

Contemporary technology provides best medical service

Intensive Care Department at 4th Children's Clinical Hospital in Minsk opens new surgery block

By Inna Karastoyanova

Both patients and doctors have long awaited the launch of the new surgery block, following almost two years of reconstruction. Leading the first guests through the corridors, Rostislav Filanovich, the hospital's Chief Doctor, cannot conceal his pride; the hospital now boasts ultra-modern equipment — among the best in the country. Doctors are now 'settling in' and have been conducting complex op-

erations for several days — including cleft palate surgery for babies aged 2-3 months old. It's not hard to imagine how their parents have been awaiting their first smiles. Previously, such operations could not be performed until infants were six months old; the new medical equipment, costing around Br4.5bn, allows doctors to work even more skillfully.

Surgeries for those needing partial skin grafting are also being improved, with special lamps

installed in the maxillofacial surgery block to allow perfect illumination. This allows skin nuances to be matched well, giving a better aesthetic finish. Patients who begin to suffer problems can be brought to one of two new isolators, which boast the latest respiratory apparatus and complete sterility.

According to doctors, up to 30 maxillofacial surgeries used to be conducted at the hospital monthly, with the number now set to rise. We can confidently



Clinic now boasts super modern equipment

say that children country-wide will receive help. The Chairman of the Minsk

City Executive Committee's Healthcare Committee, Victor Sirenko, has hopes

that another surgical ward will soon be constructed at the 4th Clinical Hospital.

For students' convenience

By Galina Grishkovets

Branch of Belarusian National Technical University may soon open in Dushanbe

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Tajikistan to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Koqidavlat Koimodov, has announced at a

press conference dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Tajikistan's independence that a Dushanbe-based branch could soon open. It would offer training in construction, power engineering and other industries essential for the Tajik economy.

According to Mr. Koimodov, Tajikistan is keen

to co-operate in the educational sphere. Already, over 50 Tajik students are studying at various Belarusian universities, with about 25 at the State Higher Aviation College and others studying at technical, humanitarian and medical universities in Belarus.

He explained that exami-

nation campaigns in Belarus and Tajikistan are held at different times. Belarusian students are passing their examinations when Tajik students are just finishing their school studies, so it has been agreed that Tajik enrollees can arrive in Belarus after they've passed their exams in Tajikistan.

21st century cadets: eyes on knowledge, which is paramount

Second Cadet College opens in Vitebsk

By Yelena Beganskaya

Luzhesno's former gymnasium-boarding school for talented children has officially become the second Cadet College in the Vitebsk Region. Its Director, Vladimir Shitko, explains that the decision is the result of significant interest from local teenagers. Several years ago, President Alexander Lukashenko visited, praising those who were attending military-patriotic classes. In recent years, over 200 gymnasium leavers have entered the Military Academy, with many becoming officers. The decision to change the status is much influenced by the opening of other gymnasiums in the Vitebsk Region which train talented children.

Formerly, the Luzhesno boarding school primarily taught village schoolchildren



Future officers must be well educated

but will now welcome pupils from cities, towns and rural areas. Future officers must be well educated, so the quality of training is paramount. The composition of pupils is to alter, with 48 'recruits' enrolled

in the 8th grade. They arrived on September 1st wearing their cadet uniforms. Over the coming two or three years, the school will fully re-qualify as a 'cadet school' (once the present gymnasium pupils graduate).

Girls are to be admitted alongside boys; as Mr. Shitko notes, they already account for the major share. However, girls are ultimately limited to no more than 25 percent of all cadets.

Making children's dreams come true

By Palina Lakhmanenka

Creativity — Discoveries — Achievements at Minsk's Centre of Technical Creativity

Children's dreams can be wondrous when given real support and understanding from adults. Schools aren't always able to help teenagers to fully reveal their talents, so technical creativity centres have a useful role to play. The Centre has developed a programme of activities for youngsters to help them reveal their capabilities. They simply choose the department which interests them; for instance, the sports and technical department assists in helping youngsters design aircraft, vehicles and ships.

Those keen on speed can go to the carting track, courses on 3D photography

are offered, and those eager to explore cultural traditions can learn folk crafts, such as carpet weaving. Future designers and architects also find help there.

Most importantly, the Centre teaches teenagers to believe in themselves and in their future success; this is the ultimate goal of such events as *Creativity — Discoveries — Achievements*. The clubs are open to observers and always welcome new participants.

An exhibition of achievements by the Centre's pupils deserves special attention. Their works are diverse: from models of airplanes and frigates to a whole space station complex, paintings, dolls wearing handmade national costumes, and a range of other handicrafts reflecting traditional Belarusian culture.

Ability to love birds and listen to them

Specialists from Sweden and Finland take part in open ornithology championship

The APB-BirdLife Belarus Public Association's nature conservation specialist, Semen Levy, tells us that a team of Belarusian and Finnish ornithologists won the event, recording 115 species of birds in the Minsk Region. It is their third victory in four years.

Second place went to the Grodno team, which recorded 114 species while the Turov team came third, recording 110. A total of 13 teams took part in the championship, with six recording over a hundred bird species.

The data will help scientists study the habitats of birds in more detail, while learning about their migratory paths and the features of autumn migration to the south.