

ISSN 0320-7544

No. 11 (1094), NOVEMBER, 2024

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Social and political magazine

No. 11 (1094), 2024

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 23.11.2024
Offset printing. Coated paper.
Format 60x84 1/8.
Conventional printed sheets 13,02
Accounting published sheets 15,43
Circulation — 491

Order

Republican unitary enterprise
"BudMedyyaPrayekt"
Licence No. 02330/71
on 23.01.2014
220123 Minsk, Belarus,
13/61 V. Khoruzhey Street

Cover designer — Tatsiana Storzhenko

© Zviazda Publishing House
editorial-and-publishing
establishment, 2024

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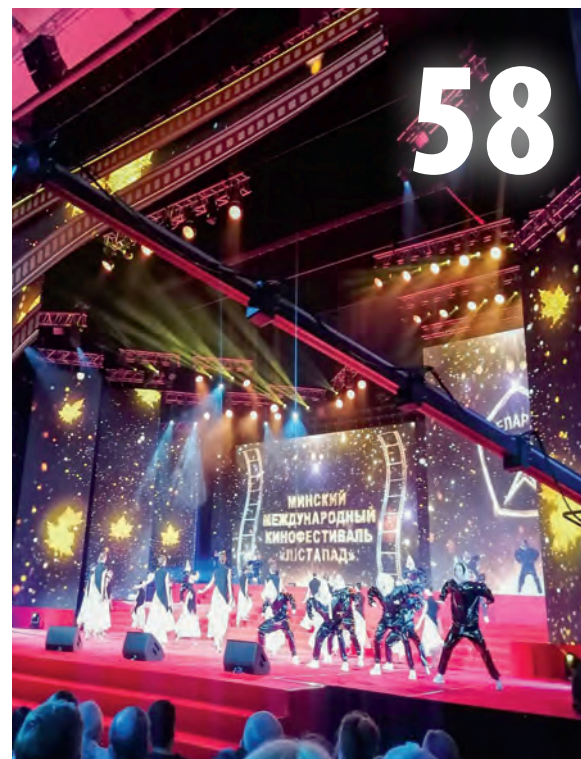
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89 **KARATKEVICH WAS PUBLISHED IN AZERBAIJAN**

Hundreds of books by Uladzimir Karatkevich have been published in Belarusian and Russian. The reader, without waiting for the assessments of eternity (the writer died forty years ago), has given the Belarusian creator the highest recognition — the recognition of reading and thinking people of different generations. The works of Uladzimir Karatkevich have been published in translation into English, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Vietnamese, Georgian, Spanish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Moldavian, Mongolian, German, Polish, Ukrainian, Russian (several dozen separate editions!), Slovak, Tajik, Uzbek, Ukrainian...



BELARUS IS A PARTNER OF BRICS

This event cannot be ignored in our international news review, although time has pushed it into the background a little. But it is objectively significant today. And we are talking about the BRICS summit, which was held in Kazan, Russia, at the end of October. The main topics of the forum were strengthening multilateralism, integrating new members and settling regional conflicts. For Belarus, which always advocates a multipolar world and equal cooperation, working with the organisation is of particular interest.

So, almost half of the world's population currently lives in the countries of this association. And the total GDP is higher than that of the Group of Seven. And this time, not only delegations of the BRICS member countries came to the capital of Tatarstan, but also representatives of several dozen states of the Global South and East, as well as six international organisations. And yet it must be said that for the first time, new members of the association took part in the summit, which is being chaired by Russia. After all, since January 2024, Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Ethiopia have become full members of BRICS, in addition to Brazil, India, China, Russia and South Africa. And about three dozen more states want to join the association in one format or another.

It is worth noting that interaction within BRICS is based on three key pillars: politics and security, economics and finance, culture and humanitarian ties. In other words, the range of topics discussed at the meetings covers almost all aspects of global development — trade, regional security, combating crime and corruption, macroeconomic policy, energy, food and agriculture, digital economy, reforms of international financial institutions, the fight against terrorism, healthcare and financial regulation. Moreover, in recent years, at the initiative of China and Russia, the association has expanded its economic cooperation agenda, as evidenced by the adoption of a roadmap for the implementation of the BRICS Economic Partnership Strategy until 2025, the opening of the New Development Bank, the creation of a pool of foreign exchange reserves and a BRICS bond fund in national currencies, the approval of a plan for the integration of national payment systems, the functioning of a working group of central banks and the BRICS Business Council.

Belarusian vector

Let us recall that a year and a half ago, official requests from the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko to the heads of state of BRICS member states were sent to accept our country into the association. This decision was an absolutely logical step in the context of implementing Belarusian approaches to expanding cooperation in multilateral formats with traditional partners and friendly states. And even despite Belarus not having partner status, Russia's chairmanship of BRICS in 2024 allowed our country to join a wide range of events of the association, and to a number of them (in particular, the Meeting of Foreign Ministers) for the first time. To be more precise, within the framework of the Russian chairmanship, Belarusian interested state bodies this year took part in the 1st meeting of the BRICS

Contact Group on Climate, the 6th meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Disaster Risk Management (on the Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies), the BRICS Sports Games and the meeting of sports ministers, the Forum of Chief Justices of the BRICS Supreme Courts, and the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

Important topics of bilateral cooperation

Even before his speech at the forum in Kazan, Aleksandr Lukashenko held three bilateral meetings. Each of them was fundamentally important.

Venezuela is a special country in Latin America for our country. As often happens, relations between countries often determine relations between their leaders. This is a striking example. Caracas has always been close to Minsk, despite the distance. The main merit in this is Aleksandr Lukashenko and a friend of the Belarusian people, former President of Venezuela Hugo Chávez, who passed away in 2013. However, the previously laid foundation for relations continued to develop with Nicolás Maduro. A warm meeting between the two presidents on the sidelines of the BRICS summit became an opportunity to check the clocks once again. The President of Belarus also paid tribute to the enormous role of Hugo Chávez in the development of Venezuela and the formation of bilateral relations with Belarus, drawing attention to the fact that “whatever negotiations we conduct today, tomorrow and in the future, Hugo will always be with us.” Moreover, negotiations were always conducted in three: in 2006—2013, Nicolás Maduro was the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Venezuela's position was never detrimental to Belarus. Moreover, Nicolás Maduro's opinion was always the basis for the relations between the two countries that developed at that time.





Touching upon the development of bilateral relations, the Head of State recalled that recently, on his instructions, Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko visited Venezuela, who had a specific task to deepen cooperation. Aleksandr Lukashenko has known the current President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Thongloun Sisoulith for many years. At the meeting in Kazan, the Head of State noted that he was pleased to meet on land that was not foreign to him, adding that he remembered the meeting in Minsk in 2013, when Thongloun Sisoulith was still the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos. Cooperation between Belarus and Laos in international organisations is characterised by a high degree of support. Laos voted for our country in 2023 in the election for non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for the period 2024—2025. Speaking about the economy, the figures are as follows: according to the results of last year, trade turnover amounted to 9.4 million dollars (716.7 percent of the 2022 level). By the way, at the bilateral meeting in Kazan, the President of Laos proposed considering the issue of joint mining, and also invited the Belarusian delegation to Laos to work out mutually beneficial projects. Aleksandr Lukashenko, in turn, emphasised that Belarus is ready to cooperate with Laos in many areas. The President agreed that the relations between the two countries do not correspond to their potential, and therefore it is necessary to move along this path more boldly and energetically.

It will come as no surprise that Africa is a special direction for Belarus. This is the continent, the development of which our country sees as the future. Moreover, it is interested in building this future together on an equal basis. And not just on an equal basis — as friends, and not

as those who want to come to the continent and plunder it. Aleksandr Lukashenko literally sets a personal example of how to work with African states. Our country has already developed close relations with a number of states. Among them are Egypt, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya. The focus is also on developing cooperation with other countries of Africa. Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa, is one of them. Certain steps have already been taken: according to the results of 2023, Belarus' trade turnover with Ethiopia amounted to 7.2 million US dollars (462 percent of the 2022 level), exports — 5.9 million dollars (an increase of 12.4 times). However, there is still work to do. The meeting in Kazan between Aleksandr Lukashenko and the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed Ali confirmed that the prospects in this regard are great.

The Prime Minister of Ethiopia regretfully noted that his country is very rich in resources, but is not allowed to develop them properly, which is why the situation remains difficult. At the same time, Abiy Ahmed Ali emphasised that Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing countries on the continent: last year, GDP growth exceeded 8 percent, and by the end of this year, the figure should be 8.4 percent. The Prime Minister expressed Ethiopia's interest in developing trade and economic relations with Belarus. The most promising areas identified by African partners include the development and modernisation of agriculture, light industry, mining, and high technology. Aleksandr Lukashenko, in turn, clarified that Belarus is ready to share technologies, and not just transfer them, but, if necessary, train specialists. The President emphasised that the world is changing a lot and is forcing us to speed up, so our country is ready to do everything as quickly as our partners are ready.

Fair globalization

Let us recall once again that a third of the Earth's land, a quarter of world trade, almost half of the planet's population, 40 percent of global oil production today belongs to BRICS. Countries want to come here. By historical standards, it took the association a very short time to achieve the status of an influential structure. In 2006, Brazil, Russia, India and China, the four economies with the highest dynamics of gross domestic product, created BRIC. In 2011, South Africa joined. And it became BRICS. The list of full participants expanded on January 1st of this year. Egypt, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia. Saudi Arabia also participated in the summit in Kazan as an invited guest. In total, about fifteen countries have applied for membership. About the same number are interested in partner status. 36 states and six international organisations were represented at the summit in Russia. 22 countries — at the highest level.



Responsibility for the future of the world

On October 23rd, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Chinese President Xi Jinping, UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Luiz Iecker Vieira held a summit meeting in narrow and expanded formats. Opening the narrow-format BRICS summit, Vladimir Putin noted that BRICS includes like-minded people — sovereign countries representing different continents, development models, religions, unique civilizations and cultures, “All our states advocate equality, good neighbourliness and mutual respect, for the affirmation of high ideals of friendship and harmony, for universal prosperity and well-being, not in words but in deeds, they demonstrate responsibility for the future of the world, have a truly positive influence on the state of affairs in the sphere of global stability and security, and make a significant contribution to solving acute regional problems.”

There were many issues on the agenda: settlements in national currencies, trade, energy, and the establishment of a category of BRICS partner states. Representatives of dozens of countries from the Global South and East also came to the summit, which speaks to the enormous importance that BRICS attaches to in today’s multipolar world. Even the Western press admits that the US and EU’s attempts to isolate Russia are failing. Vladimir Putin stated that one of the most important issues is the topic of further expansion of BRICS, “Of course, it would be wrong to ignore the unprecedented interest of the countries of the Global South and East in strengthening contacts with BRICS. More than 30 countries have already expressed such aspiration in one

form or another. At the same time, it is necessary to maintain a balance and not allow the effectiveness of BRICS to decline.”

Focus on global economy and security

The parties discussed issues of economic and humanitarian cooperation in detail during the extended meeting. According to the Russian leader, the BRICS countries demonstrate stability thanks to responsible economic policies, and the share of the association’s states in the global economy by the end of 2024 will be 36.7 percent, which confidently exceeds the share of the G7 countries.

Vladimir Putin positively assessed the fact that the center of business activity is gradually shifting towards developing markets, “A multipolar model is being formed, which is launching a new wave of growth, primarily due to the countries of the Global South and East and, naturally, the BRICS states. Thus, the average growth of the BRICS economies in 2024—2025 will be, according to preliminary estimates, 3.8 percent, with an increase in global GDP, also according to preliminary estimates, by 3.2—3.3 percent.”

During the extended meeting, Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasised that today it is important to advance the BRICS peace agenda in the name of protecting common security, “Only the implementation of the concept of common, joint security will help us find the path to universal security. In the context of the protracted Ukrainian crisis, China, Brazil and the countries of the Global South have created a group of ‘friends of peace’. It is aimed at uniting large voices in support of peace.” The Chinese leader noted that the key tasks of the association are to promote stability in the world. In the current situation, there is also an urgent need to reform the international financial architecture.

The BRICS countries adopted a final declaration at the Kazan summit, in which they indicated that a multipolar world order would help expand the opportunities of developing countries and create a market for ensuring beneficial cooperation. The declaration is planned to be distributed to the UN as a common joint document.

“Multipolarity can expand the opportunities of developing countries and emerging market countries to unlock their constructive potential and ensure inclusive and equitable economic globalization and cooperation that is beneficial for all,” reads the Kazan declaration. The document emphasises that the organisation’s participants must comply with the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The BRICS countries are sovereign and act in the interests of supporting international peace and security and mutually beneficial cooperation.



A close friend and a promising ally

On the sidelines of the BRICS summit, the head of the Belarusian state spoke with representatives of the Chinese media. In an interview with CGTN TV channel journalist Aljoša Milenković, Aleksandr Lukashenko clearly stated that China and Russia are our closest allies, “In trade and economic terms, our trade turnover with China is growing by tens of percent every year. We are interesting for China, and China is even more interesting for us.” The Head of State gave an example of Chinese investments. One of the significant projects that the parties are implementing together is the Belarusian National Biotechnology Corporation (BNBC); only a few countries in the world have similar technologies. The parties cooperated in the launch of a communications satellite, in the creation of rocket production in Belarus, an automobile... Mutually beneficial work in many areas continues now, the Belarusian leader noted, “There is no sector of the economy where we would not rely on the People’s Republic of China now. It is our very close and very promising ally. I would very much like our cooperation to develop. We have good relations at the leadership level, we have long-standing acquaintances and friends with Chairman Xi Jinping. We understand China, we accept its policies. I think everything will be fine with us.”

Another question from a journalist: what does the Belarusian leader think about China’s contribution to BRICS? Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that it is difficult for him to imagine the union without China, “China is a power. We can say it directly: it is the first country in the world. Well, okay, the second, after the

USA. I think it is the first. Especially with the progress that exists in China today, it is definitely the first country. It is a blessing when China is in the SCO or BRICS. It is one of the pillars, the main support of this organization.” The Head of State added that BRICS is a young organisation that still has to develop, “The processes in the world are turbulent. And it is good that such an organization exists. And China is invaluable for its development prospects. It seems to me that without China it is difficult to talk about intensive development in BRICS. And together with India, which is now gaining momentum, these are generally gigantic locomotives. Add here the Russian Federation — the world’s storehouse of resources.” Concluding the interview, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that relations with China for him are both personal (the President’s youngest son studies there) and state, because Aleksandr Lukashenko visited China a long time ago, when he was still a deputy. And then he suggested paying attention to this country, “And to learn to work and cooperate with China. It was not very well received then. But I am proud of it and now I remind you: even then, more than 30 years ago, I saw the prospects of China. I am glad that both the personal and the state are intertwined and connected with the People’s Republic of China. I value this very much.”

The President added that he always cites the intensive development of the PRC and the progress that the country has made before his eyes as an example. For Belarus, these are friends, allies, on whom we count and for whom we are ready to do everything, “There is no issue that we could not resolve for the People’s Republic of China.”

Community of the future

Indeed, without exaggeration, the centre of the world in those days when Kazan hosted the 16th BRICS summit was geographically located in the capital of Tatarstan. Representatives of almost 40 states, including leaders of the CIS, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, heads of executive bodies of a number of international organisations, in one format or another spoke about strengthening multilateralism for equitable global development and security.

The President of Belarus spent two very busy days at the forum, which included a number of bilateral meetings, a series of interviews with major foreign media outlets, and also spoke at a meeting of the BRICS summit in the BRICS Plus/Outreach format. Aleksandr Lukashenko outlined four areas in the implementation of which Belarus can play a certain role in BRICS. In his speech, the President emphasised that in a short period of time, the association has become a centre of attraction. It is with it that more and more countries associate their ideas about a fair world



order. One where the equality of sovereign states is ensured regardless of their size, military and economic power. Where the right of everyone to independently determine the ideology of development and conduct an independent foreign policy is recognised. “BRICS is a community of the future. In terms of its potential, it can bring closer the end of the history of the dominance of the collective West, which has proven incapable of bearing responsibility for the civilized development of international relations.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, it is within the power of the BRICS member states to ensure that the real levers of influence pass into the hands of the progressive global majority, “We fully share the philosophy of BRICS. Belarus comes to you with specific ideas and projects designed to help solve universal problems. We are ready to become an active participant in the association. Belarus is a traditionally responsible and effective partner. Its geographical location in the centre of Europe, its experience and achievements allow us to confidently say that Belarus will become another important puzzle in the emerging image of the future of our organisation. Belarus’ participation expands the boundaries of the association’s capabilities, making it more universal and comprehensive.” The President outlined only a few areas in the implementation of which the country can play a certain role.

Security. Mutual respect, indivisible security, guarantees of national development without confrontation and warfare are the principles on which our new world order must be built, from our point of view.

Sustainable development. For many countries of the Global Majority, as well as for us, the task of building sustainable, economically self-sufficient states in the absence of large reserves of natural resources, geographical and climatic advantages is especially relevant. Belarus copes with this. We are ready to offer our historical experience on how to become stronger ourselves and make others stronger. How, despite the pressure of sanctions and attempts at colour revolutions, to preserve and increase human potential, ensure high social standards and a decent quality of life, commercialise innovations and quickly master technologies.

Fighting hunger, poverty and the effects of climate change. Belarus is one of the world’s leading exporters of fertilizers, a wide range of food products, agricultural machinery and technologies. We contribute to ensuring food security in the world. We are ready to cooperate with colleagues in the field of agricultural science, on issues of adaptation of agricultural crops to climate change, melioration and involvement of land in agricultural turnover.



Humanitarian sphere. Belarusian education is valued in the world: representatives of more than 110 countries come to us to obtain degrees in the most popular modern specialties. Strong scientific schools are an important factor in the successful development of our sovereign state. Among the priorities are energy-efficient technologies, nanomaterials and new energy sources, industrial biotechnology, medicine and the IT sector. Belarus has developed a number of competencies in the aerospace field. We are ready to contribute to the implementation of the initiative to create BRICS satellite systems and, in the future, a space research consortium. We will be happy to share our experience and scientific and practical results.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Belarus has a high level of interaction and trusting relations with the absolute majority of countries. “We already have a long history of successful cooperation with many of them. Now we can supplement our achievements on the bilateral track with new achievements in the integration format. Minsk confirms its full readiness for full membership in our organisation,” emphasised the President.

On the afternoon of Thursday, October 24th, it became known that Belarus had become a BRICS partner state. Partnership is a mandatory step before becoming a full member of the association. The President of Belarus announced the news publicly in an interview with the *Izvestia* newspaper.

In general, Aleksandr Lukashenko was in great demand during the summit. Over the course of two days, the President conducted a real sprint, consisting of numerous negotiations and a number of interviews with foreign media. By the way, as the Head of State

himself admitted, participation in such forums is an excellent opportunity for negotiations and establishing contacts with colleagues from all over the world. It is worth noting that a significant part of the meetings took place behind the scenes and “on foot”, continued in the corridors of the exhibition centre where the forum was held, and even during the gala reception in honour of the summit participants. Well, on Thursday, literally before the start of the plenary session in the BRICS plus/outreach format, the authors of the President’s Pool telegram channel captured Aleksandr Lukashenko warmly communicating with the leaders of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Turkey, and with a representative of Mongolia.

Topics for like-minded people

So, let’s return to the BRICS Plus/Outreach format. Its essence is as follows: at the summit events, countries that are not members of the association join the members. Let us recall that BRICS currently consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the UAE. The status of Saudi Arabia is still uncertain. Applications to join the association were previously submitted by Algeria, Belarus, Bangladesh, Venezuela, Pakistan, Malaysia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye. Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Vietnam, Honduras, Guinea-Bissau, Zimbabwe, Kuwait, Mali, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Palestine, Senegal, Syria, Thailand, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea and South Sudan have also expressed a desire to join BRICS.

During the meeting, the participants examined in detail the issues of greatest concern to the global community: sustainable development, poverty eradication, adaptation to climate change, technology and knowledge sharing, and the fight against terrorism and cross-border crime. Particular attention was paid to the peaceful resolution of conflicts, including a substantive discussion of the situation in the Middle East. Opening the plenary session, the Russian President explained why it is extremely important for BRICS members to discuss these issues with like-minded people from the countries of the Global South and East, “All our states share similar aspirations, values, and a vision of a new democratic world order that reflects all cultural and civilizational diversity. And we are convinced that such a world order should be based on universal principles of respect for the legitimate interests and sovereign choice of countries and peoples, compliance with international law, and a commitment to mutually beneficial, honest cooperation.” Vladimir Putin emphasised, “The countries represented here have truly enormous opportunities and resources, enjoy high authority on the world stage, and are actively using all

of this to really contribute to ensuring global security and advancing sustainable development processes in the world.”

In his speech, Chinese President Xi Jinping recalled that China, together with Brazil, released a six-point consensus on resolving the Ukrainian crisis, “We initiated the creation of a group of friends of peace at the UN. It is important to achieve de-escalation of the situation in Ukraine as soon as possible and propose a path to resolving the crisis.” In addition, the Chinese leader is convinced that unification should be the main force for common development, actively participate in and lead the reform of the global economic governance system, and also help ensure that development is placed at the centre of the international economic and trade agenda.

BRICS is open to all who share its values

Key statements from the press conference following the summit

- BRICS is not a closed format, it is open to all who share its values..
- BRICS countries have agreed on a list of partner countries of the association. Some participants of the BRICS summit have submitted a request for full-fledged participation in the association.
- All BRICS countries are determined to end the conflict in Ukraine peacefully and as quickly as possible.
- BRICS does not create alternatives for anyone, including SWIFT. A separate common payment system in BRICS has not yet been invented.

Belarus and Iran are ready to cooperate

Aleksandr Lukashenko held a number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the BRICS summit on the last day of the forum. The current meeting of the leaders of Belarus and Iran can be considered historic. The presidents, one might say, got to know each other personally. Most of the talks between Aleksandr Lukashenko and Masoud Pezeshkian took place behind closed doors without the media, but the warm way the heads of state greeted each other leaves no doubt: the prospects are very good.

The Iranian leader stressed that he was glad to have the opportunity to meet on the sidelines of the summit. Aleksandr Lukashenko once again congratulated his colleague on his convincing victory in the presidential election, the results of which could not be disputed even in the West. The Head of State also invited Masoud Pezeshkian to visit Minsk at a convenient time to discuss prospects for cooperation. Moreover, there have never been any closed topics between the parties,



the Belarusian leader noted, “I also hope that we will continue our cooperation and it will be more effective. I hope also because you are an active person by nature and, having reached an agreement, we can implement our agreements.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also thanked his colleague for his support in granting Belarus the status of a BRICS partner. The Iranian President stressed that BRICS is a strong group of countries, so together they can resist Western sanctions.

Today, Belarus and Iran are implementing a roadmap for comprehensive cooperation between the countries for 2023—2026 and the Cooperation Programme of the Foreign Ministries of the Two Countries for 2022—2025. The legal framework for relations consists of more than 45 international treaties, 27 of which are interstate and intergovernmental. In January—August 2024, trade turnover amounted to \$80.8 million (128.9 percent of the same period in 2023), exports — \$65.2 million. The main export items are timber, synthetic fibers, cellulose, potash fertilizers.

Belarus — Vietnam: Prospects

Vietnam is not a foreign country for us. Trade turnover with this country has reached 250 million dollars. The groundwork is excellent, but there are still many prospects. Aleksandr Lukashenko discussed them in detail with the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh. The most important thing that the Belarusian leader drew attention to was that any issues can be resolved. Where there is a will... At the beginning of the meeting, the Head of State conveyed his warmest congratulations to the new President of

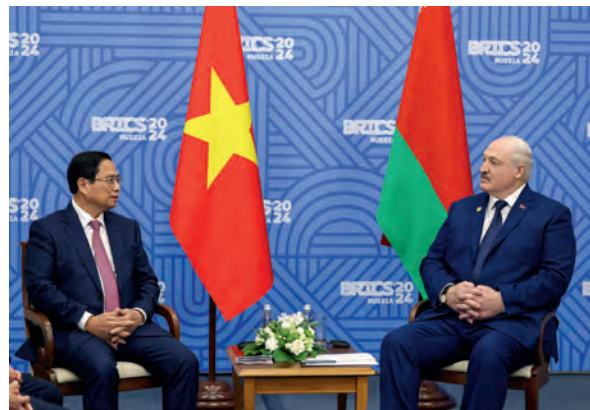
Vietnam Luong Cuong on his victory in the elections and noted that we always watch the development of this country with interest. The Belarusian leader also announced that a delegation of the Ministry of Defense would be sent to Vietnam in the near future.

Touching upon the prospects of bilateral relations, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that both countries actively cooperate on international platforms, “We have practically no problems, we mutually support each other. We will continue to work in this regard.” The President also added that the indicators of trade and economic cooperation were at a high level: trade turnover reached 250 million dollars. At the same time, he identified a problem in mutual settlements, “Of course, we would not want Vietnam to fall under any sanctions because of us. Although we understand that it is not so easy to punish Vietnam now. This is a very powerful large developed country. Mr. Prime Minister, there are no unsolvable issues, all issues can be resolved if there is a will.” In this regard, the Belarusian leader expressed hope that acceptable solutions will be found during the visit of the head of the National Bank of Belarus Pavel Kallaur to Vietnam.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also focused on specific areas that could be beneficial for both countries. Touching on cooperation, the Head of State recalled that at one time he very persistently suggested to previous leaders to create joint ventures in Vietnam for the production of Belarusian equipment, “And then — trade on the APEC market. We can start with assembly. Why not cooperate in this regard? It is beneficial for you, it is beneficial for us, and it is beneficial for the countries to which we will then sell this equipment. And Vietnam has a great need, especially for agricultural cargo equipment.”

Another topic for developing cooperation is tourism. According to the President, Vietnam is very interesting for Belarusians, and therefore we are interested in the abolition of visas for our citizens and direct air service between the countries, “We do not require visas from the Vietnamese when they come to us. We have no problems with the Vietnamese at all, they are very decent people. I guarantee you that you will not have problems with our citizens in Vietnam either. Well, and our planes — Vietnamese and Belarusian — should fly from Minsk to Hanoi, to your cities and back.”

In summary, Aleksandr Lukashenko suggested that the Foreign Ministers of Belarus and Vietnam think about and develop an action plan to resolve the issues that currently exist in the relations between the two countries — they would create a roadmap. The Prime Minister of Vietnam, in turn, noted that his country is closely monitoring the situation in Belarus. He conveyed warm greetings and wishes from the leadership of Vietnam,



and also expressed interest in working in all the areas voiced.

Belarus and the UN for the peaceful resolution of any conflicts

Another meeting of Aleksandr Lukashenko on the sidelines of the summit was with the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres. Cooperation with the UN is one of the most important vectors of Belarus' foreign policy. During the period of independence, the country submitted a number of important initiatives to the UN that strengthened the positive image of the Belarusian state in the international arena. By the way, the President of Belarus and the UN Secretary-General met in July this year on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Astana. During the current negotiations in Kazan, close attention was paid to peace issues.

At the very beginning of the meeting, the Head of State presented the UN Secretary General with a sculpture of storks, a symbol of peace, “This is a symbol of peace. Our storks. We, António, really need peace.”

During the conversation, the Belarusian leader also congratulated Antonio Guterres on a “wonderful feature”, “I have seen more than one Secretary-General in my political life. But this is the first time I have seen such determination. You are the first Secretary-General who has openly and honestly, as a person, stated his position on key issues on the international agenda. You should know that your position on the Middle East is not just in tune with — it is absolutely supported by the leadership of Belarus, including me.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko assured, “You should know that we will always be with you, regarding peace and war. We are for peace, for peace talks, for peaceful resolution of any conflicts.”

António Guterres shared his personal pain with the President of Belarus: he admitted that the day before he



had to endure the most difficult hours of his life as the UN Secretary-General. “Our colleagues in the Middle East asked for an urgent meeting. Yesterday (October 23rd) a drone hit a car that belonged to the UNRWA mission and killed the driver. At the UN office in Lebanon, the drone hit the building so close that the windows blew out,” said the UN Secretary-General.

The UN also had to suspend its vaccination programme in Northern Gaza, where the only hospital currently operates. He also addressed the situation of the UN mission in Lebanon. “Our people are going through very difficult times. However, they will continue to work to provide as much humanitarian assistance as they can,” said António Guterres.

BRICS is a desirable organization for Belarus

On the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Aleksandr Lukashenko gave an interview to several leading Russian media outlets. Among those who managed to talk to the Belarusian leader, as already mentioned, was the major publication Izvestia. The first question from the journalist of this publication concerned the statement of the President of Belarus at the plenary session of the summit that BRICS is a community of the future. Why is Belarus striving to get there, what will it give our country?

The Head of State began by saying that there are still many issues and even contradictions within BRICS today, and in his statement that BRICS is a community of the future, there is more wishful thinking than reality, “I hesitated, I thought, whether to say this or not. But still, hope dies last. And I would really like for BRICS to have at least hope for the future at this time. There are, as you understand, enough contradictions there. There are different countries, large ones, which have their own contradictions.”

However, today we all need to work together to resolve common issues that concern and will concern BRICS in the future. “Let’s say the settlement and payment system,” Aleksandr Lukashenko gave an example. “Today, having fallen under sanctions (and for Russia and Belarus, the dollar is the main currency for settlements with other countries), we are forced to propose a parallel settlement system. Some countries react to this as follows: it doesn’t concern us, and that’s fine. What, won’t it concern you tomorrow? Isn’t this attack, the impudence of the Americans with the arrest of gold and foreign exchange reserves a signal to anyone? After all, many people keep their gold and foreign exchange reserves in dollars today. So don’t think that tomorrow it won’t concern you.”

According to the President, some countries announced their intention to join BRICS, and then took a break, “This also shows that a rabid campaign has been launched against BRICS. The United States of America, the collective West (that’s what they call themselves) have launched a fight to lower the status of BRICS. We know examples. There is pressure. I won’t name these countries, because this is classified information. They may say that this is not so. But we know. Moreover, these are countries with which Russia and we have good relations. That is, there is pressure: “If you are in BRICS, it means that we will not trade with you, you will not receive investments or loans, we will create difficulties and problems for you.” Therefore, there are a lot of issues in BRICS. And sometimes we pass off wishful thinking as reality. But this is hope for a good future.”

As for Belarusian interests in this association, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that, for example, thanks to the summit in Kazan, he was able to meet, negotiate and reach specific agreements with the leaders of many states. It would have taken several years to do this in the format of mutual visits. “We met with the new President of Iran,”

said the Belarusian leader. “We agreed on his visit, the work of the intergovernmental commission, the roadmap (of cooperation), how we will modernise it. If something is outdated, we will throw out something new, we will add something new, we will implement it. These are, consider, full-fledged negotiations. We will work on this in the next month or two. The same with other states. We even discussed specific projects, like with Laos. And then, BRICS are large, friendly states that are very close to us: Russia, China, the Emirates and many others. We would like to have such a level of relations with India. We are building it. That is why BRICS is a desirable organisation for us. We have become partners — this is a mandatory step before joining this club. We will work with them, we will make our contribution to solving common issues that we face.”

In the meantime, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, those speaking from the podium talk more about their own private problems, “But we need to put forward and discuss issues that are common to all. And this needs to be crystallized.” During the interview, the Head of State drew attention to another point. He was somewhat surprised by the fact that about 30 states expressed their desire to join BRICS, while only a little more than ten became partners, “12 or 13 states became partners, including Belarus. Why aren’t other states accepted into BRICS? What would BRICS like to think about before accepting other states? Why not accept Türkiye? The only NATO member that has shown interest. At the same time, a large country with a powerful economy. Why not accept it? No, they didn’t. They came up with this ‘dressing room’ in the form of a partner. Okay, this (partner status) is possible. But what worries me about this is that the bureaucrats who create and offer these documents to the heads of state don’t drag everything out. So that the bureaucratic apparatus does not destroy the issues that the BRICS countries are facing today. This is what worries me. So they got together, spoke somehow, and left. And what was the result?”

The Head of State noted that the process of the onset of a multipolar world is already an objective thing that does not depend on anyone’s desire. In this situation, many countries are thinking about who to be in an alliance with and cooperate with, be it regional or global associations. In the case of BRICS, Aleksandr Lukashenko believes it is important that there is no slowdown in resolving key issues in the association. And if this happens, then the initiative to advance the process should be taken by the founding states. Proposal from Aleksandr Lukashenko, “It is necessary for the heads of the founding states, and there are five of them, to take up the solution of this issue, organise a corresponding group, identify the main, common issues. Like the payment system, trade through cryptocurrencies, national currencies, and so on. Logistics is very important for trade, and other issues. So that they identify this issue and propose solutions. Involving us, someone else,



and so on, whoever they deem necessary. But if we have announced the creation (in this case, a new alternative payment system), please be so kind as to develop our plan. When many countries start looking for who to be with, how to live on, BRICS can make its significant contribution. But we must move. We cannot stop. I often say: if we stop, then those who follow us will trample us. And here the danger is that if we do not implement our plans, do not satisfy the expectations of other countries, the collective West will win and will simply laugh at us. And then it will be very difficult to (develop) a global organisation or to announce the creation of a global organisation in the world.”

In response to statements that BRICS is being created almost as a counterweight to the UN, Aleksandr Lukashenko said quite frankly, “If you are afraid of this counterweight, then don’t join BRICS. But I personally want there to be such a counterweight, so that the UN would stir. Or that there would be an organisation — a global one. And BRICS still claims to be a global organisation, not a regional one. It is not the SCO (the SCO is regional). I want there to be an organisation that will be a counterweight to the UN.” The President explained his position, “What do we have there (in the UN)? Why are we spending money? So many countries gather there to speak from the podium? In an empty hall, mostly... I would like the UN to be effective, so that the Security Council would decide the issue, and not just gather there. If the Americans don’t like it — veto, that’s it, parties leave.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko is confident that issues of war and peace should be resolved exclusively at the UN, “If the UN decided to stop the war, stop it! Does that exist? No. The Americans are blaming the Russians. What are you



blaming them for? How many wars have you unleashed and how many conflicts are you waging today! And how many more wars do you intend to wage... That is why the UN is not fulfilling its functions.”

Another question from the Russian journalist concerned the upcoming presidential elections in Belarus in January 2025. The previous presidential campaign in 2020 was accompanied by mass provocations. “Are there any concerns that this could happen again next year, and in whose interests?” the reporter asked.

Aleksandr Lukashenko’s answer, “Provocations have always been and will always be. I do not rule out that provocations are possible. But we have learned the lessons of 2020 well, and I am open about this.”

Returning to the previous election, the Head of State noted that if the organisers of the riots, provocations and rebellion had come to power, there would have been a war, “Why war? Because immediately (units had already been prepared in Poland and Lithuania, and Ukraine would not have stood aside) they were looking for a pretext to bring in NATO troops, and then they came to power, called, and troops (NATO) were near Smolensk. Would Russia have calmly watched this? Today it is fighting so that NATO would not be in Ukraine. And then NATO would have come (near Smolensk) within 24 hours. They would have come legally, the authorities of a sovereign state invited. Russia would have responded, and a war would have begun. I understood this clearly, so I had no other choice but to defend myself and protect my country.”

Speaking about the accusations of falsifying the results of the vote, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “If there is

falsification, then prove it. Tell me on what basis you accuse me of falsification. That the current President won is absolutely certain.”

The Head of State noted that many subsequently switched from the opposition to the government and are now cooperating “not with Lukashenko, but with the people”, “They see that these sanctions have been imposed and have begun to strangle the Belarusian people. Am I suffering from the sanctions? The people are suffering. And they began to move away from the West and tell all this, including Zenkovich (one of the participants in the plot to seize power), what and how they planned... Therefore, I do not rule out that there may be some insinuations, provocations, and so on. But this (a repeat of 2020) will not happen again! We will not allow this, because we know who is doing it.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko spoke about the recent confession of former CIA Director and US State Department Head Mike Pompeo, who in a conversation with Russian pranksters Vovan and Lexus said, “Yes, we did not have a colour revolution in Belarus”, “Well, what other evidence do you need that they interfered in our election and wanted to turn the country upside down. As President, I was forced to defend it. And I defend it. And we defended it. Therefore, we are ready for the election and ready to respond to any provocations.”

On the final day of his visit to Tatarstan, the President of Belarus noted that the BRICS summit was held at the highest level, and the attention to detail and hospitality made his stay in Kazan especially enjoyable.

Vasily Kharitonov
photo by Belta

JANUARY 26TH, 2025 IS THE DATE OF THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Thus, the House of Representatives of the National Assembly has scheduled the presidential elections for January 26th, 2025. The Central Election Commission has been instructed, within the limits of its authority, to organise the presidential elections and monitor compliance with electoral legislation.

Opening the meeting, Chairman of the House of Representatives Igor Sergeyenko noted that next year Belarus will host an exceptionally important and significant socio-political event — the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus. “They will complete the cycle of electoral campaigns under the updated Constitution,” noted the speaker. “The results of the upcoming presidential election campaign are of key importance for every citizen, society and the state as a whole. This is a significant milestone in the development of any country, a test of the strength of the state’s political system. It is the presidential elections that determine the future of Belarus for the coming years and the directions of its further development.”

Election as a means of strengthening people’s power in the country

The proposal to set the date for the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus to the House of Representatives was submitted by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Belarus. As the Chairman of the Central Election Commission Igor Karpenko noted, the amendments and

additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus adopted at the national referendum on February 27th, 2022, marked the beginning of a large-scale political modernization of the country. The adjustment of the Basic Law, according to him, led to the need to change a number of regulatory legal acts, including the Electoral Code. “The powers of state authorities have been redistributed, the conditions and requirements for the nomination of candidates for elective positions have been changed, and norms aimed at ensuring electoral sovereignty have been enshrined,” the Chairman of the CEC specified. “Based on the amended legislation, the country’s parliament, local Councils of Deputies have been formed, election of delegates to the Belarusian People’s Congress has been held, which began its work in a constitutional status. In this regard, holding the elections of the head of state is a logical completion of the formation of all institutions of power on the basis of the updated constitutional legislation and will undoubtedly contribute to the further strengthening of democracy in the country.”



ELECTION DAY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

January 26, 2025



According to Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and Article 56 of the Electoral Code, the elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus are appointed by the House of Representatives (no later than five months) and are held on Sunday (no later than two months before the expiration of the term of office of the previous President). In accordance with Article 83 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the President takes office after taking the oath. From the moment the newly elected President takes the oath, the powers of the previous President cease. "Since the inauguration of the current head of state took place on September 23rd, 2020, accordingly, the next presidential election must be held no later than July 20th, 2025," stated Igor Karpenko. "Thus, the legislation does not contain an indication of a specific day for the presidential elections, such as, for example, a single voting day for the election of deputies, which is held on the last Sunday of February. The Basic Law does not prohibit holding elections earlier, it prohibits holding them later than the established deadline."

According to the Central Election Commission, the optimal date for holding the presidential election of the Republic of Belarus is January 26th, 2025. "Considering the inauguration of the elected President of the Republic of Belarus within two months from the date of election, holding the elections on the specified date will shorten the term of office of the current head of state by six months, which does not exclude the right of the current president to run for a new term," informed Igor Karpenko. "At the same time, the elections will not be extraordinary. In accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, holding extraordinary elections is possible if the post of President is vacant."

Our country has experience of holding elections of the head of state before the expiration of the term of office. In 2006, the presidential election of Belarus were held several months earlier. According to the Chairman of the Central Election Commission, the practice of organising elections before the expiration of the presidential term of office also exists in a number of countries. For example, in Kyrgyzstan

and Uzbekistan, which were preceded by constitutional referendums held in the aforementioned states. “The holding of elections takes into account in advance the possibility of holding a second round of voting if none of the presidential candidates gains an absolute majority of votes in the first round,” noted Igor Karpenko. “The second round of voting is held according to the law within two weeks.”

Based on strategic planning

The Chairman of the Central Election Commission recalled that the five-year plan for the socio-economic development of the Republic of Belarus will be completed in 2025, and therefore it is necessary to analyse the results of its implementation and determine the further strategic course for the country’s development, the main directions of domestic and foreign policy. “The head of state plays a key role here, since he forms the government, ensures economic and political stability, continuity and interaction of government bodies,” explained Igor Karpenko. “The inauguration of the newly elected President of the Republic of Belarus at the beginning of 2025 will allow him or her to exercise the powers at the initial stage of strategic planning.”

