

Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene: Government Pays Special Attention to the Strategic Project

Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai visited Dornogobi aimag on September 13, 2024, to inspect the progress of the construction of the Oil Refinery Plant.

The construction of the Oil Refinery Plant, a high-tech, heavy industrial complex under economic cooperation between Mongolia and the Republic of India, began in 2021. Despite challenges such as the global pandemic, economic crisis, and transportation delays, the construction work is continuously underway.

"Mongol Refinery" LLC is carrying out projects such as the Oil Refinery Plant, crude oil pipeline, external infrastructure facilities for the plant, and the "Oil Refinery Township."

D. Altantsetseg, the CEO of the company, provided information about the step-by-step implementation of the "Oil Refinery Plant Construction Project," which is planned to be commissioned in 2027. She also discussed issues that need to be resolved at the parliamentary and government levels during the construction process.

The discussion touched on several topics, including the need for the State Great Khural of Mongolia to approve an additional soft loan agreement from the Indian Government, creating conditions to sign the EPC 04 Working Package contract, changing customs regulations for equipment imports, offering visa concessions for foreign workers, negotiating raw material supplies, and ensuring a stable supply of crude oil.

Administrators of project implementing companies and general contractors informed the Prime Minister of Mongolia



Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai that the construction plan for the Oil Refinery Plant is divided into four parts, and presented the progress on EPC 01, EPC 02, EPC 03 Working Packages, and the mechanical assembly of oil pipelines.

Indian companies carry out the EPC 01, EPC 02, and EPC 03 Working Packages while assembling the pipelines is performed by companies from the People's Republic of China. With companies from countries such as Italy, France, Germany, Great Britain, the United States, Canada, Netherlands, Spain, and China participating in engineering and construction works in this major project, the Oil Refinery Plant Construction Project can be duly considered an international effort. Currently, 1300 engineers and technical workers from foreign countries are working at the plant site.

Non-technological facilities such as 11 living quarters and

water supply systems construction are being completed and presented to the State Commission in phases.

Aside from the Oil Refinery Plant, the construction work for an oil pipeline is being successfully implemented in Mongolia, which began in April 2023. Detailed design and engineering work for the oil pipeline is being done by the Canadian "Worley Parsons" Company, while the Italian "Prometheus" Company is providing construction oversight service. The general contractor for the construction of the pipelines is "Norinco International Cooperation Company" of China.

Today, 430 km of oil pipelines have been welded and assembled, with radiograph interpretation, ultrasound, and magnetic particle tests having been conducted. The 530 km long oil pipeline running from the oil fields in Dornod aimag to the Oil Refinery Plant is planned to be completed in the third quarter of 2025.

Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene noted that the Oil Refinery Plant is one of the 14 mega projects to be implemented by the Joint Government of Mongolia and that the commissioning of the plant will end Mongolia's dependency on imported fuel and petroleum products and establish a new sector of petroleum-chemical manufacturing. The Prime Minister visited Altanshiree soum when the EPC 04 Working Package commenced and the Government made several decisions on the matter. The Premier emphasized that the EPC 04 Working Package, which is integral to the Oil Refinery Project, should be commenced urgently, and that any issues will be negotiated with the Government of India and discussed in the Autumn Session of the State Great Khural. Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene underlined the Government of Mongolia would pay special attention to the successful implementation of the highly strategic project.

President Awards Athletes and Coaches Excelled at the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa issued a Decree and handed over state titles, orders, and medals to the coaches and athletes who excelled at the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics and Paralympics on September 12, 2024. Besides in recognition of their great achievements, the state orders, titles, and medals were awarded in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the modern sports sector in Mongolia, the 60th anniversary of the country's participation in the Olympic Games, and the 24th anniversary of its participation in the Paralympic Games.

Hero of Labor of Mongolia was awarded to:

Surenjav Ulambayar, gold medalist at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Ulambayar was also presented with the Golden Soyombo insignia of the Hero of Labor of Mongolia and the Order of Sukhbaatar.

Honored Athlete of Mongolia was awarded to:

Baasankhuu Bavuudorj, an athlete of the national judo team and silver medalist at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Tsegmed Battulga, an athlete of the Mongolian National Para Athletics Association and the national team, and a silver medalist at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Honored Coach of Mongolia was awarded to:

Naranchimeg Erdenebaatar, a coach of the national Para-Taekwondo team and International Master of Sports.

Dorj-Jantsan Batnasan, a coach of the national Para-Taekwondo team.

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Akim Gotov: Mongol Scholars Stand at the Roots of the Modern Translation Theory

Under the auspices of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, the National Forum of Translators of Mongolia will take place at the State Palace of Mongolia on September 30, 2024. In this regard, the Mongol Messenger hosted Mr. Khatagin Akim Gotov, an Honored Culture Figure, renowned Mongolian journalist, translator and researcher, a recipient of the prestigious literary award, the Rinchen Award, for an interview.

-Thank you for accepting our invitation. It is a matter of great honor for me to speak with you today. Mr. Akim, you have very rare among the Mongols a name. What does Akim mean?

-I was born during the Khalkhyn Gol battle, a wartime. A midwife named Daagii assisted my mother's labor, and apparently, she named me Akim. I wanted to know the reason I was given this name,

and when traveling to Matad, I tried a number of times to meet with her, but every time she would be gone to either Khalkh Gol or some other soum, and we never crossed paths. So I never had a chance to inquire her of the reason why she chose this name for me. Speaking in general terms, the names Akim, or Yakim are biblical names adopted in Russian

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Bloomberg commodity price 2024/09/19		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2,607.40
COPPER	USD/lb.	436.70
SILVER	USD/t oz.	31.46
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	71.75
WHEAT	USD/bu	570.75

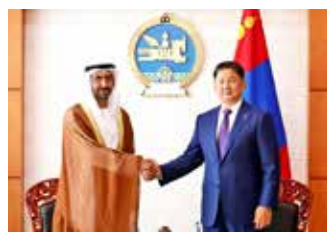
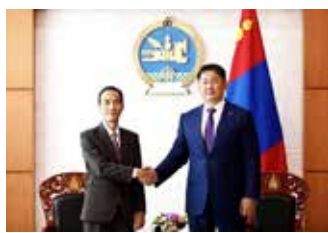
Ambassadors to Mongolia Presents Letter of Credence to President of Mongolia

On September 18-19, 2024, some Ambassadors to Mongolia presented their Letters of Credence to President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.

These were Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Mongolia Hongkeo Souksavath, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Mongolia Corinne Pereira Da Silva, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Arab Emirates to Mongolia Mohammed Sultan Al Qurtasi Al Nuaimi and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the European Union to Mongolia Ina Marciulionyte.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa congratulated the newly appointed Ambassadors and expressed commitment to expanding and deepening relations and cooperation between the two parties.

President Khurelsukh expressed confidence that Ambassador



Hongkeo Souksavath would pay special attention to the realization of the decisions made during the reciprocal State Visits of the Heads of State of Mongolia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a key partner of Mongolia in Southeast Asia and an influential member of ASEAN, in 2023 and 2024 and work to enrich bilateral cooperation with economic content.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa highlighted the long-standing history of Mongolian-French relations, noting the active progress in recent years. The Head of State expressed confidence that bilateral relations would reach the level of a strategic partnership and reaffirmed his belief that the key

projects and programs discussed during last year's State Visit of President of the French Republic to Mongolia, the State Visit of President of Mongolia to France, and the meeting between the Heads of State in Paris in July 2024 would be successfully implemented.

Highlighting the active development of friendly relations and cooperation between Mongolia and the United Arab Emirates, President of Mongolia H.E. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa noted that the UAE's decision to reopen its Embassy in Ulaanbaatar is a testament that the country attaches importance to relations between the two countries.

The President expressed confidence that Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Arab Emirates to Mongolia Mohammed Sultan Al Qurtasi Al Nuaimi would expand mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, further enriching cooperation with economic content and increasing investments.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa noted that the bilateral relations and cooperation between Mongolia and the European Union based on democratic values, including human rights, freedom, and the rule of law have been expanding as a result of the efforts from the two parties.

At the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on effectively collaborating on the achievements of common goals reflected in the long-term development policies and action plans of the two countries, and possibilities for further enriching relations between Mongolia and the European Union.

