


Trading chains gain momentum

There are two sides to every situation: positive and negative. Trading chains are no exception. As of early July, 1,561 networked retail outlets has been registered in Belarus, covering a million square metres and occupying around 30 percent of Belarusian retailing space. **Page 5**


School leavers raise the bar

Enrolment at higher and special educational establishments concludes **Page 7**



True fearlessness and self-sacrifice reflected in personal involvement **Page 9**



Holiday held on major scale and with truly great success

Ancient Shchuchin hosts 22nd Day of Belarusian Written Language, with baton being next passed to Gomel Region's Rogachev **→ 2**

Holiday held on major scale and with truly great success

By Mikhalina Cherkashina

This year, a bright poster was released especially for the holiday — featuring a bronze monument to the legendary poetess, Tetka, erected in the town. Looking at those posters, it created a certain atmosphere for the event, which saw a visit by Information Minister Lilia Ananich.

Shchuchin has become more beautiful of late, as Ms. Ananich mentioned to the press, expressing her admiration, and her hope that the holiday will continue to grow in scale and success. As has become traditional, the festival opened with an artistic theme: *Road to the Shrines*. On September 5th, the ninth international round table discussion was organised: *Consonance of Literary Processes and Informational Society*. In addition to the *Shchuchin Readings* conference, other major events included the Flourish, *Our Native Belarus* concert performance, on September 6th, and celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Victory and the Year of Youth.

Shchuchin, for the first time, hosted the National Literary Awards, with seven Belarusian writers receiving recognition. Symbolically, after the Day of Belarusian Written Language, Belarus took part in Moscow's International Exposition, where the results of the *Art of Book* CIS contest were announced. The Grand Prix will go to *Castle Belarus*.

On the festival's opening day, Nesterka bookshop cafe opened in town — becoming the first in the country to offer refreshments as you read, inviting you to linger. The launch attracted children and parents in large numbers. In addition, Grodnosoyuzpechat opened a pavilion selling printed editions and Belarusian-made stationery for schoolchildren.

Drutsky-Lyubetsky Palace has



VITALY PIVOVARCHIK

Celebration of Day of Belarusian Written Language enriches national culture

been recently renovated, as has Tetka Library and as have some other sites. The Palace is to host a children's arts school, with young residents gaining the opportunity to learn more while surrounded by beauty and comfort.

Shchuchin's atmosphere was festive and its programme rich — including thematic book, newspaper, poster and photo exhibitions, presentations of new books by Belarusian writers, and opportunities for readers to meet authors. There



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was also a youth literary competition, a flashmob, sporting events, works by local craftsmen, and master classes in the art of vytinanka (open lacework using paper).

The 22nd Day of Belarusian Written Language ended with the ceremony of the passing of the baton, a concert of art masters and wonderful fireworks.

DIRECT SPEECH

Lilia ANANICH:

At present, Belarus has 470 publishers, showing our love of literature. Over the past six months, almost 5,300 books have been released, although with smaller circulations than we might expect. However, state publishing houses have not slowed down their pace, accounting for 10-11 percent of the total number of editions.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2015

Monitoring launched

Long-term observers from OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights begin monitoring of Presidential elections in Belarusian regions

The ODIHR/OSCE officially opened its monitoring mission on August 26th, headed by French diplomat Jacques Faure. The mission comprises a team of 11 experts (from 10 countries), working in Minsk, as well as 36 long-term observers (from 16 countries) who will be placed in groups of 2-3 countrywide.

The ODIHR is to invite 400 short-term observers to monitor the election process in the Republic: the registration of candidates and voters; agitation events; the work of the electoral administration and corresponding governmental bodies; electoral legislation and its application; and the settlement of complaints regarding elections. The mission will also monitor media coverage of the campaign.

During the observation, meetings will be held with representatives of state bodies and separate candidates, with civil society, with the media and with the international community.

On October 11th, observers will be able to monitor the opening of electoral districts, the voting process, the calculation of voting papers and summing up of results.

On Election Day, the mission plans to unite efforts with delegations from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other parliamentary partners.

The announcement of a preliminary summary and conclusions will be released on October 12th, with a final report published within approximately two months. The CIS monitoring mission is already working in Belarus.

With new wonderful books into new season

By Alexander Borisevich

Belarusian book publishers bring great premieres to Moscow

The Moscow International Book Trade Fair has opened at the Exhibition of Economic Achievements, bringing together 400 Russian and foreign publishers, from 30 countries.

Belarus demonstrated its produce in pavilion #75, over 48sq.m, displaying the country's best editions: artistic, educational, children's, popular science and reference-encyclopaedic.

Minsk book publishers have been taking part in Moscow book forums since 1977 but, this year, dedicated their exposition to the 70th anniversary of the Great Victory. Among those at the event this year are Belarus Publishing House, Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclo-

paedia Publishing House, Zvyazda Publishing House, and Yakub Kolas Polygraphic Factory.

On show were works by winners of the International Patriotic Poster Contest for CIS Youth, held under the slogan 'We Appreciate Peace'. The Information Ministry of Belarus initiated the contest, and its head, Lilia Ananich, opened the Belarusian exposition.

Ms. Ananich stated, "As is traditional, Belarus is here in Moscow for a book trade fair, not only to present its new editions but to develop creative contacts. The vital aim is to promote the creation of wonderful books. Many of our projects are possible thanks to co-operation and financial assistance from the Government of Moscow. We've brought landmark editions to this year's event, dedicated to the history of our state and its modern day life, its culture and art, its present and future..."



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Visitors to exhibition near national Belarusian stand

The Director of Zvyazda Publishing House, Alexander Karlyukevich, tells us, "We're presenting a range of new books, including two almanacs: *Consonance. Belarus-Moscow*; and *Consonance. Belarus-St. Petersburg*. These include works by prose writers, poets and literary critics, from our Belarusian capital, and from the two

Russian capitals. In my opinion, these works perfectly characterise literary processes within the Union State. Deserving of mention is *The Great Patriotic War in Photography*, by V.I. Arkashev: an edition filled with over 500 original photographs on military and household themes, from 70 years ago. All were taken by military photo

reporter Vasily Arkashev and have been stored at the Belarusian State Archive of Films, Photographs and Sound Recordings."

Mr. Karlyukevich stresses that the album contains several little-known photos by wonderful Russian poet Alexander Tvardovsky, who served in the war years with the Third Belarusian Front newspaper. It was there that he first published his famous poem *Vasily Terkin*.

Judging from previous trade fairs, we can say that educational literature enjoys great demand. This time, Pachatkovaya Shkola Publishing House brought several of its novelties to the Russian capital. Its *Castle Belarus* album was among the main highlights, presented by the Information Ministry of Belarus and Yakub Kolas Polygraphic Factory. Meanwhile, gourmets will be delighted to peruse Belarus Publishing House's *Belarusian National Cuisine*.

Eastern express gains momentum

Beijing recently hosted celebrations devoted to the end of WWII and China's victory in the anti-Japan war — gathering heads and representatives of almost fifty states. China's Chairman, Xi Jinping, found time for informal talks with Alexander Lukashenko, as an all-sided strategic partner, meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse

By Nikolay Ivanov

The heads of state enjoy strong and sincere friendship, as is well-known. These warm and trustworthy relations are strengthened by the two heads of state's friendship, as was mentioned by the First Deputy Prime Minister of China's State Council, Zhang Gaoli. Mr. Lukashenko met the official several hours earlier, with the representative of the Chinese Government (who is responsible for economic affairs) assuring the Belarusian President that he would do everything possible to help realise the many agreements.

Over the past four months, Mr. Lukashenko and Xi Jinping have met three times: a rare case in diplomatic practice. This vividly demonstrates the high level of their mutual relations. The leaders spoke not only of their common views on the results of WWII (a common thread

DIRECT SPEECH

Nikolai SNOPOKOV, the Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, comments on Directive #5:

Documents of the kind are rare. They define the key strategic avenues of society's development. It's been adopted as a continuation of the decisions made during Xi Jinping's visit to Belarus in May. The document is based on major negotiations and focuses on avenues of strategic partnership, which should strengthen both states.

through all jubilee celebrations). Retrospective defines perspective. Our countries aim to continue serious interaction. Mr. Gaoli has called Belarus 'an iron partner' and Chairman Xi Jinping has agreed.

Such an opinion is based on strong historical logic. The Belarusian President paid his first visit to China in 1995: his first official tour to a state outside the USSR as Head of State. With this in mind, Mr. Lukashenko can assert that Minsk is more than an opportunistic partner for Beijing. China appreciates this, especially taking into

consideration the fact that, at present, the country is restoring global political and economic multi-polarity. Plenty of states are eager to make friends with China but Belarus made its well-grounded choice long ago.

