

# Worthy place in good company opens window into big prospects

The capital of Russia's Bashkortostan has a hectic few days hosting the summits of the BRICS and Shanghai Co-operation Organisation → 2-3

INTERNATIONAL

# The Minsk Times



**Socio-political Weekly**

PUBLISHED SINCE FEBRUARY 2003 ●

● NO.26 (600) ●

● THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2015 ●

● WWW.SB.BY



## Open debates at Vybiraй.by!venue

Youth acquires a new opportunity to share opinions, discuss serious issues and search for possible solutions as part of the *Open Debates: Vybiraй.by!* project **Page 4**



## Much worth seeing!

With more than 200 museums in the country, we invite you to tour the five youngest and most interesting institutions **Page 7**



## Modest author transferred his eloquence onto canvas

Abram Kutikov's personal art exhibition — *The Time of Pisces* — allowed the spectators to become familiar with an interesting and original master **Page 10**

# To a full house, as always



24th *Slavianski Bazaar* International Festival of Arts 'sparkles' in Vitebsk → 9





# Worthy place in good opens window into big

## The capital of Russia's Bashkortostan has a hectic the summits of the BRICS and Shanghai Co-operation

By Vasily Kharitonov

While Belarus itself is not a BRICS or Shanghai Co-operation Organisation member, it does however, enjoy close partner relations with almost all their participating states. As regards membership, the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation is an expanded version of the Eurasian Economic Union — uniting Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. When establishing this club, the focus was on interaction between the states with the additional goal of strengthening regional security. Over the course of time, the regions involved have discovered many other spheres of mutual interest; these primarily aim at contributing to the economic development of the states in question. Since Belarus is playing an increasingly important role in these processes, its participation in the inter-state dialogue seems logical and necessary.

On arrival in Bashkortostan's capital, Alexander Lukashenko met his Russian colleague, Vladimir Putin.

Presidents of Belarus and Russia shared their thoughts during their bilateral meeting in Ufa

### Vladimir Putin:

Belarus is our closest neighbour and a strategic partner. The country is our ally. We co-operate in all areas including military and humanitarian spheres, while solving social issues to meet our citizens' interests. We are developing co-operative ties as part of the Union State and the Eurasian Economic Union, and have many important plans in mind. The task of enhancing Belarus' status within the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation is in focus and the issue is virtually settled. Belarus will gain observer status at this authoritative international organisation whose role is increasing in the modern world. We are convinced that your participation in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation's activity would benefit Belarus and other participants of the process.

### Alexander Lukashenko:

We are keen to discuss three sets of issues. Firstly, I'm grateful for the opportunity of meeting presidents from other states. The second set of issues deals with the Eurasian Economic Union's problems, especially those



President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, during their meeting in Ufa

relating to Kyrgyzstan's joining the WTO. The third point is to say that we appreciate your assurance that Belarus is the closest state for the Russian Federation's President. Whilst we have had some problems in our bilateral relations and experience difficulties from time to time, at present, we are able to discuss what steps should be taken to overcome any future possible negative issues.

One of the key decisions taken by the summit was to enhance Belarus' status from a partner to an observer.

**The BRICS interstate union is steadily transforming into an important counterbalance in the complicated processes of the global economy. This was voiced by the Belarusian President in his speech at the meeting of the BRICS heads and leaders of the invited states.**

According to Mr. Lukashenko, the BRICS members give unconditional aid and mutual support. They do not strive to impose their

will on other states and, at present, the BRICS states are true engines of economic development, which is especially important for stabilising the global economic situation. They help

other countries ensure post-crisis revival and, moreover, all BRICS members are becoming integration hubs in their regions. Such an approach meets Belarus' philosophy.

### MT'S REFERENCE:

Heads of State of the BRICS members have adopted the Ufa Declaration which assesses the present political and economic situation in the world, while reflecting BRICS members' approaches to the most topical issue of multilateral co-operation. In particular, the document highlights the UN's key role in searching for solutions to global problems.

In addition, the declaration condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The document mentions the terrorist organisations of Islamic State, Al-Nusra Front and associated groups who are condemned for all forms of violence regarding civilians, particularly that against children and women.

The BRICS member states have also expressed their concerns over the Ukrainian crisis. The document reads: 'We stress that the conflict has no military solution and the single way to peace lies through a political dialogue. In this respect, we call upon all states to meet the provisions of the complex of measures to fulfil Minsk's agreements — adopted in February 2015 in Minsk by a contact group on Ukraine and supported by the heads of Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine (and approved by the UN Security Council in its 2202 resolution)'. The heads of the participating states have also adopted the so-called plan of action outlining the BRICS activity in the forthcoming year. The document stipulates the major avenues of the states' interaction.

A strategy of economic partnership of the BRICS member states (until 2020) has become another final document adopted under Russia's initiative. It aims at the expansion of business co-operation to facilitate social-economic development and enhance the competitiveness of BRICS participants in the global economy.





# company prospects

## few days hosting Organisation



In Ufa the President of Belarus met the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, the President of Mongolia, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, and the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai



Ufa's Congress Hall hosted the summit of the BRICS heads of state and, as it ended, a large meeting of its participants took place. The Belarusian President's tough working schedule in the Russian city began in advance of the major event when Mr. Lukashenko set up meetings with several heads of state.

His working day began with talks with the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff. In the amenable and constructive dialogue, the heads of state paid attention to the high level of our turnover at almost \$1bn. However, this impressive sum has not yet fully reached its potential. Minsk and Brazil enjoy good prospects for expanding their co-operation in the aviation and agro-industrial spheres. In their discussion, the presidents outlined some firm plans for promising joint projects. Belarus currently buys Embraer planes from Brazil. Our country has well trained staff and the necessary production base to establish a regional centre of technical maintenance for these aircraft. Ms. Rousseff expressed interest in the initiative. An agreement has also been achieved to set up a production cluster in Brazil to manufacture agricultural machinery, heavy-duty trucks and tractors at joint facilities. The two presidents agreed that, in the future, four or five major areas of interaction would be defined; these will be overseen by a special inter-state commission (to be formed under the heads of state's decision). At the end of the meeting, Mr. Lukashenko invited Ms. Rousseff to visit Belarus at her convenience; the Brazilian President accepted the invitation.

On meeting Afghanistan's President — Ashraf Ghani, Mr. Lukashenko reminded him of a recent telephone conversation between the heads of state and the visit of Afghanistan's special representative to Minsk soon after. These events promised even greater co-operation. As the Belarusian President noted, the world is interested in a



Kaleidoscope of meetings and discussions in Bashkortostan's capital

strong and stable Afghanistan as a reliable shield against diverse threats from the region. At the same time, Afghanistan occupies a strategic position in Asia, boasting a significant transit potential. The reliability of its transport arteries is also extremely important for many states. With this in mind, Mr. Lukashenko expressed an opinion that heads of states (gathering in Ufa) need to unite to strengthen Afghanistan. Belarus would not stay

on the sidelines of this. Mr. Ghani accepted the Belarusian leader's sentiments with gratitude.

The presence of a mutual interest in expanding co-operation was also acknowledged during Mr. Lukashenko's meeting with the President of Mongolia — Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj. We have products to trade, in addition to developments of mutual interest. We also remember our successful co-operation in the past. The Mongolian Head of

State shared the view, noting that his country is well aware of Belarusian tractors, lorries, BelAZ trucks, refrigerators and 'Minsk' motorcycles. This is probably the basis upon which strong collaboration should be built. Mr. Lukashenko proposed an exchange of delegations of specialists to make firm development plans.

Belarus enjoys long lasting and warm partner relations with Iran. As Mr. Lukashenko noted on meet-

ing the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, our two countries have had to overcome some serious obstacles in the past, related to outside pressure. Thankfully, these issues are in the past and it's time to look into the future with optimism. Mr. Rouhani confirmed Tehran's readiness to strengthen ties with Minsk.

Talks and negotiations were later continued in a major meeting of the heads of state. While delivering his speech in front of his colleagues, Mr. Lukashenko paid attention to the uniqueness of the direct dialogue observed those days between the BRICS leaders and other states participating in the forum. This is a good basis to expand inter-state interaction. Such approaches meet Minsk's philosophy of integration. Belarus is a firm BRICS ally ready to actively join any avenue of co-operation with the organisation. The President of Belarus assured all those present that our country can be truly called a member of the 'BRICS club of friends'. We are a reliable and predictable partner, having no conflict on its territory and creating no problems for its neighbours. We are in a good position to ensure the security of our common borders and the safe transit of energy resources. Belarus also efficiently counteracts drug trafficking and illegal migration, pursuing a peaceful foreign policy. This year, the country chairs the Eurasian Economic Union and is ready to support special formats of our economic union's interaction with the BRICS.