Also, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to effectively conducting cooperation within the framework of Mongolia's "One Billion Trees" National Campaign and the European Union's "Forest Partnership" for collaborative contributions to overcome global challenges such as climate change, desertification, and soil erosion.

President Awards Athletes and Coaches Excelled at the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics

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Dashdendev Makhshiri, a coach of the Mongolian National Para Athletics Association and the national team.

The Order of Sukhbaatar was awarded to:

Enkhbayar Sodnompiljee, a Hero of Labor of Mongolia and silver medalist at the "Paris 2024" Paralympic Games. Ganbat Bolor-Erdene, an athlete of the national Para-Taekwondo team and silver medalist at the "Paris 2024" Paralympic Games. Dash Bat-Undral, State Honored Coach of Mongolia and national team coach. Munkhbaatar Bundmaa, State Honored Athlete of Mongolia and coach of the national judo team. Dava Nymkhuu, President of the Mongolian National Paralympic Committee. Tseren Radnaa, State Honored Athlete of Mongolia and gold medalist at the World Masters Championships in Athletics.

The Order of the Polar Star was awarded to:

Khurel Nomuun, an athlete of the national team and Paralympic swimmer. After the ceremony, some athletes and coaches shared their impressions.

Hero of Labor of Mongolia and National Para Taekwondo Team Athlete Surenjav Ulambayar:

I am incredibly honored to have received the title of Hero of Labor of Mongolia today, following the proud moment of raising our National Flag in the Paris sky. Achieving this success would not have been possible without the support of many. First and foremost, I want to thank my two coaches, the leadership of the Mongolian Para Taekwondo Federation, my training partners, friends, and family. It is because of all of you that I am wearing this esteemed title today.

N. Ulambayar, a herder from Tosontsengel soum, Zavkhan aimag, father of Surenjav:

My daughter is the third child in the family, and the only one who pursued a career in sports. When I heard that she would



be awarded the prestigious title of Hero of Labor of Mongolia, I hurried here from the countryside. Surenjav has always been determined, attentive, and resilient from a young age. She began her athletic journey out of her own passion, and as a father, I have always encouraged her to be courageous and spirited. I am immensely proud of her for receiving the Hero of Labor of Mongolia title.

National Judo Team Athlete and "Paris 2024" Olympic Silver Medalist B. Baasankhuu:



I am deeply grateful to have been awarded the title of Honored Athlete of Mongolia. I want to thank my team, fellow athletes, parents, and everyone who supported me. It is a great honor to have won a medal at the Paris 2024 Games. I would also like to congratulate the Para team and staff for making Mongolia's National Anthem resonate in the Paris sky. Special thanks to my coach, M. Burmaa, for always being by my side.

National Para Taekwondo Team Coach and International Master of Sports N. Erdenebaatar:

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my parents, who introduced me to this sport at a young age and nurtured me into who I am today. I also want to thank my beloved spouse for taking on all the responsibilities at home, allowing me to focus on my

work. My coach, Bayarsaikhan, introduced me to this sport at the age of eight, and later, Coach Gantumur took me to my first international competition. I am thankful to him and his family. I believe that Otgonbaatar, who played a pivotal role in develop-



ping Para Taekwondo, is watching over us proudly. I extend my gratitude to all the coaches who laid the foundation for this sport. Moving forward, I am confident that our athletes will continue to excel on the global stage, making our anthem resonate worldwide. From a young age, I have served as an athlete, coach, international referee, and head coach of the national team. I am thrilled to have participated in my third Olympics this year and to have won gold and silver medals.

National Team Paralympic Swimmer Kh. Nomuun:



While I did not secure a medal, I am proud of what I have accomplished at the age of 17. Today, I received the Order of the Polar Star from the President of Mongolia, marking an unforgettable moment in my life. Many athletes who competed in this event have overcome immense challenges, and witnessing their determination and being alongside them was truly inspiring. I still have many opportunities to compete in future Olympics. I was also deeply proud to carry our National Flag during the closing ceremony.

CABINET SESSION



The Government of Mongolia held its regular session on September 18, 2024

Mongolia Jumps 28 Places in E-Government Development Index

The E-Government Development Index (EGDI), updated every two years by the United Nations, ranks countries based on their development in electronic government. According to the latest EGDI report, Mongolia ranked 46th out of 193 countries in 2024. This information was presented at the Cabinet meeting on September 18, 2024.

Mongolia's ranking has significantly improved in recent years. In 2022, the country ranked 74th, but in 2024, it moved up 28 places to 46th. Mongolia also performed well in the E-Participation Index, which measures how citizens can participate in government decision-making through electronic channels. In 2024, Mongolia ranked 37th out of 193 countries in the E-Participation Index, an increase of 20 places compared to its ranking in 2022.

Surveillance Cameras to Be Connected to the Central Network

The Cabinet assigned rele-

vant officials to take concrete measures across the country to enhance public safety, ensure peaceful living conditions, and prevent crime.

Governors of the Capital City, Aimags, and Districts were tasked with connecting surveillance cameras installed in streets, roads, public spaces, and outside of entities' buildings to a centralized network, establishing a "Tele-Camera Monitoring Sub-Center" under respective Governor's Offices of Aimags and Districts, ensuring surveillance cameras owned by businesses and organizations as well to be installed to comply with national standards and connecting them to the "Tele-Camera Monitoring Sub-Center," using existing infrastructure of telecommunications and network service providers.

Minister of Digital Development, Innovations, and Communication Baatarkhuu Tsend has been assigned to renew national surveillance camera standards.

Currently, there are 122,150 outdoor surveillance cameras installed for security purposes nationwide, 85 percent of which are fully operational. In Ulaanbaatar, 69,670 cameras are owned by 8,296 enterprises, while in rural areas, 52,480 cameras are managed by 5,788 enterprises.

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WEATHER Sunrise: 06:35 Sunset: 18:57

■Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -4 C and +5 C. Day time temps between +8 C and +19 C
■Eastern Aimags: Night temps between +1 C and +8 C. Day time temps between +12 C and +22 C
■Western Aimags: Night temps between +4 C and +9 C. Day time temps between +12 C and +19 C
■Gobi Aimags: Night temps between +1 C and +9 C. Day time temps between +14 C and +25 C

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Political Consultative Meeting Held Between the Foreign Ministries of Mongolia and Sweden

The Second Political Consultative Meeting between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden was held on September 17, 2024.

At the meeting, the two sides exchanged detailed views on expanding Mongolia-Sweden relations and cooperation in mutually interested areas, particularly enriching bilateral relations with economic content and establishing a legal

framework to promote people-to-people ties. Specifically, they discussed collaborating in the social protection sector, establishing an intergovernmental agreement to exempt diplomatic and official passport holders from visa requirements, and intensifying cooperation in areas such as environment, culture, education, and tourism.

The Mongolian side presented the country's long-and-medium-term development policies, as well as key objectives outlined in the Government's

Action Program for 2024-2028, and discussed possibilities for cooperation in their implementation. Additionally, the two sides exchanged views on international issues and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations. The Consultative Meeting was chaired by Battungalag Gankhuurai, Director of the European and African Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, and Daniel Wolven,



Director of the Asia, Pacific, and Latin America Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

This political consultative meeting between the Foreign Mi-

nistries of the two countries was remarkable as it was held on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and Sweden.



The Mongolian "Belt and Road" Co-Development Research Center in Mongolia, the Mongolia-China Friendship Society, and the China Global

Television Network studio in Ulaanbaatar jointly organized a scientific conference, "Chinese Green Development Achievements-Mongolia's Possibilities."

Chinese Green Development Achievements Analyzed for Mongolia's Possibilities

The scientific conference aimed at analyzing, and sharing China's experience, current situation, and achievements made in green development while assessing Mongolia's progress and needs for bolstering green development and green economy, and formulating recommendations based on the analysis of Mongolia's challenges in this field.

Today's world situation—global warming and climate change duly requires green development and a green economy based on digital technology. Innovation in science and technology has ac-

celerated the development of the green economy, with emerging new digital products and improved calculation capacity and methods. Furthermore, the growth rate of the digital economy and green development has far surpassed that of the global economy, and innovations are applied in all social sectors and significantly affect the general outlook of the global economy. Therefore, international cooperation in green development and green economy is becoming closer, noted the researchers and scholars at the conference.

