



## Government tracks situation on foreign currency market

**Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich states that balanced exchange rate for Belarusian Rouble will be achieved in coming months**

Attending a solemn awards ceremony, for the 'Best Entrepreneur: 2010' Republican Contest, Mr. Myasnikovich stressed,

"We'll achieve a balanced rate for the Belarusian Rouble in the next couple of months." He added that the Government won't follow the interests of importers and profiteers, leaving the Belarusian Rouble free floating. "Our economy — based primarily on foreign trade — is not yet adjusted

to this regime," he noted.

Mr. Myasnikovich explained that stability for the Belarusian Rouble is possible on creating certain conditions — including a safety cushion of gold and currency reserves (planned for the near future). A stable reduction of the deficiency in foreign trade and

inflow of foreign currency are also vital in the long term. "In May 2011, for the first time in many years, we saw a positive balance of \$117m," the Prime Minister explained, adding that the Government and the National Bank continue to track activity on Belarus' currency market.

## Passports for especially rare flora species

**UNESCO allocates grant to Belarus to protect endangered plant species**

"UNESCO's interest is explained by the fact that many plants registered in the Red Book of Europe are currently growing in Belarus," explains Oleg Maslovsky, who heads the flora cadastre sector at the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Experimental Botany. He adds that the project aims to ensure thorough protection for endangered plant species countrywide.

Scientists from the Institute of Experimental Botany have already begun implementing the project, aiming to launch a protection system for endangered plant species in line with global and European strategies for plant conservation. "There are over 40 plant species in Belarus which are protected in Europe and worldwide which are yet to be registered in the Red Book of Belarus. As part of the project, a passport and a conservation obligation will be prepared for each protected species, allowing us to prevent the disappearance of these rare plants," explains the scientist. According to preliminary estimations, several hundred such passports will be created.

## Unscheduled landing without complications

**British plane makes emergency landing at Brest airport**

A private plane asked for permission to land at about 7pm on Tuesday, July 26th, having problems with the left engine. While in the air, a dispatcher from the Brest branch of state-run Belaeronavigation called rescuers. Two minutes after the call, the plane safely touched down.

"We didn't need the rescue service's help," explains Sergey Mashnov, a press secretary of the Emergency Ministry's Brest Regional Department. "The plane is owned by private UNITED AIRGROUP CORPORATION, registered on the Isle of Man, UK. It was travelling from French Nice to Moscow's Domodedovo, carrying three crew members on board."

# Preservation of history

Unique exhibition of 90 year old Belarusian diplomatic documents at Centre of Belarusian Foreign Ministry and Diplomatic Service History



Exposition features almost 1,500 documents on history of Belarusian diplomacy

Launched by Foreign Minister Sergei Martynov, the exhibition marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the BSSR

Mission to the Council of People's Commissars of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (the BSSR's first diplomatic representa-

tion abroad) and the Provision of the People's Commissariat of BSSR Foreign Affairs. It features about 1,500 exhibits documenting Bela-

rusian diplomatic history. Among them are those on the Peace Treaty of Riga, the first independent note of the People's Commissariat and the first Belarusian foreign passports.

"These documents are unique, dating back 90 years and filling in historical gaps regarding international relations from those times. They destroy common Soviet historical myths, as most documents were declassified only in the 1990s," explains the Head of the History and Archives Department at Belarus' Foreign Ministry, Vadim Sverchkov. He notes that the exhibited documents were partially taken from the Foreign Ministry's archives and others from the State Archives Service. The exhibition crowns the efforts of the Foreign Ministry to compile a database of documents regarding foreign relations. These are often used for printed articles and research projects.

Mr. Martynov asked the diplomats in attendance to contribute to keeping clear historical records of Belarusian diplomacy. "Time slips ever away. We might think that everything is clear today but when a document is gone or photos are missing, and people are gone, nothing remains," he said.

## China becoming ever closer to country's southern region

By Nikolay Zhelezov

**Gomel visited by delegation from People's Government of China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region**

The delegation visited Gomselmash agricultural machine building company and Gomel Meat and Milk Company Holding, while also meeting rectors from Gomel's higher educational establishments. During their talks at the Gomel Regional Executive Committee, they highlighted achievements and positive trends in the development of bilateral relations between Belarus' southern-eastern region

and China.

Already, several educational establishments and companies from the regional centre are successfully mastering Chinese markets, while realising joint projects. For example, Gomselmash has joined Chinese partners in establishing an assembling facility for agricultural machinery in Heilongjiang, while Chinese investors are realising a grand project in Gomel: construction of a modern 'Eastern Detour' motorway.

Gomel's Frantsisk Skarina State University and the Belarusian State University of Transport have signed about 35 agree-

ments on co-operation with Chinese educational establishments.

During the recent visit, a new document was signed, envisaging further avenues for bilateral co-operation. Among them is the establishment of a Belarusian-Chinese farm to breed cattle for further sale (meat and dairy products).

The exchange of higher educational establishment students is also planned, while Gomel schoolchildren are to travel to the Chinese region next year. Chinese teams are also to take part in the International *Sozhsky Karagod* Festival.

## Capital plans to more actively promote itself



By Andrey Anufriev

**British could be chosen to create Minsk brand**

A London-based company has negotiated with the Minsk City Executive Committee regarding the creation of a brand for the Belarusian capital. Yelena Plis, the Director of the Minsk Information and Tourism Centre,

tells us that the British company is very keen, suggesting an image and slogan, hand-picked colours and printing fonts. "Any unusual image could be chosen, with the final decision made by experts, following a contest," Ms. Plis explains.

If the British company wins the tender, it will hold seminars for state bodies and businesses, explaining how Minsk could be promoted abroad and how the brand could be used in advertising brochures and posters. It could decorate public transport terminals, among other sites.

"First and foremost, the Belarusian capital needs its own brand for the upcoming 2014 IIHF World Championship," Ms. Plis adds.