According to the head of the Central Election Commission, holding the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus on January 26th, 2025 seems entirely justified, including based on the positive practice of organising the referendum of 2022 and the Single Voting Day of 2024. “During this period, a minimum number of citizens leave the country on vacation or stay at their dachas, which eliminates the inconveniences associated with the remoteness of polling stations at the place of registration from the actual place of residence of voters,” he noted. “In turn, holding an election in the spring and summer is associated with the workload of local authorities in the field of agriculture, vacation time, the admission campaign to colleges and universities, preparation for the new academic year of educational institutions, where, as a rule, a large number of polling stations are located.”

It is already known that during the presidential election campaign, about 60 thousand people will participate in the work of the commissions. “As a rule, these are knowledgeable people who have undergone the practice of a single voting day,” the chairman of the CEC specified. “In addition, many of them improved their qualifications at the Academy of Public Administration under the President, regional institutes for the development of education, participated in training sessions and seminars. The minimum time gap between the Single Voting Day and the presidential campaign will allow the most rational use of the potential of such people. The Central Election Commission will only have to focus on the specifics of preparing and conducting the presidential election.”

The Central Election Commission is ready to start the campaign

Igor Karpenko recalled some aspects of the presidential election campaign. “During the constitutional reform, the requirements for candidates for the President of the Republic of Belarus, which are reflected in Article 80 of the Constitution and Article 57 of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, were significantly changed, however, the procedure for conducting the presidential campaign has not changed procedurally,” he specified. “The nomination of candidates for the President of the Republic of Belarus, as before, will be carried out by only one entity — citizens by collecting signatures in the amount of at least 100 thousand people. The presidential elections are held in a single electoral district, which is the entire territory of Belarus.”

The functions of registering initiative groups for the nomination of candidates for the President of the Republic of Belarus, registering candidates, and establishing the election results are the exclusive competence of the Central Election Commission. Igor Karpenko drew attention to the fact that the presidential elections are the only elections that can be declared invalid if less than half of the citizens included in the voter lists took part in the voting.

The Chairman of the Central Election Commission emphasised that the Central Election Commission is ready to start the election campaign, which was launched by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus on the appointment of the election. He reported that at the moment, draft methodological recommendations for territorial and precinct commissions, document forms, a calendar plan of organisational events, a visual concept and draft relevant resolutions, memos for national and international observers, and representatives of the media have already been developed.

Thus, the appointment of the presidential election of the Republic of Belarus for January 26th, 2025 is fully consistent with the Constitution and the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, Igor Karpenko emphasised. In his opinion, holding the election on this date will allow for the rational use of technical, financial, informational, and human resources and will complete the process of forming all government bodies on the basis of the updated constitutional legislation.

The deputy corps has a lot to do

The deputies unanimously voted for the adoption of the resolution of the House of Representatives ‘On the Appointment of the Election of the President of the Republic of Belarus’. As a result, as already noted, the election of the head of state will be held on January 26th, 2025. Addressing the parliamentarians, Igor Sergeyenko drew attention to the fact that, given the significance of this event for the country, the deputy corps expects serious and



responsible organisational and political work: both directly in parliament and in the electoral districts. According to the speaker, the deputies must do everything to ensure that the election of the head of state is well-organised, open, democratic and objective, in strict accordance with national legislation.

Relevant

As Irina Kostevich, Chairwoman of the Standing Committee on Labour and Social Issues of the House of Representatives, noted in a conversation with journalists, a fateful and very important decision was made at the meeting — the date of the presidential elections was determined. According to the deputy, the Central Election Commission presented balanced arguments in favour of the date of January 26th, 2025. “This date is justified from all sides,” Irina Kostevich believes. “Legal issues in connection with both the Constitution and the Electoral Code are also included here. Organisational issues are also taken into account, with regard to both the Single Voting Day and the 2020 elections. Personnel issues and seasonality, both production and vacation, are also taken into account. We do not sow in January yet, and at the end of January, rarely does anyone go on vacation.”

January 26th, 2025, according to the Chairwoman of the Standing Committee, is the optimal date for holding the presidential elections in Belarus. “2025 is the year that the current five-year plan will end,” she noted. “We are summing up the preliminary results and, most importantly, laying down strategic documents for the upcoming five-year plan. In addition, January is a special month for each of us, no matter how old you are. Each person, entering the New Year, plans their future. And how do we see it?

Happy. We think about our children, loved ones, about the happiness of our family. And having defined a happy family as the priority of our current five-year plan, we understand perfectly well why this is one of the priorities. Because this is a strong state. And it is in January, planning their personal future, that every Belarusian is simply obliged to come and vote for the future of their country. We must go this way with dignity, determining the development of our country.” According to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on State Building, Local Government and Regulations of the House of Representatives Valentin Semenyako, it is very important to take a responsible approach to both the date and the conduct of these elections. “We will work with the elected state bodies until 2029, this is very important and responsible for all participants in the electoral process,” he believes, emphasising that the date of the presidential elections on January 26th, 2025 is optimal. “The Central Election Commission took this proposal very seriously. Several dates for the elections were announced, consultations were held regarding which date should be the best and optimal. January 26th, 2025, in my opinion, is a very good approach to, on the one hand, having time to organisationally provide for all preparatory stages: from the formation of lists, nomination of candidates, the campaign and ending with the voting process itself.”

On the other hand, according to the deputy, the scheduled date is convenient for our citizens and government agencies, which during this period sum up certain results and plan their work for the next year. “It is also very important that it is during this period that people have more time to participate in political campaigns, discussions, get acquainted with the candidates’ programmes, with the

calendar plan of the election campaign,” specified Valentin Semenyako.

The deputy also noted that the entire base necessary for conducting an election campaign, which can be used, has already been created. “Recently, an election campaign for the election of deputies of all levels on a single voting day took place,” he recalled. “We will approach the preparation for the election of the head of state in an organised, careful manner, as required by the President, we will organise this process and confidently look to our future in the next five years.”

As Valery Malashko, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Healthcare, Physical Culture, Family and Youth Policy of the House of Representatives, noted, the 2025 campaign will be the final stage of modernisation of the political system of the Republic of Belarus. “We have already lived within the framework of the amended Constitution, amended electoral legislation, and we see how much more effectively we have begun to conduct political campaigns in our country, how much more understandable and accessible they have become for our citizens,” the parliamentarian noted. “We have heard about the readiness of the Central Election Commission to carry out all the necessary organisational measures as part of the presidential election campaign in the Republic of Belarus. We also know about the readiness of local executive authorities. Indeed, less than a year has passed since the last election campaign, the infrastructure of polling stations has been preserved. We worked quite well with the voter lists last time, in many ways we compared them with the population register. And the Ministry of Internal Affairs played a significant and important role here. I have no doubt that this time too, this will allow us to work quickly and effectively.”

Valery Malashko also drew attention to the citizens’ readiness to conduct the presidential election campaign. “Working in the districts, we see that their civic consciousness has increased, their understanding that we are making a choice for ourselves, our country, the future of our children,” the Chairman of the Standing Committee stated. He is confident that the New Year holidays will also have a positive effect on people’s moods. “Traditionally, at the end of January, we are all mostly at home, students, pupils — at their places of residence, places of educational institutions, which will bring additional organisation and improve the quality of the election process,” believes the deputy.

The approved plan is already in action

According to the schedule, the process of collecting signatures for the nomination of presidential candidates will continue until December 6th. Documents on the registration of initiative groups for the nomination of presidential candidates had to be submitted no later than November 1st. Thus, the Central Election Commission approved the calendar plan of organisational events for the preparation and holding of the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus.



“After the House of Representatives launched the election campaign, we need to organise the election process, including conducting information work among the population, and bring to all subjects of the electoral campaign the requirements of the legislation concerning the organisation and holding of the presidential elections,” the Chairman of the Central Election Commission Igor Karpenko specified during the meeting of the CEC. “The main document, which is traditionally approved after the elections are called, is the calendar plan of organisational events, reflecting the main stages of the preparation and holding of the election, the timing of their implementation and the executors.”

To organise the holding of the presidential elections, 153 territorial commissions and more than 5 thousand precinct commissions will be created. As the Chairman of the Central Election Commission noted, when forming commissions, it is necessary to comply with the requirements of the law. At the same time, according to him, it is advisable to take into account the experience of citizens in organising and conducting election campaigns, knowledge of electoral legislation and legislation in general, the ability to work with people, organisational skills and other competencies, both professional and personal.

“The main task of the territorial commissions will be to verify the authenticity of signatures collected in support of the nomination of presidential candidates, control the activities and assist precinct election commissions, which, in turn, work with voter lists, organise voting directly at the precinct and establish its results,” stated Igor Karpenko.

Extensive information work

The Central Election Commission has developed methodological manuals for the presidential election commissions. In addition, the CEC plans to train trainers from the regions, who will then be able to conduct relevant training sessions (trainings) at the local level for the management and members of precinct election commissions in order to ensure their uniform application of electoral legislation. Work is currently underway to create a training video for precinct commissions, which will demonstrate the voting procedure — similar to the film prepared for the single voting day. After the formation of the commissions, seminars and meetings will also be held regarding the specifics of holding the presidential election.

“At each stage of the campaign, the Central Commission will adopt resolutions regarding the registration of initiative groups for the nomination of presidential candidates, register presidential candidates, and determine the pre-election campaigning,” informed Igor Karpenko. “During the voting day, of course, we will also monitor this process and receive operational information.”

On the eve of election day, the Information Centre of the Central Election Commission will traditionally begin operating in order to promptly inform both voters and observers about the voting process, as well as representatives of the media.

Thus, as the Chairman of the Central Election Commission emphasised, explanatory work will affect all election participants. “To inform citizens about the preparation and conduct of elections, the decisions of the Central Election Commission will be posted on the official website of the CEC,” he added. “The information established by the Electoral Code will be sent to print media for publication, as well as posted in messengers and social media of the Central Election Commission.”

In addition, the Central Election Commission will organise the duty service of employees according to the operating mode of territorial commissions, including on Saturdays. The call centre began operating on November 1st, 2024.

Minimum 100 thousand signatures

In accordance with the calendar plan of organisational activities for the preparation and holding of the elections of the President of Belarus, no later than October 31st, 2024, it was necessary to submit documents on the nomination of representatives to the bodies that form territorial commissions. Political parties, public associations, labour collectives and citizens in the amount of ten people have the right to nominate such representatives.

As Igor Karpenko drew attention, no later than November 1st, 2024, it was necessary to submit documents on the registration of initiative groups for collecting signatures to nominate candidates for the President of the Republic of Belarus. “I would like to immediately remind you that the presidential election is the election where the

nomination of candidates is carried out in only one way — by collecting signatures of citizens,” he emphasized. “At least 100 thousand signatures must be submitted to the Central Election Commission for registration. At the same time, the initiative group must be represented by at least one hundred citizens.”

In addition, during the meeting of the Central Election Commission, information was heard on the procedure for accreditation and activities of foreign (international) observers. Traditionally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be responsible for their accreditation. National observers at the presidential elections will have to be accredited by January 20th, 2025. Early voting in the elections of the President of Belarus will begin on January 21st, 2025.

The Central Election Commission also approved the visual concept of the 2025 presidential election campaign. It contains the logo of the presidential election campaign, information posters and banners made in a single style, recommendations for local executive and administrative bodies, election commissions, mass media and other organisations on the use of the visual concept in the preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

There will be no polling stations abroad

In a conversation with journalists, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission emphasised that after the Single Voting Day, the electoral legislation has not changed. “Belarusian legislation does not provide for the creation of polling stations abroad,” noted Igor Karpenko. “This is also relevant for the presidential campaign. For those citizens who may come from abroad to take part in the voting and who are not registered here, we will traditionally organise a polling station in Minsk. In order to bring the opportunity to vote closer, we will probably create such polling stations in all regional centres. We will work out these issues with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and receive the relevant consular lists. If such citizens find it necessary to come and vote, they will be able to vote at these polling stations. But these are citizens who are not registered in Belarus.”

Speaking about the safety of members of election commissions, Igor Karpenko explained why the CEC does not publish the personal data of commission members. “There is a lot of shouting about this, especially abroad, how come we didn’t publish these lists,” he stated. “We publish these lists, and then there are streams of various letters with threats not only to these people, but also to their families, relatives, friends, and so on. Why should we allow this?”

At the same time, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission noted that despite the fact that the personal data of members of election commissions will not be published, this does not mean that these people will be incognito. “They will work at the polling stations, they will have badges,” reported Igor Karpenko. “In case of certain questions, you can contact these people.”

Aleksey Fedosov

DIALOGUE ABOUT THE PEACE

The 2nd Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security was held in the Belarusian capital

This international conference, which took place in late October — early November, was attended by about six hundred participants from more than 40 countries. Among them were high-ranking guests from Eurasia, representatives of the CSTO, CIS, SCO, OSCE countries, heads of a number of international organisations, authoritative experts from the entire Eurasian region. The international forum opened with a high-level session, which began with a speech by the President of Belarus. The Head of State voiced the conditions for safe existence on the planet, Belarus' position on establishing a peaceful world order and other issues.

On the importance of consensus in security

Welcoming foreign guests in Minsk and other participants of the conference, Aleksandr Lukashenko regretfully noted that today one can count on the fingers of one hand the number of venues where open, constructive expert discussions on the topic of international security are held. “And we need an honest conversation and impartial assessments of the events taking place,” he noted. “In our modern world, this is an almost unbelievable thing. We need effective measures to counter modern challenges and threats even more. If we do not unite in this regard and do not develop and implement these measures, there will be trouble.”

The President of Belarus recalled that the first conference on Eurasian security, which was held in Minsk last year, surprised even the most ardent sceptics, who doubted that in such turbulent times it was possible to bring together representatives of both the West and the East. Its result was a draft Charter of Diversity and Multipolarity in the 21st Century, work on which continued within the framework of the current conference. This document, according to the President, should accelerate the processes of political, economic, and other consolidation in order to ensure security, strategic stability, and progressive development of countries and peoples. Belarus sees this document as comprehensive and all-encompassing, without reference to a specific region, in order to facilitate the formation of consensus in the field of security.

Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked everyone who responded to the invitation to take part in the conference. “These are

our interests, everyone's interests,” emphasised the President of Belarus. “There are many more participants, which is not surprising, since the situation is becoming increasingly critical and tense. I very much hope that such a representative circle of authoritative experts participating in the current conference will not only discuss the problems (they are well known), but will also be able to offer options for their solutions.”

“The European Union needs to hear what smart people in Eurasia have to say”

In turn, the President outlined Belarus' vision on many issues. According to him, it is necessary to start with defining the concept. “As a rule, when speaking about security, they mean guarantees of protection against attacks on their territory,” stated Aleksandr Lukashenko. “However, comprehensive security by definition should provide guarantees to states not only in the military sphere, but also in the political, economic, informational and other spheres. If you look at it from this angle, the scale of the crisis that has engulfed the planet becomes obvious.”

Having appropriated to themselves the title of ‘leader of the free world’ after the collapse of not only the Soviet Union, but also the entire socialist camp, the United States, despite all its potential, according to the Head of State, turned out to be incapable of being a single global support and guarantor of security in the broadest sense of the concept. “Believe me, I have no desire to hang labels from the Cold War era, but this is an obvious fact, there is no point in hiding it if we want not only to understand the reasons, but also take certain measures,” noted the President of Belarus. “And what about international institutions, you ask? They, called upon to be a universal mediator or arbitrator, often demonstrate complete paralysis, limiting themselves to empty statements and representative functions.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that the absence of a system of checks and balances has led to the degradation of security in all areas.

“Firstly, politics: the collapse of all postulates of democracy is evident,” specified the Head of State. “We see: there is democracy for oneself, and there is democracy for export. What democratic values can explain what is happening in the



Middle East, and what happened in Ukraine? Is the height of democracy really the ability to physically eliminate a person whom, for example, the United States and its satellites will consider a threat to national security?! Anyone from a political and public figure to a businessman, scientist or journalist.”

The President also drew attention to the new ‘democratic’ trend to frighten the heads of sovereign states with the International Criminal Court. “And what does declaring the Secretary General of the United Nations persona non grata for his principled position, which he finally — of all the secretaries general — openly expressed, have to do with democracy?” asked the Belarusian leader. “Or how should we assess the ongoing attacks on António Guterres for attending the BRICS summit — an association of countries that account for almost 40 percent of the world’s GDP?” At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that not only individual leaders are being attacked, but entire nations. According to him, in states that have decided to follow their own path, colour revolutions are being inspired, loyal leaders and outright puppets are brought to power for the money of Western ‘soft power’. And in the countries of the European Union themselves, as the Head of State noted, as soon as nationally oriented politicians speak out for the interests of their people, expect a line of criminal charges, fabricated cases and even assassination attempts.”

In this regard, he cited the example of Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó, who could also be accused of coming to Belarus. “And for what?” clarified Aleksandr Lukashenko. “They are presiding (Hungary is currently) in the European Union. In the end, the European Union should understand, know, and hear what the smart people of Eurasia — that is, us — have to say. What’s wrong with that? Well, let’s wait and see.”

“If you invited people, please provide employment and equal conditions with your citizens”

The Head of State named the migration crisis as one of the reasons for what is happening in the world now. “The rampant ‘democracy’ has led to a frighteningly large split in civil society,” he specified. “We are seeing a fire-hazardous situation in Germany, France, Poland, Moldova, Georgia and others. And America itself has been in turmoil for the last decade. I am afraid that we may witness an internal civil war in the United States. Everything is heading in this direction and they, the crazy ones, are doing it with their own hands and still claim to be bringing order to the world, to our world. They need to sort things out at home first and demonstrate this to the entire world community. Then, perhaps, we will hear something from the lips of the politicians of the United States. But what we are hearing now is terrible.”

The death and beating of refugees and migrants on the territory of the countries of the collective West, according to the President, have become a terrible daily reality, about which the world media and global politicians are silent. “However, accusations against Belarus of creating this crisis do not leave the front pages,” stated the Head of State. “Allegedly, we are to blame for this global migration crisis. Despite the fact that the main route of these people has not changed for many years, as up to half a million people pass through the Mediterranean Sea and the Balkan Peninsula every year. Europe is unable to restore order at home, but it knows well how to distract from internal problems — to appoint an external enemy.”

And the Belarusian President has plenty of examples. “I want to ask the intelligent audience one question: why did they build an iron curtain, which they fought against before my



eyes, before your eyes, for the past decades?” he clarified and offered to take those who are interested to the border and show this iron curtain, which is destroying the entire flora and fauna, especially in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. “Why is everyone silent when these poor people are beaten, killed and thrown to us across the border, over this fence? Why are we silent?” asked the Head of State. “After all, this is the beginning of a big disaster. Everything always starts small.”

Speaking about the migration crisis, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that Belarus is absolutely not guilty of anything, and recalled the background of this problem. “Before the economic massacre was unleashed against us and in the media, we cooperated with the European Union,” he said. “The European Union asked us to build some shelters for migrants who would be passing through Belarus. We concluded a readmission agreement. We agreed with the Russians, since it does not work unilaterally. We started working. They introduced economic sanctions, put a noose around our necks and began to strangle us. And they tell us to protect them from migrants!”

In this case, the President said, not diplomatically, but directly, “Guys, we will not protect you. We will not, as before, catch them on this border. For many reasons. You have destroyed states in the Middle East, you have suppressed Africa. Instead of helping Africa get back on its feet, you are starting to exploit them mercilessly. You have introduced neo-colonialism. You have started a war in Afghanistan, Iraq and so on, destroyed these countries. And then the civilized West, due to the fact that there is no one to work in Germany, France and other countries, invited these people. Well, they went. They went less through Belarus, since it was possible to get (to the West) through Ukraine. Until recently, it was possible to get from Russia through Finland. Today, this is impossible: Finland has practically built a fence. And there is a war in Ukraine. Where will they go? They rushed across our border. I repeat once again: we honestly said that we would not kneel before them with a noose around our necks and we would not catch migrants. Do with them yourselves what you wanted. You wanted them to work, well, give them jobs. Where are we wrong? But most

importantly, you have unleashed an economic war against us, first and foremost. And not only an economic one. Why should we protect you?”

Aleksandr Lukashenko once again emphasised that the European Union itself invited these unfortunate people to itself, and today declared them a hybrid threat and is racking its brains over plans to expel them, but has not yet figured out who will work in their place. “I do not want to give any advice, but I will say one thing: if you invited them, provide employment and equal conditions with your citizens. And figure out whether they can live with you or not,” said the Head of State.

Nothing less than a threat of irreparable consequences on a global scale

“Secondly, military security. States are increasingly forced to use military force to protect their sovereignty, internal stability or prevent escalation, which is very important today,” the Belarusian leader stated. “Further escalation of the Ukrainian and Middle Eastern conflicts threatens irreparable consequences on a global scale. But, by concentrating attention only on these two hotbeds, the world for some reason ignores the fact that today there are about 55 armed conflicts. Thousands of people die in them every day.”

For example, the Head of State cited the Yemen conflict, which, according to him, the collective West would be inconvenienced to highlight. “And I’ll tell you, if we take the long view, the Middle East and Ukraine together are nothing by comparison,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. “There could be such a catastrophe in the Indian Ocean and in the Gulf that the Houthis control that we never dreamed of. Maybe these hot spots are far from someone? Maybe they are not so interesting from the point of view of obtaining political and economic benefits? But their destructive potential is no less dangerous.”

The President of Belarus noted that everyone present at the conference, like no one else, should understand that there are actually no legal international legal instruments left that form guarantees in the sphere of military security. By and large, there are only two treaties left: on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and on strategic offensive weapons, he specified. And even those, in the opinion of the Head of State, do not work: the first is practically not implemented, and the second is morally obsolete. What is especially indicative is that no work is being done to conclude new agreements in this area. This means that someone does not need them. And this is primarily on the conscience of politicians, but not military personnel, the President of Belarus is sure.

“What does dictatorship and power in Belarus have to do with it if it concerns ordinary people?”

“Thirdly, the economy. Half the world is under illegal sanctions, entire sectors of the economy are paralyzed by illegitimate restrictions,” stated the President. “The right to private property has been destroyed. And the collective West has been teaching us for decades what private property is. And where is it? State

assets are being seized and sovereign financial resources are simply being brazenly stolen. Gas pipelines continue to break, access to the sea is being blocked. Purchasing goods from Western brands is no longer a guarantee of technological security, since at any moment we may be denied spare parts or service.”

Belarus has already seen this. “In Russia, probably, even more so,” added Aleksandr Lukashenko. “At their suggestion, requests in a competitive struggle, they won the right to supply medical equipment to our market (all sorts of Siemens and so on). There is no service, it is impossible to legally purchase spare parts. What is this? This is about people’s health! What does Lukashenko have to do with it? What does the ‘dictatorship’ and power in Belarus have to do with it, if this concerns ordinary people?”

The President noted that the system of international division of labour, which was built with such effort, has been undermined. And the next step, according to the Head of State, is the expansion of protectionism and closed economies. At the same time, according to him, in the age of high technology, the issue of food shortages is still acute on the agenda. The scale of hunger on the planet is already approaching the figures of the post-war years. About 750 million people are starving, and almost 3 billion more do not have adequate nutrition. At the same time, countries exporting food, fertilizers, and agricultural machinery are being deprived of the right to supply their products to those in dire need for political reasons. “And those who impose sanctions do not hesitate to visit the poorest countries to get some PR by handing out hot pies to hungry children, and have turned from responsible politicians into hype bloggers,” noted the President of Belarus.

In this regard, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he recently had to correspond with one of the high-ranking US officials. The latter, according to the Head of State, scared him by saying that if, God forbid, we help Russia or enter Ukraine through the north, they will impose sanctions against us and start a war. “I wrote to them: ‘Try it.’ About the war. And about the sanctions, this is important, we are religious people. We are religious people! I will not talk about the answer...” the Head of State revealed the details of the correspondence. He emphasised that the sanctions aimed at destroying national economies are in fact working against ordinary people. “In such conditions, what kind of fulfilment of obligations under the UN Sustainable Development Goals can we talk about?” asked the President. “It is absolutely obvious that without the West’s gangster prohibitions and restrictions, the world would have moved much closer to solving these problems.”

“Everything they undertake under the banner of democratisation and improving the world leads to the opposite.”

“Fourthly, information security. Mass media have become a real weapon,” stated Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Post-truth, endless fakes, manipulation of public opinion, seizure of financial resources, organisation of coups d’état have a transnational character: in its power, it is more dangerous than



any military intervention. And just try to move differently than they planned. Okay, they planned it in advance... As they thought today. Got up on the wrong side of the bed in the morning — and off it went.”

In this regard, the President cited Georgia as an example. He drew attention to the fact that Georgians want transparency in their country in politics, economics, and other areas. This is also evidenced by the decision at the legislative level. “And they repeated exactly what they have in America, and even did it more gently,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. “And they didn’t consult beforehand. And Uncle Joe or someone else in the European Union woke up and thought wrong, looked wrong, and they are destroying the country.”

At the same time, they blame Russia for this. The Belarusian leader emphasised that Russia has nothing to do with this. “We were really worried,” said the President. “And at the last BRICS summit, meeting with Georgia’s neighbouring states, we were worried about the Georgians. Listen, to impose some kind of LGBT on the Georgians... The Georgians, who were the coolest guys, men in the Soviet Union. And they are imposing some kind of LGBT on them. The Georgians won’t accept it, they have been looking at women all their lives, from the cradle. And they are talking about LGBT to them. LGBT in the Caucasus...”

Similarly, the most advanced developments in the field of artificial intelligence, biotechnology, neural networks, quantum physics, as the Head of State noted, are increasingly being used to create technologies for the destruction of humanity. In this regard, the President would be glad if God saw all this, made some decisions, and gave everyone what they deserve. “Society will shudder more than once when blatant facts about the real activities of American biolaboratories around the world are discovered, especially along the perimeter of Belarus and Russia,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. “I could list these ‘achievements’ of Western civilization for a long time. And Western civilization can also be put in quotation marks. At one time, Mahatma Gandhi, when asked what he thought of Western civilization, you know, wisely answered: ‘I think it would be a good idea.’ Long before us. A wise man. Everything

RESONANCE OF THE EVENT

they undertake under the banner of democratisation and improving the world leads to the opposite. Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, African countries, and today Ukraine are indisputable examples. This is the result of a unipolar world. It doesn't work. And it couldn't have worked."

"We need to move, we need to come to an agreement"

The Belarusian leader also spoke on the Ukrainian issue. "Since we are here next to each other and this is what concerns us," explained the Head of State. "My latest contacts (I spoke about this a couple of times) with reasonable representatives of the civilized West indicate that we have developed a certain tilt. The West, finally, based on what I know, has realised that we need to negotiate on Ukraine. I say this in a sporty way: it is possible that there will be a draw, if we are talking about today." Although, as Aleksandr Lukashenko specified, the situation changes every day. And Vladimir Putin, as his Belarusian colleague noted, was right when he proposed sitting down at the negotiating table and negotiating. "Then the Kursk Region happened, then serious advances by the Russians on the main front. On the entire front. The situation on the ground has changed," noted the President. "I warned the Westerners about this a long time ago."

And at recent negotiations with Aleksandr Lukashenko, Western representatives openly said that it is not they who do not want peace today, everything comes down to one person. "You can say (they say this) that if they hadn't given money and weapons, the war would have ended," the President summarised the Westerners' position on the end of the conflict in Ukraine. "It is clear that the West wants to save face. It can't do what they did in Afghanistan (you remember how they talked about the Americans), when their supporters fell to the ground clinging to the chassis. They can't leave like that. They promised Volodya Zelensky to give him certain treats in the form of weapons, ammunition, and to help Ukraine until, as I say, the last Ukrainian dies. They want to save face."

And on the other side, specifically with Volodymyr Zelensky, according to the Head of State, there are ambitions. "The man there does not understand that the war has been going on for a long time on his territory and that his people are dying," emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko. "He recently admitted: there is no one to fight. This was known a year ago. And to catch and lead at gunpoint to the front people who surrender to the Russians in a couple of weeks, and then they call us about

the exchange. We know about these exchanges, swaps. We understand how many people are being exchanged. I can give you the latest example. The Russians returned half a thousand

people to them, they — less than a hundred, eighty. There are no more Russian prisoners there. That's how the war goes — one to ten. And everything rests on them. Well, I think there are still smart people left in Russia and Ukraine. In Ukraine, it is primarily the military who want to end this slaughter."

The Belarusian leader considers the escalation of the conflict dangerous. "Why are they so hung up on some North Koreans and others today, although neither Russians, nor Ukrainians, nor we see them there on the front line," said the President. "And how North Korea and Belarus are helping is known only by Russia and us. But this threatens escalation. And this fact is being blown out of proportion. Why are they blowing it out of proportion? To finally put pressure on the European Union and introduce NATO troops into this conflict. Otherwise, there will be defeat."

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko believes that neither Russia, nor Ukraine, nor the entire Eurasian continent needs this. But the danger is great, the Head of State warned. Therefore, today, before putting forward any concepts from one side or the other, it is necessary to sit down at the negotiating table. Without preconditions. "Putin offered them the right formula: in order to sit down at the negotiating table, you need to at least imagine what the conversation will be about. And what is there to imagine? Three rounds in Belarus, one round in Istanbul — they developed a specific document. I looked: everything is generic there, there are no obligations. Why doesn't Ukraine sit down at the negotiating table and start with this document? Of course, it won't be like that. And not only because Ukraine doesn't want it. But because Russia won't want it either, due to the fact that, as I said, the situation on the ground has changed. Well, why not start with this?" suggested the President of Belarus.

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that Ukraine will not win on the battlefield. According to him, both Ukrainians and the West already understand this. "Well, we need to move on, we need to negotiate," the President is convinced. "Every day, thousands of innocent people die on both sides."

The issue will be resolved at the negotiating table

The head of state also informed about other details of the latest negotiations with Western representatives, who until recently believed that Russia was to blame for everything. "They finally began to understand my formula when I told them: it does not happen that when there is a conflict on two sides, there is only one side to blame," said the Belarusian leader. "The other side is definitely to blame for something, both sides are to blame. But today it is not about the reasons. Then we will figure out the reasons. We need to start resolving the issue at the negotiating table. Then it will be possible to stop hostilities under certain conditions, and, perhaps, to withdraw troops from the line of clashes. Anything is possible, but people will not die. Then we will talk about the reasons." The President also commented on the Westerners' accusations of Belarusians as co-aggressionists: they say that Russians entered Ukrainian territory from our territory. "I say this jokingly: this is a question for Zelensky: why was the route to eastern Russia



shorter through Kyiv?” noted the Head of State. “Yes, we did have exercises, very large-scale ones, in the south of Belarus. The exercises are over. Russia has begun to withdraw its troops to the south, along the Ukrainian border. Half of them have been withdrawn. Deal with the issue and in time it will become known who provoked the rest of the Russian troops to turn 20 kilometres to the south and go through Kyiv?”

Aleksandr Lukashenko also recalled how at one time both the Pope and the entire West asked the Russian president to stop. “They were already in the suburbs of Kyiv, there were troops on the outskirts of Kyiv. No one held them back,” he noted. “Ukrainian generals called me and asked me to contact Putin to stop the war and somehow surrender. Everyone joined in and started putting pressure on Putin: ‘That’s it, we’ll come to an agreement, we won’t do it and so on...’ They withdrew their troops from Kyiv. What then? There were troops in Kyiv. Capturing the capital is a final blow. Didn’t the military understand this in Russia? They understood. They believed once again. And what was the result? We see now.”

In order to finally ‘finish off’ the Westerners with facts, the President cited Odessa as an example, when Russian-speaking residents were burned. “Why did you burn your people, citizens of Ukraine?” asked Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Why did they start oppressing people there for speaking Russian? And what was happening in Donbass? This gave rise in Russia, before your eyes and mine, to a whole wave that engulfed the leadership of Russia, President Putin: ‘Protect the Russians!’ Everyone was running and shouting. And creative people were at the forefront. Putin defended. How can there be any questions? Here are your reasons. Why was it necessary to create ‘anti-Russia’ in the territory of Ukraine? Why was it necessary to oppress people because they want to speak Russian?”

In this regard, the Head of State repeatedly cited the language issue as an example to the Ukrainian leadership, which was resolved during the referendum in 1995, when the Russian language, along with Belarusian, was given the status of a state language. “People responded: ‘Don’t touch the Russian language!’ The great Russian language, as we once said,” recalled Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Translation in the United Nations, on other platforms... Is Russian not on the list there? It is. Why are you banning it? Well, let them speak Russian. We are not banned from speaking Belarusian. We speak our own language, Russian, English is being studied very intensively now, as well as other languages. Why did you start strangling people for this? And imagine if in your countries somewhere they banned a language that 100 percent of the population speaks. And all this came to a massacre.”

According to the President, it was necessary to stop after the Minsk agreements. “It turns out that the collective West came here in order to let us down once again, to deceive, first of all, Russia,” he stated. “Angela Merkel and others are talking about this openly. What is it called? Therefore, before you reproach us, figure it out for yourselves.” The Head of State explained that he says all this to the conference participants, who are certainly smart people who will tomorrow give advice to the



top management on how to live, so that they all know and understand this.

“If some new organisation replaces the UN, what’s wrong with that?”

There is only one conclusion, as the President noted — an alternative is needed. “An alternative is always and everywhere needed in life,” he specified. “There is no alternative, monopolization is a disaster. We need responsibility of a completely different level.”

The response to this demand, according to the Head of State, was the emergence, literally before our eyes, of the regional SCO and the global BRICS as platforms for uniting like-minded people. “That is, people in the world began to look for some way out of the unipolar world,” explained Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Self-organisation of the global majority is today a nightmare for Western neoliberals and pseudo-democrats. Moreover, economic pressure, political blackmail have led to a backlash — the majority has realised its true position, real weight and influence on the world stage.” The global South and East, as the Belarusian leader emphasised, urgently require fundamentally different mechanisms of representation and their participation in modern processes. “And they are quite rightly beginning to defend their legitimate interests in international organisations,” the President believes. “But let’s not be, as they say in the West, propagandists (although I don’t see anything wrong with that). Let’s be frank about our expectations and hopes — regarding the SCO and BRICS. I expressed this idea at the SCO meeting at the time and I still adhere to this position.”

Speaking about the SCO and BRICS, Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that today a lot of hopes are placed on global and regional organisations, despite the successful holding of the BRICS summit in Kazan. “Unfortunately, despite the successful holding of the BRICS summit in Kazan, it was clear that we are just hanging around, in common parlance, and not taking concrete steps to develop this global organisation,” the Belarusian leader is convinced. “And people want an alternative.”

At the same time, according to the Head of State, some are making excuses: they say that this is not an alternative to the UN, we are not against the UN. “What are we making excuses for?” asked the President. “If some new organisation replaces the UN, really replaces it, what’s wrong with that? What have we seen in the UN lately? To come there, they might not even give you a visa. Some have already gone through that. Although it is an international organisation. And if you come there, at best you will speak at this conference and they will show you on national TV channels. Well, we can speak this way for ourselves anyway. Everything else will be shown that does not harm the collective West, since they dominate the media.”

This also applies to the decisions that the United Nations has recently made. “What useful decisions? None,” stated the Belarusian leader. “And they do not want to reform, since in order to reform substantially, they need a consensus or a vote in the United Nations at a plenary session, where again the collective West suppresses everyone: we will impose sanctions, we will not give money, we will not give dollars, there will be no payments, etc. Who needs such an organisation? So what is there to justify? If BRICS takes its place (not the UN’s place, there is still a lot of work to be done on this), and starts to implement the interests of the participating states, nothing bad will happen.” It is this organisation, according to the Head of State, that can become a kind of ‘mini-UN’.

“If it continues like this, especially with BRICS, with the SCO, where the organisation is already stronger, even if it is regional, people will simply turn away,” warned the president. “People are looking for a way out now. We need to show them this way out. To whom? First of all, to the five states that organised BRICS. Or the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation — China and Russia, including India. Show them, go forward. You have taken the first step so that all of humanity will turn to you. But we do not see this yet. To put it mildly, we still have to work on this in order to satisfy the aspirations of the world community.”

“Minsk should be at the negotiating table if it concerns the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine”

The worst thing that can happen now, according to the Belarusian leader, is the total militarization of the planet. “Then it will ‘flare up’ very quickly and with enormous consequences for all of us,” he warned. “To do this, we need to think now about how to throw off the ballast of military contradictions and expenses, find a new key to solving current problems and create working mechanisms to ensure global security.”

Such a key, as the President said earlier, is in Eurasia with its thousand-year experience of interaction between cultures and civilizations. “All the world axes intersect here,” he explained. “As it will be here in the future, so it will be throughout the world. It is in Eurasia that there are countries that are capable of leading the movement towards universal security and have already put forward a number of initiatives.” Aleksandr Lukashenko is referring to Russia’s proposals to build an inclusive and fair system of collective

security, the initiatives of the People’s Republic of China in the field of global security with the formation of a ‘community of common destiny’, as well as India’s initiative to conclude a comprehensive Global Development Compact.

Half of the world population lives in these countries, the Head of State noted. These are the most powerful military-political states in military terms. Why are these initiatives not supported?

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that there are a lot of problems in Europe today. “There is a war going on,” specified the President of Belarus. “And we have a whole organisation — the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). What does it do? Why haven’t people gathered yet, sat down at the negotiating table, and started talking about how we will live on? Because some non-European states that have gotten involved here don’t want this.”

Geographically located in the heart of the continent, Belarus also consistently supports the indicated initiatives and pursues a peacekeeping policy. “You can’t blame us for this,” emphasised the Head of State. “But there is one problem here that I suggest we think about. On the one hand, a literal marathon of peace initiatives has been launched. We welcome any efforts to de-escalate the situation. Probably, the Russians have just received so many initiatives that Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov does not have time to record them, regarding the conflict in Ukraine. The whole lot! On the other hand, there is a fragmentation of the negotiation process, since different countries are objectively attracted to regional centres of power. This complicates the search for acceptable compromises. The faster we combine our efforts, the faster they will be found.”

And in this regard, the President voiced Belarus’ interest: Minsk must be at the negotiating table if this concerns the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine. “This is a matter of guarantees of our security,” he explained. “We do not demand anything else in this regard. We are ready to work in this direction.”

“We are people who know how to appreciate goodness and respond to it with goodness.”

The President announced a number of priority measures to de-escalate tensions in the world, as we see it from the centre of Europe.

First. “In order to truly defuse the situation and create conditions for dialogue, it is necessary to withdraw American nuclear weapons from the territory of Eurasian countries,” believes the Head of State. “This deadly arsenal is an anachronism of the Cold War. Then we will not remain on the sidelines. I am answering those who are worried about the fact that we have today deployed tactical nuclear weapons in the territory of Belarus. Just do not forget that we have recently withdrawn strategic weapons. The most advanced ones that Russia has today, and this was primarily demanded of us by the United States of America.”

Second. “It is necessary to abolish the practice of applying illegal sanctions without decisions of the UN Security



Council and create an effective mechanism of international legal guarantees that do not allow the use of such a method of pressure,” the Belarusian leader is convinced. He recalled that in Budapest, the powers that be guaranteed us, Ukraine and Kazakhstan a lot — just so that we would give up our nuclear weapons. “Economic pressure and sanctions were explicitly excluded,” stated Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Third. “We need to develop a new contractual and legal mechanism to create a transparent, understandable control regime for new deadly technologies capable of destroying all of humanity without nuclear weapons: lasers, hypersonics, quantum and electromagnetic systems, and other advanced developments with properties that have not been fully studied,” the President of Belarus suggested. This proposal also applies to developments in the field of artificial intelligence. The Head of State recalled a lecture on this topic that was once held in the Middle East. “I ask a question: tell me, won’t it turn out that we will not be needed?” the President asked one of the lecturers. And they told me: “Mr. President, we cannot answer this question. Maybe.” So, are we preparing our own destruction?”

Fourth. “An entire industry is also developing uncontrollably in the cyber sphere, aimed at creating and implementing malicious solutions that have consequences on a global scale,” informed Aleksandr Lukashenko. “No nuclear weapons are needed. It is necessary to adopt an international legal act on cyber non-aggression, providing for the refusal to use these weapons against each other, as well as the formation of a system of control over their development and use. Cyber weapons. And then whoever is smarter will win.”

