



THE MONGOL MESSENGER

since 1991

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023

MONGOLIA'S FIRST ENGLISH WEEKLY PUBLISHED BY MONTSAME NEWS AGENCY

№51(1686) MNT2000

The King of the Great Mongol Gobi



The Mongolian Camel Festival is a spectacular winter event that attracts numerous tourists to Uvurkhangai aimag, Mongolia.

This year, the "Camel Festival-2023" was organized in Arvaikheer soum of the Uvurkhangai aimag on December 1, 2023, with an aim to instill pride among Mongolians in the camel, the jewel of Mongolian nomadic heritage, enhance the

benefits derived from camels, foster awareness among the younger Mongolian generation about their unique heritage, and train the next generation of true camel herders.

After a hiatus of two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic,

the Camel Festival made a triumphant return, drawing participation from approximately 200 camel herders from Uvurkhangai, Umnogobi, Dundgobi, Bayankhongor and Gobi-Altai aimags, each bringing their own marvelous friend.

At the heart of the Mongol Gobi, the "Camel Festival-2023" featured various camel-centric games and competitions such as camel races for castrated camels, three- to five-year-old male camels, and two-year-old camels, a 4x500 meter short-dis-

tance race, an ankle-grabbing competition from humps of the camel, and selection of the "Best Couple on the Camel" and "Best Male and Female Camels."

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Jantsannorov Natsag: I am a Poet Writing with Sounds, an Artist Painting with Tunes



-You have once very meticulously described the Mongol Naadam, the Mongolian national festival and celebration of the very Mongol identity, as "an annual vaccination to boost

the spirit and vigor of the independent sovereign nation of the Mongols". Indeed, the Naadam Festival is a source of inspiration and pride for every Mongolian.

-True, I first described the Naadam and Tsagaan Sar [Lunar New Year] as the vaccines to enhance the national immunity of the Mongols back in 2012. People these days quite often quote this definition, which is fine for they, indeed, are about national identity and immunity. But these two celebrations have fundamental differences, not because one is held in the summer and the other - in winter. The celebration of the New Year by lunar calendar speaks to people's own identity - who they are, who they descend from, who their relatives and kin are, who their intimate and expanded family members are, what the values of their families are and who they should look up to in their families, etc.

Whereas, the Naadam national festival is a celebration of the nation to which individual Mongolians belong. Naadam amplifies the features, qualities, values, traditions, and politics of the entire country, state, and nation of the Mongols. Therefore, people display their best

and finest during the Naadam celebrations - they put on their best attire and speak the most wholesome language. In essence, Naadam highlights the very core and fundamental features of the very existence of the nation as a whole.

-You have recently earned a Doctor of Science degree on the topic "The fundamental theoretical issues of Mongolia's modern music". I invite you to share the central ideas of your dissertation with our audience.

-I explored the nature of music as a psychological process and looked into the capacities and specificities of the music of the Mongols, studying the underlying philosophical and religious tenets and beliefs.

People tend to perceive music as simply art, and when we talk about art, many think of it as a way of pastime.

This is one of the ideological leftovers of socialism. Genuine art is not, in any form, a way to spend leisure time. Art is a means that helps non-artists to find their

own selves, their very "self". In their ears, it is music, in their eyes - it is visual arts, in their language, it is literature.

Composers and painters who create art are the engineers of art. A painter "builds" a house with paints, and builds ideas with paints.

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Bloomberg commodity price 2023/12/21		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,045.60
COPPER	USD/lb.	389.05
SILVER	USD/t oz.	24.49
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	79.49
WHEAT	USD/bu	613.75

Mongolia Continues Long-term Cooperation in Conservation



The Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai received Prasanna De Silva, WWF's Regional Director in Asia Pacific, and Jeff Parrish, the Deputy Director of De Neche Conservancy on December 20, 2023.

At the onset of the Meeting, Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene expressed gratitude to the WWF for its important contribution to the protection of nature and wild animals in Mongolia since its operation in the country in 1992. WWF's Regional Director

Prasanna de Silva thanked Minister Oyun-Erdene for the Meeting and expressed his commitment to long-term cooperation in conservation. Deputy Director Jeff Parrish emphasized that the Eternal Mongolia Conservation Funding Program will have the positive impact on the implementation of the green development goals of Vision 2050 and the New Revival Policy.

"76 percent of the total territories are affected by desertification and soil degradation. I will put forward your proposal at the Cabinet meeting. It is important to evaluate the results of the project. As a Prime Minister, I will focus on the Eternal Mongolia program and the Conservation Trust Fund," stated Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene.

State Emergency Commission Reports on Severe Wintering Situation

"Mongolia is experiencing an extremely harsh winter starting in early winter. 81 percent of Mongolia's territory is covered with snow, and winter and spring of 2023-2024 are forecasted to be challenging due to increasing cold, heavy snowfall, and snowstorms. Mongolia has not experienced such a severe zud in the past 20 years," noted Deputy Prime Minister and Head of the State Emergency Commission (SEC) S. Amarsaikhan.

The current situation and results of the measures taken on the outwintering of cattle were discussed at the session of the Standing Committee on Environment, Food, and Agriculture of the State Great Khural on December 19, 2023.

Directed by the State Great Khural and Government of Mongolia, Deputy Prime Minister and Head of the State Emergency Commission S. Amarsaikhan visited 11 soums of Arkhangai and Zavkhan aimags to oversee winter conditions and the measures.

At the Meeting, the Head of the SEC briefed that According to the Mongolian National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, 70 percent of the total territory is at high risk of zud, including Uvs, Sukhbaatar, Khentii, Dornogobi, and 26 percent at moderate risk. Deputy Prime Minister S. Amarsaikhan stressed that the issue of zud is not only a problem of herders but also a concern of the agricultural sector, the main sector of the economy and food supply.

According to Deputy Prime Minister S. Amarsaikhan,



actions and measures are being taken in the following directions to implement the tasks given at the SEC meeting on November 28.

- solving financial sources to increase local fuel supplies,
- putting meat prepared by herders into market circulation
- increasing supply of animal fodder
- ensuring readiness of health and other public services during emergencies
- preventing from animal acute infectious diseases
- ensuring regular access to quality veterinary services

In addition, the Head of the SEC S. Amarsaikhan proposed to make amendments to the existing Austerity Law, according to which, it is prohibited to manage local budgets to solve local problems. He pointed out that the Austerity Law, adopted to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic had an effect, but in the current

condition, it exacerbates the risks.

The SEC is taking appropriate measures to manage the supply of necessary fuel to rural and remote areas. By now, 60 tons of fuel requested by the Emergency Commission in Tuv, Arkhangai, and Zavkhan aimags have been supplied.

