

Mongolia Hosts "DroneCon-2025" National Drone Racing Championship

Under the auspices of President of Mongolia and Commander-in-Chief of the Mongolian Armed Forces Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, the first "DroneCon-2025" National Drone Racing Championship of Mongolia was held at "Buyant-Ukhua" Sports Complex of Ulaanbaatar on January 24-25, 2025.

The Championship aims at developing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) sports in Mongolia, facilitating drone manufacture, ensuring technological security, and integrating UAV technology into various sectors, such as agriculture and society.

President Khurelsukh observed the final matches of the Championship and presented awards to the top participants. The President emphasized that drone technology is advancing at an extraordinary pace globally and is rapidly being adopted across numerous sectors, including the economy, defense, disaster response, and more, saving considerable time, and money, and reducing the need for human resources. For instance, in 2023, the drone market grew by 44 percent in the construction sector, 38 percent in agriculture, and 28 percent in defense. The Com-



mander-in-Chief of the Mongolian Armed Forces noted, "Given Mongolia's vast territory with diverse climatic conditions, limited infrastructure, and small population, it is of great importance for the country to widely utilize cutting-edge technology in every field and to be interna-

tionally competitive in information and communications technology. Such measures are crucial for ensuring national security. Therefore, the government policy, active public involvement, and public-private partnerships should focus on introducing drone technology, using

it broadly for national security and various industries, training skilled operators, and ultimately developing domestic drone manufacturers."

President Khurelsukh expressed confidence that the first "DroneCon-2025" National Drone Racing Championship

would not only promote drone sports in Mongolia but also expedite drone usage, manufacturing, and development, making a vital contribution to strengthening Mongolia's drone technology sector and nurturing professionals in this sector. The President also commended the active participation of military and law enforcement agencies in the "DroneCon-2025" National Drone Racing Championship of Mongolia. President Khurelsukh underlined that in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies, they should pay particular attention to encouraging children and youth to build drones and aircraft models, as well as to develop this sport in Mongolia, be at the forefront of using the UAVs in Mongolia, and advancing its software. Moreover, the Head of State highlighted the necessity of establishing and enforcing a precise legal framework for using UAVs in line with international practices and experiences, as well as developing systems for drone defense.

Expressing the confidence that the scope of the Championship would expand year by year and become an international event, President Khurelsukh extended heartfelt gratitude to the Air Force Command of the Mongolian Armed Forces for successfully organizing the Championship and to all the public and private organizations for their contributions. Over 500 athletes participated in professional, amateur, gaming, and self-assembly categories of the "DroneCon-2025" National Drone Racing Championship of Mongolia.

Winners of the "Best Mongol Calligrapher-2024" International Contest Honored



On January 22, 2025, the winners of the "Best Mongol Calligrapher-2024" International Contest were honored at the Exhibition of the Best Calligraphy Works, displayed at the Chinggis Khaan National Museum of Mongolia.

Organized by MONTSAME National News Agency and the only Newspaper in Mongol Script "Khumuun Bichig," the Interna-

tional Contest took place in eight categories, with more than 1200 participants from all corners of Mongolia, as well as the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Buryatia of the Russian Federation.

In her opening remarks at the Award Ceremony, Director General of MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency

Sodontogos Erdenetsogt noted, "The Award Ceremony for the "Best Mongol Calligrapher-2024" International Contest, and the Opening Ceremony of the Exhibition of the best works auspiciously coincide with a new chapter in our history, as we reinstate the millennia-old Mongol Script for use in the public office of Mongolia.

This year, the Contest was organized in eight categories, with more than 1200 participants. Mr. S. Jigmedsuren, 102 years old, was the oldest participant of the Contest, while the youngest participants were U. Ganzaya, a first-grader at the Classical Music School of the Mongolian State Conservatory, and M. Bujlkham, a first-grader at the secondary school of Tosontsengel soum of Khuvsul aimag.

In the category "Handcrafts," the first place goes to J. Ariunzul, a 12th-grader at secondary school No. 34 of Khan-Uul district of Ulaanbaatar city. She demonstrated mastery of the traditional embroidery art of Mongolia,

"Zuu Orookh," Mongolian knot stitch, proving herself as a young inheritor of the art. She masterfully embroidered the ornamental folded style of the Mongol script "Ugalzan Tig" in daalin (colorful silk bags for khuurug (snuff bottle)). This is a masterpiece truly worthy of admiration.

Exceptional works, such as the wool yarn applique by the teachers of the Mongolian Art Center for Children's Creativity, the Rubik's Cube design with Mongol Script by students of "Gegee" Secondary School in Ulaanbaatar, the penmanship works with a brush by the teachers and students of "Zuun Khuree" College, who are reviving and promoting the combination of the Soyombo and Mongol scripts, and the handmade felt work by S. Bayarmunkh, a student at the Mongolian State University of Education, brought distinctive flair, novel craftsmanship and creative atmosphere to this year's Contest.

The scope of the "Best Mongol Calligrapher" International Contest has expanded remarkably compared to previous years.

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Website: montsame.mn/en
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Bloomberg commodity price 2025/01/30		
GOLD	USD/t oz.	2804.50
COPPER	USD/lb.	426.60
SILVER	USD/t oz.	31.73
BRENT CRUDE	USD/bbl.	76.48
WHEAT	USD/bu	560.00

Ambassador of Türkiye to Mongolia Awarded the "Friendship Medal"



On January 27, 2025, President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Türkiye to Mongolia Zafer Ateş, upon the completion of his term in Mongolia.

President Khurelsukh highlighted that the first visit by

the President of Mongolia to the Republic of Türkiye in 21 years, which took place within the commemoration of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Republic of Türkiye, was highly successful. The President expressed gratitude to Ambassador Zafer Ateş and the staff of the Embassy for their efforts in organizing this historic visit that elevated bilateral relations between the two countries to a Strategic Partnership.

Furthermore, in recognition of his contributions to expanding and developing Mongolia-Türkiye relations and cooperation in politics, defense, economy, trade, culture, education, and humanity,

and consolidating the friendship between the peoples of the two countries, President Khurelsukh awarded Ambassador Zafer Ateş the "Friendship" Medal.

Ambassador Zafer Ateş expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Mongolia for their all-around support and collaboration during his tenure. The Ambassador expressed his commitment to making all efforts towards further expanding and developing bilateral relations between the two countries. Ambassador Zafer Ateş presented his Letter of Credence to the President of Mongolia in May 2021.



President Khurelsukh Receives Ambassador of Poland to Mongolia

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Mongolia Krzysztof Boyko on January 27, 2025.

President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa highlighted the notable progress made in bilateral relations and cooperation between Mongolia and the Republic of Poland, noting that the State Visit of President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Sebastian Duda to Mongolia in 2023 provided a crucial catalyst for this advancement. The President acknowledged the active efforts of Ambassador Krzysztof Boyko and the staff of the Embassy of Poland in Mongolia in

realizing the decisions reached by the two Heads of State.

Head of State of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa awarded Ambassador Krzysztof Boyko the "Friendship" medal in recognition of his contributions to expanding Mongolia-Poland relations and cooperation in numerous social and economic sectors, bringing them to a new level, and strengthening the national capacity of emergency agencies to respond to disasters.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Mongolia Krzysztof Boyko presented his Letter of Credentials to the President of Mongolia on May 28, 2019.



The Office of the President of Mongolia reports that during the Ambassador's time in office, Poland reopened its embassy in Mongolia in 2023, and since 2024, the Embassy has been providing consular services to Mongolian citizens.