Summing up, the Head of State called it obvious that today security cannot be maintained only on one continent. “We are in favour of creating a common space of trust and cooperation between the West, which has remained in the minority, and the global majority,” he emphasised. “For the unification of countries not against anyone, but in the name of a common goal in order to avoid a fatal civilizational rift. For the restoration of a truly equal, mutually respectful and responsible dialogue. I believe that our conference is a major step towards creating a sustainable world.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed gratitude to the foreign guests for coming to Belarus. “I am an experienced politician, excuse my immodesty, and I know how conferences gather,” he noted. “If some large state had invited us to the conference, I can tell you, there would have been a sea of people there. And when small, medium or other states do it, you may not want to go. But you came. You came, 600 people are participating in this conference today. I am very grateful to you for this. And remember, if as a result Belarus can make some kind of contribution, even not in terms of the resolution that you develop here or a document, we will do it. After all, we are people who know how to appreciate goodness and respond to it with goodness.”

The President invited the guests to come to Belarus next year to take part in the meeting, which is planned to be held in the Eurasia Plus format, so that the voice of each country that wants to make its constructive contribution to the establishment of global security is heard. Such a step, the Head of State explained, is intended to become the beginning of a new political process on measures to strengthen trust, security and cooperation, similar to Helsinki, but corresponding to the realities of today. “To which I,” the President of Belarus emphasised, “have repeatedly called upon the entire international community together with you.”

At the same time, the Belarusian leader emphasised that security is only one link in the system of universal human values. But this is the basis, without which, according to him, everything else is impossible, will be void. “We must move away from prejudices and stereotypes and begin to painstakingly build a dialogue, step by step look for points of contact and rapprochement,” urged Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Let’s think, as they often say in Belarus, not about ourselves. Let’s think about our children, about our grandchildren. They will live after us, and it is very important what we leave them, what kind of world. We all need a world in which we want to live and develop. A world that we are not ashamed to pass on to future generations.”

Vladimir Velikhov
photo by Belta



TIME WILL NOT TOLERATE INDIFFERENCE

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko took part in the World Summit on Combating Climate Change, which was held in the capital of Azerbaijan in mid-November. The Global Forum gathered tens of thousands of delegates, including many heads of State and Government.

The President spoke at the World Summit on Combating Climate Change in Baku. The speech of the Belarusian leader was concise, according to the regulations it should not be more than three minutes, but a mark for the anger of the day. "There has been a lot of talk here about who has done how much to improve the climate. But I am comparing the last period after our previous summit. It only got worse," Alexander Lukashenko said. - The war in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, the war in South Yemen. There are more than 50 conflicts in the world that severely affect the climate on our planet. So is it getting better? Who started paying for emissions?"

The Head of State stressed that those who began to worry primarily about climate improvement were absent from the summit. Moreover, they sabotage it. "Whether it will still be after (the past. - "White") of the presidential elections in the United States of America, - Alexander Lukashenko noted. - The question arises: so what is the effectiveness of our activities at such summits? Once upon a time, the President of France considered himself almost great for the Paris Agreement. And where is this president today? Is it really not relevant? Here is our efficiency of our work. So there's nothing to report yet." At the same time, the Belarusian leader congratulated his colleague Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on the excellent organization of this difficult summit. "But those who think today that they will get through by being absent from this summit... It won't get through! A storm in the United States of America, recently Valencia (talking about flooding. - "White.") - people died. This shows how we are "improving" our climate. I say this honestly, because there is nothing to blame my country for in this regard. We strictly fulfill all the obligations that we have assumed. But since it is almost impossible to say anything in three minutes because of such a terry bureaucracy of the UN Secretariat, I will limit myself to just a few sentences," the Belarusian leader said and briefly presented the proposals of the Belarusian side on this issue. "The first one. The climate has changed, it's a given. Therefore, the primary task is to reconfigure national economies, primarily agriculture, taking into account the changed conditions, and adapt it to new conditions. Belarus is actively engaged in this topic and is ready to share its experience," Alexander Lukashenko said.

The President's second proposal is to help developing countries gain equal access to green technologies without compromising their national interests. "To make sure that they do not fall into bondage as a result of this assistance. We need to abolish everything that hinders international technology trade, the exchange of innovations and best practices," he said.

"The third. Today we are already faced with a situation where new products are positioned as a more environmentally friendly alternative. But at the same time it causes no less harm. Objectively, new approaches are needed to comprehensively assess the potential impact of innovations on the environment throughout the life cycle of these products," the Belarusian leader emphasized.

Alexander Lukashenko stressed that these and other areas require consolidation of international efforts. "Not in words, but in deeds. Time to move from words to action. And whoever has to pay has to pay, and not sit in their offices," he concluded.

"Everyone reports how great they are. And it got even worse."

Alexander Lukashenko explained his position in a short interview with journalists after his speech. He noted that the organization of the summit hosted by Azerbaijan this year is brilliant. "This is the only thing that can be evaluated positively, but it is very expensive," he said. When asked about the general impression, the President said: "Disgusting. I said it in a thesis, because because of the terry bureaucracy of the UN Secretariat, it's all in vain. Well, what can you say in three minutes?... Everyone reports how great they are. And it got even worse. I have named three wars that pollute the atmosphere. The Houthis are being crushed there for no one knows why, there is a war in the Middle East (there are great prospects for involving other countries) and a war in Ukraine. These are only the big ones. And there are more than 50 of them - these conflicts. This primarily pollutes the atmosphere. I spoke about this in Dubai (at the previous similar summit a year ago. - "White."). And manufacturers. Who produces the most are the Anglo-Saxons. Where are they? And x is not. Where is Mr. Macron (President of France. - "Bel."), which was so promoted on the agenda by this - the Paris Agreement. Where is he? He's not even here today. They don't give a damn about it. And this (at the summit. - "White.") is just another talking point," the Belarusian leader added.

The head of state was also asked if he believes in the possibility of ending wars. "Reality shows the opposite. Therefore, I have little faith in this," Alexander Lukashenko replied.



ACTIVE POSITION

Relations with Serbia are to be intensified

On the sidelines of the summit, the President also held a number of bilateral meetings. Alexander Lukashenko met with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic. "We have been living in diplomatic relations for thirty years. A lot has been done, but serious changes have taken place in our fate and in the fate of Serbia. It's all in front of my eyes. Nevertheless, life goes on. I think we need to intensify our relations. It's bad that we don't have such an intense relationship. With all our difficulties. They certainly exist," the Belarusian head of state said. Alexander Lukashenko proposed to involve the intergovernmental commission first, so that its members would gather, carry out an audit of bilateral relations and think about how and in what areas to continue to cooperate. "If something is not needed in our relations during this time, it should be discarded, new ways should be outlined. But relationships don't just need to be maintained. Despite all the difficulties, it needs to be intensified," the Belarusian leader said. After working at the level of the intergovernmental commission, Alexander Lukashenko proposed a visit to Serbia by the Belarusian Prime Minister, and in general, according to him, it is possible to exchange visits at the government level. "To specify the plan of further actions. And at a higher level, we could then approve all the proposals," the Belarusian head of state explained. "There are many areas of cooperation. I understand Serbia and have often said that it is difficult for you, you are practically surrounded and isolated. We need to proceed from this and build our policy. But you can't lose old friends. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain relations with Russia and Belarus. These are real friends, deep friends, and I think Serbia will do its best in this direction," the Belarusian leader concluded.

Belarus and Zimbabwe can do a lot

Alexander Lukashenko also met with Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa. The heads of state



checked their watches on a number of issues in the development of bilateral cooperation and prospects for joint work on the African continent. The meeting was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. "Mr. President, I am glad to see you active and cheerful, despite all the problems that we have in the world," Alexander Lukashenko greeted his colleague.

"And my compliments to you too. You look great. And younger, of course," the President of Zimbabwe said in response. "Well, probably not quite," Alexander Lukashenko said.

"Well, compared to me, Mr. President, you look like a young man," Emmerson Mnangagwa insisted. - I'm 82 years old. Therefore, looking at you, Mr. President, I see my young, young brother."

Alexander Lukashenko, in turn, stressed that it is impossible to compare northern people with southern ones. The latter, the President of Belarus is sure, are much more effective, more active and healthier. "We are going to live with you for more than one year, and we will have to do a lot more," the Belarusian leader stressed.

The Head of State also recalled the idea of expanding cooperation by involving other countries in the region, in particular Mozambique: "I have an idea that we discussed at the time. That we will meet at your place somewhere, invite the President of Mozambique and build our joint relations together. We will make sure that you have your own ports in Mozambique, and we will cooperate with you more effectively and actively through them."

In a constructive and interested atmosphere

I must say that earlier in Baku, Alexander Lukashenko had a working meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. In general, Belarusian-Azerbaijani relations at the highest level are developing intensively this year: in addition to a fruitful meeting in Azerbaijan in May this year, the heads of state also





communicated in Moscow and Kazan, where they took part in the CIS and BRICS summits. Commenting on cooperation with Azerbaijan, Alexander Lukashenko stressed: "We have agreed on many things. I think we have everything we need to move along this path. Just the day before, we reviewed all the issues that we raised with you. They are very relevant to us. I think if our ministries and the ambassador move, we can do a lot for the benefit of both Belarus and Azerbaijan." It should be recalled that in May of this year, during a state visit to Azerbaijan, the Belarusian leader emphasized that the parties are able to increase the level of mutual trade to \$ 1 billion in the future. Following the results of the visit, the parties identified 12 main areas of cooperation, which they are now systematically moving towards.

The answers are direct and specific

Immediately after the bilateral meeting with the President of Azerbaijan, Alexander Lukashenko was literally intercepted by journalists on his feet. It turned out to be an express interview on the topic of the effectiveness of the conference as a whole. Recall that in order to combat climate change and its negative consequences, the Paris Agreement was adopted within the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change on December 12, 2015. This agreement, which entered into force less than a year later, aims to significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and limit the increase in global temperature this century to 2 degrees Celsius, while seeking means to further limit this increase to 1.5 degrees. To date, 195 countries and the EU have joined the Paris Agreement. A question from journalists to the

President of Belarus: "What do you think: is the goal of 1.5 degrees achievable? And are countries doing enough to achieve it?" Alexander Lukashenko answered directly and concretely: "If we do this and in such sufficiency, then it is unattainable. Nothing changes. On the contrary, it's getting worse and worse. And those countries that should primarily deal with reducing emissions, unfortunately, do not do this. And there is no gap in this regard. Therefore, the question arises about the effectiveness of such events. I think they are ineffective."

The journalists noted that the leaders of some Western countries refused to participate in the events of the World Summit on Combating Climate Change in Baku, and asked the opinion of the Belarusian President on this score. The head of state did not hide his opinion: "They think that everything will be fine, and the climate will not change, and the West is (climate change. — "Bel.") will get around. That is, they think it will be okay. It won't do. Well, you don't have to suffer because they didn't come."

Interested meetings

It should be noted that on the first day of his working visit to Baku, the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, invited the President of Belarus to an informal dinner. Other distinguished guests included Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah of Jordan and Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama, as well as members of the UAE representative delegation. A detailed conversation took place over dinner.

Vladimir Khromov
photo by Belta

COUNTRY TO LIVE IN

IT IS IMPORTANT TO INSPIRE WITH A GOOD EXAMPLE



The President of Belarus visited the Traktor stadium in Minsk and the park next to it on the first day of the complex's operation after reconstruction. Recently, during the opening of a new swimming pool in the capital, the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee Vladimir Kukharev invited the Head of State to visit the renovated capital facility. The President accepted the invitation.

At the same time, the festive nature of the event did not prevent discussions on topical issues. First of all, the President recalled the 'debt', meaning the completion of work at the Motovelezavod. "This is very important. Because having social facilities is good, but we need production facilities to earn money," noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. Equipment is currently being installed at the plant, and the facility will be ready in early 2025, the Head of State was informed. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that the work needs to be accelerated in order to present the modernised enterprise to the people by the elections in January. The Head of State also drew attention to the fact that in the coming months it is necessary to complete the construction of the MAZ bus plant and the National Exhibition Centre. "We will summarise the quality results at the end of the year. We will exhibit the best products there," noted the Belarusian leader.

The President was shown the results of the reconstruction of the 50th Anniversary of the Great October Park. By the way, this is the second largest park in the capital, occupying almost 70 hectares. After the reconstruction, it became even more attractive for Minsk residents: volleyball and mini-football, streetball and workout courts, skateboarding and outdoor exercise equipment courts appeared, and there were more places to relax. "A very old park. I used to drive past it all the time, I stopped here and at the stadium many times," recalled Aleksandr Lukashenko. "This is an old park, it was built for the people. A people's park, a good park."

Children should bring their parents to sports grounds. Separately, the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee reported on the improvement of Minsk and the development of sports infrastructure in the capital. According to him, the city is doing everything to make people feel comfortable and to be able to exercise in every district. Over the past two years, the construction of three parks has been completed: Hugo Chávez Park in Kamennaya Gorka, M. Pavlov Park in the Moskovsky District (near the Student Village) and the apple park near the First National Trading House. Vladimir Kukharev noted that until recently, Minsk had many local green areas that were not improved. The administrations of the capital's districts took up the solution of this problem — in three years, they created 64 recreation areas that are visited with pleasure by residents and guests of the capital. "Very good," assessed the Head of State.

Vladimir Kukharev said that the development of the network of bicycle paths continues in Minsk. There are currently 293 kilometres of them in Minsk. "In the next five-year period, we are planning another 85 kilometres. Thus, the total network will exceed 380 kilometres, which



will allow you to get to any point in the city by bicycle from any microdistrict," he noted.

"This is important. We have preserved the Motovelezavod and are developing it. Here are the bicycles — move around," noted the President.

The work on improving yard sports grounds continues. There are currently 344 of them. Over the past three years, 225 have been brought into full order. The Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee assured that this work will be completed by 2025. He also said that over the past two years, ski trails with artificial snow have been made in each district of Minsk. In addition, four roller ski trails operate in the capital. "And schools there, on skis," emphasised the President. According to Vladimir Kukharev, each of the 245 Minsk schools has a sports core, and each school stadium is open to people during the day and evening. "This is right. Children should take their parents there," believes Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Famous sports facilities are also open to everyone. For example, a shooting range and a climbing wall, which are very popular with visitors, are open in the premises of the Dinamo National Olympic Stadium. Tennis courts have been put into operation on Zhudro Street. According to Vladimir Kukharev, this was a long-term construction project, but the facility has been put in order. Currently, there are four courts with artificial turf and four with clay. The President emphasised that this facility should be accessible, but not free. A significant part of budget funds is spent on training athletes (including tennis players), creating sports infrastructure, training coaches, and so on. "Tennis players become millionaires for free. And



practically no one helps... So if you want to play, pay. Or sign a contract. If you become rich, make a contribution,” Aleksandr Lukashenko set the task.

Currently, nine interschool stadiums have been improved in Minsk (in each district of the city), where there is a football field with artificial turf, athletics tracks and exercise machines. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled how football players had previously complained about the fact that too many hockey rinks were being created, and drew attention to the fact that football fields and all the conditions for playing football are available in every district of Minsk. “Go and play. As a football player, I say: if only such conditions had existed before,” he noted.

According to Vladimir Kukharev, two sports and recreation complexes are planned to be commissioned next year — in Kamennaya Gorka and Loshitsa. The reconstruction of the Dynamo sports complex on Daumana Street is also being completed, which will also be commissioned in 2025. In addition, a decision was made to make a 2.5-kilometer roller ski track and a well-equipped shooting range for biathlons in the Medvezhye forest area.

Work with coaches to get results

Next to the park named after the 50th anniversary of the Great October Revolution is the Rings of Glory House of Physical Culture, where the pupils of the specialised children’s and youth school of the Olympic reserve in artistic gymnastics and acrobatics study. The House of Physical Culture was built in 1956 for team sports. In 1970, it was transferred to the children’s and youth school of artistic gymnastics. In 2023, the House of Physical Culture, which has produced many masters of sports, was reconstructed. The President also visited the historical



renovated facility. “Traditions are good, but we need results now,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko, speaking about the current state of artistic gymnastics. The main thing, according to him, to achieve results is a coach, “If there is a coach, there will be a result, if there is no coach, there will be no result. Therefore, we need to work with coaches in order for them to produce results. If there is no result, we need to say goodbye and move the young ones forward.”

The President also emphasised the importance of working with the coaching staff during a conversation with the Chairman of the Belarusian Football Federation. “I have only one question for you — ‘when?’,” the Head of State addressed Nikolai Sherstnev, referring to the long-awaited victories of the Belarusian football players. Aleksandr Lukashenko also drew attention to the Russian experience of uniting water and gymnastics sports into one Federation. According to him, such an approach should be considered in Belarus, so that similar sports are united into one fist. Aleksandr Lukashenko called the National Football

Stadium, the construction of which will be completed this year, an advance for the football players. Nikolai Sherstnev said that the Federation is actively working on raising a new generation of football players. “Already this year, we have completely restored the training system, starting from the age of 7. We have fully formed republican championships for children aged 9, 10, 11, 12, 14. And this championship is already underway. A training system has been formed in children’s football today. Next, it is the level of coaching work, the load, because if you do not develop speed qualities, endurance in childhood, then it is difficult to talk about it later,” said Nikolai Sherstnev. However, according to the President, it is necessary to improve the physical training of football players in leading teams. And this is also the responsibility of coaches.

Speed and physical fitness

The conversation about football continued in the Traktor stadium bowl. The famous facility was built in the 1950s. Over its history, it has undergone several reconstructions, the last of which was completed by November 7th of this year. It was not carried out by chance. The President recalled that after reaching an agreement with Chinese partners on the construction of a national football stadium, it was decided to put their own Traktor stadium in order. Now there is a playing field with a natural surface, along which there are four running tracks, and behind the goals there are two fields with artificial turf for mini-football. More than 5.8 thousand people can watch the game from the stands. It is planned that matches of the Belarusian Premier League will be held here. The renovated Traktor stadium will also be the home arena for matches of the men’s and women’s teams of the Minsk football club. The President’s visit suspended the training of the Minsk women’s team for several minutes. Aleksandr Lukashenko told the girls about his football career and how it ended due to a knee injury. However, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, on modern fields, very serious injuries rarely threaten athletes: the fields are high-quality, soft and flat. The football players asked the President to sign a ball ‘for good luck’, which will take pride of place in the club’s museum.

Separate advice from the Head of State to the football players is to work on physical training. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that Belarusian players should perform in such a way that there is no need for legionnaires. According to him, many athletes from other countries themselves want to perform in Belarus, but priority is given to Belarusians. “Good luck to you. And, most importantly, without injuries. And remember: speed and physical training. If you have it, you will win. If not, you will fall behind. Hockey and football have already reached such speeds. The speed is crazy, you need to play quickly,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Meeting with the student brigade fighters is like balm for the heart

The reconstruction of the Traktor stadium was declared a youth construction project, and student construction teams from all Minsk universities took part in it. They did it for themselves too, as it is planned that a youth creative space will soon start functioning at the stadium, which will become the centre of attraction for the capital’s activists of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union. The President also met with young people. Aleksandr Lukashenko mentioned that he also worked in a construction team at one time (he needed to earn money) and gained useful experience that remained with him for life. “That is a completely different student if he or she participated in a construction team. Absolutely different. I did not need to be taught to work, I have worked in the village all my life since childhood. And the city dwellers with us, having been in a construction team, are completely different people. That is why I know this and I support it,” recalled Aleksandr Lukashenko. He drew attention to the fact that the Belarusian Republican Youth Union should develop areas that people really need: the construction brigade movement, which the Head of State called the strong point of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, as well as the volunteer movement, and assistance to the elderly.

The young people asked the President several questions, including a football theme. Aleksandr Lukashenko was asked about his most vivid impressions in football. The Head of State admitted that his most vivid football memories are associated with his years at school, when all the village youth gathered on the football field. Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he played football in his student days, and played for different teams. “But I still have this — a village background. I ran a lot back then, played sports. I wanted to be a football player. But then I injured my knee and switched to hockey,” noted the Head of State. “I recommend playing football, but I don’t recommend running on asphalt, because over time it always comes back to haunt me. And they say the best things are cycling and swimming.” But, as Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted, he himself does not like swimming, because it is a very boring thing, but he enjoys cycling.

New sports facilities — a swimming pool, a football stadium — were also not ignored. The President was asked whether they can be considered growth points for domestic sports. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, growth points are small areas where coaches can notice promising children and bring them to the podium. “Our main problem is the physical condition of athletes. Not physically ready to compete at the highest level in certain sports. Not physically ready. In football, they cannot run from the first to the last minute. They cannot run for 90 minutes. And today they also have to think. Football has



become very fast. And where does physical condition come from? From growth points. And the growth point is children. That is why we build both courtyards and stadiums. We already have a sea of these areas. The main thing is to captivate children. The growth points are in the courtyards,” the President explained his position. He also noted that children need to be worked with starting from the first grade of school, and in some sports, such as rhythmic gymnastics, even earlier. According to the Head of State, everything depends on the parents. In raising children, he put education first, sports second, and English third. “It’s a big deal when you come to a company and speak English fluently, everyone speaks English now. Native language and then English. And then either football or hockey, if there is talent. And I have always insisted on music,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. “You should see these four or five areas in your child and develop them. Therefore, a lot depends on the parents.” Separately, the Head of State singled out cases when a child follows in the footsteps of their parents and chooses the same profession. According to him, this is good, but there should be no clannishness when parents help their son or daughter get a job. According to him, this has almost been eliminated, especially when they began recruiting ‘target students’. “But we will also look at the ‘target students’. It turned out that with the ‘target students’ these ‘target students’ are poorly prepared. We will also pay attention to this,” noted the Belarusian leader. However, at the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that the targeted appointment also provides a number of advantages. Firstly, it allows young people from the village to enter a university. Secondly, this is an agreement with the enterprise.

In December, the All-Belarusian Student Brigades Meeting will take place, where the third work semester will be closed. The young people invited the President to this ceremonial event. Aleksandr Lukashenko replied that he could not promise, since he had a very busy schedule: the President’s attention was required by internal and external issues. “That is why I am afraid to promise and not come. But when I meet with student brigades, it is a balm for my heart. I remember my student life. That is why I am always pleased to meet you, because you are like me once. Therefore, if possible, I will at least take a few minutes to visit you,” Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted. The Head of State was told about another area of the activity of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union — youth law enforcement brigades. “This is right. We must maintain order on the streets ourselves, you yourselves. We need to preserve and even strengthen the order that we have. I repeat: this is for you and your children. Especially for children. Here foreigners come to us: Listen, in Belarus you can take a child to the park, and no one will hurt him or her there. This is worth a lot,” Aleksandr Lukashenko supported this initiative. According to him, this is especially important in such a crucial period as the election campaign.

In memory of this meeting, the Head of State left an autograph on the helmet of a construction brigade worker.

“We will fight together for the course that we have long defined”

Not only football players and activists wanted to hear answers to their questions from the President, but also journalists. And their questions are on the topic of the day.



And the most pressing topic is the elections. Signatures are currently being actively collected to nominate a candidate for president. Aleksandr Lukashenko was asked how many signatures were collected for him. "I was informed yesterday that more than 700 thousand signatures have been collected to date. Something like that," he answered. Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that he has not been closely following this yet due to his busy schedule, which includes many trips around the country and abroad. Many current issues are also in sight, including such global ones as the completion of the harvesting campaign. "People need to be fed. We need to give them food so that they can buy it. Today we have everything and even more than we expected," the Head of State said. "Farmers are celebrating their holy holiday. Thank them very much. It was not in vain that I went to Dozhinki to thank people and look from above at how they carry out my instructions, especially how they plough the soil and raise fallow land." As for the election campaign, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he had already even suggested finishing collecting signatures in support of his candidacy. However, the head of the Presidential Administration Dmitry Krutoy noted that people should be given the opportunity to support their leader. "We are not escalating the situation. I planned to talk with the leadership of the initiative group, thank them at the first stage. And talk about how we will move forward," noted the Head of State. "The main thing is that the 'alternatives' also collect their signatures. But, as I am told, people are not very willing to sign for another candidate. This pleases me and seriously worries me: for me, the most important and the most terrible thing is people's trust." According to him, after 2020, people



realized that they could lose the country and realised that they need to appreciate what they have. "And so, based on this, people go, but not very much, to sign for others. But there is nothing terrible about this," noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. He said that he was a supporter of all parties and large public organisations nominating their own candidates for President.

"They nominated: Olya Chemodanova and Bobrikov. Well, normal people. Of course, they are supporters of the President. And they went: "We know that the President will win, but we will not let him be offended." As if someone could offend me. And then they looked: inside the organisations they do not really understand this. And they: "we better withdraw." Well, as I was informed. I only just now learned that they withdrew from this race. We will fight together for the course that we have long defined,"



emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko. According to him, there is no fear that everyone who wants to will participate in the elections. “We will no longer give the opportunity to bend the country, or to its knees, God forbid, to put it, or to destroy it. This is out of the question, no matter how much someone might want it,” added the President.

A woman cannot be burdened with such powers

Aleksandr Lukashenko was also asked about his opinion on whether a woman can be President in Belarus. To which he mentioned the classic: presidents are not made, they are born. “A person must have fundamental qualities by nature that he will need as a president,” explained Aleksandr Lukashenko. “There are many of them. Maybe one, two, or maybe all. This is very important.” As an example, he cited the recent presidential elections in the United States, where Donald Trump’s main rival was a woman, Kamala Harris. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled some offensive statements made about her during the election campaign. According to him, in Belarus, a presidential candidate who allowed himself to do such a thing would lose a significant part of the electorate. “But for American society, this is probably normal. They held their election. Remember, I said before the election: America is ready to elect a black man, but America is probably not ready to elect a woman as President yet,” noted the Head of State. In his opinion, Kamala Harris lost the election largely due to the decisions of the Democratic Party and Joe Biden. However, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the most important thing now is for Donald Trump to fulfil his election promises, the head of state emphasised, “In America, it’s easy to promise and not fulfil. This is everywhere now, but even more so with them. But he is still an experienced person, this

bulldozer. Only so that it doesn’t get worse for the whole world. Because the leading economy, the leading country, a monopolist, one might say, in all respects, including in politics. I would really like him to make America great without harming us, without harming the whole world and without clashing with Russia, China and everyone else. We must be very careful, that first term taught him this.”

Returning to the election of a woman to the post of President, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that in Belarus this is almost impossible. He explained this by the fact that in our country the head of state not only performs representative or protocol functions, but also works all day and night, delves into all issues. It is important that in Belarus the President is the acting commander-in-chief.

This is very hard work

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, a woman should also be a woman, take care of the family. “Therefore, a woman should not be burdened with such powers, such responsibilities. As long as there are women’s presidents in Belarus, let them be men, why burden women?” he said. “We should not shift our responsibilities to women. I bow to women, without belittling their role. But they should be there so that we can lean on a strong shoulder, as is usually the case with us.”

Europe needs real leaders

Continuing with the topic of Donald Trump’s election as US President, journalists noted that after his victory, European politicians began to talk more often about the fact that Europe should be independent. “It’s time to change the tune,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Trump



will not forget this. Although I am not a supporter of him settling scores with anyone. There is no need to be vindictive. We must discard everything, cross it out. He is a smart man, he will not settle scores with someone over trifles. And they are already shaking, they have started to change their tune.”

The Belarusian leader emphasised that politicians must be responsible for their words and stick to their point of view. He cited the recent climate summit in Baku as an example. “One European (if Ryzhenkov had not told me, I would not have known) refused to be photographed (‘family photo’ at the summit in Baku), because Lukashenko was there. No one even noticed it. I was standing there calmly. The Pakistani prime minister came up, many came up, greeted me with respect. Well, like a family. No one noticed that he was not there. He sees that they did not notice that he was not there and went to promote himself — “I did not go to be photographed”. Well, don’t go, who was waiting for you there! These are Europeans,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. He also told how the Polish president talked about how his country protects flora and fauna and did not say a word about the fence in Belovezhskaya Pushcha, because of which animals die. According to the Belarusian leader, a similar situation was at the last climate summit, where the leaders of different countries spoke eloquently about the agenda, but no one got to real action. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that such events are held only for the birds. Therefore, we must first of all take care of our own, take care of our nature.

Journalists asked whether it is possible that Europe will become independent from the US and develop relations with Russia. “Maybe. If there are ‘trumps’

there, maybe. But there is no one there. Just look. I don’t want to characterise them: it’s not good. True, today the Americans have already started wiping their feet on Scholz: that he is a ‘political lightweight’ and so on. God forbid, I don’t want to say that. He is the son of his people: what the Germans deserve, whoever they elected, let them work with him. Everyone is promoting themselves, but making a decision and acting — no. But they will come to this,” the Belarusian leader is convinced. He is sure that in the future there will be politicians of the level of Charles de Gaulle, Helmut Kohl, Jacques Chirac, who will go down in history as strong European rulers.

“There are no such people now. Everyone is shaking. And why are they shaking: cheap resources in Russia, technology in Germany. And today the auto and aviation industries — everything is already falling apart. This is what Europe has been brought to, instead of being together,” noted Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Therefore, we need to make decisions and move in this direction. Europe is ripe for this. Europe needs real leaders who will make decisions and act.” According to the Belarusian leader, Russia is also ready for this, since no one needs to quarrel with European neighbours. He recalled how they turned the page on World War II, the Great Patriotic War, in which millions of people died, because they needed to move forward. “No, they ran after the Americans. And they think that they will sit it out there. Well, they will not sit it out. Therefore, the picture here is complex, the palette is serious. But everything is moving towards this. A little patience is needed, time is needed,” concluded the Belarusian leader.

Vsevolod Yevseyev
photo by Belta

MASTER CLASS FROM THE PRESIDENT. AND MORE...

Aleksandr Lukashenko visited the 3rd Championship of Wood Chopping Among Media Workers, held a master class and talked with journalists about pressing issues



The Head of State visited the sites where the teams competed for the championship, gave practical advice to those who exchanged a pen, camera and microphone for an axe that day, and, of course, showed how to do it right. The master class from Aleksandr Lukashenko turned out to be spectacular: it was immediately obvious that the President does this regularly. Easily chopping thick logs into firewood, he masterfully handled the axe, which, by the way, is domestically produced.

The Head of State presented this Belarus brand axe at the championship. Making an axe of our own production is a long-standing assignment that domestic craftsmen have successfully completed. According to the President, the Belarusian axe turned out to be quite good, but slightly heavier than imported analogues.

Everyone who wanted to could see how to chop wood in the presidential style: both the participants of the championship and its guests. And also try. The people who accompanied the Head of State chopped wood together with him: the President's press secretary, a doctor, a coach, a farmer and others. And some teams, in particular, the Chinese media, could be envied — the youngest son of the Head of State, Nikolai Lukashenko, who also knows how to use an axe very well, came to help them.

"To chop wood, you need to choose the right axe," the President gave practical advice to those who picked up this tool. "After choosing an axe, look at the block — there is one crack, you need to chop along this crack. Nature has chosen where the weaker fibres hold, it will be easier to cut here. You need to chop slowly. It is very important to look at the point where you want to hit with the axe."

"We hope that he will keep his promise."

After the competition, the Head of State answered a question from journalists about the results of the presidential election in the United States of America. The media noted that Aleksandr Lukashenko, as in the previous elections in this country, predicted the victory of a specific presidential candidate.

"Trump, of course, is a force to be reckoned with," said the President. "No matter how I feel about him, he is a great guy. It was hard to believe that he could win: they shot, they pressed, 91 charges, they wanted to put him in jail, and other things. But he, like a bulldozer, went through. And he went through after he had already worked, it seemed, unsuccessfully. Therefore, this is his personal feat in the name of the American people. Therefore, he is a great guy from this point of view."

Speaking about Donald Trump's rival Kamala Harris, the Head of State noted that she is a heroic woman who does not need to cry. "I watched today, she is worried — she lost," Aleksandr Lukashenko stated. "Listen, America is ripe for electing a black president. But America is not yet ripe for electing a woman. America is not ready for this."

According to the Head of State, Kamala Harris went head to head with Trump the 'bulldozer'. "She did everything possible and impossible," he specified. "She is a great woman, so she should not cry under any circumstances."

The President noted: despite the fact that they lost, Kamala Harris's supporters are not calling anyone to take to the streets, no one is calling for anyone to fight the authorities with a pick or an axe. "They lost and that's it, they will continue to work," Aleksandr Lukashenko voiced the position of the Democrats. "This is a good example for the whole world from the Democratic Party."



The way this election in the United States ended, according to the Head of State, gives hope for the establishment of peace throughout the world. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that Trump will have to do everything in order not only to make America great, but great in the interests of the whole world, since the United States, as the President of Belarus noted, is claiming leadership.

In this regard, the President recalled Donald Trump's statement that he would do everything to stop wars. And in the world, as Aleksandr Lukashenko reminded, there are 55 conflicts: Ukraine, the Middle East, Yemen and others. If Trump stops all wars, then, in the opinion of the Head of State, he should be awarded the Nobel Prize.

"There is hope that he will fulfil his promises," the Belarusian leader expressed hope. At the same time, he noted that America is not Belarus, where people will definitely remind you of what they promised, so it is immediately fulfilled. "And there (in the USA) they can step aside, they can forget, something else, but we hope that he will fulfil his promise. Everything depends on him."

However, as Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, not everything will depend on Donald Trump, especially when it comes to the Ukrainian conflict. "He will strive to end the war in Ukraine, but this is not a one-sided process," explained the Head of State. "This needs to be negotiated. Maybe not only with Russia. This also concerns many other countries."

Aleksandr Lukashenko also commented on the statement of the new US President, who said that "we need to put China in its place". "The one who will put China in its place has not been born yet," noted Aleksandr Lukashenko.

"That is why we need to divide everything, as we say, into two, into three," noted the President, referring to Trump's statements. "What you say today, during the election campaign, does not necessarily mean that tomorrow the circumstances will turn out that way. This is just the latest development. Well, we will see what happens next. When will this euphoria subside, because Trump has a lot of euphoria, because he is a hero. We must give him credit — he acted heroically. Can you really say that he is almost 80? He is pushing forward like a bulldozer, and that's it. He held three rallies a day. That is why he is a hero, he deserved it."

"If they want there to be peace and tranquillity in Europe, we will help to achieve this."

To those who might accuse Aleksandr Lukashenko of speaking about Trump in such a manner, the President responded briefly and clearly, "I don't give a damn who won in America. I know that I have a piece of land that I must secure and protect, my people. I'm just expressing my opinion. I don't care who won there, but I do care what policy America will pursue, because it is a third of the world economy. And the economy is the main thing. Therefore, I proceed exclusively from this."

At the same time, as the Head of State noted, both Trump and Harris, with the policy that they have pursued and are pursuing, would have received 0% of the votes in Belarus. "This is their business. If they want peace and tranquillity in Europe, we will facilitate this," emphasised Aleksandr Lukashenko.

He drew attention to the fact that the European Union could become the main rival of the United States. Also, according to the Head of State, there is a possibility that Europe could unite with Russia. According to him, Germany and France have the highest technologies, and Russia is a treasure trove of resources. "This will happen someday, wait and see," said the Belarusian leader. "Germany has already begun to waver. Throw this Scholz out of office — and Germany will become smarter. Cheap gas, cheap energy resources, the world's leading economy, a world miracle — where are they today? They have sunk below the knee. The Germans are not fools, they will make the government work as it should. Do the Americans need this? They don't."

Summing up, the President noted that the world is changing rapidly. And these arguments are from the point of view of the current situation. Tomorrow, according to the Head of State, there will be a completely different situation if not China, but the Europeans can become America's main rival.

"The Global South is rising," added the Belarusian leader. "The economy in India is growing at a catastrophic pace. Do you think that the Indians will hand over their fate to the Americans on a platter? No. They will have their own advantages. And perhaps, literally in a short time, new circumstances will arise, and they will have to react to this. Therefore, today we are discussing from the point of view of today. Tomorrow we will discuss based on the situation that has changed. And it is changing before our eyes."

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed hope that Donald Trump will take up issues on the global agenda and try to contribute to solving the accumulated problems. "Still, there is some hope that something will change," he said and drew attention to one human nuance: "If people without experience are in power, that is one thing, if people do not have children, that is a disaster. They do not care what is happening in the world. Trump has a large family, children. And Trump has our Melania (wife Melania Trump, a native of Yugoslavia), who holds him firmly in her hands. Therefore, the fact that he has a family and children is a big deal. He thinks not only about his future, but also about the future of his children."

Vsevolod Yevseyev
photo by Belta

A WEIGHTY GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAY





Belarus has everything for doing sports. This was stated by the Head of State, taking part in the grand opening ceremony of an international standard swimming pool in Minsk

The new pool was built within the framework of Belarusian-Chinese humanitarian cooperation. Equipped with the most modern equipment, it meets the requirements and standards of the International Water Sports Federation, which will allow holding world and European championships and tournaments in water sports on this site. In addition, the pool, which, by the way, includes more than six thousand seats for spectators, will become a platform for improving the skills of professionals, and will open up new opportunities for swimming enthusiasts.

Aleksandr Lukashenko asked the finalist of the 33rd Summer Olympic Games 2024 in Paris Alina Zmushka and the bronze medallist of the World Championship Vasilina Khandoshka, who met the Head of State at the facility, “Well, shall we swim, will we be champions?” The athletes promised that they would be. At the same time, they specified: not only national champions, but also world champions.

The President inquired about the state of affairs at the facility from the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee Vladimir Kukharev. The head of the city reported that the work was fully completed, the facility was handed over, noting that the project was fully implemented by the Chinese side. In this regard, the Head of State said that a modern football stadium, which is also being built as part of technical assistance from China, would soon be put into operation.

“We have preserved this great holiday”

Aleksandr Lukashenko presented the athletes with a symbolic key to the capital’s swimming pool, the likes of which can be counted using the fingers of one hand. However, first of all, he recalled the occasion for such a gift.

“I am pleased to meet you today on this day (the eve of November 7th), because it is important first of all for those who dreamed of beautiful, good water lanes and such a wonderful palace of water sports,” noted the President. “Today we are opening a landmark facility — a new modern international-class swimming pool. It is also important that we are doing this on the eve of a big holiday — November 7th. Once upon a time, we, older people, really celebrated this holiday as a big one. Then those who celebrated, all left this holiday. And only Belarus has preserved it.”

Belarus, as Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised, is the only country in the post-Soviet space to have preserved this festive day of the calendar. Traditionally, for this holiday, as he noted, we give ourselves gifts, as we open socially significant facilities. The President recalled that, in accordance with the Constitution, he had to make decisions on holidays. And when the issue of October Revolution Day arose, it was decided to keep this day as a holiday and give it the status of a nationwide holiday. “Not because I am an ardent communist, but this is our history,” the Belarusian leader explained. “The holiday should simply be kept. And what is the holiday about? You probably remember, I said: let us give ourselves presents until November 7th. That is why we kept



this holiday. And all over the country, not from today, but from the day before yesterday, we have already begun to give our Belarusian people significant gifts.” One of them is an international standard swimming pool in Minsk.

“We immediately said that we are building a socially oriented state”

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that the Belarusian and Chinese peoples are brought together by a respectful attitude to the history of the socialist movement. “Today, more and more people are starting to talk about socialism,” he stated, recalling that in the mid-1990s, all these definitions were simply trampled underfoot. And today, this ‘obscene’ word is heard even from the lips of Donald Trump, who won the presidential elections in the United States. He, an ardent capitalist, as the Belarusian leader noted, accused his rival Kamala Harris of being a socialist and a communist... “We did not go this way. And what do we see? All of Europe is oriented toward socialism,” said the President. “Maybe they don’t call it that, but they talk about social justice. We immediately said that we are building a socially oriented state. This is the main principle of socialism.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, our Chinese friends have never abandoned this. “They talk about socialism, and this did not stop them from following the main rails of the capitalist movement,” noted the President. “Well, let’s say, competition. In China, it is very developed. Therefore, no one interferes with anyone, we must go with life.”

