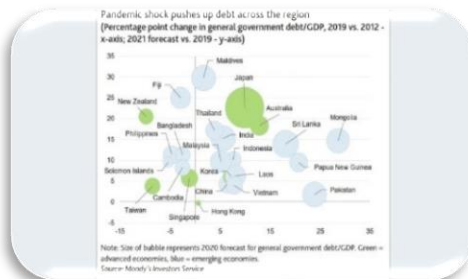


Highlight News / March 31/2021



- Cambodia, Thailand bilateral trade down Jan-Feb
- Moody's says outlook stable for Cambodia's credit rating
- NA set to approve 96 laws by 2025
- KBZ Bank's ATMs can only withdraw a maximum of 200,000 kyats per day
- Vietnamese economy expands 4.48 per cent in Q1
- Vietnam enjoys trade surplus of over US\$2 billion in Q1



Cambodia, Thailand bilateral trade down Jan-Feb



Cambodia News | 30 March, 2021

Bilateral trade between Cambodia and Thailand was valued at \$1.298 billion for the first two months of 2021, a slide of 20.5 percent downwards year-to-date. Data from Thailand's Ministry of Commerce cited Cambodian exports for the reporting period of \$225 million, down 47 percent from last year. Cambodian imports from Thailand reached \$1.073 billion, an 11 percent increase year-on-year. Agricultural products accounted for the majority of Cambodia's exports to Thailand. Thai exports to Cambodia consisted primarily of energy resources, agriculture fertiliser, food supplies and cosmetics. Trade between the two nations has been dropping since last year. The availability of Coronavirus vaccines has been cause for optimism among key insiders and government officials for the recovery of economic growth, particularly trade activities. Lim Heng, vice-president of Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, said, "Once vaccine availability [is more widespread], the recovery of the economy is highly expected and it will boost trade and exports." Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen has called on local authorities to facilitate the flow of exports crossing the border from farmers. Two-way trade between the countries was valued at \$7.236 billion last year, down 23 percent from 2019. On a more positive note, bilateral trade between Cambodia and Singapore reached \$4.2 billion in 2020. The figure was

presented as Say Chhum, president of the Senate and newly-appointed Ambassador of Singapore to Cambodia Teo Lay Cheng met. Chhum said bilateral trade contributed significantly socio-economically to the people of the two nations, adding that Singapore's investments here reached \$1.29 billion between 1994 and 2020.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50828866/cp-cambodia-invests-67-mn-in-animal-food-production/>

Moody's says outlook stable for Cambodia's credit rating



Cambodia News | 30 March, 2021

Moody's Investors Service announced Monday stable outlooks for the sovereign credit ratings of six ASEAN countries including Cambodia. In the March edition of its Inside ASEAN report, the U.S. rating agency said outlooks were stable for Cambodia (rated B2), Indonesia and the Philippines (both Baa2), Malaysia (A3), Singapore (Aaa) and Thailand (Baa1). At the same time, outlooks for were negative for Laos (Caa2) but positive for Vietnam (Ba3), the agency said. Moody's said its latest ratings for the eight ASEAN countries were dated Mar. 22. Sao Da – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50831628/moodys-says-outlook-stable-for-cambodias-credit-rating/>

NA set to approve 96 laws by 2025



Laos News | 31 March, 2021

Some 96 laws will be enacted and amended over the next five years as Laos moves closer to becoming a

state governed by the rule of law. Thirty-eight of the laws are new and will be debated before being approved, while the other 58 are laws that will be amended in response to changes in the country's development circumstances. Of the total 96 laws, 36 relate to the economy, 28 concern socio-cultural matters, and 23 are in the area of governance and justice, according to a report from the National Assembly unveiled recently. However, NA members have queried the law enactment process, urging the bodies concerned to broaden the canvass of public opinion before submitting the laws to the Assembly's next session for debate. Members of parliament say that greater participation and more input from all sectors will make the laws more comprehensive and relevant in the long term. During the inaugural session of the NA's newly elected 9th legislature which took place from March 22-26, members highlighted the need to further disseminate laws throughout the country to ensure that all communities understand them and join forces in curbing illegal activities. NA Secretary General Mrs Pingkham Lasasimma said the Assembly's Standing Committee will need to collaborate more closely with the sectors concerned to formulate the content of laws before they are submitted to the National Assembly for debate. One of the main problems in recent years has been that some of the laws that were enacted needed to be amended a few years later because some of the content did not reflect the reality of the nation's circumstances. As a result, some laws have not been sufficiently enforced,

resulting in large numbers of complaints from members of the public. Therefore the law enforcement sector needs to work harder to bring proper justice to people. Over the past five years (2016-2020), the National Assembly has approved 90 laws (38 new laws and 52 amended laws), bringing the total number of laws in existence to 156. President of the Assembly's Law Committee, Mr Chaleun Yiapaoher, said the law was an important instrument to adjust and regulate society, facilitate socio-economic development, and protect the rights and interests of ethnic people. Mr Chaleun called for all relevant sectors to play a more active role and shoulder more responsibility in studying the content of laws to ensure their quality and comprehensiveness in the years to come. The National Assembly represents the rights, powers and interests of the multi-ethnic people. As the country's legislative body, it has the right to make decisions on fundamental issues and to oversee the work of the government, the people's courts, and the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_NA_63.php

