

His Holiness Pope Francis' First Historic Visit to Mongolia

The Head of the Holy See Pope Francis paid a State Visit to Mongolia between August 31 and September 4, 2023, at the invitation of the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa. It was the first high level visit from the Holy See to Mongolia.

The Head of the Holy See Pope Francis arrived in Mongolia on September 1. Foreign Minister B. Battsetseg greeted His Holiness Pope Francis upon his landing at the Chinggis Khaan International Airport, Mongolia.

President Khurelsukh welcomed the Head of the Holy See Pope Francis on September 2, 2023 at Sukhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Upon a report of the Commander of the State Honor Guard, the National Anthems of both countries were performed. Members of the State Great Khural and the Government and other officials greeted Pope Francis. Following the Welcoming Ceremony at the central square Pope Francis and President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa paid tribute to the Statue of the Great Emperor Chinggis Khaan. Then, the Pope signed the Book of Honored Guests at the State Palace.

Heads of State, Government and

Parliament Meet Pope Francis

President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and His Holiness Pope Francis held a tête-à-tête meeting on September 2, 2023. During the meeting, they discussed expanding friendly relations between Mongolia and the Holy See, which have the relations from ancient time, deepening cooperation in the culture, education, science, and humanitarian fields, as well as some issues of international relations.

President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and Pope Francis mutually affirmed the importance of each country's participation in solving global problems such as climate change, desertification, and environmental degradation, and exchanged views on cooperation within the framework of the "One Billion Trees", "Food Supply and Security" and "Healthy Mongolian" national campaigns.

Scholars believe that the official relationship between the two countries began when the Khaans of the Great Mongol Empire communicated with the Popes of the time in the 13th century through sending messengers and discussed matters of nations.

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IN FOCUS: Renewed National Commitment to Achieve SDGs

A National Forum for Sustainable Development involving high-level decision-makers, practitioners, and representatives from different stakeholders was jointly organized by the Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Mongolia on September 7, 2023.

Mongolia will present its renewed National Commitment to accelerate its efforts to achieve SDGs by 2030 at the SDG Summit to be held on 18-19 September in the United Nations, New York.

Mongolia presented its first Voluntary National Review Report in 2019 and its second report to the UN General Assembly in July 2023. The second report showed progress in 15 of the 17 SDG indicators but a backward in the first goal, poverty reduction. Therefore, Mongolia is taking steps to address this issue and is committed to reducing poverty by 2030.

In his opening speech, Minister of Economy and Development Ch. Khurelbaatar said that the Government is consistently working to increase

the economic growth, the basic pre-condition of the SDGs' implementation. "Mongolia's economy shrunk by 4.6 percent due to the effects of the pandemic and international geopolitics, but in the last five consecutive quarters it has been growing, and increased by 6.4 percent. Inflation, which had reached 16.9 percent in June of the last year, dropped to 9.2 percent in July of this year. However, the implementation of the SDGs is slow. In the future, our economic growth will rise by increasing exports, improving the organization of border ports, and supporting the growth of transport following the mining sector. Since Mongolia has fully integrated the SDGs into the "Vision 2050" development policy document and in its mid-term goals, the SDGs will be undoubtedly implemented. We have prepared our report by ensuring the participation of many parties in the implementation of the priorities of the SDGs."

Economic Policy Adviser to the President of Mongolia B. Davaadalai delivered the President's message. "To attain the SDGs, Mongolia is implementing the national programs "Healthy



Mongolian," "Food Supply and Safety," and "One Billion Trees" with the participation of the public and private sectors. Although environmental degradation, climate change, pandemics, and geopolitical conditions have been negatively impacting people's lives and the implementation of the SDGs, we are focused on radically improving our financial mechanisms. In terms of the deadline, 50 percent of the implementation of the SDGs 2030 Program is weak and 30 percent

is frozen. As for our country, it is necessary to improve the investment and legal environment, enhance control, reporting, and financing, and make management and organizational reforms. We are also working to eliminate regional, urban, and rural disparities and provide basic social services to citizens equally. Therefore, cooperation and mutual understanding of multiple parties are of most importance."

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Bloomberg commodity price
2023/09/07

GOLD	USD/t oz.	1,939.40
COPPER	USD/lb.	394.75
SILVER	USD/t oz.	22.81
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	75.76
WHEAT	USD/bu	741.75

Health and Social Protection Services to be Digitalized



Ministers and deputy ministers for communications and digital transition from over 70 countries took part in the Tallinn Digital Summit on September 5, 2023. This year's summit was organized under the theme "Strengthening Democracy and Renewing Technological Agenda."

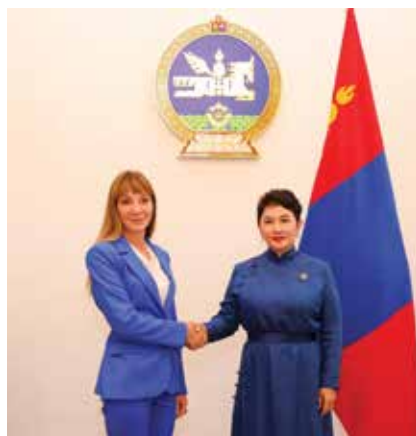
During his working visit to the Republic of Estonia, Minister of Digital Development and Communications N. Uchral met with the management of the Health and Welfare Information Systems Center and got acquainted with its activities.

The Minister was interested in the experience of digitalization of health and social protection services in Estonia and made a proposal to cooperate in introducing

them in Mongolia. In particular, he proposed to cooperate in the areas of data-based decision-making in the provision and establishment of social care and benefits, use of artificial intelligence, IT audit and conclusion of systems with overlapped investments in the health sector, and re-engineering of existing systems.

The Health and Welfare Information Systems Center expressed its readiness to cooperate in the above areas. This Center (TEHIK) works in partnership with such organizations as the Ministry of Health, Social Insurance Council, National Institute of Health Development, Department of Clinical Medicine to introduce new digital services, reports the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications.

UNDP Resident Representative Presents Letter of Credence



Newly appointed UNDP Resident Representative in Mongolia Matilda Dimovska presented her letter of Credence to Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg Batmunkh on September 5, 2023.

Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg pointed out that the United Nations has consistently supported Mongolia's social and economic goals and expressed its

active cooperation with the United Nations Development Program Resident Mission.

She also noted that the activities implemented by the United Nations Development Program in Mongolia will greatly contribute to the promotion and advancement of the stable and inclusive development of Mongolia, and underscored she would cooperate more actively with the UNDP to intensify the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), priorities and initiatives of the country.

UNDP Resident Representative Matilda Dimovska said that the UNDP will continue to support the SDG implementation and the goals of the long-term development policy "Vision-2050" and expressed her commitment to expand and develop the development cooperation between Mongolia and the United Nations.

