



Perfection knows no limits

Government proposes new measures to stimulate business development across the regions **Page 4**



Health strategy outlined in Minsk **Page 7**



Brilliant *Paulinka* ever popular among audience
Belaya Vezha Festival gathers full house in Brest **Page 10**



Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, Valentin Rybakov, and UN Resident Co-ordinator / UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Sanaka Samarasinha, welcome the arrival of the UN Express to Minsk

UN symbolic train visits all regional centres of Belarus

On October 30th, Minsk's Railway Station welcomed the 'UN70 Belarus Express for SDGs' train from Vitebsk, which has been touring the regional centres of the Republic since October 23rd → **3**

Common sense is definitely vital for military doctrine

President of Belarus and Commander-in-Chief Alexander Lukashenko meets officers and generals of Armed Forces, setting tasks based on objective analysis of real conditions

By Denis Krymov

Mr. Lukashenko drew very convincing historical parallels, mentioning the global process of repartition of influence, which is transforming the face of international security. A similar situation developed at the end of the first half of the last century, leading to bloody world war.

As Hitlerite Germany lay prostrate, and the world surveyed a tragic number of victims, global power finally came into balance and, by mutual consent, the United Nations was created.

The President of Belarus notes that the world is again out-of-balance, saying, "It isn't desirable to establish a new system of global security as a result of bloody slaughter. It would not resemble that of the mid 20th century, rather being a war of nuclear weaponry."

For two decades, Belarus has warned of the danger of such dis-balance. Mr. Lukashenko met the military on being first elected president, even then criticising the application of international law, and NATO's expansion eastwards in particular. His position was firm and has never changed. Over the past 20 years, the situation has become ever more tense. Existing geopolitical realities exert direct influence over Belarus, such that we must take this into account in building our national security systems, paying attention to negative trends.

In Ukraine, our neighbours fight for power over business, while criminality and the uncontrollable distribution of weaponry increase. There have been attempts to bring this situation into Belarus. Meanwhile there are attempts to reorient Ukraine towards the West. Mr. Lukashenko warns that Belarus is in danger of being surrounded by foreign military contingents. The situation is complicated by Kiev's confrontation with



Armed Forces' soldiers during tactical exercises

Moscow, supported from outside. In this situation, it is vital to retain a political-diplomatic balance of relations with both states. "We should not be involved in their opposition," Alexander Lukashenko has stated.

Belarus is doing all it can to subdue tension in the region, as has been appreciated by the world community. However, the fact remains that, for the first time in our post-Soviet territory,

there is conflict and its development directly influences the security of Belarus. Mr. Lukashenko views this threat as being engineered by the USA and its allies, to secure their leading role in the modern world order. Accordingly, the President is convinced that it's within this context that the escalating militarisation in the region should be viewed.

Relations between Russia and

the West are strained, such as are impossible to ignore. In strengthening migratory streams, there is an obvious threat of international terrorism spreading across the Eastern European region.

Meanwhile, sanctions do nothing to aid stability. The opposition of Russia with the West is impacting on Belarus' open economy and its transit aspirations.

WORD-FOR-WORD

Speaking to the military, Alexander Lukashenko touched upon the notion of a hypothetical Russian air base in Belarus:

From a military point of view, neither we nor Russia need such a site. In peacetime, we have air defence forces on duty and these units include a Russian contingent. We aren't trying to hide the fact that if Belarus faces military aggression, which is the same as aggression

against Russia, joint regional military forces will be brought to bear.

In addition to our Armed Forces, those of the Russian army would be deployed to Belarus in accordance with our plan, which is no secret, including a large number of Russian aircraft. Media speculation is

of a purely political character. If we open a Russian base on Belarusian territory, Belarus as well as Russia, would gain more disadvantages than advantages. As Head of State, I see no sense in being involved in power games with our western and eastern neighbours.

Service both honourable and responsible

By Vasily Kharitonov

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, inspects latest weapons and military technologies at 120th independent mechanised brigade of the North-Western Operational Command of the Armed Forces

The Head of State heard reports on the organisational and personnel structure of the Armed Forces, as well as the deployment of the brigade, and the fulfilment of the state programme on military camps. He also received information on the organisation of combat training sessions using modern computerised

simulators. The President is keen to learn about the effectiveness of personnel training using simulators. According to Belarus' Defence Minister, Andrey Ravkov, this is proving truly effective and reduces the cost of personnel training.

Mr. Lukashenko examined the combat glory room, where the history of the 120th independent mechanised brigade is recorded. He left a note in the guest book, to encourage the brigade to live up to the glorious deeds performed by past comrades. "The people of Belarus has entrusted us with security, peace and tranquillity on Belarusian land," noted the Belarusian President. "You must justify this trust, through your military service in the name of

the Fatherland's prosperity."

The Head of State visited barracks to learn about the living standards available to military personnel now that quarters have been repaired, offering better conditions.

Changing his itinerary at the last moment, Mr. Lukashenko went to the canteen for enlisted personnel, where he examined conditions and food, and then moved on to survey the medical division of the brigade.

At the firing range, the President saw military hardware in action, as well as combat uniforms and firearms coming into service for Belarusian mechanised brigades. Mr. Lukashenko also examined the combat characteristics of pistols and other firearms currently

in use, and those from the days of the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War. He viewed modern Belarus-made optical products, which allow marksmanship under any light conditions and military personnel demonstrated tactical shooting using Belarus-made optical sights. A souvenir was then presented to Mr. Lukashenko, as a token of remembrance.

Mr. Lukashenko was once deputy squadron commander of political issues with the 120th Rogachev guards motors rifle, Suvorov and Kutuzov Orders of the Red Banner, division (named after the BSSR Supreme Council). The division has since been reformed as an independent mechanised brigade.

The information field requires attention, since threats are regularly discussed at international level, relying on dialogue with partners. Belarus last entered into such discussion at the recent OSCE summit, in Dushanbe, where it became obvious that security is only possible when we pull together. Each country must undertake its own measures, as Belarus agrees, working with great thought and purpose. In this way, we may be able to preserve peace, consent and stability. Belarus may be the only post-Soviet country to have avoided internal power conflict, thanks to our Armed Forces.

According to the President, the army is solving the tasks it has been set but its work will continue, since threats will, undoubtedly, continue. Risk factors should be considered in planning the development of the Armed Forces for the coming five-year period.

Necessary decisions have been made at state level, so that agencies must now only follow the tasks set before them. The Commander-in-Chief is awaiting feedback and reports from various agency heads, including ministers, to inform the army's future technical modernisation, the implementation of standards, and regulations for units and military camps. Such information will be used to optimise the operations of administrative personnel, to ensure peak physical fitness of the military and to undertake necessary training, including ideological work. The main points will be announced in the new plan of action for the military, being drafted at present, and which Mr. Lukashenko has asked to be ready by the end of the year, for his examination.

"Our main task is to provide social and political stability country-wide, rather than allowing chaos and destabilisation to reign," the President has announced.

To the point

Alexander Lukashenko speaks with President of Serbia Tomislav Nikolic by phone

The Serbian President once again warmly congratulated Alexander Lukashenko on his victory in the Presidential elections.

The two heads of state discussed the most pressing issues of Belarusian-Serbian co-operation relating to trade and economics and agreed to take measures to intensify bilateral trade.

Mr. Lukashenko and Mr. Nikolic also agreed joint steps to overcome the economic crisis stemming from the complicated international economic situation.

(According to the Presidential Press Service)

Cherry to blossom to honour friendship and reconciliation

Loshitsa Park is a favourite place for Minsk and city guests: a wonderful natural oasis, with much history. The very air seems to embody past times, inspiring us to walk slowly and speak gently. Recently, its tranquillity was coloured by a symbolic event, as the President of Belarus joined foreign diplomats and representatives of international organisations to plant a tree of peace and sustainable development, honouring the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and the launch of the UN.

By Alexander Pimenov

In May, a tree of peace and unity was planted near the UN headquarters in New York to honour the 70th anniversary of victory over fascism. The initiative has since found response among almost 50 other states, each planting a weeping cherry, whose white flowers are generally considered to symbolise purity, revival, kindness and a call for reconciliation. Minsk's Loshitsa Park is already a symbolic place, having hosted

a UN humanitarian mission (in Loshitsa mansion) in the mid-1940s; from there, staff rendered post-war economic assistance to European states.

Heads of diplomatic missions and UN regional agency staff gathered near Loshitsa mansion for the ceremonial planting. Alexander Lukashenko chatted warmly with them and, later, joined the Regional Director for Europe, CIS and the Baltic States Cihan Sultanoglu, in planting the tree. Ms. Sultanoglu is also the UN Assistant Secretary-

General and UNDP Assistant Administrator.

The President made a short tour over the mansion, which has been renovated from its previous poor condition. The pretty, late 19th century atmosphere is enhanced by the house's fireplace, which was made in Riga (and inspired by German trends). Only two similar exist in Europe.

He then signed the UN framework programme on technical assistance to Belarus for 2016-2020: the second



Alexander Lukashenko and Cihan Sultanoglu

document envisaging a joint strategy between UN agencies and our country.

Priorities of co-operation include migration, energy, environmental protection, health protection, education, and the fight against drug trafficking and human trafficking. These issues remain high on the UN agenda for sustainable development until 2030: a document approved by heads

of state in September, during the UN General Assembly session.