New Wastewater Treatment Plant of Ulaanbaatar City to Be Commissioned in August 2025



The Performance Monitoring Unit in charge of reducing air pollution in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, supporting the implementation of projects and measures regarding infrastructure development and providing intersectoral coordination and prompt management held its regular meeting on January 25, 2025.

At the meeting, a presentation was made on the road project to connect the Khushig Valley Tunnel with the Selbe Highway. Ulaanbaatar City is implementing several projects to mitigate traffic congestion, including the Tuul Highway, Bogd Khan Mountain Tunnel, and the Selbe Revival Project.

The Selbe Highway, starting from the intersection behind the Songolon Bridge and connecting with the road of the Selbe subcenter, will be 25.2 kilometers long, have four lanes, and 15 intersections, and is expected to ensure horizontal flow without traffic lights. As the southern part of the Selbe Highway and the northern part of the Selbe Revival Project road overlap for 6.5 kilometers, the design needs to be revised. Several alternatives for connecting the roads at multiple

levels and linking them with the Bogd Khan Mountain Tunnel have been proposed.

Representatives from the Ulaanbaatar Chamber of Commerce presented issues related to establishing a favorable legal environment for fostering public-private partnerships. In compiling the suggestions from over 150 organizations, they emphasized that in order to develop public-private partnerships and increase private-sector involvement, it is necessary to ensure the equal protection of the interests of both domestic and foreign investors for the duration of the project, establish a system to protect the technology and business secrets of project initiators and implementers and develop a liability mechanism. Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsan-namsrai instructed Chairman of the Cabinet Secretariat Uchral Nyam-Osor to collaborate with the Ulaanbaatar Chamber of Commerce in improving public-private partnerships and to align it with the "Business Friendly" program based on the experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Premier also informed the attendees to present these issues to the

Cabinet meeting and ensure the relevant decisions are made.

In addition, members of the Performance Monitoring Unit proposed adopting the FIDIC (International Federation of Engineers) model contracts, making amendments to relevant laws to incorporate the four main principles of international procurement, passing the Law on Infrastructure Development, updating the technical requirements and standards for improved solid fuel, revising the procedures for evaluating and reporting air quality based on the Air Quality Index, and other suggestions. Former Mayor of Ulaanbaatar City Bat-Uul Erdene remarked, "We have reviewed the integrated development plan for Ulaanbaatar. Connecting the Khushig Valley with Ulaanbaatar has created a new space for the city. If the plan is approved by the State Great Khural, investors will consider it a reliable and legalized plan."

After the meeting, Prime Minister Oyun-Erdene Luvsan-namsrai visited the construction site of the New Central Wastewater Treatment Plant of Ulaanbaatar, which is being built with concessional loans from the People's Republic of China. The project is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be commissioned in August 2025. In line with this project, technologies for wastewater recycling are being introduced, with 60 percent of the implementation completed. The recycling of the treated water will reduce underground water use for industrial purposes.

CABINET SESSION



During its regular session on January 29, 2025, the Cabinet of Mongolia made following decisions:

Ulaanbaatar City to Stockpile 10,000 Tons of Meat

The Cabinet of Mongolia decided to prepare 10,000 tons of reserved meat for the food consumption of Ulaanbaatar City in the spring of 2025 and supply it to the market starting from March 20 of this year.

The Cabinet assigned relevant officials to monitor the supply, distribution, and sales operations, as well as the quality and safety of the reserved meat. The Anti-Monopoly Agency of Mongolia was instructed to take urgent actions to prevent artificial scarcity, price hikes, and the limitation of competition, focusing on the prices and supply of staple food. The Food and Agriculture Department of Ulaanbaatar City announced a tender for the preparation and supply of reserved meat and has signed contracts with six entities.

"Atar-4" Sustainable Agriculture Development Campaign to Begin in February

The Cabinet of Mongolia approved the action plan of the "Atar-4" Sustainable Agriculture Development Campaign aiming at introducing advanced technology and crops suitable for the soil and climate of Mongolia and supporting industrial agriculture.

President of the Bank of Mongolia Lkhagvasuren Byadran was instructed to fund soft loans to agricultural enterprises that operate in agriculture, livestock, and food production sectors through commercial banks in line with relevant laws and regulations.

As part of the "Atar-4" Sustainable Agriculture Development Campaign, 60 measures will be implemented in line with five goals including "Adapting to Climate Change, Environmentally-Friendly Agriculture," "Regional Development," "Industry and Value Chains," "Innovation and Technology," and "Risk Management System and Foreign Trade."

Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Legislation Submitted to the Parliament

On January 23, 2025, Head of the Standing Committee on Justice Tsogtbaatar Damdin submitted a draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Legislation to Chairman of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve.

Initiators of the draft considered the need to amend the Law on Legislation, which regulates relations in initiating and drafting laws and other provisions of the State Great Khural in accordance with Constitution, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Mongolia is a party, Mongolia's long-term development policy, the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan of the Parliament, determining requirements to set on drafts of the legislation, ensuring public participation in the drafting, submitting the drafts to the Parliament, publishing and promoting of the adopted legislation, and assessing their implementation outcomes. Moreover, since 2015, 93 sections and 54 clauses of the Law on Legislation have been amended, or a total of 111 sections and 64 clauses have been amended in a repeated count. In this regard, there is a need for technical adjustments to standardize the structure, terminology, and content of this law.

Amendments were proposed to the Law on Legislation, including the need to carry out the impact assessment of a draft law by independent research or analytical organizations, introducing a specific methodology for evaluating the compliance of draft laws with human rights standards, broader estimation of the costs associated with implementing laws, and the inclusion of comparative studies in the preparation of legal drafts when necessary.

The draft Law on Amendments emphasizes that any amendment to an existing law should be consistent with the principles and content of the

original law and related draft laws. It also mandates that public feedback be incorporated into the drafts, and the justification for the proposals should be included in the detailed presentation of the draft. Moreover, the draft suggests developing the unified legal information system (legalinfo.mn) into a centralized platform for public consultations on law drafts.

Regarding the special powers of the State Great Khural to legislate, the draft law on Amendments seeks to eliminate any provisions that restrict the scope of these powers. The draft proposes that regulations granting administrative acts be limited only to specific instances authorized by law, such as implementing particular provisions or organizing related activities. Furthermore, it specifies that no administrative act should restrict human rights and freedoms or regulate issues that the Constitution requires to be addressed by law.

Furthermore, the draft Law on Amendments calls for mandatory consultations with the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the Human Rights Commission for law drafts affecting human rights or judicial processes. For laws that have been in effect for five years or more, the draft law requires a formal evaluation of their effectiveness and public discussions on the findings.

By approving this draft Law on Amendments, it is expected that the quality of legal implementation will improve, ensuring that all laws comply with the fundamental principles of the Constitution and human rights. This will eliminate conflicts and inconsistencies between laws, improve the quality and efficiency of lawmaking, and enhance the reliance on research and evaluation in the legislative process.

UN Resident Coordinator Presents Letter of Credence to Foreign Minister of Mongolia

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mongolia Jaap van Hierden presented his Letter of Credence to Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Battsetseg Batmunkh on January 23, 2025.

