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# BELARUS

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# HIGH-LEVEL COOPERATION



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IN THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION

# HIGH-LEVEL COOPERATION

The President of Belarus paid an official visit to the Russian Federation



**This was the first foreign trip of Aleksandr Lukashenko after his re-election as President, which once again confirms that Moscow is Minsk's main ally and strategic partner both politically and economically. The leaders of the Union State are focusing on the most important aspects of bilateral interaction, topical issues of domestic and international agenda. Not only diplomats, experts and journalists of Belarus and Russia paid attention to the talks between the two leaders in the Kremlin on March 13. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin held a joint press conference after the talks. In addition to global issues, they talked about the development of the Union State. The Belarusian leader emphasized that the parties remain close allies. At the same time, both Minsk and Moscow see and understand the strategic guidelines for further integration.**

## Minsk-Moscow: an example for many

Air Force One landed in Moscow on the morning of March 13. The Belarusian leader was met at the gangway by Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexei Overchuk and Director of the Department of State Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Igor Bogdashev. The guard of honor and performing the anthems of the two countries are important protocol rituals of the ceremony, given the official status of the

visit. The President's motorcade in the Russian capital of TANKs and Aurus, which was accompanied by an escort of seven motorcycles with sidecars, also impressed. In the afternoon, the bilateral talks started in the Grand Kremlin Palace, which the presidents began in the Green Drawing Room in a one-on-one format. Warmly greeting his Belarusian counterpart, Vladimir Putin emphasized that Aleksandr Lukashenko made his first visit to Russia after his re-election as President of Belarus:



— Actually, it is understandable, I think, because Russia and Belarus have special relations: both allied and fraternal in the direct sense of the word... Our relations are developing today in such a way that they could be an example for relations between many other countries both in the sphere of economy and security of states, our cooperation in the international arena.

As an example, Vladimir Putin cited the work primarily at the UN, the SCO, where our country has become a full member of the organization, as well as BRICS, where Belarus has acquired the status of a partner.

### **The Union State as a unique entity**

Sharing his colleague's opinion that the relations between the two countries are at a very high level, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized:

— We are creating a unique entity in the form of the Union State, which has no examples in history. We are going off the beaten track. It is not easy. But, as you said, we have a good mirror where we can see our steps. And this is the economy, trade and economic relations. And every year with all the problems (there were and will be) we are growing. This shows that we are moving in a normal direction.

The Head of State referred to the presidential election held in Belarus, emphasizing the high voter turnout and the high percentage of support for the current course, despite the fact that there are those in the country who do not share it:

— Our elections are always one side and the other. The other side, as they used to say in a famous movie, has scattered. Some of them ran away to the West, but still there are some of them in Belarus, hiding. Somewhere someone is silent... There were restraining factors from all sides. Everyone was holding back our people. In the media (opposition. - Editor's note) and so on, so that they would not go to the elections...

### **Choosing its own course**

Meanwhile, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, high support for the current course is, in fact, a choice of the vector of development of the whole country:

— It was a vote: "Are we with Russia, our eastern vector, is our cradle here or somewhere there?" Well, here is the answer. The people gave the answer. And we have always had this question as the main question, quietly, non-publicly. This is a peculiarity of our elections.

The Head of State assured Vladimir Putin that he himself, as well as members of the Government and Parliament, are supporters of close relations with Russia:

— We have confirmed this in our united struggle today, the spearhead of which is the conflict in Ukraine. We have always adhered to such a course. And it is very important that the people have demonstrated it. Our people understand perfectly well where our friends are and where our opponents, enemies and rivals are.

### **We need to move faster**

Speaking about the wide range of Belarus-Russia relations, the President emphasized that there are far fewer problematic issues between the parties today than in the region and in the world as a whole:

— We are working successfully in this respect. Of course, there are certain issues. But we know these issues. Maybe we would like to move faster here.

However, this, rightly noted the Belarusian leader, depends, among other things, on external circumstances. At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized that the two presidents tackle everything they undertake thoroughly:

— Like, for example, import substitution, opposition to these sanctions. Everyone thought that we would collapse in a year. But we are alive and well. I am confident that we will live. We just need a little more time. And maybe a little more perseverance. But we have it in our blood.

Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked his colleague for the start of the official visit, emphasizing that Belarusians and Russians need a demonstration that we are together, we are sovereign independent states, but at the same time we are relatives. We will continue to promote this principle.

### **Economic records**

The President of Russia noted with satisfaction:

— Everything is developing in the best possible way in our economy, despite all the difficulties of an external nature. Trade turnover has increased by 5.7 percent and reached a record level.

Despite the nuances of statistical calculations, the trade turnover between the countries has definitely exceeded 50 billion dollars. According to the Russian leader, the work is going on both in the normal mode and for the future: the parties are opening new areas of interaction. In particular, the Russian President recalled that the countries started working together in the field of aircraft construction at the suggestion of Aleksandr Lukashenko:

— In Minsk and at some other enterprises joint production and purely Belarusian production for the needs of the aviation industry as a whole is being launched.

Relations in the field of culture, education, sports, cooperation between regions are developing, stated Vladimir Putin. He also invited Aleksandr Lukashenko to take part in the festive events in Moscow on May 9, and before that - in a large forum dedicated to the end of the Great Patriotic War, which will be held in Volgograd.

The President of Russia once again congratulated the Belarusian Head of State on his re-election as President, wishing all the best to Aleksandr Lukashenko and the Belarusian people.

...Then the two leaders continued their talks behind closed doors. The Presidents talked one-on-one for more than an hour. After that, there were extended negotiations in the format of lunch.

# “FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES”

**At the end of the talks in the Kremlin and after signing the documents, the two leaders held a press conference. Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin summarized the results of the talks and answered the questions of Belarusian and Russian reporters in the Malachite Room in the presence of members of the delegations and numerous journalists. By the way, journalists from China, India and European countries were also present at the joint press conference.**

## **In a friendly and constructive atmosphere**

The President of Russia Vladimir Putin once again emphasized the special nature of relations between our two brotherly countries:

- Belarus and Russia are not only close neighbors, but also reliable allies, truly strategic partners and true friends. Our cooperation is based on the inviolable principles of mutual respect and consideration of each other's interests, as well as centuries-old joint history, close ties of kinship formed between many Russians and Belarusians, adherence to common moral and spiritual values. It is in such a traditionally friendly, businesslike and constructive atmosphere that our today's talks with Aleksandr Grigorievich took place.

## **Protection from the influence of third countries**

Vladimir Putin illustrated the high level of economic cooperation between Belarus and Russia with eloquent figures:

— Russia as the main economic partner of Belarus accounts for about 60 percent of the Belarusian foreign trade turnover. At the end of last year, trade turnover added about 6 percent and exceeded 50 billion US dollars. Over 90 percent of all payments in Russian-Belarusian commercial transactions are made in our national currencies. Thus, mutual trade and investments are protected from the influence of third countries and negative trends in the world markets.

Russia has invested about four and a half billion dollars in the Belarusian economy, more than 2 thousand Russian companies are working in the republic, joint projects on import substitution and creation of competitive products with high added value are being implemented. This applies to such strategically important industries as automobile and machine tool production, agricultural machinery, microelectronics, and civil aviation. And here we have good prospects.

## **To value historical memory**

The 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War is a significant date for both countries.

- This is a common victory, and we understand well what price it came at, — Vladimir Putin said. - We cherish the memory of the heroism of our fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers who defended life and freedom for us and for future generations. Aleksandr Grigorievich confirmed his participation in the Victory Day celebrations in Moscow on May 9. Also, according to the existing agreement, the Armed Forces of Belarus will take part in the solemn parade on Red Square.

Many Russian and Belarusian cities will organize actions of the movement “Immortal Regiment” and “Belarus Remembers”.

## **Using the entire arsenal of forces and means**

According to Vladimir Putin, given the tense situation in the world, in the European region, including on the borders of our countries, the talks have discussed in detail the issues of forming a common defense space:

— A joint regional group of forces, Russian modern defense complexes and tactical nuclear weapons are deployed on the Belarusian territory. All this reliably covers the western borders of the Union State and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Today, diplomas of ratification of the bilateral Treaty on Security Guarantees signed in Minsk on December 6, 2024 were exchanged, and thus the treaty entered into legal force. This document defines mutual allied obligations to ensure reliable defense and security of Russia and Belarus, using the entire available arsenal of forces and means.

## **Priorities in the spirit of the times**

Aleksandr Lukashenko warmly thanked his counterpart Vladimir Putin and members of the Russian government for the excellent organization of the visit and the meeting. According to the Belarusian leader, the talks with the President of Russia were, as always, rich and productive. The Head of State announced a lot of work in the coming days in order to “not only settle the interstate relations, but also to think about the prospects”:





— They must be defined. Time is going fast and has raised many questions for us. We will agree and define the best prospects for our cooperation.

The parties considered the main areas of cooperation between Belarus and Russia, priorities of the Union State for the near and medium term. They exchanged views on the current international situation in the global and regional context. They reaffirmed the relevance of the Treaty on Security Guarantees within the framework of the Union State and the Concept of Security of the Union State signed in December 2024.

The Presidents discussed the prospects of interaction within the EAEU, where Belarus is chairing this year, CIS, CSTO, SCO, BRICS in the spirit of the concept of the Greater Eurasian Partnership or integration of integrations. Separately, Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked Vladimir Putin for assistance in Belarus' accession to the SCO and obtaining the status of a partner in the BRICS.

During the talks, the parties also talked about the prospects of returning to a normal, civilized dialogue on a number of topical global issues. In this regard, the Belarusian leader revealed some details of the closed-door talks, where Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov outlined the Russian-Belarusian approaches. The diplomat received separate words of gratitude from Aleksandr Lukashenko for the fact that he has always been “an example in terms of integration for other agencies”.

The leaders also touched upon the new situation in the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the parties will work closely on this

topic in the coming days, but the Head of State once again drew attention to the thesis he voiced in his conversation with journalists:

— We should not count on something great in this situation. We need to believe in facts. We discuss the fact — we accept it — we do not accept it. This is the main thing. And all kinds of statements and promises are just statements and promises for now.

## MEANWHILE

During the official visit of Aleksandr Lukashenko to Russia, the parties signed the Joint Statement of the Presidents of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation, the Protocol on the Exchange of Diplomas on the ratification of the Treaty on Security Guarantees between the two countries, the Protocol on Amendments to the Treaty between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation on Equal Rights of Citizens of December 25, 1998, the Agreement on Measures for Mutual Protection of Citizens from Unjustified Prosecution by Foreign States and International Justice Agencies.

There were also signed agreements between the governments on cooperation in the field of intellectual property and on ensuring equal rights of consumers. The State Property Committee of Belarus and the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography of Russia signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of information exchange for the development of the Geoportal of the spatial data infrastructure of the CIS member states...

# “OUR HISTORICAL MISSION IS TO MAKE THE PROCESS OF BELARUS-RUSSIA INTEGRATION IRREVERSIBLE”

## Highlights of Aleksandr Lukashenko’s speech in the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia

The speech of the Belarusian leader in front of the members of the Federation Council can rightfully be called a programmatic one. In it, the President not only touched upon the historical prerequisites for the close integration of Belarus and Russia, but also set important accents. Aleksandr Lukashenko reiterated that the creation of the Union State was the only right decision, which benefits and advantages the citizens of both countries today. It was the construction of the Union State that the President himself identified as the theme of his speech.

### Time-tested closeness of the countries

Russian senators greeted the Belarusian leader with applause. Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked the parliamentarians and confessed that he was very happy about the meeting.

The President also noted its peculiarity:

— There are a lot of people here who not only remember our history, but also made this history. It is you and me. And hence, what is there to hide, we are grown-up people with gray hair. We are not the same as we were 30-40 years

ago. But we are the most experienced people. This is what distinguishes us today at this meeting.

The Head of State admitted that he was glad to make his first official visit to brotherly Russia after his re-election as President:

— There should be no other way. We are the closest. This is time-tested and proved by real deeds.

But this visit is special, explained the Belarusian leader, because thanks to the invitation of Valentina Matvienko he has the opportunity to communicate with members of the Federation Council, representatives of Russian regions, in the highest legislative body of Russia. With people who feel the pulse of life in their country directly from the ground. The most important thing is to thank the representatives of Russian regions for the joint work, said Aleksandr Lukashenko:

— Thanks to you we have preserved our unity. If you had not supported Belarusian aspirations then, we would not have such relations. And it would be hard to say where our Belarus would be today.





### On the historical prerequisites of the Union State

This meeting is also symbolic. The President reminded that 25 years ago, on October 27, 1999, on the eve of signing the Treaty on the Establishment of the Union State, he addressed the deputies of the State Duma with his position on this signing:

— I remember well how the then still “young” President convinced your colleagues - experienced parliamentarians, people of Soviet temperament - of the need for deeper integration of our countries.

The Head of State frankly admitted that it was not easy at all, as there were different opinions about this idea in political circles both in Belarus and Russia:

— It was still a time of illusions and fashion for purely “national apartments”, free market economy, liberal values, Western principles of society building... Despite the declared end of the Cold War, the West was consistently, already by inertia, implementing its multi-move strategy of breaking up what was left of the USSR.

But even then, eight years after the Belovezhskaya Pushcha Accords, it was obvious that it was problematic, even impossible to stand alone both economically and politically, recalls the Belarusian leader.

Our countries have fully experienced the notorious democracy and free market, said Aleksandr Lukashenko:

— We have seen that one should not expect friendly support from the West. Rather, they will step on our toes at any opportunity and betray us without a second thought. While we were trying to get back on our feet, to piece together the destroyed ties, to somehow make the budget and feed the people, our Western “partners” did not waste any time. The President recalled the process of NATO expansion, which began back in the 1990s. At that time, together with the first President of Russia Boris Yeltsin, they discussed “these all their movements”, were indignant, but could do nothing.

### On Ukraine, the USA and allied interests

Aleksandr Lukashenko cited the expression of the current Russian President Vladimir Putin “we have been deceived”, referring to the ongoing policy of the West. According to the Head of State, it is very relevant, given that today everyone is actively discussing what will happen in the future with the negotiations on the Ukrainian conflict:

— I am not even saying this word about the fact that we can be deceived next time. I’m saying: no one will fool us around anymore. Because we know what we want. And we firmly, as we agreed with the President of Russia once again yesterday, we must stand our ground. Reasonably. We are in favor of peace, we are against all war and so on. But we must see our own interests.

The Belarusian leader also commented on various statements of US President Donald Trump, stressing that he does not criticize him in any way:

— We supported the election of this president both in Russia and Belarus. Not because he will come and everything will

change. We can’t do anything with that administration, we won’t agree....

The expectation was that new people would come and there would be a chance to agree on something. And the unbelievable happened, commented Aleksandr Lukashenko:

— Donald Trump went through the United States like a bulldozer, and the unbelievable happened. This incredible man won. But a bunch of different kinds of statements, promises, pressure on one side or the other and so on and so forth. There is still confusion.

The Head of State mentioned that he had expressed his



point of view to journalists the day before. It is that the US does not have any plan even on Ukraine yet:

— Yes, Donald wants to stop the war. Thank him for that. If he’s sincere in the fact that he’s worried about people dying, we need to stop it. Thank you. We are in favor of that. But at the same time, we must stand firm in our positions. No one should push us aside. And God forbid we be tricked or tricked around. It will not happen.

On the factors that pushed the countries to rapprochement The Belarusian leader also recalled the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, which in its time finally convinced everyone both of the true goals of the alliance and of the fact that the principles of peaceful coexistence and international law declared by the West can no longer guarantee anything:

— This international law was trampled on before everyone’s eyes. Nor did the domestic situation provide reliable support. There was a crisis in the economy and society, a mess with the redistribution of state property and rampant corruption. We realized that we had to rely only on

ourselves. And life itself pushed us to take more decisive steps towards rapprochement and the formation of joint guarantees of economic and military security.

Together with the first President of Russia Boris Yeltsin and with the support of the peoples of the two countries, the only right decision was made to establish the Union State, the President emphasized. At that time, all fears about who could absorb whom, who would manage whom, who would get what in the end were discarded.

By the way, during the voting in the Federation Council in 2000, the adoption of the treaty was supported by 158 senators, no one spoke against it, only two abstained.

On Minsk's "dependency"

Aleksandr Lukashenko stated that today no one needs to be convinced of the correctness of the choice made - the creation of the Union State. Meanwhile, some more hotheads appear from time to time, producing narratives about the imbalance of benefits, dependency of Minsk, the need for Belarus to join Russia, sarcastic talk about our union.

The President commented on such statements very clearly: — When they talk about dependency (it was everywhere), when meeting face to face with my elder brother (President of Russia. - Editor's note), I told him: "Vladimir Vladimirovich, it was necessary to invent all these sanctions, pressure on us, so that Russia finally realized that Belarus is important for Russia. That Belarus still has a lot of things that Russia needs very much."

The Head of State dispelled the groundlessness of reproaches against our country by the example of cooperation in the microelectronics sector alone. Moreover, Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced:

— But if 25 years were not enough to assess the merits of the implemented model of integration of the two sovereign states, then such so-called think tanks and experts are worthless. We were following life. I repeat, life has dotted the i's. There is no Russophobia in our country, a respectful attitude to the common history, religion, traditions is preserved.

### On the stable foreign vector of Belarus

The President recalled how many years ago he said that Belarus would never allow to stab its older brother - the Russian people - in the back:

— We do not change this promise even today, reliably defending and protecting our union. We are not drifting to one side or the other.

Although some Russian politicians, experts and journalists often make such accusations.

Belarus has always pursued and is pursuing a multi-vector foreign policy, emphasizes Aleksandr Lukashenko. This is understandable in view of the geographical location and openness of the Belarusian economy: we have a strategic and all-weather partnership with the People's Republic of China. We are interested in comprehensive cooperation with the CIS, SCO and BRICS countries. We need to trade

with the states of Asia, Africa and Latin America. We want good relations with neighboring Europe and the United States.

At the same time, the Belarusian leader emphasized in principle:

— But our special, closest, brotherly relations with Russia have always been and will always be our top priority. We constantly talk about it openly. And I always answer any claims about our support to you: if we have to choose, we will always be on the side of our Russia. It cannot be otherwise. Belarus will never leave Russia alone.

This is the choice of the Belarusian people at the referendum in 1995, when the Russian language was granted the status of the state language and people supported the President's course of economic integration with Russia, said Aleksandr Lukashenko. And over the past 30 years we have not deviated from those historical decisions.

### On the foundation of the Union State stability

The President rightly noted that the powerful starting conditions of the Belarusian-Russian integration have created a solid foundation for its sustainability and broad opportunities for development in the military, economic and political spheres.

According to him, these include, in particular, the deep common history of our peoples, common reference points and similar national interests.

Aleksandr Lukashenko reminded that due to the geographical location of Belarus, our country has been constantly "rattled" from different sides:

— But no one will say that in the most difficult times we were not with the Russian people. We have always looked in this direction, because our people have clearly understood that here is our happiness and here is our future. This is the opinion, the age-old aspirations of our people.

In addition, the expediency of the union due to geographical and infrastructural advantages, the constant focus on concrete results, as integration entails the expansion of opportunities for citizens and organizations of both countries, strengthen the solid foundation of the union.

Normatively enshrined strategic approaches have added to the internal stability of the union, said the Belarusian leader. The adopted 28 sectoral programs allowed to unify legislation, launch import-substitution projects and, in fact, breathe new life into the Union Treaty signed in 1999.

Speaking about the uniqueness of the Union State, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized:

— The uniqueness of the Union State lies in the fact that it is a more perfect format of bilateral relations, which has no analogues in the world.

Thanks to joint work, it is a living organism that allows choosing the right tools, developing and testing new methods of work depending on the circumstances, the Head of State added:

— A vivid example is the latest rabid sanctions, absolutely illegal, of the West. It is this format that fully ensures security



in a broad sense - from economic and informational to military, demonstrates a high level of cooperation against the background of logistical failures and problems with financial settlements.

### On the advantages of integration

According to the President, despite the different resource potentials of Belarus and Russia, the parties organically complement each other, as well as mutually fill the existing gaps and combine the advantages of each country. To illustrate this, the Belarusian leader outlined several examples.

## ECONOMICS

Aleksandr Lukashenko cited some indicators over 25 years: GDP in nominal terms has grown more than 6 times in Belarus and 10 times in Russia. GDP per capita has grown almost 7 times in Belarus and almost 11 times in Russia. Trade turnover has grown 7 times and amounted to 60 billion US dollars last year.

At the same time, despite the most difficult external environment, the record figures have been achieved in the last three years (from 2022 to 2024). And most importantly, emphasizes the Belarusian leader:

— The real incomes of citizens have grown significantly, the quality of their lives has improved. So, this alliance is beneficial to our people in the first place.

However, there are still many unresolved problems, the President added. He noted that the Russian mass media usually make little or no mention of the fact that more than 3 million Russians have a permanent source of income thanks to the cooperative ties with Belarus:

— These are tens of thousands of enterprises, a wide range of products and services. Despite the different scale of economies, we harmonize and synchronize many tested approaches to support enterprises, market protection and investment.

The task remains the same as it was 25 years ago: to ensure the implementation of a unified industrial, technological, scientific and technical policy.

The President drew attention to the fact that Belarus' experience in planning and public-private partnership is in demand in Russia. It is an important point, the Head of State pointed out:

— We need to do even more, from my point of view. We need to learn to mobilize despite the huge size of Russia. This is especially important now... To be honest, the sanctions have even benefited us. And by doing so, we have finally driven their authors into a dead end. In just three years, we have built the contours of industrial and technological sovereignty for decades to come. Promising import-substituting investment projects are being implemented in the Union State. Their implementation makes it possible to ensure the replacement of critical imports and the production of high-tech products.

Belarusian BELAZ has produced a 45-ton dump truck with a Russian-made engine. Fuel costs have been halved and atmospheric emissions have been reduced by 10 times. Now joint work is underway to produce a 90-ton gas-powered dump truck.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, cooperation in the field of microelectronics and component base production makes a significant contribution to the work of such Russian giants as Roscosmos, Rosatom, Rostec, Almaz-Antey. An ambitious project to create a joint light-engine airplane has been launched. It will be in Belarus very soon. Belarus has retained machine-tool enterprises, and today we create machine tools from components manufactured exclusively in Belarus and Russia.

### On artificial intelligence

Recently, Belarus and Russia have been talking more and more about the prospects of artificial intelligence. However, the President of Belarus is taking a balanced approach to this issue:

— Who in this hall knows well what artificial intelligence is? Who can distinguish artificial intelligence from robots, IT sphere and other things? Few people. That does not mean that we should not do it.

We should be doing it by defining clearly what artificial intelligence is. But to go too far ahead, so that society does not understand or perceive these steps at all, no one needs this.

Yes, we need to be one step, half a step ahead. Our common history teaches us this. But it is inadmissible to run far ahead, so that the people for whom we are doing this are left far behind. We will get away from the people.

Aleksandr Lukashenko said that when he was recently in the UAE, he asked specialists from China and heads of

## THESE ARE THE FACTS

**By the end of 2024, the trade turnover between Belarus and Russia amounted to 51.8 billion US dollars (106.3 percent to the level of 2023), exports - 26.3 billion US dollars (104.8 percent), imports - 25.5 billion US dollars (108 percent). Moscow continues to be Belarus' main trade partner: last year Russia accounted for more than 60 percent of the value of foreign trade in goods, 65.2 percent of exports, 54.8 percent of imports.**

companies around the world a lot of questions about what will happen to society when the era of artificial intelligence comes, whether humans will be unnecessary:

— I'll tell you honestly, they don't have an answer to these questions. "So why are you doing this?" "It's profitable, so we do it," was the answer. Don't think I'm being retrograde. But you shouldn't do something that today, tomorrow, or maybe the day after tomorrow will be incomprehensible to people. Artificial intelligence should be practiced and we should do what we need today and tomorrow. And do not scare people with this artificial intelligence, because more than 90 percent of society has heard about it, but they do not understand what it is.

### On cooperation between the regions

The Head of State focused separately on cooperation between the regions of Belarus and Russia: — To put it quite frankly, the Union State lives thanks to strong ties between the regions of Belarus and Russian regions. Today we, presidents and governments, listen to and implement the proposals and projects of local leaders. The flywheel of comprehensive interaction with the regions has been fully spun. The process is multi-speed, and in some places we would like to push on. But the ball is not on our side, Belarus is open to Russia despite the different potentials.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, thanks to the regularly held forums of the regions of Belarus and Russia under the patronage of Belarusian and Russian senators, this connection is preserved, and the bank of successful projects is constantly replenished:

— Last year alone, contracts worth more than one billion Belarusian rubles were signed as part of this event.

I am confident that under the leadership of Valentina Ivanovna (Matvienko. – Editor's note) and Natalia Ivanovna (Kochanova. – Editor's note), this year's Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia in Nizhny Novgorod will gather even more participants and guests. We have agreed with the President of Russia that we will definitely come to this forum in person.

## SECURITY

The President emphasized that in our world only economically wealthy, strong states and unions are considered:

— If we are one at a time, they will not be ceremonious with us. That is why the President of Russia and I have agreed to defend our common Fatherland together... Today we have a regional grouping of troops of Belarus and Russia and a unified regional air defense system in our arsenal.

Tactical nuclear weapons have been handed over to us. The Belarusian army will soon receive the latest complexes of hypersonic weapons "Oreshnik".

According to the Head of State, Belarus is manufacturing some components for "Oreshnik". By the end of the year it

is planned to finalize the production of launchers, and then together with the Russian side it will be necessary to decide on the location.

Aleksandr Lukashenko said:

— With the adoption of the Military Doctrine and Security Concept of the Union State, the Treaty on Security Guarantees within the framework of the Union State, we have reached an unprecedented level of strategic partnership and coordination of actions in the military sphere.

Dear friends, I am very grateful to you for ratifying this treaty signed by the two presidents. Thank you very much, we will not let you down. The key postulates of these documents, such as the priority of preventive measures, indivisible security, equality and mutual consideration of the interests of all states, have formalized the Union security standard.

### On the consistent position of Belarus in integration

Speaking about the defense of our common Fatherland from Brest to Vladivostok, the President reminded that in the early 1990s a dozen and a half independent states were formed in our once common space. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he was the only deputy of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus who opposed the collapse of the USSR at that time:

— When our gentlemen gathered in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha (Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk and Stanislav Shushkevich. - Editor's note), my proposal to the State Security Committee was to immediately arrest and imprison all of them. Maybe I was too bright and harsh when I was young. But I often go to those places and when I pass by, I think: there was no need to arrest anyone there. They just had to fence it off with barbed wire, not let anyone out of there, cut off communications. Everything was ridiculously simple. But we didn't have people in the law enforcement agencies, who could protect our country.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, today, when talking about the Union State, some people demand more decisive steps, saying what has been done, when it will be done and so on:

— What do you want? What "when will it be?" When Russia will become part of Belarus or Belarus will become part of Russia? Guys, this is unlikely to happen in the near future. And if we break through the open door in this respect, we will ruin everything we have done. We need to go calmly, step by step to realize something, as we are doing now.

The Belarusian leader noted that he has always been an advocate of closer rapprochement with Russia. He was always agitating the State Duma for it back in the 1990s:

— But you didn't agree. You were afraid then: "some Lukashenko, a collective farmer, will come, seize power, take away Monomakh's Cap" - and so it went. And Chubais' group and others in the Presidential Administration fueled it all. But I must give credit, Yeltsin stood firmly on allied relations. We argued, we thought something, we didn't think something - and we lost time. A new generation has come to life, which lives in independent sovereign states... I am not reproaching you.



I just ask you: when you start, analyzing, to reproach the Belarusians, don't do it. We have been very consistent. We have acted honestly in Belarus.

Literally in the first days of my presidency, George Soros asked me for a reception. I remember our conversation. He talked to me for a long time about liberalism, cited Russia, famous people who are on the run now, and some of them are already gone for natural reasons. He gave me an example, and I said to him at the end: "George, you are a good man. But your ideas will not be realized in Belarus." We honestly and frankly told him about it. And he never once said anything bad about us, although he did not

A Russian-Belarusian spacecraft has been developed and is being operated as part of a constellation of satellites for remote sensing of the Earth. A new satellite with an ultra-precise resolution of up to 35 centimeters is being developed.

### On the construction of the nuclear power plant

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized that the construction of the Belarusian nuclear power plant has become the most high-tech and large-scale project in the history of Belarusian-Russian relations:

— Belarusian nuclear specialists had a good reputation in the Soviet Union and beyond. There was no way we could lose



perceive our policy. That is, we pursued the policy that was necessary for our people. We were coming from the land.

## INNOVATIONS AND SCIENCE

The Head of State stated that at the initial stage our joint Union programs were aimed at supporting individual enterprises and industries (remember, there was the Union TV and the Union Engine):

— At present, the Union State programs are aimed at the creation and development of new advanced areas of science and technology. Eight programs have been implemented with the participation of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on space issues alone. Last March a crew with the first Belarusian woman cosmonaut was delivered into orbit.

this intellectual base completely. Thank you very much and your President for fulfilling my request.

According to the Head of State, the station has been built, demonstrating good results. And those who criticized us for it (most of all Poland and Lithuania) now want to build a nuclear power plant themselves.

— The construction of the Belarusian NPP was important for me in terms of not losing competence. I told Vladimir Vladimirovich at the time: we should build it in Belarus. It was not easy in the "Chernobyl" republic. But I went to people, explained, traveled to Chernobyl districts. People believed and supported. Now there is no such dispute," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The President emphasized that the question of the expediency of nuclear power has gone, now there is a question of the

## IN THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION

use of the obtained energy. And it's not only mining, cryptocurrency, electric cars - the construction of fully "electric" houses has begun in the country. And people have appreciated the comfort. The Belarusian leader summarized: — That's why consumption has increased, we still feel that we will need more electricity. Well, in connection with the development of industry and the demand of the population, we asked the Russians, if possible, to build a second power plant. We will build it ourselves, except for the reactor. We have specialists, they are now working with the Russians in Turkey, they are very much asked to go to Hungary.

— When the Lithuanians started attacking us, I said: guys, why are you making noise? We have built housing, you have closed Ignalina, and there are experienced specialists there - and we are ready to take them to the nuclear plant. So, they didn't let people come here either! Some "partisan paths" got in, and now they're some of the best workers! Today we train specialists ourselves and know how to operate the plant.

This was my dream, which you and your President helped Belarusians to realize.

The Head of State also reminded:

— Together with the Russian side we are working on the creation of the Nuclear Research and Technology Center. Unique developments for the treatment of children with spinal pathology, oncological, neurological and other diseases using cell technologies have become a real breakthrough in the healthcare systems of our countries. We have learned to produce top-class medical products in the field of orthopedics and traumatology. These and other areas are enshrined in the Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of the Union State until 2035. We have already returned to the fact that it is necessary to plan.

### EQUAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA

#### On energy markets

The Belarusian leader also noted:

— I am glad that at last we have come to a common understanding that without building a working basis of the economy - united markets of primary energy resources - there can be no effective movement forward in the issues of further integration. We have signed the Treaty on the formation of the united market of electric energy, which is a good step, but we need to move forward.

According to the Belarusian President, our union has grown strong enough over the past years and is ready to move on to the unification of the markets of gas, oil and oil products: — Let's negotiate, we have two oil refineries that can process 25 million tons. Modernized with the latest technology! I supervised this project, collected money on a penny a piece - good refineries produce good fuel, Europe used to buy it. Somewhere the drones hit, the plant does not work, we need diesel fuel, gasoline. We immediately turn around the flows (these are state-owned enterprises, there is no mischief there on the part of the crooks) and give you electricity. And we keep asking: give us oil. I've already told Putin: make sure that these plants are not unprofitable.



Aleksandr Lukashenko added that the second nuclear power plant could be built on the eastern borders of Belarus, which would allow to supply both Bryansk Region and new regions of Russia with electricity.

#### On the Baltic countries disconnected from BRELL

The Belarusian leader added:

— It seems to me that these stupefied, dumbfounded, who recently disconnected from us, will also return to our electricity. Electricity has already doubled in price, and soon it will be three times. I think they will soon understand. Like in America: the administration will change, new people will come and they will realize that they should live by economic laws and buy what is cheaper. And it was cheaper in our country.

Aleksandr Lukashenko also noted that the Belarusian-Russian nuclear project united scientific and engineering schools, dozens of enterprises and thousands of specialists of the two countries:



Aleksandr Lukashenko added that Vladimir Putin had agreed to discuss these issues and the two sides will look for a mutually beneficial formula for oil and gas markets.

### On the accents of union construction

According to the Belarusian leader, today it is important to focus attention in the Union construction on such areas as the creation of advanced models of unmanned vehicles and electric cars, microelectronic base for a wide range of applications, development of technical means in the field of renewable and non-renewable energy sources, primarily nuclear power, development of precision agriculture, aircraft and shipbuilding. Moreover, Belarus has a production and repair base.

— Such flagship projects will ensure rational import substitution.

In addition, modernization of transport infrastructure, especially to sea ports, is very important.

— You know that we bought a port near St. Petersburg, it has been operating for two years, but it could be expanded, we need to supply up to 50 million tons of cargo. And this is also beneficial for the Northern Sea Route, we also went to Murmansk, and we may create similar ports there, despite the difficulties. And we have already delivered cargo along the Northern Sea Route, it is profitable for us!

However, the state of the railroad infrastructure today does not meet the growing needs, and the President of Belarus asked the Russian leadership to pay attention to this.

On the protection of allied cargoes

At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized the ongoing attempts of Western countries to violate the cargo flows of the Union State and intimidate Belarus and Russia:

— We have discussed these intimidations with Putin - that “we will arrest these cargoes here on the Baltic Sea”. I said: “Well, Vladimir Vladimirovich, there’s only one thing left - we’ll escort them with warships. And how else? We shouldn’t always turn the other cheek after being slapped on the cheek. No, we will not do that. That is why I want our “friends” in the Baltics, Swedes, Finns (they provoke us all the time - they tore the cable or something else) to know this.”

### On the upcoming 80th Anniversary of the Victory

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted Russia’s serious role in defending our common historical memory:

— Our unity, our Victory is our pride. Why should we always throw our history into the garbage?

Our ancestors won, it is a good, worthy example, we should be proud of it. I say this because without Russia we would not have been able to keep it. And now we are united, we are sure that we must not lose this Great Victory. We are doing a lot in this regard, and thank you, Valentina Ivanovna (Matvienko), for the Memory Train.

Our young people, especially students and school children, are so happy, they know this train better than the Minsk-Moscow train.

In turn, monuments are being revived in Belarus, the Rzhevsk memorial has been created at the expense of budgetary funds of the Union State. Work is currently underway in the memorial complex “Brest Hero Fortress”, the issue of erecting a monument on the Buinichskoye Field in Mogilev is being resolved. Thousands of small monuments in all villages and regions of the country are also being tended.