The conference attendees underscored that the People's Republic of China has amassed great experience in solar, wind, hydro, and atomic energy sectors, and the electric vehicles industry. With this advantage, China tends to increase investments in new energy and eco-automobile industries of countries that joined the Belt and Road Initiative in 2025, focusing on the green economy and low-carbon emitting sectors. China has reflected the goal of forming an ecological civilization in its 14th Five-Year Plan.

Mongolia and Canada to Cooperate in Training English Language Teachers

Minister of Education of Mongolia Naranbayar Purevsuren recieved with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada to Mongolia Sandra Choufani on September 16, 2024.



At the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on scholarships and cooperation in programs for training English language teachers.

Minister of Education Naranbayar noted that the Mongolian Government's Action Program for 2024-2028 reflects training 2000 Mongolian English language teachers in universities abroad and the Ministry of Education is implementing a policy that 20 percent of lectures in Mongolian universities run in English. The Minister proposed cooperating in establishing Mongolian-Canadian-funded scholarships, similar

to Chevening and Fulbright scholarships to prepare English language teachers in Canada.

Ambassador Sandra Choufani underscored that Mongolia and Canada cooperate in education at various levels and Canada gives special attention to supporting preschool education. The Canadian Government's Veloo Fund for supporting children of vulnerable groups in developing countries, established two kindergartens in Ger districts of Ulaanbaatar, which are Narnii Khuukhduud 1 and 2 at the Ulaanchuluut site. The Ambassador noted that Canada has been implementing the SEED Scholarship Program for countries in the ASEAN since 2017, and the Embassy is working to make Mongolian students eligible for the scholarship program.

The two sides concurred that education cooperation between Mongolia and Canada has been intensifying in recent years and expressed commitment to further expanding this cooperation, exchanging views on cooperation in training English language teachers.

Scholars of Mongolia and Vietnam Assess Bilateral Relations

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS) and Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) jointly hosted the "70 Years of Mongolia-Vietnam Relations: Achievements and Future Prospects" scientific conference in Hanoi, Vietnam, on September 12, 2024. Vice President of the MAS Prof. Tserendorj Tsegmed, Vice President of the VASS Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Duc Minh and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Sereevjav Jigjee made opening remarks.

The Mongolian Embassy in Hanoi provided support in organizing the scientific conference. The scientific conference assessed 70 years of bilateral relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Vietnam, emphasizing prospects. Participants and guests actively engaged in discussions. Representatives from the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) delivered speeches on



topics such as "Vietnam-Mongolia Political Relations-Foreign Relations, Security, and Defense" and "Economic Relations between Mongolia and Vietnam." The Department of Regional Studies and International Organizations of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS) presented on "Mongolia-Vietnam Political Relations." During the conference, Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Sereevjav Jigjee noted, "In November 2023, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa paid a State Visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, during which he proposed elevating bilateral relations and cooperation to the level of a Comprehensive Partnership. This visit assessed

70 years of bilateral relations and laid the foundation for future cooperation." Ambassador Sereevjav emphasized that Mongolia considers Vietnam an important partner in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and a "Third Neighbor." He presented the first editions of the "Secret History of the Mongols," translated into Vietnamese, to scholars and scientists of the two countries. He wished for scholars and scientists to promote the "Secret History of the Mongols" and use it in their research and studies. Scholars and scientists of the two countries agreed that there is a need to train and prepare future generations to inherit and continue traditional relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Vietnam.

Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Mongolia Through UNESCO Cultural and Geo Heritage

A project Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Mongolia Through UNESCO Cultural and Geo Heritage was launched on September 16, 2024, in Ulaanbaatar.

The three-year project supported by the Rio Tinto Mongolia will be implemented through the UNESCO Regional Office

for East Asia, based in Beijing, China, and a dedicated team in Mongolia. UNESCO will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) recruited under the project, based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The project aims at protecting cultural heritage sites, promoting sustainable tourism in Mongolia through the country's cultural and geo heritage, and

improving the livelihood of local communities. Under the cooperation of the project parties and based on their expertise and resources, the first geopark in Mongolia is planned to be established within the framework of the project. The launching ceremony was attended by Battsetseg Batmunkh, Member of the State Great Khural, Minister of Foreign



Affairs, Chair of the UNESCO National Committee of Mongolia, Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia, Tapan Mishra, United

Nations Resident Coordinator in Mongolia, and Amarjargal Khenchbish, Country Director of Rio Tinto Mongolia.

Mongolia Trades with 155 Countries

Mongolia engaged in trade with 155 countries in the first eight months of this year, achieving a total foreign trade turnover of USD 18.1 billion. According to the National Statistics Office, exports reached USD 10.6 billion, imports amounted to USD 7.5 billion, and the trade balance recorded a surplus of USD 3.1 billion.

The trade turnover increased by USD 2.2 billion (13.6 percent), of which exports by USD 620 million (6.2 percent), and imports by USD 1.6 billion (26.2 percent),

compared to the same period last year. Therefore, the trade balance decreased by USD 935.6 million (23 percent).

The export growth of USD 620 million in the first eight months of this year compared to the same period last year was driven by an increase in the export of coal by USD 372.5 million, copper concentrates by USD 195.9 million, and unprocessed or semi-processed gold by USD 159.7 million. Meanwhile, the export of zinc ore and concentrates decreased by USD 68.3 million, and canned meat products

by USD 50.1 million.

The import growth of USD 1.6 billion was influenced by the increase in passenger cars by USD 238.3 million, trucks by USD 212 million, diesel fuel by USD 144.3 million, bulldozers, scrapers, rollers, graders, and excavators by USD 118 million, telecommunication devices by USD 64.9 million, and gasoline by USD 47.9 million.

In August 2024, exports decreased by USD 21.3 million (1.5 percent) compared to the previous month, while imports grew by USD 57.3 million (5.5 percent).

Notably, during the first eight months of the year, the average border price of gold increased by USD 323.7 per ounce, copper concentrates by USD 149.9 per ton, and iron ore and concentrates by USD 5.2 per ton compared to the same period last year, while coal prices decreased by USD 24.9 per ton.

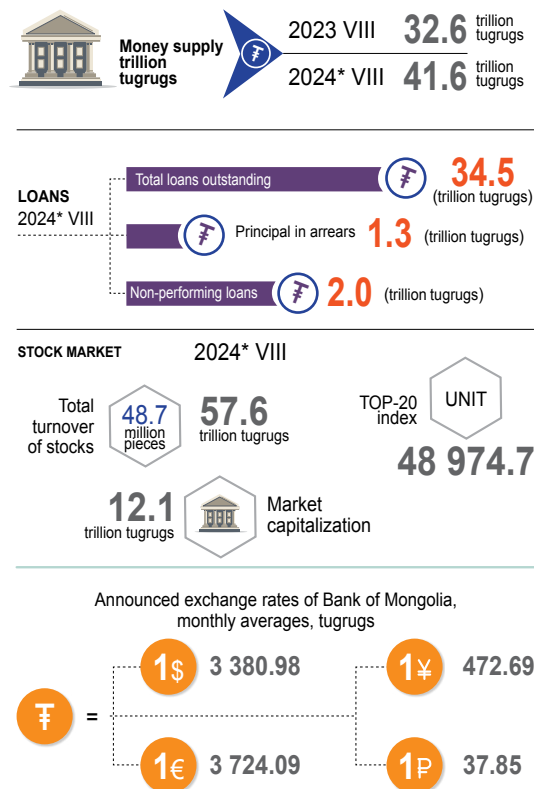
Of Mongolia's exports to China, 63.5 percent consisted of coal, and 20.2 percent of copper concentrates, while 99.5 percent of exports to Switzerland consisted of unprocessed or semi-processed gold. Mongolia exported 1,403.2 tons of flour in the first eight months, an increase of 1,377.4 tons (54.4 times) compared to the same period last year.

In addition, mineral products, precious stones, metals, jewelry, and textiles accounted for 96.4 percent of total exports, while 72.3 percent of imports consisted of mineral products, machinery, electrical equipment, vehicles and parts, and basic metals and their products.

