

President of the Republic of Poland Pays State Visit

President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Sebastian Duda and his spouse Agata Kornhauser-Duda paid a State Visit to Mongolia at the invitation of President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh and his spouse Luvsandorjiin Bolortsetseg between April 24 and 26.

President Khurelsukh and his spouse Bolortsetseg welcomed their Honored Guests at the Sukhbaatar Square. Following the welcoming ceremony the Presidents and the First Ladies paid their respect to the Statue of Chinggis Khaan. Then President Andrzej Duda signed the Book of Honored Guests at the State House, which was followed by a tête-à-tête meeting of the two Presidents.

The heads of the States held official talks on bilateral relations and cooperation in a wide range of areas as well as issues of international agenda.

After their official talks the Presidents briefed the media representatives in the Baganat Hall. President of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh spoke, "...I consider the official talks with the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda to be of high significance and important outcomes.

The heads of state of our two countries have been visiting each other every 5-10 years. I believe that President Andrzej Duda's visit, 10 years after the last visit, will be clearly written in the history of relations between the two countries, and it will be a historically significant and solid foundation for further development of our two countries' traditionally friendly relations and cooperation.

During the talks, we discussed the consequences, conditions, and solutions of major social and



economic challenges caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, as well as the complicated international relations and the geopolitical situation faced by countries around the world in the last three years. We agreed to overcome the difficulties through collaborative efforts and determination. The Republic of Poland is one of our country's third neighbors and close partners; relations and collaboration between the two countries have grown steadily and actively, even in difficult times. I am happy that the decision to open a Polish Embassy in our country is being realized during this State visit.

The relations between the

Parliaments, Governments, public organizations, citizens, and entrepreneurs of the two countries have been active, and the trade turnover of the two countries has doubled in the last three years. We always remember and are grateful that before 1990, Poland constructed many factories and plants, such as a silicate-break-lime factory in Darkhan, a silicate brick factory in Choibalsan, a lightweight concrete block factory, and a wood processing plant in Ulaanbaatar, and thermal power plant in Khar-khorin. We agreed to further increase the trade and investment of the two countries, expand and develop cooperation in the areas

of road, transport, education, geology, mining, culture, and environment, as well as in the implementation of significant construction projects for sustainable development."

Mongolia and the Republic of Poland Signed Cooperation Documents

During the State visit the two parties signed a number of cooperation documents on April 25 in presence of the Presidents.

• The Agreement on International Road Transport between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the Republic of Poland was signed by Minister

of Road and Transport Development Byambatsogt Sandag and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Mongolia Krzysztof Boyko.

Other cooperation documents are as follows:

- Performance Agreement on Reconnaissance of critical raw materials in Mongolia – recognition of molybdenum and tungsten occurrences between the National Geological Service of Mongolia and Polish Geological Institute-National Research Institute;
- Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in veteri-

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"Ulaanbaatar-International Investment & Partnership" Forum



"Ulaanbaatar-International Investment and Partnership" Forum was held on April 20 under

the theme "New Revival-Ulaanbaatar." Having organized since 2015, the Forum used to gather

only domestic companies, while this time it brought together around 500 guests and delegates of foreign and national companies, investors, partner organizations, and embassies. The Forum presented 50 major projects that require investment and public-private partnership.

General Manager of Ulaanbaatar and Head of the Governor's Office of the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar M. Bayaraa gave a speech "Current state of urban and public utilities, and possibilities of public-private partnership" for further discussion and Executive Director of "Steppe Metal Powder" B. Askhur introduced their powder metal plant extension project.

The participants exchanged information and opinions on

opportunities to invest in the long-term sustainable development of the capital and were informed on the Water Supply Project of the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Mongolia Water Compact.

Representative of the World Bank in Mongolia Thilasoni Benjamin Musuku gave a speech "Possibility of investment sources of the capital city and activities of the World Bank." He presented the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework for Mongolia in 2020-2025.

The World Bank partners with Ulaanbaatar in improving the city's competitiveness, clean air, and sustainable water resources. He emphasized that it is es-

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Bloomberg commodity price 2023/04/28		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,009.60
COPPER	USD/lb.	386.55
SILVER	USD/t oz.	25.31
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	77.81
WHEAT	USD/bu	634.00

Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the GDI Signed



On the sideline of the annual Financing for Development Forum, held by the Economic and Social Council of the UN between April 17 and 20 in New York City, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Economy and Development of Mongolia Ch. Khurelbaatar signed a "Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI)" with Luo Zhaohui, the Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the GDI during the annual gathering in New York City for the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 21, 2021. Aiming at building a global community of development, the GDI puts development first and the people at the center, and seeks to expedite the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Within the framework of this MoU, the parties agreed to expand the development cooperation, implement development projects in Mongolia with the funding of the Chinese grants and loans and the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, exchange experiences, build capacity, and develop cooperation in such fields as reducing poverty, health care, climate change, green development, digital economy, and infrastructure.

Ulaanbaatar-Manzhouli to Cooperate in Tourism



Governor of the Capital city and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar D. Sumiyabazar received Yue Guodong, the Mayor of Manzhouli City, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, and discussed expanding the cooperation between the two cities on April 21.

Governor of the Capital city D. Sumiyabazar expressed gratitude to representatives of Manzhouli city for participating in the "Ulaanbaatar-International Investment and Partnership" Forum, which is aimed to attract domestic and foreign investment for development projects of Ulaanbaatar city and expand the public-private partnership. He said, "With the establishment of a Consulate General of Mongolia in Manzhouli, we have witnessed many positive outcomes in cooperation, such as the launching of direct flights between Ulaanbaatar-Manzhouli cities and the increased number of travelers between the two countries. The increased number of people traveling between the two countries is becoming a genuine source of other economic benefits. We, Ulaanbaatar city, are attaching significance to expanding multilateral and mutually beneficial cooperation with cities of the Republic of China and are willing to expand the cooperation scope

and strengthen friendly relations with Manzhouli city in the future."

In response, the Mayor of Manzhouli City of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Yue Guodong said, "Mongolia and China are eternal neighbors, maintaining friendly relations. It's pleasing to see that the comprehensive strategic partnership between Mongolia and China has been deepening in all areas. While maintaining the long-term and mutually beneficial relations between Ulaanbaatar and Manzhouli, we are eager to intensify the relations and cooperation in the specific fields. In particular, the fields presenting potential opportunities for deeper cooperation include economy, investment, business, cross-border tourism, and humanitarian field."

