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**New rules for market traders**

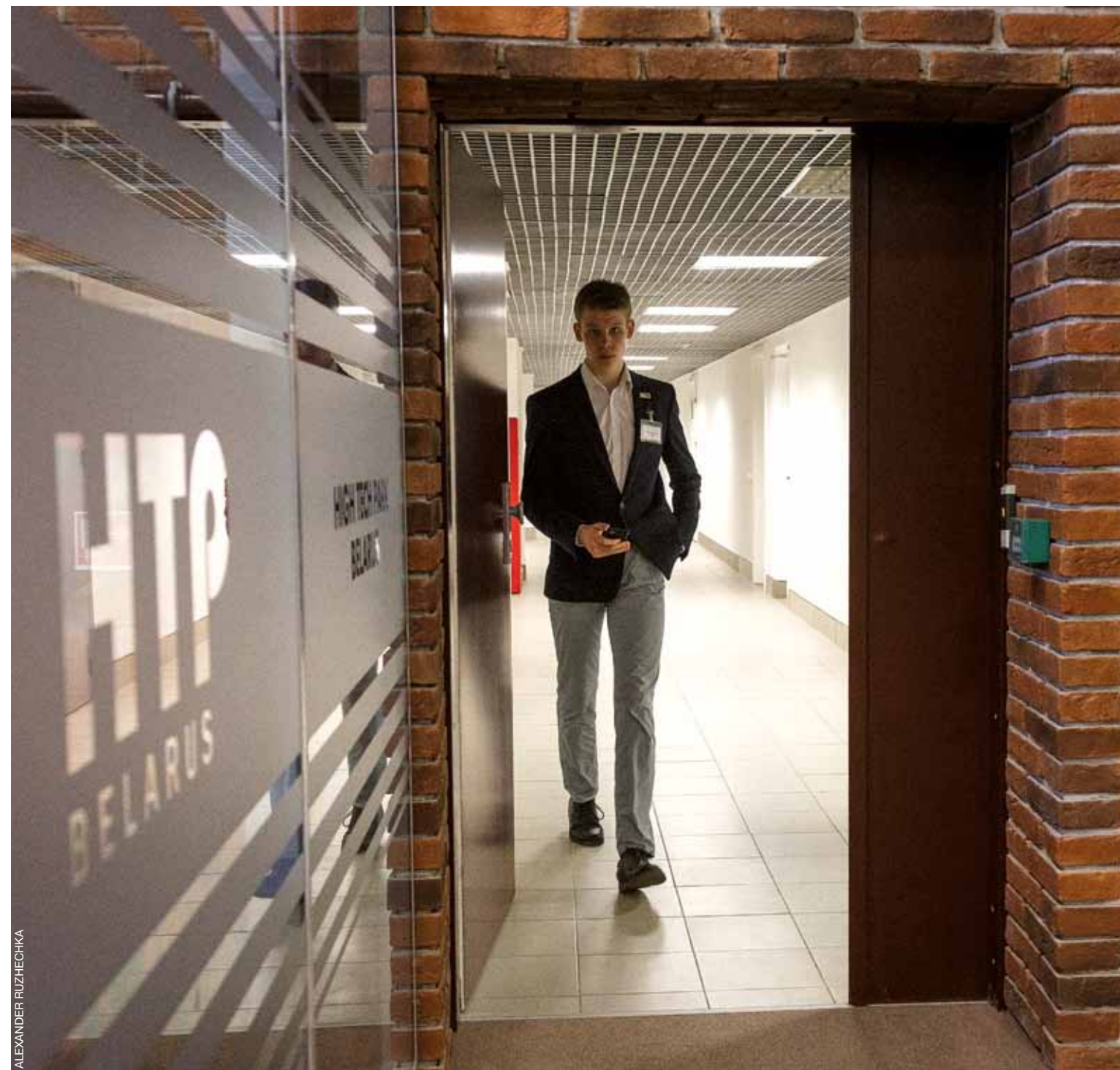
It has long been thought that Belarus needs its own Cherkizovsky Market **Page 5**


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National Art Museum hosts *Husband, Man, Warrior* collection of late 18th-early 19th century icon paintings from Vetka Museum of Old Believers and Belarusian Traditions **Page 9**



ALEXANDER RUZHECHKA

## Sincere conversation in open format

By Evgeny Kononov

**President gives interview to non-state media**

Alexander Lukashenko promised to hold open dialogue with representatives of the Belarusian and foreign media in January and recently kept his word, hosting journalists from Euroradio, Svaboda Radio and the TUT.BY Internet portal at the Palace of Independence.

In fact, the interview was held in the same hall used for hosting night-long negotiations between the 'Normandy four' leaders in February: another instance of open and sincere conversation, without any closed topics. Addressing the media, the President answered a great many questions over a period of four and a half hours. Some moments brought acute discussion on urgent topics, including Mr. Lukashenko voicing his belief that Russia won't ever show military aggression towards Belarus. He gave his view on the necessary conditions for achieving peace in Ukraine and responded to queries on what changes the elections may bring. He also explained the situation with the Rouble exchange rate, salaries and prices. Mr. Lukashenko even shared information on who receives his home-grown watermelons!

We offer you the interview highlights.

**On language**

*Nobody in our country has the right to tell people what language they should speak. I'll never do so. Language is more valuable than money, clothes or food. Over 60 percent of the population considers Belarusian to be their native tongue: a higher percentage than in the past. If we placed pressure on the issue, the effect would be at least contrary. As maximum, the situation might even come to resemble Ukraine's. Language issues set everything in motion over there.*

**On the UN summit in New York**

*The proposal was made to all heads of state, and we appreciate the opportunities of the visit. We've been invited to speak at the UN summit twice: during open discussion and during thematic discussion. Therefore, we're likely to visit the UN.*

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# Belarus-style Silicon Valley

High-Tech Park transforms Belarus into a major IT supplier in Europe

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# Sincere conversation in open format

## President gives interview to non-state media

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### On relations with Russia

Russia won't ever show military aggression towards Belarus. This would be a catastrophe for Russia itself. Russia is not considering depriving us of our sovereignty or independence under any terms or parameters. Moreover, Belarus is the only honest, respectable and reliable ally of the Russian Federation.

### On the idea of the 'Russian world'

This phrase has almost vanished from media usage, including in Russia. I believe they've heeded my critical remark and removed it from the agenda. It sounded strange, didn't it? Our people do not understand it either. Can we speak about Belarusian or Ukrainian worlds? What would these be? Some confrontation of worlds? It's a far-fetched, silly idea. I don't think it has found any support among Belarusians.

### On the electoral campaign

Do you really think that I'm in favour of having fewer presidential candidates? I'm not trying to freeze this process in any way. Let them collect signatures wherever they want, and prove their worth.

They are too distanced from the nation. They don't believe in their own ability to gain victory, so they write everywhere that Lukashenko will win.

Some people do amaze me. They don't want to be candidates for the post of president but they enter the race, looking for an excuse to withdraw. Later, they blame me and the Government for creating obstacles against them. Our election legislation is normal: as good as in other countries.

Don't bring me the example of Ukraine. As a result of 'progressive' Ukrainian law, all large oligarchic groups are presented in the Verkhovna Rada: elections revolve around money. As long as I'm president, there won't be such a situation in Belarus. You'll have the opportunity to follow the process of counting votes, to visit polling stations and to gain all information about the election. I can guarantee it.

### On the Rouble exchange rate

We didn't initiate the 30 percent devaluation. Our main markets for sales are Russia and Kazakhstan, so we couldn't keep the exchange rate of the national currency. We aren't keeping it up now, regardless of the interventions of the National Bank. This will



never change. We know we can't raise salaries significantly so we've begun suppressing prices. We've even decided not to go with the annual \$5 price increase for utilities. We've frozen prices for many commodities, with prices regulated by the state.

### On salaries

I really want to see higher wages in our country, especially at the moment, but the situation (mostly for objective reasons) is that we cannot keep wages at a high level. Lack of production and poor sales are the reasons, and we won't print money. However, I'm sure that, in one or two years, we'll return to the level we previously enjoyed. I'm sure that, with our agreements with China, Pakistan, India and other states, who need our products, we'll cope.

### On external debt

We'll find, collect and repay our loans. In Ufa, together with members of the Government, we took a vow to solve the problem of debt within five years. We plan to manage without borrowing, repaying all debts within about five years.

### On the situation in Ukraine

Russia and America should sit down at the negotiating table and stop this war. This is vital; everything else is minor. I'm absolutely against the presence of any troops in Ukraine, be they Russian or American, or mercenaries from Poland, Sweden or elsewhere. No one will ever attack Ukraine from our territory.

As far as relations with our southern neighbour are concerned, there won't be intervention from the territory of Belarus into the territory of Ukraine. No one will attack

Ukraine from our territory unless the situation is in conflict with our interests and unless Ukraine attacks Belarus. This will never happen.

Mr. Lukashenko added that many violations have been registered along the Belarusian-Ukrainian border: from smuggling to the penetration of people with weapons. Accordingly, Belarus is reinforcing its border protection.

