

Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary Visits Mongolia



Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér is on an official visit to Mongolia on May 4-7, at the invitation of Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Gombojavyn Zandanshatar.

Mongolia established diplomatic relations with Hungary on April 28, 1950. This visit is the second visit of the Head of the National Assembly of Hungary to Mongolia.

On May 4, Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar and his spouse G. Otgongerel welcomed Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary

László Kövér and his spouse Mária Bekk, at Sukhbaatar Square and they paid their tribute to the statue of Chinggis Khaan.

Following the welcoming ceremony, Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Gombojavyn Zandanshatar and Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér held official talks at the State Palace.

At the beginning of the meeting, Speaker G. Zandanshatar emphasized that Hungary is an important partner of Mongolia in Eastern Europe, and mutual cooperation has been incessantly active even in times of constraints and hardships.

Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar said, "Active cooperation between

the legislative bodies of the two countries is significant for expanding bilateral relations, enriching cooperation in areas of mutual interest, and creating favorable legal environment. Close cooperation between the Secretariat and the Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the Parliaments is of importance in strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation," and expressed willingness to work together towards reviving cooperation between respective Secretariats

in charge of daily activities of legislative bodies, and sharing experience through exchange of staff. Speaker G. Zandanshatar asked to pay attention to realize the agreements on establishing direct relations between the Research Institute under the Office of the Parliament of Mongolia and the Information Service Center of the National Assembly of Hungary, and making joint academic research.

Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and invited Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar and the members of the Mongolian-Hungarian Parliamentary Group in the State Great Khural to visit Hungary at their convenience. He noted the importance of expanding relations and cooperation between the two countries in the context of economy, increasing trade turnover, and promised to focus on accelerating student exchange programs.

The Hungarian Speaker expressed full support for the proposals and initiatives of his Mongolian counterpart to promote cooperation between the two countries, and articulated his determination to facilitate cooperation in education, agriculture, tourism, and animal husbandry.

The parties expressed their confidence that Mongolian students studying in Hungary will become a bridge connecting people of the two countries, and make a tangible contribution to the development of the traditional friendly relations and cooperation. They pointed out that the fact that Hungarian citizens can visit Mongolia for 30 days without visa has become an important impetus for the development of tourism.



Foreign Ministers Agree on Works to Intensify Economic Cooperation

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Batmunkhiin Battsetseg is on a working visit to China on May 1-2, 2023 at the invitation of China's State Council Member and Minister of Foreign Affairs Qin Gang.

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs held official talks in Beijing on May 1, 2023, and exchanged views in detail on the relations and cooperation between Mongolia and China, as well as regional issues of mutual interest.

The parties agreed to closely work to realize the agreement reached by the heads of state of the two countries during the State visit of President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh to China in November, 2022 and to bring the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two coun-

tries to a new level.

They also agreed to cooperate in the following directions:

• In line with the goal of intensifying trade and economic cooperation between Mongolia and China, and increasing the trade turnover up to USD 20 billion in the coming years, to work on the long-term and stable supply of Mongolia's mining products to the Chinese market and increase of agricultural products' export;

• In order to improve the infrastructure of the border ports of the two countries and to intensify the work of connecting them by rail, to renew the 1955 Mongolia-China Border Railway Agreement, and intensify the construction work of the railway

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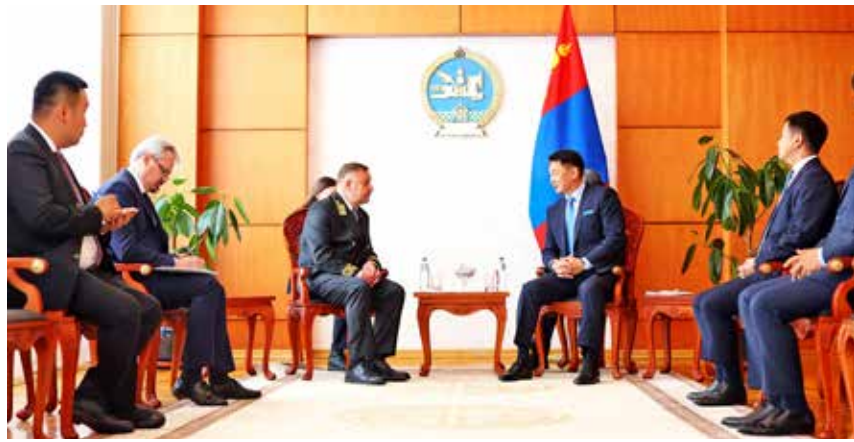
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Bloomberg commodity price 2023/05/05		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,039.88
COPPER	USD/lb.	386.90
SILVER	USD/t oz.	25.91
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	72.74
WHEAT	USD/bu	636.50

Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Mongolia Presents His Letter of Credence



On May 2, Yevsikov Alexei Nikolaevich, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Mongolia, presented his Letter of Credence to President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, who extended his felicitations on the ambassador's appointment and wished him success in his future endeavors. The President noted that the Mongolian Government pays great attention to expanding the Friendly Relations and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation with the Russian Federation and expressed Mongolia's aspiration to strengthen the 100-year-old relations by jointly implementing large programs and projects.

Emphasizing that Mongolia is not only a close neighbor but also an essential partner of the Russian Federation, Ambassador Yevsikov A.N. expressed his commitment to expanding the relations and cooperation between the two countries. He expressed his intention to give emphasis on the project of developing natural gas infrastructure and improving the efficiency of the "Ulaanbaatar-Railway" joint venture.

The parties also exchanged views on relations and cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, energy, border ports' development, education, culture, environment, and youth exchange.

The centenary commemoration of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and Russia was celebrated throughout 2021. In 2019, President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, who was Prime Minister at the time, paid a working visit to the Russian Federation and secured a guarantee from President V.V. Putin for the project of developing natural gas infrastructure from Russia to China through Mongolian territory.

Additionally, during the President's official visit in 2021, the parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ties and cooperation in areas such as trade, economy, reliable supply of petroleum products, education, and culture, concluding pertinent documents.

During the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022, the President of Mongolia, together with Russian President V.V. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, convened a tripartite meeting. At this meeting, the leaders reached an agreement on the implementation of the "China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor."

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Mongolia, Yevsikov Alexei Nikolaevich, is a professional diplomat with 39 years of experience in Foreign Affairs.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Pays Working Visit



Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan M. Akimoto pays a working visit to Mongolia between May 1 and 2.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia G. Amartuvshin, and the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, N. Ankhbayar met Mr. M. Akimoto. The Parties discussed expanding the Special Strategic Partnership for Peace and

Prosperity between Mongolia and Japan in the fields of politics, trade and economy, specifically infrastructure and energy as well as in education, culture, and people-to-people ties. They also exchanged views on strengthening the mechanism for bilateral talks and cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and regional and global issues.

M. Akimoto, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, signed a letter of exchange on the "JDS Scholarship Program for Human Resource Development," to be implemented in 2023 and 2024 with non-refundable aid by the Government of Japan. The Program has provided scholarship for over 415 Mongolian youth to pursue graduate and doctoral studies at leading universities of Japan since 2001. This year, the Program has been allocated a budget of JPY 266 million by the Government of Japan.

Ambassadors to be Newly Appointed

The issue of recalling and appointing ambassadors was discussed during session of the State Great Khural on May 4.

The majority of the State Great Khural members supported to appoint Sesiin Zoljargal as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Cuba, Banzraganchiin Bayarsaikhan as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan, Batnyamiin Enkhbat as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Korea, and Erdenetsogtiin Sarantogos as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Canada.

Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Canada, Japan and Cuba Ya. Ariunbold, D. Batjargal, and Sh. Battsetseg respectively will be recalled as their terms of appointment have essentially expired.

Additionally, it was decided to recall Otgonii Dambinyam, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. In accordance with Parliament Resolution

No. 43 of 2013, Mongolia resolved to restore the embassy's operation in Kabul, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, but the embassy has yet to open. Despite this, Otgonii Dambinyam was appointed as the Ambassador to Afghanistan with residence in Iran in 2014, and the legal issue of his withdrawal has not been resolved to date.

During the session of the State Great Khural, the Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg stated, "These officials have a track record of serving in the government, diplomatic service, and private sector for many years. They possess high professional skills, management experience, foreign language proficiency, and have met the legal requirements for the appointment. A contract has been signed for their appointment since last year, and a report on its implementation will be submitted to the Parliament after half a year and a full year. We are primarily assigning them tasks related to the economy, tourism, and public affairs."

Saranchimeg Named as One of 10 MPs Who Are Active on IPU Committees



The Inter-Parliamentary Union has named 10 MPs who are active on IPU committees to promote gender equality, youth participation, peace, and sustainable development, in which Batsukh Saranchimeg, a Mongolian MP and Vice-President of the IPU Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights is included.

Mongolia has been actively engaging

in IPU activities since joining in 1962. Ms. Saranchimeg was elected as a member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee in 2018. The committee analyses threats and challenges to democracy, proposing parliamentary action that is adopted by all IPU Member Parliaments. Ms Saranchimeg's role places her at the forefront of the IPU's work on new technology and its role within democracy.

Employee of UNICEF Mongolia Back Home Safe from Sudan

An employee of UNICEF Mongolia S. Moiltmaa, who was working on a temporary assignment in Sudan, landed at "Chinggis Khaan" International Airport on May 2.

Her family and the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Mongolia Tapan Mishra, and the UNICEF Representative in Mongolia Evariste Kouassi-Comlan welcomed her on arrival. The UN representatives expressed their happiness that she had returned home safe from the armed conflict region. The United Nations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,



and the Ministry of Defense provided her support to transfer from the hot spot of the armed conflict to a safe place.

"Mongolian Cultural Night-2023" Event Organized in Stockholm

On April 22, 2023, the Embassy of Mongolia in the Kingdom of Sweden, in collaboration with several non-governmental organizations, such as the Association of Mongolians in Sweden, the Ambassador of Culture of Mongolia, Mongolian initiatives, associations, language and culture centers, successfully organized the "Mongolian Cultural Night-2023" event in Stockholm.

This event, was held as part of the "Stockholm Cultural Night" initiative, an annual event organized by Stockholm City Hall to promote the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, history, and traditions of Mongolia to the citizens of the city, and to disseminate it to the next generation of Mongolians living in Sweden.

During the event organized for the second year, attendees were introduced to the "Years to Visit Mongolia" program, as well as traditional Mongolian dairy products and milk tea. The event also featured nomadic culture, national ankle archery, folk art performances, Mongolian



national costumes, and dances to engage the interested crowd. Additionally, attendees played a Mongolian puzzle game in the library of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities in central Stockholm, listened to the long songs of People's Artist of Mongolia N. Norovbanzad and viewed 13 exhibits of Mongolian calligraphy, as well as tangible and intangible cultural heritage registered with UNESCO.

The event served as a platform to showcase the cultural wonders of Mongolia, promote intercultural exchange, and strengthen the ties between Mongolia and Sweden.

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 05:50 Sunset: 20:22

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimag: Night temps between -1 C and +5 C. Day time temps between +10 C and +15 C
■ Eastern Aimag: Night temps between 0 C and +6 C. Day time temps between +14 C and +21 C
■ Western Aimag: Night temps between -3 C and +3 C. Day time temps between +8 C and +17 C
■ Gobi Aimag: Night temps between +3 C and +6 C. Day time temps between +17 C and +18 C

Foreign Ministers Agree on Works to Intensify Economic Cooperation

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at the Gashuunsukhait-Gantsmod border port, respectively;

•To advance the talks on adding the Khangai-Mandal railway port to the Agreement on Mongolia and China Border Ports, and Their Regime between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the People's Republic of China;

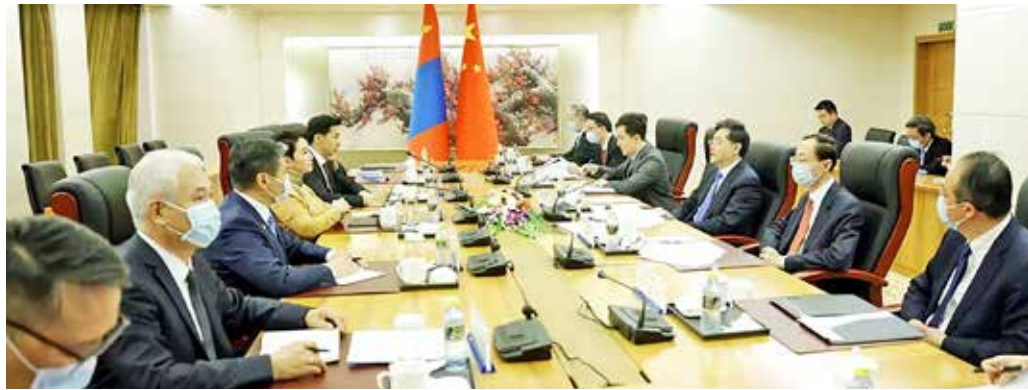
•In connection with the announcement of 2023-2025 as the "Years to Visit Mongolia" by the Government of Mongolia, to support the cooperation of tourism companies, restore train passenger traffic between the two countries in the near future, and increase the number of flights to attract Chinese tourists to Mongolia;

•To fight together against desertification and yellow dust storm; in support of the national movement "One Billion Trees" initiated by President of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh to organize bilateral research teams to work in May and June 2023 in Beijing and Ulaanbaatar on the issue of establishing a joint Mongolian-Chinese Joint Research Center for Combating Desertification.

•To support and cooperate in organizing the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Mongolia in 2026.

•To send a team to Ulaanbaatar in May 2023 to develop the feasibility study for the construction of the Sports Training Center for Children and Youth named after the Presidents and the National Art Theater.

•Explore possibilities of cooperation in the new energy



resources based on Mongolia's solar and wind energy potential.

In addition, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on ensuring thorough preparation for the planned visit of Prime Minister of Mongolia L. Oyun-Erdene to China, and intensifying communication between relevant organizations of both sides in this context.

During her working visit to China, Minister of Foreign Affairs Battsetseg visited Beijing branch of the Chinese company iFLYTEK and got familiarized with the company's AI-based voice, speech recognition and translation software, digital audio language translation equipment, and smart computer software.

iFLYTEK develops a variety of artificial intelligence products and applications in the fields of education, health, urban planning, and manufacturing.

Since 2010, iFLYTEK Open Platform has been developing a one-stop artificial intelligence solution focused on intelligent voice and human-computer interaction.

Minister Battsetseg expressed

an interest in cooperating with iFLYTEK company saying that it is possible to seek opportunities to fill the shortage of staff in health and educational institutions in rural areas of Mongolia using the company's technology, organize international conferences, meetings, and events simultaneously without

interpreters in foreign languages using artificial intelligence-based translation and interpreting equipment, introduce it in some government services for foreign citizens. The Foreign Minister invited iFLYTEK company management to visit Mongolia in the near future for cooperation.

