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Thailand bans corn imports through Ban Khao Din



Cambodia News / 28 August, 2019

Thailand's Ministry of Commerce last week announced a ban on field corn imports coming through Ban Khao Din, in the border with Cambodia. The ban comes into effect on Saturday. The move was announced after a ministry meeting last week, according to Thai media reports. Ban Khao Din is an international border gate in Thailand's Sa Kaeo province, which borders Battambang province. In a statement, the ministry said the import ban will protect Thai farmers from potentially contaminated Cambodian goods, adding that Thailand produces enough corn to satisfy local demand. "Starting the end of this month, imports of field corn will no longer be allowed through the border crossing with Cambodia," the ministry said. Chhim Vichara, director of Battambang' agricultural department, told Khmer Times on Monday he was not aware of the latest ban, but said an official letter has been sent to Thai authorities requesting that the border crossing be open to Cambodian goods. "The Ministry of Agriculture has just sent a letter to Thai authorities to ask them to allow imports of corn, cassava and mango," he said. Corn is used for livestock and poultry feeds, generally accounting for about 50 percent of rations, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Cambodia exported about 110,000 tonnes of corn kernels during the first seven months

of the year, with the three major market destinations being Vietnam, Thailand and Taiwan. Last year, corn production in Cambodia amounted to 715,000 tonnes, an increase of 15,000 tonnes over the previous year.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50637639/>

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The Point Community Mall holds soft launch



Cambodia News / 28 August, 2019

The Point Community Mall, an ambitious mixed-use development in Phnom Penh's Chamkarmon district, will re-open later this year after \$6 million were spent on renovations. The Point will open during the fourth quarter of the year after seven months of renovations to modernise the complex to meet the needs of Cambodia's growing middle and upper classes, the project's owners, who are all Cambodians, said last week during the soft launch. The project, located on Mao Tse Toung Boulevard, comprises office space and a community mall. Investors describe it as an innovative project composed of a 2,200-square metre community mall and a 9,200-sqm office building. The whole complex occupies one hectare of land in Toul Svay Prey commune. According to investors, it is Phnom Penh's first green mixed-use development, boasting an attractive and modern façade. Po Sothearak, The Point chairman, said at the soft opening last week that it has been designed to seamlessly blend nature and functionality. He said

the community mall and the office building are located in a park-like setting, with ample space for car parking and a largely pedestrianised streetscape. "With very good design to meet the needs of our citizens, The Point will become a business community centre. The Point is designed to make life and business more convenient and more fun. All the basic needs of people and businesses have been taken into consideration," he said. The project will have parking space for 200 cars and hundreds of motorcycles and bicycles, Mr Sothearak added. According to a report from real estate services firm CBRE earlier this month, the supply of central office space in Phnom Penh reached 359,300 square metres at the end of June. This represents an increase of 12 percent from where the figure stood at the same time last year.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50637640/the-point-community-mall-holds-soft-launch/>

Mongolia and Laos hold consultative meeting



Laos News / 28 August, 2019

AKIPRESS.COM - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Battsetseg Batmukh is on a working visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic on August 26-28, Montsame reports. During the visit, a regular consultative meeting between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic was held on August 27. At the meeting co-chaired by Deputy Minister Battsetseg and her Lao counterpart Mrs. Khamphao Ernthavanh, the sides emphasized successfully developing bilateral friendly

relations in politics, trade, economy, agriculture, health and educational sectors and exchanged views on possibilities to develop win-win cooperation and mutually interested regional and international matters. Deputy Minister B. Battsetseg noted that works agreed during the 11th meeting of Mongolia-Laos intergovernmental commission held in December, 2018 are being realized, while mentioning the potentials to expand trade and economic relations further. Currently, mega constructional projects of railway and highway are underway in Laos. As the projects come into operation, transportation barriers will no longer exist in trades between Mongolia and Laos and there will be opportunity to increase imports and exports of the two countries, such as meat, meat products, leather, carpet and cashmere and wool items from Mongolia and vegetables, fruits, rice and coffee from Laos. In this regard, the sides decided to work for promoting ties between businessmen of the two countries. The Lao side notified its readiness to lease 10 thousand hectares of land for Mongolian businessmen and five hectares in Savan-Seno, special economic zone, for business purpose. In turn, the Mongolian side underlined the importance of realization of it. Mrs. Khamphao Ernthavanh voiced that the Lao PDR attaches great importance to its relations and cooperation with Mongolia while expressing her delight for bilateral cooperation being developed in agricultural sector with new content. She added that the Lao will keep supporting Mongolia to participate more actively in Asia and Pacific regional multilateral activities. The sides concurred to expand bilateral partnership in the UN, international and regional organizations and organize the next year's meeting of intergovernmental

commission in Vientiane and the consultative meeting between the ministries in Ulaanbaatar city respectively.