Speaking about the Russian contingent in Belarus, Mr. Lukashenko noted that two military bases are located here, for peaceful purposes. He emphasises that they are numerically insignificant, and also employ Belarusian citizens.

President Lukashenko is absolutely against the presence of any troops in Ukraine, be they Russian or American, or mercenaries from Poland, Sweden or elsewhere. He notes that we are in the midst of an information war, seeing confrontation between countries within the information space. He believes that Russia is stronger in this respect but believes that Russia and the USA need to meet at the negotiating table to end the conflict in Ukraine.

Much has changed since Belarus first proposed settling the situation in our southern neighbouring state. As the

President notes, "At that time, I saw a different solution to the situation. Maybe, US involvement was not needed at that point. Things could have been settled with less fighting and bloodshed. I told the congressmen that if the United States was interested in peace in Ukraine and would be ready to take certain steps, it could act as a peacekeeper, sorting out the situation with Russia. This is my opinion."

The President's major task is to ensure public and state security. "This is essential. People may not receive their salaries for one, two or three months but they will forgive. However, the nation won't ever forgive or forget if we give up our sovereignty and independence," Mr. Lukashenko is convinced.

### On independence

Whoever comes to us with a sword, will perish by the sword. This is the major obligation of the President. You often criticise me for the situation with jobs, salaries and so on, but forget that people must primarily take care of themselves, in order to feed their families. People may not receive salaries for one, two or three months but they will forgive; however, the nation won't ever forgive or forget if we give up sovereignty and independence.

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS—2015

# Support team

## What have Belarusians to expect from the Presidential election campaign this autumn

By Yevgeny Kononov

The Presidential election campaign has been launched in Belarus — the fifth in the history of the democratic country. Belarusians will be able to express their will on October 11th. The election date has been approved by the national Parliament at the final meeting of the seventh session.

According to the legislation, a candidate for the post of the President can be put forward only via collecting signatures of voters. For this purpose, an initial group of at least 100 members is needed. In total, the Central Election Commission has allowed eight such groups to participate, including the support team of the current President Alexander Lukashenko. They must each collect 100,000 signatures by August 21st, enabling their contender to gain the official status of a candidate. It's very difficult to gain such powerful electoral support, especially if there's no a strong team of like-

minded people in the form of a public organisation or a political party that already enjoys a level of trust.

The experts' opinions are similar: the current President Alexander Lukashenko boasts the greatest chance of victory. His usual sparring partners are the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Sergei Gaiduk-

**The President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko: 'Many promises are made in election campaigns; the president-elect will have to fulfil them'**

evich, the Chairman of the Belarusian Left Party 'A Just World', Sergei Kalyakin, and the Chairman of the United Civic Party, Anatoly Lebedko. Of course, the big question is whether they will gain enough votes for a second round. Some representatives of the Belaru-

sian opposition have assessed their chances and are calling on each other to withdraw from participation in the elections, or even to boycott them. However, a prohibition on calling a ballot strike is one of the innovations of the current election campaign. In this respect, the Secretary of the Central Election Commission, Nikolai Lozovik, spoke clearly, "Belarus has joined the CIS Convention on Standards of Democratic Elections, Electoral Rights and Freedoms, according to which the ballot strike is forbidden. Campaign-2015 also differs from the previous campaigns in the order of financing of the candidates' election activity. In 2010, they had to form private election funds. The Central Election Commission decided to go even further, allowing funds to be allocated to the candidates for the position of the President, as well as to those who register their initiative groups and plan to collect signatures for putting forward a candidate. Moreover, the



Collection of signatures in the Gomel Region

fund's size has been tripled to about \$105,000. This can be used to buy additional pages in newspapers, time on television, print leaflets and pay for the work of one's team. Funds of political parties, legal entities and citizens can be used to replenish the fund while anonymous and foreign donations are forbidden. Each candidate will have to specify whether they have a conviction (even if it's removed from the official records) and which funds they use to live on (if they don't work anywhere officially)."

Belarus has never restrict-

ed the number of international observers. For example, over 1,000 foreign observers have been accredited during the Presidential elections in 2010. No fewer are expected this year. Invitations have been sent to all international organisations, with observers from South Korea first arriving in our country. Moreover, the OSCE ODIHR representatives will be joined by observers from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (where Belarus isn't represented). The Chairman of the Executive Committee and CIS Executive

Secretary, Sergei Lebedev, was appointed the head of the CIS observation mission.

Sociologists have calculated that over 70 percent of Belarusian citizens plan to take part in the Presidential elections. Such high political activity is easily explained: the consequences of the global economic crisis, sharp confrontation between large states, the escalation of tension in Russia-EU relations, and the events in Ukraine worry people and encourage them to use their vote to make a difference.



# Dialogue, launched in May in Islamabad, continues in Minsk

Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, in Belarus for official visit, from August 10th-12th

By Alexander Pimenov

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko personally welcomed the esteemed guest at the airport. This May, the Belarusian President paid an official visit to Pakistan, conducting negotiations with Pakistan's President, Mamnoon Hussain, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. A package of two dozen documents was signed in Islamabad, aiming to expand Belarus-Pakistan co-operation across many spheres, including industry, agriculture, food, science and technology, as well as investment, information, communication and education.

During his meeting, the President of Belarus expressed his hope that the visit by the Pakistani PM, Nawaz Sharif, will result in a more solid basis for bilateral collaboration and thanked Mr. Sharif for his time. He noted, "We agreed to meet in Minsk at this hour on this day. Thanks to your ability to stand by your word, you and I are meeting in Minsk, at this hour on this day."

The two sides prepared thoroughly for the visit, with Pakistan visited by representatives of Belarusian business circles and ministers. Meanwhile, members of the Paki-

## MT'S REFERENCE:

Over the past eight years, the volume of bilateral trade with Pakistan has fluctuated between \$50m and \$120m per year. Major exports are tractors (one of the major markets outside the CIS), potash fertilisers, synthetic fibres, tyres and synthetic yarn strap. Meanwhile, major imports to Belarus include rice, polymers, styrene, fruits, food, leather goods, fabrics and textiles. In 2014, the volume of our bilateral trade totalled \$58.2m, with exports of Belarusian goods to Pakistan amounted to \$42.6m (100.3 percent against 2013) and imports reached \$15.6m (98.5 percent).

stani Government, alongside businessmen, have been to Belarus to study our country, enabling serious decisions to be made at top level.

Belarus and Pakistan are eager to develop efficient and mutually beneficial co-operation, noted President Lukashenko, during extended talks with Prime Minister Sharif. Mr. Lukashenko emphasised that just over two months have passed since his meeting in Islamabad, and much has been done already to improve our contacts, as discussed. In early August, Minsk hosted the first session of the Joint Commis-



Alexander Lukashenko and Nawaz Sharif at the ceremony of their official meeting

sion for Military-Technical Co-operation and the President notes the necessity of interacting in these fields. "We have much to offer in this important sector, working together," he said.

In his opinion, good prospects exist for training Pakistani specialists, as seen by the delegation led by the Secretary of the Pakistani Government for Federal Education and Professional Training, Muhammad Tajwar, during his visit to Minsk.

Mr. Lukashenko believes that meetings held in Belarusian universities will help increase the number of students from Pakistan. The President also believes that the first session of the Belarus-Pakistan Joint Commission was a logical continuation of mutually beneficial contacts. In his opinion, such sessions should be held every year to bolster trade-economic and investment ties.

Belarus understands well the importance of peace, economic development and

prosperity, stressed President Lukashenko, during his expanded-format talks with Prime Minister Sharif. Mr. Lukashenko also congratulated Pakistan on its national holiday — Pakistan Independence Day — being celebrated on August 14th. Mr. Lukashenko remarked that Belarus welcomes the decision to open an embassy of Pakistan in Minsk.

The President especially underlined that the potential of Belarus-Pakistan interaction can be fully utilised by go-

ing beyond the limits of purely bilateral liaisons. He believes it to be vital that we implement joint projects and render mutual aid to the UN and other international organisations.

Mr. Lukashenko reminded that, during his meeting in Islamabad, the two sides agreed that the visit would feature economic events and would result in the establishment of a solid legal framework.

"Our respect for you is immense. You are a politician who can act as an example to any politician in the world, including myself. Your life has been a struggle and aspiration towards goals set before your team, your party, and your colleagues. Anyone would be envious of your political life. You're an acknowledged leader of Pakistan and we welcome you as such in Belarus," added the Belarusian leader.

In turn, Nawaz Sharif noted that it was Alexander Lukashenko who laid the foundation of friendship between our two countries. Mr. Sharif asserted that Pakistan highly appreciates the recent visit of Mr. Lukashenko, adding, "You've laid a foundation of friendship between our countries, and today we view our visit as the continuation and further enhancement of our friendship."

The Pakistani PM has invited the Belarusian leader to visit Pakistan once more, saying, "As our relations are increasingly vibrant, I think we need to meet more often."

## Stereotyped thinking obviously crashes on meeting reality

By Vasily Kharitonov

**Regular communication is the best path to mutual understanding, inspiring a delegation of US congressmen to visit Belarus, at the invitation of the Belarusian President**

The three American congressmen were arriving in Belarus for the first time and, although representing different political parties, shared common surprise at the extent to which our country is a civilised European state. All agreed that it is more progressive than they had imagined and return home with a positive image of Belarus.