“We have everything to become world champions”

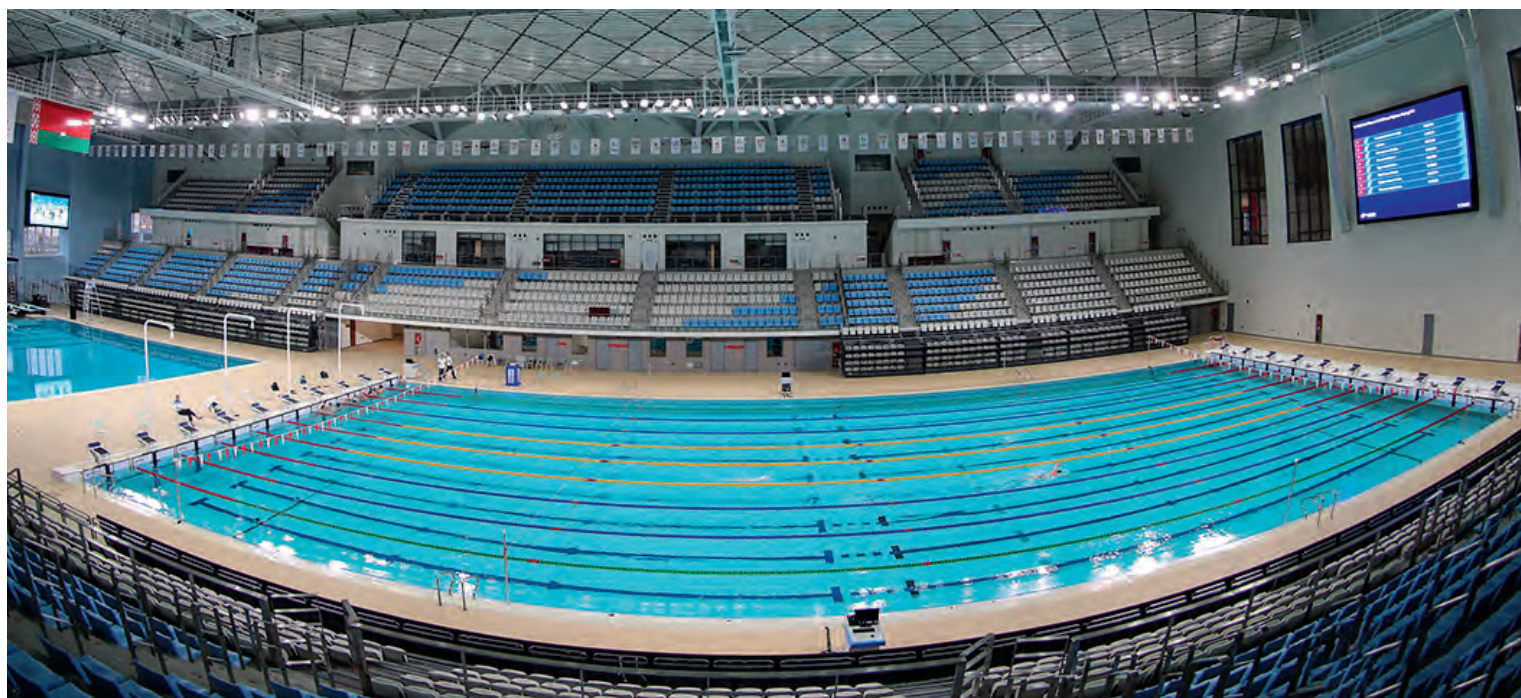
Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that it is not his merit that Minsk now has a swimming pool of international standard. This facility, according to him, was built thanks to the great friend of Belarus, Xi Jinping.

“It is not only this one!” emphasised the President. “In the near future, you will see another miracle in Minsk. Probably, more significant. This time, for football players.” At the same time, the Head of State criticised domestic football. “True, hockey is already starting to lean in the same direction,” he added. “Well, maybe we’ll have better luck with swimming?” According to the President, at least seven people have already made a strong name for themselves in swimming.

“We have everything here to become world champions,” emphasised the Belarusian leader, referring to the new pool. “And not only here. This is not our first Palace of Water Sports. We built a magnificent palace in Brest. Swim, win medals. We seem to have come close to this. God grant that it will be so!”

Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed the opinion that maybe someday we will be successful with bicycles, referring to the possible good results in this sport. He recalled the previously built site — the cycling track in the Minsk Arena, but the results, according to him, leave much to be desired.

“In Belarus, a poor country, a medium-sized country, even a small one, we can say, there is everything to do sports,” emphasised the Head of State. He recalled that in Soviet times, people played football on the field where they grazed



cows. Now, according to him, there are enough grounds, just go and play.

As an athlete, the President understands well why Belarusians show poor results in a number of sports. According to him, they lack physical training. To rectify the situation, the state gives athletes such a solid gift in the form of a swimming pool, thanks to which, according to the Belarusian leader, one can count on a large number of medals.

The President emphasised that today no one interferes with doing sports and winning. “I say: beat the Russians in sports, the Russians are open to us,” he noted. “Beat them, and I will not demand anything more from you either.”

According to the Head of State, there is no need to complain about the fact that our athletes were not allowed somewhere, which is why they have poor results. “Well, biathletes are doing well,” he gave a positive example. “True, not all, but mostly they are running, beating the Russians. We are grateful to them. And who is stopping the rest?”

The President agrees that sports are not easy today. And it is not only about politics. “These are drugs, and doping, and so on, we can, as you say today, be banned, and others will be in first place,” he specified. “Anything is possible, but you can win. And no one demands big victories from our athletes. Get ready from next year: there is a result — here is your money, here are your apartments and so on. No result — no reward. There is money, there will be money despite all the difficulties. Our people do not begrudge this money for athletes, but we need results. We need results! And a game. The people expect solid results from you.”

The President once again congratulated those present on the October Revolution Day and wished them the most important thing — health. At the same time, he noted that health does not come from the sky. “If you come here, you will be healthy,” emphasised the Head of State, speaking about both the new pool and the country’s sports facilities in general. “You will not need a pharmacy, you will not need a hospital. You need to play sports! So go ahead.”

“China promised and delivered”

Returning to the background of the pool, built with technical support from the Chinese side, Aleksandr Lukashenko told how Xi Jinping once showed him a model of the future facility in Beijing. And not only that. China, according to the Head of State, is ready to help Belarus in the construction of several more powerful social facilities. “The discipline in China is iron: when Xi Jinping says something, no one discusses it, they go and do it,” noted the Belarusian leader. “Therefore, we are indebted to this man and to the great Chinese people. I am extremely grateful to them!”

Addressing the Chinese builders, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that they were great. “It was not easy for us to build this facility, since the pandemic intervened very seriously in our lives at the time,” he recalled. “And you know, the Chinese took this seriously in their homeland, but they did it here too. Therefore, there were certain moments, but we built. Slowly, little by little, but we moved. Well, and last year I asked China to finish the construction

STATE APPROACH



of this facility by this holiday, made a number of decisions to ensure that it was done. And China delivered. This is discipline. This is an example for us. No sooner said than done. Then we will exist as a nation. We need to learn from them in this regard.”

Expressing gratitude to the Chinese side on behalf of the entire Belarusian people, the Head of State emphasised that the Chinese should know that Belarusians are reliable friends. “We have been going together for more than 30 years at least recently, and China has never reproached Belarus for deviating from the course that we agreed to follow together,” stated Aleksandr Lukashenko.

“The pool is a new milestone in Chinese-Belarusian friendship”

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to the Republic of Belarus Zhang Wenchuan congratulated on the successful completion of the construction of the pool, expressed gratitude to the builders of both countries.

“The top leaders of China and Belarus personally monitor our pool,” he stated. “In April 2019, President Xi Jinping and President Aleksandr Lukashenko jointly presented a model of the architectural plan of the project. Over the past five years, many departments of our countries have closely interacted. More than a thousand builders worked together, overcoming difficulties, thanks to which the project was turned from a drawing into reality.”

The ambassador drew attention to the fact that Aleksandr Lukashenko twice issued special presidential decrees, which, according to him, provided the most reliable guarantee for the smooth implementation of this project. “China and Belarus are all-weather and comprehensive strategic partners,” stated the diplomat. “The pool is a new milestone in Chinese-Belarusian friendship. The

Chinese side is ready, together with the Belarusian side, to comprehensively implement the agreements reached by the heads of the two states and make every effort to strengthen the eternal friendship between our countries.”

“Such gifts are a source of pride for our republic”

The Ambassador presented the President of Belarus with a symbolic key to the new sports facility. The Head of State, in turn, handed over this key to 21-time Paralympic swimming champion Ihar Boki and bronze medallist of the 29th Olympic Games 2008 in Beijing in modern pentathlon, two-time world champion Anastasia Prokopenko. Having in mind all the athletes, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he was handing over the symbolic key to the pool to those who would enter here without a key and show good results.

Anastasia Prokopenko voiced words of gratitude to the President of Belarus and the President of the PRC for such a wonderful and priceless gift not only from the sports community, but also from the entire Belarusian people. “Thanks to your personal agreements, wise and peaceful policy, good and close relations with the People’s Republic of China over many years, our country has become the owner of one of the most high-tech swimming complexes in the world,” she noted. “Such gifts are an honour for our republic. Aleksandr Grigorievich, you are the most athletic President. No one cares about sports in their countries as much as you do.”

The athlete noted that each region of Belarus has its own unique sports infrastructure. “And this pool will become the pearl of our capital,” she emphasised. “And a place of attraction for everyone who wants to do water sports and modern pentathlon. And we promise that champions will grow up at this sports facility and will glorify our republic.”



“If we build, we build at a world-class level”

Together with famous athletes and the Ambassador of China, Aleksandr Lukashenko cut the red ribbon, after which he got acquainted with the material base and organisation of the facility.

The President immediately gave specific instructions. He emphasised that such a facility as an international standard swimming pool should not be idle, and the costs of its maintenance, including in terms of the number of personnel, should be optimal. According to him, the state will help at first, and then it is worth earning money independently. Therefore, the task is specific — to start providing services to the population.

The coaches and athletes with whom the Head of State spoke during his visit to the pool drew attention to the fact that the conditions created at the facility meet the highest standards and world level. “That was the agreement: if we build, then at the world-class level,” confirmed Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Touching on the issue of training athletes, the President said that he follows swimming and is happy with the successes of Belarusian athletes. The Head of State expressed hope that there will be a result. “We need to give a result,” he set the task. “We need results. Otherwise, who will understand us?”

There is everything for good results in Belarus. And this concerns not only the presence of a large number of sports facilities. The Head of State was assured that the country has a good school, coaches, and promising athletes. In particular, many medals were won in a competitive struggle at the BRICS Games recently.

Aleksandr Lukashenko drew attention to the fact that, if necessary, the pool should work around the clock. Especially for those who strive to achieve high results in sports. As an example, the President cited Paralympic champion Ihar

Boki, from whom, according to the Belarusian leader, one should learn.

The Head of State also watched the training of young swimmers. He asked to pay special attention to working with children, since, according to him, these are future champions. “Be brave! You have everything to become champions,” he addressed the children. “Good luck to you! Become world champions for sure!”

A number of halls of the facility are also intended for training in other sports. They were also visited by Aleksandr Lukashenko. He talked to athletes and coaches in fencing and trampoline jumping, after which he launched the combined mixed relay race in swimming among the teams of the regions, the city of Minsk and the Belarusian national swimming team.

“Thank you very much, it was very beautiful!” the Head of State assessed the competition. “I will also swim patiently now. Not just one kilometre — I will swim more. You have infected me. Well done!”

The programme also included demonstration performances in synchronised swimming and diving. Addressing the bronze medallist of the world championship Vasilina Khandoshka, the Belarusian leader admitted that he never thought that in his lifetime we would succeed in synchronised swimming.

Concluding his acquaintance with the facility and wishing everyone success, Aleksandr Lukashenko gave a number of instructions to the Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee Vladimir Kukharev. One of them concerns the final polishing of Minsk. The task was set to pay special attention to key places, especially in the centre of the capital. Specific instructions were also given for the improvement of microdistricts, landscaping of areas along the railway.

Aleksandr Pimenov
photo by Belta



Yauheni Zolotarev,

"Even if there were no medal, I would leave Paris the happiest, my son is the most important award in life"

On January 31st, 2014, a guy from the village of Krasnopolye entered the Mogilev Regional School of Olympic Reserve. Training camps, competitions, first victories and defeats are the usual path of an athlete. On August 3rd, 2024, a member of the national rowing team, Yauheni Zalaty, stood on the podium of the Olympic Games in Paris. Before that, he had never become a prize winner at adult world or European championships. But he went through the Olympic Games with the confidence of a champion. Neither problems with the boat, nor a broken bus on the way to the final race, nor venerable rivals nearby could throw him off track. Apparently, difficult times really do give birth to strong people. Yauheni himself says that he had been going to the race at the Olympics for 10 years. 10 years of work for the sake of 6 minutes 42.96 seconds — this is only possible in sports. In an interview with Zvyazda, Yauheni Zalaty told what this path was like and how it changed after the Olympic medal, the first men's medal for domestic academic rowing.

“Yauheni, two months after the Olympic Games, did you realise that your medal was truly a great achievement?”

“I can't say that I feel like I've done something grand. It warms my soul to think that I'm in the top three at a competition where the best athletes in the world gather. I've always had the example of a person with truly great sporting achievements before my eyes — Ekaterina Anatolyevna Karsten. I still have a long way to go to reach her level. Yes, we didn't have any Olympic men's medals before, well, of course I'm pleased that I won the first one. The realisation that my medal is really important for the country came on September 17th, when the President awarded me the Order of Honour. After all, it's not just for nothing that the Head of State will present a state award, which means you did something important.”

“Did the reality live up to or exceed your expectations from the meeting with the President?”

“Definitely surpassed. It was a great honour for me to give a response speech on behalf of all the athletes and coaches. I thought about what to say in advance, because I can't imagine speaking to such an audience without preparation. It probably didn't come out very eloquent, but it was from the heart. The excitement was the same as at the Olympic Games — it's not every day that you get to speak in front of the best people in their fields, in front of the President. But when I started speaking, the worries disappeared.”

“How do you feel about the increased attention that literally fell upon you after the Olympics. Are you used to interviews and events?”

“I don't think I've given as many interviews in my entire life as I have in these two months. It's not hard for me. I know that, for example, our trampoline gymnasts don't like giving interviews, although in fact they are very positive and interesting guys. I like to talk not so much about myself as about my coach and my sport. I understand that thanks to

my interviews, people learn more about academic rowing, about the path we take every day. We have to face the truth, many in academic rowing only know Ekaterina Karsten, but new names have appeared. That's why it's important to me that as many people as possible know about academic rowing, so that fans come to our competitions.”

“Is the support of the stands so important?”

“I wish every athlete to feel the support of full stands. I felt it at the Olympic Games, and it was unforgettable. Especially during the finals, when the stands were packed to capacity. And, of course, as an athlete, I want people to be interested in our sport, I want to see fans who are genuinely interested in what is happening on the canal.”

“In Paris there was a natural canal, in Brest you train on an artificial one. For non-professionals, please explain what the difference is for a rower?”

“The difference is that on an artificial canal the depth is the same everywhere, because the water is at the same level. On a natural canal, of course, the depth is different on different lanes. For example, on a natural canal in Serbia, the second lane is faster, because the depth there is greater than on the sixth. With the same pace, at the same distance, the time on these lanes will be different. This is the main feature of a natural reservoir, for which every professional should be prepared. On an artificial canal, everybody is more or less in the same conditions, if the wind does not interfere. There are different canals, but I was lucky, I did not come across a very terrible canal on which it would be impossible to row. Sometimes the features of the canal are not the worst thing you have to deal with.”

“What would you classify as scary?”

“A lot of things. For example, before training for the Olympics, I got sick, which is why I lost a lot of time. It's very depressing when you're lying at home with a high temperature before the Olympic Games and not training. Then I had to make up for it all very quickly, and even then, because of my illness, I didn't make it 600-700 kilometers out of the planned distance. A broken bus on the way to the Olympic race is not something you'd like to encounter. Until the very end, the coach didn't believe that the bus had broken down and the race was being postponed. Such a situation can easily throw you off track. But I'm psychologically stable, so I wasn't particularly nervous about it. The only problem was with nutrition, because I usually don't eat three hours before the start, and the race was postponed, and I was already hungry. It's good that I packed Belarusian marshmallows — so while everyone was nervous about the broken bus and the postponed race, I was calmly warming up and eating marshmallows. By the way, my coach and I recently recalled that race and came to the conclusion that it really could have been first place. The German Zeidler, who won, doesn't like to sail on the waves. But I'm used to the waves, they are always there in Brest. And while I was sitting on the bus, the coach called and said that a



wave was rising. It seemed like fate. I got to the canal — and there was a calm. Also, probably fate.”

“You said that before the Olympics you had 13 training sessions a week — that is, 2 training sessions a day, six days a week and one on Sunday. At the same time, it was unknown for a long time whether you would be allowed to participate in the Olympic Games or not. Many may ask why work in such a mode, not being sure of your performance at the Olympics?”

“Why work for any organisation if you can get fired? We all try to do our job as well as possible. And when the question is whether the Olympics will or will not take place, there is an option that they will. And, therefore, you still need to be as prepared as possible. Yes, this is a certain risk to health, yes, it is a lot of time and effort. But in sports, it is impossible otherwise. Every athlete has one goal, a dream - an Olympic medal. I can't imagine how you can relax when this medal is at stake. Everyone who has competed in the Olympic Games is a hero, because he has gone through an incredibly difficult path. Yes, at competitions we fight with rivals, but the hardest competition athletes go through in life is the fight with themselves. Athletes set a lot of 'no' to themselves, deny themselves many things just to compete in the Olympic Games. Therefore, I am even afraid to imagine how I would feel if I were not allowed to go to the Olympics. I am sure that competing in other competitions would be mentally difficult, despite good physical preparation. And hearing “I could have won a medal at the Olympics” would have been completely unbearable. I'm not even sure if I would have stayed in sports after that. That's why I really sympathise with the guys who were robbed of this opportunity, I understand how much it hurts them.

Before the Olympic Games in Paris, I assumed that the Belarusians would have six medals — I almost guessed. But what medals they were! Zhenya Tsikhantsou put on a real show. I'm not an expert in weightlifting, but I think this is not the limit. Vanya Litvinovich is a hero, two Olympics in a row with gold medals. Vyaleta Bardzilouskaya is brilliant, no one expected a medal from her at all. After the trampoline athletes' performance, I realised that I couldn't let myself down. Of course, we also assumed that I would have a medal, we were counting on second or third place, my results indicated this. But the Olympic Games are very unpredictable competitions and anything can happen. Of course, no one spoke out loud about my medal. But we were only aiming for the best result.”

“In order to participate in the Olympics, you had to switch from the double and quadruple to the single. Was it a difficult transition?”

“It is more difficult mentally. In a double or quadruple scull, you have support. But in a single scull, you can only count on yourself, you need to clearly understand that no one but you will help you. And every opponent is ready to do anything to break you, but you should fight not with them, but with yourself, so as not to give up and reach the finish line. Plus, in a single scull, you have to analyse the race yourself, decide where to push harder, where to rest. In training, single scull swimmers work harder. For example, in a double scull, we cover 500 meters in 1 minute 30 seconds, and in a single scull — in 1 minute 40 seconds. It would seem like 10 seconds. But if you take 10 such segments, then this is 100 seconds more work, and for a rower this is significant. In training, I cover 30 kilometers on the water in a single scull in 2.5 hours, in a double scull — in 1 hour 45 minutes. The difference is colossal. But when you get used to it and see the result, you don't think about the difficulties anymore. Many people give up because they don't see the result.”

“The Olympic medal and the birth of your son — two of the most important events happened within three days of each other. How does it feel to have so much happiness?”

“Even if there was no medal, I would have left Paris the happiest, Mark is the most important award in life. There was an option to stay in Paris after the performance, to cheer for our guys, but I was eager to go home to meet my son as soon as possible. A medal is very good, it is motivation to work even harder and better. And a child is motivation to never stop at what has been achieved, because I want to give him the best, create all the conditions for a happy childhood, for development. Now many are interested in where I will

spend the prize money. Of course, it will go to my family, to my own home. I believe that the first task of every man is to provide his family with his own home, to provide for the rear.”

“Are you used to the role of a father?”

“It’s not easy to be a parent. Many people said that the first three months the baby only sleeps and eats — nothing like that. Well, or ours is like that, a guy with a character. As soon as you walk away from him, he screams so loudly that the whole neighbourhood can hear. Either it’s growth spurts, or something is bothering him — we worry every time. We probably even go to doctors more than necessary, because every time they reassure us that the baby is normal. But we became parents for the first time. Mark often wakes up at night, his sleep is broken, when intensive training begins, it will be difficult, my wife will have to take the brunt of it. But all the difficulties pale in comparison to this happiness.”

“Yauheni, it is known that you started with handball and track and field, but ended up in academic rowing. An interesting path, of course...”

“I always knew that I would be an athlete — I really didn’t want routine work. At school, I didn’t have much desire to study. But I took part in competitions with pleasure. I really liked long-distance running. I was even taken to a training camp at the Olympic reserve school. Well, I turned out to be too big for running, but a hammer throw coach noticed me, I didn’t mind, and we started working. And rowing, it was as if it was looking for me. First, coaches from Gomel came to my school, but I got sick. The next time they came, I decided to skip school, probably for the first time in my life I regretted it. When Oleg Yuryevich Dudko and Andrei Vladimirovich Shchemelev arrived and they called me into the principal’s office, I remembered all my sins, but I never expected that they would be rowing coaches. Of course, I agreed to work with them. But dad said that there was no point in rushing back and forth. I called Andrei Vladimirovich and said that my parents would not let me go to Gomel. I heard in response, “What are you talking about, we are from Mogilev.” My parents calmly let me go to Mogilev. There was no limit to my happiness. I really wanted to go to the Olympic Reserve School, I wanted to escape from Krasnopolye, I wanted freedom. For this, I was ready to do anything. The coach said that to enter the school, you need an average score of at least seven. And I had 6.9, oh how I tried, how I studied. Later, however, it turned out that nothing like that was necessary, the coaches just decided to keep me in good shape.”

“It’s very unusual that a guy who was into hammer throwing was noticed by rowing coaches...”

“In fact, academic rowing and hammer throw are closely related sports. Athletes in both are tall, broad-shouldered, and strong. Those who have explosive power but no endurance (and this is the most important thing in rowing)



go into hammer throwing. And if you have endurance but no explosive power, then it is better to pay attention to academic rowing. As you can easily guess, I have good endurance but no explosive power.”

“Returning to the Olympics. Yauheni, honestly, was there really not a drop of regret deep down inside that you didn’t win a gold medal?”

“Honestly, there was none. Losing is always painful and offensive. But the pride that I was able to win a medal, that I made the country happy in such difficult conditions — it is stronger. Once, even a silver medal at the Olympics seemed impossible, but it became a reality. This means that gold is quite possible. It is difficult to find motivation when you have won the Olympic Games, world championships, set records, for example, Zeidler. And I still have a lot to strive for.”

“Sport is a very special sphere that requires total dedication, but also gives a lot in return. What has sport given you, besides a name, medals, and earnings?”

“Character. Sport has developed a sense of purpose in me. It has taught me, no matter what happens, to get up and move on. I think any athlete will confirm this. After all, athletes do not know what laziness is. Every day we endure crazy loads, because we want to be better than yesterday. Sometimes this bothers me, because I overload myself. But sport also teaches you to find balance, to hear and understand yourself.”

Valeria Stetsko

Photo by the NOC of Belarus and BelTA

EXPERT OPINION



TIME BOMB

How did Teflon spread around the world and is cookware with a non-stick coating really dangerous?

Today, stores offer a wide range of cookware made from various materials. In recent years, frying pans with a non-stick coating — Teflon — have become especially popular among housewives. What is it and how safe is it for health? Why did such a coating cause a scandal around the world at the time? We talked about this with a neurosurgeon, a researcher at the Department of Brain Tumours of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N.N. Aleksandrov, professor at the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Healthcare Personnel of the Belarusian State Medical University, a member of the Belarusian Union of Journalists Gumen Ghorbannijad.



“Please tell us how Teflon appeared.”

“It should be said that kitchenware plays an important role in our lives and has long been a part of human life. If clay dishes are found during archaeological excavations, this indicates that the people lived here. Previously, the main material for its production was clay, which had a number of useful properties. For example, in hot countries, clay dishes in which water was stored worked as a mini-refrigerator, because clay, due to its property, cooled the liquid.

The composition of the dishware is very important for our health and can cause diseases. Even ancient clay dishware could be harmful if it contained heavy metals that could react with food during cooking and storage and enter the body. At that time, of course, there were no laboratories to assess the quality of clay.

The history of the development of dishware is quite long, both copper

and aluminium were used. Today, one of the most convenient dishware is the one with a non-stick coating. It is available in almost every kitchen and housewives like it because food does not stick to it.

The history of non-stick coatings goes back to 1802, when American chemist Rene DuPont opened a gunpowder factory. In 1861, when the American Civil War began, it was one of the most successful manufacturers. Almost 1.5 million victims were killed by ammunition with gunpowder produced at the DuPont plant. The family became one of the richest in America. Later, the plant began to produce other military products, including plastic.

In 1938, one of the chemists who worked at this plant, Roy Plunkett, invented a plastic called polytetrafluoroethylene, better known as Teflon. At first, it was used for military purposes. Because a coating was needed to protect

military equipment from soil and dirt sticking to it, increasing its wear.

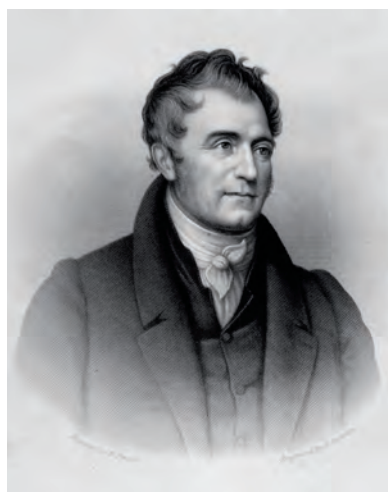
It was claimed that Teflon was completely harmless and had no toxic properties. And soon it appeared in kitchens. Advertising began, and sales of Teflon cookware broke records all over the world, so that the DuPont plant was unable to provide the necessary production volumes. Another well-known company, 3M, was involved.

Thanks to the widespread use of Teflon coating all over the world, this business became a multi-billion-dollar business. Even then, both DuPont and 3M knew that Teflon contained toxic substances that were harmful, but they continued production. On the contrary, they emphasised that it was harmless, but at the same time 3M reported that Teflon-coated cookware should not be thrown into the trash because it could pollute the environment, and asked that it be disposed of separately.”

“Wasn’t there a laboratory to determine that Teflon contains substances harmful to humans?”

“When it comes to a billion-dollar business, it’s hard to stop. And at that time, there were many chemists and experts, not only in the US but also in other countries, who claimed that Teflon contained carcinogenic substances. But manufacturers either suppressed such voices in every possible way or bought them for money. Such experts are a ‘fifth column’ that harms fellow citizens in their own country.

When in 1961, the directors of various Teflon production departments announced that their workers were getting sick and dying from chronic diseases, the management hid this information and made sure that it didn’t spread anywhere. And this continued for more than thirty years — until 1995. At that time, a farmer in West Virginia, not far from his property where a river ran, saw two dead deer, and downstream — two of his dead cows. Over the course of a year, the number of dead cows reached 153. Veterinarians who opened them up saw that all their internal organs were damaged.



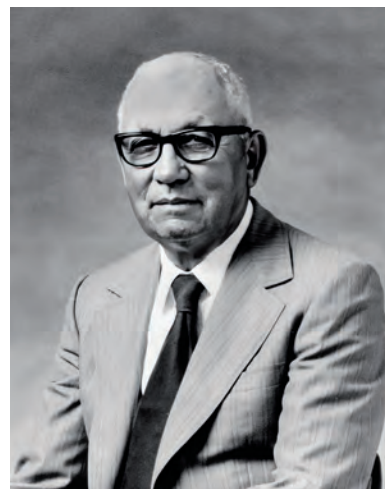
Upstream, a few kilometres from the farm, there was one of DuPont plants. Appeals to the plant were unsuccessful. As were appeals to the mayor and many other authorities. As a result, the farmer went to another state and contacted lawyer Robert Bilott. He invited several independent chemists, and they saw that a green liquid was flowing into the river through a pipe, and they took samples. The lawyer filed a complaint against the plant. However, DuPont’s lawyers tried to turn the case so that it was not the plant’s fault, but the reason was that the farmer was allegedly feeding his cows incorrectly. And the case was closed.

However, the lawyer sent water samples to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). In the end, DuPont had to admit guilt in the fact that harmful substances had been released in a short time, and the farmer was compensated for the damage. The information leaked to the media and caused a big scandal. After that, the EPA fined DuPont \$16.5 million. However, for an enterprise with multi-billion-dollar revenue, this was a trifle.

True, with the help of the media, the case gained momentum, and as a result, the plant stopped producing Teflon. But at the same time, it opened another one, slightly changing the formula and changing the name to Genex. As a result, after a large-scale scandal, Teflon sales in Europe were banned in 2008, and in the US — in 2013.”

“Non-stick cookware is everywhere and we use it every day. How safe is it today?”

“Teflon is still sold, and there are many discussions about it, but at the moment it is believed that as long as the coating is not damaged, there are no microcracks, carcinogenic substances do not come out of it. But if the first scratch appears on

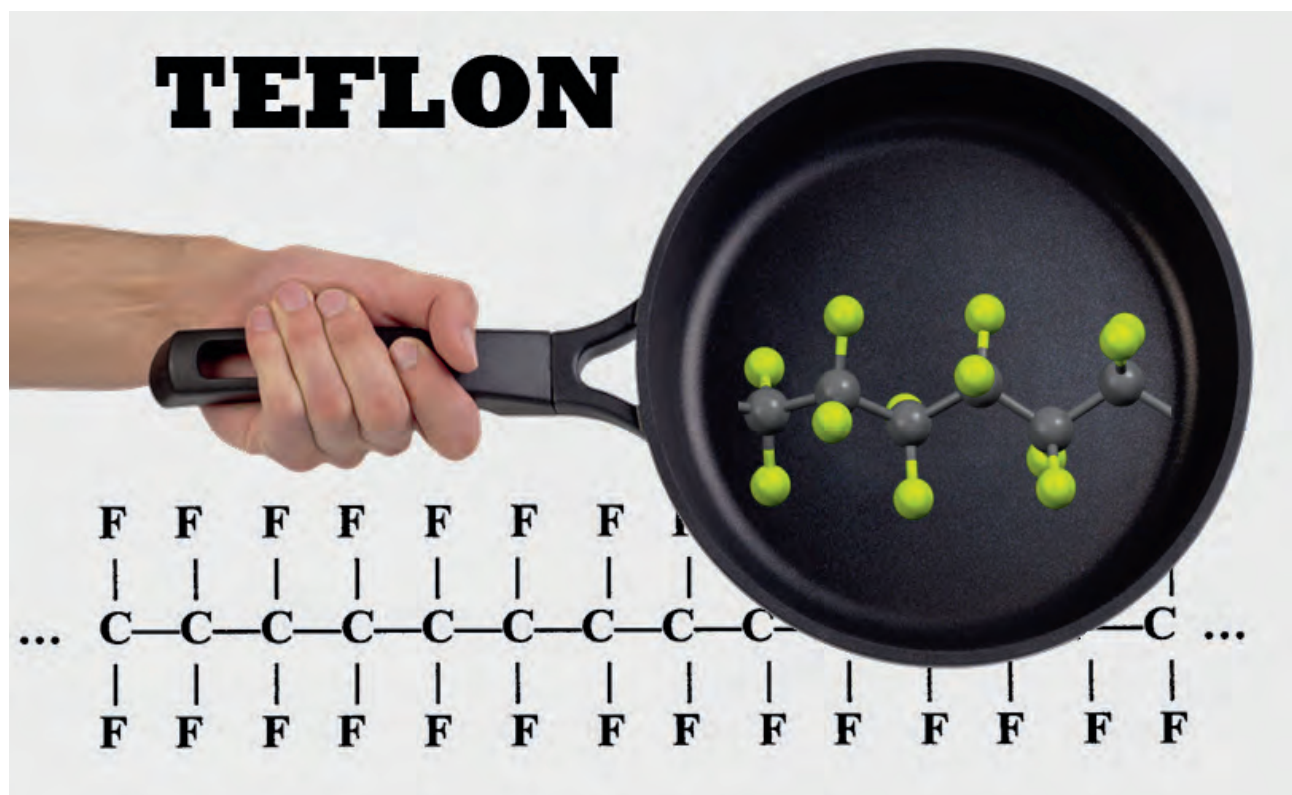


the frying pan, it is dangerous to use such cookware. Therefore, special devices are needed for such a coating — plastic or wooden spatulas, etc. Even a sponge for washing has two sides: hard - for ordinary dishes, soft —for Teflon.

Thus, if we are talking about a multi-billion dollar business, then in the new world order nothing stops it, including human health. The most important thing is for the economy to move forward, bringing profit.”

“One example can be considered an accident...”

“There are many such examples in the world. Since 1911, William Procter produced cottonseed oil for oil lamps, which were widely used at that time. After the invention and distribution of the electric light bulb, cottonseed oil became unclaimed. It began to be produced in solid form, and when Mr. Procter saw that it was similar to butter, Crisko butter was invented, it is better known to us as margarine. It began to be widely advertised as an alternative to butter. The melting temperature of margarine and butter was different, and this was convenient for cooking when making cookies, cakes, creams.



In 1960, this business was worth 100 billion dollars. However, doctors began to sound the alarm and said that the cause of many myocardial infarctions, the number of which was significantly increasing, was margarine. In particular, trans fats, which are in its composition. However, the Procter & Gamble company allocated 1.5 million dollars for the development of the American Heart Association. And it turned into a national organisation. It is not surprising that after this, the National Heart Association announced that margarine is better and healthier than animal oil.

Currently, in countries such as Canada, Denmark, Switzerland, trans fats are prohibited from being sold, as they cause great harm to the cardiovascular system: they clog blood vessels, causing people to have myocardial infarctions. But every year, 280 thousand people around the world die from eating margarine and trans fats.”

“Why did fraud on such a scale become possible at all?”

“In the example with Teflon, we see how within one city a person strives to achieve justice, but nothing works, and he needs to go to another state and look for a lawyer. In this case, we are talking about poisoning a large number of people.

In fact, the owners of billion-dollar businesses are the creators of the new world order. And if the world is not multipolar, if only one group of people or country controls everything, such situations can be repeated. In a multipolar world, there is a greater chance of avoiding them.

The modern economy is built on consumption. The more we buy, the better the economy works, the more money can be earned. But this is a dead end, because the resources of our planet are exhaustible. To see how this works, let's imagine what would happen if in one hypothetical city people were transferred from

cars to bicycles. They do not buy cars, therefore they do not take out loans. In addition, they do not insure their cars, do not buy gasoline, spare parts, do not pay for parking and finally do not go to doctors and pharmacies, because they are not overweight. This is the damage that can be done to the economic system of one city by just one action to abandon the policy of consumption.

At the same time, we note that people who are the cause of many deaths on the planet are not punished in any way. In the new world order, all international judicial structures are a lever of control. Those who bring in income and a lot of money will never get there. And if there is no benefit, then every action is a trial and a tribunal, and the guilty party will be found. Many call this a double standard. In fact, there are no double standards, there is only what is beneficial to someone.”

Yelena Kravets

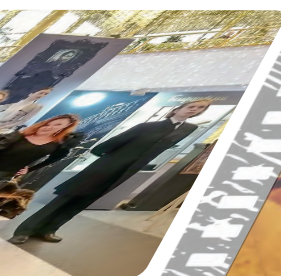


TO THE GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE 30TH MINSK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL LISTAPAD

Dear Friends,

I cordially congratulate you on the opening of the anniversary, 30th Minsk International Film Festival Listapad. Over three decades, the film forum has become a landmark event in the cultural life of not only Belarus, but also many countries of the near and far abroad. Expanding the geography of participants and opening new creative horizons, Listapad honourably fulfils its humanitarian mission, brings people and continents closer together, affirms the ideals of peace and goodness. I am confident that the current event, which is being held on the 100th anniversary of Belarusian cinema under the motto 'Cinema with a Quality Mark,' will become a place for the birth of cultural initiatives and acquaintance with the best film projects. I wish the organisers and jury members of the festival fruitful work, and the unforgettable impressions to the guests.

President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko



CINEMA MAGIC WITH A QUALITY MARK

A blitz interview against the backdrop of a photo mosaic about the main cultural event of November with worldwide resonance — the 30th Minsk International Film Festival Listapad, marked by the main themes — the 100th anniversary of Belarusian cinema and the 30th anniversary of the film forum



Let us allow ourselves to use what we call a cinematic technique and begin the story from the final point — from the closing day of this grand film festival, which for seven days delighted film buffs from all over the country with the best films from different countries of the world, and let us give the floor to the jury members, as well as those participants of *Listapad* who, before the start of the final press conference, kindly agreed to meet with journalists for a mini-interview and shared their impressions of the festival.

OPINIONS

Amit Jain, Director of *Songs of Love*, India

“How do you like our Listapad?”

“Oh, I liked it very much. And I am sure that cooperation with Belarus can be broader not only in the field of cinematography, but also in other cultural events. In the name of further strengthening of ties between Belarus and India. We are aiming for long-term cooperation with the festival participants. I am very pleased that an agreement on cooperation between India, Tajikistan and Belarus was signed, and there is a possibility that Belarus will be invited to the Indian film festival with the film *Black Castle*, which I really liked. (The film *Black Castle* (Belarus, Russia) was awarded the Special Jury Prize of the Feature Film Competition of the CIS Executive Committee for the

development of cultural cooperation and strengthening of friendship between peoples — Cinema without Borders).

I was also pleased with how the Belarusian audience received my film *Songs of Love*. Lively, emotional, joyful. (The winner of the prize for the best sound (musical) solution of a feature film was Depbodjoti Mishra, the film *Songs of Love*, India). And I really liked Minsk. I took daily walks around the city, though closer to night, after all the events were over. I walked with friends, explored new places, visited your old town. I also watched people sailing on a catamaran along the Svisloch. I walked near the Bolshoi Theatre. I myself am passionate about art. I am ready to spend all my free time at the cinema and at the opera, which I also love very much. I also visited your restaurants, including Bulbash. I really like Belarusian cuisine. I also visited the Indian restaurant Masala, talked with its owner Karan, my compatriot. Minsk is a very beautiful and promising city. I really liked how early in the morning it wakes up. I myself get up at five or six in the morning. I live in Mumbai... (Mumbai is famous for the fact that more than a hundred films are shot here every year on 42 film sets.)”

“Are you familiar with the Consul General of Belarus in Mumbai, Aleksandr Matsukov?”

“Yes, I know him! I can even say that he is like a brother to me.”



■ The Belarusfilm film studio, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2024, had something to show the public

Lei Han, Chairman of the Jury of the Main Feature Film Competition, China.

“How do you rate the festival?”

“I am infinitely glad that I saw many wonderful films from different countries at the festival. These films reflect the life and culture of these countries. *Listapad* is an outstanding platform for communication between Belarusians



■ Day one. A business meeting of media representatives with the festival jury was held in the column hall of the Pobeda cinema

want viewers from other countries to get to know both Belarus and China through the film.”

Javid Imamverdiyev, Chairman of the Jury of the Cinema of the Young Film Competition, Azerbaijan

“What surprised you? What do you remember from the films presented?”

“It was very interesting for me to work in this category. A very bright palette of films was presented. Moreover, completely different. From bright sparkling comedy to philosophical reflections on people’s lives, as well as action films. Probably, the new cinema of the 21st century will be so diverse. Along with action, as I have already said, there are the deepest reflections on the fate of a specific person, as well as on relationships between people, on the problems between the traditional and the new. What pleased me most of all was that the cinema of the young is thoughtful.”

“Are you saying that we shouldn’t worry about the future of cinema, because young people give us hope?”

“You could say that. I am an optimist by nature.”

“What do you think about the Belarusian comedy AZS-1?”

“For me, this was definitely a favourite, one of the brightest modern comedies that I have seen recently. It was made

clearly, very competently, and I enjoyed it immensely. We had ten films with a wide geography. These were Belarus, Russia, Mongolia, Türkiye, India, Pakistan, Germany, Japan... (France, Mongolia, Portugal, the Netherlands, Germany, Qatar worked on the film *City of the Wind*; Nepal, France, Norway, Hong Kong, China, Türkiye, Taiwan, the USA, Qatar worked on the film *Shambhala*.). They were all different, which created a great deal of difficulty in the jury’s work. Well, how could you compare, say, *AZS-1* with an Indian film... What united the films was that they were debut films. There were, of course, repetitions, but, as I already said, there were also those that made us, who had already lived a certain life, including in the profession, think. There were no clichés in them. After all, the most important thing in the work of not only a filmmaker, but also any creative person: to say something new, or to say what everyone says, but somehow differently. And this was, and I am very happy about it.”