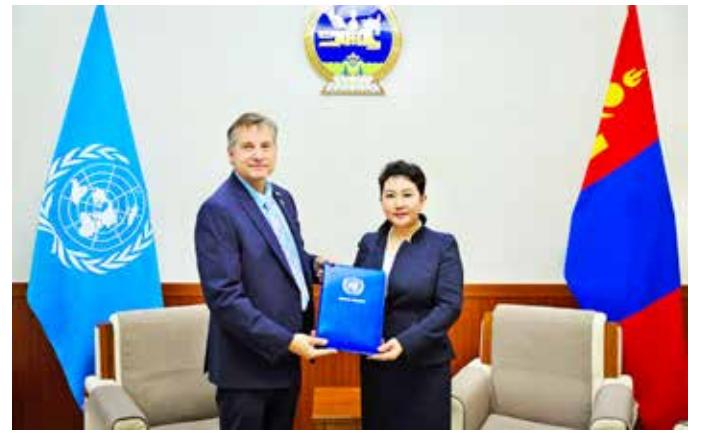
Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh congratulated Mr. Jaap van Hierden on being appointed as Resident Coordinator in Mongolia and expressed confidence in his contribution to strengthening and expanding cooperation between Mongolia and the United

Nations. Mr. Jaap van Hierden expressed gratitude to Foreign Minister Battsetseg and affirmed close collaboration in implementing joint development agendas. The Resident Coordinator also praised the Government of Mongolia for successfully hosting the Female Foreign Ministers Meeting and the World Women's Forum, highlighting Mongolia's efforts toward gender equality and promoting women's leadership.

Resident Coordinator Jaap

van Hierden has over 30 years of experience in development, humanitarian action, and peacebuilding, including establishing, managing, and leading offices and projects and strategic, policy, operational, managerial, and coordination roles and responsibilities.

Prior to his appointment to Mongolia, Mr. Jaap van Hierden served as the first UN Resident Coordinator of the new UN Multi-Country Office in Micronesia hosted by Pohnpei/



Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kirati. (FSM) supporting Palau, FSM,

Mongolia and the Kuwait Fund to Cooperate in Road and Transportation



During the working visit to the State of Kuwait to establish an Agreement on Aviation Relations, State Secretary of the Ministry of Road and Transport of Mongolia Batbold Sandagdorj met with Acting Director-General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development Waleed Al-Bahar.

At the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on current projects and programs to be implemented collaboratively by Mongolia and the Kuwait Fund. Specifically, the two parties discussed the joint implementation of the project to expand the 101.7-km Ulaanbaatar-Lun Highway, which is a part of the 382-km Ulaanbaatar-

New Kharkhorum City project, to six lanes and agreed to jointly implement the project with Qatar's Sovereign Wealth Fund, Dubai Investment Fund, Oman Investment Fund, and other international investment organizations.

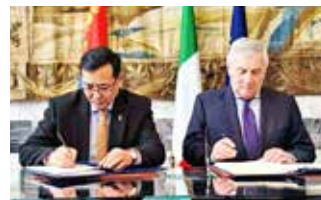
Acting Director-General Waleed Al-Bahar noted that the Kuwait Fund closely cooperates with Gulf Cooperation Council funds and expressed commitment to involve these funds in implementing joint projects and to fully implement current projects that are underway.

In 2018, a Grant Agreement of USD 3.5 million for the Renovation of Undurkhaan Airport was signed between the Government of Mongolia and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The project to reconstruct Undurkhaan Airport of Khentii aimag is now in progress.

Additionally, Mongolia and the Kuwait Fund cooperated in various projects in the road and transport sector. From 2002-2015, a total of 415 kilometers of roads on the Darkhan-Erdenet, Erdenet-Bulgan-Unit, and Unit-Tarialan routes were built with funding from the Kuwait Fund.

Mongolia and Italy Sign Agreement on Aviation Relations

Marking the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the Italian Republic, State Secretary of the Ministry of Road and Transport of Mongolia Batbold Sandagdorj and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic Antonio Tajani signed an Agreement on Aviation Relations.



The Agreement aims at expanding and developing international cooperation in the aviation sector between Mongolia and Italy, establishing a legal framework for direct flights between the two countries, and laying the foundation for broader cooperation across various sectors. It will help promote economic relations and boost trade turnover.

In recent years, trade between Mongolia and Italy has steadily increased, with bilate-



ral trade turnover ranging from USD 150 to 188 million between 2022 and 2024. Italian enterprises producing knitted and woven goods have been importing combed wool and cashmere from Mongolia, comprising a major portion of exports from Mongolia to Italy, and this volume is expected to grow further.

Transporting raw materials by sea and land is time-consuming and faces numerous customs and logistical challenges. Therefore, Italian companies are keen on air freight. The Intergovernmental Agreement on Aviation Relations is vital not only for tourism and passenger transport but also

for developing freight cargo operations.

The Ministry of Road and Transport of Mongolia reported that the two sides have agreed to collaborate on developing aviation relations between the two countries, expanding air transport services at regional and international levels, and fostering cooperation in road transport and other fields. The two countries will also collaborate in establishing an "International Road Transport Agreement" between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of the Italian Republic, as well as expediting mutual recognition of driver's licenses.

Mongolia and Envision Group Sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Cooperate in the Energy Sector



On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia and Chair of the National Committee of Energy Dorjkhand Togmid met with foreign representatives to discuss energy cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister Dorjkhand met with Minister of In-

vestment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Khalid Al-Falih. The two sides discussed advancing the dialogue between Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai and the Saudi side on cooperating in green energy during his visit to the country in December 2024 and collaborating in other fields.

Deputy Prime Minister Dorjkhand informed Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih of the 14 mega projects the Joint Government of Mongolia is implementing. The two sides exchanged views on investment opportunities in Mongolia. Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih expressed great interest in investing in Mongolia, underlining the possibility of mutually beneficial cooperation in the energy sector. The two sides agreed to put greater emphasis on establishing an intergovernmental agreement and memorandum on cooperation in renewable energy between the Government of Mongolia and the Government of Saudi Arabia.

Minister of the Cabinet Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Meets with Deputy Prime Minister Dorjkhand Togmid

The two sides discussed moving to the next stage of dialogue on renewable energy cooperation, which was initiated during

Prime Minister of Mongolia Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai's visit to the UAE in December 2024. The parties also held talks on signing a Memorandum of Understanding in the near future with the Ministry of Energy of the UAE and MADSAR company, which is one of the leading companies in renewable energy.

Minister of Cabinet Affairs of the UAE Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi expressed desire to establish a Joint Economic Committee between the two countries and invited Deputy Prime Minister Dorjkhand to visit the UAE and attend the "World Government Summit" in Dubai.

Mongolia Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with "Envision" in the Energy Sector

The National Committee on Energy of Mongolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Envision Group, a global leader in green technology. Under this MoU, the two

sides will cooperate in building a 500-megawatt battery energy storage station, export renewable energy, and create green jobs, in alignment with Mongolia's long-term development policy "Vision 2050" and the "New Revival Policy."

Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia and Chair of the National Committee on Energy Reform Dorjkhand Togmid highlighted that Envision's proven solutions will help Mongolia fully harness its renewable energy potential, establish reliable energy infrastructure, and foster stable development in the region. Chairman of the Board of Directors of Envision Group Zhang Lei expressed confidence that this partnership will enable Mongolia to achieve its climate change objectives and accelerate economic development.

In collaboration with the International Finance Corporation, China's Envision Group has built a 50 MW/200 MWh energy storage facility in the Baganuur district, financed through bonds issued by Ulaanbaatar City. The facility will be handed over before this winter's peak demand period.

Health Insurance Fund Revenue Rises by MNT 445.5 Billion

The Health Insurance Fund's revenue reached MNT 2,034.2 billion by the end of 2024. This marks an increase of MNT 445.5 billion compared to the same period of 2023.

This increase in revenue was driven by the following factors:

- Health insurance premium income increased by MNT 209.1 billion from 2023,
- Premiums paid by the State

Budget of Mongolia on behalf of individuals whose insurance is fully covered by the Government of Mongolia rose by MNT 72.1 billion,

•The State Budget of Mongolia allocations for healthcare services financed through the Health Insurance Organization grew by MNT 163.4 billion.