— Therefore, rest assured: we have done, are doing and will do a lot. We will not back down from it, you can count on us in this respect, it is our common Victory.

Aleksandr Lukashenko told the Russian parliamentarians about the ongoing work in Belarus to investigate the genocide of the Belarusian people during the Great Patriotic War.

### On the return of Western companies

Speaking about the desire of many Western companies that left the Russian market to return to it, the President of Belarus urged Russians to be cautious in this regard:

— Not because it will be unnecessarily frightening competition. We live in competition even now - both Belarusians and Russians. Is it easier for us to work with Chinese expansion? It’s not easier, they are pushing even more powerfully on the markets here. It has never been easy for us. But the West wants to come back. We’ll consider all offers based on the situation on the ground. If it is profitable for us, we will take it.

Aleksandr Lukashenko cited the situation with the USA interest in rare-earth metals in Ukraine as an example:

— I am sure the Americans have no plan. They are probing. And the Russian leadership is doing the right thing: it is working, as the Chekists say, “on the receiving” for now. Then we will respond.

### On the historical mission of Belarus and Russia

— Our historical mission is to make the process of Belarusian-Russian integration irreversible. We will pass this way with dignity.

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that concerns about the change in the composition of the Government of Belarus were groundless, spoke about the characteristic features of the new composition:

— The current Prime Minister is a smart one, he is an economist. It happened in general, we did it purposefully - all economists are at the top. Good economists. But all the members of the Government are of the new generation. They are people who are devoted to our policy, who know what Russia is.

At the same time, the entire composition of the Belarusian Government has practical experience, and it is with them that Belarus enters the five-year quality period.

— We want to polish our country and our economy. Therefore, we need to polish our relations. We should make Belarusians not look towards the West on this rift. We should build, create our own life.

IN THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION

# VECTOR OF STABILITY

The official visit of the President of Belarus to Russia has become the first foreign trip of Aleksandr Lukashenko after his re-election as Head of State. The program was more than eventful





### Tribute to the memory

An important and symbolic item on the program of the official visit is the laying on of hands. Before his speech in the Federation Council, Aleksandr Lukashenko laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier near the Kremlin in Moscow. The participants of the ceremony honored the memory of those who died in the Great Patriotic War with a minute of silence, the National Anthem of the Republic of Belarus was played.

Interestingly, forecasters predicted a nine-point storm in Moscow on the morning of March 14. There was no storm. Moreover, the sun was shining brightly at such a solemn moment...

It is noteworthy that the President laid flowers at all the memorials near the Kremlin walls: Minsk, Brest Fortress, Stalingrad, Sevastopol, Kerch, Kyiv, Odessa... In general, everything connected with preserving the memory of the Great Victory of the Soviet people over fascism is sacred to our President.

By the way, we would like to remind you that the previous day, in the framework of negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Head of State confirmed his presence at the Victory Parade in Moscow on May 9. According to the existing agreements, the Armed Forces of Belarus will take part in the festive event. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, Belarusians are honored to take part in the celebrations in the year of the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

### “All this makes our union stronger”

In the Federation Council, President of Belarus was met by Chairperson of the upper house of the Russian parliament Valentina Matvienko. A warm greeting, a bouquet from the President, a joint photo and an entry in the guest book from the First.

After the President's powerful speech, Valentina Matvienko and Aleksandr Lukashenko toured the photo exhibition dedicated to the Russian-Belarusian interstate and interparliamentary cooperation and had a one-on-one meeting.

The speech of the President of Belarus at the 586th session of the Federation Council was very vivid. As Valentina



Matvienko noted, Aleksandr Lukashenko's speech was filled with true Belarusian-Russian friendship:

— Deeply respected, dear Aleksandr Grigorievich, allow me, on behalf of all Russian senators, to thank you for the honor you have given us, for taking the time to visit the Federation Council, for your bright and, as always, brilliant speech - one can listen, as they say.

The Speaker also expressed confidence that the Union State is not afraid of any threats when our countries are headed by such leaders as Aleksandr Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin:

— Together we will overcome everything, because we are on the right side of history and the truth is behind us.

And one more very pleasant and touching moment. In a solemn atmosphere under the applause of the audience Valentina Matvienko presented Aleksandr Lukashenko with the badge of honor “For Merits in the Development of Parliamentarianism”, which is the highest departmental distinction of the Federation Council.

The President was honored with the award for his great contribution to the creation of the Union State, strengthening friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Russia and Belarus.

Photo by BelTA

CONTEXT

# STATEMENTS FOR A MULTI-MILLION AUDIENCE





**Aleksandr Lukashenko  
gave an interview to  
the American blogger  
and entrepreneur  
Mario Nawfal.**



What will be the relations between the West, who and why pushed Ukraine to war, whether Russia and the United States can become allies and what the President of Belarus advised Trump. Details of the high-profile interview.

### **On the rapprochement of the East and the West**

Mario Nawfal, an American blogger and businessman, author of the Roundtable project on the X platform (formerly Twitter), states that his mission is to build bridges between the West and the East with the help of new media. At the same time, he stands for the USA and Russia to become true allies. Therefore, the first question from the guest was quite natural: does Aleksandr Lukashenko think that the bridge to be built between the West and the East is shorter than it is presented in the media? And isn't it time for Russia and the United States to return to the relations that were between them, for example, in the early 2000s? The Belarusian leader believes that in politics there is no such thing as going back to something: "And it is not necessary in the current situation. If we have moved away from that good line, we should return to that line. But we should not go back to the past. It is impossible in politics, especially now, when time is changing very quickly. You don't have to go back to anywhere, you have to look forward and move forward. Who would have thought that the situation between the East and the West, between the USA and the rest of the world, including between the USA and Russia, would change so quickly? No one could have predicted it. But one person took the risk to do so. Donald Trump has very quickly put the situation in the proper way, hopefully. So we need to move forward according to the situation that is developing."

### **On mediating the dialog**

Answering the question about the possibility of Belarus to be a mediator in the dialog between the East and the West, Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized that he hates mediation most of all: "Especially to be a mediator between the USA





and Russia, the USA and China and so on. God forbid to be a mediator between these giants. To be a mediator, as the situation today shows, you have to have a powerful resource or something else. I am in favor of sincere politics. Therefore, if I can help somewhere, organize, push some process, if it is in my power and in the power of my state – with great pleasure. But only to make people feel better.” The Head of State noted that he was very optimistic about the current policy of the US administration: “They are good, and Trump is good, he is doing something to stop the war in Ukraine and the Middle East. It’s worth a lot. It’s a brilliant idea. That’s where I’m willing to stand by and do whatever is necessary to end the war and improve people’s lives. It’s not normal when young guys are dying on the front. While the majority of society lives more or less normally, and a certain part of society lives well. And others die for some interests. It’s not normal. But by no means I would like to be some kind of mediator, especially for the normalization of relations in Ukraine. Somebody will see (those who solve this issue) interest in Belarus – we are always ready for it. But to get involved in these squabbles...” The President reminded that Belarus had already had to play a mediating role in the settlement of the conflict in Ukraine, when the talks of the “Normandy Four” were organized in Minsk in February 2015. Subsequently, the

leaders of Germany and France, who participated in those talks, said that they had come to Minsk to deceive Russia with the support of the United States. However, Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that it’s a “lie”. Everything was serious at that time, everyone was determined to find peace and no one was going to deceive anyone. However, then the situation changed, and Hollande and Merkel had to build themselves into it, saying that thanks to these talks they allegedly gave Ukraine time to prepare its army for war with Russia.”

### **On the war in Ukraine and the role of the USA in this process**

Even before the war in Ukraine, the President of Belarus warned that the situation would not be normalized without the United States. Everything would depend on the position taken by the United States and its closest allies: “And so it happened. Would the conflict in Ukraine have erupted if the USA, England and other Western countries had not supported this war by supplying weapons to Ukraine? There would not have been this conflict. But someone needed this war. Musk has done well to start doing an audit of how the US spends its money. USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development — Editor’s note) was closed and so on. What were they doing? Funding coups



in countries. About five and a half billion dollars (what is known so far) was sent to Ukraine to make Maidan. Why? According to the President, the same sources also financed the rebellion in Belarus in 2020. When asked who pushed Ukraine to war, Aleksandr Lukashenko replied: "I am absolutely convinced that Great Britain and the Administration of Biden were involved in the next round of escalation in Ukraine. It was a coordinated position of the Americans and the British, which was expressed by Johnson (former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson — Editor's note). And only with Donald Trump coming to power, the question was put point-blank: to stop the war. And he directly said what he can do and what will happen if the war is not stopped. This is the main thing today, not the search for the guilty." According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, today all of us, especially representatives of the media, are immersed in the search for the causes and culprits in the unleashing of this conflict: "We'll find who is to blame later, discuss in detail and understand the reasons for it. This is not the issue on the agenda today. And here once again I would like to emphasize the position of the current US administration. It is only thanks to this administration that the issue of ending the war has become so acute... We need to stop the conflict. We need to make sure that at the first stage we stop shooting at each other. After all, brothers-in-law are shooting at each other. Ukrainians and Russians are native people. We monitor the situation on the front and hear Russians and Ukrainians arguing: they are fighting well. Why? Because we graduated from the same military academies. It so happens that today they are fighting against each other. So we have to stop it. And here we are on the same board with the Americans. We have to do everything for this."

### **On Belarus' position in the Ukrainian issue**

Commenting on the first hours and days after the start of the SMO in Ukraine at the request of the blogger, the President stated that Belarus initially sought to do its utmost to stop the war in Ukraine. There were several rounds of talks between representatives of Moscow and Kyiv. Then they moved to Istanbul, where a document much more favorable for Kyiv than the current situation was worked out, said Aleksandr Lukashenko: "And then I kept publicly pushing the leadership of Ukraine to make peace. No, we will fight to the last Ukrainian. This is what the West was pushing Ukraine towards. People often ask me if I knew that this war would start in February. If I had known, I would not have defended Ukraine then, because at that moment we were already at the stage of war with Ukraine. An economic war. Ukraine had imposed sanctions against us earlier than the Americans and Western Europe, closed the border. They arrested thousands of our railroad cars with goods (still not returned) and about a thousand heavy-duty vehicles. They arrested 75 of our citizens, drivers who worked on these vehicles. And I had to conduct a special operation to get them out of there. They killed three of them and mutilated

their bodies so that we didn't realize how it happened. So why did I have to defend Ukraine? That is, Ukraine went to escalate relations with Belarus earlier than the Americans and the whole West. Therefore, there is nothing to reproach us. But nevertheless, we advocated that there should be no war, that there should be peace. This was our position. And I emphasize once again: in the first days of the war, I called Zelensky and told him all this. I told him that a new administration will come to power in the United States and the policy will change, no one will support you in the war. And so it happened."

### **On Trump's victory in the presidential election**

Mario Nawfal's next question was about Donald Trump's rise to power. What to expect from his return to the White House? Aleksandr Lukashenko remarked in this regard: "The election was very hard in the United States. When Trump allegedly lost to Biden in the last election (in 2020. — Editor's note), I publicly said in Parliament just a few days later that it was unfair. Biden didn't beat Trump then. Then came the trials, not only those who stormed the Capitol were convicted, but Trump himself was dragged through the courts. I kept making statements that this is not a democracy. It's something scary. And after everything that happened in the US, supporting Trump, I didn't think he would win. When he won, I bluntly said he bulldozed through the US like a bulldozer and won. This is an unbelievable man, and the unbelievable happened. The fact that he almost got shot — I guess God saved him. But he saved him for something. And not only many people on the planet, but the Lord also sees what you are doing in the United States right now and evaluates it. And God forbid you not to do what he, the Lord, expects you to do... You have a little time to prove to the American society that you are capable of something. If you do, the next term of JD Vance (current Vice President of the United States — Editor's note) or someone will be secured. If you don't, the Republicans will suffer a brutal defeat in the next election. And it will be business as usual."

### **On Trump's words and deeds**

The Belarusian president said that there were a lot of very good actions and statements on the part of the new US administration: "The fact that you want to see where the Americans spent money under Biden, how corrupt the "Washington bosses" and U.S. officials are — what's wrong with that? I welcome it, it's the right thing to do. What you said about normalizing relations in the Gaza Strip in the Middle East, that you want to stop wars, conflicts — brilliant. This is what the whole world is dreaming about." However, according to Aleksandr Lukashenko, Trump made a lot of shocking statements that should not be voiced: "For example, he and Musk published a video about how they will make the residents of the Gaza Strip happy. They will evict everyone from there, distribute them to some countries and so on. First of all, it's unrealistic. And

secondly, even if you wanted to build something there, you should not talk about it in such a form, PR on some platform and create some videos. This is unacceptable in politics. It is a mistake. And this is the kind of mistake (in form, not in content) that the current administration is making. You in the United States need to cool down today, calm down and do what you have voiced. You have voiced many good things. But most importantly, you need to deal with the internal problems of the US. You made a lot of promises to the people during the campaign. And if you don't make any progress within a year, you're in for a terrible, terrible time. Even your fellow party members will refuse to trust you. There's plenty of jealousy about Trump. There are a great many jealous people who don't digest Trump. But they realize that the people elected



Trump. You have to fulfill those expectations now, step by step. That's not happening. There's a pile of statements. And the results? Time is running out. That's why the biggest mistake is to pile up these statements, epathetic, unnecessary. Politics doesn't like a ruckus. Today we need results, and you can give these results. But you do not give them. The worst thing for you is that the people of the United States will be disappointed in this." As another example, Aleksandr Lukashenko cited the clash between the USA and the European Union on the Ukrainian issue: "We benefit from it. But the question arises from the point of view of the Americans: why are you doing it this way? Do it calmly, no dusting here, no smoke screens. These are your allies. They did everything you ordered them to do. Or, let's say, with regard to Ukraine. What kind of statements are these: Zelensky has four percent. Zelensky never had four percent. 14 – 17 was and is now. He will lose this election. But why the statements about four percent, give us the subsoil and so on? We need

to solve these issues calmly. We benefit from the fact that you showed Zelensky his place, he should have known about it. But if we speak sincerely, honestly and objectively, your position here is not strong. Everything would be fine, but the whole world today is looking at the United States... That is a lot of things that Americans, politicians to Trump should talk about. But you don't, because you are afraid of him. Trump is a tough man by nature, and you are afraid of that. You shouldn't be afraid. It is in the interests of the voters of the United States first of all and the entire world community to make steps that will be welcomed by the entire international community and Americans."

### On US-China relations

Aleksandr Lukashenko's other sincere advice to Donald Trump is not to spoil relations with China: "With China you have to come to an agreement. I know China very well, 30-plus years. China has been developing before my eyes. You will not stop China. There are one and a half billion people there, they're trained to defend the country to the last man. It's a very high-tech country. Make a deal with the Chinese. It would be in the best interest of the planet. And don't think about pulling Russia in to spoil relations between Russia and China. That will never happen. President Putin and the Russian leadership understand who were their friends in difficult times." Mario Nawfal wonders: what is the probability that in the next five to ten years Russia will give up close ties with China and other Eastern countries in favor of rapprochement with the United States?

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that Putin and the current leadership of Russia will not pursue a policy of destroying friendly relations with its neighbors: "Putin is a man who acts in the interests of his own people. For him, the interests of the people are above all. It is in Russia's interests to maintain friendly relations with its neighbors. China is a neighbor. North Korea is a neighbor. Neighbors are not chosen, they are from God. And it is necessary to build normal relations with them. As for the United States, it is the first country in the world. High-tech, rich. They are capable of many things. Russia understands this. And Russia will strive to establish very good relations with the United States. The sanctions that were imposed against us and Russia have shown that a lot depends on the US. This is also understood in Russia. Therefore, Russia will try to establish relations with China, North Korea and Iran."

According to the President, it was shortsighted US policy that pushed Russia and China towards each other: "If a militarily powerful nuclear power like Russia unites with such a powerful state as China in economic terms, you will not do anything with this alliance. Then you put pressure on Iran, you started putting pressure on North Korea. Where are they going to go? So you united them. And if the Americans act rudely here, using brute force (not military, Trump will not go to war with China or Russia, he knows how it will end, and in this respect he is a smart



man), it will lead to nothing. On the contrary, it will lead to more unity among these states. There is a need for subtle, careful work here, but everywhere it is necessary to reach an agreement.”

On possible alliance between Russia and the United States The blogger told the Belarusian leader that on Platform X he expressed an unpopular opinion that in the next 10 years the United States and Russia will not only normalize relations, but will probably become allies, as it was 80 years ago. The question to the President is, “What do you think the likelihood of that is? Or have we already passed the point of no return?”

Aleksandr Lukashenko is convinced that it is quite possible: “Nothing in life is impossible. This is first of all. Secondly, Russia and you will always be allies (after all, they are the most powerful countries in military terms), but not against someone. You and Russia can unite against someone only if it will be an enemy for Russia and for you. Russia has no enemies today, and the US by and large has no enemies. Therefore, for the planet to be in balance, for there to be no incomprehensible wars (as in the Middle East or Ukraine), for there to be no conflicts, this alliance between Russia and the United States is possible and very important. An alliance for economic development is possible and important. It will be for the long term.”

In response to a question from a representative of the new media whether Vladimir Putin is interested in maintaining relations with the United States as they were in the early 2000s, the Head of State confirmed his Russian colleague’s wish and emphasized that the Russian leadership is interested in good, good relations with the United States: “And the United States, not only Russia, will benefit a lot from this. Very much.”

### On the need to negotiate

Aleksandr Lukashenko also said that the Russian leader confirms the readiness to negotiate on the settlement of the situation in Kyiv, including with the Ukrainian side: “Then he went on to say that Ukrainians and Zelensky are offended that they were not called to Saudi Arabia. He said, “Why call them if Russia and the US were the issues there. There only touched in passing on the issues of Ukraine at these talks. So why was it necessary to call Ukraine?” But Trump has already said about it, in this vein.”

The Head of State shared his opinion: “When the issues of Ukraine will be solved, I think no one will solve these issues without Ukraine.”

The Belarusian leader also emphasized that Vladimir Zelensky, who is supported by a large part of the Ukrainian society, should be convinced of the need for negotiations: “We need to negotiate. If you want – come. It’s nearby – 200 kilometers from the Belarusian border to Kyiv, half an hour by plane. Come. We’ll sit here quietly, without noise, without shouting, we’ll come to an agreement. So tell Trump: I’m waiting for him here with Putin and Zelensky. We will sit down and calmly negotiate, if you want to negotiate.”

### On the attitude to Vladimir Zelensky

The blogger shared his attitude to Vladimir Zelensky with the President, noting that the President of Belarus might not agree with him. The blogger said that he feels somewhat sorry for Zelensky: — He found himself in a difficult situation. On the one hand, I think he’s a brave man... Nevertheless, he made a lot of mistakes and blunders, which led us to the current situation. On the whole, I think that if he had acted differently, we would not be in the current situation... Aleksandr Lukashenko shares this point of view, moreover, admitted that he also feels sorry for Zelensky: “I treated him as my own son. We had very good relations with him. I was in Ukraine, we were negotiating with Zelensky, he seemed to me a shallow person. Somewhere he did not



know something, it was his first steps on this post. He asked me: “What is it like?”, “What should I do?”... We had such warm, friendly relations. But the fact that he gave in, went along with these extremely nationalistic forces is bad. But it is understandable: he probably had no one to rely on at the very beginning, he was maneuvering. At that time, nationalists in Ukraine had a lot of weight, and he unambiguously sided with the strong. And this should not have been done. Well, he made a number of mistakes because he was inexperienced, and when you are inexperienced, you do not rush. You think before you make any step. You talk, consult. But the main thing is the interest of your voters, the interest of Ukrainians.”

The Belarusian leader recalled that Vladimir Zelensky promised a lot to the Ukrainians: “And the main promise was to stop the war. But in fact, he did everything to make this war even more heated. He ignited this conflict to an unbelievable extent. Yes, there were mistakes, but he was pushed into it. So from this point of view, I absolutely



support you: I feel sorry for him too. But this does not happen in politics, because you are responsible for your people, for your state, your policy has led to the destruction of this state and to the impoverishment of this people, to whom you promised something.”

### On the reasons of the conflict in Ukraine and Putin’s attitude

Mario Nawfal also asked the President whether the Russian leader had ever regretted the start of the SMO and whether he thought the decision was the right one. Aleksandr Lukashenko’s position is that there is always a choice. He also noted that it was not only about NATO’s expansion to the East, but more about the threats that were created in Ukraine: “He (Vladimir Putin — Editor’s note) saw Russia’s threats from there, and from there these threats were publicly addressed to him. This is one of the major reasons for what happened.”

Asked whether Vladimir Putin regretted the decision, the Head of State admitted that he had not spoken to his colleague on the subject, but shared his opinion: “I know him well... Putin did not think that it would turn into such a war. Otherwise, he would not have gone to negotiations. When he saw that a huge number of people were dying, Putin immediately went to negotiations to stop the conflict, to agree on NATO, demilitarization, and denazification, as he said. On not killing Russians, on not crushing the Russian language in Ukraine. That was all on the agenda. He wanted to negotiate when he saw what it had turned into. So he regretted, most likely, only because it turned into such a full-scale conflict. Into a war. Which he probably didn’t expect.”

### On sending EU peacekeepers to Ukraine

At the request of the blogger, Aleksandr Lukashenko expressed his opinion on the statements of France and Britain about the possibility of introducing some kind of EU peacekeeping forces in Ukraine: “Russia will never agree to this. At least, this is Russia’s position today. Especially since the leadership of the European Union, primarily represented by Germany and France, is taking a very aggressive position at the moment. I do not know whether Trump managed to bend Macron and Starmer (French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer — Editor’s note) to tilt them towards peace and peace talks, but you see: they take a very aggressive position on the war between Russia and Ukraine. Therefore, Russia is categorically against any peacekeeping forces from European states.”

### On a possible nuclear war

The blogger rightly noted that the world is fragile, and the topic of nuclear war has been heard

very often over the past three years. Mario Nawfal asked the President how close he thought the world was to a nuclear conflict and whether he was aware of Vladimir Putin’s desire to press the red button.

Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that he did not think that the Russian leader was put in such a situation to press the red button: “We did not discuss this issue directly, but indirectly we saw where things were going. Putin has never said that he is ready for extreme measures. I don’t think he is ready. He was as “ready” to push the red button as you in the United States of America, in England or France were “ready” for it. I know you weren’t ready for it. Likewise, Putin was not ready for it either. Putin is convinced that there is no major reason to start a nuclear war today. And he, more than anyone else, understands what it could lead to. That is why I am absolutely certain to tell you that Putin never holds a remote control with a red button in his hands, only to press that red button in a few minutes. If only aggression against Belarus and Russia is committed, then all methods of struggle will be used.”

The Head of State added: it’s absolutely not a fact that everything will start with a nuclear confrontation, in particular, with the use of tactical nuclear weapons. “If, for example, the West (Poland or somewhere else) attacks Belarus – and we have a treaty on defense – it doesn’t mean that we will use nuclear weapons tomorrow. There are many other methods: diplomatic and forceful, conventional weapons – the same “Oreshnik” and so on. No one will grab the nuclear button, but if the threat is extreme – that’s why these weapons exist – to use them. The United States will do the same,” stated the President.

The Belarusian leader also admitted that he was pleased with the election of Donald Trump as President of the United



States in a situation when the world has already started talking about nuclear war: “Trump has a big family. Trump has a lot of young children, grandchildren.... I’m glad he was elected because he has children and he, I can see, loves his big family very much. And a person with love for children and love for family, I think, will never push the red button.”

### On the Chinese leader’s attitude toward the war

Mario Nawfal also asked Aleksandr Lukashenko to share the position of Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the military conflict. The Head of State said that he has very good relations with Xi Jinping, and they have known each other for a long time: “I can say for sure that Xi Jinping does not want war, he does not want any aggravation of relations. He does not want confrontation. It is in the blood of the Chinese: they will quietly, calmly do something and they realize that in this silence they will have success. And they are successful. They do not accept war in any way. We were discussing Ukraine. They were in favor of peace in Ukraine. Remember this initiative of China, Brazil for peace talks. I know for sure: Chinese interests do not need this conflict. Their initiative “Belt and Road” also passed through Ukraine towards Western Europe.... China did not need a war in any way.”

At the same time, the President notes that the Chinese side is not as deeply immersed in the conflict as, say, the United States. At the same time, the PRC has a great desire to do everything for peace.

### On the future of NATO, Europe and multipolarity

Another question from the blogger was about the future of NATO and the alliance, if Russia and the United States normalize relations. The Belarusian leader stated that there are big internal contradictions in NATO, so it is difficult to imagine what will happen next: “The future of Europe can be good only in an alliance with Russia. If the European Union would establish good, normal relations with Russia, at least in the economy, they would prosper. But whether the Americans need it is a question. Be that as it may, for Americans not only China, Russia, but also the European Union are competitors. And whether America will be great again (a reference to Trump’s slogan) is a question. The unity of the European Union and Russia is not exactly beneficial for the United States of America. It is very important for the world and the planet.” The President emphasized that any system is stable if it has several pillars: “For our planet, the United States of America is one pillar, China is the second pillar. The European Union, which is powerful and technologically very advanced, is the third pillar. Russia, India – albeit smaller pillars, but they hold our planet together. If we make it so that only one pillar remains in the form of the USA, there is a big chance that this system (our planet) will collapse. It will be difficult to hold on to two pillars – China and the USA. Therefore, this third pillar in the form of the European Union was very important for the whole world. I believe that the third pillar should not be destroyed, it should be preserved.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko believes that despite the incomprehensible policy pursued by the EU today, there will be sensible people there who will be able to preserve the EU and establish relations with Belarus and Russia. The Head of State emphasized the need to end the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and expressed hope that the issues would be resolved this year.

### On the message for the Western audience

Concluding the interview, the blogger asked the Belarusian leader to voice what the President would like to convey to the Western audience. The Head of State admitted that he had not planned to say anything on purpose: “I can simply wish the United States of America, the people of the United States of America prosperity, first of all. And secondly, the realization of concrete plans that the new administration has outlined before itself. I want Donald Trump to be a productive president. I want what Trump promises Americans and all of us to accomplish. But it has to be done, it has to be done every day, time is running out. As for the Europeans – we live on the same continent. Belarus is the center of Europe, Belarus is the heart of Europe. Everything follows from here. I can say, as we often say: let’s live in friendship.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko urged to preserve everything that has been created around by the hands of God and people for our children and future generations: “I urge Americans and Europeans to make sure that our children and grandchildren live normally. This is the most important thing.”



Vladimir Velikhov  
Photo by BelTA

IN THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION

# GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD





Last year Belarus and Myanmar celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. A lot has been done over a quarter of a century to strengthen relations between the countries that are far apart only geographically. Regular interdepartmental contacts have been established, the legal framework is developing. Dialogue has also been established at the highest level, which was confirmed by the March talks between President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and Prime Minister, Chairman of the State Administration Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Min Aung Hlaing in Minsk.

The meeting at the Palace of Independence began with an official ceremony with the participation of a company of honor guard, which is traditional for such visits. Aleksandr Lukashenko personally met the distinguished guest. Another important tradition of such meetings is a joint photo. After the ceremonial procedures, the leaders began negotiations, which were held off the record, but for specific agreements.

### **“We have built the foundation of our future relations”**

At the talks in a narrow-format meeting, Aleksandr Lukashenko admitted that he was very happy to meet Min Aung Hlaing and expressed regret that he never visited Myanmar. “I know the history of Myanmar well. Our people are very hardworking, in that we are similar to each other. But your country has immeasurably more opportunities for development and prosperity. You are located almost on the shore of the Indian Ocean, and this is very important,” said the Belarusian leader.

Min Aung Hlaing had visited Belarus in 2014. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that the parties agreed on many things during that visit and were satisfied with these agreements. But time is running fast, there have been huge, global changes in the world. “I must tell you that against the background of negative trends in the world and conflicts and wars, we have positive dynamics for our countries, for Belarus and Myanmar. Analyzing the dynamics of our cooperation, I come to the conclusion that we have built the foundation of our future relations. And today we need to move forward, further,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He emphasized that there are no closed topics between Belarus and Myanmar today.

The Belarusian leader suggested discussing the main areas of cooperation. “To consolidate these directions, to define our strategy, we need to have some fundamental projects with Myanmar to move forward. Let it be a little to start projects. But these should be global fundamental projects, which will involve other areas of cooperation,” the President said.

The Head of State emphasized that Belarus has a very strong interest in Myanmar. “You have a lot that we need. I think we will be useful to you as well. That is why I suggest you seriously study Belarus in terms of the directions of development of our country – industry, agriculture,



logistics. And if you see something useful for you, know that we are always ready to realize your interests,” he said.

Min Aung Hlaing shared his observations on how successfully Belarus has been developing since his previous visit to our country. He thanked the President for his hospitality. “Belarus is developing, and this is proof that Belarus has a good leader, the country is developing under your leadership. I would like to congratulate you on your victory in the presidential election. This is evidence that the people trust you,” said the Myanmar leader.

Min Aung Hlaing clarified that Myanmar is located in Southeast Asia, between powerful states. Therefore, it takes security issues very seriously. During his previous visit to Belarus, he served as Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Armed Forces and at that time they discussed mainly military-technological cooperation. “I am confident that Belarus has the potential to cooperate with our country in other areas as well. The purpose of my visit this time is to expand cooperation, especially industry cooperation, between our countries,” said Min Aung Hlaing.

### **“Belarus and Myanmar have significant unrealized potential”**

The heads of state continued discussing the most important issues of cooperation in an expanded format. They were joined by members of the governments, in charge of specialized areas – science and education, agriculture, industry, health care, military-industrial complex. “We have just discussed a number of areas in private session and came to the conclusion: Belarus and Myanmar have significant unrealized potential,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. “A lot has been done over 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, but when we met in private session, we noted that it is not enough. We agreed to work out a concrete plan for



further cooperation, approve it and implement,” the President said.

The President emphasized that he welcomed the decision to raise the level of Myanmar’s diplomatic mission in Belarus. The Belarusian side will also move in this direction. “I support you that the locomotive of our cooperation should be specific economic projects in the most promising sectors,” said the Belarusian leader. According to him, such areas as information protection, justice, agriculture, in which the agreements are legally enshrined, is by no means an exhaustive list of areas in which cooperation should be developed. “If you are interested in something else in our country – tell us. We will certainly consider your proposals and will try to do everything. There are no closed topics for you,” the Head of State assured.

On the eve of the talks between the leaders of the two countries, Minsk hosted the Belarus-Myanmar Business Forum, where contracts in various sectors were signed. For example, contracts for the supply of Belarusian dried milk, tractor equipment to Myanmar, an agreement on cooperation in the production of tires, dairy products and baby food was signed. Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked Min Aung Hlaing for personally supporting this important event. During the forum, the parties were able to discuss a lot of issues related to industrial cooperation, logistics, supplies of machinery, medicines and foodstuffs. The President pointed out that Belarusian tractors are of great interest in Myanmar. “We are ready to organize assembly plants for you, if you wish. And we will do it very quickly,” he promised.

The Belarusian Head of State emphasized that he also welcomes the decision to resume the activities of the Belarus-Myanmar Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation. “I think we should do it. And we need to discuss the prospects of our cooperation and the realization of the plan, which we are going to do with you in the near future,” said the Belarusian leader.

Belarus, as is known, is a member of the EAEU, the SCO. “You should be sure that if you have interest in these organizations, we will definitely provide you with appropriate assistance and support,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He assured that Belarus is ready to enhance humanitarian cooperation with Myanmar. This applies to direct contacts between universities, education of Myanmar citizens in our country. The Belarusian leader suggested returning to the issue of signing an intergovernmental agreement on scientific and technical cooperation. The draft of this project is in Myanmar. “We are also in favor of creating Belarus-Myanmar Joint Commission on Scientific-Technical and Innovation Cooperation,” he added.

Aleksandr Lukashenko pointed out that children from other countries have vacations in Belarus every year. “I confirm the readiness to receive a group of children from Myanmar for rest and health improvement in the summer of 2025,” he said.

The Myanmar delegation took part in the observation of the presidential election in Belarus in January this year. The Head of State emphasized that the Belarusian side is also ready to send Belarusian observers to the elections in Myanmar.

“We have great opportunities ahead. But time is going fast. Let’s not miss it and use our opportunities to deepen and expand our relations. We are ready for it,” Aleksandr Lukashenko summarized.

Min Aung Hlaing emphasized that the distance between the countries is big, but relations in the areas of diplomacy, military-technical cooperation are very well developed, which allows strengthening the friendship between Belarus and Myanmar. “My visit aims to improve the level of relations between our countries,” said the Myanmar leader. The Myanmar Prime Minister emphasized that his country is interested in expanding economic relations with Belarus. Myanmar is an agricultural country and, according to its leader, needs technology to improve the level of agricultural



activities. The country is interested in agricultural technology, which Belarus has. Also, Myanmar needs potash, nitrogen fertilizers, which are produced in Belarus. Min Aung Hlaing suggested that Belarusian partners invest in fertilizers, concrete B and other production in Myanmar.

### All agreements will be executed in a road map

The heads of state told journalists about the results of the talks and the agreements reached. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasized that he viewed the visit of the Prime Minister of Myanmar to Belarus as a great event in the development of relations between the two countries. He said that during the talks they discussed specific areas of cooperation, dwelling in detail on trade, economic and humanitarian partnership. "We have agreed that all our wishes and agreements will be formalized in a serious document – a road map, a plan for our further cooperation," said the Belarusian leader. "We are ready to do everything to ensure Myanmar's food and technological security. We have documented our intentions to move forward jointly in industrial cooperation, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and science. These are the sectors where Belarus has very high competencies. And this was confirmed at the business forum that took place the previous day." The President said that a Joint Commission on Scientific-Technical and Innovation Cooperation will be set up in the near future. The parties agreed to intensify humanitarian cooperation. "We will attract more Myanmar students to Belarus. We have agreed that this year the first group of children from Myanmar has been invited to the National Children's Center "Zubrenok" for health improvement," said the Head of State.

In the near future, Belarusian specialists will visit Myanmar and specialists from Myanmar will visit Belarus in order to deeply and comprehensively explore opportunities and expand interaction. "The Prime Minister and I exchanged certain agreements one-on-one. And I came to the conclusion that there are no closed topics for cooperation. We are ready to work in all sectors of the economy, as suggested by the Prime Minister of Myanmar. Belarus is also ready to work with specialists from Myanmar here," emphasized the Head of State.

The leaders of Belarus and Myanmar approved a memorandum of intent that envisages concrete practical steps for the progressive and dynamic development of further cooperation in all areas discussed during the visit and on which specific agreements have already been reached on the margins of the business forum.

Aleksandr Lukashenko thanked for the invitation to visit Myanmar and expressed confidence that he and Min Aung Hlaing would soon meet there to check how the agreements reached are being implemented and outline new promising areas for cooperation.