Resident Representative Matilda Dimovska has been working for the United Nations Development Program since 2007. Prior, she worked in the regional offices of Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as in the Resident Missions in Turkey, Moldova, Georgia, and North Macedonia.

Foreign Minister Battsetseg Addresses "Global Town Hall" on Women's Rights

The Global Citizen Movement organized its annual "Global Town Hall" Conference on September 2, 2023, under the general theme "This is Our World Too: A North-South-East-West Dialogue of Civil Societies." Foreign Minister of Mongolia B. Battsetseg participated in the Conference as a panelist in the session "Empowering Women and Girls."

In her speech, Foreign Minister B. Battsetseg noted that gender equality and women's rights are crucial to human rights-based approaches to development. She highlighted that supporting and empowering women, who represent half of the world's population, would make a significant

contribution to the social and economic development and prosperity of countries.

Furthermore, the Foreign Minister of Mongolia said that Mongolia is a country that has reflected the gender concept in its development policies. She also introduced Mongolia's policies and initiatives to promote gender equality and protect women's rights.

In addition, Ms. Battsetseg affirmed her commitment to make her contribution in protecting the rights of women and girls and promoting gender equality worldwide by supporting initiatives and efforts of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Mongolian Ambassador to Canada Presents Copy of Letter of Credence

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Canada Sarantogos Erdenetsogt presented a copy of her Letter of Credence to Yasemin Heinbecker, Deputy Chief of Protocol at Global Affairs Canada (GAC) on August 31, 2023.

Ms. Yasemin Heinbecker congratulated Ambassador Sarantogos on her appointment and expressed the commitment of Global Affairs Canada, especially its Protocol Office, to support the Ambassador in fulfilling her duties. Deputy Chief Yasemin Heinbecker gave detailed information about the activities and operations of the GAC Protocol Office.

The newly appointed Ambassador expressed her pleasure at assuming her duties on the eve of the 50th anniversary of



diplomatic relations between Mongolia and Canada and her confidence that she would closely cooperate with the Protocol Office to jointly implement the works and activities planned for the near future.

"Pope Francis' Visit to Mongolia" Post Stamp Unveiled



The unveiling ceremony of the post stamp "Pope Francis' visit to Mongolia" made in connection with this visit was held on September 31 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the opening speech, the Chief of Staff of the Office of the President of Mongolia Ya. Sodbaatar said, "The relations between our two countries are centuries old, as evidenced by the correspondence and historical documents stored in the archives of the Holy See Library. This is a significant process that will be clearly marked in the history of relations between our two countries." The stamp was created according to the tradition of "Mongol Post" JSC of issuing special stamps for anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations with partner countries or before high level visits.

In connection with the unveiling of the stamp, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle shared his impressions with the guests of the ceremony expressing his pleasure to participate in the unveiling of the stamp issued for the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Mongolia, and said that in his childhood years letters were means of

communication with his relatives and friends, and he remembers the time when stamps were affixed to the envelope of the letter. "Letter communication is a form of art and means of communication that will never disappear. Correspondence is important for stimulating people-to-people relations between the two countries," resumes Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle.

The Head of Stamps and Securities Department of "Mongol Post" JSC B. Damdinbazar said, "We are launching new stamps today welcoming the visit of the Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis. The staff of the Catholic Mission of Vatican in Mongolia cooperated in the creation of the stamp by providing drawings, materials and advice. The history of postal relations between our two countries dates many centuries back. In this sense, script and cultural exchanges have been strengthened. Our company has produced stamps for Popes since 1992. As for the new stamp, it is the fifth stamp to be put into circulation".

The stamp "Pope Francis' visit to Mongolia" has been printed 22,500 copies.

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 06:18 Sunset: 19:23

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimag: Night temps between +4 C and +10 C. Day time temps between +14 C and +22 C

■ Eastern Aimag: Night temps between +6 C and +13 C. Day time temps between +16 C and +26 C

■ Western Aimag: Night temps between +5 C and +7 C. Day time temps between +16 C and +21 C

■ Gobi Aimag: Night temps between +9 C and +14 C. Day time temps between +21 C and +31 C



Prince Turki's Visit: First Official Visit from Saudi Arabia



His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd Al Saud, Minister of State and Member of the House of Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, paid an Official Visit to Mongolia on September 4-7, 2023. The diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were established in 2007. After 16 years, Saudi Minister of State Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd Al Saud made an Official Visit to Mongolia for the first time.

The President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa received His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd Al Saud on September 5. President Khurelsukh asked the Saudi Minister of State to convey his greetings to His Majesty Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The President expressed the commitment to develop and expand relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Gulf countries, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a leading country with its economic development and potential in the region.

Mr. President noted the ample opportunities to cooperate in the fields of economy, trade and investment, environment and climate change, agriculture, education, culture, and tourism.

The President of Mongolia also expressed his intention to cooperate with Saudi Arabia to exchange experiences and share knowledge in hosting the 16th and 17th Sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

Saudi Minister of State His Royal Highness Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd Al Saud conveyed the sincere greetings of His Majesty Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa. The Saudi Minister of State expressed his readiness to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with Mongolia in environment and other possible sectors. He also extended his commitment to actively work towards upgrading the relations



and cooperation between the two countries to a new level.

On the same day, Foreign Minister of Mongolia Battsetseg Batmunkh received His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd Al Saud. At the onset of the Meeting, Foreign Minister Battsetseg noted that the first Visit of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Mongolia would be of high significance in upgrading relations between the two countries to a new level. The Minister expressed the country's commitment to expand cooperation between Mongolia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in environment, tourism, and agriculture sectors in order to improve economic cooperation and investment in the future. Ms. Battsetseg underscored the importance of enhancing the legal basis of bilateral relations and facilitating the citizens' travel between the two countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd Al Saud conveyed the warm greetings of Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, to Foreign Minister Ms. Battsetseg. The Minister of State of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed the willingness to develop the relations and cooperation between the two countries in all fields, bringing them to a new level. In this regard, His Royal Highness Prince Turki stated that the country focuses attention on improving the economic cooperation and developing the tourism sector of the two countries.

The Meeting also touched the cooperation opportunities between Mongolia and Saudi Arabia in hosting the 16th and 17th Sessions

of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in the countries. Moreover, Minister of Environment and Tourism Bat-Erdene received His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahd Al Saud, Minister of State to exchange views on intensifying bilateral relations in environment sector.

