



- Cambodia lifts opposition leader's house arrest before EU trade decision
- Lao grid to deliver electricity to Cambodia
- Laos registers trade surplus in Q3
- Lao, South Korean companies partner in rollout of ICT solutions
- India buying more black gram from Myanmar
- Local company wins gold medal for locally produced honey
- Vietnam's exports estimated at 217.05 bln USD in 10 months



Cambodia lifts opposition leader's house arrest before EU trade decision



Cambodia News | 11 November, 2019

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) - Cambodia lifted house arrest restrictions on opposition leader Kem Sokha on Sunday, more than two years after he was charged with treason, but the charges remain and he is banned from politics and from leaving the country. Pressure has been growing on Hun Sen, Cambodia's authoritarian ruler of more than three decades, to ease a crackdown on his opponents as the European Union considers whether to cut preferential trade terms. "As an innocent person who has been jailed for two years, I continue to demand that the charges against me be dropped," Kem Sokha said in a Facebook post. "I expect today's decision to be the first step, but I, as well as many other Cambodians who have lost political freedom, still need real solutions and justice." Kem Sokha, 66, was arrested in 2017 and the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) was banned in the run-up to last year's general election that Hun Sen's ruling party then swept but which was condemned as a farce by Western countries. Kem Sokha was accused of plotting with foreigners to oust Hun Sen - a charge he dismissed as nonsense. The Phnom Penh Municipal Court said in a statement that Kem Sokha could leave his house, but that he could not engage in political activity or leave the country. The easing of restrictions also comes a day after Sam

Rainsy, 70, a co-founder of their now-banned opposition party, flew into the region from self-imposed exile saying he aimed to return home to rally Hun Sen's opponents. Rainsy welcomed Ken Sokha's release from house arrest, but said all charges must be dropped and the party reinstated. "Still it is a positive gesture on the part of the Hun Sen regime. But it is only a small step toward the right direction," Rainsy told Reuters in Malaysia. He had yet to speak to Kem Sokha, he said. Hun Sen, 67, a former Khmer Rouge commander, has ruled the country of 16 million for more than 34 years with an iron hand and an ability to play off his opponents against each other. "LIMITED STEP FORWARD" The U.S. embassy described the easing of restrictions as a "limited step forward" and called on authorities to drop charges. "The United States calls for the unconditional release of all those who have been arbitrarily or unlawfully detained, including journalists, civil society activists, and supporters and members of political opposition parties," an embassy statement said. More than 50 people have been arrested in recent weeks since Rainsy said he planned to return home after fleeing in 2015 from a defamation conviction he says was political. Rainsy flew into Malaysia on Saturday. Cambodia's government said he was not barred from entering, but warned it would take action against anyone threatening state security. It was only when Kem Sokha and Sam Rainsy brought together rival opposition factions ahead of elections in 2013 that they posed a serious electoral threat to Hun Sen's

Cambodian People's Party (CPP). The crackdown on Cambodia's opposition prompted the European Union to reconsider trade preferences granted under an "Everything But Arms" (EBA) trade program for least-developed countries. It is due to take a decision on next steps this week. The EU accounts for more than one-third of Cambodia's exports, including garments, footwear and bicycles. "Kem Sokha's release from house detention is a last minute attempt to deflect European anger," said Phil Robertson of U.S.-based Human Rights Watch. "But it's really too little, too late for the EBA preliminary determination on November 12." The European Union delegation in Phnom Penh made no immediate comment.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cambodia-politics/cambodia-lifts-opposition-leaders-house-arrest-before-eu-trade-decision-idUSKBN1XK022>

Lao grid to deliver electricity to Cambodia



Cambodia News | 11 November, 2019

VIENTIANE, Nov. 11 (Xinhua) -- The Lao state-run Electricite du Laos (EDL), on behalf of the Lao government, has completed more than 80 percent of a power grid extension that will deliver electricity to a Cambodian transmission line on the border of the two countries. This follows the signing of an electricity purchase agreement between Laos and Cambodia during a working visit by Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith to Cambodia in September. The visit took the two countries' relationship to new

heights, with the signing of several important documents, including the electricity purchase agreement, said local daily Vientiane Times on Monday. Cambodia agreed to buy 2,400MW of electricity from Laos in four phases over a period of 30 years. The first phase is set to start by the end of 2024 with 300MW, and the second phase will go into operation by 2025 with an additional 600MW, while the third phase in 2026 with 600MW, and the fourth phase by 2027 with the last 900MW for a total of 2,400MW. The electricity deal is intended to fulfill the growing demand for electricity from garment and footwear factories in Cambodia, a representative of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) said to local media. Laos' Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines Thongphath Inthavong told Vientiane Times that more than 80 percent of the work to install the transmission line that will send electricity to Cambodia has been done. Laos will export electricity to Cambodia from two coal-fired power plants in Xekong province, some 530 km southeast of capital Vientiane. At the energy and mining sector's first quarter meeting in Vientiane in June, Lao Minister of Energy and Mines Khammany Inthirath reported that Laos had agreed to sell electricity via 22 kV and 115 kV transmission lines to Cambodia, with 10MW sold in the initial period. In addition, the government has signed an agreement to sell 195MW of electricity to Cambodia by 2020. Laos already exports electricity to neighboring countries with Thailand being the major

buyer. Laos also plans to export power to other ASEAN members via the regional power grid.

