

# Friday the 13th — black for Parisians

129 people killed and 352 injured in Paris following shooting and explosions late on evening of November 13th



Paris, November 13th, 2015



People leave flowers and light candles at the French Embassy in Minsk

Terrorist acts occurred almost simultaneously in six different points of the French capital, with the bloodiest in Bataclan concert hall, where shooting began during a performance by famous American Eagles the Death Metal rock band.

Another terrorist act was organised near the Parisian Stade de France Stadium, during the friendly match

between the national teams of France and Germany. The match was attended by Francois Hollande, as well as Germany's Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Moreover, terrorist acts were conducted in Sharon and Voltaire boulevards, and in Fonten-au-Rua and Aliber streets. These all resulted in a great many citizens being wounded.

Belarusians have been moved by these terrorist acts in Paris, leaving flowers and lighting candles near the French Embassy to Minsk.

The President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has sent condolences to the President of France, Francois Hollande, and to the French people, families and friends of those killed and injured as a result of the terrorist acts in Paris.

'With great pain, Belarus has received news of numerous casualties following the terrorist attacks in Paris, on the night of November 13th to 14th, 2015. On behalf of the Belarusian people, and on my own behalf, I express our deepest condolences and words of support to the families and friends of those killed and injured, as well as to all French people,' reads the letter of condolence.

# National security reflects new challenges

By Vladimir Khromov

## Belarus assessing national security, to inform long-term development of law enforcement

At a recent session, Alexander Lukashenko stressed that it's essential to make a comprehensive assessment of our national security, with particular reference to its ability to respond promptly to threats. It's also vital to find out if law enforcement bodies are prepared for various scenarios, and if they can forecast and forestall negative consequences.

In this context, all agencies must be effective in coping with existing tasks and have well-developed strategies of operation. The President has urged all agencies to prepare long-term and short-term plans.

The President also focused on the need to optimise resources, to en-

sure the smooth operation of law enforcement bodies. "We can't afford to maintain more law enforcement staff than are necessary but nor should we oversimplify the system, rendering it inefficient," warns Mr. Lukashenko.

Addressing the participants of the session, Mr. Lukashenko noted his desire to see them take a fresh look at their agencies' operation, in search of more cost-effective methods, while maintaining results. He asserted, "We need to eradicate excessive and, sometimes, artificial functions, including those which are supervisory, preventing the duplication of various agencies' functions. We'll control and place in check enterprises of all types of ownership if they violate the law. However, we need to have a clear idea of the situation. Inspections should be conducted objectively. I'll pay special attention to this."

Mr. Lukashenko believes it to be inadmissible for auditors to visit enterprises one after another, creating obstacles rather than working to improve the situation in the economy.

The President asked the officials at the meeting if they are ready to lead their agencies in these times of rapid change. He noted, "At the end of the session, we need to determine paths of development for the country's law enforcement system, and to reconsider not only general tasks assigned to that system but to each national security agency in particular."

Following the recent Presidential elections, the Belarusian Government has been retired, allowing the Head of State to appoint his new ministers, seeking out those who have proven not only their competence but their willingness to work appropriately.

The composition of the new Gov-



During the session

ernment was suggested before the elections, so that voters might know whom was intended to work with Mr. Lukashenko. He underlined, "I don't sign appointment decrees as a mere formality. Every executive will have to present their vision to the subordinate Government agency. Suggestions in favour of real reform and, even, radical remodelling, as well as step-by-step advancement, are welcome. We've already implemented rather profound reforms."

Chatting to journalists after the

session, the State Secretary of the Security Council, Stanislav Zas, specified that national security must work through rationalised, mobile and highly-efficient law enforcement bodies and other power structures.

"The Head of State has made clear that it isn't possible to work as in the past. Heads need to adjust their attitude and the work of their subordinated departments," he noted.

The Security Council is tasked to control executive discipline across all power structures.



# Stronger sex reflected in mirror of statistics

## Belarus has 115 women for every 100 men

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarus is among those countries boaster more women than men. According to demographic statistical data, as of early this year, there were 4,409,300 men in Belarus, accounting for 46.5 percent of the total population.

As of January 1st, 2015, the average age of men was 37.2 years, with men in cities being, on average, significantly younger than in rural areas. The average age of urban men is 36.1 years, against 40.7 years in the villages. The average age of men is 5.2 years lower than women.

Annually, more boy

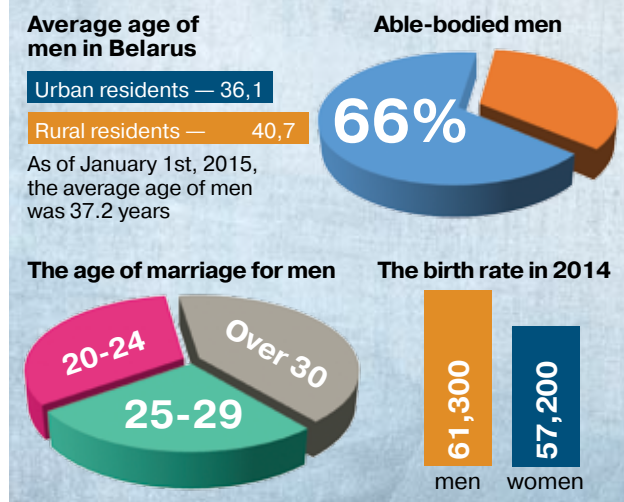
babies are born than girls: 61,300 boys in 2014, against 57,200 girls. There were 935 girls per 1,000 boy babies.

However, by 30-33 years, the number of men and women almost equalises. The greatest disproportion is seen in older years, when, by 65 years of age, there are 1.5-fold more women than men. By the age of 74, there are twice as many women as men.

Men of able-bodied age account for 66 percent of the total number of the Republic's male population.

In 2014, 83,900 men married, with just 26.3 percent aged between 20 and 24 years, and 32.6 percent aged between 25 and 29 years. Of

### Demographic statistics for men



these, 61,000 men were enjoying their first marriage. Just 610 were over the age of 50. The average age of a bridegroom wedding for the first time was 27.4 years in 2015; for those marrying for

the second time, the average age was 40.6 years.

According to a selective poll of households, as of early 2015, every third man aged 16 and over assessed his health as good.

# Position openly and clearly confirmed

By Svetlana Savko

## Belarus is against strengthening military activity in the region, notes Belarus' Foreign Minister, Vladimir Makei, dismissing NATO accusations as absurd regarding idea that Belarus could team up with Russian army in Kaliningrad to capture Suwalki corridor and isolate Baltic States from their allies in NATO

The Minister has stressed that any efforts to step up military activities on either side of the Belarus-EU border, including the

deployment of more troops and hardware, will result in stronger military tension. It's absolutely unnecessary under current conditions, particularly in view of the situation in Ukraine, adds Mr. Makei. "We cannot stifle the smouldering Ukrainian conflict. Adding more wood to the fire would be absolutely irrational."

The Foreign Minister of Belarus states that Belarus' position on issues of war and peace has been repeatedly outlined by President Alexander Lukashenko: no threat to peace will originate from Belarusian territory.

# Result of joint agreements

By Alexey Fedotov

## Belarusian Information and Cultural Centre opens in Islamabad

This is one of the first Belarusian-Pakistani projects, implemented due to the agreements, reached between the two states. The centre was set up with an aim to develop mutually beneficial co-operation in cultural, humanitarian, economic, sci-tech, educational, tourist and information spheres.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani Information and Cultural Centre is to be opened in Minsk, notes Belarus' Prime

Minister, Andrei Kobaykov, during a solemn opening ceremony of the Belarusian Information and Cultural Centre in the National Library of Pakistan.

"Together with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, we've agreed that a similar Pakistani centre will be opened at the National library of Belarus in the near-time," notes Mr. Kobaykov.

He assured that the Belarusian leadership will do everything necessary to open the centre as soon as our Pakistani partners are ready for this.

# It's obviously easy to find an appealing occupation in sport

Construction of sports facilities should be modest in cost while being of good quality, notes President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, during his visit to new Mandarin multi-functional sports and recuperation centre in Minsk

By Vasily Kharitonov

The Head of State has received a report on efforts to promote sport and recuperation services in Minsk, and the performance of the new facility, which was built at the request of the President. Construction lasted from January 2013 to October 2015, primarily using Minsk budgetary funds.

Major areas of work at the new complex include an aqua thermal zone, swimming lessons, and fitness and martial arts classes. Besides the swimming pool and thermal complex, there are gyms and dedicated rooms for martial arts and fitness groups. It has been popular since first opening, being located not far from a residential district, where there are no similar facilities.

After visiting the complex and chatting with visitors, the Head of State praised its conditions for sport and physical education, saying, "This is a true factory of health. The more people are here the fewer are in hospital."

