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### Time for Kamvol JSC to outshine its rivals

The Kamvol enterprise, previously well known throughout the USSR, has been overseen by the state since the country's independence owing to its high social and economic significance **Page 4**



### Tourist trip to hospital

Amongst the many reasons that tourists visit our country, one is to take advantage of our healthcare. The high standard and relative profitability make our medical services a key contributor to the economy. **Page 6**



### Human sincerity shown in sculpture

Victor Murashov's personal exhibition introduces some stunning examples of the famous sculptor's art to Minsk audiences **Page 9**



Minsk today. View on Pobediteley Avenue

# Minsk is now ranked among top ten cities for comfortable living

New York's Mercer Consulting Company's annual ratings for comparative cost of living across various cities worldwide places Minsk among top ten cheapest cities





# Minsk is among top ten cities for comfortable lifestyle

New York's Mercer Consulting Company's annual ratings for comparative cost of living across various cities worldwide places Minsk among top ten cheapest cities

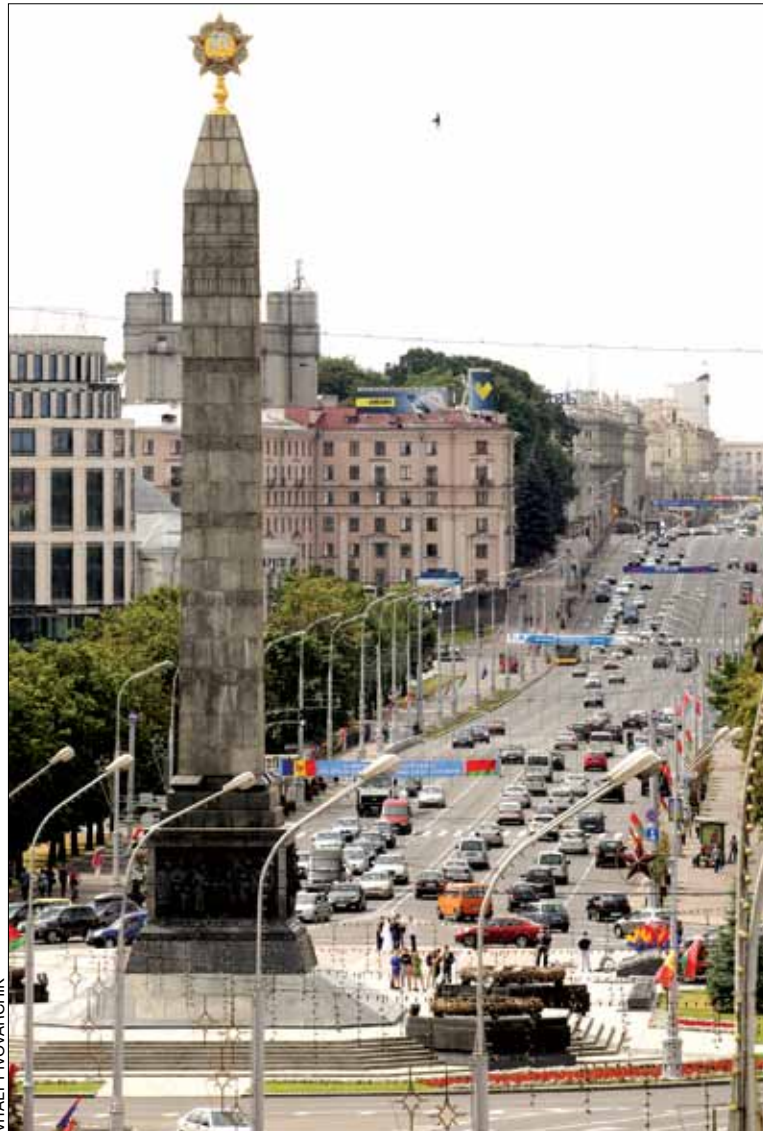
By Milana Leonova

Meanwhile, Moscow is now ranked 50th (down from 9th most expensive in 2014) while St. Petersburg currently occupies 152nd place (from 35th in the last year's rating). Experts explain the fall of the Russian Rouble against the Dollar has helped make the Russian cities more affordable for international travellers and expats.

The ratings compare the average cost of living across 200 cities, against that in New York.

Covering five continents, criteria include the cost of transport, accommodation, food, clothes and entertainment, making it the most comprehensive rating system to date, used by multinational companies and governmental agencies working abroad (to calculate compensation for employees).

For the third time in a row, Angola's Luanda is named the most expensive city, followed by Hong Kong, Zurich, Singapore and Geneva, ahead of Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul, Bern and Chad's



Minsk. Pobedy Square

Ndjamena. Some cities in Central Europe have become 'more affordable' as their local currencies have fallen in value against the American Dollar: Prague has

moved from 92nd to 142nd place, while Budapest is now 170th (135th in the past). Meanwhile, Minsk is ranked 201st: truly, life is great where we are!

# Biometric database

Consulates of the European Union countries have started to issue biometric visas for visits to the Schengen region, using fingerprint recognition as part of the registration process. The visa is valid for five years, but with each entry to a Schengen state, border guards will scan fingerprints, verifying them with the visa record.

By Alexander Mityukov

At the Brest border, the innovation has not yet caused a backlog of traffic, though the first tourists have already felt some slight discomfort. On a normal working day, the Brest checkpoint is almost empty. At the entrance to passport control there are hardly more than 30 vehicles. All the passengers are travelling to Poland on ordinary visas, which they received before the new measures obliged people to have their fingerprints taken. The Head of Public Relations for Brest Border Guards, Alexander Kislov, explains that the European initiative does not concern our side of the border, as the Belarusian checkpoint is concerned with passports, rather than visas, "There are no delays, we process between 7,000 to 9,000 tourists around the clock, and from 1,500 to 2,000 vehicles in both directions. The presence of Schengen visas and their authenticity is checked by our Polish colleagues. It will soon become evident whether delays will be caused as a result of this new initiative."

Having crossed our border, a tourist arrives on the Polish side. The procedure to verify fingerprints follows: visitors put both left and right palms



Fingerprint checking procedure

onto the device, whilst a border guard checks whether the fingerprints correspond to those in the database of the VIS system (visa information system).

During the June press conference on the border crossing in Kuznica, Chief of Podlaskie Division of the Polish National Border Guard Service, Andrzej Rytwinski, said that scanning fingerprints at the border is extremely fast, the data reaches a single database in Strasbourg in 20 seconds. Polish border guards also use stationary scanners in boxes for registration, and



At Brest border checkpoint

are much quicker with the process, being more experienced. But I don't see anything too difficult with it eventually, apart from a short wait."

The head of another agency, Sergey Suprunovich, says that his tourists who received new visas did not have any difficulties at the border. Buses are reaching the Schengen countries on time. The innovation has been well received in Poland's Consulate in Brest. To begin with, there was a fear that the processing of visa application documents would increase, however, the scanning procedure appears to take only 2-3 minutes. Special scanners are installed near boxes for the acceptance of documents, and a consulate worker is present to supervise the process.

There is however, some inconvenience for those who wish to travel to a Schengen country that does not have consular representation in the region. For example, Brest residents wishing to get to Switzerland or the Czech Republic, even though their documents have been prepared by the tour operator, are obliged to go personally for fingerprinting to Minsk, rather than the travel agency being able to complete all the necessary paperwork as previously.

# Trust and peace are above all

By Vladimir Khromov

**Belarus welcomes agreements on Iranian Nuclear Programme achieved in Vienna**

Belarus welcomes the agreement reached regarding the Iranian Nuclear Programme, achieved by six international mediators and the Islamic Republic of Iran at a meeting in Vienna. The Belarusian Foreign Ministry's statement reads: "The resulting compromise on the issue strengthens international security without disturbing the existing right of Iran to develop peaceful nuclear energy, and is confirmation of the possibility of solving even the most difficult international crises through political and diplomatic means".

The Foreign Ministry hopes the parties will manage to overcome any internal political barriers to the implementation of the agreement. It is expected that the plan will not fail due to the non-fulfilment of mutual obligations. The final settlement of disputes and disagreements over the Iranian Nuclear Programme and the lifting of sanctions against Tehran will enhance confidence, strengthen the non-proliferation regime and secure peace and stability in the region and beyond.

# Plan of action approved for red tape reduction

By Alexander Pimenov

**The decision is contained in the Council of Ministers' regulation regarding the realisation of the Presidential Directive 'On Debureaucratisation of the State Apparatus and Improving the Quality of Life Support of the Population'**

According to the document, from January 1st, 2016, a single portal for electronic services will be a base access point for those wishing to complete applications for various administrative procedures in electronic form and to receive the results of subsequent administrative decisions by state bodies and organisations in the form of an electronic document.

The plan also envisages the expansion of the practice of conducting press conferences and other important events across the Internet, including involving deputies at all levels, representatives of mass media and public organisations. State councils and organisations must be prompt in publishing information on their websites about changes in legislation, particularly those that affect the rights, responsibilities and legal interests of citizens. It aims to explain new regulations and norms to the general population.



# A two-way road turns into highway

## President of Moldova, Nicolae Timofti, makes official visit to Minsk

By Vasily Kharitonov

Around a thousand kilometres separate Minsk from Chisinau, relatively speaking, we're neighbours. The two republics have enjoyed good relations since the Soviet era and we're very familiar with the Moldovan black cherry, peaches and apricots, as well as its wines and cognac. Moldovans are highly appreciative of Belarusian machinery. At the political level, diplomatic relations have been based on trust, and consequently, there was a warm welcome for the visiting President, Nicolae Timofti, from Alexander Lukashenko. After the orchestra had finished playing the anthems of the two states and soldiers of the Guard of Honour had solemnly paraded, the two presidents enjoyed a friendly conversation before moving to their business meeting.

