

Specialists decide to co-operate

Belarusian-Lithuanian innovation centre to open in Minsk

The new organisation will be set up in line with an agreement signed during the Innovative Forum recently held in Minsk, between the Belarusian Innovative Fund and the Scientific Park of Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania). The centre will help implement new joint Belarusian-Lithuanian projects, will aim to attract foreign investments and penetrate new markets for local hi-tech products, and will promote business contacts between scientists and industrial enterprises from our two countries. Its specialists will implement projects in spheres such as energy, construction, machine building, optoelectronics, laser technologies, new materials, ecology, bio-technologies and medicine. In the near future, its scientists will be designing ultrasonic equipment for medical establishments.

Partners check exact time

Belarus and Czech Republic determine major areas of interaction in power engineering, signing protocol at fourth session of Belarusian-Czech co-operative working group, in Prague

To activate liaisons in power engineering, the working group discussed the modernisation of energy equipment in Belarus. Setting up a network of CNG fuel stations, involving Czech companies, was also on the agenda, alongside collaboration in the sphere of nuclear power engineering and medicine. Trade-economic collaboration and expansion of interaction in standardisation and certification were discussed, as was the joint implementation of sci-tech, innovative projects. Vasily Markovich, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to the Czech Republic, tells us that special attention was paid to the financing and insurance of investment projects in Belarus by the Czech Export Bank and Export Guarantee and Insurance Corporation.

National Bank prefers not to niggle

New Br200,000 banknote coming into circulation within first three months of 2012, notes Nadezhda Yermakova, Chair of the National Bank's Board

Ms. Yermakova is yet to reveal all the details of the new banknote but told us that the country's major financial institution ordered the notes back in October. She explains that 'a Belarusian architectural site' will be depicted. She has also announced plans to round prices to Br50, believing Br10 and Br20 banknotes to 'have outlived their usefulness', costing more money to print than is worthwhile.

Scientific economy to help customers make savings

National Academy of Sciences' Sociology Institute finds cheapest consumer basket

By Vladimir Velichansky

The ability to save money is certainly useful and can present a real challenge, especially in today's consumer market. There are so many tempting products to choose from and so many brand names, in all possible packaging. Calculating the best deal can take a lot of effort as we stand in the supermarket. Moreover, marketing specialists often use cleverly persuasive methods to attract us towards expensive products.

The National Academy of Sciences' Sociology Institute recently conducted a survey to compare the price of a consumer basket at Minsk's largest trading networks. A family of four is envisaged, with alcoholic beverages included for the year. According to the Sociology Institute's Director, Igor Kotlyarov, eight chain stores in Minsk were chosen: Almi, Vester, Bigzz, Euroopt, Gippo, Prostor, Rublevsky and Sosedi. "Our price calculations indicated that Euroopt was the cheapest place to buy food," he notes, adding that prices for some products differ significantly. In comparison to average city prices, Euroopt offers 72 percent lower prices for canned vegetables. Its oilseed and olive oil is 69 percent cheaper, cereals are 65 percent cheaper and fruits are 55 percent cheaper while tea and coffee are lower by 54 percent, frozen fish by up to 40 percent, and juices by up to 36 percent. Its alcoholic beverages are 18-30



Euroopt retail network offers most competitive prices

percent cheaper than those in the other shops.

Prices for popular non-food products were also recorded, with Euroopt again proving cheapest for washing powder, fabric conditioner, toothpaste, shampoo and other products: around 20-60 per-

cent cheaper than elsewhere.

Sadly, such market information gathering is in its infancy in Belarus. Accordingly, customers often lack objective information with which to plan their budget. Mr. Kotlyarov is convinced that research in the field of Belarusian

retail trade will soon develop, especially taking into consideration plans to halt inflation and reduce prices. To make well-considered decisions, the nuances of domestic trade need to be understood. Pleasingly, surveys are a good way to collect data.

Rechitsa Textile lands prestigious Armani contract

Rechitsa Textile JSC supplies trial batch to USA

By Valery Sidorov

The enterprise has sent 500 towelling robes to the USA, sewn to order using American Armani's patterns. "It's prestigious for us to work for such a well-known brand," asserts Rechitsa Textile's Director General, Victor Kondratiev. "This recognises our technical and professional level, while showing our good prospects for export."

Belarusian textiles are already successfully sold in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Armenia and the Baltic States, and co-operation with partners from Mongolia has begun. International collaboration is hoped for following participation in one of the largest textile forums: *Heimtextil-2012* International Trade Fair for Home and Contract Textiles. This is scheduled to be hosted by Frankfurt-am-Main in January 2012. Rechitsa Textile plans to present its collection of linen clothes.

The manufacture of competitive produce has become possible due to



New equipment proves necessary for the enterprise

complete reconstruction of the enterprise, conducted over the last five years. According to Mr. Kondratiev, next year, after new equipment comes into operation on the dyeing floor, the modernisation of the company will be complete. In fact, 12 times more money has been invested in the

past five years than over the previous five, showing the scale of the work.

Rechitsa Textile JSC is part of Belneftekhim Concern, manufacturing towels, bed sheets, napkins and towelling robes, as well as table cloths, table and decorative sets, bed covers, blankets and tapestry pieces.

Basis established, with prospects to follow

Belarus and Myanmar sign agreement on trade-economic co-operation

The document was signed during an official visit by a Belarusian governmental delegation to Myanmar, headed by Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich. During his stay, the Head of the Belarusian Government met the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Thein Sein, discussing prospects for bilateral relations. Mr. Myasnikovich noted that the viewpoints of our two countries coincide, laying robust foundations for the successful implementation of joint projects. He passed on words of greeting to Mr. Sein on behalf of the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, wishing success to the Myanmar nation.

Agreements were signed on co-operation in education and agriculture, and between the chambers of commerce and industry of Belarus and Myanmar. An agreement to cancel visas for diplomatic and official passport holders was also signed.