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***Highlight News / April 20/2020***

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* **COVID-19’s affected customers asked to discuss loan restructuring**
* **103 Hospitals among facilities in Laos treating Covid-19 cases**
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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)



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**Runway extension in Sihanoukville Airport to be completed in June**

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** *Cambodia News I 17 April, 2020***

Sihanoukville International Airport will be able to handle long-haul aircrafts’ landing and take-off from June this year after the 3,300-metre-long runway extension project is completed. The completion of runway from 2,800 metres to 3,300 metres at the airport will allow Cambodia to handle the landing and take-off of long-haul aircrafts from further distance including Europe, said H.E. Chea Aun, Secretary of State and Spokesman of the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation at a recent press conference. “Currently, the three international airports can handle medium-haul aircrafts from China or from Qatar, but after the completion of runway extension, Sihanoukville International Airport can handle landing and take-off long-haul aircrafts for example from Paris to Cambodia,” H.E. Chea Aun said in a recent press conference at the Office of the Council of Ministers. Cambodia has currently 47 airlines – six of them are local ones, including national flag carrier – Cambodia Angkor Air – providing passenger and cargo air services. The three international airports are currently managed by Cambodia Airports, a subsidiary company of France-based VNCI Group. Passenger traffic grew 10.2 percent year-on-year in 2019 to 11.6 million passengers, according to Cambodia Airports’ report. AKP

Source:https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50714603/runway-extension-in-sihanoukville-airport-to-be-completed-in-june/

**COVID-19’s affected customers asked to discuss loan restructuring**

***Cambodia News I 17 April, 2020***

The Microfinance Association of Cambodia (CMA) has said that the association, including its members, are dealing with the clients of microfinance institutions affected by the COVID-19 epidemic on the loan restructure. They said CMA remains open for official access to finance from the people through the financial system, and ensuring the finance is inclusive and sustainable. All CMA’s members have put strong effort to support affected customer by the COVID-19. CMA’s members have been implementing and solving the issues based on their internal principal, based on the type of customers, impact, and actual situation for each customers by align with guideline of the National Bank of Cambodia. “To have their loan restructured, all MFIs’ customers should contact to their lenders to discuss the situation and finding the solution based on the win-win strategy to continue develop the financial sector and national economy,” CMA said. “For those customers who are not affected or slightly affected, and are able to pay the debt, CMA encourages them to continue their monthly payment, so that each MFI institution will use this opportunity to help the most affected customers,” it said. CMA will work with its members to monitor closely the microfinance sector and will take immediate action to solve all the issues.

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Source:https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50714464/covid-19s-affected-customers-asked-to-discuss-loan-restructuring/

**103 Hospitals among facilities in Laos treating Covid-19 cases**

***Laos News I 20 April, 2020***

The 103 Hospital has been among health facilities in Laos providing treatment for Covid-19 since last month, before the disease began spreading in the country. The Director General of the 103 Hospital, Colonel Souliphan Phetchanthala, said at the briefing for the media in Vientiane by the National Taskforce Committee for Covid-19 Prevention and Control on Saturday that 13 people suspected of being infected by the virus that causes Covid-19 are currently quarantined at the hospital. “Now, almost half of these 13 people have been in the hospital for more than 14 days,” he said. The 103 Hospital currently has 33 single rooms for treating Covid-19 patients, and more than 200 medical staff to provide special care for them. Chinese and Vietnamese medical experts also provide assistance and recommendations for the treatment and prevention of Covid-19, he said. In line with the Prime Minister’s Order No 06, on reinforcement measures for containment, prevention and full response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the hospital has established checkpoints manned by the concerned authorities to strictly check the body temperature of people moving in and out of the facility. As of Sunday, no new Covid-19 cases were recorded in Laos for seven consecutive days, and the total number of confirmed cases continues to be 19. Two of the 19 people infected by the Coronavirus have recovered and returned home from hospital. Currently, 17 people are hospitalised, he said. Fourteen patients are at the Friendship Hospital in Vientiane and three in the Luang Prabang Hospital. The government has stepped up the enforcement of measures to prevent and control the spread of the Coronavirus to protect the health and lives of the Lao people and foreigners living in the country.

Source:http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\_103.php

**Stay-home notice issued for seven townships in Yangon**

 ***Myanmar News I 18 April, 2020***

As a measure to effectively contain the spread of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health and Sports has issued a stay-home notice for seven townships in Yangon. The order will cover South Okkalapa, Pabedan, Bahan, Mayangone, Insein, Shwepyithar and Hlaingthayar Townships. According to the statement, the public in the above-mentioned townships (excluding civil servants, company staff and factory workers) must stay at their homes. Only one person from one house will be allowed to purchase foods at the market. The persons who go outside must wear face masks. Only two persons from one house will be allowed to go to the hospitals and clinics. Only vehicles which ferry the staff will be allowed. The order will be in effect at 6 pm on 18 April. Those who fail to abide by the order shall face actions under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Law.

