

# Cargo to be delivered safely by sky ladder

Grodno hosts discussions on project to raise cargo transportation volumes via use of regional airports' logistical services



Modern logistical centre planned for Grodno airport

By Lilia Neverskaya

The project is being organised within the *Baltic Sea Region for 2007-2013* programme, overseen by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and the European Regional Development Fund. It looks at how best

to use regional airports' logistical services, researched by such organisations as Grodno's branch Belaer-onavigation and the Grodno State University. Different organisations from Germany, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the UK are taking part.

Air transportation occupies a

small share of the market for logistical services, yet accounts for the greatest revenue — as explained by the Grodno State University. However, this profitable market could develop more quickly; at present, regional airports lack knowledge of the potential of the international market for cargo transportation.

In reality, it is hugely promising, as standard transport corridors are unable to cope with new logistical needs resulting from regional development. To solve existing problems, the project's plan of action for the coming three years aims to create conditions to allow expansion of the aviation cargo transportation segment in partner countries.

During the first stage, specialists from each region are to analyse the situation and assess the prospects of cargo air transportation. How best this should be done was high on the agenda at a session at the Grodno State University — attended by project manager Anatoly Baifert. The second stage envisages the establishment of a shared information-communication platform, allowing co-operation between airports. The third stage includes the preparation of guidance for coordinating air transportation and customs demands.

By March 2013, the system should be ready for testing, with full operations ready by August. The total budget is just over 3m Euros, with 300,000 Euros to be allocated to Belarusian participants.

## What threatens native species?

By Olga Livetseva

**Belarusian scientists to study ichthyofauna of Dnieper-Bug Canal, paying special attention to alien fish species**

"A scientific expedition is to start work in early summer along the Dnieper-Bug Canal, which connects with the Black Sea basin. It is from there that invasive species arrive," explains the Head of the Ichthyology Laboratory at the National Academy of Sciences' Scientific-Practical Centre for Bio-Resources, Victor Rizevsky. Over the past years, the number of alien fish has risen in Belarusian waters. "Stickleback, goby and ratan goby pose the greatest threat to traditional Belarusian fish. We need to study how they are spreading, so that we can fight them in future," he notes.

About two dozen (out of 63) fish species in Belarus are viewed as invasive, pushing out native species, which reduces biodiversity. Scientists predict that this process is likely to continue, so additional measures must be taken to preserve traditional Belarusian fish numbers.

## Profitable route launched

**Belavia to sign code-share agreement with Finnair for Minsk-Helsinki flight**

"As regards transit via Helsinki, we are counting on flights to Southeast Asia: China, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. Finnair operates a great number of flights from Helsinki to the Southeast Asian region, and this shall be the most convenient and shortest route from Belarus," stresses Belavia's

Deputy Director General for Marketing and Foreign Economic Activity, Igor Cherginets. Speaking at a press conference devoted to the launch of regular flights on this route, he added that special tariffs will make the flight the cheapest way to travel from Belarus to Southeast Asia.

Belavia's Director General, Anatoly Gusarov, believes that, among many European airlines, Finnair offers optimal

routes and tariffs. As a result, it attracts passengers travelling to Southeast Asia and the North American continent. Flights will allow Belarusians to save foreign currency while the attraction of foreign passengers will enable the airline to earn additional foreign currency.

Belavia has launched a regular Minsk-Helsinki-Minsk flight, linking to 37 cities in 22 Eurasian countries this summer.

## Forestry medals show accuracy and skill

By Yevgeny Oleinikov

**Belarusians claim eight medals at Lithuanian Open Chainsaw Championship**

Professional chainsaw operators gathered near Kaunas for the open air event. Four forestry workers from the Minsk Region competed against others from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, showing their ability to quickly fell a tree with a petrol-powered chainsaw. Within three minutes, the competitors had to fell a tree to land in a specific location, before sawing

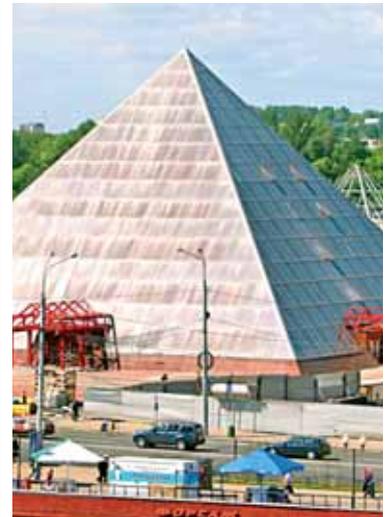


Belarusian woodcutters show true mastery

the trunk into discs no thinner than 3cm and no thicker than 8cm. Additionally, they were prohibited from allowing their chainsaw to touch the wet sawdust lying beneath each trunk. Finally, the competitors vied for supremacy in cutting off thirty branches from surrounding trees.

The judges assessed the quality of work and the observation of safety regulations. Unfortunately, our Belarusians failed to win gold. Their three

silver and five bronze medals at the Lithuanian championship are worthy of respect however. Victor Zaremba, Yuri Nesterovich, Nikolay Yaroshik and Anatoly Andron are preparing for Belarus' Open Championship *Woodcutter-2011*, held in August in Raubichi, near Minsk. Twenty teams from various European countries have been invited to take part and, in 2012, Raubichi is to host the World Chainsaw Championship.



Marko-City Business Centre

## Pyramids of Vitebsk

**Pyramids not only in desert of Egyptian Giza**

On the eve of the holiday of arts in Vitebsk, the first stage of the Marko-City Business Centre is to open not far from the Summer Amphitheatre — the major concert ground of the popular *Slavonic Bazaar Festival*.

The whole complex is multi-level and quite monumental, crowned with pyramids of glass, concrete and metal. Two are 14m high and one pyramid is 23m high, with a 42x42m square footing. Undoubtedly, the amazing constructions will become the city's major attraction after their unveiling in July.

## Railways speed up travel time

By Yelena Yurkovets

**Minsk-Vilnius route reduced in time by almost an hour**

At present, the train covers the 205km between our two capitals within three hours — down from 3 hours 51 minutes. Active co-operation between Belarusian Railways and Lietuvos Gelezinkeliai (Lithuanian Railways JSC) has reduced the number of passenger control procedures at the border, saving time. Meanwhile, the number of stops on Belarusian territory has been reduced, as has waiting time at stations.

According to the Director of the Passenger Transportation Directorate at Lietuvos Gelezinkeliai, Raimondas Burkovskis, the journey could be reduced further. By 2013, after the modernisation of railway infrastructure between Belarus and Lithuania is complete, a contemporary diesel train will reduce travel time by another 30 minutes — to 2 hours 30 minutes.

About 100,000 passengers travel annually between Minsk and Vilnius, with Lithuanian Railways forecasting a continued rise, especially inspired by the simplified visa regime being introduced for residents of border areas. Four modern diesel trains are to connect our capitals and, by late 2014, the electrification of the Molo-dechno (Belarus) — Kena — Naujoji Vilnia (Lithuania) line will reduce travel time between Vilnius and Minsk to no more than two hours.