Particularly, Mongolian side offered to actively participate in preparation of the 16th sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, sending officials and requested to provide a pavilion during the Conference for promoting Mongolia, reports the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

The Mongolian side put concrete proposals including cooperation in afforestation of Gobi and Steppe regions, which the Saudi Arabia has similar ecosystems, within the framework of "One Billion Trees" National Campaign of Mongolia and "Ten Billion Trees" Initiative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in optimal solutions for irrigation systems and ecofriendly infrastructure for the protection of wild animals, their habitat and migration routes as well as experience exchange in the tourism, the start of cooperation between the two countries' specially protected areas' administrations by establishing sister national parks. As an offer, a draft of a memorandum of cooperation with the Administration of Specially Protected Area of Gurvan Saikhan in Dundgobi aimag was handed over to Prince Turki bin Muhammad bin Fahd Al-Saud, Minister of State and Member of the House of Saud.

DECISIONS MADE AT CABINET SESSION



At its regular session on September 6, 2023, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

An issue of Khalzan Buregtein Deposit will be resolved on the ground of the local authorities' proposal

Issues related to reviewing complaints and suggestions submitted by the citizens of Khovd aimag following the visit of the Prime Minister of Mongolia and the special permits for the Khalzan Buregtein Deposit were presented and discussed at the Cabinet session.

The Minister of Mining and Heavy Industry J. Ganbaatar and the Minister of Environment and Tourism B. Bat-Erdene were tasked to study and resolve the issue pertaining to the special permits for the Khalzan Buregtein Deposit located in the Myangad soum of Khovd aimag grounding on the suggestions of the local authorities in conformity with relevant legislation.

Recently, Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene worked in wes-

tern aimags, meeting the local people to hear their opinions and proposals and introducing the government policy as well as overseeing the implementation of the government decisions. It was instructed to develop the State Policy on rare earth elements and rare metals in conformity with relevant legislation and submit to the Government session.

The Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry conducted an inspection at the permit site of this deposit. The environmental management plan for 2023 exploration work was approved by the soum governor, but was not approved by the authorized environmental service specified in the legislation. Therefore, its activities have been temporarily suspended since April 29, 2023.

Foreign exchange reserves reach USD 3 billion 933 million

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Economy and Development of Mongolia Ch. Khurelbataar presented the implementation of the Government Resolution No. 362 of 2022 "On some measures to undertake towards increasing the state's foreign exchange reserves" and the measures to undertake in the future. In connection with this presentation, related officials were instructed to connect the trading deals made at the Mining Products Exchange with the customs and tax automatic registration system, and register the deals and contracts on mining products made by state and local owned companies only through the exchange in the customs and tax automatic registration system.

As of the end of August 2023, foreign currency reser-

ves reached USD 3 billion 933 million, increasing by 41 percent compared to the end of September 2022. "This ensures the stability of MNT exchange rate," said the Minister of Economy and Development. Since the beginning of 2023, the total sales of "Erdenes Tavantolgoi" JSC, "Erdenet Industry" state-owned enterprise (SOE), "Mongolrostsvetmet" SOE, and "Darkhan Metallurgical Plant" JSC have amounted USD 2.5 billion.

As of September 4, 2023, a total of 4,966,000 tons of coal was openly traded as part of the open sales of minerals, of which 3,110,000 tons of coal were traded through on-line trading, and 1,856,000 tons of coal were traded through the Mining Products Exchange.

The court will have a document outlining its development policy

After discussing the draft resolution of the State Great Khural on the approval of the "Policy for the Development of Judicial Power," it was decided to support it in principle and forward some suggestions to the legislators.

The Strategic Plan of the Judicial Power was approved by the Resolution of the State Great Khural in 2000, which is still effective. Taking into account the recommendations made in connection with the assessment and conclusion of the implementation of this plan, a proposal on Mongolia's Judicial Power Development Policy goals, objectives, and measures has been developed in harmony with the objectives of the "Vision-2050", Mongolia's Long-Term Development Policy, and other docu-

ments issued by authorized organizations and officials regarding the development and reform of the judicial power.

The Draft Resolution reflects the goals such as the guaranteed enjoyment of citizens' rights to file in court, improvement of the openness and transparency of operations, ensuring the independence of judges and the independence of the courts, shaping responsible courts, ensuring compliance of the administrative management of the judiciary with modern requirements, continuous development of human resource capacity of the courts, increasing the quality and availability of court services, developing the infrastructure of court services, and creating a stable system suitable for handling cases.

BRIEF NEWS

■ Based on own request, J. Bold was released from his duties and Sukhbold Tumurbaatar was appointed as the Head of the National Police Agency. Colonel T. Sukhbold has been working as the Head of the Criminal Police Department since 2020.

■ After discussing an issue of opening the Embassy of Mongolia in Tashkent, the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it was decided to consult with the relevant Standing Committee of the Parliament.

Mongolia-China-Russia Trade and Investment Forum



An International Trade and Investment Forum and Exhibition aimed at intensifying regional cooperation along the economic corridor of Mongolia, China, and Russia was held between August 30 and September 3, 2023 at the International Convention and

Exhibition Center of Erenhot of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.

The Forum organized under the theme "Let's Share Opportunities, Seek Common Development, and Create Prosperity Together" pursues the following:

- Improve the cross-border transport capacity of Mongolia, China and Russia,

- Cross-border tourism cooperation and exchange,

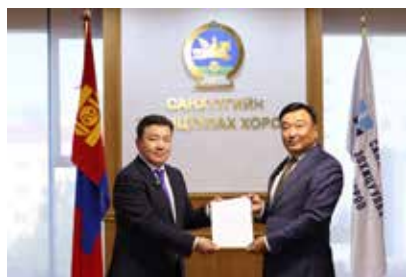
- Trade and exchange of minerals between Mongolia, China and Russia,

- Production of agricultural products in Mongolia, China and Russia.

The Forum held for the 11th time in Erenhot, was organized after four years' break due to the effects of the pandemic. From the Mongolian part, Member of the State Great Khural, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Environment, Food and Agriculture B. Saranchimeg, State Secretary of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture S. Batbold, Head of the Small and Medium Enterprises Agency Ya. Erdenesaikhan, Chairman of the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry T. Duuren, representatives of the Immigration Office, Governors of bordering aimags, SME sector, altogether about 100 delegates participated in the Forum.

Companies and entrepreneurs of three countries promoted their products in the seven sections of the exhibition of automobiles, heavy machinery, and food products at 500 exhibition stands.

Ulaanbaatar City Bond to be Issued



The Financial Regulatory Commission approved the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar to publicly offer bonds worth of up to MNT 500 billion in compliance with the Law on the Legal Status of the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar, the Law on Debt Management, the Budget Law, and other legislation and regulations by the Resolution No.427 of September 1, 2023.

Head of the Financial Regulatory Commission D. Byambasuren handed over the consent resolution to the First Deputy Governor of Ulaanbaatar in charge of economic and infrastructure issues J. Sandagsuren on September 4, 2023.