Min Aung Hlaing suggested that Belarus send a delegation of election observers to Myanmar this year. Aleksandr Lukashenko accepted the offer and gave valuable advice: "Do everything that is beneficial for your country. Naturally,

everything you do will be disliked by someone. There will be sanctions, which we and you have. But sanctions are a time of opportunity. That is why we have agreed with you to take advantage of these opportunities and strengthen and deepen relations between the states. And we will do that." Min Aung Hlaing agreed with the Belarusian leader: "It is true, sanctions are opportunities. Countries come together and can powerfully confront those countries that have imposed sanctions. They think that if they use pressure in the form of sanctions, they will get results, but it is not true. It only leads to conflicts."

The Prime Minister of Myanmar called his visit to Belarus a success. He emphasized the opportunity to openly discuss a wide range of issues with the Belarusian leader and thanked Belarus for the constant support of Myanmar in the international arena.

Following the talks, the parties signed a package of documents aimed at strengthening cooperation and raising the level of relations between Belarus and Myanmar. In particular, an agreement on mutual protection of classified information was signed. The parties signed a memorandum of intentions on



joint actions to promote Belarusian-Myanmar cooperation. The Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Sports and Youth of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of sports. A cooperation agreement was signed by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Legal Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The agreement on cooperation in agriculture and food security was signed by the relevant agencies of the two countries.

The talks at the Palace of Independence ended on a very beautiful moment. Min Aung Hlaing awarded President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko with the Order of the Union of Myanmar, First Class. This is the country's highest civilian award given by the government. Aleksandr Lukashenko was awarded it for his contribution to the development of friendly bilateral cooperation in various fields. "This is an advance, I understand. I will do everything to justify it," said the President.

Valeria **Stetsko**  
Photo by BelTA

# TO WORK ACTIVELY IS A MUTUAL DESIRE

**There are many foreign guests at the Independence Palace again. President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko has received letters of credence from the ambassadors of nine countries. This is a beautiful diplomatic tradition when ambassadors, who start their careers, first of all meet with the Head of State where they will work and give him their letters of credence. Thus, the new ambassador expresses his/her desire to contribute to the further development and deepening of relations between the two countries. For the ambassadors who will work in Belarus, this desire is mutual.**

“The cadence of the new ambassador in the host country is a unique stage in bilateral relations. The proactive and wise work of the head of the diplomatic mission can significantly strengthen contacts between the centers and raise them to a new level for the benefit of our countries and peoples,” the Head of State greeted the guests. “I hope that your period of service in Belarus will be filled with interesting events, new acquaintances and a lot of useful events that will allow us to jointly implement many mutually beneficial projects. We are open to this in Belarus.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed that the ambassadors will have the opportunity to see more than once that Belarus is completely different from what they often try to present using only black colours and a stream of negativity. “Contrary to Western stereotypes, we are successfully developing. Despite the pressure exerted from the outside, we are comprehensively improving our potential and offering our friends and partners all the best that we have gained over the decades in science, education, healthcare, industry, and agriculture,” the President said. He recalled that this year in Belarus began with an important political campaign – the election of the Head of State, at which the citizens of the country convincingly expressed their



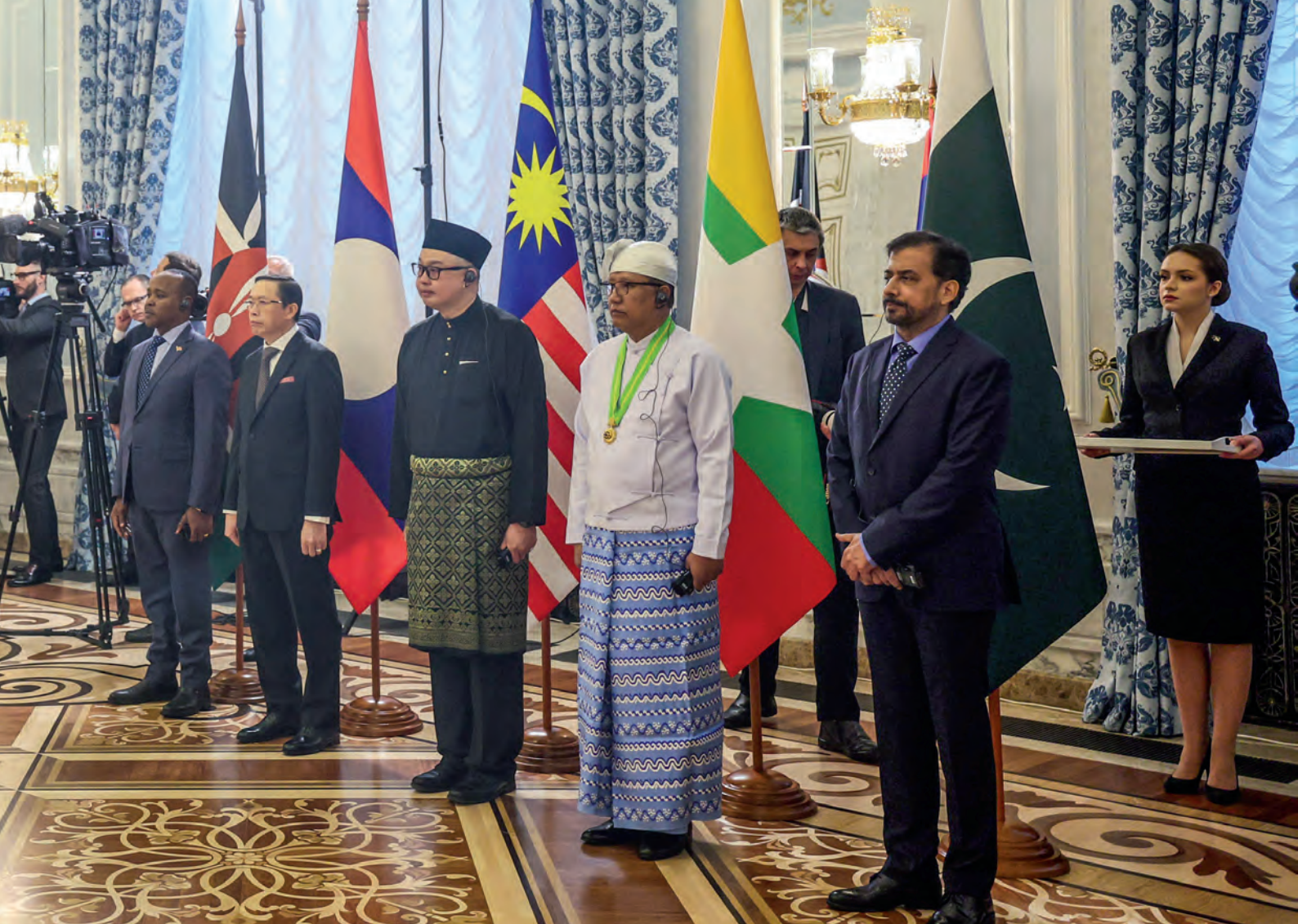
support for continuing the course towards building a strong independent socially oriented state.

“We call it a state for people who want to live in peace and harmony with all countries regardless of their size, position in the world rankings or place on the map,” the Belarusian leader clarified. “This is the essence of our foreign policy, our approaches to building relations with neighbors and geographically distant countries. Believe me, where we are not given an ultimatum, where conditions are not dictated, where we see a convergence of views and ideas, neither distance, nor different faiths or cultural traditions will prevent us from reaching an agreement. The language of respect and openness is universal. It doesn’t need an interpreter. It is understood on all continents. All we need is good will and, as our people say, don’t harbor a grudge.”

**“We stand for the peaceful resolution of any conflicts.”**

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that the policy of peacefulness, good neighborliness and honesty is predetermined by our history. Over the previous centuries, Belarusians have exhausted their limit of wars and turbulence. The Belarusian leader reminded





that this year we are celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, a war that took the life of every third citizen of our country and caused fatal destruction of most of the territory and economy of Belarus. "In 1945, thanks to the Soviet people, fascism was defeated, and all the peoples of Europe were able to breathe freely and begin their return to peaceful life. As a sign of international recognition of the contribution of the Belarusian people to the selfless struggle against Nazism, Belarus became one of the founding countries of the United Nations... Traveling around our country and getting to know its residents, you will see more than once that the events of that war left a deep trace in the history of Belarus. – the Head of State addressed the ambassadors. "And the sacred memory of the liberating heroes, care of veterans, maintenance of monuments and burial sites, inadmissibility of rewriting history are the essence of the state policy and ideology of the modern Belarusian state." The President clarified that this is not a manifestation of our bellicose policy, no matter how much someone might like to present it that way. "We just got the victory at a very high price, and we know very well the severity of the losses that the war brought us," he explained.

Aleksandr Lukashenko told the ambassadors that large-scale research is being conducted in Belarus to identify the crimes of the Nazis and their accomplices. And the facts that are only now being revealed make us realize in a new way the true depth and scale of the Great Patriotic War. "Therefore, we work daily at all levels to eliminate any disagreements in society, support interethnic and interfaith peace and harmony, do not threaten anyone, but at the same time strengthen the economic foundations and defense capability of our state. We stand for the peaceful resolution of any conflicts through diplomatic means and are making significant efforts to resolve the armed conflict in neighboring Ukraine and other hot spots as soon as possible," the Belarusian leader said. He cited Belarusian initiatives to build a smooth and indivisible security architecture, including in the Eurasian space, and to conduct a comprehensive dialogue in the spirit of San Francisco as evidence of this.

According to the tradition of such ceremonies, the President addressed each head of the diplomatic mission separately and outlined issues of bilateral cooperation.



### Bosnia and Herzegovina

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, Belarus is open to contacts and diverse cooperation with this country. “Despite artificial external barriers and the unstable international situation, we see opportunities for developing ties in areas of mutual interest. We have many positive examples of cooperation and joint developments, especially in the fields of mechanical engineering, agriculture and healthcare. I believe that making regular such bilateral contacts as diplomatic, business, regional and parliamentary, will help identify new points of contact and launch new projects,” he said. Ivan Orlic will now be responsible for establishing relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belarus.



### Burkina Faso

The Belarusian leader drew attention to the fact that Burkina Faso is currently going through an important period in its history. According to him, Belarus is ready to lend a shoulder to our friends in industrializing various sectors of the economy and increasing their efficiency. “You can count on us. The same applies equally to the fields of education, healthcare, high technology, and addressing challenges in defense and food security. I suggest working on the creation of coordination mechanisms in the form of a joint intergovernmental commission and a Business Cooperation Council,” Aleksandr Lukashenko suggested to Ambassador Aristide Rapougdondba Ludovic Topsoba.



### Georgia

The Head of State stated that Belarus highly appreciates and supports Georgia’s steps to defend its statehood and sovereignty. This is consistent with our approaches. “And you should do everything in Georgia that is in the interests of the Georgian people. The traditions of friendship and mutual respect between Belarusians and Georgians, the common pages of history are a solid foundation for the restoration of full-fledged comprehensive cooperation between our countries. You know very well that our doors have always been and are open to you. We have absolutely no problems with Georgia,” the President said. Giorgi Saganelidze will now head the diplomatic mission of this country.



### India

Aleksandr Lukashenko called India not just a long-time friend and partner. Now we are striving to reach a strategic level of relations with this country. The Head of State claimed that in 2024, with the support of New Delhi, Minsk became a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and received the status of a BRICS partner country. “We are very grateful to the Indian leadership for this,” he told Indian Ambassador to Belarus Ashok Kumar.



### Kenya

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, Belarus considers Kenya as a stronghold in East Africa. He said that during his visit to Kenya in December 2023, agreements were reached with President William Ruto to intensify contacts in a number of areas, the key of which is ensuring food security in Kenya. “The Belarusian side is ready for substantive work with the updated government of your country. We are waiting for President Ruto in Minsk at a convenient time for him,” the President assured. Peter Mutuku Matuki will work on the implementation of the agreements in Belarus.



### Laos

“Our cooperation with Laos on international platforms has always been friendly and constructive. In the near future, it is necessary to implement the agreements reached during my meeting with the president last year in Kazan. To do this, a number of joint events have been planned with our Lao partners,” the Head of State addressed Ambassador Siphandone Oybouabouddy.



### Malaysia

The President called Malaysia a promising partner of Belarus in Southeast Asia. “Our countries have great, but not yet fully exploited, opportunities for cooperation in the fields of food security, industrial cooperation, and information and communication technologies,” he said. Loon Lai Cheong will now be responsible for the strong relations between Malaysia and Belarus. The Belarusian leader wished Malaysia a successful ASEAN presidency in 2025.



### Myanmar

“I see great prospects for the development of partnership with Myanmar. A few days ago we discussed the entire range of bilateral relations with Chairman of the State Administrative Council, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Min Aung Hlaing during his official visit to Belarus,” Aleksandr Lukashenko said. Myanmar’s Ambassador to Belarus Thit Linn Ohn will be one of those responsible for the implementation of the agreements.



### Pakistan

“We highly value Pakistan as a reliable partner in South Asia and the Muslim world. My recent visit to Islamabad resulted in agreements on many promising areas. The Belarusian side is ready to strictly fulfill all its obligations, closely coordinating actions with the Pakistani side,” the President stressed, addressing the Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus, Muhammad Aijaz. “I confirm my readiness for active and fruitful cooperation.”





Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Belarus always welcomes those who are determined to work productively and see us as an equal and promising partner. “I confirm once again my readiness for active and fruitful cooperation with your countries in all areas of mutual interest. In turn, we will provide favorable and comfortable conditions for the implementation of your proposals and ideas. I am sure that as heads of diplomatic missions you will make every effort to give noticeable dynamics to relations between our countries,” Aleksandr Lukashenko summed up. He wished the diplomats successful work, good health and good mood in Belarus.

## TO THE TOPIC

### Two-ways direction is very important

The foreign diplomats shared their plans and tasks for the cadence with Belarusian journalists. Giorgi Saganelidze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Belarus, admitted that he loves Minsk and, in general, he really likes the Belarusian people. “There is a mutual understanding that it is necessary to bring our peoples closer, who have a very positive attitude towards each other. We need to develop cooperation. The time is

not easy, so we need to find common ground and develop our bilateral relations in areas that benefit our countries. I think everything will work out,” the ambassador said. Giorgi Saganelidze stressed that it is necessary to return to a high level of relations (including political ones) between Belarus and Georgia. “The main thing is to have peace in our countries, and we can handle the rest,” he said. “We stress the great desire of the Belarusian side to restore our good relations. Two-way traffic is very important.”

“The first impressions of the country are the most positive. The kind, cordial atmosphere and beauty are how I saw Belarus,” said the Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Belarus, Muhammad Aijaz. In opinion of the Ambassador, the potential for cooperation between Belarus and Pakistan is inexhaustible. “A lot needs to be done. And we are ready to bring the Belarusian-Pakistani contacts to a new, higher level. Belarus is a developed country with high standards in agriculture, which is very useful for our cooperation. I look forward to strengthening relations between Belarus and Pakistan,” said Muhammad Aijaz.

Valeria **Stetsko**  
Photo by BelTA

# CITIZEN OF BELARUS – SOUNDS PROUDLY



**A solemn ceremony as a part of the All-Belarusian campaign “We are citizens of Belarus!”, dedicated to Constitution Day, took place at the Council of the Republic. 14-year-old winners of olympiads, competitions, contests as well as public activists from different regions of the country received the most important document – a passport of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus – from the hands of the Chairperson of the Council of the Republic, Natalia Kochanova.**

Natalia Kochanova called the presentation of passports to young people on the occasion of Constitution Day a good tradition. “The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus is the Basic Law of the country, according to which our state lives and develops, which determines our policy and social orientation,” the speaker noted.

Natalia Kochanova recalled that in 2022, a national referendum on the introduction of amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus was held in Belarus. Lawmakers also contributed to the development of this important document.

“In 2024, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of our country’s Basic Law,” Natalia Kochanova noted. “The Constitution shows the maturity of our society, the glorious history that our people have suffered in many ways. In the year of the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory, we realize that we shall preserve the sacred memory of those people who defended the freedom and independence of our country at the cost of their lives.” These theses, as the speaker added, are also reflected in the Basic Law.

The Chairperson of the Council of the Republic noted that she gets excited every time she presents passports to young people. “I take part in this campaign with trepidation, because I understand how important it is for you,” she clarified. “It is important for every person to feel significant and connected to their country. Today, life has developed in such a way that you can have a passport from birth. But we keep this tradition (presenting passports to young people upon reaching the age of 14. – Ed.), because we always want to look at you: how you perceive our country, whether you love it. I know for sure that you do.”

Natalia Kochanova addressed wishes to the young people: “First of all, you should love your country, be proud of your country. Our country deserves this. You should be friends. With your attitude towards the country, education, parents, school, teachers, you should be an example for other boys and girls. And not just an example. You should support each other, advise each other. Your word is very important for those around you, but children are different. Therefore, know how to be friends, value friendship, and



most importantly, know how to appreciate a person. We should love everyone and treat each other nicely.”

“By receiving a passport, you become citizens of our country, who are already responsible for the future,” the Chairperson of the Council of the Republic emphasized. “We have high hopes that the young people generations who will come after us will do everything to preserve the traditions that



were established in our country and will keep our country the same – peaceful, beautiful, well-kept.”

As a gift, the boys and girls received the State Flag and the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, a passport cover, and a book “Symbols of Sovereign Belarus”.

“A passport is not only a document, but also a great responsibility for your country,” says Yana Savostyuk, a pupil of Secondary School No. 1 of the city of Pastavy.

“Now I am a true citizen of the country. Perhaps in the future I will have to somehow influence its fate. I feel a great responsibility for this. Citizens are not only those who have rights, but also those who fulfill their obligations to the country and society. I am proud to be a part of it, and I believe that together we can make our country even better.”

Ivan Lukyanenko, a pupil of Secondary School No. 60 of the city of Gomel, also feels like a true citizen of the Republic of Belarus after receiving his passport. “It is a great honor for me to have this document,” he shared. “I am a resident of this country. And as a true citizen, I can participate in all state affairs.”

Veronika **Kanyuta**

Photo by BelTA

# "TO BECOME A CITIZEN OF OUR COUNTRY IS SIGNIFICANT"

**Chairman of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus Igor Sergeenko presented passports to talented young people**



GDL of 1588, the Code of Laws of the Russian Empire of the end of the XIXth century, the Constitution of 1927 written in four languages. The main constitutional provisions of that time were also recorded by artists, as evidenced by a series of posters presented at the exhibition.

Olympiad winners, laureates of creative contests and sports competitions learned directly from the deputies about the history of the Government House and how modern laws are adopted. A separate page, which the current generation of legislators is proud of, is the feat of the deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the BSSR of the first convocation during the Great Patriotic War. 94 of them did not return from the front, but the memory of them is preserved – the names of these courageous people are immortalized in the memorial plaque

However, before receiving the main document of the country, pupils from different regions familiarized themselves with the history of the formation of the Belarusian statehood. For boys and girls, as well as their parents, deputies and guests of the House of Representatives, an exhibition “The Basic Law of the State” dedicated to Constitution Day was organized in the foyer of the Oval Hall.

Young Belarusians had an opportunity to touch the unique editions from the National Library’s collections, characterizing the main stages of legislative activity in our country. Among them are the original of the Statute of the

at the entrance to the Oval Hall.

Addressing the young citizens, Chairman of the House of Representatives Igor Sergeenko noted that Aleksandr Lukashenko started his political biography in the Government House as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the BSSR. It was in the Oval Hall that the President of our country took his first oath, and on March 15, 1994 the deputies voted for the first Constitution of the sovereign Belarus.

“The Basic Law of our country embodies all our past (both those historical traditions and our spiritual values), forms the legal basis for the functioning and development of our





The Chairman of the House of Representatives wished the talented young people to move forward confidently, master knowledge, respect for their history, respect for their native land. "It is the attitude to the small homeland that forms the attitude to the country, our Republic of Belarus," the speaker emphasized. "It is up to you to live and work under today's laws and those laws that will be adopted in the future."

After the ceremony of granting passports, the participants and guests of the celebration were expected to enjoy a festive program – it was the first time that the All-Belarusian campaign "We are citizens of Belarus!"

dedicated to Constitution Day was held in the House of Representatives in such a format.

As Igor Sergeenko explained in a conversation with journalists, it was done to make this day memorable for the kids. Receiving a passport is not an ordinary event," he said. "To become a citizen of



- During an excursion for participants of the All-Belarusian campaign "We are citizens of Belarus!"

state," the speaker emphasized. "In fact, on the basis of the Constitution the whole legislative base is formed in many areas of activity, laws are adopted, by which our country lives, the national economy functions, laws, by which people live."

According to Igor Sergeenko, the passport of a citizen of the Republic of Belarus is one of the main documents that opens the way to adulthood for young people. "I would like you to walk confidently through life, become true patriots, citizens of our country," he said addressing the young people. "Being a citizen is not only a lot of rights, but it is also a lot of responsibilities: starting with the observance of the Constitution and respect for our symbols – coat of arms, anthem and flag."



our country is significant". According to him, passports in the Oval Hall were given to the best representatives of today's youth, who tomorrow will choose a profession, the day after tomorrow will continue the work that their parents do, will develop our economy, will move the country forward.

Veronika **Kanyuta**  
Photo by BelTA

QUALITY MARK



# THE SECRET OF THE BELARUS TRACTOR

If we talk about time-tested quality, the first thing that comes to the mind of probably every Belarusian is Minsk Tractor Plant. An enterprise with a rich history, MTZ today is the flagship of domestic machine building, one of the leaders in the markets of Belarus, Russia and other CIS countries in the production of agricultural machinery. The authority and trust to the enterprise's products is proved by many awards, among which is the state quality mark of Belarus.



### **“It is impossible to work haphazardly”**

In order to make really high-quality products, a multistage quality management system is needed, the so-called quality management system, which is implemented at the enterprise. Igor Zemtsov, Deputy Quality Director of MTZ OJSC, told about it: “The quality management system is certified, we develop it, because only due to system approach it is possible to achieve a good result. It is impossible to work haphazardly, especially in quality, in mass production, on the conveyor. The multistage multifunctional system allows us to eliminate the release of non-conforming products – if not at the first stage, then at the next one”.

According to the head, everyone at the enterprise is involved in quality, starting from the cleaning lady and ending with the Director General: “Of course, in my service there are people who are directly responsible for quality, but the same designer when designing a production must understand how it will work, how it will interact with other products, whether the tractor will be repairable and so on. At the stage of creating a new model, the designer should make as few mistakes as possible, because if the drawings and documentation go into production, the cost of error increases. The later we find it out, the more expensive it becomes”.

At MTZ OJSC there is a quality service of about 700 people consisting of product quality management and production

system development management. By the way, it includes the Central Plant Laboratory. According to Igor Zemtsov, these are the real “intelligentsia of the fleet”. The laboratory is equipped with X-ray machines that allow to check, for example, whether there are cracks on bearings. There are also electron microscopes to check for various abnormalities and other equipment.

### **How to pass through the “quality gate”**

Another subdivision is the Quality Management Department. It is, in fact, a think tank into which all the information from all the services comes. The department analyzes what went wrong in the production process. It has its own laboratory. Its employees take the finished product and fully test it.

“We have run 80 models of the BELARUS 1222.3 tractor through the laboratory to achieve stable quality. Our conveyor belt can receive 42 models of machinery at a time. It is really very difficult, as we assemble one tractor, immediately move on to the second, third... From the point of view of machine building it is wrong. Maximum two models should be on the conveyor belt at the same time. Unfortunately, as a result of certain circumstances, we are forced to produce a variety of products on one conveyor. From a quality point of view, this is very difficult. That is why there are controllers on the conveyor, the so-called quality gate of the company. In case of fault detection the conveyor is stopped and the whole stock of tractors is quickly rechecked”, explained Igor Zemtsov.

MTZ has a Chief Metrologist’s Department, which is responsible for checking the measuring tools used at the plant. “If suddenly the employees of the department incorrectly check the instrument confirming the correctness of parts manufacturing, it is easy to guess what it will lead to,” says the Deputy Director General.





## QUALITY MARK

Igor Zemtsov noted the special attention paid to the feedback from consumers through the service department: “All failures arising during operation come to us. We analyze them, systematize them, see where and for what reason something went wrong. In addition, we organize so-called recall campaigns.”

In the process of maintenance, the part that caused doubts is changed.

According to the Deputy Director General for Quality, this is done in order to get ahead of complaints: “According to the

to carry the warranty for five years. Nevertheless, Minsk Tractor Plant does it, hoping for mutual understanding on the part of customers. Such responsibility helps to increase the resource, creates an incentive to change the design, improve materials and so on.”

### Everyone needs a reliable tractor

MTZ is a holder of the state quality mark of the Republic of Belarus. The high award was given to the BELARUS 1222.3 tractor, which was made on the basis of the popular



law, we have to eliminate any malfunction within 24 hours. In agriculture, the most important thing is deadlines. This is especially important during the sowing and harvesting campaigns. “No matter what”, but the tractor must work day and night. On a tractor with less than 250 horsepower in our country, the warranty is three years. If the tractor is over 250 horsepower, the warranty increases to five years. That’s a serious amount of time in the life of every tractor. It is difficult

model BELARUS 1221. It is about deep modernization of transmission, cabin and everything else. Emphasis is made on operator comfort in terms of maintenance and work.

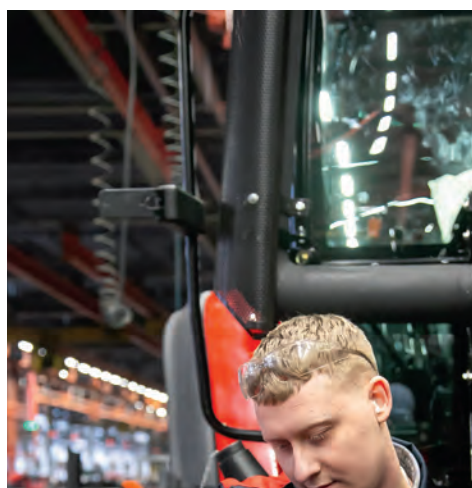
“Behind each award is a large team of specialists, professionals who work tirelessly for the benefit of the native enterprise and the whole country,” Igor Zemtsov added. He also noted that the BELARUS



1222.3 tractor has received decent awards before, and MTZ received a government award for its quality management system.

BELARUS tractor is widely known both in our country and abroad. The geography of deliveries is quite wide, and many foreign markets are well studied. “The customer is waiting for our tractor, people are used to it. Politics is politics, but a simple farmer needs a reliable machine. Our tractor is a well-known brand, so we need to keep the brand,” emphasized Igor Zemtsov.

hammering and much more.” Igor Drachenin graduated from the Minsk State Machine-Building College. After that the young man joined MTZ as a young specialist. After compulsory service in the army and working on the assignment, he returned to his first workplace. “Quality components are very important for the assembly of good equipment,” emphasized Igor Drachenya. “Each model is individual, absolutely every model has a different set of components. For example, the BELARUS 1222.3 tractor consists of more than 90% Belarusian components. Another



### Domestic parts plus a team

The success of quality production depends directly on the work of each employee. To see this, we visited the tractor assembly unit. Among those who are responsible for quality in production is Igor Drachenin, a mechanic of mechanical assembly works. For almost four years the young man has been working at the enterprise. “I mainly deal with engines. This is their inspection, installation, mounting, number

thing that directly affects the quality is a close-knit team. We employ people of all ages. The older generation helps us, the young ones, by their example, in all issues. Mutual support, mutual understanding, mutual assistance – these are important aspects of the work of our team. The quality of products depends on cohesion.”

Daniil Khmelnitsky

Photo by BelTA and Elizabeth Golod





# CARS WITH BELARUSIAN CHARACTER

We learned how a  
"truly our car" is made







**“Every hour, 15 cars roll off the Belgee assembly line. Last year, more than 91 thousand Belgee cars left the gates of the plant, of which about 26 thousand were sold in Belarus, and about 67 thousand went to Russia,” said Natalia Kharkova, Deputy Director of Marketing and Sales at Belgee SZAO. This year, the production of cars for the Belarusian market is planned to be increased by at least 15%.**

Today there are about 70 thousand Belgee cars on the roads of our country. We visited the workshops of the plant and found out how Belgee cars are assembled, whether motorists can trust the “Belarusian quality”, and what consumer prejudices have been overcome.

#### 4000 control points

The purpose of opening the Belgee plant, which today is one of most high-tech industries in the country, was nothing less than the birth of the passenger car production in Belarus. Firstly, it was a semi knocked down assembly of Chinese Geely cars, but today Belgee is a full cycle plant, and Belgee cars rolling off the assembly line are called a “truly Belarusian car, starting from the name and ending with production.” The car’s journey “from scratch” to the warehouse of the finished products takes four stages – welding, painting, assembly and PDI (Pre-Delivery Inspection). And it all starts in the welding workshop, with the joining of the engine compartment and the base of the floor, that is, with the creation of the body frame.

“The main processes are robotized,” says **Dmitry Khomich, Head of the Welding Workshop of Belgee SZAO.** “We have implemented the technology of adaptive welding: this eliminates the “human factor” and defects, the welding quality is the same at every point of the body. Only a small percentage of works is performed with manual welding.”

140 people and 26 high-tech Kuka robots produce 15 bodies per hour. Although, this year it was decided to speed up the process to 20 bodies per hour: the interlocutor says that the demand is high and the plant aims to provide everyone interested with its automobiles.

“This year we will start installing additional equipment. Robots and welding clamps will be installed,” the specialist specifies.

So far, the work on two models of Belgee crossovers – X50 and X70 – is in progress, but soon the S50 sedan will be added to them. The transition from model to model is automatic: the robot identifies the model with the RFID tag,



■ Dmitry Khomich, Head of the Welding Workshop of Belgee SZAO

a kind of a “DNA code” of the future car, which contains all the information about it: configuration and color. With this document, the car moves from workshop to workshop and robots “understand” which work they need to perform. Also there, at the welding workshop the car body is marked with a VIN, which will be further entered into vehicle registration certificate: the car receives its “start in life”. And here it is determined how long it will please the owner and whether it will drag him into a “financial quagmire” with constant repair.

“There are requirements that must be met,” explains the workshop supervisor. “For the geometry of the body (there should be no distortions, excessive stress, deformation), for the quality of the weld and its tightness. The parameters are constantly being tightened, because our company is analyzing the issue, including feedback on usage from the consumer market. For example, we have improved the anti-



gravel coating when processing the vehicle body. There was no coating on Chinese cars, but taking into account our climate and the use of sand-salt mixtures on our roads, this point was improved.”

One of the testing stages at the exit of the fully finished car to the warehouse is the sprinkler chamber, where pressurized water is applied to the car, and there should not be a single leak in the cabin. If the welds were not properly sealed at the initial stage, the car cannot withstand this test.

Well, in the welding workshop, the quality of work is monitored by both people and high-tech equipment.

“One of the elements of quality control is an audit,” says Dmitry Khomich. “Before being sent to the painting workshop, finished vehicle bodies are selectively removed

from the adjustment line and the quality department staff carries out their full control.

An even stricter controller is a three-axis measures machine that checks the geometry of the body at more than 4000 points. After the measurement, the computer issues a report where the slightest displacement of the measured points is recorded. Without eliminating even the smallest defects, the workshop cannot transfer the vehicle body for painting. Already with the closures – door, hood and trunk – the body is sent along the covered gallery for painting. The painting process of the cars at Belgee is also almost completely robotized.

The quality of car painting is not a matter of long-term operation (by the way, the thickness of the Belgee paint layer has recently been increased in response to our weather conditions). Color is both aesthetics, status, and self-expression of the car owner.

“Each new color is like putting a new model on the assembly line,” says Natalia Kharkova. “Therefore, simple colors were introduced first – black, white, silver. Blue and scarlet are now available, and basalt will be added soon.”

### Increased requirements

After assembly of the car, they acquire a fully finished look and are sent to a multi-stage quality control line. Everything is checked here, from the appearance and comfort parameters to safety and perfect operation of the systems.

“A systematic approach to quality management in the production process and multi-stage control at all stages play an important role in ensuring consistently high product





■ Viktoria Korochkina, Deputy Head of the Technical Control and Quality Department

quality,” explains Viktoria Korochkina, Deputy Head of the Technical Control and Quality Department. “The company has implemented and perfectly proved itself the system of self-control of product quality at each stage of its production, based on the principles of the three NOT (do not produce, do not accept and do not transfer defects). It is easy to assess the state of the system by analyzing daily quality indicators, the so-called process indicators, which, like litmus paper, allow you to see not only the problem itself, but also the place of its occurrence, and therefore take timely action. In short, it is a living process in which the quality of our cars is born.”

At the final quality control line, the first run of the car is carried out, and the inspectors check each part of the car in accordance with the criteria.

Among the employees of the Finished Product Inspection Bureau there are many women.

“Women seem to have higher quality requirements,” Viktoria smiles.

For example, the inspection begins with the paintwork: the female inspectors run their fingertips along the “sides” of the car, checking how smoothly the paint is applied.

“Testing” of the car for safety takes place on the test line, where wheel alignment, braking system, high and low beam, horn, working capacity of video cameras, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are checked using high-tech equipment under the supervision of qualified specialists.

Any minor non-conformities are recorded in the quality control log, and the car is sent to eliminate them. If everything is in order, the test driver gets behind the wheel.

“The heating functions and operation of the power window are being checked,” says Dmitry Belkov, Head of the Finished Product Inspection Bureau. “The operation of the windshield

washer and multimedia system are inspected. After that, the car drives over speed bumps (to unload the suspension) to the wheel alignment and head light control station. Next, the car goes to the brake stand, where the entire braking system is tested.”

And, finally, the car goes to the test track. Speed bumps, “snake” and “figure eight”, entrance ramp, high speed and emergency braking: all systems must work perfectly.

“The concept of “Belarusian quality”, which has already become a brand, can be applied one hundred percent to Belarusian cars,” says Dmitry Belkov. “We are interested in producing high-quality products, because we are the first passenger car plant in the country and we cannot lose face. Our vehicles have a 5-year warranty, but in fact they “run” for at least 10-15 years. Consumables, of course, will have to be changed, but a car enthusiast will not have any serious problems with our car during responsible operation.”

### Changing stereotypes

“Over the past 8 years, since the launch of production, we have had to go through a difficult path to change stereotypes, literally proving to skeptics that we produce world-class quality products,” says Victoria Korochkina. “These are cars designed based on the experience of the best Chinese and European engineers, and in the workshops of Belgee we have adapted the production technology to meet our needs: improved anti-corrosion properties, introduced additional body protection, etc.”

Today, the company has two areas of work: Geely’s innovative segment and practical Belgee models for middle class. So far, some of the components for the “truly Belarusian car” are supplied from China, but a significant proportion of them have already been localized. Domestic (as well as Russian) production – tires and batteries, glass, sound insulation, and a number of other components. Since September, Belgee SZAO have started producing plastic bumpers for its cars. Car seats and ceilings will also become Belarusian in the foreseeable future.