In 2017 and 2019, iFLYTEK

was selected as one of the top 50 global technology companies by MIT, ranked first in China and sixth in the world in 2017. In 2016, iFLYTEK translation equipment was introduced to the Chinese market.

Prior to concluding her working visit to China on May 2, Minister of Foreign Affairs Battsetseg visited the Embassy of Mongolia in China and attended the "Day to Introduce Mongolian Culture to Small Diplomats," enjoying the cultural exchange event of Mongolian and Chinese kids held at the Mongolian Culture and Information Center under the Embassy.

Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg held a detailed discussion with diplomatic staff of the Embassy of Mongolia in Beijing about further tasks, measures, and issues of attention, and gave instructions.



CABINET SESSION



At its session on May 3, the Cabinet made the following decisions:

Draft amendments to the Constitution of Mongolia were discussed and submitted to the Parliament

After the discussion at the Government meeting, Minister of Mongolia, Chief Cabinet Secretary D. Amarbayasgalan submitted the draft amendments to the Constitution of Mongolia to Chairman of the State Great Khural G. Zandanshatar.

In 1991-1992, when the Constitution of Mongolia was adopted, one member of the State Great Khural represented an average of 27,000 citizens. Today, the number of citizens represented by a single member has nearly doubled, reaching 44,700, reducing the parliament's representative capacity. In order to improve the parliament's ability to represent citizens, the number of members of the Parliament will be increased to 152 in proportion to the population, as the draft amendment to the Constitution reflected.

The use of the majoritarian election system alone has created negative aspects such as the loss of votes of citizens, the interests of constituencies being placed higher than the interests of the

country, and giving preference to those who are known to the public and have financial resources. The proportional electoral system has advantages such as lower loss of votes, equal representation of social groups, and optimal formation of political parties. Therefore, an election system that reflects the advantages of majoritarian and proportional representation and provisions for electing 50 percent of total members of the State Great Khural by majoritarian and 50 percent by proportional is considered.

By clearly defining the voting system in the Constitution of Mongolia, it is important to ensure the stability of the electoral system of the State Great Khural of Mongolia, fair competition of parties in elections, transparency to the citizens, and guarantee of voting rights of citizens abroad.

The Prime Minister mandated that 80 percent of all citizens should be included in early detection examinations, tests, and diagnoses in 2023

Minister of Health S. Chinzorig informed the Government about the process of participating in the screening, test, and diagnosis for disease prevention and early detection of the population, and the amendments included in Resolution No. 06 of 2022 "On Approval of Packages, Amounts of Payments, and Procedures" of the National Health Insurance

Council.

The Government of Mongolia and the Ministry of Health have been organizing the prevention, early detection, and diagnosis of common infectious and non-infectious diseases based on the age, gender, and health risk of the population starting from May 1, 2022.

As of May 1 of this year, 30 percent of the population has been enrolled in this campaign, and the Prime Minister has mandated to cover 80 percent of citizens within 2023.

Minister of Justice and Home Affairs Kh. Nyambaatar: We are working to improve the assessment of the Corruption Perceptions Index

The corruption index of Mongolia on 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International and the anti-corruption strategy to be followed in 2023-2024 were discussed.

In the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index issued by Transparency International, Mongolia scored 33 points and ranked 116th out of 180 countries. Mongolia has taken some commendable measures to restore the anti-corruption system last year, but it is not enough to fight the existing corruption risk, and the following conclusion was made.

-In Mongolia, which has abundant natural resources, information about the natural re-

sources revenue, its distribution, and decision-making regarding it is not disclosed in a unified way, and insufficient regulation is a major issue.

-Government employees are giving priority to personal interests over public interests, which leads to demonstrations in the capital city.

-The Government needs to take several measures to improve the situation. It is necessary to update the law on public procurement, release corrupt officials from public service, standardize the governance of state-owned enterprises, and ensure transparency at all levels in order to stop the evasion of government-appointed officials from being charged.

The Minister pointed out that the Government of Mongolia has declared 2023-2024 as the Year of Fighting Corruption and is implementing the "Five W Operation." In this context, the Government is working to improve the Corruption Perception Index of Mongolia.

Digitally traded coal will be transported through Gashuunsukhait port via a special gateway

It has been three months since the start of online coal trading, and 1.2 million tons of coal have been sold in 26 auctions.

Foreign exchange reserves reached USD 3.7 billion in April

The official foreign currency reserves decreased to USD 2.5 billion in September 2022, then by the end of April 2023 increased to USD 3.7 billion. As a result, real economic growth accounted for 7.6 percent in the first quarter of 2023, according to the preliminary estimates of the National Statistics Committee. The mining and service sectors mainly affected this growth. However, annual inflation was 12.2 percent in the first quarter and decreased to 10.3 percent as of May 1.

Foreign exchange reserves have increased and remained stable in recent months due to increased activity at border ports and increased exports. For example, coal export, which reached 19.0 million tons in the first four months of 2023, increased by 7.5 million tons from the same period of 2019 and 15.2 million tons from the same period of the previous year, respectively.

Brief news

•The Cabinet agreed to issue a Government resolution on some measures to be taken to resolve foreign investment complaints and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Development Ch. Khurelbaatar was instructed to take measures to openly upload reports on the resolution of complaints and applications submitted by foreign investors on the Ministry's website.

Construction of Oil Pipeline for the First Oil Refinery in Mongolia Starts

The construction of a 530 km oil pipeline that transports crude oil from oil fields in Tamsag basin in Matad soum, Dornod aimag to the first Oil Refinery of Mongolia, which is under construction in Altanshiree soum, Dornogobi aimag has started.

The launching ceremony of the oil pipeline construction and the EPC 02 and EPC 03 work packages took place on April 28 with attendance of Dr. D. Altantsetseg, Executive Director of state-owned company "Mongol Refinery" LLC, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to Mongolia Mohinder Pratap Singh, delegates of the Chinese state-owned "Norinco International Cooperation" Co.Ltd and other officials.

The Government of Mongolia is implementing the Project to establish a grass root Oil Refinery Plant within the framework of the soft loan extended by the Government of India to ensure nation's energy independency and expand the industry diversification. Upon approving the Detailed Feasibility Study and selecting "Engineers India Limited" as Project Management Consultant in 2019, the design and engineering works had started, and now, from this year on, the

mechanical erection of the main technological facilities starts at full capacity.

The Government made a decision to transport the raw material of the oil refinery through a pipeline in 2020. As the Chinese state-owned "Norinco International Cooperation" Co.Ltd won the tender to select a contractor to finance and construct the oil pipeline, a cooperation agreement was signed in April 2022. The crude oil for the plant will be supplied from the Toson-Uul XIX and Tamsag XXI oil fields, which are being produced by Chinese "Petrochina Dachin Tamsag" LLC.

As the pipeline will be constructed deep underground, it will be the first of its kind in Mongolia. Delegates of NORINCO International Cooperation headed by Vice President Wang Yitong visited Mongolia to attend the launching ceremony. During a meeting with Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Industrial Policy T. Enkhtuvshin on April 24, Vice President Wang Yitong noted that NORINCO Group, which operates in many fields is paying great attention to the construction of the oil pipeline in Mongolia. He said that he is confident that the construction will be successful as a result of mutual understanding and coo-



peration between the two parties.