During the negotiations, the two sides expressed a mutual interest in strengthening their economic partnership. There is already an existing basis for this. Moldova, with a population of 3.5 million, is Belarus' fourth biggest trading partner within the CIS (after Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan). The trade turnover, which initially reached \$400m, surprised even Alexander Lukashenko. The two countries are still keen to raise the volume of bilateral trade. Mr. Lukashenko is convinced that even Moldova's orientation towards the EU and European integration won't be an obstacle, "We don't politicise the fact of Moldova's signing the association agreement with the European Union and take it as a given. There haven't ever been situations when Moldova acted against Belarus. We highly appreciate this. You can be sure that we haven't ever done anything bad to Moldova and won't do it."

Nicolae Timofti affirmed the desire of his country to build such bilateral relations with all neighbours, as they have with Belarus. "The future of the countries of Europe and



Alexander Lukashenko and Nicolae Timofti

of the world is in our hands," he adds. He referred, of course, to the will of the political leaders of these countries. Both presidents understand each other well; such is their long-term relationship. This understanding certainly is worth valuing, particularly when we consider that Belarus and Moldova have obligations to their partners in other alliances. It's necessary to use the advantages of integration and minimise the risks for bilateral trade. Mr. Lukashenko sees the most logical path as setting up joint production, aiming to enter the markets of third countries, including the

European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union. In other words, our states should become a bridge between the two markets.

The first steps towards industrial collaboration have been already made, with Belarusian trolley buses and tractors being currently assembled in Moldova; MAZ buses are next in line. There's also interest in organising the joint processing of Moldovan fruits and vegetables in Belarus. Considering our developed industrial and logistical infrastructure, Belarus should become a base for the processing, storage and promotion of Moldovan goods to

the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union. The proposals are welcomed, and Mr. Lukashenko has only one condition, "It's imperative that these goods are of high quality and that entrepreneurs come to us with transparency, winning tenders and gaining contracts fairly."

In an economic respect, Moldova currently lags behind its neighbours, with its GDP standing at slightly more than \$2,000 per capita. Belarus is eager to share its developments and experience in industry,

and a temperate climate. The 2010-2014 national agricultural development strategy is still being implemented.

There is also an increase in cultural exchange programmes with Days of Belarusian Culture being held in Moldova this autumn and a return visit planned for next year. Following the negotiations in Minsk, a considerable package of measures has been agreed, dealing with the exchange of legal information, as well as liaisons in industry and cultural ties.

Mr. Lukashenko stressed that, during the visit, considerable attention was given to looking for new ideas for interaction, aiming to develop bilateral trade-economic ties. According to the Head of the Belarusian state, industrial co-operation is a promising area for collaboration in all spheres of mutual interest with the entrance of joint produce to the markets of the third countries, including the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and European Union. The Head of State confirmed that there are no political issues between Belarus and Moldova. The two countries constructively co-operate on international platforms, including the UN, OSCE, CIS, and other universal and regional organisations. According to the Belarusian leader, more dialogue between the parliaments should be encouraged. He emphasised that the two heads of state had concluded a productive and substantial meeting, with especially positive plans for the spheres of science, education and sport.

Mr. Lukashenko believes that both states have a strong base on which to build bilateral relations. He expressed confidence that, after the current visit of the Moldovan President to Belarus, the two states will significantly expand their co-operation. "We now need to move forward together and we are ready to do this," stated the Belarusian leader.

We don't politicise the fact of Moldova's signing the association agreement with the European Union and take it as a given. There haven't ever been situations when Moldova acted against Belarus. We highly appreciate this.

agriculture and construction. Moldova will, for example, need to reconstruct almost 10,000 kilometres of roads and Belarusian specialists are ready to aid the construction of the ring road around Chisinau. Modernisation of the railway infrastructure is also in the pipeline and up to date electric trains, manufactured by Stadler AG near Minsk, are planned. The Belarusian Oil Company will jointly organise wholesale and retail networks in Moldova to sell Belarusian oil products.

Agriculture is still the major source of revenue for Moldovans. As in our country, Moldova doesn't have deposits of mineral resources, so it has to use to what nature has given it to the utmost: fertile soil

## Nicolae Timofti: 'Belarus is moving forward into the modern world'

By Vladimir Velikhov

On the final day of his visit to Belarus, the President of Moldova visited the Council of the Republic early in the morning to meet the Chairman of the National Assembly's Council of the Republic, Mikhail Myasnikov, the Chairman of the House of Representatives, Vladimir Andreichenko, and other parliamentarians. He personally shook hands with all of them, understanding that a considerable amount of work lies ahead to realise the planned agreements. Mr. Timofti also visited Minsk's Tractor Works and the Belarusian-Swiss Stadler Minsk enterprise.

Mr. Myasnikov proposed an exchange of ideas — developed as part of the Eurasian Economic Union — with Moldovan policy makers; this would facilitate the development of an act to allow mutual trade in the future.

Mr. Andreichenko also thanked the President and the Moldovan delegation for the meeting and welcomed the development of relations between our two countries. "Belarus views your country and your people with much warmth," he said. "We enjoy close ties and Moldova is a very important trade and economic partner for Belarus."

Later in the day, Mr. Timofti visited Minsk's Tractor Works and,

while attending an exhibition of MTZ, Amkodor and MAZ machinery, drove a MAZ bus and a powerful new 'Belarus-3522' tractor. The delegation spent more time than was planned in the Council of the Republic and, due to this, an excursion to plant had to be postponed. However, the guests met its Director, Fiodor Domotenko, who informed them that his plant aims to meet the task of increasing tractor sales to Moldova. "We've received an invitation to visit your country in the near future to discuss our co-operation," he said. In turn, Moldova's Deputy Economy Minister, Oktavian Kalmyk, expressed his country's interest in using the new



Nicolae Timofti during his visit to Stadler Minsk JSC

MTZ models in its agricultural industry. Following this, the Stadler Minsk Belarusian-Swiss enterprise showed the Moldovan President the full production cycle of modern electric trains, also taking him for a ride. Sitting in the driver's seat, Mr. Timofti was pleasantly surprised to see that these are highly technological and aesthetic new products. He also confirmed that Belarus-made trains could operate in Moldova in the future.

Overall, the visit was fruitful, with many agreements achieved. There are plans to continue the growth in bilateral turnover; last year, it reached \$420m. Belarus and Moldova aim for this to increase even further, with Mr. Timofti commenting, "It was very satisfying to see everything with my own eyes, to be reassured that Belarus is moving forward. What you are doing in modernising the state industry is of clear benefit to all."



# Time for Kamvol JSC to outshine its rivals

The Kamvol enterprise, previously well known throughout the USSR, has been overseen by the state since the country's independence owing to its high social and economic significance

By Vladimir Khromov

It has not only been controlled by state agencies but has been steadily receiving state financing which has kept the brand afloat. Kamvol JSC is now a significant textile manufacturer, enjoying a full production cycle. The business uses 64 different types of machinery, enabling it to process wool, produce thread and fabrics and export them to Europe and the CIS.

Sadly, Kamvol has long been a problematic industry for the government. Four years ago, Minsk's law enforcement bodies identified numerous fraudulent deals occurring within the business. The President's reaction was to immediately dismiss both the heads of the Bellegprom Concern and Kamvol JSC, ordering a restructuring of the company in the shortest possible time.

Recently, the branch heads and the Chairman of the State Control Committee reported on its progress to Mr. Lukashenko. According to their most recent report, there are still issues surrounding the company, particularly regarding delays in the programme of modernisation. Consequently, the cost of construction and assembling works is growing. On a positive note however, other renewal measures are proceeding well and some new equipment is already installed. The Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, Nikolai Snopkov, briefed journalists on the key points of the recent meeting, "The President gave a difficult task to follow the terms that were set initially, and keep within costs. There were two clear aims, to preserve the company and the jobs associated with it, (even increasing the number of opportunities for employment) and to modernise the industry to improve efficiency. In the long term, this will certainly enhance the competitiveness of the business."

According to the official source, the success of Kamvol's modernisation is closely connected to the fate of another light industry enterprise: Sukno



Production at Minsk's Kamvol JSC

**Modernisation of Kamvol will have resulted in the enterprise's capacities increasing six fold: from 1 to 6m linear metres of fabric. This will make it a modern enterprise, the newest in the post-Soviet region.**

JSC. The President has not so far supported the idea of these two enterprises' merging as a single cloth industry. In late September, Mr. Lukashenko plans to visit Kamvol to personally assess the reforms. In the light of his assessment of the modernisation process, the issue of possibly uniting the two factories could be reconsidered. So far, Mr. Lukashenko has taken a personal interest in our light industry.

Kamvol's modernisation, despite its problems, has aroused respect in the business world. The Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Semashko,

addressed journalists in high spirits praising the company for its improvement drive. He pointed out that when complete, the reforms will ensure that Kamvol's capacities will increase six fold: from 1 to 6m linear metres of fabric. This will make it a modern enterprise, the newest in the post-Soviet region. Its closest rival would be significantly weaker in terms of physical production volumes. Kamvol would have no competition in the post-Soviet area.