Pleasingly, increasing numbers of people are convinced that health and fitness are the way forward to enjoying a better quality of life. In Minsk alone, almost 25 percent of the population regularly exercises, against 5.7 percent in 2012. Demand for sports infrastructure is rising, inspiring Minsk authorities to plan construction of swimming pools and gyms, as approved by the President. He is keen to see the Night Hockey League gain a permanent residence and it seems that private investors are ready to inject funds.

Meanwhile, state budgetary funds also need to be directed towards the regions, with construction of sports facilities continuing, regardless of private investor funding. Several key factors must be taken into account, with residents being made to realise that facilities are expensive to build, so services won't be free of charge. However, prices will be modest, and sites located within walking distance of main centres of housing. The Mandarin centre is a great example. Several



During the visit to the Mandarin sports and recuperation centre

days before its opening, it launched the sale of annual passes and, from the first days, it has been busy.

The President underlines that a great many state-run sports facilities have been established already. "People should understand that such places are expensive to build and, in turn, their services also have a price tag," notes Mr. Lukashenko.

He believes that simple and affordable swimming pools and sports facilities are essential, instructing that such sites are built. He comments, "Everything should be simple, cheap, beautiful, and of high quality." He believes, particularly, that quality is the main factor.

The Head of State has urged the Sports and Tourism Ministry and the Minsk City Executive Committee to turn unused premises into sports facilities, providing affordable services, since huge resources won't be needed to launch them.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lukashenko has urged that all facilities should operate at full capacity from dawn until dusk, so that people can attend at a

time convenient. He underlines that facilities need to be used wisely. "Once constructed, it's necessary to organise the schedule to allow people to attend at any time, from 6am until midnight. Everything should be busy."

The President has tasked civil servants with helping to popularise a healthy lifestyle, in which exercise and sport play a major role. The Head of State is also keen to see domestic production of fitness equipment, since it is rather expensive. Taking into consideration the vigorous development of sport and the construction of sports facilities, huge funds are needed to buy imported equipment. Accordingly, the Head of State emphasises, "It's necessary to produce domestic, Belarusian, fitness equipment, manufacturing for fitness gyms."

Such import substitution efforts should reduce the cost of equipping sports facilities, reducing prices for their services. Some major Belarusian enterprises may become involved in production of Belarusian fitness equipment.

The President stresses that more

efforts are needed to promote physical education, sports and a healthy lifestyle. He asserts, "These are real health factories. The more people who attend, the fewer hospital patients we'll have. The state will only benefit."

In his opinion, more sports centres are needed within walking distance in Minsk, and across the country in general. These should include not only gyms but open-air sports grounds and cycle tracks. The President is keen to see prices kept affordable, although recognises that facilities should not operate at a loss. He believes that every resident, countrywide, should have the opportunity to become involved in sport and a healthy lifestyle incorporating exercise.

Vitaly interested in the health of its citizens, the state is ready to fully support people's aspiration towards a healthy lifestyle. Modern sports facilities should inspire citizens in making positive changes, with attending a gym or swimming pool becoming not only a personal choice but a fashionable trend.

## Taking into account real situation

By Vladimir Molokhov

**Alexander Lukashenko approves new plan of engagement for regional military of Belarus and Russia, for consideration of Supreme State Council of the Union State of Belarus and Russia, to run for next five years, as presented to Head of State by Belarusian Defence Minister Andrei Ravkov**

The new five-year plan needs to be approved by a session of the Supreme State Council, to be presided over by the Belarusian President. The plan's approval will be one of the key items on the session's agenda, and is expected to come into force in January 2016.

Mr. Lukashenko asked how new trends and changes in the situation around Belarus are being taken into account. According to the Head of State, the issue should be looked at, bearing in mind mutual relations in the post-Soviet space, where three major integration associations exist (the CIS, the EAEU, and the Union State of Belarus and Russia).

The evolution of the situation in neighbouring countries should be borne in mind as well. "Everybody knows what's happening in Ukraine," stresses Mr. Lukashenko. "We cannot but take it into account." He added that Belarus must take into account the situation in Ukraine, the flow of illegal migrants, weapons and so on.

The Head of State also drew attention to activity near Belarus' western borders, where NATO forces are being reinforced. In particular, he mentioned the air force and ground forces. "We're aware of that, too. We know about the expansion of the USA's antimissile defence system in the West. We know about certain designs concerning nuclear weapons. We'll have to bear all these factors in mind," notes the President.

Plans take into account changes in the external situation as much as possible. Meanwhile, Mr. Lukashenko has been hearing how Belarus' interests and approaches are being represented within the organisation, and details on the development and application of the regional army group. The President has also heard about changes Russia would like to see implemented into the new plan.

# Mutual investment interests

By Pavel Evseev

**Belarus' Prime Minister, Andrei Kobyakov, keen to develop Belarusian-Turkish relations, as he tells journalists during Belarus Investment Forum, hosted by Istanbul**

"Turkey is already open to us but we're somehow opening it anew," noted Mr. Kobyakov.

He commented on potential mutual investments, underlining, "We know that Turkey is investing in Belarus. Our citizens are well aware of the hotels constructed by Turk-

ish builders: the President Hotel, the Minsk Hotel and the Crown Plaza Hotel. A range of projects is being implemented, with serious investments in the construction sphere," noted the Head of the Belarusian Government.

He also mentioned that Belarus has its own investment interests in Turkey. This primarily refers to the establishment of assembly production of tractor and automobile machinery, as well as heavy-duty dump trucks.

"They're desperately in need of harvesting machinery of the class we're producing," explained Mr. Ko-

byakov. In his words, trials are being conducted and, if they are a success, serious contracts will be signed for the supply of machinery. In future, assembly production could be set up on Turkish territory.

"Our key task is to expand mutual trade turnover to a very reasonable \$1bn next year. It currently stands at around \$650m," noted Mr. Kobyakov.

Mr. Kobyakov added that, during the Belarus Investment Forum, around 20 documents were signed, aiming to develop economic relations between our two states.

Around 600 business repre-



At the Belarus Investment Forum in Istanbul

sentatives and officials from our two countries took part in the Belarus Investment Forum, the programme of which included a plenary session of

panel discussions across three areas: macroeconomics, the investment climate and investment projects and sites in Belarus.

By the end of the year, having covered thousands of kilometres, the reactor vessel for the first energy block of the Belarusian nuclear power station will have arrived in the west of Belarus, in the Ostrovets District. From time to time, the media has reported on its journey from Russian Volgodonsk. For example, it was recently dispatched to Veliky Novgorod. However, let's visit Volgodonsk, where the order was first placed.

# Special approach truly guarantees good quality

By Valery Bozhkov

Volgodonsk is far from Minsk but its atmosphere is familiar, the streets graced by pale green MAZ buses and Minsk trolley buses. Shops offer a wide range of Belarusian cosmetics, footwear and sausages. However, our bilateral co-operation reaches beyond the commonplace, with Volgodonsk's Atomenergomasht having produced a reactor vessel for the first energy block at the Belarusian nuclear power station.

At the invitation of Russia's Atomenergomasht and Belarus' Energy Ministry, I've been invited to visit the city and tour the facility long responsible for nuclear reactions. It's an opportunity few receive. Although greatly automated, it still relies on human input, so all risks have to be foreseen, to avoid catastrophe. Accordingly, only staff are admitted inside the reactor section.

Production Director Vitaly Shishov leads me through the several hundred metre long workshop, throwing out impressive statistics. "Its diameter is 4.5m and the length is almost 13m," Mr. Shishov comments. "The total weight is 340 tonnes. The reactor vessel is welded from several parts preliminary processed, and has walls 40cm thick, made from special steel which can withstand high burdens and nuclear radiation for decades. We used a special technique to weld it."

Sixth degree welder Yuri Tkachev is inside 'the pipe' and is clearly an expert. "I've been working here since 1977, welding even the first Volgodonsk reactor," he admits. "I knew who the reactor was intended for: our friends, the Belarusians. We were contributing not only our skills but our souls, to ensure the reactor works reliably and safely for many years."

Atomenergomasht focuses greatly on the reliability and safety of nuclear power station equipment. The company has received all the necessary certificates and documents from state control bodies, installing equipment by famous global brands; recently, it has undergone modernisation. The central plant laboratory enjoys the newest equipment while the local welding



Special attention paid to quality of equipment for Belarusian nuclear power station

laboratory offers training, to enhance qualifications.

Having seen at first hand, I can vouch for the level of training at the plant. Powerful infra-red radiators are warming the 3m diameter cover of the Belarusian station's second reactor, as it stands vertically, being slowly rotated. A welder is at work. It's a tough job, so employees replace each other every two hours. Each seam must be welded to a depth of several dozen centimetres; quality is checked endlessly, using all known methods. Even the smallest cracks, hollows or pockets must be remedied.