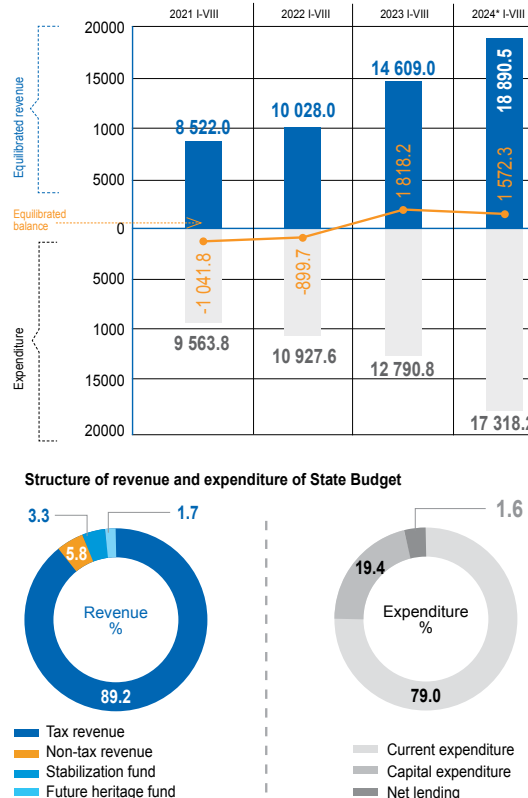
In the first eight months of the year, 70.8 percent of Mongolia's imports from Russia were petroleum products, 78.4 percent of imports from Japan were passenger cars, and 12 percent of imports from China were trucks. Mongolia imported 38.1 thousand tons of flour, an increase of 34.7 thousand tons (11.2 times) compared to the same period last year.

Social and Economic Performance of Mongolia (As of August, 2024)

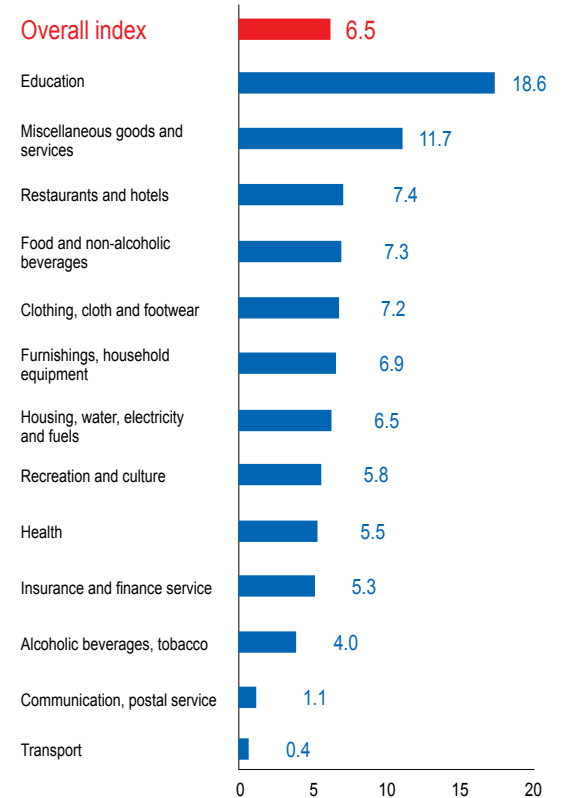
MONEY, LOANS AND STOCK MARKET, at the end of August, 2024



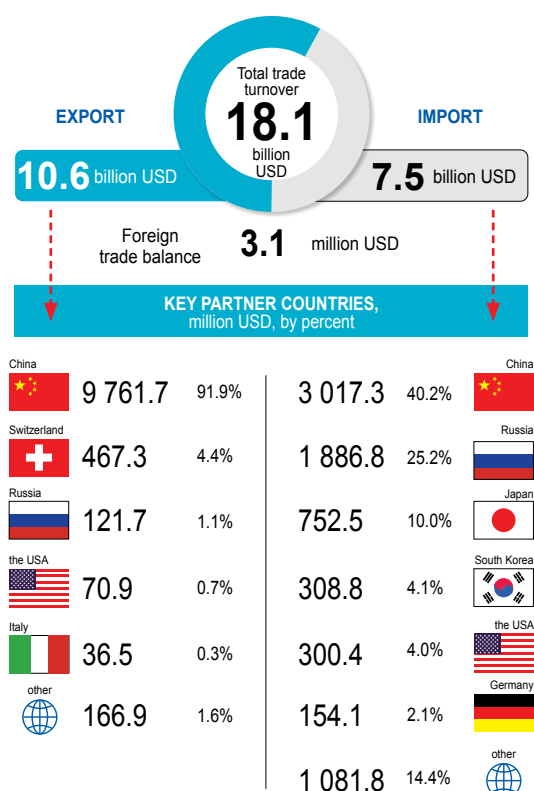
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET (in the first 8 months of selected years, MNT billion)



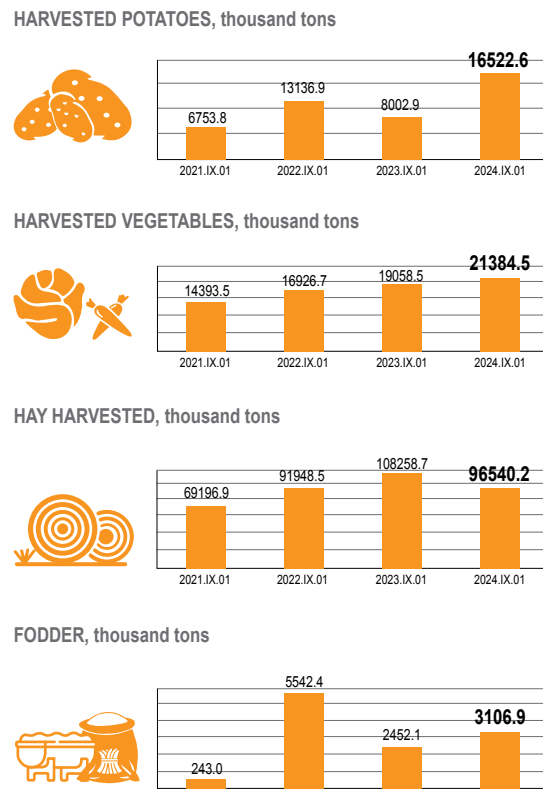
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, by groups, by percent, in August of 2024



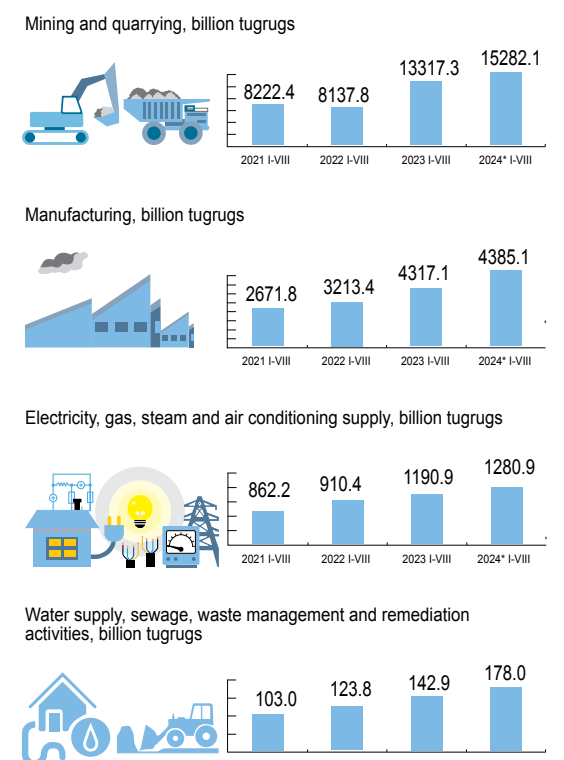
FOREIGN TRADE, in the first 8 months of 2024



CROP, as of September 1st of selected years



GROSS INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT, in the first 8 months of selected years



National Book Festival Takes Wider Strides

The 36th National Book Festival was successfully organized under the theme "Let's Read More" at Sukhbaatar Square on September 13-15, 2024, becoming the central gathering point for book lovers.

This year, the National Book Festival initiated by the "Nomiin Soyolt Yertonts" NGO was held under the auspices of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa. The President of Mongolia has reflected the "Book's Best Friend" Campaign in his policy and action program, aiming at supporting efforts to educate the Mongolian people by fostering a love of books.