It's likely that these approaches will open up the possibilities of a closer interaction between Belarus and the BRICS states in the future. Behind the scenes at the forum, Belarus' First Deputy Prime Minister, Vasily Matyushevsky, noted that, on acquiring an observer status with the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation, the country needs to achieve a similar rapprochement in its relations with the BRICS. This process looks logical: the world is constantly producing new threats and even major states are unable to counteract them when acting alone. Accordingly, projects of regional integration are playing an increasing role in securing nations.

Mr. Lukashenko's intensive working schedule in Ufa confirms the key: the country is stably and purposefully pursuing a multi-vector foreign policy. Belarus is ready for an open, constructive and trust-based dialogue with any state, on an equal footing and mutually respectful basis.



# Retaining high degree of optimism

Despite the fact that many Belarusians are on holiday today, relaxing and enjoying the sunshine, figures show that a large percentage of the population has an active civic responsibility. This is confirmed by figures from the latest opinion poll commissioned by the Centre for Sociological and Political Research at the BSU. The poll shows that 72.9 percent of voters plan to participate in the forthcoming Presidential elections. The Director of the Centre, David Rotman, pointed out that this is likely to increase even more as the event draws closer.

By Uliana Bushueva

Although the accuracy of this rather large figure cannot be relied upon, Mr. Rotman has expressed confidence in the new polling technologies used. He is certain that the forecast is a reliable indicator of a large turnout.

When broken down, the results show that just 8.1 percent of those asked have no plans to vote, a further 19 percent of respondents are undecided. David Rotman has also commented on the level of trust revealed between the party in power and the opposition. In the range from -1 to

+1, the level of trust in the party in power is nearly 0.5, while for those in opposition it is -0.5, showing, in political terms, a significant difference in favour of the ruling party at this stage.

According to the sociologists, an increase of trust in the existing party in power can be explained by a variety

of factors, including the events in Ukraine. When asked about the possibility of a change in power to solve some of the nation's problems, 2.3 percent of respondents support change by means of elections, 0.3 percent by means of strikes, 0 percent through the use of military force. This is a clear

indicator that there is no will amongst the people for any violent protest.

"We do not even need to consider the possibility of a colour revolution here," David Rotman emphasised. "Despite our difficulties, the people of Belarus retain a high degree of optimism towards the future."



# Open debates at *Vybirai.by!* venue

Youth acquires a new opportunity to share opinions, discuss serious issues and search for possible solutions as part of the *Open Debates: Vybirai.by!* project

By Natalia Uvarova

Debates have become a popular enhancement to open dialogue. The format of an organised debate allows the participants to share their thoughts and ideas and also defend their views in the face of opposition. During the debate, the candidates may present their ideas using a variety of methods, some even preferring to use the language of film or singing! Often social networking sites are used to gather support and open the debate to a wider audience. Schoolchildren and state officials are invited to take part in competitive debates, acting independently or in teams.

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, Andrey Belyakov, explained the choice of theme, "As important public political events are approaching, we've decided to remind our youth that the country's future depends on them. It's crucial to be able to defend a point of view, finding the necessary arguments and appreciating the many complexities of some problems. We hope that *Vybirai.by!* will become a discussion



*Vybirai.by!* will become a discussion venue for Belarusian youth and the international community

venue for both Belarusian youth and the international community."

When discussing Belarus' burning issues it seems sensible to

listen to the opinion of experienced and recognised personalities. The first session is to be attended by the Information Minister Lilia Anan-

ich, the Aide to the President for Physical Culture, Sport and Tourism Development Maxim Ryzhenkov, and the Editor-in-Chief of the

*Sovetskaya Belorussiya* newspaper Pavel Yakubovich.

The media's attention to the project is not accidental. Ms. Ananich has named *Vybirai.by!* a new venture in the history of the youth movement and mass media who share a common goal of promoting the state's true values. Topics for future meetings are already being prepared. A BSU student, Alexander Pashkevich, plans to discuss the development of small cities. Born in Slutsk, he is interested in supporting talented young people and the development of youth sports. Mr. Yakubovich, in turn, is concerned with the two issues of 'nationalism and internationalism' and 'youth and mass media'. He is ready to participate in their discussion.

The project will last for six months, with open debates to be hosted by organisations, enterprises, schools, colleges, universities, public associations and military unions. They will later move to districts and cities, with regional centres and the city of Minsk coming next. The most talented and skilful opponents will meet in the finals, scheduled for this autumn.

# Above Russia, Kazakhstan and Armenia in ratings

By Alexznder Pimenov

**Rating by nekhaichik.house.gov.by, compiled by Numbeo, ranks Belarus 54th, above EEU partners of Russia, Kazakhstan and Armenia, for standard of living**

Russia is ranked 72nd for 'quality of life', while Kazakhstan is 63rd, and Armenia 60th. Bulgaria is 55th, Georgia is 57th, Serbia is 58th, Moldova is 66th, and Ukraine is in 75th place. Switzerland leads the Numbeo rankings, with Germany in second place, and Sweden third. The USA, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Australia, Canada, and New Zea-

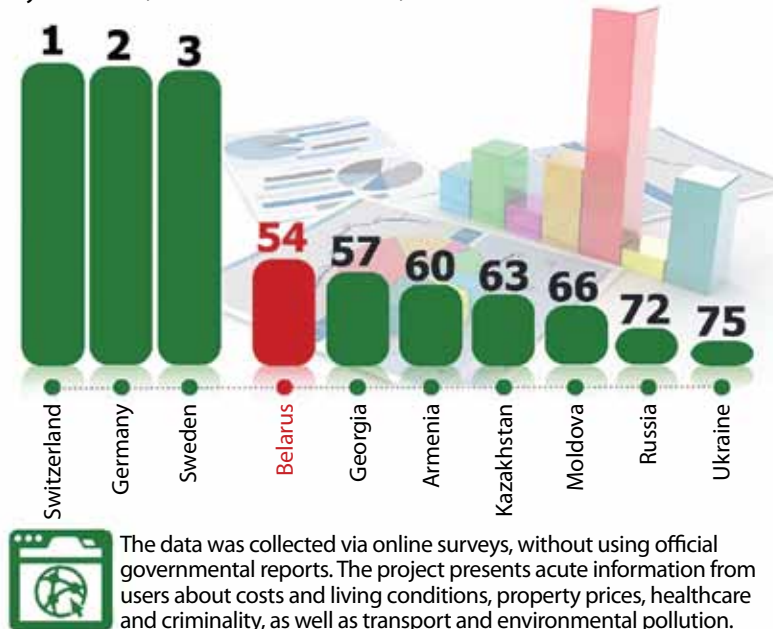
land close the top-10. Estonia is ranked 21st, Lithuania 32nd, and Latvia 39th.

In total, there are 86 countries on the list; Venezuela takes last place.

Numbeo is the world's largest database of user-generated content dedicated to cities and countries, collated through online-research, without official government reports. The project provides the latest information from users about the cost of living and living conditions, including property prices, and information on health care and crime, transportation and environmental pollution.

## BELARUS IN THE RATING OF QUALITY OF LIFE

Belarus has outstripped in the quality of life its partners in the Eurasian Economic Union — Russia, Kazakhstan and Armenia — as well as a range of former USSR republics. The rating, compiled by Numbeo, features 86 countries, with Belarus ranked 54th.



The data was collected via online surveys, without using official governmental reports. The project presents acute information from users about costs and living conditions, property prices, healthcare and criminality, as well as transport and environmental pollution.

## Original 'postal belt'

By Veniamin Mikheev

**'Slutsk Sashes' postal stamp is among top ten**

The Belarusian 'Slutsk Sashes' postal stamp was amongst the ten best stamps in the world, occupying sixth place at the W.I.P.A. International Philatelic Exhibition in Austria.

In total, over 70 countries took part in the event, with the Spanish 'Aguila Imperial' being awarded first place and the title of 'Most Beautiful Stamp in the World-2014'. The 'Slutsk Sashes' artistic postal stamp is in the form of an oblique triangle. They are printed in sheets, each containing five stamps. Their unusual orientation in the form of a tete-bêche (head to toe), when each postal stamp is situated upside-down in relation to the other, has allowed the designer Yelena Medved to create an original 'postal belt'.



# Customers coming closer

## A Belarusian trading centre will open this year in Pskov

By Olga Toguleva

A unique trading centre is due to open at the end of this year in the Russian region of Pskov, selling only Belarusian goods. Representatives from the Pskov Region and the Belarusian Republican Union of Consumer Societies (Belkoopsoyuz) have recently signed a co-operation agreement to facilitate this.

