

## Useful work without fuss

By Maxim Osipov

### Alexander Lukashenko receives the report from the Chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus (FTUB), Leonid Kozik

The President was interested to know if the FTUB has prepared objects for accommodation of the participants and visitors to the Ice Hockey World Championship, "For us, we are at the point where we must sum up the results of what the trade unions have promised to make for the Ice Hockey World Championship. I think, you worked with these objects, and probably it is profitable for you."

Mr. Kozik noted that FTUB had fulfilled the instruction of the President and prepared its bases in the Minsk area for the acceptance of guests of the IIHF World Championship. Thus all its objects are not only ready to accommodate about one thousand people, but also offer the same services as modern hotels do.

The two also discussed other issues. In particular, he asked for a report on the situation in the trade-union movement and any problem situations that required attention. The President thanked the trade unions for their 'quiet, silent and unobtrusive work on the organisation of elections for the local councils of deputies'.

The President was also informed about the fulfilment of previously given instructions, concerning work with labour collectives and the creations of good working conditions. Clinic treatment and children's recreation were also discussed. Mr. Lukashenko was interested in the condition of a number of the clinics around the country. As Mr. Kozik reported, about half of all holidaymakers are foreign citizens, mainly from the Russian Federation, who are pleased with the conditions and medical services. As he said, Belarusian clinics are full to 100 percent capacity all the year round. As for children's recreation, an expected 345 thousand will attend children's camps this year, with the price of recreation vouchers for parents not exceeding 10 percent of the total cost. The FTUB has allocated funds for each region, which will be used for the reduction in price of vouchers for the recreation of children from both large and needy families.



# Which hotel would you like?

Preparation for the Ice Hockey World Championship is on the home stretch. On May 1st, in Minsk, 43 hotels offering 9,250 places will be ready to open their doors to visitors. Among them are the 'old residents' of the city plus those 14 hotels which have been built specifically for the grandiose sporting event. On just one April day red ribbon was cut on the entrance of three new hotels — Monastyrskaya and Na Zamkovoy in the centre of the city, and Hold Time Hotel in Korzhenevsky Street. New life was breathed into the well-known Belarus Hotel which appeared on the embankment of the Svisloch River in 1987. Hotel room capacity will more than double. So, what do we have to offer the championship?

By Marina Zubovich

### Then and now

During the last year in Minsk only four hotels for 668 guests appeared. Among them the magnificent President Hotel and the more democratic Voyage Hotel which received its first guests on the opening day, in June. From the beginning of 2014, hotel construction accelerated. Recently, three hotels were opened in just one day; later another four hotels celebrated their house warming. By the end of April, 28 Minsk hotels will have received their various stars — from two to five.

Four hotels will hold the status of 'five-stars': President Hotel, Europe Hotel, Crowne Plaza and Beijing Hotel, with rooms costing from \$200 to \$2,200 per night

It is expected that 7 hotels will receive four stars (they have not yet received the corresponding certificates). These are the two buildings of Victoria, Minsk Hotel, Victoria Olymp Hotel, Monastyrskaya Hotel, Na Zamkovoy Hotel and Renaissance Hotel where the prices for rooms range from \$100-\$900 per night.

The majority of hotels in Minsk will be offering a three-star service.

Hostels will also offer their services. However, prices here will grow considerably during May. According to the Director of Traveller hostel, Ksenia Kurus, one bed in a hostel will cost \$32 (in a room for 8 people), a six-place room will be \$34, four-place room will cost \$38 and \$40 per place in a three-place room. Double room will cost \$96.

The most affordable accommodation, with more than 5,000 places, is in the Student's Village. According to workers of Tsentrikurort, one bed there will cost 24 Euros. Moreover, clinics and hotels of the Minsk Region have allocated 2,100 places in reserve.

### Final touches to hotel hospitality

#### • Belarus Hotel (3 stars)

Interestingly, this hotel was reconstructed by the same general designer and general contractor who originally put it into operation. It is assumed that the journalists will be housed here during the championship. And they will not go hungry. The hotel has two cafes, one cafe offering 'Belarusian Cuisine' and a lobby-bar.

Special features: Due to its reconstruction Belarus now has a panoramic lift and observation platform.

#### • Monastyrskaya Hotel (4 stars)

All 48 rooms, which include luxury rooms, suites, and also a disabled room, are equipped



Victoria Olymp Hotel in Minsk

with air-conditioning, mini-safes and mini-bars, high-speed Internet access and interactive television. Visitors can also use the conference hall, two negotiation rooms, a sauna, plunge pool, underground parking and many other services.

Special features: This building is a cultural-historical monument. Before its restoration it was a Bernardine Monastery. The original monk's cells are now cosy and modern rooms.

#### • Na Zamkovoy Hotel (4 stars)

At the same average rate as the Monastyrskaya Hotel

— \$100-\$120 — this hotel is smaller in size, with half the rooms of the former.

Special features: Historical flavour. The appearance of the building, which was once a 19th century trading centre, has been completely recreated.

#### • Hold Time Hotel

This building completes a complex of three similar, economy class hotels which were opened earlier. The hotel is a tall, nine-floor structure with an attached one-storey café.

Special features: Special attention has been made for disabled visitors. Apart from special, ground floor rooms, there are also mechanical lifts.

In the summertime they plan to offer bicycle hire.

Lodgers — a group of sportsmen — have already moved in.

#### • Victoria Olymp Hotel (4 stars)

One of advantages of this hotel is its proximity to the Minsk-Arena, velodrome, bicycle lanes and skating stadium. There is also health and beauty centre nearby which offers Turkish and Finnish baths.

Special features: Everything for the businessmen. Negotiation rooms and conference halls which bear the names of Olympic cities: Barcelona, Calgary, London, Sydney and Tokyo.



Monastyrskaya Hotel receives guests



Belarus Hotel

## All matches will be shown live on television screen

By Natalia Syskanova

### For those without tickets to the Ice Hockey World Championship, Belarusian television is showing all 64 matches live, with Belarusian Television and Radio Company holding exclusive rights to broadcasting

Matches are to be shown on Belarus-1, Belarus-2 and Belarus-5 TV channels, with Belarus-5 dedicating all screen time to ice hockey from May 9th-25th. Games, including highlights, will be transmitted from morning until night, with highlights shown after midnight.

Before and after each match, and during breaks, the *Overtime. World Championship. Minsk 2014* programme will feature hockey experts speaking from Minsk-Arena, discussing the last news and analysing matches, while fans will be invited to express their opinions.

Hockey will take a significant role in news programmes during the championship, and channels will also broadcast the match timetable. Radio stations will be dedicating a lot of airtime to the event, with Radius-FM offering various quizzes with prizes. Belarusian radio promises to transmit live during the most interesting matches.

## Hockey in smartphone

### Mobile Hockey Championship apps available for tourists

These downloadable applications will contain all the information about the sports championship, including game schedule, results of matches, player data and interactive tourism maps. There are also 'Hotel', 'Food', 'Taxi' divisions etc. Some apps will also offer an opportunity to play virtual hockey.

"Currently we are study-

ing five applications; we will recommend our visitors the most convenient and interesting of them," says Vladimir Karmazin, Head of the Tourism Department of the Ministry for Sports and Tourism.

Guests can find all the necessary information during the championship at the National Tourism Agency, as well as in the Tsentrikurort company — the official tour operator of the World Championship-2014.