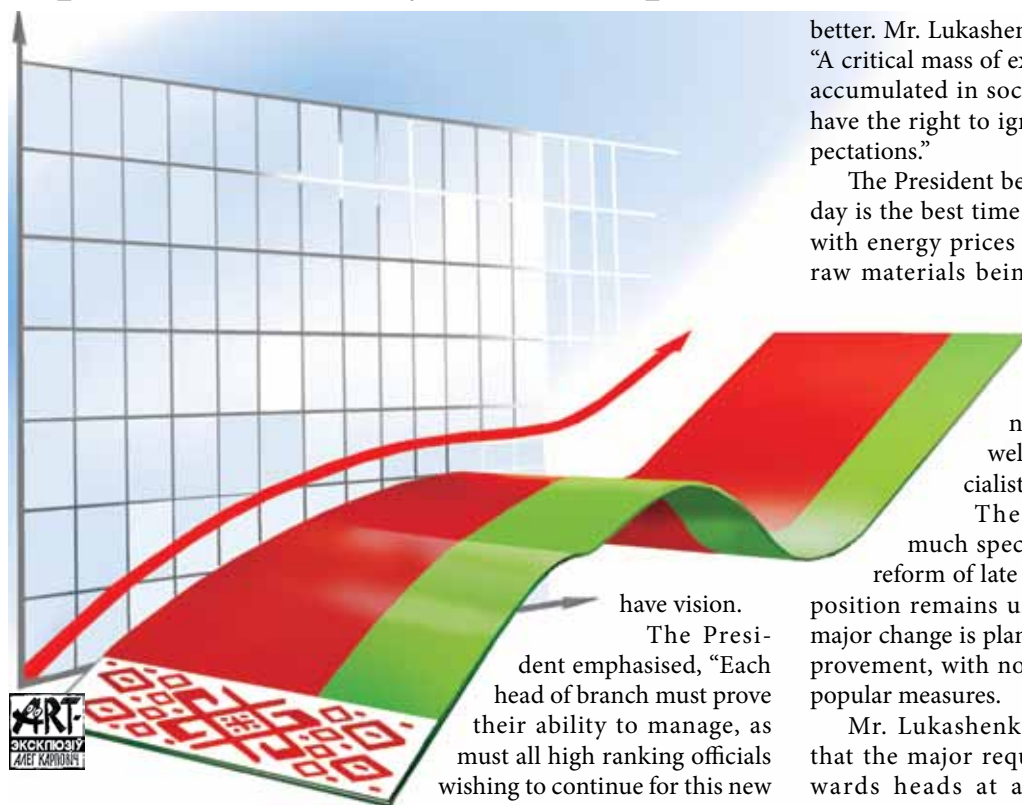
Our country has presented its resolutions to the GA many times, covering diverse issues, and all have enjoyed support among the global community. Ms. Sultanoglu stresses, "We appreciate it when such states as Belarus share information, developments and experience with partners. Belarus-UN

joint efforts should promote sustainable development goals, opening new possibilities for partnership."

The planting of the tree of peace and sustainable development launched the festive UN 'Express for Sustainable Development Goals': a symbolic train which set off from Minsk's railway station, visiting all regional centres, and bringing diverse public events.

Direction of concrete actions

President of Belarus conducts session on topical aspects of country's development



By Vladimir Khromov

No drastic change is required, only further improvement, with ever rising standards being set, for the Government, heads of regions and state agencies. The main goal is to enhance public welfare; progress in this sphere should be noticeable by next year.

Mr. Lukashenko commented that the Government for the next five years, and all Government agencies were mainly formed before the Presidential elections, enabling people to see who will be working for the benefit of the country after an election (if a certain president were elected). Some change is possible, for instance, if someone fails to demonstrate their ability in a certain field. The most important quality for a person is to

have vision. The President emphasised, "Each head of branch must prove their ability to manage, as must all high ranking officials wishing to continue for this new five-year term. This especially relates to the Government, the Presidential Administration, the Security Council and power structures. It refers to all power branches. It will be impossible to work in the old way, not only because we are up against time but because I demand this. I'll be paying attention to members of the Government and governors. The sovereignty and security of our country depends on our economy. The Government, governors and subordinated structures are responsible for our economy."

The President has demanded concrete plans of action from those in charge of ministries, and people are waiting in anticipation. They've supported the current power during elections and would like to know how life is going to become

better. Mr. Lukashenko explained, "A critical mass of expectation has accumulated in society. We don't have the right to ignore these expectations."

The President believes that today is the best time for efficiency, with energy prices and those for raw materials being lower than ever before. Meanwhile, we boast high technologies and well-trained specialists.

There has been much speculation about reform of late and the state's position remains unchanged: no major change is planned, only improvement, with no sharp or unpopular measures.

Mr. Lukashenko underlined that the major requirements towards heads at all levels are well-known, and that executive discipline is to the fore. If some structures need optimisation, this should be reflected in executives' plans and through the raising of salaries.

The President noted, "By the end of next year, our level of salaries should be significantly improved; it's our major goal."

The President openly warned the participants of the session that hard work lies ahead, and that there will be no place to hide. He stressed, "We need to open a new page in developing our state and should open it together: fairly, principally, worthily and responsibly. Most serious tests lie ahead and it's necessary to ensure further development while maintaining this sovereign and independent country we've created together."

SPEAKING TO THE POINT

David Rotman, Director of the BSU Centre for Sociological and Political Research:



It's true that a mass of expectations has accumulated in society, which need to be satisfied. People are expecting change for the better. It's an acute issue but the situation is not critical. Problems always exist, and stability presupposes that we adapt to the times. The President is absolutely correct in saying that positive changes should happen, and that problematic situations should be removed. In this respect, it's vital and natural to state that reform in Belarus aims to improve the existing order without damaging what has been already created.

Boris Panshin, Professor of the BSU Economics Faculty:



Contemporary economics and dynamics of change place requirements on our professionalism. It's difficult not to agree with the President in this respect, since some people do fall short in occupying managerial positions. They are the major force 'guiding' state policy and our expectations are high. Their work is called 'service', requiring devotion and commitment. Our officials need to show professionalism, since mistakes cost dearly. World experience shows that new equipment can ensure 20 percent of success, as can new raw materials, while those in management positions account for 60 percent of success.

Anatoly Akantinov, Director General of the Marketing Systems Strategic Development Centre:



Exports are vital to our country, to ensure improved living standards. We need to manufacture as much as possible, while maintaining quality. Our 'World of Tanks' computer game is a successful example of quality rather than quantity. If we focus on tourism, making our country more attractive than that of our neighbours, tourists will come, proving our degree of quality. We need to accentuate progressive technologies, both in production and in promotion to sales markets. We can form alliances with other countries in certain directions, seeking out where our interests intersect, to serve mutual advantage. Exports are an indicator of economic efficiency.

Andrey Rusakovich, political expert:



Without exaggeration, executive discipline is a key element of development. As far as the political development of society and of the country is concerned, decisions tend to be adopted via consensus. Meanwhile, technological production processes rely on good executive discipline to achieve success and be competitive. Every branch needs to do its part, since we are members of a competitive global economy.

Perfection knows no limits

Government proposes new measures to stimulate business development across the regions

By Vladimir Mishin

I recently came across a very curious brochure, entitled *Promising Belarus* (a guide on low taxation). It may be the first attempt to systematise the preferences available to businesses in our country, and offers useful information to potential investors. It sometimes represents the state as being even more attractive than world famous low-tax jurisdictions.

It especially focuses on doing business in rural areas, as well as medium-sized and small towns. Related privileg-

es were established in 2012, following Presidential Decree #6.

Has our simplified business regime stimulated development across the regions? Why did the Government propose legislative amendments? Will the Decree continue stimulating investments into production and are the introduced innovations enough to activate new enterprises?

These issues were tackled during a recent session attended by the President. Statistics relating to Decree #6 included the fact that, between July 1st



Matrx private enterprise has mastered production of high-tech oil extraction technologies

2012 and January 1st 2015, businesses in medium-sized and small towns, and in rural areas, rose in number by 38 percent; over 35,000 organisations and individual entrepreneurs being registered here. Meanwhile, within the same period, urban growth reached

2.6 percent. It's evident that business is spreading through the regions, though at various speeds. The Mogilev Region is developing most rapidly, with its number of businesses almost doubling. The Gomel and Vitebsk regions have seen growth of over 1.5-fold, while

the Minsk and Brest regions have seen a 1.3-fold increase.

The system is working well but perfection knows no limits. The Government is convinced that it can do better, generating additional stimuli for the creation of new companies across towns, bringing

new jobs (especially where they are most needed). Ambiguities within Decree #6 also need to be tackled, to avoid companies incurring unnecessary costs. The President has supported Government initiatives and soon hopes to see the document improved.

No need to doubt partners' reliability

By Alexander Pimenov

Belarus keen to help socio-economic development on Sakhalin Island, notes President Alexander Lukashenko on meeting the Governor of the Russian Sakhalin Region, Oleg Kozhemyako

Belarus is interested in projects aiming to accelerate socio-economic development within Sakhalin. Mr. Lukashenko believes that 29 projects have already been planned and assures our partners in the Russian region that there won't be any difficulties in working together. He emphasised to Mr. Kozhemyako, "Primarily state-run Belarusian companies will help implement these projects, under state patronage. The guarantees of our Government mean a great deal in this regard."

Industrial co-operation, agriculture, and the construction sphere are priority avenues of interaction. According to the Head of State, Belarus is ready to help the Sakhalin Region modernise its agribusiness. Belarusian companies are also ready to take an active part in the construction of motorways and logistics centres in the Sakhalin Region.