While reaffirming his willingness to exchange experience in urban and green space development and highlighting that any cooperation and investment proposals from Chinese public and private sector enterprises for development projects in Ulaanbaatar are welcomed, the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar D. Sumiyabazar invited the Mayor and other officials of Manzhouli city to participate in "Ulaanbaatar - 2023" East Asian Youth Games, which will be held in August.

Republic of Poland Opens its Embassy in Mongolia

The Republic of Poland today opened its Embassy in Mongolia within the framework of the State visit of President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda to Mongolia.

Mongolia and the Republic of Poland established diplomatic relations on April 14, 1950, and though Poland opened its Embassy in Mongolia in 1960, it closed the Embassy in September 1995 due to financial difficulties. The Embassy was reopened in 1999 and closed again in 2009. The Polish Government made a decision to reopen its Embassy in Mongolia on January 15, 2021.

During the State visit, the Republic of Poland agreed to realize the request of the Mongolian side to establish a Consular department in the Polish Embassy in 2024. The Consular department will



allow Mongolians to apply for Poland visa in Mongolia, not from the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Mongolia or the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in China.

The Embassy of Mongolia has been working constantly in Warsaw since 1959.

Air Service Agreement Approved

"Air Service Agreement" between Mongolia and Qatar, signed on March 7, 2023, in Doha, Qatar, was approved at the Cabinet session on April 26.

Upon the Agreement coming into force, airlines of the two countries are able to conduct direct and commercial flights, unveiling a wide range of opportunities to expand relations in tourism, business, trade, and economy between the countries.

The national flag carrier MIAT State owned Joint-Stock Company has been designated as the air carrier for direct flights between Ulaanbaatar and Doha. Now, it is possible to transport passengers and freight from Ulaanbaatar to the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf States, as well as Mongolians can travel by Qatar Airways.

Qatar Airways currently flies to more than 160 destinations in 90 countries. As of 2022, the airline carried over 18.5 million passengers on its flights.



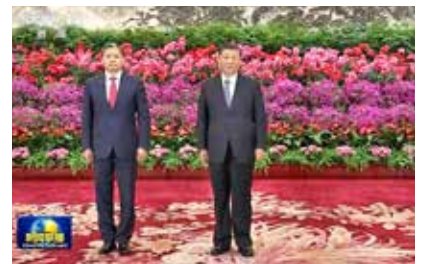
Moreover, the Agreement has laid the foundation for cooperation between Mongolia and Qatar Aeronautical Academy (QAA). The QAA was founded in 1977 as the Civil Aviation Academy of the Gulf States. QAA offers full-time, approved courses for Pilots, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, Air Traffic Controllers, Meteorologists, Airport Operations Management Personnel, and Flight Dispatchers, as well as short-term courses in a wide variety of aviation-related disciplines.

Ambassador to China Presents His Letter of Credence

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the People's Republic of China T. Badral presented his Letter of Credence to Xi Jinping, the President, General Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, and Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China on April 23, 2023.

Ambassador T. Badral conveyed warm greetings of the President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh to President Xi Jinping and expressed his willingness to diligently work to contribute in upgrading the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries to a new level as an Ambassador.

While extending greetings to the President and people of Mongolia, President Xi Jinping congratulated Ambassador T. Badral on his assignment and noted that the Government of the



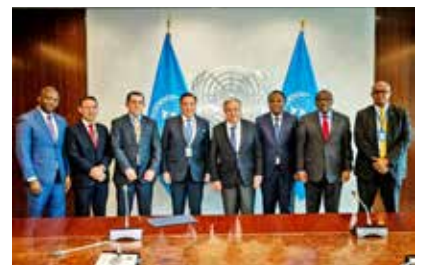
PRC would further develop and expand the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Due to the pandemic, Ceremonies of Presentation of the Letters of Credence of ambassadors to the PRC have not been organized for the last two years. This time, 70 ambassadors participated in the Ceremony and presented their Letters of Credence.

Members of the Group of LLDCs Meet António Guterres

V. Enkhbold, the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations met António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on April 18 as the Vice Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC).

The meeting was attended by permanent representatives of Armenia, Burundi, Botswana, Lesotho, and Paraguay, members of the Bureau of the Group of LLDCs. During the meeting, the parties exchanged views on preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in 2024. The Group of LLDCs proposed to appoint High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States Rabab Fatima as a General Secretary of the Conference and Secretary-General of the UN António Guterres accepted their proposal.



Lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets, and high transit costs impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development of landlocked developing countries. Thus, the members of the Bureau of the Group of LLDCs highlighted the importance of adequate preparation as the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs is of high significance to those countries.

The Mongol Messenger is operated and printed by the Government News Agency MONTSAME

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Web: montsame.mn/en E-mail: mongolmessenger@montsame.gov.mn ISSN 1684-1883

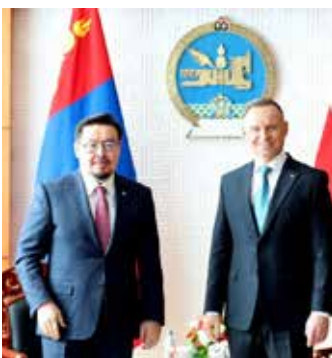
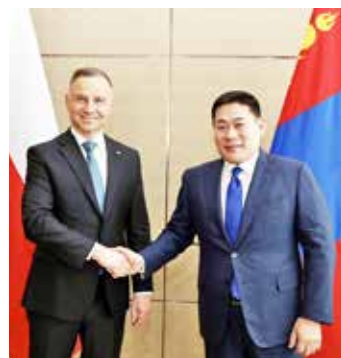
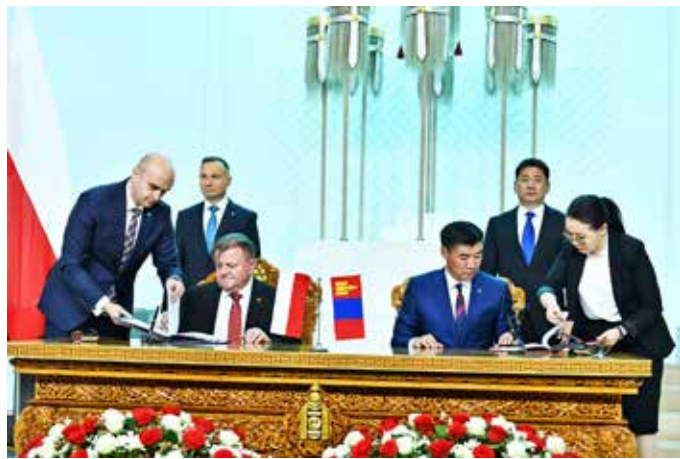
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WEATHER