Chadha Arun, documentary filmmaker, India

“What are your impressions of our film festival?”

“Of course, it doesn’t look as glamorous as the Cannes festival, but in spirit, all its programmes are of a very high level. Hospitality is at the highest level.

and these countries. Currently, Belarus and China are in the process of agreeing on the shooting of a joint Belarusian-Chinese film. The title of the film is *Forever and Ever*. It is a film in two parts. The first is historical. It shows the events of World War II in China and the Soviet volunteer pilots who came to the aid of the Chinese people. And the story of these pilots who arrived in China is the background for the development of the plot. Some of them die, and there are several Belarusians among them. Many years later, their descendants come to China to uncover this story. The second part of the film is connected with the present. The film will be shot both in China and in Belarus. I hope that after watching the film, Belarusians will go to my country to get to know it better, and the Chinese will come to Belarus. This film will show the beautiful landscapes and lifestyle of our two countries. Of course, I also



■ Representatives of the Chinese delegation who arrived at Listapad willingly took pictures before the start of the press conference on the opening day of the film festival

Listapad is, of course, as good as any film festival.”

“What is the situation in India with film production?”

“India produces more than three hundred films. Of course, India is one big nation, but it has many different languages. Each state has its own language, so the film is produced in the language of the state, although most Indians speak Hindi. And all the films are equally good. For example, the film *Song* won an Oscar last year.”

“What films would you like to take for showing in India?”

“I can only speak about my documentary film section, where 11 films were presented. And, in my opinion, five of them meet international standards.”

Vladimir Yastreba, Chairman of the Jury of the National Film Schools Competition, Bulgaria

“What is special about your section?”

“The name itself says that this is a special section. This is a competition of film schools. This is the first time I have judged such a competition. And for me it was very interesting, because the films were made by the same young people who are entering the film industry today. It was interesting to find out what they breathe, what they think, dream about, how they perceive

life and events. Moreover, these are all different schools, each of them has its own specific direction, and they did not intersect. All the films are auteur films, everyone showed what interests them. This is my second time at the festival, and I really like it. The most important thing at *Listapad* is the atmosphere. It is special. Friendly. And this gives the opportunity to work calmly. I am surprised at the organisers, how they select the jury. Our jury, in my opinion, was ideal. And I have heard similar opinions from my colleagues. We are all proud that like-minded people have gathered here, who understood each other not only during work, but also after it. Therefore, I am grateful to the festival for giving us such an opportunity. It is always sad to say goodbye. But there remains a wonderful memory of how good it was here. Which you then happily tell your colleagues about. When I came here for the first time, after the festival I thought: it is probably a coincidence that everything is so good. I was working on the non-feature film jury at the time, the programme was strong. Now I have seen how much *Listapad* is gaining momentum. In such cases they say: from the best to the best. For which I am very grateful to the organisers and my colleagues on the jury.”



■ Lei Han, Chairman of the Jury for the Main Feature Film Competition (to the right of translator Georgy Davydov), talks to journalists like an old friend

ABOUT THE RESULTS

Irina Driga, Head of the Cinematography Department of the Ministry of Culture of Belarus

“Our festival was the largest in terms of the number of participants in recent years, and maybe even in the entire history of the festival, as has been said many times. There were more than 3,400 applications for participation in the festival from 124 countries! Of these, 135 films were selected. For comparison: last year there were half as many — 104 films participated in competition and non-competition screenings. What was fundamentally new in the festival? Firstly, we returned such competitions as the competition of national film schools to the competition programme. This is a student competition and a national competition, especially interesting for our filmmakers and for us, as a

FESTIVALS



■ Photo exhibition of movie posters in the lobby of the Pobeda cinema

over Minsk, judging by the screenings and the occupancy of the halls. Countries such as the People's Republic of China or India are known in the world cinema space. We can say that they are giants of film production, but we discovered countries such as Zimbabwe for the first time. This year we returned to the opening and closing ceremonies at the Palace of the Republic, where, thanks to modern technologies, we were able to make not only a show programme, but also show a film both at the opening and at the closing of the festival. Thanks to all the star guests who visited our festival. These are both Russian guests and friends, and our new friends from distant countries. We are separated by thousands of kilometres, but having come here, they showed their films. And again, we saw from the occupancy of the halls: the Belarusian viewer understands and finds their films interesting. And they can become favourites. According to preliminary data, as of November 7th, we had more than 650 screenings. This was not only



government agency that finances film production.

And for directors, cameramen, actors, all those involved in cinema. Because here there is a unique opportunity to see how our Belarusian films will be assessed by an international jury. With not only our internal assessment, but also how our cinema looks against the background of the world film process. Also this year we made such interesting non-competition events as Days of National Cinema of the participating countries. Films from Asian countries, African countries, and even a region of the Russian Federation — the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) were presented. A new Yakut wave swept



■ The smiles of the guests and spectators at the Listapad film festival were so sincere and open that it was impossible not to smile when looking at them





- At the final press conference in the red hall of the Pobeda cinema
- General Director of the Belarusfilm Studio Yuri Aleksei is pleased with how Listapad went.
- Makhmadsaid Shohiyon, director of the Tajikfilm film studio, "I am very grateful to everyone who organized this festival and who worked during these days. I am especially grateful to the Belarusfilm National Film Studio..."

Minsk, but also the regions. More than 30,000 viewers visited various events. The most massive were the Opening and Closing Days of *Listapad*, as well as the opening and closing of *Listapadzik*. The Days of National Cinema were also actively attended. The competition screenings aroused great interest. Almost full halls, and it was even difficult to get invitations for journalists. This was the main competition of feature films. Which indicates that the programme was interesting not only for the jury members, but also for advanced film lovers. For me, it was joyful and surprising that the hall was also completely full for non-feature

films. The national competition was also a joy: not only premiere films were shown, but also those that were in distribution, the audience came to watch the film again and talk to its creators. Animated films were also well received. Both children's animation and adult animation. Thanks to *Listapad*, among other things, an enlightened advanced viewer has grown up who loves and accepts such a specific genre as author's animation. This year, more than ever, was also filled with cultural, educational, and business events. 24 of them were held at the Academy of Arts, the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, the House of Moscow, the Belarusfilm film studio, the All Saints Memorial Church — the venues were different. There were meetings with our star guests, master classes, joint performances and concerts of students of the Academy of Arts and students of Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography, as well as film screenings. There were also photo exhibitions and other events, which, according to preliminary data, were attended by more than 1,700 spectators. These were students, teachers, film lovers, and professionals. I

think that all this, as well as the fact that the jury members and celebrity guests communicated with the Belarusian public, will leave a mark on Belarusian cinema as a good experience, a good charge from smart, talented people who have done a lot for cinema. These results are still preliminary, yesterday there were still screenings, and today there are also events. In conclusion, I would like to say that this anniversary festival will be remembered by all of us as a very good one, despite the difficulties that always occur during organisation. The traditions that were laid down at it will also be remembered, and will find their continuation in the following years. I would also like to thank the chairman of the jury, the jury members, our programme directors, the chairman of our expert commission, the organisers, who did a great job to make this film festival happen. Special thanks to the journalists who worked at this festival."

Yuri Aleksei, General Director of the Belarusfilm National Film Studio

"Dear friends! Dear journalists! I am very glad that you have found an opportunity to show the world what is being done

at our festival. Our *Listapad* is a kind of BRICS in the field of cinema. Many of our guests from different countries have appreciated it. As the director of the festival, I would like to note its great internationality. We have partners from the People's Republic of China, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Russia and other countries. It is important that the Film Days in the festival programme are held in different countries. We need to exchange cultures, our opinions. The festival should be a dialogue platform where it is important to discuss the realities of the film industry, promote our cinema, and make some decisions. I am very glad that I managed to sign a cooperation agreement, a memorandum with my colleague from South Korea. And according to his promise, assurance, our Belarusian films will be presented in South Korea. Showing the culture of our country there, our traditions, showing our folklore, everything that we reflect in our films is very important for us."

Makhmadsaid Shohiyon, director of the Tajikfilm studio

"... Each festival is the conception of new ideas. And this is wonderful. I am very grateful to everyone who organised this festival and who worked during these days. I am especially grateful to the Belarusfilm National Film Studio. And for the meeting, and for the organisation, and for holding such a large-scale festival. On the Day of Tajik cinema, we showed the film *Fortuna*, signed a memorandum of cooperation. Over the past thirty years, there was a pause between us, I mean in the field of cinema. Therefore, we will catch up, cooperate. We have everything for joint work — we have all the opportunities, there are wonderful people."

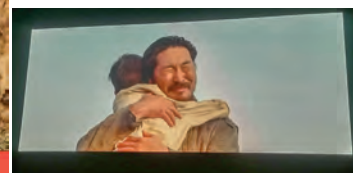
Vladimir Karachevsky, General Director of Kinovideoprokat of the Minsk City Executive Committee

"This year, film distribution industry has received a new impetus. We received the wonderful Pobeda cinema from the state after reconstruction, I think it was the highlight of the festival. And the result was excellent in all respects. I will give you some statistics.



■ The winner of the Gold of Listapad Grand Prix for the best feature film category was the film Chang'an, Xi'an (China). Film director Zhang Zhong is giving a response.

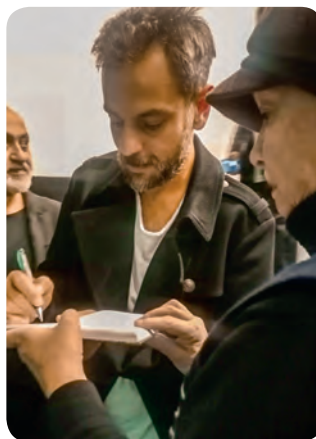
■ Stills from the film *Where the Cranes Dance* — Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia, which won in the Best Directing of a Feature Film category named after Mikhail Ptashuk. Following the competition, this film received the prize of the President of Belarus for Humanism and Spirituality in Cinema.



Listapad was held in five cinemas. This is 8 cinema halls. This year, we have a profit from the festival. Compared to last year, it is twice as much. And there were twice as many viewers. As the director of film distribution, I am pleased with the figures. It is a huge achievement of the festival when there is interest in cinema. I will also say that the festival is not just memorandums and screenings. The festival is a great continuation. Today, friends, I want to inform you: the agreements that we signed are practice-oriented. For example, our great friend from Tajikistan, Makhmadsaid Shohiyon, is also experiencing interesting processes in the film industry and in film production — interesting directors have appeared. And so the film *Fortuna*, which I watched back in August, while in Tajikistan, as well as other films, will be released in 2025. That is, I want to say: the range of films is expanding. We will plan screenings of films from different countries, so, dear guests, dear viewers, check out our programme. Films from different countries will be widely distributed. You will be able to see different films — Indian films, South Korean films, and Iranian films. There used to be a good practice — *Echo of Listapad*. We are bringing it back. Now my

experts are watching films and drawing conclusions about which of them are of the greatest interest to viewers. And in 2025, viewers who were unable to see these films during the festival will see them in wide distribution. And our viewers will definitely get acquainted with Yakut cinema. It has aroused great interest in them. In the near future, they will send us a catalogue of Yakut films, and we will determine which films will be released. (In the Best Direction of a Feature Film Category named after Mikhail Ptashuk, the winner was Mikhail Lukachevskiy, director of the film *Where the Cranes Dance* — Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia. This film also received the prize of the President of Belarus for Humanism and Spirituality in Cinema.)

I will also note that the festival is also a business platform for solving the problems that everyone has. Some have production, some have distribution, some organise master classes aimed at improving the skills of specialists ... I am glad that such a festival exists. And the agreements that we sign are primarily practical. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the leadership of the country, and the leadership of the Ministry of Culture, and the leadership of the Minsk City Executive Committee, its chairman Vladimir Kukharev for



their attention to the art of cinema and for their attention to movie theatres. You see what a wonderful movie theatre we are in. In 2025, after reconstruction, the Moskva cinema will open and begin hosting the 31st *Listapad*.

Lei Han, Chairman of the Main Feature Film Competition Jury

“... We came from different countries. The organisers and volunteers created such wonderful conditions for us that we felt at home. Films have no borders. However, the content of films does. And at this festival, with the help of different countries, we were able to see the culture and life of the people of these countries. Thus, the Belarusian viewer could get to know all of this. I believe that this form of friendly communication is really very important. And during the evaluation, we, as a jury, had to take into account many nuances. This festival is already thirty years old, and it continues to develop due to the fact that it provides films from different countries with a unique platform for interaction. As a person from the world of cinema, I am very happy with the opportunity the festival provides for communication and for those who make films. At this festival, we can discuss not only art, not only the meanings of films, but also how cultures of different countries get an opportunity to get to know each other. Through cooperation, we can achieve a better tomorrow for us. And we hope to implement one of our projects with Belarusfilm. At this festival, we saw not only good films, but also excellent examples of cooperation between our countries. At the same time, I wish the *Listapad* festival uninterrupted

development. (In the *Listapad* Gold of the Grand Prix for the best feature film, the winner is the film *Chang'an, Xi'an* (China), directed by Zhang Zhong.)

Rim Sharafutdinov, Chairman of the Jury of the Main Competition of Animated Films, Russia

“Animators from all countries tried to make the anniversary festival interesting. The program directors, management, selection committee helped with this... What pleased me about the festival were the halls where the animation was shown. They were overcrowded. I imagined that we, as a jury, would sit comfortably in the hall and watch the festival films. Nothing of the sort! The audience at the children's screenings screamed, whistled, and reacted to what was happening on the screen. In general, in my opinion, the audience missed the big screen. And we saw that they even willingly go to see short films. I would like to note that the programme was chosen wisely. There was very strong classical animation, art-house cinema, in which the viewer can examine the director's view from different angles. This is also highly valued all over the world. I also liked the films in which the director directly speaks to the viewer about very important things concerning a person and how people live. I would like to thank the festival management for the opportunity to visit the fertile land of the Republic of Belarus, for the opportunity to watch a gorgeous animation programme that can only be seen at large festivals. And also for the fact that as the chairman of the jury I took part in the evaluation

of very strong, professional films. (In the nomination Best Film of the Main Competition of Animated Films category the winner was the film *Stream Running to the Mountains* (Russia), film director Aleksandr Khramtsov.)”

Natalia Marinova, Chairman of the Jury of the Main Competition of Non-Feature Films, Belarus

“I will start with congratulations! Because it was not easy to maintain love for art, for cinematography in our country for thirty years throughout this period: the times were different. And I congratulate everyone on the anniversary of the festival! The celebration was a success! And I would like to address words of congratulations to the journalists who worked at the festival, who are now in the hall. Most people abroad and in our country see the festival through your eyes. Today in the hall I see colleagues who have been working at *Listapad* for several years. Thanks to them, everyone knows about the festival. It was a colossal effort to prepare so many events that were organized this year. As for the non-fiction film competition. This time, 11 films and 6 countries were presented. Together with me, there were two people on the jury. These were Chadha Arun from India and Givi Sikharulidze from Georgia, who is not with us today for a good reason. It was very comfortable for me to work with colleagues. I admit that when we met to discuss the results, our opinion was unanimous. There will be no spoilers. Tune in to the Belarus 3 channel today. Belteleradiocompany will broadcast the closing ceremony live. And you will learn all the results of the festival. Now about the films. They are



different and interesting. I have already negotiated with the copyright holders. And soon they will be available on the Belarus 3 TV channel, so *Listapad* will continue. (The winner in the Best Film of the Non-Feature Film Competition category was the film *The Country of the Saved Giant* (Belarus), directed by Igor Byshnev.)”

Javid Imamverdiyev, Chairman of the Jury of the Cinema of the Young Film Competition, Azerbaijan

“I will also begin with words of gratitude for the excellent organisation of the festival and special thanks to the management of Cinema of the Young for the excellent selection of films. It was, as I told journalists before the conference, a very bright palette, which caused constant debate among my colleagues on the jury, the films were diverse with a wide geography... I thank everyone. (In the Best Film of the Cinema of the Young Category named after Viktor Turov, the winner was the film *Gandhi and Grandfather's Tree* (India), film director Padmavathi Malladi.)”

Aleksey Muradov, Chairman of the Jury of the National Competition, Russia

“We all understand that a huge, painstaking work was done. As for our competition. 23 films were submitted to it. From November 2nd to 7th, more than 2,000 people visited us. And that's a lot!..

(In the Best Feature Film of the National Competition category, the winner was the film *Waiting List* by director Aleksandr Efremov.)”

Vladimir Yastreba, Chairman of the Jury of the National Film Schools Competition, Bulgaria

“I have already said some things in the mini-interview before the press conference. In some ways, I may repeat myself. I was very lucky to work at this festival. Throughout this period, I walked around and was amazed by everything that was happening here. And even by what I saw on the streets. And it seemed to me that I had ended up in a wonderland. I like everything about you, friends. It was a great pleasure to work with my fellow jury members, I became friends with them, as well as with my colleagues last year. This festival is also special because it creates a contact of friends with whom you then communicate and correspond for many years. Of course, I also thank everyone. The organisers, the volunteers, and everyone who accompanied us and fed us. And we repeat ourselves in words of gratitude not because we are well-mannered, but because we share our feelings from participating in this wonderful festival, which we were all lucky to attend. In conclusion, I want to say that I am very envious of the Belarusian spectators. With such cinemas, it would be a sin not to go to the cinema. The halls are cosy, the projection is wonderful, the sound is excellent. And these are not private, commercial cinemas, but cinemas for all viewers. And even if I am not invited here, I will come myself and watch a movie here. By the way, we agreed on a week of Belarusian cinema in Sofia. And it will be great! I dream of attending the 50th anniversary of

Listapad! I wish everyone good luck, health, peace, harmony, love and mutual understanding! (In the nomination Best Film of the Competition of National Film Schools category, the winner was the film *Bitter Honey* (Russia), film director Yulia Makarova.)”

Afterword

At the end of the meeting of journalists and guests with the festival jury, which took place in the cosy red hall of the Pobeda cinema, press secretary Natalia Khomich thanked the conference participants and said that all those present were invited to the festive closing ceremony of the festival. And she drew our attention to the fact that guests from different countries — film directors, actors, cameramen and other celebrities would enthusiastically take part in the press approach before the ceremony. In the foyer of the first floor, we were able to get acquainted with photographs of the events of the film festival, presented at the photo exhibition *The Thirtieth, Anniversary*. And there were many events, as the jury members said. It remains only to regret that it was impossible to go everywhere, for example, to *Listapadzik* and watch the first Belarusian 3D cartoon-fantasy in full-length format, *Song of Sirin*. *Wings of Slavic Legends*, a fascinating story about Slavic mythology by Yelena Turova, director of Belarusfilm. Or, let's say, refresh your memory of the fascinating film *Gardes-Marines, Forward!* (1987). At the opening, we saw one of its main characters — Dmitry Kharatyan. Of course, the years have changed the appearance of the once young actor who shone in the film of screenwriter, director

FESTIVALS



■ Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Igor Petrishenko and Minister of Culture Anatoly Markevich before the closing ceremony of the Listapad film festival.

■ Amit Kumar Jain, director of the film *Songs of Love* (India) during the award for the Best Sound (Musical) Solution for this film.



and actress Svetlana Druzhinina. By the way, this venerable lady was sitting in the audience. And, of course, she was happy when Dmitry went up on stage to receive the Special Prize of the President of Belarus for the Preservation and Development of Spiritual Traditions in Cinematography from the hands of Prime Minister Igor Petrishenko, who is also the head of the organising committee of *Listapad*. Since its foundation (1994), the film festival has been held under the patronage of the President of Belarus. On his behalf, the Prize for Humanism and Spirituality in Cinema was awarded at the closing ceremony.

Indeed, I would also like to watch again the films of Karen Shakhnazarov (CEO of Mosfilm, film director, screenwriter, film producer, People's Artist of Russia), which were shown out of competition, including his cult film about the events of World War II *White Tiger* and attend a number of events. But, as they say, you can't be everywhere at once, so I had to make a choice. And that's why this informative exhibition was so opportune. In addition, we refer the interested reader to the

Listapad website (<https://listapad.org/>), where a huge, more than 250-page illustrated catalogue was already posted during the festival. It contains a lot of information about the films, creative teams, and jury members. There, on the website, you can also see the lists of the films that were awarded various prizes and diplomas. On the second floor of the Palace of the Republic, in the foyer, those who did not have time to carefully examine the interactive exhibition *The Magnificent Century* dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Belarusian cinema and the 30th anniversary of the Minsk International Film Festival *Listapad* on the opening day of the festival on November 1st, were able to delve into the exhibits on the festive evening of November 8th.

The closing ceremony was indeed festive. The elegant hosts — Honoured Artist of Belarus Ruslan Chernetsky and TV presenter Polina Shuba, who came out on stage to the sounds of a fanfare performed by the Presidential Orchestra, were at their best. They acted as a link in the scenario of the evening, in which the formal part of the awards ceremony was dynamic and exciting: musical, vocal and dance numbers enriched it, switching the attention of the audience. A video with voice-over was shown on the screen at the back of the stage at the beginning of the ceremony. It was filmed as a news report about the

Listapad film festival. The audience saw footage of film screenings, happy faces of guests and celebrities. And then the hosts announced the names of the winners, invited them and the jury members to the stage, as well as those who awarded the winners. You should have seen how happy these people were when they went on stage. Some literally flew up onto it. As an example, let us recall the film directors from Türkiye — Erkan Kolçak Köstendil and Kadir Çermik, as well as the actor Riza Kocaoglu. They were awarded the Audience Award of the main feature film competition for the film *Tezgah*. The joy was also overflowing for the director from Italy Fabio Massa, who received a special diploma for the film *Global Harmony*. It seemed as if wings had grown behind him when he went up on stage. Majestically, in bright yellow clothes typical for Indian women, with an equally bright scarf, Padmavathi Malladi, a film director from India, walked towards it. In the Best Film of the Cinema of the Young Category named after Viktor Turov, her film *Gandhi and Grandfather's Tree* became the winner.

The appearance of each award-winning actor at the festival was like a mini-performance. And the audience in the hall watched it with great pleasure, not skimping on applause. One can only imagine the great joy felt by the Ambassador



Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Belarus Bernard Jorg Leopold de García Klingl, going up on stage to receive the Special Jury Prize of the main documentary film competition, which was awarded to the film *Marcos — Willpower*, directed by Zoran Djordjevic. Or what the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Belarus, His Excellency Sajjad Haider Khan, felt when receiving the Special Jury Diploma for the film *Unique* (directed by Umar Nasirali). Of course, joy!

And we, watching the people on stage and those who were nearby in the hall, were also happy. And for our winners, too. For Yelena Turova, who received the Prize of the Minsk City Executive Committee for the film *Song of Sirin*, and for Yuri Aleksei, General Director of the Belarusfilm film studio. Together with the scriptwriter and producer of the film *Black Castle* (directed by Kirill Kuzin) Gleb Shprigov, Yuri Maryanovich, like a boy, easily climbed onto the stage to receive the Special Prize of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States for the development of cultural

cooperation and strengthening of friendship between peoples — Cinema without Borders...

And then we watched the soulful, emotional and picturesque film *Where the Cranes Dance* by director Mikhail Lukachevsky from the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia, who was awarded the main prize of the President of the Republic of Belarus for Humanism and Spirituality in Cinema. The film is pure, bright, subtle, touching on the theme of fathers and children, the theme of love for neighbours, for family, as well as the eternal theme of the search for happiness in this world. Where is happiness? Where is that life-giving meaning of life, when a person, having realized what it is, becomes calm and peaceful? Maybe in our ability to dive into our inner world, and try to look for answers to all the questions of existence there? And, having found them at least partially, feel doubly happy. When you see the flight of a Siberian crane, or our Belarusian stork, feeling the warmth of a loved one nearby, who is able to share joy with you...

Good cinema, arthouse, authorial, I would even say elite, which this year the anniversary *Listapad* gave us, just helps us dive into inner worlds, where we can find many answers.

You just have to want it. And the fact that the Belarusian viewer likes such cinema, we saw it in crowded halls. This is exactly the spiritual culture that can fill our lives with a feeling of happiness and give the realization: life is priceless, life is beautiful.



The authors thank Natalia Khomich, press secretary of the Minsk International Film Festival Listapad, for her comprehensive assistance in working at the festival.

Valentina Zhdanovich
Photo by Ivan Zhdanovich



BELARUSIAN LITERATURE IN THE WORLD

CHRONICLES OF LITERARY LIFE. 1966 — 1985

Part six

1983. *The Chronicles of Literary Life (1966 — 1985)* also testified to the following fact, “A meeting of writers from three neighbouring regions — Bryansk, Chernigov and Gomel — took place at Gomel State University in connection with the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR...” and now, at the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, thanks to the efforts of the Chairman of the Gomel Regional Branch of the Union of Writers of Belarus, Deputy of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, prose writer, publicist Vladimir Gavrilovich, an incredible amount is being done to unite the Slavic literary space in Gomel. In recent years, the relations of Gomel residents with the Russian poet Leonid Sever (born June 11th, 1959 in Taganrog, Rostov Region, lived and worked in the Gomel region for some time) have been extensive. He founded the Banks of Friendship project in the Rostov Region to bring together Slavic writers.

On January 25th, a gala evening dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Russian writer A.N. Tolstoy (1883 — 1945) was held by the Union of Writers of

the BSSR. Ivan Chigrinov hosted the evening. Literary scholar Igor Kokhno gave a report. Doctor of Philology Igor Pavlovich Kokhno (1930 — 1988) presented his candidate's thesis on the pre-war works of Aleksandr Tvardovsky, and his doctoral thesis on the literary



■ Ivan Chigrinov

critical works of Anatoly Vasilyevich Lunacharsky. He published articles in the magazines *Sever*, *Novy Mir*, *Voprosy Literature* and others. On January 14th, the newspaper *Litaratura i Mastatstva* published an article by Ivan Chigrinov *Talent, Bright and Wise*, and in *Polymya* Olga Ipatova shared her thoughts about A. Tolstoy in the article *Great and Real Russian Talent...* In Belarusian, A. Tolstoy's book *Zheltukhin* was published back in 1930. And in 1937, the first part of the novel *Peter the Great* was released. *The Golden Key, or the Adventures of Buratino* (Minsk, 1971) was also translated into Belarusian. The translator was the famous Belarusian poet and publicist, author of literary essays Ales Bachyla.

The March issue of the then All-Union magazine *Sovietskaya Literatura* was dedicated to Belarusian literature. The authors included Ivan Naumenko, Vasil Bykau, Viktor Kazko, Ivan Shamyakin, Yanka Bryl, Ivan Chigrinov, Boris Sachenko, Ales Zhuk, Ivan Ptashnikov, Yanka Sipakov, Anatoly Kudryavets, Aleksey Dudarev, and a number of Belarusian poets. The magazine contained articles by Ales Adamovich, Mikhail Tychina, and Vasily Troitsa. The mention of this fact once again reminded us that, given the circumstances of today, given the disorder in many relationships and the absence of publications like the magazine *Sovietskaya Literatura*, a project should be organized to present Belarusian literature in English, Spanish, Chinese, and other languages of the world. Certain experience of reproducing such a practice was gained in 2012—2013 by the Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House named after P. Brouka, when Belarusian folk tales, a book by Natalia Golubeva for teenagers, a book on Belarusian mythology in English translations were published. It is a pity that these projects were not expanded. And the Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House named after P. Brouka finished its work on October 31st, 2021.

In May, Days of Belarusian Literature were held in Leningrad. The delegation of the Union of Writers of the BSSR was headed by Ivan Chigrinov. The practice of communication between Belarusian and Russian writers could also become the basis for holding such days in our time. Moreover, it has become a tradition to hold an international round table of Belarusian and Russian writers annually in September at the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in the Russian Federation.



■ Vladimir Gavrilovich at the Banks of Friendship festival in the Rostov region, 2023

Such a round table was also held on September 5th, 2024. The Russian side was represented by the Editor-in-Chief of the *Roman-Gazeta* magazine Yuri Kozlov, literary historian, Pushkin scholar Larisa Cherkashina, children's writer Liliya Kandybovich, poet, translator, essayist Tatyana Piskareva, literary scholar Karina Galay, Chairman of the Union of Writers of Russia Nikolai Ivanov, translator Sergei Glavyuk, poet, translator, literary scholar Lyubov Turbina and others; the Belarusian side was represented by the Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus Ales Karlyukevich, Editor-in-Chief of the *Maladost* magazine Olga Ratsevich, General Director of Belkniga JSC Vladimir Matusevich, publicist Larisa Kucherova.

In June, Days of Soviet Literature were held in Latvia under the motto 'Our work is for happiness and peace'. Belarus was represented by the people's writer of Belarus Vasil Bykau, poets Ryhor Baradulin and Anatoly Vertinsky.

In July 1983, the collection of translated literature *Brotherhood* was published for the first time. Under one cover, there were works by writers of the republics of the USSR, works by writers representing the national literatures of the Russian Federation. One of the generators of this work on the unification of translation forces was Ryhor Baradulin. Thus, two translated almanacs appeared in the republic —



■ Cover page of Vladimir Mayakovsky's publication translated by Piatrus Brouka

Horizons and *Brotherhood*. A little later, *Parus* would join them. In the first half of the 1990s, these almanacs faded out. But since 2019, the publication of *Horizons* has been resumed. The almanacs were published in 2019, 2020, 2021 (there was a gap in 2022), 2023. The tradition has been renewed. The compilers of *Horizons* are now Viktor Shnip and Ales Karlyukevich. The almanacs have a large group of translators. Those who are currently working hard to present other national literatures in the Belarusian language include Ragned Malakhovsky, Naum Galperovich, Grigory Lyashuk, Andrei Kostyukevich, Pavel Kostyukevich, Oksana Danilchik, Yana Yavich, Valeria Radun, Tatyana Sivets, Ivan Charota, Svetlana Bykova, Viktor Shnip, Ales Karlyukevich, Gennady Avlasenko and others.

On July 7th, a gala evening dedicated to the 90th anniversary of V. V. Mayakovsky's birthday was held at the Writer's House. The evening was hosted by Maksim Tank. Oleg Loiko gave a report. N. Gilevich, R. Baradulin, G. Buraukin, M. Luzhanin and others spoke at the evening. The seventh issue of *Polymya* published articles by Vladimir Gnilomedov *Mayakovsky and Russian Poetry*, Vladimir Pavlov's *My Memories*, Fyodor Zhichka's *As Alive with the Living* and others. Publications about V. Mayakovsky and his poetry appeared in *Litaratura i Mastatstva* (July 22nd) and the *Neman* magazine. The seventh issues of *Polymya* and *Maladost* also contained new translations of V. Mayakovsky's work by Ryhor Baradulin. *Friendship of Peoples* published an article by V. Gnilomedov *Today, Your Feat is Visible Even From Afar...* Quite a few books by V. Mayakovsky were published in Belarus in Belarusian translation. In 1930, the collection *For Children* was translated by A. Yakimovich. It was republished in 1950. V. Mayakovsky's poem *Vladimir*

Ilyich Lenin had a separate edition in the translation of Piatrus Brouka. The latest Belarusian edition of the book of the great Russian and Soviet poet was *Poetry* (Minsk, 2019) with translations that Belarusian artists of the word made in different decades.

From September 6th to 14th, the International Congress of Slavists was held in Kyiv. 87 (!) delegates from Belarus participated in it. Among them there were Ivan Naumenko, Ales Adamovich, Nikolai Birillo and others.

On September 30th, *Litaratura i Mastatstva* published an article by Vladimir Sokolovsky, *Belarusian Prose in the GDR*. It should be noted that such retrospective publications are clearly lacking on the pages of literary and artistic periodicals today. And in general, candidates and doctors of philological sciences are rare guests with their speeches in *Litaratura i Mastatstva*, *Maladost*, and *Neman*. Especially on the topics of international literary ties. As a diligent narrator of Belarusian-Slovak literary ties, one can only nominate candidate of philological sciences Nikolai Trus. It is thanks to such individuals as Nikolai Trus, Ivan Charota, and Oksana Danilchik that portraits of our, Belarusian, relations with the literatures of Slovakia, Serbia, and Italy are being formed. And so it is necessary to show a retrospective of the connections, readings of Belarusian literature in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, where, by the way, the artistic word of Belarusians has not been forgotten even now, in the 21st century. For example, in Kazakhstan, not only translations of Belarusian poetry and prose appear, but articles are also published that touch upon the modern literary process in Belarus, consider Belarusian-Kazakh literary ties at the present stage. It is worth mentioning at least the following collections of scientific publications: *Literature of Kazakhstan in Foreign Sources* (Almaty, 2021) and *Foreign Perception of Literature of Kazakhstan* (Almaty, 2023). The first of them reveals the connections of Kazakh literature with the literatures of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Hungary, Germany, Georgia, Egypt, Israel, India, China, Poland, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, USA, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, France, Czech Republic. A separate section is dedicated to Bashkortostan (Russian Federation). Usually, two or three articles are devoted to relations with each of the countries. In the case of the Russian section, of course, the space is much wider. The collection *Literature of Kazakhstan in Foreign Sources* (Almaty, 2021) contains publications by Irina Yushkova, Yevgeny Sidorov, Georgy Prakhin, Pavel Basinsky, Alla Bolshakova, Mikhail Popov, Anatoly Kim, Oleg

Osetinsky, Svetlana Solazhonkina. The 'Belarusian' section presents the articles *Close Belarusian Theme, Nemat Kelimbetov: Belarusian Reading, Bridges of Mutual Understanding and Friendship* (by Ales Karlyukevich), *The Path of Abai — the Road to Greatness* (by Mikhail Pozdnyakov). The collection *Foreign Perception of Literature of Kazakhstan* (Almaty, 2023) already contains thirteen articles on the 'Belarusian theme'. Among them, the publication by the laureate of the State Prize of the Republic of Belarus, translator of the book *Steppe Expanse* by Abai, laureate of the special prize of the President of the Republic of Belarus in the field of literature and art Nikolai Metlitsky (1954—2021) *Having Fallen in Love With a Poet, You will Also Fall in Love With His People* stands out. The poet and translator tells how, where his attention to the classic, the founder of modern Kazakh literature began, "... And the fact that I took up the translation of the lyrical heritage of the Kazakh classic, one might say, by chance, does not in any way diminish my current love for the work of the great poet. The Belarusian Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (House of Friendship) hosts many events, including literary ones, dedicated to the memory of brilliant representatives of the culture of the peoples of the world. As a member of the Presidium of the Society for Friendship, I have to lead some of these events. And I always want to know more about the personality of the hero of the occasion than the proposed scenario plan. Therefore, preparing for the literary event in memory of the great Abai, I ordered from the Presidential Library of our country everything that was published from his legacy in Russian both in the Soviet Union and in modern Russia. I wanted to read Abai's lines in my native Belarusian language at the evening. For translation, I chose the poem that became the final one in the future book *Steppe Expanse* — the ninetieth... <...> my reading of Abai's poem in my own translation did not go unnoticed by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Belarus A. Smirnov. Having expressed gratitude for the genuine respect for the fate and work of Abai, he asked to translate other poems of the poet into Belarusian..." On October 11th—12th, the Plenum of the Board of the Union of Writers of the BSSR was held, dedicated to the development of modern Belarusian poetry. Guests from other republics of the USSR were also invited:

A. Ovcharenko (Moscow), T. Kolomiets (Kyiv), A. Baltakis (Vilnius), A. Vejan (Riga), B. Kezhun (Leningrad).

1984. An evening dedicated to the work of Anna Akhmatova was held at the Republican House of Art Workers. Actress of the Yanka Kupala Theatre N. Piskareva performed a composition based on the works of the famous Russian poetess. Anna Andreyevna Akhmatova (1889—1966), her work, undoubtedly, has always been in the field of view of the Belarusian reader and Belarusian translators. A separate collection of her poems was published in 2020 in translations by G. Likhtarovich. And earlier there were publications in the almanacs *Horizons* and *Brotherhood*, in the collection *Recognition: Poems of the Poets of Leningrad*, which was published by Mastatskaya Litaratura in the series *Poetry of the Peoples of the USSR*. Valentin Rabkevich, Raisa Borovikova, Vasily Zuyonok and others turned to the transformation of Anna Akhmatova's poetry into the Belarusian language.

In February, a meeting of the Belarusian Republican Committee for Relations with Writers of Asia and Africa was held. The discussion was about promoting the works of writers from African and Asian countries. If we build a bridge to the present day, we cannot help but say that the ties with the countries of these continents are not developing at all. Belarusian-Chinese literary ties are quite well established. The Union of Writers of Belarus has established ties with the international department of the Chinese Writers Association. The Mastatskaya Litaratura publishing house, the Zvyazda publishing house, the socio-political



■ People's writer of Kazakhstan Lyubov Shashkova at the Belarusian-Kazakh writers' forum, Minsk, 2019

90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRITERS' UNION

regional studies and cultural studies magazine *Belarus* in English, Chinese and Belarusian have strong relations with Professor Gu Yu of Nankai University (Jiangjin, PRC), Professor Han Xiaoye of the Second Beijing University of Foreign Studies, Deputy Director of the Institute of Europe of the Second Beijing University of Foreign Studies Xu Chuanhua, who are actively engaged in the translation of works of art of Belarusian poetry and prose, Belarusian children's literature. There are relations with translators and writers from Vietnam, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and post-Soviet Asian countries. Sometimes, certain relations arise

circumstances, and they all influence the translator and his customer — the publisher or editorial board of the periodical: what to translate and where — from Hanoi or Warsaw...”

April 1st marked 175 years since the birth of N. V. Gogol. The evening was held at the Writers' House, hosted by Ivan Chigrinov. Let us recall that back in 1929, N.V. Gogol's *Taras Bulba* was published in Vilnius in Belarusian. In Soviet Belarus,” was published in Belarusian in the translation of Ales Bachyla and Makar Posledovich.

In May, a group of Mongolian writers visited Belarus. Among them were Lachin, Badra, Darjaa and



■ Iranian scholar and diplomat Mehdi Sanai during the presentation of his book at BSU

with writers from other countries, such as Japan, Iran, and Egypt. However, there is no systemic program or systemic organisation of international relations with African and Asian countries.

A two-day plenary session of the Council for Literary Translation of the Union of Writers of the USSR (based on the results of 1983) was held in Moscow. Belarus was represented by Yazep Semezhon. I would like to quote from one of Yazep Semezhon's interviews, "I fully share the opinion of translation theorists that each era has the right to have and, as a rule, has its own translations of well-known works of world literature. Here, it is not so much the level of poetic skill of the translators that plays a significant role, but the rearrangement of accents in the work being rebuilt. And this clarifies and dictates the time, the objectivity of assessments of historical events reflected in the translated work. An important role is also played by such a factor as the current state of relations between the peoples of the original language and the target language. In short, there are many

Miegomba. The writers visited the Union of Writers of Belarus and saw various memorable places in the Belarusian capital.

In June, Cuban writer Eduardo Heras León visited Belarus. A meeting was held at the Union of Writers of Belarus. The topic of conversation was the state and development of literature in Cuba and Belarus.

Hungarian writer Istvan Stravec visited the Yunost publishing house. The 3rd Congress of the Union of Bulgarian Translators took place in Sofia, where poet and translator Vasily Zuyonok took part.

On August 23rd, *Zvyazda* published Lev Mirachitsky's article *Uniting the Hearts of Friends* dedicated to Belarusian-Romanian literary ties.

In September, the Ten Days of Bulgarian Books was held in the Mogilev Region. Writers from Bulgaria K. Atanasov and P. Prodanov met with writers and journalists from Mogilev. The grand opening of the event took place in the Lenin Regional Library. The report was given by literary scholar Valery Atrashkevich.

In October, Serbian poet and translator of Belarusian literature Momčilo Djerkovich visited Belarus. M. Tank, N. Gilevich, B. Sachenko, I. Chigrinov, L. Gavrilkin, A. Gorditsky took part in a conversation with a colleague from Belgrade at the Union of Writers of the BSSR.

In November, a conversation with a delegation from Sri Lanka, which included writer E. Salatchendra, took place at the Union of Writers of the BSSR. In December, Greek writer N. Marangas visited the Union of Writers of the BSSR.