A landmark event con-

DIRECT SPEECH

Victor Burya, the Ambassador of Belarus to China:

During this visit, much attention was paid to issues of economic interaction, focusing on spheres of potential mutual support. Talks with China's Chairman and the First Deputy Prime Minister of China's State Council indicate that we share common interests. Xi Jinping confirms that our states are mutually supplementary and China is ready to assist Belarus in its economic development.



Alexander Lukashenko and Xi Jinping

firms Belarus' correct decisions of the past. On August 31st, Mr. Lukashenko signed Directive #5 'On Developing Bilateral Relations between Belarus and China' which — as the Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, Nikolai Snopkov, notes — was not timed to the visit but prepared as part of the May decisions, made during Xi Jinping's visit to Minsk. The events coincided, which is a good sign. People in the East

appreciate signs and we — Belarusians — also treat them with respect and understanding. There are no doubts that a clear future is guaranteed along this path.

Directive #5 indicates that Minsk is focused on the development of relations with Beijing, and China is reciprocating. Mr. Lukashenko thanked the Chinese Chairman for this, and for investments and credits allocated for major infrastructure projects. Much has already been done to construct the Great Stone Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park (called by Xi Jinping 'a pearl' of the Silk Road). "This will be a unique project," Mr. Lukashenko said and his Chinese colleague agreed, saying, "The Great Stone is a joint project; we can create a bright example with-

in the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative."

Xi Jinping congratulated Belarus on its observer status at the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, expressing China's desire to support regional integration projects. "I understand your anxieties over the global situation. It's not simple," he said. "Many countries face difficulties of development. The situation is slightly better for our country. Proceeding from principles of strategic partnership, we're ready to support Belarus."

Mr. Jinping wished Mr. Lukashenko all success at the forthcoming elections, expressing confidence that our nation will make a wise decision. He added that he would expect a new official visit of the Belarusian President to China.

Military parade in Beijing



Military parade marking 70th anniversary of Victory in Beijing

By Dmitry Krymov

Grand military parade in Beijing dedicated to 70th anniversary of end of WWII attended by Alexander Lukashenko

The parade featured 12,000 military, and around 500 units of 40 types of machinery. It proceeded along Tiananmen Square, followed by over 200 planes and helicopters. It is China's first ever

such military display, with around 84 percent of the impressive machinery on show for the first time.

Of course, the event was more than a demonstration of power, as the Chairman of the People's Republic of China noted. He assured those gathered that his country is committed to peaceful development. He promised that whatever high degree China reaches in its development, it will never seek hegemony or geographical expan-

sion, never inflicting 'its past suffering on any other nation'. Symbolically, thousands of birds and coloured balloons were released into the sky over Beijing at the end of the parade.

Belarus emphasises that it respects each nation's right to equality and sovereign path of development; these are values purposefully and persistently promoted by Belarus in its foreign political dialogue. In this respect, it shares a standpoint with China, as a like-minded ally.

The celebrations in Beijing were attended by presidents, heads of government and representatives of 50 states and international organisations, which speaks much of the respect in which China is held.

The closest partners also sent their military to take part in the parade, with the festive march of foreign guests opened by Belarusian soldiers and closed by those from Russia. From this, we can draw conclusions on China's priorities of international co-operation.

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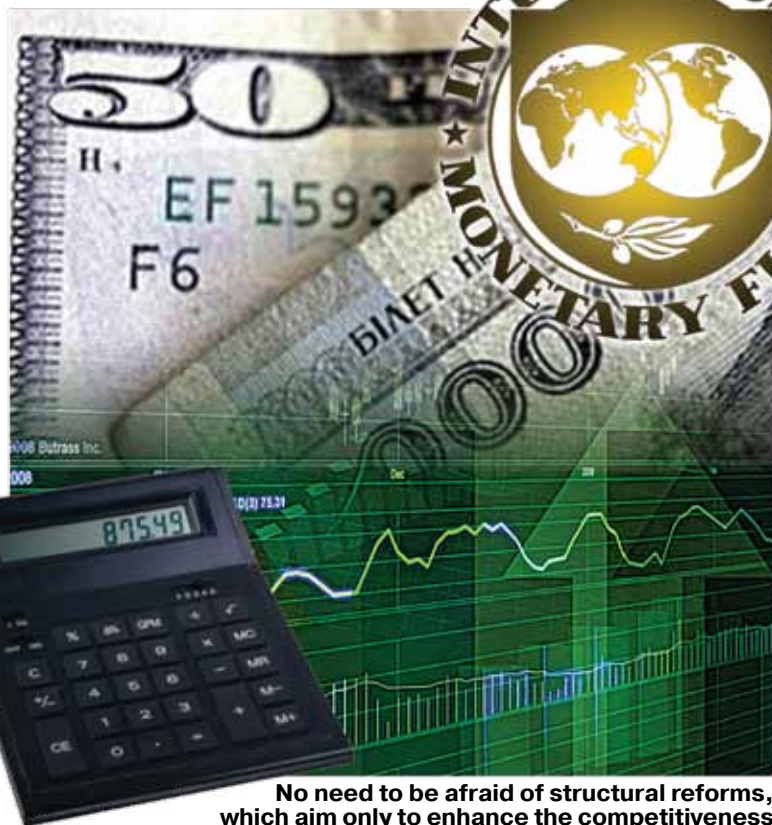
Simple arithmetic or why Belarus needs IMF credit

A recent International Monetary Fund mission, led by David Hoffman, has completed its work in Minsk. It aimed to assess the authorities' readiness to reform the economy even further. The Fund's representatives do not exclude the possibility of further co-operation with our country and are ready to allocate new credit. A financial analyst of BusinessForecast.by, Alexander Mukha, comments on what pieces of advices from the IMF need our attention and what recommendations we may not agree with.

By Yevgeny Kononov

The IMF representatives state that Belarus cannot receive any further credit without structural changes. Why are they so insistent on pressing us for reform despite the fact that Belarus has paid its debts on time?

In comparison with some other European states, Belarus appears an exemplary and reliable borrower. This spring, it paid back a major loan, including interest on it, in full. Unlike other countries, it didn't ask to cut a share of the debt and interest rates, while prolonging the payment schedule. Moreover, from January-May 2015, the Government's accumulated state debt (inner and outer obligations with guarantees accounted) decreased by \$739.8m, totalling \$21.5bn (or 39.1 percent of the annual GDP). The sum of the outer debt (including guaranteed obligations) was \$14.8bn, or 27 percent of GDP. These figures meet the terms of the Maastricht Treaty, which envisages no more than 60 percent of the GDP being accountable to loans. Figuratively speaking, Belarus can now ask Greece, with its \$350bn debt, to leave the European zone and to accept us instead. The Fund is encouraged to see our budget balanced and our payment balance sustained, in addition to sufficient levels of gold-and-currency reserves.



No need to be afraid of structural reforms, which aim only to enhance the competitiveness of our economy in the medium to long term

Are the Fund's conditions acceptable to us?

We should not be afraid of structural reforms. They are needed to enhance the competitiveness of our economy in the medium to long term. Many decisions now taken by the Government and the National Bank comply with IMF strategy.

Among them is the pegging of salary growth rates to labour efficiency and the transition to a more flexible system of currency rate forming, aimed at lowering inflation. It's always possible to negotiate on the speed, order and intensity of reforms. I personally see it as unfeasible to conduct full privatisation at present. It would be a

sensible idea however, to privatise loss-making farms and enterprises.

We need to increase the level of direct foreign investments that we attract, whilst simultaneously improving investment legislation and our business climate. Of course, we can support privatisation and increase tariffs on communal services, but this must be done simultaneously with the enhancement of competition in this sector. It's much easier to raise prices rather than cut expenses.

On the one hand, the IMF experts propose that we liberalise prices and tariffs but, on the other hand, they say we should not increase salaries. However, under such a scheme, standards of living will definitely fall...

It's sometimes important to sacrifice a short-term decline in standards to ensure qualitative economic results in the medium and long term. Structural market transformations must be accompanied by positive changes in society. We need a forward thinking attitude from the population to the reforms, not just new shiny projects and technologies. I'm not against increasing unemployment allowances but we should not go too far in this direction. The state needs to avoid paternalism and inspire people to make money independently, while changing their mentality and learning something new. When I see

MT'S REFERENCE:

According to the Finance Ministry data, as of June 1st, 2015, the country's foreign debt was \$12.7bn.