Source : https://akipress.com/news:624340:Mongolia_and_Laos_hold_consultative_meeting/

Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam formulate tourism development plan



Laos News / 28 August, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Tourism officials from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam (CLV) are discussing a draft plan on tourism development in the triangle area covering 13 provinces of the three countries. The talks are taking place in Pakxe, Champassak province, during the 3rd Working Group Meeting on Formulation of the Tourism Development Plan for CLV in the Development Triangle Area, from August 26-29. According to a report from the Tourism Development Department of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, the aim is to develop the triangle area into a sustainable tourism destination and to improve the living conditions of people in area. After the meeting, the representatives of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam will consult with their associates to refine the draft development plan and submit it to local and central level authorities for approval. The plan will then be further considered at the senior CLV meeting to be held in Saravan province in December. Finally, it will be submitted for approval at a CLV meeting that Laos will host in early 2020. During the meeting in Pakxe, delegations from the three countries will visit important tourist attractions in Champassak province. These landmark sites will be linked to places of importance in Cambodia and Vietnam, to create a single tourist package and destination. The Lao delegation at the

meeting is led by the Deputy Director General of the Tourism Development Department, Mrs. Phonemaly Inthaphome, along with other officials from Information, Culture and Tourism departments in the provinces of Champassak, Saravan, Xekong and Attapeu. Representatives from other departments of the ministry and business operators in these southern provinces are also attending the meeting.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-cambodia-vietnam-formulate-tourism-development-plan-102810>

Golden Myanmar Airlines plans to expand its flights to Dawei and Kawthoung



Myanmar News / 28 August, 2019

Golden Myanmar Airlines is planning to expand its flights to Dawei and Kawthoung with a new ATR plane, according to its CEO Kyaw Nyein. The plane arrived at Yangon International Airport from France on August 23. The airline is operating domestic flights to Mandalay, Putao, Myitkyina, Nyaung-U, Heho, Techilek, Lashio, Thandwe and Sittwe using two ATR – 72 600 series planes. “We are waiting for permission to introduce new flight schedules,” said the CEO. The first and second ATR planes arrived in Myanmar on May 15, 2014 and June 2014 respectively. The airline is also aiming to resume international flight schedules.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/golden-myanmar-airlines-plans-to-expand-its-flights-to-dawei-and-kawthoung>

Government proposes to raise import licensing fees



Myanmar News | 28 August, 2019

The government is planning to raise import licensing fees in response to the changing economic environment of the country. Ministry of Commerce deputy minister U Aung Htoo proposed the new fee structure, which will see licensing rates of a minimum of K30,000 to a maximum of K90,000, from the current rates of K250 to K50,000. “We’ve reported to the Economic Committee of the Union Government on the new import licensing fee structure,” he said at a meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting on August 26. U Aung Htoo did not elaborate on when the government will implement this new import licensing fee structure but noted that the current fee structure needed to be revised as it was not compatible with the country’s economic environment. For fiscal 2018-19, which started October 1 last year and ends this September 30, the ministry had estimated revenue of K4.167 billion and has collected K3.854 billion up to August 18. U Aung Htoo pointed out that despite the proposed import licensing fee hike, the numbers of goods that need a license to be imported has been reduced 4,613 items this year from 4,818. Imports have been declining quarter-on-quarter since the end of fiscal 2017-18, with the June Myanmar Economic Monitor published by the World Bank showing that in the first

quarter of fiscal 2018-19, imports declined led by consumer goods and industrial products. Latest reports showed that nearly nine-tenths of the country’s imports come from China, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, US, Vietnam and South Korea. By US dollar value, the top 10 exports from last year were mineral fuels including oil; electrical machinery and equipment; computer parts; vehicles; iron and steel; plastics and plastic products; iron and steel products; animal and vegetable byproducts; man-made filaments and; fabric. These imports accounted for 57.4 percent by US dollar value of the total imports for 2018, which stood at US\$24.2 billion.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/government-proposes-raise-import-licensing-fees.html>