1985. On one of the buildings of the Yaroslavl State University (former Demidov Law Lyceum) a memorial plaque was installed in memory of Maxim Bogdanovich, and one of the streets of Yaroslavl was renamed after the poet. The names of many Belarusian writers are associated with various addresses in the Russian Federation. And today, when political and humanitarian, cultural integration relations with Russia are developing at such a high level, it is probably necessary to recall at least some facts that could become a reason for perpetuating the memory of Belarusian writers in Russia... People's writer of Belarus Ivan Melezh was treated in hospitals in Rostov and Essentuki during the Great Patriotic War. And from November 1942, he taught military training at the Moldavian Pedagogical Institute, which was located in Buguruslan during the war. In 1871, the classic of Belarusian literature Frantishkek Bahushevich worked as a judicial investigator in the Griazovets District of the Vologda Province. In 1937—1941, Iosif Pushcha taught in the Murom District of the Vladimir Region. After the war, he returned to the Murom District again. And there are many such examples of Belarusian literary addresses in Russia that require symbolic memorialization.

In April, the Slovenian literary scholar Maše Rode visited Minsk. The translator of Belarusian literature into Bulgarian Ivan Daichinov visited the Union of Writers of the BSSR.

In the first half of May, the Yugoslav poet and translator, director of the Nova Kniga publishing house Momčilo Djerkovich came to Minsk.

On May 24th, a gala evening dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Mikhail Sholokhov's birth was held in the Writers' House. Ivan Chigrinov, Anatoly Sulyanov, Ivan Novikov, Aleksey Karpyuk, Genrikh Dolidovich spoke. Back in 1935, *Virgin Soil Upturned* by M. Sholokhov was published as a separate edition in Minsk, translated into Belarusian. In 1936, *Quiet Flows the Don* was published, translated by Vladimir Khodyko. In 1975, sections from the novel *They*



■ Monument to Maxim Bogdanovich in Yaroslavl

Fought for the Motherland were published as a book, translated by Maksim Luzhanin.

In June, Algerian writer Omar Azraj visited Minsk. On June 26th — 28th, a meeting of Soviet and Bulgarian translators took place in the Union of Writers of the BSSR. The topic of the discussion was 'Fiction and Documentary Literature about the Great Patriotic War and Translation Problems'.

On September 18th—20th, the Days of Leningrad Literature were held in the republic. Minsk was visited by D. Khrankov, A. Tsakunov, V. Maksimov, V. Tikhanovich. During the Days, works by Leningrad writers translated into Belarusian were published in republican periodicals.

In October, the 90th anniversary of the birth of the Russian poet Sergei Yesenin was celebrated. The book *Selected Works* by Sergei Yesenin was published in Minsk in 1976. And today, Belarusian translators often turn to the legacy of the great Russian poet.

From December 5th to 10th, the Days of Culture of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia in Belarus were held in the republic. And before that, on November 28th, a ceremonial opening of the decade of books took place in the House of Friendship. It was opened by literary scholar and translator Ivan Charota.

Konstantin Leshnitsa

MIKHAIL BONCH-BRUYEVICH COVERED THE ERA IN HIS LIFE

What was the revolutionary path of the tsarist general?

The *Encyclopedia of the History of Belarus* sheds light on many previously seemingly hidden figures. And if they are familiar, then rather in outline. So, apparently, with the lieutenant general of the Russian army Mikhail Dmitrievich Bonch-Bruyevich. A long-liver (born in 1879, died in 1956). An entire era passed before his eyes. And, besides everything else, our compatriot (from the family of a land surveyor, a descendant of the nobility of the Mogilev



Province), being a doctor of military and technical sciences, also managed to become a lieutenant general of the Red Army (in 1944, and at the age of 74!).

True, *Belarusian Encyclopedia* rather modestly presents the biography of our fellow countryman. A quartermaster general of the 3rd army in the First World War, from September 1914 — at the headquarters of the Northwestern Front. Then chief of staff of the 6th army, armies of the Northern Front. During the February Revolution of 1917 — chief of the Pskov garrison. In August-September 1917 — commander-in-chief of the Northern Front. He took part in the liquidation of the Kornilov revolt. From September 27th (October 10th), 1917 — chief of the Mogilev garrison, member of the Executive Committee of the Mogilev Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies. On November 7th (20th), 1917, the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR appointed him chief of staff of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. In February 1918, he took part in organising the defense of Petrograd. From March 1918 — military leader of the Supreme Military Council, from June 1919 — chief of the military field staff of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic. One of the founders (1919) and head of the Supreme Geodetic Directorate of the Supreme Council of the National Economy. That's pretty much the entire basic biography of the service in favor of the revolution. However, behind this encyclopedic retelling, the fate itself, all its drama, is not visible.

How could it happen that one of the most educated generals, who went over to the service of the new government, was not needed by it for very long? Already in 1919, Mikhail Dmitrievich found himself on the margins of military service. Work of a scientific, teaching nature was like an exile for a combat general. His brother,

Vladimir Dmitrievich Bonch-Bruyevich, also found himself on the margins, starting in 1921. For four years, from 1917, he was the manager of the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR, and already in 1921 — the chairman of the Life and Knowledge publishing house. After that, and in general — the director of the Lesnye Polyany state farm. Although, if you look at the Bonch-Bruyevichs, then against the background of the fates of other revolutionaries — comrades of Lenin, their life was quite successful: many of the old Bolsheviks lived out their days in the GULAG, or even were shot.

And what about the Bonch-Bruyevichs, what about the educated, experienced, literate, one of the first 'Soviet generals' Mikhail Dmitrievich Bonch-Bruyevich? To answer this question, you need to follow his footsteps, so to speak, along the revolutionary path. During the days of General Kornilov's revolt, Bonch-Bruyevich collaborated with the acting commissar of the front, Savitsky, trying to prevent possible conflicts between soldiers and officers. And Mikhail Dmitrievich acted here according to the logic of common sense. Even General Alekseyev, one of the founders of the White Guard movement, at one time emphasised that it was necessary to become the leader of "compromises" and, in particular, "if somewhere soldiers' committees were formed without the will of the authorities, it is necessary to introduce officers into them..." But while Alekseyev advised doing this in order not to lose power, then Bonch-Bruyevich acted sincerely, according to his convictions.

On September 29th, 1917, the commander-in-chief of the Northern Front, General Klembovsky, having taken a position of cautious support for Kornilov, was removed by the Provisional Government, and Bonch-Bruyevich was appointed acting commander-in-chief. In this role, the 'Soviet general' detained General Krasnov in Pskov, who had been appointed commander of the 3rd Cavalry Corps by Kornilov and was going to the units heading to Petrograd. Upon taking up his post, Bonch-Bruyevich gave the order: "...the enemy is standing right in front of us and is preparing to deal us a decisive blow in the near future. If the armies of the Northern Front, acting together with the fleet, do not give the enemy a decisive rebuff in this opinion, then our Motherland will inevitably perish."

In September, Mikhail Dmitrievich was replaced by General Cheremisov, and he himself was sent to the disposal of the Supreme Commander. Arriving at Headquarters, he established contact with the Mogilev Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies and was included in its executive committee. In early October, he declined the appointment of Governor-General of the Southwestern Territory (with residence in Kyiv). He also refused to go to the steppe region (to Omsk). He agreed to the post of Chief of the Mogilev Garrison.

In early November, Supreme Commander Dukhonin refused to carry out the Council of People's Commissars' order to begin negotiations with Germany. On the night

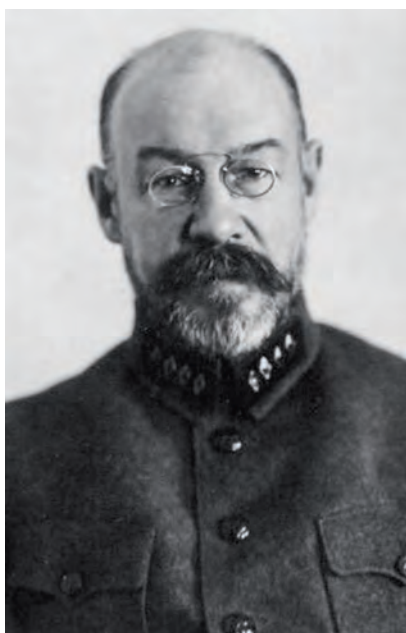
of November 9th, Lenin, Stalin and Krylenko called Dukhonin to a direct line and demanded an explanation as to why the government's order was not being carried out. The Supreme Commander asked, in turn, several questions. Or had the allies given their consent to negotiate? What would be the fate of the Romanian Army? Were separate negotiations with Türkiye planned? They did not really talk to Dukhonin and removed him from his post. It is interesting that even when the employees began to leave Headquarters, Dukhonin was still in Mogilev. And when on November 19th the commanders of the shock battalions asked the commander-in-chief of the previous day to allow



■ Mikhail's younger brother — Vladimir Dmitrievich Bonch-Bruyevich (1873—1955), Russian revolutionary, Bolshevik, Soviet party and state figure, ethnographer, writer. Closest assistant and de facto secretary of V.I. Lenin. 1930

them to defend headquarters, the general forbade it. He noted at the same time, "I do not want a fratricidal war..." Bonch-Bruyevich was offered a high military position. Mikhail Dmitrievich refused, reasonably believing that in this situation the Commander-in-Chief should be a political figure, and then Krylenko was appointed. When the new Commander-in-Chief's echelons approached Mogilev, he warned them, preventing them from clashing with the troops in the city. Bonch-Bruyevich was appointed Chief of Staff of the Commander-in-Chief. Everything seemed to be going smoothly. Much later, in his memoirs *All Power to the Soviets!* (Moscow, 1957), Mikhail Dmitrievich would write, "I was drawn to the Bolsheviks more by instinct than by reason, seeing in them a single force capable of saving Russia from collapse and complete destruction." It would be better if instinct were replaced by reason, a desire for a sober understanding of the events of that time...

One of the first 'Soviet generals' served the new government faithfully and truly. Bonch-Bruyevich tried in every way to preserve the combat readiness of the army. On



■ Mikhail Bonch-Bruyevich.
Photo from personal file. 1930s

November 27th, the chief of staff, in a direct line conversation, declared to the acting commander of the Southwestern Front, General Stogov, "All the heads of the headquarters departments and I together expressed an absolutely firm decision to preserve the technical apparatus of the headquarters. We decided to take all possible measures to preserve the command apparatus at the fronts and in the armies. We will work in our places until the last possible moment." What did Bonch-Bruyevich's activities mean at that time? Mikhail Dmitrievich emphasised the continuity of military command in every possible way, and tried to prove that the army could not be destroyed according to socio-political needs. On November 30th, the general sent a telegram to all the front commanders, "...It is necessary to ensure that important and command positions are occupied by people who correspond to these positions in their character, abilities, and knowledge." Professionalism, a sense of officer's dignity are

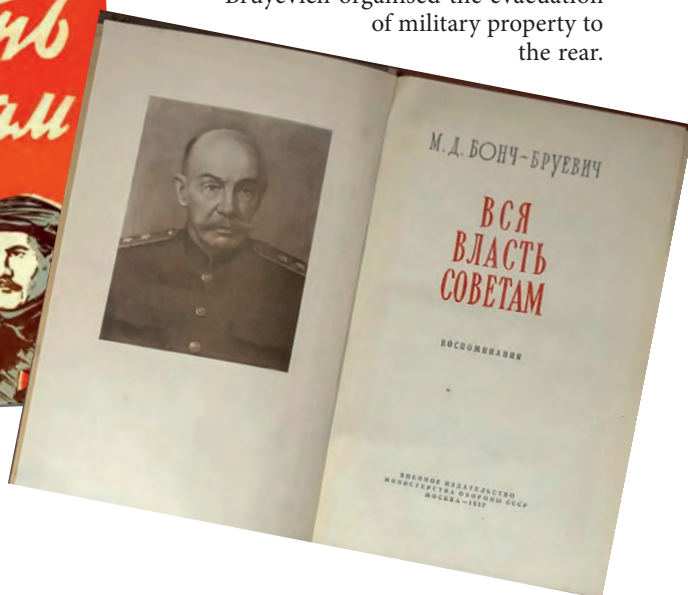
the main criteria by which Bonch-Bruyevich determined the suitability of a particular officer or general for the position he held.

Every day, there were more and more opponents of the new government. It was becoming more and more difficult for the Chief of Staff of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief to work. Mikhail Dmitrievich remained in the positions he had once chosen. Perhaps his brother, a revolutionary with experience, also had an influence. Since 1895, Vladimir Dmitrievich was a member of the Social Democratic Moscow Workers' Union. An employee of the *Iskra* newspaper. After the Second Congress of the RSDLP (1903), a Bolshevik. Participant in the 1905—1907 revolution (Petrograd). One of Lenin's closest associates. Bonch-Bruyevich, the first 'Soviet general', from the beginning of 1918 systematically reported to the Council of People's Commissars on the growing incapacity of the army, strengthening the government's resolve to speed up the signing of peace with Germany. On January 4th, he wrote, "The armies are completely, absolutely incapable of combat and are incapable of holding back the enemy not only in their positions, but also when moving the line of defense deep into the rear." Two weeks later, Bonch-Bruyevich again addressed the Council of People's Commissars, "...All the armies of the Northern and Western Fronts, as well as the special army of the Southwestern Front, are completely incapable of defense and are not even capable of retreating in an organised manner and without losing enormous material resources, not only under the onslaught, but also without the onslaught of the enemy. The general state of the army is characterised by a complete loss of combat capability and disintegration." And the general cut the truth at all levels. He demanded decisiveness in military policy from the government. At that time, the future of the young state depended on it.

In the conditions of military collapse, Bonch-Bruyevich organised the evacuation of military property to the rear.



■ The general's memoirs
All Power to the Soviets!
(Moscow, 1957)



After the break in peace negotiations in Brest-Litovsk and the transition of German troops to the offensive, on February 19th he received a telegram from V.I. Lenin demanding “immediately, with the existing staff of the Headquarters, to arrive in Petrograd.” On February 20th, Mikhail Dmitrievich left Mogilev. He arrived in the capital on the evening of the 22nd and immediately joined in organising the resistance to the advancing enemy. That evening, the general sent a telegram to the command of the Northern and Western Fronts, “I ask to assist the commanders in collecting retreating units and individual soldiers, organising them into combat-ready units that must put an end to the enemy’s offensive. I propose using the work of local residents to carry out the necessary sapper work.” The telegram noted that it was intended to stop the German troops on the line Narva-Pskov-Nevel-Vitebsk-Orsha-Mogilev-Mozyr-Berdichev-Izvestnyarka-Odessa. As subsequent events showed, this line (with the exception of Ukraine) actually became, with some deviations, the western border of Soviet Russia until November 1918. After the signing of the Brest Peace, Bonch-Bruyevich joined the Supreme Military Council as a military leader on March 4th, 1918. On March 5th, the Supreme Military Council gave the order to liquidate the post of the Supreme Commander and disband his staff. Mikhail Dmitrievich was busy creating a so-called ‘shield’ on the former front line from a variety of units. It was supposed to counteract the further advance of German and Austro-Hungarian troops deep into the country. Again, Bonch-Bruyevich showed remarkable initiative. The former chief of staff of the Supreme Commander introduced generals and officers of the old army into the backbone of the ‘shield’ command staff. For them, this service was more acceptable than in the Red Army units operating on the internal fronts. Mikhail Dmitrievich himself experienced a certain dissonance. In June, the headquarters of the Supreme Military Council headed by Bonch-Bruyevich left for Murom. On July 9th — 10th, the city was captured by the rebels. They acted according to the plan of the Union for the Defense of the Motherland and Freedom. One of their goals was to seize the headquarters and destroy Bonch-Bruyevich. But just before the events, the general left Murom and went to Moscow. In the conditions of the expansion of the civil war, the general began to feel his uselessness: the impossibility

of using old management methods, growing fratricide... And he resigned... This was October 1917 and such were its consequences in the fate of our fellow countryman. An honest man and long-suffering in his experiences. In late 1918 — early 1919, Bonch-Bruyevich (only a 39-year-old general!) taught at the surveying institute. Subsequently, Mikhail Dmitrievich headed the work on the creation of the Supreme Geodetic Administration, became its first chief. From March 1919 to 1923, Bonch-Bruyevich was the head of the Supreme Geodetic Administration of the Supreme Council of the National Economy. Then he was at the disposal of the Revolutionary Military Council



■ Mikhail Bonch-Bruyevich is buried at the Vagankovskoye Cemetery in Moscow (family burial)

of the USSR. The former general was accused under Articles 110, 116 and 150 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR, the case was transferred to the prosecutor’s office. But Felix Dzerzhinsky stood up for him... And in February 1931, Bonch-Bruyevich was arrested after all. In the case of a counterrevolutionary conspiracy of former officers. Mikhail Dmitrievich did not admit to participating in any organisations. A few months later, the general was released... And the case was closed due to “the absence of corpus delicti...” In 1937, Bonch-Bruyevich was awarded the rank of division commander, and in 1944 — lieutenant general... Mikhail Bonch-Bruyevich died in 1956, and in 1957 his memoirs *All Power to the Soviets!*, which he had been working on in the last years of his life, were published.

Konstantin Leshnitsa



НА ХВАЛІ ЦІКАВАСЦІ ДА ГІСТОРЫІ, ЯКУЮ СТВАРАЮЦЬ ЛЮДЗІ

У музеі Якуба Коласа адбылася рэтраспектыўная выстава
выдадзеных у Кітаі беларускіх кніг

在人民创造的 历史浪潮中

柯拉斯国家文学纪念博物馆举办了《白罗斯文学作品在中国》书展

近年来，中国对白罗斯的认识显著增长。随着白中关系的进一步深化，中国和白罗斯作家、文学评论家和翻译家之间建立了密切的直接联系。然而，白罗斯文学与中国的第一次接触发生在约八十年前——20世纪40年代后期。

雅库布·柯拉斯国家文学纪念博物馆与白罗斯作家联盟联合举办了《白罗斯文学作品在中国（1946–2024）——来自维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇的书籍收藏》书展。此次书展全面展示了20世纪下半叶至21世纪初在中国出版的白罗斯文学标志性书籍。雅库布·柯拉斯国家文学纪念博物馆展出雅库布·柯拉斯、扬卡·库帕拉、马克西姆·唐克、扬卡·马夫尔、阿尔卡季·库列秀夫、康德拉特·克拉比瓦、佩特鲁斯·勃罗夫卡、扬卡·布雷里、伊万·沙米亚金、瓦西里·贝科夫、安德烈·费多连科、阿列斯·巴达克和弗拉基米尔·卡罗特科维奇等白罗斯作家作品的中文译本。

20世纪40年代后期至80年代的白罗斯文学作品的中文译本占维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇的书籍收藏中的一个重要位置。当时，中国读者对苏联（俄语）文学的兴趣空前高涨（白罗斯文学当时被认为是苏联文学的一部分）。这一时期被称为苏中关系的“黄金时代”。双边文化关系显著扩大，包括文学翻译和出版项目。在此次书展的展品中，参观者还可以看到白罗斯的“黄皮书”——20世纪60年代后期至20世纪70年代前期的“内部读物”。

雅库布·柯拉斯是最早将作品译成中文的白罗斯作家之一，因此《白罗斯文学作品在中国》书展的举办场地选择显得很自然。雅库布·柯拉斯还在世时，中国期刊上发表了她的翻译成中文的一首诗歌《献给国土解放者》。如今，雅库布·柯拉斯国家文学纪念博物馆与天津外国语大学密切合作，六年前，在天津外国语大学安装了由谢尔盖·古米柳斯基设计的雅库布·柯拉斯半身像，这是中国第一座白罗斯主题的纪念碑。雅库布·柯拉斯博物馆馆长伊琳娜·玛嘉斯在致辞时指出，今年在明斯克出版了雅库布·柯拉斯的《生活的故事》的部分故事的中文译本。《生活的故事》中文译本的撰稿人为伊琳娜·玛嘉斯和天津外国语大学雅库布·柯拉斯中心主任、副教授奥尔加·沙哈卜。该书是在白罗斯共和国文化部的支持下，雅库布·柯拉斯国家文学纪念博物馆与天津外国语大学联合出版项目。这本书配有白罗斯艺术家柳德米拉·彼得鲁尔绘制的精美插图。

中华人民共和国驻白罗斯共和国特命全权大使张汶川说书籍是打开中白文明互鉴之

У апошнія гады значна вырас досвед пра Беларусь у Кітаі. У выніку далейшага паглыблення беларуска-кітайскіх стасункаў усталяваліся трывалыя прамыя кантакты паміж кітайскімі і беларускімі літаратарамі, літаратурнымі крытыкамі і перакладчыкамі. Аднак першае знаёмства з беларускай літаратурай у Паднябеснай адбылося яшчэ паўстагоддзя таму – у другой палове 1940-х гадоў.

Дзяржаўны літаратурна-мемарыяльны музей Якуба Коласа і Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі правёў сумесную імпрэзу “Беларуская кніга ў Кітаі (1946–2024). Са збораў Веранікі Карлюкевіч”. Прадстаўлены ў выставачным праекце кніжныя экспанаты даюць шырокае ўяўленне пра знакавыя пераклады з беларускай літаратуры, выдадзеныя ў Кітаі ў другой палове ХХ стагоддзя – пачатку ХХІ стагоддзя. Наведвальнікі Дзяржаўнага літаратурна-мемарыяльнага музея Якуба Коласа змаглі пазнаёміцца з кітайскімі выданнямі твораў Якуба Коласа, Янкі Купалы, Янкі Маўра, Аркадзя Куляшова, Кандрата Крапівы, Петруся Броўкі, Янкі Брыля, Івана Шамякіна, Васіля Быкава, Андрэя Федарэнкі, Алеся Бадака, Уладзіміра Караткевіча і іншых беларускіх пісьменнікаў.

Важнае месца ў калекцыі Веранікі Карлюкевіч займаюць букіністычныя экзэмпляры выданняў кітайскіх перакладаў другой паловы 1940–1980 гадоў. У гэты час назіраўся небывалы раней уздым цікаўнасці да савецкай (рускамоўнай) літаратуры (а беларуская літаратура ў той час разглядалася як частка савецкай). Гэты перыяд атрымаў назву своеасаблівага “залатога веку” ў савецка-кітайскіх адносінах. Значна пашырыліся двухбаковыя культурныя стасункі, у тым ліку літаратурныя перакладчыцкія і выдавецкія праекты. Сярод экспанатаў часовай выставы таксама можна пабачыць “жоўтыя кнігі” беларускага паходжання – творы, якія перакладалі выключна для ўнутранага карыстання ў другой палове 1960 – першай палове 1970 гадоў.



■ Алесь Карлюкевіч
■ Алікс·Карльковіч



■ Вераніка Карлюкевіч праводзіць экскурсію для спадара пасла Джан Вэньчуаня
■ 张汶川大使参观展览，维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇为大使讲解

Якуб Колас – адзін з першых беларускіх пісьменнікаў, творы якога былі перакладзены на кітайскую мову, таму выбар пляцоўкі для правядзення часовай выставы “Беларуская кніга ў Кітаі” падаецца вельмі натуральным. Пры жыцці Песняра на кітайскай загучаў верш “Абаронцам роднай зямлі”. І сёння цеснае супрацоўніцтва звязвае Дзяржаўны літаратурна-мемарыяльны музей Якуба Коласа з Цяньцзінскім ўніверсітэтам замежных моў, дзе, дарэчы яшчэ шэсць гадоў таму быў устаноўлены бюст Якуба Коласа аўтарства Сяргея Гумілёўскага – першы беларускі помнік у Кітаі. А сёлета ў Мінску выйшла кніга перакладаў часткі апавяданняў Якуба Коласа з цыкла “Казкі жыцця” ў перакладзе на кітайскую мову, – адзначыла дырэктар музея Якуба Коласа Ірына Мацяс у прывітальным слове. Менавіта Ірына Мацяс і Вольга Шахаб, дырэктар Цэнтра Якуба Коласа, дацэнт Цяньцзінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў, выступілі ўкладальнікамі выдання. Кніга падрыхтавана ў межах супрацоўніцтва Дзяржаўнага літаратурна-мемарыяльнага музея Якуба Коласа з Цяньцзінскім ўніверсітэтам замежных моў пры падтрымцы Міністэрства культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь. Кніга аформлена прыгожымі ілюстрацыямі беларускай мастачкі Людмілы Пятруль.

Увогуле, кнігі – гэта ключы, якія адчыняюць дзверы да ўзаемаувучання паміж кітайскай і беларускай цывілізацыямі, – лічыць спадар Джан Вэньчуань, Надзвычайны і Паўнамоцны Пасол КНР у Рэспубліцы Беларусь, – Кітайска-беларускія літаратурныя стасункі пачаліся яшчэ ў савецкі перыяд. У Кітаі перакладзена шмат савецкіх беларускіх твораў, якія паўплывалі на многіх кітайскіх пісьменнікаў, на іх выбар творчых тэм і стыляў. Выданне перакладаў садзейнічае больш глыбокаму знаёмству народаў з гісторыяй, культурай, маральнымі арыенцірамі і сацыяльным

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文化话题的所作的工作。《父母之语》也发布了白罗斯文学专家关于雅库布·柯拉斯、扬卡·库帕拉、扬卡·马夫尔、阿尔卡季·库列秀夫、马克西姆·唐、伊万·沙米亚金等作家的作品在华翻译的文章。

白罗斯国立大学汉语语言学教研室主任、语言学博士米卡莱·赫梅利尼茨基谈到了白罗斯学生对学习汉语和中国文学的兴趣。汉语语言学教研室还开设有关白罗斯与中国文学关系的课程，并筹备了一本致力于20-21世纪白罗斯文学在中国推广的合集。其作者包括米卡莱·赫梅利尼茨基、维罗妮卡·卡柳凯维奇、维罗妮卡·朱卡韦茨、维亚切斯拉夫·拉戈伊沙、玛丽娜·亚罗姆卡和尼基塔·博罗维克。

如今，中国翻译家对白罗斯文学重新产生了兴趣。在雅库布·柯拉斯国家文学纪念博物馆的书展上，还展示了近年来白罗斯作家的汉译新作：白中文学关系史上第一部白罗斯文学作品合集——《白俄罗斯当代文学作品选》（2023），韩小也、张惠芹、辛萌译；《巴达克作品选》（2024），韩小也译；安德烈·费多连科的《有缺口的塔勒》（2022），韩小也、辛萌译。白罗斯文学作品的中文翻译也积极出版在白罗斯出版社和期刊上。此外，《卡尔柳科维奇作品选》正在准备出版。《方框里的针》也已经翻译完毕，将择时出版。这部著作包括奥列格·日丹-普希金、谢尔盖·特拉赫苗诺克、阿列斯·科热杜布、维拉·泽

ладам адзін аднаго. У мінулым годзе ў Беларусі адбылася прэзентацыя першага тома кнігі “Сі Цзіньпін аб дзяржаўным кіраванні” на беларускай мове, якая стала аўтарытэтным выданнем для беларускага народа. У Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы Беларусі адкрыўся Кітайскі цэнтр кнігі, усё больш беларускіх універсітэтаў адкрываюць цэнтры па вывучэнні кітайскай мовы і культуры.

Старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, дырэктар Выдавецкага дома “Звязда” Алесь Карлюкевіч расказаў, што яшчэ ў 1920-х гадах беларускі паэт Уладзімір Дубоўка перакладаў творы кітайскіх паэтаў, а ў 2014-м годзе ў Выдавецкім доме “Звязда” была заснаваная серыя “Светлыя знакі: паэты Кітая”. Распавёў таксама пра выдадзеныя ў Беларусі анталогіі кітайскай паэзіі. Выдавецкія стасункі Беларусі і Кітая на сённяшнім этапе развіваюцца надзвычай плённа. Спрыяе гэтаму, несумненна, увага Міністэрства інфармацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь, розных выдавецтваў нашай краіны да кніжнага увасаблення распаўяду пра Кітай, а таксама – увага Цэнтраў вывучэння Беларусі, якія працуюць пры многіх універсітэтах КНР. Алесь Мікалаевіч адзначыў, што выстава “Беларуская кніга ў Кітаі”, – пачатак серыі мерапрыемстваў, праз якія Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі прадставіць кнігі беларускіх аўтараў, выдадзеныя ў розных краінах свету, найперш – у Казахстане, Узбекістане, В’етнаме, Туркменістане, Таджыкістане, Кыргызстане, Манголіі.

З прывітальным словам таксама выступіў Бэй Вэньлі, дырэктар цэнтра вывучэння Беларусі ва Усходне-Кітайскім педагагічным універсітэце (Шанхай) далучыўся. Ён адзначыў высокі ўзровень адносін паміж нашымі краінамі, і правядзенне выставы “Беларуская кніга ў Кітаі (1946–2024). Са збораў Веранікі Карлюкевіч” з’яўляецца добрым прыкладам шырыні гуманітарных кантактаў Кітая і Беларусі.

Адным з тых, хто перакладаў вершы кітайскіх паэтаў для згаданых выданняў, і каго сёння актыўна перакладаюць на кітайскую мову, быў намеснік дырэктара выдавецтва “Мастацкая літаратура”, галоўны рэдактар часопіса “Полымя” паэт Віктар Шніп. Ён

распавёў пра некаторыя пераклады з кітайскай, а таксама падзяліўся, што ў выдавецтве аднавіўся альманах “Далягляды”, дзе таксама друкуюцца матэрыялы, прысвечаныя кітайскай літаратуры. Для ўдзельнікаў імпрэзы Віктар Шніп прачытаў свой верш “Кітайскім перакладчыкам” з прысвячэннем таленавітым беларусістам, сучасным перакладчыкам беларускай літаратуры Гао Ману, Джан Хуэйцзінь, Хань Сяое, Гу Юю, Сунь Фаньцзі і Сінь Мэн.

Пісьменніца Людміла Рублеўская распавяла пра публікацыі на старонках выданняў Выдавецкага дома “Звязда” вершаў кітайскіх студэнтаў, якія вучацца на Беларусі. Кандыдат філалагічных навук, вядомы літаратуразнаўца Мікола Трус згадаў пра сваё наведванне Цяньцзіньскага ўніверсітэта Кітая і



■ Ірына Мацяс
■ 伊琳娜·玛嘉斯

ўдзел у адкрыцці помніка Якубу Коласу. Мікола Трус таксама засведчыў важнае значэнне, якое мае дзейнасць Веранікі Карлюкевіч для беларуска-кітайскіх літаратурных сувязяў, і ўнікальнасць падрыхтаванай ёю выставы.

Галоўны рэдактар часопіса “Роднае слова” Наталля Шапран грунтоўна распавяла пра раскрыццё тэмы кітайскай літаратуры і культуры на старонках часопіса. У “Родным слове” пабачылі свет навукова-даследчыя артыкулы беларускіх літаратуразнаўцаў пра пераклады на кітайскую мову твораў Якуба Коласа, Янкі Купалы, Янкі Маўра, Аркадзя Куляшова, Максіма Танка, Івана Шамякіна і іншых.

Мікалай Хмяльніцкі, доктар філалагічных навук, загадчык кафедры кітайскай філалогіі Беларускага дзяржаўнага ўніверсітэта, распавёў пра той інтарэс беларускіх студэнтаў да вывучэння кітайскай мовы і кітайскай літаратуры. Ва ўніверсітэце таксама выкладаецца адмысловы курс пра беларуска-кітайскія літаратурныя сувязі. Падрыхтаваная і калектыўная манаграфія, прысвечаная рэцэпцыі беларускай літаратуры ў Кітаі XX–XXI ст. Сярод яе аўтараў Мікалай Хмяльніцкі, Вераніка Карлюкевіч, Вераніка Жукавец, Вячаслаў Рагойша, Марына Яромка і Мікіта Баравік.

Сёння зноў назіраецца аднаўленне цікавасці кітайскіх перакладчыкаў да беларускай літаратуры. На выставе ў Дзяржаўным літаратурна-мемарыяльным музей Якуба Коласа таксама былі прэзентаваны навінкі кітайскіх перакладаў беларускіх аўтараў апошніх гадоў: першы ў гісторыі беларуска-кітайскіх літаратурных стасункаў калектыўны збор твораў беларускай літаратуры – “Выбраныя творы сучасных беларускіх пісьменнікаў” (2023) у перакладзе Хань Сяое, Джан Хуэйцзінь і Сінь Мэн; “Выбраныя творы” Алеся Бадака (2024) у перакладзе Хань Сяое; “Шчарбаты талер” (2022) у перакладзе Хань Сяое і Сінь Мэн; творы беларускай літаратуры на кітайскай мове, выдадзеныя ў беларускіх выдавецтвах і перыёдыцы. Акрамя гэтага, да выдання рыхтуюцца “Выбраныя творы” Алеся Карлюкевіча; зборнік “Іголкі ў квадраце”, у які ўвайшлі творы Алега Ждана-Пушкіна, Сяргея Трахімёнка, Алеся Кажадуба, Веры Зялёнка, Анатоля Мацвіенкі і Валянціны Драбышэўскай. У стадыі перакладу “Выбраныя творы” Людмілы Рублеўскай.

На адкрыцці выставы Хань Сяое, перакладчык рускай і беларускай літаратуры, дэкан факультэта рускай мовы Другога пекінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў, адзначыў: “Беларуская літаратура, асабліва кітайскія пераклады твораў беларускай літаратуры, – гэта тэма, якая мяне вельмі цікавіць. Бо за апошнія гады мне пашчасціла пры падтрымцы і дзякуючы шчырым сяброўскім адносінам з боку Алеся Карлюкевіча і Веранікі Карлюкевіч перакласці некаторыя творы вядомых беларускіх пісьменнікаў, што можна лічыць маім сціплым унёскам у папулярызаванне і прапаганду беларускай літаратуры ў Кітаі. У перакладзе літаратурных твораў ёсць пэўная цяжкасць, і ў гэтым для мяне характэрна мастацкага перакладу. Паколькі сюжэты ў літаратурных творах



■ Маленькая ўдзельніца выставы чытае “Казкі жыцця” Якуба Коласа

■ 观展人正在看雅库布·柯拉斯的《生活的故事》

连科、阿纳托利·马特维延科和瓦莲京娜·德罗比舍夫斯卡娅的作品。《柳德米拉·鲁布廖夫斯卡娅作品选》正在翻译过程中。

在书展开幕式上，俄罗斯和白罗斯文学翻译家、北京第二外国语学院俄语系主任韩小也表示：“白俄罗斯文学，尤其是白俄罗斯文学作品中文译介，这是我非常感兴趣的话题。因为近年来，我也有幸能在维罗妮卡女士和阿列斯-卡尔柳科维奇先生的支持和厚爱下，翻译了一些白俄罗斯知名作家的作品，也算是为白俄罗斯文学在中国的普及和推广做出了自己一点点贡献，奉献了自己的微博之力。文学作品翻译是有一定难度的，这也正是对我而言文学翻译的魅力所在。因为文学作品中的情节曲折，人物形象众多，不同的人物具有不同的思维、不同的语言。为了能准确地判断，从而避免翻译中的硬伤，需要下很多功夫，既要进行查阅，也要向专家咨询，有时还需要向原作者讨教。因此文学作品翻译中充满了艰辛，翻译每一部作品对译者而言都是一次艰难的跋涉，但这是充满乐趣、能引人入胜的跋涉，我乐此不疲地走在这条路上。通过翻译白俄罗斯作家作品，我也学习了很多东西。更多地了解了白俄罗斯的地理、历史、文化和白俄罗斯人民的风俗习惯和风土人情。我将继续走在这条路上，一路风雨，也一路高歌。”韩小也是《白俄

罗斯当代作品选集》的主要译者。他翻译了雷戈尔·波罗杜林、维克多·施尼普、列奥尼德·德兰卡-莫伊休科、阿列斯·巴达克和阿列斯·卡尔柳克维奇的作品。他也是《巴达克作品选》和安德烈·费多连科的《有缺口的塔勒》的译者。

汉学家、白中文学关系研究员维罗尼卡·卡柳克维奇认为，文学翻译史是两个国家和两个国家的人民之间关系深度的反映，是文化外交交流的重要组成部分。她表示，白罗斯与中国的文学关系一直是她研究的主要方向，收藏在中国出版的白罗斯文学作品成为这种科学兴趣的明确延续。对这些出版物本身及其出版当时的历史背景的研究证实了她的信念：历史是由人创造的。“白罗斯作家是由当时最优秀的翻译家翻译成中文的：李俚民、孙绳武、戈宝权、穆慕田、高莽等。令人欣慰的是，他们的工作如今由同样才华横溢的白罗斯研究者和翻译家谷羽、韩小也、张惠芹、辛萌、孙凡奇继续进行，随着时间的推移，白罗斯文学研究人员和翻译家的圈子正在不断扩大。”白罗斯文学，无论是古典文学还是现代文学，都是白罗斯的汉学家、中国的白罗斯研究者、翻译家、文学专家、历史学家证明自己、展示自己的能力的、为深化两国人文合作发挥作用的机会海洋。维罗尼卡·卡柳克维奇感谢大连理工大学讲师孙铁兵先生和白俄罗斯国立大学共和国汉学孔子学院中方院长刘素玲女士协助收集在中国出版的白罗斯书籍。

玛丽安娜·米娅

складаюцца з нечаканых паваротаў, шмат дзеячых асобаў, у розных герояў рознае мысленне і розныя моўныя адметнасці. Каб дакладна вызначыць гэтыя акалічнасці і пазбегнуць памылак пры перакладзе, патрабуецца шмат намаганняў, у тым ліку пошукаў, кансультацый са спецыялістамі, а часам даводзіцца звяртацца за парадамі да аўтара арыгінальнага твора. Таму пераклад літаратурных твораў – гэта складаны, але і цікавы, займальны шлях для перакладчыка, і мне прыемна ісці па гэтым шляху. Таксама дзякуючы перакладам твораў беларускіх пісьменнікаў, я шмат чаму навучыўся, даведаўся больш пра геаграфію, гісторыю, культуру Беларусі і традыцыі і звычаі беларускага народа. Я буду і далей ісці па гэтай дарозе, хай сабе і няпростай, але пачэснай і ўдзячнай.” Хань Сяое выступіў ключавым перакладчыкам зборніка “Выбраныя творы сучасных беларускіх пісьменнікаў”, для зборніка ён пераклаў творы Рыгора Барадуліна, Віктра Шніпа, Леаніда Дранько-Майсюка, Алеся Бадака і Алеся Карлюкевіча. Ён таксама з’яўляецца перакладчыкам кнігі “Выбраныя творы” Алеся Бадака і “Шчарбаты талер” Андрэя Федарэнкі.

Па меркаванні Веранікі Карлюкевіч, кітаязнаўцы і даследчыцы беларуска-кітайскіх літаратурных стасункаў, гісторыя літаратурных перакладаў – гэта адлюстраванне глыбіні стасункаў паміж краінамі і народамі, важная частка культурных дыпламатычных зносін. Яна распавяла, што беларуска-кітайскія літаратурныя стасункі заўсёды былі яе галоўным накірункам у даследчыцкіх намаганнях, і калекцыя выданняў беларускай літаратуры на кітайскай мове стала зразумелым працягам такіх навуковых інтарэсаў. Непасрэднае знаёмства з выданнямі і гістарычным кантэкстам іх з’яўлення зацвердзіла яе ў перакананні, што гісторыя ствараюць людзі. “Беларускіх аўтараў на кітайскую мову традыцыйна перакладалі лепшыя перакладчыкі свайго часу: Лі Лянмін, Сунь Шэн’у, Гэ Баоцзюань, Му Муцян, Гао Ман і многія іншыя. Вельмі радасна, што іх справу сёння

працягваюць не менш таленавітыя беларусазнаўцы і перакладчыкі Гу Юй, Хань Сяое, Джан Хуэйцзін, Сін Мэн, Сунь Фаньцзі, і з цягам часу кола даследчыкаў і перакладчыкаў беларускай літаратуры пашыраецца.” Беларуская літаратура – і класічная, і сучасная, – цэлы акіян магчымасцяў для кітайскіх беларусістаў і беларускіх кітаістаў, перакладчыкаў, літаратуразнаўцаў, гісторыкаў каб праявіць сябе, прадэмастраваць свае здольнасці, адыграць ролю ў паглыбленні гуманітарнага супрацоўніцтва паміж нашымі краінамі. Даследчыца падзякавала спадару Сунь Цэбіню, старэйшаму выкладчыку Далянскага палітэхнічнага ўніверсітэта, і Лю Сулін, намесніка дырэктара Рэспубліканскага інстытута кітаязнаўства імя Канфуцыя БДУ за дапамогу ў пошуку букіністычных экзэмпляраў беларускіх кніг, выдадзеных у Кітаі.

