### Home News

### **BRIEF NEWS**

A construction worker died and three others seriously injured after being electrocuted on a UB residential construction site last week. The four men were helping

maneuver and load a mobile crane Kraz plate No94-66 when the crane hit electrical

lines.
They were working on the UB Town residential project, Khan-Uul district,

EVERY June 14. World Blood Donor Day is organized by the Mongolian Red Cross Society

Mongolian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and National Blood Center (NBC) in Mongolia. The main purpose of the World Blood Donor Day is to inform the public about the benefits and significance of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donations and to express respect and gratitude for donors who save precious human lives.

For this year's

For this year's celebrations, organizers held the campaign under the slogan of "Let's give blood constantly", focused on raising the status of blood donors among the public.

During the event, blood donors danced and sang, and over 30 people received the Honorable Blood Donor award from MRCS and NBC

A 26-year-old man from the Bayan-Onjuul area, Tov aimag Bayan-Onjuul area, Tov aimag appeared to have symptoms of the bubonic plague a week after he hunted a marmot and ate its meat, the Emergency Call Center informed the local emergency management agency on June 8.

He is running a high temperature and has swollen lymphatic glands. He is being treated at the local hospital and is awaiting laboratory analysis.

is awaiting laboratory analysis results for a final diagnosis. The governor has imposed strict quarantine in the area.

# Journalist's Successful Appeal Victory for Fourth Estate

### Mongolia's legal system tested by one reporter's fight against corruption

By Sh.Batmonkh

THOSE challenging the truth of journalists' reports are generally high ranked officials. Even though journalists may have accessed reliable source of information and published the truth, Mongolian officials aten them with lawsuits of

large fines.

On June 10,
B.Javzandulam, a local reporter and editor-in-chief of Ovorkhangai newspaper, held a press conference revealing the illegal activities of high ranked officials.

She accused officials as high up as the Governor of Arkhangai of awarding themselves or their families' lucrative contracts to service

Javzandulam investigated several local complaints about how the Lunch Program was running in Ovorkhangai, before she wrote a story about it in Ovorkhangai.

Her research allegedly revealed that officials had set up the personal businesses and vered the standard of the food given to students in

order to maximize profits.

She said the high-ranking officials were making money at the expense of children. The officials complained to the officials complained to the local court, which found her guilty of spreading untrue rumors. An Appeal Court had then upheld this decision.

The Independent Agency of Against Corruption (IAAC) inspected several schools and

ound substance in the

allegations.

They consequently found that suspected high officials concealed their property and misreported their personal come and property to the IAAC.

Despite the IAAC dismissing the officials from their posts, the guilty officials including the Governor have refused to resign and

have refused to resign and remain in their posts. "Most people in Ovorkhangai knew about the illegal business. But the people who are connected to corruption used their power who are com-corruption used their power and authority to put pressure on the local court to decide in their favor," the journalist said during the press conference. There have been numerous

lunch program has been implemented. According to a government decision last year, children in the first three grades in secondary schools were to have a free midday snack at

school.

The Government of Mongolia pays the school Tg300 per meal for every child.

Several school authorities have been charged with giving poor quality food, even as they ontinue to draw money from the government.

This month the Suprem

Crackdown

IN CONNECTION to the

fake medicine crack down in Mongolia, the State Professional Inspection

Illegal Medicine

and B.Monkhjargal, head of the Ovorkhangai aimag's Education, Culture and Science

Dashzeveg, a representative of the Globe International International NGO, campaigned for her in the case. The Supreme Court overturned the lower courts'

"If I didn't ask favor fron my compatriot journalists, then I could never have won at the Supreme Court," Javzandulam said.

Javzandulam said.
"I feel the media and journalists have powerful voice and strength."
Mongolia is currently one of the world's few countries where journalists found guilty of defamation can be sentenced to prison.

## Mining to Destroy River System

THE head of Parliament's Standing Committee on Foreign Policy and Security called for the cancellation of an American company's mining license last Friday (June 13), warning that a major rivers will dry up.

