

# Christmas time sees height of its popularity

In 2010, Mir Castle Complex was visited by over 185,000 tourists

By Tamara Pimenova

The Mir Castle Complex is enjoying great interest among tourists, being visited by over 185,000 people last year. Over 3,000 excursions were organised in the Castle, although individual visitors primarily prevailed. Tatiana Dashkovskaya, the Academic Secretary of the National Art Museum of Belarus, of which the Mir Castle is a branch, notes that the inflow of tourists especially increased after the Castle Complex opened on December 16th, 2010. In total, over 7,000 people explored the lives of the Ilinichs, Radziwills, Wittgensteins and Svyatopolk-Mirskies, who owned Mir Castle at vari-

ous times. Remarkably, the busiest time was observed during the New Year and Christmas celebrations.

The Mir Castle Complex should become even more popular among Belarusian and foreign tourists, with around 400-450 thousand tourists expected this year. It occupies 26 hectares, featuring an Italian Renaissance garden and an English park and pond, alongside Mir Castle itself and its crypts. It is a unique architectural treasure, possessing elements of European Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque styles — in its construction and interior decoration. In 2000, Mir Castle was registered onto UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List.



Mir Castle enjoys popularity over Christmas and New Year

## Proposals not long in coming

In January, Government plans to submit proposal to President envisaging possible reform of state management bodies

Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikov, while introducing National Academy of Sciences staff to their new Head — Anatoly Rusetsky, has noted that 'some ministries have, to some degree, fulfilled their functions and can now be transformed into new forms of state management, including possible merger of several into a single body'.

He urged journalists not to speculate on which ministries will be affected, but asserted that Belarus is ready to distinguish between the functions of economic activity and state management. "Economic entities should be engaged in economic issues, while authorities must supervise state management issues," he said. To a greater extent, he believes it's necessary to delegate authority to local heads, who have gained a good reputation for working with the 'vertical' system. They are quite competent managers, able to see the problems of a certain region. "It's impossible to do everything from Minsk," Mr. Myasnikov stressed.

Mikhail Myasnikov was appointed the Head of the Government after the previous PM resigned.

## Scientists expand innovative network

By Tatiana Onufrienko

National Technology Transfer Centre (TTC) to open two branch offices in China this year

One office is to open in Beijing, with support from the Scientific and Technical Exchange Centre of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, while another is to appear in Harbin. The expansion of the TTC network will help promote Belarusian scientific developments on the Chinese market, attracting investments for joint Belarusian-Chinese projects and enhancing business contacts between Belarusian and Chinese scientific organisations and industrial enterprises.

Belarusian TTCs already operate in Chinese Shanghai and Changchun, with their services enjoying demand. "We plan to further develop and expand our network — both in Belarus and abroad," explains the Director of the National Technology Transfer Centre, Alexander Uspensky. "New centres significantly contribute to the strengthening of ties between science and industry, while introducing the latest scientific innovations."

The National Technology Transfer Centre encourages prospective customers to buy Belarusian innovations and has 26 branch offices — in Minsk, Brest, Mogilev, Gomel, Grodno and other cities. Their specialists give recommendations to scientific institutions and educational establishments relating to innovation and investment projects. The Centre has already entered into 50 co-operative agreements with organisations from over 20 countries. Annually, it places information on about 500 Belarusian projects on its official website, with most becoming practically applied.

## Patients trust professionals

In coming years, exports of medical services could rise 5-fold



Foreign patients attracted by our specialists' professionalism

By Yevgenia Liventseva

A 21 year old Ukrainian, suffering from liver cirrhosis, was the first to address Belarusian transplantology doctors for help. This medical branch is slowly developing in the neighbouring state, due to its legislation on the 'presump-

tion of discord'. Oleg Rummo, the Director of the Organ and Tissue National Transplantation Centre, notes that CIS citizens most often address Belarusian specialists for organ transplantation, although those from the EU also come. "Foreign patients cover the full cost of their treatment, which is

cheaper than that offered in similar centres in leading European countries," he says, adding, "For example, a liver transplantation costs \$30,000-35,000, that of a heart — \$30,000-50,000, a kidney — \$6,000-13,000, and marrow — \$17,000-70,000."

Foreign patients are choosing Belarusian medical services not only for their moderate prices, stresses Alexander Mrochek, the Cardiology Centre's Director. They are attracted by the professionalism of our specialists. Those from Ukraine and Russia join patients from Western Europe in addressing Belarusian cardio-surgeons.

"We plan to increase exports of our medical services five-fold between 2011 and 2015," asserts Belarus' First Deputy Health Minister, Valery Khodzhaev. "Moreover, high-tech assistance to foreigners will be rendered countrywide — not only by the republican centres and Minsk clinics."

## Persuasive power of war related facts

Gomel's Regional Museum of Military Glory displays artefacts abroad for the first time

By Valery Sidorchik

On February 1st, 2011, the *Gomel — a Belarusian City in World War II* exhibition is to be launched in Scottish Aberdeen's Gordon Highlanders Museum, show-

ing the truth regarding the heroism of the Belarusian nation. The nation struggled against foreign invaders, with people suffering during the fascist occupation of 1941-1943. "It's vital that we don't just enter the international

arena but make our own contribution, counteracting attempts to falsify the history of the war, as recently seen in the West," notes Museum Director Pavel Zhdanovich.

The event in Scotland will last until late June.



Museum staff prepare artefacts for exhibition

Meanwhile, negotiations are being held with the Museum of the Resistance of Clermont-Ferrand (France); an

exhibition dedicated to the partisan movement in the region during the war years is planned.