

# Motorshow-2011 as 'acid test' for automobile market

International *Motorshow-2011*, held in Minsk, matches and, even, exceeds audience appeal of International Automobile Expo in Frankfurt



Alongside car novelties, *Motorshow* offers diverse performances which add festive mood to the event

Dmitry Yarota, Director General of the Belarusian car show's organiser — Remark, has compared the shows in Minsk and Frankfurt, noting that the Belarusian fair boasts a more appealing programme.

Where the German event focuses primarily on automobiles, the Belarusian *Motorshow* tries to create a festive atmosphere of performances.

The Minsk fair boasted about 150 cutting-edge cars

at the Football Manege, with visitors invited to sit in most of the models. These examples of the latest developments in the world's automobile industry were intriguing to enthusiasts and potential customers

alike. Every half hour, each stand gave a presentation, with two models of Ė-mobile, the roadster Mazda MX-4, a vintage Ford car and several other classic cars taking centre stage.

Mr. Yarota emphasises that the fair allows automobile business professionals to meet face-to-face with potential clients while seeing their competition and holding beneficial negotiations. Visitors say that the Belarusian *Motorshow* has greatly improved since its last incarnation two and a half years ago — as proven by its scale and the range of new cars on display.

*Motorshow-2011* is an 'acid test' for the whole automobile market. Its organisers believe that the Belarusian automobile market is due to experience serious growth, while competition between automobile companies has greatly intensified. It's hoped that, as soon as the currency market stabilises, Belarusian car dealers will see sales rise across the board — to individuals and businesses. A part-exchange system of trading in old cars as part payment towards new models is planned, to aid sales. If currency difficulties are removed in the coming months, all those involved in the automobile business should see revenue recover.

## Never forget brave soldiers

### Monument to WWII tank battle unveiled in Senno

The tank battle near Senno, which occurred during the Great Patriotic War, was the largest in world history, stopping German troops heading for Moscow and leading to the failure of 'Mission Barbarossa'.

The monument is situated in the middle of the district centre, featuring a Soviet IS-3 tank donated by the Defence Ministry. "On unveiling a monument to Soviet tank crew, we're restoring historical justice, while paying tribute to the memory of Red Army soldiers' heroism. The monument reminds us of those tragic events," stressed Belarus' Defence Minister, Yuri Zhadobin, at the solemn ceremony.

Sadly, few know about the WWII tank battle near the Belarusian town of Senno, which took place on July 6th, 1941. Over 2,000 military vehicles took part altogether — more than was observed during the famous battle of Prokhorovka, on the Kursk Arc. In Senno, tank crews demonstrated heroism and altruism, performing their military duty with dignity. Their attacks and defensive actions lasted four days, aiming to thwart the enemy's advance over the Soviet defence line.

## Internet speeds could soon accelerate massively

**Andrey Geim and Konstantin Novoselov, who were awarded a Nobel Prize in 2010 for their 'advanced experiments with the two dimensional material graphene', assert that Internet speed can be accelerated even hundreds of times**

The Russian-born scien-

tists have long-term plans, hoping to see their graphene applied in optic networks and communication systems — such as high-speed Internet access. "It's too early to elaborate," warns the senior research officer at the National Academy of Sciences' Physics Institute, Yevgeny Tolkachev. "However, it will take more than a single year before real

application; it's not just a question of time, as we must produce graphene on an industrial scale. Nevertheless, our prospects are promising."

The major advantage of the material is the huge speed with which charged particles can move through it — much higher than that observed in semi-conductors. Accordingly, all processes move more quick-

ly. Graphene is a minutely thin layer of graphite atoms (the thickness of one atom) and can be used in micro-circuits to significantly reduce their size, while increasing memory and the number of calculations.

Internet speeds could be massively accelerated by using the new material. Such progress is only a matter of time.

## Debate at healthcare fair

By Palina Lakhmanenka

**Medicine in Belarus reaches new heights — as International Medicine and Health — 2011 Fair confirms**

Specialised exhibitions always attract attention from connected specialists but the annual International *Medicine and Health* Fair aims to create a diverse programme — interesting to all. Thousands of Minskians attended the event this year, able to see the latest medical equipment, while gaining advice on its use.

Although foreign made equipment enjoys a good



Exhibition hosts latest advanced medical equipment

reputation, most Belarusian hospitals use domestically produced devices. Moreover, their manufacturing companies already have

professional recognition. Among them is a firm producing artificial life support equipment, which began by making medical furniture.

## Upwards rating of knowledge

**Belarusian State University joins top 700 universities worldwide for first time**

In line with the famous British QS company's *World University Rankings-2011*, the Belarusian State University (BSU) has for the first time joined the top 700 universities worldwide, ranked in the segment from 501st to 550th. Among CIS universities, the BSU is ranked ninth and occupies the same position among the universities of Central and Eastern Europe. Cambridge University tops the list of 700, while Moscow's M.V. Lomonosov State University is 112th. St. Petersburg University is placed 251st, Novosibirsk University is 400th and Warsaw University is ranked between 401st and 450th, while Vilnius University is in the 551st-600th segment.

QS has been compiling rankings since 2004, assessing educational establishments under a range of parameters. Academic reputation is the most important, accounting for 40 percent of the assessment; it indicates how well university professors are known to the global academic community for joint participation in research projects and conferences and for publishing in international scientific editions.

## It's never too late to learn

By Mikhail Korobov

**Mogilev pensioners taught to shop and pay bills online**

The elderly residents of Mogilev are pleased to learn that free courses in computer literacy are being organised at the city's five libraries, especially for them. They'll be taught to make purchases and pay bills online, to send e-mails and to find information on the web.

"At present, our institutions provide around 50 additional services to Mogilev residents," notes Galina Kravchenko, Director of the Centralised System of State Public Libraries. "These include printing of colour photos, photo design, development of electronic presentations and editing of texts. Our staff are quite busy. However, the new service shouldn't create problems in our usual working schedule. In recent times, fewer people are using our reading halls as they prefer to copy the necessary literature. This niche will be occupied by our computer training programme."

Staff from the Belarusian Children's Hospice attended the fair, manning an info kiosk to promote their work and encourage volunteers, distributing its brochures. The organisation has been operational for over 15 years in Belarus, assisting many families free of charge.

Every year, the fair hosts numerous scientific-practical conferences, seminars and training courses; 2011 was no exception, with the Republican *Health Safety* conference looking at how white goods and modern communication devices influence our health. It aroused great debate.