“Systematic work is underway on a wide range of components,” says Natalia Kharkova. “We are considering the expediency of opening a stamping workshop.”

If the workshop will be assessed as profitable, Belarusian cars will be produced literally “from scratch”: engine compartments and floor bases will also be produced in the country.

Today, the company is working seven days a week: the facilities are fully loaded.

“The idea of expanding the geography of supplies is always with us, but so far we are trying to ensure demand in the domestic and Russian markets,” says Natalia Vladimirovna. Sufficiently to say that it never takes more than three or four weeks from the moment when a brand-new, shiny, freshly painted Belgee enters the finished cars warehouse to the day it finds its owner.

Aleksandra **Antselevich**  
Photos by Viktor Ivanchikov

TRANSPORT

# WE TRANSPORT QUICKLY, QUALITATIVELY AND SAFELY





**Many have heard the claim that transport is a circulatory system of the state economy. To make sure that these words are fair, it's enough to imagine for a moment that the transports carrying passengers suddenly stops for an hour... But fortunately, this does not happen in our country. All ground transport of the capital works like clockwork – it starts before everyone else and finishes when the New Day is already counting down the minutes.**



**T811 tram is characterized by an unusual shape of the front and rear masks, thanks to which, if a pedestrian is hit by a moving vehicle, he will not be pulled under the wheels, but thrown aside. It is easy to enter the tram, because the floor around the entire perimeter of the cabin is flat and there are no uncomfortable steps. There are 35 seats in the spacious car, there is a special platform that allows to accommodate passengers with low mobility, to put a baby stroller or an oversized cargo.**

Thus, the transport has become so usual and necessary in our everyday routine that it is impossible to imagine today's reality without it. And we don't need it – State Enterprise “Minsktrans”, which work is described by Oleg Dzubenko, Director General, is guarding the functioning of ground transport system.

#### **Comfortable, affordable, aesthetic**

“Minsktrans is a huge and multicomponent enterprise with personnel of 9 thousand people”, tells us Oleg Anatolievich. “And its team has a main common task – to perform passengers transportation efficiently and safe: pick them up from modern and technological stops and carry them in a comfortable transport. Comfort, accessibility, modernity, aesthetics and safety are the modern distinctive features of Minsktrans rolling stock. We operate more than 2000 passenger vehicles on the capital streets. The share of electrified vehicles is growing annually. Nowadays it is more that 40%. I would like to note with pride that all the transport that operates on the capital's streets are domestically produced, they meet the world quality standards, are reliable and ergonomic.”



### **“How have electric buses proved themselves?”**

“We have more than 100 units of electric buses in our fleet. It is too early to speak about the common result. But the fact is that they have fully occupied their niche in the transportation process. We are gradually setting up and expanding the infrastructure for their service. Particularly, 21 charging stations for electric buses are operating in Minsk. 16 fast charging stations power electric buses using pantographs at the final stops and 5 stations for overnight charging using CCS 2 combo sockets.

### **“Tell us about future prospects of the renewal of the capital’s automobile and electric rolling stocks?”**

“In this case, the main criteria for us are

the improvement of quality and safety of regular passenger transportation, which in modern conditions means the operation of technological, comfortable and environmentally friendly vehicles. Therefore, the renewal plans are based on balanced development with a constant increase in the share of electrified transport. The share of low-floor transport adapted for transportation of low-mobility passengers is more than 90%. This condition is mandatory during renewal of the rolling stock.”

### **In real time**

“How many passenger convenience services have already been operating on the capital’s transport and which others are planned to be launched?”

“Information boards at bus stops

have become familiar to everyone, the convenience of which was fully appreciated by residents and guests of the capital. The company’s official website has a “Virtual Scoreboard” service that allows you to track the location of public ground transport in real time from computers and smartphones. With the help of the “Rational Route” service, passengers have the opportunity to quickly choose the best route from the start to the end point. To get information about the time before the arrival of public transport at the stop, you can also use the service from your mobile phone using a USSD request that includes a code of the stopping point. You can find out the time until the arrival of vehicles to the stopping point by scanning the information

**Articulated electric bus “Vitovt” has a passenger capacity of 144 people, the cabin has 36 seats. There are storage areas with a place organized to accommodate passengers with low mobility in wheelchairs. The vehicle is equipped with a video surveillance system and USB-connectors. Autonomous running is provided by a system of electricity storage based on supercapacitors. The charging time from 30% takes up to 15 minutes, and the range is up to 15 km.**





The new trolleybus MAZ-303t is based on the low-floor bus 303 model. In the trolleybus version, unlike buses and electric buses, there is no engine compartment shaft protruding into the cabin, which allowed to increase the number of seats up to 82, 30 of them - seating, including 14 on the low floor. MAZ-303t trolleybus is an autonomous trolleybus and can operate on routes with areas without catenary network.



plate with a QR-code with your mobile phone. More than 1000 units of the company's passenger vehicles are equipped with the "Electronic Guide" system, which transmits visual route information and other useful information to passengers."

### Pay the fare!

**"What would you say about the convenience of fare payment in buses, trolleybuses, trams?"**

"Today, you can pay for public transport in various ways: an automated system of payment and fare control has been introduced. Validators for reading information from contactless smart cards and electronic compositers are installed

in vehicle interiors. Passengers can independently replenish the balance of a contactless smart card in the "Settlement" system (ERIP), purchase an electronic ticket and pay for travel through the "Oplati" mobile application. A single travel pass for all types of public passenger transport was also introduced for the convenience of passengers, which makes it possible to increase the mobility of residents and guests of the capital, reduce travel time, not be tied to a specific type of transport and save personal budget."

### Entrusted to professionals

"We have found out what kind of transport carries the citizens of Minsk

today. The question remains — who drives it?"

"More than four thousand people out of 9000 employees of the company are drivers. Of these four thousand, 40% are professionals of the first class, and about 25% have a second-class qualification. The requirements for the drivers we hire are high. Because the responsibility is high too. The average salary is also decent and amounts to 4000 rubles. If a person who does not have the appropriate profession and qualifications wants to get a job with us, we send him to study. And while he is studying, we pay a salary of 1000 rubles per month."

Elena **Vinogradova**

Photo by Viktor Ivanchikov

# THE FUTURE OF THE MINSK METRO

BelTA

**The key prospect for the development of the capital's transport, indicated by the Head of State, is the construction of the fourth metro line. At the beginning of the line construction, it will be built in the direction of the North Waterfront neighborhood.**

## Focus on neighborhoods

The developers have already started work, proposals are being prepared, project is being considered. According to it, the new line has 17 stations and justification for each of them is underway. It was also noted that there are many factors to be taken into account, for example, passenger traffic. Considering that the capital is being built up and the number of residents is growing, project designers and builders are focusing on particular neighborhoods. The North Waterfront residential neighborhood was given as an example. Director of Minskmetroproekt drew attention that the fourth line will be focused on the provision with the underground transport primarily for its residents.

At the first stage, a section from the Pushkinskaya to the Park of Friendship of Peoples metro station is being considered. It will be the first part of the ring fourth metro line.

## Stations with a twist

According to the conditions of industrial safety and to Mikhail Rudko, Director of Minskmetroproekt JSC, the transfer stations of the ring fourth line of the Minsk Metro will be much deeper than the current ones. According to the project, they will run at a depth of 20 to 25 meters.

However, other stations of the new metro line, unsurpassed, will be located at the usual depth — from 12 to 16 meters. The line will also have two tracks. It is already known that each station will receive its own design highlight and will have a different color scheme. At the same time, as the Head of Minskmetroproekt emphasized, they will be no frills: first of all, project designers and builders are guided by the principle of practicality and minimalism.

“According to the project designers, architectural and finishing works account for a small share of the cost of sections of this line (about 4%). Of course, there is no reason to count on a large reduction in costs. At the same



time, minimal finishing is provided inside the technical premises, finished with architectural concrete. This is a kind of innovation. I would like to note that the Park of Friendship of Peoples, Komarovskaya and Perespa stations that are currently under construction are being built using this technology,” Mikhail Rudko added.

### Faster and more convenient

In general, the fourth metro line will unite three existing branches, which will allow Minsk residents to cross the city, saving 10-15 minutes on transfers, the Director of the project organization believes. In addition, the ring line will enter those areas of Minsk that are currently not covered by the metro. But its main advantage is that it will simplify the movement of residents of satellite cities.

The project designers expect that the ring line of the metro will improve the quality of passenger transportation and reduce their travel time. At the moment, the active project design is underway, construction is scheduled to begin in 2030, or a little earlier.

### Prospects of the green line

Today, the Minsk Metro consists of three lines: the first line includes 15 stations, the second — 14, the third, green, has seven stations and will be expanded.

The construction of the third line of the Minsk Metro is complicated by a number of related factors, in particular, the high level of groundwater, which affects the pace of construction of both utility networks and the metro itself. Pavel Tsarun, Director of the State Enterprise “Minsk Metro Construction Directorate”, drew attention to this.

Work on the continuation of the third line of the capital's underground is in full swing. By the end of this year, the plans are to complete the rebuilding of engineering communications and structures. The construction of stations in an open manner and the construction of interstation tunnels in a closed manner is planned on this site.

“We are starting the construction of interstation tunnels from the Park of Friendship of Peoples metro station. A part of the foundation shoring has already been clogged, excavation is underway, and ground water level is being lowered,” he commented. “I would like to note that this section of the metro construction is more difficult due to

the high ground water level. Already at a depth of 1-1.5 meters from the Earth's surface, we encounter ground water, which affects the pace of construction of both utility networks and the metro itself.”

Minskmetroproekt has developed measures to ensure organized water drawdown. In addition, opportunities are being explored to increase the pace of construction of the site, and the purchase of an additional shield complex is being considered, which will shorten the construction time of the interstation tunnels in a closed manner, and subsequently complete the construction of station complexes.

In parallel, work is underway on the design of the fourth line of the Minsk Metro from the Park of Friendship of



Peoples station to Pushkinskaya station with the allocation of construction stages. Pavel Tsarun added that the names for future subway stations have already been chosen based on their location. For this purpose, a commission was created under the Minsk City Executive Committee, which carried out serious work.

The annual volume of passenger transportation by the Minsk Metro is up to 300 million people. The share of the metro in urban transportation by public passenger transport is approaching 40%, and the average daily transportation is 700 thousand people.

Sergey Kurkach



UNIQUE PRODUCTION

# NORTHERN SILK





**Ethnographers believe that it was the flax cultivation culture that largely formed the Belarusian mentality: persistence and responsibility, the ability to “take the blow” and achieve a goal, no matter how long the path to it may be. Capricious and whimsical, flax yields on one field only once in seven years, requires deep agronomic knowledge, is vulnerable to diseases and pests, suffers from weeds more than other plants. Making linen fabric is a complex technological process. But the result is worth the effort. He who sows flax will reap gold, they said in ancient times.**

Orsha Linen Mill is one of the high-tech enterprises of the Belarusian light industry. But despite the fact that many processes are robotized, the essence of the technology has remained unchanged, tested for centuries. We went to this unique enterprise to see the tandem of yesterday and tomorrow, to learn about Belarusian linen, and perhaps (according to the ethnographers) – about ourselves...

### **High-tech machines and original technologies**

– There are no enterprises like ours in the post-Soviet space, – says Sergey Sidin, Deputy Director General of the Orsha Linen Mill.

In the Soviet Union, there were 14 factories with a full flax processing cycle. The largest was in Orsha, but there were also similar enterprises in Lithuania, Ukraine, and Russia. Today, several enterprises in the CIS position themselves as linen factories, but they do not have a full fabric production chain: they work with flax-containing Chinese yarns, – the specialist explains.

– And only Belarus has preserved the full cycle of linen fabric production. Any flax, from the lowest to the highest numbers, is processed at one technological site (6 factories, 47 hectares of total area), – the interlocutor explains.

There are six factories, we are going to the second one. Today the plant produces more than 2.5 thousand items of linen fabrics – softened linen, linen with various effects, etc. – MAZ, BelAZ, MTZ are certainly symbols of modern Belarusian industry. But a tourist will not take a MAZ to home. And linen products are a must on the shopping list of any guest of our country, – Sergey Vladimirovich says. – And this is truly the “soul of Belarus”, it is no coincidence that flax flowers are on our coat of arms. We go all the way – from Belarusian raw materials to the production of finished fabric, this is our work and our technology. And the technological process itself, as you can see, is quite complex.

The first workshop is the spinning and preparation workshop, where the flax combing equipment is located. The machines form the tape, first cleaning the flax from impurities and hard fibers. The tape goes to the belt system and then to the roving machine. Here the grey roving is produced. It is wound on bobbins, and then its path lies in the bleaching workshop, – explains Marina Murashko, the master of the spinning and preparation workshop.



– The plant’s workshops contain machines that are not used anywhere else, – says Sergey Sidin. This equipment is specially manufactured for the Orsha Linen Mill, because such production facilities as ours are unique in the world.

The point is in a special technological process, which includes many complex techniques, unique in the world textile industry as a whole. For example, only flax is spun wet, while other fibers are spun dry.

In the bleaching workshop, the linen roving is bleached or dyed: the palette includes more than a hundred colors and shades, says the head of the yarn bleaching workshop, Aleksey Mitin. But sometimes its natural color is preserved and fixed – this tone is very beautiful in itself: grayish-golden, like a dim northern sun or like the braids of Belarusian girls. The bleached roving goes to the spinning workshop, where on spinning machines it is turned into linen threads – yarn. When the yarn dries on the spindles, it is transferred to the next workshop. Here the thread is rewound onto spools and sent to warping and grinding equipment, where the base for the weaving machine is created. And, finally, to the weaving workshop, where the fabric is produced.

The enterprise has invested more than 200 million US dollars in the modernization process over the past 12 years, – the Deputy Director General notes. Most of the technological chains have been automated, and this has allowed to obtain world-class products at the output.

## UNIQUE PRODUCTION



– For example, before, a whole team – about 45 people – restored fabric on stands. Old machines allowed holes in the weaving, which had to be fixed manually. Modern equipment works 3.5 times faster and does not allow any fails. So the profession of “fabric restorer” died out, and we retrained people, – he says. – Previously, we did not do finishing. Now consumers want to get different linen fabrics. And we have machines that allow us to produce, for example, softened linen fabrics.

### Naturalness trend

Today, the products of the Orsha Linen Mill are supplied to 43 countries around the world, including such distant places as Japan and the Republic of South Africa. More than 80% of the mill's products are exported, the Belarusian market consumes only about 12-15%. In Europe, there is a concept of “flax-containing fabric”, says Sergey Sidin. Even if the fabric contains a tiny percentage of flax, it is labeled as linen, and this arouses the constant interest of customers. After all, as it is known, linen fabric is breathable and hygroscopic, has antiseptic properties and tops the list of the most beneficial fabrics for human health. For example, a known fact: in linen clothes in the heat, a person feels the surrounding temperature 4 degrees colder, and in the cold – 4 degrees warmer. In our latitudes, the naturalness trend is still unclear to many people, – says the interlocutor. – Natural linen fabrics are known to wrinkle, unlike synthetics. In European countries, the noble rumpled nature of linen shows a person's success: he can afford natural (and therefore expensive) fabrics. We are not ready for this yet: sometimes our consumers live by outdated concepts. Forty years ago, the textile industry around the world aggressively advertised synthetic fabrics, because they are cheaper and easier to produce. The machine runs at 450 rpm on linen and on synthetics – 700 rpm. No need to iron, easy to wash, dries quickly... And no one paid attention to the fact that it is harmful to health. Now there is a different trend – natural and environmentally friendly.







# DIFFERENT FORMS OF BEAUTY

## “Informal” collection of linen clothing was created in Orsha

And our society is also coming to this, albeit slowly. However, over the past 10 years, we have made a huge step forward in this respect. Thanks also to our efforts: we want to return to Belarusians what belongs to them from birth.

The quality of products for each employee at the Orsha Linen Mill is a matter of personal self-respect, – Olesya Severina, foreman of the spinning workshop, thinks. She says that flax is alive and senses the mood of the people who work with it.

– This year we have received many quality awards, – Sergey Sidin emphasizes. – The summit was receiving the State Quality Mark among 17 Belarusian enterprises in total. This high mark was awarded to a set of bed linen made of pure linen, with embroidery. On this set we placed our Belarusian flowers – clover, fern flower (as we imagined it), cornflowers, camomiles, apple blossom. The connection with Belarusian history and traditions is at the core of our POLE KVETAK brand. We want to show: we are Belarusians, our culture is the richest, we have been among European nations for several thousand years. Our products are Belarusian, which means their quality is high.

By the way, the Orsha Linen Mill received its first quality award in 1963 (it was then recognized as the best textile enterprise in the Soviet Union), and the Soviet Quality Mark appeared in 1966. And three decades later, the Orsha Linen Mill became the only enterprise in the post-Soviet space that has a conformity certificate of its products to ITIDEX standards: world-famous fashion houses focus on these quality standards when choosing fabrics for their collections.

Orsha Linen Mill mastered sewing home textiles in 2012. The next stage (for the first time in 2018) was the creation of designer clothing collections.

– We noticed that many people make money from us, – Sergey Sidin, the Deputy Director General of the Orsha Linen Mill RUPTE, explains. – So, for example, the fabric of a product for European brands costs 30 euros, and the product itself is sold for 500...



The enterprise signed a contract with two young ambitious fashion designers, VSTU students – Nikita Zakharchuk and Kirill Urban. And their first collection from Orsha linen won two of three silver phoenixes, the highest awards of the Vyacheslav Zaitsev competition in 2023.

The focus on the young and creative is the overall philosophy of the POLE KVETAK brand, where, according to the idea of its creators, there is a place for the most diverse vision of beauty and style. Therefore, the mill cooperates with the Vitebsk State Technological University on an ongoing basis and does not limit the imagination of future designers. For example, this year, in addition to the main collection, collection N2 – for “non-standard” women – was created from Orsha linen.

– Collections are created in different sizes, but initially designers draw them specifically for girls with a model appearance, – Sergey Vladimirovich says. – Models are easy to “dress”, everything looks good on them. But in fact, model appearance is more the exception than the rule. And who said that this is bad? If our customer is shorter than the model of 180 cm height, she has other parameters instead of the classic 90-60-90, and she is over 18 years old – does this mean that designers should ignore her? No. After all, true beauty is, first and foremost, individuality. And it is this woman, who does not have a model appearance, who is the most beautiful and the most precious to someone. Based on this message, we created our “non-standard” collection, and now we are waiting for feedback from customers.

Aleksandra **Antselevich**

Photo by Viktor Ivanchikov



# BOOKS ARE STILL IN DEMAND



**In the first days of spring Minsk is immersed in a unique book atmosphere, thanks to the fact that the Minsk International Book Fair is traditionally held here. This year the exhibition, which was held for the thirty-second time, was attended by representatives of about twenty countries, including the EAEU states, the United Arab Emirates, Cuba, China and others.**





The Head of State Aleksandr Lukashenko sent his greetings to the participants of the XXXIII Minsk International Book Fair. Deputy Head of the President Administration Vladimir Pertsov read out the greeting at the opening ceremony of the exhibition. "Being a unique event in the social, cultural and spiritual life of Belarus, the Minsk Book Fair has a high international status and attracts the attention of thousands of people every year," the greeting reads. "At all times the book has been and remains the main source of knowledge, a part of the intellectual heritage of ancestors and today, in the age of information technologies, it contributes to strengthening the unity of the people and serves to foster the best moral qualities in young people."

Stressing the significance of the fact that this forum is being held in the year of the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory, the Head of State expressed his conviction that traditional meetings of writers and book lovers will open new horizons for humanitarian cooperation, rapprochement of countries and peoples and wished all participants and guests fruitful work and creative inspiration, interesting meetings and pleasant impressions.

### **Its meaningful essence**

The importance of a good book in human development can hardly be overestimated. It broadens the outlook and helps to look deeper into the essence of things not only in the present time, but also in the past. According to Vladimir Pertsov, a book nowadays is a reliable channel of communication between generations and epochs. "It carries knowledge, culture, images of past generations and epochs. Unlike new channels of receiving information, a book cannot be dirty or

repaired. It does not fly into caches, archives and disappear without a trace because it is already printed, it can be held in your hands and found on the shelves of libraries. If we need reliable information, we go and hunt for this or that ancient book in the library to see how it really was," he said.

Later in a conversation with journalists Vladimir Pertsov noted very positive impressions from what he had seen: "Already on the opening day of the exhibition-fair young people come with bags, buy books - and not only light reading in soft cover, but also quite serious books in hard cover. We see the same trend in Russia. Perhaps young people have become a little saturated with what they get as entertainment content from their social networks and messengers. And now, hopefully, not only within the framework of educational programmes, they are coming for those books that will form young people into real personalities."

Answering the question whether support for printed books will continue in Belarus, Vladimir Pertsov emphasized: "Naturally. You know how much attention the President personally pays to book publishing. First of all, these are the books that we classify as socially important literature, for which budget funds are allocated. This is not commercial reading, this is culture. This is the treasure trove of Belarusian, Soviet, Russian culture, what a real person can be formed on. We pay a lot of attention to it because we understand that it is a very important factor in the formation and formation of personality."

Welcoming all those gathered at the largest international book forum, Information Minister Marat Markov said: "The Minsk International Exhibition has gained well-deserved fame in the world book community." This is confirmed by the



participation of guests from more than two dozen countries, said the Minister: "The Eurasian Economic Union, which is chaired by Belarus in the year of the tenth anniversary of its establishment, is the central exhibitor. Books of the EAEU member countries are always characterized by originality and originality, excellent design. In a word, they are the art of book publishing. For the first time representatives of the United Arab Emirates are participating in our exhibition. And I thank the guests for presenting their works to the Belarusian reader."

Marat Markov also drew attention: "It is symbolic that in the year of the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory the exhibition widely presents books that reveal the feat of the united people who defended their freedom during the Great Patriotic War. And it is very important that the book projects of Belarusian publishers reliably show the peacefulness of Belarusians, their desire for good neighborliness and cooperation with all countries of the world. This is the essence of the sovereign foreign policy of our President Aleksandr Lukashenko."

Minister of Information Marat Markov noted during the dialogue with journalists that clip thinking makes an individual primitive, but a book, on the contrary, expands the worldview. "We understand perfectly well today that with the help of the Internet they are trying to make us primitive. With the help of a book, we will be wiser. And then our worldview will be much harder to manipulate. This is the

key idea - why we need to be engaged in books," he shared. Also Marat Markov expressed confidence that every person should have a home library: "People used to be proud that all the shelves and all the cupboards in the house were full of books. It was a value. Why have we lost that value? Probably largely because this philosophy was imposed on us. I would very much like to see this value return, and then we will be friends with history."

### Book as an event

Traditionally, Russia always occupies a special place at the Minsk International Book Fair. It is not surprising: Minsk and Moscow are, in fact, the only ones in the post-Soviet space who have kept book exhibitions in the usual format. The Standing Committee of the Union State presented new books of the publishing project "Library of the Union State", dedicated to amazing people, national educators and significant events: "Simeon Polotsky. Fighter and Enlightener", "Ivan Fyodorov and Francysk Skaryna. Opening a new world...", "Space. The Dream of Mankind...". Earlier editions were also presented. Dmitry Mezentsev, Secretary of State of the Union State, noted in his communication with journalists: "We want each of these books to be an event of public life, an occasion for discussion in the youth audience, at enterprises, colleges, universities and schools. So that each book emphasises our unity, alliance, joint plans of the day."

Especially since the quality of assimilation of information from an electronic medium is significantly inferior to that of information from a printed source, says Pavel Negoitsa, Director General of the Federal State Institution "Editorial Office of Rossiyskaya Gazeta" - the official printed organ of the Russian government: "It is impossible not to note the unusual nature of the Minsk event. On the one hand, it is a traditional annual trade fair. On the other hand, its central idea is the year of the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory. This is a sounding note, which, in my opinion, is in everyone's head, heart and memory. I am not saying this for the sake of a red word, I looked around the stands and I see a lot of publications dedicated to the Victory. And it's very





pleasant, because many countries today are trying to rewrite history, to question the exploits of the Soviet people.”

Pavel Negoitsa also noted: “A book in itself is a work of art. A well-prepared, lovingly published and skillfully illustrated book is like meeting something new. Moscow and Minsk are two capitals that continue to hold such exhibitions. And I hope that we will do it for a long time to come.

Vladimir Medinsky, Chairman of the Russian Writers’ Union, is convinced that we should look for our readers, listeners, viewers all over the world, everywhere: “Such events are always an opportunity to meet friends, to meet readers with their favorite books, to learn about novelties, to meet writers from different countries, to synchronize watches. And most importantly - to unite our markets. Because it is impossible to confine our literature within the framework of only Belarus or only Russia.”

Opening the Day of Russia at the International Book Fair in Minsk, Denis Yezersky, Deputy Minister of Information of the Republic of Belarus, noted that this year’s exhibition broke all records. Already on the first day it was visited by more than 11 thousand people. “Thanks to the project “Book Train” about 50 writers, publicists and writers came to Minsk to present the splendor of Russian literature directly at the book exhibition,” he said. Sergey Kaikin, Head of the General Directorate of International Book Exhibitions and Fairs of Russia, noted that the exhibition again demonstrates a special interest in Russian literature, authors and events. “This year the program of our stand is larger than ever. Over 100 events took place during several days of the exhibition, and the events took place not only at our stand and the main stage of the Minsk International Book Fair, but also at many venues in the city. It is very pleasant to see the interest that visitors show to our authors,” he shared. The arrival of the “Book Train” became a landmark for the exhibition. Its organizer Denis Kotov noted that in the year of the 80th Anniversary of the Victory “Book Train” is something that can unite and bring together the Union State. “We are striving to create conditions for 80 percent of the residents of the Union State to read on average 12 books a year or more. We are confident that such a state, saturated with reading and writing people, is invincible and can meet the challenges of its development irrespective of external circumstances,” he added.

### As a source of knowledge

In addition to meetings with Russian writers, the exhibition program also included book presentations, a poetry evening and many other interesting events. According to Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus Aleksandr Karlyukevich, the huge crowd at the opening of the exhibition-fair testifies to the main thing: “The fact that even today the book, dressed in beautiful, competent design, graphic and artistic solutions, continues to be a source of knowledge. It continues to be a source of harmonious, beautiful life.”

It is noteworthy that this year Belarus is chairing the Eurasian Economic Union. That is why the Central Stand of

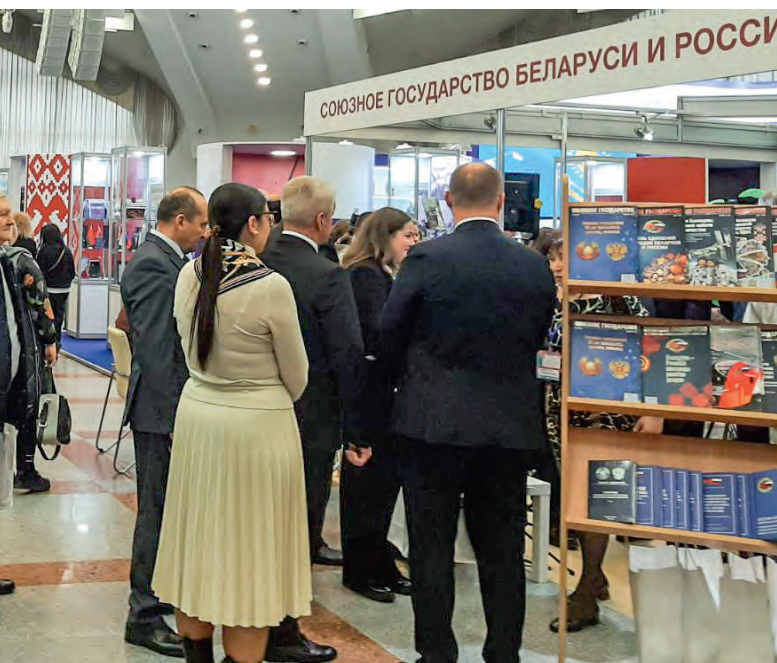


the exhibition became a collective exposition of the EAEU member states united by the common theme of the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory. Each day of the exhibition was dedicated to the presentation of one of the five EAEU countries.

By the way, for the first time the pavilion of the UAE, the guest of honor of the exhibition, was presented at the exhibition. “Participation in the exhibition is very important for us. We offer a wide variety of publications. A number of books we have tell about the history of the UAE state, its founders. There are also books containing statements of the country’s leaders - former and current, as well as editions about our cultural and historical heritage,” Ibrahim Salim Mohammed al-Musharrah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the UAE to the Republic of Belarus, introduced the books. In addition to book attractions, the exposition of the Emirates surprised with traditional oriental flavors and costumes, which everyone was offered to try on and even be photographed in them.

Zviazda Publishing House pleased its readers with interesting meetings with writers. This year it published a lot of book novelties, which were presented within the framework of the book exhibition.

The stand called “Library of the Union State” looked very representative at the exhibition. Lyudmila Kuznets, Head of the Media Department of the Standing Committee of the Union State, said that each book presented at the exhibition



is a facet linking the Belarusian and Russian peoples. “Especially interesting is the book “Simeon Polotsky. Fighter and Enlightener”: inside there is also a facsimile edition, which saw the light for the first time in the XVII century. This is a primer, which was used by Peter the Great himself,” shared information Lyudmila Kuznets. There are already a lot of popular science editions, they have been published regularly since 2022 thanks to the efforts of Belarusian and Russian authors. And the “Library of the Union State” is not going to stop there. There are still many creative and scientific plans ahead.

### Dedicated to the 80th Anniversary of the Victory

Yes, the central place at the exhibition was occupied by an interactive collective exposition of the EAEU member states, united by the common theme of the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory. The history of the victors was represented by books, photographs and other elements telling about the Victory. Each country prepared a kind of box, entering which one could enjoy the peculiarities of culture. So for one exhibition it was possible to make a mini-journey through five countries. Especially 10-year-old Sofiya liked this activity. The girl said that she came to the exhibition for the first time together with her classmates. She looked at each of the stories about the countries and even chose where she wanted to go - to Kazakhstan.

By the way, the first day of the exhibition was dedicated to the Republic of Kazakhstan. Representatives of its embassy introduced the guests to the peculiarities of the country's book publishing, as well as its cultural and tourist potential. Together with the Union of Writers of Belarus they held

a literary meeting “Kazakhstan - Belarus: Meridians of Friendship”, during which they presented the book by Laila Akhmetova “1941. Brest Fortress. Kazakhstan”. The publication tells about the defenders of the Brest Fortress from Kazakhstan. “We are all gathered here by our love for the book,” said Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Belarus Timur Zhaksylykov. “Despite the fact that we live in the age of digital technologies and globalization, the book still remains the main source of knowledge and a means of transmitting culture and preserving historical memory.”

Yes, some of the books brought from this country are also dedicated to the theme of the 80th Anniversary of the Victory. “From the first days of the Great Patriotic War, Kazakhstanis fought in the fiercest battles, defended the Brest Fortress, defended Minsk, Moscow, Leningrad, fought at Stalingrad, liberated Belarus and European countries,” said Timur Zhaksylykov. “Since the 90s, dozens of books dedicated to the feats of our countrymen have been published on the initiative of the Embassy. You can see some of them at our stand.”

According to Zhaksylykov, cultural and specifically literary ties between the two countries have long and rich traditions: “Belarusian writer and educator Adolf Yanushkevich lived and worked in Kazakhstan back in the XIX century. The legendary Soviet Kazakh poet Jambyl Jabayev was dedicated to his works by the national poets of Belarus Yakub Kolas and Yanka Kupala. During the Great Patriotic War, Adi Sharipov, a famous Kazakh writer, literary critic and public figure, was a partisan in the forests of Belarus. In the post-war years many Belarusian writers were in Kazakhstan and created works dedicated to the Kazakh virgin lands. They are Ryhor Borodulin, Oleg Zhdan, Vasily Makarevich.”

In general, each day of the exhibition was thematic. The novelty of this year was the collective regional stands, which demonstrated the book publishing of the whole country. Each of the stands told in detail about the history of the region. It seems that every corner of our land is filled with books telling their stories.

### Walking through the “International Quarter”

In the “International Quarter” of the exhibition one could get acquainted with the expositions of Brazil, China, China, Cuba, India, Iran, DPRK, India, Iran, UAE, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela.

According to Santiago Perez Benitez, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Cuba to the Republic of Belarus, the country is participating in the event for the fourth year. “We attach great importance to our cultural relations. The fair is a great opportunity to expand the knowledge of Belarusians about Cuba and deepen our knowledge about Belarus. We are here not only to showcase our literature, but also to perceive the Belarusian heritage,” he said. At the stand of Cuba visitors could familiarize themselves with a variety of literature. Special attention was paid to the works of Fidel





Castro, the Cuban leader, who fought against sanctions and built a new society on social bases. The books also reflected the country's rich cultural heritage. Some focused on music, others on local traditions.

As always, the Islamic Republic of Iran prepared a voluminous exposition. According to the wife of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Belarus Masoumeh Sanei, it was not an easy task to bring books to Belarus, as there is no direct communication between our countries. However, we managed to do it. Much of the presented literature was intended for children and teenagers. Supporting the theme of heroes, which took one of the key places at the exhibition, the books of Iran tell about the heroes of local wars, about people who managed to prevent terrorism cases, and about many other personalities significant for the country.

Pavel Utyupin, Deputy Foreign Minister of Belarus, said at the opening of the "International Quarter" on the margins of the XXXII Minsk International Book Fair that books are the best way to resist attempts to rewrite the history of the Great Patriotic War. "Another important theme that lives in our hearts and has a significant impact on all of us is the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War," said Pavel Utyupin. "The Great Victory - as it is called in the post-Soviet space - is a story of incredible feat and heroic self-sacrifice for the benefit of a better future for all mankind." Unfortunately, the deputy foreign minister noted, this integral and most valuable part of the common history somewhere in the West today is being tried to rewrite, forget

and twist. "And to counter these attempts, it is important not only to preserve historical memory, but also to pass it on from generation to generation. I am sure that one of the best ways of this transmission is a good book about those events," said Pavel Utyupin.

### Not to get lost in the exhibition maelstrom

The program of the XXXII Minsk International Book Fair was undoubtedly rich and interesting. For the first time the forum presented collective regional stands of publishing houses, printing houses, libraries and regional branches of the Union of Writers of Belarus.

Another important point of attraction for the visitors of the exhibition was the "Educational Quarter", where it was possible to get acquainted with educational and enlightening literature and purchase it. This year a special space was allocated for the "Educational Quarter". The Ministry of Education of Belarus presented its location here, where various quizzes dedicated to the Great Patriotic War were held for children and teenagers. Sergey Novik, a boy, who studies in one of the colleges of the capital, decided to test his knowledge. He said that it was interesting to test himself and learn something new: "There were simple questions, which were easy to answer, and more complicated ones. So I had to rack my brains. But it was nice to get a small gift at the end," he said, adding that there are actually many locations where you can win something or get something memorable.