By the end of 2024, the Fund's expenditure on health ser-

vices amounted to MNT 2,073.9 billion, which is MNT 521.7 billion more than the same period in 2023.

The main driver of this increased expenditure was the rise in subsidized medicine costs, which went up by MNT 47.5 billion compared to the same period in 2023.

As of the end of 2024, a total (non-duplicated count) of 3,275.0 thousand people were covered by health insurance. Of these insured individuals:

- 2,291.2 thousand have their premiums fully covered by the State Budget,
- 770.9 thousand have their premiums paid individually and by their employers,
- 212.8 thousand pay their premiums entirely on their own.

Health insurance is the system in which the government,

individuals, and legal entities pay insurance premiums in accordance with the law, thereby building up the Health Insurance Fund in advance, and purchasing healthcare services.

An insured individual is a citizen who, under the Health Insurance Law, regularly pays premiums in advance to the Health Insurance Fund and holds the right to share potential financial risks arising from health-related issues through this fund.

Other insured individuals pay their own health insurance premiums, other than those outlined in Articles 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, and 6.1.9 of the Health Insurance Law.

Individuals whose premiums are covered by the State Budget are children aged 0-18, citizens without a steady income apart from a pension, members of households needing social welfare assistance, mothers or fathers caring for a child, citizens serving in active military duty, and individuals serving prison sentences.

The health insurance premium is a fee paid by a citizen or on their behalf by the Government of Mongolia or a legal entity to the Health Insurance Fund at a legally specified rate for health insurance coverage.

The package of healthcare services covered by the Health Insurance Fund encompasses comprehensive healthcare services essential for diagnosis, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, palliative care, nursing, active exercise, and sports, including subsidized medicine costs, as clarified by the National Statistics Office of Mongolia.



Industrial Output of Mongolia Increased by MNT 1.5 Trillion in 2024

According to the preliminary results, the total production of the mining and extractive sector of Mongolia reached MNT 22.8 trillion in 2024, an increase of MNT 1.2 trillion compared to 2023.

Specifically:

•The production of bituminous coal and lignite increased by MNT 834.7 billion,

•The production of metal ore increased by MNT 509.1 trillion, or 4.9 percent.

In the mining and extractive sector, the physical production volumes of copper concentrate (in metal content), concentrated coal, bituminous coal, iron ore, lignite, zinc concentrate, fluor spar, and iron ore concentrate, increased by 12.0-50.6 percent compared to the same period in 2023. Moreover, the physical production volumes of silver concentrate, oil, unrefined gold, and fluor spar concentrate decreased by 5-32.5 percent.

In the manufacturing sector, the physical production volumes of key products, such as lime,

coal briquettes, liquid milk, water, soft drinks, livestock meat, cement, and vodka increased by 0.6-15.1 percent. However, the production volumes of products such as absolute alcohol, metal billets, flour, cigarettes, combed cashmere, cathode copper, and cashmere knitwear decreased by 4.2-46.3 percent.

The total industrial output in 2024 reached MNT 32.2 trillion according to preliminary estimates, an increase of MNT 1.5 trillion compared to the same period in 2023. This growth was driven by:

•An increase of MNT 1.2 trillion in the mining and extractive sector,

•An increase of MNT 191.2 billion in the electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply sector.

According to the preliminary results, the total sales of products in the industrial sector amounted to MNT 50.4 trillion in 2024, which increased by MNT 3.1 trillion compared to the same



period in 2023. Particularly:

•Mining and extractive sector sales increased by MNT 2.7 trillion,

•Sales in the electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply sectors increased by MNT 185.5 billion.

Sales in the mining and extractive sector in 2024 exceeded the previous year by MNT 2.7

trillion, mainly due to:

•An increase of MNT 1.8 trillion in the metal ore extraction sales,

•An increase of MNT 996.5 billion in the coal extraction sales,

•An increase of MNT 78.6 billion in other mineral extraction sales.

According to the preliminary

results, Mongolia sold products equivalent to MNT 36.2 trillion to the foreign market, of which MNT 34.9 trillion came from the mining and extractive sectors. The composition of foreign sales of the mining products was as follows:

•60.0 percent from coal extraction,

•35.6 percent from metal ore extraction,

•3.1 percent from oil extraction,

•1.3 percent from other mineral extraction.

Total industrial output consists of the total products manufactured by enterprises and organizations for market sale and/or internal final consumption during the reporting period.

Sales of Industrial Products refers to the volume of goods sold or services rendered by enterprises and organizations during the reporting period, according to the National Statistics Office of Mongolia.

Mongolia's Workforce Demand in 2025 to Reach 83.7 Thousand



According to a study by the Employment Policy Research Department of the Training, Assessment, and Research Institute of Labor and Social Protection of Mongolia, workforce demand for the domestic labor market in 2025 will reach 83.7 thousand.

The labor market of the country is greatly affected by the season. Two out of every three job openings in a year tend to be created in the first half of the year and this trend is expected to continue in 2025, with 79.2 percent of the total labor force demand falling in the first half of the year. In the last 10 years,

the national labor demand has fluctuated between 52 thousand and 95 thousand, with an average of 76.2 thousand, while in 2025 this figure will reach 83.7 thousand.

The labor market demand research is vital in determining the short-term labor demand of the Mongolian labor market, providing policymakers and decision-makers, as well as researchers and data users with information that can be used in the medium-term and long-term estimates of labor demand, according to the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Protection.

Number of Foreign Visitors Entering Mongolia in 2024 Increased by 32.6

In 2024, a total of 7.1792 million travelers crossed the border of Mongolia, representing an increase of 1.8443 million, or 34.6 percent, compared to the previous year.

Among the 3.5766 million travelers who entered Mongolia in 2024, 34.0% used the Zamiin-Uud border port, 25.9% arrived through Chinggis Khaan International Airport, 9.6% entered via Altanbulag, 8.9% via Gashuunsukhait, 5.2% through Shiveekhuren, and 16.4% via other checkpoints. Of the total inbound travelers, 2.7228 million (76.1%) were Mongolian nationals, while 853.8 thousand (23.9%) were foreign nationals. Compared to the previous year, the number of Mongolian citizens entering the country increased by 714.0 thousand (35.5%), while the number of foreign visitors grew by 209.8 thousand (32.6%).

Among the foreign visitors, 516.6 thousand (60.5%) were male, and 337.2 thousand (39.5%) were female.



In terms of regional distribution, 63.3% of the foreign visitors were from East Asia and the Pacific region, 32.1% from Europe, 2.5% from the Americas, 1.2% from the Middle East, 0.7% from South Asia, and 0.2% from Africa. By nationality,

29.6% of the foreign visitors were from China, 26.2% from Russia, 22.6% from South Korea, 3.1% from Japan, 2.9% from Kazakhstan, 2.1% from the United States, and 13.5% from other countries.

New Zuunmod City Planned as an Eco-Friendly City

On January 27, 2025, Authorized Representative of the Government of Mongolia in Charge of Governing New Zuunmod City Batbayar Munkhuu provided updates on the progress of New Zuunmod City during a briefing with officials.

New Zuunmod satellite city is designated to implement the special functions of the capital city, Ulaanbaatar, and is projected to cover an area of 31,501 hectares.

The key infrastructure of the satellite city will be built through public-private partnerships, in-



cluding 128.5 kilometers of roads, a thermal power plant with a capacity to produce 250 MW of electricity and 465 MW of heat, and a wastewater treatment plant with a capacity to process 20,000 cubic meters of wastewater per day.