On January 29, 2021, State Great Khural of Mongolia approved the Law on Supporting the Oil Refinery, that creates legal foundation for actions and activities related to the oil refinery and its facilities and infrastructures, including the usage of international norms, standards and regulations, control, facilitation and approval of the oil refinery's blueprint and designs and commissioning of the factory and the establishment of a product sharing agreement on the oil field and ensuring of stable supply of

raw products. The Government also approved the regulations on state support for the oil refinery on in 2021.

The crude oil pipeline that pass through nine soums of three aimags, stretching for 530 kilometres is scheduled to be completed in 2025.

The first package of construction work includes nine civil buildings such as an office-training center, hospital, fire fighting unit, warehouse, repair shop, staff canteen, 30 thousand cubic meter underground water storage tank, 89 km of water pipelines and

pump stations, and the construction of non-technological buildings (EPC 01) such as overhead power lines and substations, which was started in 2021 by the Indian company "JMC Projects India", is getting ready for commissioning this summer, said Dr. D. Altantsetseg, Executive Director of Mongolian Oil Refinery, Mongolia's Consulting Engineer in an interview given for MONTAME Mongolian National News Agency.

As part of the EPC 02 work package, all types of atmospheric, vacuum, saturated gas separation, consumption, and ancillary facilities would be built, including 49 storage tanks, product loading and unloading wagons, and many types of basic technological, ancillary, and auxiliary facilities. A 35 MW thermal power plant will be built as part of the EPC 03 package. "Megha Engineering Infrastructure" company from the Republic of India was selected as the general contractor for the above two packages of works, and the work started in 2022. Currently, they have established a representative office in Mongolia, completed the geotechnical survey, selected the suppliers of technique, equipment, and their parts, all kinds of subcontractors, and at the same time working on attracting inventory and manpower to the factory site.

The "Gerege" Bond Fully Paid off



Minister of Finance B. Javkhlan announced on May 1 that the outstanding balance of the "Gerege" bond has been fully paid off,

totaling USD 368 million.

Minister B. Javkhlan stated "- The total amount of this bond is USD 800 million. The Government of Mongolia has entered into multilateral loan agreements since 1990. Seven Government bonds have been issued so far. The first bond, called "Chinggis" was issued in 2012 to finance largest projects. Since then, one bond was issued in 2015 and two bonds in 2016, which were spent for offsetting the budget deficit. While, we have issued "Khuraldai", "Gerege", and "Nomad" bonds since 2017 for refinancing the previous bonds due to the repayment difficulties.

When Government expenses increased in 2016 and commodity prices took a fall, in order to

finance the budget USD 500 million "Mazaalai" bond was issued in March 2016 with a maturity of 5 years and 10.875 percent rate. "Khuraldai" and "Chinggis" bonds also declined in price. Main holders of Mongolian government bonds include "JPMorgan Chase", "UBS", and "Blackrock".

"The Government has received a total of USD 2.9 billion of debt from the six bond packages. These bond payments have been made through two methods. The Government has made a direct payment when the amount is affordable for the state budget, otherwise, we have refinanced, extending the repayment period and reducing the bond interest rate," said Minister Javkhlan.

Winter Greenhouse Granted to Support Employment

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has handed over a winter greenhouse covering an area of 300 square meters to the SME Support Center in Bayangol district. This greenhouse has been designed to accommodate four seasons, featuring an automatic closing system and an irrigation system, with the aim of substituting imported products in Mongolia, delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to citizens, and supporting employment of low-income women.

During the opening ceremony of the greenhouse, Dr. Ali Özgün Öztürk, the Head of TIKA's Department for Central Asia and the Caucasus, emphasized that he is happy to share the know-hows of Turkish Agricultural Industry with Mongolians.

Mr. Sumiyabaatar, the Governor of Bayangol district of



the capital city, who was present at the event, remarked that this greenhouse established by TIKA would be utilized for planting seedlings as part of the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign, initiated by President of Mongolia.

Furthermore, he declared

his intention to arrange training sessions for the residents of the district, with the aim of providing them with farming support. Additionally, he stated that the profits generated from the cultivation of vegetables and fruits within the greenhouses would aid small and midsize enterprises.

"Rural Revival-Open Dornogobi" Conference Highlights Competitiveness



Within the framework of the New Revival Policy being implemented by the Government of Mongolia, the "Rural Revival-Open Dornogobi" conference was held in Dornogobi province on April 28-29.

Lakshmi Boojoo, Director General of the Economic Policy and Competitiveness Research Center (EPCRC), gave a speech on "Competitiveness of Dornogobi Province and Issues to be Considered" at the conference. She emphasized that "EPCRC has been conducting a survey on the competitiveness of the provinces since 2012, ranking 21 provinces with 174 indicators using international methods. And for the last two years, Dornogobi aimag has led the others. However, it does not mean that all 174 indicators are good for Dornogobi aimag. The most decreased indicator for the aimag is its business efficiency. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on management, finance, labor market, productivity, and human development. Human development includes training, education, health services, and



food security. The improved competitiveness of Dornogobi aimag is the result of its long-term stable policy and its continuity. It is proof of the collaboration of the generations of aimag management and its team. Policy steps are not taken overnight and do not give its results in the short-term."

EPCRC is a private think tank and has been continuously producing reports on the competitiveness of Mongolia, provinces, and capital districts every 1-2 years since 2011. The conference was attended by employees of the government and public organizations, as well as representatives from 21 aimags.

Selenge Aimag's Efforts to Expand Forests

Mongolia has about 18.6 million hectares of forestlands occupying 11.8 percent of the country's total land area. Selenge aimag, has 1.9 million hectares of forests, which is a large part of northern boreal forests that account for about 85 percent of the national forest estate across fourteen aimags.

On April 29, delegations led by Minister of Environment and Tourism B. Bat-Erdene, Director-General of the Forestry Agency B. Oyunsanaa worked in Selenge aimag and held a meeting with representatives from the Environmental Department of Selenge aimag, Department of Meteorological and Environmental Monitoring, Kharaa Intersoum Forest Unit, Intersoum Forest Unit in Selenge region, and the Management of Tujiin Nars Protected Area.

Tujiin Nars /pine forest/ is a southeastern end of the Siberian taiga and the continuation of Khentii mountain range. Located at an altitude of more than 620 meters above sea level, the lowest point in Mongolia, the natural park was devastated by wildfires and poachers. That is why in 2002, it was taken under state special protection.

On the sideline of the meeting, delegations exchanged views with the representatives regarding the challenges and progress of ongoing works in the field of environment and guided the way forward.

Specifically, delegations mandated officials serving for



Tujiin Nars:

-To prevent Tujiin Nars from wildfires,

-To pay special attention on implementing increased tolls for entering specially protected areas,

-To address the lack of equipment for forest rangers,

-To build sanitary facilities in tourism regions within specially protected areas.

Where there were only a few pines left in the sandy soiled land more than a decade ago, there is now a pine forest – Tujiin Nars. Although the forest was initially estimated to be 70 percent extinct, it has now been fully restored. Over a period of ten years (from 2003 to 2014), a total of 10,130,000 pine seedlings were planted on 3,250 hectares of land to support the restoration of the forest.

Furthermore, the meeting touched on several issues, including

the fact that the forest unit does not have its building, the Department of Meteorological and Environmental Monitoring has not been provided with the operational expenditure, as well as there is a lack of equipment for forest rangers and the need for training of state inspectors, and the construction of sanitary facilities in tourism regions within specially protected areas.