The Belarusian delegation has visited the area and assessed three possible sites for the future trade centre. An empty site in Kommunalnaya Street in the Zavelichie district was chosen. The Pskov committee will take charge of any legal issues concerning the land. The Deputy Governor of the Pskov Region, Alexander Kuznetsov, assured the Belarusian visitors that work on all legal aspects of the building site, including permissions, will be completed soon.

The Deputy Chair of the Board of Belkoopsoyuz, Valentina Nazaruk, promised to clarify the position with the investor and the designer of the project. "The Belarusian trading centre in Pskov will have an area of 1,000 square metres," Ms. Nazaruk commented. "The adjoining infrastructure



The branch of Belarusian-Armenian trading house in Yerevan may become a good example for Pskov

and parking is also a consideration."

The idea of opening a Belarusian trading centre was first expressed by the city's Mayor, Ivan Tsetsersky, during the visit of the Pskov delegation to Belarus at the beginning of June. The President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, and the Governor of the Pskov Region, Andrey Turchak, supported the idea. Belkoopsoyuz and the Pskov Regional Union of Consumer Societies outlined an agreement regarding their intentions, which will turn into concrete plans on the construction of the trading centre.

Mayor Ivan Tsetsersky added fur-

ther details, "The centre will sell only high-quality goods at affordable prices. When it opens, residents of our city will no longer have to buy Belarusian products from street sellers."

Construction of the trading centre will begin in the second half of July. Commissioning of the facility is planned for November or December.

Representatives from both regions have agreed to hold a three-day trade fair under the title 'made in Belarus' at the beginning of autumn.

Mr. Tsetsersky is keen to show co-operation during the project and declared, "We will give the site

for the centre, as well as undertaking the organisation of the trading space within it."

The Pskov Region and Belarus are connected by long standing neighbourly relations. Belarus is the largest trade and economic partner of the Pskov Region among the CIS countries. The two regions have developed programmes for humanitarian and cultural exchange, as well as close contacts at the level of legislation for border areas. The residents of Pskov are at least familiar with the taste of Belarusian meat and dairy products.

## Anchoring the economic belt

By Oleg Nefedov

**Silk Road Economic Belt project to create significant opportunities for developing Chinese-Belarusian relations, notes Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of People's Republic of China to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Cui Qiming, speaking at round table in Minsk**

According to the diplomat, Belarus is the anchor point of the Silk Road Economic Belt in Europe. Cui Qiming stressed the importance of President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, actively supporting the initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping to jointly construct the economic zone of the Silk Road. He noted, "It's so important that Belarus, which has a unique geographical location, is ready to co-operate with China in building the Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park. We're discussing major projects in mechanical engineering, information and telecommunications."

Logistics and transport are also to the fore, and every effort is being made to ensure that the Industrial Park becomes a model for use within the Silk Road Economic Belt. "Goals have been defined, and we have confidence that efforts on both sides will allow these to be achieved," says the head of the diplomatic mission.

## Forum of ideas on the banks of the Dvina

By Sergey Golesnik

**During the Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk a Belarusian-Slovak Business Forum was held. In the festival city diplomats, parliamentarians and representatives of business circles gathered. There were more than 50 businessmen from Slovakia alone.**

Some of these are already successfully working in the Minsk Region. However, the Ambassador of Slovakia to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Mojzita, thinks that for them, the time has come to explore the Eastern part of our country, "If during the business forum someone begins a production chain, we will help them with long-term visas. For those who are developing the economy, there should not be any obstacles."

Deputy Chairman of the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee, Oleg Matskevich, emphasised that for joint innovative business projects in Belarus a comprehensive system of state support had been developed, "Assistance will be rendered for taxation, state registration, allocation of land plots, and technical and legal expertise."

Mr. Matskevich also noted that for Slovak businessmen, new directions such as recycling, alternative energy sources and biotechnologies will be of interest, as well as the well-developed industries of power engineering, petrochemicals, construction and the production of agricultural products in the Vitebsk Region. Ljubica



SERGY GOLESNIK

Plans outlined

Alusicova, Director of the Slovak office for tourism in Russia and CIS countries, thinks that it is necessary to establish convenient transport links between the two countries, "There are flights from Minsk but air tickets are expensive. A train or a bus from Brest would increase the flow of tourists. I think if comfortable hotels appear in Belarus you will attract more guests from Slovakia, as well as other European tourists who appreciate the museums of Chagall and Repin for example."

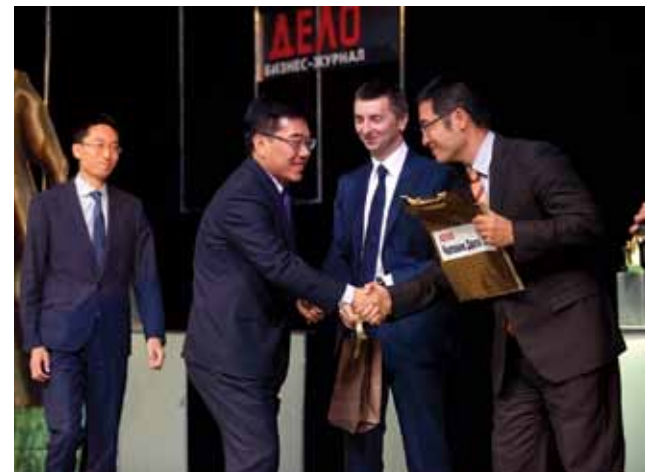
In addition, Vitebsk's Znamya Industrializatsii Sewing Factory is keen to show its 2015 collection of 100-percent linen fabrics from the Orsha Linen Mill in Europe. A co-operative agreement regarding culture, education, sport and tourism signed at the business forum between the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee and Košice town will contribute to the expansion of the region. The same document was signed by the Vitebsk District Executive Committee and the town of Holič. The participants at the Vitebsk business forum intend to continue the discussion of ideas begun in Minsk.

## Business entrepreneurs shown appreciation

By Irina Savelieva

**Heads of the most successful companies have been awarded the title *Person of the Year*: twelve businessmen won awards in the contest from a field of 130 candidates**

Among the award holders are those who've managed not just to remain afloat in the present difficult economic climate but also to significantly strengthen their position in the market. A Chinese guest, Li Haixin, the Director General of the Industrial Park Development Company, is one of those receiving the award. He has twenty years experience in the field of design and construction, and is personally responsible for twenty engineering projects in China. At the moment, Mr. Haixin is working on a major local development and declared it was a pleasure to receive an award in Belarus. He has no plans to rest on his laurels however, as much work lies ahead, "My key goal is to promote the Great Stone project in the international arena, whilst offering qualitative services to interested com-



Awards ceremony of laureates

panies. So far, over 30 firms have expressed their desire to join the Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park which aims to become an exemplary project of the Silk Road Economic Belt."

This year, the *Person of the Year* contest celebrates its twentieth anniversary, attracting an incredible number of high-tech, export oriented and import substituting companies. Among them are BeSmart JSC (developing the ERIP payment system), the Bank BelVEB (supporting several major projects such as the construction of the Ostrovets nuclear power station) and Tabak-Invest JSC.

The business-magazine DELO editorial board comprising authoritative entrepreneurs, economists and representatives of the various ministries, has chosen the best of the best. The board is headed by an academician, a Doctor of Economic Sciences and a Professor, Piotr Nikitenko. Addressing the awards ceremony, he stressed that the winners of the awards are progressive, artistic and strong-willed personalities who do not wait for external support but rely on their own strength and logical analysis of market conditions. More importantly, these people have a driving passion for their business.



# In geographical point of Europe



BELTA

Glubokoe is among the most recognisable and presentable district cities in the Vitebsk Region, with its charming narrow streets and low, neat houses from the ancient Jewish past.

Glubokoe's towering St. Trinity Roman Catholic Church and the Nativity of Most Holy Mother of God Cathedral are the legacy of the grand magnates who lived in the area many decades ago. There is a bronze monument of Iosif Korsak erected in Glubokoe's park.

By Natalia Stepanova

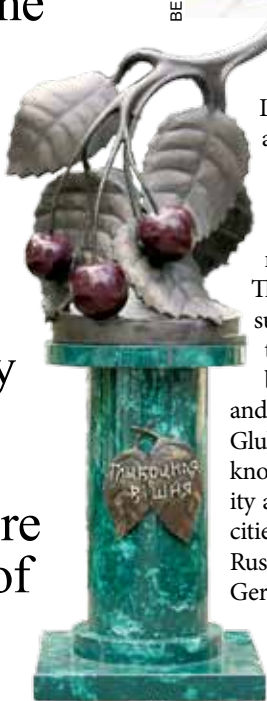
Glubokoe residents revere their history, their creativity and their sense of humour, as proven by their monuments to Baron Münchhausen (who, as legend says, is buried in the cemetery) and the local Cherry Festival. The Chairman of Glubokoe's District Executive

Committee, Oleg Morkhat, speculates on why some call the city 'a small Paris', in admiration and envy, and why the settlement is unique, "We have plenty of residents with artistic talent in the Glubokoe District. As Belkosmosaero-geodesiya specialists state, the geographical centre of Europe is found in the Glubokoe



BELTA

Glubokoe today



District: near Sho Lake. Being situated at the centre of the continent, it would be remiss not to take advantage of our European connections. This very location has subjected local people to ordeals and war, bringing wisdom and greater sensibility. Glubokoe residents are known for their hospitality and are twinned with cities in the Baltic States, Russia, Armenia, France, Germany, Poland, Israel and the Netherlands.