Undoubtedly, the main theme on which this year the organizers of the exhibition made an emphasis was the 80th



## BOOK FESTIVAL



Anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War. At the Russian stand were widely presented works of fiction and historical studies about the events of those years, books by writers-front-line soldiers, publications devoted to cultural heritage and traditions. The theme was also supported by the “Educational Quarter”: visitors were offered an interactive “Letter to the Past”, where they could write a message to the heroes. There was a master class “Front Triangle”, where the visitors were taught how to fold a letter as it was done at the front.

The stand “Books from Russia. Moscow Book”, where book presentations are held, discussions with Russian and Belarusian writers and critics are held. The winners of prestigious awards present their works here.

The international symposium of writers “Writer and Time”, which is traditionally held within the framework of the forum, also gathered numerous participants this year. It is a platform for discussing the most important topics in the context of literature. Representatives of about 30 countries took part in it. Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus Aleksandr Karlyukevich told what surprised his colleagues from Russia: “We invited publicists, translators, poets, prose writers, who have long been cooperating with the writing community of our country, translating Belarusian literature. Last year, for example, Bashkortostan published an anthology of modern Russian literature, initiated by the chairman of the Union of Writers of Bashkortostan Aigiz Baimukhametov. It is logical that an anthology of modern poetry of Bashkortostan translated by our specialists from different regions was published specially for the symposium on the initiative of the Union of Writers of Belarus with the support of the Ministry of Information.”

Famous writers came to Minsk. And the People’s Poet of Chuvashia Valerie Tourgay brought a present for the Belarusians - a book of poetry translated into the Chuvash language by Nikolay Metlitsky, the laureate of the State Prize of Belarus and the laureate of the Special Presidential Prize for Culture and Art, who has done a lot for the consolidation and development of literary ties between Belarus and Russia. Aleksandr Karlyukevich is convinced that literature brings Belarusians and Russians together: “Cooperation with Russia has always been characterized by productivity. We listen and hear each other, and this is the main thing. The International Exhibition Fair in Minsk will unite us even more and will definitely present new joint projects.”

Interest in Belarusian poetry has been growing lately. This was reported to journalists during the XXXII Minsk International Book Fair by Deputy Director of the Mastatskaya Literatura Publishing House - editor-in-chief of the magazine “Polymya” Viktor Shnip. “Among Belarusian books readers are primarily interested in classics. It’s very interesting that poetry has been in demand lately,” he emphasized. Viktor Shnip noted that the publishing house focuses on the interest of readers and analyzes what books can be republished. Thus, the collections of poetry by Maksim Bogdanovich and



Yevgeniya Yanishchits have already been published three times.

At the exhibition, the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House presented the 28th volume of the series “Zalataya kalektsyya belaruskay litaratury” (Golden Collection of Belarusian Literature), the release of which was timed to the 100th anniversary of the People's Writer of Belarus Ivan Naumenko. “There are 50 volumes planned in this series. A lot of work is ahead of us. I think we will present new books at the next book exhibitions,” summarized Viktor Shnip.

### Learn something new

The exhibition is also a great place for bargain hunters. You can really save money here: walking around the stands, you can find both discounts on purchases and inexpensive book copies. Some books of old editions could be purchased for only 5 BYN. The only difficulty is to choose from the huge number of offers.

Children also found something to do - a separate zone was organized especially for them. Deputy Director of the Centralized System of Children's Libraries of Minsk Elena Cherniavskaya said that they prepared a particularly interesting program for the exhibition. “This is the second year we organize a children's area at the Minsk Book Fair. This year the theme was dedicated to the 80th Anniversary of the Victory. Therefore, we prepared a book exhibition from the collections of our children's libraries about the Great Patriotic War, about heroes, about children-heroes and art works on this theme. We also prepared an interactive platform so that children could learn something new while playing. These are quizzes on the streets of Minsk named in honor of the heroes of the Great Patriotic War, on the monuments of Belarus, as well as recalling with children fiction on military themes. Among other things, we hold a campaign “Chytayem razam” (Read together), during which we tell about the services of children's libraries in Minsk - where we are located, what we can offer, what funds we have and what events we organize. At the same time, publishers hold presentations of their books and meetings with authors at the children's playground,” said Elena Charniavskaya.

### Constitution is the main book of the country

Undoubtedly, the interest to the book, despite the digital technologies, is growing in Belarus. This was stated by Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Karanik at the presentation of the Republic of Belarus during the XXXII Minsk International Book Fair, which was combined with the presentation of passports to young citizens of Belarus during the All-Belarusian campaign “We are citizens of Belarus!”

Vladimir Karanik noted that the book fair is a forum that enjoys well-deserved popularity not only in the CIS, but also in the countries of Eastern Europe. “This forum, which lives and develops and clearly demonstrates that in our country the interest to the book, despite all the digital technologies, is growing,” said Deputy Prime Minister. He drew attention to the fact that there are a lot of young people in the exhibition



hall. This means that it has been possible to instill in the younger generation a love of reading. “We have managed to make the book to be a teacher, a friend, a mentor, a source of wisdom, a source of positive emotions for them,” he said. Vladimir Karanik called it symbolic that the Day of Belarus at the Minsk International Book Fair was held on Constitution Day, one of the main holidays of the country. He called the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus the main book of the country.

In comments to journalists, Deputy Prime Minister confirmed the unflagging interest of visitors to the exhibition. “This year the attendance record has been broken, it's more than 12 thousand visitors a day. And there are a lot of young people. Indeed, it is very important, because the book is one of the main elements of preserving the Belarusian tradition, preserving the historical memory of the feat of our people, the glorious history of our state,” said Deputy Prime Minister. “And if we instill in our young generation the love for books, the ability to read and the desire to read, to be interested, it means we will preserve continuity to the best extent and pass on to the next generations all the achievements of our people,” emphasized Vladimir Karanik.

Vladimir **Khromov**  
Photo by BelTA

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY

# AND REMEMBERS THE SAVED WORLD

## On the role of Belarus in the creation of the United Nations

**T**he Second World War, which left millions of human victims, ashes and ruins of numerous destructions, became a catalyst for the creation of a new system of international security. Out of ruins and despair, the United Nations was born, destined to become a reliable shield protecting the world from the recurrence of global conflicts. In this history of creation, filled with the desire for peace and justice, a special place is occupied by Belarus, which survived the tragedy of war, whose unwavering will to live made its voice significant in forming the foundations of a new world order. Belarusian delegation also actively participated in the development of the Charter's provisions on human rights, emphasizing the need to protect fundamental freedoms and dignity of every human being.

The idea of creating an international organization capable of preventing wars arose during the Second World War. In 1941, the Atlantic Charter was signed, cementing the Allies' desire to establish lasting peace after defeating Nazism. At the Moscow Conference in 1943, representatives of the USSR, USA, Great Britain and China signed a declaration on the need to create such a structure. The key stage was the Yalta Conference in February 1945, where it was decided to convene a conference in San Francisco to develop the Charter of the future organization and enshrined the principle of unanimity of the great powers in the Security Council.

Belarus, then the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (BSSR), was among the countries that made a significant contribution to the creation of the UN. Its participation in the founding conference in San Francisco was made possible by its enormous contribution to the victory over fascism at the cost of colossal sacrifices that the Belarusian people made on the altar of freedom. This was recognition not only of the republic's role in the war, but also the granting of the right to vote in shaping the post-war world.

The tragedy that erupted on Belarusian soil during the years of that terrible war has no analogues in world history. Belarus lost, according to various estimates, from 2.5 to 3 million people, which amounted to about a third of its population. 209 out of 270 cities and towns, more than 9 thousand villages were destroyed, industrial enterprises were destroyed, and irreparable damage was caused to cultural heritage. In general, the economic losses of that wartime were estimated at 75 billion rubles, which was equal to 35 pre-war budgets of the republic.

The Belarusian land became a symbol of the inhuman suffering caused by the war. It was these irreparable losses, this gaping wound on the body of Europe that caused the invitation of the BSSR to the founding conference. As BSU professor Vladimir Snapkovsky rightly noted, "the inclusion of Belarus among the founders of the UN became an act of international recognition of its role as a victim of Nazism and an active participant in the anti-Hitler coalition."





The legal basis for the participation of the BSSR in the creation of the UN was the law adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in February 1944, granting the union republics powers in the field of foreign relations. This law opened the way for Belarus' participation in international organizations, which was an important step in strengthening its sovereignty.

The Belarusian delegation at the conference in San Francisco was headed by People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs Kuzma Kiselev, an experienced diplomat and a staunch supporter of peaceful settlement of international disputes. The delegation faced a difficult task – to present the voice of the Belarusian people to the world, to tell about their tragedy and to contribute to the creation of an effective mechanism for preventing wars. The delegation arrived in San Francisco on May 6, 1945, and this was the first time in history that the BSSR participated in international negotiations of this level. Kuzma Kiselev was appointed rapporteur of Commission II, which dealt with the creation of the UN General

Assembly, one of the key bodies of the organization. This allowed the Belarusian side to actively participate in the discussion of procedural issues and the structure of the future organization. The Belarusian delegation actively joined the work on the preparation of the UN Charter, defending the principles of sovereign equality of states, peaceful resolution of disputes and non-interference in internal affairs. It made a number of important proposals aimed at strengthening international law and protecting human rights. The Belarusian delegation put forward an initiative to include in the UN



■ Kuzma Kiselev, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the delegation from the Byelorussian S.S.R., signing the UN Charter at a ceremony held at the Veterans' War Memorial Building, June 26, 1945.



■ The San Francisco Conference, April 25 — June 26, 1945. Adding Byelorussian sign in Opera House in accordance with seating chart, May 19, 1945.

Assembly, one of the key bodies of the organization. This allowed the Belarusian side to actively participate in the discussion of procedural issues and the structure of the future organization. The Belarusian delegation actively joined the work on the preparation of the UN Charter, defending the principles of sovereign equality of states, peaceful resolution of disputes and non-interference in internal affairs. It made a number of important proposals aimed at strengthening international law and protecting human rights.

The Belarusian delegation put forward an initiative to include in the UN



■ The San Francisco Conference: delegation of Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. Kuzma Kiselev, People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Chairman of Byelorussian Delegation, in center, and members of the delegation. Left to Right: Frol Shmigov, Vladimir Pertsev, Kuzma Kiselev, Anton Zhebrak, Georgy Baidakov, April 25, 1945.

## 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY

participated in the development of the Charter provisions concerning human rights, emphasizing the need to protect fundamental freedoms and the dignity of each person.

On May 23, 1945, Kiselev held his first press conference, where he spoke about the role of Belarus in the war, its victims, and the desire for peace. He emphasized: "The Belarusian people sent their delegation to the conference in San Francisco with a single desire: to contribute to the struggle for lasting peace and the general security of freedom-loving nations." To the question about the status of the BSSR, Kiselev answered: "We have our own Supreme

contributing to the solution of global problems. In 1958, the Permanent Mission of the BSSR to the UN was established, which became an important step in the integration of the republic into the world community. Belarus came up with a number of important initiatives aimed at strengthening international security, combating war crimes and overcoming the consequences of man-made disasters such as Chernobyl.

Belarus' experience in the UN eloquently demonstrates how a country that experienced the tragedy of war was able to contribute to the creation of a global security system. This

historical lesson remains relevant in the context of the challenges of the 21st century.

In 2025, the United Nations celebrates its 80th Anniversary under the motto "Together, we build our future." This is an opportunity for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and to outline the paths for the development of the organization both in the present and in the future. Belarus, relying on its rich historical experience, tragic and heroic past, remaining faithful to the ideals of peace and justice, continues to contribute to strengthening international cooperation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

And here is the latest news. In early March, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "Eightieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War." It proposed, among other things, to mark the end of the Second World War in an appropriate manner, to hold a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly during the second week of May 2025, and to hold

such meetings every five years thereafter.

Regarding the adoption of the resolution, the Presidium of the Council of the Republic and the Council of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus issued a statement. In it, the Belarusian parliamentarians welcomed the adoption of the resolution: "The unanimous support of this resolution by the international community is an important step in preserving the memory of the tragic and heroic pages of the history of World War II, the great feat of the peoples who fought the brown plague of fascism and sacrificed themselves in the name of peace, freedom and the life of future generations."

This decision, the statement says, is "a kind of signal to the political circles of those countries that today unprincipledly whitewash and rehabilitate the punishers and their accomplices, try to distort the historical truth, destroy monuments to the liberating soldiers and impose bans on memorial events."

"The people of Belarus treat the events of the Great Patriotic War with great care and consider it their sacred duty to preserve the memory of the great feat of the Soviet people," the statement emphasizes. "We pay great attention to issues related to preventing the rehabilitation of Nazism



■ The sculpture "Nonviolence", a gift from the Government of Luxembourg, was donated to the United Nations in 1988, on April 27, 1993

Council, Government, and People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, which ensures independence in foreign policy within the union state."

On June 26, 1945, Kuzma Kiselev, on behalf of the BSSR, signed the UN Charter, cementing the role of Belarus as one of the founding countries of the organization. He later recalled this moment as a symbolic act related to the memory of the victims of the war and the country's reconstruction after the destruction. Ratification of the Charter by the Belarusian Parliament on August 30, 1945 finally secured the participation of the republic in the organization.

The participation of the Belarusian delegation headed by Kuzma Kiselev in the conference in San Francisco was an important step for the international recognition of the Belarusian SSR. This fact gave Belarus the opportunity to declare itself as an independent participant in international relations. Kiselev and his colleagues laid the foundation for Belarus' further participation in the activities of the UN, and also strengthened its diplomatic status. Their joint work demonstrated the readiness of the republic to fight for peace and security, which remains important today.

Later, Belarus continued to actively participate in the UN,





and preserving the historical truth about the Great Patriotic War, in connection with which the laws of the Republic of Belarus “On preventing the rehabilitation of Nazism” and “On the genocide of the Belarusian people” were adopted. The German occupiers and their satellites carried out a policy of genocide on the territory of Belarus, exterminated civilians, sparing neither the elderly, nor women, nor children. To this day, facts of fascist atrocities are being revealed on our land – new mass graves that make your blood run cold. Every third resident of the country died during the Great Patriotic War.”

Belarusian parliamentarians called on their colleagues around the world – parliaments and parliamentary

organizations – to promote and take an active part in holding celebratory events dedicated to the 80th Anniversary of the Victory over fascism, as well as to consolidate efforts in the fight against the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to the escalation of modern forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

This is such a concerned, but expected position, which is stated loudly and fundamentally. In fact, it couldn't have been any other way.

Photos provided by the United Nations in Belarus as part of the campaign to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations



## The United Nations The General Assembly

*Seventy-ninth session  
Agenda item 135*

**Eightieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan:**  
*draft resolution*

## The eightieth anniversary of the end of World War II

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 59/26 of November 22 2004, in which it, inter alia, declared May 8–9 as a time of remembrance and reconciliation, while recognizing that Member States may have individual dates of victory, liberation and commemoration,

*Recalling also* that 2025 marks the eightieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a war which brought untold sorrow to humankind, particularly in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Pacific and other parts of the world,

*Stressing* that this historic event established the conditions for the creation of the United Nations, designed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

*Noting* that the United Nations has helped to shape the very structure of relations between nations in the modern age, including through the process of decolonization, and recalling in this regard the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples of 14 December 1960,

*Calling upon* the States Members of the United Nations to unite their efforts in dealing with challenges and threats to international peace and security, with the United Nations playing a central role, and to make every effort to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence

of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and to settle all disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations,

*Underlining* the progress made since the end of the Second World War in overcoming its legacy and towards reconciliation, international and regional cooperation and the promotion of democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular through the United Nations, and the establishment of regional organizations and other appropriate frameworks,

1. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe these days in an appropriate manner to pay tribute to all victims of the Second World War;
2. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to hold a special solemn meeting of the General Assembly in commemoration of all victims of the Second World War in the second week of May in 2025 and every five years thereafter;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system and to take measures necessary for its implementation.



WELCOME

# GET SOME TREATMENT AND REST

**What are the prospects of medical tourism and who travels to Belarus for such purposes?**

Annually a large number of other countries' residents come to Belarus not only for recreation and traveling, but also to receive medical care. Last year, more than 160,000 citizens from 159 countries visited Belarus. Citizens of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Syria, Germany, the USA, Israel, and Italy come to us most often for medical tourism. More than 60% of all foreign patients are CIS citizens. The growth of exports of medical services by the end of 2024 amounted to 10%. Foreigners are attracted not only by prices, but also by the quality of medical services. Patients often come for treatment to specific Belarusian specialists with world-class qualifications. Experts have told us what else is remarkable and attractive about Belarus for sanatorium-and-health-resort, and who is a medical tourist who comes to our country.

## **What makes Belarusian medicine so attractive**

As Yan Bedushevsky explained, head of the state project "Clinics of Belarus", in addition to the prices and quality of medical services, foreigners are attracted by a prompt delivery of medical services.

"A trip to Belarus for a relatively small price gives you the opportunity to undergo a medical examination right at the moment, what often allows you to start a treatment at early stages," said Yan Bedushevsky. "The most popular directions of medical tourism are transplantology, oncology, cardiac surgery, plastic surgery, obstetrics, neurosurgery, traumatology, diagnostic examinations, preventive treatment, recovery after earlier diseases, ophthalmology, as well as rehabilitation in recreational facilities of our country."

A wide network of medical and diagnostic institutions, covering all areas of medical activity, also facilitates

medical tourism. There are 16 Republican Scientific and Research Centers in Belarus. The state medical portal "Clinics of Belarus" has been created and is successfully operating to promote medical services both at national and international levels.

## **A special feature of sanatoriums is a high-quality medical component**

Over the past year 246 thousand foreign citizens visited Belarusian sanatoriums. Most of them are vacationers from Russia. But there are also citizens of exotic countries of all five continents, including South America, Africa and Australia. In total, last year, citizens of 63 countries visited Belarusian sanatoriums.

In general, last year was the most successful year for the sanatorium-and-health-resort system since 2006, the year when it was reformed. Some indicators have been achieved for the first time. In particular, the maximum number of visitors since 2006 — 1,568,000 (by 6% more than in 2023), including 760,000 without using budget financing — has visited Belarusian health resorts.

Record revenue figures have been achieved, it exceeded 1 billion 200 million rubles. Exports of services exceeded 400 million rubles, almost 30% more than in 2023.

A wide network of sanatorium-resort and health-improving organizations is operating in the country. It includes 287 facilities with more than 61 thousand places, of which 97 for more than 27 thousand places are sanatoriums.

"Great attention is being paid to providing our population, primarily children, with free and cheaper travel packages. Last year, the state allocated more than 252 million rubles for these purposes. At the expense of these funds, more than 807 thousand citizens have been provided with



sanatorium treatment and recreation. About 70 percent of the main funding is spent on rehabilitation,” said Alexander Tsai, Deputy Director of the Republican Center for Health Improvement and Sanatorium-Resort Treatment of the Population.

The material, technical and medical base is being strengthened and developed.

Both the state and the owners of sanatoriums pay attention to this. Last year, more than 220 million rubles were allocated for these purposes.

The resorts offer a wide range of services. Last year, 59 new sanatorium treatment programs were developed. They are designed for different periods of stay from 3 to 21 days or more. Sanatoriums provide more than 120 medical services.

Besides, it is known both in neighboring countries and far abroad that strict state control also guarantees safety. For example, a foreign tourist knows: that all Belarusian state clinics and private medical centers have received a state license, and all medical equipment, medicines and consumables are certified.

The presence of superior comfort and hotel-type rooms and boarding houses for accompanying persons in our clinics contributes to the growth in the number of foreign tourists. “Visa-free entry has facilitated the arrival of foreign citizens in our country. Moreover, residents of those countries where a visa is still required can receive it using a simplified procedure — electronic or through electronic registration available upon arrival at the airport. The



“Almost all of our sanatorium-resort organizations are multisectoral, what makes it possible to ensure the accessibility of procedures for all citizens,” said Alexander Tsai. “Physiotherapeutic methods such as carboxytherapy, oxygen therapy, ozone therapy, and mineral therapy are dynamically developing. Cosmetology and dental areas began to develop actively.”



### Safety bribes

For any tourist, safety is an indicator of a free trip to different countries, said Dinara Vorontsova, director of the “Triastyle” medical tourism company.

“These are criteria such as safety of arrival, safety of staying in the country, safety of receiving a particular service, including medical care, safety of monetary and foreign exchange transactions. It is always a pleasure to receive feedback from colleagues, partners, and patients who have visited our country that Belarus meets absolutely all safety criteria,” Dinara Vorontsova emphasized.

government has been as attentive as possible to ensure a comfortable arrival and stay in our country,” said Dinara Vorontsova.

Who is he, a foreign medical tourist? This is a person who combines travel and checkup of their health, or someone who came for aesthetic beauty (for plastic surgery, dental services, or weight loss) or to relax in a Belarusian sanatorium. There are also foreigners who come for treatment according to emergency indications.

Elena Kravets

Photo by BelTA and sanradon.by

# HIGH TECHNOLOGIES HELP IN TREATMENT

**Belarusian medical workers have reached a hundred percent import substitution of metal structures for spine surgery. Almost half of the metal structures used in fractures of long limb bones are also developed by Belarusian orthopedic surgeons. Colleagues from Great Britain and the USA have come to the RSPC of Traumatology and Orthopedics to learn from our experience, and Belarusian methods are also implemented and in demand in Japan and Iran. This refers primarily to reconstructive surgery of children's hip joints. Since 2019, the number of knee and hip joint endoprosthesis replacement surgeries has tripled, more than 21 thousand surgeries were performed last year. About import substitution and new methods of treatment told in the RSPC of Traumatology and Orthopedics.**

## National medical security

Today the center has the necessary personnel, material and technical resources, equipment – that allows performing all types of surgical interventions on the musculoskeletal system performed in the world. Moreover, a number of surgical interventions are offered only by Belarusian specialists.

“The main thing is that we are engaged not only in pure science. Our science is as practice-oriented as possible, in fact, we are talking about monetization of our scientific

Orthopedics. We are working in this direction,” said Director of the RSPC of Traumatology and Orthopedics Mikhail Gerasimenko.

He noted that all developments are aimed at the most effective treatment, as well as the rapid recovery of the patient after injury or surgery of severe orthopedic diseases. In pre-Covid 2019, about 7.5 thousand endoprosthesis replacement surgeries of knee and hip joints were performed across the country. Last year, about 21.3 thousand of such surgeries were performed – almost three times



research. As a result of our developments, we have reached a hundred percent import substitution in metal structures for spine surgery. About 40% of metal structures used in fractures of long limb bones are developed as a result of our scientific programs and produced in Belarus. In fact, we are talking about such a concept as the National Medical Safety of Traumatology and

more. For this purpose, serious organizational and methodological work was done, new interdistrict centers were opened, and specialists who can perform these high-tech surgeries were trained. Today there are 257 orthopedic surgeons in the country who know the technique of endoprosthesis replacement surgeries of large joints, which is one third of all orthopedic surgeons.



“Every tenth orthopedic traumatologist in the country, including polyclinic and pediatric orthopedists, has a degree of candidate or doctor of medical sciences. Name me another country that has such a large number of orthopedic traumatologists with degrees,” said the Head of the RSPC.

### Doctors from the USA, Great Britain and other countries learn from our experience

Belarusian specialists work quite actively with their Russian colleagues both within the framework of the Union State programs and on the basis of decades of personal professional contacts. Professional relations have been established with traumatologists from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan, Rostov and other Russian cities and individual research institutes. Belarusian orthopedists also work with CIS countries: Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia.

CIS countries. They are used in such countries as Japan, Great Britain, Iran. This applies first of all to reconstructive surgery of children's hip joints. We had specialists from the USA and Great Britain who came to Belarus to adopt our methods, and now they are used in some foreign clinics.

We have also developed new methods of treatment for children with severe spinal deformities. From 2017 to 2020, Belarusian orthopedists worked with Russian colleagues within the framework of the Union State program “Spinal Systems-1”. Now the concept of the program “Spinal Systems-2” has been prepared to develop new methods of diagnostics and treatment of patients with neuro-arthropedic pathology.

“Speaking about the first program, we have developed new methods of diagnostics and treatment of pediatric patients with severe spinal deformities. As a result of

congenital spinal anomalies in Belarus. In addition, about 350 children get spinal injuries every year, and about 1% of them require surgical treatment.

### Walked, fell, woke up – plaster...

An integral part of the work of orthopedists and traumatologists is to help patients who have been injured. Every day 50-60 such patients come to the RSPC of Traumatology and Orthopedics.

“Traumatism is an integral part of the general structure of diseases of the population. It comes right after cardiovascular diseases and oncological problems in our country,” said orthopedic traumatologist of the Medical Admissions Unit of the RSPC of Traumatology and Orthopedics Andrei Yaroshevich. “Our institution covers a large number of people in Minsk. About 24 thousand people come to the center for emergency traumatological assistance during the year, and help is provided round the clock.”

The most vulnerable in terms of traumas are children and elderly people.

The activity of children is much higher than that of adults, and elderly people often get injuries of large joints and large tubular bones when falling, it is connected with their physiological features.

In recent years, the quality of care has increased significantly. This is due to the fact that numerous domestic metal structures have appeared and for almost every surgery it is possible to select one or another of them to provide assistance. The fact that the quality has increased is well illustrated by the example of providing care to elderly people with fractures of the proximal femur. Recently, these people have been coming to the center regardless of their age, and surgeries are performed in the shortest possible time: preparation takes minimal time and intervention is performed within the first 24 hours after the injury.

Elena Kravets

Photo by BelTA



Quite a large number of traumatologists and orthopedic specialists come to Belarus from Central Asia for training and mastering new technologies developed in pediatric orthopedics, endoprosthesis replacement, and spinal surgery. This shows that the level of Belarusian traumatologists is quite high.

A number of Belarusian methods are implemented not only in the

our developments, we are now able to help such patients. Previously, unfortunately, we had neither our own domestic metal structures, nor clear and comprehensible methods of how to properly monitor these patients and when to perform examinations. As a result of this program, we developed our own, domestic metal structures.

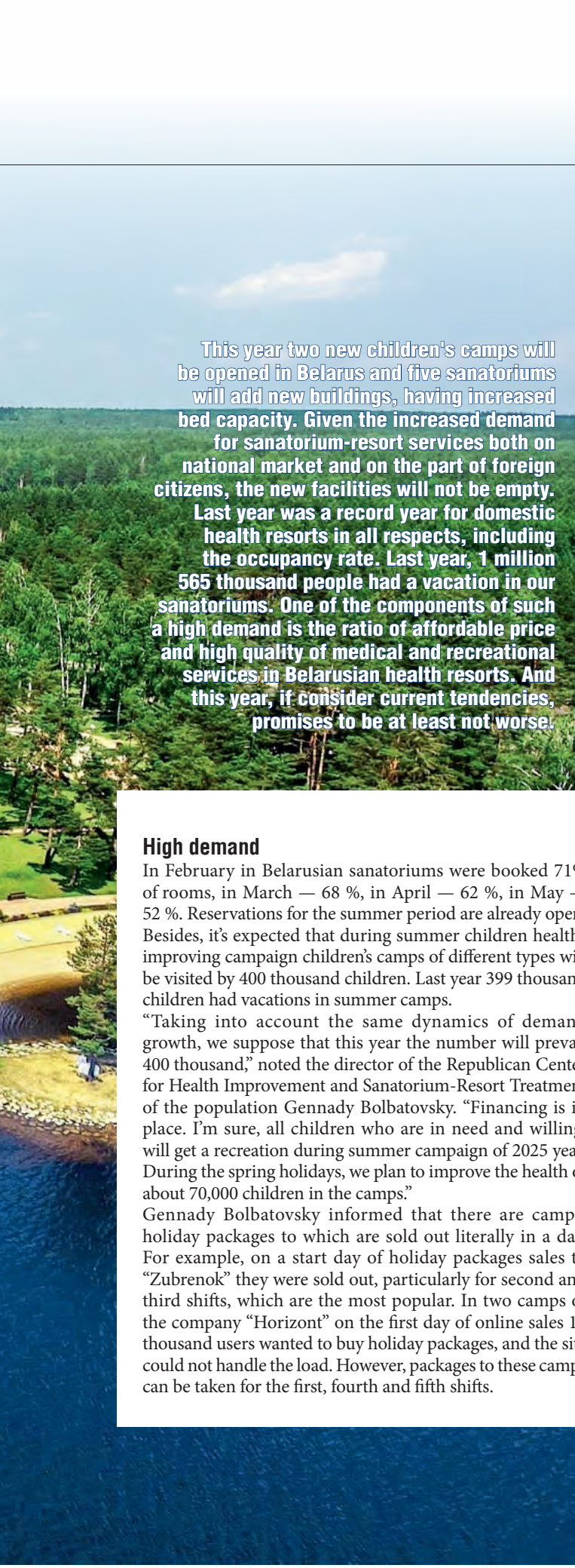
According to doctors' calculations, there are about 200 patients with



# HOLIDAY PACKAGES WILL BE SOLD OUT

What will the new  
recreational season  
in Belarusian  
sanatoriums be like





**This year two new children's camps will be opened in Belarus and five sanatoriums will add new buildings, having increased bed capacity. Given the increased demand for sanatorium-resort services both on national market and on the part of foreign citizens, the new facilities will not be empty. Last year was a record year for domestic health resorts in all respects, including the occupancy rate. Last year, 1 million 565 thousand people had a vacation in our sanatoriums. One of the components of such a high demand is the ratio of affordable price and high quality of medical and recreational services in Belarusian health resorts. And this year, if consider current tendencies, promises to be at least not worse.**

### High demand

In February in Belarusian sanatoriums were booked 71% of rooms, in March — 68 %, in April — 62 %, in May — 52 %. Reservations for the summer period are already open. Besides, it's expected that during summer children health-improving campaign children's camps of different types will be visited by 400 thousand children. Last year 399 thousand children had vacations in summer camps.

"Taking into account the same dynamics of demand growth, we suppose that this year the number will prevail 400 thousand," noted the director of the Republican Center for Health Improvement and Sanatorium-Resort Treatment of the population Gennady Bolbatovsky. "Financing is in place. I'm sure, all children who are in need and willing, will get a recreation during summer campaign of 2025 year. During the spring holidays, we plan to improve the health of about 70,000 children in the camps."

Gennady Bolbatovsky informed that there are camps, holiday packages to which are sold out literally in a day. For example, on a start day of holiday packages sales to "Zubrenok" they were sold out, particularly for second and third shifts, which are the most popular. In two camps of the company "Horizont" on the first day of online sales 19 thousand users wanted to buy holiday packages, and the site could not handle the load. However, packages to these camps can be taken for the first, fourth and fifth shifts.

Besides, during the upcoming recreational season two new camps will be added to 146 currently existed ones. Also, the number of rooms will be increased in some resorts. In general, February was declared the month of wellness tourism. Many events are held aimed at popularizing health-improvement facilities. However, Belarusian sanatoriums do not have a special need for advertising.

### Record numbers

Since 2006, the year when a reform of the sanatorium-resort treatment system was held, last year became a record year for Belarusian health resorts in all respects. For example, the revenue from sanatorium-resorts services in 2024 year has increased by 24% and exceeded 1 billion 8 million rubles.

The same situation may be observed in the field of health-recreation export services. It was the highest gained income since 2006 year. The increase in income is 29 %, and the amount of revenue from this service exceeded 402 million rubles. The number of foreigners received sanatorium-resorts treatment and recreation in our sanatoriums also reached the record number — 246.5 thousand people, which has increased by 29 thousand in comparison with the previous year.

The average annual occupancy rate reached its maximum values — it amounted to 84.3%. In total, 1 million 565 thousand people received sanatorium-resort treatment in our facilities. The health resorts also worked in the New Year holidays with maximum workload: during this time, over 26 thousand people visited sanatoriums, including about 11 thousand were foreign citizens.

"Given the established task to increase the economic component, I would like to note that all social projects and government programs were fulfilled. More than 807,000 residents of Belarus have been recovered and treated at the expense of the Republican budget and State Social Insurance Fund. Recreation and treatment of children's population, as usual, remain as the main directions for us. Nowadays, all children in need, have received during the year indications or absence of contraindications for treatment or rehabilitation. This also applies to children living in polluted territories," Gennady Bolbatovsky highlighted.

### Benefits for pensioners

Remarkable that last year, the number of pensioners sent to sanatoriums at the expense of the republican budget increased by almost five thousand people compared to 2023. "This dynamic is also one of the most significant for the last years. We will further increase the number of packages for such categories of citizens. As for benefits and discounts, according to the decree, disabled people of groups I and II have the right to free sanatorium-resort services once every two years. Pensioners with an average statistical pension, as a rule, pay about 15-20% of the package price, depending on the season," Gennady Bolbatovsky reminded.

Elena Kravets



# OVERCOME ADDICTION

How to resist the  
main "time wasters"

Every year, the number of different devices and technologies that make our lives more and more comfortable increases. These include household appliances that make our lives easier and services that help us do many things remotely. However, paradoxically, there is more and more chronic fatigue in our lives. Already around lunchtime, many of us feel exhausted and unable to work further. What do we spend our time on? What activities cause fatigue? How much time do we spend in front of the TV and on social networks? How to reduce it and how to replace "cheap" dopamine? What is the relationship between chronic fatigue and discipline? We discuss this with a neurosurgeon, research fellow at the Department of Brain Tumors of the Republican Scientific and Practical Center of Oncology and Medical Radiology named after N. N. Aleksandrov, lecturer at the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Healthcare Personnel at the Belarusian State Medical University, and member of the Belarusian Union of Journalists, Gumen Ghorbannijad.

— What are the causes of chronic fatigue?

— If we compare modern man with an ancient man who lived several thousand years ago, the functioning of the brain as a whole is not very different. But the ancient person had more physical activity and stressful situations. He woke up with the sunrise, went hunting, picked fruits and berries, and returned home in the dark. But he might not return, for example, having become someone's prey. A modern person, after waking up, needs to get himself in order, have breakfast, choose clothes, solve a number of family and everyday issues. He comes to work with an already loaded brain, but even there he has to make a number of choices. It is calculated that a modern person makes about 35 thousand choices a day, from groceries in the store to making decisions at work. Due to this, our brain gets overtired even before lunch. The function of spreading a nerve impulse is performed by the hormone glutamate, and it works at full capacity, and we feel tired.

Some countries even have traditions such as siesta, a nap after lunch, which increases productivity and refreshes the brain a little. This was understood back in the Industrial Revolution, when factories decided to give workers 15-20 minute breaks, although at that time this was a luxury.

— How can we do everything without getting tired?

