

## Philatelists enjoy national colour

### Belpochta awarded silver medal at Thailand-2013 World Stamp Exhibition

Belpochta has been awarded a silver medal for its 'Catalogue of Stamps of the Republic of Belarus. 2008-2012'. In total, 432 collections and exhibits from around the world were presented at the exhibition, grouped into 29 classes and assessed by a competent international jury. Belpochta's participation helps promote the country and its stamps, with the design of its stand playing a vital role in portraying the face of Belarus. Promotional posters were especially designed for this purpose, while every visitor was offered a beautifully designed advertising leaflet, containing general information about Belarus, its geographical position, Belarusian postal stamps and ways to buy them. Most popular were those depicting state symbols. Visitors also bought stamps from the Traditional Clothing, Architecture, Flora and Fauna and Religion series.

## Numbers bend the knee to the best

### Students of BSU's Faculty of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science win three medals at 20th International Maths Olympiad

The prestigious international competition was held in mid-August in Bulgaria, attended by over 300 students from more than 35 countries. Belarus was represented by a team from the Belarusian State University. BSU third year students Sergey Finsky and Vladislav Stazhinsky claimed gold and silver medals respectively, while fourth-year student Artem Govorov added his silver. The International Olympiad in Mathematics for university students has been held since 1994, with the BSU taking part since 2001, winning 37 gold, 30 silver and 5 bronze medals. The two-day event requires participants to solve 10 tasks, covering topics such as calculus, linear and abstract algebra, functional analysis, analytical geometry, combinatorics and the theory of numbers.

# Unique recipe prepared for culinary holiday

## Tasty Blog Festival held in Minsk



During the festival, the best culinary specialists 'conjured' up fantastic dishes

By Oksana Shevchenko

Belarus is full of expectation in the lead up to the Ice Hockey World Championship in May 2014. Gathering thousands of foreign visitors, it will place our country in the limelight. Moreover, many of those who visit will go on to attend the winter Olympic Games in Sochi, giving them the opportunity to compare our reception and that of Sochi.

Since some fans will be travelling hundreds, and even thousands, of kilometres, it's important that accommodation, meals and, the organisation of cultural-informative activities are excellent. It's time for home culinary specialists to excel. Cooks, confectioners, barmen and waiters have begun to perfect their skills at professional competitions, master classes and exhibitions. One

such is the *Tasty Blog* Festival, recently held in the capital.

Irina Narkevich, the Deputy Minister for Trade, notes that this festival provides more than entertainment, also being a trial run for next year. She tells us, "The honour of specialists in these spheres and the image of our country will depend in many respects on the work of domestic services and public catering, who should present their professional skills at the highest level. They should remember that they need to feed a huge army of participants and visitors to the championship, with not simply tasty food but food of high quality, quickly prepared and to suit every pocket."

### 'Golden Coat' — to Milan!

Those who love to walk the shady

avenues of the capital's Gorky Park, visiting its amusements, recently had the chance to take part in the wonderful culinary holiday. On the banks of the River Svisloch, huge kitchens operated under awnings on Saturday and Sunday, conjuring up various exclusive dishes, accompanied by exotic smells; these overwhelmed the habitual smells of popcorn, shish kebab and pancakes.

The first ever national *Golden Coat-2013* event saw the country's best cooks displaying their skills individually, judged by well-known Belarusian and foreign experts. Gabriel, an independent international adviser and member of the Association of Italian Cooks, tells us, "I was a jury member at the first culinary festival, which was held last year. I like to visit your country, to share ideas with Belarusian colleagues. Appar-

ently, this beautiful event will become a traditional fixture in your country so I hope we'll return many times. It's comfortable here and you can feel culture everywhere. As for Belarusian cuisine, I like all the old, traditional recipes — 'grandmother's cooking' as I call it — as only natural products and spices are used."

The *Golden Coat-2013* competition saw chefs continue cooking until late evening, resulting in Vyacheslav Fedyuk taking the title of 'Best Head Chef'. He usually works at one of the capital's restaurants and will soon be heading to a major culinary expo in Milan as part of his prize. He'll also be undertaking free training at the Culinary Academy of the Kievan Association of Head Chefs.

### Star kitchen

Stars of Belarusian sport, pop music and media took part, having a 'celebrity cook off' on day two of the event. Two teams of four had the challenge of demonstrating their culinary art within a one-hour window, for presentation to the jury. Each team was required to produce meat and fish dishes, as well as a salad and dessert. Well-known Belarusian biathlete Darya Domracheva admitted her love for cooking in her spare time. Her exotic yet easy salad — with rucola, pear and Circassian walnut — looked delicious.

When asked about her favourite local dish, she answered without hesitation, "Okroshka — also called kholodnik." On the subject of healthy eating as a sportswoman, Darya admitted that no 'special' diet is necessary; she simply ensures that ingredients are fresh and simple, providing a balance diet and the necessary energy.

The celebrity dishes were tasted by members of the public, as well as the jury, and all those taking part received praise: their prize was the simple pleasure of taking part in the wonderful festival and sharing their love of cooking.

## Valuable artefact from knights' age

### Unique 16th century armour from days of Grand Duchy of Lithuania discovered near Mstislavl

Archaeologists and divers worked without stint for three days, using the most advanced equipment to raise the buried armour. Fortunately, it is in perfect condition: no Belarusian or other museum within the post-Soviet space owns such a unique helmet as the Omar sallet. Only a few dozen are found in Europe.

Invented in Italy, sallets gained popularity in Germany in the late 15th century, notes Prof. Igor Mar-

zalyuk, who heads the Mogilev State University's Department of Archaeology and Special Historical Disciplines. He tells us that sallets were a feature of Gothic armour.

The steel cuirass vest found is also in perfect condition, made of bison leather, with a brass cover. There are also gloves, elbow covers and a hauberk. Elements of linen and leather clothes were also discovered. "These indicate that the armour was owned by a wealthy



Knightly armour, from five centuries ago

man, who probably died during the 1500-1503 Russian-Lithuanian War (when the Grand Duchy of Moscow and Crimean Khanate fought against the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Livonian Confederation). The struggle of the Moscow and Lithuanian duchies for Western Russian lands resulted in several Russian-Lithuanian wars in the late 15th-16 century," Mr.

Marzalyuk explains.

The armour is undergoing restoration, before being exhibited at Bykhov Castle. Prof. Marzalyuk notes that the site is being guarded by police and volunteers. Another dig is likely soon, aiming to reveal ancient settlements discovered nearby. Among the recently unearthed artefacts is a silver-covered 'pisalo': an ancient writing tool.

## Park to be renovated

### Grabovsky Park in Gomel Region wins international contest from German Association of People's Universities

The contest launched in May this year, with 12 applications from Belarus. The winners can receive grants of between 2,000 and 6,000 Euros, for projects to develop their own rural areas. A local, historical connection and originality are obligatory conditions.

Grabovsky Park is a wonderful environmental site, having once belonged to a famous noble family. The grant will help to equip the unique park with necessary facilities and to save its natural and historical flavour.