In response to solve the above-mentioned issues, Minister of Environment and Tourism B. Bat-Erdene mandated:

-B. Munkhtogtokh, the Head of the Department of Sectoral Management of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, to conduct joint training sessions with the judiciary and the Prosecutor's Office for state inspectors,

-B. Oyunsanaa, the Director-General of the Forestry Agency, to tackle the building issue of the forest unit in Selenge aimag with

the assistance of the Governor's Office,

-T. Munkh-Od, the Head of the Tourism Policy and Coordination Department of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, to build sanitary facilities in specially protected areas, enforcing the required standards.

Moreover, the Minister informed that discussions are currently taking place regarding two potential actions: an investigation of the actual costs associated with the Department of Meteorological and Environmental Monitoring in Selenge aimag and the provision of off-road four-wheelers and motorcycles to forest rangers.

The Minister also expressed his interest in providing opportunities for the servants of the Department of Meteorological and Environmental Monitoring to study abroad and gain valuable experience in foreign countries. To this end, he has submitted a proposal to several international organizations in order to secure funding and support for these efforts.

Governor of Selenge Aimag Signs Cooperation Agreements

On April 29, a Consultation meeting on the implementation and achievements of the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign was held in Selenge aimag.

Over the course of the meeting, the Governor of Selenge aimag N. Lkhagvadorj signed cooperation agreements with entrepreneurs and representatives

from tree nurseries and mining companies, which are a strong impetus for the successful implementation of the "One Billion Tree" National Campaign. Specifically,

-Under the project "Reforestation and Rehabilitation of the Boreal Forest in Selenge Aimag," "Nomgon Forestry" LLC to reforest targeted areas, create a shelterbelt to protect new trees and soil from wind erosion, and plant willows along the river to stabilize the bank and enhance wildlife habitat. To that extent, 50 thousand hectares of area in Selenge aimag will be reforested using tree-planting drones, resulting in the planting of 100 million trees.

-"Bold Tumur Yuruu Gol" LLC to plant trees in 250.8 hectares of areas in Yuruu and Khuder soums, Selenge aimag every year, aiming at planting 100 million trees by 2030.

-"Darkhan Metallurgical Plant" JSC to plant 300 thousand willows along the Yuruu river, creating a shelterbelt.

-"Khutul Cement & Lime" JSC to plant 10 thousand trees per year, aiming at planting 100 thousand trees by 2030.

-Mongolia-South Korean joint "National Monitoring Center" to plant 100 million trees,

-"Bugat Nandin" LLC to plant 100 million trees using seedlings planted in tree nurseries, reforesting the degraded forest areas of Yuruu and Khuder soums,

Also, tree seedling and sapling exhibitions were held during the meeting.

Green Climate Fund Projects Discussed

Mongolia ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016 and developed the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Since then, Mongolia has been reviewing and updating its NDC every five years.

In November 2019, Mongolia ambitiously raised its target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 22.7 percent by 2030, compared to business-as-usual, through updating its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which was approved by Government Decree No.407.

To translate this goal into reality, public and private sector partnership is required to complete major transitions, including the shift of energy resources from solid fuels to other low-carbon sources, updating old technologies and practices of husbandry, agriculture, construction, road, and transport and extracting sectors, and ensuring economic sustainability to achieve economic growth without engaging in the harmful environmental and human-health trade-offs.

Financial resources and sound investments are needed to address climate change, to both reduce emissions, promote adaptation to the impacts that are already occurring, and build resilience. In this regard, we need USD 11.5 billion to achieve the goals by 2030. According to the estimation, around 70 percent of the required financing can be

raised not only from domestic resources but also by the financial mechanisms of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, and Adaptation Fund.

Many projects and programs on climate change mitigation have been implemented in Mongolia in cooperation with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Between 2019 and 2023, the GCF approved USD 460 million worth of 20 projects and programs for Mongolia as a Phase I Program. However, we have achieved goals for only one-third of them, which puts us way far away from accomplishing our NDC ambitions, mainly due to external and internal factors, such as the pandemic, post-Covid economic recession, price rise, etc.

During the Consultative meeting held on April 27, the parties discussed continuing the remaining projects and programs, as well as implementing other new projects as part of the Phase II Program of the GCF. The parties are expecting Phase II will be successful, learning from the previous mistakes and experiences.

Mongolia aims to increase water resources and supply under the framework of "One Billion Trees" National Campaign initiated by President of Mongolia and the Government of Mongolia's "New Revival Policy." One of the major

projects planned in this sector is the "Blue Horse" project, which involves the development of water infrastructures such as water reservoirs and Hydropower plants.

The Chief of Staff of the Water Agency under the Government of Mongolia, H. Myagmarjav, introduced the "Blue Horse"



project during a consultative meeting with the environmental experts on the project "Phase II Program of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)."

The project "Blue Horse" organized by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Water Agency was first proposed in 2019. "Blue Horse" aims to identify 33 potential locations for water infrastructure throughout Mongolia and conduct preliminary research on them.

By implementing this project, it is expected to increase the capacity of water reservoirs and hydropower plants, and initiate projects to extract energy from wastewater. This rationale will be included in the project propo-



sals under development plans. In addition, the implementation of this project is in line with the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and the recommendations of the National Security Council of Mongolia, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, Vision-2050, and the action plans of the Government of Mongolia for 2020-2025, including the recent "New Revival Policy" of the Government in 2021.

The importance of implementing water projects is crucial in mitigating water scarcity by: Increasing surface water resources and enhancing its usage; Supporting the flow of rivers and streams during droughts;

Increasing the area of irrigated agricultural land, reducing the risk of pasture degradation and flooding; Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by generating hydropower; Reducing the area affected by desertification and decreasing the chances of yellow dust sandstorms.

A preliminary study of 33 locations of reservoirs and hydropower plants that can be built as part of the "Blue Horse" project has been carried out. If reservoirs and hydropower plants are built in technically feasible locations such as on major rivers of Mongolia, a total of 52 billion cubic meters of water can be stored.

"Mongolia Today" Magazine Hits the Stands with its Freshly Reimagined New Issue

We present to our Readers the first issue of 2023 of the freshly reimagined quarterly magazine "Mongolia Today," published by MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency.

Since 1956, "Mongolia Today" aims to promote Mongolia to the world, and thus the innovative release of the first issue includes QR codes for certain articles, allowing readers to view the content in a video format.

In this issue, our readers have access to numerous political and social articles. Under Social News, the detailed presentation of the "Food Revolution" program initiated by the President of Mongolia has made the headlines. Regarding politics, an official visit of Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia G. Zandanshatar to Japan, an overview of Prime Minister of Mongolia L. Oyun-Erdene's visit to South Korea and the issues resolved during his visit, and the "5W" program being implemented by the Government have also been signified under Political News.

In brief, articles, reports and interviews involving politics,

economy, society, environment, foreign relations, art and sports are available to our valuable Readers.

Beginning with this issue, "Mongolia Today" magazine launches a series of lessons on the traditional Mongol script for our foreign readers. Starting in 2025, the state and local governing organizations will conduct official affairs in both Cyrillic and Mongol scripts.

In addition, loads of wonderful scriptures written in Mongol script are stored in the National Library of Mongolia. "Mongolia Today" presents the great intellectual heritage of Mongolia in a series including invaluable sutras and works of renowned poets, such as D. Natsagdorj, Ch. Chimid and B. Yavuukhulan.