The guarantee of perfect quality is achieved by using other, specialised enterprises to produce certain details. Some come from Ukraine. Referring to the recent situation in the neighbouring state, Mr. Shishov notes, "All semi-finished products for our

Belarusian equipment were received many months ago, after passing strict 'entry' requirements. Reactor production takes around 22 months, with over half of this time spent on test-controlling operations."

While chatting, we approached the place where the nuclear reactor was hydraulically tested. The reactor vessel is vertically placed on a special bearing ring, within a caisson (a huge well of about the same depth as a five-storey house). It's no easy task, with the cover fixed using 54 super-robust bolts. It takes a whole week just to set up. Later, warm water fills the reactor, under high pressure, so that a special commission may investigate each centimetre of the reactor vessel. Speaking of whether Belarusian specialists often come to the plant to inspect quality, Mr. Shishov asserts, "They come regularly. We enjoy close

co-operation, as we've all been trained at the same technical school. We understand each other almost without speaking."

After hydraulic testing, painting and other operations, the reactor was shipped to Belarus: initially, via the River Volga and other rivers and then by rail. By late 2016, it will have travelled thousands of kilometres, to arrive in western Belarus' Ostrovets District. Some time later, the second reactor will make the same journey. "In line with the schedule, we plan to produce the latter in 2017. Currently, we're ahead of schedule and hope to dispatch it to our customers in late 2016," notes Mr. Shishov.

Atomenergomasht is producing other equipment for the Belarusian station also — such as 340-tonne steam generators, of which four are required for each reactor. The first are almost ready. Huge lock chambers are also important, being installed at the entrance to the reactor section — for repair works and inspection. They need to be large enough that a steam generator can be passed through, to enable replacement, and extend the life of each reactor.

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## Major potential in focus

Belarus boasts wonderful potential for developing innovative entrepreneurship, declares the Charge d'Affaires of the USA to Belarus, Scott Roland, speaking at *Economy of Belarus: Choices* conference

By Alexander Pimenov

Mr. Roland feels confident that entrepreneurs are the answer to Belarus' economic breakthrough. "Belarus is known for its high level of education and for its IT professionals. Belarusian programmers

win international contests and Belarusian companies are actively operating on the global market. The country's reputation on the global IT market is attracting interest from international companies and investors," Mr. Roland emphasises.

He is convinced that transfor-

mation is possible only through efficient interaction between the state, business community and international organisations. "However, human potential, rather than the country's internal resources, form the basis of the country's sustainable development," he believes.



At the conference

Mr. Roland notes that the creation of favourable conditions for the development of the private sector is the basis for economic development and welfare, since entrepreneurs generate new ideas and move forward their implementation. "They are the first to react to

## Window of opportunities opens wide

By Alexey Fedotov

### New opportunities for enterprises in Belarus and France

The Vice President of the France-Belarus parliamentary friendship group of the National Assembly of France, Thierry Mariani, expects to see new opportunities open up for Belarusian and French companies in the near future. Chatting with the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, Anatoly Rusetsky, Mr. Mariani noted, "I think that new opportunities will open up for French and Belarusian companies over the next year since there are no more obstacles to mutually beneficial co-operation."

Mr. Mariani added that it was his twentieth visit to Belarus and that he believes relations between Belarus and France are yet to reach their full potential. "Your country has been portrayed in a negative light in Europe in recent years," he said, while underlining that the attitude towards Belarus is gradually changing.

Mr. Mariani hopes for positive change and feels certain that the geographical position of the country will help, as the European Union views Belarus as a point of entry to the Eurasian Economic Union market.

## Demand for foreign currency isn't rising

In October, various company-residents were 'pure' buyers of foreign currency, while individuals were 'pure' sellers — as the National Bank has announced

Last month, companies bought \$1,482.3m on the domestic market, while selling \$1,463.2m. Residents purchased \$19.1m of foreign currency (against \$53.3m in September). The amount has fallen for the third month in a row. In October, individuals sold more foreign currency on the domestic market than they bought. The volume of bought cash currency last month stood at \$501.5m while that sold was \$533.8m. From January-October, citizens were 'pure' sellers of cash currency: \$4,596.4 million bought and \$5,570.9m sold, giving a balance of \$974.6m.

change and are the first to create opportunities," he says. Mr. Roland underlines the necessity of creating business associations to liaise with authorities, explaining what is needed by entrepreneurs and helping the state promptly respond to entrepreneurs' needs.



New banknotes displayed by the Deputy Chairman of the National Bank's Board, Dmitry Lapko

By Aelita Syulzhina

### Grounds for choosing new design

Much like the previous notes, printed in Russia, the new designs feature monuments of architecture and city planning. Resembling Euros, although these do not depict architecture, the new Belarusian notes are multi-coloured (like the latest US Dollars).

Belarusian banknotes rise in size by 4mm as they rise in denomination, while the colours range from warm and simple to more complicated and cold, as explains Svetlana Nekrasova, the National Bank's chief specialist. The face features a Belarusian architectural monument and the reverse a landmark historical period — from ancient (a site preserved in the Brest Region) to modern times. The images aim to inspire patriotism and to create a rich representation of the diversity of the country's regional culture.

Banknotes are printed on special paper protected against forgery, with easily recognisable watermarks overlaying the image, and metalised thread, resembling a dark stripe, running through the paper. There are also fragmented patterns on the note which, when held up to the light, fit together to spell out the value. There are six visible degrees of protection, in addition to many more invisible elements,



ALEXANDER RUIZHECHKA

New banknotes impossible to forge

### MT REFERENCE:

The National Bank's Board notes that coins may be produced for souvenir purposes using any material (including non-metals) but that any one-side copy should be of at least 25 percent smaller or larger than the 'true' size, while two-side copies should be at least half as large or small as an original, to avoid confusion.

which only banks and specialists can detect.

### For partially sighted people

In the lower left-hand corner, each note also bears 'Braille', enabling those with poor sight to detect the value by feel. Meanwhile the writ-

ten value is written large, supplemented by colour distinction.

### Coins in need

Belarus is the only European country yet to introduce coins, but that is soon to change. Of course, coins have the advantage of lasting 10-15

years, while banknotes tend to need replacement within 6-12 months. Moreover, it's easy to deface paper money.

The new denomination, and use of coins, aims to help control inflation. From January-September, this fell from 17.1 to 11.9 percent and, in 2016, is set to reach no more than 12 percent. Within five years, inflation should stand at just 5 percent.

A one Kopeck coin is set to replace the current lowest value of banknote: Br100. Like all coins in circulation, its averse will feature the state emblem and the reverse will depict an image representing the value. In addition,

the reverse side of 1, 2 and 5 Kopecks will be decorated with an ornament symbolising wealth. Symbols of fertility and life are to be depicted on the 10, 20 and 50 Kopeck coins, while 1 and 2 Roubles will bear symbols of happiness and freedom.

Like banknotes, coins will be differentiated by size, having various diameters: the 1 Kopeck is 15mm in diameter, made from steel alloy covered in copper (the colour is red); 2 and 5 Kopecks are the same, but with a larger diameter; and the 10, 20 and 50 Kopecks are yellow, being made from steel covered with copper and brass. The 1

Rouble is white, owing to its copper-nickel coating, while the 2 Rouble coin is dual-coloured and is the largest, at 23.5mm in diameter (weighing 5.81 grams and being 2mm thick). It's made from two alloys: copper-brass and copper-nickel. In addition, coins have a special rim, with cuts of a certain size, and small details difficult to reproduce illegally.

### Costs involved

According to Mr. Lapko, to produce a banknote or a coin back in 2008-2009, cost around 1-4 Eurocents. However, to replace 600m of the 'old' banknotes, just 80m new banknotes (seven times fewer) and 400m coins are needed. It will cost much less to store and distribute currency. Moreover, the National Bank promises to consider printing banknotes of larger 'value'.

### How to pay

From July 1st to December 31st, 2016, banknotes from 2000 will continue to be circulated alongside the new notes and coins and all will be legal tender.

### Avoiding inflation

From July 1st to December 31st, 2016, during the simultaneous circulation of old and new money, economic entities will need to fix two prices: old and new — to avoid the temptation to round off prices to their own benefit.

# Way out always possible

## Belarusian Steel Works among major high-tech companies, modernising and mastering new production, bringing new sales abroad

By Vladimir Khromov

In the first ten months of 2015, the plant's sales have risen in physical volume although they've fallen in value against 2014, with exports generating less than 80 percent of the previous income, reflecting the situation on the global market.

Prices have fallen significantly and, under present conditions, it's a true challenge to expand export volumes. However, the plant is doing everything possible to compensate for the unfavourable

market situation. Of course, it has state support in doing so.

Falling revenue is hampering the repayment of loans (taken out for the purpose of modernisation). The plant could access its floating assets but this would undermine its long-term plans. Additional mechanisms are needed to solve its financial problems.