The US representative for California, Dana Rohrabacher, noted, "I hope this visit will open up new possibilities for our relations. I've been happy with what I've seen. It does justice to your efforts

and those of your country, made for public benefit. I hope Belarus can be proud of many things and that we may enjoy various avenues of co-operation." He believes that the enhancement of diplomatic ties — embodied by the return of a US Ambassador to Minsk, as well as a Belarusian Ambassador to Washington — will be the first step in this direction.

Even during the most complicated periods, interaction has continued between Belarus and the US regarding issues of global and regional security and counteracting the illegal transit of nuclear materials. The USA supports Belarusian initiatives at the UN and is in favour of our country's application to join the WTO. In recent times, there has been a pleasant tendency to ignite contacts. Our turnover has also risen slightly: reaching just over

\$260m from January to May 2015.

American corporations are demonstrating increasing interest in Belarus, especially regarding our participation in the Eurasian Economic Union. The USA views our country as important geographically, believing that we have a role to play in establishing political balance in the region: as an effective connecting link in American-Russian relations.

At present, there are about 400 companies using American capital in Belarus. However, Mr. Lukashenko is confident that our potential for economic co-operation is considerably larger. He emphasises, "The USA is a promising trade partner and investor. Accordingly, we are keen to secure our Belarusian manufacturers' access to the vast, solvent American market, raising investments,

promoting manufacturing co-operation, and taking out loans. Belarus has never created obstacles and has no intention of doing so, being ready to co-operate with every partner to the greatest degree possible. Political discord is no reason for alienation. In fact, our shared points of interest outweigh those separating us. This inspires hope that contacts will continue, helping restore our mutual trust."

A modest yet important step has been taken in Minsk, thanks to the American congressmen's appreciation of Belarus' contribution to the peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. They have expressed readiness to continue promoting peace and admit that the agreements of the 'Normandy Four' (reached in Minsk this February) remain the foremost mechanism for settling



American congressmen in Minsk

the crisis. Mr. Lukashenko continues to be concerned that the USA has refrained from openly becoming involved, asserting that stability in Ukraine is impossible without the USA.

The President's meeting with the congressmen lasted for two hours, ending with informal conversation on a warm note. Tennessee House of Representatives member Steve Cohen mentioned that his grandfather was born in Lithuania and his grand-

mother probably had Belarusian roots. His colleague, Mr. Rohrabacher, has no such close ties with our country. However, he mentioned that he had brought his granddaughter to Belarus, and was impressed to learn that Mr. Lukashenko has seven grandchildren. At the end of the meeting, the guests expressed hope that our children and grandchildren will live in peace, through the joint efforts of our two states' politicians.



# Belarus-style Silicon Valley

## High-Tech Park transforms Belarus into a major IT supplier in Europe

By Olga Bebenina

### Love to study in Minsk

An undergraduate at one of the most prestigious Minsk higher educational establishments — the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, Maxim Demchenko, speaks of his choice, “This university is connected with IT companies and it will be easier to find a job in the future. I would love to live and work in Minsk and, like my friends, hope to join one of the resident companies in the High-Tech Park.”

The Belarusian is not attracted by working abroad. “My uncle and his wife went to the USA in the mid-1990s. At that time, Belarusians and Russians were highly thought of by major IT recruiters as we were thought to have a unique ‘Slavonic’ way of thinking. Our people were able to think outside the box and find a solution to virtually unsolvable problems,” the young man says. “My relatives went to earn some money to buy a flat and then planned to return home. It took them five years to accumulate savings. During that time, babies were born and their career was developing. In 2000, they could have returned only to their own flat in Minsk and there were no jobs in Belarus suitable for their qualifications. The situation is different now.”

### No longer a brain drain

The situation has changed drastically. Primarily, this has become possible as Belarus has developed its own serious IT industry. The High-Tech Park transformed the country into a major producer of software in Central and Eastern Europe. Established in September 2005 following a Presidential Decree, the Park has already earned \$1bn. At present, the HTP annually



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exports \$500m (last year, the figure exceeded \$585m) of its produce globally. “Last year, we ensured a 44 percent growth of exports of services in the country’s payment balance,” admits the HTP Director, Valery Tsepkalo proudly; he was among the founders of this grand and successful project.

In the past, a former assistant of the President and a Belarusian Ambassador to the USA spent over a year trying to convince us that Belarus needed generous tax and other benefits for the IT industry and a special venue for high-tech companies. Crucially, we preserved a high level of staff training in the field of electronics and radio-technics. To retain our talented staff, favourable conditions were created for the development of the software industry and the enhancement of export production based on high technologies. High calibre employees do not need to move away when they can find jobs and earn comparable salaries at home. An average salary in the IT



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sphere is approximately 1,000 Euros, which is not bad for Minsk. As regards the regional centres of Belarus, this money can allow people to have an address to gain bank credit or build a house... and consequently their future. HTP programmers enjoy one of the highest salaries in Belarus, even higher than in most Eastern European states (in the same sphere). Specialists from Russia, Europe, America and Japan work at the Park’s best companies. The HTP is justly proud of gathering a team of true professionals under its roof.

### Virtual Park



ALEXANDER RUZHECHKA

### High-Tech Park attracts talented specialists

The HTP has its own peculiar feature: as distinct from most European and Asian colleagues, Minsk’s Park is virtual. Accordingly, its legal regime is operational over the whole Belarusian region. You can register as a resident and use all the advantages of the Park. Moreover, your office can be located anywhere: in a regional centre or a small village. As Mr. Tsepkalo noted at a press conference on the 2014 results, such an approach makes it possible to fully use the country’s educational, scientific-research, professional and infrastructure potential. “The HTP resident companies actively participate in the realisation of major science-intensive projects and industry modernisation. Moreover, 88 percent of the HTP produce is exported, with companies from 56 states of the world

being among our customers. 43.5 percent of our exports head for Western Europe, 40.1 percent go to the USA and 14.4 percent — to the CIS,” he said.

Interestingly, a single HTP programmer produces the same added value as fifty workers from the country’s leading companies. Intermediate imports occupy a significant share in exports of the tractor and automobile works while the HTP lacks this. As a result, the Park’s influence on the country’s economy is annually increasing. One of the major tasks for 2015 is the opening of a HTP business incubator. The Park also plans to create the largest venue in the post-Soviet area (and probably in Europe) for freelancers to communicate and work together; among these ‘distance’ employees would be programmers and designers.

### Figures alone

Last year, the Park attracted \$34.3m of direct foreign investments. At present, 137 resident companies work here — including 58 (42 percent) set up by Belarusian investors. 46 (34 percent) companies of the HTP are foreign and 33 (24 percent) companies are joint commercial organisations. The total number of employees exceeds 20,000.

### Citing on the topic

On meeting the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, the General Director and a co-founder of Siguler Guff & Company investment company, Drew Guff, said, “A saying has been invented by businessmen working in the IT sphere: if you have any job — send it to India; if you have a complicated job — send it to America; if you have a job which is impossible to do — send it to Belarus.”

## Jobs for all seeking work

By Alexander Benkovsky

### Today’s personnel market differs drastically from that of a couple of years ago, with employees having far less power to negotiate terms

The current situation is that some spheres of employment are very much ‘over-saturated’, with more specialists seeking work than there are available jobs. However, in H2,

over 18,000 new jobs are to be created, in line with the Council of Ministers’ Decree #621.

The May meeting with the President focused on employment security, with Mr. Lukashenko urging that conditions be created to ensure that highly qualified staff are retained, rather than being obliged to seek work abroad. The Government recently approved the launch of additional places, to ensure employ-

ment for all job-seekers in the second half of 2015. As a result, 18,000 new jobs are being created countrywide, with 5,800 centred in the Brest Region. The Vitebsk Region will have 1,500 new places, while Gomel is to receive 2,000, and Grodno 2,200. The Minsk Region is to create 2,700 additional jobs and 2,900 are destined for the Mogilev Region. The city of Minsk is to receive 900 new positions.

The Head of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection’s Employment Policy Department, Oleg Tokun, comments, “We hope this will soften the situation on the labour market, enabling people to find new jobs. As seen from the planned figures, most places will be created in the Brest Region where the greatest need is registered: 3.3 job-seekers per vacancy. In Minsk, this figure is just 0.8. The country has taken all



possible measures to centrally fund schemes for people to develop their skills and training via new qualifications.”

Heads of regional executive committees and Minsk’s City Executive Committee will

bear personal responsibility for the fulfilment of the task. Every quarter (by the 20th day of the month) they will be obliged to provide a progress report to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.



# New rules for market traders

It has long been thought that Belarus needs its own Cherkizovsky Market. The work of many entrepreneurs has been on hold for the last few months, but with the signing of Presidential Decree #334 it became clear that there will be a large multifunctional centre, which will help individual entrepreneurs. We were interested to hear how the market stallholders received this news.