The General Development Plan for New Zuunmod City was approved by Resolution No. 143 of the Government of Mongolia in 2022. According to the Plan, the city will feature a free economic zone for trade, services, administration, transport logistics, manufacturing, an international airport, air cargo

facilities, and resource management. Furthermore, the Plan includes the construction of university campuses, research and development centers, and wholesale and retail trade hubs.

Authorized Representative of the Government Batbayar Munkhuu stated, "A wastewater treatment plant, with a capacity to process 20,000 cubic meters of wastewater daily, will be built between New Zuunmod City and Zuunmod City. In the first phase, a treatment plant with a capacity of 3,000 cubic meters per day is currently being designed by the "Naran Rashaant" company, with

96 percent of the design work completed. In terms of communication infrastructure, "Mon Cable Systems" is constructing an underground fiber-optic cable network, including a 22-kilometer line with 96 cores and a 17-kilometer line with 48 cores. The construction work is approximately 50 percent complete. Furthermore, a comprehensive plan with the concept of "Zero Energy City" to develop the New Zuunmod City into a smart and sustainable city powered by renewable energy will be presented to the Government."

Progress Update on Key Projects to Reduce Traffic Congestion in Ulaanbaatar Presented

On January 22, 2025, the Integrated Project Implementation Unit of Ulaanbaatar City for Traffic Congestion Reduction presented updates to specialists from the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing of Mongolia regarding the research, analysis, and calculations conducted within the project's timeline.

As part of Ulaanbaatar's traffic congestion alleviation efforts, the cable car transport project is being implemented with a concessional loan from the Government of the French Republic. The cable car system is projected to transport passengers from Yaarmag to the Unur Residential Complex in 11 minutes. The fare for the cable car service has not been finalized yet. The project team is conducting quarterly analyses based on the feasibility study and price fluctuation calculations. The team aims at offering the lowest possible fare for citizens. Construction of the main tower and cabins will be completed by

June 2026. Following installation, a six-month test phase without passengers will be carried out according to regulations. The team is working to expedite this process, aiming for the State Commission's acceptance before September 1 of next year. Coordination with the Governor's Office of the Capital City has been completed. As part of the land acquisition, parts of the "Bars-2" shopping center near the "Khar-khorin" trade center will be demolished. During peak hours, the Yaarmag road sees traffic from 90-95 thousand vehicles. The project seeks to mitigate such heavy traffic flow.

•The Light Rail Transit (LRT) is an eco-friendly, energy-efficient, and effective transport solution, becoming an integral part of modern green cities. Powered by electric motors, some LRT systems operate on renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and water. Moreover, the LRT can carry a larger number of passengers at once,



reducing the reliance on cars and minimizing noise and air pollution. Therefore, it lowers the risk of respiratory diseases among citizens.

•The metro system is one of the key projects to introduce high-capacity public transportation and reduce traffic congestion. As part of the Ulaanbaatar Metro project, vertical drilling with a depth of 30 meters was made in 42 points

along the 17.7 km route, spaced 500 meters apart. Construction of the 17.7 km metro line under the city's busiest horizontal passage, Enkhtaivan Avenue, has commenced.

•From an engineering perspective, the Tuul Highway Project is expected to be completed within two years. The team is collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

to implement major projects. Representatives from various sectors are involved in the Working Group to discuss issues for each area.

Detailed information on the current progress and implementation of other projects, such as the Tram project, Tunnel project, Special Needs Bus project, and the Thermal Power Plant-5 project, were also presented.

Fresh Vegetables from Greenhouses Supplied to the Market



Tugs Urgats LLC has begun supplying fresh produce from its winter greenhouses to the market.

Within the framework of the "Food Revolution" National Movement, Tugs Urgats LLC secured a preferential loan of MNT 3.95 billion, plus a MNT 12 billion green loan from Khan Bank. Using these funds, the company built and commissioned a Dutch-style, fully automated, sustainable winter greenhouse on two hectares in the capital. The greenhouse operates year-round, harvesting two tons of cucumbers daily and

supplying them to Ulaanbaatar.

Under Resolution No. 36 of the State Great Khural (Parliament) of Mongolia, titled "Measures to be Taken to Ensure Food Supply and Security," a total of MNT 14 billion in investment loans was disbursed through commercial banks during 2023–2024 for the establishment of 26 new winter greenhouses by individuals and businesses. As a result, the area dedicated to winter greenhouse cultivation has expanded by 2.3 hectares, according to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industry of Mongolia.

Winners of the "Best Mongol Calligrapher-2024" International Contest Honored

Continued from page 1

Mongol Script experts and calligraphers from the Khorchin Mongols of Tongliao City in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China (the PRC), the Upper Mongols in Qinghai Province of the PRC, and the "Titem Art" studio in Ulan-Ude of the Republic of Buryatia of the Russian Federation, tested their skills in this Contest, upholding its international reputation and enriching its content and composition."

Education, Science, and Technology Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia Lodoiravsal Choimaa delivered the greetings of President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa.

In the greetings, President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa underscored, "I would like to express my deepest gratitude to MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency and its 33-year-old weekly newspaper "Khu-muun Bichig" for successfully organizing the "Best Mongol Calligrapher" Contest for the 28th time, expanding its scope into international horizon, and for their valuable contributions to the noble cause of preserving, promoting, and passing the Mongol script and its associated culture onto future generations.



This year, the Award Ceremony of the "Best Mongol Calligrapher" International Contest, which is taking place on the eve of the Year of the Blue Snake, and which honors the winners of the Contest, bears special importance as it coincides with a historic moment of we introducing the Mongol script in public office, to be used along with the Cyrillic script.

More than forty years have passed since we began teaching the Mongol script to our children, the only vertical script in the world, a custodian of our mother tongue, a key to the Mongol mind, and a precious intellectual cultural heritage of humankind.

With the aim of honoring, disseminating, preserving, and passing on this invaluable cultural heritage, the State Great Khural of Mongolia adopted the "Law

on Mongol Language" in 2015. According to this Law, starting from January 1, 2025, Mongolia began using the Mongol script in public office.

As the Head of State of Mongolia, I am satisfied with the reinstatement of Mongol script, a golden tether of the sovereign Great Mongol Empire with millennia-old history established by Great Chinggis Khan, for official use in public services of Mongolia.

I call upon the children, youth, and citizens of Mongolia to diligently study the Mongol script, the manifestation of the centuries-long history and legacy of our statehood, the immunity of the Mongol mind and culture, and a symbol of our independent nation. Let us strive to become true masters of our cultural heritage."



The Ministry of Education of Mongolia completed all 21 construction projects planned under the first component of the

Schools and Kindergartens Built and Renovated Through ADB Funded Project

“Improving the Quality and Accessibility of Education during an Economic Downturn” Project, which has been implemented since 2019 with concessional loans from the Asian Development Bank.

With funding from this project, two new schools and two new kindergartens were built, while five schools and 12 kindergartens were expanded. This resulted in an additional 3,400 school seats and 2,325 kindergarten beds. Consequently, around 10,000 children in Ulaanbaatar City, Darkhan-Uul, Gobisumber, and Gobi-Altai aimag centers now have accessible, healthy, and safe learning environments that meet standards. In addition, 478 new jobs were created.