With this in mind, the Government has proposed the issue of foreign currency bonds, by special Presidential decree. Mr. Lukashenko recently turned his focus onto the plant, noting changes

since his last visit in September, and has promised to find a solution to the company's difficulties, with bonds are one element of the answer. Their emission should 'reduce the financial burden on the company and solve the existing financial situation'. A corresponding agreement with Belarusian banks has been achieved.

Overall, the idea is receiving support. The Belarusian Steel Works will issue \$240.5m of securities, with a five year period of circulation (and profitability of 8.5 percent per annum). This should



BELTA

BMZ preserves export position

strengthen its market position, and enhance the volume of exports, with niches in the Middle East and Africa as a focus. The company is increasing its sales to Europe and

is advancing towards to the USA. Sooner or later, any crisis ends. With this in mind, the plant will be ready when world economic recovery becomes evident.

# UN70 Belarus Express returns to Minsk — many new plans ahead



By Viktor Mikhailov

It has been three weeks since the United Nations 70 Belarus Express for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) returned to its point of origin — the city of Minsk. This initiative was a shared dream of the UN and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus. It was an unforgettable eight-day trip for all participants. The UN Train visited seven cities and involved more than 150,000 persons in its activities all over the country. At the same time, it touched the hearts and minds of hundred thousand people even beyond Belarusian borders through social media. What next? Yes, the UN Express helped people know about the SDGs. However, UN Express participants also had many conversations with people from all walks of life on how the country will achieve these 17 goals by 2030 together. Now, it is about actions. Already in the first week since the return of the train, UN Express participants have had many events in Minsk focused on different SDGs ranging from a play called 'Seven' on gender inequality and gender-based violence, Kastryčnicki Ekanamičny Forum (KEF) bringing global expertise to discuss opportunities and challenges for Belarus and an international conference on how Public Private Partnerships can work for SDGs. On 20th November United Nations will present to the highest levels of the Government the 'SDGs and the Voices of the People' — a collection of ideas, suggestions, comments and concerns of people from all around the country who were involved with the Train on how they see themselves and others contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. Using this



as a point of departure, United Nations will together with a cross-section of public servants examine the role of the civil service in the implementation of these Global Goals. Prominent experts from Kazakhstan, UK, Denmark and Belarus among others will gather to discuss international best practices at the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of Belarus.

Back in 2000, the United Nations established a series of eight goals to help the world's poorest people. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as they were known, were an attempt to address the most basic requirements of human life: reducing the child-mortality rate by two-thirds, reversing the course of the AIDS epidemic, vastly increasing the number of people with regular access to safe drinking water. Other targets sought to move closer to a world without poverty or hunger, in which common diseases have been defeated — a world with universal primary education, gender equality, improved maternal health, and environmental sustainability.

Taken together, the MDGs, which were meant to be com-



pleted by the end of this year, can be regarded as the largest collective promise that the world's governments have ever made to their citizens. Depending upon how one interprets the words in the goals, progress has been mixed. We have not been able to lower maternal mortality by two-thirds. While improved drinking water has been extended to more than 2.6 billion people since 1990 — a remarkable accomplishment — more than six hundred and fifty million still lack access to safe water, and nearly a billion people have no sanitation facilities at all. Moreover, it concerns almost every of the eight set goals and their targets. Nonetheless, as the MDGs deadline approaches, a lot more has to be done from our side.

This September, the UN



UN activity becomes more noticeable

met to ratify a much broader set of targets — this time called the Sustainable Development Goals — which many UN member states will use or have used already to frame their agendas and political policies in the next fifteen years. Officially, there are seventeen new goals — and the environment, which was all but ignored in the last round, will receive much-needed attention. But with scores of countries participating in consultations, there are now hundreds of targets, sub-targets, and ancillary targets within the over-all goals.

In fact, the new goals are the result of a three-year process involving 83 national surveys engaging over 7 million people, making it the biggest consultation in UN history. Belarus was one of the significant contributors in this regard. More than 15,000 took part in the 'MY World' global survey forming the idea of what Belarus needs to address.

This number is significant taking into account the country's population. The results of the survey were also incorporated into the 5-year Programme of Socio-economic Development, which is part of the National Strategy Document.

Concluding a negotiating process that has spanned more than two years and featured the unprecedented participation of civil society, governments united behind an ambitious agenda that features 17 new sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.

SDGs will be launched in January 2016, but it was decided to act even before they go live. Prior to the UN70 Express departure, non-binding Declaration in support of SDGs and UNDAF was prepared. Seven Governors signed this Declaration along with the Chiefs of the UN Country Team Agencies represented in Belarus. It is the way forward to achieve the SDGs in Belarus by 2030. The same as it is a declaration of full support by local authorities of the UN Development

Assistance Framework for Belarus that aims at four major topics within the next 5 years: Good Governance, Sustainable Economic & Human Development and Environment.

On the same Day (20 November) shall the UN altogether mark the Universal Children's Day. Nearly 25 years ago, the world made a promise to children that it would do everything in its power to protect and promote their rights to survive and thrive, to learn and grow, to make their voices heard and to reach their full potential. According to the UN Secretary-General, 'The one thing all children have in common is their rights. Every child has the right to survive and thrive, to be educated, to be free from violence and abuse, to participate and to be heard'. Therefore, on this very day the UN in Belarus starts its 3-week support for SDGs campaign that will culminate on 10 December — Human Rights Day. These 21-day SDGs round includes International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), World Aids Day (1 December), International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (2 December), International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), World Soil Day (4 December), International Volunteer Day (5 December) and International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide (9 December). Not to leave any behind, United Nations in Belarus planned a bunch of events like HIV/AIDS testing campaigns, conferences, round tables and much more.

Watch close the UN in Belarus through Social Media pages you use the most and through other available sources to stay updated and informed!

## Satellites ready for launch

By Olga Stasova

**General plans for Minsk's satellite-cities are ready, informs Chairman of Minsk City Executive Committee's Architecture and Town Planning Committee, Pavel Luchinovich**

Six such settlements are planned: Dzerzhinsk, Zaslavl, Logoisk, Smolevichi, Fanipol and Rudensk. All are located no more than 60km from Minsk, with good local trans-

port infrastructure and several industrial enterprises located nearby, for employment.

Mr. Luchinovich explains, "Much attention will be paid to developing Minsk's agglomeration, which is related to developing satellite-cities at the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park and to constructing the second ring road. Everything has been taken into consideration in developing a new general plan."

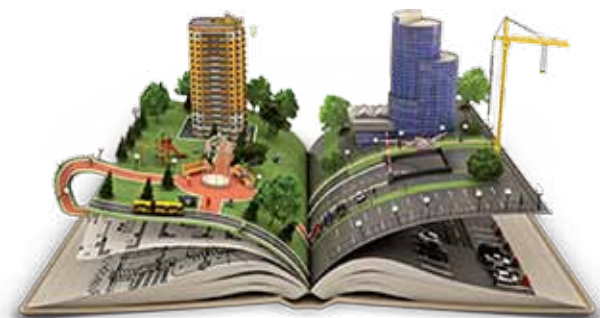
Only one house has been constructed so far, in Smolevi-

chi. According to the First Deputy of the Minsk City Executive Committee's Construction and Investment Department, Nikolay Butrim, by late November, the 2016 budget will have been discussed at the city council's session. In particular, participants will focus on the volume of financing for a district of high-rise homes in Rudensk. 700,000 square metres of accommodation (or over 10,000 flats) are to be built there. "Builders will come to Rudensk after about

two years," Mr. Butrim tells us.

Moreover, in line with a Governmental decree, state enterprises and joint stock companies (with a 50 percent state owned share) are obliged to build 250,000 square metres of accommodation in 2016, or around 4,000 flats: 180,000 of these square metres will be in Minsk and in the Minsk Region.

As regards other satellite-cities, various challenges exist, such as Zaslavl's overburdened drainage system and the need



for purification works to be built alongside accommodation. Dzerzhinsk lacks enough jobs for new residents, while current engineering networks would fail to cope with the increased burden. In Fanipol, there is an industrial zone but little spare land. Meanwhile,

Minsk is close to settlements covering 6,600 hectares, with up to 5 people per hectare. If these are 'compressed' 4-5 times, then up to 100,000 Minskians could live there. Importantly, huge sums are not required to be spent on infrastructure.

# Simple secrets of true women's happiness

According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, last year, over 118,000 children were born in Belarus: the highest figure of the past two decades. Several years ago, it was common for families to have only a single child; now, an increasing number of couples are bringing up two or three children. Over 77,000 families in Belarus are regarded as having 'many' children.

By Yekaterina Medvedskaya

A story familiar to us is that, on the day before being born, a child asked God why he was coming into the world and what he should do. God replied, "I'll present you with an angel to always accompany you, and explain everything, teaching all that is needed and protecting against evil. "What will be her name?" the child asked, to which God answered, "You'll call her Mother."