By Galina Kovalevskaya

The President has recently signed a Decree about the creation of a large multimodal industrial-logistical centre. It will be a wholesale hypermarket, promised long ago to individual entrepreneurs. The market will sell clothes, footwear and other goods and could be comparable to the famous Moscow Cherkizovsky Market. There have been no changes to the market for the last 25 years. Sellers have taken their trucks to neighbouring Russia, where they buy cheap Chinese goods often of questionable quality without paperwork and then sell them back in the homeland at very high prices. This is not the first time that the state and business unions have tried to bring entrepreneurship to a new

level. Now experts believe our own 'Cherkizon' will help small and medium sized businesses to gain a credible face.

It's a year since Alexander Lukashenko set the goal of creating a platform where businessmen could buy their wholesale goods. It is expected that the goods will arrive directly from China or Russia, working conditions will become standardised and more transparent. It is a question of creating equal conditions for the production and sale of goods. In the future, the centre should become the place for individual businessmen to buy goods that are not produced in the country. According to the Director of the Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (named after M.S. Kuniavsky), Zhanna Tarasevich, the new wholesale market



Establishment of a wholesale mega-market is close at hand

will be a useful starting point for new businesses.

The Director of the Analytical Centre of the Republican Confederation of Entrepreneurship, Anatoly Zmitrovich, points out that 15-20 years ago in the mid-1990s, there was an opportunity to organise a large wholesale centre at the Dinamo Stadium. He considers however, that for entrepreneurs who already have well-developed trading channels and communications, the move to new premises will be not so simple. "We definitely need such a place but it must not be a repeat of the free

customs warehouses of cars in Zhdanovichi; this was planned as an alternative to the spontaneous market of drivers ferrying vehicles. It ended sadly in closure. I hope, that the Belarusian 'Cherkizon' will not suffer the same fate," Anatoly cautioned, "If the aim of the centre is to standardise the trade that goes on there, we should be discussing now all the details with the traders such as: working conditions, deliveries and certifications needed.

The traders are aware that a new centre is the right decision; they only regret that they have so little time be-

fore its opening. Moreover, the initiative of the Department of Financial Investigations of State Control Committee regarding criminal liability for not submitting accounting documents, has become an unexpected and unpleasant surprise for the entrepreneurs. According to the member of the Council of Businessmen of the Trading House Zhdanovichi, Oleg Korol, small businesses are excited at the possibilities on offer with the construction of a large structure such as this. The only thing that the traders want now is the project to be completed as soon as possible.

## CULT OF IMPORT

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seem farther  
than they are



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# Land in illuminator

In the next few years, specialists from the Russian Federal Space Agency and the National Academy of Sciences will develop a new Belarusian-Russian satellite to observe our planet



Model of new Belarusian-Russian satellite

By Olga Bebenina

The agreement was reached during a visit by the Russian Agency's delegation led by its head, Igor Komarov.

So far, only some aspects of joint co-operation have been discussed, as the current Belarusian satellite has not yet exhausted its resources.

The Chairman of the



Roscosmos Head, Igor Komarov, the Chief of Staff at the NAS of Belarus, Piotr Vityaz, and pilot-cosmonaut Piotr Klimuk

National Academy of Sciences' Presidium, Vladimir Gusakov, explains that the new satellite will boast the newest equipment, enabling it to produce photos of greatly enhanced quality. Their resolution will be extremely high, improving on the current two metres to one metre. The operating satellite sends pictures to the Emergency Ministry, the Agriculture and Food Ministry, the Ministry for Environmental Protection and the Forestry Ministry, but pictures from the new satellite will satisfy not only

our domestic needs but will also be sold abroad. The recently established company, run jointly by the Russian Federal Space Agency and National Academy of Sciences, will oversee the commercial aspects of the new development.

On meeting Mr. Komarov recently, Belarus' Prime Minister, Andrei Kobyakov, appreciated the successes of the Russian-Belarusian co-operation in the cosmic sphere. "Belarus enjoys rich scientific potential and has experience in producing sci-tech space-

related products," he said. "However, we should also stress that our country's significant results in the sphere of cosmic activity have been achieved in close co-operation with the Russian Federal Space Agency. Several joint space-related programmes of the Union State are being realised and, owing to the projects completed so far have been a great success. A high level of co-operation has been achieved by both Belarusian and Russian companies in the fields of industry, science and education."

## Sochi becoming capital of integration

By Dmitry Neratov

### September to see hosting of 2nd Belarus-Russia Forum of Regions

The industrial policy of the Union State is to be the focus of the coming forum, notes the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of Belarus, Anatoly Rusetsky. He tells us, "The participation of the regions is the foundation upon which we should build our interrelation, at all times."

The presidents of Russia and Belarus, Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko, are expected to attend the Sochi gathering, with a package of bilateral documents being signed.

The first Belarus-Russia regions forum was held in Minsk last June, highlighting major areas of inter-regional co-operation, as well as obstacles to agro-industrial liaison. Recommendations were made to support our new agrarian policy and the provision of food security. Moreover, it was agreed upon to elaborate Union State programmes to optimise production volumes and efficiency of distribution of agricultural produce, while expanding export potential.

### Advice from Dr. Zhukova

## How to treat ticks

We often feel that ticks can be found in our country all year round, even though it is not the case. I'd like to hear the opinion of a professional on the subject.

I. Sidorov, Verkhnedvinsk

Lyme borreliosis is an infectious disease caused by Borellia bacteria, which often becomes evident in the form of relapses of symptoms: skin, nervous system, joints and heart are mainly involved. It is also called Lyme disease, the reason for its name was the fact that the disease was first described in the city of Lyme (USA). In different regions this infection from ticks differs and varies from 10 percent to 50 percent of insects infected. It means that at least every tenth tick is a source of such infection, if not every second.

Lyme disease is diagnosed on the basis of epidemiological anamnesis (visiting the forest, marks from ticks) considering the time of the year (summer and early autumn), and also its clinical presentation: mostly the occurrence of Erythema chronicum migrans (skin reddening). After that, skin lesions, joint pain and symptoms of damage to the cardiovascular system may be noticed. We must remember that some people do not notice or remember that they have had ticks on their skin. In these cas-

es, the presence of the clinical symptoms of the disease, and also the laboratory data has a valuable diagnostic value.

### If a tick has bitten

Tick activity begins in April and continues until October. The maximum quantity of ticks is seen in the first half of summer. Ticks cannot jump. They wait for a victim, having stretched out their legs in different directions, sitting on blade of grass or on a low bush, no higher than 1 metre. Ticks are attracted by the smell of animals and people. If you touch a branch or a leg of a tick, it will grab at you and will proceed to creep upward often towards the shoulders or head, sometimes giving the false impression that the tick fell from above. The best weather for ticks is dry, sunny and warm. On cold days, with frost or rain, ticks are passive; they hide in a carpet of leaves and wait for good weather. If you have been bitten by a tick, this does not mean that you will necessarily fall ill, but it is necessary to consult a doctor as soon as possible, in order to

make a diagnosis and carry out preventive treatment.

After a bite, a tick should be removed, this should be carried out in a surgery or emergency station of a medical institution. If you remove



Caution is important in the forest

it yourself you must be aware that a tick should not be crushed, as the contents of it could be left in the wound. Do not pull it out as you can tear off the body from the head. The part that remains in the skin can cause inflammation and infection. The most convenient way to remove a tick is with curved tweezers or a surgical clamp, but any other tweezers will do the job. A tick should be grabbed as close as

possible to its proboscis, then it should be carefully pulled upwards and at the same time rotated on its axis. Usually in 1-3 rotations a tick can be removed entirely, together with its proboscis. It is also pos-

sible to buy special hooks for their removal, these look like curved two-pronged forks. A tick is put between its teeth and twisted off. If you have neither tweezers, nor special instruments for removal, the insect can be removed by means of a thread. A strong thread is tied in a knot, as close as possible to the proboscis, then the tick is taken out slowly, shaking it sideways and pulling it up.

You should not squash a

tick with your hands and it is important to wash carefully after removal. Any wound should be treated with antiseptic. If at extraction, the creature's head (looking like a black spot) comes off, then the area should be wiped with cotton wool or spirit, the head will need to be removed with a sterile needle as you would with a splinter. Some advice recommends that it is necessary to put ointment bandages on or use oil solutions for removal. However, oil stops the tick from breathing, and it will die, but may remain in the skin. Any wound should heal within a week. The removed tick can be destroyed, but it is better to leave it for laboratory research for the presence of tick infections. It must be brought within two days to the laboratory to check for the presence of borreliosis, encephalitis and other infections.

Unfortunately, by looking at the appearance of a tick it is impossible to say whether it is encephalitic or not. A tick is infected by feeding on an infected animal. It should be placed in a small glass jar together with a piece of cotton wool or napkin (slightly moistened). Cover the jar with a tight lid and keep it in the refrigerator if there is no possibility of delivering it to the laboratory at once. For microscopic diag-

nosing of a tick, it is necessary to deliver it alive. Anyone who has suffered from a tick bite should be seen by an infectious diseases specialist within a month, and if necessary the doctor will prescribe any necessary preventive measures or treatment.

