

'Healing' Internet in due time

World Wide Web allows us to make doctor's appointment without leaving home

By Innokenty Klimenko

At some time or another, we all succumb to illness — be it a simple cough or cold, or a broken bone. The usual course of action is to ring the polyclinic to make an appointment. However, when the phones are busy, it can be difficult to get through. You may lack the strength to struggle in to the clinic in person, so online bookings are a wonderful solution. Of course, not everyone has yet mastered Internet technology but, each year, we become more familiar with it. Additionally, Belarus' institutions are increasingly relying on united systems — as proven by medicine.

Several years ago, Minsk became a 'pioneer' among other Belarusian cities in offering online communication with medical institutions; now, all the capital's polyclinics have this service, enabling appointments to be booked online. The advantages are evident, since patients can independently choose a suitable day and time. Meanwhile, those arriving at the clinic in person experience fewer



City polyclinic # 14 already offers easy Internet appointments for patients

queues. Of course, emergency cases operate under a different system. Poly-

clinic employees also save time spent in organising appointments.

Increasing numbers of people are using the new service countrywide. We

may sometimes criticise our healthcare system but it is certainly making progress.

Unique colour of national cultures

By Yelena Grishchenko

Belarusian diaspora demonstrates its national culture at events in Buenos Aires

In the Argentinean capital, representatives of various diasporas gathered for a unique festival, demonstrating their national cultures and cuisines. A wonderful parade took place through the city streets, featuring national costumes with symbols from each continent and country, followed by a superb concert and a festival of local culinary skills.

Buenos Aires traditionally organises such events and, with support from the Belarusian Embassy to Argentina, a Belarusian diaspora took part for the first time. The gala-concert also featured a Belarusian show: the *Raduga* (Rainbow) dance ensemble performed our national folk dances. In addition, an exhibition of Belarusian crafts and books about our country was organised. Guests to the pavilion were even able to sample Belarusian national cuisine.

Studies in electronic form

Belarusian State University Lyceum students receive computer tablets

Tablets for reading e-books have been presented by the Belarusian State University's Rector, academician Sergei Ablameiko, allow-

ing students use for lessons and at home. The two year project is part of an experiment launched by Belarus' Education Ministry. The tablets can store e-books, in addition to e-versions of textbooks and training notes developed by the Belarusian

State University's Lyceum lecturers; over 500 editions of Russian and English classics are stored on each tablet, while 44 dictionaries are downloaded, to ensure translations between languages (especially Russian and English).

Route to the past

By Irina Nenasheva

A driver in 'parade' uniform sits in the cabin, handing out brochures detailing interesting facts about Gomel's history, photos of the old city and stories about its famous residents

The idea of having a 'historical' trolley bus came from a group of students from Gomel's State Technical University, approved by local authorities. Gomel's Gorelektrotransport enterprise has now taken up the project, providing a route through the city centre.

The first trolley bus line, launched in Gomel in 1962, included part of this route, as staff from the Museum

of Gomel City History note; they've assisted students widely in providing information and historical shots. Meanwhile, the special bus is operated by a 'veteran' driver with 35 years of experience; he wears a 'parade' uniform, which he's owned since Soviet times.

Gomel students have proposed other ideas which have found support from local authorities — such as brightening up pedestrian crossings with painted smiles; a dozen exist around the city. A 'mini-dictionary' of Belarusian language has also been created, with separate words on posters written in our native language. Now, passengers can study the history of their own city on the trolley bus.



Evening illumination beautifully transforms the Belarusian capital

Satellite navigation aids communal services

Intelligent lighting system for buildings tested in Minsk

By Oksana Shikunova

Mingorsvet company has developed the system, using GPS to manage the lighting of each building. Next year, all the central avenues of the capital will be using the new technology.

Architectural lighting was first introduced a decade ago; Mingorsvet currently services around 400 sites — including 323 residential buildings. Each year, the company improves its system, reducing costs and modernising its scheme of lighting and

management. LCD and luminescent lamps have been launched, reducing energy consumption and ensuring efficiency. Since early 2011, the cost of architectural lighting in the capital has been cut by 10 percent (against the same period of 2010).

Guests welcome to sit by the fire

By Yelena Beganskaya

At Ganna's café opens in village of Dolzha, on border of Gorodok and Vitebsk districts

The café fulfils a social rather than a commercial role, while harmoniously supplementing the infrastructure of the existing leisure facilities, situated on the bank of a picturesque lake. It's close to the city and convenient transport links, while offering beautiful surroundings.

The two storey wooden building, with glassed and open air halls, can accommodate up to 60 diners.

It even has a VIP hall decorated in European style, with a French fireplace — creating a cosy resting place whatever the weather.

Outside, there's an open green space for relaxing, a quay, summerhouses, decorative planting, two children's playgrounds and a quaint lane leading to the lake.

The Head of the Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee's Department for Trade and Services, Irina Levkovich, tells us that similar objects aim to serve local citizens and foreign guests alike, offering the quality of service that travellers have come to expect.