



Contents

Politics.....	2
345 civil service jobs cut at state, city, and province level	2
Supreme Prize of DP Awarded	2
R.Burmaa resigns as parliamentarian.....	2
Factions Run Meetings	3
"Justice" coalition to back budget clarification	3
Foreign Relations	4
President of Mongolia Issues Decree to Establish National Council to Organize 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar	4
Economy	4
Accumulated in BoM gold doubled	4
Stock Exchange news for January 5.....	5
Railway.....	5
4,300-mile super railway to be built between Moscow and Beijing	5
Mining.....	6
Tavantolgoi Negotiations Begin	6
Society	7
Female MPs oppose ending the monthly allowance for children	7
Education	7
R.Bat-Erdene Becomes MSU Rector.....	7
Engineering Students and Researchers to Study in Japan.....	8
Entertainment.....	8
Mongolia to Attend World Snow Day	8
Media	9
Mongolian National Broadcaster Elects Its New Director General as Tsagaan Oyundari	9
Mr Selfridge opens in Mongolia	9
Downton, Mr Selfridge enter Mongolia.....	9
Company News	10
Prophecy Coal Corp. Announces Change of Name to Prophecy Development Corp.	10



Politics

345 civil service jobs cut at state, city, and province level

January 5 (news.mn) Nearly 350 deputies and advisors are jobless now, in the first days of the new year.

The budget law for 2015 specifies that there should be an elimination of redundant positions for deputies and adjunct advisors in state agencies, local government, and city administration.

Following the budget law, all six deputy mayors of Ulaanbaatar were dismissed in December. The budget law allows the Mayor of Ulaanbaatar to have two deputy mayors, but all were dismissed.

The change to the budget law enables a reduction in current expenses of 2,960.4 million MNT by eliminating positions for deputies and advisors in state budget funded agencies and city and local government.

Every province, soum, and district government is now permitted to have a deputy, and Ulaanbaatar city administration is allowed two deputies but no advisor.

State agencies and all levels of state funded administrative and civil service departments will start the new year with only one deputy or vice chairman, but no advisors.

[Source](#)

Supreme Prize of DP Awarded

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) The Chairman of the State Great Khural Z.Enkhbold Monday gave the order of Chingis--the supreme prize of the Democratic Party (DP)--to G.Zorigt, the governor of Orkhon aimag and chair of the DP branch in the province.

This prize recognizes Zorigt's contributions to distributing of and saving values of democracy in Mongolia. Mr Zorigt has been serving as the head of the DP branch in Orkhon since 2007.

[Source](#)

R.Burmaa resigns as parliamentarian

January 5 (news.mn) MP and Minister of Food and Agriculture R.Burmaa has resigned from her position as parliamentarian.

She made the request just before the new year, but the DP did not comment on the issue.

She explained her resignation, stating, "I made the decision as I expressed my support for the 'double deal' bill submitted by President Ts.Elbegdorj, and decided so as I am a member of the government."

R.Burmaa was nominated from a party list during the 2012 election and elected MP.



In the case that the State Great Khural and DP accept her request, the next nominee on the party list will take her seat in parliament.

B.Medree, CEO of Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia is next in line to take the seat.

A DP caucus meeting was scheduled at 1:00 p.m. today, but delayed due to poor attendance. The meeting delay may be explained by the resignation of R.Burmaa.

[Source](#)

Factions Run Meetings

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) A faction of the Democratic Party (DP) started its regular meeting on Monday in the "A" hall of the State House.

The Prime Minister Ch.Saikhanbileg gave a report to the faction, mentioning about the law on "glass account" which came into force from January 1. State organizations of all levels have been obliged now to make transparent their reports on all products and services purchased with state budget money.

Meanwhile, the Mongolian People's Party's (MPP) faction launched its meeting the same day to discuss clarifications of the 2015 budget, then it took a break.

The two meetings will continue.

[Source](#)

"Justice" coalition to back budget clarification

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) A regular meeting of the "Justice" coalition's faction on Monday discussed a clarification of the 2015 budget.

The faction's head N.Battsereg said they fully support the clarification. "Concrete research and survey are required for the budget, for example, it is time to consider judges' too high salaries and to arrange the allowance for state servants, which equals money of 36 months," he noted.

The faction discussed issues of focusing the children's allowance on a targeted group as well as requirements of classifying urban, local families and their livelihood. The amendments to some taxes by the government were considered as well.