Source: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/11/c_138545945.htm

Laos registers trade surplus in Q3



Laos News | 12 November, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - Laos has registered a trade surplus of US\$178 million in the first nine months (as of the end of the third quarter) of the year, although money transfers are below target. The value of Laos' combined exports and imports in the third quarter of 2019 reached US\$8,582 million or 76 percent of the figure approved by the National Assembly. There was an increase of 41 percent compared to the same period last year, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Investment, Dr Sonexay Siphandone, informed the National Assembly last week. The value of exports hit US\$4,380 million or 79.4 percent of the plan and is expected to rise to US\$5,516 million. Imports were valued at US\$4,202 million but are likely to reach US\$5,775 million, Dr Sonexay said. Despite the trade surplus, the transfer of money for exports was not on target after the government signed contracts with investors, he added. However, some goods that were imported and then shipped back don't require payment. The industrial processing and handicraft sectors achieved 8,968 billion kip or 73.5 percent of the target figure. Compared to the same period last year this was an increase of 19.8 percent and is likely to reach 12,306

billion kip or 99 percent of the 12,386 billion kip figure set by the National Assembly, Dr Sonexay said. Income from industrial processing and handicrafts decreased as some cement factories had to stop operations due to higher investments and some plants were affected by floods. This is likely to show up as decreased production. Electricity generation, a primary export, was affected by the prolonged dry season. About 23,641 million kWh was generated worth more than 11,600 billion kip or 70 percent of the 33,875 billion kip approved by the National Assembly. This was down by 5.17 percent compared to the same period last year. The government expects that electricity exports will shoot up this year with some new plants starting commercial operations. The export value of minerals was 8,080 billion kip or 68 percent of the target figure and is expected to drop further.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-registers-trade-surplus-q3-108042>

Lao, South Korean companies partner in rollout of ICT solutions



Laos News | 12 November, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - A professional and experienced supplier of closed circuit TV cameras, parking control systems and parachute training to the South Korean government sector, Gentop Co., Ltd., is joining forces in a specialised project with Asia Investment Development & Construction Sole Co., Ltd. (AIDC) of Laos. The companies plan to team up in the fields of

construction, civil engineering, energy, telecommunications and specialised equipment, with their operations expected to expand. As part of this cooperation, Gentop on Friday provided a CCTV system worth US\$20,000 to AIDC for testing in Vientiane. "We place a high value on Laos' future market including the development of infrastructure and services based on ICT solutions and we expect that the cooperation between our companies will grow," said Gentop President Mr Hong-Dae Park. "This is the first time we have worked with a Lao company and we hope that our cooperation will increase in the future," he added. The presentation of the CCTV system was attended by Mr Hong-Dae Park, the Deputy Director of AIDC's Infrastructure and Security Department, Mr Souliya Ackhasone, Director of the Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (Kotra), Mr Park Chang Eun, and other involved parties. Mr Souliya thanked Kotra for making the cooperation between the two companies possible. "The cooperation between our two companies has taken place step by step and I strongly believe that this collaboration will increase in the future," said Mr Park Chang Eun. Kotra is helping to arrange business matching between Laos and South Korea by inviting established companies from different sectors in Korea to come to Laos with the intention of setting up business partnerships and expanding their market in Laos.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/laos-registers-trade-surplus-q3-108042>

India buying more black gram from Myanmar



Myanmar News | 11 November, 2019

India bought more black gram beans, known locally as black matpe, from Myanmar in October, an industry official revealed yesterday. India, which imposed a quota system for pulse crops from Myanmar in March this year, continued buying local black gram after the quota was met last month said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association. According to U Min Ko Oo, three companies received permission from the Indian government to continue buying the crop from Myanmar, pushing up prices locally. In the first week of October, the price of black gram was around K80,000 per tonne, but now it is up to about K1.3 million per tonne, he added. "Indian companies are buying black gram again because, reportedly, the crop in India was poorer than expected. They have been buying 3000 to 4000 tonnes a week from Myanmar since the third week of October," said U Min Ko Oo. "They already bought a lot of black gram from Myanmar under the quota system at lower prices, but now they are continuing to buy at higher prices," said U Kyaw Twin, a bean merchant based in Mandalay. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock

and Irrigation, some 77 percent of Myanmar's annual pulse crop is exported to India. Black gram is usually planted in March and April, and harvested in September or October. The crop is grown largely in Magway, Ayeyarwady, Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/india-buying-more-black-gram-myanmar.html>