The collected funds will be used for the investment projects and measures specified in the city budget approved by the resolution of the Capital City Citizens Representatives Meeting, and quarterly reports will be submitted to the Financial Regulatory Commission. The First Deputy Governor of the Capital City J. Sandagsuren said, "The capital city bond is unique as the first local bond in Mongolia. In order to finance specific development programs, the Capital City of Ulaanbaatar has become ready to issue bonds and offer them to the market within the scope of the Law on the Legal Status of the City of Ulaanbaatar. We will report on our project, program and funding in conformity with relevant regulations and laws in due time."

Thus, public trading of bonds with maturities of up to five years with the aim of raising funds to solve the economic and social problems of Ulaanbaatar City has begun. Funds collected through bond issuance are planned to finance major strategic projects and measures such as decentralization of the capital, reducing congestion, expanding the network of highways and road facilities, and improving access to schools and kindergartens.

Railway Projects of Strategic Importance to Commence in Near Future



The Minister of Road and Transport Development S. Byambatsogt met with the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Mongolia A.N. Yevsikov on September 1, 2023, and agreed to jointly implement the major development project of the railway sector in the near future.

The Minister S. Byambatsogt spoke that Ereentsav-Choibalsan-Khuot-Bichigt railroad would become the central railway corridor connecting Mongolia, China and Russia. "At present, our country has only one railway crossing to China, i.e. Zamyn-Uud. By the commissioning of this railway, the number of cargos passing through Mongolia would increase, and the transportation volume of the three countries would grow hugely, which is of particular social and economic significance. Mongolia has signed an agreement with the concessionaire and is working to start the construction work in the near future. To this end, along the construction of the Choibalsan-Khuot-Bichigt railway, it is necessary to renovate the Ereentsav-Choibalsan railway. We have asked from Russia to cooperate in the start of the major overhaul in the near future".

Also, the Bogdkhan Railway Project passing through Ulaanbaatar

is critical for upgrading the capacity of the railway, creating work places in settlement areas, and reducing congestion. Since the Feasibility Study of the Project to implement in cooperation with the Russian Federation has been developed, it is required to urgently start the major overhaul, commence construction works, accelerate Zuunbayan-Sainshand railway capacity and train exchange, and establish technical compliance. Therefore, the Minister discussed with the Ambassador about intensive solution and implementation of these issues, and asked to convey them to the shareholders of the Russian side of the Mongolian-Russian Joint Venture Company "Ulaanbaatar Railway".

The Ambassador A.N. Yevsikov said that he would pay exceptional attention to immediate commencement of the major overhaul and modernization of the railway, expansion of the transport corridor of the three countries, and increase of cargo transportation. In addition, he expressed his desire to come to a consensus on how to make the Railway double-track, how to settle budgets and financing, and how to develop the Mongolian-Russian Joint Venture Company "Ulaanbaatar Railway", a symbol of friendship of the two countries, in the next 70 years.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Mineral Extraction by Micro-Mining Discussed

Last year by its Decree No.296, the Government of Mongolia revised the Regulation on Mineral Extraction by Micro-Mining. This regulation pursues the two main objectives: increase local employment and give artisanal miners areas damaged by mining activities for use towards further reclamation.

A joint consultation of the parties implementing the regulation on micro-mining was held on September 5, 2023 in Ulaanbaatar to discuss the extent of implementation of the regulation, the problems faced by the parties implementing the regulation, and solutions thereof within the year since the approval of the regulation.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Ecological Police Department, Khentiy, Selenge, Arkhangai, Uvurkhangai, Bayankhongor, Gobi-Altai, Uvs, Dundgobi aimags' environmental inspectors and soum governors, where small scale mining is active, took part in the meeting, exchanged opinions on the implementation of the regulation and got a common understanding. The participants highlighted the effectiveness of supporting formal task units and improving accountability in the fight against illegal activities. They considered impossible to implement in practice the stipulation in the revised draft of the Law on Minerals to abolish micro-mining as a concept.

The consultation was initiated by the Mongolian Union of Micro Mining and organized in cooperation with the "Building Capacity to Counter Illegal Mining" Project of the Asia Foundation. The proposals from the consultation will be compiled and submitted to the stakeholders as recommendations.

Innovative Wagons to Increase Mining Export and Currency Inflow

As part of the Tavantolgoi-Gashuunsukhait Railway Complex Project, 811 wagons have been fully received at the border of Mongolia.

The innovative wagons manufactured at the Tikhvin Freight Car Building Plant of Russia have been produced by the most advanced technology with the designated service interval of eight years or one million km. Due to dual wheel bearings and two-cylinder brakes or double brakes, the reliability of the train movement has been enhanced, bringing the exploitation term up to 32 years.

An exploitation of the innovative wagons in the railway transportation sector of the country will not only diminish the frequency of repairs and transportation costs, but also will be highly significant in increasing the export of mining products and currency inflow, reports the Ministry of Road and Transport Development.

Number of Tourists Visiting Mongolia Exceed 430 Thousand

As of August 29, 2023, some 431,130 tourists have visited Mongolia within the frame of the "Years to Visit Mongolia," making approximately USD 650 million revenue to the country's economy.

For the purpose of increasing the flow of tourists and promote Mongolia, the "Welcome to Mongolia" events were successfully organized in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the People's Republic of China with direct flights in February, April, and June of this year. From 69 events planned to hold nationwide this year, the events scheduled for the first three quarters were successfully organized. In terms of significance, the Mongolia Economic Forum and the Nas Summit were one of the major events of the summer, underlines the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Foreign Trips of Citizens Increase by Four Times

In the first half of this year, 833 thousand (double counting) citizens of Mongolia traveled abroad, of which 553.6 thousand (66.5 percent) journeyed on tourism. This number exceeds by 410.2 thousand or 3.9 times more compared to the same period of 2022.

In the meantime, 279.3 thousand (33.5 percent) people traveled for work, study, or permanent residence, which is an increase of 205.6 thousand or 3.8 times more compared to the same period of 2022, reports the National Statistics Office.

Among our citizens who traveled abroad, 567.8 thousand (68.2 percent) were men, and 265.2 thousand (31.8 percent) were women, and 49.1 thousand (5.9 percent) were children. As for the duration of overseas trips, 797.8 thousand (95.8 percent) of them went for up to 30 days, 10.7 thousand (1.3 percent) for 30 to 90 days, and 24.5 thousand (2.9 percent) for 90 or more days.