In his opening remarks at the 36th National Book Festival, Zandanshatar Gombojav, Head of the Office of the President of Mongolia, emphasized the Festival's vital role in promoting a culture of reading among the Mongolian people, especially children and youth. The Head of the Office of the President of

Mongolia highlighted how the Festival not only promotes reading culture but also sparks a passion for learning and personal growth. Writers, authors, and activists, Mr. Zandanshatar noted, serve as crucial guides and pioneers in this endeavor.

In addition to over 500 domestic writers and publishers, representatives from Russia, China, South Korea, and Poland participated in the three-day National Book Festival.

During the Festival, writers and publishers presented their works to the public through exhibitions, contests, and reader-writer meetings. The Festival also offered book launch ceremonies, thematic book introductions, and a range of cultural performances. These activities promote national literary culture and reading culture and support various literary initiatives. A 12-volume book on the history of Mongolia, published under the auspices of the President of Mongolia was unveiled.

By the Decree No. 158 of the

President of Mongolia in 2012 on the Celebration of the National Book Festival and the Law on Public Holidays and Memorial Days, "National Script, Culture and Book Days" are celebrated throughout the country on Saturdays and Sundays of the third week of May and September of each year.

On average, over 240,000 people attend the spring and autumn National Book Festival.

The "ESAN" National Digital Library of Mongolia named after the President of Mongolia participated in this year's Book Festival under the theme "Let's Support Equal Access to Education", presenting its products and services to customers.

The "ESAN" has been operating with the goal of supporting equal access to education using technological innovation and providing everyone with accessible and reliable sources of knowledge and information. The digital library offers the advantage of easy access to all types of knowledge and information



on www.esan.mn to readers with their preferred devices such as smartphones, tablets, and computers.

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Mongolia's First Cosmetic Silicone Prosthetics Laboratory Opens

A laboratory for cosmetic prosthetics and artificial body parts has opened under the Beauty School CiTi University, marking the first of its kind in Mongolia.

The laboratory has been conducting research since 2017 and officially launched on September 16, 2024. It is equipped with the latest 3D technology, which scans human tissues, prints the prosthetic base using a 3D printer, and finishes the product using

German processing technology. The school has secured a 20-year patent for this production process.

Numerous individuals who face amputation of limbs like hands, fingers, or feet due to birth defects or accidents often lack knowledge about prosthetics. This laboratory not only offers solutions to replace lost body parts but also restores self-confidence through aesthetic improvements.

The prosthetics are customized to the individual's skin tone by blending 7-8 different shades,

replicating the colors of veins, fingertip redness, and the base tone of the palm.

Moreover, the prosthetics come with silicone or acrylic nails, allowing women to maintain nail care and aesthetics. Additionally, metal is used in the finger joints, enabling natural movements such as gripping. Currently, the laboratory primarily produces prosthetics for fingers, hands, feet, ears, and noses using cutting-edge technology.

Ulaanbaatar to Collaborate with Google to Reduce Traffic Congestion

Google has initiated a collaboration in reducing traffic congestion in Ulaanbaatar city and organized a meeting to discuss this initiative.

Google previously cooperated with 10 cities around the world, including Hamburg, Ja-

karta, Abu Dhabi, and Bangalore, to reduce traffic congestion. Using real-time data and artificial intelligence based on user information, Google aims at optimizing urban traffic management. Ulaanbaatar city will be the 11th city to collaborate with Google on the traffic management software

project, officially called Project Green Light.

Governor of the Capital City of Mongolia Nyambaatar Khishgee noted, "The work on connecting 170 intersections in Ulaanbaatar city to a unified surveillance camera system will be completed by November 1, 2024. In addition, we have reached an agreement with Google to introduce AI technology for centralized management of these 170 intersections."

The Public Relations and Communication Department of the Governor's Office of the Capital City reported that the parties agreed to form a Working Group to introduce the AI technology and that the Capital City officials expressed commitment to strengthening the cooperation between the two parties.



Discussing Solutions to Combat Desertification in the Gobi Region

On September 13, 2024, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia, in collaboration with "Oyu Tolgoi" LLC and the Governor's Office of Umnugobi aimag, held an international scientific conference on "A Green Future: Combating Desertification" in Dalanzadgad soum, Umnugobi aimag.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia

Odontuya Saldan opened the Conference, emphasizing Mongolia's fight against land degradation and desertification. The Conference was particularly significant as it was organized in anticipation of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) that will take place in Mongolia in 2026.

Over 200 participants, including leading experts, scientists, policymakers, local citizens and

representatives of projects and enterprises, attended the Conference and shared the latest research findings. The participants discussed the consequences of desertification and climate change in the Gobi region of Mongolia and the possible solutions to resolve the issues while exchanging experiences.

"Oyu Tolgoi" LLC plans to organize an international scientific conference under the topic "Gobi" annually.

Mongolian Nonferrous Industry Team Wins Gold Medal at 2024 "China Copper Cup"

The Mongolian team won a gold medal at the 2024 "China Copper Cup" Overseas Enterprise Local Team Leader Comprehensive Management Skills Competition, held in Chifeng city, the People's Republic of China (PRC). It was organized within the framework of the "Belt and Road" initiative, and held in nonferrous metals industry.

The Belt and Road initiative, launched by the Government of the PRC, is the largest investment-backed economic and trade project, and the training of skilled professionals is critical for its implementation.

Therefore, the international competition aimed at enhancing the skills and abilities of team leaders in nonferrous metal mining enterprises has been organized since 2023. For the second year, "Xin Xin" LLC of the "China Railway Group Limited" (CREC), a Chinese-owned mining company operating in Mongolia, sent its team to this competition.

Among 64 participants from 13 teams from eight countries, namely Mongolia, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Peru, Congo, Zambia, and Guinea, Mongolian team, composed of five members, earned the gold medal in the team category. Furthermore, one member won a gold medal in the individual category, and four



other members received silver medals. This accomplishment is a testament to the expertise of Mongolian workers on a global level. The competition consisted of three parts: a theoretical knowledge exam; a presentation and debate; and practical tasks, all aimed at improving the skills of team leaders.

CREC is a leading multinational corporation engaged in various fields, including engineering survey, design and construction, industrial equipment manufacturing, real estate development, resources and mining development, and financial investments. The corporation has consistently been listed in the Fortune Global 500 for 17 years.

Akim Gotov: Mongol Scholars Stand at the Roots of the Modern Translation Theory

Continued from page 1

language, meaning soyorkhol, or blessing, granting, honor. When I worked for Il Tovchoo newspaper of MONTSAME agency, at times when I would write articles of dissenting views, I would use that name "Soyorkhol" as my pseudonym.

-In Mongolia there is a common tradition for fathers to give names to their children, but your story also interesting. For every person a conversation about fathers is dear and heart-warming. What qualities and features of your father did you inherit?

-My father became a teacher after completing primary schooling in Byaruut. Having taught at the Bayan-Uul soum school for 2-3 years in modern-day Dornod province, he returned to his birthplace. He was one of the first teachers of Mongolia of early 1940s, a time when not many children attended schools. He would go around the neighborhood asking parents to let their children attend schools. He was a father like any other. When I was in the second grade, he brought me a book "Chuk and Gek" by A. Gaidar to read. Later, in my 4th or 5th grade, he brings another book, one of the volumes of Stalin's works, a thick brownish book. He says, read it. I did. I read it for the second time, then for the third.

Couldn't understand anything. It talks about Bolshevik something. I tell my father I understand nothing. Father asks to read one more time. After many years, thinking of this incidence, I realized one simple truth – my father wanted me to learn to read. To read fast. Now when I read a book, I do not read letters and words. At a glimpse I catch all I need from the text. This is one of the most precious gifts, the most valuable lesson my father taught me.

-Inarguably teachers are as important as parents in one's life. They guide us in life through twists and turns of the destiny. You regard the renowned scholar Rinchen Byamba as your teacher. But you never met him in person and only twice had phone conversations.