Мар’яна МІА



■ Наталля Шапран знаёміцца з выставай
■ 娜塔莉亚·夏普伦参观书展

Віктар Шніп

Прысвячаецца кітайскім перакладчыкам
Гао Ману, Джан Хуэйцзінь, Хань Сяое,
Гу Юю, Сунь Фаньці, Сін Мэн

Кітайскаму перакладчыку

Як вечная божая кветка любові,
За тваім вакном узыходзячае сонца,
Якое асвятляе Кітай,
І якое праз некалькі гадзін
Узыходзе і над Беларуссю
І асвеціць стол паэта, як поле,
На якім расце толькі дабро,
Як і на тваім сталі.
Ты не спаў усю ноч,
Узыходзячы
На беларускі ўзгорак Паэзіі.
Ты ішоў, як ідуць беларусы,
Нясешна,
Каб на вяршыні ўзгорка,
Пабачыць перад сабой
Яшчэ большую прыгажосць,
Якая, як васільок у беларускім жыце,
Як у кітайскім садзе півоны.
Зноў лагодны нарачанскі вецер
Прынёс табе дым ад вогнішча,
Каля якога сядзяць паэты
І любуюцца Вялікай Мядзведзіцай,
Якая глядзіць на Вялікую Кітайскую сцяну,
І радуецца, што Паэзія — гэта мост
Паміж сэрцамі, якія ведаюць,
Што такое сяброўства
І жыццё для Паэзіі, якая вакол нас,
Як паветра, у якім лётаюць анёлы,
Як рыфмы яшчэ ненапісаных вершаў.
І ты глядзіш услед сонцу,
Якое ўзыходзіць над Беларуссю,
Якая далёка, як сонца,

І якая блізка, як вершы
Беларускіх паэтаў, што ў цябе
На сталі і ў сэрцы,
Якое цяпер б'ецца ў рытме
Вершаў Уладзіміра Караткевіча.
І ты ідзеш праз Чорны замак Альшанскі,
І не губляешся ў яго сутарэннях,
Бо з табою беларусы,
Якія ведаюць, хто ты і для чаго
Ты ідзеш па беларускай зямлі,
Над якой свеціць сонца,
Якое ўзыйшло
І якое ўжо ніколі не зойдзе...

12.11.2024

维克托 施尼普

献给高莽、张惠芹、韩小
也、谷羽、辛萌和孙凡奇

致中国翻译家

你的窗外旭日东升，
就像上帝永恒的爱之花，
照亮了中华大地，
几个小时后，
太阳将在白俄罗斯上空升起，
照亮诗人田野般的桌案，
这里只生长出美好，
一如生长在你的桌上。

你彻夜未眠，
登上白俄罗斯的诗歌之巅。
你像白俄罗斯人一样前行，
从容不迫，
只为登上岑岭之峰，
你的面前，
美不胜收，
如同白俄罗斯麦田里的矢车菊，
又如中华园里的牡丹。

纳罗奇湖再次清风徐来，
为你带来篝火的迷雾，
诗人坐在旁边，
欣赏着大熊座，
它正俯瞰着中国的万里长城，
诗歌是一座心灵的桥梁，
它让我欢心怡然，
心灵知道什么是友情，
什么是我们身边诗歌中
蕴藏的生命力，
就像天使飞翔的天空
就像尚未写下的诗歌的韵律。

你望着太阳，
它从白俄罗斯升起，
那里像太阳般遥远，
像白俄罗斯诗人的诗，
如此亲近，
它在你的桌上，
你的心里，
在乌拉基米尔·卡拉特克维
奇的诗歌韵律中跳动，
你穿过奥尔尚斯基黑色的城堡，
却不会迷失在它的地道，
因为白俄罗斯人与你同在，
他们知道你，
还有，为什么
你走在白俄罗斯的大地上，
这里太阳冉冉升起，
沐浴在它永不熄灭的光辉里



■ Віктар Шніп
■ 维克多·施尼普

11/12/2024

杨帆译

KARATKEVICH WAS PUBLISHED IN AZERBAIJAN



Hundreds of books by Uladzimir Karatkevich have been published in Belarusian and Russian. The reader, without waiting for the assessments of eternity (the writer died forty years ago), has given the Belarusian creator the highest recognition — the recognition of reading and thinking people of different generations. The works of Uladzimir Karatkevich have been published in translation into English, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Vietnamese, Georgian, Spanish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Moldavian, Mongolian, German, Polish, Ukrainian, Russian (several dozen separate editions!), Slovak, Tajik, Uzbek, Ukrainian, French, Chuvash, Czech (only up to 1990 — five books!), Estonian...

A new book edition of the prose and poetry works of the classic of Belarusian literature has just been published in Baku in the Azerbaijani language. *Poems and Stories* by Uladzimir Karatkevich, published in Azerbaijan, contain two prose works (*Book Carriers* and *Little Ballerina*) and thirteen poems. The works in the 156-page book are published in Azerbaijani and Russian. The translators into Azerbaijani were: Kamran Gadzhiev for the story *Book Carriers*, Sevinj Khudiyeva for *Little Ballerina*. The poetic works of Uladzimir Karatkevich were transformed by Nizami Bayramli, Ibrahim Gudiyeu, Aidan Haidan. The texts of Karatkevich himself are preceded by an article about his work and a preface to the collection of the Belarusian classic. The author of these texts is Doctor of Philology Flora Nadzhi. The cover of the book uses the painting *First Rays* by the Belarusian artist Viktor Yushkevich.

We asked the compiler and author of the introductory articles, Flora Nadzhi, to comment on the event. And this is what we heard from the authoritative Azerbaijani literary scholar, "Publishing Karatkevich in Azerbaijani translation has been my long-standing dream. The book was published

as a project of the Research Laboratory of Translation and Lexicography of the Baku Slavic University. With the help of this publication, one can study Russian and Belarusian languages, comprehend Belarusian culture and literature. I had the opportunity to visit Belarus, to participate in the Writer and Time International Symposium of Writers, organised every year by the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Belarus and the Union of Writers of Belarus. And each time I saw and heard how much reverence Belarusian writers have for the work of their predecessor, and I encountered the wide attention paid to Karatkevich's works by student youth. And this is a true, convincing indicator: what students read remains in the minds of the next generation. I believe that other books by Uladzimir Karatkevich will be published in Azerbaijan: *King Stakh's Wild Hunt*, *Black Castle Olshansky*, and *The Gray Legend*... In the meantime, I wish Azerbaijani readers good discoveries with the book *Poems and Stories* with the works of the classic of Belarusian literature Uladzimir Karatkevich!.."

In recent years, a real squad of translators attentive to Belarusian literature has formed in Azerbaijan: Chingiz Ali oglu (by the way, he was awarded the Francysk Skaryna medal for his contribution to the development of Belarusian-Azerbaijani publishing and literary relations), Sevinj Nurukyzy, Kamran Nazirli and other authoritative poets and prose writers.

It remains to add that a book by U. Karatkevich is also being prepared for publication in Uzbekistan. *The Grey Legend* was translated into Uzbek and published in the magazine *Sharq yulduzi* (*Star of the East*) by Risolat Khaidarova. And in Turkmenistan, the translation of Uladzimir Karatkevich's poems is being done by an employee of the magazine *Duneya edebiyaty* (*World Literature*) Dzhumageldy Mulkiyev.

Ales Karlyukevich

ART THAT

IMPRESSES

An exhibition of works by artists Yevgeny Ignatyev and Vyacheslav Kubarev, which was presented at the Mikhail Savitsky Art Gallery in Minsk, was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Belarusian cinema and the 30th anniversary of the Listapad Minsk International Film Festival. The exhibition is named Two Masters. Two Friends.



This exhibition was prepared jointly with the Belarusian Union of Cinematographers Republican Public Association. The exhibition includes about 80 paintings and sketches by the Honoured Artist of Belarus, laureate of the USSR State Prize Yevgeny Ignatyev and the Honoured Artist of Belarus Vyacheslav Kubarev. It should be said right away that the entire creative life of both masters was largely connected with the Belarusfilm studio.

Yes, they were both film artists. Belarusian cinema. Both came to this field after graduating from the All-Union State Institute of Cinematography. Yevgeny Ignatyev and Vyacheslav Kubarev actually met as students. By the way, they lived in the same dorm room at the prestigious All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography.

They say about the talented production designer Vyacheslav Kubarev that he was a servant of two arts: painting and cinema. Moreover, while his works in cinema are widely known for the iconic films for Soviet cinematography, such as *Alpine Ballad*, *Oginsky's Polonaise*, *State Border*, *Black Stork*, *Go and Not Return*, *Time Does Not Wait*, the artist was engaged in painting more for the soul. Therefore, during his life, this facet of his talent remained in the shadow of cinematic fame. And, as often happens, the awareness of the value of the pictorial heritage by his compatriots occurred many years later.





It must be said that the current exhibition dedicated to the work of Vyacheslav Kubarev is mainly formed from the works of the famous Minsk collector Yuri Bokach. Surprisingly, special attention of visitors to the exposition was directed, as a rule, to small formats. Indeed, this is Kubarev's style — not to fall upon the viewer with the scope of the canvases, but to attract to itself, at first glance, with an inconspicuous, but amazing authorial individuality.

So, ironically, the artist from Russia with his classmate, graduate of the All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography Yevgeny Ignatyev, created films that became classics of Belarusian cinema. Representatives of this profession are rarely paid attention to in the credits, but it is through their eyes that first directors, then cameramen, and then, to a large extent, the viewers themselves look at the future film.

The famous actor and director Vladimir Ponochevny told how, during the filming of the series *State Border*, Vyacheslav Kubarev drew sketches for literally every scene and these tiny sketches were used with pleasure by the cameramen. Kubarev quickly found a visual solution to any topic. For example, many of his colleagues especially remember the scene from the same film, when it was necessary to film a large number of people who emigrate abroad. "For the crowd, in which about a thousand people were planned to participate, they could barely recruit 300 people. I was somehow even confused, not knowing what to do," recalled



Vladimir Ponochevny. "Slava suggested to me that I should ask the cameraman not to shoot with a wide camera, but to make the crowd of people walking in a wedge. I did so, and everything worked out. When we were on expeditions, no matter what time we left for the set, at eight in the morning or at seven, you could look out the hotel window and see Slava already hurrying somewhere with an easel. An hour and a half later he could come to my room and say, "Look, Volodya, look, with oil... Fog, dewdrops on the fir trees. But tomorrow I will try to paint silence..." Once he complained with the following phrase, "Volodya, how difficult it is to be an intellectual in the first generation, but you have to try." And he tried, he did. And he achieved intelligence with his whole life. And with his works. For me, Slava is an example of serving art: cinema and painting."

It is even surprising how Vyacheslav Kubarev managed to combine the intense filming process, where it was necessary to draw and give a storyboard for each episode of the film every day, with the equally intense work of a painter. On the other hand, everything is simple: even during filming, the artist never parted with his easel and paints — he painted nature and people in the manner inherent to the impressionists.

During his relatively short creative life, he created more than a thousand works, most of which are now in museums and private collections in Italy, Germany, the USA, and Israel. In Italy, Kubarev's name is quoted along with such luminaries





of fine art as Marc Chagall, and his works are constantly exhibited in the sections of Belarusian painting in Milan, Venice and Florence. According to Peter Nobles, one of the owners of an art gallery in Amsterdam, about thirty works by Vyacheslav Kubarev have become the decoration of his collection. Several of the artist's paintings were acquired by the Tretyakov Gallery, and the painting *On the Minsk Sea* is now the property of the National Art Museum of Belarus. The famous Belarusian artist Mai Dantsig noted that Kubarev was a naturally versatile person who had a keen sense of everything. A characteristic feature of his works is the thoughtful embodiment of the theme and the integrity of the compositional solution. He also had that quality that every artist needs, which Mikhail Vrubel mentioned. He wrote, "I know an artist who puts the right colour in the right place."





It would seem, what else is needed? But this is not enough. You also need to be able to convey in the picture the feeling of delight from what you saw..." Kubarev was able to convey this feeling in full, and therefore his paintings always find their admirers.

People's Artist of Belarus Mai Dantsig sincerely admitted that he greatly appreciates Kubarev's work. And he appreciated it for a reason. For this, as he said, there were all the reasons. According to the master, Kubarev sought to put the most intimate feelings into his wonderful sketches, "I would like to say that we are already missing good painting. We are simply yearning. Even Picasso said that he was not interested in searching — he was interested in discoveries. But, unfortunately, it must be stated that there is a lot of searching, but few discoveries. And this is typical of our time. And as for real painting, we really haven't seen good painting at exhibitions for a long time. You can feel it like delicious food. This is exactly what Kubarev's painting is. In his sketches you feel the air, and the influence of the environment, the sky,



and reflexes, an understanding of warm and cold colours, tones. In general, everything that strong painting is. And what represents its essence. And makes up its culture. We knew each other. He was a charming person who, as they say now, radiated a wonderful aura. He was smiling. I think that his essence is goodwill, an abundance of positive emotions. And these qualities are reflected in his work. He is beautiful everywhere.”

There is another quality inherent in Vyacheslav Kubarev: he fully possessed a sense of admiration. Because each of his sketches was painted with delight.

And this is how the People's Artist of Belarus Leonid Shchemelev spoke about Vyacheslav Kubarev, “He was a very modest person. In the highest degree. But as an artist he was very refined. There is something in his works that allows us to say that he is both a Russian artist and a Belarusian at the same time. He saw Belarus in his own way and depicted what

BRIGHT ART



he saw. He worked a lot in cinema. But he was a landscape artist by nature. He subtly felt the beauty of the landscape, its spirit. He is a very interesting artist, and his works are humane.”

People’s Artist of Belarus Georgy Poplavsky, “Slava painted mainly landscapes. And he visited places where not every artist got to. Slava was valuable because he opened up a new world to us. And as a painter he was very professional. I like artists who do not look at their art as a means of earning money. Someone said it very correctly, “If you consider your profession as a means of earning money, then you are in the wrong place.” This is very true. In this sense, Vyacheslav Kubarev was truly in love with painting.”

Actually, Yevgeny Ignatyev is one of those masters who never allowed hack work. As a highly professional film artist, he intuitively had control over any historical era: he equally skilfully recreated the atmosphere of the Middle Ages and the Soviet past, and had a subtle sense of modernity. This is probably why in the famous Belarusian film *People of the Swamp* by director Viktor Turov, the authenticity of antiques and scenery created by the artist still amazes and impresses. Yevgeny Ignatyev was also involved in such films as *The Third Rocket*, *Through the Cemetery* (included in the UNESCO list of 100 Best War Films), *Long Time No See!*, *Black Sun*, *Confusion*, *The Lion’s Grave*. And everywhere his artistic style was distinguished by expressive persuasiveness. Without a doubt, both masters worked in the production of films that became iconic for Belarusian cinema, brought wide fame to domestic cinema, including at the international level, and were loved by many generations of viewers.

Veniamin Mikheyev



ЗГАДАЦЬ ІМЯ СВАЁ...

Упершыню на восень прыпалі ажно дзве творчыя стажыроўкі беларусаў замежжа. Калі ў верасні Рэспубліканскі цэнтр нацыянальных культур зрабіў праграму для заняткаў вакалістаў, то ў лістападзе ён сабраў кіраўнікоў і ўдзельнікаў харэаграфічных калектываў, балетмайстраў. Пераймаць вопыт у спецыялістаў, вывучаць новыя танцавальныя прыёмы і формы работы, у тым ліку і з дзецьмі, далучыцца да практычных заняткаў па беларускіх народных танцах прыязджалі беларусы з пяці краін: Італіі, Казахстана, Латвіі, Расійскай Федэрацыі і Эстоніі.





абрадах, фестывалях, конкурсах чытальнікаў беларускіх вершаў.

Адна з удзельніц харэаграфічнай стажыроўкі – Аліна Ушакова – прыехала з паўночнага Казахстана (горад Петрапаўлаўск). Яна прадстаўляе абласны беларускі культурны цэнтр “Радзіма” і з’яўляецца харэографам дзіцячага калектыву. “Вельмі люблю беларускі народны танец за яскравасць і жыццярадаснасць. На нашых землях жывуць прадстаўнікі розных народаў, ідзе ўзаемапрапранікненне культур, а, калі працуеш з народна-сцэніч-

- Майстар-клас харэаграфіі ў Вялікім тэатры
- Сустрэчы ў канцэртнай зале “Мінск”

Першая творчая сустрэча прайшла ў Нацыянальным акадэмічным Вялікім тэатры оперы і балета Рэспублікі Беларусь. Упершыню ў рамках стажыроўкі былі два выезды ў рэгіёны. Госьці знаёміліся з традыцыямі Лідчыны, патрапілі на экскурсію ў Лідскі замак і ў этнаграфічную гасцёўню пры гісторыка-мастацкім музеі. Таксама беларусы замежжа сустрэліся з ансамблямі Салігорска і Любаншчыны.

У рамках стажыроўкі адбылася дыялогавая пляцоўка з удзелам Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандра Румака і міністра культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь Анатоля Маркевіча.

– Сёння ўсё больш беларусаў замежжа адчуваюць патрэбу “згадаць імя сваё”. І гэта зразумела, бо ў сучасным свеце Беларусь застаецца духоўнай крэпасцю, абараняе традыцыйны каштоўнасці, веру і культуру”, – заўважыў міністр і расказаў пра тое, што ў нашай краіне робіцца ў гэтым кірунку, асабліва ў рабоце з падрастаючым пакаленнем.

Як расказала дырэктар Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур Вольга Якабсон, кожная творчая стажыроўка дае магчымасць яе ўдзельнікам не толькі натхніцца беларускай культурай і атрымаць веды, якія пасля яны могуць выкарыстаць у краінах пражывання. Менавіта на творчых занятках у Беларусі суайчыннікі завязваюць кантакты з калегамі па ўсім свеце і робяць сумесныя праекты. У цэнтр прыходзяць справядзачы ад удзельнікаў стажыровак аб праведзеных майстар-класах, святах,



ным танцам, хочацца чысціні ва ўсім – у выкананні, у музычных творах, у строях. А яшчэ патрэбна база, якой з’яўляецца фальклор. Таму для мяне важна ўсё – кожны крок, кожны рушнік, кожнае слова, якое я тут пачую”, – падзялілася жанчына.

Асаблівую падзяку Аліна Ушакова выказала міністру за тое, што ў праграму творчых стажыровак уваходзіць наведванне прадпрыемстваў Беларусі. Яна была ў захапленні ад экскурсіі на Мінскі трактарны завод: “Нам, творчым людзям, цікава ўсё, чым жыве Беларусь, як працуе. А для мяне, дачкі завадчаніна і чалавека, які прыехаў з цалінных зямель, гэта асабліва важна. Бо што такое цаліна без беларускага трактара!”.

Алена **Дзядзюля**
Фота аўтара

ДА ЖЫВАТВОРНАЙ КРЫНІЦЫ

Беларусы замежжа, якія прыязджаюць на творчыя стажыроўкі, заўсёды адзначаюць, наколькі прыгожая і да канца не спазнаная наша краіна, што кожны яе рэгіён здольны ўразіць сваёй гісторыяй, фальклорнымі скарбамі. Але ўсё ж галоўнае, чым пакараюць гарады і мястэчкі, – гэта настрой, які “задаюць” іх жыхары – гасцінныя, адкрытыя, гатовыя дзяліцца сваімі талентамі...

Не выключэннем была і восеньская паездка ў Дрыбінскі і Слаўгарадскі раёны Магілёўскай вобласці, якая ўвайшла ў праграму творчай стажыроўкі для кіраўнікоў і ўдзельнікаў вакальных калектываў.

У ГОСЦІ ДА ШАПАВАЛАЎ

Пра Дрыбін можна распавесці багата. Старыя людзі расказвалі, што назву населены пункт мог атрымаць ад слоў “драбіны”, дрэбест (густы малы лес) і “драб” (сухастой). Маўляў, некалі тут былі лясы і балоты. Некаторыя дрэвы ад пераўвільгатнення ссохлі. Калі купцы праязджалі праз лес па дарозе на Смаленск, секлі сухастой ды рабілі драбіны – конную цялегу.

Першая ж пісьмовая згадка Дрыбіна – 1569 год.

Развіццё кутка звязана з пракладкай дарог і ўмацаваннем гандлёвых сувязяў. У сярэдзіне XVI стагоддзя праз Дрыбін ішлі дарогі на Горкі, Магілёў, Мсціслаў. Купцы і рамеснікі ахвотна заязджалі сюды, каб папоўніць харчовыя і фуражныя запасы і рэалізаваць свае тавары. Таму ў вёсцы, а пасля – мястэчке, актыўна будаваліся лаўкі, амбары, майстэрні, жылыя двары.

У гісторыю Дрыбіна ўплецены імёны вядомых людзей, якія тут нарадзіліся, альбо праязджалі ў мястэчка. Падчас вайны са шведамі рускі генерал Баур са сваімі кавалерыстамі стаяў ў Дрыбіне. У 1708 годзе праз гэтыя мясціны праехаў Пётр Першы.

У 1752 годзе ўладальнікам дрыбінскіх зямель стаў Міхал Казімір Агінскі – буйны землеўладальнік, кампазітар, паэт, грамадскі дзеяч, якога Кацярына II прочыла на польскі прастол. Праўда, пасля падзелу Рэчы Паспалітай, калі гэтыя землі былі далучаны да Расійскай імперыі, уладанні Агінскіх былі канфіскаваныя і перайшлі ў казну. Пазней яны былі вернуты гаспадару з амністыяй. У 1791 годзе ўладанні былі перададзены дальняму сваяку Міхалу Клеафасу Агінскаму, аўтару знакамітага паланеза “Развітанне з радзімай”.

У Дрыбіне нарадзіўся бацька вядомага сатырыка, гумарыста Яфіма Шыфрына. Яго дзед трымаў у горадзе маслабойню, а бабуля пякла хлеб і рабіла ліманад для купцоў і рамеснікаў. У 1911 годзе ў Дрыбіне нарадзілася будучая прыма-балерына,





пачынальніца школы балета ў Ізраілі, Мая Арбатава. Звязана гісторыя Дрыбіншчыны і з адважнымі лётчыцамі, якіх, за тое, што на баявыя заданні дзяўчаты выляталі ўначы, захопнікі празвалі “начнымі ведзьмамі”. У гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны побач з вёскай Робцы размяшчаўся 46-ы гвардзейскі авіяполк. Кіравала ім вядомая лётчыца, Герой Савецкага Саюза, Марына Раскова. Да гэта часу месца, дзе стаяў полк, называецца “Аэрадромным”.

Сёння Дрыбін вядомы найперш дзякуючы шапавалам. Існуюць розныя меркаванні, як яны тут з’явіліся. Па адной з версій, раней, калі землі гэтыя былі слаба заселеныя, мясцовы ўладальнік, каб павялічыць насельніцтва ў 1700-х гадах запрашаў усіх ахвочых тут сяліцца. Сюды сталі прыбываць людзі розных прафесій, у тым ліку і шапавалы. Перасяленцы рабілі вырабы, бралі сабе памочнікаў з мясцовых жыхароў. Па другой версіі, гаспадар сваіх сялян адпраўляў вучыцца валяльнаму мастацтву ў Ніжагародскую губерню. Пазней рамеснікі перадавалі працоўныя сакрэты сваім дзецям.

Валяльны промысел быў кустарны, калі да майстра прыходзілі заказчыкі, і адыходны, калі з заканчэннем работ у полі шапавалы бралі з сабой інструмент і разыходзіліся ва ўсе бакі. Гэты варыянт быў больш распаўсюджаны, майстрам не трэба было шукаць рынку збыту і матэрыялы (поўсць для валяння давалі гаспадары). У пошуку заробку дрыбінскія шапавалы маглі заходзіць вельмі далёка, некаторыя дабіраліся да Масквы, заходняй мяжы з Аўстрыяй. Вядома, што адзін з майстроў патрапіў нават у Амерыку. Каб захаваць сакрэты вытворчасці, а магчыма, і каб дурыць гаспадароў, шапавалы прыдумалі сваю патаемную мову – катрушніцкі

лемезень. Часам гэта “мова” дапамагала ўратавацца ад зладзеяў, якія хацелі абкрадзі рамеснікаў, бо за доўгія працоўныя вандроўкі шапавалы зараблялі добрыя грошы.

Канешне, у праграме творчай стажыроўкі для беларусаў замежжа, калі яна праходзіла ў Дрыбінскім раённым цэнтры культуры, была сустрэча з шапавалам, а таксама майстар-класы ад сучасных майстроў па пляценні лапцей, кошыкаў, паясоў на бёрдах, саломалляценню. Бібліятэкары раёна падрыхтавалі выстаўку, прысвечаную вызваленню Беларусі, і расказалі пра выданні, звязаныя з Вялікай Айчыннай вайной. Сустрэкалі ж беларусаў замежжа ў раёне так, як звычайна, сустракаюць на рэгіянальным фестывалі “Дрыбінскія таржкі” – з жартамі, песнямі, гульнямі і караваем. Павітала гасцей загадчык сектара культуры Дрыбінскага райвыканкама Святлана Марозава. Запамінальнай стала і творчая сустрэча з мясцовымі калектывамі.

“ВЯРБА, ВЯРБА, ДЗЕ ТЫ РАСЛА”...

Народны ансамбль народнай песні “Вярбіца” Расненскага сельскага дома культуры створаны ў 1992 годзе. Удзельнікамі ансамбля былі не толькі мясцовыя жыхары, але і перасяленцы з Краснапольскага і Слаўгарадскага раёнаў, якія прыехалі сюды пасля аварыі на Чарнобыльскай АЭС. Першы кіраўнік ансамбля Еўдакія Самкнулава казала: “Мы як тая вярба, вярбіца: дзе лёс кіне, там і прарасцём ды спяваць будзем”. У вёсцы Расна ёсць і рэчка з сугучнай назвай Вярбоўка, таму назва спадабалася ўсім удзельнікам. У рэпертуары калектыва, якім сёння кіруе Таццяна Дзяўбанавіч, ёсць аднайменная песня – “Вярбіца”. Яна прагучала падчас сустрэчы.

Аснову рэпертуару ансамбля складаюць беларускія народныя песні – узятыя са зборнікаў, прывезеныя з гастрольных паездак, але найбольш цэняцца тыя, што пачуты ад мясцовых жанчын. “Народная песня спрадвеку святая, як родных знаёмых яна нас вітае. Спявалі яе і дзяды, і бабулі. Хацелі, каб вы гэту песню пачулі”, – звярнуліся ўдзельнікі калектыву да беларусаў замежжа і расказалі, што ўжо больш як тры дзесяткі гадоў гадоў іх ансамбль аб’ядноўвае людзей, улюбёных у самабытную культуру сваіх мясцін. Творчасцю яны імкнуча “абудзіць” жыхароў сваёй вёскі, выклікаць у іх жаданне вярнуць у побыт каранёвую культуру, а таксама прывіць любоў да традыцый у падрастаючага пакалення.

Калектыў імкнецца зберагаць не толькі песні і танцы, але і рамёствы. Сярод удзельніц ансамбля ёсць жанчыны, якія ад сваіх маці навучыліся вышываць. Таксама яны робяць для выставак розныя вырабы, якія паказваюць гледачам. Любяць у калектыве прыпеўкі і жартаўлівыя песні, нават складаюць іх.

Вывучэнне і аднаўленне абрадаў – таксама адна з місій, якую выконвае ансамбль. Некалькі гадоў таму па крупінках яго ўдзельнікі сабралі матэрыял па абраду навасе́лаў – “Улазіны” і прэзентавалі яго гледачам. Беларусы замежжа раснянскі калектыў пазнаёміў з вясеннім абрадам “Бабскія розбрыкі”. Гэта святая маладзіц, калі, як раней верылі, яны сваімі песнямі, скакамі, ды гульнямі спрыяюць, каб быў добры ўраджай і прыплод у скаціны. “Скок – паскок, расці добры лянок”, “І скачу, і крычу, добры ўраджай хачу”, “Я ўсіх пераскачу, пустазелле растапчу,” – прыгаворвалі дзяўчаты.

“Вярбіца” мае перамогі ў розных конкурсах, выступае на фестывалях. Напрыклад, на рэспубліканскім фестывалі-кірмашы “Дажынкi”, рэгіянальным свяце “Дрыбінскія таржкі”, рэспубліканскім – “Александрыя збірае сяброў”. Неаднаразова калектыў быў за

мяжой, прымаў удзел у беларуска-расійскім фестывалі народнай творчасці “Дзве Русі – дзве сястры” на Смаленшчыне.

“НЕ БЕЛАЯ ЛЯБЁДУШКА ВАДУ ЗАМУЦІЛА”

Майстар-клас па народным вакале для беларусаў замежжа падрыхтаваў і ансамбль “Паршынскія зоры”. Калектыў быў створаны пры Паршынскім сельскім клубе (Горацкі раён) у 1986 годзе. На чале ініцыятывы стаяла мясцовая настаўніца Валянціна Багачова. Яна склала спіс самых таленавітых пярэчых жанчын вёскі і звярнулася да мясцовага загадчыка паршынскага сельскага клуба Віктара Нясанава з прапановай стварыць калектыў. Ён, таленавіты музыкант, аўтар песень, і стаў першым кіраўніком ансамбля. Простыя высковыя жанчыны, што працавалі ў калгасе, сабралі вялікі скарб. Спеўная традыцыя выканання хрэсьбінных і вясельных песень гэтай мясцовасці атрымала статус нематэрыяльна-культурнай спадчыны. У гэтай мясцовасці дзякуючы бабулям захавалася больш за 200 мясцовых аўтэнтчных фальклорных песень. Сёння яны запісаны на лічбавыя і папярковыя носьбіты. “З гэтай жыватворнай крыніцы і ідзе наша творчасць”, – прызналася кіраўнік ансамбля.

З 2017 года “Паршынскія зоры” выступаюць новым саставам. Пераемнікі развучвалі песні і “здавалі экзамены” паршынскім бабулям: калі ішлі віншаваць старых са святамі, спявалі разам з імі. На жаль, многіх бабуль ужо няма, але ўдзельнікі фальклорнага ансамбля вераць, што бабулі-пярэчкі дапамагаюць ім і з неба, кажуць: “Не паверыце: але нават у самую непагадзь, як толькі аб’яўляюць, што будуць выступаць “Паршынскія зоры”, быццам неба нашы папярэдніцы расоўваюць рукамі. Гэтыя зоры заўсёды нам спрыяюць”. Дзякуючы калектыву захоўваюцца і абрады. Гэта і “Заручыны на шчасце”, “Муравіны” – другі дзень хрэсьбіннай традыцыі, калі бабулю катаюць па вёсцы з кветкамі, хлябамі, абрад “Зажынкi”, вясельныя традыцыі.

Калектыў – удзельнік шматлікіх тэлепраектаў. Напрыклад, ён узяў удзел у перадачы “Наперад у мінулае”. Тады адна з яго песень “Не белая лябёдушка ваду замуціла” была абрана для выканання эстраднай спявачкай. Беларусы замежжа падчас майстар-класа змаглі пачуць, як гэта песня гучыць у зыходным выкананні і ў сучаснай аранжыроўцы.

А песню “Ой, вумная, разумная Танечка”, якой славілі нявесту, беларусы замежжа змаглі не толькі пачуць з запіса ў выкананні бабуль-носьбітаў, але і разам з “Паршынскімі зорамі” развучыць падчас майстар-класа.

СІНІ КАЛОДЗЕЖ

“Дрыбін нас уразіў, а Слаўгарад “дабіў” напавал”, – падзяліліся ўдзельнікі стажыроўкі. Уражвала гасцей



усё: як тут прымаюць гасцей, як спяваюць, як распавядаюць пра гісторыю і паданні. Суайчыннікі пабывалі на знакамітай Блакітнай крыніцы (другая назва – Сіні калодзеж), куды штогод у жніўні на Макавея прязджаюць тысячы людзей, каб набраць гаючай вады. У гэты час, людзі вераць, яна асабліва моцная. Па павер’і невялікую рачулку, што побач з крыніцай, трэба тры разы туды-сюды перайсці, каб пазбавіцца хвароб. І беларусы замежжа таксама скарысталіся гэтай магчымасцю. Вада ў Блакітнай крыніцы заўсёды аднолькавай тэмпературы – каля 4 градусаў. Усё таму, што ў адным месцы б’е каля 120 крыніц, утвараючы вялікую шахту – калодзеж, які падаеца бяздонным. Было некалькі спроб замерыць глыбіню, але дна так і не ўдалося знайсці. Вядома толькі, што глыбіня Сіняга калодзежа не менш 200 метраў. Паток вады вельмі вялікі (6 тысяч кубоў на суткі). Старыя людзі расказвалі, што раней ён, відаць, быў большы, вада ажно бурліла. Гэта ўнікальны помнік прыроды рэспубліканскага значэння. Вучонымі даказана высокая мінералізацыя вады. Блакітнай жа крыніцу прызвалі за яе колер – асаблівае адценне прыдаюць мел і гліна. Беларусы замежжа змаглі даведацца і пра адно з паданняў, звязаных з крыніцай, а таксама пачулі, чаму былі Прапойск стаў Слаўгарадам. Першая ўзгадка – Прупой – адносіцца да 1136 года. Пазней сустракалася каля 20 варыянтаў назвы. У XVII – XVIII стагоддзях замацоўваецца варыянт “Прапойск”. Можа таму, што ў гэтых краях на дзве акругі па дарозе Варшава – Масква прыпадалі 32 карчмы. Слаўгарадскі раён вядомы, як месца ваеннай славы. Падчас Паўночнай вайны на гэтых землях адбылася знакамітая бітва пры Лясной. Змена назвы горада звязана з Вялікай Айчыннай вайной. Расказваюць, самому Сталіну не спадабалася, як называецца горад, каля якога ішлі і здабываліся слаўныя перамогі. Па іншай версіі, якую прывёў навуковы супрацоўнік Слаўгарадскага раённага гісторыка-краязнаўчага музея Андрэй Кавалёў, Прапойск перайменавалі, бо ў тыя часы дывізіям давалі назвы гарадоў, якія яны вызвалялі.

ПАСЛУХАЙЦЕ ПЯВУЧЫХ ГЭТЫХ ЛАСТАВАК

У Слаўгарадзе прайшла сустрэча з калектывамі розных раёнаў. Краснапольскі прадстаўляў ансамбль народнай песні “Спадчына” Пачэпаўскага сельскага дома культуры, утвораны ў 1994 годзе. Значная частка яго рэпертуару – мясцовыя песні. Старэйшую



ўдзельніцу ансамбля, якой ужо за 80 гадоў, – Ніну Яцутка – называюць “жанчына-каляндар”. Столькі яна ведае песень і абрадаў! Наогул у Пачэпах захаваўся багаты комплекс духоўна-культурнай спадчыны – абрадавыя песні, каляндарныя, пазаабрадавыя. Нездарма вёску Пачэпы наведваюць фальклорныя экспедыцыі з розных краін свету.

З Хоцімскага раёна прыехаў народны фальклорны ансамбль “Адраджэнне”. Жанчыны праспявалі некалькі мясцовых песень, а пасля расказалі, што аказваецца “хіт” “Касіў Ясь канюшыну” прыдумала загадчыца сельскага клуба з Хоцімшчыны, і што ў арыгінале было 12 куплетаў. У 1968 годзе з гэтай песняй калектыў выступіў на ўсесаюзнай выстаўцы дасягненняў народнай гаспадаркі, а пазней яе тэкст увайшоў у зборнік, выдадзены па выніках выстаўкі. Там яе і знайшоў Мулявін. Аўтарцы быццам не спадабалася, як яе песня гучала ў “Песняроў”, яна лічыла, што яе песню “сапсавалі”.

За Слаўгарадскі раён спявалі ўдзельніцы фальклорнага калектыву “Вясковачкі” Васькавіцкага сельскага дома культуры. Гісторыя гэтага невялікага калектыву (у яго складзе шэсць чалавек узростам каля 80 гадоў) пачыналася з клубных пасяджэнняў – вясковыя жанчыны збіраліся разам, каб паспяваць, неслі з сабой розныя прысмакі. Работнікі клуба прапанавалі кабетах збірацца часцей і стварыць калектыў, а сёння да бабуль пераймаць песні прыходзяць павучыцца школьнікі...

Пра тое, што ў дзяцей ёсць цікавасць да песні, гаварылі прадстаўнікі і іншых раёнаў. Разам з песняй старэйшыя “павучыла ластаўкі”, як падчас семінара назвалі ўдзельніц калектываў, імкнуцца перадаць асаблівае мясцовыя гаворак, традыцыі, расказаць, як гарманічна песня ўпісвалася ў жыццё, напаўняла яго настроем, дазваляла дзяліцца сваімі думкамі, пачуццямі, настроем.

Алена **Дзядзюля**
Фота аўтара

НОВЫЯ АДКРЫЦЦІ Ў ДОМЕ ПЕСНЯРА

Дзяржаўны літаратурна-мемарыяльны музей Якуба Коласа пры падтрымцы Міністэрства культуры сёлета ў 38-ы раз сабраў даследчыкаў, якія вывучаюць жыццё і творчасць Песняра на “Каласавіны”. Гэта навукова-практычная канферэнцыя праводзіцца штогод да Дня нараджэння класіка і ўжо набыла статус міжнароднай. Падчас яе адкрыцця супрацоўнікі музея падкрэслілі, што такія канферэнцыі дазваляюць абмеркаваць розныя грані пісьмовай спадчыны паэта, усвядоміць яго неацэнны ўклад у развіццё нацыянальнай літаратуры, у фарміраванне беларускай літаратурнай мовы, у раскрыццё душы і светапогляду беларусаў.

ПАД УВАГАЙ КІТАЙСКИХ СТУДЭНТАЎ

Сёлета ў “Каласавінах” ўзялі ўдзел выкладчыкі Цяньцзінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў. Студэнты гэтай навучальнай установы вывучаюць беларускую мову і актыўна супрацоўнічаюць з установамі Беларусі. Так, у 2022 годзе яны далучыліся да рэспубліканскага літаратурнага конкурсу сярод школьнікаў і моладзі да 140-годдзя з Дня нараджэння Якуба Коласа, які праводзіў музей Песняра. Падрыхтавалі пераклады на кітайскую мову асобных твораў цыклу “Казкі жыцця” і ў выніку атрымалі дыплом першай ступені. Гэта стала штуршком для далейшай працы, у выніку якой пабачыла свет кніга перакладаў “Казак жыцця” на кітайскую мову. Пра тое, з якімі складанасцямі сутыкнуліся маладыя перакладчыкі, расказалі выкладчыцы кафедры беларускай мовы Цяньцзінскага ўніверсітэта Касандра Сіямак Шахаб-Касецкая і Лю Івэнь. Падчас карпатлівай работы студэнты выкарыстоўвалі арыгінальныя, неадаптаваныя беларускія тэксты. Пад

кіраўніцтвам выкладчыкаў яны вучыліся ставіць пэўныя перакладчыцкія задачы, шукаць лексічныя адпаведнікі, граматычныя канструкцыі. Да справы ставіліся вельмі адказна, бо мастацкі пераклад з’яўляецца найбольш складаным, тут варта не проста бліскуча валодаць мовай, але і разбірацца ў культуры і звычаях народа, умець перадаваць сэнсы, зашыфраваныя ў арыгінале. Нельга проста даслоўна



перакласці коласаўскія параўнанні, рытарычныя воклічы, філасофскія думкі аўтара, варта шукаць эквівалентныя выразы.

