складаліся спісы гэтых людзей, запісваліся гісторыі, удакладняліся звесткі пра трагедыі. У арганізацыю пісалі і тэлефаналі, як самі сведкі трагедый, так і іх нашчадкі.

Вялікая ўвага Беларускаму фонду міру надаецца выхаванню моладзі. Пры ўдзеле Міністэрства адукацыі ў рэспубліцы здзяйсняецца праграма па стварэнню нацыянальнай сеткі школ міру. На сёння іх ужо каля сотні. Хлопцы і дзяўчаты складаюць вершы, прозу, ствараюць малюнкi на тэмы захавання міру, любові да сваёй зямлі, ўдзельнічаюць у конкурсах і фестывалях, спецыяльных летніх праграмах. Напрыклад, у Рагачоўскім раёне Гомельскай вобласці ўжо два дзесяткі гадоў праходзіць міжнародны летнік сяброўства дзяцей і моладзі “Крынічка”.

Ганна Трошына

ЯСКРАВЫЯ КОЛЕРЫ ВОСЕНІ



На адной з самых вялікіх ў Беларусі патэльняў смажыцца бульба, са сцэны гучаць музыка і віншаванні ганаровых гасцей, вучоныя кансультуюць па вырошчванні розных гатункаў гародніны і садавіны, вядзецца жававы гандаль пасадкавым матэрыялам. Так распачынаўся фестываль-кірмаш “Беларуская восень. Бульба. Плады. Гародніна”. Гэта традыцыйнае мерапрыемства, якое ладзіцца на базе Навукова-практычнага цэнтра Нацыянальнай Акадэміі навук па бульбаводстве і плодаагародніцтве. У ім прымаюць удзел вучоныя-селекцыянеры, прадстаўнікі міністэрстваў і ведамстваў, фермерскіх гаспадарак і індывідуальных прадпрыемстваў.

У праграме фестывалю — канцэрты, семінары, кансультацыі, дэгустацыі, выступленні артыстаў і кірмаш рамеснікаў. Але галоўная разьвітка — выстаўка дасягненняў вучоных у галіне бульбаводства і агародніцтва. Спецыяльна для фестывалю селекцыянеры выстаўляюць сваю лепшую прадукцыю. Побач з гатункамі, якія паспяхова зарэкамендавалі сябе на палях раіны, і найноўшыя распрацоўкі вучоных, якія яшчэ праходзяць выпрабаванні. Для кіраўнікоў гаспадарак, фермераў і звычайных агароднікаў фестываль дае магчымасць прыгледзецца для сябе новыя расліны, атрымаць кансультацыю па вырошчванні, набыць элітнае насенне.

Карпатлівы шлях да ўраджаю

Адкрываў фестываль намеснік Старшыні Прэзідыўма Нацыянальнай Акадэміі навук Беларусі Пётр Казакевіч, які заўважыў, што падобныя мерапрыемствы выгадныя для ўсіх бакоў. Калі агароднікі, бульбаводы і садаводы атрымліваюць доступ для дасягненняў вучоных, так і даследчыкі даведваюцца, як іх гатункі прыжываюцца на розных участках, якія праблемы трэба вырашаць, каб якасць прадукцыі паляпшалася.

Да ўдзельнікаў і гасцей звярнуўся і намеснік міністра сельскай гаспадаркі і харчавання Уладзімір Гракун. Ён упэнены, што дзякуючы супрацы навукоўцаў і сельскагаспадарчых арганізацый, насельніцтва Беларусі будзе забяспечвацца неабходным аб'ёмам якаснай прадукцыі.

Намеснік старшыні Мінскага раёнага выканаўчага камітэта Віктар Грынкевіч нагадаў, што на Міншчыне беларускія вучоныя займаюцца вывядзеннем новых гатункаў на плошчы больш чым у 300 гектараў.

Варта адзначыць, што сёння ў Беларусі цяжка знайсці сельгаспрадпрыемства ці прыватныя ўчастак, дзе б не вырошчваліся гатункі, створаныя беларускімі вучонымі. Селекцыянеры акадэміі навук упэўнены, што развіццё айчыннага садаводства і агародніцтва — гарантыя харчовай бяспекі. Можна ўзгадаць, з якімі праблемамі сутыкаліся некаторыя краіны, напрыклад, вясной 2020 года, калі з-за каранавірусу, карантыну і зачыненых граніц парушаліся гандлёвыя сувязі і зрываліся пастаўкі насення.

