



New exhibits will soon be on show in the new building of the Museum of the Great Patriotic War

# Tribute to eternal glory to open under dome

The new building of the Museum of the Great Patriotic War History will become, perhaps, the most important place to open its doors in Minsk this year

By Natalia Semenova

Already today it is obvious that it will be a really majestic construction. Beams, the symbol of military salutes, draw attention from afar. What interesting things will the museum contain? A virtual excursion was held by the Director of the Museum, Major-General in the reserve, Nikolai Skobelev.

Let's begin with a question that war veterans immediately asked at once, after they heard about the construction of the new museum. 'Will its size decrease or not?' The management confidently answers: 'No!' The total area will be about 15 thousand square metres. In comparison, it is approximately the same size as the Palace of the Republic. Certainly, only part of the area will be allocated for exhibition as the functioning of such an establishment is impossible without auxiliary services. However,

it is possible to say with confidence that the area of constant exposition will be about twenty percent more than in the old building. It means that the number of represented exhibits will increase too.

The opinions of veterans were taken into consideration during the design of the new exposition. They, more than anyone, stand for the fact that the memory of war should not die away. The designers also drew on the experience of the leading museums of Russia, Ukraine, Germany, France, Slovakia and Poland.

The authors of the project, led by the laureate of the State Award of Belarus, Victor Kramarenko, foresaw the so-called dramatic concept of the museum. Its separate areas will embody various stages and aspects of war. Thus, visitors 'will gradually live' those events from the first till the last day. Four monumental blocks of halls are al-

ready constructed with each of them symbolising difficult years of war. At the same time all blocks will merge in a single composition, which will be crowned by a dome, 22 metres in diameter. All the halls will be located around its radius and will be directed towards the obelisk. Between them there will be space through which it will be possible to see the monument. It is made intentionally so that each visitor psychologically feels the Victory.

Nikolai Skobelev places emphasis on a unique exposition *Road of War*. It is the largest hall, the area of more than one thousand square metres, where two dozen units of military equipment and heavy armament will be located. These will include self-propelled mounting, anti-aircraft and artillery guns, a field-kitchen, mine throwers, etc. Undoubtedly, a German T-3 tank, the hull of which is original, may

be considered the pride of the museum.

One exposition will acquaint people with guerrilla movement. People will have possibility to walk through woodlands and Belarusian villages, to drop in on a camp and see how our liberators lived.

It is impossible for today's modern museum to operate without technical support. New technologies will help visitors to perceive the events of war more emotionally. Modern audio and video devices 'will play' sounds, noise and music, whilst documentary shots and reference materials will be shown. Text information will be found at special info-terminals.

The concept of an updated museum has been spoken about for a long time. In just six months, we will see the much needed Museum of the Great Patriotic War History with our own eyes.

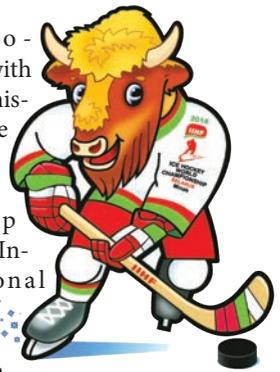
## Exclusives will not all disappear

**Some souvenirs bearing the Ice Hockey World Championship of 2014 logo to remain on sale until the end of the world event**

Production of most of the domestic Belarusian goods with depicting the forthcoming championship was planned to stop by February, 9th. The International Ice Hockey Federation had signed a contract with Swedish NEH, making them the exclusive producers of souvenir products for the forthcoming great event. However, there are a number of products available in Belarusian shops which are not produced by the Swedish firm. 26 items of non-grocery goods, bearing championship symbols, will stay and, apart from at the stadiums and surrounding grounds, these will also be allowed to remain during the sports forum.

"Sale of textile calendars, exercise and drawing-books, wooden caskets, butter dishes, soap and other goods has been allowed," Nina Pashko, Head of the Non-Food Consumer Market Department at the Ministry of Trade, informed us, "However, a veto has been placed on the sale of some non-grocery goods. Souvenir magnets, ball-point pens, napkins and glass plates are among them."

Negotiations with the organisers of the World Championship and the International Ice Hockey Federation about the diversification of Belarusian souvenirs with symbols of the sports event are currently being conducted.



## Working 24/7

By Andrey Fiodorov

**Working hours of museums and other tourist sites in Minsk to be extended for the convenience of the IIHF World Championship guests**

Each tourist attraction will adjust its opening hours individually, while taking into account the possible flow of visitors. For instance, it has been decided that the National Art Museum and the National History Museum should not close at 18-19.00, but at a time convenient to visitors.

All the tourist information centres will also work hours convenient to tourists — without days-off. The final location of the tourist information centres is also being considered today, with one of them likely to be moved closer to the Minsk Town Hall.

The tourism operator, TsentrKurtort, will also soon start working 24/7. It plans to set up hotlines and call centres for tourists. Additionally, a co-ordination centre will be set up at the Railway Station to address transportation issues.

## 'Authentic' folk village to attract many tourists

Ethno-cultural complex under construction in Myadel District

By Marina Svetlova

A truly unique \$6m investment project is being funded by a private investor as part of the state development programme for the Naroch area. The new tourist resort is located near the village of Nanosy, where the picturesque fields stretch down to the tranquility of Lake Naroch. Its pinewood forests ensure clean air, and peace: perfect for recuperation.

The ethno-cultural tourist agro-complex will allow guests to learn

about ancient Belarusian traditions and household customs, with village life recreated in every detail — from workshops of national crafts, to the care of domestic animals and the baking of bread. Visitors will be able to stay in one of twelve individually designed cottages (ten being single floored). Of course, all are furnished in traditional style, with lamps, furniture and curtains decorated as they would have been in times gone by. The walls are painted in national style and each house has a stove (used for



In the house, located in ethno-cultural village in the Myadel District

drying clothes and footwear, as well as providing warmth). Prominent masters and unique stove setters have ensured that only a small woodpile is needed to keep the house warm for a long time. The stoves have been individually designed, being highly decorated (such as with images of winter and summer). Each cottage also has a

banya and open-air chicken huts (so fresh eggs are guaranteed).

The administrative building includes a fire station, since the buildings are all wooden. Concept manager and chief architect Pavel Golub tells us that his design is based on eco-friendliness and promotion of Belarusian colour.