The flagship of our light industry is poised to take a key position

in world trade. The Advisory Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission recently announced that Russia should abolish its restriction on access of our woollen cloth to the Russian market. This is a positive sign. Whilst quality products are a key to success, there is also the necessity of a buoyant market in which to sell it. Growing competition makes this task even more difficult. Kamvol's General Director, Sergey Gorovoy, emphasises that the company's marketing services are working on new sales markets. The President's demands are being followed to the letter; they are keen not only to preserve Kamvol and Sukno, but also their jobs. It's vital to improve efficiency through modernisation in order to ensure the long-term competitiveness of our textiles whilst protecting our domestic market against imported produce of poor quality.

## Loan to repay loan

By Alexander Pimenov

**The Russian Government has approved an agreement to provide Belarus a state loan in Russian Roubles (worth an equivalent \$760m), with a corresponding instruction released on the official Internet portal of legal information**

The funds will be used to pay and service loans given previously to Belarus by Russia and the Eurasian Fund for Stabilisation and Development (EFSD). The loan will be repaid by 13 equal twice-yearly instalments on February 15th and August 15th every year, with the first payment due on February 15th, 2019.

This year, Russia has already granted Belarus \$110 million to repay the interest on the Russian loan, issued in 2010. Recently, Russian Finance Minister, Anton Siluanov, told reporters in Moscow that Belarus had asked Russia for a \$3bn loan.

The BELTA correspondent was confirmed at the Belarusian Finance Ministry that Belarus had applied for a new loan for the amount of \$3bn to the EurAsEC Anticrisis Fund [now renamed the Eurasian Fund for Stabilisation and Development] in the first half of 2015. In early July, the Eurasian Development Bank reported that its Fund for Stabilisation and Development was preparing details of Belarus' loan application to the EFSD.

## Synchronising watches with partners

By Alexander Kovalevich

**Belarus is keen to develop co-operation with Israel Chemicals Limited, noted Belarus' Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov, as he met the President and Executive Director of the Israeli company, Stefan Borgas**

Today Israel Chemicals Limited (ICL) is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of products based on unique minerals. "For us the production of mineral fertilisers, primarily potassium fertilisers, is one of the key industries in the country's economy. It would be beneficial for us to 'synchronise watches' and explore the possibilities for mutual partnership with this respected global company," said the Head of Government.

The PM noted that Belarus views Israel as one of the most promising trade and economic partners. He believes that the trade turnover between the two countries is actively growing, but has not yet reached its full potential.

Mr. Kobyakov described how Israeli companies have recently begun to show a more active interest in entering into business agreements with the Republic of Belarus. "We welcome this interest and are ready to co-operate," said the Prime Minister. He expressed the hope that the visit of the representatives of the Israeli company will serve as a new impetus for business development. "We hope that we'll be able to find promising points of contact, which we can develop into areas for the growth of trade between our countries," Mr. Kobyakov concluded.

# Proposals made to Japanese businesses

By Oleg Voropaev

**Belarus' First Deputy Prime Minister, Vasily Matyushevsky, encourages Japanese businesses to expand their investment activity in Belarus. This was announced during a meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus (concurrent), H.E. Mr. Chikahito Harada**

Minsk hosted a joint Belarusian-Japanese business meeting, involving the heads of around 20 leading Japa-

nese companies.

The First Deputy Prime Minister noted that Japanese businesses can confidently enter the Belarusian market with new ideas, both in the sphere of trade and in the area of innovations and technology, whilst also expanding their investment activity in Belarus. It primarily refers to the areas of high technology, industry, agriculture and logistics. Moreover, Mr. Matyushevsky confirmed Belarus' aspiration to attract Japanese companies to invest in the modernisation of Belarusian enterprises.

Both sides discussed issues of bilateral trade and economic collaboration whilst considering the opportu-



Chikahito Harada

nities to strengthen their interaction in the sphere of credit and investment. The First Deputy Prime Minister noted that the two countries still have a

great deal of untapped potential as far as co-operation in business goes.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of large companies as Hitachi Construction Machinery, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Panasonic, Mitsubishi Motors, Itochu and others.

From the point of view of assets on the Belarusian market, Japanese companies currently lag slightly behind a range of Western and Chinese firms. "We are keen for them to become more involved, particularly in the area of automobile manufacturing," commented Mr. Sergei Rakhmanov, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Japan.



# Taxation on Internet purchases

The time has long gone when Internet shopping was something mysterious and shocking for Belarusians. Many people are now familiar with using a keyboard to order meals, home appliances, footwear and clothes, to name but a few. There has been a surge of popularity in buying from international sellers and, today, parcels from China, the USA and Russia arrive in the country and make their way to the Belarusian buyers. The growth in the number of postal items arriving from abroad has already caused concern in Government departments. The authorities take issue with the fact that a significant amount of currency is going abroad. While many goods bought on foreign platforms do not come into the category of critical imports, these items could be bought in the country and produced by local manufacturers. Our *MT* correspondent has been investigating whether foreign Internet shops are a real threat to the well-being of local manufacturers.

By Polina Konoga

The problem seems to be that the number of purchases from abroad has increased significantly in recent years. Just 4 years ago, the number of international postal items addressed to Belarusians was less than 1 million. The current annual volume of foreign parcels is close to 10 million, while last year our buyers spent about \$450 million on the Internet. This includes spending on both foreign and local Internet sites and is small in comparison with other countries, especially when we consider that the volume of all consumer imports in the country for last year reached \$9.3 billion. In addition, not all parcels are purchases. There are many Belarusians who regularly receive gifts from friends and relatives living outside the country.

The Ministry of Trade figures in more detail show that the share of Internet trade decreased last year in comparison with 2013 (about 1.5 percent to 1.3), though stable growth was observed before that. The Ministry considers these to be the negative consequences of the growth of the number of purchases from abroad. There is still the open-ended question of what should be the level of taxation on Internet trade. This issue

would apply to the entire Eurasian Economic Union including Russia, Kazakhstan and Armenia. At the end of last year, Russia's President Vladimir Putin expressed his opinion that the figures should

be standardised across all the countries of the economic block. Currently, in Russia and Kazakhstan duty-free imports of international postal items is set at 1,000 Euros a month, while in our country it is 200 Euros. It

would not make sense for Belarus alone to change the rate as, if our partners would not adjust theirs simultaneously, Belarusians would simply buy goods in Chinese online shops indirectly through

Russia. The Director General of the Nadezhny Programme Uni-

tary Enterprise, Lyudmila Chekina, recognises that the number of international postal items in our country has increased significantly, and it is quite understandable that desire to regulate this market causes dissatisfaction among shopaholics. It has recently been made public that the National Bank has sent a letter of recommendation on the issue to the commer-

cial banks encouraging them to 'give reasonable consideration to the possibility and feasibility of the collection of additional taxes at the credit card payment stage for Internet purchases'. The National Bank reassured consumers that this is not direct commission, but only an invitation to financial bodies to discuss the question. The fact remains however, that bankers have no legal possibility of withholding taxes.

While the Ministry of Trade recommends that we pay attention to the European experience of regulating electronic commerce, we must consider the appropriateness of using similar measures in our own country. When European buyers are shopping online, they pay VAT (value-added tax) if the sum of the purchases exceeds on average 22 Euros. Consumers also pay additional customs duties if they have exceeded the average 150 Euros. In Brazil it is even stricter: they pay 60 percent duty on purchases from \$50-500. Tax laws in these countries are tightly regulated and there is no possibility of tax evasion without incurring hefty penalties for fraud.

Those manufacturers who are concerned they may suffer from the volume of foreign purchases should not despair, unsettled foreign markets are the ideal time to actively promote and market goods and services at home.



**Recently**, the Association of Internet Trade Companies of Russia (AKIT) addressed the Belarusian business community with a request to initiate discussion at the Eurasian Economic Commission of a possible decrease in duty-free import taxes throughout the Eurasian Economic Union, and also to work out the question of the taxation of foreign Internet companies in place of profit making. The Association considers that the levels operating Belarus are at the most optimum and 'civilised'.

## Emphasis placed on innovations

By Vladimir Velikhov

**High-tech production of Belarusian flax is to be organised at the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, announced Belarus' Deputy Economy Minister, Alexander Yaroshenko, during the Chinese-Belarusian forum on trade-economic co-operation with Qinghai Province**

One of the landmark agreements signed during the forum set out plans for joint developments in medicines, textiles, and photo electricity between the Administration of the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, the Industrial Park Development Company, and Qinghai Snglow Group. Alexander Yaroshenko explained that there are also plans to develop manufacturing based on Belarusian flax. "The Chinese team is ready to consider the possibility of financing flax sowing and harvesting in order to utilise Chinese technolo-

gies to make medicines, in addition to exporting this product to China, including processing flax in the form of flaxseed oil," Mr. Yaroshenko explained.

The Deputy Economy Minister emphasised that the Industrial Park aims to focus on the high-tech manufacturing of innovative products that will be at the cutting edge of development of the Belarusian economy and aid promotion of products to the Eurasian market, the European market and others.

Logistics is another promising business avenue. "We understand that the arrival of Chinese products in Belarus and vice versa will be economically profitable when the logistics capable of minimising transportation costs becomes available. This is why logistics is part of the foundation of our mutually beneficial cooperation," explained the Deputy Minister.

Investment opportunities in Belarus, and the trade and economic potential of Qinghai Province were



Infrastructure construction at the Industrial Park

discussed during the Chinese-Belarusian forum. A business networking session was also held, during which representatives of the Belarusian and Chinese delegations discussed issues of industrial co-operation and economic partnership. In addition, in order to stimulate trade and economic interaction, an exhibition of original

products made by the Qinghai Province companies was arranged in the Beijing Hotel in Minsk. The Chinese companies demonstrated an unmanned aerial vehicle, measuring instruments, food, Tibetan medicines, carpet products, textile products and goods made of wool, fur, and cashmere.