Local company wins gold medal for locally produced honey



Myanmar News | 11 November, 2019

Local company Smile Happy Co Ltd received recognition from the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations at the World Beekeeping Awards held during the 46th Apimondia Congress that took place in Montreal, Canada, in September. The company won a gold medal for its light-coloured honey during the event. "The company won the medal in Montreal for our IM Honey brand," said U Hein Thu Aung, marketing director of Smile Happy Co. The company founded in 2000 currently exports its honey to Canada, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Thailand. "This year, the company produced our own brand for the time so we decided to enter it for the event in Canada. Before the event, we sent our honey to a German lab for quality testing to make sure it was good enough to register for the congress," said U Hein Thu Aung. He said the company will next submit its honey for participation

in the Asian Apicultural Association event in Vietnam, next year. "Our product has only been available in the local market for about six months, so we have good potential to grow since consumption of honey is still quite low here compared with other countries," U Hein Thu Aung said. He said Smile Happy Co is working with the Myanmar Apicultural Association in terms of training and industry development. "There are not many export companies in Myanmar, but we need to collaborate to export honey." Myanmar honey, mostly organic, has begun to draw the attention of the international buyers even though more effort has to be made to introduce good production techniques and to export it. Myanmar first started to introduce good beekeeping practices in December 2016. To become an exporter of honey products to the EU, the country's apiculture sector has also tried to comply with the requirements stipulated in European food legislation and collaborated with the German Corporation for International Cooperation. The 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress brought together more than 6000 participants from 80 countries.

Source: <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/local-company-wins-gold-medal-locally-produced-honey.html>

Vietnam's exports estimated at 217.05 bln USD in 10 months



Vietnam News | 11 November, 2019

Vietnam's export revenue was estimated at 217.05 billion USD in the first 10 months of this year, up 7.4 percent annually, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Accordingly, 82.5 percent of the 2019 export target was met, near the growth target of 7 – 8 percent this year. The trade surplus was estimated at 7.05 billion USD, higher than 6.83 billion USD recorded last year. Statistics showed that 29 groups of commodities raked in over 1 billion USD, and five of them earned more than 10 billion USD, namely mobile phones and spare parts (43.5 billion USD); electronics, computers and accessories (28.8 billion USD); apparel (27.4 billion USD); footwear (14.6 billion USD); and machinery, equipment and tools (14.6 billion USD), together accounting for 59.4 percent of the country's total exports. At this rate, it is very likely that 2019 will be the fourth consecutive year the Vietnamese economy shifts from a deficit to a trade surplus

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnams-exports-estimated-at-21705-bln-usd-in-10-months-406026.vov>

Vietnamese goods enjoy market share in 200 countries worldwide



Vietnam News | 11 November, 2019

VOV.VN - Vietnam's exports have enjoyed significant expansion in terms of market scale and commodity structure, thereby making an outstanding contribution to the growth of the country's export turnover, according figures released by the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT). At present, Vietnamese

goods have been shipped to over 200 countries and territories globally, including several demanding markets which set strict requirements and high standards of product quality, such as the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. The country has made rapid improvements in its position in the world's rankings for exports, rising from 50th place in 2007 to 26th position in 2018. With regard to the overall scale of export market, back in 2007, the Southeast Asian nation saw only 14 of its export markets earn a turnover of over US\$1 billion, with the US being the only destination to reach over US\$10 billion. By 2018, this figure had grown exponentially, with the country enjoying 31 export markets with an annual turnover of over US\$1 billion, of which four markets stood at over US\$10 billion. During the first 10 months of the year, the US remained as the nation's largest export market. This is primarily attributable to the policy of diversifying markets with increased exports to China, ASEAN, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Vietnamese goods have also achieved greater market penetration with the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) markets, including Russia, up 13.9 per cent, New Zealand, up 12.5 per cent, and Canada, up 30.9 per cent. This indicated that Vietnam has taken full advantage of FTAs in order to expand into new markets, particularly fastidious markets that set out high standards when it comes to product quality. Despite this, the level of

market diversification within the agricultural and aquatic product category has not been high as they are easily affected by market fluctuations. Tran Thanh Hai, Deputy Director of the MoIT's Import and Export Department, said in order to carry out a sustainable export strategy, the MoIT has proposed that the Government and the Prime Minister issue an export strategy for each period and a project for export market diversification for the 2015- 2020 period.

Source: [https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnamese-goods-enjoy-market-share-in-200-countries-worldwide-](https://english.vov.vn/economy/vietnamese-goods-enjoy-market-share-in-200-countries-worldwide-406023.vov)

406023.vov