They are always delighted to welcome guests to their holidays and festivals."

**You organise wonderful celebrations, as we saw for the city's 600th anniversary, in 2014. Your 2012 Day of Belarusian Written Language was another example.**

*The Day of Belarusian Written Language was a true challenge, bringing us all closer. A significant volume of state*



BELTA

*funds was needed to put the city in order but hard work was the essential factor: everyone contributed — including kindergartens and major industrial enterprises. They organised unpaid working weekends, and gave sponsorship, allowing us to reconstruct the stadium in a short space of time, alongside our sports-and-recuperative complex, our dental hospital, our art school and our district house of culture. We developed*

**At the festival in Glubokoe and decorated Lake Kagalny's embankment and, as a result, Glubokoe won the Republican city development contest in 2013.**

**You've been hosting the Cherry Festival for two years: do you hope to make this your tourist calling card?**

*During the festival, we organise an international investment forum, allowing us to demonstrate the district's*

*economic potential. On learning that we boast rich deposits of peat, Czech investors have injected \$2m into a facility producing peat pellets and mixtures. Foreigners are also ready to set up a facility to produce industrial oils. Meanwhile, Belarusian private companies plan to manufacture metal constructions and establish wood processing plants. As regards the Cherry Festival, we'd like to organise a contest of pop music this summer, gathering young performers from far and wide.*

**In February, the Glubokoe District celebrated its 75th birthday. What does this date mean for you?**

*It's an opportunity to remember everyone who took up arms to defend our independence, as well as those who carried out industrialisation and fulfilled the food programme. Unsurprisingly, eight Socialist Labour Heroes come from the Glubokoe District. This year, the city will continue its landscaping of a park to honour them.*

## Kvass: refreshing drink for the road

By Mila Golub

**Belarusian drinks of three centuries ago offer surprises**

In the days before fashionable mojito cocktails or a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream liqueur, there was kvass, kissel, sbiten, klenovik, krupnik, krambambulya, and even coffee!

Kvass, honey and beer were once the most popular drinks across Belarusian lands, with kvass mentioned in the *Tale of Bygone Years*, written by Nestor in the early 12th century. Usually made from rye bread, rye (sometimes wheat, oat, barley) flour, rye

and barley malt, it could be cooked with additions of honey, horseradish, blackcurrant leaves, sugar beet, or maple or birch sap.

Honey was the basis of various drinks, including mead: made from water, honey and yeast. Sbiten used not only honey but such spices and herbs as cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, ginger, and bay leaves. Drunk warm, especially on cold days, it was thought to boost the immune system. Krupnik was made with honey, spices and herbs, with a vodka base. It was served hot and in small cups, directly from the glass or, in some peasant

homes, from large wooden spoons. Belarusians also drank birch and maple sap, compotes from berries and, surprisingly, coffee!

Special ceremonial drinks often included honey; syta was a staple at funerals; oat kissel was made on Christmas Eve; and kulaga, from berries, rye flour and honey, was made on Kupala night.

As Belarusian culture expert Sergey Khorevsky tells us, coffee came to our lands in the late 17th century, brought by those who'd fought in the Battle of Vienna (September, 1683). The armies of the German princes



Drinks have been long made in Belarus

and of the Rzecz Pospolita, under the command of Polish King John III Sobieski, who was also the Grand Duke of Lithuania, defeated the Ottoman Empire army, which was besieging Vienna. This ended the aggressive wars of the Turks in Europe. Those from Belarus who fought on

the victorious side received plunder from the retreating Turkish army, including a wagon holding eight tonnes of coffee and various equipment for its preparation. In this way, coffee came to our land; as the Turks called it 'kahve', in Belarusian, it was named 'kava'.



# Much worth seeing!

With more than 200 museums in the country, we invite you to tour the five youngest and most interesting institutions

By Alexander Pimenov

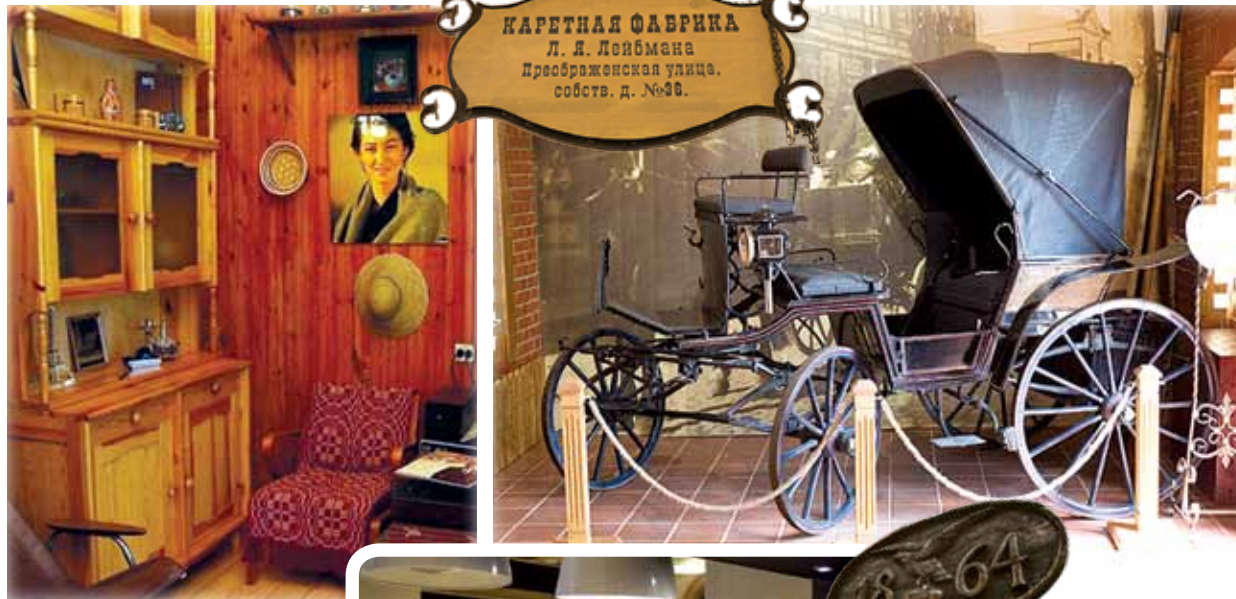
The 'Carriage' sculpture, near the Town Hall, has long been a symbol of Minsk but few realise that a Museum of Carriages is located nearby, within the grounds of the former Bernardine Monastery, at 8, Kirill and Mefodiy Street.

Guide Lidia Markovich tells us that, in the 19th century, stables for carriages were located there; the current building is in the style of that age. Sadly, no original exhibits remain from that time, requiring experts to have looked far and wide. It now houses light carriages, 'drobn-yaki', phaetons, a 100-year-old sledge made by L.Y. Leibman, and carriages produced at the iron and mechanical plant run by N.Y. Yakobson.

No less interesting is the multimedia exhibition, featuring sound effects of the knocking of hoofs and neighing of horses. Video clip compilations of archival photographs show early 20th century Minsk, including the busy crossroads of today's Nezavisimosti Avenue and Engels Street, which was destroyed in the first days of the war.

Olivaria Brewery also has its own museum, although you need to book onto an organised tour. Its exhibits are fascinating. Visitors gain true insight, being able to see machinery in operation and sample various grades of beer. Olivaria tour guide Anna Telesh tells us that even the building itself, on Kiselev Street, is worth seeing, being among the oldest in the city, at 125 years old. Its ownership has changed over time but beer has always been made there. Even if you aren't a fan of the beverage, you're sure to enjoy seeing 'behind the scenes'.

Belarus boasts about 100 bakeries, but there is only one Museum of Bread, in the Ivanovo District's Motol. Villagers have a special attitude to the 'round loaf', passing recipes and rituals from one generation to the next. They are even applying for UNESCO World Heritage status. Traditionally, round loaves are baked for celebratory events,



Trip along five young, but interesting museums

such as weddings. The 'Merry Loaf' ceremony (called here 'Gaspadar') is such that only married women with a son and daughter may join in creating the loaf.

The museum features over 100 rare utensils used in bread making and, of course, visitors can try their hand at the ancient art: sifting flour, kneading dough, forming the loaf and so on. The museum has plans to create more interactive features but does already have a film devoted to ancient bread ceremonies, which is fascinating to watch.