Collaboration in the sphere of passenger transport, including vehicles powered by gas engines, looks promising. The Sakhalin Region can count on Belarusian technologies, equipment, machinery, projects and engineering services, as well as consumer goods, for implementing programmes.

Mr. Lukashenko congratulated Mr. Kozhemyako on winning the election for governorship. In the past, Mr. Kozhemyako has held the post of Governor of the Amur Region, which has become a leading trade partner of Belarus in the Far East Federal District over the last three years. Mr. Lukashenko is confident that successful co-operation with Belarus will promote trade with Sakhalin. For now, Belarus' trade with the Sakhalin Region is insignificant — between \$2 million and \$4 million per annum. Geographical distance is a factor, as are complicated logistics and difficult climatic conditions. Nevertheless, there is interest in stepping up interaction, as confirmed by the fact that an intergovernmental agreement on co-operation with the Sakhalin Region was signed during the second Forum of Regions of Belarus and Russia in Sochi.

Second satellite soon to be ready

By Yulia Vasilishina

Best CIS space experts gather in Minsk for two days

The Head of the Russian Space Agency, Igor Komarov, has joined the Head of the State Space Agency of Ukraine, Lyubomir Sabadosh, and delegations from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Armenia in outlining further co-operation with the National Academy of Sciences.

Belarus' hosting of the event is significant. Our country has many times announced its interest in de-

veloping strategic avenues related to the space sphere and sci-tech production, with results already evident.

Belarus joined the list of cosmic states not long ago. In 2012, a satellite was launched and, since then, some Belarusian enterprises have been fulfilling international orders: among them Integral and Peleng. The creation of the second Belarusian satellite was discussed at the Minsk meeting and Mr. Komarov commented, "We are now discussing technical details: its appearance and functions. In addition, we're develop-

ing a business plan to study our market and the payback period."

Preliminary work should be complete within a few months and the satellite should launch in 2017. Our first satellite is successfully operating jointly with the Russian satellite, providing data to warn against impending emergencies. It is useful for forestry and agriculture, as well as the construction industry and map making. According to Mr. Komarov, there are serious prospects for further collaboration and development, including in

the scientific field.

Participants at the meeting agreed that the space industry is little affected by geo-politics. It is united by common problems traditionally settled in close co-operation. In this respect, Mr. Sabadosh said that his country is continuing to fulfil its obligations: in particular, Ukraine's Kommunar produces a management system which ensures the launch of the Soyuz booster (made by Russia). "Our co-operation has lasted over 50 years. No space projects are independently achieved," he asserted.

Mirror reflection cargo

By Violetta Dralyuk

Gomel's Novaya Guta border checkpoint officially launches new international PRINEX project, for the exchange of preliminary information on cargo and transport vehicles moving between Belarusian and Ukrainian custom services

The PRINEX system along the Belarusian-Ukrainian border has been launched thanks to co-operation between Belarus' State Customs Committee and Ukraine's State Fiscal Service, through the EU's Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative to promote integrated border control. Over 4m Euros has been spent



Novaya Guta border checkpoint

on purchasing specialised computer equipment, on developing the system, on staff training and on improving information-technological and communication infrastructure at all vehicle checkpoints along our common border.

The project is unique in its efficiency and is not yet operational across the whole EU, or within the post-Soviet space. Belarusian-Ukrainian cargo flow will be fully screened before reaching a checkpoint, as Gomel custom's staff com-

ment. They tell us, "When a vehicle arrives at Ukraine's Novye Yarilovichi, the driver provides documents for registration and, almost simultaneously, the same information is passed to Belarusian Novaya Guta (or vice versa). PRINEX uses a mirror reflection principle."

This should significantly enhance efficiency at custom's control and raise the transparency of operations, reducing the risk of human error, and speeding up crossing time at the Belarusian-Ukrainian border. In September alone, around 7,500 trucks crossed the border (in both directions). Clearly, PRINEX's advantages cannot be overestimated.

Meetings, discussions and seminars to promote business

By Vladimir Khromov

Between November 16th and 22nd, 150 countries will be hosting Global Entrepreneurship Week, with Belarus taking part for the fifth time, promoting an intensive week for business

Global Entrepreneurship Week offers entrepreneurs various formats of meetings, seminars and master classes, led by international experts and business community leaders, giving opportunities for discussing Government reform.

In these hard times, no one can afford to 'sit on their laurels', and entrepreneurs know that expanding contacts is the way forward.

The 5th international forum in Minsk will feature BelBiz Group

of Companies, the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus, and their partner — the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The slogan of 'change brings opportunities' is to dominate Global Entrepreneurship Week, with advisory and practical discussions on such topics as finding investors and financing, and the legislative hoops to be jumped in launching a new business. Prospects for entering EU markets will be on the agenda, alongside peculiarities of conducting business in various European states.

The British Ambassador to Belarus, Mr. Bruce Bucknell, will share his thoughts on how best to do business in the UK and discussions will also be dedicated to internationalisation of Belarusian

business through the purchase of foreign assets and the acquisition of Belarusian companies by global players.

Aleksander Wasilewski, the Economic Advisor at the Polish Embassy to Belarus, will share Polish companies' experience of entering the European market.

Michelle Contini, an independent advisor in foreign trade at the French Embassy to Belarus, will speak on opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses on the French market, and conditions for working with international corporations.

Of course, stories of Belarusian



companies' successful entry onto the European market will be useful to hear, as will lectures on legislation relating to exports and investments, as well as on industrial co-operation as a path to stable sales.

Those seeking to develop their professional success know that learning from others is the best way to progress. Awareness of international business practices is vital.

Latvia's interests find response

Belarus-Latvia relations have been successfully compared to families living in neighbouring apartments, who rarely interfere in each other's business and only then in cases of necessity. Of course, when holidays arrive, these neighbours like to invite each other to visit. Recently, Minsk hosted the Days of Latvia, under the 'Taste Latvia' slogan.

By Alexander Benkovsky

The events lasted almost a month, including concerts, food sampling and master classes by Latvian chefs. Economic aspects are vital to co-operation so, unsurprisingly, the Days of Latvia opened with a major business forum, featuring dozens of influential entrepreneurs from our two states.

Latvia's Economics Minister, Dana Reizniece-Ozola, remarked, "This is my first time in Minsk. It's symbolic that your city's name originated from the Slavonic word 'mena' (to change). Since ancient times, your city has been at the crossroads of trade paths and remains an important avenue for trade." She believes that, despite all difficulties, Belarus has managed to preserve its image as a confident and reliable exporter of products and services. In 2014, our country sold 319m Euros of products to Latvia.

Putting aside EU states, Minsk is Riga's second most important foreign economic partner: last year, our mutual turnover exceeded 56m Euros. Moreover, as Ms. Reizniece-Ozola notes, Belarus continues playing an important role on the Latvian investment market. 1,200 companies are registered in the country, established with parity, using Belarusian capital. Last year alone, Belarus injected 25m Euros into Latvian business development.

The First Deputy Economy Minister, Alexander Zaborobsky, agrees, saying that our investors are very active on the Latvian market,



During the forum

while Latvians are no less active in Belarus. Over the past seven years, Latvians have injected over \$1bn into Belarus, and 350 joint facilities are operational in our country. Mr. Zaborobsky believes that Latvia and Belarus enjoy mutually beneficial terms economically. In these difficult times, when trade is fought for, new sales markets must be sought and old partners courted, to enhance and expand trade.

In early 2015, Latvia joined the Eurozone and, according to the Director of the Latvian Agency for Investment and Development, Andris

Ozols, this has provided the country with the opportunity to strengthen its investment activity. He emphasises, "Several years ago, we lived through a serious crisis. After brilliant annual growth of 10-12 percent, our GDP fell by 18 percent; as a result, we 'lost' a third of our economy. However, that situation inspired our further development and, today, Latvia enjoys foreign investments. Companies from abroad — the Czech Republic, Scandinavian states and Germany — are injecting their money eagerly. Despite popular opinion, Russian money accounts for just 7 percent

of all direct foreign investments. According to prognoses, our economy will grow by 2 percent this year and, in 2016, by 3 percent."

Belarus is interested in Latvia as a major path to the sea: a factor increasingly important now that Belarus is becoming part of the Great Silk Road. According to Ms. Reizniece-Ozola, our two states are interested in taking full advantage of this, with additional talks planned on the theme of transit. A session of the Latvian-Belarusian intergovernmental commission is scheduled for December, to be hosted by Daugavpils.

Promising exception to the rules

By Igor Sovrasov

Asian Pacific countries keen to expand co-operation with Belarus

The President of the Confederation of Asian Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), Jemal Inaishvili, recently attended a meeting at the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI). He noted, "We are interested in closer co-operation with Belarus. It's the first time in the 50-year history of the CACCI that we've paid such a high-level visit to a country not a member of our organisation and which cannot become so, for geographical reasons."

BCCI Chairman Mikhail Myatlikov said that, at present, Belarus is developing trade-economic collaboration with 190 countries and stressed that those in the Asian Pacific region are of great interest to Belarus. "In our opinion, chambers of commerce and industry should work actively to develop co-operation between Belarusian and Asian Pacific businessmen," he emphasised.

Mr. Myatlikov mentioned the Great Stone Chinese-Belarusian Industrial Park, saying that his delegation plans to visit the site very soon. "At the moment, the park is the largest project being jointly implemented by Belarus and China. It is open not only to Belarusian and Chinese companies, but to high-tech enterprises from other countries. The Great Stone Park provides unique conditions for doing business," he pointed out.