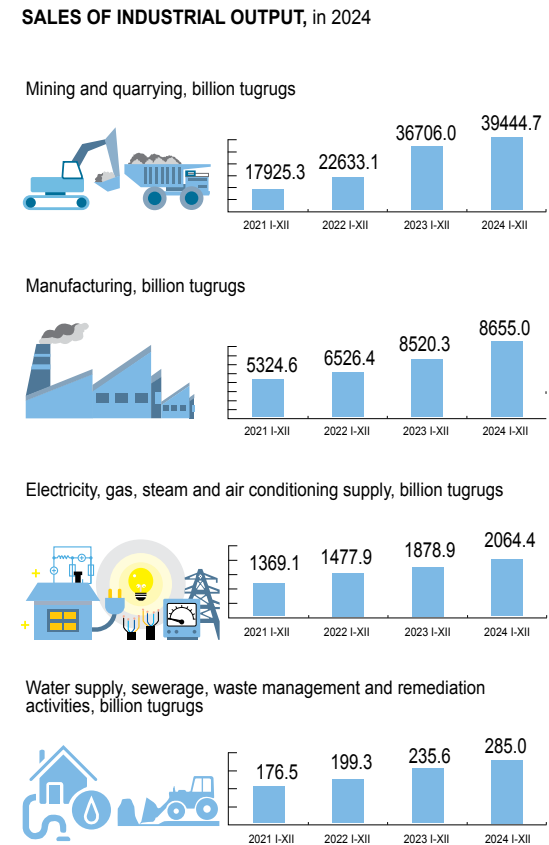
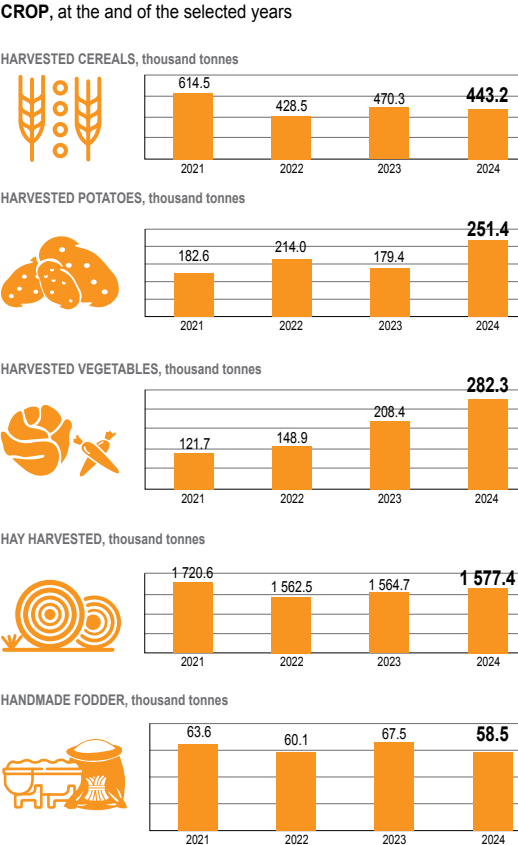
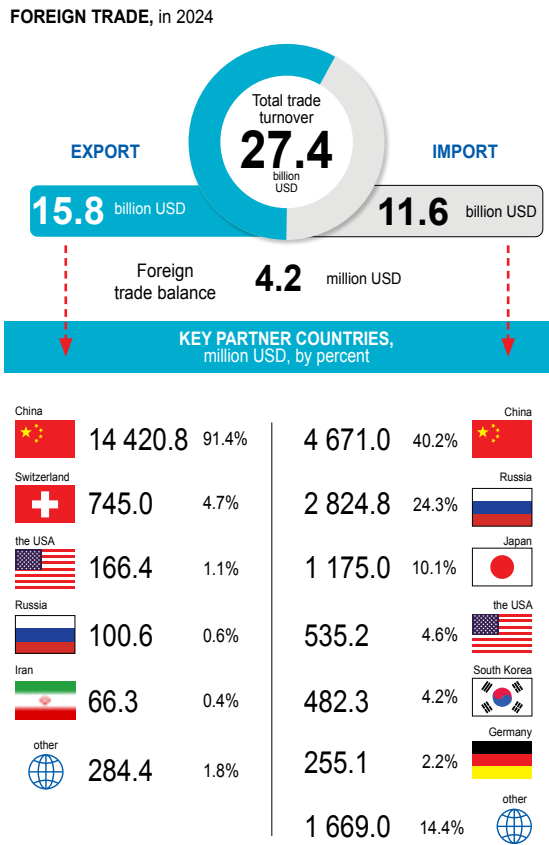
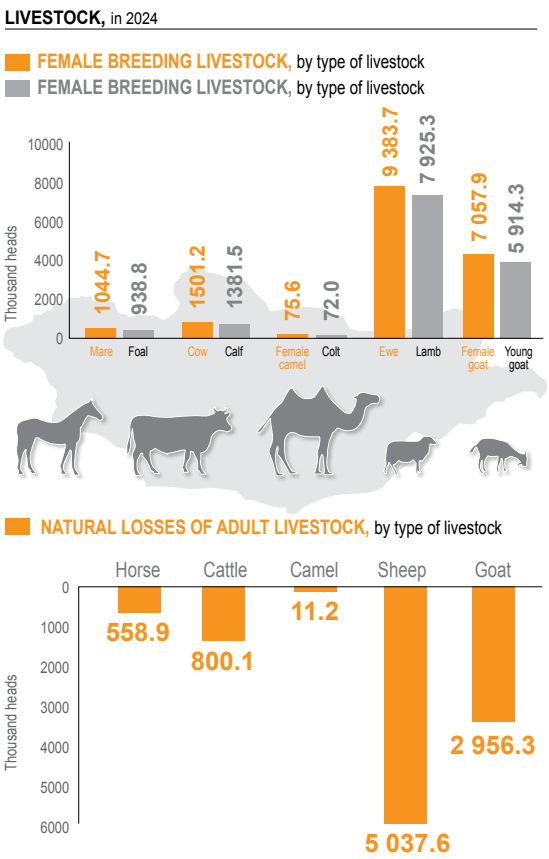
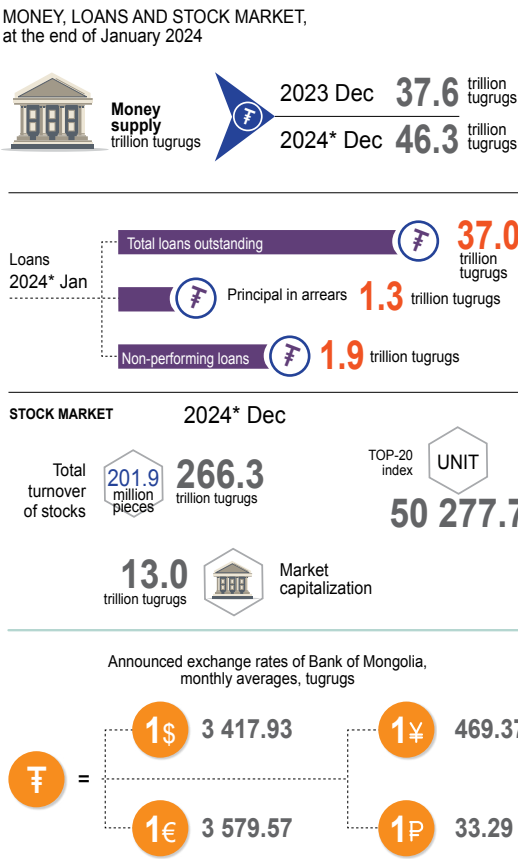
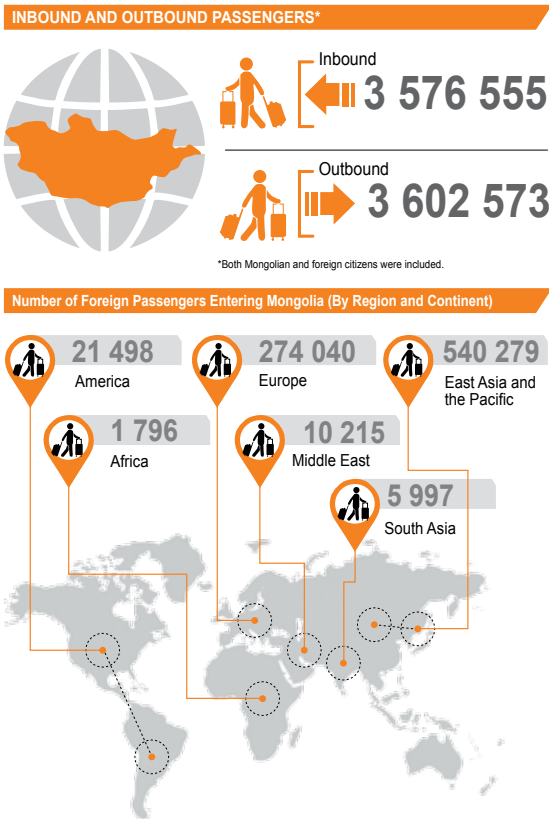
Two schools and seven kindergartens were constructed in the Bayanzurkh and Songino-khairkhan districts in Ulaanbaatar, which have high population densities and a high number of migrants from rural areas. Furthermore, the project furnished all newly built and expanded schools and kindergartens with necessary furniture, computers, equipment, kitchen appliances, soft furnishings, and other teaching materials, thereby creating a supportive environment for children’s learning and development.