-A famous novel by Sholokhov "A Man's Destiny" was published in newspaper "Unen" when I was an eighth-grader. This was the first time I read a novel translated by this great man. A year or two earlier, I had read his novel "Uuriin Tuya". I had already started waiting for his new works to be released. Reading him since childhood I grew up admiring him. I remain a passionate admirer. He remains my lifelong idol and role-model. When working on "The Gods are Athirst" by Anatole France I couldn't translate two words. Timidly and humbled I called Dr. Rinchen. I told him I wanted to ask for some advice on translating two words into Mongolian, and having heard them the man said he needed to refer to a dictionary. He even didn't ask my name. "The word you asked is close to Prior Lama in meaning",



having said that, he started a long explanation of this interpretation. The longer he spoke, the lower his voice was becoming, so I tightly glued the phone receiver to my ear trying to catch every word the man said. He was truly invincible. Nothing had bent him. He never yielded to years-long ideological attacks. Humiliation and slander never could discredit him. He remained strong, unbending and never apologized which communists wanted so badly. His invincibility, fortitude of will and mind are indomitable. I admire these his qualities and strive to live up to them.

-When talking about the learned man Rinchen, books, translation I am tempted to ask for your advice for young people on how to instill love to reading?

-It is hard to develop this allegiance in people who did not read much until adulthood. However, the case is different for children. The earlier children start to read the better. It is the duty of parents and teachers to help children develop reading skill and habit. As a second grader I read Chuk and Gek. Then I got a book titled "Brave Mountaineers" by Nadmid, about children who went hiking in the mountains but got lost. As I think of it now, maybe that book instilled in me the interest to climb and comb mountains and valleys I am so much fond of. I never met the author Nadmid. There was a janitor, a fine old man, when I worked for the Union of Mongolian Writers. I would occasionally see the janitor and we never got to speak with each other. I learnt later, to my deepest regret, that this man was Mr. Nadmid, the very author of my most favorite book. It pained me very much that I missed a chance to thank him for the book for he had already left this mortal world. This acute sense of regret still pinches me.

-You dedicate all your knowledge, heart and efforts to the good of Mongolia, to dis-

covering and introducing the beauties of Mongolia. One of such hidden treasures of Mongolia are rock paintings. You have been studying the petroglyphs for quite many years. How did it start?

-It all started with mountains. I headed to mountains. I wanted to write about worshipped mountains along with various legends and myths associated with them. I thought that could help young people learn more about their homeland. If I found out and described how mountains were sanctified and worshipped, people would understand the nature better and begin caring for and loving our motherland. It is my conviction that learning and caring about the place we are born would instill patriotism. Therefore, I wrote two books about mountains with all legends, myths and worship rituals and traditions. And when climbing, studying the mountains I discovered rock paintings! I was immediately drawn into them. The depictions were truly enthralling: they told stories about day-to-day life of humans, but most interestingly, I found images which could be defined as extraterrestrial, unearthly mythical and empyrean. So I began my quest into rock paintings. Thus far, I have written some 4-5 books on this subject.

-How different are the petroglyphs in Mongolia from those found in other countries?

-Actually the rock paintings are found mostly in Mongolia. Few have been recorded in Kazakhstan and Ural. Some paintings and engravings are found in Altamira Cave in the Northern Spain. These are few records that I have found out to date. In the cave in the Tonkhil soum of the Gobi-Altai aimag of Mongolia there are dozens of such paintings similar to the ones found in France and Spain, including palm painting.

-The palm painting sounds interesting.

-Indeed, interesting. Human hands are our primary tools. You can't do much without hands. I do not have any scientific interpretations. I have explored most parts of Mongolia. In the Gobi, almost every rock has paintings on it. Many are found in the Altai Ranges. Only do Kazakh and Kyrgyz scholars and researchers present at international conferences on petroglyphs, in other words, only the countries with rock paintings study them.

Mongolia is a country of rock paintings. It is the center of petroglyphs. The Del Mountain of the Dundgobi province is entirely in rock paintings, all depicting daily activities of prehistoric people. Some paintings are just jaw-dropping such as the one in Lovon Ranges in Bayan soum of the Gobi-Altai Mountain depicting a wild goat with a single horn. Nowhere else on earth such a painting has been found.

A friend of mine called me recently from Tonkhil soum of the Gobi-Altai aimag and said he had seen a wild goat with a single horn, so soon I am heading to Gobi-Altai and really keen to factualize this. The age of the painting is established by in-crustation. The paintings of the stone age are barely visible whereas those of the later ages, for instance, the Turkic period, are very clear. However, it is hard to establish the exact year these images were created. But the earliest are found in the Gobi.

-Mongolians know you as a renowned translator, and I am extremely excited to talk about translation with you. You have translated a great volume of world's classical literature into the Mongolian language. Of your masterpieces, the translation of "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez stands out. Why did you choose to translate this very complicated novel, and how difficult was it to translate?

-Long before translating, I had already read the novel. I had a famous translation Amar as my teacher. Those were the times when the Soviet Writer's Union would approve the list of foreign authors to be translated into Mongolian. My teacher Amar was the Senior Editor of the central editorial board at the Ministry of Culture and told me to translate the novel. Yes, it was a hard job to translate it. The intertwined stories involving numerous Buendia were truly confusing. I would often find myself lost among those Buendias, and would start tracking their paths from the start over and over again. The novel was totally alien to the Mongol mentality, Mongol way of living. So, my goal was to present it to the Mongolian audience preserving the original identity of the novel. I did translate, but can't really tell how well I did. It was received by the readers. Baabar once complimented my translation: "I read the novel 4-5 times, but finally understood it only in Akim's translation". To me this was a great appraisal, especially when given by such a notable intellect as Baabar.

-How long did it take to

translate it?

-Six months. I translated the "One Hundred Years of Solitude" and Plaha" ["The Place of the Skull"] by Chingiz Aitmatov concurrently. I managed to complete both translations within six months. Back in this years, members of the Mongolian Writers' Union were given one month paid leave, not for vacation but for literary works. I secluded myself in Selbe resort to work on Marquez's book, but would spend half of my time in Songino resort to work on "Plaha". So running between the two, I finished the two translations within 6 months. I was young and would work through nights. I was both physically strong, and passionate. Some said I worked like a machine. Once I open a book, I would literally be glued to my chair for hours.

-Another remarkable work of yours is the translation of the "Black Legend" by Leo Gumilev. There were times when the world ignored the truth about the Mongols, about their role in shaping the modern world. Most available literature was full of fiction on how disastrously destructive the Mongols were. The "Black Legend", contrary to popular belief, shed light on truth.

-There is a context to that translation. Writer Byambaa born in Choibalsan soum of Dornod province was then a diplomatic officer in our Embassy in the USSR. The Mongolian diplomats once invited Leo Gumilev for a lecture at the Embassy. L. Gumilev gave his manuscripts to Byambaa and asked to translate. Byambaa then sent the text to me saying that I should translate it. Shortly afterwards, Indra, the daughter of Dr. Rinchen, received another copy of the book and gave to me for translation. So I ended up with two copies of the same book. And, I did translate it.

-I heard that Leo Gumilev himself approached you while on a visit in Mongolia and personally asked you to translate.

-Oh, another myth is emerging then [laughs]. That never happened. I received copies of the original from Byambaa and Ms. Indra, and I still keep them both.

-One of the essential sources on the history of the Mongolian Empire is inarguably Jami al-tawarikh ("Compendium of Chronicles") by Rashid al-Din. Some sources indicate that it was written with the help many foreign historians including Bolad Chingsang who was specially invited from the Yuan Empire. This is a valuable historical account which talks about events some of which are not mentioned even in the Secret History of the Mongols, including a mention of the "Altan Devter" ["The Golden Book"] not found to date. Written by multiple authors Jami al-tawarikh remains one of the first major efforts of world historiography.

-The book was translated by the best Russian translators from Persian. When writing a book about my own place of birth, I was searching for information on Khatagin tribe in the "Compendium of Chronicles". It had been translated by Surenkhorloo guai from Russian to Mongolian. I looked up through both the Mongolian and Russian translations of

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the chronicle, but did not get much to understand. A while later I found an English version translated by an American translator W.M. Thackston. This was an impressive translation. The Russian translation was not much resourceful and omitted clearly Mongol words taken by the translator as Persian or Turkic word. However, the English translation was a diligent work. It had explanations of all terms and vocabulary. So I decided to translate from English hoping that one day someone would translate from original Persian.