You should monitor the area of the bite to check for reddening, any rise in temperature, headache, dizziness, vomiting or muscle pain. Reddening can be both a symptom of borreliosis, and allergic reaction to a bite. Some small redness around the wound during the first few days after a bite is usually a reaction and will pass. The majority of those diseased begin to see symptoms during the second week after a bite, but symptoms can appear earlier or later (tick-borne encephalitis- up to 21 days, borreliosis- up to one month). If 21 days have passed since the bite, then tick-borne encephalitis will not develop. While for borreliosis, the incubation period can last up to one month.

The best way to prevent tick infection is to protect against bites with the help of repellents, vaccinations and through the careful management of garden-plots.

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



# Endless possibilities for high technology

The A.V. Lykov Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer welcomes visitors to its long hallway and numerous doors; a miracle is happening behind each of them. The local laboratory of micro- and nano-material analysis is developing new models of 3D printers, devices for 4D printing and even an artificial kidney. This seems a fantasy... but it's reality.

By Alexander Pimenov

The laboratory head, Sergey Filatov, holds a model of a human kidney in his hand; ready to be 3D printed. This is not a full copy of the original but if this artificial organ were transplanted to a patient, it would be accepted: the kidney is made from a biologically compatible material. Threads for operations are also made using this method. These are the first steps to producing artificial organs, but if the idea receives financial support, then the first laboratory tests would become possible in three years. "Nobody in the world has so far printed a fully fledged organ ready for implantation," Mr. Filatov demonstrates a 3D kidney model on the screen. "This is a complicated process which needs time."

Theoretically, if this were to become possible, a small amount of fat tissue is taken from a patient, to receive necessary cells. A 3D model of an organ is then prepared by a computer. Later, a 3D printer is involved in the process: live cells are placed on a sample of the biological material, which resembles plastic. These cells connect with each other, creating a form. As a result, an artificial organ is produced from the patient's own cells. It then needs to be activated in a special way, trained and tested for functionality. After all these procedures are complete, an artificial kidney can be transplant-

ed. In the course of time, 'plastics' will dissolve in the body (as surgical stitches do) while the basis of the cells will remain. Technologies of the kind could be used in cases when a patient urgently needs transplantation but there is no available organ. Mr. Filatov shows us a photo of a 3D model of the internal organs of a person. In the course of time, we'll be able to apply 3D technologies to plan surgical operations.

This means that a doctor would be able to virtually 'rehearse' a complicated operation if necessary.

Another room in the Institute has two sections separated by thick glass. Complete silence is needed here, as nothing must disturb the scientist's concentration. An electronic microscope is in the

centre; the device is in no way similar to those used in biology classes at school. It is large and has several monitors nearby; its keyboard reminds one of a board in a pilot's cabin. This is the best electronic microscope in the country. On inserting a sample into its camera, Mr. Filatov comments, "Just look: the picture has increased 1,400 times. We can study in great detail the quality of materials used for 3D printing." An optical tomograph is another unique device developed at the laboratory; it resembles a refrigerator at first sight. However, it aims to study the internal structure of biological and technical objects.

The Institute is actively studying additive technologies and developing new models of 3D printers, perfecting their possibilities and improving materials for printing. It also has a device for 4D printing; Mr. Filatov explains its mecha-



On transplanting this printed kidney, a human organism would not reject it

nism, "It makes it possible to develop a unique material which would change its colour depending on the level of lighting." This technology has plenty of possibilities, but as the scientist admits, it also has many problems. Firstly, qualified staff is needed; so far, only a few specialists of the kind work in the country. Secondly, materials are important; this method of printing requires unusual materials. Thirdly, these problems can only be solved if the high school, academic and scientific branches of education liaise closely. Really, in order to develop a functioning kidney, the process needs the involvement of scientists, doctors and programmers.



This is the best electronic microscope in the country: the materials used for 3D printing can be studied with a resolution of x1,400

## DIRECT SPEECH

Sergey CHIZHIK, First Deputy Chairman of the NAS Presidium:

Additive manufacturing or 3D printing technologies are today one of the most dynamically developing areas of digital production. Amongst the problems the economy faces is the problem of overproduction. Each day the cost of materials and energy rises, as does human resources... What is the advantage of 3D-printing? The construction of the model happens when material is added rather than any excess removed as in traditional processes. Using traditional technology it is difficult to imagine a minutely detailed model that is hollow inside, but it's easily done on a 3D printer.

Using this type of printing, wonderful things can be created: clothes, furniture, prostheses, products and souvenirs. The footwear industry is beginning to master additive technologies. They take a 3D scanner, 'photograph'

a footstep and print the footwear immediately. Moreover, a gigantic 3D printer has been constructed in China, able to build 10 houses within 24 hours. I don't exclude the possibility that such houses may appear in Belarus in the near future. Belarusian scientists are already discussing opportunities to develop quick setting concrete. Should a building be demolished, its materials could be processed into consumable material for 3D-printing. The printer is charged, switched on and a house is printed several hours later. I believe that at first we'll begin to 'grow' small architectural forms such as arbours, benches and sculptures. There's also a biological application for 3D printers, with organs being already printed elsewhere in the world. A western firm is producing square metres of human skin. We're also working in this direction.

As far as production is concerned, only a few industrial enterprises are currently using additive technologies in the country. However, in a couple of years everything will change. The Institute of Heat and Mass Transfer (named after A.V. Lykov), BNTU, Minsk city techno-park are all involved in the development of additive technologies. Specialised posts are to be opened at the BSU and BNTU for its development. The next thing on the list of tasks includes setting up the production of 3D printers; develop new materials for their charging and to prepare highly qualified personnel. The market of additive technologies in Belarus is developing but, possibly not as promptly as we would like. If a state programme is adopted, aimed at supporting these new technologies, the process will be quicker.

## Sunshine projects

By Nadezhda Dekola

Ecological organisations invite us to learn how to use solar energy at Sun Charging master-class, during appropriate season of summer

Andrei Dusmikeev, a national expert with the UNDP project and the Global Environmental Fund, tells us that energy efficient Belarusian residential buildings are recording around 1,800 solar hours in the Minsk Region alone. In Sochi, the figure is reaching 1,920 hours. He believes solar electricity to be most effectively gathered not at the altitude of the Sahara Desert but in moderate climate zones. Unsurprisingly, more solar-powered stations are launching every year. These solar plants include large commercial facilities of over 1MW and small (individual 3-5kW panels used on summer cottages beyond the electricity grid). Mr. Dusmikeev is convinced that many homes are already using solar energy and that the number is growing annually, powering such appliances as refrigerators, washing machines, telephone charging units and kettles. However, he declares, "We need to try and widen the possibilities."



Ukrainian inventor Vasil Prusak took part in the master-classes, as did Pavel Gorbunov, who specialises in energy saving and renewable energy, for the Centre of Ecological Solutions. Together, they created a solar device to dry fruits, vegetables and mushrooms (an electric analogue is available but much more costly to run). It goes without saying that solar energy is kinder to the environment than burning fuels to create electricity.

## Convenient and safe

By Yelena Semenova

New Grodno Region motorway opens to traffic

The contemporary P52 motorway connects Ostrovets, Oshmyany and the Belarusian nuclear power station to two major existing motorways: Minsk-Vilnius and Vilnius-Polotsk.

The full length of the highway, belonging to grade two, is around 50 kilometres. According to specialists, traffic safety is ensured here to the utmost; minimum crossings, almost no settlements and reinforced roadside. The width of the asphalt coat is 12m while that of the roadway is 7m.

The dual carriageway has two underground exit tunnels, leading to/from Oshmyany, where the road intersects the M7. It has three bridges and three flyovers, one of which (at the intersection of the motorway with the railroad) may become an additional transport interchange if an automobile connection is required with Gudogai station.



# Japan marks 70 years since atomic bombing

Japan and the world remember the last use of nuclear weapons in war seventy years on

Bells tolled as ageing survivors, the relatives of victims and others remembered the devastating blast at 11:02am local time on August 9th, 1945.

About 74,000 people died in the initial blast from a plutonium bomb dubbed 'Fat Man', or from after-effects in the months and years following the bombing. The attack on Nagasaki came three days after American bomber dropped a bomb dubbed 'Little Boy' on Hiroshima, the first atomic bombing in history.

Nearly everything around it was incinerated by a wall of heat up to 4,000 degrees Celsius, hot enough to melt steel. The twin bombings dealt the final blows to imperial Japan, which surrendered on August 15th, 1945, bringing an end to World War II.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe laid a wreath of flowers with representatives from 75 countries, attending the ceremony. "As the only country attacked with an atomic bomb in war, I am renewing our determination to lead the global effort of nuclear dis-



People pray for victims in front of the cenotaph for the victims of the 1945 atomic bombing

armament, to create a world without such weapons," Mr. Abe said in his speech. He also said the country would continue to abide by its long-held non-nuclear principles: not producing, possessing or allowing nuclear weapons on Japanese territory.

