

*Highlight News / March 03/2021*



- China to provide 400,000 more doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Cambodia
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- China grant licences to more Myanmar companies for rice export this year
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## China to provide 400,000 more doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 2 March, 2021*

Chinese government will provide 400,000 more doses of China-made COVID-19 vaccine as assistance to Cambodia, Chinese Embassy in Cambodia announced Monday. "In order to help the brotherly Cambodian people in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese government has decided to grant the second batch of 400,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to the Cambodian side," said the embassy. The first batch of 600,000 doses of China-made Sinopharm vaccine was provided to Cambodia in February, of which 300,000 for the Ministry of Health and the rest for the Ministry of National Defence. Cambodia began its vaccination campaign against COVID-19 in Phnom Penh on Feb. 10, three days after receiving China-donated Sinopharm vaccine. The campaign has been now conducted in the country's 25 capital and provinces. The first priority groups for the vaccine include senior officials, medical staff, frontline authorities, journalists, armed forces, garbage collectors, and so on. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50819603/china-to-provide-400000-more-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine-to-cambodia/>

## Trade with EU valued at \$3.8 billion in 2020



*Cambodia News | 2 March, 2021*

Bilateral trade between Cambodia and the EU was valued at \$3.863 billion last year, a huge drop compared with the figure recorded in 2019, with both the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit being blamed. Data from the Ministry of Commerce showed that in 2020 Cambodia exported \$3.203 billion of goods to the EU and imported \$659 million from the trade bloc. The ministry's data did not mention figures for exports and imports for comparison with the year before but, in 2019, the two-way trade between Cambodia and the EU's then-28 countries was valued at approximately \$6.7 billion. Lim Heng, vice-president of Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, said the decline of Cambodia's trade with the EU was hit hard by COVID-19, which caused demand for clothes in the bloc to decline. "The virus pandemic affected the entire world, including the EU, which is the biggest market for Cambodia's garment products and this affected the textile sector in Cambodia, so the country's exports declined and some factories suspended operations," Heng said. In February 2020, the European Commission recommended that the EU withdraw 20 per cent of the Everything but Arms (EBA) preferential trade deal with the Kingdom, claiming that Cambodia had violated human and labour rights and that democracy in Cambodia had declined. This was ratified on Aug 12 last year. According to the ministry's data, the UK is now excluded in the EU's trade list with Cambodia. The UK was one of the biggest EU countries, having a huge trade arrangement with Cambodia, before it quit the bloc

at the beginning of this year. “The withdrawal of 20 percent of the EBA scheme from Cambodia last year also resulted in the effect on trade between Cambodia and EU, but... we got a GSP (generalised system of trade) from the UK under which we can export the 20 percent we lost from the EU to the UK instead,” Heng said. The EU ranked as the second biggest trade partner of Cambodia in 2019, accounting for 11.9 percent of the country’s total trade. . Cambodia is the EU’s 54th largest trading partner.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50819696/trade-with-eu-valued-at-3-8-billion-in-2020/>

## Asean foreign ministers advocate regional solidarity



*Laos News | 3 March, 2021*

Asean’s foreign ministers have stressed the importance of maintaining regional solidarity and adhering to the principle of multilateral cooperation in response to challenges in the region and around the world. Ministers of Foreign Affairs from Asean member states, including Lao Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, stressed the point during a videoconference yesterday, chaired by Brunei Darussalam. Asean Secretary General Lim Jock Hoi also attended the meeting. Participants reiterated the importance of maintaining solidarity in the region, Asean centrality, and enhancing the Asean Community. The meeting discussed the progress of the Asean Vision 2025, the preparation of a draft of the Asean post-2025 Vision, Asean initiatives on the

response to and addressing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Asean plan on comprehensive recovery, use of money from the Asean Covid-19 Response Fund for purchasing vaccines, and the creation of an Asean Travel Corridor Arrangement. The ministers discussed Asean external cooperation and endorsed a document on the criteria and conditions of Asean partnership. They discussed the proposals of countries wishing to partner with Asean, and be a party of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, including a request from the United Kingdom to be a dialogue partner of Asean. Asean foreign ministers also exchanged views on issues of common interest in the region and around the world. Myanmar’s foreign minister reported on the current situation in his country.