Grab to pour \$500m into VN over next 5 years



Vietnam News | 28 August, 2019

HÀ NỘI Ride-hailing firm Grab on Wednesday officially unveiled the details and scope of its planned investment in Việt Nam, saying it will devote US\$500 million to expand its transport, food delivery and payment networks over a five-year period. According to Grab, this investment will tap into opportunities in fintech, new mobility solutions and logistics in order to spur the development of Việt Nam’s digital economy and create millions of income opportunities that will elevate the quality of life of all Vietnamese people. The investment will be in

addition to the \$200 million that Grab had already planned to invest in the Southeast Asian country by the end of this year, said Grab Vietnam's head Jerry Lim. Grab also announced the implementation roadmap for its "Tech For Good" mission, with goals aligned with the policy priorities laid out in the Government's socio-economic plan for 2020. The three main areas of focus will be contributing to reducing poverty, expanding the benefits of the digital economy to 63 provinces and cities nationwide and giving millions of Vietnamese people higher incomes by helping drivers, delivery partners and business partners become micro-businesses that co-operate on the Grab platform. Grab expects these activities to contribute to the national goal of reducing the urban unemployment rate to below 4 per cent. The roadmap also includes building a skilled workforce with the expectation that it will continue to develop a contingent of engineers at the Research and Development (R&D) Centre in Việt Nam and investing in Vietnamese technology talent to tackle the biggest challenges in Southeast Asia through artificial intelligence (AI), big data, machine learning and more. Grab will also support the development of the country's technology start-up ecosystem through the Grab Ventures programme. Grab said it was committed to a shared, seamless and smart mobility future for Việt Nam, including complimentary solutions to the existing public transport system and changing people's habits from

private vehicle ownership to shared transport methods such as GrabBus, a marketplace for bus travel that will cater to mass-market consumers. Russell Cohen, head of regional operations for Grab, said: "This investment is a reflection of our redoubled commitment to Việt Nam. The country's rapidly developing economy and young, mobile-first population make it ripe for the adoption of digital services." Grab has seen significant development since entering Việt Nam in 2014. Payments through Moca, its e-payment partner, grew by 150 per cent in the first six months of this year, while the number of monthly active mobile users has grown by more than 70 per cent. During the reviewed period, GrabFood saw the number of transactions quadruple to an average of 300,000 orders per day. Grab said its driver-partners in Việt Nam have earned a total of almost \$1 billion in the last five years." Competition in ride-hailing will become fiercer," Reuters quoted HCM City-based economist Bùi Quang Tín as saying. "The size of the investment means Grab will be able to offer heavy discounts even if it risks losses in the short term." In late July, the Singapore-based firm also said it would invest \$2 billion in Indonesia over five years, where it aims to build a next-generation transport network and transform how critical services such as healthcare are delivered. VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/534681/grab-to-pour-500m-into-vn-over-next-5-years.html#QQbGdBlbxdid7xL2.97>

Russian businesses seek trading opportunities in Hanoi



Vietnam News | 28 August, 2019

NDO/VNA – The Association of Vietnam Retailers (AVR) held a business matching programme in Hanoi on August 27 to connect Russian businesses with local partners, and to introduce Russian goods to local retailers. Thirteen Russian firms brought to the event many typical products, such as sausages, ham, salami, kvass, dried fruit, nuts, confectionery, beer, beverage and organic cosmetics. The programme also attracted many Vietnamese retailers, importers and exporters, besides delegates from Vietnamese management agencies. Chairwoman of ARV Dinh Thi My Loan said the event was designed with the aim of providing a venue for businesses from both sides to connect and discuss cooperation opportunities, towards bolstering two-way trade. Nguyen Viet Linh, a representative of ARV, presented statistics that showed trade between Vietnam and Russia saw good growth after the Vietnam - Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement took effect in 2016. In 2018 two-way trade value grew 28.63% year on year, with Russia's exports to Vietnam shooting up by 53.38% to US\$2.1 billion. According to the Ministry of Trade, Russia ranked 24th among 129 foreign investors in Vietnam in 2018, with 123 projects worth US\$932 million in total. Vietnam also had 22

investment projects in Russia with total capital of nearly US\$3 billion.

Source: <https://en.nhandan.com.vn/business/item/7858802-russian-businesses-seek-trading-opportunities-in-hanoi.html>