Prime Minister Abe was criticised for failing to mention the three principles at the ceremony in Hiroshima,

particularly at a time when the nationalist leader is trying to push through legislation to expand the role of the military. Mr. Abe has faced criticism and opposition for his efforts to boost the role of his pacifist country's Self-Defence Forces, changes that open the door to putting troops into combat for the first time since the war. For Hiro-

shima and Nagasaki the World War II is the war without end; survivors and many of those born since suffer the side-effects of radiation poisoning.

"I saw a terrible situation in the decade after the bombing. I saw people whose faces were deformed or people without arms. I really cannot describe with words the scenes I witnessed," said one elderly female survivor.

## Stolen Stradivarius returned to rightful owners 35 years after disappearance



A stolen rare violin made in 1734 has been returned to the family of its rightful owner by authorities in the United States

Known as the Ames Stradivarius, it was made by the Italian violin maker Antonio Stradivarius. Owned by famed Polish violinist

Roman Totenberg, the violin was stolen in 1980.

In June, it reappeared in Manhattan when a woman handed the instrument to violin maker, Philip Injeian, hoping to find out more about the gift she had received from her late former husband.

"Seeing these instruments first hand, it's like knowing family members. It's easily recognisable. So when I saw this one, it was truly a Eureka moment," explained Injeian.

Sadly, Roman Totenberg never got to see or play his violin again before he passed away three years ago.

Approximately 550 Stradivarius instruments, including violins, violas and cellos remain in existence. One violin sold for a record \$15.9 million at auction in 2011.

There are about 550 Stradivarius violins in existence, as compiled in the Violin Iconography of Antonio Stradivari. Only about 20 are reported stolen. There are, however, thousands of models and recreations in circulation. Due to the rarity of the originals, stolen Stradivarius violins are difficult to sell.



## Egypt has opened Suez Canal in lavish ceremony

Egypt has opened a major expansion to the Suez Canal to much fanfare

The project is being trumpeted as the basis of an economic turnaround for the country. On the orders of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi the major engineering feat was completed in one year instead of three at a cost of nearly 8 billion Euros, although critics say the money would have been better spent on infrastructure and public services.

At a lavish ceremony the former army chief, told gathered signatories from Europe, Russia and Africa that

Egypt would defeat the terror threat which had threatened the project.

"Egypt did not only achieve this project during this year or the previous two years, to be exact. History will record that Egypt stood against and fought the most dangerous extremist ideology. If they had been able to put their hands on this land it would have burnt it to the ground."

The country is facing off a two-year old insurgency on the other side of the Suez Canal in the Sinai Peninsula which has claimed the lives of hundreds of police and soldiers.

## More debris found on Reunion Island in hunt for Flight MH370

Seat cushions and plane windows have now been found on Reunion Island

The Malaysian Government earlier confirmed that a wing part washed up on the French overseas territory was from missing Flight MH370. It is the first firm evidence that the aircraft crashed into the ocean. But what went wrong remains unknown.

While Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak said the flaperon was from MH370, prosecutors in France, where the part is being analysed, stopped short of declaring they were certain. The flight mysteriously vanished from radar on March 8th, 2014, as it travelled from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

Search efforts have focussed on a broad expanse of the southern Indian Ocean off Australia. Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said, "We want to continue to use this piece of evidence to better inform out search efforts." Simulations of the debris path suggest wreckage could continue washing up on Reunion.

## Boost for German industrial orders

Strong demand from abroad has helped boost German industrial orders

According to figures from the Economy Ministry, contracts for goods from Europe's largest economy were up 2.0 percent on the month. The increase for industrial orders was the biggest in the April-June period since early 2011 despite a slowdown in China and uncertainty caused by the Greek debt crisis. A breakdown of the data showed factories received 4.8 percent more bookings from abroad while domestic orders fell by 2.0 percent. "Boom. German industrial orders just defied any concerns about a slowdown in the economy," was one economist's reaction.

## Car sales hit by downturn in China

Luxury car maker BMW has been hit by a downturn of sales in China, the world's biggest car market

The Munich-based company said that net profits fell to 1.75bn Euros in the second quarter, down from 1.77bn Euros a year earlier. Japanese giant Toyota reported a 10 percent increase in profits for the first quarter of its fiscal year, but the company also saw a drop in sales in Asia.

The brake has been applied to the car market in China with the economic downturn, the fall of the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the fight against corruption applying the pressure. The number of vehicles sold in June shrank by 3.4 percent from a year earlier while production fell by 0.7 percent. According to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, it's the first decline combined since December 2008. The figures have led to a revision of forecast for growth in the market from seven to three percent for this year.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies





Exhibition from collection of Vetka Museum of Old Believers and Belarusian Traditions is rich in unique exhibits

# Unique exhibits from Vetka bring light of spirituality

National Art Museum hosts *Husband, Man, Warrior* collection of late 18th-early 19th century icon paintings from Vetka Museum of Old Believers and Belarusian Traditions

By Veniamin Mikheev

The exhibition presents 83 beautiful icons which would have once adorned the simple homes of Old Believers and those of Belarusian Orthodox faith. All from the Vetka area, the icons provide evidence of rural culture which no longer exists.

The icons were thought to offer protection, not only of the individual family but, patriotically, the wider settlement and country. For more than a millennium, from the Christianisation of Kievan Rus, icons embodied the accumulation of experience and Slavic spirituality.

Soldiers going into battle would take a miniature icon with them, to act as protection. St. George was a popular choice, as was Nikita (a 14th century warrior) and Russian prince-brothers Boris and Gleb. Archangel Michael was perhaps the most popular of all. Each soldier would feel a personal bond with their own miraculous protector, who



The icons on show are imbued deeply with the energy of rural culture. As well as helping achieve victory, each holy image carried a connection with the agricultural calendar, or protection from illness, robbers, wild

animals, 'evil spirits' or 'malicious curses'. St. George was connected with spring fertility land, eternally thrusting his sword into his dragon (as we see on various military medals. He watched over the spring pasture of cattle and the welfare of peasant boys. Of course, we all know the award of the Cross of Saint George. Meanwhile, Princes Boris and Gleb were connected with baking, absorbing negative energy and encouraging the bravery of sacrifice, while warning against the horror of fratricidal war.

To which such icons did people pray in those simple rural homes? How did the force of a mother's prayer, passionate to protect her son, husband or father, aid in returning them safely. How did this accumulate and transfer to the souls of those fighting: boys and young men? How did the image of the ideal soldier influence their behaviour? The military theme is universal, continuing to arouse interest. In 1995, the year of the 50th

anniversary of the Victory over fascist Germany, saw much research published but work proceeds. The unique data collected from Vetka residents (a small city in the Gomel Region) adds to our understanding of the faith of Orthodox Believers and Old Believers.



Yelena Karpenko, who heads Ancient Belarusian Art at the National Art Museum and is the exhibition curator, tells us, "Folklore texts have clarified and re-



lived the situation, bringing together voices from separate traditions. Our collections of Old Believer and Belarusian Orthodox icons demonstrate the local features of our culture."

The works on show, many of which have been restored by museum experts, reveal several stylistic directions. Some still bear the 'wounds' of war: tears from shell splinters, for instance, purposefully left. The project is accompanied by albums

entitled *Vetka Icons, Voices of Lost Villages*, and *Living Belief — Vetka*. Joint exhibitions have been organised in the cities of Mogilev, Minsk and Vitebsk, with the first entitled *Saint George*, launched with the Gomel Regional Museum of Local History, in 1995. Each has highlighted new aspects of military culture and of our spiritual heritage, attracting differing materials in each district: 'heavenly rows' of military images, 'terrestrial' exhibits and military equipment.

The current exhibition at the National Art Museum explores various dimensions of the theme, heavenly and terrestrial, and the opposition of war and peace. Military conflict has the power to plunge us into contemplation of the spiritual, resounding in space and time and revealing the eternal. The stability of our culture relies upon our faith: in God and in humanity.

A simple soldier, called Ivan, sent letters home from the Front, to his wife and mother. There, in their old house, they prayed to John the Warrior 'for Ivan to return home alive.'



# Lyudmila Khitrova: 'I love adventures... not only on stage!'

The leading soloist of the National Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre was born in Karaganda, studied in Nizhny Novgorod and now dances in Minsk

By Natalia Stepuro

## Where-where? In Karaganda!

Russian Lyudmila Khitrova graduated from Nizhny Novgorod's Theatrical College but has lived in Minsk for five years already. She was born in Kazakhstan but, at the age of five, her family moved to Nizhny Novgorod. "I love questions about where I was born," she smiles. "Where-where? In Karaganda! As a matter of fact, much in my life creates a rhyme, I love it!" With the support of her mother, she attended various clubs and groups related to dancing and art. She was a success everywhere but did not love all the places. She refused to continue with sporting dances after the first lesson for example, even though the classes were paid for a month in advance, her mother did not persuade her to carry on, as she wanted her to find what she'd really love to do. She also wished Lyudmila to have good posture and, with this in mind, took her to a ballet school. The hobby transformed into a passion: she showed talent, determination and a strong desire to dance.

Lyudmila remembers her childhood in Nizhny Novgorod with a smile. "I began ballet training at the age of ten. Some specialists believe this is late. However, everything depends on a person's desire and their capabilities. At present, training at an early age is promoted: children are flexible but professional burnout can also happen quicker, ending a career earlier. Much depends on the school and the physical abilities of the pupil. The more correctly a dancer was trained to work and treat themselves well, the longer their bodies will remain strong. We are not made of iron."