Maria and Oleg Braim believe that their children, Yan, Andrey, Miraslava and Galina, were sent by Fate. Married for 11 years, they are very content, despite small problems, as we all endure from time to time. Life is so busy that there's no time for silly arguments. Evenings are filled with helping the children complete homework: their sons' mathematics and drawing with the twin sisters. Maria notes, "A woman is happy when her children are healthy and when her husband loves her and takes care of the family."

Maria and Oleg married without too much planning, in the early days of 2004; just two years later, on December 25th, Yan was born. Maria tells us, "He's an active boy, now studying in the fifth grade, and attending a musical school, where he plays the balaika. A year later, their second son, Andrey, joined the family. He spends so much time building satellites and towns they rather wonder if he'll become an engineer. He has also won the school Olympiad in mathematics.

"Andrey is thoughtful, quite serious, and sensitive, playing the piano," says his mother. Twins Galina and Miroslava were much anticipated, especially by grandmother Nina, Oleg's

mother. Having raised three sons, she had always dreamt of a daughter. "She was so happy that she purchased half a shop's worth of ribbons and bows," Maria recollects. "She spoils them endlessly with new dresses!"

Each child in the family has his or her own personality. During our conversation, they come to their mother repeatedly: Andrey to boast of earning two high marks at school; Yan to offer to play the balaika; and the girls to show off their dresses.

"We try to pay attention to all that our

children want to say," says Maria. "A child's soul grows when they know that they are heard and praised, and accepted as they are, rather than being suppressed by 'parental authority,'" she explains. As a pre-school teacher and a children's psychologist, Maria has some expertise. She's always felt that her life should be connected with children.

"I have an affinity with children," Maria smiles. "If a child is crying on the bus, I approach to chat and try to calm him or her. When we go out with our daughters, we always gather a crowd of children." She's often asked how she copes with four children but replies that, al-

though it's hard (sometimes with little time to think about the details) her husband helps out, completing homework with his sons and playing with his daughters. Yan and Andrey help in the kitchen while the girls copy, sweeping and dusting.

Maria and Oleg try to tackle work at home independently but never refuse help from the grandmothers, who call each evening to see how their grandchildren are doing. The couple have never asked for a nurse's help either, preferring to do everything themselves. Of course, they receive family allowance, with the state providing children's meals until they are aged 2 years, and an allowance until they are 3, with a 50 percent discount on kindergarten services, free school dinners and financial assistance for purchase of stationery (as the family is 'large'). They have a three-roomed flat, in a new district of Minsk, which they built with a loan on privileged terms, as is given to such families.

Maria is only disappointed that her husband often needs to travel. "It's just the way it is," she sighs. "He needs to earn money to support this large family. He's a constructor, and worked on building Chizhovka-Arena, so is often invited out to the regions."

Maria also works, as a kindergarten teacher. "Just imagine: I have four children at home and 30 at work! I cannot be indifferent to children, letting each into my heart." Parents feel this and are always grateful to Maria, who tries to find a common language with each child, through smiles, fairy tales and care. "We have a tradition in our family: we always say good morning. On kissing each son in the morning, I feel my heart growing warmer. This is how we are trying to live: with love and care," she adds.



## MT REFERENCE:

Since early 2015, the *Family Capital* long-term programme has been in operation, giving families \$10,000 on the birth (or adoption) of a third and subsequent children; the money is for use in improving living conditions, to pay for education, medical or social services, or to contribute to a pension for the mother.

## Capital built upon plan

### Minsk launches public discussion of new general plan

The project is to be realised within the capital, and across the Minsk and Smolevichi districts, aiming to fulfil a plan of new state policy to improve the system of citizens' resettlement. It will take into consideration satellite-cities and the mastering of urban land use, while optimising housing policy (reducing housing construction volumes) and preserving agricultural land.

## First hand

By Victor Andreev

In 2010, our two states' ministries of culture, information and foreign affairs initiated the *Belarus Today* project to promote our country, resulting in 80 of the best Belarusian books being donated to Poland's National Library



Our National Library has liaised with the Belarusian Cultural Centre in Warsaw and Poland's Ministry of Culture and National Legacy to present the editions. The Polish National Library's Deputy Director, Katarzyna Ślaska, and her Belarusian colleague, Alexander Susha, are hopeful that the gift will promote knowledge of Belarus within Poland, while improving mutual understanding between our nations.

A good book is a source of knowledge, battling ignorance and incorrect stereotypes, helping one state understand another. The major libraries of our neighbouring states have agreed to share new editions more often, to gain information on achievements and legacy first hand.

## Chinese characters on laptop

By Marina Zubovich

Minsk's gymnasium #23 enjoys special day as laptops distributed among Chinese lesson pupils

The Chinese Embassy and the ZTE Corporation recently made a generous present to the only Belarusian secondary school teaching Chinese culture and language. The laptops should prove helpful in enabling students to learn rules and Chinese characters, by playing exciting games. According to Marina Cheushkova, a Chinese language teacher, the innovation makes learning much easier.



She notes, "By the time they leave school, our pupils have studied around 5,000 characters: enough to conduct simple dialogue, although only half the number known by most Chinese people."

The laptop donation generated a festive atmosphere, with teachers and children personally thanking the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Cui Qiming, and staging a bright performance in two languages.

## Belarus ranked 25th worldwide for fixed broadband communication

By Denis Korobov

UN Broadband Commission report, published by International Telecommunication Union (ITU), ranks Belarus highly for Internet access

According to the report, Monaco is the world's leader in fixed broadband penetration, with 46.8 subscribers per 100 capita. Monaco is closely followed by Switzerland (46 subscribers) and Denmark (41.4). Belarus is ranked 25th, with 28.8 fixed broadband subscribers per 100 residents. Among former USSR countries, only Lithuania (ranked 20th) is ahead of Belarus. The USA is ranked 23rd while Japan occupies 24th position. Russia is placed 56th,



Moldova is in 64th position, and Ukraine is ranked 86th.

The UN Broadband Commission's report reads that 4 billion people (57 percent of the world's population) remain without online access, being unable to take advantage of the enormous economic and social benefits offered by the Internet.

"Broadband Internet is failing to reach those who could benefit most, with Internet access reaching

near-saturation among the world's richest nations but not advancing fast enough to benefit the billions living in developing states," experts conclude.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a leading UN institution in the field of information and communication technologies. For nearly 150 years, the agency has been co-ordinating the joint use of the radio frequency spectrum on a global scale. The ITU also assists with international co-operation for distributing satellite orbit positions and contributes to the improvement of telecommunication infrastructure in developing countries, while creating global standards for unhindered interaction of a broad range of communication systems.

# Parisians united in grief hold vigils at scene of attacks

Paris is a city in mourning, gripped by fear and shock following the brutal killing of innocent lives in last Friday night's series of attacks across the city

The French President François Hollande described the horrific events as an act of war against France. Scores were killed and hundreds remain in hospital.

Karim, a Paris resident said, "There are no words, there are no words... apart from coming here and expressing my grief."

Another Parisian, Olivia, explained, "I would never have thought that this could happen in my neighbourhood, next to my home. I'm coming to terms with the fact this can happen everywhere, and that no safe place exists."

Vigils have been taking place across Paris, with large numbers gathering at the restaurants where many of those who died were enjoying the start of the weekend. The crowds also gathered at a square near the Bataclan concert hall, where dozens were slain, united in grief.

"Just after Charlie Hebdo [attacks in January this year], we thought, ok, the Vigipirate plan will help us," said one Paris resident named Antonio. "It will save us, we are safe, we can carry on with our lives, we can keep on building our lives and believing. Today, it's clear that Vigipirate is not working. We have to find other solutions, or they have to prove to us that we can get out and do our shopping safely, normally... It will be Christmas soon, and shops are crowded, we don't know if we can go there or not."

Questions now remain in France over what the government can do to prevent attacks like those experienced in January and again on Friday night. Security measures had been stepped up but the ease with which the perpetrators killed dozens in cold blood across the city has left many French wondering whether enough had been done.



## France 'at war' with Daesh, says PM Manuel Valls

'War' — the word used by both French President François Hollande and his Prime Minister following the Paris terror attacks. Speaking on French TV, Manuel Valls said several

times that France was 'at war' with 'Daesh' — one of the names for the Islamic State extremists — which would be tackled in France and in Syria.

"So, we are at war, and because we are at war, we are taking exceptional measures. And we will act, and



main evening news programme on TF1 (in French).

The state of emergency can remain in place for 12 days — whereupon it can be renewed by an act of parliament.

## French Islamic community fears backlash following Paris attacks

Barbes is a Parisian neighbourhood with a high percentage of Muslim residents. As in other parts of the French capital, the streets were quiet following Friday's attacks.

Rachid, a 30-year-old Moroccan immigrant calls Paris home. He has fallen on hard times and fears his situation may worsen if there is a backlash against the North African community in France due to the recent action of Jihadist terrorists. "It's going to be hard for people like me to find a job," explained Rachid. "I'd like to give all north Africans, all Muslims some advice — they should express their solidarity and protest against everything that these people are doing."

