

Bright example of rich and substantial culture

Gomel officially becomes cultural capital of CIS and Belarus

By Nikolay Andreev

Ulyanovsk in Russia is joining Gomel as a cultural capital of the CIS, bringing a busy schedule, rich in events for the next ten months. Officials call this 'preparation of the cultural soil for political and economic co-operation'.

The pilot stage of our inter-state programme — *Cultural Capitals of the Commonwealth* — has been launched, initiated by the Council for Humanitarian Co-operation, the Council for Cultural Co-operation and the CIS Interstate Fund for Humanitarian Co-operation. It aims to unite potential and expand ties while developing separate territories and cities.

Last year, Polotsk was Belarus' first cultural capital; now, Gomel has taken the baton and entered inter-state level. Celebrations have just taken place, although the city has enjoyed its title for more than a month already. Some definite projects have been organised, while much is still being discussed. The opening of the Beehive international creative centre for young people is expected to become a wonderful source of inspiration: a factory of



Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace is a major attraction of Gomel: the cultural capital of the Commonwealth and Belarus

ideas. Bold experimentation is the order of the day. The traditional *Sozhsky Karagod* Choreography Festival, organised in Gomel since 1997, should also receive new life. The Chairman of the Gomel City Executive Committee, Victor Pilipets, hopes to use these new opportunities to

the utmost. He notes, "We won't be a formal capital, as everyone will soon find out."

The nation's best bands are to perform in Gomel, with exhibitions by the country's major museums and galleries also taking place. Belarus' Culture Minister, Pavel Latushko, is con-

fidant, "Those living in small towns have the right to the same benefits as Minskians. This is how I view the creation of a cultural capital: it allows us to present the best of our arts and creative life to a wider public."

Irina Kotova, Minister for Art and Cultural Policy

in the Ulyanovsk Region, hopes that a 'cultural layer' will be jointly created. She has invited her Belarusian colleagues to take part in Ulyanovsk projects, which are to start soon, offering great prize funds and grants. Gomel is 'on the cultural rise'.

Internet to accelerate at full speed

By 2015, Belarus will boast a contemporary information-communication infrastructure, raising Internet speeds to 100 Mbit/s

By 2011-2015, the state programme will have moved Belarus to multi-service electrical communication networks, while launching 4G mobile communications. The external Internet gate is to be expanded and fixed and wireless broadband services are to be further developed. Moreover, data transfer networks are to be modernised, moving to more contemporary technologies and fibre-optic lines running directly to consumers.

Additionally, in the next five years, Belarus is to shift to television broadcasts in a digital format, accepting a social package of programmes country-wide. The new targets include the creation of databases and websites to transform information on government, health-care, education, employment and social protection into digital form; informatisation is to embrace all spheres. The major goal for our information-communication technologies is 'the formation of an information society in the Republic, launching advanced communication technologies and Belarus' joining in 2015 of those countries boasting the highest development index within the International Telecommunication Union and UN'.

Sky lures us to fly



Natalia Malashenko preparing to become a military pilot

By Galina Vaneeva

Female pilot is first to receive officer status at Military Academy of Belarus

"As we can see from the experience of Natalia Malashenko, who is graduating from the Academy and will be the first female military pilot, our women have real opportunities to become officers," notes Colonel Yuri Kokoshko, Deputy Head of the Military Academy's Educational Work. "After graduation, Ms. Malashenko will have achieved total flight experience of over 220 hours. Of course, she wishes to fly on a serious aircraft: a strike

fighter. We hope that she'll succeed," continues Mr. Kokoshko.

According to Mr. Kokoshko, over past several years, women have taken on a wider range of military roles, including those involving command, engineering, technical support, military-humanitarian, ideological, pedagogical and medical. Since 2002, young girls have been enrolled at the Military Academy's Department of Communication and Automated Control Systems. Women also study at the military departments of the country's civil universities. Most female officers work as military doctors, psychologists, translators and lawyers.

Innovations in energy sphere won't be ignored

Minsk hosts 3rd International Atomexpo-Belarus-2011 Specialised Exhibition and Conference

The exhibition presented the latest technology relating to the design, construction, operation and security of nuclear power plants. The event

aimed to promote a system of training personnel for the nuclear industry, with over 100 companies and organisations from four countries taking part. The Belarusian industrial complex was widely represented, with such giants of machine building as BelAZ, MAZ and Amkodor



Latest branch technologies on show at exhibition

demonstrating their equipment.

The *Prospects of the Nuclear Energy Industry in Belarus* scientific and practical

conference was also held as part of the exhibition, discussing issues of design, construction and secure operation of nuclear power plants.

Bicycle wheel to generate power

By Tatiana Lobas

Best ecological projects by Belarusian schoolchildren sent to international forum in Norway

The Republican *Energy and Environment* ecological contest, held under the motto 'Let's Preserve the Climate and Begin with Simple Energy Solutions', brought together pupils under the age of 17, with almost 600 creative pieces

submitted.

First place in the 'Propaganda of Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving' nomination was won by Marina Susla, 14, from Mogilev, whose video tells the story of a small girl dreaming of becoming an independent business woman, yet failing to save energy. Fortunately, she realises the error of her ways and learns to be more careful.

Vera Porvatova of Borisov won the 'Theoretical

Works' category with her work, dedicated to repeated waterlogging of peatlands. Arseny Tishchenko of Vitebsk, offering economic routes in Vitebsk, came second in the same nomination. The gymnasium pupil's idea will enable Vitebsk drivers to save time while significantly reducing the kilometres travelled through the city. This may considerably ease traffic congestion in the city.

Konstantin Vishnevsky

and Yevgeny Gribanov were awarded first place in the 'Practical Experience of Energy Saving at School and at Home' nomination. They propose a hydro-wheel made from an ordinary bicycle wheel, which can be used where traditional power supplies are unavailable — such as while hiking. By sinking the front wheel into water, enough power can be generated to charge a camera, mobile phone or tape recorder.