The head of the SEC pointed out the necessity of reducing or exempting tax on animal fodder, flour, and fuel imported through the Arts-Suuri border port in Zavkhan aimag and through the ports in the western aimags of Mongolia as a shortage of these goods and others due to transport from Ulaanbaatar city and high transport cost are causing many problems.

Therefore, SEC requested the Mongolian Customs General Administration be tasked to resolve border and customs issues and relevant Ministries to take necessary actions to change the situation immediately.

CABINET SESSION



During its regular session on December 20, 2023, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

Citizens of Mongolia Born after April 11, 2012, to Own 1,072 shares of "Erdenes Tavantolgoi"

The Cabinet decided to submit the draft resolution of the State Great Khural "On Some Measures to be Taken regarding the Shares of Erdenes Tavantolgoi."

In alignment with the principles enshrined in the Constitution of Mongolia, the shareholding structure of Erdenes Tavantolgoi JSC should be adjusted to allocate 34 percent of the total shares to Mongolian citizens. This allocation should encompass not only current citizens but also future generations by incorporating provisions for children born after April 11, 2012, and individuals who acquire Mongolian citizenship in the future.

As of today, Erdenes Mongolia LLC holds 81.5% of the shares in Erdenes Tavantolgoi JSC. Approximately 2.5 million Mongolian citizens born before April 11, 2012, collectively own 18.44 percent. National enterprises retain ownership of the remaining 0.06% of shares.

The Draft Resolution aims to achieve equitable distribution of natural resource benefits among all Mongolian citizens by granting 1,072 shares of Erdenes Tavantolgoi JSC to each Mongolian citizen born after April 11, 2012, who does not currently hold shares in the company. Also, the Draft Resolution proposes granting ownership of Erdenes-Tavantolgoi JSC shares to every Mongolian citizen born on or after January 1, 2024, directly.

Minister of Mongolia and Chief Cabinet Secretary D. Amarsaikhan stated, "Currently, 2.5 million Mongolians possess 18.4 percent ownership of Erdenes-Tavantolgoi JSC, and this ownership will extend to 3.5 million citizens, constituting a 34 percent of shares. Specifically, 3,541,803 citizens of Mongolia will hold 34 percent, equivalent to 4.08 billion shares of "Erdenes Tavantolgoi" JSC. As a result of it, state ownership will lower to 65.9 percent."

The Winter Tourism Development Plan Approved

In conjunction with the Mongolian Government's announcing 2023-2025 as the "Years to Visit Mongolia", the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia has developed a plan to promote winter tourism in Mongolia, increase the number of tourists, encourage them to visit Mongolia again and implement projects based on local communities. The Cabinet members, governors of Ulaanbaatar City, and all 21 aimags, along with heads of relevant public organizations, were directed to prioritize the implementation of activities outlined in the Plan from January 1 to May 1, 2024.

To attract more winter tourists, enhance tourism flow, mitigate seasonality, and foster the development of winter tourism, the Plan mandates that MIAT Mongolian Airlines maintains its discount ranging from 25-40

percent on the average flight prices. Additionally, the Plan outlines collaborative efforts with tour operators to immediately plan winter trips. Hotels, tourist camps, resorts, and healthcare centers in Mongolia offer significant fee reductions of up to 50 percent during the winter season.

To coincide with public and winter holidays in Mongolia, and in support of domestic tourism initiatives, a variety of leisure and travel opportunities will be made available. Regular winter sports events and other competitions will also be organized. The tourism program consists of the development of border tourism routes alongside the organization of national and other sporting competitions and activities, including road trips, traditional ice-knuckle bone shooting and archery tournaments, as well as national festivals, such as "Mungulug Shagshuurga (Silver Reeds)" Winter Festival and "Blue Pearl" Ice Festival, the Eagle Festival, the Camel Festival and Camel Polo matches, the Reindeer Festival, and the Winter Nomads-Tsagaan Sar.

The suspension of Livestock Fodder Exports, Initially Set until March 1, 2024, to be Extended to the End of 2024

During today's Cabinet meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Emergency Commission S. Amarsaikhan briefed on the wintering condition, highlighting measures taken by the Commission and his recent visit to Arkhangai and Zavkhan aimags.

According to the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring, 81% of the entire territory of Mongolia is currently covered with snow. The winter and spring conditions for the period of 2023-2024 are expected to deteriorate further due to the intensification of cold temperatures, heavy snowfall, strong snowstorms, and the formation of ice resulting from the melting of the snow surface. As of December 10, 2023, 40 soums in 11 aimags are experiencing white zud, while 48 soums in 12 aimags are at a moderate risk of zud.

Between November 1 and December 8, 2023, four dangerous and catastrophic weather events occurred across the entire territory of Mongolia. Following a period of heavy snowfall, the whole region experienced a fluctuation in temperatures, transitioning from warmth to cold. This temperature shift led to the melting of the snow surface, resulting in the snow of an ice cover that now blankets the pastures.

Considering the circumstances outlined, the suspension of livestock fodder exports, initially set until March 1, 2024, has been extended to the end of 2024. In response to worsening conditions and an increase in pastoral movement, the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry Kh. Bolorchuluun, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism B. Bat-Erdene, and governors of aimags and soums were tasked to implement risk reduction measures, including ending the practice of driving out herdsmen on the move and establishing regulatory frameworks for resource-based pastoral movement.

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

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 08:39 Sunset: 17:01



■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -22 C and -36 C. Day time temps between -9 C and -22 C

■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -22 C and -28 C. Day time temps between -9 C and -18 C

■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -19 C and -26 C. Day time temps between -9 C and -16 C

■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -15 C and -22 C. Day time temps between -5 C and -15 C

"Tooth Brushing Championship" for Proper Dental Care from Childhood

The Unur Bul Child Center hosted the "Tooth Brushing Championship" contest on December 14, 2023, in which 108 children in 18 teams from four child care centers took part. The Competition is held to improve the oral health of secondary school students, by teaching them proper brushing techniques and the importance of brushing to establish good oral hygiene habits.

In his opening remarks Deputy Minister of Health of Mongolia Enkhbold Serejav stated "The preventive and early-detection checkups, examination and diagnosis have been successfully conducted nationwide since May 2023 at the initiative of the Government of Mongolia and the Ministry of Health. 86.7 percent of citizens



involved in early detection had dental caries. According to current results of those check-ups, among children aged up to 17, tooth decay is the most prevalent, accounting for 90 percent of the

total illness among the children. In this regard, the Government mandated the Ministry of Health to launch the "Healthy Teeth" Action Plan under Decree No. 322 issued in August. Through

the "Healthy Teeth" program children are taught about proper dental care and instilling good oral habits from an early age is paramount." The Deputy Minister noted that the Ministry of Health in cooperation with local administration and professional NGOs successfully organized the "Tooth Brushing Championship" in Umnogobi, Uvorkhangai, Tuv, and Orkhon aimags.