## Attitude towards agriculture as towards business

By Igor Voronov

**Ministry of Agriculture and Food developing new state agro-industrial programme for coming five years**

The programme intends to treat the agricultural branch like any other business, notes the Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food, Lyudmila Nizhevich. Speaking at a meeting of the Presidium of the Council of the Republic, she explained that a new approach is needed, along the same lines as Russia, and within the Eurasian Economic Union framework, to create a 'coherent agricultural policy'. She underlines, "We must produce with profit in mind, knowing our sales markets and selling effectively. This is the basis of our new state programme."



# Tourist trip to hospital

Amongst the many reasons that tourists visit our country, one is to take advantage of our healthcare. The high standard and relative profitability make our medical services a key contributor to the economy. Our reporters investigate what inspires people to travel thousands of kilometres for medical services and how patients often viewed abroad as incurable, receive hope of recovery in Minsk.

By Olga Kosyakova

Coronary artery bypass surgery, heart transplants and prosthesis replacement offered by Belarusian clinics have already gained a strong reputation among foreigners. A few of the most popular medical institutions are the Republican Cardiology Scientific and Practical Centre, the Republican Scientific and Practical Transplantation Centre, the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Paediatric Oncology and Haematology and Minsk's Clinical Emergency Hospital. Their doctors use the latest technology and most up to date equipment to treat patients.

We met a contented Nikolay in the Minsk Clinical Emergency Hospital's luxury one-bed room. The room has a TV set, a refrigerator, a wardrobe, a table and a comfortable bed. It's equipped in this style to help patients forget they are staying in a hospital. Nikolay has completed his treatment in the Neurology Department and is now to return home to Russia. Apart from recovering his health, Nikolay has benefited from top quality medical care at a low price. Foreigners are taken good care of, with doctors giving a personal service from admission to recovery and release. There are



Latest equipment at the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre of Neurology and Neurosurgery

usually no language barriers as many doctors speak English and interpreters are also employed to assist where necessary with communication.

In the administrative area, telephones are ringing endlessly with patients booking and organising details of their treatment. One Russian patient came to the local Haematology Department in a last

search for a cure after being given a terminal diagnosis of liver cancer and metastases in his home country. Specialists at the Clinical Emergency Hospital, under the guidance of surgeon Sergey Rashchinsky, operated on the man and he was released three weeks later with his health significantly improved.

Haematology, complex

cardiac surgery and hip replacements are in the greatest demand at the Minsk clinic among patients from Russia, Georgia and Lithuania. The Administrative Department's Head, Svetlana Balabko, shows us photos of the clinic's most famous patients. Many foreigners are attracted by these recognisable names. "Patients appreciate the clinic's status

and the knowledge that our doctors are highly qualified professionals," she explains. "Specialists Sergey Rashchinsky, Alexander Beimanov and others are well known abroad. In addition, our international website and modern advertising methods play a major role in the export of medical services."

The department staff sys-

tematically analyse demand, paying attention to prices abroad and fixing competitive rates. Ms. Balabko turns to a call log and it's easy to see the geography of the clinic's coverage. "Russians, Ukrainians, Georgians and Lithuanians come for help most often. Citizens of Germany, France, Libya, Iran, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Turkey, Serbia, Venezuela, Armenia and China quite often receive emergency and pre-scheduled treatment. Foreigners are attracted by our value for money. An insurance company covers all expenses in some cases, others are settled in cash."

Last year, 327 foreigners received hospital care at the Minsk Clinical Emergency Hospital and 413 were treated as outpatients. Over 300 patients were offered medical help in specialised departments or at the emergency clinic.

It is the professionalism of our doctors and reasonable prices that are the major engine of medical service exports in Belarus. It's common knowledge that there have been several tourist companies servicing the needs of medical tourists for over ten years now. As the specialists point out, this is an industry where demand does not depend on foreign currency fluctuations.

## Are you young and talented? Family values are always in fashion



Students from Belarus in the headquarters of the Huawei centre

By Irina Svirko

### Belarusian students achieve internship under the Huawei programme in China

Belarusian students from the Higher State College of Communications are being trained in the Huawei centre in Beijing — visiting China as part of a special *Seeds for the Future* programme. The main purpose of the event is to develop information and telecommunication technologies and encourage talented students.

Huawei began inviting foreign students seven years ago when the

company launched its special programme — *Seeds for the Future* — and opened its training centres in over 100 countries across the globe. Over 10,000 people have so far been trained as part of the programme and the first group of students from Belarus is currently receiving internships. As Amy Lin, Huawei's Vice President, states, "The main purpose of the programme is to develop information and telecommunication technologies and encourage talented students. We understand that not all of them will work with our equipment in the future but they will foster the develop-

ment of the industry. This will benefit growth in our company."

Huawei intends to continue cooperating with Belarusian educational institutions in the future. Students from the Higher State College of Communications will visit another Chinese city and spend time at the headquarters of the Chinese telecommunication giant. The Belarusian group will spend one week being trained in the city of Shenzhen in the Guangdong Province in the south of China.

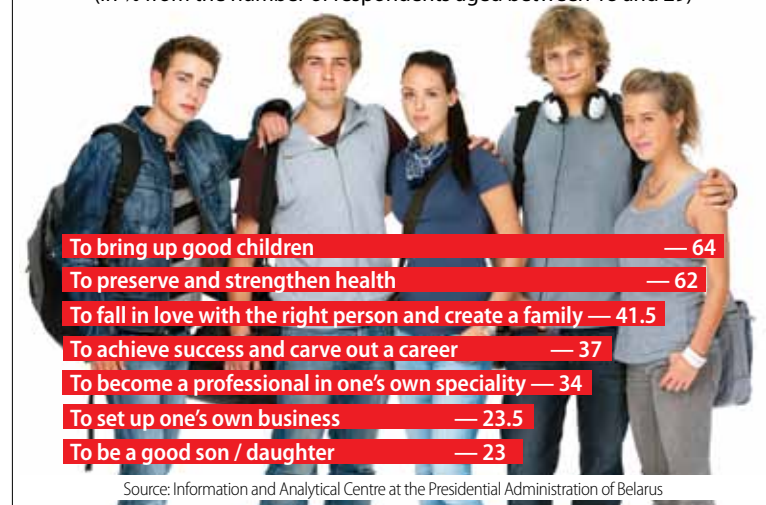
The Chinese corporation is a resident company at the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park. The Park is an area occupying 80sq. km and offers a special legal regime to ensure productive conditions for doing business. The park is located 25km away from Belarus' capital, in a unique natural area close to the international airport, the railway network, and the transnational motorway from Berlin to Moscow. Any company, regardless of their country of origin, can become resident at the park.

As previously reported, the Chinese corporations of ZTE and Huawei intend to start building high-tech manufacturing facilities in the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park as early as 2015.

## Family values are always in fashion

### WHICH GOALS ARE SET BY YOUNG PEOPLE?

(in % from the number of respondents aged between 18 and 29)



By Nadezhda Polivanova

Representatives of the older generation often say that today's youngsters have different values. However, we can and should argue with them. A recent sociological survey conducted in Belarus shows that young people in Belarus aspire to the same goals as their peers several decades ago. More than half of

respondents put material wealth below other kinds. The major priorities of Belarusian youth are to create a strong and happy family, to bring up children, and to remain in good health. Material values take a back seat while one in three thinks about career advancement and one in four thinks that organisation of one's own business is the most important thing for them.



# Treasures of unique Stary Dedin



The village of Stary Dedin is situated far from noisy roads: 30km from Klimovichi. It borders Russia's Shumyachi District and has been home to Belarusians and Russians for centuries. This year, Stary Dedin will celebrate its 1030th anniversary. Many years ago, treasure was discovered nearby: acknowledged as the oldest in Belarus and Eastern Europe.

By Olga Kislyak

Residents of this 'dancing and singing village' — as Stary Dedin is sometimes called — remember and cherish millennium old traditions. Old and young alike enjoy its songs and dances: one custom encourages rain via 'river ploughing' and may soon become listed among the country's intangible historical-cultural treasures.

## Pot with secret

A memorial sign is situated as you enter Stary Dedin, inscribed on a black boulder. It states that 'one of the most ancient coin treasures of Belarus was discovered here, dating from between 980 and 985'. Found in June 1926, by local villager Trofim Gudkov, the coins were concealed within two clay pots, found while ploughing.

*Belaruskaya Veska* (Belarusian Village) newspaper wrote of the find, and the Academy of Sciences sent specialists to investigate. They were amazed to discover Cufic dirhems, a Byzantium miliarisium and two German denariuses. The coins were taken to a Minsk museum but disappeared during the Great Patriotic War (or soon after its end). Not a single coin remains at the Klimovichi District Local History Museum either, but head curator Natalia Banyshevskaya notes, "We tell tourists and local villagers of the treasure and of Stary Dedin. Actually, the village is known not only for its coins, as it enjoys unique traditions and masters. Pieces made by local potters and cooperers are highly coveted in the Mogilev District."

Stary Dedin's senior citizens are proud of their village history. Local wisdom says that a certain local cooper, who died at the age of 25, made his pots and barrels from ancient bog oak, gathering from along the banks of the Oster River (a Sozh basin). In lying in water, the wood blackened and became stronger, allowing barrels, butts and woodenware to remain as strong as stone, and durable. They enjoyed great demand.