Sunrise: 05:40 Sunset: 19:59

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -8 C and +7 C. Day time temps between +9 C and +21 C
■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -3 C and +5 C. Day time temps between +10 C and +27 C
■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -5 C and +6 C. Day time temps between +6 C and +21 C
■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -3 C and +11 C. Day time temps between +12 C and +24 C

President of the Republic of Poland Pays State Visit



Continued from page 1

nary sector between the General Authority for Veterinary Services of Mongolia and the General Veterinary Inspectorate of the Republic of Poland;

- Memorandum of Cooperation between the General Authority for Archives of Mongolia and the State Archives Head Office of the Republic of Poland;

- Cooperation Agreement between Mongolian Academy of Sciences and University of Warsaw of the Republic of Poland.

Speaker of Parliament and Prime Minister Paid Courtesy Call on Polish President

Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia G. Zandanshatar paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda on April 25 and expressed gratitude for paying a State visit at a time when the country is facing major social and economic challenges resulting from the complicated geopolitical situation, emphasizing the importance of bilateral relations and cooperation. He emphasizes that the Republic of Poland is one of the third neighbors and close partners of Mongolia.

Speaker of the Parliament G. Zandanshatar notes that the relations and cooperation between the legislative bodies of the two countries are continuously and actively developing, and the State Great Khural of Mongolia will work together with the Upper and Lower Houses of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland to bring cooperation in many sectors such as education, science, and technology to a new level.

He further emphasizes that the decision of the Republic of Poland to open its Embassy in Mongolia and its official opening during the State visit of President Andrzej Duda is an strong impetus for intensifying relations between the citizens of the two countries.

President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda stresses that Polish-Mongolian relations have been developing based on

common values of democracy, human rights, and freedom, and have been expanding and strengthening in the fields of politics, economy, trade, infrastructure, culture, and education. He expresses his hope that this State visit will contribute to invigorating Polish-Mongolian relations.

Noting that Mongolia has



great potential, the Polish President expresses his commitment to developing mutually beneficial cooperation and deepening collaboration in the region and on the international arena. He notifies that relations between the Parliaments, the Governments, public organizations, citizens, and entrepreneurs of the two countries will be further intensified, and a Consular Department will be opened in the Embassy next year. The parties expressed confidence that the number of Mongolian students studying in Poland can be increased and that the students will become a bridge connecting the people of the two countries, and will considerably contribute to the development of traditionally friendly relations and cooperation.

The Media and Public Relations Department of the State Great Khural reported that the parties expressed their willingness to implement reciprocally agreed issues at the official talks and meetings during the State visit and to work proactively to open up new opportunities.

Prime Minister of Mongolia Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene

also paid a courtesy call on President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda and hosted lunch. During the meeting, the parties exchanged views on relations and cooperation between the two countries and agreed to intensify economic cooperation.

The parties emphasized that the total trade turnover of the two countries reached a historic high of USD 100 million in 2022, thus doubling in the last three years, and discussed enriching the relations and cooperation between the two countries with economic content, and joint implementation of large-scale construction projects aimed at securing long and medium-term development goals and export boosting projects

They appreciated the signing of the Agreement on International Road Transport between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the Republic of Poland and noted that the implementation of this Agreement would facilitate transportation between Asia and Europe, and increase trade turnover.

The two countries also agreed to expand cooperation in science, culture, and art, and to make real progress in health and food safety.

Mongolians Awarded State Decorations of Poland

On April 26, President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Sebastian Duda granted State Decorations of Poland to Mongolian citizens who have made valuable contributions to

the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Major Ganbold Azzaya, an expert of the General Staff of the Armed Forces was awarded Gold Order of the Cross of Merit. On February 18, 2004, while on patrol duty at Base Charlie in Al Hillah, Iraq, he intercepted a terrorist attack on the headquarters of the Multinational Division's Central-South Command, thus saving the lives of the Allies, including many Polish soldiers of the Second shift. Rentsendagva Dagva, Deputy Head of the Capital City Governor's Office for Digital Development, Legal Affairs, and Public Services was awarded with Silver Order of the Cross of Merit in recognition of his active participation in expanding, developing, and strengthening cooperation between Ulaanbaatar and Warsaw, while Olonbayar Erdenetsogt, painter of the Mongolian Craftsmen's Union and graduate from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow was awarded Bronze Order of the Cross of Merit for his valuable contribution to the promotion of Polish art.



At its session on April 26, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

An international organization audited the 2022 Financial Report of the Development Bank and concluded that there were no violations

Minister of Finance B. Javkhlan presented to the members of the Government the findings of the Audit of the Development Bank of Mongolia's 2022 Financial Report, 2022 Activities Report, and the Detailed Repayment Plan of the bank's foreign bonds to be paid in 2023. In this regard, it is considered appropriate to submit the Audit findings of the Development Bank of Mongolia's 2022 Financial Report and the 2022 Activities Report to the Parliament in conformity with relevant procedures.

Minister of Finance B. Javkhlan and Development Bank's Executive Director N. Manduul were assigned to organize and work on the repayment of foreign bonds due in 2023 by the Development Bank. In the frame of the optimal organization of repayment of foreign bonds, proposals on measures to be taken to reduce non-performing loans of the Development Bank of Mongolia have been developed, and it has been mandated to be discussed at the Cabinet session within the next month.

The 2022 Financial Report of the Development Bank was audited by a reputable international auditing organization, concluding that there were no violations.

In 2022, a total of MNT 1,075.3 billion in loans were repaid, of which 60.1 percent were non-performing loans, 12 percent were special mention loans, and 27.9 percent were normal loans. According to the inspection of the Bank of Mongolia in 2021, the Development Bank, which had reported a loss of MNT 679.4 billion in 2021, made a profit of MNT 88.6 billion in the reporting year.

The Development Bank is responsible for repaying USD 500.0 million Bond due on October 23, 2023, and the JPY 30.0 billion Samurai Bond due on December 25, a total of USD 723.0 million.

CABINET SESSION

Draft Laws to accelerate the national e-transition and reduce paper bureaucracy will be submitted to the Parliament

To comply with the Law on Transparency of Public Information, the Draft Law on making the following amendments and changes to 120 laws in order to create conditions for performing Government activities in digital form, digitizing the services that people and legal entities receive from the Government organizations, recognizing the validity of digital documents, and accepting them as evidence, the Government has discussed and supported the Draft Law, and decided to submit it to the Parliament.