I did not literally translate the title as the Compendium of Sutras, instead I used the word "shashdir", or shastra. In Buddhist religion there are two central systems – Sutra and Tantra. Sutras are teachings of profound meditation and yoga whereas Tantra is a form of profound knowledge into the nature of the genuine ability of the mind. If I were to translate the title as "The Compendium of Sutras", the book should be talking about meditation, which is not the case. This is a chronicle about the Mongol Khaans. Shashdir or Shastra is a chronicle, historical account, therefore Mongolian title in my translation reads "Shashdriin Chuulgan" [trans. "Compendium of Chronicles"].

-You then had translations in Russian and English. Which version did you keep as the main source?

English. But I was checking against the Russian, and found some discrepancies and mismatches. Therefore, I included two versions of those particular unmatched texts, as translated from Russian and from English respectively. This is my understanding of academic translation, so I followed this principle.

-What are your thoughts about young translators of today? I read a new translation of "The Headless Horseman" by Mayne Reid. To me, it did not surpass the earlier translation released a few decades ago.

Our young translators have mastered foreign languages impeccably. Many of them speak foreign languages as fluently as native speakers. This is also due to the fact that phonetically the Mongolian language can produce any sound of any foreign language. Therefore, the pronunciation of Mongolians is this much clear. For instance, there is no sound [r] in Chinese, but the Mongolian language has. Our own native language is very much resourceful and conducive to learning foreign languages. Written translation and verbal/oral interpretations are different. I regret to say that being fluent in foreign languages, some Mongolian youth does not possess our native tongue well. Without mastering the Mongolian language stylistics, translation is impossible. Some young people obviously lack this critical knowledge, hence, they tend to do word-by-word translation.

Of course, such rigid texts would not read well and cannot be understood. Therefore, the youth must learn syntax, stylistics and discourse analysis well enough before starting to translate texts. Once I was studying Dr. Rinchen's translation of "The Silver Prince" by A. Tolstoi comparing

it with the original. In the text I read a sentence which I could have never translated the way Dr. Rinchen did. So, I copied the sentence and took it to translate to Chojil, my dear friend, though a bit senior to me, in a way, testing him. He translated the sentence in an instant. There were only 2 or 3 words different, but the stylistics was the same. This incidence made me even more convinced in the existence and power of the stylistics of the Mongolian language. Stylistics is the fundamental knowledge that must be learnt by not only translators, but also by all writers and journalists.

-Which of your translation works do you consider your best piece?

I consider my translation of the "Scarlet Sails" by A. Grin ["Алые Паруса", А. Грин] to be my best translation work. It is not lengthy, but I spent three years on it. I think this was a literary translation. In terms of presentation, my "Dog of the Heaven" was written well. It was printed 6 times, but became a rarity among booklovers. I heard its pirated copies were sold door to door in Inner Mongolia in Mongol script.

-Sometimes I feel the personal character of the translator is reflected in the translation. Translations of Dr. Rinchen, of Mr. Amar, of yours, are all very different. What are special features of literary translation? What translation is considered a good translation? What books would you advise translators to read to improve translation skills?

Translation does have a theory. The earliest theory was established by Martin Luther, a German priest, in 1500s. Martin Luther translated the Bible from Latin to German. In those times, Bible and other religious texts were considered the words of God, and therefore, were translated word by word as no one could dare to change God's words. Martin Luther developed a theory by which he translated the text accessible to lay people. Later, in 1741 under the guidance of the Janjaa Khutugtu Rolbidorj of Inner Mongolia, some forty Khalkha learned men and translators came together and wrote an encyclopedia on Buddhism "Merged Garakhyn Oron" ["The Space for Attaining Wisdom"] to translate Ganjuur Danjuur [Kanjur known as Buddha's recorded teachings, (or the Translation of the Word), and Tanjur is the commentaries by great masters on Buddha's teachings (or the Translation of Treatises)]. This encyclopedic dictionary outlines 21 translation principles. I do have Martin Luther's theory on paper but didn't read it for it was written in medieval German language which our German translators were not able to read.

So, as far as I know, the first academic work on the theory of translation is "The Space for Attaining Wisdom" written by Mongols. These 21 principles fully match modern theory on translation. Modern translation theory was developed by V. A. Zhukovsky (1787-1852, a famous Russian poet, translator) and some other Russian writers and scholars in 1920s. There are also theories developed by American scholars. But they all appeared later, and I proudly and confidently state that it

was the Mongolian scholarship which laid the foundation to the academic discipline of translation in the world. I did translate those 21 principles into Cyrillic and published with some explanatory notes. Those who are interested in the theory of translation must have read the book. Translating without knowing the theory can be identified with riding a horse without a bridle in an open steppe. In the 1960s I wrote a book "Unlocking the Chest of the Art of Translation", I would recommend the interested youth to read it.

Translation is all about transformation: lexical transformation, grammatical transformation etc. It is a transformation theory. In Russian adjectives appear after the verb, in English too, however, in Mongolian they appear before the verb. Translation deals with ways and methods of transforming linguistic structure and presenting to the readers in a comprehensible way. In my book I describe the main methods of transformation.

-You said you wrote the book in the 60s, were you teaching then? I noticed that not much Mongolian literature is being translated into foreign languages.

I wrote the book when was working in the journal "Issues of Peace and Socialism". Responding to your second question, I must note that to be translated into other languages, the works of our writers must draw the attention of foreign audiences. Also, there aren't many people to translate into other languages. There aren't foreigners proficient in Mongolian either. During the years of socialism, socialist countries such as Bulgaria, Democratic Republic of Germany and others used to periodically translate Mongolian literature, now this tradition ceased to exist. Individual translators do translate at private requests and orders, however, if there is no market, such initiatives will eventually die out. If the country wants to advertise itself internationally, the government should make efforts to accommodate this need.

At the same time, we must study very carefully what Mongolian literature the foreign audiences would be interested to read. Only then, when the Mongolian literature is rendered to English-speaking audiences, or to German readers as if originally written in those languages, will it touch their hearts. Dr. Rinchen's translations of "The Silver Prince" and "Taras Bulba" are truly outstanding works. I checked both translations, word by word, against their originals. I made many notes. If those who know Russian follow my suit and crosscheck the translations, that could truly be a revelation and a genuine learning about the Mongolian language and translation techniques. There are many brilliant translators of 1960-70s – Shatar, Amar and many others, but, of course, Dr. Rinchen is unsurpassable. Not only did Dr. Rinchen master Mongolian language, but also had an inborn talent. He is a writer and poet. These natural endowments made him a great translator. There was an Editorial Board of Literature at the Ministry of Culture, where the renowned editors Shuger, Amar and Samdan worked. Their pens would turn our translation manuscripts literally red. And that would eventually birth good

books.

-You translate, write books and study rock paintings. Are you a scholar, or journalist, or a translator?

I am a journalist.

-Of your journalistic works, which pieces are especially close to your heart?

I am humbled to talk about myself. It was Dr. Rinchen and also translation which drew me into journalism. These days I mostly write my travel notes. Travel notes significantly expand our knowledge. For instance, notes on travel to Beijing would not be valued much if I write about modern buildings in the city. I try to embed the cultural features into my writings. I try to render knowledge in and between the lines of my notes.

Or, for instance, if I write about Tsambagarav Mountain [magnificent snow-capped mountain in the Altai Ranges in Western Mongolia], I try to describe it poetically so that readers get aesthetic appreciation from the piece. I would also enrich my presentation with interesting legends and myths about the mountain. Legends are extremely interesting. I once wrote that legends do reveal the truth. They do carry truth. Westerners no longer consider legends as fiction. Truth, transcending space and time become legends. For instance, the westerners have begun writing that Zeus and other gods came from cosmos. It is absolutely engrossing to find men in spaceships and spacesuits in numerous rock paintings!