After she visited the Erdene area, Tov aimag last week, B.Monkhuya submitted her petition to the committee, saying that the

committee, saying that the world's third biggest drainage area's point of intersection is located near to the Ar and Ovor Janchivlan spring

"Ar and Ovor Janchivlan springs will dry up," Monkhtuya said.

She also said the special sloration license permission exploration license permission issued to the American-invested mining company would threaten the local

ople.

Monkhtuya said she would campaign to cancel the mining license.

The area is a junction point of three freshwater

Asian rivers originate in the area.

Local people have complained that the inevitable use of chemicals in the mining work will endanger the quality of the water carried by all these rivers.

The US-invested Toroi Bandi mining company

The US-invested Toroi Bandi mining company obtained a license from Erdene soum's legislative body. Monkhtuya said she could not talk to the company's officials and

workers said they were unsure what they were mining for

yet.
"We do not know what

"We do not know what we are searching for. It may be uranium, that's what we have heard," the workers said. Chinese workers of the company have already cut down hundreds of young trees at the source of the river that feeds the Ar Janchivlan hot spring, famous for its medicinal properties.

## New Library Revives Intellectual Resources

New Library K:
SOME of Mongolia's highest
profile dignitaries, including the
President, last week attended
the official ceremony for the
laying of the foundation stone
for the new State Central
Library building.
The library is in front of
the US Embassy and is
expected to become a key
intellectual resource for
students and scholars.
It was attended by the
President N.Enkhabayar,
Ulaanabaatar Mayor T.Bilegt,
Ulaanabatar Mayor T.Bilegt,

Ulaanbaatar Mayor T.Bilegt, President of Mongolian Academy of Sciences B.Chadraa, Minister of Education, Culture and Science N.Bolormaa, scholars and other

officials.

During the event,
Enkhbayar said over 50
volumes of world literature
would be translated into the
Mongolian language and Tg495
million will be spent for the
expense of publishing and
translating the volumes.

The 50 volumes of the
world literature will be
distributed to libraries in all
secondary schools, vocational
colleges and production centers,

according to the Education Minister N.Bolormaa.

"Mongolians are a nation who creates books and sutras of gold, wraps them with silk,

The training they provide is hands-on, with Swiss and

Mongolian surgeons working together as a team with

itients from diagnosis

care.

Each year they treat more than 200 patients with a wide range of medical conditions.

The Swiss surgeons instruct the Mongolian doctors on the different surgical procedures and techniques that can be used for particular conditions, and then supervise them throughout those procedures. The same approach is taken

The same approach is taken by the Swiss anaesthetists and

nd puts them on the most onorable places," Bolormaa

. "This new building is one "This new building is one of the greatest investments ever made to the education and culture sector since the beginning of transition period.
"I hope that everyone who wants to come over three constantly," said N.Bolormaa.
The USS20 million aid that will be used to construct the

Mongolia, the State Professional Inspection Agency last week conducted a national investigation and found several pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmaceits producing and selling drugs failing to meet acceptable standards.

They inspected 272 pharmacies, three honoritals since the pharmacies of the pharmacies, three honoritals since the pharmacies, three honoritals since the pharmacies, three honoritals since the pharmacies, there honoritals since the pharmacies of the phar will be used to construct the new State Central Library building has come from the Government of Kuwait and any pharmacies, three hospitals, six medicine-manufacturing plants, and 40 medicine supply companies.

As a result of the investigation, they confiscated extra charges will be provided the Government of

27 various drugs as being of low quality, shut down the

operations of two companies and demanded 39 medicine supply companies improve their sanitary conditions. In total, 62 officials and 25

In total, 62 officials and 25 companies were fined with a total of Tg4 million.

The Agency also found that several pharmaceutical laboratories do not follow the hygienic and safety regulations.

Many such factories are not even in authorized

not even in authorized buildings. The Agency decided on the inspection after receiving numerous complaints about the poor quality of medicines produced and sold in Mongolia.

## Meeting Searches for **Greener Pastures**

A SCIENTIFIC conference is being held between June 16 to being held between June 16 to 20, in Kempinski Khan Palace in Ulaanbaatar under the theme: "Improvement of a capacity of local people in Mongolia to adapt to climate changes which are based on Pasture ecosystem management."

