



Outpost for new expansion of commodities and capital
Polish small and medium-sized businesses trade with their closest Eastern neighbour, while investing in local and global projects **Page 3**



Shiori Kiesawa:
'It would be great if people in Japan knew more about your culture and arts' **Page 6**



Romantic song about white swallow touches jury and audiences
Belarusian Alena Lanskaya wins Grand Prix at International Slavonic Bazaar in Vitebsk **Page 9**



National Statistical Committee holds quality of life poll

Happiness Rating still interesting, even despite respondents' subjectivism

What Belarusians are pleased with and what they complain about → **2**

Banking stability influences economic stability

Prospects for co-operative development between Belarus and Russia's Sberbank discussed at meeting between Alexander Lukashenko and Sberbank Chairman German Gref → **3**

Vigorous power of ambitious people

What might an ordinary Soviet citizen have known about the town of Akmolinsk in 1961? At best, they might have been aware of its location somewhere in Kazakhstan. Only those who suffered from repression might recall that one of the most terrible of Stalin's concentrated camps was situated there. It was renamed Tselinograd and later Akmola but has been known as Astana since 1997 — meaning 'capital'. In fact, it's the youngest and most dynamically developing capital within the territory of the former Soviet Union → **7**

Group portrait against bright background of several epochs

National Art Museum hosts exhibition of single painting by People's Artist of Belarus Vladimir Stelmashonok, *Words on Belarus*, as part of *Belarusian Artists Worldwide* exhibition → **10**

BATE launches new European Cup season

→ **11**

PRINCESS CASINO
Minsk, Y. Kupaly Str., 25
tel. (+375 17) 328 69 17, 328 69 51

PRINCESS SLOTS,
crossroad of Logoytsky tract and Minsk Ringway,
TRK «Expobel»
tel. (+375 17) 261 63 12

CASINO "CENTR DOSUGA",
Minsk, Nemiga Str., 12
tel. (+375 17) 200 14 92, 200 42 81

FE "Minsk Princess Hotel" 220000 Minsk, Kirov Str., 19. Iss. D101364877
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