In 2015, Belarus borrowed from:
 Russia's Government and banks — \$328.9m
 China's banks — \$149.8m
 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development — \$9.4m
 In 2015, Belarus paid loans to:
 Russia's Government — \$125m
 EurAsEC Anti-Crisis Fund — \$88.3m
 China's banks — \$80.5m
 IMF — \$75.9m
 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development — \$7.5m

lights burning day and night in our entrance halls, I can't but think that some of our people have been spoiled with state support.

Do we really need this credit? Can we improve our situation without foreign loans?

If we can't agree a loan there will not be a major disaster. The IMF money is a good resource to use from the point of view of its cost, loan term and the establishment of a financial cushion of security. It helps us to improve our foreign currency reserves and is beneficial for the financing of new projects. Moreover, successful co-operation with the IMF is a positive signal to all foreign investors that they can rely on our country. In our discussions however, we must put the needs of Belarus to the fore. I think a mutually acceptable solution will soon be found, which would benefit both our economy and society.

Domestically produced medicines appreciated

The President has tasked the domestic pharmaceutical industry with providing 50 percent of all medicines sold within Belarus (in monetary terms) by late 2015. The Head of the Economy and Marketing of the Health Ministry's Pharmaceutical Industry Department, Victor Shein, notes that the figure currently stands at 48.5 percent. Much owing to the import substitution programme, our manufacturers have advanced, allowing Belarusian medicines to enjoy greater demand, being of enhanced quality and wider range.

By Yulia Vasilishina

Belarusian drugs can be described as qualitative, accessible and efficient; to achieve these characteristics, our science, production and sales networks have united their efforts. At present, Belarus' 28 pharmaceutical companies produce over 4,900 medicines, with some extremely modern projects being realised. Belmedpreparaty has a workshop producing anti-tumour drugs — unique within post-Soviet space for equipment and technologies. Meanwhile, the Borisov Plant of Medical Preparations has launched a new workshop able to produce up to 1 billion pills annually,

in addition to 70 million capsules. The Scientific-Practical ChemPharmSynthesis Centre has begun work at the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, synthesising substances on the basis of our scientists' innovations. In addition, the Institute of Physical Organic Chemistry is producing various medications.

"We've ensured a high level of competitiveness for Belarusian medicines, regarding quality and price. 70 percent are priced at less than one US Dollar," Mr. Shein notes, adding that a moratorium on increasing prices on Belarusian drugs is in action. Prices are not permitted to exceed

that of imported analogues. Moreover, over 35 medicines are subsidised and subject to price regulation, being produced at a loss.

The competitiveness of our drug manufacturing is helping sustain prices. Importantly, Belarusian medicines are able to compete abroad: we sell to 29 states. A new programme of pharmaceutical development is being launched in early 2016, with the focus on exports. At the moment, three companies — Belmedpreparaty, Lekpharm and Pharmtechnology — have GMP certificates confirming full compliance with world standards (as is necessary to begin export supply).



Pharm-production at the Scientific-Practical ChemPharmSynthesis Centre

The Belarusian market annually produces over 100 new drugs; these are mostly generic (analogues of imported medicines). Each pharmaceutical company runs its own scientific department to oversee this task — which is not easy, taking several years to be realised. Serious tests are conducted in the process of registration.

From January-July, our producers registered 98 medicines never before produced in Belarus, to cover a market worth Br519bn — including Br350bn of state purchases (for clinics and hospitals). Production mainly focuses on the major medicines necessary for modern treatment — including anti-tumour preparations.

Future plans are ambitious, including production of 145 new drugs and 15 substances. To reduce our dependence on imports, new methods of substance synthesis are to be developed and full cycle manufacturing launched. The Academy of Sciences is to play a major role in the process.

Trading chains gain momentum



There are two sides to every situation: positive and negative. Trading chains are no exception. As of early July, 1,561 networked retail outlets has been registered in Belarus, covering a million square metres and occupying around 30 percent of Belarusian retailing space. They offer low prices and reliable ranges of products but their success risks pushing out smaller, local shops.

By Maria Dronova

The Trade Ministry believes the figure is modest, since France and the UK have almost 80 percent retail coverage via chain outlets. However, Belarus is unlikely to achieve a similar situation, since its current trading regulations dictate that no player should account for more than 20 percent of turnover in regional centres and districts.

At present, the Ministry is completing analysis of the past financial year — to present yellow and red cards to networks. It seems that few will avoid receiving them, judging by the branch's intensive development. Some time ago, Brest Regional Executive Committee calculated that one of the region's major chain stores accounted for over 20 percent of turnover in Pinsk and Baranovichi, as well as in the Kobrin and Zhabinka districts. Logically, the number of such enterprising companies is sure to expand.

The Trade Ministry notes that, in cases of an exceeded limit, no further sites may be bought or rented to sell food products. Moreover, executive committees will refuse to register trading sites for networks which already enjoy 20 percent. These shops will need to change their focus. The Ministry promises to update its data every August.

Major networks are openly



A Euroopt hypermarket in Mogilev

dissatisfied, stating that such limits hamper their business development. However, law-makers feel differently and have debated reducing the limit to 15 percent. The Chairman of the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Economic Policy, Victor Valyushitsky, states, "Chain stores should remain calm and accept this, working on their strategies. If we fail to implement these lim-

its, we'll see monopolies emerge, which will dictate conditions to everyone, as Dobronom has demonstrated."

Infamously, Dobronom's network of 177 shops invested over Br60bn of profit into constructing new sites, rather than paying its suppliers. However, its share of domestic products (in comparison to ordinary retail shops) is impressive. It also sells half the

volume of non-food products as other such shops. As Dobronom's owners explain, it avoids high prices and low quality products, since neither enjoys much demand.

"Quality and prices are conventional. I guess around 10-15 percent of imported products being offered by chain stores could easily be replaced by domestic goods," says Mr. Valyushitsky.

First case for reactor is almost ready

Construction of Belarusian nuclear power station in full swing

By Uliana Bushui

In October, a case is to be shipped for the first reactor, as our Russian partners continue developing the second. The Director of Production at the Volgodonsk branch of AEM-technologies JSC Atomash, Vitaly Shishov, tells us more.

Production of a case for the first reactor is in its final stage, with holes already drilled, and threads to install giant studs. The Russian enterprise will ship the case in October, with further transportation to Ostrovets. At the moment, it's being prepared for hydraulic testing — scheduled for September 7th-14th; a maximum pressure of 24.5MPa will be created in the reactor case, when it's lowered into



Assembly works at first power unit

a box of water (at 55-72 degrees); special devices will record all data. A special commission — representing various companies, including the Belarusian nuclear power

station — will supervise the tests.

Meanwhile, work has begun on the second reactor, as Mr. Shishov explains. "In line with the agreement, we'll supply a case for the

second reactor in 2017. Work has been launched and all nodes have passed key control stages." By late 2015, the company will reach the final stages of producing semi-cases for the reactor and, in 2016, Atomash will turn to the final stage.

Russian specialists note that the quality of the equipment produced for the Belarusian nuclear power station meets the highest demands, passing several control stages; each reactor takes 22 months to complete, includes welding, assembly, filling operations, and thermal and mechanical processing.

Specialists at the Belarusian nuclear power station have the opportunity to fully test the quality of equipment, being present at the enterprise during all key events — such as final welding works.

Solar energy on district scale

By Yevgeny Kononov

Grodno Region's first solar power station opens in Shchuchin

Agrokhimsvet has finished the last stage of construction of a solar power station in the Shchuchin District's village of Rozhanka. The first panels were launched in 2014, with more installed by late June 2015. These have an output capacity of 230-250W, covering an area of over two hectares. The power station generates about 8,500kWh of electricity daily.

The Rozhanka-based power plant is the first solar power station in the Grodno Region.

The same investor plans to implement another alternative energy project in the Shchuchin District by 2018. A former airfield is the construction site for the new solar power station, generating up to 2.5MW of energy. Design specifications and estimates are now nearing completion.

The third solar power installation in the region is to be built in the Grodno District's village of Rogachi.

New conditions for uniting

By Vasily Kharitonov

Belarus aims to increase exports to Russian Federation regions

The Chairman of the Council of the Republic at the National Assembly of Belarus, Mikhail Myasnikov, noted during his working visit to Pinsk that Belarusian enterprises are soon to present their best produce abroad: at the Second Belarus-Russia Regions Forum. Hosted by Sochi on September 17th and 18th, it will feature sci-tech, industrial and food products.