France is home to Europe's largest Muslim population, with discrimination against the community a common complaint.

Since Friday, security has been increased, only accentuating the feeling of unease among a section of society under scrutiny.

Muslim groups across the globe have been quick to condemn Friday's attacks. At Paris' central mosque, police guarded the entrance. The number of worshippers was scarce. The members of the Muslim community were worried and angry. They strongly condemned Friday's attacks and called for their community to speak out against the terror committed in the name of Islam.

## Angela Merkel at G20: 'We're stronger than any form of terrorism'

**Global leaders stood in silence ahead of their first formal session at the G20 to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in Paris**

It was a sombre moment inside the main chamber at the summit venue in the Turkish resort of Belek near Ankara. The G20 focuses mainly on the global economy. But this year's summit has been overshadowed by last Friday's events in the French capital in which scores were killed and injured. The focus has switched to the threat of extremism and its effect on domestic security and international migration.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says French officials must work with the security forces and authorities to find out who the perpetrators are, who their accomplices are and what links they may have. "Above all, we owe that to the victims and their loved ones. But it is also necessary for our own security and something that we owe to the many innocent refugees who are fleeing war and terrorism."

Among other things, leaders promise to clamp down on the channels by which terrorist groups and activities are financed, by exchanging

information on suspicious transfers and freezing terrorist assets, while threatening 'robust, targeted' sanctions. Other areas of focus include the use of technology such as the internet to incite and plan terrorist acts, and efforts to 'strengthen global aviation security'.

The leaders also highlight the threat of foreign terrorist fighters — people who travel to Syria to join extremist militia, and may return home radicalised — and promise to tackle it through better border management to detect suspect travel and by sharing more information.

## Sharm el-Sheikh and Egypt's tourism fear hangover from crash

**Egypt's President has said the 'lights will not be going out in Sharm el-Sheikh', as he visited the Red Sea resort hit by the suspension of foreign flights in the aftermath of the Russian plane crash that international investigators suspect was caused by a bomb**

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said his visit was a message of support for investors and businesses. Egypt's Tourism Minister estimates that the decisions by Russia and Britain to suspend

flights will cost the country around 260 million Euros a month. The UK has officially advised against all but essential air travel to or from Sharm el-Sheikh. Moscow has said its suspension of flights to Egypt could last for months in the wake of the crash.

Situated at the foot of the Sinai Peninsula, Sharm el-Sheikh is crucial to Egypt's tourism and economy. The travel and tourism industry overall is worth nearly 13 percent of the country's GDP, and 12 percent of all jobs.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



# Successful exam before sophisticated spectators

Republican Art Gallery in Minsk's Kozlov Street showcases pictorial and graphical works, sculptures, and decorative-and-applied arts — ceramic and batik items — created by members of Mogilev and Bobruisk organisations of Belarusian Union of Artists

By Veniamin Mikheev

'A person is a demiurge; he creates while working on the world's substance, shaping it and enlightening it. There's great lightness in creativity; it encourages us to fly but, at the same time, there's also a great difficulty, pain and obstacle for flight.'

Nikolay Berdyaev

The Mogilev and Bobruisk organisations do not boast the greatest number of artists. However, they are rich in personalities, and have strong traditions of the national school, as laid by famous predecessors. The Mogilev Region has produced so many great masters, fa-

mous both in Belarus and far beyond: Vitold Belynichsky-Birulya, Anton Barkhatkov and Pavel Maslennikov.

In building on the experience of the



Exhibition attracts with diverse exhibits



previous creative generation, contemporary painters haven't rested on their laurels; they've sought out new forms of artistic expression. The painters, sculptures and ceramic masters whose works are on show at the current exhibition at Minsk's Arts Palace each have their own creative dialogue with the past. Some have moved away from depicting reality, boldly breaking forms; others are carefully preserving and developing the traditions of the realistic school.

Spectators at the exhibition note that each artist is remarkable in their own way: they have their own world perception and outlook, and di-



verse approaches towards creativity. Each is unique creatively.

"We've gathered together our best canvases, graphic pieces,

sculptures, batik and ceramics. We're connected by our place of residence: it's around us, it's inside us," notes the curator of the exhibition, famous sculptor Andrey Vorobiev, the Chairman of the Mogilev regional organisation of the Belarusian Union of Artists. He notes, "Everything that we're showing here has been created recently: over the last decade. We've thoroughly wiped away the dust from what was created previously."

Audiences will also see Alexey Litin's photographs of regional artists at work in their studios, recording their processes, as a chronicle. This will surely be of interest to the sophisticated residents of Minsk.

# Through eyes of old postcards

By Ales Karlyukevich

Amazing filocard book by Vladimir Lihodedov and Vladimir Peftiev released in Minsk

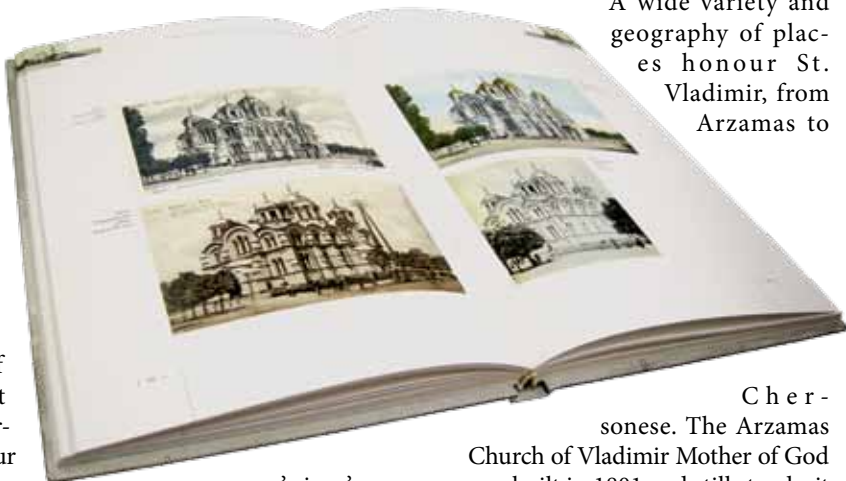
The edition features Equal-to-the-Apostles Duke Vladimir as its main character. For the first time, a single album is uniting vintage photos of Orthodox churches and cathedrals built to honour Equal-to-the-Apostles Vladimir. The foreword quotes Russian writer Stefan Runkevich (1867-1924), who was Chief Secretary of the Holy Synod, and who was born into the family of a Minsk Eparchy archpriest. It states: 'We own a duty of state service to the nation; beyond this, our service is a feat of holiness.'

The duke was viewed as Equal-to-the-Apostles due to his work in Ancient Russia, initiating new believers in following Christ. The authors make no claim to presenting an

exhaustive study, or presenting new information on the duke's life. Rather, their rich illustrations 'outline the key stages of the Russia baptiser's life, in accordance with modern histori-

'The Order of St. Vladimir'; 'Monuments'; 'Churches on Postcards and Photos from the Late 19th-Early 20th Century'; and 'In Memory of his Descendants'.

A wide variety and geography of places honour St. Vladimir, from Arzamas to



ans' views.'

The chapter names speak for themselves: 'St. Equal-to-the-Apostles Duke Vladimir'; 'The Church Veneration of Duke Vladimir'; 'Churches to Honour St. Vladimir';

Chersonese. The Arzamas Church of Vladimir Mother of God was built in 1801 and still stands; it is currently being restored. Several postcards from the early 20th century are devoted to the building.

The album also features photos of churches of St. Vladimir in

Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania. The Moscow and St. Petersburg sites are most attractive but each tells its own story. The ruins at Chersonese were unearthed in 1827; according to legend, Duke Vladimir was baptised there. In 1850, a monastery was established, honouring St. Vladimir, and three years later, the first small church opened. During the Crimean War of 1853-1856, Chersonese was occupied by the enemy, and the monastery destroyed (it was restored only after the city's liberation). In the early 20th century, two more churches operated alongside the main cathedral but, in 1915, the monastery finally closed. Some of its premises have survived and are now occupied by the Chersonese Museum.

The filocard and historical-doc-



umentary work on St. Vladimir is a continuation of In Search of the Lost: an artistic project publishing reproductions of old postcards, by *Belarus Segodnya* (Sovetskaya Belorussiya) newspaper. The 'encyclopaedia of postcards' was a series of 10 books (many published by Zvyazda Publishing House). The *Equal-to-the-Apostles Vladimir* album is a worthy continuation of the project.

# Listapad festival distributes prizes

Grand Prix at 22nd Minsk International *Listapad* Film Festival given to *Lesson*, produced by Bulgaria and Greece, and directed by Kristina Grozeva and Piotr Vylchanov

By Vladimir Mishin

As the fiction film jury head, People's Artist of Russia Vadim Abdrashitov, notes, no vote was necessary, as members were almost unanimous. "It shows not so much experience and wisdom, as a very strong programme," he comments.