Continued from page 1

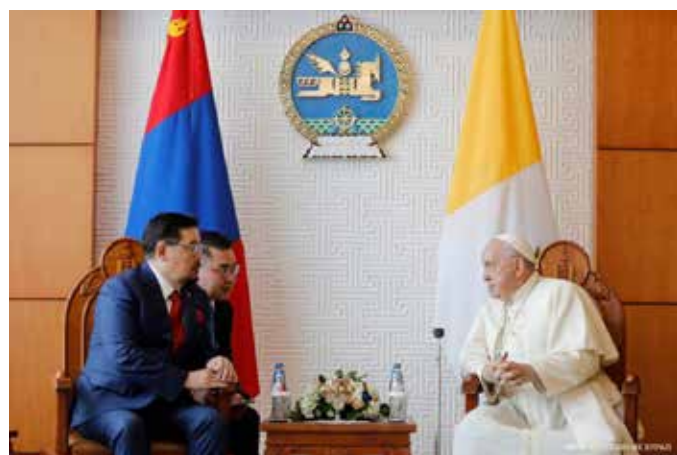
A letter sent by Pope Innocent IV to the Emperor of the Great Mongol Khaan Guyug in 1245 and reply letter of Khaan Guyug in 1246 are valuable sources of evidence for the historical relationship between the two countries.

The Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Zandanshatar Gombojav paid a courtesy call on the Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis on September 2, 2023.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar noted that we are happy that His Holiness Pope Francis is paying this visit at the highest level for the first time in the history of relations between the two countries at the invitation of the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa. He underscored that the State Visit of Pope Francis, the Head of State of the Holy See, to our country has opened a new page in the history of bilateral relations, and is of great significance for the maintenance of world peace and tranquility, and consolidating common interests of the humankind. The Speaker emphasized that expanding and strengthening friendly relations and cooperation with the Holy See is one of the important goals of



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Mongolia's foreign policy.

The Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar underlined that we have been grateful to the Holy See for the support of the democratic, social and economic reforms in Mongolia, and provision of assistance in coping with humanitarian difficulties.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, our two countries have been developing cooperation in cultural, education, and humanitarian areas. "I am confident that the historic visit of the Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis will stimulate the expansion of relations and cooperation between the two countries", said the Speaker, "Your visit to Mongolia is essential as a clear evidence of outcomes of the foreign policy of our country which values peace, sustainable development, human rights, and religious freedom".

On the same day, the Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene paid a courtesy call on the Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis.

Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene expressed his pleasure to meet with Pope Francis during the State Visit, which will be marked in the history of the relations between Mongolia and the Holy See, that has a longstanding relationship spanning centuries.

The Premier also emphasized the importance of this historic visit in expanding relations and cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, education, science and humanitarianism. Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene said, "Mongolia is a landlocked country bordering with two neighbors with distinct governance, and is a country that respects democracy, human rights, and religious freedom. The core of our foreign policy is world peace. I am confident that your State Visit to Mongolia will make a special contribution to the achievement of the common goal of world peace and tranquility."

This year marks the 31st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between

Mongolia and the Holy Land, and PM Oyun-Erdene and Pope Francis discussed the possibilities of expanding bilateral cooperation by harmonizing efforts to overcome the challenges facing the world.

Khurelsukh Ukhnaa: Mongolia is Working Consistently towards Strengthening Global and Regional Peace and Security



"This state visit has a historical prominence in that it is being held on the occasion of the 860th birth anniversary of Chinggis Khaan and the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Holy See. The relations between Mongolia and the Holy See have a history originating from the era of The Great Mongol Empire founded by Chinggis Khaan.

The state principles to respect statehood, striving for peace with the ultimate goal to foster harmony and unity was inherited to us from

Chinggis Khaan and this legacy has been relaying throughout many centuries, and today Mongolia is pursuing a peace-loving, open, independent, and multi-pillared foreign policy, and we are working consistently towards strengthening global and regional peace and security.

With a view to peacefully contributing to the international community's efforts in addressing regional and global security challenges, Mongolia has been offering its initiatives and we are actively engaging with our two eternal neighbours as well as our third neighbours.

Mongolia has been contributing to the noble endeavors for ensuring global peace and security and diligently fulfilling its commitments to the international community with honour, while sending over 20 thousand peacekeepers to 15 UN Peacekeeping Operations, in the most precarious places of the world, for the last 20 years.

Mongolians have ancient traditions to respect spiritual freedom and pluralism. In the era of Chinggis Khaan and the Great Mongol Empire, our ancient capital Kharkhorin was home to 12 monasteries of different religions co-existing peacefully side by side consisting of Buddhist, Christian and Islamic religious traditions and Mongol Kings and statesmen had a deep respect for each religion, and every church and temple had the privilege to be exempt from state taxes. This State Visit to Mongolia will inaugurate a new page to our peace-loving and multi-pillared foreign policy as well as a new page in the history of our countries, and will make an exceptional contribution to further strengthening our relations and cooperation, which will be engraved with golden letters.

On behalf of the people of Mongolia, I extend, to Pope Francis and to all the people of the world, my best wishes for good health, happiness, and well-being.

By the Power of Eternal Heaven, May the mankind be in lasting harmony!"

Pope praises Mongolia's active role in promoting world peace



"I am honoured to be here, happy to have journeyed to this remarkable and vast land, and to a people fully conscious of the meaning and importance of what it is to 'journey.' When we enter the home of friends, it is a fine custom to exchange gifts and to think back on earlier meetings. Modern diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Holy See are recent; this year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the signature of a Letter consolidating bilateral relations. Yet much earlier in time, exactly 777 years ago, and specifically between the end of August and the beginning of September in the year 1246, Friar John of Pian del Carpine, as an envoy of the Pope, visited Guyug, the third Mongol Emperor, and presented to the Grand Khan an official missive from Pope Innocent IV.

I have been told that at daybreak, the children in your countryside stand at the door of the ger and look into the distance to count the heads of cattle and then report that number to their parents. We too benefit from gazing towards the vast horizons everywhere around us, abandoning short-sighted perspectives for a broader, global vision. That is the lesson of the gers: born of the nomadic life of the steppes, they spread over a vast territory and became a distinctive feature of various neighbouring cultures. Mongolia is a democratic nation that pursues a peaceful foreign policy, but also proposes to play an important role on behalf of world peace.

Upon entering a traditional ger, our gaze is directed upwards to the highest central point, where there is a round window open to the sky. I would like to emphasize the importance of this fundamental attitude that your tradition helps us to appreciate: the ability to keep our eyes fixed on high. Raising our eyes to heaven – the eternal blue sky that you have always venerated – means persevering in an attitude of docile openness to religious teachings. "Be like the sky". In these words, a famous poet encouraged us to rise above the transience of earthly events and to imitate the breadth of spirit symbolized by the immense, clear blue sky that we contemplate in Mongolia.

Today, as pilgrims and guests in this country that has so much to offer to the world, we too want to accept that invitation and translate it into concrete signs of compassion, dialogue and shared vision for the future. May the various components of Mongolian society, so well represented here, continue to offer to the world the beauty and nobility of this unique people. In this way, like your traditional vertical script, may you remain ever "upright" in your efforts to relieve the great human suffering all around you, reminding everyone of the dignity of each human being, called to dwell in our earthly home by embracing the sky. Bayarlalaa! [Thank you!]"