The faction also reported that it nominated O.Baasankhuu for a post of head of the Standing committee on petitions.

[Source](#)



Foreign Relations

President of Mongolia Issues Decree to Establish National Council to Organize 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar

January 5 (infomongolia.com) At the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held in Italy in October 2014, the Heads of State and Government unanimously agreed to convene the 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2016.

On December 30, 2014, President of Mongolia Ts.Elbegdorj issued a Decree to establish a National Council to deal with specific duties on organizing and making directions of the 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar.

The Decree states, "To establish a National Council to organize the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and make certain directions. To assign the duty of appointing working groups and officials, implementing action plans and making monthly reports of the National Council to the Chairman of the National Council".

According to the Presidential Decree, Prime Minister of Mongolia will chair the National Council, where the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief of Staff of the President's Office will serve as the Vice-Chairmen.

Also, the Council members are:

- Minister of Finance,
- Minister of Roads and Transportation,
- Minister of Mongolia,
- Head of the Cabinet Secretariat,
- Governor of Capital City and Mayor of Ulaanbaatar,
- National Security and Foreign Policy Advisor to the President,
- Public Relations Policy Advisor to the President,
- Senior Advisor to the Speaker of the Parliament,
- Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister,
- Public Relations Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister,
- Head of a Working Group of the National Security Council;

Moreover, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will work as the Secretary of the National Council respectively.

[Source](#)

Economy

Accumulated in BoM gold doubled

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) The Bank of Mongolia (BoM) acquired 13 tons of gold in 2014, indicates an increase of twice against 2013.



The BoM accumulated 25 tons of gold from citizens and enterprises in 2005, and it sharply declined to six tons in 2006. Since that year, the accumulation gradually decreased, until 2013. Thanks to reducing the 10 percent royalty to 2.5%, the gold size in the BoM rose again.

The BoM augmented the exchange reserves by exporting some 11 tons of gold in 2014. Moreover, the revenue fulfillment of budget increased because of declining the tax imposed upon gold.

By the master budget of 2015 it is assumed that the country will export 31.3 tons of gold, but it is expected to decrease to 29.5 tons by a clarification of the 2015 budget, the Ministry of Finance reported.

[Source](#)

Stock Exchange news for January 5

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) At the Stock Exchange trades on Monday, a total of 595 thousand and 423 units of 14 JSCs were traded costing MNT 68 million 500 thousand and 512.

"Merex" /586 thousand and 700 units/, "Khokh gan" /4,700 units/, "APU" /1,600 units/, "State Department Store" /1,196 units/ and "Makh impex" /680 units/ were the most actively traded in terms of trading volume, in terms of trading value were "Merex" (MNT 56 million 656 thousand and 892), "APU" (MNT six million 001 thousand and 600), "Makh impex" (MNT two million 515 thousand and 775), "Talkh chikher" (MNT one million 239 thousand and 500) and "State Department Store" (MNT 685 thousand and 892).

The total market capitalization was set at MNT one trillion 429 billion 324 million 439 thousand and 995. The Index of Top-20 JSCs was 14,766.05, decreasing 88.19 units or 0.59% against the previous day.

[Source](#)

Railway

4,300-mile super railway to be built between Moscow and Beijing

January 5 (express.co.uk) RUSSIA and China are to build the world's biggest high-speed railway which would slash the journey time from Moscow to Beijing by five days.

The 4,300 mile route will be three times longer than the current longest high speed route in the world, between Beijing and Guangzhou.

It is expected to cost about £100 billion and experts say it could be built within five years. In contrast Britain's flagship high speed railway from London to Birmingham will cover just 140 miles, cost £22 billion and take seven years to build.

The Russian railway will take two days to ferry passengers at about 250mph from Moscow to Beijing. The journey by the 100-year-old Trans-Siberian Railway currently takes seven days.



The project is to be built as a joint venture between China Railway High-Speed and Russia's Uralvagonzavod.

The project is a sign of improving relations between Russia and China.

And the service is likely to be used by western firms wanting to speed up shipments to China.

China built the 1,200 mile high speed line from Beijing to Guangzhou in the south in less than a decade.

But it suffered a disaster when a collision killed 40 and injured hundreds in 2011.

But the new high speed line will struggle to be as romantic as the Trans-Siberian Railway which is seen as one of the greatest rail journeys in the world.

Passengers tell of passing through endless forests and in winter seeing wolf packs running by the track.