The name "Oyutolgoi" is now known to the world, not just Mongolia. The opening of the Oyutolgoi underground mine took place on March 13, 2023. According to projections, with its full capacity and production, Oyutolgoi will be the world's fourth-largest mine in the mining industry. As years pass, Oyutolgoi will be Mongolia's nametag. Moreover, the project to establish

a grass root oil refinery plant in Mongolia is ongoing, and it is set to open the plant in 2025. You can access the interview about the project's progress in the new issue of the "Mongolia Today" magazine.

The Government of Mongolia considers the tourism sector to be a top priority and has launched a Program called "Years to Visit Mongolia" for the years 2023-2025. In regards to this Program, the "Eagle Festival," "Blue Pearl" Ice Festival on Khuvsgul Lake and the "Nauryz Festival" of the Kazakhs have been implemented to boost winter tourism and attract not only domestic tourists but also foreigners to appreciate the rich culture.

The play "The Throne without a Seal" by State Prize Laureate, renowned poet Bavuugiin Lkhagvasuren will be staged at the London Coliseum in November to share the artistic and cultural intricacies of the Hunnu Empire with the world audience. You can read the interview with the main lead of the play, actor G. Erdenebileg, about his portrayal of Archug Khan as well the interview with the assistant director of the National Academic



Drama Theatre E. Yondonsharav in "Mongolia Today" magazine.

As a kind reminder, the video format of featured articles in the

new issue of "Mongolia Today" can be accessed by scanning the QR codes.

Khovd Aimag to Host National Chess Championship - 2023

Officials of the Mongolian Chess Federation on May 1 announced that Khovd Aimag was selected to host the prestigious National Chess Championship-2023.

"This Championship to be hosted in Local Area-Khovd aimag, is sure to ignite a passion for chess, an extraordinary display of intellectual prowess, and elevate it to new heights of popularity across the country. Not only that, but it will also serve as a platform for chess players of all levels to develop and showcase their skills and



compete for national and international titles," said B. Naran-

baatar, the Executive Director of the Mongolian Chess Federation

and B. Baldorj, the President of the Chess Federation of Khovd aimag during a press conference.

Khovd aimag, a cradle of heterogeneity and an essential contributor to the growth of the Western region of Mongolia, has thrown its hat into the ring to host the National Chess Championship since 2016. This time, the Aimag has been selected, competing with five aimag.

Top Mongolian Chess players will engage in a battle of wits in the National Chess Championship - 2023 to be held between May 19 and May 31 in Khovd city of Khovd aimag with the support of the Governor's Office and

Citizens' Representative Meeting.

The prize pool is over MNT 20 million, and the first five places will be awarded in the men's and women's categories. Specifically, the first place will receive MNT 5 million, followed by MNT 3 million for second place, MNT 1 million for third place, MNT 800 thousand for fourth place, and MNT 500 thousand for fifth place.

There are 16 chess masters in Khovd aimag, of which Grand Master S. Bilguun born in Zereg soum and Grand Master and State Honored Athlete of Mongolia B. Munguntuul in Bulgan soum were present at the press conference.

"Healthy Mongolian" National Conference

The "Healthy Mongolian" National Campaign is one of three national campaigns initiated by President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh.

The National Campaign consists of four main components: "Healthy Eating", "Healthy Habits", "Health Education" and "Public Sports."

In this context, the focus is not on treating people after they get sick, but on preventing them from getting sick, eliminating the factors that cause the disease, creating a healthy environment and conditions, providing people with healthy food, encouraging them to have healthy habits and active lifestyles, and improving

their health education.

The "Healthy Mongolian" National Conference was held at the State Palace on April 28, to clarify the Campaign's concept, and scope, acknowledge the current achievements, determine future goals, and intensify its implementation.

In his opening remarks, while highlighting the interrelated nature of the national campaigns, namely "One Billion Trees", "Food Supply and Security" and "Healthy Mongolian", the President said, "Participation, support, and leadership of various stakeholders, including public and private organizations, enterprises and citizens, are equally crucial in safeguarding and improving

public health. In the future, we must intensify the process of the "Healthy Mongolian" Campaign, improve the primary health care system and ensure financial stability and accessibility."

The National Conference was attended by 800 people, representing the health, sports, and education sectors, law enforcement agencies, and public and non-governmental organizations.

The Conference keynote presentations were delivered under the following themes and followed by discussions.

"Scope and Implementation Methods of Healthy Mongolian National Campaign," "Healthy Children, Youths and Health Education," "Healthy Eating,"



"Active Lifestyle and Public Sports- Future Trends," "Healthy Mongolian National Campaign- Research Based Public Health Intervention," "Criteria of Healthy Mongolian National Campaign and Prevalence of Risk

Factors for Non-Communicable Diseases." Office of the President, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, and State Committee for Physical Education and Sport jointly organized the Conference.

Consultation Meeting on Mongolia's Road Sector

A consultation meeting on Mongolia's road sector took place at the State Palace on April 27.

In his speech at the meeting Prime Minister of Mongolia L. Oyun-Erdene emphasized the crucial contribution of the road sector to the country's development, informing the participants about the long-term development

policy "Vision 2050" and the medium-term "New Revival Policy."

Over the last two years, in total 689.1 kilometers of paved roads and 330 meters of reinforced-concrete bridges have been constructed in Mongolia. In June 2022, the construction of a 67 km auto road in route of Tosontsengel and Uliastai was completed, achieving the goal of connecting all 21 aimag of

Mongolia with paved roads. Moreover, a 745-kilometer vertical axis auto road in the western region of Mongolia, which connects China and Russia through Bulgan Port in Khovd aimag and Tsagaannuur Port in Bayan-Ulgii aimag, was opened to traffic in November 2022.

"Due to the achievements in the road sector, Mongolia has climbed 33 places in the Logistics

Performance Index of the World Bank since 2018, now standing at 97th place. We can achieve big success by closely aligning the planning of road construction with the country's development policy and intensifying public and private partnership in the sector," noted the Prime Minister.

The "New Revival Policy" of the Government of Mongolia outlines to grow its exports to USD 30 billion by increasing the capacity of the border ports threefold.

The Government of Mongolia and the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar are working to implement the "New Beltway Project" and to build 225 kilometers of auto roads to connect the existing 1213 kilometers of auto roads in the capital to improve the road infrastructure in Ulaanbaatar city, the Prime Minister said.

In 2023, 540 kilometers of auto roads and 500 meters of reinforced-concrete bridges will be built in the country.

Third Neighbors Unhindered by Two Neighbors

Bayarkhuu Dashdorj,
Foreign Policy Analyst, Rtd
Ambassador

We have seen that the special operation of the Russian military in Ukraine (actually, the "Russian-Ukrainian war") shocked Mongolians, dividing and quarreling them for a whole year.

The standpoint of the Mongolian State is clear. The recent State visit of the President of Poland and the visit of the US Under Secretary of State have confidently demonstrated that Mongolia has been maintaining multi-pillar, peace-loving and active foreign policy.

President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh stated, "May this beautiful BROTHERLY friendship between Mongolia and Poland flourish for generations!"

It is the Mongolian State's assessment of the representative of the brotherly Polish people and the definition of the significance of the visit in one phrase. Do you agree?