On March 3, 2024, the Government of Mongolia and the Asian Development Bank finalized an agreement for additional financing of this project. As a result, the Ministry of Education is planning to build three more schools and six kindergartens in the capital and rural areas, increasing capacity by an additional 960 school seats and 940 kindergarten beds.

Social and Economic Performance of Mongolia

(Preliminary results of 2024)

ТҮҮИЗМ, за 2024 год





The second round of the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup was held in Saas-Fee, the Swiss Confederation, on January 23-25, 2025.

The Ice Climbing World

Cup attracted 125 athletes from 20 countries. In the competition, Selenge Nyamdoo, an International Master of Sports and athlete of the "Sutain Bor" Club clinched the gold medal in

Mongolian Athletes Win Gold and Silver Medals at the Ice Climbing World Cup

the Speed Climbing category, sounding the National Anthem of Mongolia. This achievement follows her success just 17 days earlier in Cheongsong, the Republic of Korea, where she secured both gold and silver medals at the opening of the World Cup series and Asian Championships.

Meanwhile, in the Men's Speed Climbing category, Mandakhbayar Chuluunbaatar, World Cup Champion, an athlete from "UB Hiking" Club and International Master of Sports, proudly stood on the podium, claiming the silver medal.

Mongolia has sent a team of eight athletes to compete in the World Cup series. Their next challenge awaits on January 31,

2025, in Champagny-en-Vanoise, the French Republic, followed by a series in Longmont, USA, and Edmonton, Canada.

The International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation has organized the Ice Climbing World Cup series since 2000.



Hoshoryu Byambasuren Promoted to 74th Yokozuna

Hoshoryu Byambasuren, the winner of the January 2025 Hatsu Bashi (Grand Sumo Tournament), was officially promoted to the rank of Yokozuna by the Japan Sumo Association (JSA) on January 29, 2025.

In the previous tournament, Hoshoryu secured second place with a 13-2 record. This time, he clinched the championship with a 12-3 record, meeting the requirements to become the 74th Yokozuna in professional sumo history. Following his victory, the Yokozuna Deliberation Council,

an advisory body within the Japan Sumo Association, convened and unanimously endorsed his promotion with a 9-0 vote. The JSA Board of Directors later ratified the decision, leading to his official promotion as the 74th Yokozuna.

The association dispatched Sakaigawa Oyakata and Oonaru-to Oyakata as representatives to formally deliver the decision. The sumo officials were received by stablemaster Tatsunami Oyakata, along with his wife. Upon hearing the news, Hoshoryu expressed his gratitude, saying:

"I humbly accept this great honor. I will dedicate myself wholeheartedly to upholding the dignity of Yokozuna and will do my utmost to meet the expectations placed upon me. Thank you all very much."

Hoshoryu, now the 74th Yokozuna in professional sumo and the sixth Mongolian-born grand champion, began his sumo career in January 2018. He was promoted to the Juryo division in January 2019 and made his debut in the Makuuchi division during the Aki Bashi (Autumn Tournament) in 2020. After winning the Nagoya Bashi in 2023, he attained the rank of Ozeki. Having competed in 42 professional tournaments, he has now reached the pinnacle of sumo as a Yokozuna.

His promotion is the sixth fastest in sumo history, meaning he is the sixth wrestler to achieve the Yokozuna rank in such a short period. In comparison, his uncle, legendary sumo champion Asashoryu Akinori (Dagvadorj Dolgorsuren), reached the rank of Yokozuna after competing in 25 tournaments.

Since the first Mongolian wrestler stepped onto the dohyo (sumo ring) during the 1992 Haru Bashi (Spring Tournament), this marks the sixth time in 33 years that Mongolia has produced a Yokozuna. The decision to grant Hoshoryu the title was made in just eight minutes. Despite initial concerns over his 12-3 record, his two additional playoff victories were highly valued by the council, ultimately securing his promotion.



Mongolian Freestyle Wrestlers Claim Two Silver Medals at the Ivan Yarygin Cup-2025

On January 23-26, 2025, the 36th Ivan Yarygin Cup, an A-class international freestyle wrestling competition named after the two-time Olympic champion Ivan Yarygin, took place in Krasnoyarsk, the Russian Federation, where the Mongolian team claimed two silver medals.

The 2025 Ivan Yarygin Cup brought together around 250 freestyle wrestlers from 23 countries, who competed in ten weight categories. Representing Mongolia, a team of four male and

four female wrestlers, including World Champion Tserenchim Sukhee, silver medalists of the World Championships Delgermaa Enkhsaikhan and Davaanasan Enkh-Amar, took part in the competition under the guidance of the coach of "Aldar" Sports Committee and Honored Athlete of Mongolia B. Odonchimeg. Specifically, in the women's 68 kg weight category, Silver Medalist of the World Championships Delgermaa Enkhsaikhan earned the silver medal, while in the

women's 76 kg weight category, Silver Medalist of the World Championships Davaanasan Enkh-Amar claimed the silver medal.

Mongolian wrestlers usually participate in large numbers in this tournament held in Russia. However, this year, as the competition overlapped with the Mongolian National Freestyle Wrestling Championship, only a limited number of athletes competed.

Mongolian National League Champion to Compete in the East Asia Super League

The champion from "The League," hosted by the Mongolian Basketball Association, will compete in the East Asia Super League, which unites the strongest leagues in Asia, for the 2025-2026 season.



The East Asia Super League (EASL), which is recognized by the International Basketball Federation, features the league champions of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Macau, and Hong Kong. The Mongolian team, champions of

the 2024-2025 season of "The League," will compete in the East Asian Super League in September 2025.

In the East Asia Super League, each team plays three games at its home court and three games on its opponent's court, with a total of six games in the group stage of the season. With a prize pool of USD 2.5 million, the League offers various opportunities to top national teams, including earning bonuses for each victory. The EASL platform allows the best Mongolian team to compete with the best teams in Asia.

The EASL is broadcast live in 18 countries, with an average of eight million viewers per game. Therefore, the joining of the national champion to EASL enhances the country's promotion internationally while also encouraging the development of Mongolian basketball. The official schedule for the EASL will be announced in June, with opening games to begin in September 2025.

Mongolian Team to Compete in Curling at the Asian Winter Games for the First Time

The 9th Asian Winter Games, a premier showcase of the region's finest winter sports talent, will unite athletes from across Asia to compete in a variety of disciplines. The Asian Winter Games will take place in Harbin, the People's Republic of China, on February 7-14, 2025.