Taking part in the meeting is both Mongolians and American scholars and experts who are conducting research

who are conducting research into the development of the local-based pasture animal husbandry.

Both countries' scientists exchanged views on pasture

and on ways to solve problems.

The meeting will establish a joint research program aimed at developing scientific and practical knowledge on the ecosystem management of pastures.

pastures.

The meeting is jointly arranged by Colorado University, SIDA, UNDP, World Bank, Union of Magnetics. Mongolian Pasture Management, Mongolian Academy of Sciences and Scientific Institute of Animal Husbandry

### DEVELOPMENT Swiss Doctors' Decade in Mongolia Delivers Results

IN 1996, adventurous Swiss surgeon Dr. Pierre Tschantz set out on horseback across Mongolia.

During his travels he came to Kharkhorin, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire, 365 km from Ulaanbaatar.

365 km from Ulaanbaatar.
There he visited the local
hospital, where he soon
realised the dire situation
facing hospital staff: a lack of
working equipment, a lack of
up-to-date medical training;
and medical practices that fell
far short of the 20th century
standards.
In short, the Moneolian

own devices to do as best they could with the little they had.

Alarmed by what he saw and wanting to provide his struggling Mongolian colleagues with better equipment and training, Dr. Tschantz decided to mobilise

support among the Swiss medical fraternity.

On his return to Switzerland he asked the Switzerland he asked the Swiss Branch of the College of Surgeons to help improve the desperate conditions in Mongolian hospitals and to help develop the skills of the local surgeons. He also challenged other doctors to join him on his next

Founder: Editor in Chief:

English Editor



journey to Mongolia during

His efforts paid off, and the following summer he and five other surgeons travelled to Mongolia and began working with Mongolian surgeons and anaesthetists at the National Central Hospital and the National Cancer Centre.

1998 marked the start of

1998 marked the start of the Swiss Surgical Team (SST) in Mongolia, which this year celebrates its 10th anniversary. Each year since then, the SST has grown, attracting an increasing number of volunteer surgeons and anaesthetists, and recently nurses. Their main goal is to train their Mongolian counterparts

their Mongolian counterparts in surgical techniques and

a team with anaesthetists and nurses to produce the best results and provide the best patient care both before and

by the Mongolia.

project from the outset and its present leader, emphasises

the importance of working as

patient care both before and after surgery.

"In the past, this was not the case in Mongolian operating rooms," he said.

The addition of nurses to the SST came about when team members realised the need to provide specialised training for nursing staff.

Since 2007, the SST has included surgical nurses in the team. There are also plans to

team. There are also plans to Health Science University of Mongolia (HSUM) with the Nursing School of the Geneva Medical University to improve overall nursing car

in Mongolia. In 2002, the SST established a new Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the National Central Hospital of Mongolia, for which they contributed all the necessary equipment at a cost of

US\$300,000.

The head of the ICU Dr.

Ganbold said the assistance
has improved services

Dr. Kehrer, one of the doctors involved in the The UB Post is Mongolia's national independent English newspaper. It offers readers both at home and abroad the latest information on political, economic, cultural and educational developments in Mongolia.

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### Culture

### BRIEF NEWS

AFTER a several year break, the opera Jargaliin Zam will again be performed soon to mark the 45th anniversary of State Opera and Ballet The

The opera was first performed in 1951 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the People's Revolution.

As a general producer of the opera, state merited solo singer A.Dashpeljee is working on the project, which will have singers D.Tuya, O.Uyanga,

The opera is a story abou love mixed with t independence of Mongolia.

UN Envoy for Children and state merited singer T. Ariunaa has launched a performance in London, UK.

Her concert was launched in London on July 1 and will continue until June 5 through

A DRAMA festival titled Classic Drama 2008 is being launched by a Mongolian artists association and will perform at rural drama theater until June 26.

A main purpose of the

festival, which began on May 5, is to identify and improve the standard of the rural theatres and launch new artist

to the public as well.