Meanwhile, local potters' designs were unique, being strong, with a spot design. Pots, including makotras (cone-shaped pots), were made from clay found 10-15km away. People used to walk to collect it, and every family had its own potter. Their method of batch and firing was also unique. Villagers sold their wares in the markets of Krichev, Khotimsk and Kostyukovich and in the neighbouring Shumyachi District: not for



**Ancient traditions are still honoured in the village of Stary Dedin, with 'river ploughing' being the custom to encourage the rain**

**Galina Brykova, founder of the Stary Dedin's Ostryanka folklore and ethnographic ensemble, knows approximately a hundred ceremonial dances and songs**

## 'River ploughing'

Village pensioners are also known for the ancient pagan custom of 'river ploughing', which is thought to successfully summon rainfall. Ms. Brykova explains, "Our mothers and grandmothers used to ask the river to produce rain, on hot days, after working in the fields. Rain was needed, to avoid the harvests becoming too dry. They'd take the plough to the river, and it would rain the same day or the next. We've taken up the baton!"

Village women entered the water waist-deep, naked, with two dragging the plough, followed by another two who would hurry them along with willow branches, as the others sang certain songs. Tatiana Skotskaya, 66, smiles, recalling, "Of course, we don't plough the river naked now, as so many come to observe our custom! Most are Russians and Belarusians, coming in August, especially for the Saviour of Honey Feast Day. Our land is rich in wonderful healing springs. One is so deep that it hasn't been measured; unsurprisingly, it's called the Bottomless Well." The custom is being entered for Belarus' list of intangible historical-cultural treasures, which would bring even more tourists to Stary Dedin: a village lost somewhere between Belarus and Russia. Local residents are pleased, asserting, "Our village will continue to live!"

money but in exchange for grain. Their price was as much as the pot could contain.

## Dancing village

Sadly, no potters remain in the village these days and all the pottery wheels have gone. Just 167 people live in Stary Dedin, which used to have a school and a post office. Local traditions continue though, as Galina Brykova tells us. She founded Stary Dedin's *Ostryanka* folk group. She explains, "There was a time when at least ten people lived in each house. Weddings were celebrated by all village residents and festivities lasted for at least three days. Those wedding were great, attracting more than 200 guests. Spring was also 'summoned', with the help of certain songs and a harmonica accompaniment. Other villages came along and people were taught dancing and singing from childhood, so that not a single person was unable to join in."

At the age of 74, Galina knows

no less than a hundred local folk songs and can still dance the quadrille, korobochka, pas d'Espagne, cracovienne, dosada and stradaniya. "Ignore the fact that some of these dance names are sad. Dosada [translated as vexation] is a merry dance: a quick stomp. We bring authentic songs and dances to festivals, winning awards, and are proud that our children can sing and dance. We have our own children's exemplary ensemble: *Ostryanochka*," she explains.

The Deputy Director of Klimovichi's district culture centre, Igor Prokhorenko, confirms Galina's words, saying, "Our Stary Dedin grannies are truly famous. They toured half of the Soviet Union in the past. Ethnographers from Leningrad visited them, so that they could publish songbooks and a monograph on folk dances, based on our authentic material. They also released a CD. Although our 'artistes' are 60-80 years old, they participate in all regional festivals, also touring neighbouring Russia."

## Owing to popular demand

By Anastasia Shoplya

### Audio guides in Chinese have appeared in Nesvizh Castle

When visiting Nesvizh Castle, tourists can now request an audio guide, including one in Chinese. "It is due to the fact that Nesvizh is becoming increasingly popular among Chinese guests. They now have the opportunity to become familiar with Belarusian history in their native language," commented a spokesman.

The tourists also have the option to use audio guides in 5 other languages — Belarusian, Russian, Polish, English, and German.

The architectural and cultural complex of the former residence of the Radziwill's family in Nesvizh is one of the sights of Belarus included in the UNESCO World Heritage list. The historical monument is interesting not only for its above ground architecture but also for the dungeons and crypts hidden beneath.

## Beauty in the struggle against violence

By Yevgeny Pimenov

### More than 50 beauties from around the world arriving in Belarus for Mrs. Universe-2015 international annual contest, to be held in Minsk

In Minsk, from August 24th-30th, married, successful, socially active, beautiful women will gather, including participants from Bulgaria, Brazil, Great Britain, Venezuela, India, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Russia and Ukraine.

Of the 10 women who have applied from Belarus, the international jury has yet to decide who will represent our country.

The competition aims to draw attention to the problem of violence against women worldwide, including activities to help victims of abuse and to promote better understanding of the causes of violence, while offering solutions to this problem.



Natalia Trofimova, who took part in the *Mrs. Universe-2014* contest as the Belarusian participant, and who won the title of 'Mrs. Glamorous', notes, "By their actions, they show that violence has no place in a successful family, near a successful woman, in a successful country. The goal of the competition is to create modern role models for all women. Each of us should know what we are striving for: within our family, our career, in business, and in philanthropy."



# EU announces phone roaming charges will be scrapped in 2017

Mobile phone roaming costs in Europe are of a concern to many people travelling outside their countries of residence

Anita, from Dublin, asks, "I heard that soon there will be no more roaming charges when calling within the EU, thanks to a deal concluded in Brussels. Is this true and under what conditions?"

Guillermo Beltra, Head of Legal and Economic at BEUC (the European Consumer Organisation) responds, "When you travel inside the EU today, on top of your national tariffs, you pay (up to a maximum of) 19 cents per minute for each phone call you make. Six cents per SMS sent and 20 cents for each megabyte of data that you use. The single clearest advantage of the deal that was recently announced is that these prices will go down on April 30th, 2016.



As of that date you will pay (no more than) five cents per minute for each call you make, two cents for each SMS you send and five cents for each megabyte that you use. The second important element of the deal is that these roaming tariffs should be abolished on June 15th, 2017. But there is one very important condition for that to happen.

The European institutions must complete a reform of the way in

which mobile providers work with each other to provide you with roaming services. If they have not managed to complete that reform by June 15th, 2017, the abolition of roaming will have to wait.

Even once roaming fees will have been formally abolished, there are many strings attached. Some mobile providers will consider this is too costly for them and will apply for exemptions.

If these exceptions are granted, they will still be able to charge you every time you travel. Other mobile providers might decide to limit the amount of time that you can use your mobile phone as if you were home. The details of all these exceptions are yet unknown. The announced deal is disappointing because it will not mean the end of roaming for all consumers, all the time."



## 3D printed cars could hit roads as early as 2016

**A road ready 3D printed car could be yours if you have 16-27,000 Euros to burn**

Almost one year after debuting its prototype printed vehicle, American manufacturer Local Motors is offering this neighbourhood electric ride from 2016. The car features interchangeable parts, allowing buyers to personalise the car according to their needs.

The start-up company from Arizona is hoping to revolutionise car manufacturing, which has changed little in the last 100 years.

"It's a three-step process," begins John B. Rogers Jr., CEO and co-founder of Local Motors, continuing, "You start with a digital file that you put into a printer and the printer

prints out the rough shape of the car. Then you come along with a milling machine and you cut down the car to be exactly the shape you want it to be in the places you want it to be exact. And then you assemble parts, like motors, wheels, breaks, other things like that and then the car drives away."

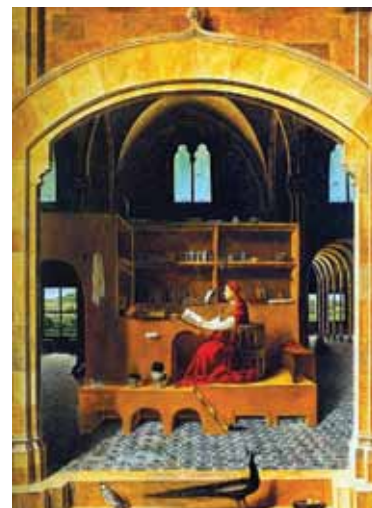
The Strati takes up to 44 hours to print. The next step is to speed up the print rate. On average, a car contains 25,000 parts; the Strati contains just 49. Certain components, such as the engine, tyres and suspension, cannot be printed, but the majority of the car, from the chassis to the seats, is printed using a special plastic which — the manufacturer says — has the same strength as mid-grade aluminium.

## The art is alive with sounds and music at Soundscapes in London

**The National Gallery in London is inviting art lovers to discover a different way of experiencing paintings. Soundscapes has commissioned musicians and sound artists to select a painting from the collection and compose a new piece of music or sound art in response.**

The experience encourages visitors to 'hear' the paintings and 'see' the sound. Minna Moore Ede is the curator of *Soundscapes*, "We have invited two artists from the contemporary art world, two composers from the classical music world and then we tried to extend the reach by selecting one natural sound recordist and at the other end of the spectrum the most-of-the-moment urban sound, the young DJ Jamie xx."

New York-based composer Nico Muhly created an audio response to his favourite art work *The Wilton Diptych*, a 14th century portable altarpiece used for the private worship of Richard III. "I try to respond to it in a way that wasn't cartoonish, it's not a one-to-one correspondence between



how it looks and how it sounds. But instead, what I was aiming to do is surround it with material that's always in motion, so I worked with a sound designer called Jethro Cooke to make sure that everything is moving slowly in the way that with art that exists in 360 degrees you'd have to move around it to experience it," said Muhly.

Turner Prize-winning British sound artist Susan Philipsz created an audio accompaniment for *The Ambassadors*.