ALEXANDER RUZHICHKA

Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Latvia's Economics Minister

This is my first time in Minsk. It's symbolic that your city's name originated from the Slavonic word 'mena' (to change). Since ancient times, your city has been at the crossroads of trade paths and remains an important avenue for trade.

Entering markets under common brand

Enterprises of Belarus and India to enter third countries' markets with common brand

During the latest session of the Belarusian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission, the establishment of Belarusian industrial enterprises in India came under discussion, under economic conditions offered by India. An agreement has also been signed to start assembling Belarusian tractors in India.

"As far as assembly enterprises are concerned, we're now looking into the matter with our Indian partners. As you know, India is an internationally recognised leader in tractor manufacturing. We're making serious efforts to develop the automobile engineering industry. We should find a joint niche, a joint product for assembly enterprises in India," explains Belarus' Deputy Industry Minister, Dmitry Korchik.

He adds that shipments to third countries in Africa and Asia, with whom India already enjoys certain influence, are under consideration. The official notes that he is staying in touch with Indian partners of the Belarusian automobile manufacturing company BelAZ. There are plans to set up a service centre by the end of the year, allowing shipment of more mining vehicles.

Comfortable variant made for drivers

Two years ago, a national system of road payment was introduced in Belarus, unique for post-Soviet space

By German Moskalenko

The PR manager of Kapsch Telematic Services' BelToll system, Sergey Bury, tells us, "The new scheme is fairer than collecting money by 'hand'. Toll roads are split into segments, each of around 20km, with drivers paying only for distance covered. Tariffs vary depending on the size of vehicle and number of axles. Devices detect all technical characteristics automatically, as soon as a vehicle drives below the system of payment control. Two payment methods are possible: using fuelling cards, or by pre-payment. The former is widely used by car companies, to allow them to pay by non-cash

methods."

Who needs to pay to drive along Belarusian roads?

Drivers of passenger cars registered outside the Customs Union — including passenger mini-buses with up to 3.5 tonne capacity, and drivers of trucks and trailers with capacity of over 3.5 tonnes.

What will happen if a driver decides to cheat — failing to install an onboard unit?

The system will detect the car at the first control station. Operators will inspect the vehicle and save its data in a special bank of law-breakers, to which the Transport Inspection has free access. Inspectors then either find and

stop this car on the road or send a penalty to the driver's postal address. In the first case, the car would not be allowed to continue its journey until payment is made. In the second case, the driver must pay an increased fee within a set period: 260 Euros for a single case of passing below a control station without an onboard unit (with a load of over 3.5 tonnes). Another 260 Euros if the same violation is registered within two hours.

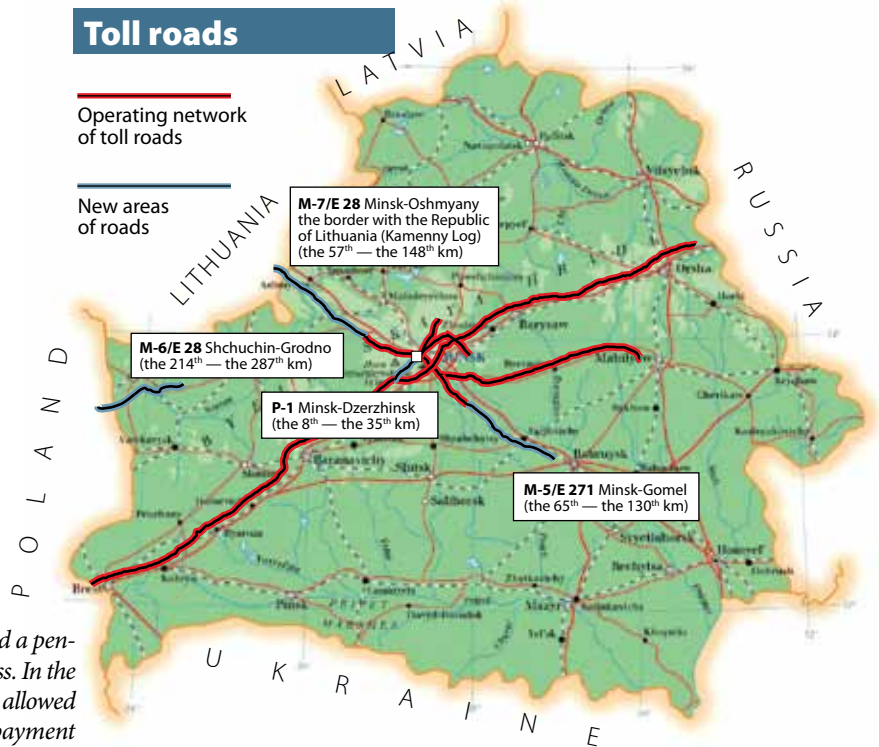
Can the system fail? What happens in this case?

Technical failure of the system is impossible (where it fails to perform its function). In all cases, an onboard unit immediately signals — indicating that something has occurred. In this case, we recommend a prompt call to a dispatcher to tackle the situation. If a driver calls our info-line when e-payment is collected by mistake, they bear no responsibility. However, if a driver fails to call, they need to settle the issue with the Transport Inspection. This can take a long time and, most probably, would

Toll roads

Operating network of toll roads

New areas of roads



MT REFERENCE:

Intellectual transport systems run by Kapsch Telematic Services for e-payment (similar to Belarusian) are operational in Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and the South African Republic. Similar ideas are applied in Russia, the USA, Mexico, Canada, Australia, France, Sweden and dozens of other countries in Europe and Latin America; overall, over 280 projects are registered across 41 states worldwide. Russia, Kazakhstan and other neighbours are much interested in Belarusian experience of introducing a national system of toll roads.

ALL SIDES OF THE WORLD

Since e-payment for toll roads was introduced, the network has expanded in Belarus. From November 1st, new sections of toll roads have been launched into exploitation, using BelToll system. These include sections of M5 and M6, as well as P99, P23 and P21 highways. Thus, from November 1st, the total length of Belarusian toll roads currently stands at 1,512km. Such roads include the M1/E-30 highway (Brest (Kozlovichi)-Minsk-border of the Russian Federation (Redki)) during its entire length; the M2 highway (Minsk-National Airport Minsk); as well as sections of the M3 road (Minsk-Vitebsk); M4 road (Minsk-Mogilev); M5/E-271 road (Minsk-Gomel); M6/E-28 (Minsk-Grodno-border of the Republic of Poland (Bruzgi)); M7/E-28 road (Minsk-Oshmyany-border of the Lithuanian Republic (Kamenny Log)); P1 (Minsk-Dzerzhinsk); P21 (Vitebsk-border of the Russian Federation (Liozno)), P23 (Minsk-Mikashevichi); P99 (Baranovichi-Volkovysk-Pogranichny-Grodno), approach road to the border with the Republic of Poland (Berestovitsa), from the P99 road (Baranovichi-Volkovysk-Pogranichny-Grodno) road. The Government's regulation has also enshrined an opportunity to access information (at the BelToll system's official website) about registered violations of transport vehicles of Belarus' residents in order to prevent further repeated violations dealing with use of toll roads.

not be to their advantage.

The intellectual technologies of our system make it possible to restore information at the next payment station, which can automatically recreate the previous transaction.

Who are the major users of Bel-

rusian toll roads?

Around 50.5 percent are domestic drivers. Russians account for 13 percent. Ten percent are Poles, around 9 percent are Ukrainians and 7 percent are Lithuanians. Drivers of other states account for the remaining share.



Applied tariffs:

Passenger cars — 0.040 Euro/km
Trucks and buses:
2 axles — 0.090 Euro/km;
3 axles — 0.115 Euro/km;
4 and more axles — 0.145 Euro/km



Exempt from payment:

- Transport vehicles registered within a Customs Union member state, with capacity of no more than 3.5 tonnes, as well as towed trailers;
- Mopeds and motorbikes;
- Wheeled tractors and self-propelled vehicles registered within Belarus;
- Transport vehicles of operational designation;
- Route-travelling transport vehicles conducting city passenger transportation;
- Transport vehicles used to ensure defensive capacity or used to liquidate emergencies or transport humanitarian cargoes within Belarus and other states.

Cost of onboard units:

- ▶ 20 Euros — for transport vehicles with capacity of no more than 3.5 tonnes.
- ▶ 50 Euros — for transport vehicles with capacity of over 3.5 tonnes. To be paid in Belarusian Roubles at the official rate of the National Bank (as on the day of payment)

Note: Transport vehicles with transit number plates from Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia with a capacity of up to 3.5 tonnes (inclusive), and registered within the Customs Union, are exempt from tolls within Belarus.



Health strategy outlined in Minsk

New approaches to health care issues discussed at National Olympic Committee headquarters during the European Ministerial Conference of the World Health Organisation, gathering ministers, acknowledged professors and globally known doctors to report on how the WHO's *Health-2020* programme is being realised



Conference participants in action

By Alexander Pimenov

The President of Belarus met foreign guests at the event in Minsk, which was the first top-level medical forum for the capital, in terms of geography and number of participants. Around 200 VIP guests travelled from over 30 countries to come to Belarus. On the eve of the conference, Alexander Lukashenko met the WHO Regional Director for Europe, Zsuzsanna Jakab, who noted great interest in Belarusian achievements in the field of healthcare. She believes that these are gaining a global reputation among foreign specialists, who are keen to tour centres and clinics.