"Some performances exhaust me physically and emotionally," the dancer adds. "It's important to listen to your body and react to it, also ensuring rest. I can recall Maya Plisetskaya here: she danced wonderfully for decades and each time stressed in her interviews that she treated her body

as a working instrument — carefully and with respect."

After graduating from Theatrical College, Lyudmila rapidly progressed in her career in Krasnoyarsk, becoming a soloist at the State Opera and Ballet Theatre. "My boyfriend, Alexander Butrimovich, also studied in Nizhny Novgorod. We were later invited to Krasnoyarsk. I would not have moved without him. Just imagine: to move to Siberia at the age of 17! It was difficult to do this alone. However, everything turned out well," says Lyudmila. "We were provided with good conditions for creativity and enjoyed wonderful foreign tours: we spent six months in England, visited Italy twice and danced in Mexico. However, I'm a heat loving person; it was a true challenge for me to live in Siberia."

Alexander often took part in different contests and was then invited to Belarus by Valentin Yelizariev. Minsk also became a kind of a

rhyme for Lyudmila and Alexander: he was born in the city, though his parents now live in Russia.

## Skorina's medal

Nobody invited Lyudmila to Minsk and this was her impetus to come. She knew that the local National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre seldom employ temporary dancers. "I'm a Libran and am always in limbo. It often takes me a long time to make a decision. However, I immediately agree to any kind of an adventure. I love everything unusual. I decided to take a risk and it has succeeded, but I had to follow the entire path, starting with the corps-de-ballet," Lyudmila recollects with a smile, admitting that it was hard and a little bit offensive to begin her career anew.



## 'Juliet today and a Spaniard tomorrow'

Lyudmila admits that she hears applause only when the other artistes come out to bow. During her bows, she hears nothing because of the adrenalin. The dancer regrets that the lights are off at this moment and she cannot see the audience. With this in mind, she loved touring Germany where a stage and the audience are not separated by an orchestra pit. No barriers exist and artistes can clearly see people's faces: their emotions sometimes add to the desire to dance other well-known roles.

"Most often we take classical pieces

on tour," explains Lyudmila. "This is the right thing to do, any classical dancer can train to dance a modern piece. However, it's much more challenging to do the opposite. Classics are essential; these are the basis which enables me to create my characters. It's important for me to understand my character. I love playing overwhelming emotions. With this in mind, I always watch films or read books on the topic while preparing. I treat each role with respect and, afterwards, see how I've danced. I notice my mistakes and try to correct them in the future."

As a rule, the artistes spend most of their time in the theatre. Unsurprisingly, they often find love here. Soloists have no strict schedules of rehearsals. They sel-

dom know when they'll have a break or any free time. "Of course, I can miss a rehearsal, but it's in my interest to keep in shape. Really, determination is needed to constantly force us to train, even when you're in a bad mood. Sometimes I don't want to leave my bed but I know I must. Meanwhile, when asked of my plans for the day, I'd never say I'm going to my job, I say that I'm going to the theatre. I love it!"

## Children or career

"I don't wish to delay having children until it's too late, but this is not a simple question. I'm at the peak of my career — receiving leading roles and enjoying numerous performances. After having a baby, I'd need to leave the theatre for at least a year. Even after a break, time is needed to get back in shape. I can't even imagine what it would be like after a baby."

However, I'm a realist. I understand that it's impossible to dance everything. I know that I'd catch up with a year if I need to miss it. I wish to be a young mother. I'm trying to persuade my parents to move to Minsk. My mother will retire in a year and I'm looking forward to having her here very much. She often visits me and loves staying here. I'd also love my brother to move here with his family. This is my plan and I hope it'll happen.

I love touring and travelling. It's always interesting for me to visit somewhere for a week or so for example, to enhance my qualifications or see something new. I love returning to Minsk though, I'm happy here. I'm often invited to join other troupes but I'm satisfied with my job and everything around me. I love Minsk, I love working at this theatre and I appreciate people's attitude to me. I'd like to stay and build a family here," notes Ms. Khitrova.

## Beauties from the globe with a serious agenda

By Yuliana Leonovich

From August 24th-30th, Minsk will host the Mrs. Universe pageant, gathering over 60 married beauties from all over the globe

To date, the pageant has been hosted by Bulgaria, Latvia, the Caribbean Islands, Russia and Malaysia.

The organising committee supported Belarus' application in recognition of the country being one of the safest and most peaceful. The programme of events is to include master classes on the application of cosmetics and the art of cocktail making, as well as those on traditional Belarusian customs. There will be an excursion to BelAZ,

a talent contest and various charity events. Press manager Anna Sautkina tells us, "The key purpose is to draw attention to domestic violence." All the contestants are socially active within their countries, helping raise awareness of this issue. She notes that the annual event requires the entrants to share their own opinions on why



Svetlana Statkevich to represent Belarus

violence occurs, and to offer paths of solution. The winner is chosen not for their beauty but for their ability to articulate their opinion and for their personal achievements in this sphere.

## MT'S REFERENCE:

Belarusian representatives are among the most regular winners of the contest. In 2013, Svetlana Kuznetsova was named the Mrs. Universe, after winning the first national Miss Belarus-98 contest. Two years earlier, STV TV Channel host Irina Rombalskaya was named Mrs. Supermodel-2011, while public figure Natalia Trofimova, who is a lawyer by training, received the title 'Mrs. Glamorous-2014'.



# Winning in summer to play in autumn

## BATE Borisov and Dinamo Minsk pass major European cup qualification rounds

By Kirill Karin

### BATE golden autumn

Borisov BATE has defeated Hungarian Videoton in its second match, securing a place in the group stage of the Europa League, and has hopes of reaching the Champions League.

Hungarian Videoton, being only modest in ability, was an 'easy defeat' for BATE. In fact, there could easily have been three or four goals for the Borisov team had they used all their opportunities and avoided rattled nerves. In the 82nd minute, Nemanja Nikolic headed the ball into the Hungarian net. Montenegrin halfback Nikolic is a real asset to the squad. Last August, playing for Minsk Dinamo at Borisov-Arena, he scored against Portugal's national team.

Another key moment in the match was the removal of Hungarian fullback Kees Luijckx, in the 60th minute. The red card secured victory for BATE, as head coach Alexander Yermakovich admits. He notes, "It's much more difficult to attack when you're in the minority. In the first match, we scored, but psychologically gave back the initiative which was dangerous. It's much more difficult to keep the ball when your team is playing in the minority, as Videoton would surely agree." Hungarian halfback Istvan Kovacs tells us, "The 0:0 score after the first half allowed us to hope for a place in the play-offs. We only needed one goal, but losing a player sealed our fate."

### Victorious draw

Minsk Dinamo ended the return match in the third qualification round of the Europa League by drawing



BATE proven to be stronger than Videoton



Dinamo players fight until the final whistle

against Swiss Zurich — 1:1. This enables the Belarusian squad to continue in the play off rounds of the second most important European Cup tour-

nament. The match in Brest lasted for over 120 minutes.

In the fourth minute, the Zurich team sent a ball past our goalkeeper,

Alexander Gutor. Taking into account the game in Switzerland, the score was equalised. Then Dinamo spent the rest of the match trying to 'catch up'. However, its equaliser came in the 118th minute, thanks to Fatos Beqiraj, with a corner kick. During the last four minutes, the Swiss failed to score again, and lost their chance of going through to the next round of the Europa League.

### New rivals

Swiss Nyon hosted a draw in the play offs for the Champions League and Europa League. The Borisov and Minsk teams both learnt their rivals whom they will face while trying to qualify for the tournament's group stage. BATE Borisov, which has successfully overcome the third qualifying round of the Champions League, will meet Serbia's champion, Partisan, on the Borisov field, on August 18th or 19th. The return match will be played on August 25th or 26th, in Serbia, with the loser continuing on in the second most significant European Cup tournament: the Europa League.

In the Europa League play offs, Minsk Dinamo is to face Austrian Red Bull, from Salzburg, with the first match hosted by Dinamo, on August 20th; the return will be played in Austria on August 7th.

## Good news from tennis tournaments

By Igor Leshin

### Two Belarusians claim victory on international courts

Alexander Bury has won the ATP tournament's doubles title: the first of his career. Bury was partnering Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin in the Association of Tennis Professionals' event, defeating Austrian Olivier Marach and Pakistani Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi in the final match — 3:6, 6:2 and 10:5. Hosted by Swiss Gstaad, the tournament had a prize fund of 440,000 Euros.

Meanwhile, at an international tournament hosted by Slovak Piešťany, Vladimir Ignatik, aged 25, beat Filip Horanský of Slovakia — 6:3, 7:5. Vladimir was a favourite to win, having defeated Czech Václav Šafránek in the semi-final — 6:3 and 6:3.