In total, 680 children, and about 160 teachers took part in the Championship in the above-mentioned aimags, and about 250 judges and organizers were trained. Apart from participating in the Championship, the children and teachers gained knowledge, attitudes, and habits regarding oral health and dental care and were appointed as "health envoys" by the Ministry of Health. They have been contributing to teaching oral

hygiene awareness to their peers, teachers, parents, brothers, and sisters and organizing dental health activities.

Director of the Unur Bul Child Center M. Ulziichimeg emphasized that the Championship was organized with support from the Ministry of Health, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, and the Mongolian Dental Association.

"Our children have been preparing for the Championship for the last 14 days. As a result, they acquired many good habits, such as how to brush their teeth properly, what products to use, and setting an example for others. In 2018, our Center launched a dental cabinet, an important step to keep our children's teeth healthy," noted Director M. Ulziichimeg.

NUM Research Laboratories Introduce Innovative Products

The School of Advanced Studies of the National University of Mongolia (NUM) organized a Face-to-face Forum "Teaching-Research-Industry" on December 18, 2023, at the Center for Teacher and Student Excellence at the NUM.

The Plant Biotechnology Laboratory of the School of Advanced Studies established a startup company for the translation of research to practice and presented four products invented as a result of their research: a mouthwash active against antibiotic-resistant bacteria and oral pathogens, throat-sucking pills that relieve mild to severe throat tonsils, liver protection tablets containing Scabiosa plant extract, and medication for liver cancer. The students started their research in 2014, and as a result, the four products are expected to be released on the market in about 1-2 years.

T. Tsenguun, a Master's Program student in Plant Biotechno-



logy, explained that mouthwash is a health product that prevents and treats tooth decay and tartar, which are common in Mongolia.

B. Tuyagerel, a teacher at the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the NUM, said: "We established a research team "Therapeutic Nutrition and Chemistry of Natural Compounds" in 1998 at the initiative of Professor N. Tseveguren. Our team focuses on research of biologically active compounds of medicinal and

food plants, processing of raw materials from food waste, and processing of grain waste. Recently we received a patent for our research "Methods for isolating lactose from whey, methods for converting lactose into lactulose and their application." In the world, more than 75 percent of people experience problems to digest lactose. We use eggshells to convert lactose into lactulose. Lactulose is good for liver protection and constipation medications. Additionally, we made



whey energy drinks, whey jellies and candies. Our research project on whey was selected as one of three projects that to be implemented at the Science Park of Mongolia."

G. Burenkhangai, a graduate student at the Department of Physics at the NUM, stated: "We are working to launch a startup to make science laboratory equipment. Because equipment used in science classes in secondary schools and universities costs high and does not have

user manuals and teachers usually lock them to prevent damage. So, we are working on less expensive equipment with user manuals for teachers and students."

The representatives from the NUM research laboratories, the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, private sector organizations, academic institutions, university startup companies, joint offices, and technology transfer centers attended the Forum.

More than 800 Librarians Trained through the Project "Library Without Borders"

The closing Ceremony of the project "Library Without Borders" took place on December 13, 2023. The project was launched by the Australian Embassy in Mongolia, along with the National Library of Mongolia and the Mongolian Library Association, in September 2022 to support the development of local libraries.

Financial aid from the Australian Embassy helped to enrich public libraries in 21 aimags with new books, organize capacity-building training for librarians, and use technological advances to expand cooperation. A team of library specialists worked locally and organized capacity-building training based on need analysis. Also, under the project, the best of Mongolian and popular classics of world literature books as well as books of scientific, educational, and cognitive content were a good supplement to the children's book fund.

Since its establishment in Mongolia, the Australian Embassy in Mongolia has continuously



invested in the library, education and information sector and has successfully implemented projects to bring best library practices to Mongolia through the initiative of Australia Awards Scholarship alumni. For example, in 2018-2019, the "Beyond Books" project was implemented to introduce community library practice in the capital's remote districts, and in 2019-2020 "Australian Corner" room opened in the Children's Central Library.

At the closing of the project, the Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary of Australia to Mongolia, Katie Smith, said: "I am glad that I took part in this important event for Australia and successfully implemented the project in the libraries of 21 aimags of Mongolia and Ulaanbaatar. The project covered 17 aimags. I had the opportunity to visit the local library in person. It was also very moving to meet the librarians and see how they work to spread book culture among the local population. Our project team has trained more than 800 librarians. We are

grateful for the opportunity to introduce Mongolian libraries to the best practices of Australian public libraries. I believe that as a result of your efforts, residents will benefit from more accessible and improved library services."

"Our project has been going on for a year and a half. As a result, remote districts of Ulaanbaatar and local children have books to read in their libraries. This is the tangible result. Thanks to donations we were able to collect age-appropriate books for children. Secondly, the National Library of Mongolia is committed to providing the methodology to all public libraries, but we faced challenges in reaching public libraries in 21 aimags to share experiences and organize training. However, we were able to organize training as part of the project. Thirdly, we are one step closer to our goal—developing an online platform to introduce and standardize a program reflecting the main trends in library development in all local libraries. I believe all our goals have been achieved to

a certain extent. We are confident that we will continue this work in the future. We plan other activities to be implemented in the next project. The Library is open to everyone, but it is not one of the top priorities in the state budget. In this context, the online platform has a dual purpose to attract public attention to the library issue. The project aimed to teach our librarians the best ways to stay up-to-date on the latest library trends," said B. Ichinkhorloo, Director of the National Central Library, a co-implementer of the project.

M. Davasuren, Executive Director of the Mongolian Library Association, stated: "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the implementation of the project. In particular, I would like to express special gratitude to the staff of the National News Agency MONTSAME and Mongolian National Public Radio and Television of Mongolia and the gogo.mn site for their support and timely updating the public about project proceedings."

2023 in Review: The Highlight Events in Mongolia

1 Mongolia and France to Explore New Horizons of Relations



Seven hundred and seventy years ago, in 1253, Guillaume de Rubrouck, the envoy of Louis IX of France, arrived in Khar-chorum, the capital of the Great Mongol Empire, and paid a visit to Chinggis Khaan's grandson, Munkh Khaan.

The year 2023 marked a significant chapter in the historical relationship between Mongolia

and France, as it was enriched with new content. Notably, the Visit of the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, to Mongolia in May 2023, and the Visit of the President of Mongolia, Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, to France in October 2023, are a highlight of the year.

In 58 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries,

France, Mongolia's close partner and third neighbor in the European Union, has never visited our country at the level of a Head of State, hence, President Emmanuel Macron's Visit was defined 'historic' by observers.