In 1754, the town of Bolshaya Berestovitsa received its coat of arms: a squirrel on an oval shield. It also received its Magdeburg

Right, from King August III. Since then, this small animal has been honoured in the region and, last autumn, it launched its Museum of Squirrels. Head curator Anastasia Veselukha-Volkova explains that the museum has about 600 'inmates': most being small animals. A Chilean beauty — a live degu — greets visitors: just remember not to try and touch it or offer food. One cabinet displays the fur of various small animals: hares, foxes and raccoons. You can even stroke each sample. An interactive map shows the expansion of 27 species of squirrels worldwide.

The museum also boasts items of heraldry, stamps and coins on the theme. Coins

from Norway and Andorra feature, as do some from the country of Quisqueya, which no longer exists.

Last summer, the museum-cottage of Vasily Bykov opened its doors, on the outskirts of Minsk, where the writer was inspired to write, draw and create, until his dying day. Surrounded by birches, the picturesque site became desolate following his passing, but was transferred to the state by his widow in 2012. Renovations have been necessary, but the original furniture and personal belongings remain, so that it appears just as it did in Bykov's time. The Director of the State Museum of Belarusian Literary History, Lidia Makarev-

ich, notes that his favourite sofa, desk and typewriter, with notebook, can be found in his study. His jacket hangs over the chair. Meanwhile, his studio is filled with boxed and tubed paints, and magazines.

During Bykov's lifetime he rarely slept at his cottage, since it was not well heated and lacked necessary conveniences. For this reason, the museum only opens seasonally. Sadly, major repairs are currently necessary (to ensure the safety of exhibits and comfort of visitors) so the site isn't open at present. However, as Ms. Makarevich confirms, Bykov's atmosphere will be preserved, so that it may be enjoyed for many years to come.

## Transplant surgeons reviving quality of life

By Anastasia Shoplya

### Doctors are ready for first dual transplant of heart and lungs

"Belarusian transplant surgeons have conducted a complete range of preparatory activities for 'heart-lung' transplantation, in readiness for organs becoming available," notes Minister Vasily Zharko. He adds that the entire health care system is developing well, with neuro-oncology making much progress, as well as genetic counselling and treatment of malignant tumours. Vascular and endoscopic surgery (using laser coagulation techniques and minimally invasive technologies) is also becoming more prevalent, including in more rural regions.

By the end of 2014, Belarus had recorded 286 kidney transplants (including 18 for children), 68 liver transplants (seven for children), 45 heart transplants, two 'kidney-pancreas' transplants, one 'liver-kidney', and one 'liver-lung'. In all, there were 14,037 surgical interventions for the heart and thoracic aorta.

## As accepted by large logistic centres

By Svetlana Mikhovich

### In 2016, Belpochta to process airmail at Minsk National Airport

"Recently, we opened the international postal exchange at Minsk National Airport. This is only the first stage of a major project. Next year, we plan to finish construction of the terminal, so that all mail arriving by air can be processed and pass customs registration directly at the airport," explains Irina Saksonova, the Director General of Belpochta.



Airmail 'processed' in airport

She notes that the project will allow rapid processing of international mail. "Previously, we had only one such office, at Vokzalnaya Street, which was inefficient. We had to deliver all international post from the airport to Vokzalnaya Street, using freight lifts to the third and fourth floors for processing, before delivery nationwide. Now, we aim to achieve everything in one location, on one level, as at major world logistic centres," notes the Director General.

Ms. Saksonova notes that almost 30 percent of all incoming post arriving by air is already being processed at the new international postal exchange.

# Among the cleanest waterways

By Olga Dovlatova

### Naroch Lakes among top three cleanest waterways in Belarus

Following surface water monitoring, conducted by the Republican Centre for Hydrometeorology, Control of Radioactive Pollution and En-

vironmental Monitoring, the Naroch Lakes have been named third purest.

The Zapadnaya Dvina River and the River Nieman are ranked in first and second place, with Lake Myadel (in the Minsk Region) in fourth place. The top 10 also includes the Braslav Lakes, lakes Richi, Obsterno

and Senno (Vitebsk Region), Svityaz (Grodno Region), and Svir (the Myadel District of the Minsk Region).

The River Svisloch remains at the top of the list as the most polluted, notes the Deputy Head of the Republican Centre for Hydrometeorology, Control of Radioactive Pollution

and Environmental Monitoring, Alexander Stankevich. He tells us, "Places with greater population and industrial production always have less pure waterways. Despite each region having treatment facilities, it's difficult and expensive to fully clean rivers and lakes."





Commuters face travel misery trying to get to work because of a strike which has brought London Underground to a standstill

# London brought to near standstill over Tube-driver strike

London was brought to a near standstill recently as Tube drivers from four major transport unions chose to walk out over planned changes to working hours

Workers from RMT, Unite and TSSA took 24-hour strike action, with ASLEF members following in their footsteps. They claim changes are being forced through, including new rosters which would see Tube drivers work an unlimited number of weekend and night shifts for no extra pay.

Finn Brennan, the lead negotiator for the strikers, says the dispute is about the work-life balance of under-

ground drivers and not about pay. "We're not objecting to working night shifts, but we want them introduced in a way that is fair and protects the work/life balance of the drivers who deliver a first class public service to passengers every day," he said.

Mayor of London Boris Johnson said the strike was political. He accused the unions of having no interest in cutting a deal, saying that union leaders should 'cut the cackle, stop the

misery for Londoners and allow the Tube workforce to get on with their job'.

The management of the world's oldest underground passenger railway said it has hired extra night drivers and offered a fair pay deal. They claim most staff would be unaffected by the proposed changes and no one would have to work more hours than they do currently. However, union representatives say they were not giv-

en time to consider the offer before it was withdrawn.

Transport for London, the government organisation responsible for most aspects of the capital's transport system, put on around 200 extra buses during the strike, but still, massive queues could be seen snaking from bus stops. Taxi-hailing app, Hailo said demand for pre-booked cabs was more than double that seen on New Year's Eve.



## Locals head to beach to 'regain sense of normality'

**Life's a beach, or at least that's the impression some Athens locals wished to give when asked about the reactions to the ongoing financial crisis in Greece**

After the initial shock of capital controls being imposed, followed by the referendum on austerity measures, some of the Greeks there said they wished to regain a sense of normality, while negotiations on their country's future are underway.

One man said that he'd seen little change and life was continuing as normal. "I go to work every day. Nothing has changed, not even my salary, thankfully. And whenever I have time, I go to the beach," he said.

The long queues seen at ATMs in the recent time appeared reduced. One local woman was philosophical about the cash withdrawal restrictions, "Of course, we worry, because we don't have normal access to our money, to pay what we need to. But what else can we do but be calm and wait to see what happens?"

While another man acknowledged, "Things are more complicated for my business. We are still adjusting. We don't know what's going to happen. I believe we'll make it. Either the banks will reopen, or we'll learn to work like this (with the banks closed)."

The feeling of suspense remains. However, most Greeks try to live their everyday lives normally.

## Take amazing trip deep into Iceland's Langjökull glacier

**Visitors to Iceland are getting a new perspective on one of Europe's largest glaciers, Langjökull. A 550 metre-long tunnel has been constructed to take visitors deep into the heart of the ice cap.**

A series of different rooms have been carved out of the ice, some up to 30 metres below the glacier's surface.

Arngrimur Hermannsson is a glacier tour guide and one of the main creators of *Into the Glacier* project, "What we took out of the glacier here and out on the surface is just as if you have a big bathtub and you take one drop out of it. So huge and so big. And the glaciers are so important. And we want to educate the people about the glacier."

The project not only caters for tourists, geologists and glacier researchers come here to study the movement and formation of ice. The world's glaciers are in a vulnerable state, and may disappear altogether.

Ari Trausti Gudmundsson, geologist and author, noted, "They



are losing about 0.2 to 0.3 percent of their mass every year. And Langjökull, this big ice cap, if this trend continues, there will be no ice cap here in 150 years."

Langjökull, which means 'long glacier' in Icelandic, is a two hour drive from Reykjavik, and already attracts a large number of visitors.

*Into the Glacier* opened on June 1st and has been created to raise awareness of the threat posed to these chilly phenomenon.

## IMF cuts global growth forecast

**Caught in a financial crisis, how big will the waves from the Greek drama and a possible exit from the Euro be when they crash on the shore of the global economy?**

The impact will be limited. That's the prediction of the International Monetary Fund which has lowered its global economic growth forecast for 2015. The IMF chief economist Olivier Blanchard, who held his last press conference before leaving his post, spelled out the reasons saying Greece is a small part of the world economy. "What we know is that mechanical links between Greece and the rest of the world are limited, be it on the trade side or on the finance side. The IMF is an institution which has 188 members, most of them being poorer than Greece, and all of them not having had the kind of breaks that some people would like us to give to Greece," he said.