Fascinated by these discoveries I wrote a book titled "Tracing the Footprints of Those Who Came from the Sky Through the Toy of the Heaven's Children". That book is not a fiction, in other words, I did not make it up. There are petroglyphs, and numerous research articles and publications by foreign scientists and scholars who study cosmos and space. To write that book I read about 10 books by Russian authors and another 20 by British and Americans. Once a visited a family at the eastern end of the Bayantsagaan Ranges in Bayankhongor province. In fact, I was travelling in that neighborhood studying the mountain. One day, when I was taking photos of a deer stone, a housewife of a ger in the vicinity approached me and asked what I was doing. Of course, I responded that I was studying and taking photos of petroglyphs, to which the woman said that her fathers and forefathers forbade their children to even get close to those paintings for those were the toys of the children of the Heaven. That encounter inspired me to title my book after the toys of the children of the Heaven. It's truly amazing, for instance, at Chuluutyn Gol of Arkhangai province there is a painting of a rocket hitting a deer.

-In one of your articles you claimed that homo sapiens did not evolve from primates, for even the number of chromosomes aren't matching. You are a materialist or an idealist?

I do not know much about "isms", but think that it is much better to be an idealist.

-You established and were the Chief Editor of "Il Tovchoo", one of the most popular newspapers, especially among intelligentsia, in early 90. How would you define a journalist?

A journalist must always

steer clear of money. If journalists start writing for money, truth will be lost. Therefore, the first and foremost value, to never be traded at any cost, must be truth. Journalists shed light on the darkest corners of the society, they reveal the bad and evil of the society. If this duty is ignored, he or she is no longer a journalist. A genuine journalist is the one who tells the truth.

As for newspaper "Il Tovchoo", it was established under MONTSAME. The then Director General of the Agency Mr. S. Bayar proposed issuing a Mongolian version of "Za Ruberjom" to cover most interesting international events and developments to which I responded suggesting to issue a newspaper to cover Mongolia the way "Za Ruberjom" covers the world. That was the time when MONTSAME was a part of the State Radio and Television Committee. I was appointed the Chief Editor of the central editorial board for the Committee overseeing the newspapers in Chinese and Russian, "Il Tovchoo" and all other print media under the Radio and TV and MONTSAME. This way I came to be associated with MONTSAME. Those were trying times for not only our newspapers, but for the whole country. Mr. Erdene, the successor Director General, one day called me and said that the Government wasn't happy with a newspaper which criticized the Government. So I took "Il Tovchoo" away from government and made it one of the first free media of Mongolia. The title "Il Tovchoo" was given by the renowned Mongolian writer S. Erdene, and it means "The Open Chronicle".

-What translation are you working on these days?

I finished translating the first volume of Ata-Malik Juvayni's Tarikh-i-Jahangushav, which is known as the History of the World Conqueror. I am yet to complete the second volume. Also I am compiling a book on the writings of the Mongolian learned men on space studies. This would be the continuation of my book "Tracing the Footprints of Those Who Came from the Sky Through the Toy of the Heaven's Children". Some 139 geographic sites are mentioned in "The Secret History of the Mongols". I travelled to all of them. I wrote a book on these travels, it is ready yet the hardest part is remaining – to locate the photos, which I have in thousands. Once these three projects are complete, I will consider my lifetime mission as complete.

-Many think of Mongolia as a paradise on earth – we enjoy peace, freedom, pristine nature, and I fully concur with this definition. It is our collective duty to strive to leave this beautiful country intact and unblemished to our children and their children.

The eternal blue skies are above us. The mother nature embraces and cuddles us as children. Many people ask where the motherland begins. If it begins, it should end somewhere. Well, to me, motherland has no beginning, and no ending. As long as a Mongol lives on earth, as long as his heart and mind are alive, Mongolia will dwell eternally. Some may ask, then, where the native land begins. Of course, it begins with your birthplace. For me, it begins with the sacred mountains.

"Enchanting Urga" - Oscar Mamen's Photo Exhibition of Mongols 100 Years Ago



A mixed-media photo exhibition "Enchanting Urga" opened on September 17, 2024, at the National Art Gallery of Mongolia.

A Norwegian trade representative embarked on a business trip to Urga, or Urgoo (today's Ulaanbaatar) 113 years ago, an extraordinary journey that would forever change his life and secure his place in history as a traveler, researcher, and photographer. That man was Oscar Mamen (1885-1955).

During his time in Mongolia over a century ago, Mamen cap-

tured over 8,000 photographs and preserved over 500 artifacts, documenting the essence of a bygone era. These photos and artifacts became treasured heirlooms, allowing Mr. Mamen to recount his adventures like stories from a mystical tale to his children and grandchildren. His historical photographs, documents, and notes, invaluable historical records that ignite pride in the Mongol people and encapsulate the spirit of Urga at the time, were unveiled to the public and made available to researchers in 2017.

In 2023, a Mongolian artist

reached out to Oslo University researcher Maria Kartveit, proposing a collaboration to bring Mamen's legacy to the public through a joint photo exhibition. Mamen's grandchildren, who grew up with stories of Mongolia arrived in the country for the first time to attend the exhibition.

Artist N. Otgonbat, who creates art using multimedia and displayed the artworks in his solo exhibitions like "Khelkhee" and "Tunamal," this time has incorporated Oscar Mamen's historical photographs into his artworks.

This exhibition reimagines the traditional approach to histo-

rical photos, displaying a creative blend of mixed-technique photography.

Curated by A. Bolormaa, an art Ph.D. candidate who lived in Norway for 10 years, the exhibition provides an enchanting experience of life in Urga. It reflects

the personal connections Oscar Mamen formed, his friendships, dreams, and the good omens he carried with him.

The "Enchanting Urga" exhibition will be open to the public until September 24, 2024.

Mongolian Team Earns Gold and Bronze at AI Olympiad



The inaugural International Artificial Intelligence Olympiad (IAIO) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on September 8-12, 2024.

The event was organized by the UNESCO-affiliated International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) and the International Centre for AI Ethics and Regulation (ICAIRE), in collaboration with Saudi Arabia's Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA).

Around 90 students from 25 countries participated in the competition. N. Batsukh from Oyunlag School won the gold medal, while E. Tenuun from Hobby School took home the

bronze medal. Two other team members, Ch. Irmuun from Erkhel Erdem School and T. Enguun from Sant School, narrowly missed out on the bronze medal by just one point.

The Mongolian team was led by Z. Tsolmon, a Professor at the School of Information Technology and Electronics at the National University of Mongolia (NUM), and G. Amarsanaa, a Professor at NUM, serving as the deputy leader.

The Olympiad aims at identifying, encouraging, and uniting young talents in AI, while fostering international collaboration among scholars, educators, and students in AI and computer science. The Olympiad will be held annually.

An exhibition titled "Art of the Mongol World", which will bring together art pieces influenced by the Mongol Empire and preserved in all corners of the world, will be held at the Royal Academy of Arts in the United Kingdom.

In November 2023, Minister of Culture, Sports, and Youth of Mongolia Nomin Chinbat and the officials of the Royal Academy of Arts signed a Memorandum of Understanding in London, the UK. Based on this, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Government Implementing Agency Culture and Arts Department of Mongolia and the Royal Academy of Arts on September 13, 2024.

Michael Eldred, Deputy Director of Development of Royal Academy of Arts, and N. Munkh-zul, Head of the Culture and Arts Authority of Mongolia, signed

"Art of the Mongol World" Exhibition to Be Displayed at London's Royal Academy of Arts



the agreement in the presence of other officials.

Within the framework of cooperation, an Exhibition featuring artworks influenced by the Mongol Empire will be held for three months at the Royal Academy of Arts, an institution with a 250-year history known for shaping

the British art scene and attracting 1.2 million tourists annually.

The Exhibition will be the second major international effort to promote Mongolia through art, following the exhibition "Chinggis Khaan: How Mongols Changed the World" in France.

Khuslen Ariunjargal Wins Gold Medal at Roller Skiing Junior World Championships



The Roller Skiing Junior World Championships took place in Ziano Di Fiemme, Italy, on September 12-15, 2024.

At the Championships, Mongolian athlete Khuslen Ariunjargal, who competed in the U19 men's category, made the National Anthem of Mongolia resonate on the world stage. Khuslen has become the first Junior World Champion of Mongolia in roller

skiing, competing in a 200-meter sprint along with 34 athletes from 17 countries.

Khuslen is the son of International Sports Master Ochirsuren Erdene-Ochir, a participant in the Winter Olympics in Turin 2006 and Vancouver 2010. Khuslen was ranked 42nd out of 79 skiers at the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympics and is currently training under the guidance of his mother.