Organizers consider that to perform classic drama is challenging work and can contribute greatly to rural theatre development.

POP singer B.Tsogtdelger's much-anticipated pop concert titled *I Love Her* was launched in the Cultural central Palace on June 14, to mark the 35

anniversary of the Soyol Erdene ensemble.

B.Tsogtdelger, who has been singing for 20 years, received a cultural merited award at the concert.

THE Mayor's office of Ulaanbaatar and the Disabled Peoples' Association held an event titled We Can Do Everything at Freedom Square on June 12.

Various works of over 40 disabled people were displayed at the exhibition including souvenirs, jewelries and handcrafts. The event was launched for the first time, and organizers said it would ome an annual event

THE Big Band jazz group performed at the State Philharmonic House on June 11, 2008 to mark the 40 anniversary of the Bayan Mongol ensemble. Performed at the concert by music director, cultural merited B.Ganbat, were well known melodies My Favorite Things, God to Read, Queen Sara Wonderful World and Sambi

AN ANNUAL rese that includes painters from Mongolia, Russia and South Korea began in Korea on June

The tour enabled the painters to exchange their experiences and to discover new ideas. It is the fifth year Mongolian painters have participated in the tour and displayed their works in South Korea.

HONORABLE concert in memory of composer Khangal was held at the State Philharmonic House on June 6, marking his 60th birthday. Many popular artists and researchers arrived at the

concert and enjoyed Khangal's creations, such as the Salkhit Shuvuu symphony composition, music from the Erdenesim II.-II. esiin Uul ballet, concert for piano and orchestra and melodies for violoncello.

A PAINTING exhibition titled Capitalist Art was launched by art researcher Ts.Uranchimeg at the National Art Gallery and the Khan

National Art Gallery and the Khan Bank Art Gallery this week. In 1968, when Mongolia had socialist regime, some young painters launched an exhibition and presented their free styled ations. The exhibition was then

The exhibition was then forbidden by the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party just after opening and painters were punished as well.

The Committee called the paintings on that exhibition "art of hourgeois Society"

of bourgeois society".

The paintings displayed at the galleries were painted from 1950 to 1970 by B.Chogsom, U.Soosai, G.Dunburee and P.Baldandorj.

As an organizer said, a main purpose of the exhibition is to show the public that despite these artists living in an extremely closed society, they refused to close their minds off to the outside world The Khan Bank exhibition will

tinue until June 5 and the National Art Gallery exhibit will be open until July 14.

## Insight into a Closed World



# Solongo Returns After Japan Success



This is true; I have never

presented my concert in Mongolia or released a CD. When I was 7 years old, I entered the College of Music and Dance in Ulaanbaatar. I participated in the World Children's Musical Festival nd won Grand Prix prize at

alla won Guana Tro, practicage 12.

That is why you are studying in Japan?

I received an offer from Japan after 1go Grand Prix. I have released five albums during my study at the Music University of Osaka.

You are officially registered in Jasrac as a singer. Can you introduce us about the Jasrac?

Jasrac is an organization

property of music and song. The organization makes cooperation contracts with registered singers. For example, if someone sings my song in a karaoke bar I could

take my quota though Jasrac.

I think to compete in the
Japanese music market is really ough to compared Mongoli I was really hectic during my stay in Japan. My manag used to awake me at 5 am a

used to awake me at 5 am and give me 5-6 songs I had to memorize, ready to sing them in the evening.

There is a management difference of culture between Mongolia and Japan.

In Japan, I only had to single because my manager and producer did all the other work. In Mongolia, I need to do everything myself. do everything myself.

As you mentioned

will you present your albu for Mongolians?

sixth album in Mongolia in the Mongolian language I took my concert on tour

through many Japanese cities. I haven't decided yet when I will present my concert in Since I came to Mongolia.

I have worked more as a composer than as a singer.

Let's talk about your Otgonsolongo Foundation?
If you do not mind, would tell us your financial recourse of your fund?

Resource is only from the profit of my albums and concerts.

concerts.