The IMF trimmed its forecast for global growth from an estimated 3.5 percent which it announced in April to an estimated 3.3 percent. Growth should speed up to 3.8 percent next year it said. Much of the blame for the lower growth forecast was pinned by the IMF on the USA.

## Volcanic ash cloud shuts five airports, leaving Bali tourists stranded

**A volcanic eruption has shut five airports in Indonesia, leaving thousands of tourists stranded**

Mount Raung in East Java has been erupting for several days already. The airport on the Indonesian island of Bali — a popular holiday destination for Australians in particular — is among those closed. The volcanic ash has affected visibility and also presents a threat to air traffic, as particles in the atmosphere can cause problems for planes. Indonesia straddles the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, a highly seismically active zone where different plates on the earth's crust meet and create a large number of volcanoes and earthquakes.

## Exports boost for Germany

**The German economy is set to pull off stronger growth in the second quarter after expanding modestly in the first**

The prediction comes after exports in Europe's largest economy rose at their fastest pace this year in May and trade surplus hit a record high. Seasonally adjusted exports climbed unexpectedly by 1.7 percent on the month while imports increased by 0.4 percent widening the trade surplus to 22.8 billion Euros according to figures from the Federal Statistics Office. It is the highest since data was first collected in 1991. Economists had expected exports to slip by 0.8 percent and imports to rise by 0.9 percent.

**Materials prepared with aid of information agencies**



# To a full house, as always

## 24th *Slavianski Bazaar* International Festival of Arts ‘sparkles’ in Vitebsk

By Vladimir Velikhov

The opening chords of the concert hadn't even sounded beneath the walls of the Summer Amphitheatre when one of the planet's largest cultural forums had already made a new record. It brought together envoys from 42 countries, causing eight new flagpoles to be installed near the major performance venue.

Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin, who were attending BRICS and Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summits in Ufa, sent their good wishes to the participants of the forum. The festival's programme started with a preview of sculptures, ceramics and graphics by Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso, as well as traditional Chinese painting — guohua.

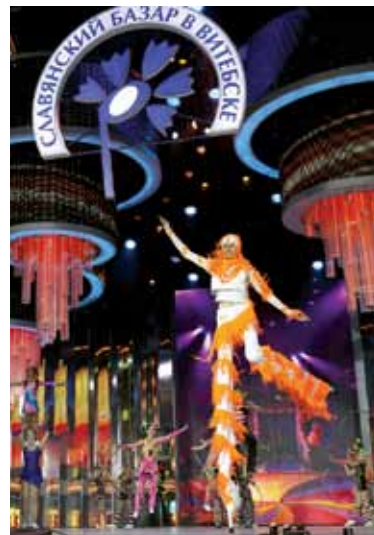
The organisers constantly change the format of the event in order to keep it fresh. For example, the *Vitebsk-2015* international pop song contest began with a semi-final stage while the similar competition for children ran a TV version this year, with a stage in the Vitebsk concert hall being specially prepared. The Summer Amphitheatre saw artistes perform against a background of LED columns and magnificent 6m tall chandeliers amongst other forms of technological wizardry. The set designer is the winner of the Russian National Television Award — *TEFI* — Alexander Kholodnov who is known for his *Golden Gramophone* and *Song of the Year* projects.

*Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* Festival is searching for a new festival concept, with original ideas being offered by the organisers. Various youth projects are scheduled for 2015, which was announced as the Year of Youth in Belarus. These include a Europa Plus TV concert in the Summer Amphitheatre and *On Seven Winds* street art festival. This offered both residents and guests of the city a unique festive atmosphere with colourful theatrical parades, performances, fire shows, street musicians and poets. Meanwhile, street performers organised the *Golden Illusion* performance in the Walk of Fame where a cornflower symbol was unveiled during the festival to honour People's Artiste of Azerbaijan, Polad Bulbuloglu.

The Walk of Fame, near the Summer Amphitheatre, also hosted a draw for the competitors of the international pop song performers contest. They are 21 of them this year, and Valeria Gribusova of Belarus performed her *Sleep, Small Falcon* song.



Valeria Gribusova presents Belarus at the contest



trants from Minsk, St. Petersburg, Smolensk and Tiraspol showed their willingness to arrive for the debut fest," noted Ms. Tsvika.

The city was also preparing to welcome many visitors. The Vetraz hotel complex continued its tradition of opening exclusive rooms in the 'boutique-hotel' style specially for the *Slavianski Bazaar*. This year, they are dedicated to four countries: the Prague Pub, the Indian Bharat, the Venice Fairy Show, and the Russian Souvenir. Vitebsktourist offered a new service: free delivery of its guests to the yoga studio of the Vetraz Hotel, as well as to the helicopter ground for flights or parachute jumping. This is in addition to animation excursions in the company of the founder of Vitebsk, Duchess Olga, and world famous painter Marc Chagall, which are already well established for tourists.

Vitebsk has also hosted a session of the World Festival Association. According to Alexander Sidorenko, Director of the *Slavianski Bazaar* Festival, it's important for the development of the forum.

"On the one hand, we try to attract participants from the Slavonic countries firstly whilst ensuring that we conduct dialogue with all countries of the world, following the principle of "Through Art to Peace and Mutual Understanding," he said.

On those days, Vitebsk was busy late into the night. There were enough events for everyone: popular artistes, fashionable theatrical performances, artistic exhibitions and, of course, the town of masters, along whose streets people can walk endlessly while being surprised at the imaginations of Belarusian craftsmen.

*Slavianski Bazaar* is probably the best form of marketing for Belarus as a tourist destination, with fans of the country's largest musical forum annually taking their vacations to spend as much time as possible enjoying this lively and fun filled festival.



Multi-faceted diversity of the festival in Vitebsk

On the way to the Summer Amphitheatre, the audience was welcomed by the actors of the Vitebsk's Koleso (Wheel) Theatre with their *Vetreno*

(Windy) improvised performance. According to the theatre's head Vladislava Tsvika, who is also an author and co-ordinator of the *On Seven*

*Winds* projects, the street performance is always improvisation, shock and provocation.

"This is how people often respond to interactive

communication with artistes when they begin to speak to them about serious items in the street. It was a great surprise for us when over 300 en-

## *Slavianski Bazaar* Festival definitely unites countries

By Yekaterina Knyazeva

**International *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* Festival of Arts produces quality cultural TV content uniting countries and nations, notes Belarus' Information Minister, Lilia Ananich**

"I'd like to stress that the *Slavianski Bazaar* is not only a socio-cultural project. It unites countries during its preparation and hosting, and for some time afterwards. Belarusian and foreign TV channels broadcast fragments and the best concerts throughout the year. Its

content many channels would love to gain access to. With this in mind, we aren't simply organising a festival but are producing great 'cultural' TV," Ms. Ananich notes.

She adds that more accredited journalists than ever are keen to cover the event, showing its relevance in today's world. The contest is always developing, introducing new elements, to retain a fresh outlook.

Belarus' Foreign Ministry invites foreign journalists to attend, while the National TV and Radio Company invites its partners. Ms. Ananich



notes, "We're waiting for representatives of the European Broadcasting Union and CIS TV companies. The Information Ministry also invites its colleagues and I believe all those countries with which we co-operate as part of inter-governmental relations will be represented at the festival. The

diplomatic corps also attend with great pleasure."

Ms. Ananich stresses that it's important for journalists to realise their potential to shape public opinion and knowledge in a positive fashion. She asserts, "Culture is a bridge to greater understanding, co-operation and friendship."





At the exhibition by Abram Kutikov at Minsk's Arts Palace

# Modest author transferred his eloquence onto canvas

Abram Kutikov's personal art exhibition — *The Time of Pisces* — allowed the spectators to become familiar with an interesting and original master

By Veniamin Mikheev

Everyone who saw this exhibition in the Minsk Palace of Arts, but was not familiar with the artist, must have thought he was one of the innovative and famous avant-garde. Some of his works displayed are truly startling, but this is not reflected in the artist's personality. When Abram Kutikov is near his work, one would never guess he was responsible for their surrealist content. The author resembles a common provincial man, who behaves in a modest unassuming manner.

The current exhibition is a retrospective display of the works of the artist and teacher Abram Kutikov. It

incorporates the last 35 years of his creative output.