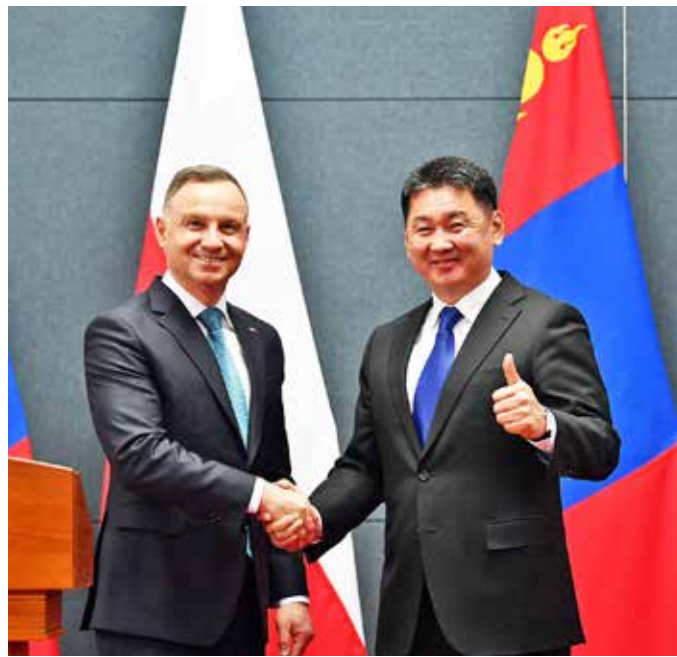
"Poland is one of the third neighbors and close partners of our country, and the relations and cooperation between the two countries have been continuously and continuously developing even during difficult times. We are happy that Poland has decided to restore its Embassy in Mongolia and is officially opening it during the State visit," said the President. Reopening the Embassy is the most trusted step in political relations and the beginning of a comprehensive partnership. Perhaps Poland will become our next partner to expand the list of countries with existing strategic partnerships (six countries) for our country.

President U. Khurelsukh said, "Since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Poland in 1950, our two countries have maintained traditional historical relations in all sectors. As part of its economic recovery policy, Mongolia is working to increase the participation of the third neighbor besides its two neighbors to diversify economy and create a multi-pillar and sustainable structure."

Our country is not going to turn its back on its two traditional neighbors as part of its economic recovery policy. However, it does not mean that it will always be dependent. In addition to those two, it is a matter of sovereignty for the independent Mongolia to increase the participation of the "Third Neighbor" to diversify its economy, and create a multi-pillar, appropriate structure. The Head of State openly stated that.

The President made a statement which gives answer to many problems that are troubling us right now. "We will clarify our investment policy, adhering to the principle of being a reliable, trustworthy and long-term partner," he said. "Comprehensive reform is being carried out to improve investment and business environment and protect the interests of investors." He invited the entrepreneurs of the Republic of Poland to invest, do business in Mongolia, and cooperate for mutual benefits.

It is appealing that the Pre-



sident affirmed Mongolia's readiness to cooperate in a strategically important area. "Our two countries have been cooperating in the mining industry for a long time. In 1962-1965, a 190-person geological team from Poland successfully conducted exploration and research work in the western region, and both sides actively cooperated. It should be noted that this cooperation expanded to exploration of rare earth elements.

There is a possibility to cooperate in the field of geology and mining in the future," the President stressed. Indeed, if Poland, as a new partner, enters to mining sector, specifically in the fields of copper, gold, precious metals, and energy sector, we will be happy and welcome it. That would be a

efforts" in the policy of the third neighborhood.

It is clear what issues were called this way. The President of Poland has clarified by himself. President Andrzej Duda thanked Mongolia for recognizing the Republic of Poland as the "Third Neighbor" that cherishes democratic values. He also emphasized that he understands Mongolia's geopolitical policy well and highly appreciates Mongolia for providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

President of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh had a telephone conversation with President of Ukraine V. Zelensky. The Ambassador of Ukraine was welcomed with respect and his Letter of Credence received. I posted on FB, "National anthem of Ukraine



strategic breakthrough.

At the end of these crucial statements the President said the words, "May this beautiful brotherly friendship between Mongolia and Poland flourish for generations!"

The speech of the Polish Head of State is an important political statement that touched the heart. "During the meeting, we discussed how to jointly overcome the challenges caused by the pandemic, the complicated international relations, and geopolitical situation, and expand and develop the relations and cooperation," an official press release says. I am going to highlight "overcoming the challenges caused by the complex geopolitical situation with joint

was performed and national flag of Ukraine was raised in Sukhbaatar Square. For the first time since 2010, the Ambassador arrived and presented the Letter of Credence to President U. Khurelsukh. The Mongolian State does not regard Ukraine as a Nazi-fascist country and receives its Ambassador, valuing its friendly diplomatic relations. This is the truth! Mongolia is a country that cherishes peace! It is an undeniable fact that the Multilateral Cooperation Partnership was established with Ukraine in 2011!"

Prime Minister L. Oyun-Erdene, when receiving US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ambassador Viktoria Nuland, emphasized

that the Government of Mongolia attaches high significance to its relations with its important third neighbor- the USA, and expressed its interest to further strengthen strategic partnership, grounded on common democratic values, and expand and develop mutually beneficial cooperation, especially in increasing bilateral trade and investment, and in the fields of creative culture productions, and e-transition.

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States V. Nuland expressed the same standpoint. "The United States is proud to be an important third neighbor of Mongolia, and it attaches importance to strengthening partnership relations based on common democratic values that respect human rights and freedom, expanding and strengthening cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, investment, and fighting corruption," said in an official statement.

In the end, let me write a few words. Our country considers all the countries that were previously cursed as imperialist to be our "third neighbors."

Mongolia will always pursue a multi-pillar foreign policy that values world peace. We do not mean single-pillar!

The 6th President of Mongolia U. Khurelsukh took office and started his first overseas state visit in Russia (2021), and visited neighboring China and the partner Japan. He paid particular attention to his multilateral diplomatic policy, and, to that extent, his reputation grew on the international stage. The President took part in the 76th and 77th Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, annual high-level meetings of

world leaders on climate change (Glasgow, Sharm El-Sheikh), XXII Meeting of the Council of Heads of States of the SCO (Samarkand, Uzbekistan), during which the regular meeting of the three Heads of State of Mongolia-Russia-China was held. UN Secretary General António Guterres visited Mongolia for the first time at the invitation of the President of Mongolia.

There were quite a number of reciprocal visits at the level of the Speaker of Parliament, Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Many of them with our third neighbors. Everyone will see the results. Our foreign policy has consistently proved that there are no useless or needless visits.

The lawyer's advice



In cooperation with Hanns Seidel Foundation

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

-What requirements must a digital signature meet?

-Digital signature must meet the following requirements:

1. Data must be encrypted and transformed with use of personal key of the digital signature;
2. The owner of a certificate of the digital signature may be recognized and checked using public key of the signature;
3. After attaching or including of the digital signature to the data it should be available to know whether the data/information has been changed and whether the data/information is complete.

-How to use an electronic signature?

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

-Who uses a digital signature?

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

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

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

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

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

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U. Tserenchunt: The World's Classics to be Brought in Resounding Melodies

■ The concert "World's Classics in Mongolia" will be held on the 9th of this month at the State Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet (SATOB), featuring opera singers from Mongolia, Russia, and China, as well as a Japanese ballet dancer. The initiator of the concert, Sopranoist Tserenchunt, who is a soloist at SATOB, provided further information about the event.

-Where did the idea of "World's Classics in Mongolia" come from?