— Let's see what our life consists of. Its average lifespan is about 79 years. Since we sleep eight hours a day, it's 1/3 of our life, or about 26 years, and if we subtract them, 53 years remain. We have to go to school for another 11 years, eight hours a day, that's more than seven thousand hours, and we do homework for about five thousand hours. So, three years go to education, and if we get a higher education, another two years. Plus we work about 40 hours a week from 30 to 50



years, and this is minus 10 years, 38 years remain from our life. In addition, we travel about 90 minutes a day by car or on public transport, stand in traffic jams, and this is two years of our life, so 36 years remain. We spend 70 minutes a day preparing and eating food – this is four years, 32 years remain. We spend an hour a day on various household chores, this is three years throughout our life, 29 years remain. We spend about 10 months on personal hygiene. However, all these are necessary things. At the same time, we spend 115 thousand hours on the phone and TV – this is 13 years, after which only 16 years remain.

— **It is obvious what of all this can be reduced...**

— Let's focus on three numbers. The first is sleep, which takes up 1/3 of life. What happens if we reduce it? Sleep is vital for us. At this time, the brain works, performing important functions: it analyzes everything that happened during the day, transfers important information from short-term memory to long-term memory, solves some problems

enough sleep, and the next morning they cannot perceive information in class. Thus, we automatically spoil two important components: sleep and education, disrupting our entire life.

— **How to fight this addiction?**

— It is necessary to understand who needs it on such a massive scale. Currently, many countries are ruled by various lobbies. They use state resources to achieve their own goals — selfish and not related to the welfare of the country. The Anglo-Saxons at one time destroyed China, India and other countries with the help of poppy addiction. Now there are other, modern types of addiction. By paralyzing people's work, entire states can be paralyzed.

Any addiction is associated with the production of dopamine – the hormone of pleasure. The mechanism for obtaining it from heroin or a computer game is the same. To combat this, two steps are needed. The first is to admit that we are addicted. Because to solve the problem, we need to



without our participation, calibrates internal organs. For full-fledged thinking and correct decisions, all of us, including children, need good sleep. Without it, children's nervous systems do not develop properly, their academic performance at school deteriorates, and the thinking process is disrupted. Adults also work worse, and it is more difficult to find correct decisions.

The second significant part of our life is education. It takes a lot of time, but without modern education no country can function. And every modern person needs to know a lot and have a variety of skills.

Another huge figure is the time we spend on TV, games, instant messengers and social networks. This time can be used for ourselves, development of our own skills and knowledge, for our family, our country. This is one of the new types of addiction. In this way, we not only waste our time, but also disrupt our biorhythms. When we use a mobile phone before going to bed, it worsens our sleep, does not allow the brain to work properly. Children who are addicted to computer games and chats before going to bed do not get

admit that it exists. And accordingly, this “cheap” dopamine should be replaced with another, because it is not so easy to completely give it up. The easiest way that scientists suggest for replacement is sport. There are enough sports facilities in Belarus. But modern man has reached such a level of consciousness that he goes to the gym by car to run on a treadmill there. Therefore, even if you do not want to go to the gym, you can give yourself physical exercise at home. Even with heart or joint diseases, there are dosed special loads, they are necessary at any age.

The second step that will unload our brain is discipline. If we think in advance what we will wear tomorrow, what we will cook for breakfast, when it is better to fill up the car, we will work faster, be less tired and have higher productivity. Our life is short and from the point of view of biology we only have to pass on our genes. But the demands of a modern person are much greater. We must bring maximum benefit to ourselves and our country, where our children and grandchildren will live, so that future generations will say “thank you”.

Elena Kravets



# IF ONLY THERE WAS NO WAR...

**“Common Soldiers” and “Don’t Leave Me” – plays about war, affirming Life, which were written by playwright Aleksey Dudarev in different years of his work – do not become outdated. They are successfully performed on the Belarusian stage even today**

## **Look back and remember**

The play “Common Soldiers”, in which Aleksey Dudarev focused on what the war was for each ordinary participant, became a loud event in the theatrical life of the second half of the 80s of the last century. The performance directed by Valery Raevsky, in my opinion, stunned the theatrical community with a new interpretation of the war. And the background to the writing of the play is as follows: the 40th anniversary of the Victory was approaching, and the Ministry of Culture ordered a young playwright to write a play about the war, but so that it would not have loud slogans, nor captivity, nor conquerors. Which is what 33-year-old Aleksey did, creating a work about the ordinary soldiers of the war. He was often asked the question of how he, far from those tragic events, was able to penetrate so deeply into the characters’ characters. The author, according to him, asked himself this question.

And I suppose it couldn’t have been any other way. Dudarev was indirectly involved in those events: his mother

survived the occupation in Belarus, his father went through the entire war, returned alive, but lived with the memory of the war and willingly told his son about it. “It’s a paradox, but for my father,” admitted Aleksey, “it was the best time in his life when he was needed: he was saving his homeland and the whole world from evil. However, I will repeat one thought. As a wise man once said, an army may win a battle, an army may lose a battle, but it is the people who win. Common Soldiers. Soldiers like my dad. After all, he was called up from the first days of the war, he fought at Stalingrad, and met victory in Yugoslavia. He returned with the rank of Guard Sergeant Major with the Order of the Red Star on his tunic. My entire childhood was spent in an atmosphere of war. I remember well how I sat on the stove and listened, open-mouthed, to my father, mother and neighbors recalling the war. How they survived. Some during the occupation, some in the partisans, some like my mother with my two sisters Nadya and Dina, born in 1937 and 1941, when they were refugees.

But most of all I was interested in the stories of those who fought at the front. These were not only my father’s stories. The Dnieper frontier passed through our area, where terrible battles took place in 1941 and 1944. We, children, played war in helmets, German and Soviet, found spent cartridges, shells and even German bayonets...

How I wrote about the war, and not only about it, I have no idea...It’s a question that I myself, as much as I write, try to answer. And I never cease to be amazed at how this happens...”

And I will never cease to be amazed why I always shed tears, immersing myself in the virtual world of Dudarev heroes. How did he manage to make us cry? I remember how after the premiere of the play “Threshold” at Kupala Theatre, we, his friends and colleagues, left our autographs on the theatre poster, expressing our admiration for the play. I quoted Aleksandr Pushkin and wrote: “I will shed tears over fiction.” However, for a long time I still could not find an answer to the question of why people cry at his plays: something was beyond my understanding. But one day I realized: he passionately and emotionally lives the lives of his characters: after all, he is an actor by profession! He cries if the logic of the dramatic narrative prompts him to make his characters die, and bursts into laughter if one of them makes him laugh. In connection with Dudarev emotional perception of the lives of his characters, I recalled how Vladimir Vysotsky once answered a question about how he managed to





■ Aleksandr Denisov, Honored Artist of Belarus, as Dugin. Valery Filatov, People's Artist of Belarus, as Dervoev in the play "Common Soldiers" by Aleksey Dudarev, which was staged at Yanka Kupala Theatre by Valery Raevsky, People's Artist of Belarus, who was the Theatre's chief director at the time. Photo from 1988.

so deeply embody the characters he created. He said that an actor should experience the same pain when his character dies. Perhaps this was somewhat similar to Dudarev when he wrote his plays.

Being a master of words, a master with deep village roots, Aleksey Dudarev is not used to hiding the truth of life under some kind of theatrical invention sauce, first of all about war. He managed to re-cast what he heard about it, what he saw in good films, and what he read in books. And he created truthful characters. Moreover, being a romantic at heart, he used the ballad genre to lift his heroes above the harsh foundations of life and death. That is exactly what his "Common Soldiers" turned out to be.

### **"Common Soldiers" did not go into reserve**

I will never forget that premiere at Kupala Theatre. As I have already written, it was the moment when

everything came together in the theatrical coordinate system: original dramaturgy, direction and acting techniques with all the components – scenography, music, lighting. I remember the dramatic intensity of the play, which was off the charts: almost all the characters took turns telling about their personal tragedy caused by the war, and died. And the finale of the play left everyone in a state of shock. The lights went out, the music stopped. The audience sat holding their breath, wondering what would happen next... Gradually, a screen with hundreds of photographs appeared in the depths of the stage, from which the faces of front-line soldiers were looking. The audience gasped and froze for a moment. Then the final chord sounded. It exploded the silence, and the audience burst into applause with cries of "bravo". And then there was more: soon after the premiere, it became known that the playwright and the play had been awarded the highest state award – the

USSR State Prize. It was 1985. In 1984, the play was awarded the All-Union Lenin Komsomol Prize.

The images of the Victory soldiers have since served as an example for many actors of various theatres of the former Soviet Union. The play "Common soldiers" was staged in more than 100 theatres. I even remember how Aleksey marked on the map with red flags the cities (later the countries flashed by) where his play, as he said, "won", and, like a child, he was extremely sincerely happy.

In 2008, 25 years after Kupala "Common Soldiers", which, by the way, were shown to the audience more than a hundred times, the Drama Theatre of the Belarusian Army, at that time this very young new theatre, in a new way embodied the play by Aleksey Dudarev, who was the artistic director of this theatre (2003-2013).

The play directed by Igor Filchenkov and Marina Dudareva began with a very beautiful prologue, in which



the directors managed to combine information about the pre-war, war and post-war lives of the characters. Before us, a bright, “live” photograph of the pre-war years came to life, in which happy faces (we will see them during the play) look to the future with hope. In the blink of an eye, due to the thunder of guns, the “picture” falls apart, and each character takes his place in the canvas of the play, the action of which takes place in Germany immediately before the Victory. I would like to separately note the theatrical music by Vladimir Kondrusevich. As usual, the composer tried his best: he hit the genre of the play. The lyrical tonality he proposed for “coloring” the mise-en-scènes, in which we see how the interpersonal relationships of the characters are revealed, perfectly matches the genre of the ballad. Moreover, these interpersonal relationships are of great importance to Dudarev, because through them we can feel the tragedy of each individual character, especially those who remain alive...

We will be able to see the play “Common Soldiers” with some changes in the cast on May 10.

The Film Actor’s Studio Theatre in Minsk also plans to show the historical drama “Common Soldiers” in early May, which premiered on June 20, 2024. The screening was timed to

coincide with the 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders.

– For me, “Common Soldiers” is a tragedy of the highest level, comparable in level and scale of events to the ancient tragedies of Sophocles and Euripides. A very powerful tragedy! When people talk about Dudarev as a master of simple scenes and simple heroes, I cannot agree with this. Everything is very complicated here. There is so much bitterness, pain and love for his people in this material... So much is mixed up. But in this bitterness and loss, I see hope and an amazing perspective for the Belarusian people, laid down by the author. It is so humane, attractive and wise. This is how the director of the play, People’s Artist of Belarus Aleksandr Efremov expressed it in an interview with a colleague. The play contains many philosophical reflections on life and death, justice and retribution. All of them are presented through the thoughts and words of the characters, who hold mercy and compassion within themselves. The director’s co-authors also talentedly complement the play’s voluminous image: production designer Igor Khrutsky, costume designer Nina Gurlo, composer Leonid Shirin.

■ Vladimir Grokhovsky and Igor Filchenkov in the play “Common Soldiers”, 2019

■ A scene from the play “Common Soldiers” at the Drama Theatre of the Belarusian Army, 2008

“In the 80s, when I was young and naive, I thought: in 20-30 years the play “Don’t Leave Me” will become outdated, and the theme of war will not be relevant, but, unfortunately, I was wrong – wars do not end,” said Aleksey. “And I am afraid that through our genes, memories of war and fear of it will be passed on from generation to generation... War is madness, an insane phenomenon that contradicts Life itself. And madness must be avoided.”

### “Don’t Leave Me”

Dudarev returned to the theme of the Great Patriotic War at the beginning of the 21st century. For the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Belarus from the Nazi invaders, he wrote the play “Do you remember, Alyosha...”, dedicated to the defense of Mogilev in the first days of the war. The play was also staged at the Drama Theatre of the Belarusian Army. For the script for the film “Dnieper Frontier” based on the play, the playwright was awarded the prize for the best feature film script in a competition announced by the Belarusfilm studio in 2009. He was also one of the authors of the script for the patriotic film “Brest Fortress”, which was filmed on the initiative of the Broadcasting Organization of the Union State in 2010.







And here is how the author of the play "Don't Leave Me" reflected on war and peace, as well as on his play.

"Sometimes people ask me: am I not afraid that the play "Don't Leave Me..." will become outdated? Firstly, I have nothing to be afraid of. Secondly, there is nothing to become outdated there. The theme is eternal... By the way, on June 15, together with the Drama Theatre of the Belarusian Army, I visited my small homeland in Dubrovno, played the role of the Colonel in the play.

And like many Belarusians who are asked what is most important in life for them, I answer: if only there was no war... And to those who also think so, I take my hat off... If only there was no war – this is the mantra of my mother, and father, and sisters, and grandmother... And the neighbors who came into the house of my childhood...

Yes, as long as there is no war... Blessed are the peacemakers. It wasn't said by me. Not by us... Remember, in Nikita Mikhalkov's film "Five Evenings" the words are heard: if only there was no war... In the mouth of Lyudmila

Gurchenko heroine they are also pronounced like a spell. So I often repeat them to myself...

I have always been very sensitive to those who were burned by the war. It burned me too. I could have never been born. I could have burned to death in one of our Khatyns with my mother Anastasia and my sisters Nadya and Dina, I could have died with my father... where he fought... The war was aimed at me too. Was it only at me? At many... God forbid that anyone should ever experience what is discussed in my play "Don't Leave Me". I wrote it in 2004..."

By the way, at one time I had the honor of reading this play in manuscript. Its content struck me so much that for some time I could not utter a word.

The play takes place in 1944, the beginning of the Belarusian offensive operation. Front-line reconnaissance officer Captain Mikhasev is given command of a special reconnaissance group of four fighters to carry out a particularly important mission. Meeting them shocks the stern captain. In front of him are four recent schoolgirls. They are to be inserted behind enemy lines. Mikhasev wants to refuse the mission. But how can he



■ Viktor Molchan as a Colonel, Oleg Babul as Captain Mikhasev in the play of the Drama Theatre of the Belarusian Army – "Don't Leave Me", 2021.

■ Colonel – Aleksey Dudarev, Captain Mikhasev – Igor Filchenkov, 2019.



■ Vladislav Yanovich as Dandelion in the play of the Film Actor's Studio Theatre "Common Soldiers" (the director of the play is the artistic director of the theatre, People's Artist of Belarus Aleksandr Efremov). Violetta Krivonos as Nurse Lida, 2024

refuse? War. And he prepares the girls for it, realizing that this mission is most likely the last in their lives. And the girls laugh and cry. And live for today. While the sun shines for them, they live and dream. "I will rip out the throats of all of Germany, all the Hans and Fritzes for you... We will survive, we will definitely survive," says Mikhasev, heading off with the girls to the enemy. "This play, – said Aleksey Dudarev, – is not only about the terrible realities of war, not only about what happened. It is also about what could have been if there had been no horror of war. About a happy, peaceful life, about unfulfilled love, about children who were not destined to be born from

wonderful, worthy girls – young and beautiful. The play, I have already spoken about this many times, is also about the courage that is so difficult to find and cultivate in oneself, to be ready to die for the lives of others.

Human destinies were so scorched by the war that to this day for me the dates of June 22 and May 9 are perceived as personal grief and personal joy. And on the Day of the Liberation of Belarus – July 3, I again remember my father, a front-line soldier who was wounded, shell-shocked...

The heroines of the play are girls, still children, who do not know what adult life is. They found themselves in a war zone, not understanding what

war is. They still play with everything. And with life too! The eldest of them came to war with her favorite toy, a baby doll... And when Commander Mikhasev, a grown man, saw this toy in his hands, he was dumbfounded: who did they send? Children, with whom he must defeat the insidious enemy! And he will defeat him! But these innocent children will have to be put to death. Yes, he himself may have to die along with them. And at home there is a wife, a son...

My play, you could say, is already mature. Almost 15 years have passed, but everyone asks me for the text. I recently visited Kobrin for the first time, I also played the Colonel with the theatre..."

When Aleksey Dudarev wrote this play, he could not even imagine that it would be staged at Taganka Theatre. Anywhere, but not at this theatre...

He even went to the premiere. He took small souvenirs with him – a duffel bag, put two flasks, a ceramic pistol and four chocolates in it. He gave the pistol to the theatre director, the flasks to the Colonel and Mikhasev, and the chocolates to the actresses.



■ The finale of the play "Private Soldiers" at the Film Actor's Studio Theatre



And this is how he told us about it: "When I see actresses of any level from any theatre who play in this play, they become my family, immediately. Regardless of the quality of the production. I love them all. And when I was at the premiere at Taganka Theatre, the actresses surprised me beyond words. In the purest Belarusian language, they recited the poems of Gennady Buravkin, a remarkable Belarusian poet. They prompted me to name the play "Don't Leave Me". And the initial impetus for its creation was the story "The Dawns Here Are Quiet" by Vasilyev... It struck me at the time. But there are already grown-up girls, not children... And here are girls, I repeat. Unkissed. When I wrote about how Batyan asks, going on a mission: So what, are we going to die?, then the answer itself was on paper: it's a pity, I haven't kissed anyone yet... And when these lines were born, tears flowed onto the manuscript... I myself did not expect that there would be such a turn in the play. This heroine, according to the idea, is almost a street girl, she creates such a myth about herself, like, she is a girl who has already experienced everything in life, and here – unkissed..."

Many of the heroes of Aleksey Dudarev's plays about the war were identified with real people. Here is another recollection by Aleksey Dudarev:

"Once at the Army Theatre, during the play "Don't Leave me", I was sitting in the audience next to a general officer. I remember that he was on my right hand side, so smart and personable. After the play, he said, appealing to me: yes, I understand, maybe she needs something, maybe the army can help her with something... And I asked: to whom? And he told me: Ladyseva, that is, the heroine of the play. Me: she's no longer here. He: yes, yes, of course, I understand, age... Me: so she never existed... And then it dawned on him that there had never been such a woman in real life. What have you made all this up? And the poor thing was so indignant, as if I had blurted out some stupidity... And a friend, who was also at the play that day, said to me: but you yourself say in the play that Ladyseva lives in Minsk... So the general thought that the heroine was alive..."

When the Armed Forces of Belarus celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Red Banner Belarusian Military District,

the celebration ended with the play "Don't Leave Me...". I remember well how the veterans of the Great Patriotic War and other spectators applauded for a long time while standing. Tears were running down many faces... I think that today this repertoire play, like "Common Soldiers", will not leave the viewer indifferent. The next showing of the production "Don't Leave Me" is on April 11 and May 24, and on May 7 and 8, the Army Theatre promises to surprise the viewer with the concert "So that there is a tomorrow," which is also dedicated to the 80th Anniversary of the Victory.

"One of my favorite films," said Aleksey Dudarev, "Chronicles of a Dive Bomber", and also "Only Old Men Are Going to Battle." The theme seems to be the same, military, but the films are different, the actors are different, the stories are different... And people have different associations. Everyone will see something different. The same is with my play. And I am very glad that the play "Don't Leave Me" is in demand..."

Yes, he was very glad that his plays about the war were needed by the audience. And today, when the 80th Anniversary of the Victory is approaching, Aleksey Dudarev would definitely go to his native Theatre of the Belarusian Army to see the performances "Don't Leave Me" on April 11, or May 24, and "Common Soldiers" on May 10. And he would be glad that it is not only the military theme that makes his plays so modern. In them, Aleksey Anufrievich explored a very fragile phenomenon called the human soul, looked for internal reasons that can help to understand why in emergency situations a person behaves exactly this way and not differently. And, perhaps, he would have written another play about the war, if he had not passed away on February 27, 2023. His gift as a playwright and experience, it seems to me, would have allowed him to understand the dramatic events associated with Ukraine, and much more...

But, as we know, history does not know the subjunctive mood. We can only remember with gratitude the contribution this charismatic playwright made to the theme of the past war.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photos by the Drama Theatre of the Belarusian Army and from open sources

***"War is madness, an insane phenomenon that contradicts Life itself. And madness must be avoided... The one who shares the philosophy – if only there was no war, is my brother! Brother, sister, no matter what their religion, no matter what their nationality..." – Aleksey Dudarev repeated these words from time to time during his life.***



INTERESTING ROUTES

# SEASON IN THE CITY N

82

БЕЛАРУСЬ.BELARUS  
MARCH 2025







## INTERESTING ROUTES

What this year's tourists are interested in at the Museum-Reserve "Niasvizh"

*Since its creation, the National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve "Niasvizh" has become a kind of cultural center not only of the city and district, but also a real visiting card of the country, where guests from different parts of Belarus and abroad are happy to come. Today it is not only an object of historical and cultural heritage, not only specific buildings, which formed a wonderful world, where objects of different epochs and cultures are kept and exhibited, but a living, dynamic organism, which is constantly growing and developing. What the Museum-Reserve "Niasvizh" is living today, which significant events are planned for the near future to capture the attention of tourists, all these topics are discussed in the interview with its director Dmitry Yashchenko.*

– Niasvizh Castle is one of the most visited in the country. Tell me, Dmitry Leonidovich, how will the Museum-Reserve "Niasvizh" attract and surprise tourists this summer season?

– I would like to say at once that this year the country is celebrating an extremely important date for all of us – the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory. I am sure that every Belarusian understands the significance of this anniversary, because during the Great Patriotic War, as we remember, Belarus suffered more than any other country of the Soviet Union – we have no right to forget our losses in the form of every third inhabitant and to bring the historical truth (which the West tries to forget) to the next generations. It must be said that this year for the anniversary of the Great Victory a lot of events are planned in the Palace and the Town Hall. Among the most significant ones, I would

point out the general exhibition of regional museums, which





## INTERESTING ROUTES



will focus on the heroes who liberated these places. In addition, there will be many thematic events in different locations of the museum-reserve, united by a common concept – honor and respect for the 80th Anniversary of the Great Victory. It should be said that the walls of the Museum-Reserve have truly become a venue for a variety of events dedicated to the brightest events and significant dates, many of which can honestly be called branded. For example, the international event “Night

of Museums” is already well known to everyone, and with this event we will start our “high” season. This year the guests are waiting for theatricalized quest-excursions, colorful animation programs, excursion programs with non-standard routes through the palace halls and castle ramparts. By the way, already on May 17 visitors will be able to learn about the traditions of the Radziwill hunting. This theme has formed the basis of the program “Night of Museums-2025”.

Well, and it is impossible not to remember one more significant May cultural event held on the stages of the Museum-Reserve – the Arts Festival “Muses of Niasvizh”, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary next year.

On the last day of spring, May 31, we are gladly waiting for young visitors to the children's play “Upside Down” performed by the Slonim Drama Theatre on the occasion of the International Children's Day.





– **Many fans of classical musical art are looking forward to June, which is traditionally identified with the Summer Opera and Ballet Festival “Evenings of the Bolshoi Theatre in the Radziwill Castle”. What else will the museum please its guests with?**

– Yes, indeed, the joint musical project in the open-air format, which was created in 2010, has successfully proved itself and this year will be held for the 15th time. The performances and concert programs, opera and ballet productions, which make up the festival program, take place on various stages and are designed so that visitors have the opportunity to attend several events. From June 20 to 22, “Evenings” will once again gather devoted opera and ballet lovers at the palace in Niasvizh.

As for novelties, I would like to mention that a week before the event, on June 14 and 15, for the first time in the central courtyard of the palace complex will be held concert programs of the Chamber Orchestra of the Brest Regional Philharmonic Society. On the first day “legendary soundtracks and hits” will be played, on the second day – “classics of ROCK & POP music”. We hope that these concerts will also find their audience.

– **Can you tell us how the new musical project “Jazz in the city N” has “settled down”?**

– Yes, in my opinion, one of the brightest and most interesting musical events in the cultural life not only of Niasvizh, but also of Belarus, is the Summer Jazz Festival. During two summer evenings in the open air on July 4-5 the National Academic Concert Orchestra of Belarus named after M. Ya. Finberg and soloists of the orchestra will please all admirers and fans of pop music with famous, popular world jazz compositions.

On July 4, the first program “Sounds of Jazz” will be presented. Everyone who wishes to visit the concert will be able to enjoy the night romantic atmosphere of the mysterious castle, to hear the magic sounds of light and

pleasant, relaxing sentimental music, bright and dynamic jazz compositions, popular songs.

On July 5, the public will hear the concert “Sinatra -110”, dedicated to the 110th anniversary of the birth of the legendary American singer, film actor, Oscar winner, eleven-time winner of the musical award “Grammy” – Frank Sinatra.

If we are talking about July, I would also like to mention that within the

The event “Grand Fair in the Palace”, which last year was held in the form of a flower competition “Flowers of Niasvizh”, is still of great interest to visitors. It is scheduled for August 1-2. Concerts and festivals of classical music with the participation of leading artists of the Belarusian State Philharmonic are no less popular among tourists.

During the last year, almost every weekend of the month, the palace



framework of cooperation with the Belarusian Orthodox Church the International Festival of Orthodox Art “Christ’s Niasvizh Invites”, organized in cooperation with the Orthodox Niasvizh Brotherhood in honor of the Transfiguration of the Lord, will be held for the fourth consecutive year.

complex held excursions with elements of theatricalization on various topics (“Fashion Promenade”, “Traditions of the School of Knights in Niasvizh”, “Theatrical Impromptu”, “The Story of a Queen”, “Secrets of Palace Receptions”, “Black Panna of Niasvizh”, etc.). The service was in demand among visitors and had a lot of positive feedback, so this year we will continue to delight our guests with animation programs. The calendar of events of the Museum-Reserve “Niasvizh” still has a lot of interesting and various events, which are better to see once than to read a hundred times. So follow our poster on the official website of the museum and accounts in social networks. Come to visit us!

Margarita **Shcheglova**





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# HER LIFE IN THE PROFESSION





*Thanks to Marina Vezhnovets, Honored Artist of Belarus and prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre, this creative project “Life in the Profession” began, which delighted fans of the country’s main Theatre and the soloist herself, who shone, debuting that evening on her home stage in the role of the Girl in the play “Illusions of Love” staged by chief choreographer Igor Kolb, Honored Artist of Russia*

Most recently, we applauded two leading soloists of the Bolshoi Theatre, Irina Eromkina and Lyudmila Khitrova. And we wrote about each of them in the February issue of the magazine. And now the final part of Igor Kolb project is Marina Vezhnovets benefit performance. It also took place. Let us remind the reader that it was Marina Vezhnovets



- Marina Vezhnovets during a conversation with journalists before the start of the play “Illusions of Love”, in which she will appear in a new image for herself – the Girl
- Igor Kolb, who is also the choreographer and director of the play “Illusions of Love,” willingly shares with journalists his thoughts on the debut of prima ballerina Marina Vezhnovets in the role of the Girl, in which he had not even imagined the soloist before
- On the day of Marina Vezhnovets benefit performance, an informative exhibition dedicated to Marina Vezhnovets was held in the Theatre foyer





request to dance the part of the Girl in this performance that initiated the project “Life in the Profession”. Traditionally, we give the floor to its author, Igor Kolb, who gave us, journalists, a mini-interview before the start of the performance.

— It’s great that all the pieces probably fit together, because in my imagination I would like to talk, first of all, about the otherness of the ballerinas and, perhaps, some of their non-standard solutions in images that are different for themselves. Those in whom the director did not see them, or they dreamed of such images, but were afraid to say, which is what happened with Marina Vezhnovets. I am very glad, — he said, — that one day she came to my office and asked about the possibility of dancing the part of the Girl in “Illusions of Love”, thereby, as it seems to me, trying to define herself in a new way in the ballet space of the country. And I thought it was important. As I already said, I did not see the heroine of “Illusions of Love” in Maryna, they say, it is not her role, but, nevertheless, I thought: why not... And indeed, Maryna got a different image of the Girl. The ballerina found a different form for her, different from the one I came up with. We even argued with Maryna during rehearsals about the image. And I confess, I began to think that perhaps I really had not foreseen, not revealed, or overlooked something. But that is what evenings like “Life in the Profession” are for. I think you will be surprised today, and, I hope, shocked...

— When I watched how other artists danced the part of the Girl, — said Marina Vezhnovets, — the thought crossed my mind: how would I dance this moment, or another... But the decision to talk to Igor Pavlovich kept getting postponed. Since he didn’t appoint me, I thought, it means he doesn’t see me as this heroine and doesn’t feel that I would be in my place in this role. But then, having seen the performance more than once, I finally decided to express my desire. It seemed to me that I did it very timidly. There was a feeling that Igor Pavlovich did not even pay attention to my request.



■ Video of the dialogue between Marina Vezhnovets and Igor Kolb, illustrating the work of the leading soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre

■ A symbolic scene from the play “Illusions of Love”, in which one can read the deep thought of the author of the play that all girls, like the main character of Marina Vezhnovets, want to be happy

■ Next to Marina Vezhnovets is People’s Artist of Belarus Anton Kravchenko





■ The eloquent ending of the performance. The Ballerina is happy. She danced the part of the Girl brilliantly.

■ An autograph session with Marina Vezhnovets, during which young and adult spectators, expressing their admiration for the performance, asked the ballerina about her teaching at the Belarusian State Choreographic Gymnasium-College and at her own ballet school, created in April 2012

As it turned out, he did. And what done is done. Today I am looking forward to the performance. I catch myself thinking that to say that I like the role of the Girl is to say nothing. She attracts me with her beauty, femininity, and the ability to convey different emotions of love. After all, sometimes love hurts. It is different. Sometimes you allow yourself to be loved, sometimes you are rejected. Over the course of two hours, I experience completely different emotions, and, of course, music helps me a lot. Basically, I don't even think about how to play. It all comes out of one another. For me, it's logical and organic. I think my heroine turned out a little different. Because I am different, and my character is different... And I am very pleased that Igor Pavlovich accepted my concept of the girl's image. He has this wonderful quality – to listen and hear the artists. Yes, he sets some contours, a matrix, and we fill it with content, we mold ourselves, but, of course, thanks to his prompts. Igor Pavlovich tries to make us reveal ourselves as much as possible...

The performance “Illusions of Love”, which we watched that day, experiencing great aesthetic pleasure, passed, as they say, in one breath. Marina Vezhnovets, an experienced ballerina, whose repertoire includes Odette-Odile in “Swan Lake”, Kitri in “Don Quixote”, Carmen in the ballet of the same name and many other roles since she came to the Theatre in 1997, was at the height of her talent. She



succeeded in the image of a different Girl. Passionate, brave, going towards Love, experiencing losses with dignity...

The girl in Maryna's interpretation is a person with dignity, not an abandoned victim, but a person who stubbornly strives to be happy. That is why she is not afraid of life experience, in which illusions are inevitable, and from them — natural falls. Sometimes painful. Of course, in addition to the psychological content of the image, artistry, one cannot fail to note the excellent mastery of Marina Vezhnovets in dance: the ease and beauty of movements, a certain amazing flightiness. They are beautiful, like this outstanding ballerina herself. We were able to see this when we saw Marina Vezhnovets after the performance at the autograph session. She looked very happy.

By the way, as we were told at the theatre, Marina Vezhnovets is currently rehearsing in two performances, which the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus will soon treat us to.

Valentina **Zhdanovich**

Photo by BelTA, the Bolshoi Theatre of Belarus and the author



# Kings and Queens of the Stage

For these people, the theatre is Life itself, where their acting talent has been and continues to be vividly demonstrated. Not long ago, the theatre community of Belarus celebrated the anniversaries of three outstanding contemporary actors – People's Artist of Belarus Tamara Mironova and People's Artist of the USSR Gennady Ovsyannikov, without whom Yanka Kupala National Academic Drama Theatre would not be the theatre it is today. And also People's Artist Olga Klebanovich, the leading stage master of Maksim Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre.







### Episode Star

Once in an interview, Tamara Mironova was asked how she felt about being called the queen of the episode. The People's Artist laughed and replied that it did not bother her at all. "I know actresses who played small roles in the theatre all their lives and were completely happy. I respect these people very much. And being a queen, it means I keep up the standard," she joked cheerfully. Tamara Mironova is an actress known for her cheerful disposition, which everyone who works with her talks about. For almost half a century in the profession, she has embodied hundreds of bright images on stage and in cinema. Her heroines are simple, understandable and recognizable women: a nanny, a librarian, a concierge, a cook and others.

She began acting in films at almost 50 years old and was immediately liked by the audience. Her debut was an episodic role in the comedy series "Accelerated Aid". Her filmography includes over 145 films.

Tamara Mironova is a laureate of numerous national and international theatre and film festivals. At the festival in Scotland in 1995, she was recognized in the press as the best actress of the small theatre format. In 2002, she was awarded the prize for best female role at the German Drama Festival. In the same

year, Tamara Mironova was named actress of the year in the Belarusian press and awarded a diploma "For high creative achievements and significant contribution to the theatrical art of Belarus". In addition, in 2010 she was awarded the badge of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus "For contribution to the development of the culture of Belarus", and in 2011 – the Medal of Francysk Skaryna.

In 2013, she was awarded the title of Honored Artist of the Republic of Belarus, and in 2022 – People's Artist of Belarus.

Tamara Vasilievna Mironova was born on February 3, 1950 in Vilnius. Since childhood, she loved books and radio plays and dreamed of becoming an actress, but her mother was against her entering the theatre institute, believing that this would not make her daughter happy.

However, she submitted documents to the theatre university. But even here difficulties awaited her. The admissions committee told her that she had problems with whistling sounds and suggested that she fix the defect and then come back next year. So the girl entered Vilnius Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of Russian Language and Literature. But she never received a teacher's diploma, although she graduated from the institute. To do

this, she had to undergo an internship at a Lithuanian school, but by that time she had already transferred to distance learning, since she was taken to the theatre.

At the beginning of her creative career, Mironova worked in a theatre studio in Daugavpils, then she was invited to

■ The People's Artist of Belarus Tamara Mironova came to Yanka Kupala Theatre in 2001, where she works to this day. She has played about 200 roles in theatre and cinema. On the days dedicated to the anniversary, she appeared on stage as Agatha in the famous play "Paulinka", which she has been playing for over 20 years, as well as in the play "The Last Attraction".

■ Scenes from the play "Get married – don't be sad"







## THEATRE. ANNIVERSARIES

■ Tamara Mironova and Gennady Ovsyannikov in the third version of Aleksey Dudarev play at Yanka Kupala Theatre about old people living out their days in an abandoned village

■ A scene from the play "Paulinka"

Mogilev Regional Drama and Comedy Theatre named after Vikenty Dunin-Martsinkevich in Bobruisk, where she played for the next 15 years, performing a variety of roles. Before joining Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre, the actress worked at the experimental theatre "Dze-Ya?" ("Where Am I?"), now the New Drama Theatre, and at the "Volnaya Stsena" ("Free Stage") theatre under the Belarusian Union of Theatre Workers. In 2001, she joined Kupala Theatre, where she has worked to this day, demonstrating a high level of professionalism and creative dedication. Here she played many roles in the classical repertoire based on the works of Yakub Kolas, Eliza Orzeszkowa, Aleksey Dudarev and, of course, Yanka Kupala. In the famous play "Paulinka", which was recognized as the national treasure of our country, she has been playing Agatha "Tudema-Syudema" for more than 20 years. And now, when she is 75, she invariably appears on stage in this role, causing admiration among the audience and respect from critics. The unique talent of Tamara Mironova, her tireless creative work and many years of service to Kupala Theatre are mentioned in the congratulations of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko that were sent to the People's Artist.