He emphasised, "Apart from regional agreements, we have plans to sign commercial and trade-economic contracts worth at least \$100m. In particular, the Russian Novosibirsk Region is showing interest in knitted goods made by our Pinsk-based company, Polesie. Knitted outdoor wear is in special demand there."

Answering journalists' questions, the Chairman of the Council of the Republic said that Belarusian light industry, alongside the meat and dairy industries, will be represented in Sochi mostly by Brest Region enterprises. Mr. Myasnikov underlined that the event will bring additional impetus to inter-regional co-operation. "We have somewhat 'rebooted' the concept of this collaboration. First of all, inter-regional interaction should mean close trade ties and establishment of joint ventures. We should set up prototypes of transnational corporations within the framework of Belarus-Russia co-operation. This creates preconditions for integration," he believes.

The Belarus-Russia Regions Forum will gather around 400 participants. The event is being organised by the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia.

Platform for health

Children are our joint responsibility. The work of the Republican Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children, run by the Labour and Social Protection Ministry, is evidence of this attitude. Young patients are literally put back on their feet, thanks to medical treatments paid for by private businesses and the state. Not long ago, the *Never Someone Else's Children* campaign delivered a report on its work. Marianna Shchetkina, the Labour and Social Protection Minister, delivered a speech.

By Yelena Misnik

Anton is a virtuoso in piano playing, while Nikita plays the accordion beautifully and Alina has mastered concert whistling. These children were once unable even to hold a musical instrument: now, they play almost professionally. The Centre helps them not merely conquer their disabilities but confidently join public life.

Six boys and girls — who are undergoing rehabilitation at the Centre — have entered secondary and higher educational establishments this year. Nikita and Alina focus on music while Olga has entered Vitebsk's Fashion Theatre (at the Vitebsk City Centre of Additional Education for Children and Youth) and Pavel is now a student at the Industrial College. Nastya will become a philologist and translator after graduating from Mogilev's Kuleshov State University and Valery will graduate from the Belarusian State University as an historian. Children's dreams are coming true thanks to modern medical treatment.

80 children (aged 3-18) suffering from loco-motor problems are undergoing rehabilitation at the Centre. Of course, no miracle is possible without financial assistance. Over the past two months, Br111.8 million has been spent on modern equipment for the Centre — including a new cryo-device, simulators, a massage bed, baths for hydro-massage and tables, and robotic rehabilitation platforms (resembling gambling machines rather than medical equipment) to detect problems with legs and hands. The local hotel has been revamped too, for mothers to stay.

The Centre welcomes patients from all around Belarus. In the



Marianna Shchetkina (R) visits the centre

coming days, another 60 children will arrive, including 21 from remote villages. All will be coming for the first time but many will need to

return. A rehabilitation course lasts 4-6 weeks, with each child enjoying free rehabilitation for three months each year.

DIRECT SPEECH

Marianna SHCHETKINA, Labour and Social Protection Minister and Chair of the Belarusian Union of Women:

The Republican Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children is a unique establishment, built in 2000 as part of the *Children of Belarus* programme. No other such exists within the post-Soviet space and, in its 15 years of operation, almost 15,000 children suffering from loco-motor problems have

enjoyed medical and social rehabilitation there. Each child who needs help has the opportunity to come to the Centre, which not only provides medical rehabilitation but successfully reveals their talents and establishes social ties. The state will always help children, taking responsibility for all.

Friends offer children help

By Valery Sidorov

Japanese Ambassador donates medical equipment to children's centre in Mozyr District

The Sidelniki Children's Rehabilitation and Health Centre recently hosted the Japanese Ambassador to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Shigehiro Mimori, to receive medical equipment donated by the Japanese government via a \$90,000 grant.

The money has been used to purchase balneological baths, as well as baths used for underwater and dry massage, Ormed Professional electronic installation, Niko inhalation installation, and a Reeboks device. Installation is complete, and operational, helping young patients undergoing rehabilitation. According to the director of the Sidelniki Centre, Natalia Katrunova, the equipment has helped greatly expand its



New equipment already installed and functioning

range of treatments.

The Japanese Ambassador noted his country's contribution to improving the health of children from Chernobyl affected territories, recalling that over 30 projects

have been carried out with Japanese funding since 2004, in Belarus.

The Sidelniki Centre opened in 1996 and annually accommodates more than 5,000 school-age children from the Gomel Region.

Advice from Dr. Zhukova

Always look after yourself



If people have back pain, they have osteochondrosis. What are the basic causes and symptoms of this complex condition?

S.Pavlovsky, Bobruisk

Methods of treating and preventing osteochondrosis

Sharp pain in back is a good reason to consult your doctor. Firstly, it is better that a doctor supervises treatment of osteochondrosis, to avoid complications. Secondly, pain in your back may be connected with serious heart, stomach, bowel or kidney problems. However, if your pain is such that you feel compelled to take some immediate action, what can you do?

If you have lumbar pain, lay on your back with raised legs, to slightly smooth out your lumbar flexure and remove the burden on those muscles. You can try to lay on your belly, with a pillow underneath. If your pain eases in this position, it shows it's best for you. You should avoid movements causing discomfort or pain. Help yourself with a Schanz collar (at the cervical localisation) or a belt-corset. Lay down and rise very carefully, trying not to cause pain. In order to rise from bed, first of all lower your legs onto the floor, then lean on your hands and smoothly lift your body. On sitting, move to the side of the bed and slowly stand, avoiding bending the front of the body.

Remain calm, without panicking about the pain, since tension leads to muscular spasms. Precisely follow your prescriptions and notify your doctor of any changes in your condition. Keep to your usual sleep patterns, taking herbal tea or light sleeping pills if necessary.

con-

dition. Keep to your usual sleep patterns, taking herbal tea or light sleeping pills if necessary.

Treatment of osteochondrosis

As osteochondrosis involves destruction of the spine, full recovery is almost impossible, although there can be partial restoration of damaged intervertebral cartilage, thanks to new technologies such as cellular therapy. However, stem cell treatments are still experimental.

In spite of it being impossible to cure osteochondrosis completely, it is possible to prevent it progressing, leading to limited mobility and, even, severe disability. Try to lead a healthy lifestyle, following the advice of your own doctor. Treatment is complex, combining several methods to influence various aspects of the condition.

Anti-inflammatory medicines include pills, ointments, injections, cartilage protectors, muscle relaxants, vitamins and general tonics. Relaxants aim to remove tension in muscles around the spine, since these squeeze vessels and nerves, producing pain. The efficiency of cartilage protectors is questionable,

however they can be used to support other treatment. Manual therapy helps to ease muscular spasms and to correct the position of vertebra and intervertebral discs.

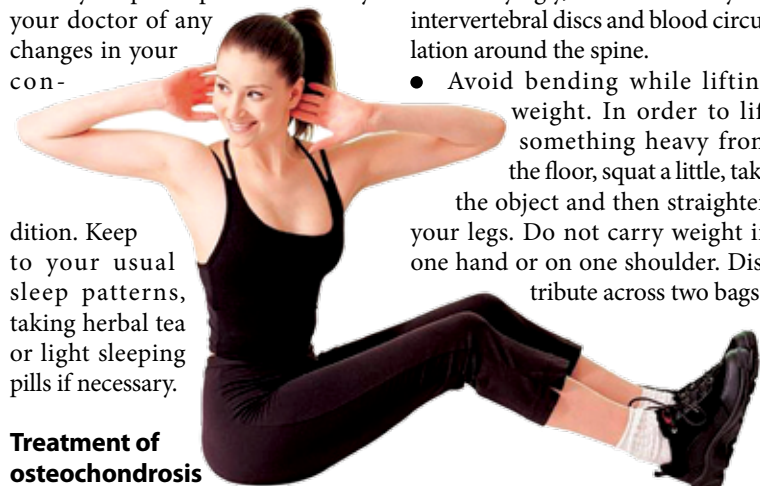
Pilates type exercises help strengthen back muscles, reducing spasms and promoting circulation and flexibility. Massage removes pain and muscle tension, while aiding circulation, which speeds up recovery. Acupuncture influences certain points, regulating circulation and aiding nerve impulses in the area, removing 'muscular blocks'.

Surgery is only used in extreme cases, such as for discal hernia, paresis and paralyse, and in the late stages of osteochondrosis. Spinal traction can also be used to realign vertebra correctly and remove areas of muscle tension.

How can you prevent osteochondrosis?