## Return to yellow-blue team

By Yegor Glebov

### Alexander Hleb signs contract to return to Borisov BATE

BATE's brightest pages are connected with Hleb, including its performance in the 2012 Champions' League: with his help, the Borisov team won a group tournament — defeating French Lille (3:1) and Munich Bavaria (3:1). Alexander has been six times acknowledged as the best Belarusian footballer and has played for the winning squad in the Champions' League. He has played for the championship teams of Spain and Belarus, helping claim the Spanish Cup and the English League Cup. He has also aided his squad in taking silver in the German championship and bronze in the English.

Alexander Hleb is the first Belarusian footballer to play in the Champions' League finals, having done so in 2006, for London Arsenal. In addition, he is the first Belarusian to play for the winning team of the Champions League (in 2009, for Barcelona). Since 2001, he has participated in 68 matches for the Belarusian national team, scoring six times and making 13 goal passes. Hleb is a member of the prestigious Sergey Aleinikov Club, which admits only footballers who have played at least 500 matches at top level.

# Domracheva makes decision

By Igor Grishin

### Three-time Olympic champion and owner of 2014/2015 Big Crystal Globe decides to miss forthcoming biathlon season

Darya tells us, "Having considered carefully, I've decided to miss the 2015/2016 competition season. I first thought about taking a step back to regain my strength at the end of the last Cup season. However, I didn't listen to my body, which was a mistake. Having gone to the seaside, I realised

how tired I was. I thought that I'd rested sufficiently, and began training for the new competitive year, planning only to miss some starts (to reduce the competitive intensity of the season). I started training with great enthusiasm and all seemed to be going well but my body had other ideas. Having consulted with specialists and listened to my gut, I've come to the conclusion that missing the season is the most sensible decision. I'm sure that this will benefit me, allowing me to restore strength and

become motivated for next year."

Ms. Domracheva plans to rest completely, avoiding emotional or physical stress. She notes, "Following my doctors' recommendations, I'm spending the next month calmly and moderately. Later, I'll begin basic training, of course, when my health allows it. By winter, I plan to start testing my skis and selecting those for next season. I have a wonderful opportunity to spend time on this. I'll be training according to my individual schedule and, in order



Darya Domracheva recharging her strength

to ensure diversity, and keep me interested, I'll include some non-standard (for me) work with spe-

cialists from other sporting areas. I'm viewing this year as a chance for recharging."



# Heat of the week



Gomel city residents and their four-footed pets relax by lake in Gomselmash micro-district

## Exhibitions

### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street

Until 24<sup>th</sup> August. *My*

*Floral Calendar*

Until 6<sup>th</sup> September. *Dedicated to*

*70th Anniversary of Great Victory*

Until 27<sup>th</sup> September. *Belarusian*

*Iconostas* Until 27<sup>th</sup> September.

*A Husband, a Man, a Warrior*

Until 2<sup>nd</sup> November. *Great*

*Patriotic War in Art*

Until 30<sup>th</sup> December. *Celebrating*

*Victory Day in Museum*

### NATIONAL HISTORY

### MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. *Belarusian*

*Musical Instruments*

Until 6<sup>th</sup> September. *From Hoop*

*Skirts and Tournures to Modern*

Until 6<sup>th</sup> September. *Three*

*Stories about War*

Until 31<sup>st</sup> December. *Major*

*Presentation of Museum Relics:*

*79 Steps Inside History*

### NATURE AND ECOLOGY

### MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 28<sup>th</sup> August. *Boletus:*

*Beauty is their Family*

*Peculiarity* photo exhibition

Until 30<sup>th</sup> August. *The World of*

*Big Parrots and Singing Birds*

### WANKOWICZ HOUSE-

### MUSEUM

33A Internatsionalnaya Street

Until 25<sup>th</sup> December. *A Prophet*

*of his Time. Adam Mickiewicz.*

*Illustrations and Medals*

### NATIONAL LIBRARY

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 27<sup>th</sup> August. *Spirit of Religious*

*Tradition and Printed Icon*

Until 31<sup>st</sup> August. *Feeling*

*of the Colour*

## Theatres

### MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street

19.08. *Love Circle* 20.08. *Taming of the Shrew*

### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street

16.08. *Cinderella* 17.08. *Look for a Man*

18.08. *A Midsummer Night's Dream or King Lear*

19.08. *Comedy about Penny Pincher*

20.08. *Figaro.tut*

### UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square

22.08. *Summer Musical-Tourist Season*

## Concerts

### SPORTS PALACE

4 Pobediteley Avenue

14.08. *USSR Disco*

### TUSE

57B Surganov Street

14.08. *Skoraya Pomoshch* cover-band

15.08. *DeTroit* cover-band

15 and 20.08. *Kontrabanda* cover-band

### RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street

14.08. *80/90 Disco* at Re:Public

15.08. *Tribute concert dedicated to Kino* band

15.08. *Summer Session* 18.08. *Gus Gus*

### GRAFFITI

16 Kalinin Lane

14.08. *The Road Dogs*

### TNT ROCK CLUB

9 Revolyutsionnaya Street

14.08. *Morcheeba: Live at Brixton Academy / Daniel*

*Pertsev / Silicon / Tomato Jam* 15.08. *Jamiroquai*

*live / Daniel Pertsev / Sun Beat / Marylyn Monroe*

16.08. *Marylyn Monroe* 19.08. *The Blues Case* band

20.08. *The Beatles Party (The Apples are playing)*

### NIGHT CITY

3 Nemiga Street

12 and 19.08. *Night of Qualitative Music*

### SVOBODY SQUARE

15.08. *Encore cycle of concerts: Academic Song and*

*Dance Ensemble of the Armed Forces of Belarus*

# Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

## August of decades and centuries past comes to life

**August 14th.** In 1903, People's Artist of the BSSR Stepan Birillo was born. He worked at theatres in Vologda, Arkhangelsk, Vitebsk and Gomel, as well as performing at the BDT-3 and at the Yanka Kupala Theatre (from 1923).

**August 15th.** In 1909, Belarusian director Alexander Lisovsky was born — an Honoured Figure of Culture of Belarus.

**August 16th.** In 1913, Israeli politician Menachem Begin was born in Brest-Litovsk. From 1977-1983, he was Israel's Prime Minister.

**August 17th.** In 1955, Prof. Alexander Kilchevsky was born in Gorki, in the Mogilev Region. A scientist in the field of genetics, plant selection and biotechnologies, he was a corresponding member of Belarus' National Academy of Sciences, and a Doctor of Biological Sciences.

**August 18th.** In 1909, Soviet Union Hero Ivan Volosevich was born in the village of Tikhny, in today's Bereza District.

**August 19th.** In 1935, Honoured Artist Victor Kirichenko was born. From 1963, the lyrical tenor was a soloist with Belarus' State Opera and Ballet Theatre.

**August 20th.** In 1934, Vladimir Tsagelsky was born in the village of Metlichitsy, in the Logoisk District. The Belarusian scientist in the field of informatics was one of the first Belarusian network programmers.

**August 14th.** In 1975, a street was named after Lilia Karastoyanova, in

Minsk, honouring her work with the partisan movement on Belarusian territory during the Great Patriotic War.

**August 15th.** In 1920, daily Belarusian-language *Savetskaya Belarus* newspaper was launched.

**August 15th.** In 1963, a new House of Radio launched in Minsk.

**August 15th.** In 1995, the Centre of Flight Co-ordination and Management was founded in Minsk, to oversee air traffic passing over Belarusian territory.



**August 15th.** In 1956, Komarovskaya Square was renamed as Yakub Kolas Square. In addition, the Language Institute of the BSSR Academy of Sciences was named after the great poet.

**August 16th.** In 1916, Batskaushchy-na (Homeland) association of Belarusian clerisy was founded in Minsk.

**August 16th.** In 1945, Poland received 17 districts of the Bialystok Region (including Bialystok), in addition to three districts of the Brest Region.

**August 16th.** In 1956, the Yakub Kolas State Literary-Memorial Museum was

established in Minsk.

**August 17th.** In 1805, a decree was released to open a temporary military hospital for 150 patients in Minsk (now known as the Main Clinical Hospital of the Belarusian Defence Ministry).

**August 17th.** In 1926, a kindergarten opened in Minsk's Sovetskaya Street, for 25 children of scientific workers.

**August 17th.** In 1952, a farmers' market opened in Minsk's Budenny Street.

**August 18th.** In 1965, the Nuclear Energy Institute (of the BSSR Academy of Sciences) was founded.

**August 18th.** In 1966, the decision was taken to erect the monumental-sculptural composition of the Mount of Glory, on the 21st kilometre of the Minsk-Moscow motorway.

**August 19th.** In 1956, ZIC-127 buses began operating on their regular Minsk-Moscow-Minsk route.

**August 19th.** In 1970, the first issue of Belarusian Historical and Cultural Monuments brochure was released.

**August 19th.** In 1983, Minsk's Vostochny bus station welcomed its first passengers.

**August 19th.** In 1999, the Moskovsky inter-city bus station began its work.

**August 19th.** In 2000, the Baltic fleet border ship was named 'Minsk'.

**August 20th.** In 1799, Minsk's oldest medical establishment opened: the city hospital. The 2nd city clinical hospital is now situated on its premises.