

Hunting is for decent hunting

By Dmitry Krymov

Hunting and fishing ceased to be vital long ago but were once the only way to feed ourselves. Some people's passion for hunting and fishing continues however, perhaps fuelled by instinct. Of course, these days, we cannot simply take what we like from our forests and lakes, since such areas often fall under state protection.

The President recently took part in a discussion, inviting representatives from every level; after all, fishing is enjoyed by everyone at some time in their life. The development of new rules for hunting and fishing was the main issue, with Mr. Lukashenko re-

questing wide-spread public discussion before any decision be made. Countrywide discussions have been used to draft a new document, for submission to the President.

Mr. Lukashenko noted, "The same rules should apply to everyone, and be clear and easily understandable, without loopholes for dishonest people. Everything we'll consider today has been learnt from hunters, fishermen and our society..."

There are special requirements for those who organise hunting and fishing; they bear more responsibility than simply collecting payments and providing clients with comfortable conditions. They also need to maintain animal and fish levels. Mr. Lukashenko explained, "We lack sub-

stantial deposits of mineral resources so should do our best to protect the treasures generously bestowed by nature."

Of the government's programme for the development of hunting and fishing, until 2015, the President noted, "As I've been informed, the hunting programme aims to increase in number the main wild animal species. The fishing sector is more problematic, with many complaints of mismanagement of reservoirs, as well as poaching and other crimes."

Mr. Lukashenko notes that current legislation is weak, saying, "We need to end all the red tape and confusion, creating a decree on the adoption of new rules for hunting and fishing. God forbid that you'll find new

loopholes and say that you need more legislation; you'll have only yourself to blame. We should adopt decisions without compromise, using only a governmental approach."

To sum up, we aim to simplify the system for diligent hunters and fishermen while strengthening our position against obvious infringement and realising potential revenue. Hunting permits will become available online, with all documents streamlined. Nobody has the right to enter woods carrying a gun unless they have applied for a permit; those attempting to do so will be classed as poachers. The new legislation makes it much harder for those acting illegally to find a loophole regarding intent. Meanwhile, leasing of grounds and reservoirs will become



the remit of regional executive committees. At the same time, renewal of contracts will become easier for diligent tenants.

Some of the innovations will demand changes of administrative and criminal legislation, so the president has ordered that the necessary proposals be drawn up over the coming month.

Key statistics reveal much

Belarusians less prone to bouts of depression than their neighbours

Belarusians are less prone to depression than residents of neighbouring countries, according to the American financial and economic news agency Bloomberg. Belarus is ranked 41st out of 74, while neighbouring Russia is 25th, Latvia 34th and Lithuania 38th.

The ranking takes into account data provided by the World Health Organisation, the United Nations, the World Bank, Transparency International and other organisations. The survey included 74 states with a population of over one million and is based on seven key factors: homicide rates, GDP per capita on a purchasing-power-parity basis, income inequality, corruption perception, unemployment, urban air pollution and life expectancy. Bloomberg is convinced that these factors are crucial in assessing people's lives in any given country.

According to Bloomberg, GDP per capita in Belarus totals \$7,807, while average life expectancy is 71 years. Unemployment stands at 0.6 percent — the lowest to date — and Belarus is ranked 64th for corruption perception; Venezuela,



Enjoying life is keystone to work success, while protecting against stress

Bangladesh and Pakistan top this list.

The most 'stressed' country, according to the ranking, is Nigeria,

which is followed by the South African Republic, El Salvador, Mongolia, Guatemala, Colombia, Pakistan, Jamaica, Macedonia and

Bolivia. The most relaxed people live in Norway (74th place), Luxembourg (73rd) and Switzerland (72nd).

Illuminating the darkness

By Tatiana Sergeeva

'White' light in Grodno's night streets

Night-time in Gorky and Bogutsky streets is as bright as day, thanks to Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus cross-border co-operation project, which is replacing 100 mercury and sodium fixtures with efficient and environmentally safe LED lamps. These use far less power and can last over 25 years, paying for themselves within five years.

The tender for installation was won by Gorskvet utility enterprise, whose experts now have valuable experience of replacing out-of-date fixtures with LED lamps. Sites currently undergoing modernisation are being prioritised.

From Japan to Zubrenok

By Yulia Semenova

Japanese children suffering after the Fukushima-1 nuclear power station disaster arrive in Belarus for second period of recuperation, visiting National Children's Recuperation and Education Centre

Last year, Zubrenok welcomed ten out of 25 young Japanese guests to Belarus, resulting in a letter of appreciation to President Alexander Lukashenko and asking for a repeat invitation.

"Our centre allows children to rest and recuperate," notes Tatiana Chizhik, Deputy Director of Zubrenok's Teaching and Methodical Work. "We organise excursions around the Lake Naroch ring, alongside trips to Mir and Nesvizh castles. Our guests can learn to make a Belarusian national toy and



Japanese children at Zubrenok camp

find out about other aspects of Belarusian culture and traditions. Moreover, they have the chance to share culture and traditions from their own home-

land, as well as joining Belarusian peers for sports competitions, sailing and motor-boat trips. They even take mini-peddle boats on Lake Naroch."

Calling home from abroad

Mobile operators compile country ratings of where Belarusians most use roaming services

In May and June, the subscribers of Belarus' top three mobile operators — MTS, Velcom and life:) — placed most roaming calls while visiting Russia, followed by Ukraine and Poland. Lithuania, Turkey and Germany were next in line. According to MTS, rather unsurprisingly, summer sees Belarusians using 60 percent more roaming services than in other seasons.

Interestingly, more Velcom users visited Italy than Bulgaria, Spain or Latvia — for the second year in a row. The Czech Republic enjoyed more popularity among those subscribed to MTS and life:) — than Italy, Spain or Latvia. Egypt has lost its position in the ratings compared to last year, most likely due to the unstable political situation. According to MTS, in May and June, Belarusians also used their phones in Panama, Uganda, Chad, Kenya, Uruguay, Mozambique, Nepal, Costa Rica, Gibraltar, Guatemala, Kuwait, Nicaragua and Nigeria.

Medals podium for the best

Belarusian schoolchildren claim two bronze medals at International Biology Olympiad

Swiss Bern hosted the recent scientific contest, at which Alina Voitenkova, a pupil of the Mogilev Regional Lyceum, represented our country and claimed a bronze medal. She was ranked 87th in the overall standings.

Belarusian State University Lyceum pupil Maria Dunai was also awarded a bronze medal while, secondary school #3 pupil Nikita Bokshits, from the Minsk Region's Lyuban, and Tatiana Denisova, from the Belarusian State University Lyceum, received honourable mentions.

As is traditional, the Belarusian Olympiad national team comprises winners of Republican Olympiads. During special gatherings, held over 2-3 stages, the best of the best are chosen to represent Belarus at Olympiads. All winners of international Olympiads are given privileged entrance into university.