### Living Legend

Always different and unconditionally loved by the public, Gennady Ovsyannikov, at the age of 90, is always cheerful, full of strength and energy. He

is not just an actor, but a true treasure of Belarus. The last of the Belarusian stage servants to receive the title of People's Artist of the USSR in 1991. His devoted long-term service to Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre is an inspiring example of rare dedication. President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko congratulated Gennady Stepanovich on his significant anniversary. "Thanks to your talent, skill and boundless love for the Motherland, you have written bright pages in the annals of modern Belarusian culture. Your role in the formation and development of Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre and national cinema cannot be overestimated," the congratulations say. The Head of State emphasized that in Belarus Gennady Ovsyannikov is known not only as an outstanding actor who is an example of high professionalism and loyalty to his calling, but also as a sincere patriot, a person with a strong civic position. His devoted long-term service to Yanka Kupala

On the day of the anniversary, Gennady Stepanovich accepted congratulations on his 90th birthday: in the evening, on February 19, "Paulinka" was shown at Kupala Theatre, and after the performance, the master of the stage was honored. The Minister of Culture Ruslan Chernetsky congratulated him from the stage. "Today I have the honor of congratulating a living



legend not only of Kupala Theatre, but also of the Belarusian and Soviet theatre in general," he said. The actor by profession, the minister, also emphasized with gratitude: "Gennady Stepanovich is truly an example for us, our teacher, because when you come to his performance, you understand what it means to create an image and work on a role. This is the school that its founders bequeathed to us and that such masters pass on."

Gennady Ovsyannikov was born on February 19, 1935 in Mogilev. After finishing the seven-year school, he entered Mogilev Machine-Building College, but soon realized that this was not his calling. Having dropped out of the college, he entered Riga Maritime School. After studying for about a year, he also realized that the sea was not his element. He returned to Belynych in the Mogilev Region, where he decided to finish his ten-year school. The school in the regional center was famous for its amateur performances and drama club. Not a single school concert took place without his participation. He read fables, acted out comedy scenes. And the drama club was led by the German teacher Maria Nikolaevna Geda.



According to Gennady Ovsyannikov, she was the first to say about him: “Here is the living Khlestakov.” In fact, with her blessing, in 1953 the young man entered the Theatre and Art Institute in Minsk. He mastered the basics of the profession under the guidance of Konstantin Sannikov, a graduate of the First Belarusian Studio in Moscow.

In 1957, Gennady Ovsyannikov came to the Kupala Theatre, where he works to this day. But fame and recognition did not come to the actor immediately – for many years he had to go through the “school of crowd scenes”. Every evening the artist came out to the audience, was busy in almost all performances. His colleagues treated him with respect, the audience loved him, he received gratitude, awards from the theatre administration, critics noted him as an interesting and charming master of the episode. His character in the play “Once More About Love” by Edward Radzinsky was brilliant and memorable. The role of Jip in the play “Man Equals Man” by Bertolt Brecht became important for the artist at that time. The role was very small, but the actor showed ingenuity, imagination, which ultimately embodied in the image of a cruel and heartless type. For many years this play did not leave the stage, the actors changed in it, but the role of Jip was invariably played by Gennady Ovsyannikov, constantly filling it with new nuances. The artist achieved creative success after he began acting in plays by Andrei Makayonok (People’s Writer of Belarus, screenwriter, playwright –

Author). He voiced and brought to life the best literary characters written by the playwright. Gennady Ovsyannikov once said in an interview: “Of course, I was lucky. It is true: all the bright roles in his plays were mine... They said that Makayonok wrote for my creative individuality. But I don’t think that when he sat down at the table, he said to himself: “Well, let me write a play for this actor.” Although I played in all of them, except for the first and the last. It is in the characters created by Andrei Egorovich that there is something adequate to my creative individuality. I think so. That is why they sometimes say about me: “He’s some kind of Makayonok type.” And I’m proud of it.” Wherever the artist plays, in Minsk, on tour, he always takes a responsible approach to his work. His work is characterized by freedom of expression, improvisation, the ability to clearly and



sbby

■ The People’s Artist of the USSR, the public’s favorite on the stage of Kupala Theatre after the play “Paulinka” was congratulated by Vladimir Mischanchuk, Honored Artist of Belarus, Dean of the Theatre Department of the Academy of Arts, Professor

■ Gennady Ovsyannikov after the honoring

organically convey the ethnographic features of the character, juicy folk humor, precision of the psychological and plastic drawing of the role. He played in most of the performances of the talented master, the main director, and later the artistic director of Kupala Theatre Valery Raevsky. A landmark performance was the 1989 performance “Passion for Avdey” based on the play of the same name by Vladimir Butromeev (Belarusian





playwright – **Author**), which was based on the story of the Belarusian writer Georgy Marchuk (“Scream on the Farm”). In 2000, the role of Avdey brought Ovsyannikov a winner’s diploma at the “Artist of the End of the 20th Century” festival in Moscow.

One of the best and most heartfelt works of the artist, according to the unanimous opinion of critics, is the role of Vasil in the play “Evening” by Aleksei Dudarev, which the playwright wrote in 1982. The performance, based on a poignant play about old people living out their lives in an abandoned village from which all the youth had left, did not leave anyone indifferent for many years. And, as Tamara Mironova says, even for the sake of Gennady Ovsyannikov alone, it was worth restoring “Evening”. And also in memory of Valery Raevsky, who directed the theatre for 35 years and staged this performance. (The premiere of the restored performance took place on March 19, 2021 – Author).

The artist’s creative arsenal includes images not only of a simpleton joker and a buffoon in a sheepskin coat and felt boots, but also of a refined dandy with an invariable neck scarf, an intellectual and an intellectual. We also met Duke Ovsyannikov in the play “Romeo and Juliet” (2023). And in the 2023 premiere of “The Dawns Here Are Quiet...” directed by Russian director Dmitry Akimov based on the story by Boris Vasilyev, he played Sonya Gurvich grandfather with soul. And we are happy that the creative life of the great artist continues.

### Actress of Large Amplitudes

Olga Klebanovich, People’s Artist of Belarus, laureate of the USSR State Prize, who celebrated her 80th birthday on February 25, has long been a bright star in our theatrical culture. In 1986, for the role of Stepanida in the play “Sign of Trouble” based on the story by Vasil Bykov, the actress became a laureate of the State Prize of our country. In 2003, she was awarded the “Crystal Paulinka” prize of the Belarusian Union of Theatre Workers, and in 2005 – Francysk Skaryna medal, and in 2015 – Francysk



■ People’s Artist of Belarus Olga Klebanovich in her dressing room shortly before going on stage in the benefit performance “Selfie with Sclerosis” by Aleksandr Volodarsky

Skaryna order. Olga Klebanovich has repeatedly become the best actress of the year, and has received awards from international and national festivals.

She still plays on the stage of Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre, and also directs. In 2021, she acted as a director on her home stage, staging a play based on Fyodor Dostoevsky novel “The Karamazov Brothers”. And in 2022, we attended the premiere of her production of Ivan Turgenev play “A Month in the Country”.

After studying at the acting and directing course of Vladimir Malankin at the Theatre and Art Institute in Minsk, which Olga Klebanovich graduated from in 1966, she was accepted into the troupe of the Grodno Regional Drama Theatre, and a year later she was invited to Maksim Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre. Since then, Olga Mikhailovna has served in the Russian Theatre, as we still call it. She has two children and two grandchildren. She was married to Aleksandr

Denisov, an Honored Artist of Belarus, laureate of the USSR State Prize, who passed away in 2012.

“Our heritage, the queen of the stage, our treasure...” – these and other epithets from the lips of artistic director Sergei Kovalchik, actors of Maksim Gorky National Academic

■ In a duet with Olga Klebanovich (Maya Mikhailovna) as Veniamin Ionovich Esafov, Honored Artist of Belarus Sergei Chekeres



Drama Theatre and representatives of the theatre community were addressed to the birthday girl after the benefit performance “Selfie with Sclerosis” (directed by Maria Matokh). On her birthday, February 25, Olga Klebanovich masterfully played the role of Maya Mikhailovna, who, despite memory lapses, clearly remembers that the most important thing in life is love. Bright temperament. Sincerity, openness and strength of feelings. Flexible mind. Irony. And also – an elusive inner light. Hence the amazing artistic gift, allowing to penetrate into the psychological depths of images, of which the artist has created about a hundred. Simpletons and village women, the so-called women of the people, as well as ladies – all are deep, psychological, and unpredictable. The scores of her roles are constructed so masterfully that the illusion of an extremely easy existence of the actress in the characters is created. That is why they delight the audience. And, of course, colleagues who are able to rejoice in someone else’s success. With them and friends, she is extremely generous in her sincerity and openness, with others – reservedly tactful and wise. Olga Klebanovich embodies each of her roles on stage so masterfully that they become recognizable, as they say, “as in life”. Therefore, her characters are understandable to the audience and they love them. The performances with her participation “Women’s Kingdom”, “Return to Khatyn”, “Sign of Trouble” and many others in Belarusian theatre studies are recorded as genuine theatrical events. And Olga Klebanovich had a successful film career. These are the films “Sunny Day at the End of Summer”, “Fresh Meat with Fireworks”, “The Nobleman Zavalnia, or Belarus in Fantastic Stories”, “Provincial Muse”, “The Thaw” and others.

What is the phenomenon of this actress, who is so mesmerizing with her performance?

Once, while talking to Olga Klebanovich, I asked her what place on earth was her favorite. Here is her answer: “The place where I spent my

childhood, where I ran away from wolves on skis, rode a horse at night, where my whole life consisted of being barefoot – of openness of feelings, of an open heart. Therefore, the place on earth that is my favorite is my native Belarus... I absorbed my love for nature, for the village people in the town of Gresk near Slutsk, living with my grandparents until the seventh grade, while my mother was rebuilding Minsk from ruins. And I have traveled almost all over Belarus with our theatre performances. And I don’t want to leave anywhere from here... And my strength comes from the land...”

As a child, Olga Mikhailovna had a stunning dream, which she told journalists about more than once. The dream was about how, as a teenager, she fell asleep in a field, right in the

■ People’s Artist of Belarus  
Aleksandr Tkachenok, colleague and  
stage partner at the moment of  
honoring the jubilee



rye. And in this dream, she saw herself lying in the rye and looking at the sky, and a huge star falling on her. The girl thought in horror: I’ll burn! And the star descended, enveloped her in a cool glow and seemed to lift her above the ground. And when luck came to her, she remembered this dream. That’s how, she

confessed, she has been burning in the Theatre ever since. And she is restored there.

And then she added, repeating: “Don’t even doubt it. My strength is from our land...”

Mikhalina **Cherkashina**  
Photo by BelTA and the author





# ІДЭІ, ЯКІЯ ЗБЛІЖАЮЦЬ НАРОДЫ: ДАБРО, МІР, АДЗІНСТВА

Мінская кніжная выстаўка стала пляцоўкай для таго, каб прадстаўнікі творчай інтэлігенцыі розных краін маглі абмеркаваць важныя пытанні, звязаныя з развіццём грамадства. Штогод у рамках яе праходзіць Міжнародны сімпозіум літаратараў “Пісьменнік і час”, які збірае публіцыстаў, паэтаў, празаікаў, кнігавыдаўцоў, прадстаўнікоў устаноў культуры і адукацыі. Яго арганізатарамі выступаюць Міністэрства інфармацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь і грамадскае аб’яднанне “Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі”. Сёлета сімпозіум прайшоў пры падтрымцы Міждзяржаўнага фонду гуманітарнага супрацоўніцтва дзяржаў – удзельніц СНД.

Традыцыйна (сімпозіум праводзіцца з 2015 года) для дыялогу і абмену меркаваннямі паміж прадстаўнікамі творчай эліты розных культур і літаратурных традыцый выбіраецца ключавая тэма. Сёлета гэта – “Культура і інфармацыя як кірункі развіцця гуманітарнай прасторы”.

У самым пачатку сустрэчы старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, дырэктар выдавецтва “Беларусь” Алесь Карлюкевіч агучыў перад гасцямі тэмы для абмеркавання. Сярод іх – літаратурныя ўзаемасувязі ў кантэксце міжнародных агульнакультурных узаемаадносін; Еўразійскі эканамічны саюз – эфектыўная пляцоўка для культурнага ўзаемадзеяння краін і народаў; удасканаленне і развіццё механізмаў супрацоўніцтва ў галіне культуры.

“На міждзяржаўным, урадавым узроўні праводзіцца сур’ёзная работа, каб садзейнічаць пабудове і паспяховаму функцыянаванню Саюзнай дзяржавы. Важна, каб гэта было падмацавана гуманітарным супрацоўніцтвам”, – адзначыў дырэктар Дэпартамента дзяржаўнай падтрымкі перыядычнага друку і кніжнай індустрыі Міністэрства лічбавага развіцця, сувязі і масавых камунікацый Расійскай Федэрацыі Уладзімір Грыгор’еў. Ён прыгадаў, што яшчэ ў пачатку станаўлення Савецкай дзяржавы вялікая ўвага ўдзялялася

турнага ўзаемадзеяння краін і народаў; удасканаленне і развіццё механізмаў супрацоўніцтва ў галіне культуры.



пісьменнікам. Патрэбны былі людзі, якія ўмеюць ствараць сэнсы, фарміраваць погляды. І сёння такая павестка актуальная, але пры гэтым не трэба патрабаваць ад пісьменнікаў імгненных каментарыяў, як ад журналістаў. Такія людзі, па яго словах, “зроблены з іншага цеста” і ім патрэбны час на тое, каб асэнсаваць падзеі і ўдумліва падвесці вынікі. Сёння важна матываваць пісьменнікаў. Час дыктуе свае жорсткія ўмовы. Калі паглядзець на тое, колькі сярэднестатыстычны грамадзянін траціць на прагляд тэлебачання, на праслухоўванне радыё, чытанне газет і гэтак далей, можна ўбачыць, што кнігі ў медыяспажыванні займаюць нізкі працэнт. “Гарманізаваць працэс, каб кнігі прэваліравалі над іншымі крыніцамі інфармацыі немагчыма. Так ці інакш за актуальнай павесткай людзі будуць сачыць не па ім”, – заўважыў Уладзімір Грыгор’еў. Тым не менш, сёння важна зрабіць усё магчымае для прасоўвання якаснай літаратуры. “Калі нам удалася зрабіць, каб наступныя пакаленні чыталі актыўна, у нас будзе шанс выхаваць канкурэнтаздольнае пакаленне ў сусветным маштабе, бо веды таксама засвойваюцца праз чытанне”, – упэўнены расійскі госць.

Намеснік міністра інфармацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь Дзяніс Езерскі заўважыў, што ў краінах, аб’яднаных Саюзам Незалежных Дзяржаў, шмат робіцца для папулярызацыі чытання, да гэтага часу на ўзроўні ўрадаў падтрымліваюцца саюзы пісьменнікаў, кніжныя саюзы, розныя ініцыятывы: “Вельмі важна захаваць пісьменніцкую супольнасць. Мы не павінны

дапускаць тых памылак, калі інтэлігенцыя, пісьменнікі не змогуць фарміраваць фабрыку думак, таго, што намі рухае, стварае нашу ментальнасць”.

Яшчэ адзін госць з Расіі, рэдактар часопіса “Раман-газета” Юрый Казлоў звярнуў увагу на тое, што сёння класічнай літаратуры даводзіцца канкураваць з новай, лёгкай, блогерскай. Прычым часта фінансавана падтрыманай аказваецца як раз апошняя, менавіта яна актыўна скупаецца, а на кніжных кірмашах да якой-небудзь дзяўчыны-блогершы, могуць выстройвацца чэргі. Ужо трэба думаць, як прыпаднесці сучаснаму чытачу сур’ёзную кнігу, якая не павінна стаць проста культурным артэфактам, а рабіць унёсак у духоўнае развіццё народу. Магчыма падказкі можна ўзяць і ў мінулым. Узгадаць пра той жа “Дзе́ннік пісьменніка” Дастаеўскага, які, калі прыгледзецца, падобны на сучасныя блогі.

Юрый Казлоў раскажаў, што сёння ў “Рамана-газеты” ўжо няма таго 4-мільённага тыражу, што быў у савецкі час, тым не менш яшчэ багата людзей, якія цікавяцца сучаснай літаратурай. Сёння часопіс паступае ва ўсе бібліятэкі Расіі. Па-ранейшаму ён працягвае працаваць на ўмацаванне сувязяў паміж народамі, знаёміць з нацыянальнымі літаратурамі. За апошнія гады ў фармаце часопіса здзейснена некалькі выпускаў беларускай прозы. Пабачылі свет як калектыўныя зборнікі, так і выпускі асобных беларускіх празаікаў.

Сімпозіум адыгрывае важную ролю ва ўмацаванні сувязяў паміж пісьменнікамі, паэтамі і крытыкамі







■ Старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, дырэктар выдавецтва “Беларусь” Алесь Карлюкевіч, намеснік міністра інфармацыі Рэспублікі Беларусь Дзяніс Езерскі, пісьменнік Алесь Бадак



■ Дырэктар Дэпартамента дзяржаўнай падтрымкі перыядычнага друку і кніжнай індустрыі Міністэрства лічбавага развіцця, сувязі і масавых камунікацый Расійскай Федэрацыі Уладзімір Грыгор’еў і Хізры Асадулаеў, народны мастак Чачэнскай рэспублікі

розных краін, прычым не толькі беларускія літаратары знаходзяць тут сабе партнёраў. Для кожнага ўдзельніка гэта магчымасць пазнаёміцца з калегамі з усяго свету. За гады яго існавання сваю творчасць тут прадставілі пісьменнікі каля 30 краін.

Сёлета на кніжную выстаўку і сімпозіум прыехалі не толькі кіраўнікі Саюза пісьменнікаў Расійскай Федэрацыі, але і прадстаўнікі літаратурнай супольнасці рэгіёнаў: Башкартастана, Калмыкіі, Чувашыі, Дагестана.

Як падзяліўся заслужаны дзеяч культуры Рэспублікі Татарстан, народны паэт Чувашскай рэспублікі Валерый Тургай, менавіта дзякуючы пісьменніцкаму форуму ў Мінску ён пазнаёміўся з сербскай паэтэсай Даянай Лазарэвіч, з якой ужо рэалізавалі сумесныя перакладчыцкія праекты. Дзякуючы намаганням Валерыя Тургая ў Чабаксарах выйшла анталогія беларускай паэзіі, а зусім нядаўна пабачыў свет зборнік з вершамі Міколы Мятліцкага, якія ён пераклаў на чувашскую мову. “Мы настолькі звязаныя паміж сабой, адлегласці, нават у сотні тысяч кіламетраў для сяброўства канкрэтных людзей, народаў, нічога не значаць”, – заўважыў Валерый Тургай.

На сімпозіум былі запрошаны літаратары, якія ўжо не першы год супрацоўнічаюць з Саюзам пісьменнікаў Беларусі. Так, шчыльныя сувязі наладжаны з Башкартастанам. Паўтара года таму прайшлі дні башкірскай паэзіі ў Беларусі. Летась пабачыла свет анталогія сучаснай беларускай літаратуры на башкірскай мове. Спецыяльна да сімпозіуму па ініцыятыве Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі пры падтрымцы Міністэрства інфармацыі выйшла анталогія сучаснай паэзіі Башкартастана ў перакладзе беларускіх аўтараў. “Беларусь і для нашай рэспублікі, і для Расіі заўсёды была блізкім сябрам, надзейным тылам, партнёрам, – падзяліўся старшыня Саюза пісьменнікаў

Башкартастана Айгіз Баймухаметаў. – Я ўдзячны за тое, што тут прадставілі магчымасць для аб’яднання пісьменнікаў, якія ў душы носяць ідэі дабра, міласэрнасці, адзінства”.

Сярод гасцей XXXII Мінскай міжнароднай кніжнай выстаўкі-кірмаша быў і народны пісьменнік Таджыкістана Ато Хамдам. “Я лічу сябе шчаслівым чалавекам, бо ў беларускім народзе знайшоў сабе добрага сябра, бліжэй пазнаёміўся з яго гісторыяй і дасягненнямі,” – заўважыў пісьменнік. Ён быў адным з тых дзеячаў культуры, якія першымі пачалі наладжваць сувязі з калегамі з іншых краін пасля развалу Савецкага Саюза. За сем гадоў былі перакладзены і выдадзены ў Таджыкістане кнігі дванаццаці беларускіх аўтараў.

Напрыканцы сімпозіума Алесь Карлюкевіч уручыў членскія білеты Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі гасцям-партнёрам, якія шмат зрабілі для папулярызацыі беларускай літаратуры ў краінах свайго пражывання. Сярод іх – доктар філалагічных навук, даследчык сучаснага літаратурнага працэсу, у тым ліку і беларуска-калмыцкіх літаратурных сувязяў, Рыма Хонінава. Любоў да Беларусі ёй перадаў бацька, калмыцкі паэт, перакладчык Міхаіл Хонінаў. Летась, калі адзначалася 80-годдзе вызвалення нашай краіны, Рыма Хонінава выдала кнігу з творамі сваімі і бацькі, прысвечанымі Вялікай Айчыннай вайне на тэрыторыі Беларусі. “Радасна, што сімпозіум аб’ядноўвае дзяцей, унукаў, праўнукаў пераможцаў у страшнай вайне мінулага стагоддзя. Мы ўсе спадзяемся, што больш ніколі не паўтарыцца тое, што перажыло пакаленне нашых бацькоў і дзядоў. Пісьменніцкае слова найперш за ўсё – гэта слова міру”, – заўважыла пісьменніца.

Таццяна **Бузіноўская**  
Фота БелТА і Кастуся Дробава

# ГОРКАЯ ПАМЯЦЬ

**Дэлегацыя актыву рэгіянальнай грамадскай арганізацыі “Нацыянальна-культурная аўтаномія беларусаў Карэліі” прыехала ў Беларусь, каб расказаць пра патрыятычныя праекты, якія яна рэалізуе**

У праграме прыбывання нашых суайчыннікаў было наведванне мясцін памяці Гомельскай вобласці. Гэты рэгіён абраны невыпадкова. Госці пабывалі ў мема-рыяльным комплексе “Дзецям – ахвярам вайны” ў Жлобінскім раёне. Старшыня нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі беларусаў Карэліі Святлана Барташэвіч перадала работнікам музея дыск з успамінамі сваёй маці, якая ў дзяцінстве была вязнем канцлагера на тэрыторыі Усходняй Прусіі (сёння гэта тэрыторыя Калінінграда). Малой дзяўчынкай тая патрапіла ў

палон у красавіку 1944 года. Жанчына помніла, як палілі яе вёску, як каля сарака кіламетраў людзей гналі пешшу да Віцебска. Яна расказвала, што ў канцлагеры ў малых бралі кроў, як страшна было, калі ў баракі заходзілі карнікі і раздзялялі дзяцей і дарослых. Тады казалі, што павядуць на опыты. Засталося ў памяці і тое, з якой радасцю вязні крычалі “Нашы!”, калі ўбачылі воінаў з чырвонымі сцягамі. Бабуля, калі запісвалі яе ўспаміны здзіўлялася, няўжо яе словы настолькі важныя: “Ды што я, уся





Беларусь пацярпела!». Нашы суайчыннікі з Карэліі звярнуліся па дапамогу да беларусаў Калінінграда, якія знайшлі інфармацыю пра канцлагер і нават сфатаграфавалі месца, дзе ён знаходзіўся.

Дэлегацыя беларусаў Карэліі таксама пабывала ў мемарыяльным комплексе “Ала” і каля памятнага знака, прысвечанага аперацыі “Баграціён”. У Светлагорскі краязнаўчы музей госці перадалі запісаныя імі ўспаміны дзвюх жанчын, ураджэнак Беларусі і Расіі, якія ўдзельнічалі ў вызваленні нашай рэспублікі. Адна знаходзілася ў партызанскім атрадзе, другая служыла ў разведцы радысткай, была так званым “слухачом”, перахоплівала нямецкія сігналы. Галоўнай жа мэтай візіту дэлегацыі беларусаў Карэліі было падзяліцца вынікамі сваёй пошукавай работы. Яны расказалі пра гэта ў Нацыянальным прэс-цэнтры падчас прэс-канферэнцыі, прысвечанай 80-годдзю Перамогі.

“Сустрэчы з суайчыннікамі вельмі карысныя не толькі для беларусаў замежжа, але і для нас, – заўважыла дырэктар Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур Вольга Якабсон. – Мы праводзім творчыя стажыроўкі, накіраваныя на вывучэнне рамёстваў, культуры, традыцый, знаёмства з памятнымі месцамі. У апошні час вельмі актыўна развіваюцца патрыятычныя праекты”. З беларусамі Карэліі, па яе словах, ужо даўно наладжаны шчыльныя сувязі, дзякуючы якім у тым ліку ўмацоўваецца сяброўства паміж народамі Расіі і Беларусі. Яшчэ ў 2016 годзе ў Карэлію ездзілі рамеснікі і творчыя калектывы з Беларусі. Такія сустрэчы сёння вельмі запатрабаваныя. Шмат робіцца для развіцця і папулярызацыі культуры ў краінах пражывання.

Як расказала Святлана Барташэвіч, вельмі вялікая ўвага ўдзяляецца таму, якая аддача бывае пасля творчых стажыровак, падчас якіх беларусы замежжа сустракаюцца з лепшымі майстрамі і творчымі калектывамі. Так, за паўтара года ў Карэліі былі створаны два танцавальныя калектывы, праведзены шэраг майстар-класаў па рамёствах. Новымі праектамі могуць пахваліцца і прадстаўнікі іншых рэгіёнаў Расіі. Святлана Барташэвіч пра гэта ўпэўнена заявіла, бо з’яўляецца намеснікам старшыні Федэральнай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі беларусаў Расіі і адказная за працу нашых суайчыннікаў на поўначы і паўночным захадзе Расійскай Федэрацыі. Яна шмат гадоў з’яўляецца членам Кансультацыйнага савета па справах беларусаў замежжа пры Міністэрстве замежных спраў Рэспублікі Беларусь.

Жанчына прызналася, што яшчэ дзесяць гадоў таму, калі толькі была зарэгістравана рэгіянальная культурная аўтаномія беларусаў Карэліі, яна думала, што яе арганізацыя гэтак жа, як і іншыя аб’яднанні беларусаў замежжа, будзе займацца песнямі ды

танцамі. Усё змянілася, калі суайчыннікі сталі вывучаць свае карані. Ім удалося падняць вялікія пласты гісторыі.

Нашы суайчыннікі ўдзельнічалі ў перакладзе кнігі “Усе святыя Карэліі” на беларускую мову. Яны дапамагаюць наладжваць кантакты паміж людзьмі, якія страцілі сувязі са сваімі роднымі. Працуе маладзёжнае крыло. Актывісты збіраюць матэрыялы пра вядомага казачніка Піліпа Гаспадарова (1865–1938), які нарадзіўся ў Беларусі ў вёсцы Забаб’е. Палову жыцця ён правёў у Беларусі, дзе і пераняў ад сваякоў уменне баяць казкі. Сталыя гады майстра “жывога слова” прайшлі ў Карэліі, дзе на яго і звярнулі ўвагу фалькларысты, выдаваліся нават кнігі з яго казкамі. Святлана Барташэвіч – стрыечная ўнучка віцебскага мастака Уладзіміра Кухарава, які пісаў карціны, звязаныя з падзеямі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны.



Нашы суайчыннікі звярнуліся па дапамогу да Віцебскага краязнаўчага музея, каб падрыхтаваць перасоўную выстаўку, прысвечаную 80-годдзю Перамогі, дзе будуць прадстаўлены на планшэтах якасныя здымкі работ мастака. Выстаўку плануюць паказаць не толькі ў Карэліі, з просьбай пасля прадставіць яе ў сябе ўжо выступілі беларусы Комі. Пазней яе змогуць прыняць беларусы замежжа, якія пражываюць не толькі ў Расійскай Федэрацыі, але і ў іншых краінах, бо паміж дыяспарай наладжаны вельмі шчыльныя сувязі па ўсім свеце.

Сёння беларусы – трэцяя па колькасці нацыя ў Карэліі. Вядома, што было пяць вялікіх хваляў, калі яны прыбывалі на гэтыя землі. Адна з іх – у пасляваенныя гады, беларусы дапамагалі падымаць эканоміку Карэліі. Шмат было перасяленцаў і пасля аварыі на Чарнобыльскай АЭС. Знойдзены нават даныя, што стараверы з вёскі Ветка пасяліліся побач з Салавецкім манастыром. Каля пяці тысяч беларускіх сем’яў прыехала ў Карэлію пасля Савецка-Фінскай вайны ў 1939 годзе. Сярод іх былі не толькі

партыйныя кіраўнікі, якія атрымалі сюды прызначэнні, але і небагатыя шматдзетныя сем'і. Менавіта з перасяленцамі 1939 года і звязаны пошукавыя праекты беларусаў Карэліі. Яны спрабавалі высветліць, што сталася з гэтымі людзьмі, чаму многія з іх быццам прапалі без вестак. Дзякуючы дакументам актывісты змаглі даказаць, што многія з перасяленцаў у 1941–1944 гадах загінулі ў фінскіх канцэнтрацыйных лагерах, якія дзейнічалі на тэрыторыі Карэліі.

Святлана Барташэвіч звярнула ўвагу на тое, што гэта тэма доўгі час была закрытай. У савецкі час пра яе не гаварылі, каб не сапсаваць адносіны з Фінляндыяй. Людзі, якія ў дзяцінстве прайшлі праз гэтыя лагеры, не атрымалі статус малалетніх вязняў. Тыя, каму ўдалося выжыць, а таксама іх нашчадкі гадамі спрабавалі даказаць, што злачынства было. “Я спяшаюся данесці, што праўда перамагла, – заявіла Святлана Барташэвіч. – Сёння факт генацыду народаў Савецкага Саюза даказаны ў судзе ў рамках усерасійскага праекта “Без тэрмінаў даўнасці”. Гэта горкая праўда, але сёння ўжо ніхто не зможа сказаць, што “такога не было”. Важна, каб гэта інфармацыя дайшла да беларусаў, якія прайшлі праз такія пакуты, а пасля вярнуліся на радзіму, а таксама да іх нашчадкаў”.

Член пошукавага атрада Аланецкай апэратыўнай групы Ірына Філіна заўважыла, што на тэрыторыі раёна, дзе яна пражывае, была самая вялікая канцэнтрацыя фінскіх лагераў. Калі актывісты сталі збіраць інфармацыю, убачылі, што ў большасці ў лагерах утрымліваліся рускія і беларусы, якія прыехалі на гэтыя землі ў 1939 годзе. Сёння ў раёне створана экспазіцыя, прысвечаная такой старонцы гісторыі, вядзецца праца па пошуку імёнаў ахвяр. “У гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны тэрыторыя Карэліі была захопленая фінамі. Тут не было масавых расстрэлаў, як у лагерах, напрыклад, на тэрыторыі Германіі. Ахвяр не палілі ў печах, але людзі гінулі ад голаду, холаду і хвароб. Іх трымалі ў халодных бараках, якія зусім не ацяпляліся, ежы не хапала, бацькам забаранялі лячыць

дзяцей”, – расказала Ірына Філіна. Вязняў выкарыстоўвалі на розных работах. Напрыклад, на лесанарыхтоўках, прычым працаваць павінны былі і малыя, пачынаючы з шасці гадоў. Дзяцей адпраўлялі займацца сучкаваннем. З 8 гадзін раніцы і да 8 вечара яны знаходзіліся ў лесе на холадзе, марозе ці пад дажджом. Магчымасці сагрэцца ці абсохнуць у іх не было.

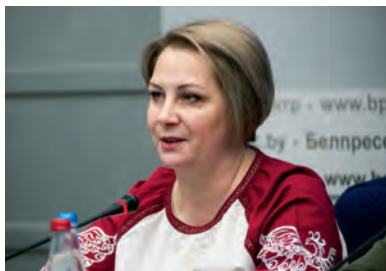
Смяротнасць сярод вязняў была вялікай. Большасць ахвяр загінула ў першую ж марозную зіму. Актывістам трапіліся даныя пра адну з сямей з дзесяці чалавек, у якой ніхто не выжыў.

Член аб'яднання беларусаў Карэліі, кіраўшнік праекта “Памяць пра герояў адна на ўсе часы” Наталля Лівашова расказала пра сваю работу ў архівах. Жанчына заўважыла, што сёння вельмі важна сабраць факты і перадаць памяць пра жыхавых падзеі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны наступным пакаленням, бо адыходзяць апошнія сведкі, акрамя таго, у вельмі жыхавым стане знаходзяцца дакументы, якія ўтрымліваюць звесткі пра ахвяр. Так, ёй давялося працаваць з рукапіснымі вялікімі шыйткамі, у якія ў гады вайны ўносілася інфармацыя пра вязняў канцлагераў. Запісы зроблены алоўкам на пергаментнай паперы. Ужо сёння яны вельмі дрэнна чытаюцца, іх немагчыма адсканаваць, тым не менш актывістам ўдалося ўзнавіць імёны больш 280 вязняў, паловай з якіх былі дзеці. Таксама Наталля працавала ў Нацыянальным архіве Рэспублікі Карэлія, дзе змагла знайсці яшчэ 150 прозвішчаў. Яе ўразіла, што сярод беларусаў, якія трапілі ў лагеры, былі вельмі вялікія сем'і, часта з прадстаўнікоў трох пакаленняў – дзядоў, бацькоў і дзяцей.

На жаль, не ўсе ўліковыя карткі, якія ў гады вайны заводзіліся на вязняў, захаваліся. Калі савецкія войскі вызвалілі Карэлію, ворагі спальвалі дакументы...

Каб захаваць памяць пра беларусаў, якія загінулі ў гады вайны на тэрыторыі Карэліі, нашы суайчыннікі прывезлі ў Мінск зямлю з тэрыторыі канцлагераў. Урачыстая закладка капсулы з ёй адбылася ў крыпце Храма-помніка Усім Святым.