Interreligious Meeting during Pope Francis' Visit

On September 3, 2023, as part of His Holiness Pope Francis' State Visit to Mongolia, an Ecumenical and Interreligious Meeting was held at the Hun Theatre in Ulaanbaatar, bringing together leaders and representatives of different religious institutions operating in Mongolia.

D. Chojjams, the Supreme Leader of Mongolian Buddhism and Khamba Lama of Gandantegchilen Monastery, said, "I believe that although the world's major religions, such as Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism, have different philosophical views, we have prayers and activities in common for the same aim, the welfare of humanity. In the 21st century, humankind reached tremendous progress in information and technology, which testifies intellectual development of humankind. But in the shadow of this progress, there is a potential risk for humanity to lose important inner values, such as loving-kindness, compassion, tolerance, and forgiveness. Therefore, we have to work to fill the void in the minds of the people with these inner values in order to create a humane and compassionate society."

Head of the Holy See Pope Francis highlighted, "In terms of that religious quest, humanity can be compared to a band of wayfarers treading the earth with eyes lifted to heaven. A traveler from afar once observed that here in Mongolia he saw 'nothing but the sky and earth.' I am happy to be with you for this significant moment of encounter. The fact that we are meeting together in one place already sends a message: it shows that religious traditions, for all their distinctiveness and diversity, have impressive potential



for the benefit of society as a whole. If the leaders of nations were to choose the path of encounter and dialogue with others, it would certainly be a decisive contribution to ending the conflicts continuing to afflict so many of the world's peoples. The beloved Mongolian people have made it possible for us to come together for our mutual enrichment, for they can vaunt a history of coexistence between the followers of various religious traditions." Furthermore, His Holiness pointed out that Kharkhorum, the ancient imperial capital, was impressive because it housed places of worship belonging to different creeds within its walls, exemplifying a commendable harmony." The meeting was a call to action for all believers to come together and work towards a better future for humankind.

"I am a Catholic nun. I arrived in Mongolia in 2000. Then, I became acquainted with other religions, such as Buddhism and Shamanism. We are all God's beloved children, regardless of our religion. Therefore, I work not only with Catholics but also with other members of greater religious family. We must work together, regardless of our religious beliefs. If people ask me about my religion, I am happy to explain it to them. We should come together to ensure unity," said Missionary Sr. Lucilla Abemwe.

Khamba Lama D. Natsagdorj of Manba Datsan Monastery pointed out the Meeting, "Today's interreligious meeting is a sign of a good time. Mongolia is a country, which tightly embraced democracy and market economy. His Holiness Pope Francis's visit to Mongolia is a testament to humankind's eternal

wish for peace, harmony, and happiness. We must give our support to those who selflessly devote their time and energy to peace and the well-being of humanity. I hope that the Visit of Pope Francis to our country will intensify interreligious cooperation."

"The State Visit of Pope Francis, the Head of the Holy See, to Mongolia is a testament to Mongolia's consistent efforts to build peace throughout her history. Even today representatives of Shintoism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Shamanism, and other religions continue to demonstrate the possibility of peaceful coexistence of many different religions in Mongolia. In the past, we used to meet every year. Pope Francis has convened us all again, which shows that unity can be declared in Mongolia," noted M.

Erdenechimeg, Member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Mongolia.

The most recent national census conducted in 2020 reports that 59.4 percent of individuals who are 15 and older identify as religious, while 40.6 percent state they have no religious identity. Of those who expressed a religious identity, 87.1 percent identify as Buddhist, 5.4 percent as Muslim, 4.2 percent as Shamanist, 2.2 percent as Christian, and 1.1 percent as followers of other religions.

On September 3, the Head of the Holy See celebrated Holy Mass in the AIC Steppe Arena with catholic bishops, priests, and nuns, bringing together over three thousand prayers and believers from countries such as Mongolia, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, and Kazakhstan.

IN FOCUS: Renewed National Commitment to Achieve SDGs

Continued from page 1

Mongolia aims to reduce poverty by 20 percent by 2025 and 15 percent by 2030. In this regard, the Government of Mongolia has identified 12 accelerators for SDGs, drawn from the national medium-term development policies, as well as extensive analytical findings such as the Second National Voluntary Review of SDGs implementation in Mongolia, presented at the UN's High-level Political Forum in July 2023.

Director General of the Integrated Development Policy Department of the Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia L. Balchinluvsan introduced the 12 accelerators in detail:

- Improve the quality and access to education that supplies the workforce to meet the labor market demands,
- Improve the quality of healthcare services and increase the accessibility of healthcare services,
- Achieve a complete digital transition through innovation, science, and technology,
- Ensure energy stability and reliability by creating basic conditions for the development



of renewable energy,

- Climate change impacts: Ensure environmental sustainability and optimize water and other natural resource usage,
- Enhance the food supply and security,
- Promote economic diversification in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and creative cultural production,
- Reducing unemployment and poverty by providing a skillful workforce that meets market demand,
- Increasing investment to accelerate collective efforts to

achieve SDGs,

- Ensuring gender equality as a cross-cutting theme,
 - Fostering effective governance and policy coherence,
 - Supporting regional and local development,
 - Boost financing aimed at accelerating the implementation of the SDGs.
- These recommended accelerators are the results of extensive consultations with all stakeholders who represent development policymakers, decision-makers, and other development stakeholders.

Several national companies

contributing to Mongolia's sustainable development efforts were present at the forum, showcasing their excellent initiatives and experiences in sustainable development.

UN Resident Coordinator Tapan Mishra: Mongolia is one of the few countries who formulated its ambitious and comprehensive long-term development policy – Vision-2050. The 9 pillars articulated in the Vision-2050 underpinned broader development aspects which are perfectly aligned with the SDGs. In order to effectively achieve objectives of the Vision-2050, Mongolia needs to successfully meet the SDGs targets by 2030. In other words, achieving SDGs by 2030 will be the mid-way accomplishment for Vision-2050.

Mongolia prepared its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023 and successfully presented it at the High-level Political Forum in July in New York. The VNR analyzed the progress, challenges, and opportunities for effective implementation of SDGs in Mongolia. At the current rate of progress, Mongolia's performance in achieving poverty targets is regressing and disparities in various dimensions are widening.

I am particularly pleased that the Government of Mongolia

recently reflected, 146 nationalized SDGs indicators and targets, out of 196, into the draft 10-years targeted programs. The MED is aiming for the draft programs soon to be submitted to Parliament and I am looking forward to the Parliament's support in reviewing and adopting them during the upcoming sessions. Anchoring the nationalized SDG targets and indicators in the national development policies and programs, supported by adequate financial resources and monitoring mechanisms, is crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The MED was leading Mongolia's preparation for the SDGs Summit identifying national accelerators for SDGs and preparation of the national commitment. This event represents an important milestone in discussing and reaffirming the stakeholder's feedback on the draft national commitment and suggestions for the way forward. I am looking forward to interesting and substantive discussions today on Mongolia's commitment to SDG Acceleration.