President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa's Visit is equally noteworthy as the first State Visit to France by a Mongolian Head of State. During this Visit, the Morin Khuur Ensemble of Mongolia performed at the Royal Opera of Versailles, a home to France's rich history. Additionally, the historical exhibition 'Chinggis Khaan – How Mongols Changed the World' was inaugurated at the National History Museum of Nantes. These events marked a pivotal moment, opening a new chapter and playing a significant role in promoting Mongolia not only in France but also throughout Europe.

In 2023, the Heads of State of the two countries exchanged visits within a single year. This fact highlights the significance of France, as one of the principal forces shaping European Union policies, emerging as a close and pivotal partner for Mongolia on the European continent.

Pope Francis, the Head of the Holy See, paid a State Visit to Mongolia from August 31 to September 4, 2023, and made a global peace appeal from the Mongolian steppes, marking one of the notable events of the year.

The Head of the Holy See, His Holiness Pope Francis 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. His Holiness Pope Francis dedicated his prayers to global peace and international laws and norms to prevail as they were firmly established under PAX MONGOLICA or "Great Peace of the Mongols".

Thus, Pope Francis, the Head of the Holy See and the Spiritual Leader of about 1.4 billion Catholics in the world visited Mongolia, highlighted the concept of PAX MONGOLICA, promoting peaceful coexistence.

History reads that 777 years ago, at the end of August and beginning of September 1246,

2 Pope Francis Calls for World Peace from the Heart of Asia



the 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. The official copy of this official letter, which is now stored

in the Vatican library, made with advanced technology, was given to President Khurelsukh as a gift by Pope Francis, the Head of the Holy See, during his State Visit to Mongolia. Pope Francis: "This gift should become a symbol of the ancient relations between Mongolia and the Holy See."

3 COP and Mongolia's Participation



President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa participated in the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) of the United

Nations Climate Change Conference – COP 28 which took place in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates on December 1-2, 2023.

During the Summit, President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa expressed Mongolia's position on combating climate change, desertification, and reducing global warming, and presented policies and activities implemented at the national level.

Mongolia has become one of the 10 countries most affected by climate change due to its geographical location and extreme continental climate.

"Nowadays, with technology rapidly advancing and deeply penetrating into human life, our children are becoming increasingly disconnected from the natural world. Therefore, it is of utmost importance for every nation to educate them as global citizens capable of wholeheartedly participating in the cause of cherishing Mother Nature," emphasized the President.

4 Interparliamentary Cooperation with Japan and Russia Strengthens



Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Zandanshatar Gombojav paid an Official Visit to Japan at the invitation of the President of the House of Councilors of the National Diet of Japan Mr. Otsuji Hidehisa between March 1-5, 2023.

This Official Visit, conducted after 6 years since 2017 at the level of Chairman of the State Great Khural, is of high significance for deepening the relations and cooperation between our two countries.

Chairman of State Great Khural Mr. Zandanshatar paid a Courtesy Call on Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako of Japan on March 3, 2023, at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

Within the framework of Mongolia's Third Neighbor policy, which aims to deepen the relationship between Mongolia and Japan at the level of "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity", Chairman of State Great Khural Mr. Zandanshatar emphasized that Mongolia attaches great impor-

tance to the relations and cooperation developed with the "Third Neighbor" Japan, and expressed its desire to strengthen "people-centered" relations and cooperation in all fields.

The Official Visit of the Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation V.V. Volodin at the invitation of the Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Zandanshatar Gombojav on September 23-25, 2023, was one of the highlights of the year.

During the meeting and talks, the parties discussed in detail the issues of reinvigorating interparliamentary cooperation within the framework of strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Mongolia and the Russian Federation and expanding cooperation in trade, economy, investment, energy, road transport, tourism, and humanitarian sectors of the two countries. The first meeting of the Joint Commission of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation between Mongolia and the Russian Federation was organized.

5 Mongolia and China are Set to Launch Port Railway and Hydropower Projects, whereas Mongolia and the US to Upgrade the Strategic Roadmap



In 2023, the Prime Minister of Mongolia, Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai, embarked on an Official Visit to both the People's Republic of China, Mongolia's southern neighbor, and the United States, its third neighbor. During these Visits, discussions took place regarding the principles of cooperation in the future.

Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene expressed optimism that longstanding issues with the People's Republic of China, such as the unresolved matters concerning the railway con-

nection of border ports and the hydroelectric power plant project, would be addressed and advanced in 2023. He anticipated that 2024 would mark the commencement of a new phase in bilateral cooperation.

As part of the Prime Minister's visit to the United States, Mongolia and the United States renewed the Economic Cooperation Roadmap of the Strategic Third Neighborhood. Also, an Open Skies Agreement was concluded between the two countries and the sides agreed to

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introduce direct flights from the second quarter of 2024.

The two Governments issued a "Joint Statement on the Strategic Partnership between Mongolia and the United States of America." In this Joint Statement, the parties recognized that the Strategic Partnership Declaration of 2019 serves as a

solid foundation for the development and strengthening of advanced relations between Mongolia and the United States and that the relations between the two countries are developing at the highest level based on the common principles of honoring good governance, sovereignty, rule of law, and respect of human rights.

6 Mongolia Establishes Diplomatic Relations with All UN Member States



On December 6, 2023, in New York, USA, Deputy Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Amartuvshin Gombosuren and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Botswana Lemogang Kwape signed a joint statement on establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Thus, Mongolia has fully achieved its goal of establishing diplomatic relations with

all of 192 UN member countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia emphasizes the importance of establishing diplomatic relations with all UN countries to overcome the difficulties faced by developing countries, to consolidate efforts on regional and global issues through multilateralism, and advocate the common interests of developing countries as member countries of the world community.

7 Oyutolgoi Commences its Underground Production Boosting Economic Recovery



In March 2023, Mongolia opened the Oyutolgoi underground mine, ranked fourth in terms of reserves and capacity, and commenced production of copper at a depth of 1.3 km.

The underground mine will produce an average of 350 thousand tons of copper in the next 5 years, and in 2028-2036 it is expected to increase production to 500 thousand tons.

Oyutolgoi underground mine has an investment of USD 7 billion, and copper production in the third quarter of this year increased by 16 percent compared to the previous quarter.

A year has passed since the rapid recovery of Mongolia's economy after the global pandemic. In 2023 Mongolia's budget deficit decreased by 60 percent, investors' trust increased, and the trade balance is positive. In the first quarter of 2022, the economy fell to -3.9 percent, but bounced back to 4

percent, and in 2023 the growth reached 7 percent. As a result, Mongolia's economy is expected to grow by 7.5 percent in 2024. Also, Mongolia's official foreign exchange reserves reached USD 4.3 billion in 2023, and the tugrug exchange rate has stabilized. A major impact on economic revival was due to exports of copper, gold, and coal and the recovery of the tourism sector. For example, in the 2023 budget, Mongolia was expected to export 50 million tons of coal, however, in the first 11 months of the year, the coal export reached a historical record of 60 million tons, which is 10 million tons more than planned.