Osteochondrosis cannot be cured but it can be prevented. You need time and financial means, as well as adopting a healthy and active way of life. These recommendations are relevant for those with osteochondrosis, those who want to avoid exacerbating the disease and those who are, as yet, healthy. Reducing the load on the spine is vital: sit and move with a straight back. Stooping is not only ugly, but harmful to your intervertebral discs and blood circulation around the spine.

- Avoid bending while lifting weight. In order to lift something heavy from the floor, squat a little, take the object and then straighten your legs. Do not carry weight in one hand or on one shoulder. Distribute across two bags.



- Avoid sudden movements or jumping from a great height, as both place strain on the spine.

- Try to change your body position during the day. If you mostly sit or stand, take walks periodically and warm-up.

- While working on a computer, place its screen at eye level, to avoid inclining your head.

- Sleep on a firm mattress.
- If you need to lift and carry something heavy, like furniture, put on a special corset to give back support.

- If you already suffer from osteochondrosis, remember that carrying weights of 10kg are 'critical loading' for you.

- Do exercise, strengthening your back muscles.

- Do not become too cold.

- Eat correctly.

- Avoid bad habits.

- Do not stoop; hold your head high!

By Tatiana Zhukova
Doctor of higher category,
M.D. Ph.D.

School leavers raise the bar

Enrolment at higher and special educational establishments concludes

By Olga Pasiyak

The Deputy Prime Minister, Natalia Kochanova, and the Education Minister, Mikhail Zhuravkov, note that the level of school leavers' test results and grades have improved, with 277 earning 100 points (double the number who achieved this in 2014). Mathematics grades lead (with 89 students receiving 100 points), followed by Russian language (83) and social science (29). Moreover, 11 school leavers gained 100 points across two subjects; last year, there were only two such young people.

It would be a mistake to think that most of those boasting the highest grades have studied in Minsk. Only 73 are from the capital, against 105 (with 100 points) from district centres. In fact, 23 school-leavers of the previous years have this year been among those earning 100 points.

These results have influenced the grades now needed for popular specialties, with 378 points required by the Belarusian State University's International Relations Department (against last year's 364) and 305 for the Maxim Tank Belarusian State Pedagogical University's 'Fine Arts and Computer Graphics' course (288 in 2014).

School leavers are also demon-



Level of school leavers' knowledge annually rising

strating increased interest in pedagogical specialties, with all places filled for the coming academic year. Grades speak for themselves, since

at least 315 points are now required for a place on the Mozyr Shamyakin Pedagogical University's 'Elementary Education' course (last year,

only 132 points were required). As a result, 147 state funded places remained vacant for full time study last year and 82 were vacant for

evening courses. This year, just under 200 places are vacant at special educational establishments (less than 1 percent of enrolment plan).

Applications are still being accepted at 154 professional technical colleges until September 15th, with vacancies available in agricultural and light industry specialties, as well as machine building and metallurgy. Mr. Zhuravkov notes that all these spheres require employees and are receiving investment and modernisation, as well as opportunities for continuing professional training, to reflect the ever-changing market.

Ms. Kochanova, who heads the state commission for higher education entrance, stresses that organisation is at the highest level, without corruption or bias. However, some higher educational establishments (including the Belarusian State Economic University) have been admonished for changing enrolment at the last minute, bringing anxiety to students.

She also notes that women on maternity leave or taking care of disabled children should be allowed to study remotely; a corresponding proposal is in the pipeline.

Speaking of plans to introduce four tests, Mr. Zhuravkov notes that these are only proposals, for realisation no earlier than 2017.



Maxim Bogdanovich Street

New avenue will be without traffic jams

By Valeria Gavrusheva

Minsk's city planning policy envisages releasing the centre from transit traffic, to aid public transport flow connecting suburbs to capital's centre

Ten radial avenues and four ring-roads are to be built — to connect Minsk with other cities countrywide. During recent discussion of the capital's general plan, the northern road leaving Minsk — Logoiskiy Trakt — came under scrutiny. Yakub Kolas Street needs to be reconstructed, with some high-rise buildings demolished to allow widening of the road.

Minskgrado's chief architect, Alexander Akentiev, explains, "Reconstruction is economically too costly; it cannot be justified. With

this in mind, we've chosen a different solution: developing Shirokaya Street and a section of Bogdanovich Street (connecting Shirokaya and Nekrasov streets)."

A new avenue is planned towards Logoisk and a third metro line is to be laid along Bogdanovich Street, connecting residents of this district to the centre of Minsk.

Construction of new avenues and highways should reduce city traffic. However, as the Chairman of the Belarusian Association of Transport Experts and Surveyors, Yuri Vazhnik, admits, new roads do not always solve the problem of traffic jams.

"Paid parking in the city centre is the solution, as well as payment for transit through the centre and development of speedy public transport," he explains.

Nutrition on genetic level

Young scientists from Belarus and other Eurasian Economic Union states to offer unique food products

By Vladimir Yakovlev

Joint efforts are being made to develop new products, as the Deputy General Director of the National Academy of Sciences' Scientific-Practical Centre for Food, Alexander Shepshchev, tells us. Their *Science Food — Products of the Future* project is to be presented at the 1st Eurasian Forum of Young Scientists, to be held in Minsk from December 1st-4th.

Many are interested to see new ranges such as these. Already, there are supplements available in shops and pharmacies for children and new mothers, those wishing to lose weight or build muscle. Mr. Shepshchev explains, "Food security has virtually been achieved in Belarus. We've now reached the stage where food is going beyond the function of providing energy. We want to replenish micro- and macro-nutrients which our bodies may lack. Moreover, we need to help those who are unwell, ensuring their recovery. Our project envisages the production of individual vitamins and minerals but we'd like to progress even more, creating food at a genetic level."

The task is topical since over half of all deaths are thought to stem from diseases connected with the circulatory system. The inter-relationship of nutrition is evident; however, hereditary aspects also matter. The



Belarusian National Academy has been studying genomes from birth, to predict certain diseases — such as obesity and heart disease. Products would then aim to correct these tendencies.

Belarusian scientists have made much progress, jointly solving important research tasks and implementing sci-tech programmes. Regarding the latter, the Scientific-

Practical Centre for Food has developed highly efficient equipment to utilise former waste products from the milk, brewery and spirit industry. In addition, scientists have managed to extract components from this 'waste' which are beneficial to human health. Scientists from around the world have jointly created a solid basis for producing such nutrients in the future.

MTS REFERENCE:

The establishment of BelBiograd is now complete in Belarus: a national sci-tech park focusing on the development of the newest technologies in the field of bio-chemistry, nano-technologies, and micro- and nano-system equipment. Belarusian scientists plan to realise around 200 investment projects there by 2021.

Tens of thousands of exhausted migrants stream from Hungary

Following in the footsteps of those who had already made it to Germany, hundreds more migrants and refugees set off on foot in Hungary

As they marched along the motorway, some called aloud for buses to take them to the Austrian border.

Hungary has insisted there will be no more bus rides to the border after the fleet it provided, although some migrants were allowed to board trains taking them there.

When those who had piled onto a train discovered that it was not, in fact, going to Vienna, they took matters into their own hands and headed off to the highway.

Hungary, the main entry point



A large group of asylum-seekers walk out of Budapest, Hungary

into Europe's borderless Schengen zone for migrants, has vowed to seal its southern border with a new, high fence — by the middle of this month.

Hungarian officials have portrayed the crisis as a defence of Europe's prosperity, identity and 'Chris-

tian values' against an influx of mainly Muslim migrants.

"We are going to deploy the police, then if we get permission from parliament, we will deploy the army, and after September 15th, step by step, we will control the entire border,"

said Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. "But nobody can tell when total and secure border control will be established. One thing is for sure. We will do everything to make sure it comes to fruition. I'm personally committed to it."

Huge gas find a game-changer for Egypt

It is a discovery that could transform Egypt's economy and have important geopolitical outcomes

Italian energy giant ENI has found the Mediterranean's biggest gas field, one of the biggest in the world, just off the Egyptian coast. The Zohr field covers about 100 square kilometres, and could meet Egypt's gas needs for decades to come. ENI, which is 30 percent owned by the Italian state, has full exploitation rights, and says it will fast-track the field's development. It also believes more gas could be found as the development progresses.

ENI is already Africa's biggest foreign oil and gas producer with significant interests also in Libya. In 2011, it made a massive find in Mozambique. It has operated in Egypt for the last 60 years or more, and since June has signed a number of major agreements with the state.

Egypt once exported gas to Israel and others, but in recent years has become a net energy importer.

Company logo change makes news — but this is Google

If you have used the world's number one search engine today you will have already seen that it has a new logo. It's Google's biggest redesign since 1999.