KBZ Bank's ATMs can only withdraw a maximum of 200,000 kyats per day



Myanmar News / 30 March, 2021

KBZ Bank announced today (March 30) that a maximum of 200,000 kyats per day can be withdrawn at ATMs of KBZ Bank. KBZ Bank's essential banking services can withdraw a maximum

of 200,000 kyats per day at ATMs. Deposits; Deposit to KBZPay It has been announced that check issuance and check clearing will be possible indefinitely. Banking services at some branches include Mobile Banking / KBZPay account opening and other bank accounts; Transfer money between accounts (US Dollar-Myanmar Kyat, Myanmar Kyat-US Dollar); Transfer money between accounts (Myanmar Kyats); Issuance of payment orders, issuance of ATM card, It is learned that the central bank provides cash withdrawals as required. Yangon, Branches in Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin are open on March 30, and the list of branches is subject to change from day to day. According to a statement issued by the Central Bank on March 1, private banks will be allowed to withdraw a maximum of 500,000 kyats per day.

Source : <https://news-eleven.com/article/206389>

Vietnamese economy expands 4.48 per cent in Q1



Vietnam News / 30 March, 2021

HÀ NỘI — The Vietnamese economy expanded at 4.48 per cent in the first quarter of 2021, a positive result in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the General Statistics Office. The economy grew only 3.8 per cent in the first quarter of last year and though the pandemic continued to impact the economy this year, the increased growth was a positive sign. The agro-forestry-fishery sector grew at 3.16 per cent, the industrial and construction sector 6.3 per cent and the services sector at 3.34

per cent, contributing 8.34 per cent, 55.96 per cent and 35.7 per cent to overall economic growth, respectively. The GSO said that the services sector posted positive growth as enterprises took advantage of free trade agreements. The first quarter saw the strong recovery of imports and exports with total trade revenue estimated at US\$152.65 billion, a rise of 24.1 per cent against the same period last year. The country enjoyed a trade surplus of \$2.03 billion in the first quarter. GSO statistics showed that the consumer price index (CPI) in March fell by 0.27 per cent against the previous month. On average, the CPI rose by 0.29 per cent in the first quarter. "In the context of the COVID-19 with complex developments in the world, the socio-economic picture of Việt Nam in the first quarter of 2021 remains stable with positive results. The growth rate of 4.48 per cent was a relatively good result compared to other countries in the region and around the world," the GSO said. "The macroeconomy is stable while inflation is controlled at a low level," it added. In addition, the disbursement of public investment improved significantly in the first quarter. The disbursed public investment was estimated to total VNĐ122.4 trillion in the quarter, accounting for 24.1 per cent of total investment in the economy and up by 7.5 per cent compared to the same period last year – the highest rate since 2011. The GSO, however, pointed out that the Vietnamese economy was facing challenges from unpredictable global developments. The COVID-19 pandemic is still disrupting global supply chains and

affecting many industries, including trade, tourism and transportation. “The goal of achieving the growth rate of 6.5 per cent remains a big challenge,” the GSO said. It was important to continue to contain the virus and carry out the vaccination programme, the GSO said. In addition, solutions should be offered to help enterprises benefit from the Government’s support packages while public investment disbursement should be accelerated to drive growth. The focus should be placed on providing support to Vietnamese enterprises to take advantage of trade deals to expand markets. Besides, foreign investment attraction policies should aim at quality and environmentally-friendly capital to promote economic growth and sustainable development. The Government should maintain flexible and cautious monetary, interest rate and exchange rate policies in line with the domestic and international market developments and harmonised with other fiscal and macro policies to control inflation, support production and prevent negative impacts of the world market development on the domestic market. Credit growth must meet the demand for production and business, the GSO said. — VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/915081/vietnamese-economy-expands-448-per-cent-in-q1.html>

Vietnam enjoys trade surplus of over US\$2 billion in Q1

VOV.VN - Vietnam raked in US\$76.74 billion from exports and spent US\$74.61 billion on imports during the first three months of the year, thus recording a trade surplus of US\$2.14 billion, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs. The department reports trade turnover in March alone surged by 35.9% to US\$55.5 billion compared to the previous month, with exports soaring by 38.6% to US\$28 billion and imports increasing by 33.1% to US\$27.5 billion. Overall, the country’s total import and export turnover throughout the three-month period rose by 23% to US\$151.35 billion, and a trade surplus hit over US\$2.14 billion, says the department. Phones and accessories remained the largest export commodity group with an estimated turnover of US\$14.07 billion in the first quarter, marking an annual jump of 9.3%. They were followed by computers and electronic products components (US\$11.6 billion and 28%) and seafood (US\$1.68 billion, and 3.3%). Elsewhere, two groups of imported goods, including computers, electronic products and components, recorded turnover reaching over US\$10 billion throughout the reviewed period.

Source : <https://vov.vn/en/economy/vietnam-enjoys-trade-surplus-of-over-us2-billion-in-q1-846808.vov>