The railway's route from St Petersburg on the Baltic to Vladivostok on the Pacific covers 5,800 miles - the longest railway line in the world.

It was built between 1891 and 1916 on the orders of Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II. Passengers can get to Beijing after leaving the main route or going via Ulan Batur in Mongolia.

But Chinese and Russian trains run on different track widths which causes delays at the border.

Nevertheless even at current speeds the Trans Siberian Railway can deliver freight in about half the time of a sea journey.

[Source](#)

Mining

Tavantolgoi Negotiations Begin

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) Negotiations between the working group of Tavan Tolgoi bid and a bid winning consortium China Shenhua Energy company-Sumitomo Corporation-Energy Resource LLC began on January 5 as agreed.

The sides are to conclude the negotiations and to present their outcomes to the cabinet and parliament before the Lunar New Year, which falls on February 19 this year. The working group will file a detailed agreement together with the investors, determine the works to be conducted in a scope on the investment, define the involvement of the Mongolian side and responsibilities of the investors, estimate the commercial prices of products, and settle taxes and royalties.

[Source](#)



Society

Female MPs oppose ending the monthly allowance for children

January 5 (news.mn) PM Ch.Saikhanbileg announced in December that the government would review the monthly allowance program for children, as there is a need to change social welfare policies in order to endure economic distress.

The government announced that it would end the monthly distribution of 20,000 MNT to children between the ages of 0-18 if their parents' monthly income is more than 1,000,000 MNT, making an amendment to the law.

But female MPs in parliament oppose the decision. The female parliamentarians also objected to discrimination in ending the annual subsidies for women with four or more living children.

Women with four or more living children are eligible for the the Order of Maternal Glory, Second Class, and receive a medal and an annual subsidy. Those with more than six children receive the Order of Maternal Glory, First Class, and an annual cash subsidy.

The MPs delivered a petition on the issue, which is seen discriminate against mothers and children, to PM Ch.Saikhanbileg.

[Source](#)

Education

R.Bat-Erdene Becomes MSU Rector

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) The Minister of Education, Culture and Science L.Gantomor has issued an order to appoint R.Bat-Erdene as the rector of the Mongolian State University (MSU).

Mr Bat-Erdene replaced A.Galtbayar who resigned from the post due to health matters. Before the appointment, Bat-Erdene worked as the State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences and as a head of the Higher Education Department of the Ministry.

The Ministry's authorities consider that the new rector is able to reform the higher education, together with the Minister.

[Source](#)



Engineering Students and Researchers to Study in Japan

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) Those, who will study in Japan in a scope of the "Engineering and Technology Higher Education" project, received on January 5 certificates from the Minister of Education, Culture and Sciences L.Gantomor.

They are six engineering students and seven teachers and researchers of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST).

The project intends to train a thousand Mongolian engineers on the easy-term loans provided by this Ministry and the Government of Japan, with aims to prepare highly skilled professionals engineering and technology, to improve a competitiveness of our engineering education, to strengthen the human resources, and to renew the educational environment and quality.

The teachers and researchers are leaving Mongolia to attend trainings for master and doctor's degrees and non-degree programs, while the engineering students will directly enter Kosen schools of Japanese government training centres. The Kosen school established at the MUST runs its trainings with 46 students so far.

The receivers of the scholarship for master, doctor's degree and non-degree programs have been selected in accordance with the criteria designated by the Japanese Universities and JICA and priority fields of study at the Mongolian State University and at the MUST and Japanese and English language skills.

[Source](#)

Entertainment

Mongolia to Attend World Snow Day

Ulaanbaatar, January 5 (MONTSAME) Mongolia will take part in the World Snow Day (WSD) festival that will run January 18 throughout the world.

This Day will be organized together with 38 countries such as China and Armenia. Mongolia intends to arrange a two-day event including ski training for children and a ski race.

The WSD is the second phase of the "Bring Children to the Snow" campaign. World Snow Day looks beyond the FIS membership to the wider snow sports community. It seeks to motivate children aged 4-14 by encouraging all stakeholders to celebrate all related to snow things around the world simultaneously. World Snow Day is not a one-off event but is planned to be staged annually for years to come.

[Source](#)



Media

Mongolian National Broadcaster Elects Its New Director General as Tsagaan Oyundari

January 5 (infomongolia.com) On January 05, 2015, the National Council of Mongolian National Broadcaster (MNB, officially Mongolian National Public Radio and Television), the only state-funded television channel of Mongolia, held its leadership meeting and unanimously agreed to appoint the new MNB Director General as Ms. Tsagaan OYUNDARI.