The Draft Law includes the following changes:

- To recognize a digital document as equally valid as a paper document and consider it as an original document if it is certified by a standard document format in accordance with the law;

- To use digital signatures in interactions that were specified to require a written signature to receive services from Government organizations;

- Information held by the Government will no longer be requested from people or legal entities.

Brief news

- It was decided to submit to the Parliament the Draft Law on the 2024 Budget Framework Statement and the 2025-2026 Budget Projections.

- It was decided to submit the proposals to appoint S. Zoljargal as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Cuba, B. Bayarsaikhan as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Japan, B. Enkhbat as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Korea, and E. Sarantogos as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Canada, to the President of Mongolia.

- Sharkhuu Orgil was appointed as the Consul General in Hohhot of the People's Republic of China.

- Procedures for evacuating museum collections in times of disaster and danger were approved.

Mongolian Search and Rescue Team Awarded Presidential Medal of Türkiye

On April 25, Vice President of Türkiye Fuat Oktay presented the Presidential Medal and Order of Distinguished Humanitarian Service to B. Uuganbayar, the Mongolian Search and Rescue team leader, the Deputy Chief of the National Emergency Management Agency and the Brigadier-General, in recognition of the team's invaluable efforts in search and rescue operations and humanitarian support in the aftermath of the earthquake disaster that struck southern Türkiye last February.

The Mongolian search and rescue team rescued eight people from under the rubble of the building, located the bodies of



19 people and handed them over to the relevant authorities, and provided medical care to 649 people. In addition, according to the Government's decision, five tons of meat, one ton of candles, 1000 blankets, and 20 Mongolian gers were sent to Türkiye as humanitarian aid.

Trade between Mongolia and Poland to Grow Further

In the framework of the State visit of President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda to Mongolia a Mongolian-Polish Business Forum was held on April 25 at Shangri-La Hotel in Ulaanbaatar. The Business Forum was co-organized by the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Investment and Trade Agency of Poland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, and the Embassy of Poland in Mongolia.



President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda and President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh delivered opening speeches to the Business Forum. In their speeches, the Presidents of the two countries emphasized that the relations between the Parliaments, Governments, public organizations, citizens, entrepreneurs and producers have intensified, and the trade turnover of the two countries has reached USD 100 million, doubling in the last three years.

According to the Investment and Trade Agency of Poland, the amount of export from Poland to Mongolia has exceeded EUR 70 million. Food products, ready-made clothes, and construction materials dominate in the export from Poland to Mongolia. Polish companies also cooperate with their Mongolian counterparts in the mining sector, supplying mining machinery and safety equipment. Director of the Centre for Exports of the Polish Investment and Trade Agency Lukasz Grabowski noted that Polish businessmen are willing to invest in the fields of infrastructure, construction, and warehouse.

Economic Adviser to the President of Mongolia B. Davaadalai stated that this Forum and the State visit would bring considerable results in significantly increasing the economic and trade cooperation of the two

countries. Twenty Polish companies engaged in milk and dairy products, meat and meat products, health, medical equipment, information technology, electricity, energy, construction, and tourism took part in the Forum, whilst about 300 companies and entrepreneurs from Mongolia participated in the Event.

He said, "Most of the participants of the Forum are food and agriculture companies. In other words, this sector is considered one of the most promising to cooperate in the future. Mining is another potential sector for cooperation with this country. The third cooperation sector could be banking and finance. In particular, the banking and financial sector of Poland has noticeably intensified since 2000. As the banking and financial sector transforms to digital around the world, there is a broad opportunity for cooperation between the Central and commercial banks. In addition, there is a possibility of attracting financial resources. Another potential area of cooperation is tourism."

The Memorandum of Understanding on Transit Facilitation was the most notable document signed during the Forum. "For Mongolia, a landlocked

country, transiting through the territory of Poland will give a huge advantage in terms of shipping to Europe and increasing trade," said Mr. Davaadalai.

Executive Director of "Efes International" LLC O. Dulguun underlines that the cooperation documents related to transportation are about to come into force. The company has been im-

porting goods from Poland since 2018. As regards to the company's choice of this country to do business with, O. Dulguun explains that Polish goods are of high quality and the transportation cost is cheaper compared to other European countries. "At the same time, imported foodstuff, in particular fresh and semi-processed fruits are products of high demand in Mongolia which has four distinct seasons.

representatives of relevant organizations of both parties made presentations and provided information on the business environment of Mongolia and Poland, trade opportunities, transport logistics, agricultural export and import, opportunities of joint venture and investment, and banking.

The Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Polish Investment and Trade Agency, and the Polish Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. B2B meetings of Mongolian and Polish companies were held toward establishing business links and cooperation.

As of last year, Mongolia exported to Poland packaged medicine, sewn and knitted clothes and goods worth USD 599,000, while Poland exported to Mongolia canned vegetables, fruits, nuts, chocolate and cocoa containing food, pork, pork and poultry fat, beverages, pharmaceuticals, sanitary, face and nail care preparations worth USD 97,7 million.



The reason of recent increase in prices of imported goods is the cost of transportation. Therefore, decisions aimed at improving transportation conditions will become a tangible support."

At the Business Forum, rep-



"Ulaanbaatar-International Investment & Partnership" Forum



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essential to enhance competitiveness and improve governance for sustainable social, economic, and environmental development.

Major projects, including a 70 km ring road project of the Government and MNT 300-400 billion public road renewal project, construction projects of a satellite city, and four industrial

technological parks were highlighted at the Forum.

The feasibility study of the Emeelt Industrial-Technological Park has been completed with the support of the World Bank. Besides, the "Ulaanbaatar-Light Metro" or railway project is under discussion. Projects on providing citizens of Ulaanbaatar with apartments, specifically building apartments based on Bayankhoshuu, Tolgoit, Damba-

darjaa, and Selbe sub-centers, were also presented. Sub-centers are being built within the Ulaanbaatar Urban Services and Ger Areas Development Investment Program, financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar. The program will be implemented in three tranches.

At the forum, 14 memorandums and three agreements were signed for solving environmental and infrastructure problems in Ulaanbaatar, expanding cooperation with the private sector in urban planning, construction, and road construction, and allowing the private sector to perform some government functions. Specifically, the startup companies presented at the "HUB Innovation Center" concluded contracts and deals for the next stage of investment. In addition, the Governor's Office of the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar signed agreements with five enterprises to cooperate so that the private sector executes some urban and public utility works.