## EU's Juncker urges Greece to honour reform promises

**The President of the European Commission says Greece's vote to open talks on a third bailout is a good first step, but Jean-Claude Juncker warned that Athens must honour agreements on economic reform made at a recent Eurozone summit**

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras agreed to start negotiations at a meeting of Eurozone leaders once he had sought parliamentary approval.

That approval came, paving the way for talks to start on the country's third bailout. "The agreement we have reached with Greece will lead to the expected results, under the assumption that the whole programme we agreed upon will be implemented," Juncker said in a press conference in Cyprus.

## Ebola vaccine trials enter Phase II

**Volunteers in Britain and France have begun trialling new Ebola vaccines**

The so-called 'prime-boost' immunisations have been developed in response to vast outbreaks of the deadly virus in West Africa. They form Phase II of the trials. Colin Prickett is in one of the groups testing the vaccines at Oxford University, in England.

"It's nice to be able to do something that contributes to the welfare of other people. This vaccine, when developed, will save many lives and it's quite something, it's quite a privilege to be involved in that, even in a small way," he enthused. Researchers working on the vaccines stress the immunisations contain no live Ebola virus. Instead, safe viruses are genetically modified to contain just a part of the infection, which will then stimulate the body's immune system. A second trial will be carried out in Senegal.

## Pluto pictures stun scientists as the first probe close-ups reach Earth

**Pluto is slowly giving up some of its secrets after the first high definition close-up views were relayed back to Earth from NASA's New Horizons probe**

The images have stunned appreciative scientists who have been surprised by the absence of impact craters on the dwarf planet's surface while marvelling at the existence of a range of mountains made of ice.

Scientists now believe Pluto's mountains were likely formed within the last 100 million years, a relative blink of the eye compared to the age of the solar system. The photos collected on the NASA probe's flyby of Pluto are only a fraction of what's to come over the next six months.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



# Human sincerity shown in sculpture

Victor Murashov's personal exhibition introduces some stunning examples of the famous sculptor's art to Minsk audiences

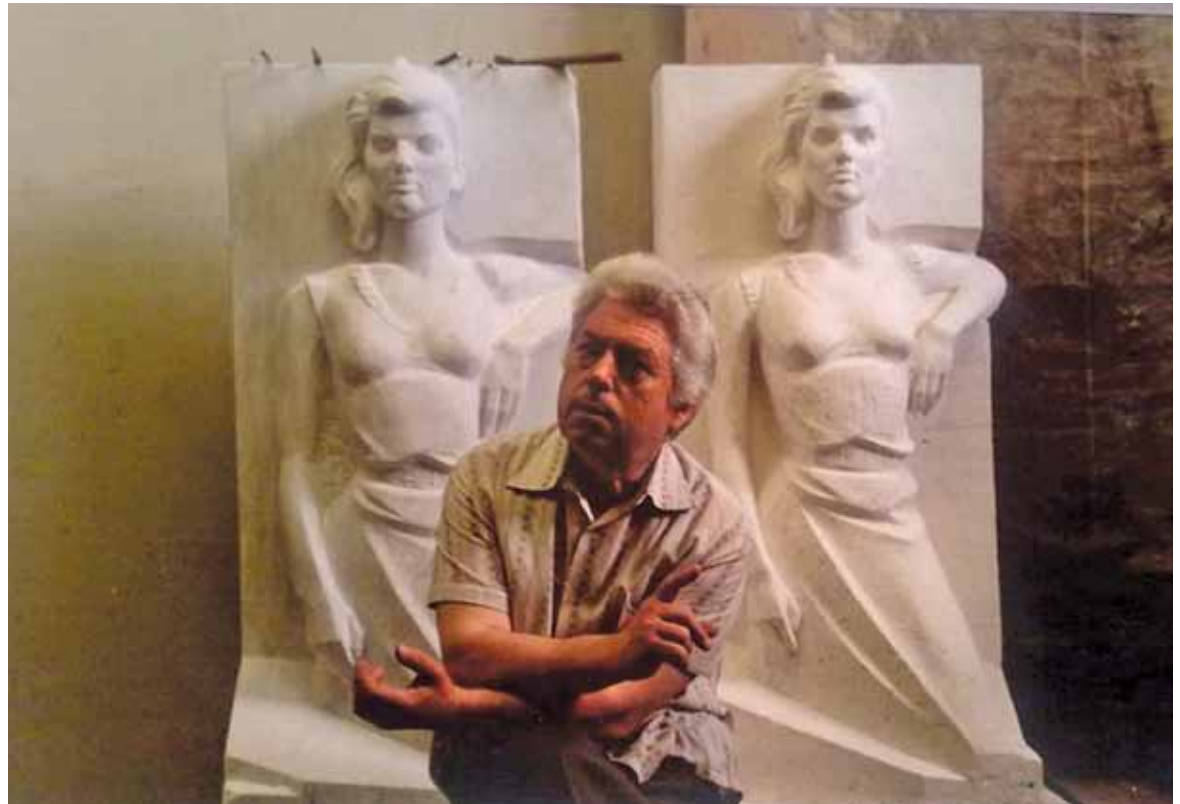
By Veniamin Mikheev

Victor Murashov made a name for himself as a talented sculptor in the Soviet era. He was born in 1935 in Kronstadt in the Leningrad District and later graduated from the St. Petersburg I. Repin Arts Academy's Sculpture Department. Since 1959, he has taken part in diverse art shows and, in 1961, joined the USSR Union of Artists. In 1977, Mr. Murashov became a member of the Belarusian Union of Artists.

A love of humanity and the search for an individuals' beauty are fundamental to the sculptor's



work. Mr. Murashov has lived and worked in Belarus for many years and believes that people and their honesty are the essential ingredients which make them significant in others' eyes. Among Mr. Murashov's varied images are writers, scientists, doctors and operatic singers. The sculptor has worked on several children's pieces (Valerka as the First Grade Pupil), as well as portraying villagers and soldiers (Mother, Second Bread, Granny Vera). His characters are often recognisable. Their images cast in bronze and other materials create an interesting portrait gallery showing many different aspects of human life. The statues bring issues of duty, honour,



Sculptor Victor Murashov's creativity represents his search for humanity



At Victor Murashov's personal exhibition

love and morality to light.

The author uses plastics from time to time, which shows his confidence in his artistic diversity. His work in this medium is changeable, transforming from

round (Motherhood) and childish (Petka Spichkin) forms to the formal monumental (General Karbyshv). His Minsk exhibition (hosted by the Palace of Arts) displays his original degree work; an illus-

tration entitled 'Mother'. The piece is a hymn to the land and its character, as well as to the women who proudly bore their cross whilst living a traditional peasant life.

Victor Murashov is an exhibitor at numerous art exhibitions in Russia, Belarus and abroad. He's taken part in the exhibition of young artists (UK, 1960), the International Art Exhibition (Belgium, 1967), the *Siberia Today* art show (Japan, Tokyo, 1973) and the International Sculpture Symposium (China, Changchun, 1998). At present, the sculptor's works are on display at Belarus' National Art Museum, Minsk's Great Patriotic War History Museum, properties belonging to the Belarusian Union of Artists, Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery, in Russia's Culture Ministry and the art galleries in Omsk, Tyumen, Ulan-Ude, Tobolsk, Yekaterinburg, Perm and Postov-on-Don.

## Festival with happy future

Belarus becomes centre of political and cultural international dialogue

By Vladimir Velikhov

The traditional festive marathon in Vitebsk is over, the results are in and awards and prizes presented. The International *Slavianski Bazaar* Festival of Arts is now widely known as a summer cultural Olympiad, as it attracts visitors with passionate emotions and competitive spirit, as well as numerous foreign guests. Some may remember that in its early days, there were proposals to hold the festival in a different city each year. However, Alexander Lukashenko decided to personally endorse it and, for a quarter of a century, Vitebsk has welcomed representatives of different countries and cultures not only to compete in the musical contest but also to learn more about each other. One of the main aims of the *Slavianski Bazaar* is to strengthen



At the closing of the *Slavianski Bazaar* in Vitebsk Festival of Arts

ties between states and foster friendship between nations.

Mr. Lukashenko, speaking at the festival's closing ceremony, reminded the audience that the 'competitiveness of nations and states should be better demonstrated by sporting and artistic events rather than by military conflicts'.

Speaking of the significance of the *Slavianski Bazaar*, the President emphasised that we must all take care to promote our Slavonic culture and its integration into the global community. He pointed out that attempts to rewrite history are becoming increasingly common, as are efforts to reduce the importance of our

victory over fascism. With this in mind, we should never be complacent about our traditional cultural heritage.

Every year, the *Slavianski Bazaar* is expanding. Initially, only eight countries took part but, this year, the event attracted 42 states. "We'll do everything possible to raise this number from 42 and welcome them to our country," affirmed the President. "Belarus is being transformed into a centre of political and cultural international dialogue. With this in mind, we are not saying goodbye to this year's festival but looking forward to beginning preparations for the 25th jubilee event in Vitebsk next year."

## Classical music will be heard under the arches of ancient buildings

By Alevtina Chernovolova

A cycle of concerts will be held in the Brest Regional Local History Museum, and at the Art Museum located in the southern barracks of Brest Fortress

Several Friday evenings of classical music are to be held in the museum. The choice of venue has been deliberately calculated to take advantage of the unique acoustics created by the high arches of the historic 19th century buildings.