It is the latest sign that the rapidly diversifying giant is seeking to turn a page on the past as it redefines itself for the future.

The move comes just a month after a major restructuring of the company created Alphabet, a holding company created by founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page which owns Google. It separates their money-making company from loss-making projects like robot cars, medical research and internet-delivering balloons.

Disney banks on force being with new *Star Wars* toys

The film may not be on our screens until Christmas but Disney is making an early bid for our bucks by launching the *Star Wars* — *The Force Awakens* toys

The sales force is blitzing 15 cities in 12 countries more or less simultaneously with product lines analysts say could be worth four and a half billion Euros. That would eclipse the current record, held by the toy spin-offs from another Disney franchise, *Cars*.

The December movie is the first of six commissioned by Disney since it bought the property from George Lucas three years ago for more than three and a half billion Euros.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



French farmers obviously demand government relief

Thousands of farmers have converged on Paris from all over France in tractors and coaches to call for additional government support and structural reforms to help them

Over the summer, agriculture in France reached crisis point as heavily indebted farmers struggled with tumbling prices.

The government promised new financial assistance, but they are calling for further help.

Pig farmer Gerome Pagon said, "We'd like the intermediaries to lower their share and not import too much. That hurts us — and other countries' producers don't have to

meet the standards we do."

The farmers' union said it was expecting 5,000 farmers at a demonstration in the Place de la Nation in the east of Paris. As for support from the public, one woman said, "I'm with them the whole way. I had a teachers' meeting to go to but I think this is much more important."

Farmers' delegates have pressed their demands with the government for tax breaks, and EU action to level the playing field. They blame increasingly slim margins on cheap imports and high payroll charges, which they say make them unable to compete against Germany, much less Eastern Europe or beyond.

Tech giants battle for supremacy at Berlin's IFA show

A deluge of new smartwatches, phones and TVs is being announced as tech industry manufacturers gather for one of the world's biggest trade events

Gadget makers have been showcasing their latest gear at Europe's flagship technology show, the IFA in Berlin. With the exception of Apple, all major manufacturers have been announcing new devices in time for the holiday shopping season.

Tiny PCs powered by Google's Android have been around for a while, but Windows is increasingly entering that market. The Asus VivoStick PC is among the most impressive of its kind to feature Windows 10 in a stick the size of a dongle. Plug it into any modern TV and you can use it as a computer. Huawei launched its Mate S, billed as the Chinese smartphone maker's first top-range handset. Along with some impressive specs comes an unusual feature: Huawei says the phone can be used as a scale to weigh objects.

Acer is taking the traditional PC apart so users can put it back together again. The Taiwanese manufacturer



launched Revo Build; users can add to the black base unit by attaching a dedicated graphics card, a sound block, a portable hard drive and even a power bank to wirelessly charge certain smartphones.

Japanese electronics giant Sony has updated its much-lauded Xperia Z line with three new models: standard, compact and premium. The latter features what Sony says is the world's first 4K display.

Polaroid is going back to basics with its latest instant camera. By stripping away the LCD screen found in the previous models and halving the price, Polaroid hopes to boost sales of its new Snap camera in time for the holiday season.

True fearlessness and self-sacrifice reflected in personal involvement

Great Patriotic War in Art exhibition — devoted to 70th anniversary of Great Victory — unites over 60 works of pictorial art, graphics, sculpture and decorative-and-applied arts from 1943-1985: on show at the National Art Museum until November

By Veniamin Mikheev

The pieces on show are from the museum's own archive, and have been on show since April, devoted to the events of the Great Patriotic War and the Great Victory — achieved by our Soviet and Belarusian peoples.

On June 22nd, 1941, Belarus appeared at the epicentre of WWII. By late August, all its territory had been occupied by the Germans. In 1942, the central and Belarusian headquarters of the partisan movement were established at the Supreme High Command General Headquarters. Belarus became called a 'partisan republic'. During the 'rail war' and Operation Bagration, of June-July 1944, the country was completely cleared of fascists.

The history of Belarusian art is closely connected with those military events. Some artists went to the frontline, while others were evacuated, or stayed within occupied territory, joining the partisan movement. The pre-war collection of the State Picture Gallery (upon which the National Art Museum was later founded) failed to be evacuated; as a result, most artefacts were stolen or destroyed during bombing and fires.

Despite terrible conditions, Belarusian artists never stopped work, resorting to small sketches, drafts, posters, portraits and caricatures.



After Belarus' liberation, they toured the sites of military action, portraying war heroes.

The war theme began flourishing in Belarusian art in the late 1940s-1960s, with many pieces currently on show dating from that time: paintings, graphic and sculptural pieces, and works of decorative-and-applied art, dedicated to Brest Fortress' defence, Minsk's liberation, and the partisans and USSR heroes who gave their lives. Among the latter are Uncle Minai (Minai Shmyrev), Nikolay Gastello, Lev Dovator, Alexey Danukalov, Konstantin Zaslonov, Piotr Kalinin, Piotr Kupriyanov, Yelena Mazanik, Mikhail Silnitsky and Grandfather Talash (Vasil Talash); these people and



their deeds have inspired artists, composers, and theatrical and cinema directors.

The exhibition presents works by 22 People's Artists of Belarus: Zair Azgur, Anatoly Anikeichik, Ivan

Akhremchik, Andrey Bem-bel, Gavriil Vashchenko, Valentin Volkov, Alexey Glebov, Victor Gromyko, Alexander Grube, Lev Gumilevsky, Mai Dantsig, Yevgeny Zaitsev, Arlen Kashkurevich, Raisa



features works by Belarusian painters never before exhibited within the museum's permanent displays: Leonid Osedovsky, Piotr Danelia, Abram Krol, Eduard Kufko, Sofia Li, Boris Nepomnyashchy, Valentin Savitsky, Boris Uss, Vladimir Khrustalev and Yevgeny Tikhonovich.

Their genres vary — including portraits, landscapes and thematic pictures — but all are united in their theme. For several decades, our artists have been creating allegorical and metaphorical compositions, which depict the tragic, intense atmosphere of those war years, dramatic and emotional. Among them are Leonid Osedovsky's *Mother's Ballad*, Vitaly Tsvirko's *Unbroken*, Yevgeny Zaitsev's *Standing to the Death*, Olgerd Malishevsky's *We Shall Return*, Natan Voronov's *Cherishing Memories of Comrades-in-Arms*, Nikolay Zalozny's *Poppies*, Israel Basov's *Recollection*, Mikhail Savitsky's *Vitebsk Gates* and *Partisan Madonna*, Victor Gromyko's *1941: Over Pripjat*, Leonid Shchemelev's *My Birth*, Gavriil Vashchenko's *Breakthrough*, Ivan Rei's *Thank You, Mother*, and Vasily Sumarev's *Song of Partisans*.

These and other works devoted to that terrible war are a true requiem to fearlessness and self-sacrifice, heroism and tragedy. The show will leave no one unmoved.

Belaya Vezha to bring together friends

By Veniamin Velikhov

Teams from 13 countries to take part in 20th Belaya Vezha International Theatre Festival, to be held in Brest

The jubilee festival will be attended by artistes from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Germany, Georgia, Israel,

Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Tunisia and Ukraine, delighting the audience with their drama, puppet, street, musical and plastic performances. The festival features theatrical companies who have won Grand Prixes in previous years.

"The function of the theatre has been, remains and will ever be enlightenment. We

aim to show the diversity of world theatres, presenting all theatrical genres, and various groups from different countries," notes the Director General of the Brest Academic Drama Theatre, Alexander Kozak.

As is traditional, residents and guests of the city over the River Bug are awaiting performances by street theatres.

The Theatre of Suitcases, from Polish Wroclaw, is presenting a comedy, entitled *Satiriada*: an interactive performance uniting theatrical and circus arts. Another Polish company, Travel Bureau Theatre (Teatr Biuro Podróży), will show its *Loath to Depart* in Lenin Square.

This year, the Brest Academic Drama Theatre has

launched an electronic ticketing system; around 500 tickets have been sold online, for 22 performances. The 20th *Belaya Vezha* International Theatre Festival is staging works in Russian and Belarusian, as well as in Bulgarian, English, Lithuanian, Tunisian and Ukrainian languages, with interpretation.

Artistes will perform on

five stages around the city. Moreover, famous theatrical critics from Belarus, Russia, Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic States will be invited to Brest. The Artistic Leader of the Brest Academic Drama Theatre also has plans to turn the international forum into a festival of theatrical art, inviting unique folklore groups and organising exhibitions.