On November 14, 2023, the people of Mongolia solemnly celebrated "National Pride Day," marking the 861st Anniversary of the birth of the Great Chinggis Khaan, the great leader in the history of humankind, the Man of the Millennium, and the source of the lasting pride of the Mongolian people.

On that historical day, President of Mongolia issued a decree to award the Morin Khuur Ensemble of Mongolia with the Supreme Decoration of the Mongolian State, Order of Chinggis Khaan for preserving and promoting the Morin Khuur [Horsehead Fiddle], the musical sutra of the vigor of the Mongols, the twin strings to sing the Mongol wisdom and soul, for valuable contributions to the revival of the national conscience, culture and traditions, for consolidating and elevating Mongolia's international reputation and for advancing the knowledge and appreciation of the cultural heritage and values of the Mongol nation worldwide. In 2003, UNESCO proclaimed the

Six decades have passed since the establishment of the International Congress of Mongolists following the "First Congress of Mongolian Language" held in Ulaanbaatar in 1959. The 12th International Congress of Mongolists took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on August 9-14, 2023, bringing together more than 500 scholars and researchers from 27 countries.

The central theme of the 12th International Congress was "Pax Mongolica and Historical Experience." The Congress had six sections: Prehistory and History of Mongolia and the Mongols; Current Situation and Historical Development of Mongolian Language and Literature; Mongolian Society, Economy, Politics, and Legislation; Mongolia's Relations with the Outside World; Mongolian Culture: Tradition and Innovation; and Young Mongolists Conference.

A total of 307 Mongolists from over 20 countries, including the USA, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Kazakhstan, Canada, the Russian Federation, the

Mongolia successfully hosted the "Ulaanbaatar 2023" East Asian Youth Games (EAYG) on August 16-23, 2023.

The continental multisport event featuring 12 categories of 11 sports competitions, including judo, wrestling, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, athletics, taekwondo, boxing, football, e-sport, badminton, and basketball (3x3), was held in Mongolia for the first time. The East Asian Olympic Committee unites nine National Olympic Committees. Over 800 athletes from seven National Olympic Committees competed in the Youth Games 2023.

Conventionally, the EAYG has nine to ten sports categories, but the host country is eligible to add two to three more. This year, the East Asian Olympic Committee accepted Mongolia's proposal to include e-sports, wrestling, and boxing in the "Ulaanbaatar-2023." The

7 The State Supreme Decoration, Order of Chinggis Khaan, Conferred upon the Morin Khuur Ensemble



Traditional Music of Instrument Morin Khuur as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In 31 years since its establishment in 1992, the Morin Khuur Ensemble has performed more than 5,000 concerts in Mongolia and over 600 concerts in about 30 countries around the world. Specifically, the Ensemble performed on prestigious stages, including the Carnegie Hall, the United Nations Hall (New York,

the USA), the UNESCO General Assembly Hall (Paris, France), the Royal Opera of Versailles (Paris), Nantes Conservatory (France), Vienna Philharmonic (Austria), Bolshoi Theatre and Mariinsky Theatre (Russia), Pearl National Theater (China), Imperial Palace and NHK Symphony Hall (Japan), and Sydney Opera House (Australia), all the while proudly promoting Mongolian heritage and culture.

9 Mongolists from around the World Convened in Ulaanbaatar



Republic of Poland, the Republic of Türkiye, Hungary, Germany, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Czech Republic, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of China, the Kingdom of Norway, Italy and Denmark, delivered their presentations on Mongol studies. The Congress hosted activities to support the young generation of Mongolists, including a conference for doctoral researchers, where 59 young Mongolists presented their research findings.

During the Congress, the Great Scholars Award was presented to Mongolists who created the best scientific works and tremendously contributing to Mongolian literature, cultural heritage, and manuscripts. Additionally, "Mongolists" postage stamps, which glorified international Mongolists, were released.

Currently, there are 43 centers worldwide dedicated to Mongol studies, including 20 centers conducting supplementary research in related fields of Mongol studies, such as Central Asia, Eurasia, and Inner Asia.

10 Ulaanbaatar hosts East Asian Youth Games



People's Republic of China topped the medal tally with 89 medals—38 gold, 32 silver, and 19 bronze, followed by Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Chinese Taipei. Mongolia rounded off the 2023 East Asian Youth Games in fifth place with 44 medals, including three gold, 13 silver, and 28 bronze. The EAYG 2023

convened over 1,200 volunteers, 226 coaches, 123 technical and referee representatives appointed by Asian sports federations, and 191 national judges and technical staff. By successfully hosting the East Asian Youth Games, Mongolia has opened the door to hosting future high-level international sports events.

Jantsannorov Natsag: I am a Poet Writing with Sounds, an Artist Painting with Tunes

Continued from page 1

They calculate all elements – the number of windows, shadows, and lights, etc. And because the engineers of arts are creators, they walk, live, and think ahead of time, of their contemporaries. Yet, while seemingly they are ahead of their time, for the very fact that they address, explore, study, and refine the perpetual issues of a human being, they, sometimes, are behind in time. The central object, the human being, is either pulled back or pushed ahead in time. Let's take, for instance, the film "Mandukhai Tsetsen Khatan" [the Wise Queen Mandukhai]. Listening to its music, one might exclaim, "That's what Mongolian music must sound" while another could think back into the past assuming that this was the way the Mongols thought and felt some four or five centuries ago. Therefore, a careful listener begins to perceive the music as some virtue he or she must appreciate and value that that music helps articulate the "Mongolian nature" of my being, and hence, awakens his or her pride in being a Mongolian. Simply put, this is the purpose of the arts. However, when society, or politics "uses" the arts, it turns into something different; or when art is used for public entertainment, it is perceived differently. These two "applications" of arts are different from the genuine arts.

I once described a good song as a "breathe with tears". There are songs we call folk, the traditional national songs, songs which were not blown any ideology in, such as "Urikhan Khongor" or "Uyakhan Zambuutiviin Naran" [Sun over the Placid World]. They are arts. "Uvgon Shuvuu" [An Old Bird] is a philosophy. Comedies, be those stand-up or skits, popular songs, chansonnier, hip hop, rock pop are the items of public entertainment, or, public consumption, which, of course, reside on real arts. We should not confuse them with genuine art. However, we cannot negate them equally because they produce entertainment using artistic methods and employing their artistic "sense". Again, they are producing "mass, popular, public" entertainment articles.

-What is then the philosophy of Mongol music, and its unique qualities?

Any musical melody basically is made of at least 13 musical sounds. Tuning of a sound means enlivening the sound. In other words, a sound is tuned by the feelings of the writer. A piano is tuned. And that means that the piano is breathed into life. Therefore, music is a collection of live, tuned sounds. Where does this life of the music come from? This life is rendered by a man. And the nature of the life-rendering man defines the various qualities of the music.