This year, 36 athletes from Mongolia will compete in seven disciplines across four sports, accompanied by 28 coaches and officials. Among these, curling has garnered the most attention as Mongolians are set to participate in this sport at the Asian Winter Games for the first time. Athletes B. Bayar and G. Enkhzaya are preparing to compete in the mixed-team category.

The Mongolian Curling Federation, established in 2011, became a member of the World Curling Federation and the Pacific-Asia Curling Federation in 2012. In the same year, Mongolia formed its first National Team, which took part in joint training



camps, spending 21 days in Harbin, the People's Republic of China, and 14 days in Uiseong, the Republic of Korea.

The Federation has reinvigorated its activities since 2019 and now consists of 15 active athletes. In October 2022, the National Team competed in the Junior "B" World Championship in Finland, and in 2024, our athletes participated in a youth curling camp in Lillehammer, Norway.

The "Mongol Hun Gem Chess" Now on Display

The "Mongol Hun Gem Chess," sophisticatedly crafted with an aim to promote the valuable cultural artifacts of the Luut City [Dragon City], the ancient capital of the Hunnu Empire, to the world, is now on display at the Chinggis Khaan National Museum of Mongolia.

The Unveiling Ceremony of the "Mongol Hun Gem Chess" was held on January 27, 2025. The Ceremony was attended by Head of the Office of the President of Mongolia and President of the Mongolian Chess Federation Zandanshatar Gombojav, and Secretary-General of the Mongolian Chess Federation Naranbaatar Bukhchuluun.

President of the Mongolian Chess Federation Zandanshatar Gombojav noted, "President of Mongolia Khurelsukh Ukhnaa issued a Decree on Supporting the Mongol History Studies to accelerate the study and promotion of Mongol history, including the

origin of the Mongols, statehood traditions, heritages of nomadic civilization, the contributions of the Mongols to world history, and to strengthen the shared national values and independence of Mongolia. In line with the Decree, the "Mongol Hun Gem Chess," a one-of-a-kind chess set, was made with Mongol craftsmanship."

Director and Craftsman of the "Shidirev" Workshop R. Bayasgalan said, "I began working on this chess set in 2003, a time when historical research related to the Hunnu Empire was scarce. Fortunately, today, the ruins of Luut City, the ancient capital of the Hunnu Empire, have been uncovered through archaeological excavation, and the epics of Mongol chess are being revealed. The "Mongol Hun Gem Chess," infused with Mongol craftsmanship, is now publicly displayed. I have dedicated 20 years of my life to creating

this chess set. Through this work, my goal is to demonstrate that chess, a game that quenches the intellectual thirst of humanity, actually originated in Mongolia."

Member of the Academic Council of St. Petersburg State University of the Russian Federation and Researcher of Ancient Chess A. Batzorig noted, "Although it is widely believed that the game of chess originated 1,500 years ago, several pieces of evidence suggest that it actually originated in the Hunnu Empire. Therefore, the date for the creation of chess should be considered even earlier. The "Mongol Hun Gem Chess" beautifully embodies chess concepts recorded in ancient sutras." Also, President of the Mongolian Chess Federation Zandanshatar Gombojav and the first Chess Grandmaster of Mongolia and Honored Athlete



of Mongolia B. Khatanbaatar made a ceremonial first move on the exquisite chess set.

Inspired by archaeological finds in Mongolia, the chess set combines intricate Mongol craftsmanship with modern technology. The chessboard itself weighs 61.3 kilograms, measuring 82 cm by 82 cm and standing 30 cm high. Its storage box weighs 49.9 kilograms, measuring 64 cm by 40 cm and 45 cm high. Made of gold, silver, and precious stones,

the "Mongol Hun Gem Chess" is scheduled to be auctioned in Hong Kong this March. The chess set will be displayed to the public at the Chinggis Khaan National Museum of Mongolia until March 12, 2025.

Previously, Craftsman R. Bayasgalan created monumental works, including the Constitution of Mongolia, the Secret History of the Mongols, and the Book of Honored Guests of the State Palace of Mongolia.

Jigmedsuren Sandag: During My 46 Years in the Education Sector, I Taught 40 Thousand People the Mongol Script



The winners of the "Best Mongol Calligrapher-2024" International Contest organized by the "Khumuun Bichig" Newspaper of MONTSAME Mongolian National News Agency received their awards on January 22, 2025.

This year, more than 1,200 works were submitted from nine districts of the capital, 18 aimags, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Buryatia of the Russian Federation. The oldest participant in the Contest was 102-year-old Jigmedsuren Sandag, a resident of the Bayangol district, while the youngest participant was Ganzaya Ulsbold, a first-grader at the Classical Music School of the Mongolian State Conservatory. During the Award Ceremony, the two participants shared their thoughts.

S. Jigmedsuren noted, "I

am participating in the "Best Mongol Calligrapher" International Contest for the 27th time. The Mongol script is an astonishing intellectual heritage of the Mongols and a symbol of national independence and our people living by our true identity. Therefore, every Mongol ought to learn the Mongol script. I have regularly participated in the Contest, hoping that future generations would learn the Standing script unflinchingly and become diligent practitioners.

From 1940 to 2015, I have dedicated 75 years of my entire life to the development and prosperity of my country. Of these, 46 years were committed to education and science, and 29 years to military service. During this period, I have taught 40,100 people the Mongol script.

I would like to impart to the

next generation that human beings are a creation of nature, consisting of the body, the language, and the mind. Humans were given intelligence in order to live wisely. The most powerful thing in the universe is intelligence. One can sharpen and expand the mind through books. The purpose of oneself is not merely being alive, but to live. Therefore, I hope you respect and honor your language and literature."

The youngest participant U. Ganzaya shared, "I have created my favorite things for the "Best Mongol Calligrapher-2024" International Contest. That's why I made Mongol gers and toys. I added the letter "B" to draw a house, and the letter "Sh" to draw a bird. Also, I used the letter "B" to draw a tiger, and the letter "Kh" to draw a violin. I thought I would create something cool."

Erdene Zuu Monastery Selected as One of 25 Historic Sites for World Monuments Watch Program

The World Monuments Fund has officially announced its selection of 25 historic and significant sites requiring attention, one of which is Erdene Zuu Monastery in Uvurkhangai aimag.

The nomination of Erdene Zuu Monastery was submitted by the Arts Council of Mongolia in collaboration with the World

Monuments Fund (WMF) for the 2025 World Monuments Watch Program.

Over the next two years, the international team of the Watch Program will collaborate with the selected sites, evaluating local needs and developing strategies for support, conservation, and funding. Depending on the amount of funding, the WMF will assist local partners in de-



veloping targeted initiatives, including fundraising campaigns, planning, research, education, and physical conservation projects. For over 55 years, WMF has been implementing proven, effective techniques to protect architecture and cultural heritage at over 700 sites in 112 countries with the expertise of highly skilled professionals.

Notably, the Chojin Lama Temple Museum was nominated for the 2020 World Monuments Watch Program. The Museum gained international attention and received technical assistance for restoration through international collaboration for three years.

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WEATHER

Sunrise: 08:22 Sunset: 17:49

■ Ulaanbaatar and Central Aimags: Night temps between -27 C and -24 C. Day time temps between -19 C and -14 C
■ Eastern Aimags: Night temps between -30 C and -27 C. Day time temps between -17 C and -15 C
■ Western Aimags: Night temps between -24 C and -18 C. Day time temps between -16 C and -10 C
■ Gobi Aimags: Night temps between -19 C and -16 C. Day time temps between -10 C and -6 C