

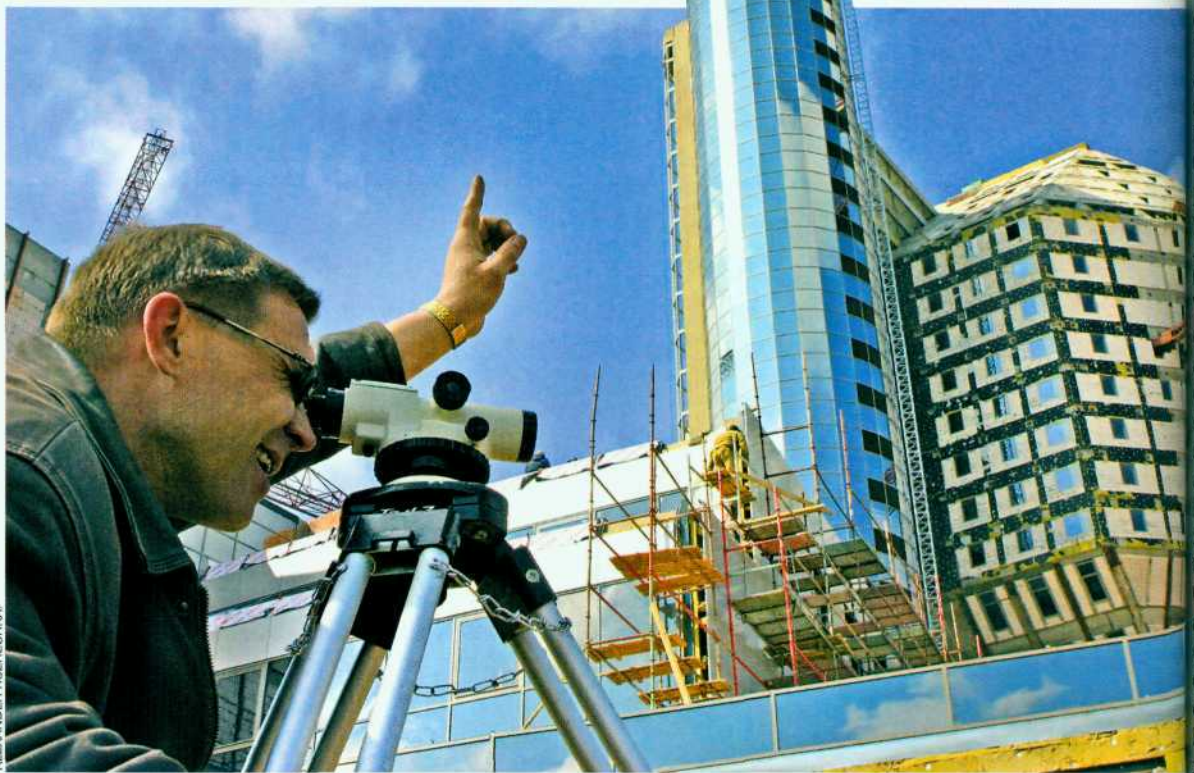
# 'Diamond' to shine soon

Residents of Minsk are eager to know when they will be able to view the completed version of the new building of the National Library. The constructors say it may be possible by September 1st!

"Practically every day we face complicated technical tasks which slow down the work," explains the construction Technical Director, Yury Klimovich. "The building shape is very unusual, and we are working with new materials and new structures. Thankfully, until today we are running within the schedule. You will see, in four and a half months the 'diamond' will begin to sparkle."

Would you like to know how the building of the National Library will look like in the near future? It will 'bristle up' and will remind you of a hedgehog. The matter is that in a month the workers will start glassing the 'diamond' and it will be 'dressed' in special metal constructions resembling hedgehog thorns.

Today the construction site looks like an ant hill. Everybody is busy constantly. 1,300 builders work three shifts a day, so the con-



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struction doesn't stop even at night.

"Do you want to know how we are progressing?" said Mr. Klimovich, approaching schemes and schedules scattered throughout the perimeter of the construction headquarters. "At present we are installing panoramic lift metal construction, we are about to start assembling the construction for super-speed telescopic lift which will deliver books to readers. Soon roofing will

begin; a lightning-rod with decorative steel elements has been mounted on the inspection gallery. It is planned that the rod will be equipped with a laser projector. The adjoining territory is being actively equipped with modern amenities such as a park around the library and a bridge over the canal. The two large automobile parking sites are practically finished. The main entrance is being decorated with sidewalk bricks."

## Construction of National Library entering the final

We enter the library building to see the three floors currently being decorated with finishing materials. Reading rooms are very much like modern offices with false ceilings and floor coating.

We continue our excursion on loud stairs. Finally, we get into the future conference-hall. It is still wet and filled with construction litter. "We will see to it," promise constructors. "The management comes every day, the require-

ments are high, so there should be no failures.

### The MT reference

The National Library construction started in November 2002 and is scheduled for completion on September 1st this year. The total building area is 100 thousand square metres, including 54.9 thousand square metres of the depository. The building height equals to 72.6 metres. It will be capable of storing up to 14 million books.

By Alexander T...