Ганна **Трошына**  
Фота Лізаветы Голад



- Старшыня нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі беларусаў Карэліі Святлана Барташэвіч
- Член пошукавага атрада Аланецкай апэратыўнай групы Ірына Філіна
- Кіраўшнік праекта “Памяць пра герояў адна на ўсе часы” Наталля Лівашова



Мітрапаліт Веніямін:

# «БЕЛАРУСКАЯ ЗЯМЛЯ ЎЗРАСЦІЛА МНОГІХ ПАДЗВІЖНІКАЎ...»

**У гэтым годзе Беларуская Праваслаўная Царква  
адзначае шэраг юбілейных дат**

Так, у маі адбудзецца святкаванне 1020-годдзя Тураўскай епархіі, 125 гадоў адзначыць Гродзенская епархія, 100 – Гомельская. 19–20 мая ў Свята-Успенскім Жыровіцкім мітрапаліцкім мужчынскім манастыры пройдуць урачыстасці, прымеркаваныя да 555-годдзя з’яўлення чудатворнага Жыровіцкага абраза. У жніўні ў Свята-Духавым кафедральным саборы Мінска ўзгадаюць пра яшчэ адну святыню – Мінскую Божую

Маці, паводле легенды яе абраз прыплыў па рацэ 525 гадоў таму. 4–5 чэрвеня ў Спаса-Ефрасіннеўскім манастыры ў Полацку пройдуць урачыстасці да 900-годдзя храма. Гэтым, а таксама іншым знакавым падзеям была прысвечана канферэнцыя “Асвета беларускіх зямель праз праваслаўную кнігу. Юбілейныя даты Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы”, якая прайшла ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы.



■ Патрыяршы Экзарх усяе Беларусі, Мітрапаліт Мінскі і Заслаўскі Веніямін знаёміцца з кніжнымі навінкамі



■ Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак

Арганізатарамі мерапрыемства выступілі выдавецкі савет Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквы, міністэрствы культуры, адукацыі і інфармацыі, Нацыянальная бібліятэка і Свята-Елісавецкія жаночы манастыр.

### У Славу Божую

З даўніх часоў манастыры і прыхадскія храмы становіліся цэнтрамі адукацыі і культуры. “Беларуская зямля ўзрасцiла многіх падзвіжнікаў на ніве духоўна-маральнай асветы”, – заўважыў Патрыяршы Экзарх усяе Беларусі, Мітрапаліт Мінскі і Заслаўскі Веніямін. Калыскай хрысціянства ён назваў Полацк. Станаўленне горада як духоўнага цэнтра і культурны росквіт беларускай зямлі ў XII стагоддзі звязаны з асветніцкай дзейнасцю прападобнай Еўфрасінні Полацкай. “У нашы дні яна застаецца прыкладам духоўнасці, працалюбства і асветніцтва”, – адзначыў мітрапаліт. Святая вялікую ўвагу ўдзяляла перапісванню кніг і навучанню людзей грамаце. Сама яна не пісала духоўных прац, але пакінула пасланне нашчадкам – фрэскі Спасакай царквы Полацкага Спаса-Ефрасінеўскага манастыра. Яны выкананыя па задуме і пад кіраўніцтвам Еўфрасінні. Нядаўна храм адкрыўся пасля рэстаўрацыі і цалкам раскрытыя ад пазнейшых панаўленняў фрэскі сталі даступныя для вернікаў, паломнікаў, наогул усіх, хто прыйдзе ў храм. Тут паказана цэлая гісторыя багаслоўя. У фрэсках адлюстравана Святое пісанне з яго прароцтвамі і правобразамі, падзеі і заповедзі Новага завета, гісторыя царквы, барацьба з ерасямі. Праз 900 гадоў

пасля свайго заснавання Спаса-Ефрасінеўскі манастыр працягвае традыцыі заснавальніцы. Рospісы храма вывучаны, у друкарні полацкага манастыра пабачыла свет прысвечаная ім кніга. Яна дазваляе пазнаёміцца са спадчынай Прападобнай Еўфрасінні, вывучыць сюжэты фрэсак, асэнсаваць іх духоўны змест.

Калі звярнуцца да 1020-гадовай гісторыі Тураўскай епархіі, нельга не ўзгадаць свяціцеля Кірылу Тураўскага. Складзеныя ім тэксты малітваў, пропаведзі, прытчы, пасланні, адрасаваныя звычайнаму чалавеку, для таго, каб узяць над мірскімі праблемамі, прымусяць задумацца аб высокіх ідэалах.

З заснаваннем Гродзенскай епархіі 125 гадоў таму актывізавалася духоўная асвета, вывучэнне мінулага роднага краю. Сталі выходзіць кнігі, брашуры і артыкулы, прысвечаныя гісторыі заходне-беларускіх манасты-

роў, храмаў.

Сёлета будзе адзначацца і 800-годзе Лаўрышэўскага манастыра. Ён быў заснаваны ў пачатку XIII стагоддзя, у час калі праваслаўныя святары і манахі адыгралі вялікую ролю ў развіцці хрысціянства на нашых землях. Лаўрышэўскі манастыр быў адным з найбуйнейшых праваслаўных храмаў да XVI стагоддзя, у часы ўніяцтва ён прыйшоў у заняпад. Галоўнай духоўнай і культурнай каштоўнасцю манастыра з’яўляецца Лаўрышэўскае Евангелле – рукапісная кніга, якая сёння захоўваецца ў бібліятэцы князеў Чартарыйскіх у Кракаве. Гэта Евангелле ўтрымлівае богаслужэнні і чытанні на ўвесь год ад Вялікадня да Страстной Сядміцы, як гэта было прынята ў час яго стварэння. Старажытная кніга ўтрымлівае чатырнаццаць укладных запісаў, самы ранні датуецца 1329 годам. Святыня стала і дакументам па гісторыі храма, яна адлюстроўвае дзейнасць настояцеляў, мецэнатаў, іншых асоб, звязаных з храмам.

Цэнтрам духоўнай асветы на беларускіх землях стаў Жыровіцкі манастыр. У бібліятэцы заснавальніка храма і гаспадара жыровіцкага маёнтка Солтана Аляксандравіча, які займаў пасаду гаспадарскага маршалка і слонімскага вялікакняскага намесніка, па стане на 1495 год пералічваецца шматлікія богаслужэбныя і душакарысныя кнігі. Па заказе Солтана для правядзення богаслужэнняў у храме былі створаны рукапісныя кнігі, якія захаваліся да нашых дзён. У 1550-я гады з’явіўся знакавы помнік царкоўнай кніжнасці – Жыровіцкае Евангелле. Сёння яно захоўваецца ў бібліятэцы акадэміі навук



Літвы. Багацце мастацкага афармлення дазваляе лічыць яго адным з найбольш выдатных кніжных помнікаў праваслаўнага славянскага свету. Сёння Жыровіцкі манастыр працягвае кнігавыдавецкія традыцыі, вывучае і асвятляе старонкі сваёй гісторыі.

Сёлета адзначаецца 565-годдзе Спасакага манастыра ў Кобрыне, які таксама быў адным з духоўных цэнтраў асветы. Паводле дакументальных крыніц, у 1532 годзе ў фондзе манастырскай бібліятэкі пералічваліся розныя царкоўныя і душакарысныя кнігі.

240 гадоў таму заснавана Мінская духоўная семінарыя, старэйшая з вышэйшых навучальных устаноў Беларусі. Сярод яе выпускнікоў не толькі святары, але і вучоныя, дзеячы навукі, культуры і адукацыі.

Да юбілейных дат, якія будуць сёлета адзначацца, адносіцца і 500-годдзе выдання Францыскам Скарынам “Апостала” – апошняй кнігі, якую ён надрукаваў у Вільні.

230 гадоў таму завяршыўся зямны шлях свяціцеля Георгія Каніскага – архіепіскапа Магілёўскага, аднаго з самых адукаваных людзей свайго часу. Сорок гадоў служэння ён прысвяціў аднаўленню духоўнага жыцця, праваслаўнай асветы. У 1757 годзе ён заснаваў Магілёўскую духоўную семінарыю. Дзякуючы яму будаваліся храмы, адраджаліся манастыры, з’яўляліся бібліятэкі і сацыяльныя

ўстановы. Разам з такой актыўнай грамадскай дзейнасцю ён займаўся прапаведаннем, ствараў літаратурныя працы, быў перакладчыкам і аўтарам дапаможнікаў па багаслоўю, сам займаўся кнігавыданнем. Сучаснікі называлі яго “непараўнальным прапаведнікам”. Свяціцель сабраў адну з найбагацейшых бібліятэк, якая налічвала 1269 кніг і 241 экзэмпляр рукапісаў і дакументаў.

## Роля ў культуры і адукацыі

“Важна помніць, што Царква аказала вялікі ўплыў на фарміраванне культуры і духоўнасці народа, змагла зберагчы многія культурныя скарбы, у тым ліку летапісы і пропаведзі беларускіх святых”, – заўважыў мітрапаліт. Уладыка ўпэўнены, што і сёння важна працягваць тыя традыцыі, якія былі закладзены папярэднікамі. Ролю праваслаўнай кнігі цяжка ацаніць, яна не толькі дапамагае выхоўваць чалавека, пабуджаць у ім добрыя пачуцці, але і дапамагае любіць гісторыю, культуру і традыцыі свайго народа. “Кніга духоўная заўсёды прывабная, але сучаснаму чалавеку яе трэба паказаць, часам данесці”, – упэўнены Патрыяршы Экзарх.

Добрай традыцыяй у нашай краіне стала святкаванне Дня Праваслаўнай кнігі. Галоўная мэта яго – развіццё цікавасці да праваслаўнай кнігі, прывітанне любові да чытання ў падрастаючага пакалення. Важна праз праваслаўную кнігу далучыць людзей да



тысячагадовай хрысціянскай традыцыі. Мерапрыемствы, прымеркаваныя да Дня Праваслаўнай кнігі, праходзяць у лютым – сакавіку ва ўсіх епархіях Праваслаўнай Царквы, у публічных і царкоўных бібліятэках, сярэдніх і вышэйшых навучальных установах.

Як адзначыў мітрапаліт, сёння, калі існуюць альтэрнатыўныя крыніцы інфармацыі, кнігу ўжо трэба абараняць. У той жа час ён заўважыў тэндэнцыю, якая назіраецца апошнім часам, калі ўсё часцей людзі хочуць узяць у рукі “сапраўдныя, жывыя” кнігі, паразважаць над імі. “Неабходна прывіваць любоў да чытання, паказваць, наколькі гэта карысна і патрэбна, наколькі дапамагае засяродзіцца сучаснаму чалавеку, а не проста атрымліваць вялікую колькасць інфармацыі праз розныя месенджары”. Ён раскажаў, што сёння Праваслаўная царква выдае шмат кніг, прысвечаных гістарычнай тэматыцы.

Падчас канферэнцыі ў Нацыянальнай бібліятэцы працавала выстаўка праваслаўных выданняў. На ёй былі прадстаўлены кнігі, прысвечаныя Полацкаму

прамежак часу. Гэта ўсё гаворыць пра тое, што мы клапацімся, каб духоўная спадчына захоўвалася ў добрай кнізе, якая будзе працаваць на тое, каб фарміраваць чалавека на аснове здабыткаў папярэдніх пакаленняў”.

### Святыні вяртаюцца

У канферэнцыі “Асвета беларускіх зямель праз праваслаўную кнігу. Юбілейныя даты Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы” разам са святарамі Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквы ўзялі ўдзел прадстаўнікі Міністэрства культуры, Міністэрства інфармацыі, камітэта Саюзнай дзяржавы, кіраўнікі мясцовых выканаўчых органаў, рэктары і студэнты духоўных і свецкіх ВНУ, дзеячы навукі і культуры.

Падчас сустрэчы Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак адзначыў, што ў сучаснай Беларусі ўзрастае роля Царквы. Аднаўляюцца і набываюць былую прыгажосць манастыры. Сёння яны зноў з’яўляюцца духоўнымі цэнтрамі для вернікаў. Дзень праваслаўнай кнігі, па яго словах, – мерапрыемства, якое прызвана нагадаць аб значэнні літаратуры ў нашым жыцці, аб тым, як трэба ўзбагачаць душу: “Духоўная кніга – крыніца мудрасці, якая можа нас накіраваць на добры шлях, натхніць на правільныя рашэнні ў складаных жыццёвых умовах”.

Прывітанне ўдзельнікам даслаў Дзяржсакратар Саюзнай дзяржавы Дзмітрый Мезенцаў: “Сёння наша агульная задача – прадстаўляць шырокай аўдыторыі інфармацыю аб гераічным мінулым нашых народаў, традыцый і культуры, аб тых духоўных скрэпах, якія звязваюць беларусаў і расіян. Такая работа становіцца сведчаннем таго, што праваслаўная вера і традыцыі аб’ядноўваюць народы Беларусі і Расіі”.

Дырэктар Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Вадзім Гігін раскажаў аб супрацоўніцтве ўстановы з Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквой, аб чым падпісана пагадненне. Дзякуючы гэтаму ўжо рэалізаваны шэраг розных праектаў: канферэнцыі, мерапрыемствы для самых юных наведвальнікаў, сустрэчы са святарамі ўнутры бібліятэкі. Падчас канферэнцыі ён прэзентаваў новае выданне Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі – “Беларускі архіў старажытных грамад” у дзвюх частках. Тут прадстаўлены дакументы, сабраныя праотаіерэем Іванам Грыгаровічам – беларускім праваслаўным святаром, археолагам і археографам, лінгвістам і літаратуразнаўцам. Першая частка “Беларускага архіва” была выдадзена ў 1824 годзе на сродкі мецэната графа Румянцава, а другая хоць і была падрыхтавана да друку, свету так і не пабачыла, больш за тое, пэўны час лічылася, што гэта літаратурная крыніца страчана. У XX стагоддзі яе знайшлі ў бібліятэцы ў Краснаярску, а сёння рукапіс захоўваецца ў Беларускай дзяржаўнай архіве-музеі



■ Дырэктар Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі Вадзім Гігін прэзентуе новае выданне Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі – “Беларускі архіў старажытных грамад”

сабору 1839 года. Мітрапаліт звярнуў увагу на кнігі, падрыхтаваныя да 900-годдзя Свята-Ефрасіннеўскага жаночага манастыра: “Адна з іх утрымлівае выявы адрэстаўраваных фрэсак і каментарыі, тым самым чытачу даецца магчымасць пазнаёміцца з гэтай найбагацейшай культурнай спадчынай беларускага народа. Ёсць кнігі, прысвечаныя тэме гісторыі Жыровіцкага манастыра, якія цікавыя тым, што перадаюць і гісторыю таго часу. Адна з кніг раскажа пра Жыровіцкі манастыр у кантэксце развіцця праваслаўя на беларускіх землях у дастаткова вялікі





■ На выстаўцы выданняў Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквы

літаратуры і мастацтва ў Мінску. І вось праз 200 гадоў “Беларускі архіў старажытных грамат” Івана Грыгаровіча пабачыў свет.

Старшыня выдавецкага савета Беларускай Праваслаўнай царквы, протаіерэй Алег Кунцэвіч заўважыў, што дакументы пацвярджаюць, што пісьменства на беларускіх землях існавала з X стагоддзя. Самымі старажытнымі са знойдзеных на сёння з’яўляюцца Тураўскае Евангелле і Супрасльскі рукапіс. Пра тое, якая павяга ў людзей да кнігі была ў старажытнасці, могуць сведчыць рукапісныя кнігі з уманціраванымі ў вокладку металічнымі ланцужкамі, дзякуючы якім кніга павінна была заставацца на адным месцы. Гэта было не проста спосабам захавання іх ад крадзяжоў, але і сведчаннем стаўлення да кнігі і ведаў, якія яна перадавала. Чалавек сам павінен быў прыйсці туды, дзе яна знаходзілася.

Натуральна, рарытэты не могуць быць даступнымі шырокаму колу грамадства, каб выправіць гэту сітуацыю, вярнуць старажытныя шэдэўры ў культурную і навуковую прастору, вядзецца работа над факсімільнымі выданнямі.

У 2009 годзе так было выпушчана Слуцкае Евангелле. Пасля Вялікай Айчыннай вайны кніга лічылася страчанай, але, калі святыня была знойдзена, Мітрапаліт Філарэт (Вахрамееў) прыклаў намаганні, каб свет пабачыла яе факсімільна. Гэта было першае такое выданне Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквы, якое паклала пачатак цэлай серыі новых праектаў. У 2012 надрукавана факсімільна Жыцця Прападобнай

Еўфрасінні Полацкай. У аснове выдання ляжыць рукапіс сярэдзіны XVI стагоддзя, які захоўваецца ў Расійскай нацыянальнай бібліятэцы ў Санкт-Пецярбургу. У 2013 годзе з’явілася факсімільная копія Полацкага Евангелля XII стагоддзя. Над яго стварэннем сумесна працавалі Нацыянальная бібліятэка Беларусі і выдавецтва беларускага экзархата, Нацыянальная акадэмія навук і Расійская дзяржаўная бібліятэка. Наступным праектам стала выданне буквары Спірыдона Собаля – першага такога падручніка на тэрыторыі Беларусі. Перавыданне стала магчымым дзякуючы супрацоўніцтву Беларускай Праваслаўнай царквы і Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук.

Жыровіцкае Евангелле надрукавана ў 2020 годзе дзякуючы намаганням выдавецкага савета Беларускай праваслаўнай царквы і Нацыянальнай бібліятэкі. На сёння яно з’яўляецца самым багата аформленым з усіх вядомых захаваных рукапісных евангелляў, якія адносяцца да тэрыторыі сучаснай Рэспублікі Беларусь. Адна з асаблівасцяў першакрыніцы, што на яе старонках знаходзіцца ўласнарукны запіс канцлера Вялікага Княства Літоўскага Льва Сапегі аб дарэнні Жыровіцкаму манастыру некаторых зямельных і іншых уладанняў з датай 22 жніўня 1616 года.

Наогул з 2010 па 2024 год Беларускай Праваслаўнай Царквой было выдадзена больш за 140 кніг агульнай і гістарычнай тэматыкі.

Яўген **Кручкоў**  
Фота БелТА

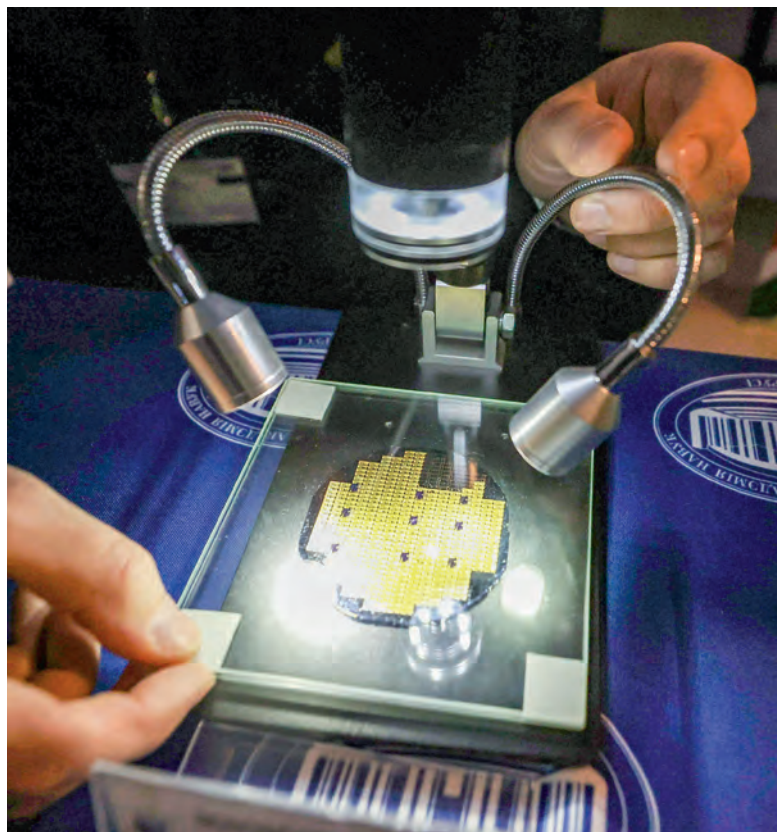
# ПОГЛЯД ЗА ГАРЫЗОНТ

Ролі фундаментальных навуковых даследаванняў у тэхналагічным развіцці краіны была прысвечана сустрэча ў Доме прэсы. Як расказала намеснік старшыні Дзяржаўнага камітэта па навуцы і тэхналогіях Таццяна Сталярова, у гэтай пяцігодцы ў краіне рэалізуецца 14 дзяржаўных, 6 галіновых, адна рэгіянальная навукова-тэхнічная праграма. Гэта каля 500 заданняў навуковых даследаванняў і распрацовак. Найбольш актыўнымі ў рэалізацыі такіх заданняў з’яўляюцца Нацыянальная акадэмія навук, установы Міністэрства аховы здароўя, Міністэрства адукацыі і Міністэрства прамысловасці.

У 2024 рэалізоўваліся новыя заданні па такіх кірунках, як прыборабудаванне, мікраэлектроніка, беспілотныя сістэмы, інфармацыйна-камунікацыйныя тэхналогіі, робататэхніка, новыя матэрыялы, фармацыя, біятэхналогіі.

Пад новыя распрацоўкі ствараюцца ці мадэрнізуюцца вытворчасці. Напрыклад, сумеснае закрытае акцыянернае таварыства “Белджы” правяло мадэрнізацыю пад выпуск новых легкавых аўтамабіляў “Джылі”. На дзеючай вытворчасці Інстытута біяарганічнай хіміі НАН Беларусі ўкаранёны тэхналагічны працэс па выпуску супрацьпухліннага лекавага прэпарату, а на Барысаўскім заводзе медпрэпаратаў – цэх па вытворчасці таблеток і капсул, упершыню засвоены выпуск лекавага прэпарата для лячэння павышанага артэрыяльнага ціску.

Штогод дзякуючы навуковым распрацоўкам ствараюцца дзясяткі відаў новай прадукцыі, якія запатрабаваныя як у нас, так і ў замежжы. Сярод іх – нізкапольныя трамвайныя вагоны, якія выпускае холдынг “Белкамунмаш”. Знакавыя вынікі ў сферы аховы





здараўя. Так, РНПЦ анкалогіі і медыцынскай радыялогіі імя Аляксандрава распрацаваў новы метады дзягностыкі раку лёгкіх. З выкарыстаннем вынікаў навукова-тэхнічнай праграмы – мадэфіцыраванага метаду лапараскапічнай рукаўнай рэзекцыі страўніка – Брэсцкай клінічнай бальніцай праведзена ўжо каля 20 аперацый.

Нацыянальная акадэмія навук сёння мае 108 арганізацый, у якіх працуе каля 14 тысяч чалавек. Як заўважыў дырэктар Цэнтра сістэмнага аналізу і стратэгічных даследаванняў Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Беларусі Валерый Ганчароў, па-сутнасці створана навукова-вытворчая карпарацыя, калі кожная з арганізацый робіць свой унёсак у атрымманне вынікаў, якія запатрабаваны ва ўсіх галінах эканомікі: “Мы працуем у рэжыме міждyscyплінарным, нашы кампетэнцыі – ад вывучэння касмічных даляў у сумесных праграмах з калегамі Расіі і Кітая да засваення зямных нетраў і даследавання Антарктыды”. Прадуктамі ў выніку могуць быць як вырабы з металу, так і тэхналогіі, звязаныя са штучным інтэлектам. Фарміруецца адзіная для краіны сістэма, калі ўзаемазвязаны навука, адукацыя, вытворчасць. Вучоныя шчыльна супрацоўнічаюць з флагманскімі прадпрыемствамі, такімі як МАЗ, БелАЗ, МТЗ, Белдзжы. Новы кірунак, які



сёння запатрабаваны, – выпуск электрамабіляў. Ужо зроблена іх вопытная партыя.

Шмат робіцца для прасоўвання вынікаў, дэманстрацыі дасягненняў шырокай грамадскасці. Штогод Нацыянальная акадэмія навук бярэ ўдзел у 30 выставачных мерапрыемствах – у Беларусі і за яе межамі. Так, ва ўсіх рэгіёнах краіны напрацоўкі вучоных

прэзентаваліся на выстаўцы “Беларусь інтэлектуальная”, якая пасля была прадстаўлена і на экспазіцыі Выстаўкі дасягненняў народнай гаспадаркі ў Маскве. Са сваімі напрацоўкамі вучоныя знаёмілі і наведвальнікаў выстаўкі “Мая Беларусь”, якая прайшла ў Мінскім міжнародным выставачным цэнтры. Тут можна было даведацца пра капсулу спускальнага апарата для касмічных палётаў і даследаванні ў галіне штучнага інтэлекту, убачыць макет модуля станцыі ў Антарктыдзе, электрамабілі, беспілотныя сістэмы, лазерную тэхніку, вырабы медыцынскага прызначэння. Шмат тэхналогій датычацца аграпрамысловага комплексу, а гэта і метады дакладнага земляробства і жывёлагадоўлі, і сарты, выведзеныя ў Беларусі. Таксама Нацыянальная акадэмія навук штогод праводзіць Тыдзень адчыненых дзвярэй, калі можна наведаць яе ўстановы ў Мінску і іншых гарадах. Далучаліся вучоныя і да грамадска-палітычнай акцыі “Марафон адзінства”, у рамках яе працавала выстаўка “Погляд за гарызонт”.

Яўген Кручкоў  
Фота БелТА

# У ПРЫЯРЫТЭЦЕ – ДЗЯРЖАЎНЫЯ ІНТАРЭСЫ

## Як мяняецца работа бібліятэк

Цэнтральная навуковая бібліятэка імя Якуба Коласа Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук адзначыла векавы юбілей. Гэтай падзеі была прысвечана Міжнародная навукова-практычная канферэнцыя “Навука. Бібліятэка. Інфармацыя”, якая сабрала больш за 200 вучоных і спецыялістаў буйнейшых бібліятэк і архіваў, устаноў вышэйшай адукацыі Беларусі, Расійскай Федэрацыі і Кітая.

### Дэтэктывная задача

Падчас працы пяці секцый абмяркоўваліся такія тэмы, як станаўленне і развіццё навуковых бібліятэк; кірункі навукова-даследчыцкай работы; інфармацыйна-аналітычнае забеспячэнне навукі, адукацыі, культуры, прамысловасці і сацыяльнай галіны; роля

бібліятэк у прасоўванні навуковых ведаў, узаемадзеянне іх з вышэйшымі школамі. Таксама ўдзельнікі гаварылі пра рукапісныя матэрыялы, рэдкія кнігі і кніжныя зборы, якія захоўваюцца ў іх фондах.

Дырэктар Дзяржаўнай публічнай гістарычнай бібліятэкі Расіі Міхаіл Афанасьёў перад пачаткам канферэнцыі падзяліўся, што ключавым кірункам у супрацоўніцтве з беларускімі калегамі бачыць вывучэнне старых кніг. Дзякуючы цеснаму перапляценню лёсаў Беларусі і Расіі сёння ў бібліятэках абедзвюх краін захоўваюцца калекцыі, якія маюць агульнае паходжанне. Так, у гістарычнай бібліятэцы ў Маскве можна пабачыць кнігі з былых прыватных бібліятэк дзеячаў Беларусі. А ў нас маюцца кнігі з калекцый, якія цікавыя расійскім бібліятэкарам.

Для прыкладу Міхаіл Афанасьёў прывёў кніжныя зборы Караля Гутэн Чапскага – чалавека, які пакінуў след у гісторыі і Беларусі, і Расіі. Яго кнігі маюцца ў абедзвюх краінах, разам сабраць іх фізічна немагчыма, тым больш што за кожнай з кніг стаіць свая гісторыя. Затое можна зрабіць бібліяграфічны спіс, электронную калекцыю.

Сярод цікавых крыніц, якія захоўваюцца ў Расіі, так званы “Кодэкс Паскевіча” – багаслоўскія працы, якія гэты калекцыянер набыў у XIX стагоддзі, у адзін том сплечены рукапісы пачынаючы з XII – XIII стагоддзя. Безумоўна, вывучэнне такой крыніцы можа стаць адным з сумесных беларуска-расійскіх праектаў. Таксама ў Дзяржаўнай публічнай гістарычнай бібліятэцы Расіі ёсць выданні з бібліятэкі Радзівілаў. Пошук і збіранне такіх кніг па ўсім свеце – адзін з вялікіх праектаў Цэнтральнай навуковай бібліятэкі акадэміі навук Беларусі.

“Многія са старых калекцый мелі рукапісныя ці друкаваныя каталогі. Паспрабаваць





адшукаць, куды ў бурным XX стагоддзі патрапілі гэтыя кнігі, – вельмі цікавая даследчыцкая, нават дэтэктыўная задача. Трэба стварыць спісы іх рэальнага размяшчэння, зводныя каталогі. А далей, як гэта робіцца з кнігамі з бібліятэкі Радзівілаў, іх трэба аблічбаваць і аб'яднаць у віртуальных калекцыях”, – раскажаў пра работу, якая можа аб'ядноўваць бібліятэкараў розных краін, Міхаіл Афанасьёў.

Сумесныя праекты, на яго думку, могуць быць звязаны і з вывучэннем больш “маладых” кніжных збораў, тых, што належалі вядомым грамадскім і культурным дзеячам. Так, значная частка калекцыі Панцелеймона Панамарэнкі патрапіла ў расійскую гістарычную бібліятэку, а частка засталася ў Беларусі. Знаёмства з такімі прыватнымі бібліятэкамі будзе карысным для таго, каб лепш зразумець асоб, якім яны належалі, і час, у які яны жылі.

Падчас канферэнцыі супрацоўнікі Цэнтральнай навуковай бібліятэкі на міні-выстаўцы прадставілі кірылічныя выданні і рукапісныя кнігі, што з'явіліся на ўсходнеславянскіх землях, а таксама старажытныя заходнееўрапейскія кнігі. Самыя старыя з прадстаўленых рарытэтаў – Віленскае Евангелле Напрэстольнае 1644 года.

### Навуковая скарбніца

Як раскажаў дырэктар Цэнтральнай навуковай бібліятэкі імя Якуба Коласа Станіслаў Юрэцкі, гісторыя ўстановы непарыўна звязана з гісторыяй

са сваім кіраўніком і штатнымі работнікамі. У 1930-я вялася актыўная работа па набывцці бібліятэк вядомых вучоных. Напрыклад, былі выкуплены зборы Эпімах Шыпілы. У даваенных фондах захоўваліся кнігі, якія раней належалі знакамітым родам. Была сярод іх і бібліятэка Нясвіжскай ардынацыі Радзівілаў, у тым ліку і ўнікальныя выданні XV–VIII стагоддзяў. Наогул даваенны фонд налічваў 345 тысяч адзінак захоўвання.

У гады Вялікай Айчыннай вайны бібліятэка была зруйнавана, а яе каштоўныя кніжныя фонды



акадэмічнай навукі. Фарміраванне кніжных збораў для патрэб Інстытута беларускай культуры і Навуковай тэрміналагічнай камісіі вялося яшчэ ў 1921–1924 гадах, а ў 2025 годзе бібліятэка была аформлена як асобнае структурнае падраздзяленне

вывезены ў Германію. Яшчэ ішла вайна, а ўжо вялася праца па яе аднаўленні супрацоўнікамі, якія знаходзіліся ў эвакуацыі. У 1948 годзе па колькасці фонды “акадэмікі” былі нават большыя за даваенныя...

Сёння ў фондзе Цэнтральнай навуковай бібліятэкі каля 4 мільёнаў адзінак захоўвання. Тут знаходзіцца самы вялікі ў нашай краіне збор унікальных замежных выданняў розных часоў. Вядзецца работа з рукапіснай спадчынай вядомых прадстаўнікоў беларускай навукі. У бібліятэцы НАН захавана 74 фонды, у тым ліку і рукапісы дзеячаў культуры і навукі Беларусі, у агульнай колькасці каля 50 тысяч

адзінак захоўвання.

Сёння бібліятэка перастроілася пад новыя запыты. У ёй можна працаваць не толькі “вочна”, але і анлайн. Чытачам даступныя пакеты электронных баз даных, віртуальная даведачная служба, міжбібліятэчны

абанемент, паслуга адабранай пад патрэбы карыстальніка навуковай інфармацыі ў яго асабісты кабінет. Займаецца ўстанова і выставаўнай дзейнасцю, што дазваляе прасоўваць дасягненні беларускай навукі.

Адзін са значных праектаў, над якім сёння вядзецца работа, – стварэнне беларускай электроннай энцыклапедыі. Сярод планаў калектыву бібліятэкі – расшырыць тэматыку даследаванняў, павялічыць колькасць навуковай прадукцыі, якая выпускаецца

узгадаў пра прыняты ў Расіі закон “Аб зацвярджэнні асноў дзяржаўнай палітыкі па захаванні і ўмацаванні традыцыйных каштоўнасцяў” і выдзеліў кірункі, найбольш актуальныя для Саюзнай дзяржавы: умацаванне традыцыйных каштоўнасцяў, іх прасоўванне і папулярызаванне, супрацьдзеянне дыструктыўнай ідэалогіі, умацаванне ролі Саюзнай дзяржавы як міжнароднага цэнтра захавання традыцыйных каштоўнасцяў. Адна з праблем, якую акрэсліў Вадзім Дуда, “атамізацыя” грамадства:



■ Выстаўка старадрукаў з фондаў Цэнтральнай навуковай бібліятэкі

яе супрацоўнікамі, удасканаліць практыкі забеспячэння захаванасці старадрукаў і рукапісаў.

### Разам шукаць новых герояў

Генеральны дырэктар Расійскай дзяржаўнай бібліятэкі, прэзідэнт Расійскай бібліятэчнай асацыяцыі і бібліятэчнай асамблеі Еўразіі Вадзім Дуда ўзняў пытанні, звязаныя з новымі задачамі бібліятэк як важнейшых інфармацыйных цэнтраў. Нягледзячы на тое, што развіваюцца сучасныя інфармацыйныя тэхналогіі, бібліятэкі застаюцца вядучымі навуковымі ўстановамі ў галіне бібліяграфіі, крыніцазнаўства, архіўнай справы. Сёння, на яго думку, яны павінны працаваць і на прыярытэты дзяржавы, камплектаванне фондаў неабходна весці з такім улікам. У прыватнасці, ён

“Раней найважнейшыя тэмы, як, напрыклад, індустрыялізацыя, развіццё прамысловасці, электрафікацыя, знаходзілі сваё адлюстраванне і ў кнігах, і ў мастацтве. Гэта стварала агульныя тэмы ў грамадстве, нам было пра што пагаварыць. Сёння з’явілася шмат інфармацыйных каналаў, але вельмі мала скразных тэм”. Трэба разам шукаць і новых сучасных герояў, на якіх захочацца раўняцца моладзі, якія будуць ёй зразумелыя. Што бібліятэчная супольнасць можа зрабіць, каб з’яўлялася больш кніг, якія адпавядаюць прыярытэтам грамадства, удзельнікі канферэнцыі абмеркавалі падчас “Беларуска-расійскага семінара па развіцці міжнароднага бібліятэчна-інфармацыйнага супрацоўніцтва”.

Таццяна **Бузіноўская**  
Фота Елізаветы Голад





Opening of the kayaking season on the Svisloch river



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