The first concert in the season *Musical Friday in the Art Museum* has been already held. Winners of national and international competitions performed arias from world famous operas, romances, and the works of Bach and Chopin. Amongst the musicians performing were the respected Belarusian pianist Lilia Batyeva, Dmitry Borisyuk and Yevgeny Novarko playing a guitar duet, Oksana

Kozlovskaya on the violin and choral pieces from Lyudmila Lagutenok.

Brest Regional Local History Museum has organised a variety of events already this year to attract visitors and help the museum to be seen as a cultural destination and popular venue. Every few months, rare objects from the museum's archives are exhibited for a short three-day event. Since June, *Fashionable Thursday* has been held in the building each week, offering residents of Brest the opportunity to enjoy their free time learning something new in talks and demonstrations presented by the staff at the museum. Meanwhile, at the Brest Archaeological Museum, the more active visitors have been enjoying *Berestie*, a series of excursions based on the idea of a quest or 'treasure hunt' solving clues around the ancient and historic city landmarks to reach their destination.



# Ballet pirouette in Japanese manner

Takatoshi Machiyama was born in Osaka, Japan. He graduated from the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg and has been dancing for four years with the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre. Recently, he became its leading soloist and, now, not without pride, he notes that he is the first foreigner to dance leading roles with the Belarusian Bolshoi Theatre.

By Irina Svirko

How did Takatoshi (Taka, as his local friends call him) come to join the Belarusian ballet and why has he no desire to return home?

**How did Fate bring you here, to Minsk?**

After graduating from the academy in St. Petersburg, I was offered a training course at the theatre but my parents couldn't afford to support me. I needed to work so I began searching, and discovered the Minsk theatre in Japan. I met a Belarusian dancer who recommended that I try my luck in Minsk. I arrived, showed my skills, and was accepted into the troupe.

**Do your parents work in ballet?**

My parents have no relation to ballet at all, although my sister does, running a small ballet school in Japan. My mother always wanted me to dance but I lacked interest. I practised ballet with my sister but dropped out several times. I only became fond of ballet when I was 13-14 years old. Before that, I considered it to be only for girls, who liked to put on a beautiful tutu and dance. A man's role was, to my mind, only to lift them, and twist. I changed my mind on watching films of performances by such tremendous dancers as Ángel Corella and Mikhail Baryshnikov. It was then that I decided that I wanted to study ballet seriously.

**After ten years of rugby...**

Yes. My father and older brother are rugby players. I did not always play with enthusiasm and suffered a serious injury, which knocked me out of the sport. I then tried the sprint, running the 800m and 1,500m, and tried throwing events in athletics. Nevertheless, ballet won out.

**Are your parents proud of your successes?**

They've never told me explicitly. In fact, my father says: 'You're a leading soloist — so what? Don't show off.'



Takatoshi Machiyama in one of the ballet performances of the National Academic Bolshoi Theatre

Look forward, as you still have much to achieve.' I complain that it's hard for me but he remonstrates that it's the path I've chosen so I need to apply myself. My parents believe that success is a long, hard journey.

**Do you miss home?**

Certainly; home is the best place on Earth. My parents have a very small apartment in Osaka, which is too tiny for all of us. I'm always

bumping into something but it's my home, and it's the best.

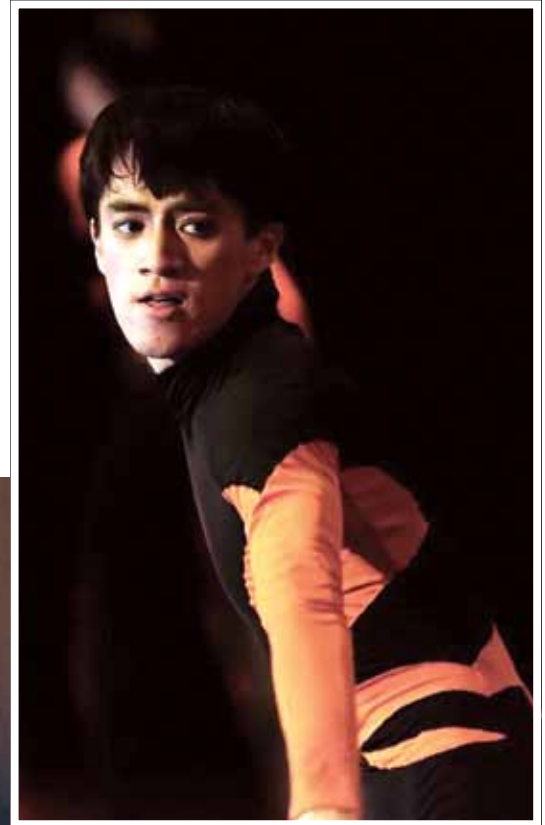
**Will you return to Japan?**

Not yet. If I wasn't a ballet dancer, maybe I would leave. It's too early yet, since Japan has a quite different system, in which young dancers aren't given the chance for lead roles, regardless of their talent.

**Does the public recognise you on the street?**

Once, I was on a bus, when a woman asked me: 'Are you Machiyama?' I nodded and said hello, to which she told me that she'd seen my performance and was impressed by my pirouette. At that time, I couldn't actually perform them well, so I apologised.

Usually, when people recognise me, they ask for a photo or autograph, which is quite pleasant. However,



Minskians tend to treat ballet dancers with more familiarity than in Japan, where the art is treated with more overt fascination, being 'foreign'. People often wait at the theatre door there for photographs. Ballet is so un-Japanese, unlike traditional kabuki. Moreover, tickets go for over \$100: sometimes even \$300. People can only afford to attend perhaps twice annually, so the experience has more mystery. Here, as in Russia, classical ballet is a well-known art and affordable. People can go to the theatre every week if they like.

**Judging by the price of tickets, you'd be a rich man in Japan.**

Yes, they pay well... but it's not for me, as I've explained. I'm not bothered about having a car and a flat. I just want to work and learn, to prove myself as a true artiste. I want to have my own style, so that people say that nobody else dances like me. It's a tall order, but it's my aspiration.

**Do you have a Belarusian beauty in your heart?**

Not really. She's from Ukraine, but dances here, in Minsk. She's a soloist with our theatre: Yana Shtangey. She represented Belarus at 'Eurovision Young Dancers-2013' and we've been together for two and a half years.

**Will you marry?**

It's not yet our plan but, when the season ends, we'll go to her hometown, and to mine. We visited Japan last summer. As for a wedding, I hope that it will be soon.

## Patrons to help recreate atmosphere of Parisian salons

By Vladimir Velikhov

**Belgazprombank joins Culture Ministry, Belarusian Union of Artists and Palace of Arts Republican Art Gallery in preparing Autumn Salon project, to recreate atmosphere of Parisian salons in Minsk**

Belgazprombank JSC and Belarus' Culture Ministry has signed an agreement of interaction and co-operation regarding the project, explains Culture Minister Boris Svetlov. Speaking at a ceremony to mark the move, he underlined, "Jointly with the bank, we're realising an important project: buying famous art works (part of world culture) so that Belarusians may see them."

The agreement officially fixes co-operative ties between the Culture Ministry and its subordinate bodies, with Belgazprombank JSC, for a period of five years; it will be automatically extended for the same period if no discord arises.

The Culture Ministry has already achieved several truly landmark projects with Belgazprombank: the TEART Forum of Theatrical Art, which has international status; the *Ten Centuries of Belarusian Art* exhibition (the largest such in the Belarusian nation's cultural legacy, with 500+ exhibits); and the *Art-Belarus* historical-cultural project (organising major shows in Belarus and beyond).

Mr. Svetlov notes, "It's neces-



Ossip Lubitch. *Urban Landscape* etching

sary to ensure that ties between the state and businessmen develop more strongly. Culture is

a diverse field and contributions to its development are always a blessing."

The Chairman of the Board of Belgazprombank JSC, Victor Babariko, comments that current projects are vital to Belarusian culture. He hopes to see them used as an instrument to help artistic talent develop within Belarus.

The *Marc Chagall: Colour of Love* film was screened as part of the opening ceremony: one of nine screenplays by Oleg Lukashевич (within the *Belarus-Born Artists of the School of Paris* series). He admits that the film is unique in narrating the biography of Chagall's artistry, with new details included, and past errors corrected. The authors state that their series is one-of-a-kind in revealing material from the archives of relatives: all inaccessible until recently.



# Three days and five games

Belarusian tennis players defeated the Turkish national team in the away matches — 3:2 — to qualify for the 3rd round of the Davis Cup Europe/Africa Zone Group II

By Igor Grishin

Only five matches were needed to reveal the winner. On the first day, the rivals exchanged victories in single matches, with first Yegor

Gerasimov losing to Marsel Ilhan (7:6, 6:4, 3:6, 2:6, 7:9) and then Dmitry Zhirmont defeating Cem Ilkel (6:3, 6:2, 2:6, 7:5). The next day saw the Belarusian duo of Max Mirnyi and Sergey Betov

beating Baris Erguden and Anil Yuksel (6:2, 6:1, 6:4). On the final day of the competition Dmitry Zhirmont lost to Marsel Ilhan (6, 3:6, 3:6, 2:6), but Yegor Gerasimov brought total victory to Belarusians in

the decisive match, winning over Cem Ilkel (:2, 7:6, 3:6, 7:6).

The Belarusian national tennis team will face the Portuguese squad in the 3rd round of the Davis Cup Eu-



TENNIS.BY

Team of Belarusian tennis players

rope/Africa Zone Group II, which defeated Finland in the 2nd round. The match is scheduled for September 18th-20th at the Portuguese tennis ground.