Fashionable clothes with symbolic significance

Handmade clothes and accessories celebrating national style enjoy increasing popularity in Belarus

By Veniamin Velikhov

The Belarusian State Economic University's Department of Economic Sociology has conducted online research to discover how people feel about 'old-fashioned' embroidery. While such work was once associated with grannies, there is a growing trend to acquire skilfully made items. According to the poll, 'handmade' is most often associated with gifts, clothes and accessories. Most view such items as original and unique, with their own spirituality and designer concept. Respondents don't refer to quality, or distinguish bad from good, but agree that all such products

are attractive in being unique and in having symbolic significance.

69.3 percent of respondents state that patriotism guides their choice in buying clothes with national Belarusian symbols. In turn, 49.5 percent appreciate unique designer elements and 31 percent believe such items to be fashionable; 29.4 percent think that these pieces help them stand out from the crowd. Women tend to appreciate not only national Belarusian symbols in clothing but handmade elements, and a great number of respondents have found handmade articles on sale widely at Minsk ethno-shops and specialised fairs. All those questioned state that social networks are the most



National ornamentation popular among youngsters

popular and efficient method of distribution, with Internet forums and social networks creating a range of advantages.

As regards prices, 52.9 percent of respondents believe them to be moderate — taking into consideration economic costs and the symbolic value of handmade goods. The authors of the

poll wished to discover how people wearing clothes with national Belarusian symbols are viewed in Belarusian society. According to the results, they are viewed as supporting national traditions (49.7 percent), as trying to attract attention to their personalities (21.7 percent) and as interested in fashion trends (20.6 percent).

Original format to express gratitude

By Vera Savelieva

Minsk hosts *Vulica Brasil* Belarusian-Brazilian street art festival

The festival features both Belarusian and Brazilian artists, with four Brazilians arriving in Minsk: last year, when the festival was first held, just two foreign painters joined the event.

Olivaria Brewery JSC is sponsoring the event as one of many in its portfolio, aiming to promote our historical and cultural. The enterprise is celebrating the 155th anniversary of the birth of one of its founders, Duke Czapski, this year. The famous Minsk Mayor would, Olivaria feels certain, be delighted to see the portrait of himself created at the second Belarusian-Brazilian street art festival.

The head of Olivaria's brand management group, Lyudmila Struchevskaya, tells us, "Duke Czapski deserves to decorate the city for which he did so much. During his time, Minsk gained its first electricity power station, a horse pulled tram, strong roads, telephones and many other innovations. We believe it's our duty to pay tribute to his memory, especially in the year of the 155th anniversary of his birth. Last year, we installed a memorial sign on the Olivaria Brewery building, which became a successful industrial enterprise during the time of Czapski. This year, we decided to create a monument to Karol Czapski, in unusual form."



Restoring the broken tradition

By Victor Korobov

Brest's Saved Art Treasures Museum presents Dmitry Stelletsy's *Boayrs* diptych

Few Belarusians are aware of Stelletsy's work, although he is famous across Western Europe and Russia. Born in Brest, in 1875, the current exhibition is the first in his homeland.

Boayrs is part of Belgazprombank's corporate collection and has been in Brest (a cultural capital of Belarus) for some time. Ales Sukhodolov, a leading specialist with Belgazprombank's Information Policy Department, is confident that Stelletsy's heritage is of exceptional value. He notes, "The artist often addressed historical topics, and was a bright representative of

Russian modernism. We are reviving familiarity with his creativity and restoring the broken tradition."

Stelletsy was a son of a military engineer, who arrived in Brest-Litovsk (as Brest was called at that time) to reconstruct the famous fortress. He later left the city of his birth forever, going to St. Petersburg to study. Together with Roerich, Bakst, Vrubel and Benois, he was a member of the World of Art Association. From 1914, he created works in Paris.

His pieces are to be found at the Tretyakov Gallery, at the Russian Museum and, even, within Russian regional museums. Alongside *Boayrs*, Belarus owns *The Night of St. John* (depicting Kupalle celebrations) and *The Fairy-tale*. Both were bought at auction in London, in 2013 and 2014.

Stanislavsky with French pronunciation

Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama invites those keen on French-speaking culture and drama to see *Theatrical Voyage II*

By Yulia Leonova

For almost a month, actors and directors from Belarus, Russia, France, Belgium and Italy have been penetrating Minsk life, learning about Stanislavsky's theatrical heritage and bringing to life their observations in stage performances at the Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama.

The theatre's press secretary, Svetlana Latysheva, explains, "The idea for this French-Belarusian project originated during Fabrice Carrey's studies at our Academy of Arts. Fabrice is the director of Demain Le Printemps French Theatrical Association. Working with the Teatro international public association, he found support among actors and directors from Belarus. Mr. Carrey regularly organises master classes and performances involving artistes from various countries and has been liaising with the Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama for several years already."



This May, the Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama and Demain Le Printemps Association signed an agreement on co-operation and promotion of projects

within Belarus and France. In April 2017, the Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama will tour French cities, staging *Three Giselles*: in Paris, Nice, Bordeaux and Marseille.



Stanislav Shcherbachenya in the distance

Belarusians win right to perform at 2016 Olympics

Belarusian athletes gain four licenses to 2016 Olympics at World Academic Rowing Championship, recently held in France

By Igor Leshin

On the final day, the Belarusian rowers performed in the B finals, claiming licenses to the 2016 Olympics in two out of three classes. Overall, our sportsmen won four licenses in France to the world's major event. In the W2x, experienced Yekaterina Karsten and Yulia Bichik finished third in the B finals but were placed ninth overall, for their A finals re-

sults, joining another 10 teams heading to the Olympics.

The Belarusian participants in the singles finals had a more complicated task, needing to finish among the top ten rowers and no lower than third place in the second most significant finals. Stanislav Shcherbachenya met the criteria: in the M1x, he won the B finals, though remained in the shadows for much of his 2km distance. In the final spurt, he left his

rivals behind, including the British rower, who had confidently headed the distance. In a photo finish, Stanislav was ahead by 0.110 seconds and, in the final protocol, was placed seventh.

In the women's W1x, Belarusian Tatiana Kukhta failed to repeat the success of her colleague. In the B finals, she initially performed well but, in the second half of the distance, dropped back, finishing fourth (in 7

minutes and 27.860 seconds), occupying tenth position overall.

Our Belarusian rowers also won Olympic licenses in two other classes: Yelena Krivosheenko and Inna Nikulina in the W2, and Igor Pashevich, Nikolay Sharlap, Denis Migal and Vadim Lyalin in the M4. However, for the second year in a row, our Belarusians failed to bring home any medals from the World Academic Rowing Championship.

Results of training inspire optimism

By Kirill Karin

Belarusian women's national volleyball team wins international tournament in Poland

The international tournament in Polish Ostrovec featured four squads, with the national team of Belarus, preparing for the final stage of the European Championship, winning all three matches.

Early on, the Belarusians beat their hosts from Ostrovec — 3:0. In the second round, they defeated Pila, from the strongest Polish Orlen Liga, — 3:0, and in the decisive match, our girls smashed Ukrainian Khimik, from Yuzhny — 3:0, ranked second in the tournament.

The national women's volleyball team will continue training for the continental forum at Raubichi Sports Complex, with two friendly matches on September 15th and 16th, at Vitalyur Sports Complex, facing one of the most titled clubs in Europe: Yekaterinburg Uralochka, headed by famous coach Nikolay Karpol (head coach of the Belarusian national women's team from 2009 to 2011).

Weakness on the pitch



National team players fail to meet fans' expectations

By Igor Grishin

Belarusian footballers lose to Ukrainians — 1:3 — in Lvov, throwing away even theoretical chance of third place in their selective group, which would give an opportunity to continue struggle for tickets to 2016 European Championship

The head coach of the Belarusian national football team, Alexander Khatskevich, announced at the

pre-match press conference that the squad maintained hopes of qualifying. However, fans' hopes have been dashed with the team's failure to claim third place in the group; the team would have needed a win, rather than their 1:3 defeat.

It was Belarus' defence which let the side down, as central defenders Denis Polyakov and Sergey Politevich both suffered injury and Malaga reserve player Yegor Filipenko was clearly not on top form. Meanwhile,

Maxim Bordachev was disqualified for having too many yellow cards and Maxim Volodko failed to play his best.

The outcome was predictable in the first half, with coach Alexander Khatskevich no doubt shaking his head in bewilderment as the defence spun like a revolving door and our halfbacks failed to take possession of the ball. Attacker Sergey Kornilenko spent much of his time idle. Only goalkeeper Andrey Gorbunov did brilliantly, with a fantastic save after Konoplyanka's direct pass; his efforts will be long remembered.

