



WHAT'S ON

Fine Arts to Pushkin Museum

A collection from the Budapest Museum of Fine Arts will be exhibited in Moscow from June till August 29th. The exhibition includes many masterpieces by Raphael, Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, El Greco, Velázquez and Goya.

Vladivostok Cup Regatta

The first race of Vladivostok Cup 2010 starts in Amurski Bay. These traditional races will take place every Wednesday until August 25. Yachts of "Konrad 25R" and "Platu 25" classes will take part in the tournament. The route of regatta lies not far from the coast – enabling everybody to watch the race.

NEWS

Kremlin and Church Unite on Alphabet Day



Schoolchildren performed during festivities marking the monks' creation of the Cyrillic alphabet. An unprecedented throng of 40,000 people — including students yanked out of schools and colleges — descended on central Moscow in May to celebrate the Day of Slavic Culture and Literature, Russia's only joint state and religious holiday. Observers said the pompous celebration of Cyril and Methodius, 9th-century Orthodox saints who bestowed literacy on the Slavs by devising the Cyrillic alphabet, appeared to be little more than an attempt by the authorities to show off their social and economic achievements at the cost of public comfort. The festivities clogged downtown Moscow, creating enormous traffic jams.

Moscow Times

Pocket Laser TV



Famous Russian physicist and Nobel Prize laureate Zhores Alferov always dreamt of a pocket laser television, and hoped his dream would come true. Today semiconductor lasers have achieved an efficiency coefficient of 75% - tens of times higher than 50 years ago, when they were invented. However, laser television requires three laser light sources: red, blue and green. Red laser already exists, blue is on its way to appear, but green is still a problem. When fully developed laser TV will be cheap, small and much more effective than liquid crystal or plasma alternatives.

RIA Novosti

Russia Fighting for World Wheat Dominance

Russian farmers are making headway on the global wheat market, most recently with a sale late last month to Egypt of 180,000 metric tons. In the past 11 months, Russia has won 58 percent of Egypt's regular purchases of wheat. As recently as the 1990s, Russia had to buy wheat from U.S. farmers to feed its people because its farms were so inefficient. Russian investors started buying land and introducing modern farming in the country's fertile "black earth" region near Ukraine and the Black Sea. Today, Russia exports 14 percent of the world's wheat, up from 0.5 percent in 2000. The U.S. share of wheat exports has slipped from 26 percent to 19 percent. Moscow is now making dominance of the wheat market a national goal. U.S. farmers are worried. "The Black Sea region is becoming a bigger competitor for us," said a

wheat grower near Hoisington, Kansas.

Bloomberg

Search For Diamonds Is On

Russian geologists plan to start searching for new promising natural diamond deposits in Siberia. New diamond deposits haven't been found since 1996. Today you have to dig deep to find diamonds and their formation requires special conditions. A document has been developed by Russian geologists naming three or four promising sites in Siberia as a potential source of natural diamonds. Scientists promised to supervise the works in order for them to be done properly.

Sibkray

Banknotes Out of Circulation

All 10-ruble banknotes will be taken out of circulation within 5-7 months, the Central Bank of Russia said. They are still widely used but are gradually being replaced by 10-ruble coins.

Lenta

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