Mongolia-Hungary Online Business Meeting



Trade and economic cooperation between Mongolia and Hungary has been gradually intensifying. "The trade turnover between the two countries has reached USD 13 million," it was noted at the online business meeting held on April 20.

The participants of the business meeting concurred that cooperation between the businesses of Mongolia and Hungary should be developed grounding on non-mining exports.

The current Mongolian-Hungarian cooperation is developing based on traditional relations. At the meeting, they underscored the renovation project of

BioKombinat State-owned Company built with Hungarian assistance, and the Hungarian Government's Scholarship, which allows 200 Mongolian students to study in higher educational institutions each year. Over 40 Mongolian and Hungarian companies took part in the online meeting and exchanged opinions on further cooperation.

Mongolia and Hungary established diplomatic relations on April 28, 1950. The Air Services Agreement between the Governments of Mongolia and Hungary has been recently renewed.

"Women in the Frontlines of Addressing Global Challenges" International Conference Held in Mongolia

On April 20-23, SocDem Asia and Friedrich Ebert Foundation jointly organized an International Conference in Mongolia under the theme of "Women in the Frontlines of Addressing Global Challenges". The Conference was attended by over 30 women from more than ten countries. On the sideline of the Conference, various discussions took place on topics such as Protecting the Rights of Women in Digital Spaces, Women's Role in Fighting Against Global Warming, and Women in Conflict.



There is evidence that having more women in public and private decision-making increases the general level of public sector effectiveness and accountability in a country. Globally, women hold only 28 percent of managerial positions in power and decision-making roles, while in Mongolia, the percentage is much lower - 17 percent.

A. Ariunzaya, Secretary-General, Mongolian People's Party

Regarding the theme of the conference, a progressive feminist view implies addressing the challenges faced by women and promoting gender equality in all aspects of society. This approach acknowledges the importance of gender issues in solving global crises such as climate change, digitalization, and globalization. The One Billion Trees National Campaign initiated by President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh is an example of an initiative that aims to combat climate change and desertification, which is the problem that world is

facing. By planting trees, Mongolia hopes to mitigate the impact of desertification on the local ecosystem and the livelihood of its citizens.

As a member of the Social Democratic Party, being gender promotive means advocating for policies and practices that promote gender equality and empower women. Gender promotion at the decision-making level is crucial for ensuring equal representation and participation of women in politics. In Mongolia's Parliament, women's representation is only 17 percent, which is below the global average of 30 percent. It shows the need to address barriers that prevent women from participating in politics.

The Government of Mongolia is taking steps to increase political engagement among women by introducing three laws related to political parties, elections, and the constitution. These laws could help create a more inclusive political system by removing obstacles to women's participation in politics.

One area that requires attention is political financing. By

providing state financing to political parties, they would be less dependent on funding from companies or individuals who may seek to illegally influence the candidacy and election process.

Ann Linde, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

I'm Anne Linda. I am the former Minister of Foreign Affairs. This Conference is very important. We are mainly talking about feminist foreign policy and how to get women both into politics, the labor market, and having a more gender-equal society. I have given the experiences from my years as a minister in the Swedish Government.

In Sweden, we have had 50/50 representation in the Government since 1994 and that's irrespective of who won the election. Of total parliamentarians, about 45 percent are women. We have the highest number of women in the world for workforces. We are one of the most prosperous countries in the world because more equal societies tend to be economically stable and peaceful. I think that the Mongolian People's Party has

now introduced several changes and proposals about getting more women into politics and having more gender-responsive politics, and I think that's encouraging. I wish Mongolia well because this will not only lead to economic prosperity but also a more stable society.

The percentage of the female population in Mongolia is 50.77 percent. Furthermore, Mongolia has not yet met the target of having at least 20 percent of women in public decision-making positions, as stipulated by the Election Law of Mongolia, and is below the world average of 26 percent. Also, representatives attending the Conference pointed out that Mongolia still has a long way to go in achieving gender equality. Despite holding eight elections in the past 30 years, women parliamentarians currently contribute only 17 percent of the total, indicating a significant gender gap in political representation in Mongolia.

Nerissa Henry, Local Govt Elected Member - Auckland City Council, New Zealand

I thoroughly enjoyed the conference so far. It has been fascinating to hear from speakers of different countries and learn about their positions and the policies their countries have implemented to support women. It's important for us to be collectively aligned in advocating women and girls across the Social Democratic Asia Parties in the East Asia and Pacific region.

In New Zealand, we already have 50/50 representation in our Parliament, and last week, we achieved 50/50 gender equality

in our cabinet as well. It's great to see that Mongolia is also working towards this goal, and sharing experiences.

Pabitra Raut, Program Officer at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

My name is Pabitra Raut. I am from Nepal. I find the conference very insightful because it brings together colleagues from various parts of the world, including Europe and East Asian countries. This is my first time in Mongolia, and just learning about the country itself is a huge achievement for me. We are exchanging different ideas about feminism, foreign policy, and climate change issues, which are dynamic and ongoing. Through this conference, we can work towards bringing more women into decision-making positions. The feminist movement is constantly evolving and tackling both old and new issues, such as digitalization and climate change. So, we are looking back at our progress and also moving forward for the feminist movement.

"While it is true that Mongolia has made progress in promoting women's participation in decision-making, there is still much work to be done," said Ann Linde, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. A revised draft law on elections has been submitted to the State Great Khural. It proposes a mixed-member electoral system and requires political parties to alternate male and female candidates in their party lists of 38 candidates, ensuring at least 50 percent participation of women. Leaders of the political parties assume that the quota can be 19.

Minister L. Enkh-Amgalan Pays Official Visit to Germany



Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan and other officials are paying an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany to learn from the country's experiences.

Minister L. Enkh-Amgalan Meets Mongolian Students in Germany

The purpose of their visit is to gain insights and knowledge from Germany's experiences, particularly in higher education and technical and vocational education training.

Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan and other officials are on an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany to learn from the coun-

try's experiences as Mongolia is to make legislative reform in higher education and technical and vocational education training.

On the first day of the visit, the Minister and officials visited the Embassy of Mongolia in Berlin, Germany, and met with students studying and serving apprenticeships in Germany and representatives from the companies where the students are interning. The German vocational education and training system, known as the dual training scheme, is recognized worldwide due to its combination of theory and training embedded in a real-life work environment.