The *Health-2020* strategy (developed in 2012) envisages investments into health at all stages of life, from birth. It aims to strengthen the healthcare system and ensure accessibility to all layers of society. In this respect, our country can act as an example. Some time ago, the situation was different, since the early years of independence saw Belarus facing serious difficulties. Hospitals and polyclinics lacked medicines, qualified staff and finances. It was a challenge to persuade qualified medical professionals to move to the regions and the situation was especially acute in rural areas.

As a result, the birth rate fell and mortality figures rose. However, unlike other post-Soviet republics, Belarus did not pursue a path of market reform, focusing on giving ordinary people equal access to medical services. "In Belarus, people are not left dying by the roadside if they have no insurance. We treat everyone," Mr. Lukashenko stresses.

The country spends a great deal on health care; last year, almost 6 percent of its GDP. In addition, sponsors also make significant financial contributions. Over the past five years, over 130 medical sites have

launched, and 17 Republican scientific-practical centres operate, worthily rivalling foreign institutions. Our doctors can perform the most complicated operations — including in the field of cardio-surgery and organ and tissue transplantation.

Gradual modernisation has been evident, as has the construction of new sites and the use of the latest high-tech equipment, producing sig-

DIRECT SPEECH

Alexander LUKASHENKO:

All over the world, non-infectious diseases are causing death among the active, employable population, negatively affecting society to an extent similar to a political or economic crisis. Disease has no borders and, with this in mind, we must fight it jointly, assisting each other in finding efficient and forward-thinking measures. It's always easier, and more fruitful to act together.

nificant results. Even most advanced states envy us in this respect. Belarus is among the top five countries for low infant and maternal mortality — behind Germany, the Netherlands, France and Switzerland. This year, not a single case of maternal mortality has been registered so far.

As regards tuberculosis, Belarus is ahead of Finland, Switzerland, Austria and Norway. Meanwhile, our country ensures the same access to medical services as Canada. The country has almost closed the 'demographic scissors'. Since 2006, our birth rate has risen to 12.5 per capita, with a steadily falling mortality coefficient and production of new medicines.

Of course, health care responsibility is of primary importance, and Belarus is working to overcome the ill effects

of smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, hypodynamia and non-balanced nutrition. Mr. Lukashenko believes the nation's health directly depends on the level of our physical culture development and has set ambitious tasks. He stresses, "We need to ensure that up to 40 percent of the population take part in sports. A healthy lifestyle will become Belarus' calling card."

DIRECT SPEECH

Zsuzsanna JAKAB, WHO Regional Director for Europe:

WHO-Belarus co-operation is developing well. Political aspects do matter and we are convinced that Belarus has made the correct political choice in investing into health care. We advocate for universal access to medical services. This is a dream for many states but is already a reality for Belarus. At the conference, we'll jointly decide what more should be done to fight oncological and respiratory diseases and tobacco abuse: challenges faced by the whole globe.



Truly, the nation's health is not just a social imperative but affects our demographic and economic security. With this in mind, Belarus fully supports WHO initiatives. Our success within the *Health-2020* programme is globally acknowledged.

It was interesting to find out conference participants' impressions. Latvia's Health Minister, Guntis Belevics, commented, "We originate from a single country but chose different paths after its collapse. In 2008, the crisis broke and we had to sharply cut our health care expenditure. We're

yet to restore the previous level, with Latvia allocating half the amount that Belarus does. Our people have to pay for a great deal themselves and we only produce five percent of our own medicines, having to import the rest. Meanwhile, you've increased your own production to 51 percent. Belarus should be rightly proud."

Helsinki University Professor Ever Karienti added,

"Health care in Belarus and Finland hardly differs. Probably, we have more experience in developing some medical services. However, as regards key indicators, you've been productive. Belarus stands well within the international arena, as can be confirmed by any foreign expert."

The Minsk event allowed discussion of new ideas and developments with European colleagues. A co-ordinated approach has been laid out within the Minsk Declaration: to become an important instrument in realising the *Health-2020* European policy.

Advice from Dr. Zhukova

How to cope with the horrors of varicose veins



What are varicose veins? How can we prevent and treat them?
A. Dovlatov, Orsha

Varicosity, or varicose veins (from the Latin varix — node, swelling) is a constant and irreversible dilation and lengthening of the veins (the vessels bringing blood to the heart) of the lower extremities with thinning of the venous network and the development of nodes. Varicose veins are a common condition. Today, one in every three women and one in every ten men suffer from varicosity, and symptoms often appear at working age around 30-40 years. The more time people spend sitting in front of the computer or in a car, the higher the risk of them developing. It is a pressing problem for Belarus as, along with the USA, France and Great Britain, nearly 30-40 percent of the population suffers from the condition. Whereas in countries such as Africa and Mongolia there is a much lower level of incidence of less than 0.1 percent.

Why does it happen?

The main reasons for the development of varicose disease in the lower legs are:

- heredity — people whose family members had frequent cases of varicose veins are in a high-risk group;
- gender — for women, pregnancy exacerbates the problem as well as taking hormone therapy;
- increased venous pressure (owing to an inactive way of life, lifting heavy loads and obesity).

These factors cause not only dilation of the veins, but also an increase in venous pressure or abnormality of the normal work of the venous valves. The correct blood circulation when the blood flows in the veins of the legs upwards is against the force of gravity. Several mechanisms are involved in the circulation: pressure of blood from the arteries (the most insignificant contribution), contraction of leg muscles in movement (it works like a pump) and the presence of valves in the veins which prevent any return flow of blood. The inability of these valves to fulfil their function causes abnormality of venous blood flow that leads to hyperextension of the veins. As a result, blood flow becomes chaotic, blood congests in the veins of the lower legs, especially under the skin, pressure increases so that the walls of

vessels cannot withstand it and start to dilate and become thin.

People who are on their feet for lengthy periods (doctors, retailers, hairdressers, etc.), have a high risk of developing the condition. Varicosity among women can be linked to abnormalities in the endocrine profile — for example, incorrectly chosen hormonal contraception. Varicose veins of the pelvis, and also of the lower legs often happens during pregnancy, when pressure from the growing uterus on the veins of the abdominal cavity gradually increases, and this in turn, complicates blood outflow in the veins of the legs. In addition, an increase of intra-abdominal pressure when lifting weights, coughing, sneezing, chronic constipation etc. also leads to abnormality in the function of the venous valves, as does old age in general.

Symptoms of varicose veins

The first symptoms of varicose veins are swollen legs at the end of the day, a feeling of heaviness in the calves, appearing after a long period sitting or standing. The disappearance or considerable reduction of these symptoms when walking and after a night's rest is characteristic in varicose disease. Later, sufferers may have spreading pains in the calves, a feeling of heat in the legs and night spasms in their calf muscles. Small blue or red vascular 'spider webs' may appear on the legs, and dark blue intradermal veins become visible. Finally, the saphenae can become wider and similar to bunches of overripe red grapes. If the problem is neglected, then there may additionally be the development of eczema on affected sites.

Diagnosis

If you have noticed the initial symptoms of varicose veins, you should consult a phlebologist, an expert on veins. The successful treatment of varicose disease depends on what stage of its development people began treatment. The earlier you consult a phlebologist, the easier the treatment, and risk of complications will decrease.

To be continued in next issue

Russian passenger jet crash in Sinai — 224 people killed

A Russian passenger jet, carrying 224 people, has crashed in the Sinai Peninsula killing everybody on board

The early morning flight departed from the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, bound for the Russian city St. Petersburg, and disappeared from radar 22 minutes after take-off. Egyptian and Russian air crash investigators are at work trying to establish what caused the Kogalymavia A-321 to crash in the Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people on board.

In addition to analysing the wreckage and black box recorders Russia is questioning the aircraft's maintenance team. Police have also searched the airline's offices. The wife of the co-pilot says her husband complained of technical issues with the aircraft. Egypt has dismissed an ISIL claim that it downed the plane. Air France-KLM, Emirates and Lufthansa have stopped flying over the Sinai Peninsula until the cause of the crash is known. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has said that it is far too early to hypothesise about the cause of the air crash in the Sinai Peninsula that killed 224 people.

"In such accidents, we know that it is very important to leave this matter (to experts) and we do not talk about the reasons behind it — because it takes a very long time," al-Sisi said in a speech.

"These are complicated issues and need advanced techniques which



An Egyptian man puts flowers near debris at the crash site of a Russian airliner in al-Hasanah area

might take months. We therefore should not anticipate the events because it would reduce our credibility."

A Russian aviation official said that the aircraft must have broken up in the sky, highlighting the wide area in which the wreckage has been found. Meanwhile, residents of the Egyptian capital left flowers outside

the Russian Embassy in Cairo. The first of the 224 victims from the Sinai plane crash have been flown home to St. Petersburg. The remains of around 144 passengers are said to have been repatriated. Not all of them have as yet been identified.

So far the Egyptian authorities have recovered 187 bodies from the

crash site and its environs. Speculation is growing over what caused Russia's worst air disaster ranging from an ISIL attack although experts don't believe the militants have the capability to down an aircraft, to a catastrophic systems failure. Any answers will have to wait until the plane's two flight recorders have finished being analysed.

China's one-child policy 'to be scrapped'

China is to do away with its controversial one-child policy

The ruling Communist Party (CPC) reportedly announced the decision to allow two children per couple at the end of a four-day summit to finalise its next five-year plan. Introduced in 1979, the policy in the world's most-populous country limited most couples to only a single offspring.