-The idea for the "World's Classics in Mongolia" project was born from the success of a previous event called "World's Classics in Mongolia", which premiered on May 9, 2022. The previous concert presented works by Mongolian composers in the world classical genre, or dramatized Mongolian opera arias. The primary objective of the concert is to highlight the interpretations of world classics by Mongolian artists and to showcase their artistic talents and skills. This year marks the 60th anniversary of SATOB's founding. The SATOB was embarked on May 18, 1963, with P. I. Tchaikovsky's opera "Eugene Onegin." Throughout its history, SATOB has endeavored to connect Mongolian audiences with

world culture through performances of world classics. Many artists have the desire to work and contribute to the unique cultural institution that is SATOB. As a young soloist at SATOB, I strive to make contributions to the theater through my actions. Once you are working at SATOB, subject to high criteria, I think you should showcase your skills and your potential for further success. Therefore, I am presenting this concert to the public.

-Could you elaborate on the progress of the concert preparation?

-The concert is being prepared in various aspects, encompassing marketing, shooting, recording, organizing, and sponsorship procurement, in addition to the artistic aspect. In Mongolia, artists are "employed" in a multifaceted manner. Comparably, artists abroad solely focus



on perfecting their artwork. We are now publicizing the concert and selling tickets.

-Who are the participating artists in the concert? Additionally, could you explain the unique features of the concert this time?

-Alexander Gennadyevich Mikhalev, the soloist of the Krasnoyarsk Academic Theater of Opera and Dance, and Zhang Lei, the Opera Singer of Shanxi Province, China, will present their classical works, while Saki Tokishima, a Japanese Ballet Dancer, will showcase at the concert. The "World's Classics Mongolia" concert is distinguished by the performance of a wide range of classics, encompassing various types of classical art on stage for over two hours. Moreover, S. Battulga will direct the concert, and pianist U. Urtnasan, Symphony Orchestra of SATOB, and conductor T. Yunden will also partake in the "World's Classics."

-How many classical works

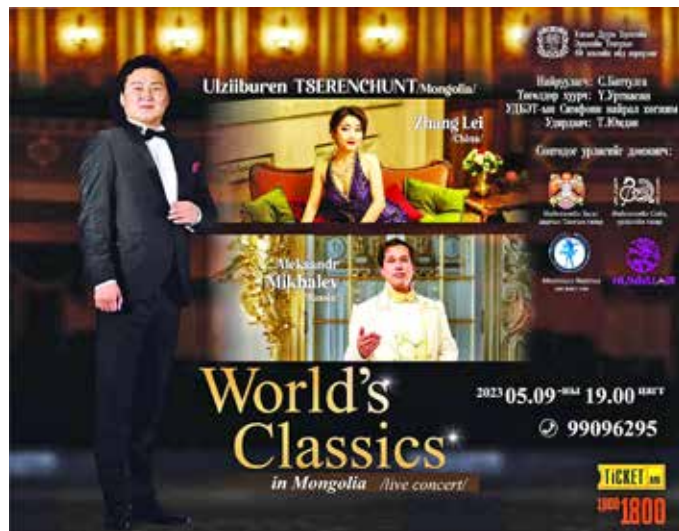
will be performed? Could you provide details about the program?

-Classical art, particularly the work of an opera singer and ballet dancer, is a delicate profession. Classical art performances attract audiences who take a keen interest, broaden their intellectual horizons, alleviate the stress of life, and find happiness in the works of renowned authors. The concert will feature the best classical works from all over the world. The works of V. A. Mozart, J. Verdi, and P. I. Tchaikovsky are just a few examples of the essential classical works that will be performed at the concert. The performances will be in six languages: Mongolian, Russian, Italian, German, and Chinese. Including the works of Mongolian composers such as B. Sharav, D. Luvsansharav, and N. Jantsanorov in the world classics makes Mongolia proud as it shows the country's contribution to the world.

-Mongolian classical artists are as talented as those from any other country in the world.

-Indeed. Over the past 60 years, many of our accomplished singers have performed in theaters worldwide due to the right training and education they received in Mongolia's classical art development. It is crucial to recognize that classical art is a collaborative effort, and if there is a standard, we must strive to improve it, bring it closer to the world standard, innovate, and work hard.

Opera involves the contributions of numerous people, and we are keen to showcase Mongolian classical art to the world. It is essential to aim to stage L. Bileg-jargal's "Lambugain Nulims," Ts. Natsagdorj's "Uulen Zaya" and "Gun Geriin Gunj" in theaters worldwide. I believe that spreading Mongolian intellectual works of arts is an opportunity to promote Mongolia to the world.



Planting Haloxylon for a Greener Future in Gobi-Altai Aimag

The Department of Environment and Tourism of Gobi-Altai Aimag, in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Tsogt Soum and the office of Bayantooroi Village, has undertaken a joint effort to plant Haloxylon persicum near the Eej Khairkhan mountain, a national park located in Tsogt soum.

This effort is part of the "One Billion Trees" National Campaign initiated by President of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh and the plan of the Gobi-Altai Aimag to plant 108 million trees. Between April 19 and 24, 2 kg of Haloxylon persicum seeds

were sown over in an area of five hectares near Eej Khairkhan mountain.

To ensure the proper care and irrigation of Haloxylon persicum, a sprinkler irrigation system equipped with two water tanks was installed, as reported by the Department of Environment and Tourism of Gobi-Altai aimag. In a further effort to combat desertification, Gobi-Altai aimag has set a target to plant five million Haloxylon ammოდendron in the Eej Khairkhan mountain this year. These efforts aim to assist natural regeneration and restore the local ecosystem in the Aimag.



Tsendbaatar Beats Mercado by Unanimous Decision

Tsendbaatar Erdenebat, the lightweight prospect from Mongolia, defeated Edy Valencia Mercado by unanimous decision with scores of 78-74, 78-74, and 80-72 on April 28 at Sony Hall in Times Square, New York City.

After the fight, his record improved to 6-0, 3 KOs. Tsendbaatar was more methodical against Valencia than he was in his previous fight on February 23, when he stopped Giovanni



Gutierrez in the third round. He boxed effectively, although Valencia was able to connect

in the pocket with his array of punches.

Mongolian Judokas on a Trip to the World Judo Championships-2023

Doha, Qatar gears up for the highly anticipated World Judo Championships-2023, which is set to take place from May 7 to May 13. Over 500 top-notch judokas from more than 90 countries will put their skills to the test in this adrenaline-fueled Championship.

Mongolia has officially announced its list of top judokas, who will be showcasing their prowess on the world stage.

A total of 18 judokas have been selected for the Champion-

ship from Mongolia, including two judokas in each category of men's 66 kg and 73 kg and women's 48 kg, 52 kg, and 57 kg. B. Gankhaich (63 kg), the Asian Champion of 2022 and International Master of Sport will unfortunately miss out on the World Judo Championships due to an injury.

Men's category: Ariunbold Enkhtaivan (-60 kg), Baskhuu Yondonperenlei, Erkhembayar Batzaya (-66 kg), Tsogtbaatar Tsend-Ochir, Erdenebayer Batzaya (-73 kg), Bolor-Ochir Gerel-

tuya (-81 kg), Altanbagana Gantulga (-90 kg), Gonchigsuren Batkhuyag (-100 kg), and Tsetsentsengel Odkhoo (+100 kg)

Women's category: Naran-tsetseg Ganbaatar, Baasankhuu Bavuudorj (-48 kg), Sosorbaram Lkhagvasuren, Nandin-Erdene Myagmarsuren (-52 kg), Enkhriilen Lkhagvatogoo, Ichinkhorloo Munkhtsedev (-57 kg), Nyam-Erdene Batsuuri (-70 kg), Khuslen Otgonbayer (-78 kg), and Adiyasuren Amarsaikhan (+78 kg).