# European cups gain momentum

Three Belarusian teams play qualification round matches in Europa and Champions leagues

By Kirill Karin

## Ambiguous victory to begin

Belarus' football champions, Borisov BATE, have made a successful start in the Champions' League. Playing at home, the team defeated Ireland's Dundalk — 2:1 — in the first match of the second qualification round. Despite the BATE fans' expectations, the Irish team played an aggressive game which brought them close to success in the first few minutes. David McMillan had an excellent opportunity to open the score for Ireland but failed. In the 11th minute, after Vitaly Rodionov's pass, Alexander Karnitsky rushed to up the goal and made the score 1:0. The situation changed quickly: the Irish continued their attacks and eventually succeeded. McMillan used the Belarusian goalkeeper Sergey Chernik's save to score. Six minutes later, Yevgeny Yablonsky's goal was truly unexpected; in fact, it almost didn't happen. After the Belarusian's pass, the ball ricocheted from an Irish defender to slide past Dundalk's goalkeeper, Gary Rogers, showing the final score: no other goal chances were created before or after the break. The subject of the most scandalous transfer in recent months, Nemanja Nikolic, wasn't able to change the situation. The Montenegrin player moved from Minsk Dinamo to BATE to make his debut at the Champions' League but unfortunately only gained attention due to his kick at the Dundalk defender's back. In the post match interview, BATE's head coach, Alexander Yermakovich, stressed that, despite the win, the team will approach the away match with caution.



DMITRY TKACHEV

Cherno More-Dinamo



Shakhtyor-Wolfsberger

## Dinamo's battling draw

The first match of the Europa League's second qualification round, played by Minsk Dinamo against Bulgaria's Cherno More away, was ended by Vuk Rasovic's trainees with a draw. The Bulgarian footballers opened the score with a goal from Matias Kurer in the 11th minute. Until the break, the Min-



BATE-Dundalk

this away draw is a satisfactory start, allowing Mr. Rasovic's team to pass through to the next round.

## No groundwork laid

In the first match of the Europa League's second qualification round, Soligorsk Shakhtyor was defeated by Austrian Wolfsberger — 0:1. During the match played at Soligorsk's Stroitel stadium, Shakhtyor needed to lay the groundwork before its return match in Austria. The team, led by Sergey Nikiforenko, played decisively but failed to score. Had the Belarusian team continued playing as in the first half, the final result would have been different. However, Shakhtyor lost its momentum in the 62nd minute taking advantage of its rivals' exhaustion, Jacobo Ynclán opened the score to make it 0:1. The Soligorsk team still has ambitions. Playing at home, our footballers proved that they can rival the Austrians. We look forward to the return match with even more anticipation.

## Turkish registration for Anton Putilo

By Igor Leshin

### Belarusian football team's halfback signs two year contract with Turkish Super League's Gaziantepspor

Last season, the 28 year old sportsman achieved success with Moscow Torpedo, which unfortunately failed to hold its position within the Russian Premiere League. Anton left the club to search for a new team. As a result, he's joined Gaziantepspor, ranked 10th in the last Turkish championship (among 18 participants in the Super League). In the past, three Belarusian footballers have played for this Turkish club: Erik Yakhimovich, Nikolay Ryndyuk and Maxim Romashchenko. Last season, the famous Belarusian footballer, Alexander Hleb, played for them and defended Konyaspor and Gençlerbirlii. The season for the Turkish Super League begins on August 16th; when Gaziantepspor will play a home match against Kasimpaa.

## Everything becomes clear as calendar is revealed

### Belarusian hockey team's matches in the forthcoming season announced



Dave Lewis

The national team, led by Dave Lewis, will play its first matches from November 5th-7th against Latvia, Italy and Japan as part of the EuroChallenge event. Later, our hockey players will take part in the usual tournaments in Switzerland (the Arosa Challenge Cup from December 17th-20th) and Denmark (Metal Euro Ice Hockey Challenge from February 11th-13th). In April 2016, the Belarusian team will play a series of matches as part of the European Hockey Challenge.

On May 6th, the World Championship will begin in Moscow and St. Petersburg where the Finnish team will be Belarus' first opponent (match scheduled for May 6th). Later in the tournament, the Belarusians will play the USA, Canada, Slovakia, Germany, Hungary and France as part of Group B.



# Shot of the week



Night illumination of hot air balloons near Minsk — Hero-City Memorial, as part of the aviation sport festival

## Exhibitions

### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street

Until 27th July. *Pastels and Watercolours of Russian Painters of the Second Half of the 19th Century*

Until 31st July. *Art at Finger Tips*  
Until 2nd August. *Teacher and Pupils*  
Until 6th September. *Dedicated to 70th Anniversary of Great Victory*  
Until 27th September.

*Belarusian Iconostas*

Until 27th September. *A Husband, a Man, a Warrior*  
Until 2nd November. *Great Patriotic War in Art*

Until 30th December. *Celebrating Victory Day in Museum*

### NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 6th September. *From Hoop Skirts and Tournures to Modern*  
Until 6th September. *Three Stories about War*

### NATURE AND ECOLOGY MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 28th August. *Boletus: Beauty is their Family Peculiarity* photo exhibition

Until 30th August. *The World of Big Parrots and Singing Birds*

### WANKOWICZ HOUSE-MUSEUM

33A Internatsionalnaya Street

Until 25th December. *A Prophet of his Time. Adam Mickiewicz. Illustrations and Medals*

### NATIONAL LIBRARY

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 27th August. *Spirit of Religious Tradition and Printed Icon*  
Until 31st August. *Feeling of the Colour*

## Theatres

### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue

25 and 26.07. Abduction of Yelena

### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street

24 and 30.07. A Midsummer Night's Dream or King Lear

26.07. Prostokvashino Holidays

27.07. Folks 28.07. Figaro.tut

29.07. Love and Doves

## Concerts

### UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square

25.07. Summer Musical-Tourist Season

25.07. Classics at the Town Hall

### RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street

27.07. Theodor Bastard band

29.07. Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!

### KOMSOMOLSKOE LAKE

Pobediteley Avenue

25.07. FSP Freesbee Summer Party

### REPUBLICAN PALACE OF CULTURE OF VETERANS

21 Yanka Kupala Street

30.07. Lie Detector humour concert by Khristofor Theatre

## Clubs

### TUSE

57B Surganov Street

24.07. Inomarki band

25.07. Skoraya Pomoshch band

### DOZARI

58 Nezavisimosti Avenue

25 and 26.07. Afterparty Dozari Club

### TITAN

104 Dzerzhinsky Avenue

24.07. Summer Fresh

### DREAMLAND

80 Orlovskaya Street

24.07. Big Foam Open Air

### NLO

37 Yakub Kolas Street

24.07. Bessonnizza 25.07. Retro Party

# Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

## July of decades and centuries past comes to life

**July 25th.** In 1937, an Honoured Architect of Belarus — Alexander Berezovsky — was born. His works in the capital include the Minsk Culture Institute complex, reconstruction of the Dinamo Stadium and quarters in the Troitsky Suburb and Upper Town.

**July 26th.** In 1918, Ivan Gramovich — a writer, translator and Honoured Figure of Culture of Belarus — was born in the village of Zakruzha, of the Minsk District.

**July 27th.** In 1943, an architect and theatrical artist — Dmitry Mokhov — was born. He designed restoration projects for Nesvizh's Slutsk gates and other objects.

**July 28th.** In 1935, Tatiana Orlova — a theatrical critic, teacher, journalist, Candidate of Art Studies, Professor and Doctor of Philological Sciences — was born.

**July 29th.** In 1935, a canoe and kayak coach and an Honoured Coach of Belarus — Oleg Prokofiev — was born in Mogilev. In 1960, he established Mogilev's city canoe and kayak school, in addition to the regional school of aca-

demic rowing.

**July 30th.** In 1924, USSR Hero Ivan Gurov was born. He took part in liberating Belarus from fascists during the Great Patriotic War.

**July 24th.** In 1954, the Republican House of Engineering opened.



**July 29th.** In 1965, a planetarium opened in the Gorky Park (Minsk).

**July 24th.** In 2003, an illustrated cover was put into postal circulation. It featured an original stamp from the 'Belarusian Fountains' series. The stamp depicted the first Minsk fountain — with the Swan and Amur composition; it was designed by Italian Bernini to

honour the opening of the city water supply system in 1874.

**July 25th.** In 1853, the 1st professional fire-fighting brigade was established in Minsk.

**July 25th.** In 1923, a children's sanatorium to treat tuberculosis (aimed to accommodate 25 boys and girls)

**July 28th.** In 1925, construction of Minsk's city drainage system began.

**July 28th.** In 1942, a four-day massacre began — become the largest of its kind in the history of Minsk's ghetto. 18,000 prisoners were killed as a result.

**July 28th.** In 1945, the reconstruction of the Chemical-Pharmaceutical Plant's first block finished.

**July 28th.** In 2003, monuments to two famous Russian poets — Anna Akhmatova and Nikolay Gumilev — and their son Lev Gumilev (a world known ethnologist) were sent to Tver; they were cast in Minsk within two weeks.

**July 29th.** In 1920, Grodno's Historical-Archaeological Museum was established. During the Great Patriotic War, it partially lost its collections but, in 1945, the museum was restored. It's now accommodated by Grodno's Old Castle.

**July 25th.** In 1993, a monument to Frantsisk Skorina — sculptured by V. Yanushkevich — was unveiled in Lida.

**July 26th.** In 1993, the National Bank of Belarus made a decision to take out of circulation Soviet money; new money was introduced then.

**July 27th.** In 1975, our