That man, the one who writes the music, embodies the features of language, culture, seasons, nature, and lifestyle, and therefore, Mongolian music is a constellation of sounds tuned



by these defining features of a Mongol composer. We can, thus, say, that our music is born from the great Gobi, vast steppes, the colorful four seasons, millennia-old equestrian culture, and the traditions built on these strands of what define Mongolia and the Mongols.

-Is that why the Mongolian music is so attractive to the foreign audiences?

-Here are the issues. First, our social issues. Mongolia fell under the Manchu vassalage in 1691 and remained a vassal until 1911. Mongolia was a periphery of the Manchu Qing empire. An isolated, deserted outskirts to collect taxes and occasionally reward its aristocrats and lords some ranks. Basically, in those 300 years, until 1911, no foreign culture entered Mongolia, and no Mongolian culture left its boundaries. However, look at what was happening in Europe – they had already been burning coal and industrializing. Beethoven, Mozart, and Bach were writing their masterpiece symphonies and operas. So, on the one hand, we were left behind the world culture and arts for centuries, but on the other hand, we were able to preserve the pristine uniqueness of our arts. We were not hammered under the influence of foreign culture.

Yet, in the past only some 30 years, we have witnessed how horrendously our culture is being "Americanized and Koreanized". In the preceding 7 decades, our culture was Russified. Our culture was "frozen" in the earlier 300 hundred years, so to speak, "canned and preserved". Looking at it from another angle, our culture conserved its originality and uniqueness, and therefore, in the eyes and ears of, say, English

or Japanese, our culture is truly "authentic".

-How would you interpret the saying "the Mongols blessed by the Tengri, Eternal Blue Sky"?

-Mongols have led nomadic life engaging in livestock breeding since ancient times. Since livestock was the main means of subsistence, the Mongols had to tend and keep them safe and sound – feed them, water them, and shelter them. And of course, they had to mind the weather, as we say "look up at the skies" to predict tomorrow's weather. Observing the colors of the sunset, and listening to the blowing wind, the Mongols had to adapt to the weather of tomorrow to sustain their livelihoods. In other words, we looked up to the skies above, as the life of the Mongol nomads was "dictated by the will" of the sky, the Tengri.

People around the world identify the nomadic Mongols with wandering gypsies. But these are fundamentally two different lifestyles. Nomads move from one place to another, but known places are marked for winter, spring, summer, and autumn. We move tending our cattle and carrying our gers in yak or camel carts. And observing the sun and the skies above. The Mongols knew that without obeying the laws of nature, without accepting the "will" of the Tengri, there was no living for them on earth. On the other hand, this is a unique mindset of the Mongols.

The nomadic Mongols lived their lives tending their livestock, as I mentioned repeatedly. We knew our livestock very well for we cared for them – we do care for their wellbeing, and we feel for them – their hunger, their thirst, their pain of losing offspring or

parents. Mongols learned the world through their animals, and this made us generous. I would say the Mongol nomadic lifestyle makes the Mongols the most magnanimous people.

-I heard, foreigners while listening to "The Sun Over the Placid World" by legendary singer N. Norovbanzad, exclaim that they "were drifting away from this mortal world of the humans". How would you explain this feeling?

-The Mongolian culture rests on the perfect harmony of nature and human beings. It may be true that Mongolian music is deeply valued by foreigners for the very virtue that perfectly reflects and embodies this harmony. Mongolian Culture Days were observed in the USA in 2000-2001, where I headed the Mongolian delegation. In 2001, Ms. Norovbanzad performed a solo concert that lasted for an hour and forty minutes. The US most renowned music experts attended the concert and I heard them saying "Indeed, your music has reached and revealed the true nature of the universe".

In 1960 the Mongolians in cooperation with German film studio Defa produced a movie called "Altan Urgoo" ["A Golden Palace"]. Its music was composed the L. Murdorj, a famous Mongolian composer. Upon receiving the musical notes, the conductor long scrutinized it, remarking here and there that some notes were dull, or some episodes were weak, but when he let his orchestra play the music, the conductor exclaimed, "Not you, but the God himself must have written this music".

Please, do not get me wrong, I am not saying at all that Mongolian music is better than Russian music, Beethoven's, or Mozart's music. It is just different. Being different is already a fine quality, a worth. The foreigners say Mongolian music is amazing simply because our that very "difference" emanates from our identity, our very being, and our fundamental natural qualities. We are different, be that dairy food making or skin processing.

Indeed, Mongolian meat and meat products would be the most popular and sought-after in the world should we sustainably pursue an apt policy to eliminate all possible veterinary diseases and achieve world standards in our pastoral livestock breeding.

-These days we often hear that "the Mongolians would step out to the world" and become a global player. What would be most appealing and interesting for the world about Mongolia?

-Without understanding and appreciating our own national merits, finest qualities, and assets, we cannot aspire to the global arena, just because we want it. In the 2000s, together with some Japanese scholars, we established an NGO "the Foundation of Mongol Civilization". We set it as a rule that once in two years we would organize a cultural event and a scientific event in another two years. During one of these meetings, we discussed

issues pertaining to the pastures of the Mongol livestock. For me, the most interesting was what herbs and grass the Mongolian cattle and livestock ate rather than whether we had enough pastures or whether they were eroded or not. Listening to numerous presentations of scientific research by Mongolian, Japanese, and American scholars, I concluded for myself that the Mongolians were consuming "processed medicines". Those presentations were very educational for the audience – they told us what vitamins the cattle were consuming through the grass they eat, what a cow's heart, eye, or stomach contained that was good for human health, how nutritious the anemones were that sheep and goats so much like, what was it, the yak grass, etc.

Yak milk gives a very thick cream for yaks that inhabit mountain tops and highlands. Once a Korean, who had had yak milkcream, told me that if Mongolians and Koreans got together and produced cosmetic products with yak milk, their produce would have been very popular on the world markets. And for that, we need a whole new system. A system that would make a national wealth a global wealth. For a Mongolian yak milk lotion to reach the vanity table of the Queen of England, even the bottle must be well thought of, maybe, made in the shape of a yak or so. For this to happen, much thinking and work must be invested.

The same is true about music. Just like yak milk, it has its own peculiarities, climatic preconditions, own spirit. Music or poetry are created by those gifted by God, the talented ones. Every person has a talent. It is a matter of the man or the woman to detect and reveal that talent. For instance, Yavuukhulan is considered a poet of global caliber. He wrote: "To own I was born the duning blue skies..." Can we have a gondolier in Venice, or a farmer in China write such lines? No. These lines can come only from a Mongol mind, a Mongol heart.

"In a herdsman's abode, I was born

Where curling was the smoke of dung;

Cradling me as I was born

Were pristine steppes of my land" are lines that practically cannot belong to any poet other than Mongolian.