The revised Draft Law on Higher Education and Technical

and Vocational Education Training has reflected the dual training scheme to enhance the education system of Mongolia.

The "Tuvd Agency", which offers vocational education, training, and skill development programs, has connected over 200 students seeking vocational education and skill development with employers and training institutions in Germany since 2017. Also, the Agency organizes courses on language, social interaction, and adaptation.

In compliance with the dual training scheme in Germany, most professions require a three-year period of study, and most of the training takes place on the workplace and industrial environment, while a smaller portion is conducted in the classroom. Specifically, around 70-80 percent of the study period is hands-on, practical experience gained in real situations and the remaining 20-30 percent is classroom-based learning.

Furthermore, students work with labor contracts and apprenticeship agreements and receive a monthly salary of 965-1500 euros, paying mandatory social insurance and taxes.

Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan, on behalf of the Government of

Mongolia, expressed his gratitude to the employers who attended the meeting for supporting Mongolian students in Germany and improving their professional skills. "In 1926, the first group of 35 Mongolian students went to Germany to pursue higher education and acquire advanced professional skills. Mongolian students studying in Germany today are writing the chapter of history of educational cooperation between the two countries, and they are helping to shape the future of this partnership for the next 100 years," said Minister L. Enkh-Amgalan.

Educational Cooperation and Opportunities Discussed

Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan, who is on a Working Visit to Germany, held official talks with Sebastian Gemkow, the Saxon State Minister for Science, Culture, and Tourism on April 24.

Mongolia has long established relations with the Saxon state of Germany in sectors of culture, education, and economy. Estimates show that Mongolia needs about 30 thousand engineers and technical personnel in achieving its goals set in the mid and long-term development

policy and planning. In this regard, the Ministers discussed the possibility to train at least one thousand of them in Germany, especially in the Saxon state.

Mongolian universities work in close cooperation with some universities of Saxon. One of them is the German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology. During the meeting, the parties exchanged views on expanding the cooperation between universities and introducing university management, and implementing sandwich programs in the field of higher and vocational education of Mongolia, in cooperation with the University of Freiburg.

Other issues covered during the talks were introducing and localizing the German technologies through our professionals studied in Germany, and training teachers and practitioners in Germany.

Mongolia and Germany will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2024. On the occasion of this anniversary, the Minister of Education and Science L. Enkh-Amgalan officially invited Minister Sebastian Gemkow to visit Mongolia at his convenience.

Mongolia to Overcome Electricity Shortage with New Thermal and Hydropower Plants



Mongolia produces 80 percent of its electricity demand while importing the rest from its two neighbors, China and Russia. The number of energy users has risen by an average of 7-8 percent, and on the other hand, energy production has increased by 6-7 percent. Thermal Power Plant-4 and the expanded thermal power plants in Erdenet and Darkhan have been playing vital roles in handling the peak demands in recent years.

In the winter of 2022-2023, the peak demand reached 1476 MW. To meet next winter's peak demand, it is planned to build battery energy storage in the Songino sub-station and making negotiations to purchase

electricity from China when required. In addition, the Booroljuut power plant is expected to be put into operation in 2024. Complex project on Booroljuut coal mine and power plant commenced in 2016. The thermal power plant with the capacity of 300 MWT will have 71 km overhead electric lines, while the coal mine will exploit 3 million tons of coal a year.

Located in Bayanjargalan soum, Tuv Aimag, 120 km from Ulaanbaatar city, the "Booroljuut" coal mine and power plant have many advantages in terms of its location, infrastructural condition and ecology.

The annual electricity demand of the western part of Mongolia is 160 million kWh, of which 40 percent is produced

by the Durgunu Hydropower Plant. The rest is imported from China and Russia, spending about MNT 20 billion. The Erdeneburen Hydropower Plant with an installed capacity of 90 MW will produce 366 million kWh electricity per year, fully satisfying the electricity demand of the region and supplying electricity to the central electricity grid.

The construction of the Erdeneburen Hydropower plant in

Kovd aimag is scheduled to start next summer.

On April 21, President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh visited the site where the Erdeneburen Hydropower plant to be built. "Today, most part of the electricity provided to western aimags is imported electricity, which is 6-8 times expensive than domestically produced electricity.

The fact that production and services are not increasing enough in the western region

relates to the lack of energy," stated the President, expressing gratitude to the people of Khovd Aimag for supporting the state policy to provide domestic energy need with

When the Erdeneburen Hydropower Plant is in operation, it will create over 100 jobs, as well as expected to have positive effects on the livelihoods of the local citizens by giving opportunities to develop irrigated farming and tourism.



"Khovd Eco Cement" Factory Put into Operation



"Khovd Eco Cement" factory has been officially put into operation, writing a new chapter in the development history of Western Mongolia.

President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. While highlighting the fact that the "Khovd Eco Cement" factory is one of the biggest factories built in Mongolia, President said, "A transition from welfare to labor, from extraction to processing and from import to export is starting right here, right from this factory. "Khovd Eco Cement" project will give great impetus for state policy implementation to develop aimag centers into town, reduce rural-

to-urban migration and provide rural citizens with adequate living conditions."

The "Khovd Eco Cement" is a dry-process cement factory that does not use water in its mining, crushing, grinding, and in blending processes of the manufacturing. The dry process has also the advantages of generating less pollution and low energy consumption. In addition, the dust collection system was installed in each manufacturing facilities.

The factory has a production capacity of 250 thousand tons of cement per year, which is enough to build 504 kindergartens and its total surrounding area covers 20 hectares or equal to 19 football fields. It has beneficial



effects, such as creating 350 new jobs, supporting small and medium enterprises, and increasing the incomes of about 3000 people. Moreover, the factory will export cement to Russia, and Kazakhstan and supply the required cement for construction of the Erdeneburen Hydropower plant to contribute to the cost reduction. Under the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, the factory workers planted 5000 trees and 100,000 seedlings last year.

National Book Fair to Be Held

The National Book Fair will be held under the auspices of Speaker of the State Great Khural G.Zandanshatar at Sukhbaatar Square in May.

In the framework of the implementation of the Law on Public Holidays and Celebrations, the long-term development policy of Mongolia "Vision-2050", and Decree No.158 issued by the President of Mongolia, the Fair is organized on a wider scale to promote public reading, enrich the collection being kept in libraries, support children's and youth's desire to learn and disseminate knowledge.