Дацэнт кафедры беларускай мовы Цяньцзінскага Універсітэта замежных моў, дырэктар цэнтра Якуба Коласа ў КНР Вольга Шахаб расказала пра развіццё маўлення кітайскіх студэнтаў на аснове твораў Якуба Коласа. Пры навучанні студэнтаў беларускай мове, як замежнай, ва ўніверсітэце шырока выкарыстоўваецца літаратурная спадчына Коласа: “Яна не губляе сваю каштоўнасць дзесяцігоддзямі і запатрабавана не толькі на абсягах Беларусі, але і за яе межамі. Ён – першы паэт, творы якога пачалі перакладаць на кітайскую мову, і першы беларус, помнік якому паставілі ў Кітаі. Сімвалічна тое, што адбылося гэта ў Цяньцзінскім універсітэце замежных моў, які першым з кітайскіх універсітэтаў распачаў навучанне беларускай мове як спецыяльнасці”. Пра тое, на якія аспекты можна звярнуць увагу кітайскіх студэнтаў пры рабоце з вершамі класіка, выкладчыца расказала на прыкладзе верша “Адлёт жураўлёў”. Пры знаёмстве з гэтым творам студэнты могуць не толькі папрацаваць з лексікай, якая датычыцца тэмы восені, але і звярнуць увагу на агульны эмацыянальны настрой верша, яго рытміка-інтанацыйны малюнак, на тое, якія вобразы і прыёмы выкарыстоўвае пісьменнік. Выкладчыца яшчэ прапануе знайсці асацыяцыі, параўнанні. Таксама раіць удзяліць пільную ўвагу арганізацыі навучання студэнтаў фанетычным аспектам маўлення (пошук прыкладаў акання, аглушэння, падаўжэння і г.д.).

Развіццё маўлення кітайскіх студэнтаў актыўна адбываецца не толькі ў ходзе заняткаў, але і па-за аўдыторнай дзейнасці. Напрыклад, летась пяцёра студэнтаў Цяньцзінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў атрымалі званне лаўрэатаў трэцяй ступені на

конкурсе “Зоркі Прыдняпроўя”, які праводзіў Магілёўскі дзяржаўны ўніверсітэт імя Аркадзя Куляшова.

Як заўважыў падчас канферэнцыі Старшыня саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Алесь Карлюкевіч, сёння на кітайскую мову творы Коласа актыўна перакладае прафесар Гу Юй, а дзякуючы развіццю міжнародных кантактаў у галіне літаратурных сувязяў творы беларускага класіка гучаць на мангольскай, уйгурскай, казахскай, узбекскай, калмыцкай, азербайджанскай і іншых мовах.

ПАМЯЦЬ НАШЧАДКАЎ

Нягледзячы на тое, што вывучэнне жыцця і творчасці класіка беларускай літаратуры вядзецца ўжо не адным пакаленнем даследчыкаў, кожны год удзельнікі “Каласавін” узнікаюць новыя тэмы, знаходзяць іншыя падыходы да раскрыцця таленту пісьменніка, расказваюць пра новыя артэфакты. Няспынную працу па пошуку матэрыялаў, звязаных з жыццём і творчасцю класіка беларускай літаратуры, вядзе і музей Якуба Коласа. За апошнія некалькі гадоў яго супрацоўнікамі выяўлены 21 інскрыпт пісьменніка на кнігах з розных музеяў, архіваў, прыватных калекцый. Дарэчы, гэты кірунак працы атрымаў падтрымку спецыяльнага фонда Прэзідэнта. Так, нядаўна былі выяўлены матэрыялы ў фондах Маскоўскага мастацкага акадэмічнага тэатра. Сярод новых знаходак – ліст Коласа 1953 года да дырэктара выдавецтва “Савецкі пісьменнік” Пятра Чагіна. Дакумент быў знойдзены ў фондах Дзяржаўнага музея Уладзіміра Маякоўскага ў Маскве.

У гэтым годзе “Каласавіны” былі прысвечаны 80-годдзю вызвалення Беларусі і 65-годдзю музейнай установы. Прынамсі, гэта адзіны сталічны музей, які

мае статус мемарыяльнага, таму яго часта так і завуць – “Дом Коласа”. Ён размешчаны ў акадэмічным дворыку. На гэтым месцы сям’я пісьменніка стала абжывацца ў пасляваенныя гады. Размяшчэнне было зручным, тым больш што Колас з’яўляўся віцэ-прэзідэнтам Акадэміі навук. Сёлета споўнілася 110 гадоў з дня нараджэння першага дырэктара коласаўскага музея, старэйшага сына Песняра – Данілы Міцкевіча. Яму прысвечана часовая выстаўка “Заступнік бацькавай спадчыны”. Падчас “Каласавін” па ёй правяла экскурсію навуковы супрацоўнік аддзела экалогіі традыцыйнай культуры Цэнтра даследаванняў беларускай культуры, мовы і літаратуры НАН Беларусі Вера



■ Дырэктар “Дома Коласа” Ірына Мацяс

Міцкевіч. У экспазіцыі размешчаны фотаздымкі, звязаныя з дзейнасцю музея, у тым ліку прадстаўлены нашчадкамі Коласа. Напрыклад, родныя перадалі ў музей здымак Данілы Міцкевіча з бацькам, на адваротным баку якога Якуб Колас напісаў, відаць, пасмейваючыся над тым, як ён сам атрымаўся у кадры, – “Даніла і Чэрчыль”. Таксама ў экспазіцыі прадстаўлена яшчэ адно іх сумеснае фота – з атэля “Масква” 1956 года, калі старэйшы сын суправаджаў бацьку ў паездцы, бо Колас у той час ужо моцна хварэў. Даніла Міцкевіч быў прафесійным хімікам, вучоным, працаваў у Акадэміі навук. У 1956 годзе, калі Коласа не стала, ён атрымаў просьбу ад Цэнтральнага камітэта кампартыі і Савета міністраў заняцца музеем...

У вайну дом пісьменніка і ўсё, што ў ім было, згарэла, тым не менш музей захоўвае багата дакументаў даваеннага часу. Справа ў тым, што Колас шмат фотаздымкаў і кніг дарыў людзям, з якімі сустракаўся ў дзелавых і сяброўскіх паездках, якія былі і за межамі Беларусі. Даніла Міцкевіч ведаў кантакты бацькі і прыкладаў намаганні, каб адшукаць рэчы і дакументы для музея. Сёння на часовай экспазіцыі прадстаўлена фота сям’і Коласа 1928 года. Выяву гэтага здымка можна ўбачыць і на партрэце старэйшага сына Коласа, зробленым Віктарам Пратасенем, якая таксама прадстаўлена на выстаўцы.

Захавалася шафа сям’і пісьменніка і іх уласная бібліятэка. Сёння ў шафе стаяць кнігі з дарчымі надпісамі, а таксама збор тамоў Вялікай савецкай энцыклапедыі, якімі карысталіся Міцкевічы. У адным з тамоў, прысвечаных Смаленшчыне, алоўкам Даніла Міцкевіч пазначыў шлях, па якім сям’я ехала ў эвакуацыю. Відаць, такім чынам ён працаваў над адным са сваіх артыкулаў.

Разам з нашчадкамі Коласа ствараць музей дапамагаў Саюз пісьменнікаў, такія вядомыя аўтары, як Максім Танк, Янка Брыль, Пятрусь Броўка, Пятро Глебка, Міхась Лынькоў, Іван Шамякін.

На выставе можна пабачыць фота ганаровых гасцей музея. Сярод іх – і капітан Татарнікаў, які кіраваў суднам “Якуб Колас” Чарнаморскага паражства. Пётр Клімук прывёз кніжку Коласа, якую браў з сабой у космас. Наведвалі музей і артысты, грамадскія дзеячы, замежныя дэлегацыі. У вітрынах можна пабачыць лётны гадзіннік, які падарыў Даніле



■ Вера Міцкевіч



■ На экспазіцыі
“Заступнік бацькавай спадчыны”

Міцкевічу яго сябра Апанас Ахрэм, дырэктар Інстытута біяхіміі. У вайну ён быў лётчыкам і менавіта разам з ім Даніла Міцкевіч вяртаўся на самалёце на радзіму адразу пасля вызвалення Мінска. Калі яны ляцелі, бачылі, як унізе яшчэ дымілася зямля, гарэлі дамы.

На экспазіцыі прадстаўлена багата кніг з дарчымі надпісамі, сярод іх – і перакладны слоўнік, падпісаны па-ўзбекску.

У вітрынах змешчаны пасведчанні і ўзнагароды былога дырэктара літаратурнага музея Якуба Коласа. Між іншым, ён быў адным з першых, хто атрымаў медаль Францыска Скарыны.

Знаходзіцца ў экспазіцыі і фота з самых першых “Каласавін”. Магчыма, у будучым знойдуцца даследчыкі, якія стануць вывучаць гісторыю “Каласавін” і падсумоўваць, як шмат было зроблена папярэднікамі ў галіне коласазнаўства.

Ганна **Трошына**
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі



СЫШЛІСЯ РАЗАМ КОЛАС І КУПАЛА...

У Татарстане працуе выстава Коласаўскага музея з Мінска

Вядомы адрас літаратурнай памяці, мясціна, якая яднае, кліча ў госці беларусаў Казані і ўсяго Татарстана, – музей Янкі Купалы ў Пячышчах, блізкай ваколіцы Казані. Тут пры падтрымцы Аддзялення Пасольства Рэспублікі Беларусь у Расійскай Федэрацыі і аб'яднання “МТЗ – Татарстан” адкрылася выстава Дзяржаўнага літаратурна-мемарыяльнага музея Якуба Коласа “Якуб Колас і Янка Купала: зямля і неба беларускай літаратуры”.

На адкрыцці з прывітальным словам да прысутных звярнуўся кіраўнік Аддзялення Пасольства Беларусі ў Расіі ў Казані Віктар Шчэцка. Выступіў таксама і кіраўнік Выканаўчага камітэта Савета Асамблеі народаў Татарстана Рэнат Валіўлін. Шчырымі словамі любові да беларускага народа, беларускай літаратуры было насычана выступленне народнага паэта Татарстана, лаўрэата Дзяржаўнай прэміі Расійскай Федэрацыі, вядомага грамадскага і палітычнага дзеяча Рэната Харыса. Татарскі паэт і перакладчык зрабіў неверагодна шмат дзеля развіцця і ўмацавання беларуска-татарскіх літаратурных сувязяў, дзеля ўшанавання творчай спадчыны беларускіх класікаў на мове свайго народа. У 2018 годзе Рэнат Харыс выдаў у Казані зборнік беларускай паэзіі ў сваіх перакладах – “Калі ласка – Хуш кілесез!”. Пад адной вокладкай знайшлося месца творам Францыска Скарыны, Францішка Багушэвіча, Янкі Купалы, Якуба Коласа, Максіма Багдановіча, Міхася Чарота, Уладзіміра Дубоўкі, Петруся Броўкі, Пятра Глебкі, Максіма Танка, Аркадзя Куляшова, Рыгора

Барадуліна, Раісы Баравіковай, Леаніда Галубовіча, Міхася Пазнякова, Валерыя Казакова, Міколы Мятліцкага, Уладзіміра Марука, Віктара Шніпа, Людмілы Рублеўскай, Алеся Бадака, Таццяны Сівец... Усяго 30 паэтаў Беларусі прадставіў чытачу татарскі перакладчык. Уражлівай аказалася і прадмова да кнігі, у якой, дарэчы, Рэнат Харыс напісаў: “Асабліва цікава, чаму да Беларусі ўзнікла ў мяне недзе ў 1971 годзе ў перыяд працы адказным сакратаром Саюза пісьменнікаў Татарстана. Тады старшынёю Саюза пісьменнікаў Татарстана працаваў вядомы паэт Закі Нуры... Ён часта ўспамінаў пра сваё “лясное” жыццё ў час вайны, калі ён змагаўся супраць фашыстаў у партызанскім злучэнні Канстанціна Заслонава – спярша падрыўніком, пасля камандзірам атрада разведкі. Пра гэты перыяд свайго жыцця ён напісаў у кнізе апавяданняў “І мёртвыя помсцілі”. Ганаровы грамадзянін горада Орша Закі Нуры заўсёды падтрымліваў кантакт з беларускімі пісьменнікамі, перакладаў на татарскую мову іх творы і выдаваў кнігі”. І далей: “У тыя самыя гады ў вёсцы Пячышчы Верхне-Услонскага раёна на беразе Волгі адкрыўся музей Янкі Купалы, эвакуіраванага ў наш край у гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. У з’яўленні гэтага музея таксама ёсць заслуга Закі Шарафутдінавіча. У гэтым музеі, праз жыццё і творчасць Янкі Купалы, для мяне шырэй адкрыліся дзверы ў свет беларускай літаратуры. Побач са знаёмымі па школьных падручніках Янкам Купалам і Якуба Коласам паўсталі Максім Танк, Пятрусь

Броўка, Аркадзь Куляшоў і іншыя. Нябачаная бяда, прынесеная фашыстамі на беларускія землі, з неверагоднай сілай адлюстроўваецца ў іх творах і пераўтвараецца ў гімн багатырскай трываласці і жыццялюбства беларускага народа”.

З вялікай увагай усе слухалі выступленне дырэктара Дзяржаўнага літаратурна-мемарыяльнага музея Ірыны Мацяс, якая адзначыла непарушную еднасць двух класікаў – Янкі Купалы і Якуба Коласа. Ірына Уладзіміраўна падкрэсліла, што сяброўства ў рамках музейнай прасторы Беларусі і Татарстана – гэта і мост, які развівае літаратурную, культурную, нарэшце, народную дыпламатыю паміж нашымі народамі. Прыемна, што ў Міністэрстве культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь разумеюць надзвычайную вагу міжнародных стасункаў у галіне культуры. Вартае месца ў развіцці сяброўства, музейнага абмену паміж Беларуссю і рэгіёнамі Расійскай Федэрацыі займае Дзяржаўны літаратурна-мемарыяльны музей Якуба Коласа.

– Калі гаварыць, у прыватнасці, пра Казань, музей у Пячышчах, – зазначае Ірына Мацяс, то наша сяброўскае, шчырае партнёрства немагчымае без руплівасці кіраўніка гэтай установы Рымы Абызавай. Яна – часты госць у Беларусі, ініцыятар многіх творчых, асветніцкіх праектаў. Такія людзі культуры будуць нашу еднасць, усталяваюць прыязнасць і добрыя стасункі. Калі кантактуеш з Рымай Абызавай, адразу ўзняе прыцягненне да Татарстана, Казані, да народа Татарстана...

Экскурсію па выставе “Якуб Колас і Янка Купала: зямля і неба беларускай літаратуры” правяла навуковы супрацоўнік Дзяржаўнага літаратурна-мемарыяльнага музея Якуба Коласа Кацярына Саўчанка. А прадстаўнік беларускай суполкі ў Татарстане “Спадчына” Галіна Барановіч прачытала верш на роднай беларускай мове, а яшчэ падаравала музею ў Пячышчах рушнік, які быў вытканы сто гадоў назад. Кіраўнік “Спадчыны” Сяргей Марудзенка выказаў удзячнасць кіраўніцтву Беларусі і Татарстана за падтрымку і ўвагу культурных стасункаў паміж рэспублікамі і народамі. Уразіў чытаннем паэтычнага твора на беларускай мове і юны сябра музея, удзельнік многіх мерапрыемстваў у Купалаўскім доме ў Пячышчах Сяргей Бутэнка.

Падзея, што адбылася ў Татарстане, акрэсліла і магчымыя перспектывы развіцця культурных, літаратурных стасункаў. “З’яўляючыся членам Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, – падсумоўвае новы творчы праект Ірына Мацяс, – заклікаю сваіх калег па творчай арганізацыі не забывацца на клопат па ўшанаванні тых беларускіх літаратурных адрасоў, якія ёсць у свеце, якія служаць для нас напамінамі, што беларускае мастацкае слова цікава ў многіх кутках. І не толькі ў Расіі, а і ў розных іншых краінах”.

Кастусь Лешніца

МАГІЛЯЎЧАНЕ АДЗНАЧЫЛІ РАСІЙСКАГА ПІСЬМЕННІКА

Паэт і празаік, публіцыст Валерый Казакоў, радзіма якога – Магілёўшчына, жыве на дзве Радзімы – і ў Расійскай Федэрацыі, у Маскве, і ў Беларусі. Доўгі час ён узначальваў ФНКА “Беларусы Расіі”, з’яўляўся сакратаром Саюза пісьменнікаў Расіі. Нядаўна ганаровага грамадзяніна Магілёва, члена Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі Валерыя Мікалаевіча Казакова адзначылі прэміяй Магілёўскага гарадскога выканаўчага камітэта “Дасягненне” у намінацыі “Літаратурная дзейнасць”.



Каментуючы гэтую падзею, старшыня Магілёўскага гарвыканкама Аляксандр Студнеў заўважыў: “Валерый Казакоў не проста пісьменнік-зямляк, хаця і гэтым мы даражым, ведаем яго кнігі... Наш магіляўчанін – сапраўды паўнамоцны прадстаўнік Магілёва, Магілёўшчыны ў Расіі, у Маскве. Многія культурныя, асветніцкія ініцыятывы беларуска-расійскага характару былі якраз ім прапанаваны. Валерый Казакоў шмат зрабіў дзеля напаўнення нашых музеяў, асветніцкіх устаноў артэфактамі беларускага паходжання, якія былі знойдзены ім у розных кутках не толькі Расіі. Заўважу, што пісьменнік – і аўтар кнігі пра Магілёў старажытны і сучасны: “Века, плывучие в Днепре”. Прэмія “Дасягненне” – добрая адзнака і яго творчасці, і яго грамадскай, культурна-асветніцкай дзейнасці”. Нагадаем, што Валерый Казакоў на працягу многіх гадоў актыўна ўдзельнічаў у “круглых сталах”, якія арганізавалі Міністэрства інфармацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь і Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі, “Мастацкая літаратура як шлях адзін да аднаго”, у Міжнародным сімпозіуме літаратараў “Пісьменнік і час”, якія праводзіцца ў Беларусі з 2015 года. Наш зямляк – аўтар кніг, выдадзеных і ў Беларусі, у Выдавецкім доме “Звязда”, выдавецтве “Мастацкая літаратура”. Валерый Казакоў за сваю грамадскую дзейнасць узнагароджаны медалём Францыска Скарыны.

Кастусь Лешніца

СЯМ'Я МАКСІМА

Пра Максіма Багдановіча захавалася вельмі мала звестак, іх даследчыкі збіраюць па крупінках, пераглядаюць дакументы, ліставанне родных, і так адкрываюць новыя факты з жыцця паэта. Вялікую дапамогу ў гэтым аказваюць і сваякі паэта, большасць з якіх сёння жыве ў Расіі. Дзякуючы ім удалося сабраць інфармацыю пра людзей, побач з якімі Максім рос, чые расповеды слухаў і хто аказваў уплыў на яго станаўленне.

Так, вядома, што паэт спяваў дрэнна, у адрозненні ад родных. Яго бабуля добра іграла на гітары, любіла раманы. Сям'я Гапановічаў (цёткі паэта Магдаліны) спявала рускія, беларускія і ўкраінскія песні. Адна з іх любімых песень увайшла ў верш Максіма Багдановіча, пра гэта ўзгадваў яго бацька – Адам Ягоравіч.

“Родныя Максіма вымушаны былі перабрацца ў Расію. Іх лёсы – выдатны прыклад таго, як жыла беларуская дыяспара. Яны імкнуліся адзіна аднаму дапамагаць, напрыклад у пошуку працы. Глядзелі Максіма, калі ў яго былі праблемы са здароўем. Гэта паказвае і тое, як цаніліся сувязі прадстаўнікоў рода”, – заўважыў

хлопчыкам ён страціў маці, рана памерла і другая жонка яго бацькі, да якой Максім паспеў прывязацца. Сам ён не змог стварыць сям'ю, хоць вельмі марыў аб тым, каб у яго была дачка. І тым не менш ён быў не адзін.

Сям'я мела для Максіма выключнае значэнне. Побач з ім было шмат родных людзей: бацька Адам Ягоравіч, браты, цёткі па лініі таты – Марыя Галаван, Магдаліна Гапановіч, па лініі маці – Ганна Валасовіч, Стэфаніда Секяржыцкая, стрыечныя браты і сёстры. Дзякуючы нашчадкам родных захавалася шмат матэрыяльных сведчанняў жыцця паэта і яго сям'і: дакументы, фотаздымкі, лісты, асабістыя рэчы, якімі яны падзяліліся з літаратурным музеем.

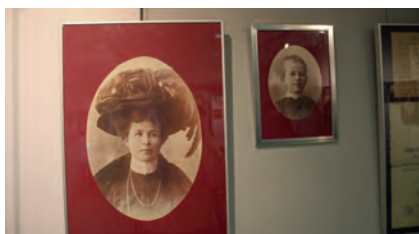
На выстаўцы прадстаўлена каля сотні экспанатаў. Сярод іх – фота з дароўнымі надпісамі, паштоўкі, кнігі, дакументы. Упершыню выстаўляецца кішэнны гадзіннік для сляпых, які нядаўна патрапіў у музей. Ён належаў брату Максіма – Паўлу.

Шмат эксанатаў звязаны з сёстрамі бацькі Максіма Багдановіча – Марыяй і Магдалінай. Справа ў тым, што пасля смерці маці Адам Ягоравіч забраў дзяўчат да сябе, клапаціўся пра іх, выхоўваў. Можна сказаць, што менавіта ён арганізаваў сямейнае шчасце сястры Магдаліны, пазнаёміў яе са сваім сябрам Іванам Гапановічам, з якім вучыўся ў нявіжскай настаўніцкай семінарыі. У сваю чаргу Іван знаходзіць працоўнае месца ў Сялянскім пазямельным банку для Адама. Калі Багдановічы пераязджаюць у Ніжні Ноўгарад, угаворваюць Гапановічаў перабрацца ўслед за імі. На чужыне Багдановічы, Гапановічы і Галаваны працягвалі сустрэчацца, ліставацца, дзяліцца навінамі і думкамі. Ва ўспамінах Адам Ягоравіч напісаў: “Мая сям'я і цесна з ёй злучаныя сем'і маіх дзвюх сясцёр – Гапановічаў і Галаванаў – таксама чыста беларускія, якія так зрасліся, што па сутнасці ўяўлялі адну сям'ю ў трох розных кватэрах, былі свайго роду беларускай калоніяй у далёкім краі пры зліцці Акі і Волгі. На чужыне сваё роднае так жыва ўспамінаецца і шануецца. Сястра Магдаліна,



загадчык Літаратурнага музея Максіма Багдановіча Міхаіл Бараноўскі падчас адкрыцця мастацка-мемарыяльнай выстаўкі “Мая сям'я”, якая якраз расказвае пра атачэнне паэта. Гэты праект удалося рэалізаваць пры падтрымцы Беларускага дзяржаўнага архіва-музея літаратуры і мастацтва, дзе захоўваецца вялікі комплекс дакументаў, фотаздымкаў, лістоў, што звязаны з аўтарам знакамітага зборніка “Вянок”, яго бацькамі, стрыечнымі братамі і сёстрамі.

Няправільна будзе ўяўляць Максіма Багдановіча адзіночым, самотным чалавекам. Так, маленькім



■ Ірына Мышкавец падчас адкрыцця выставы

носьбітка традыцый нашага роду, жыла і вяла сваю сям'ю так, як гэта рабілі яе маці і бабуля: яна выконвала і паважала ўсе нашы звычаі і абрады, спраўляла “дзяды, каляды, маслянцу”, “велікодныя дні” і іншыя, так, як гэта рабілі продкі”.

У Магдаліны і Івана Гапановічаў было шасцёра дзяцей. У другой сястры Марыі і Трыфана Галаванаў – чацвёра. З Ніжняга Ноўгарада захаваўся адзіны фотаздымак, на які разам са сваякамі патрапіў Максім.

Нашчадкі родных паэта павіншавалі музей з адкрыццём выставы. Наталля Сарока, якая жыве ў Краснадары, з'яўляецца стрыечнай унучатай пляменніцай Максіма Багдановіча. Яе бабуля Ганна Валасовіч – стрыечная сястра паэта – доўгі час супрацоўнічала з Літаратурным музеем у Мінску, а яшчэ да яго стварэння вяла перапіску з даследчыкамі творчасці паэта і беларускімі пісьменнікамі (Алесем Бачылам, Янкам Брылём), перадала музею шмат каштоўных экспанатаў з архіва сям'і. Сама Наталля разам з Літаратурным музеем Максіма Багдановіча вядзе пошукавую працу, звязаную са зборам матэрыялаў пра сваякоў паэта па лініі маці. Нядаўна ўдалося знайсці звесткі пра стрыечных братоў Уладзіміра і Яўгена.

Кацярына Касабокава – сваячніца Максіма па лініі бацькі (праўнучка Магдаліны) – нарадзілася ў Ніжнім Ноўгарадзе, але ўжо больш 40 гадоў жыве ў Новасібірску. Жанчына падзялілася ўражаннямі, калі з сям'ёй ездзіла ў Мінск і наведала літаратурны

музей: “Адчуванне было, быццам апынулася ў старым доме ў Ніжнім Ноўгарадзе, бо сустрэла тых фатаграфіі, экспанаты, якія пашчасціла бачыць у дзяцінстве. Калі была ў гасцях у цёткі, я трымала ў руках знакамітага мішку Васеньку, якога падарыў цётцы Наталлі Максім Багдановіч”.

Непрамыя сваякі Максіма жывуць і ў Маскве, а таксама ў Беларусі ў Касарычах – адтуль родам бацька Адама Багдановіча. Як расказала Вольга Дашкоўская, яе прабабка была сястрой Адама Ягоравіча. На жаль, ніякіх сямейных архіваў у Касарычах не захавалася, у гады вайны ўсё пагарэла. Затое засталіся ўспаміны Адама Багдановіча пра гэтыя мясціны і яго сваякоў, якія там жылі...

Цэнтральная частка экспазіцыі прысвечана самым блізкім людзям для Максіма. Тут размешчана карціна Віктара Маркаўца “Маці паэта”. Як расказала вядучы навуковы супрацоўнік Літаратурнага музея Максіма Багдановіча Ірына Мышкавец, гэта карціна, нягледзячы на тое, што патрапіла ў фонды музея, калі ён толькі стварыўся, выстаўляецца нячаста. Вялікая па памеры, яна адцягвае на сябе ўсю ўвагу. Побач – партрэты двух родных братоў Максіма: Вадзіма і Льва. Размешчаны тут і некаторыя лісты бацькоў Максіма адзін да аднаго, у іх – клопаты пра дзяцей, гаспадарку, уражанні ў падарожжах. У асобнай вітрыне рукапіс Адама Багдановіча “Мае ўспаміны”.

Таццяна **Бузіноўская**
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі

ЗЯМЛЯ ЦАЛІННАЯ...

Да канца 1960 года узводзіць новыя вёскі і распахіваць зямлю прыехала каля ста тысяч беларусаў. Для многіх з іх гэта зямля стала другім домам. Пра тое, з якімі цяжкасцямі сутыкаліся першыя цаліннікі і якіх вынікаў ім удалося дасягаць, расказала ў сваёй кнізе “Цаліне 70” Наталля Ражнова.

Аўтарка нарадзілася ў Беларусі, у Бабруйску, але большую частку жыцця правяла ў Казахстане. Сюды ў 1958 годзе прыехаў яе бацька. Прэзентацыя выдання ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы рабілася разам з Саюзам пісьменнікаў Беларусі.

Аўтарка працавала ў музеях і архівах, сустракалася з нашчадкамі першых цаліннікаў, якія прыезджалі ў Казахстан у 1954–1962 годзе. Гэта быў найбольш складаны перыяд. Першыя маладыя людзі, якія ехалі распахіваць стэп, жылі ў вагончыках і палатках. У зіму не хапала цяпла, вады. Грэліся каля вогнішчаў. Бывала і такое, што даводзілася разграбаць рукамі яшчэ замерзлую зямлю, каб паставіць палатку. А з ранку ўсе ішлі на работу, дзе да таго ж імкнуліся выкласціся напоўніцу, перавыканаць заяўленыя планы.

Гэта быў найвялікшы патрыятызм, упэўнена Наталля Ражнова: “Сярод моладзі быў лозунг: “Нашы бацькі заваявалі Перамогу, а мы заваяем цаліну”. Гучала і шмат іншых лозунгаў, але для моладзі таго часу гэта не былі проста прыгожыя словы. Маладыя

бескарыслівыя рамантыкі сапраўды верылі ў тое, што робяць добрую справу”. Найбольш таленавітыя з іх у дадатак яшчэ па выхадных ездзілі за 50–100 кіламетраў выступаць з самадзейнасцю перад іншымі цаліннікамі.

Таксама аўтар правяла шмат сустрэч з нашчадкамі цаліннікаў, якія расказвалі пра лёсы сваіх бацькоў, дзяліліся дакументамі і фатаграфіямі з сямейных архіваў. Таксама аўтарка звярнулася ў мастацкі музей, і спецыяльна пад кнігу мастакі прадаставілі са сваіх схронаў старыя карціны, тэмай якіх было засваенне цаліны.

Разам з беларусамі пакараць цаліну прыезджалі і маладыя людзі з іншых рэспублік. Тут не мела значэння, хто якой нацыянальнасці. Часта ўтвараліся інтэрнацыянальныя пары, маладыя сем’і раслі як грыбы. Аўтарцы давялося пачуць адну з гісторый кахання. Зранку маладыя, прыгожа апранутыя зарэгістравалі шлюб, пасля пайшлі на работу, а на святочную вячэру ў іх была чашка квашанай капусты,

паўбохана печарага хлеба, ды бляшанка са згушчонкай. І пражылі шчасліва ўсё жыццё! Аўтарка прызналася, што праца над кнігай давалася цяжка, яна пагружалася ў тую эпоху, суперажывала сваімі героям. “Я пішу пра простых людзей, а пра іх нельга гаварыць пафасна. Мне часам здавалася, што я сяджу каля вогнішча, адчуваю дымок, што ідзе ад кашы, якую яны вараць, і разам з імі спяваю “Здравствуй, земля целинная”.

У кнізе адлюстравана і ваенная тэма: аўтарка адшукала звесткі пра 30 беларусаў – удзельнікаў Вялікай Айчыннай вайны.

Старшыня Мінскага гарадскога аддзялення Саюза пісьменнікаў Міхаіл Пазнякоў, расказаў, што ў яго дзяцінстве цаліннікаў успрымалі як амаль што не касманаўтаў. Гісторыі ад адной з сем’яў, якая папрацавала на цаліне Казахстана, у беларускай вёсцы слухалі каля месяца.



■ Аляксандр Хазянін і Надзея Баршчук



Падчас прэзентацыі ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы працавала часовая кніжна-ілюстрацыйная выстаўка па матэрыялах фондаў аб засваенні земляў Казахстана. Прынамсі, у галоўнай кніжнай скарбніцы захоўваецца каля 350 выданняў, якія прысвечаны гэтай тэме.

“Гэта фрагменты майго лёсу. Мае бацькі паехалі ў Казахстан з малымі дзецьмі. Я нават паспела павучыцца ў 1–2 класах, да таго, як сям’я вярнулася на радзіму, – расказала дырэктар выдавецтва “Чатыры чвэрці” Ліліана Анцук.

Таксама на сустрэчу ў бібліятэцы завітала цалінніца Надзея Баршчук. Як высветлілася, яна была знаёма з некаторымі героямі кнігі, захоўвае старыя газеты з публікацыямі пра цаліну. На будоўлях у Казахстане працаваў і журналіст Аляксандр Хазянін.

Да сустрэчы падключыўся і Дзмітрый Астаньковіч – музыкант, дэкан факультэта музыкі Казахскага ўніверсітэта мастацтваў, які ўзначальвае Культурны цэнтр “Радзіма”: “Кніга дазваляе зразумець, што зрабілі гэтыя людзі на казахстанскай зямлі і дзеля чаго ішлі на такія цяжкясы”.

Яўген **Кручкоў**

Фота Алены Дзядзюлі

Нацыянальны
мастацкі музей
Рэспублікі Беларусь
і Дзяржаўны
Рускі музей
рэалізуююць
масштабны
выставачны праект
“Расія – Беларусь.
Перасячэнне
лёсаў”. У рамках
яго экспазіцыя
з карцінамі
знакамітых
мастакоў будзе
выстаўляцца
ў абедзвюх
краінах.

ШТО АБ’ЯДНОЎВАЕ МАСТАЦКІЯ МУЗЕІ

Напачатку выстава была прадстаўлена ў Мармуровай зале Рускага музея ў Санкт-Пецярбурзе. Яе адкрыццё было прымеркавана да Х Міжнароднага форуму аб’яднаных культур. На ім прысутнічалі міністры культуры Беларусі і Расіі.

Упершыню Мармуровая зала была абрана як лакацыя, дзе абмяркоўваецца міжнародная павестка, заключаюцца дамовы, таму і сумесная выстаўка размешчана нетрадыцыйна – не ў выставачных залах, а ў парадных, дзе знаходзілася пастаянная экспазіцыя. “У сувязі з асаблівым знэнчэннем расійска-беларускай выстаўкі наш музей прыняў беспрэцэдэнтнае рашэнне зняць цалкам з усіх парадных залаў і вывесці экспазіцыю ў месцы часовага захавання і размясціць расійска-беларускі выставачны праект”, – расказала дырэктар Дзяржаўнага Рускага музея Ала Манілава.

Уэкспазіцыі прадстаўлены творы майстроў, якія нарадзіліся на гістарычных беларускіх землях, але паехалі атрымліваць прафесійную адукацыю ў расійскіх навучальных установах, пераважна ў Маскве і Санкт-Пецярбургу. Цікава, нягледзячы на тое, што яны прайшлі праз рускую мастацкую школу, змаглі захаваць нацыянальную ідэнтычнасць. Гэта заўважаюць і мастацтвазнаўцы, і простыя наведвальнікі, якія прыходзяць на выстаўку і могуць параўноўваць творы мастакоў – уражэнцаў розных тэрыторый. Дарэчы, за першы тыдзень у Санкт-Пецярбургу экспазіцыю паглядзелі ўжо больш дзвюх тысяч чалавек. А ў снежні

сумесны праект будзе прадстаўлены ў Нацыянальным мастацкім музеі ў Мінску. Для жыхароў і гасцей сталіцы – гэта выдатная магчымасць убачыць шэдэўры з фондаў Дзяржаўнага Рускага музея. Як падзялілася Ганна Конанова – генеральны дырэктар Нацыянальнага мастацкага музея, – для выстаўкі абраны работы сусветна вядомых мастакоў, напрыклад, Марка Шагала, Льва Бакста. Прынамсі, можна будзе пабачыць знакамітую “Вячэру”, якую спачатку крытыкі прынялі ў штыкі. Ужо пасля эксперты вельмі высока ацанілі гэты твор Бакста.

“Такія выстаўкі рэдка праводзяцца. Яны вельмі складаныя, шматкампанентныя. Звычайная выстаўка – гэта экспарт, калі музей экспартуе частку свайго збору ў адправадзены з нейкай тэматыкай, ідэяй. А мы задумалі выстаўку, якая не будзе экспартам, а стане з’явай нашага супрацоўніцтва, якая дапаможа адказаць на пытанне, чаму мы такія блізкія, якія нашы культурныя коды і як гэта адлюстроўваецца ў культурнай спадчыне, у першую чаргу ў выяўленчым мастацтве. Адказаць на гэта пытанне можна толькі адным спосабам, каб нашы каманды пачалі працаваць з фондамі так, як раней не працавалі”, – расказала Ала Манілава.

Працуючы над праектам, каманды абодвух музеяў перавярнулі каласальную работу, зрабілі шэраг адкрыццяў. “Беларуская самабытнасць у першую чаргу ў партрэтах і пейзажах угадваецца адразу”, – заўважылі расійскія калегі. “Мы змаглі ўбачыць радство, пры гэтым адчулі, што ніхто не раствараўся, беларускія мастакі не страчвалі свой каларыт, захавалі яго ў творчасці”, – адзначыла Ала Манілава. Цікава было прасачыць і як фарміраваліся калекцыі ў розных музеях. Адны і тыя ж аўтары прысутнічаюць ў зборах і беларускага, і рускага музеяў. Не згадваючыся, установы святкуюць юбілей мастакоў. Напрыклад, 150-годдзе Станіслава Жукоўскага адзначылі і ў Мінску, і ў Строганаўскім палацы Рускага музея. У Расіі ўсе ведаюць пра беларускія карані Яўсея Маісеенкі, але гэты чалавек на тэрыторыі Расійскай Федэрацыі атрымаў усеагчымыя ўзнагароды і прызнанні – Ленінскую прэмію, Дзяржаўную, стаў акадэмікам Расійскай акадэміі мастацтваў, прафесарам, народным мастаком СССР. На экспанаванне яго работ сярод рэгіянальных музеяў Расіі запат такія ж, як на Айвазоўскага і Шышкіна...

Дарэчы, выстаўка “Расія-Беларусь. Перасячэнне лёсаў” – адзін з першых маштабных сумесных

праектаў Дзяржаўнага Рускага музея і Нацыянальнага мастацкага. Увосень было падпісана пагадненне аб далейшым супрацоўніцтве.

Па просьбе міністра культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь Анатоля Маркевіча асобная ўвага будзе ўдзяляцца арганізацыі працы з дзецьмі. Таму ў Беларусі плануецца вывучаць вопыт калег у такой працы. А менавіта Рускі музей – адзін з лідараў па наладжванні асветніцкай справы. У ім размешчаны Усерасійскі цэнтр музейнай педагогікі.

Таксама плануецца развіваць супрацоўніцтва рэстаўратараў. Нядаўна прайшоў адкрыты агульна-



■ Ала Манілава і Ганна Конанова

Алена Дзязюла

расійскі рэстаўрацыйны савет, які сабраў спецыялістаў у рэстаўрацыйнай галіне розных вядучых музеяў. Дзяржаўны Рускі музей прадэманстраваў фенаменальную работу, якая павінна ўвайсці ў пералік сусветных падзей. Выйшла з рэстаўрацыі палатно рускага жывапісу – “Апошні дзень Пампеі” Карла Брулова. Гэта першая амаль за 200 гадоў комплексная навуковая рэстаўрацыя, праведзеная ў Рускім музеі не толькі дзякуючы ўнікальнай рэстаўрацыйнай

школе, якой ужо 100 гадоў, але і таму што менавіта ў гэтым расійскім музеі ёсць абсталяванне, якое дазваляе рабіць глыбокія тэхналагічныя і хіміка-біялагічныя даследаванні палатна, перш чым да работы прыступяць рэстаўратары. Сёння рэстаўрацыя з’яўляецца не толькі мастацтвам, але і навукай. І гэтым вопытам у Расіі гатовы падзяліцца з беларускімі калегамі.

Як было заўважана падчас сустрэчы, што прайшла ў Нацыянальным мастацкім музеі, формы ўзаемадзеяння могуць быць розныя. Гэта не толькі маштабныя, рэзанансныя выстаўкі, якія пакідаюць след, адлюстроўваюцца ў грамадскім абмеркаванні, у жыцці гарадоў, але і канферэнцыі, абмены, майстар-класы, навучанне. Музейшчыкі гатовы пераймаць і “італьянскі” фармат з выстаўкай адной карціны – гэта калі прывозіцца шэдэўр, карціна сусветнага значэння, і на базе гэтага праводзіцца музейны фестываль, адбываюцца розныя падзеі для шырокай публікі: лекцыі, анлайн-праекты, майстар-класы, праводзяцца сустрэчы наведвальнікаў з цікавымі персонамі.

Таксама Нацыянальны мастацкі музей Беларусі ўдзельнічае ў маштабным выставачным праекце “Вялікі Карл”, прымеркаваным да 225-годдзя з дня нараджэння Карла Брулова, які адкрыўся ў Дзяржаўным Рускім музеі.

Яўген Кручкоў



View of the Holy Spirit Cathedral in Minsk

ПОДПИШИСЬ, ЧТОБЫ НЕ ОТСТАТЬ ВО ВРЕМЕНИ!



«Беларусь.Belarus» — издание, рассчитанное на самую широкую читательскую аудиторию. Тематику публикаций в журнале определяет разнообразие представленных здесь рубрик: «Международное сотрудничество», «Реальная интеграция», «Партнерство», «Технологии завтрашнего дня», «Сделано в Беларуси», «Региональный контекст», «Компетентный собеседник», «Бизнес—среда», «Акцент», «Наука в авангарде», «Традиции и современность», «Личность в искусстве», «Туристические маршруты».

Материалы в журнале «Беларусь.Belarus» публикуются на английском, китайском, русском и белорусском языках.

Белорусскоязычное приложение «Голас Радзімы», которое также регулярно присутствует в журнале, — это публикации о богатой культурной палитре страны, ее памятных местах и достопримечательностях, о народных традициях, связях с соотечественниками за рубежом.

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74820 — для индивидуальных подписчиков

748202 — для ведомственных подписчиков

ISSN 2415-394X



9 772415 394005 2 4011