These few words put together by Chimid and Yavuukhulan, the two brightest talents of Mongolia, render their authors global. On the other hand, the very being, the very identity of Mongolia has striking features, therefore, it is impossible to put any one particular country's culture over that of another country.

Emulating or copying the culture of others is suicidal for the culture of that particular country. However, using the best experiences of others to improve and perfect what you have already created is a different

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story, it is about progress! Since 1990 this is what Mongolian artists have been doing – building on our own creations we aspired to learn from the world. But I must note, there were attempts to create something exceptional, something Shakespeare-like. Shakespearean-style combined with Mongolian culture gave birth to “Tamgagui Tur” [“The Throne without a Seal”].

Amazing is the Russian culture too. Spanish guitar, Italian violin, Russian garmon accordion, and Chinese Huuqin violin are peerless. These are what make the Spanish, Russians, and Chinese unsurpassable in the world. Mongolian horsehead fiddle Morin Khuur, our long songs are equally matchless. Khuumii throat singing is a natural music. So, it is a matter of developing these arts and introducing them to the world. As we, as a nation, aspire to development and prosperity and create our wealth, we must know and feel such aspirations and creations of others. Without knowing others, their creations, and their wealth, we can never succeed in reaching the global markets and stages.

Why is the Mongolian rock band “The Hu” gaining so much popularity worldwide? Having mastered American rock, they “applied” Mongolian epic singing, Khuumii, Mongol dance elements, Mongol design, and Mongol rock on top of Western rock music. And here they are, on the global stage. Then, what about the Mongolian long song? True, the Americans described it as “amazing”, but that does not mean that by simply singing the long song, we are already globally competitive. What we must do is write operas with the spirit of long songs.

In that way only, will the long song reach the global arena. There are some 27-28 operas written by Mongolian talents such as B. Sharav, S. Gonchigsuulaa, L. Murdorj, B. Damdinsuren, Ts. Natsagdorj, Kh. Bilegiargal and others. Why has, up until today, not a single Mongol opera been performed internationally? We have 40-50 symphonies of our own. We had two symphonies of B. Sharav performed at an international festival in 1988. They were highly appraised. None of the world’s symphonic orchestras have played that music again. Why don’t they play Mongolian music?

There are numerous awe-inspiring Buddhist mantras, but none of them has ever been played on the stage of the opera house. None of these incredibly beautiful musical compositions,

those breathtaking melodies have ever been played, or used by the opera theatre. Thirty years have passed so quickly since we embarked upon a new society. It is we, the elder generation who have to prepare the foundation for the next generation to create Mongolia’s artistic and intellectual wealth, by the theories we have developed, wisdom that we have gained, and practical experiences that we have accumulated. That new generation of scholars, writers, painters, poets, composers...

-These days many foreigners learn to play the Morin Khuur, the Horse-Head Fiddle. What do you think, is so attractive in this musical instrument?

-Morin Khuur is an alive instrument with alive sound. Actually, anyone can make that instrument. For example, Russians can make it, or Chinese, or Japanese could make it. But it is simply impossible for them to make it for they do not have the power, or sense, to enliven it. Because they do not feel the environment, feel the Tengri, feel the Mongol life the way the Mongols do. That is why it is inherently Mongolian music. And because we created something that others merely cannot, we must introduce it to the world to make it a world’s heritage. Once Professor Batchuluun once told me: “We must bring what we have created to the use and enjoyment of humankind”. As simple as that. For that very reason we founded a European-style Morin Khuur orchestra, and it performs all around the world – Europe, Japan, and Mongolia.

A violin was born in Italy. The violin is the world’s, global instrument. A Mongolian Professor and violinist Chinbat teaches Mongolian children to play it. And the Italians will never appropriate the violin as their own property. Simply because the violin is made global, universal. And the Italians must feel accomplished! If your idea, your creations, and the assets you create become a global heritage, the common heritage of humankind, you must feel accomplished, and your mission is achieved. What I now really want is an Italian in Venice who teaches an Italian boy to play the Mongolian Morin Khuur.

-To compose music, a composer must not only possess talent but also an immense intellectual power to think and contemplate beyond musical notes?

-As I said earlier, composing music is a kind of art that is created not only by talent but also with intelligence. For me, a composer is different from the one who writes music. A composer is a person who is formally

trained in composing music and acquired knowledge on 3-4 technologies and methods of arranging musical notes and who holds a diploma. The profession “Composer” is not an evaluation of the talent and a composer is not necessarily a talented person. It is just a person with a professional diploma. Whereas, writing music is different. Legendary J. Chuluun, Ts. Namsraijav are, for example, writers of music. They are conductors. They hold diplomas of conductors. True, they wrote, or “composed” Mongolia’s famous music “Uran Khas” and “Bayaryn Javkhaa”. There are many composers who compose bad music. And there are even such composers who never composed a single piece of music. Therefore, the term “Composer” should never be confused with “Talent”.

My definition of who a composer is is a philosophical concept or an epitome of values. We cannot identify writing music with composing a melody for a song. In other words, we cannot identify the Yavuukhulan poetry with the rhymes of blessings we offer at the beginning of a wedding party. Yavuukhulan’s poetry is a philosophy. The writers of such philosophies are great thinkers.

They contemplate life, its virtues and vice, good and bad, truth and lies and spend their lives solving the puzzles of life. Their minds are busy untangling the complicated knots humans created. They are the ones who question life and various aspects of it and always are able to find answers to these questions. And because they know the answers, they create masterpieces.

-How did you write “The White Stupa”? “Time” is a relative dimension in creating art. How much time did it take for you to write it?

-The idea to write “The White Stupa” came to me in 1995, when we were celebrating a Naadam dedicated to Undor Gegeen Zana-bazar in Uvurkhangai aimag. It was a misty morning as if the clouds had descended upon us. I asked myself whether there could be music free of pain, agony, and misery.

Unreciprocated love, the death of parents, and social stress were all being poured into music. Could there be any piece of music untainted by pain? The answer to this question I found in the glory and grace of the Holy Zana-bazar. I wrote that music in 1996, within one day. For a large piece of music, lots of mechanical work is done, whereas for smaller ones, the most important part of the work is to simply think. So, I wrote that music not because I have a heavenly talent, but simply

because I thought hard.

O. Dashbalbar [a renowned Mongolian poet] once gave me his poem “My lapis steppe”. I spent three years thinking of what music to write for the poem and could not write any. When I heard of his passing away, I immediately wrote. What this means is that there is a moment for a thought to ripen. Until the moment is right, nothing is born. Maybe, you do not even have to think or dream of creating art until things are sorted out, until the thoughts are organized and arranged. However, there are instances when you are “cornered” by time commitment. For instance, the music to the film “Mandukhai Setsen Khatan” [The Wise Queen Mandukhai]. It is an hour-and-a-half-long music. I wrote it for straight 18 days and nights. Writing a piece of that magnitude within 18 days is a result of, I’d say, hard thinking.

