

New life for our sporting arena

Final reconstruction project approved for Dinamo Stadium, including track-and-field complex to launch by 2017 with VIP-zone, conference hall and health and fitness centre

By Yuri Chernyakevich

Dinamo Stadium is soon to be 'jammed to the rafters' with builders and specialised machinery. In early February, the Architecture and Urban Planning Council, under the Chief Architect of Minsk, approved a draft proposal to reconstruct Belarus' largest sports arena, with works commencing in spring and to be completed by early 2017.

Dinamo Stadium will become the country's major track-and-field facility, able to host world championships in athletics and, even, an Olympic Games. "One of the major conditions for reconstruction was that we preserve the stadium's appearance from Ulyanovskaya Street and its central arch on Kirov Street," notes the Chief Architect of the project, Alexander Yeliseev. "These classical elements are to be expand-

ed with contemporary architectural solutions, so the appearance of the stadium from the eastern side will remain classical, while the western side will significantly change."

The plans meet the highest standards set by the International Association of Athletics Federations. Interestingly, the improvements will result in less seating: 20,000 against 40,000 previously. "Track-and-field stadiums don't of-



Team of developers from reconstruction project

ten have more than 16,000 spectators," explains Mr. Yeliseev.

A VIP-zone for 600 is to open in the western stand, as will locker rooms for athletes, judges and coaching staff. There will be a conference hall, plus a press centre and commentary booths, as well as working places for the media.

The developers have promised other innovations, such as a health and fitness centre in the under-stand area, alongside shops selling sports goods. There is to be a family and entertainment centre, offices, cafes and restaurants. In addition, a universal hall for sport games is planned for the eastern stand, alongside a gym. Clearly, the plans foresee the venue gaining maximum use on a daily basis rather

than being reserved only for major events. A 400m running track, with nine lanes, is being marked out, alongside nine lanes for 100m sprint and 110m hurdles.

Footballers will also be able to enjoy the renovated stadium, since a natural lawn is being laid. Mr. Yeliseev tells us, "A fully-fledged training field will be equipped close to the major arena: one of the requirements of the International Association of Athletics Federations."

The architects have taken into account every aspect to make the venue comfortable and inviting - for athletes and spectators. Mr. Yeliseev notes that construction works are to begin in May. No doubt, sports fans and exercise enthusiasts will await its opening with anticipation.



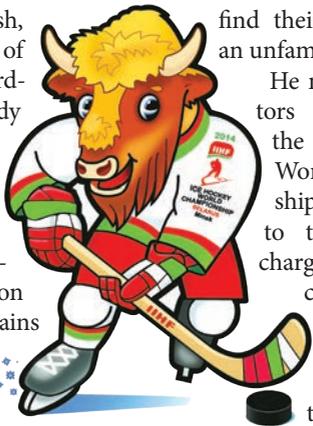
Dinamo Stadium ready for rebirth via huge modernisation plan

New announcements for capital's metro

By Svetlana Semenova

Names of Minsk metro stations to be announced in Belarusian and English from 20th April

Certain innovations are underway for the Minsk metro, in time for Ice Hockey World Championship. "All announcements in carriages and at stations will be repeated in English, including names of stations. Recordings have already been made and now simply need to be downloaded, so that the system can launch on 20th April," explains Metro Head Rostislav Yurenya.



Mr. Yurenya adds, "Controllers and cashiers are being given 200 Russian-English and English-Russian phrase books, to help them speak with foreign visitors at a basic level. We're also involving students from the Minsk State Linguistic University; volunteers will be placed on duty near controllers, to help fans at the championship find their way around an unfamiliar city."

He notes that visitors accredited to the Ice Hockey World Championship will be able to travel free of charge, using specially coded cards, allowing them to pass through turnstiles.

Full access to World Wide Web

Wi-Fi access for visitors to main Ice Hockey World Championship sites across Minsk

Minsk-Arena, Chizhovka-Arena playgrounds, ice hockey training grounds, hotel complexes and the student village are to offer Wi-Fi access to visitors, as will cafes, restaurants and other places where tourists tend to gather

— such as near big screens transmitting matches, explains Sergey Popkov, the Director General of Beltelekom enterprise.

Free access has not yet been discussed but Mr. Popkov notes that journalists may be offered this service. He believes that restaurants, hotels and cafes should fix their terms at their discretion.

One among diamonds

By Polina Likhmanenko

Associate Professor of the Chair for Design and Manufacture of Devices, at the Belarusian National Technical University, Alexey Drozdov, can distinguish natural diamonds from artificial with great precision. With a PhD in Technical Sciences, he knows how to cut gems with minimum loss and recently won an award from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

"It's a question of creating an effective cutting tool for processing super-hard materials, such as diamonds," notes Prof. Drozdov. "Our chair has been engaged in this since its foundation, building upon groundwork, under the direction of the Head of the Chair, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor Mikhail Kiselev."

Prof. Kiselev has played an important role in the



Young BSU scientist Alexey Drozdov

life of the younger scientist, taking him under his wing and encouraging his involvement in science.

Having completed his Candidate's work and finished his postgraduate courses, Alexey now works under

Mikhail. He tells us that one of his missions is to create a tool with high cutting characteristics and a wide spectrum of application: from jewellery gem cutting to medicine. The technology can be used to cut gems used in artificial hearts. From pure theory, Alexey helps ideas take the leap to real-life innovations, liaising with Planar: the State Research and Production Association of Precision Engineering.

Few people associate Belarus with oil extraction or diamond processing, but Alexey asserts, "Since Soviet times, the country has enjoyed a strong tradition in processing diamonds, maintaining old ties with Indian firms working with these raw materials. We have some well-known names and, for a small country, we boast a surprising degree of technology in cultivating artificial diamonds, as well as enterprises for processing. We are 'old hands'."

Airline passengers to gain rail connection

By Andrey Fiodorov

Passenger trains to serve National Airport

Minsk National Airport is soon to be connected to the capital, Borisov and Smolevi-

chi by train, notes Anatoly Sivak, the Minister for Transport and Communications. By late autumn, modern diesel trains will be serving the new line, with a station stopping short of the air-

port entrance by 550m; low-floored buses will connect passengers between the two. Mr. Sivak explains that plans have been worked out and the concept is being co-ordinated by the Government.

"We aim to settle everything by November 7th," he asserts. Eventually, extra track is to be laid to reach closer to the airport's main building and the whole line to the airport will be electrified.