Artists are fond of saying that one paints as one lives, if this is the case, Abram Kutikov paints with a whiff of another age, the era he grew up in. He was born in the middle of the last century, but modern times are also reflected in his art. His pieces illustrate the close interdependence of the two ages — 'Pisces' and 'Aquarius'. The epoch of 'Pisces' is the time of searching for spirituality. It is seen in a number of Kutikov's works devoted to spiritual, philosophical and social searching: *Suppression of Activity*, *Awakening*, *Time of Pisces*, *His Electorate* and others. The epoch of 'Aquarius'



Picture from the exhibition



There's what to contemplate about

promises a time of incredible scientific and technical discovery. The idea of the achievement of a utopian ideal has found a place in a number of his works: *World outside the Window*, *Futurum Perfekt...*

Abram Kutikov is a sensitive artist who captures the winds of change and embodies them in unusual, original pictures. The well-known avant-garde artist Alexander Rodin, com-

menting on Kutikov, explains that his many works, especially his more modern pieces, are related to abstract realism. Resting on an excellent professional education and a good grasp of graphic techniques, the artist creates images that enrich the fine art of Belarus. The artist's works are kept in many private collections in the Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, the USA and Israel.

## MT'S REFERENCE:

Abram Kutikov was born on December 24th 1939, in the Gomel Region. He completed Minsk Art College (painting and drawing department), the Belarusian Theatre and Art Institute with a degree in 'industrial design' (1970), after which he was sent to work in Central Research and Production-Engineering Institute of Organisation and Management Technology. From 1974 until 2005 he worked as a teacher of painting in the secondary school #26 of Minsk which specialises in art.

# Filling space with amazing spectacle

By Vladimir Velikhov

This festival of experimental art was dedicated to Tadeusz Rejtan, a famous 18th century Belarusian personality

Tadeusz Rejtan entered into the history books because of his courageous struggle against the first partition of Rzecz Pospolita. During the 1773 partition he headed a small group of ambassadors from the Belarusian lands of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania who, appealing to the laws of the state, spent four days attempting to persuade others to back down from their treacherous plans. The partition act however, was ultimately signed. Despite their defeat, the brave defenders of the Fatherland; Belarusian Litwins Tadeusz Rejtan, Samuel Korsak (both from Novogrudok) and Stanislaw Bohuszewicz-Minkowski (from Minsk) remained forever in world history as an example of sincere patriotism.



Participants of the festival vividly present history

Undoubtedly, Tadeusz Rejtan is the best remembered amongst them; his personality has inspired Belarusian painters, poets and writers for more than 200 years. Through a combination of circumstances, his name is almost forgotten in his homeland, though he is well thought of beyond

the borders of the country. The festival in Minsk marked 275th years since Tadeusz' birth. The curators of the festival, the Tadeusz Rejtan Art Community, are keen to create a state memorial museum in Rejtans estate. This is situated in Grushevka village in the region of Lyakhovichi. This would be similar

to an estate museum which was built in honour of Adam Mickiewicz, Napoleon Orda and Tadeusz Kosciuszko, as well as the families of Niemcewicz, Puslowski and Stanislav Zhukovsky.

The festival at Minsk's Arts Palace brought together painters, poets, writers, musicians, performers and local historians from all corners of Belarus. The two-week festival programme featured concerts and literary-musical events, with meetings organised with opera singer and populariser of Belarus' musical heritage, Victor Skorobogatov and famous historian Ales Kravtsevich. The works by writer Vladimir Korotkevich occupied a special place in the exhibition, alongside pieces by painter Jazep Drozdowicz.

The unique range of work *Rejtan Family. Faces. Events*, encompassed around a hundred works occupying the core of the exhibition space. The festival's curators, Ales Rodin and Dmitry Yurkevich, played a significant role in the organisation of the event.

# Celebrating famous artists' legacy

By Valery Sidorchik

Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace hosts artistic-educational project devoted to fine art masters from Gomel Region and surrounding area

*The Native Land Forever Adored* presents works by talented painters from the Gomel Region, depicting their beloved homeland. Among them are paintings by People's Artist of the BSSR Vitaly Tsvirko, People's Artist of the RSFSR Georgy Nissky, and People's Artist of Belarus Gavriil Vashchenko (donated recently to the museum by his family).

Bright canvases by Yelena Mashkovtseva-Samoilenko, Akim Shevchenko, Victor Kazachenko, Dmitry Aleinik and Vladimir Rykalin depict Belarusian fields, forests, rivers, and city and village landscapes with great love. Each work is accompanied by the artist's biography, tales of their artistic path and their participation in the region's public life.

"All these painters are dead but their touching landscapes continue to show us the times in which they worked and lived. They shed light on the Gomel Region's talented artists," stresses Palace Museum Director Oksana Toropova.

# High reputation of music school

By Veniamin Mikheev

International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians could be hosted by Minsk next year

"Minsk has a highly professional school, great concert halls and music connoisseurs: vital elements in conducting such events. It's possible that the next competition will take place in the Belarusian capital," the Deputy Director General of the Interstate Development Corporation, Sergey Demensky, has told journalists.

This year, the competition will be held in Novosibirsk and, in the violin category, young musicians will be accompanied by the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Belarus, which will also accompany finalists during a gala-concert.

"The Belarusian Symphony Orchestra is highly professional, being able to play almost any concert. This is why it is so trusted," Mr. Demensky emphasises.

Many participants of the competition will be selected remotely, with face-to-face formats used in Seoul, Yerevan, Paris and Minsk. "The fact that Minsk is listed among these cities shows the high reputation of the Belarusian music school, and of the Belarusian State Music Academy's Gymnasium-College," he notes.



# Final jump has become the best

## Belarusian Anna Streltsova won a gold medal at the World Youth Water Ski Championships

By Yegor Glebov

The IWWF World U21 Water Ski Championships were held in the Spanish city of Sesena. The athlete from Novopolotsk despite suffering a serious trauma only two years ago, managed to gain the best result in ski jumping. In the final of the competition Anna Streltsova jumped 51.2 metres outstripping

the main competitor from Canada, Taryn Grant whose total was 51.1 metres. Third place in the World Championship event went to another representative of Belarus, Alexandra Danishevskaya with 48.4 metres.

In the all-round events (slalom, figure skating and ski jumping) Anna Streltsova came second whilst Alexandra Danishevskaya again

received bronze. Germany's Janine Bornemann took the gold.

First place in the all-round standings at the World Youth Championships went to athletes from the USA, thanks to the successful performance of the women's team; second place was awarded to the national team of Belarus. The third step on the podium went to the French water skiers.



A. Streltsova and A. Danishevskaya on the medals pedestal

# Placing high expectations

Great things were expected from our Belarusian athletes at Wimbledon this year; we sent a record number of representatives to the tournament. Whilst the qualifying numbers were cause for celebration, by the second week all had been knocked out of the tournament and hopes were dashed.

By Igor Grishin

Two Belarusians performed successfully in the qualification round which was a major achievement. Alexandra Sasnovich however, had already passed that stage at the US Open and we would rather applaud success in championships such as this than rest on qualification achievements. In 2013, Alexandra made a fantastic breakthrough but did not have such a strong year in 2014. Last year, the Belarusian ended her collaboration with her first coach, Igor Svetlakov. Vladimir Volchkov is now her official coach. Undoubtedly Vladimir is well placed to give advice, but he does not often attend tournaments with Alexandra, whose father is her usual companion on the tours. A coach who is able to spend more match time with her may be in a better position to offer analysis of her game and plan her training accordingly. She has well founded ambition to climb higher in the rankings: a new coach may be the way she will achieve these goals.

*Result: defeat by Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas*

Regarding Olga Govortsova, it is clear that, whilst she shows skill in each element of her play, it is power and strength that she is lacking. Her



Victoria Azarenko and Serena Williams

endurance is poor and, whilst she is effective defending high balls, by the beginning of a second set she starts to make mistakes. In this respect, she differs from the top tennis players who are continually running along the baseline in search of a winner (a shot that is not reached by the opponent and wins the point; sometimes also a serve that is reached but not returned into the court).

*Result: defeat by America's Madison Keys in the fourth round*

Finally, Victoria Azarenko should be mentioned. After reaching a peak of success, it's always hard to fall and then find the strength to rise again. Victoria's performance is again

improving due to her drive and hard work. She needs more time to regain her confidence and mental and physical strength. In one of her interviews, the multiple Grand Slam champion — who has suffered prolonged health problems — admits that she is in need of new challenges and experiences to stretch her capabilities. The Belarusian is again in the top-20 of the world rankings, no mean feat considering her difficulties.

*Result: third loss during the season; this time, in the quarterfinals against Serena Williams. Defeats by Serena seem to be Azarenko's fate. When the Belarusian beats her, which must happen one day, we will be able to state*



Olga Govortsova

*that she has no equals.*

Max Mirnyi recently celebrated his 38th birthday, a good age for doubles (some might think differently though). The top seeded Bryan brothers are not much younger: they are 37. Sadly, the Belarusian's performance was not enough. In recent seasons, Max has changed partners and the world's 42nd ranked doubles player has been spending time with his family; in 2014, his fourth child was born. Some may attribute his disappointing performance to these two factors.