I was sick in 2000 and diagnose was said work less. That time I recognized that to

nothing. Since then I'm trying to

help sick children and to do something good for them. I'm healthy now and believe that God blessed me for my

Otgonsolongo The Foundation donated music instruments to the Music and Dance College of Mongolia. I heard that Japanese children gave the instruments.

Japanese NGO Phutonara and some Japanese people gave them to deliver to Mongolians.

groups?

I would say they are go ough to compete

## Opera Set for Proud Return

the Opera and Ballet Theater A.Dashpeljee talked about

upcoming opera Jargaliin Zam.

I heard that you are

I heard that you are working on the Jargalin Zamopera as producer?
Since I graduated from Bulgarian Culture University, I have been working as a solo singer in opera for 20 years. Although I'm a singer, to offer me the opportunity to produce opera is a great honor and a big responsibility for me.

Have you ever produced an opera before?

I lecture in singing methodology and opera performance at the University of Culture and Arts, therefore I have worked on many

I have worked on many student works of opera. I also produced the opera Cockoo Namjil, according to a request from the Border Troops Ensemble. Will you do some changes to Jargaliin Zam?

The opera was first performed in 1951 to celebrate performed in 1951 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the People's Revolution and it includes a story about announcing the independence of Mongolia by public election. This part will be kept this time as well. The opera will open on July 11, so we are working hard on it. In terms of music, it is a second Mongolian opera after Three Dramatic Characters.

Characters.

An advantage of the Jargaliin Zam opera is that it was created as a pure type of opera with orchestra from

beginning and the melody is delightful

It is an interesting opera as it shows Liberation War of 1945 and Socialist competition while 1945 demonstrating mainly a love story about Khanlin and Bor. A stage will be newly decorated.

How many sections does opera have?
It contains three sections.
Who will play as a main

role?

It is 45 years since the opera was first performed using many of Mongolian famous artists, such as Tsogzolmaa, Baatar and Khaiday.

Khaidav.
This time, our theatre's young generation will play in the opera including Uyanga, Tuya, Dalantai, Tumendemberel and Tumendemberel and Dorjsuren, and there will be a completed crew of symphony orchestra, ballet and chorus.

conchestra, ballet and chorus.

How many hours will the opera continue?

It will be go for about two hours. Working on the project as a general music director is cultural merited Burenbekh, as a painter there is people's painter Gungaasukh and as a choirmaster is Dashbyamba.

What will be your next project after this opera?

This year is the 45th anniversary of our theater, therefore we plan to perform many classic creations which means we will be hectic during a year and I hope that we will have a full audience as well.

have a full audience as well.

## Drama to be Staged in July

A DRAMA Kharts Khatan is going to be presented in the State Drama Theater July 9 to 11, with State Prize Winner 11, with State Prize Winner GBirvaa composing and State Prize Winner D.Torbat composing music. This time, People's Artist B.Monkhdorj is producing the

Kharts Khatan drama that originated from the Khyalar Khatan legend. State Merited Actress

B.Erdenetsetseg, who won the nomination for best actress in the Saint Muse 2008 festival,

## Art Expo Sends Kids' Work Abroad

AN ART exhibition children's work will be held on June 20 in an effort to raise money to send the artwork abroad for an international festival.

The children's work has been invited by the Yuvabadhana Foundation to participate in the children's art exhibition in Bangkok,

The money raise from the event, which is being held at the Soyol Art Gallery on Seoul Street at 6pm on Friday, June 20, will go towards sending the work to Thailand and future ceramic arts programs.
For more information head

to www.ancientfragments.com

## Swiss Doctors' Decade in Mongolia Delivers Results

Continued from page 2 health problems

dramatically.

"In our hard times during the early 1990s, we closed the intensive care unit at the Central Hospital.

"We were facing a lot of difficulties in caring for patients who had undergone serious operations. Our Swiss fellows have done incredible work to re-establish the ICU," he said. Since 2002, the Medical

University of Geneva has sen doctors twice a year to train the ICU staff. In addition, the operating room was equipped with international-standard The National Cancer

The National Cancer Centre of Mongolia and the Mother and Child Health Research Centre have equally benefited from partnerships with the Swiss surgeons and

and surgeons.