Newly appointed Ts.Oyundari had been working as the Director of Mongolian National Public Television from March 2009 to May 2012, and becomes the MNB Director General succeeding Mr. Myanganbuu NARANBAATAR, who has served in this post for the consecutive 9 years to date.

Prior to this post, MNB Director General Ts.Oyundari has been serving as the Secretary General of Democratic Party and due to rules; she gave up her post of DP Secretary General.

[Source](#)

Mr Selfridge opens in Mongolia

January 5 (c21media.net) Mongolia's Mongol TV has picked up ITV's Mr Selfridge and a host of other dramas to add to its scripted offering.

Mr Selfridge, made by ITV Studios, focuses on the life of flamboyant American entrepreneur Harry Gordon Selfridge, who launched his famous shop in London before the First World War.

The show originally aired on ITV in the UK and PBS in the US in 2013, with a third season ordered in March last year. It is distributed internationally by ITVS Global Entertainment.

The Mongolian broadcaster has also renewed CBS's primetime dramas The Good Wife and Hawaii Five-O, and picked up the latest seasons of The Blacklist and Downton Abbey, as well as ABC's Scandal.

Mongol TV, which relaunched in 2009, will also air the 87th Academy Awards on February 22 after acquiring live rights from Disney.

[Source](#)

Downton, Mr Selfridge enter Mongolia

January 5 (tbivision.com) Mongol TV has bought *Downton* (pictured) from NBCUniversal International Television Distribution and *Mr Selfridge* from ITV Studios Global Entertainment.



The channel, which has been a consistent buyer of Western scripted content after overhauling its programming strategy in 2013, has also renewed a batch of studio dramas.

These are *The Good Wife* and *Hawaii Five-O* from CBS Studios International, NBCUI's *The Blacklist* and Disney Media Distribution-sold *Scandal*.

Furthermore, Mongol TV has also bought the 87th Academy Awards from DMD. The event will broadcast live on 22 February.

"Mongol TV has been consistently top in ratings in Mongolia by providing our audiences with the best quality programming from around the world," said Nomin Chinbat, CEO of Mongol TV. "We are fortunate that CBS, ITV, NBC, Fox, Disney and Sony provide us with their best shows for our territory and appreciate our ongoing partnerships with them."

[Source](#)

Company News

Prophecy Coal Corp. Announces Change of Name to Prophecy Development Corp.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA -- (Marketwired) -- 01/05/15 -- Prophecy Coal Corp. ("Prophecy" or the "Company") (TSX: PCY)(OTCQX: PRPCF)(FRANKFURT: 1P2) announces today that it has changed its name to "Prophecy Development Corp."

The Company's shareholders approved the name change at the Company's special meeting held on December 19, 2014. All materials necessary to effect the name change have been filed with the Toronto Stock Exchange ("TSX") and, subject to final TSX approval, it is anticipated that the Company's common shares will commence trading on the TSX under its new name on January 7, 2015. The CUSIP number for the Company's common shares will also change on that date to 74347D108. The Company's trading symbols will remain the same.

About Prophecy Coal Corp.

Prophecy Coal Corp. is a Canadian public company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange that is engaged in developing mining and energy projects in Mongolia, Bolivia and Canada. Further information on Prophecy can be found at the company's website.

PROPHECY COAL CORP.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

JOHN LEE

Executive Chairman

Neither the Toronto Stock Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in the policies of the Toronto Stock Exchange) accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements



Certain statements contained in this news release, including statements which may contain words such as "expects", "anticipates", "intends", "plans", "believes", "estimates", or similar expressions, and statements related to matters which are not historical facts, are forward-looking information within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Such forward-looking statements, which reflect management's expectations regarding Prophecy's future growth, results of operations, performance, business prospects and opportunities, are based on certain factors and assumptions and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties which may cause the actual results, performance, or achievements to be materially different from future results, performance, or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

These factors should be considered carefully, and readers should not place undue reliance on the Prophecy's forward-looking statements. Prophecy believes that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements contained in this news release and the documents incorporated by reference herein are reasonable, but no assurance can be given that these expectations will prove to be correct. In addition, although Prophecy has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual actions, events or results to differ materially from those described in forward looking statements, there may be other factors that cause actions, events or results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. Prophecy undertakes no obligation to release publicly any future revisions to forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this news or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as expressly required by law.

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[Source](#)