I would like to reaffirm the UN's continued commitment to partnering with stakeholders to support Mongolia in implementing the SDGs Accelerators.



Pax Mongolica and the Visit of Pope Francis

His Holiness Pope Francis, who is on a State Visit to Mongolia at the invitation of the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, addressed the public on Saturday and emphasized several times Pax Mongolica, a historical concept of the Mongols calling for Peace in the world.

Specifically, the Pope stressed that Mongolia is playing a pivotal role not only in the heart of Asia but also in the international arena with its efforts to promote human rights and peacebuilding. Moreover, Pope Francis highlighted the policy of the Mongolian government declaring to the world its nuclear-weapon-free status and strong position on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Noting that Mongolia is not only a democratic country with a foreign policy that values peace

but also a country with a goal to contribute to world Peace, Pope Francis dedicated his prayers to global peace freed from conflicts and that the international laws and norms prevail as it was firmly established under Pax Mongolica or "Great Peace of the Mongol".

Back in the 13th century, the Great Mongol Empire established peace around the world and proclaimed the idea of PAX MONGOLICA. The historical accounts emphasize "The travels from East to West and from West to East on the territory under the control of the Great Mongol Empire, would pass without any obstacles and even a caravan of 10 camels loaded with gold, would reach the destination safely." The facts prove there was a period when the world was peaceful and free from fear, wars, and conflicts.

In particular, Pax Mongolica was the central theme of the celebration of the 860th anniversary of the birth of Great Chinggis Khaan in 2022, and the 12th International Congress of Mongolists in 2023. The PAX MONGOLICA was embraced by His Holiness Pope Francis, Head of the Holy See and the spiritual leader of about 1.4 billion Catholics in the world during his visit to Mongolia. The Pope called to end the wars and conflicts. He also called for peaceful coexistence for all nations and peoples. At an interreligious meeting held in Ulaanbaatar on Sunday, in which representatives of many religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Shamanism participated, all the religious leaders came together to declare the messages and calls for peace and harmony.

UKRINFORM agency of war-ridden Ukraine emphasized, "Pope Francis, during his visit to Mongolia on Saturday, September 2, called on the world to build a "Great Peace of Mongolia". This is just one of the many voices that support Pope Francis' call for PAX MONGOLICA or Great Peace of Mongolia and other initiatives and actions that aim to consolidate Peace around the world. In this context, Mongolia is realizing the PAX MONGOLICA, inherited from its ancestors in the 21st century, and is becoming a leader in the idea of Peace. Pope Francis underlined Mongolia as a champion to build and promote Peace. These messages coincide with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' high appraisal of Mongolia as a symbol of Peace when the latter visited Mongolia in 2022.

"Just as the Mongolians say "The clouds will move away and the skies will clear" May the dark clouds of war disappear through the desire to live side by side as brothers everywhere in the world and conflicts be resolved through dialogue, and everyone's basic rights be strengthened", said Pope Francis.

There is a wonderful verse in ancient Buddhist teachings that has exactly the same meaning will what Pope Francis said above. It is:

"All who fight with weapons Let them greet each other with flowers..." to which Mongolians respond "Let the wish come true".

I conclude by quoting Pope Francis' prayer: "I pray from this country with a rich history and blessed by Heaven, that Heaven bestows Peace. Let us do our best to install Peace on our planet."

All Mongolians support this call of His Holiness Pope Francis.

Official Copy of Guyug Khaan's Letter to Pope Innocent IV Presented



The Head of State of the Holy See Pope Francis, who paid a State Visit to Mongolia, presented to the President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa an official copy of the letter of Guyug Khaan of the Great Mongol State, which is kept in the secret library of the Vatican. The official copy of the letter was made up to the highest quality requirements through use of advanced technology.

In his speech to the public, His Holiness Pope Francis said, that 777 years ago, at the end of August and beginning of September 1246, Pope's

envoy priest John of Plano Carpini visited Guyug Khaan, the third Khaan of the Great Mongol State, and handed over the official letter of Pope Innocent IV. Soon after, the Great Khaan sent a reply letter with a seal engraved in Mongolian script, translated into many languages, which is now kept in the Vatican Library. "Today, I am respectfully presenting as a gift an official copy of this letter, made in the highest quality using advanced technology. This gift should become a symbol of the ancient friendship relations that are expanding nowadays."

Clarification:

The Pope's emissary, Monk Plano Carpini, was one of the observers who witnessed the enthronement ceremony of the third Khaan of the Great Mongol Empire, Guyug, which took place in the Yellow Palace near Kharkhorin. In the fall of 1246, he presented a letter from the Pope to Guyug Khaan, demanding that the Mongols convert to the Crusader religion and confess their guilt for invading the Crusader countries such as Magyar. Consequently, Guyug Khaan not only rejected the Pope's demands and refused to convert to the Crusader religion, but the messenger returned with a letter warning the Pope to come and submit in person. Plano Carpini wrote about this in his travelogue "History of the Mongols". It is believed that Guyug Khaan's letter to the Pope had versions written in Mongolian, Persian, and Latin. In 1920, the Polish priest Krill Karalewski found a Persian letter from the Vatican archives and gave it to the researcher Masse. Masse made the first translation of the letter. Subsequently, a famous French Mongolist P. Pelliot researched and translated this letter. He published it with the Persian original, translation, and commentary and put it into research circulation.

The letter of Guyug Khaan, one meter twelve cm long, twenty cm wide, written in Persian on tarmac paper is stored in the secret archives of the Vatican. This letter,

confirmed by double-stamping with the seal of Guyug Khaan of the Great Mongol Empire at the junction of the paper and at the end of the inscription, is a witness of 777-year history of relations between Mongolia and the Holy See, and a unique valuable heritage.

During his visit to the Vatican City in 2011, the President of Mongolia Elbegdorj Tsakhia got acquainted with valuable heritage related to the history of Mongolia, such as the letter of Guyug Khaan.

The original letters sent from Mongol Khaans to the Popes are being kept in the Secret Archives of the Vatican while the letters sent from the Popes to the Mongol Khaans are stored for archival purposes as a database of the text of the letter, the date, and the receiver information. Among these letters, the letter of Pope Innocent IV in 1245 and his reply, the letter of Guyug Khaan in 1246, prove the relationship between Mongolia and the Holy See in the 13th century. Scholars believe that the seal of Great Mongol Empire that was stamped twice on the letter of Khaan Guyug, is the oldest state seal found so far.