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Source: https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/stay-home-notice-issued-for-seven-townships-in-yangon

**One more Yangon hospital starts to treat virus patients**

 ***Myanmar News I 18 April, 2020***

One more hospital in Yangon is ready to accept COVID-19 starting April 18 as the number of patients in the region ballooned to 78. Dr U Win Maw Oo, medical superintendent of South Okkalapa Women and Children hospital, said the facility is now prepared to handle patients suffering from the dreaded disease which has already killed five people in the country, four of whom are from Yangon. “We will receive and treat up COVID-19 confirmed patients, starting from today," he told The Myanmar Times. Up until April 18, only Yangon’s Wai Bar Gi Hospital was able to treat confirmed COVID-19 patients in the region. So far, three COVID-19 confirmed patients have already been admitted to the South Okkalapa Women and Children hospital Hospital. These are the most recent patients from Insein Township and two patients transferred from East Yangon General Hospital. Dr Win Maw Oo said the hospital can treat up to 70 COVID-19 patients and over 70 health staff will be dedicated to treating the disease.

Source: https://www.mmtimes.com/news/one-more-yangon-hospital-starts-treat-virus-patients.html

**Coffee industry to face more**

**losses in Q2**

***Vietnam News I 18 April, 2020***

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - Vietnam's coffee industry will probably suffer more losses in the second quarter due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Phan Xuan Thang, Vice Chairman of the Vietnam Cocoa and Coffee Association, has said.The COVID-19 outbreak has forced many countries to announce social distancing or lockdowns, so a series of restaurants and coffee shops must close, leading to strong reduction in coffee demand.At present, the restaurants and coffee shops are channels with the largest consumption of coffee.Due to the lower demand, the coffee processors have mainly used their inventories, according to Thang. Therefore, local enterprises have signed few coffee export contracts. That has had a great impact on domestic coffee production and export activities in the second quarter.The Vietnam National Coffee Corporation (Vinacafe), one of large coffee processors and exporters in Vietnam, has had a lot of difficulties in offering its products to partners. The global consumption of coffee is only about 20 per cent compared to the volume before the pandemic."The association has expected big sport and cultural events like the 2020 Summer Olympics to increase demand for beverages, especially coffee. However, those events have been postponed,” Thang said.In addition, although the demand for consumer goods has increased due to the strong spread of COVID-19, coffee is not considered an essential product.There would be strong fluctuations in coffee prices in the second quarter because of lower consumption in the context of the pandemic, he said.The association said Vietnam’s coffee exports did not suffer impacts from the pandemic in the first quarter because the local coffee enterprises completed their export contracts signed last year, according to vietnambiz.vn.However, the export value in the quarter was not high because of a low export price, so most of the enterprises suffered losses to maintain their reputation with their partners, Thang said.According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in the first quarter of this year, Vietnam exported 474,000 tonnes of coffee, earning 801 million USD. Those figures declined by 3 percent in volume and 5.6 percent in value year on year. Of which, the coffee exports in March reached 154,000 tonnes worth 261 million USD.Especially, the ministry reported that the coffee export value to the UK in the first quarter decreased by half compared to the same period of last year to 13.5 million USD.The Government should have support for the industry to solve difficulties due to the pandemic, Thang said.He also hoped that the demand for coffee would increase next year because the global sport and cultural events would open again after the pandemic ends. That would be a big opportunity for the domestic coffee industry to resume exports in 2021.Besides that, in the current situation of drought and lower prices, farmers in many countries had changed to grow other trees, leading to lower supply next year.That will be one of the factors to increase the coffee price next year, according to the ministry./.

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Source: https://en.vietnamplus.vn/coffee-industry-to-face-more-losses-in-q2/171969.vnp

**THACO to export semi-trailers to**

**US in May**

***Vietnam News I 19 April, 2019***

Hanoi (VNA) - Truong Hai Auto Corporation, known as THACO, has said that in late May, it will export 69 semi-trailers to the US - a market with strict requirements on quality standards.This is the result of cooperation between THACO and PITTS Enterprises Company - one of 15 major semi-trailers manufacturers in North America. The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on distributing semi-trailers in the US market.THACO’s semi-trailers exported to the US market will be distributed by Dorsey Intermodal - a subsidiary of PITTS Enterprises, which also supplies relevant warranty and maintenance services.According to THACO, the batch of semi-trailers is manufactured at THACO Special Vehicles Manufacturing Limited Company, the firm that specializes in manufacturing high-quality semi-trailers and special vehicles for local and foreign markets.THACO said it expects to export more than 1,600 vehicles of all kinds with a total value of 50 million USD, in 2020.Its successful export to the US market proves that THACO has appropriate strategies to join deeper in the global value chain, it noted./.

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Source: https://en.vietnamplus.vn/thaco-to-export-semitrailers-to-us-in-may/171990.vnp