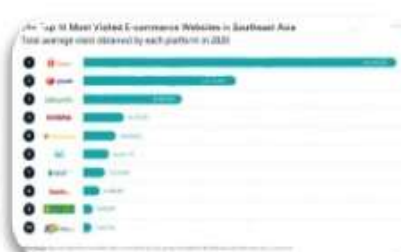


Highlight News / March 22, 2021



- PPSEZ buyback approval speculation appears to be driving recent high trading volume
- Garlic becoming potential cash crop in Mondulkiri
- UN contributes to Covid-19 vaccination programme
- Mandalay Market has been announced to open, but most shops have not opened.
- Vietnamese companies listed in top 10 most visited e-commerce websites in SEA
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PPSEZ buyback approval speculation appears to be driving recent high trading volume



Cambodia News | 20 March, 2021

Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone Plc (PPSEZ) shares have seen a high volume of shares trade hands over the last three days. A combined total trading volume of 308,838 shares were made between Wednesday and Friday. Wednesday saw 142,201 shares exchanged, with Thursday trades reaching 99,870 and 66,767 being moved on Friday. The three-day trading surge exceeded over 10 percent of the firm's total Q42020 trading volume of 2,894,601 shares exchanged. Jong Weon Ha, chief operating officer of the CSX, told Khmer Times that the high volume may be attributed to a proposed share buyback announced in late 2020 by PPSEZ. That share buyback would be the first in CSX history, if approved. Hiroshi Uematsu, chief executive officer PPSEZ was unable to comment on the status of the buyback. Instead, he referenced a March 12 article published by Khmer Times that reported the PPSEZ having confirmed it had submitted all the necessary paperwork to the Securities and Exchange Regulator of Cambodia for the share buyback proposal to be approved

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50827589/ppse-z-buyback-approval-speculation-appears-to-be-driving-recent-high-trading-volume/>

Garlic becoming potential cash crop in Mondulkiri



Cambodia News | 21 March, 2021

Garlic is becoming another potential cash crop for Cambodia's north-eastern province of Mondulkiri – thanks to remarkable success of a pioneer farmer. The good news was shared recently in a Facebook post by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Veng Sakhon. According to the post, the farmer M. Phin Phorn residing in Doh Kramom village, Sangkat Sokdom in Sen Monorom city of the province has achieved abundant harvest following a 3-month growing of the garlic. While the quantity was huge, the quality is very safe for consumers as it is an organic product and the demand in the domestic markets for it is very high. The idea of garlic farming in Mondulkiri began with the minister and his team who distributed garlic seeds to some selected farmers in the province as a piloting back in December 2020. With the satisfactory results, the provincial authority is expected to expand garlic farming and make it another cash crop for the locals in the near future. Lim Nary – AKP

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50827814/garlic-becoming-potential-cash-crop-in-mondulkiri/>

UN contributes to Covid-19 vaccination programme



Laos News | 22 March, 2021

The government has received 132,000 doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine to prevent the spread of the virus in Laos. The arrival of the first shipment

of Covid-19 vaccines from the COVAX Facility in Vientiane on Saturday marked an important step forward in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The 132,000 doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine contribute to the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for Covid-19 vaccines together with other vaccines received through bilateral cooperation. The vaccines, which are funded by the COVAX Facility, are expected to be administered in April. They were handed over by the UN Resident Coordinator to Laos, Ms Sara Sekkenes, to the Minister of Health, Associate Prof. Dr Bounkong Syhavong. This batch of vaccines is part of the total 480,000 doses which Laos is expected to receive from the COVAX Facility this year for distribution to about 20 percent of the total population. The vaccines were procured by UNICEF and will be administered by the government with the technical support of the World Health Organisation. So far, the country has received vaccine donations from China and the Russian Federation and began its first vaccination roll-out on January 27. As additional vaccines become approved and listed for emergency use by WHO, it is anticipated that such vaccines, if offered by producing countries, can also be provided through the COVAX Facility and enlarge the initiative aimed at providing equitable access to vaccines. Ms Sekkenes said "With appreciation for the work of WHO and UNICEF together with a number of additional actors and financial contributors, I would like to commend the Lao government for its achievements in the fight against

the Covid-19 pandemic and its efforts in working to vaccinate its population." "The UN Country Team stands ready to provide technical assistance including supporting resource mobilisation and trust building in and demand for vaccines that meet the highest international standards for the implementation of the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination programme to ensure its safety, efficacy and equity." The government is prioritising the vaccination of medical staff, officials working at land border crossings and airports, other essential workers, people above the age of 60, and people with underlying health conditions. Ms Sekkenes said "Whilst ensuring the vaccination of priority groups first, like elsewhere, we would also like to call for the equitable allocation of vaccines, ensuring they are provided to vulnerable and hard to reach marginalised groups such as migrant workers, internally displaced and rural populations, and in particular ethnic populations in remote areas, and also imprisoned detainees for whom social distancing can be challenging." Together with the UN Country Team, development partners, non-governmental organisations, civil social organisations and other bodies have been actively supporting the government to protect its people during the pandemic. A number of activities coordinated and supported by the United Nations in collaboration with Lao authorities to address the health challenges and related impacts due to Covid-19 have been implemented.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_UN_56.php

Mandalay Market has been announced to open, but most shops have not opened.