The "Nomiin Ertuuts" NGO, together with book publishers and authors have been organizing

the Book Fair twice a year in May and September since 2007, providing readers the opportunity to personally meet with their favorite writers, and publishing companies and purchase books at a discounted price.

With an aim to promote reading, the Book Fair brings together a large number of book lovers, authors, publishing companies, and artists for various book-related activities, such as author talks, discussions, performances, book signings, Meet the Author events, book exchange, and book launching events, and workshops, so on. The annual Fair usually attracts around 30,000-40,000 book lovers, 200 publishers, and 300 authors. According to the

statistics, 95 percent of people who visit the Fair buy books.

This year, the three-day Book Fair will be organized under the motto of "Let's Read More". The Fair, which aims to spread the culture of books, and make children and young people fall in love with books has grown into a major cultural event that people await. In recent years, organizers have been working to introduce Mongolian books and culture to the world by inviting international writers.

MONTSAME News Agency, which publishes weekly papers in Mongolian, English, Russian, Chinese, and Japanese languages, as well as the Khumuun Bichig newspaper in traditional Mongol script and



Mongolia Today magazine in English, will take part in this

year's Book Fair as an official media partner.

"Drop of Blood—Full of Life" Saves 10 Thousand Lives



Mongolian National University of Medical Science (MNUMS) launched the 2nd phase of the "Drop of Blood - Full of Life" Campaign on April 20.

MNUMS has been implementing the "Student Development" program intending to nurture

students' academic and social development and inculcate good moral values since the academic year 2021-2022. As part of this program, the MNUMS initiated and organized the "Drop of Blood - Full of Life" Voluntary Blood Donation Campaign, in cooperation with the National

Center for Transfusion Medicine last year.

Outcomes of the 1st phase of the Campaign, in which more than 3800 students and professors of universities were engaged, hit a record high in collecting 1067 liters of blood, which is enough to save 10 thousand people's lives,

and increasing the blood bank by two-fold. The scope of the Campaign has broadened for this 2nd phase, involving 18 public and private universities. As of the 12th day of the Campaign, which started at Etugen University, 1128 units of blood have been already collected.



IVU Team Performs Surgeries on 28 Patients for Free

At the request of First Central Hospital of Mongolia, the International Volunteers in Urology (IVU) team, led by Dr. Mike Metro, Director of Reconstructive Urology at Temple University Hospital, worked in Mongolia and performed urethral reconstructive procedures on 25 patients and cancer surgeries on two patients for free between April 17 and 22.

This year's workshop marked the 26th in-person IVU workshop held in Mongolia since 2002. The team conducted lectures and training seminars for medical trainees and healthcare providers,

as well as provided medical treatment to children and adults in need.

General Director of the First Central Hospital of Mongolia B. Khishigiargal received the IVU team on April 21 and expressed his gratitude to them for providing life-altering surgeries and care to patients in need and discussed further expanding the cooperation between the hospital and the IVU.

He noted "The IVU team collaborated with our hospital's urology doctors on the proper diagnostic workup of urethral stricture disease and worked with them on surgical indications for different stricture types. During



their 7-day visit, the Team successfully performed surgeries on 28 people, including five children for free. In the future, we would like to intensify our cooperation with the IVU to build healthcare capacity, so that every person in Mongolia has access to quality urologic care."

Dr. Mike Metro, a team leader of the IVU said, "For the last six years, we have worked in Mongolia four times. Each time, we bring a different team with specialization in different areas and perform life-saving surgeries. This time, our team consists of five reconstructive urologists. It is satisfying to see that the

skills of surgeons at First Central Hospital have been improving. Mongolian surgeons are very determined to learn new skills and techniques, apply what they have learned, and introduce them into their practice." Moreover, Dr. Mike Metro highlighted the professional skills of Mongolian nurses and personally expressed his gratitude to them for their compassion for taking care of every life and putting themselves on the front line.

According to Doctor D. Bayan-Undur, the average cost for a urethral reconstructive procedure is around USD 22 thousand in foreign countries.



"MNUMS Dent" Dental Clinic Opened

The Mongolian National University of Medical Science (MNUMS) officially opened its "MNUMS Dent" dental clinic and launched a mobile dental clinic service on April 20.

The Government of Mongolia made a decision to launch a "Tooth" project nationwide to improve the quality and accessibility of oral health care services and reduce dental caries among children, and accordingly, formed a Working Group headed by S. Enkhbold, the Deputy Minister of Health.

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Minister of Health said, "The preventive and early-detection checkups have been successfully continuing nationwide since last year at the ini-

tiative of the President. Since the launch, 960 thousand people have been involved. According to current results of those check-ups, among children with age up to 17, oral disease is the most prevalent, accounting for 75.9 percent of the total illness among the children. In this regard, Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene mandated to launch the "Tooth" project and the Working Group was formed in accordance with the A/124 Decision of the Minister of Health. Thus, today the MNUMS is opening its "MNUMS Dent" dental clinic as part of this project. In addition to the dental clinic, the MNUMS is also launching its mobile dental clinic service to provide dental care services to underserved and remote locations."



Principal of the MNUMS N. Khurelbaatar said, "The MNUMS is striving to create and develop a university hospital system in Mongolia. Our "MNUMS Dent" dental clinic will provide specialty services and a range of comprehensive general and preventive care, diagnostic care, and restorative treatments. In this

regard, we hope that our hospital will play an important role in achieving the goals set for the "Tooth" project initiated by the Prime Minister of Mongolia."

Besides dental care services, these dental clinics will become bases for on-the-job training for students majoring in dentistry.

The lawyer's advice



In cooperation with Hanns Seidel Foundation

The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) as a political foundation is active in 60 countries worldwide under the motto of Democracy, Peace and Development". In Mongolia, HSF is active since 1993 and supports the transformation and establishment of the rule of law.

-What requirements must a digital signature meet?

-Digital signature must meet the following requirements:

1. Data must be encrypted and transformed with use of personal key of the digital signature;

2. The owner of a certificate of the digital signature may be recognized and checked using public key of the signature;

3. After attaching or including of the digital signature to the data it should be available to know whether the data/information has been changed and whether the data/information is complete.

-How to use an electronic signature?

-With the help of data system, the electronic signature is available to be used in cases when information in paper form has been transferred to the electronic form, or encrypted, sent, accepted, stored in electronic environment. There is no limit in digits and forms of the electronic signatures that a person or a legal entity uses.

-Who uses a digital signature?