Authorities argued the subsequent economic boom was a result of the law. However, a rapidly ageing population, shrinking workforce and gender imbalances now suggest otherwise.

Walmart seeks approval for drone delivery tests

Walmart has joined Amazon and other smaller companies in asking regulators for permission to test drones for home deliveries in the US

The world's largest retailer by revenue, and the owner of Britain's Asda stores, has been carrying out indoor tests for several months. It also wants to use drones at its distribution centres and stores, perhaps carrying items from the shop to the car park.

By using drones, Walmart believes it could help reverse a recent unprecedented decline in profits.

1000-year-old bible found in Turkey

Police in Turkey have recovered a bible thought to be a thousand years old

The holy book, which was found in the central Turkish city of Tokat, is written in the old Assyriac language. Its remaining 51 pages have images in gold leaf. Three men have been arrested on suspicion of theft.

Florence Cathedral Museum opens its doors to the world

'If you haven't seen this, you haven't seen Florence', according to the website of the new Opera del Duomo Museum, which has opened in the capital of Italy's Tuscany region after two years of expansion and renovation

Also known as the Florence Cathedral Museum due to its location next to the famous domed basilica, it has on display the largest concentration of Florentine monumental sculpture in the world. Inside, visitors can see some 750 art works. The project cost a reported 49.6 million Euros to complete.

Materials prepared with aid of information agencies



Villa Nola the final resting place of a Roman Emperor

Vesuvius close to Naples is one of the most infamous volcanoes in existence after it obliterated Pompeii in 79 AD

Vesuvius erupted again in 472 AD this time smothering the villa where the Emperor Augustus ended his days. The archaeological treasure has been under excavation for the past 13 years. The dig has revealed some extraordinary finds like never before seen frescoes.

According to the ancient historians Tacitus and Suetonius,

this villa close to Nola, is the place where an ailing Augustus escaped the mayhem of Rome, before he passed away on August 19th, 14 AD.

Columns, frescoes and mosaics emerged from beneath the igneous rock revealing an entrance hall and reception rooms, the roof was fashioned from terracotta and the villa overlooked a valley. Augustus must have felt the cold hand of death coming his way as he died in the same room as his father Octavius.

20 million people visited Milan EXPO, a 'huge success'

Milan EXPO closed its doors on October 31st after a highly successful five-month run that defied those who predicted it would flop

More than 20 million people have visited the world fair since it opened on May 1st, when builders were still struggling to complete the 110 hectare site on the outskirts of Milan and naysayers had already dismissed it as a costly farce.

EXPO cost about 2.6 billion Euros. According to official figures, it received 1.3 billion Euros in public investment, 0.3 billion Euros from sponsors and private investors, and 1 billion Euros from official participants.

The economic return for Italy is expected to be in the region of 10 billion Euros, 5 billion of which is expected to be generated from Italy's tourist industry.

"We have transformed Milan into a gateway to Italy", said Piero Galli, EXPO General Director.



"EXPO has been a huge success," Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said.

"It has been a crucial showcase for foreign investment," said Italy's Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan. "It shows we can be a team," said President Sergio Mattarella.

Initial scepticism and protests gave way to growing curiosity and in recent weeks the EXPO has been deluged daily by tens of thousands of visitors, some of whom queued for up to seven hours to enter the most popular national pavilions.

Perhaps the ultimate sign of success, though, are the long lines of people waiting everyday... and the jokes about it on the Internet.

Picturesque symphony of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis



Exhibition by Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis at National Art Museum

Star Trek exhibition by world famous figure of Lithuanian culture, whose talent in music and fine arts was also evident, enjoys success at National Art Museum of Belarus

By Veniamin Mikheev

At present, almost the entire artistic legacy of Čiurlionis is held by the M.K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art, in Kaunas. His fragile media, of pastels or tempera on paper or cardboard, make it impossible to transport his works beyond Lithuania. With this in mind, Minsk's exhibition featured 26 reproductions — including 12 Zodiac cycle pictures, sonatas, a prelude and 16 photocopies of Čiurlionis' photos from his *Anapa: 1905* album; the latter were on show in Minsk for the first time.

The exhibition was organised by the Ministry of Culture of Belarus, with the National Art Museum of Belarus, the M.K. Čiurlionis House Cultural and Information Centre in Vilnius, the M.K. Čiurlionis National Museum of Art in Kaunas, the M.K. Čiurlionis Society in Lithuania, and the Embassy of Lithuania to Belarus.

The 17th century scientist and physicist Isaac Newton voiced the idea that each sound is related to a



Works from the Čiurlionis exhibition, at the National Art Museum

certain colour: 'do' is red, 're' is orange, 'mi' is yellow, 'fa' is green, and so on. However, few are able to see colour in music or hear a melody in colour. Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis — an outstanding figure of 20th century art, a composer and an artist — boasted this unique talent. This year, the world celebrates the 140th anniversary of his birth.

Works by Čiurlionis occupy a



special place in the history of global pictorial art. Being a musician and an artist, he attempted to unite the two, combining musical and pictorial ele-



ments. He named his pictures with such titles as *Sonata*, *Fuga*, and *Prelude*. Their internal structure was based upon the laws of musical composition, as if sung. Čiurlionis used delicate paint colours and fine lines, as well as unusual architectonics. Marc Etkind — an historian of arts — wrote: 'If we look at the painter's artistry as a whole, it appears like a unique picturesque symphony.'

Čiurlionis was among the first to develop 'cosmism' in art, stating that we are not just 'of Earth' but of the Universe. His artistic insights allow us to witness the process of stars and planets being born from prime-

val chaos. He transports us to various places and other dimensions, to unique worlds of light and harmony.

Russian poet of the 'Silver Age' Alexander Blok said, "A true artist sees not only the world's surface but everything hidden: the unknown distance which is shielded from most people by their naivety. Čiurlionis hears the world's orchestra and is able to reproduce its sounds." The master lived a short yet dazzling life, creating over 300 works in modern and cosmism styles, in addition to around 400 musical pieces. The latter unite symbolism with elements of folk art, and are influenced by Japanese, Egyptian and Indian culture.

Every film character has their own interesting story

By Yulia Obolenskaya

Documentary fans to enjoy 22nd Minsk Listapad International Film Festival awards for 'best out-of-contest' nonfiction films

Most of the films being screened are eagerly anticipated, being shown between November 6th and 13th: American-Polish *Shoulder the Lion*, Portugal's *Suddenly My Thoughts Halt* and Hanna Polak's *Something Better to Come*. By the time the festival launches, the latter will have gathered awards on almost every continent.

Ms. Polak's film has been nominated for an Oscar and

continues its festival voyage with a Minsk screening, following 14 years in the life of a girl who resides besides Europe's biggest landfill, 20km from Moscow. As the years pass, we watch her endeavours to study and change her life for the better. In November, audiences will learn whether her life has changed by visiting one of Minsk's cinemas.

Jorge Pelicano's *Suddenly My Thoughts Halt* tells of life in a mental hospital. From the outside world, an actor arrives, wishing to research his character for a theatre play. He lives with the patients, trying to build trust and understand their struggle with lucidity,



where 'madness' co-exists.

As the Director of *Listapad's* out-of-contest programme, Irina Demyanova, explains, "Life in the mental hospital mirrors that outside, not in brutality, but in moments of kindness and tolerance. The film is vivid in its portrayals. Mr. Pelicano will be attending the festival to present his work."

MT REFERENCE:

This year, *Listapad* will open with French Guillaume Nicloux's *Valley of Love*. In fact, 35 years have passed since *Lulu* was screened (in 1980), starring Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu. The film was recently screened within the Cannes Festival's main competition and, in Minsk, will be screened on November 6th, at Moskva cinema.

Song for Europe: audience to decide

By Irina Ovsepyan

From October 23rd, applications will be accepted for participation in the national selective round of the International Eurovision-2016 Song Contest

A new wave of passion and competition is to launch, with TV viewers being given more opportunity to influence final results. The organisational committee, led by Culture Minister Boris Svetlov, has updated the regulations to better reflect public opinion.

Last year, audiences voted alongside the professional jury, with the latter

having more votes, leaving many TV viewers dissatisfied. This time, a telephone and SMS vote will decide the final candidate, with the jury only selecting singers for the preliminary round.

The head of the *Eurovision* project in Belarus, Olga Shlyager, is convinced that the move is an excellent idea. "Choosing a representative exclusively via public voting is the most transparent way of defining a worthy candidate," she comments. "Of course, preliminary selection will be supervised by a professional jury, and they'll be tough, with no allowance made for poor performance. Singers will have a single chance to impress."

Brilliant *Paulinka* ever popular among audience

Belaya Vezha Festival gathers full house in Brest

By Valentina Kozlovich

City residents and guests recently enjoyed true theatre, with diverse forms and genres. The nine-day 20th International *Belaya Vezha* Theatre Festival gathered 22 theatrical troupes from across 13 countries, with shows staged in seven languages. Festival organisers marked the jubilee event by inviting winners of Grand Prixes from previous years, in addition to new participants. Rather than choosing 'the best' each troupe received its own appreciation from professional critics.

Belaya Vezha opened with Italian *Viva Commedia!* — performed by Minsk's Maxim Gorky National Academic Drama Theatre. Audiences also loved Riga's Chekhov Russian Theatre's production of *Fro*. The Brest Puppet Theatre staged the play several months ago, which inspired Ruslan Kudashov — a St. Petersburg director — to do the same. However, the show which he premiered at the festival was notably different from the Brest performance.