Many of these doctors

were left to their own devices and relied on the training and knowledge gained from their studies during Soviet times, more than 20 years ago. Together with the HSUM.

the SST began to organise trainings in the Regional Diagnostic Centres in the rn and eastern aimags, ir Arvaikheer, Khovd, Altai and Arvaikine., .
Sainshand.
The World Health

Organization, recognising the importance of the initiative, is supporting the participation of local doctors at the SST

Doctors and nurses from the surrounding aimags and soums attend the trainings as well, bringing with them patients who have challenging

"The nurses in the countryside hospitals were surprised to see somebody came to help them. We were able to show them that we are together with our scrub-nurses," said Dr. Phaedra Mueller, a general surgeon from the University hospital in Bern Switzerland

oital in Bern, Switzerland hospital in Bem, Switzerland.
To ensure the
sustainability of the SST's
work and to support further
training of local doctors, the
SST's most recent project is
the establishment of
"telemedicine" in Mongoliaonline communication
between urban and rural
hospitals, linked to an
international network of
hospitals.

hospitals.
"This is a very interesting part of our project," Dr. Kehrer

"Once medical students leave the Mongolian university there is little training for them. Telemedicine opens doors for advanced training.

training.
"Doctors in any soum in Mongolia with internet connection can access new knowledge and information from medical professors and doctors from all over the world while working in their hospitals and interact with them.

"One of the team members, who is a professor at the University of Basel, was

able to give a lecture to his students in Basel while working in Mongolia. "With the same system, the Health Science University of Mongolia can provide lectures and trainings to countryside doctors and help them in their difficult

"If they face any problems diagnosis of a patient or a medical condition, they can

of the patient's condition through the internet to th experts in Ulaanbaatar or even to our experts in Switzerland, and we can advise them how

to proceed.
"Beside the internet

source and internationally recognized.

"The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, HSUM, SST and the Medical University of Basel, Switzerland, are partners in this project."

All SST members are

highly experienced and respected doctors and anaesthetists. Many are heads of departments in their hospitals or professors from

medical universities.

At the start of this year, SST began involving young doctors from Switzerland.

"I was in Sainshand and I was overwhelmed by the wide countryside and landscape of Mongolia," said Dr. Peter Sandera, an abdominal surgery

"I was also impressed how

"I was also impressed how well countryside hospitals are managed in such a place 'in the middle of nowhere'.
"The hospital was very clean and well-organized. I don't know how I would have survived and managed such a hospital if I were in that situation."

rgeon were assigned to work ith local doctors. In two-anda-half weeks, they operated on more than 100 patients.
"We had an incredibly busy and interesting time, and

an excellent collaboration. We were very well received and "Every evening after our busy days we discussed the

and Mongolia The work of the Swiss Surgical Team members is a the next day," Dr. Sandera said

"I was impressed to see the operating room, which was very well adapted to their shining example of a true partnership, based or committed people who are willing to learn from each other and share, what they have in knowledge and resources, for the benefit of

coneagues use their imited resources.

"They are very flexible and imaginative in finding solutions for difficult situations. For example, they heated a cold infusion bag in a teapot on a cooker.

"For the first two days we had no electricity. Fortunately I had my headlamp with me that I normally use for camping, but it could also serve as an additional light when we operated.

operated.
"The local doctors have very good theoretical knowledge, but lack practice. So we discussed the cases together and they were able to apply the new insights in operating techniques and for

The SST-project is a true The SSI-project is a true aartnership programme. Not only do Swiss doctors come o Mongolia, but Mongolian doctors are also given a chance o work and learn in Swiss

hospitals.

Through the support of the SST and the Swiss Government, every year three to five doctors are given the opportunity to work for up to six months in one of Switzerland's prestigious hospitals.

the curiosity of a travelling surgeon - a surgeon whose vision and hard work up to today helps in the revitalisation of the surgical

system in Mongolia.

His passion
dedication, and dedication, and the subsequent work of more than fifty doctors from the SST, are nefiting both, Switzerl