As of today, the Mongolian side has copied the following letter from the secret archives of the Vatican. These include:

No	From whom	To whom	Year
From Mongol side			
1	Khaan Guyug	Pope Innocent IV	1246
2	Khaan of Il Khanate Abaga	Pope Clement IV	1267
3	Khaan of Il Khanate Abaga	Pope Clement IV	1268
4	Khaan of Il Khanate Argun	Pope Nicolas IV	1290
5	Khaan of Il Khanate Gazan	Pope Boniface VIII	1302
From the Vatican side			
6	Pope Innocent IV	Khaan Guyug	1245
7	Pope Urban IV	Khaan of Il Khanate Hulegu	1263
8	Pope Nicolas III	Khaan of Il Khanate Abaga	1278
9	Pope Nicolas IV	Khaan of Il Khanate Argun	1288
10	Pope Nicolas IV	Khaan of Il Khanate Argun	1289

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 are duties of a racehorse trainer preparing his ward horse for the horse races at National Festival Naadam?

A racehorse trainer's duties are as follows:

1. Adhere to the law, rules and procedures;
2. Meet the legal requirements of the authorized person;
3. Have the horse of Mongolian origin standards participate in the race;
4. Not do allow the horses of the other age group or those that do not meet requirements of the standard to participate in National Festival Naadam;
5. Have the registration of the horses been done three days in prior to the start of the celebrations, in a case of aimag's competitions – up to two days in prior;
6. Do not chase the racehorse on purpose;
7. Equip the jockeys (usually children of certain age) with appropriate clothes and tools that meet due standards;
8. Do not cause any risks to the safety or safety condition of the jockeys, avoid using things that may cause damages or injuries to the life and health during training, including challenging pre-competition races (medium distance races), and racing periods of the national horse race competition;
9. Involve the jokers of the National Festival Naadam in a year accident insurance including horse racing competition, the challenging pre-competition races and training periods;
10. Provide completely the jockeys with safe conditions, compensate the damages caused;
11. Take the written permission of parents, guardians, supporter of the jockeys (children) to ride horse during horse racing competition, the challenging pre-competition races and training periods of the National Festival Naadam;

Perform other relevant duties specified in the rules of the national horse racing competition.

What organization sets standards to the national wrestling, horseracing, archery and bone shooting (archery)?

According to the Law on National Festival Naadam (edited in 2022), standards to the national wrestling, horseracing, archery and bone shooting as well as equipment for the national racing horse trainers, cloth (suit) for jockeys, and tools (gears) for horses are approved by the state administrative body responsible for standardization and technical regulation. Standards for the horses of Mongolian breed to participate in the national horseracing competition of the National Festival Naadam.

"National wrestling, horseracing, archery and bone shooting, equipment for the national racing horse trainers, cloth (suit) for jockeys, and tools (gears) for horses" refers to hat for the national wrestling sportsmen, 'zodog shuudag' (a tight-fitting top like a bolero jacket and a short panty like a waistcloth), leather boots; archer's bow, arrow, and a hat; the archer's hat, the horse trainer's hat; jockey's whip and a safety cloth; bone shooter's hat, 'shagai' (ankle bone for shooting), 'khasaa' (special quadrangular flat bone used as bullet), 'aravch' (wooden box to store all tools necessary for ankle shooting), and other things.

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An exhibition “Our Dreams” dedicated to the 90th birthday anniversary of Amgalan Dagdan, the People’s Painter and Laurette of the State Premium of Mongolia was opened on September 4, 2023 at the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery.



Discovering “Our Dreams” through Artworks of People's Artist Amgalan



The artist’s renowned artworks such as “Dreams”, “Winter Night”, “Skipping Capitalism” and “At the Land of Jaakhan Sharga” are on display at the exhibition along with artworks of his numerous students. The Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture (MNUAC), the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery (MN MAG) and “Amgalan Yertonts” Foundation jointly organized the exhibition.



“Amgalan Dagdan is not only a great artist, but also a founder of the Fine Arts College, serving as its Rector for 20 years. He evolved the college even to be named as Amgalan’s School and created famous artists and painters. He is still alive in the hearts of many. The Fine Arts College has become Academy of Fine Arts today. Therefore, artist Amgalan will never die,” underscored MNUAC Rector Sonintogos Erdenetsogt in her remarks at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

Amgalan Dagdan was born in Khalzan soum of Sukhbaatar aimag in 1933. The artist’s prominent poster “Skipping Capitalism” is one of the appealing workpieces in the exhibition hall. The gouache painting in 1961, shows a specific period of not only Mongolian history, but also of that time entirely. Once artist Amgalan commented “Actually I named this piece of my work as “From Darkness to The Light”. I wanted to show how a horseman break into the light from a dark society. However, due to the political situation of that time the painting is renamed.”

As soon as you enter the exhibition hall, you

will be attracted to a masterpiece of Mongolian Fine Art, “At the Land of Jaakhan Sharga” (1965), which skillfully combines Mongolian lifestyle with the socialist development and cultural revolution. The masterpiece is registered in the MN MAG collection and has been kept in the Ikh Tenger Complex along with other 17 famous works since 1986. Nonetheless, in 2020 the masterpiece returned to MN MAG.

People’s Artist Amgalan took up painting in 1951, creating his work “The Spring Time”. He had a desire to preserve national art heritage while creating artworks in realism, depicting the historical events of Mongolia.

Artist Amgalan is a founder of xylography, embossing, stained glass art in Mongolia. Since 1963, he had worked as the Rector, Art Director, and a professor of the Fine Arts College and trained more than 50 disciples and educated some 500 artists. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Union of Mongolian Artists and elected as a Member of the People’s Great Khural (parliament) twice.

Amgalan Dagdan was awarded Laureate of the State Premium of Mongolia in 1969 with



his artworks “Morning of My Birthplace” and “The Wishing”. He also awarded with the People’s Painter in 1975 and Order of the

Polar Star in 1981.

The exhibition will run until September 15, 2023.

Mongolia Lifts IESF World Esports Championship Trophy



The IESF World Esports Championship 2023 took place in Iași, Romania between August 26 and September 3, 2023.

A total of 16 teams from around the globe, including Mongolia, Sweden, Ukraine, the United States, and Egypt, converged to battle in the DOTA 2 tournament of the Championships with a prize pool of USD 100 thousand.

The Mongolian team, IHC E-Sports, topped Group B with a perfect 3-0 record, defeating

teams from Jordan, Romania, and South Africa. In the Upper Bracket Semifinals, they lost to Kyrgyzstan 2-1, but they bounced back in the Lower Bracket and defeated the United States, Indonesia, and Kyrgyzstan.

The Grand Final was a close-fought battle between Mongolia and Myanmar. Myanmar took the first game, but Mongolia won the next two games and became a World Champion. Winning a major DOTA2 tournament was a historic achievement for Mongolia.