Brest audiences are well familiar with the story of Kysya, the brave and attentive cat. The monologue staged by Vsevolod Chubenko's Svoi Theatre, from Russian Vologda, was



Scene from *Paulinka* performance by the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre

well-received by audiences and all tickets sold out.

The Brest Academic Drama Theatre presented *Dziady* (Grandfathers), based on Adam Mickiewicz's poem and staged by Polish director Pawel Passini. Arousing much debate, the complicated performance encouraged interaction by inviting members of the audience onto the stage. Meanwhile, the action took place within a circular area of soil, covered with paper. The perfor-

mance was rather lengthy but no less skilful for this.

Also 'controversial' was the Soyuz Marins Group's production of *Wind*; artistes from Moscow's Centre of Drama and Staging used movement of air in their show, thanks to water pipes, matches, glasses of water and sticks. Directed by Georgy Berdzenishvili, *Wind* portrays a Buddhist legend, without words, and has 11 scenes, including 'The Dream', 'The Joke', 'The Game',

'Love', and 'Solitude'.

The Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre's *Paulinka* represented the more traditional side of performance, having enjoyed popularity for over 70 years. As critics and audiences admit, *Paulinka* was staged brilliantly. Truly, it is the best work of Belarusian drama. Famous Belarusian director Nikolay Pinigin brought new life to the work, which was also musically rich, celebrating its unique characters.

Medieval breath on the pages

By Olga Vasilieva

Originals of two Frantsisk Skorina editions arrive in Polotsk

The Museum of Belarusian Book Printing, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, recently welcomed guests to the unveiling of two editions made by prominent Polotsk-born Frantsisk Skorina: *Ecclesiast* and *The First Book of Kings*, released in Prague in 1518. They are kept permanently at the National Library of Belarus but, due to close co-operation between the library and the Polotsk museum, visitors can currently view the originals created by Skorina — the first printer and enlightener.

In September, the museum gave several more special exhibitions. From Veliky Novgorod, there were rare 16th-19th century editions connected with Belarusians. Polotsk's museum also hosted the *Best Books of Belarus* event, featuring Belarusian laureates of the *Art of Book-2014* National Contest. The Museum of Belarusian Book Printing accepted its first visitors on September 8th, 1990, during celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Frantsisk Skorina. The museum is dedicated to books in all their aspects, from first manuscript scrolls to contemporary editions. It aims to familiarise visitors with the history of written language, writing implements, book illustrations and graphic art.

Successful hunting by Duchess Maria Hohenlohe

Photos of Duke Radziwill's granddaughter on show at Osipovich's Museum of Local History

The exhibition features unique photos from the collection of Duke Konstantin Hohenlohe Schillingsfürst; for over a century, these were kept by heirs of Duchess Martia Hohenlohe, in an ancient palace in the north of Bavaria. Duchess Maria — a granddaughter of Dominik Radziwill — owned over 170 mansions within Belarusian territory (covering a million hectares). Being a citizen of Germany, she lived there, but loved to visit the land of her forefathers, hunting deer and bear.

In the autumn of 1889 and the winter of 1890, Duchess Maria toured her mansions across the Russian Empire (most situated in Belarus), accompanied by professional photographer Johann Hicks. German by origin, he served the Verki mansion (owned by Piotr Wittgenstein) for a long time. In the photos, Maria and her family members appear in hunting attire, often posing near killed animals. Hunting was common in what is now known as the Osipovich District, where the duchess had several mansions. The collection also includes group photos of hunters (taken by local residents).

The granddaughter of the powerful Radziwill was clearly a success at hunting.

Lessons for children and adults

By Yekaterina Medvedskaya

Young artists from across Belarus depict *War Through 21st Century Children's Eyes and Preventing Traffic Injuries Among Children*

Recently, children imaginatively shared their views on the subjects of war and road safety, during an exhibition of drawings.

Anya Gorbatsevich, an eighth grade pupil at Minsk's Akhremchik Gymnasium-College of Arts, has presented her picture of a burnt house and a woman embracing a child, explaining that she has tried to depict the tragedy of war, and how it affects individuals. It's truly awful to lose a house but even more terrible when a child loses their parents.

Anya's classmate, Valeria Voitsekhevskaya, painted a wounded soldier on the battlefield, while Zhenya Urodnich depicted prisoners within a concentration camp. Piotr Bogdanov, a curator of the exhibition and the Deputy Director of Minsk's Gymnasium-College of Arts, comments, "Children have chosen their characters purposefully. Some have depicted stories they've heard from grandparents while others have shared impressions from books they've read."



Exhibition of children's drawings

War Through 21st Century Children's Eyes features hero-pilots, brave tankmen, mothers bidding farewell as their sons head to the frontline and Victory fireworks.

The second exhibition, devoted to road safety, aims to promote sensible behaviour among youngsters. The Press Secretary of the Road Traffic Police Department in the Pervomaisky District, Yekaterina Zhurimskaya, explains that children see adults making

poor decisions, which act as bad examples: crossing roads in prohibited places or driving badly.

Many children's pictures feature drivers using handsets, or failing to let passers-by cross the road, or failing to slow down for speed bumps. "Looking at the children's drawings, law breakers may reconsider their behaviour, realising that their own children are learning bad habits," Yekaterina notes.

Young guests at the House of Moscow in Minsk were delighted to meet the Editor-in-Chief of Moscow's *Misha* children's magazine (celebrating over 30 years of publication), Nina Grozova, and were able to chat to famous Russian children's writer Tamara Kryukova.

The wonderful event was organised by Moscow's Department of Foreign Economic and International Relations, and by Belarus' Interior Ministry, and by its Education Ministry, with help from Minsk's Pervomaisky District Department of Internal Affairs and the I. Akhremchik Gymnasium-College of Arts.

The opening ceremony featured: the Head of Minsk's Public Security Police, Ivan Kubrakov; the Advisor of the Russian Embassy, Margarita Novodvorskaya; a representative of the Belarusian Interior Ministry's Council of Veterans, Leonid Farmagey (a General Mayor of police in reserve); the Deputy Education Minister of Belarus, Victor Yakzhik; the Chairman of the Council of Veterans of Minsk's Interior Affairs Department, Victor Pekarsky; and various other honourable guests.

Two shows will be further presented across the regional centres and districts.

With a view to 2018 Olympic Games

This season, the Belarusian biathlon team will be joined by two Russian sportswomen long the subject of fans' speculation: Tuymen's Kristina Ilchenko, and Maria Panfilova



Kristina Ilchenko



Maria Panfilova

By Yegor Glebov

Belarusian team leader Nadezhda Skardino has told Russian journalists that Ms. Panfilova has begun training sessions with the Belarusian squad, at Tyumen's Siberian Pearl Sporting Centre. "Masha has been working

with us since August but we've not yet met Kristina. I hope these sportswomen will help our team, making it stronger," she admits.

Until 2013, Ms. Panfilova performed with the Tyumen Region team, winning gold and bronze medals at the 2008 Junior European

Championship as part of the Russian team. She also skied for the Ukrainian team at the recent Sochi Olympics, being placed seventh in the mixed relay. This summer, the media reported that Ms. Panfilova had chosen to retire, but the biathlete unexpectedly joined the Belarusian team, under

coach Vladimir Korolkevich. He explains that much is expected of the Russian sportswomen.

"We're aiming to create an efficient team for the 2018 Olympics. Ms. Ilchenko and Ms. Panfilova will receive the opportunity to demonstrate their skills. Maria was close to retiring, and had begun studying at the Medical University but found that she missed biathlon. She may have felt the weight of unrealised sporting goals so she's back and we're delighted to welcome her. We expect great results from her early in the season, as she began training with the team in August. However, if she does well later, she'll receive the chance to participate in the World Cup. Ms. Panfilova is no ordinary sportswoman, having performed at the World Championship and at the Olympics. We're lucky to have her."

He continues, "As regards Ms. Ilchenko, I viewed her as a candidate for the Russian team a year ago (when I was working with them). She's had some problems with marksmanship, so we need to figure those out."

It's easier to teach marksmanship than how to ski quickly, and the team aims to find a common language with Kristina, pinning great hopes on her. Moreover, Belarus has Nadezhda Skardino, who can offer great master classes in shooting and help Ms. Ilchenko.

Portuguese trophies

By Igor Leshin

Portugal's Loulé hosts Trampoline and Tumbling World Cup stage, Belarusian athletes returning with bounty



Vladislav Goncharov

The Pyrenees delivered five awards, including three gold medals. In the Olympic discipline of individual jumps, Vladislav Goncharov was unrivalled, outstripping French Martiny Sébastien and Japanese Yasuhiro Ueyama. Meanwhile, Belarusian Tatiana Petrenya took the women's gold, beating Yana Pavlova of Russia and her teammate Anna Gorchenok.

Synchronised jumping gold went jointly to Tatiana Petrenya and Anna Gorchenok, while Ruslan Doroshuk came second in mat tumbling.

The season is only just beginning, with the World Championship scheduled for late November.

First meeting of season

By Kirill Pirogov

Head coach of Belarusian national ice hockey team — Dave Lewis — invites 27 players

The coach has decided to invite just seven players from Dinamo Minsk (few of which are key performers in the 'bison' team) and none at all from Russian KHL clubs.

His goalkeepers are Vitaly Belinsky and Mikhail Karnaukhov, Alexander Borodulya and Maxim Samankov.