Myanmar News | 21 March, 2021

Mandalay Advanced Shopping Mall, one of Mandalay's wholesalers, was announced to reopen today (March 21), but most shopkeepers have yet to open. Yadanarbon Market in Mandalay, including Mandalay Market, has been closed since September 2020 to control the spread of the disease due to the Kovid outbreak in the country, and will be reopened today (March 21). Although the market entrances were opened in the morning, most of the shopkeepers in the shops in the market did not come to open and sell, and some of them moved the goods in the shop. In the afternoon, the entrance to the market was closed again. Similarly, Yadanarbon Market between 78th Street, 33rd Street and 34th Street in Mandalay has vendors. There are no buyers.

Source: <https://news-eleven.com/article/206136>

Vietnamese companies listed in top 10 most visited e-commerce websites in SEA



Vietnam News | 21 March, 2021

Five Vietnamese companies have been listed in the top 10 most visited e-commerce websites in

Southeast Asia despite the global pandemic affecting consumers in the region, according to the latest e-commerce report. The Vietnamese e-commerce platforms are thegioididong and Bach hoa xanh (28.6 million and 8.8 million visits, respectively), Tiki (22.5 million visits), Sendo (14.3 million visits) and FPT Shop (8.8 million visits), according to the report conducted by iPrice Group, an e-commerce aggregator in collaboration with SimilarWeb and AppsFlyer. Alibaba and SEA-backed Shopee and Lazada, and three startups 'unicorn' including Tokopedia, Bukalapak and Blibli from Indonesia were also on the list. Three Vietnamese platforms, thegioididong, Tiki and Sendo remained the 5th, 6th and 8th positions among the top e-commerce sites web visits from the first quarter to the fourth one 2020. Tran Tuan Anh, Managing Director of Shopee Vietnam, saw that 2020 was an especially transformative year for e-commerce. As consumers adhered to social distancing measures and stayed home, they turned to online platforms not just for their daily needs but also for entertainment and interaction. "This led to online shopping evolving from a purely transactional experience to a more social experience, with e-commerce platforms integrating more interactive elements such as games and live-streaming to engage users," Tuan Anh said. The report revealed that the overall website traffic of online shopping platforms increased positively in Vietnam and other ASEAN countries including the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia year-over-year. "Impacted by COVID-19,

major e-commerce companies in Vietnam have taken a quick response to catch trends. They have rolled out other marketing campaigns that drew customers through gamified features on the app, free shipping and discounts,” a representative from iPrice said. A recent report by Google, Temasek and Bain & Company mentioned that, to ensure sustained growth, talent is a key factor that businesses need improve as e-commerce is new while there are only a few schools and classes specializing on training human resources. “Finding and nurturing talents can be one of the factors that create “thrust” for e-commerce businesses in the coming time,” a representative from iPrice said. The larger “piece of cake” in the billion-of-dollar e-commerce market would belong to those who soon prepare, anticipate the market and execute their strategies. However, this success cannot be achieved overnight.

Source: <http://hanoitimes.vn/vietnamese-companies-listed-in-top-10-most-visited-e-commerce-websites-in-sea-316730.html>

Moody's changes Việt Nam's outlook to positive



Vietnam News / 20 March, 2021

HÀ NỘI — Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) has maintained the Government of Việt Nam's long-term issuer and senior unsecured ratings at Ba3 and changed the outlook to positive from negative. The drivers of the positive outlook include signs of improvements in fiscal strength and potential

improvements in economic strength that may strengthen Việt Nam's credit profile over time. Sustained fiscal consolidation has led to improvements in fiscal and debt metrics, which Moody's expects to be only briefly interrupted by the pandemic. Moreover, Việt Nam's economic strength may benefit from global shifts in production, trade and consumption following the coronavirus pandemic. Over time, indications of higher fiscal and economic strength may point to improving policy effectiveness, also putting upward pressure on Việt Nam's credit profile. The affirmation of the Ba3 rating is underpinned by ongoing credit strengths and weaknesses, including a large, diversified economy with high growth potential offering resilience to shocks, and increasing capacity in the domestic financial system to finance government borrowing at low costs. Việt Nam's local- and foreign-currency ceilings are unchanged at Baa3 and Ba2, respectively. In its evaluation, Moody's also considered other factors such as the environment, society, air pollution, extreme weather conditions, which it held that Việt Nam should give greater attention to. Moody's raising of two positions in outlook prospect is an unprecedented move in its ranking globally since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is a considerable recognition for Việt Nam. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/907077/moodys-changes-viet-nams-outlook-to-positive.html>