



Post graduate student of the NAS' Physics Institute, Alexey Voinilovich, studies semi-conductor lasers and light emitting diodes

Healing rays developed

Belarusian physicists develop completely new laser

By Vladimir Yakovlev

At first sight, the device created at the Physics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, is a chaotic mass of lenses, crystals and mirrors, with several electronic components beneath. However, as soon as the necessary tumbler is pressed, everything comes into harmony. Rhythmic clicks are heard and the rays of bright em-

erald and crimson begin to pulsate.

"Three lasers are united, with one being the primary source of energy," explains the inventor, doctor of physical-mathematical sciences, Sergey Tikhomirov. "These help to create an ultra-short pulsed laser emission, lasting 30-50 femtoseconds. Our achievement is unique in using a solid state pulsing laser to work a femtosecond generator. It uses less en-

ergy, and is more compact and simple to use."

Scientists already have plans for the unique innovation's application — in laser microsurgery. The Physics Institute is now developing several samples for use in Belarus and abroad, making laser scalpels more precise. This reduces trauma, as tissues aren't heated by more than 1-2 degrees. This prevents coagulation, aiding a speedy recovery. The laser

impulse is extremely brief (one femtosecond is a second to the minus 15th degree) — using a ray travelling at a speed of 300,000km per second over a width of less than the thickness of a human hair.

In 2012, the new laser system is to be improved, entering its design-and-experimental stage. This will allow the Physics Institute to produce research and semi-commercial units. It is

currently being developed in the infra-red ray physics laboratory, now headed by world famous academician Nikolay Borisevich — who used to head the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR and has long been involved in laser technologies. His laboratory has also created a unique spectrometer of ultrahigh time resolution, which has involved scientists from abroad in its development.

Contacts yielding fruit

By Alexander Pimenov

Innovation Technology Park to open in Vitebsk with Chinese investments, following preliminary agreements reached during Vitebsk delegation's visit to Harbin

The business agenda of the visit was devoted to meetings with business representatives of the Harbin Economic and Technological Development Zone.

The Vitebsk City Executive Committee and the Harbin Zone have signed a co-operative agreement stipulating general conditions for partnership; these include information exchange, joint business meetings and business trips and trade fairs for science-intensive products. In addition, the Chinese partners have accepted Vitebsk's offer of taking part in founding an Information and Innovation Technology Park.

Newspaper for pensioners to become international

By Tatiana Bolgova

From July, the Gomelsky Pensioner popular newspaper will be released across Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan in a new format — as the international Pensiya Plus (Pension Plus) newspaper

"We receive many letters from Belarus, as well as from Russia, where readers express their desire to become our subscribers," notes Editor-in-Chief Alevtina Galkovskaya. "It's no surprise, as plenty of families are spread all over the former Soviet Union and there are many pensioners among them. Our edition is a forum for written meetings, aiming to combat loneliness — the eternal companion of old age."

According to the editorial office, almost the whole newspaper relies on readers' letters, which include stories, poems and country life notes, as well as recipes and household medicinal cures. Moreover, it contains the latest news about those enterprises which once employed today's pensioners.

Gomelsky Pensioner is Belarus' only regional newspaper for elderly people and has been published in the region for three years now.



Popular since childhood

Name trends of last year

In 2011, most popular baby names were Ivan and Anastasia

The Justice Ministry's Press Service tells us that, last year, the most popular names included Maxim, Nikita, Artem, Yegor, Darya, Polina and Yelizaveta. Among the rarest were Oskar, Gordey, Kristian, Klimenty, Agnia, Alivia and Leona.

The highest birth rate was registered in 2011 in Minsk: over 23,000. Outside of the capital, the Brest Region gave the largest number of babies born: 17,600.

Physical fitness gaining popularity across regions

Modern sports centres to open in Stolbtsy, Cherven and Volozhin in coming years

By Nadezhda Radionova

The new sites are part of the Minsk Region's investment programme for 2012, with construction works already begun in Stolbtsy. Cherven and Volozhin are still preparing their architectural plans. The centres will include swimming pools, gyms and recreational facilities. Additionally, Logoisk is to have its stadium reconstructed and the construction of another is to continue in Borisov. A swimming pool is planned for Berezino.

Last year, sports centres opened in the Minsk Region's Myadel, Berezino, Lyuban and Borisov. The facility in Myadel includes a sports hall seating 350, a gym, a fitness hall and a recreational centre with mini swimming pool. Residents of this district centre can play mini-football, volleyball, basketball and table tennis, while enjoying a range



At Max Mirny's Sports Centre, in Minsk

of other sporting activities — such as gymnastics. The Minsk Region hosts sportsmen of the highest level.

The state programme for rural

revival and development is promoting physical fitness while encouraging rural tourism; over 2,000 sports facilities operate in the Minsk Region at present.