Source : <https://www.microcapital.org/microcapital-brief-laos-launches-40m-msme-pandemic-relief-project-with-world-bank-loan-proceeds/>

## China grant licences to more Myanmar companies for rice export this year



*Myanmar News | 2 March, 2021*

China Customs granted licences to more Myanmar companies on 26 February 2021 to legally export the rice to China through the Muse land border, said U Min Thein, vice-president of Muse Rice Wholesale Centre. The authorized companies for rice export to China have increased this year as against last year. However, the permitted volume of rice for exports has not been confirmed yet, he added. “They gave

the go-ahead to Myanmar companies for legitimate rice exports on 26 February. The number of authorized companies this year is reportedly three times higher than last year's company list. Consequently, the rice quota will also rise," U Min Thein guessed. China's rice import permit for 2020 expired on 31 December 2020. The rice trade was suspended. Myanmar traders can now start rice exports under new licences. Nevertheless, the closure of the private banks disrupted the transaction problem in the rice trade, U Min Thein continued. "The traders rely on the banks for transactions. The majority of the banks are closed down for now. So, the trade falls by half as against a year-ago period," he stressed. Myanmar shipped more than 720,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign countries between 1 October and 15 January of the current financial year, earning over US\$275 million, Myanmar Rice Federation stated. Weather changes affected irrigation water resource availability in agriculture. As a result of this, Myanmar set the rice export target at only 2 million tonnes in the current FY as summer paddy growing acreage drops, said U Ye Min Aung, chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Myanmar generated over \$800 million from rice exports in the previous FY2019-2020 ended 30 September, with an estimated volume of over 2.5 million tonnes. — NN/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnfm.com.mm/china-grant-licences-to-more-myanmar-companies-for-rice-export-this-year/>

## More than 18,000 new firms set up in first two months



*Vietnam News | 2 March, 2021*

HA NOI - More than 18,000 new businesses were established in the first two months of 2021, a year-on-year decline of 4 per cent, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The number of employees registered by the newly-established enterprises rose 9.7 per cent to 173,000. The months saw an addition of VND720.4 trillion (US\$32.24 billion) in total registered capital, up 12.4 per cent. The average level in registered capital per enterprise surged 46.4 per cent to reach VND18.5 billion in the period. About 11,030 enterprises resumed operations in the first two months, down 7.6 per cent while 33,611 others were dissolved, up 18.6 per cent. In February alone, as many as 8,038 new businesses were set up with a combined registered capital of nearly VND179.74 trillion. The number of new firms represented a year-on-year drop of 12.3 per cent while the amount of capital surged 85.6 per cent. The number of workers registered by these businesses reached almost 57,000, down 22.1 per cent. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/890441/more-than-18000-new-firms-set-up-in-first-two-months.html>

## Viet Nam racks up \$1.29 billion in trade surplus in two months



*Vietnam News | 2 March, 2021*

HA NOI Viet Nam's trade balance posted positive US\$1.29 billion in the first two months of the year, the General Department of Customs has said. The country's trade turnover during January-February topped some \$95.81 billion, a year-on-year surge of 25.4 per cent. Of the total, exports amounted to \$48.55 billion, a yearly hike of 23.2 per cent, while imports were estimated at \$47.26 billion, or 25.9 per cent higher than the same time last year. Foreign-invested companies accounted for 76.4 per cent, or \$37.07 billion, of Viet Nam's total export turnover. Meanwhile, the domestic sector shipped abroad \$11.48 billion worth of products. There were nine commodities joining the billion-USD export club, including telephones and parts (\$9.3 billion, up 22.8 per cent year-on-year); electronics, computers and parts (\$6.9 billion, up 27.3 per cent); equipment, machines and parts (\$5.5 billion, up 72.6 per cent); footwear (\$3.2 billion, up 15.4 per cent); and wood and wooden products (\$2.4 billion, up 51 per cent). They made up 73 per cent of the country's export turnover. Viet Nam also saw strong surge in shipments of several agricultural products, such as fruits and vegetables (\$610 million, rising 14.6 per cent), rubber (\$516 million, increasing 109.7 per cent), cashew (\$442 million, up 21.5 per cent), and cassava (\$256 million, up 78.2 per cent). The US was Viet Nam's biggest importer as it splashed out \$14.2 billion on Vietnamese products, or 38.2 per cent

higher than the amount it spent the same time last year. China came second with \$8.5 billion, followed by the EU with \$6.3 billion, ASEAN \$4.2 billion, South Korea \$3.4 billion, and Japan \$3.2 billion. Meanwhile, the country spent big (\$47.26 billion) on imports, with the foreign-invested sector purchasing \$31.64 billion worth of products from abroad for production, up 31.4 per cent, while that of the domestic sector surged 16 per cent to \$15.62 billion. In the two-month period, China was the largest exporter of Viet Nam, with revenue estimated at \$17.3 billion, up 85.7 per cent year-on-year, followed by South Korea with \$8.4 billion, ASEAN \$5.6 billion, Japan \$3.1 billion, the EU \$2.3 billion, and the US \$2.1 billion. In a bid to support local firms in promoting production and exports, the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that it will work to capitalise on opportunities from the signed free trade agreements to seek measures for market development. Additionally, it will keep a close watch on the global market to identify key export products, while paying due heed to penning measures for market development.— VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/890438/vietnam-racks-up-129-billion-in-trade-surplus-in-two-months.html>

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