Да таго ж айчыныя селекцыянеры ствараюць такія гатункі, якія прыстасаваны пад вырошчванне ў пэўных прыродных умовах. Найперш выводзяцца расліны, якія будуць камфортна сябе пачуваць у розных рэгіёнах рэспублікі. Сёння вучоным трэба ўлічваць і новыя выклікі, звязаныя са змяненнем клімаў і ствараць гатункі, устойлівыя для разнастайных хвароб. Гэта дазваляе, па-першае, эканоміць на прэпаратах для лячэння раслін, а, па-другое, вырабляць экалагічную прадукцыю. Выкарыстанне пэўнай агратэхнікі і прымяненне хуткаспелых гатункаў — яшчэ адзін шлях да вырошчвання “зялёнай” прадукцыі.



Напрыклад, ультраспелыя гатункі бульбы паспяваюць даць ураджай да таго, як расліны “накрые” фітафтора.

Вялікая ўвага надаецца і запытам спажыўцоў. Так, беларуская капуста выдатна падыходзіць для квашэння, чаго не скажаш пра еўрапейскія гатункі (там галоўнае для гэтай гародніны — лёгкасць і транспартабельнасць). А ў Беларусі спажывец не надта спяшаецца пакупаць трывалую, але не смачную агародніну. Альбо, калі тыя ж садаводы спачатку кваяцца на кусты з буйной, прыгожай малінай, то пасля яны ўсё ж пачынаюць шукаць беларускія гатункі з духмянымі ягадамі.

Дзякуючы намаганням селекцыянераў, на палях Беларусі можна вырошчваць традыцыйны прадуктовы набор культур. Але акрамя звыклых буракоў, морквы і капусты, вучоныя працуюць над стварэннем новых, пакуль малараспаўсюджаных культур: фізаліса сунічнага, вострага перца, перца, пастарнака і шматгадовай цыбулі. У Інстытуце агародніцтва ствараюцца і гатункі часнаку — яравога і азімага. Сёння ў краіне агароднікі актыўна вырошчваюць памідоры, перац і баклажаны — і зноў жа еларускім вучоным ёсць што ім парэкамендаваць.

Гатункі на любы густ

На сёння ў Беларусі رایаніравана амаль паўтары сотні гатункаў бульбы, але большасць, з таго, што аграры збіраюць з палёў, менавіта айчынным гатункі. Часта вучоныя даюць ім адметныя беларускія назвы “Скарб”, “Нара”, “Першацвет”, “Рагнеда”, “Мастак”, “Лілея”, “Ветразь”, “Ласунак”...

Селекцыя бульбы ў Беларусі вядзецца ўжо каля стагоддзя. За гэты час вучонымі было створана каля 130 гатункаў бульбы. Наколькі гэта шмат, можна зразумець, калі ведаць пра складаны і працяглы перыяд па увядзенню на рынак новых раслін. На стварэнне ж толькі аднаго гатунку бульбы можа пайсці да 12 гадоў.

Беларускія гатункі паказваюць стабільны ўраджай і маюць, як і асі, якія падабаюцца спажыватцам. Селекцыя вядзецца ў розных накірунках. Так, адным гаспадыням больш падабаецца разварыстая бульбачка, іншым салатная, якая пры гатаванні трымае форму. Сёння можна знайсці гатункі на любы густ. Вядома расце попыт на прэзентабельныя клубні — вялікія авальныя ці круглыя па форме, якія зручна абіраць. Увага форме надаецца пры перапрацоўцы бульбы на чыпсы ці фры. Расце попыт на гатункі, якія хутка высыпаюць. Вытворцы “маладой” бульбы, якія ўраджаі збіраюць аднымі з першых, разумеюць, што ранні ўраджай можна даражэй прадаць.

— Пры стварэнні новых гатункаў, мы працуем з рознымі параметрамі. Гэта і высокая ўраджайнасць, біяхімічныя паказальнікі, утрыманне крухмалу, устойлівасць для комплексу захворванняў, — заўважае загалдык адзела селекцыі бульбы Навукова-практычнага цэнтру па бульбаходстве і плодаагародніцтве Юлія Гунько, якая прэзентавала стэнд з новымі гатун-



камі беларускай бульбы, выведзеных селекцыянерамі.

З’явіўся і новы накірунак для пошуку навукоўцаў — гародніна для здоровага харчавання. Так, новы гатунак бульбы “Сапфір”, над якім працуюць вучоныя, вылучаецца павышаным утрыманнем антыаксідантаў (у дзесяць разоў вышэйшым, чым ў “класічных” караняплодах). Расліна ўраджае фіялетавым колерам мякаці бульбы. Гэтую асаблівасць можна выкарыстоўваць пры вырабе новай прадукцыі — на некаторых каляровых гатунках фіялетавае ўзоры могуць захоўвацца ў час варкі, смажання і прыгатавання чыпсаў. Дарэчы, не трэба думаць, што падобная гародніна — штучна ствараецца чалавекам. Каляровыя гатункі натуральна сустракаюцца ў прыродзе.

Алена **Дзядзюля**