The Listapad Silver for 'Film as Art Phenomenon' went to *Project of the Century*, directed by Carlos M. Quintela; the film is a joint effort from Cuba, Argentina, Germany and Switzerland. A special jury prize also went to *Project of the Century* 'For Artistic Daring in Comprehension of Modern Era'.

The Listapad Bronze (the embodiment of the People's Choice Award) went to *Rams*, directed by Grímur Hákonarson (Iceland and Denmark).

'Best Direction' was awarded to Dalibor Matanić for *The High Sun* (Croatia-Serbia-Slovenia). The jury also awarded this picture 'Yuri Marukhin Memorial Award for Best Cinematography' (cameramen Marko Brdar).

The Victor Turov Memorial Award for Best Film in Youth on the March Feature Films Competition went to Russia's *Pioneer Heroes*, directed by Natalia Kudryashova, and the jury's special prize was awarded to Bulgarian *Thirst*, directed by



Rams receive Listapad Bronze



Polish Brothers awarded Grand Prix in major competition of documentary films



President's Prize 'For Humanism and Spirituality' bestowed upon *Heavenly Nomadic*



'Best Documentary' prize goes to *Visitors*

In the documentary film category, the Grand Prix went to Polish film *Brothers*, directed by

Wojciech Staron. The jury's special prize went to *The Event*, directed by Sergei Loznitsa (Netherlands-Belgium).

The diploma for artistic portraiture of physical disablement was awarded to *Casa Blanca*, directed by Aleksandra Maciuszek (Mexico-Poland).

In the national competition, *Belarusian Psycho*, directed by Nikita Lavretsky, was recognised as 'Best Fiction Film' while 'Best Documentary' went to *Visitors*, directed by Andrey Kutilo. The prize for 'Best Animation' went to *About Ox*, directed by Yevgeny Nadochei. The diploma for 'A Belarusian View of American Family Life' went to *True American Woman*, directed by Darya Zhuk. The diploma for 'Metaphorical Laconicism' went to *Easter of Christ*, directed by Darya Yurkevich (Belarus-France).

The cinema press awarded Yana Troyanova as 'Best Actress' for her role in *The Land of Oz*, directed by Vasily Sigarev (Russia), while Nelson Camayo was named 'Best Actor', for his role in *Violence*, directed by Jorge Forero (Colombia-Mexico).

The special diploma for 'Belief in the Miracle of Life in Cinema' went to Japan's Ichirō Yamamoto, for directing *Anohito*.

The President's prize for 'Humanism and Spirituality' was bestowed upon *Heavenly Nomadic*, from Kyrgyzstan.

## Recommended for family viewing

By Olga Krotova

International jury determines winners of children and youth film competition at 22nd Minsk International *Listapad* Film Festival

*The Invisible Boy* (Italy-France, directed by Gabriele Salvatores) was awarded 'Best Film for Children' while 'Best Film for Youth' went to *I Give You My Word-2* (Russia, directed by Alexander Karpilovsky). Semen Treskunov (*I Give You My Word-2*) was awarded for 'Best Child Actor' while Valeria Golino (*The Invisible Boy*) received the prize for 'Best Adult Actor in a Children's Film'.

*Golden Kingdom* (USA-Myanmar, directed by Brian Perkins) received the Special Mention Diploma.

The competition programme of *Listapadzik 2015* included eight films: created individually, or jointly,



Jury of *Listapadzik* children and youth film competition

by Belarus, Russia, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, France, Estonia, Finland, the United States, Myanmar, Switzerland, and Canada. The international jury was chaired by Danish film director and screenwriter Christian Dyekjaer.

The audience choice award —

Golden *Listapadzik* — was given to Alexander Karpilovsky's *I Give You My Word-2*.

*Listapadzik* was founded in 1998, to highlight fiction and animated films for family viewing, recognising films already awarded at international film festivals.

## Impressions deserve to be reflected on the screen

By Anastasia Shoplya

On arriving in Belarus, any Japanese director would like to shoot a film here, notes director from Japan, Ichirō Yamamoto, at press conference dedicated to retrospective of Japanese films at 22nd Minsk International *Listapad* Film Festival

"Your city is so quiet and calm. Minsk boasts a beautiful river, while old buildings are mixed with contemporary. On arriving in Belarus, any Japanese director would like to shoot a film here. Your landscapes are beautiful, as are people," noted Mr. Yamamoto.

Speaking about Pobeda cinema, which hosted the retrospective of Japanese films, the director added, "People here have a very careful attitude towards preserving the traditions of cinematography. I learnt



that young Belarusians made the subtitles, which is greatly impressive."

The retrospective, which was part of the 22nd Minsk International *Listapad* Film Festival, was dedicated to the 120th anniversary of Japanese Setiku Film Studio. Contemporary films from Japanese directors were also on show, including *Anohito (The One)*, directed by Ichirō Yamamoto and *Gassoh* (directed by Tatsuo Kobayashi).



# Twenty nine medals and one record

## Belarusian swimmers celebrate success at Riga Sprint 2015

By Yegor Glebov

The team of 10 athletes, including national squad leaders Alexandra Gerasimenya and Yevgeny Tsurkin, are bringing home 15 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze short-distance medals from Latvia. Ms. Gerasimenya won three gold medals: in the 50m and 100m freestyle distances and in the 50m butterfly. Meanwhile, Yevgeny Tsurkin was first to touch the finish line in the 50m and 100m butterfly, and in the 100m freestyle.

The coaches of the national squad are delighted with the performance of Oksana Demidova, whose 100m butterfly gold was the result of a time of 1 minute 01.22 seconds. Nikita Tsmygun was only four tenths of a second short of his own personal (and Belarusian) record in the 200m backstroke, while still claiming first place. The Mogilev athlete covered the distance in 1 minute 56.08 seconds.

Anton Latkin, Yulia Khitrova, Yevgeny Tsurkin and Alexandra



Gerasimenya set a new record for Belarus in the 4x50m mixed relay, with a time of 1 minute 32.75 seconds.

Commenting on the results of the tournament, national squad head coach Dmitry Mantsevich notes, "All the athletes in Riga



performed well, fighting for prizes and demonstrating their best results. I'd like to mention Nikita Tsmygun, who set two personal records. Why am I focusing on Nikita rather than upon Alexandra Gerasimenya? If the latter had surpassed her personal best, she

Not easy to reach the finish line

would have set a world record. Our leaders, Gerasimenya and Tsurkin, did well in both their individual and relay events. We're now preparing for the European Short Course Swimming Championship, scheduled for early December, in Israel."

## World level recognition

By Kirill Karin

**67th International Union of Modern Pentathlon Congress — recently held in Taipei — awards achievements for 2015**

The final of the Modern Pentathlon World Cup — hosted by Minsk — has been acknowledged as 'the tournament of the year' by the UIPM. The Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Federation of Modern Pentathlon, Mikhail Prokopenko, is delighted by the award, commenting, "We're so happy. Despite huge efforts and numerous positive reviews received by the Federation after the tournament, this award is a pleasant surprise. Our country is known for its wonderful sporting sites. Thanks to the Head of State's wide support of sport, and of this tournament in particular, the World Cup final was held at the highest possible level, being named as the best tournament of the year as a result." Minsk hosted the final of the Modern Pentathlon World Cup from June 11th-14th; the event closed World Cup events held across five continents, with the major A class modern pentathlon tournament held in Belarus for the first time.

## Finishing touches

**National biathlon team receives updated uniform on eve of new season**

As in the previous years, the Belarusian biathlete squad are being clothed by Finnish enterprise One Way. "We haven't changed anything, still working with our previous supplier of sports clothes, as it's proven to be a reliable partner. The uniform fits everyone perfectly and it's only taken a short period of time to add the logos of our sponsors. The team will be able to wear it in Finnish Vuokatti, where our Belarusian biathletes are training," notes Yuri Albers, the Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian Biathlon Federation.

At present, the national biathlon team of Belarus is training in Vuokatti but, on November 25th, the squad will go to Swedish Östersund for the first stage of the World Cup, which begins on November 29th.

## Sambo wrestlers claim medals

**Belarusian athletes win thirteen medals at World Sambo Championships, hosted by Moroccan Casablanca**

On the final day of the competitions at the Stade Mohammed V athletic complex Vyacheslav Kot's trainees won four medals. Ivan Aniskevich brought second gold for the Belarusian national team, defeating Azerbaijan's Cavidan Qarayev in the final. Third places were claimed by Belarusians Yuri Rybak, Yelizaveta Moiseenko and Anastasia Arkhipova.

Previously, Svetlana Timoshenko was first in the under 80kg category while Tatiana Matsko and Yekaterina Prokopenko were awarded silver. The Belarusian national squad has also earned nine bronze awards. In team standings Belarusian national squads were ranked third, with sambo wrestlers from Russia coming first.