*Result: defeat in the first mixed round and defeat in the third round of the doubles event.*

## Residence permit with two addresses

By Igor Leshin

**In the new season Anatoly Buyalsky will combine working with the basketball players of the national team of Belarus and the Polish club Energa from Torun**

Sport does not occupy first place in the way of life of Torun. However, Belarusian fans of basketball will be interested in the successes of the local club Energa. And not only because this team finished last season in the quarterfinal of the Polish championships and even debuted in EuroLeague, but simply because the former head coach of Minsk Horizont BC and the author of the success of the Belarusian national team in the recent European Championship, Anatoly Buyalsky, will join them in Poland.

The head coach signed the contract and before going on holiday explained what made him change his sports residence permit, "Torun is interesting for me because here they have a strong championship. In Torun they don't object to my work with the Belarusian national team either, so all remains well in that regard."

## Acknowledged as the best for the second time

**Following a poll amongst hockey specialists and journalists, Alexey Kalyuzhny voted best Belarusian hockey player of the 2014/15 season**

The poll involved 221 respondents; each of them named Belarus' three best hockey players including those playing with foreign clubs. Votes were calculated with the usual weighting: three points for first place, two for the second, and one for third. The Minsk Dinamo forward and national team captain, Alexey Kalyuzhny, was awarded 442 points, followed by Moscow CSKA goalkeeper Kevin Lalande. Third place went to Sochi forward Andrey Kostitsyn with 247 points. The single Belarusian hockey player performing in the NHL for the New York Highlanders, Mikhail Grabovski, was placed fifth this year despite winning the award last year.

# Torpedo-BelAZ falls out of the race, with Shakhtyor remaining

## Belarusian clubs try to get through to the 2nd round of the Europa League qualifications during their return matches in Zhodino and Soligorsk

By Yegor Glebov

The Zhodino team faced an extremely tough task: in the away match, it lost badly to Kukesi Albania — 2:0. Playing at home, their performance was patchy; no real chances were created during the first 80 minutes of the match. The visitors had the chance of a penalty goal but Torpedo's goalkeeper, Pavel Chesnovsky, saved brilliantly. In the last ten minutes

of the match, the hosts managed to upset the Albanian team on several occasions: Torpedo attacked but hit a crossbar while Kukesi's goalkeeper performed miracles. As a result, several unused possibilities led to Torpedo's leaving the Europa League qualifications.

After the away win (2:1), Soligorsk Shakhtyor continued to demonstrate their confident performance at home. At the begin-

ning of the match, Alexander Yurevich scored a penalty goal and, in the second half, Nikolay Yanush and Dmitry Komarovskiy finished the match with a score of 3:0. At the after-match press conference, Shakhtyor's head coach, Sergey Nikiforenko, said, "The key point is that we've won and passed the first round. We are now preparing for our next performance."

In the next round, Shakhtyor will play against Austrian Wolfs-



Shakhtyor wins

berger. Another team will represent Belarus: Minsk Dinamo will join the second qualification round of the Europa League.



# Performance of the week



On Seven Winds street art fest as part of the International Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk Festival of Arts

## Exhibitions

### NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street

Until 27th July. *Pastels and*

*Watercolours of Russian*

*Painters of the Second Half*

*of the 19th Century*

Until 31st July. *Art at Finger Tips*

Until 2nd August. *Teacher and Pupils*

Until 6th September. *Dedicated to*

*70th Anniversary of Great Victory*

Until 27th September.

*Belarusian Iconostas*

Until 27th September. *A*

*Husband, a Man, a Warrior*

Until 2nd November. *Great*

*Patriotic War in Art*

Until 30th December. *Celebrating*

*Victory Day in Museum*

### NATIONAL HISTORY

### MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 6th September. *From Hoop*

*Skirts and Tournures to Modern*

Until 6th September. *Three*

*Stories about War*

### NATURE AND ECOLOGY

### MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 28th August. *Boletus:*

*Beauty is their Family*

*Peculiarity* photo exhibition

Until 30th August. *The World of*

*Big Parrots and Singing Birds*

### WANKOWICZ HOUSE-

### MUSEUM

33A Internatsionalnaya Street

Until 25th December. *A Prophet*

*of his Time. Adam Mickiewicz.*

*Illustrations and Medals*

### NATIONAL LIBRARY

116 Nezavisimosti Avenue

Until 27th August. *Spirit of Religious*

*Tradition and Printed Icon*

Until 31st August. *Feeling*

*of the Colour*

## Theatres

### BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street

17.07. Blue Cameo

### YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street

17.07. The Seagull

19.07. The Black Lady of Nesvizh

20.07. Pinsk Gentry

21.07. Paulinka

### THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTORS

13 Pobediteley Avenue

17.07. The Battlefield

18 and 19.07. An Unnamed Star

20 and 21.07. The Mechanical Man

22 and 23.07. Even a Wise Man Stumbles

### MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Street

19.07. Simply Karlsson

21.07. Para Pa Param

22.07. Love and Doves

23.07. Comedy about Penny Pincher

### MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Street

20.07. My Husband's Lovers

## Concerts

### TUSE

57B Surganov Street

17.07. Crush band

18 and 23.07. Kontrabanda

18.07. Inomarki cover-band

### RE:PUBLIC

62 Pritytsky Street

17.07. Disco 80/90 18.07. Summer session

19.07. Korol i Shut tribute 21.07. Sólstafr

### UPPER TOWN

23A Svobody Square

17-19.07. Dance Open Air

18.07. Classics at the Town Hall

### TITAN MEGA-CLUB

104 Dzerzhinsky Avenue

17.07. Hawaii Party

# Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

## July of decades and centuries past comes to life

**July 17th.** In 1919, an architect and Honoured Constructor — Victor Chernyshev — was born. He worked as a chief architect of Orsha, Gomel, Vitebsk and Minsk, also being awarded Belarus' State Award for planning and developing Novopolotsk.

**July 18th.** In 1909, a Soviet party and state figure and a diplomat — Andrey Gromyko — was born in the Gomel Region.

**July 19th.** In 1869, an architect, constructor, teacher and poet — Leon Vitandubeikovsky — was born. He designed a church in Vidzy and the Drisvyaty Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, also restoring Roman Catholic churches in Orsha, Mstislavl and Krichev.

**July 20th.** In 1920, Vladimir Kogan — a boxer, coach and Honoured Coach of the USSR (was first among Belarusian trainers to receive this title) — was born in Dobrovno. He was the head coach of the Belarusian team (semi-heavy weights) and the Chairman of the Boxing Federation.

**July 21st.** In 1860, graphical artist Anton Kamensky was born. He depicted lifestyles of

the Belarusian nation in his *Belovezhskaya Pushcha* series.

**July 22nd.** In 1910, a dancer, ballet master and Honoured Figure of Arts — Piotr Akulenok — was born in the village of Mikhinichi (Orsha District). From 1953-1973, he was the chief ballet master of the Belarusian State Folk Choir.

laid down in Mogilev.

**July 18th.** In 1925, a decision was made to establish a Minsk City Museum.

**July 21st.** In 1387, the town of Igumen was first mentioned in documents. In 1923, it was renamed into Cherven (which is now a district centre of the Minsk Region).



**July 17th.** In 1930, four institutes were set up in the BSSR: chemical-technological, construction and electro-technical (in Minsk) and mechanical (in Gomel).

**July 18th.** In 1903, an Orthodox church honouring three saints — Vasily the Great, Grigory the Theologian and John Chrysostom — was

**July 18th.** In 1944, the Belarusian Government moved from Gomel to Minsk.

**July 18th.** In 1984, the BSSR Council of Ministers made a decision to set up a State Youth Theatre in Minsk.

**July 18th.** In 1992, Vitebsk hosted the 1st International Festival of Young Performers; since 1998, it's known as the

International *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk Festival of Arts*.

**July 19th.** In 1833, the Vilno Roman Catholic Academy was set up — becoming the higher religious educational establishment of 1833-1842.

**July 19th.** In 1953, the Friendship of Nations hydroelectric station was launched on Drisvyaty Lake (Braslav District); in 1964, it joined the Belarusian energy system.

**July 19th.** In 1988, a Summer Amphitheatre was built in Vitebsk, boasting the largest stage and audience hall in the country. It annually hosts the *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk Festival*.

**July 20th.** In 1928, the first four traffic lights were installed in Minsk's streets.

**July 20th.** In 1994, the first President of Belarus — Alexander Lukashenko — took the oath.

**July 20th.** In 1995, the Zeiss-BelOMO joint Belarusian-German company was established on the basis of the Optical-Mechanical Association. The enterprise is a world leader in the field of optical technologies.