I recall reading that P. I. Tchaikovsky wrote his opera “Eugene Onegin” within 45 days. This is very fast for such grandiose music, again, meaning that he thought very well before he put together the musical notes. A famous Austrian musical writer Josef Heiden wrote 104 symphonies and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote 41. Writing music in those times was not anything like what we experience today. Those were happy times – industrialization was only starting, French Revolution hadn’t taken place. Those were times when roles and models were being set in the art of music, and the “industrialization” age in music was underway.

As for us, the Mongolians, only in the 19-20th century, did we begin to express social views through music. Today, no one, however talented he or she may be, can write 104 symphonies. Today, every symphony has its own model, so to speak, whereas the symphonies of all those great men were written under one model. So, society itself dictates the timing and length of when and what to write. I would expect the length of time for writing music will be longer than before. It is because those thousands of composers and writers have already found and developed ideas in music. To create something different from whatever is written, one must think deeply, contemplate longer, and meditate. Therefore, it will take time.

-Thank You!



Hunnu Air Starts Operating Direct Flights to Dubai, the UAE

Hunnu Air started operating direct flights to Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on December 16, 2023. The flight will be conducted every Saturday.

Mongolia and the UAE agreed to visa-free travel for their citizens within 30 days from January 1, 2024. The new flight route is anticipated to further enhance relations and cooperation between the two countries, and

facilitate travel for businessmen, tourists, and students.

This year, Mongolia has established aviation agreements with 42 countries and conducts direct flights to 115 destinations around the world. Since the beginning of this year, prices for airline tickets for international and domestic flights have decreased 2-3 times, and the number of passengers has increased 3.5 times.

The lawyer’s advice



Hanns Seidel Foundation

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.

-How many times it is allowed to change own name and surname?

-A citizen is allowed to change his own name once, and after such a change he may apply to restore his own or his parents’ previous name and surname. It is prohibited for a suspect, defendant and convict to change his name or names and surnames of his parents.

-Will be a name of a child changed in case of change of his parents?

-In case if the change in the name of the citizen is registered in the registry, data of a child having his family name and surname shall be changed.

-For what purposes can the monitoring and inspection of the State Great Khural of Mongolia be carried out?

-A law on Monitoring and Inspection of the State Great Khural of Mongolia was enacted and came into force in 2022. According to the law, the monitoring and inspection of the State Great Khural of Mongolia / hereinafter referred to as “Great Khural”/ shall be implemented for the following purposes:

1. to ensure the enforcement of the law and other decisions of the Great Khural;
2. to protect human rights and freedoms, and to ensure their guarantees;
3. to ensure the right to know of the citizens on specific matters involving public interests;
4. to ensure the right to participate in state affairs directly by the citizens and through the state representative bodies elected and formed by them;
5. when approving the five-year development guideline of Mongolia, the action plan of the Government, the implementation of the annual national development plan and documents of long-term and mid-term development policy, and the state budget and budget performance aimed at their implementation, to control the compliance with subparagraph 7 of paragraph 1 of Article Twenty-five of the Constitution;
6. to constitute the permanent control system of the budget and state financial management and to improve their effectiveness;
7. to improve the effectiveness of the state management system by determining the urgent issues occurred in the activities of the state bodies within the implementation of the law, and by eliminating the violations and deficiencies revealed in the activities of the state bodies and officials within the monitoring and inspection of the Great Khural;
8. to constitute a permanent system for evaluation and analyze of the consequences of the implementation of legislation, to improve and refine the implementation and effectiveness of the legislation.

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THREE-YEAR-OLD CAMEL RACE

The Camel Festival is incomplete without an exciting race. In recent years, camel racing has experienced significant growth in Mongolia. In 2016, Mongolia became one of the founding countries of the Asian Camel Racing Association and the International Camel Racing Association, achieving a Guinness record by organizing a race with 1,108 camels in Umnugobi aimag. It is widely believed that camels can reach speeds up to 65 km/h.

During the "Camel Festival-2023" National Championships, three-year-old camels participated in competitive races, with the top performers being awarded prizes.

THE BEST CAMEL AND THE BEAUTIFUL COUPLE

Mongolian camels are renowned for their muscular build, long fins, deep and wide chests, elevated and broad shoulders, substantial rib thickness, straight legs, wide soles, and ample hooves. The camels are also known for their breeds, such as "Galb Gobi" Red, "Khan Khatsi" Brown, and "Tukhum Tungalag" Brown.

As part of the Camel Festival tradition, it is customary to not only select the most beautiful couple, but also select the finest female and male camels.

GRABBING THE KNUCKLE- BONES FROM THE HUMP

Mongolians hold camels in high esteem, considering them "heavenly animals." Grabbing the knuckle-bones from the hump of a camel is not simple task. According to belief, only individuals with divine power, heavenly men who have mastered the art of riding and training

camels, are deemed fit to engage in this extraordinary activity. At the Camel Festival, camel herders heroically competed in the formidable game of grabbing the ankles from the hump of a camel, testing their dexterity and agility.

LAND OF CAMELS- UVURKHANGAI AIMAG TOPS WITH 29,000 CAMELS

Mongolia, the birthplace of the two-humped camel, has become a global focal point for researchers studying this remarkable species. As a result, preserving and breeding the two-humped camel gene pool has become a crucial responsibility for Mongolia.

"It is a state policy to nurture and preserve traditional customs and heritage while promoting Mongolian camels to boost tourism in Mongolia through the

annual and nationwide "Camel Festival." Officials emphasized that they aim to expand the scope of the "Camel Festival," encompassing multiple aimags, and pay special attention to the camel herders."

As of 2022, Mongolia has a camel population of more than 470,000, with 29,000 of these

humble animals grazing in the vast plains of Uvurhangai aimag. Notably, among these, 11,000 female camels are for breeding.

CAMELS IN MONGOL KHOOLUI TO BECOME NEW BREED

The majority of camel her-

ders of Uvurhangai aimag live in Mongol Khooloi. This area boasts abundant camel-friendly sustenance, including saxaul, straw, and bushy plants. Moreover, rivers and streams crisscross the land during summer, while winter blankets it with snow, making it the primary location for herders to navigate throughout all four seasons.

Since 2015, the Department of Food and Agriculture of Uvurhangai aimag has been engaged in inspecting and classifying camels in the Mongol Khooloi. Camels in this area are remarkable for their exceptional physical development, high fertility rate, richness in meat, milk, and wool, and ability to adapt to severe weather.

Based on these factors, the Research Institute of Animal Husbandry of Mongolia has been consistently working to analyze the genetic structure of the camels in Mongol Khooloi, aiming to create a new breed.

The King of the Great Mongol Gobi