Darya Domracheva takes photos with young athletes

## Master class by cult figure

By Igor Leshin

**Dasha Domracheva transforms biathlon into one of Belarusians' favourite sports, with dozens of youngsters attracted to specialised clubs. She is beloved by many and has recently visited a major sports facility: Novopolotsk's College of Olympic Reserve. There, future Olympic biathlon champions are being trained.**

The three time Olympic champion toured the facility, visiting hostels, watching training classes, and viewing the sports complex and the canteen. She also visited the museum, where her signed photo is kept among other exhibits.

Her master class was the highlight of her trip, allowing young athletes to receive a lesson from the biathlon star. "I don't know whether I'll

show you anything new but I hope it'll be useful," Darya told the young people, greeting them warmly.

"I was unsure whether we should have a session inside or outside. However, all technical skills are based on strong bodies so I'd like to show you my favourite exercises for building muscle strength, aimed at skiing." She then donated a TRX simulator (the same as she uses herself).

The master classes ended with a photo session and Darya giving autographs. Commenting on her plans for the coming season, she noted that she doesn't intend to take part in every competition, as she feels the need to rest, especially mentally, so that she is ready to 'battle anew'.

Darya then chatted with Novopolotsk's Mayor, Dmitry Demidov, and sponsors who support not only herself but the College: Naftan JSC.

## New partner and thoughts on Olympics

By Igor Grishin

**Famous Belarusian tennis player Max Mirnyi to partner Philippines' Treat Huey (who has played for the USA)**

This July, Mirnyi celebrated his 38th birthday. Throughout 2015, he has partnered various leading tennis players, including Spain's Feliciano Lopez and Russian Mikhail Yuzhny. However, their commitment to singles matches has meant that they've often been unavailable. From January 2016, Mirnyi will play with Treat Huey, competing first at New Zealand's Oakland, and later at Melbourne, for the first tournament in the Grand Slam series.

At present, Maxim Mirnyi is ranked 28th in the doubles ratings, by the ATP, while Treat is 34th. The Belarusian is familiar with the style of his future partner, as the two have played several times in the past. Huey, aged 30, enjoys four



Max Mirnyi

doubles titles — earned in ATP tournaments.

Mirnyi is now recuperating after a hard season and, in December, will start preparing for the new. He notes, "As regards my participation in the 2016 Olympics, in Rio de Janeiro, it's too early to comment. I'll take part in various tournaments until August. Afterwards, it'll become clear who'll receive a place in Rio."

# Festival of the week



National Beauty School hosts Ethno Style Belarusian Fashion Festival

## Exhibitions

### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street

Until 6<sup>th</sup> December. *Korea's Life*

Until 11<sup>th</sup> December. *From*

*Realism to Impressionism* (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century painting)

Until 30<sup>th</sup> December. *Celebrating Victory Day in Museum*

### NATIONAL HISTORY

#### MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. *Belarus' Trade on the Scales of History*

Until 6<sup>th</sup> December. *Wonderful World of Watercolours*

Until 6<sup>th</sup> December. *The Silver Age*

Until 31<sup>st</sup> December. *Major Presentation of Museum Relics: 79 Steps Inside History*

### MUSEUM OF MATURE AND ECOLOGY OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 6<sup>th</sup> March. *Jungles behind the Window*

### MAXIM BOGDANOVICH LITERARY MUSEUM

7A M. Bogdanovich Street

Until 1<sup>st</sup> December. *Maxim's Garden*

### NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 27<sup>th</sup> November. *Promise of Dreams and Rainbow Trace*

Until 29<sup>th</sup> November. *Plainair-2015*

Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. *Great Mummies of Egypt*

### PICTURE HOUSE

89/3 Pobediteley Avenue, office 3

Until 30<sup>th</sup> November. *Zoya*

Until 31<sup>st</sup> December. *Great Classics of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

### TSEKH

16 Oktyabrskaya Street

Until 13<sup>th</sup> December. *Van Gogh. Revived Canvases*

## Theatres

### BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square

20.11. Carmina Burana. Carmen Suite 21.11. Night of Modern Ballet

22.11. From 19<sup>th</sup> Century to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Night of Ballet; Doctor Aybolit

24.11. Nabucco 25.11. Only Tango; Vytautas

26.11. Madama Butterfly

### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street

21.11. Wedding in Malinovka; The Golden Chicken

22.11. Buratino.by; My Fair Lady 24.11. Blue Cameo

25.11. Tours of the Russian Drama Theatre (Vilnius): Zoya's Flat

26.11. Tours of the Russian Drama Theatre (Vilnius): Fir Tree at Ivanovs

### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street

20 and 25.11. Oedipus 21.11. Love Circle

22.11. The Twelfth Night 23.11. Second Youth Theatre Forum: In the Side when the Sun Rises

24.11. Pane Kokhanku 25.11. Second Youth Theatre Forum: Cloud-Paradise

26.11. The Visit

### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue

20.11. Robbery at Midnight 21 and 22.11. A Very Simple Story

23.11. Master and Margarita 24.11. An Unnamed Star

25.11. ...Forgetting Herostratos! 26.11. The Mechanical Man

### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Square

21.11. Love and Doves

22.11. Simply Karlsson

22 and 25.11. Two Henpecked Husbands

26.11. Comedy about Penny Pincher

### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Square

23.11. The Snow White and Seven Dwarfs; My Husband's Lovers

### MAZ HOUSE OF CULTURE

117A Partizansky Avenue

26.11. At the Same Place, Next Year

# Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

## November of decades and centuries past comes to life

**November 20th.** In 1950, an actor and a People's Artiste of Belarus — Alexander Tkachenok — was born in Chashniki. From 1975, he works at the M.Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre.

**November 21st.** In 1900, Mikhail Denisov was born in the village of Trostyanka of Russian Saratov Region's Blashkha District. He was a Belarusian operatic singer and a People's Artiste of Belarus. From 1933-1958, he was a soloist at the Belarusian State Opera and Ballet Theatre.

**November 22nd.** In 1953, artist Leonid Gomonov was born in Slavgorod. He wrote a series of posters Belarusian Enlightens and focuses on pictorial art and book graphics.

**November 23rd.** In 1911, a ballet master and an Honoured Artiste — Alexander Opanasenko — was born.

**November 24th.** In 1899, Mikhail Goncharik was born in the Minsk Region's Smolevichi District — a scientist, a corresponding member of Belarus' National Academy of Sciences, a Doctor of Biological Sciences, a Professor and an Honoured Figure of Science.

**November 25th.** In 1926, sculptor Igor Kravchenko was born in the village of Borisovshchina of the Khoyniki District. Among his works are a monument to Soviet soldiers and partisans in Minsk District's Samokhvalovichi and the Senno District, the War Glory in Glusk and To Victims of Fascism in Verkhnedvinsk.

**November 26th.** In 1930, a Belaru-

sian poet, prose writer, playwright, publicist, translator and film scriptwriter — Vladimir Korotkevich — was born in Orsha.

**November 20th.** In 1864, the District Court began its work in the Minsk District, comprising two departments: criminal and civil.

**November 20th.** In 1995, the Special Fund of the Belarusian President for the Support of Talented Youth was established.



**November 22nd.** In 1944, the restored Kommunarka Confectionery produced its first hundred of kilos of sweets.

**November 20th.** In 2001, the Minskzelenstroy City Parks unitary enterprise was set up following the Minsk City Executive Council's decision.

**November 20th** is the World Day of Children — celebrated annually since 1959 upon the UN's proposal.

**November 21st.** In 1914, the Minsk Teachers' Institute began its work, enrolling only men who had worked at least two

years at the primary school. Education was offered free of charge.

**November 21st.** In 1926, the 2nd Belarusian State Theatre opened in Vitebsk; in 1944, it was named after Yakub Kolas and, in 1977, became Academic.

**November 21st.** In 1974, the 1st International Belarusian Musical Autumn Festival was held; since then, it's organised annually in Minsk and other cities.

**November 22nd.** In 1773, the Belarusian Catholic Eparchy was established, centred in Mogilev. On January 17th, 1782, it was re-organised into the Mogilev Archdiocese and, in 1991, the Minsk-Mogilev Archdiocese was established (with chairs in Minsk and Mogilev).

**November 22nd.** In 1977, the Scientific-Research Institute of Physical-Chemical Problems was established at the Belarusian State University.

**November 22nd.** In 1980, a memorial was installed on Buinichi Field, near Mogilev — to commemorate Konstantin Simonov.

**November 22nd.** In 2003, the Belarus' 1st Open Belly Dance Championship took place: Eastern Sweets.

**November 23rd.** In 1906, the first issue of the Belarusian daily — *Nasha Niva* — was released (published in Vilno until August 2015).

**November 24th.** In 1729, Pinsk's Printing House was founded. It belonged to Jesuits and published books in Latin and Polish.