Meanwhile, his choice of defenders features Andrey Filichkin and Pavel Kazakevich, Roman Dyukov and Christian Henke, Dmitry Znakharenko and Nikita Ustinenko, Alexander Yeronov and Mikhail Khromando and Ilya Kaznadey.



Dave Lewis working for the future

Chosen strikers are Victor An-drushchenko, Artem Levsha, Alexander Levko and Artem Demkov, Pavel Boyarchuk, Andrey Stepanov, Alexander Pavlovich, Dmitry Ambrozheichik, Nikita Komarov and Stanislav Lopachuk, Pavel Razvadovsky, Artem Volkov, and Pavel Musienko and Igor Revenko.

Mr. Lewis explains, "The meeting will feature many young guys. Along-

side experienced ice hockey players, we'll attract those aged 20-23, giving them the opportunity to show their talent. The goal of the Liepaja tournament is to check them out, assessing their physical and psychological readiness to play for the national team. We'd like to see how they perform under pressure, rather than take their coaches' word for their ability."

Minsk-Arena's skiing stadium was hosting the event from November 2nd-4th, with Mr. Lewis assisted by Oleg Antonenko, Andrey Mezin, Michael Lehner and Craig Woodcroft. After several training days in Minsk, the team will go to Latvia's Liepaja — to participate in the Euro Ice Hockey Challenge, playing against Latvia, Italy and Japan.



Group members have been formed

By Igor Grishin

Belarus' national futsal team learns its rivals for 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup qualifying tournament

The national team of Sweden, which defeated Greece, Montenegro and San Marino during the preliminary stage of the qualification round, was the last opponent faced by Belarusian Vladimir Ignatik's squad. Now, the team goes through to the major qualification round, on December

12th-13th, in Croatian Osijek, meeting the hosts, Azerbaijan and Sweden.

After several mini-tournaments, the two best teams from seven qualifying quartets go through to the play-offs. There, the 14 squads will compete for seven (European) places in the final stage of the World Championship. Those in first places will play those ranked second. The final of the 8th FIFA Futsal World Cup, featuring 24 teams from all continents, will be held from September 10th to October 2nd, in Colombia.

Relations truly entering new level

Belarus and USA agree to outline further steps to develop bilateral sports co-operation

From October 27th-30th, 2015, Washington hosted the General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees, with a delegation from Belarus, headed by the First Vice-President of the National Olympic Committee of Bela-

rus, Maxim Ryzhenkov, taking part.

During the visit to the USA, the Belarusian delegation met various representatives of the US Department of State, responsible for international sports collaboration. Mr. Ryzhenkov underlines the importance of sporting diplomacy as a connecting link in international relations, facilitating contacts and

strengthening mutual understanding between countries.

In particular, the Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Belarus to the USA, Pavel Shidlovsky, noted that the normalisation of Belarus-USA relations would open up new opportunities for interaction across a range of sporting, cultural and educational collaborative spheres.

Performance of the week



Gomel's State Puppet Theatre explores human nature through its *Fable* performance

Exhibitions

NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

20 Lenin Street

Until 9th November. *A Pilgrim of Freedom* Until 16th November. Exhibition by Mai Dantsig
Until 6th December. *Korea's Life*
Until 11th December. *From Realism to Impressionism* (19th-20th century painting)
Until 30th December. *Celebrating Victory Day in Museum*

NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 15th November. *Retrospective 1965-2014* Until 31st December. *Major Presentation of Museum Relics: 79 Steps Inside History*

BELARUSIAN STATE MUSEUM OF GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR HISTORY

8 Pobediteley Avenue

Until 15th November. *Having Time to Show...*

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ECOLOGY OF BELARUS

12 Karl Marx Street

Until 6th March. *Jungles behind the Window* Until 17th January. *Mummies of the World*

WANKOWICZ HOUSE-MUSEUM

33A Internatsionalnaya Street

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

MAXIM BOGDANOVICH LITERARY MUSEUM

7A M. Bogdanovich Street

Until 1st December. *Maxim's Garden*

ZABRODIE

ETHNOGRAPHICAL COMPLEX

Zabrodie village

Until 30th November. *Molotov Drive: exhibition of retro technique*

Theatres

BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE OF BELARUS

1 Parizhskoy Kommuny Square

06.11. Eugene Onegin 08.11. Treasure of Belarusian Musical Culture: Creation of the World
10.11. Carmen 11.11. La Sylphide
12.11. The Barber of Seville

BELARUSIAN STATE ACADEMIC MUSICAL THEATRE

44 Myasnikov Street

07 and 08.11. Wedding in Malinovka
09.11. Dubrovsky 10.11. Blue Cameo
11.11. Yunona and Avos 12.11. Women's Revolt

MAXIM GORKY NATIONAL ACADEMIC DRAMA THEATRE

5 Volodarsky Street

06.11. Run 08.11. Viva Commedia!; Stars of the Seventh Sky 10.11. The Twelfth Night
11.11. Ninochka 12.11. Taming of the Shrew

YANKA KUPALA NATIONAL ACADEMIC THEATRE

7 Engels Street

06 and 08.11. The Black Lady of Nesvizh 10.11. Abduction of Europe, or Ursula Radziwill's Theatre
11.11. Local Cabaret 12.11. Office

THEATRE-STUDIO OF FILM ACTOR

13 Pobediteley Avenue

07 and 08.11. An Unnamed Star 09 and 10.11. The Makropoulos Case 11 and 12.11. Pygmalion

REPUBLICAN THEATRE OF BELARUSIAN DRAMA

44 Kropotkin Street

06.11. Adam's Jokes 11 and 12.11. People's Love

MODERN ART THEATRE

5 Oktyabrskaya Square

07.11. Looking for a Man
08.11. Prostokvashino Holidays; I Pay for Pleasure
12.11. Love and Dove

MINSK CONCERT HALL

5 Oktyabrskaya Square

08.11. Ilya of Murom and Solovei the Whistler-Robber in the depth of the Caribbean Sea
10.11. Throw up a Window of Love

Kaleidoscope of history unveiled

November of decades and centuries past comes to life

November 6th. In 1870, composer and musical ethnographer Yakov Prokhorov was born. He wrote choral arrangements for 82 folk songs, and set the verse of Yanka Kupala and Yakub Kolas to music.

November 7th. In 1936, Belarusian gymnast and coach Nikolay Miligulo was born. He won silver at the 27th Olympics in Rome (1960).

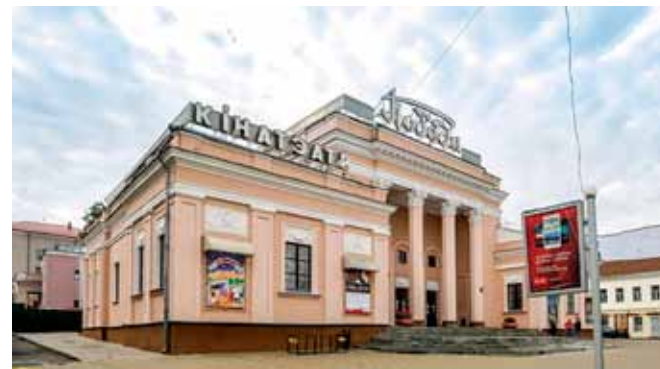
November 8th. In 1902, a Russian scientist in the field of energy and computer devices, Isaak Bruk, was born in Minsk. He established a scientific-engineering school to develop computers and managing machines.

November 9th. In 1945, Honoured Artiste of Belarus Leonid Tyshko was born in Brest. From 1967-1982, the Belarusian pop singer performed with *Pesnyary* band.

November 10th. In 1948, international grand master Mikhail Kats was born — an Honoured Coach of the USSR and a player for the winning Belarusian team at the 1992 World Draughts Olympics.

November 11th. In 1909, Honoured Constructor of the BSSR and People's Architect

of the USSR Georgy Zabor-sky was born. He designed various unique city buildings and monuments — including the Pobedy Monument, the Belarusian Maxim Tank Pedagogical University, the Pioneer cinema (the State Puppet Theatre), Yakub Kolas' family home (later transformed into a museum) and a monument to



this famous poet.

November 12th. In 1920, prominent Belarusian playwright Andrey Makayonok, a People's Writer of Belarus, was born in the village of Borkhov, in the Rogachev District.

November 6th. In 1932, Mogilev's Steel Works began operations.

November 6th. In 1940, the first Belarusian radio-tech-

nical facility was established, at Derevoobrabotchik Plant; since 1957, it has been known as the Minsk Tool-Making Plant.

November 6th. In 1945, the decision was made to build Motovelo Plant in Minsk.

November 6th. In 1957, Minsk's Plant of Automated Lines began its work.

November 7th. In 1927, the All-Belarusian Stadium was launched.

November 7th. In 1933, the House of Government building was completed, and a monument to Vladimir Lenin solemnly erected in front.

November 7th. In 1933, Minsk's airport opened.

November 7th. In 1944, the Belarusian State Museum of Great Patriotic War History welcomed its first visitors.

November 7th. In 2007, the Vostok-Uruchie metro section came into operation.

November 8th. In 1929, a chemical-pharmaceutical factory was founded in Minsk — now known as the Medical Preparations Plant.

November 8th. In 1956, Brest Fortress' Museum of Defence opened at Brest's garrison museum.

November 8th. In 1986, a new airport came into operation in Brest.

November 9th. In 1913, the Infectious Hospital opened on Nikolaevskaya (now — Kropotkin) Street.