-The owner of the personal key of digital signature specified in the digital signature certificate must be a person reached 16 years of age. Digital signature shall have the same legal force as the signature signed to the information in paper form. Civil servant may use the digital signature while on duty of the public service and performing rights and duties. Digital signature may be used for the purpose to recognize and ensure a person or legal entity in the data system.

-What does an electronic seal/stamp refer to? How to use it?

-Digital signature that issued to the legal entity shall have a form of the electronic seal. The electronic seal may be used by the owner of the personal key specified in the certificate.

Electronic seal shall be used by the person authorized to represent the respective organization without a power of attorney, and the representative may use the rights granted by the power of attorney on the basis of the power of attorney. Electronic seal must meet law requirements,

In absence of the electronic seal, the digital signature solely and together with the electronic seal of the person authorized to represent the organization may be used.

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"NINA 41" Exhibition Unveils Intricately Crafted Knit Dolls of Iconic Figures

On April 21, Freelance Artist D. Nina displayed her first solo exhibition "NINA 41" in "B" contemporary art gallery in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. This Exhibition has opened its doors to knitting enthusiasts, history buffs, and anyone who is interested in it.

The centerpiece of the "NINA 41" is a collection of handmade knit dolls, each masterfully crafted using intricate knitting techniques, depicting some of the most iconic figures in history.

Furthermore, the Exhibition offers an exciting opportunity to fully immerse oneself in the worldviews of historical figures while exploring a diverse selection of yarns with unique characteristics.



Visitors will have the chance to observe the incredible artistry behind these dolls and appreciate the dedication and skill required to create such detailed works.

The public is welcome to visit the "NINA 41" exhibition, which will continue to be available until May 4, 2023.



Enkh-Orgil Emerges Victorious in His Debut Professional Fight



Enkh-Orgil Baatarkhuu, the winner of the "Road to ONE-Mongolia" and the athlete of "Shandas MMA" Club, went to Bangkok to go in for his first battle at the ONE Championship's world stage.

He fought during the "ONE Lumpinee" event at the renowned Lumpinee Stadium in Bangkok on April 21.

B. Enkh-Orgil faced off against Adonis Sevilleno, the winner of the "ONE Warrior Series Philippines," and emerged victorious in his debut professional fight. Now, Enkh-Orgil has eight wins and two losses at the professional level. Meanwhile, his opponent, 29-year-old Adonis Sevilleno, has one win at the amateur and two wins and four losses at the professional level.

Six Mongolian Players Top the Podium at World School Chess Championship

The FIDE World School Chess Championship (WSSC), a part of the 4th Rhodes Chess Festival, took place in Rhodes, Greece between April 13 and 23, 2023.

Representing Mongolia, 30 players competed in the Championship against over 530 players from 53 countries.

The captain of the Mongolian Chess Team was E. Nomin, an experienced International Judge of Chess Compositions, and five coaches trained and guided each player. Together, the captain and coaches worked to devise effective game strategies and make tactical alternatives, ultimately leading the Team to success on the international stage.

The very demanding and highly competitive matches came to an end, with the winners crowned in each category. Mongolia rounded off the Championship with six medals, specifically Ts. Gerelt-Oyu and B. Buyankhishig captured the top spot on the



podium.

A peculiar match was the battle between two Mongolian compatriots, Gurvanbaatar Urangoo and Naranbold Sodgerelt, which decided the 2nd and 3rd places in the G13 category.

Mongolia's Medal Winners: U13 - Tenguundalai Ganbat - Silver Medal; G7-Gerelt-Oyu Tsogtgerel - Gold Medal and Championship Trophy; G9-

Tselmuun Ider - Silver Medal; G11-Buyankhishig Batpelden-Gold Medal and Championship Trophy; G13-Urangoo Gurvanbaatar - Silver Medal, Sodgerelt Naranbold - Bronze Medal. The top 3 countries (medalists) of WSSC 2023 are Kazakhstan 9 (2 gold, 2 silver, 5 bronze), Turkey 7 (3 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze) and Mongolia 6 (2 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze).



Kindergarten Children Plant 1,500 Saplings in Darkhan-Uul Aimag

Darkhan-Uul aimag is taking an active role in promoting environmental conservation and sustainability through its participation in the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign and "Green Darkhan" Sub-program. As part of its efforts to promote reforestation and improve the environment, the Aimag launched an initiative to encourage children to plant seedlings and saplings.



Through this initiative, children are provided with the opportunity to learn about the importance of environmental conservation and to take an active role in caring for the environment. By planting seedlings and saplings, children are making their contribution to the National Campaign while helping create a greener and healthier aimag.

Children from eleven kindergartens have planted 1,500 saplings of petunias, sunflowers, zinnias, and marigolds and do-

nated them to the Urban Development Office of Darkhan-Uul Aimag. Officials expressed their gratitude to the children and teachers, reporting that 90 percent of the seedlings the children planted are viable and were planted correctly.

The initiative not only benefits the environment of the Aimag but also provides children with a hands-on learning experience that fosters a sense of environmental responsibility and stewardship. By instilling these values in young people, the Darkhan-Uul aimag aims to create a more sustainable future for all.

The Hu to Plant 12 Thousand Trees in Their Home Country



The Hu has announced a tree-planting project in their home country in honor of Earth Day (April 22).

For the Campaign, 12 thousand Siberian Elms will be planted in the southeastern region of Mongolia, which overlaps with the Gobi Desert. When the trees are grown together, they will form the shape of The Hu's logo—a one-horned leopard, based on an ancient symbol used by the Hun tribes.

This Land Art campaign is in partnership with the environmental institution SHAMBALE2056 Engineering Campus LLC, which has been relentlessly working in the area on several restoration projects and eco-friendly irrigation and energy systems. The trees being planted are Siberian Elms due to their strong root system and low water requirements, which will help fight the rapid deforestation of the Gobi because of sandstorms and climate change.

Digging efforts will begin in May, and The Hu will offer fans the opportunity to purchase one of the trees to help fund the initiative, details of which will be announced in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, The Hu has also premiered an English-translated lyric video for the song "Mother Nature," a track of the group's 2022 album, Rumble



of Thunder. "Everyone in this world belongs to a mother, and this song narrates the similarities between one's relationship with their mother and the connection between humans and the Earth," The Hu says.

"In a way, Earth is another mother that bores us to this world. In Mongolia, mothers are highly regarded and respected, and we believe that even after death, their soul protects their child as their love is limitless."