In the second half, our players seemed to revive a little, taking the initiative, yet failed to pull any rabbits out of the hat. Their only joy was a penalty goal (the first goal scored by Belarus against Ukraine in an official match).

After the match, Mr. Khatskevich said that the team had failed to defend adequately in the first half, with himself taking part of the blame for placing Sivakov and Mayevsky in central defence. He moved them after halftime but it was too late; the match was lost in the first half.

His Ukrainian colleague, coach Mikhail Fomenko, was delighted by the result, saying that it was great to see his squad score three times in the first half. In the second, they relaxed slightly but kept their vital lead.

Drawing down the curtain on history

By Yegor Glebov

One of the most famous Belarusian coaches, Victor Goncharenko, quits as Ural's head coach

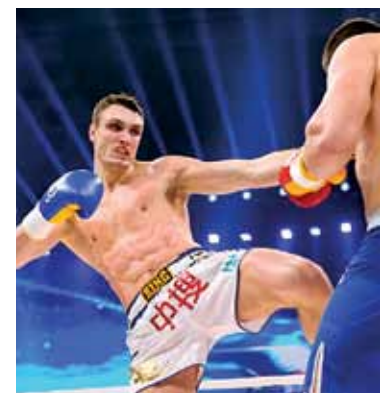
Following a meeting with the president of the Ural club, Grigory Ivanov, the website announced an early end to the head coach's contract, due to 'divergence of opinion regarding the way forward for the club'. The message also says that 'because of unhealthy tension in the press regarding the club, the sides, refuting speculation and rumour, have agreed to refrain from commenting in the press'.

The club's history is more dark than light and, in refusing to comment, the club will only generate more speculation.

Victor Goncharenko left Yekaterinburg for Minsk last week. It seems that personal reasons are behind the split and various media have suggested that he didn't want to be connected with the Russian Championship match between Yekaterinburg's Ural and Terek, which is speculated to have been a fixed match.

For the whole week, Ural's leadership had stated that Goncharenko was going nowhere, despite his trip to Minsk. However, the curtain has been drawn. There is now speculation that Victor may head to Rubin.

Best wrestler and gold medal



Belarusian athlete Andrei Gerasemchuk recognised as best wrestler at 2015 World Thai Boxing Championship, held in Bangkok

The Deputy Interior Minister and Chairman of the Belarusian Federation of Kickboxing and Thai Boxing, Yuri Karaev, announced at a recent press conference that Mr. Gerasemchuk has earned gold in the over 91kg category at the World Championship. Speaking of the performance of the national team of Belarus, he praised their martial spirit and the high qualification of their coaches, who had trained the team well. Belarus was represented by 27 wrestlers, who claimed 20 medals: 7 gold, 8 silver and 5 bronze.

The national squad of Belarus came third overall at the World Championship, behind the Thai hosts and then the Russians. According to Mr. Karaev, the event was organised at a high level. Bangkok also hosted the first Thai Boxing World Championship for Students, with our Belarusians earning three medals.

Exhibition of the week



Masterpieces of the State Tretyakov Gallery — *From Realism to Impressionism* — on show at National Art Museum of Belarus

Exhibitions

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street

Until 27th September. *Belarusian Iconostas* Until 27th September. *A Husband, a Man, a Warrior* Until 28th September. *Tissues of Thoughts* Until 2nd November. *Great Patriotic War in Art* Until 11th December. *From Realism to Impressionism* (19th-20th century painting) Until 30th December. *Celebrating Victory Day in Museum*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 15th September. *Blue-Green* Until 11th October. Exhibition by the Sergei Andriyaka State Academy of Watercolours and Fine Arts Until 31st December. *Major Presentation of Museum Relics: 79 Steps Inside History*

WANKOWICZ HOUSE-MUSEUM

33A Internatsionalnaya Street

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

MAXIM BOGDANOVICH LITERARY MUSEUM

7A M. Bogdanovich Street

Until 1st December. *Maxim's Garden*

MUSEUM OF BELARUSIAN CINEMA HISTORY

4 Sverdlov Street

Until 4th October. *Life in Fairy-tales*

ZABRODIE ETHNOGRAPHICAL COMPLEX

Zabrodie village

Until 31st October. Exhibition of Retro Technique

Until 31st October. Museum of Century-Old Way of Life

Theatres

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square

11.09. The Fountain of Bakhchisaray
13.09. Aida 14.09. The Firebird.
Scheherazade; Night of Ancient Romance
15.09. Eugene Onegin
16.09. Anyuta 17.09. Nabucco

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street

Tours of the Sverdlovsk State Academic Theatre of Musical Comedy: 11.09. Scarlet Sails
12.09. The Duchess of Chicago; The Cat
13.09. Countess Matrix; The Cat
14.09. The Pit 15.09. The Fiddler on the Roof
16.09. Aunt Charlie
17.09. www.silicon fool.net

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street

11.09. He and She 12.09. Caught by the Net
13.09. Taming of the Shrew
15.09. Kholstomer. The Horse Story
16.09. Lion in Winter 17.09. Esfir

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street

11.09. Pinsk Gentry 12.09. Not Mine
13.09. Symon, the Musician 17.09. The Boor

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue

11.09. Pygmalion 12 and 13.09. No One Ever Said Life Would Be Easy 15-16.09. An Unnamed Star
17.09. The Makropoulos Case

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street

11.09. Adel 14.09. Three Giselles 15.09. Adam's Jokes 16.09. Silent Love 17.09. Dzed

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street

17.09. Comedy

Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

September of decades and centuries past comes to life

September 11th. In 1945, a Belarusian public figure, a teacher, an Honoured Coach of Belarus, an Honoured Figure of Physical Culture and Sports — Vladimir Ryzhenkov — was born in Dobrush (Gomel Region). He headed Belarus' National Olympic Committee.

September 12th. In 1929, a playwright and an Honoured Figure of Culture of Belarus — Nikolay Matyukovsky — was born in the village of Kalyutino of the Rossony District.

September 13th. In 1923, a USSR Hero — Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya — was born. Vitebsk's secondary school #14 and many Belarusian streets are named after her.

September 14th. In 1905, a Belarusian film operator and an Honoured Artiste of Belarus — Arkady Koltsaty — was born. From 1927-1935, he worked at the Sovetskaya Belorussiya Film Studio.

September 15th. In 1940, a conductor and an Honoured Figure of Arts — Anatoly Lapunov — was born in Gomel. He staged operettas: Y. Semenyako's *Week of Eternal Love*, G. Surus' *Doomsday Time*, and I. Kalman's *Silva*.

September 16th. In 1937, a Belarusian wrestler and three time Olympic champion — Alexander Medved — was born.

September 17th. In 1860, writer Kondrat Leika was born in the village of Zbochno (Slonim District).

September 11th. In 1938,

September 12th. In 1922, the Department of BSSR Archive Management was established.

September 13th. In 2002, a site was consecrated and the first stone was laid to construction of the Minsk Town Hall, in Svobody Square.



the Adam Mickiewicz House-Museum opened in Novogrudok.

September 11th. In 1967, Minsk's Youth School on Automobile Sports was founded.

September 11th. In 1957, the Felix Dzerzhinsky Museum opened in Ivenets.

September 11th. In 1993, the Belarusian Nation Congress took place in Minsk.

September, 12th. In 1978, the new airport at Vitebsk launched its work.

September 12th. In 2008, the Belarus cinema opened after reconstruction.

September 12th. In 2008, Dinamo-Minsk handball club was presented.

September 13th. In 1974, the first full-colour programme was out by the Bela-

rusian Republican TV Studio.

September 14th. In 1920, the Belarusian State Drama Theatre was launched in Minsk, known as the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre since 1993.

September 14th. In 1960, an international football match was hosted by Minsk's Dinamo Stadium: Belarus lost to Japan — 1:4.

September 14th. In 2002, a memorable clock was placed in Sendaisky Park.

September 15th. In 1922, the BSSR State Library opened on the basis of the BSU library.

September 15th. In 1951, Minsk's Radio Plant manufactured its first produce: 'Minsk-P-7' radio.

September 15th. In 2000, the national team of Belarus claimed 17 medals (3 gold, 3 silver and 11 bronze) at the 27th Olympic Games which were opened on this day in Sidney.

September 16th. In 1873, a Minsk-Bobruisk section of the Libavo-Romenskaya railway (connecting the Baltic States and Ukraine) was put into operation.