

Highlight News / May 18, 2021



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

Red Zones to be minimised to households



Cambodia News | 17 May, 2021

Phnom Penh City Hall has plans to minimise the red zones to household levels as the number of COVID-19 infection cases in the capital continues to drop. The remark was made in a virtual meeting held on Monday and attended by Phnom Penh governor Khuong Sreng. Such a move was made amid the number of new cases of COVID-19 infections in Phnom Penh has decreased remarkably from 500 per day previously to below 200 cases a day. The plan will be applied from May 19 when new administrative measures against Covid-19 in Phnom Penh are due to be announced. "Work to be implemented on May 19 is to reduce red zones smaller to the level of households, buildings, or condos," Sreng said. Sreng also ordered local authorities to follow up on the situation of health and food supplies of the residents in the lockdown areas.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50857943/red-zones-to-be-minimised-to-households/>

Third Ring Road 50 percent complete



Cambodia News | 17 May, 2021

The construction of the \$300 million third ring road was 50 percent complete as of early May and is scheduled to be finished next year, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport's spokesman Heang Sotheayuth. The 52 kilometre road stretches from National Road 4 from Por Sen Chey district in

the west of Phnom Penh and crosses National Roads 3 and 2 to National Road 1, in the east of the capital, connecting to the Phnom Penh autonomous port. The construction of the road is expected to finish by September next year, Sotheayuth said. The road has 47 km of cement pavement and a five km stretch with asphalt paving. If there are no disruptions, the construction of the road will be ready as planned, Sotheayuth said. "The construction process continues despite the threat of COVID-19 disease. Both construction companies and technical consulting firms adhere to the Ministry of Health's guidelines for combating COVID-19 disease," he said. The road will contribute economically to the transportation and logistics sector, joining National Roads Number 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1, to create a huge connection of roads. It will connect ASEAN highways and major economic corridors of the Greater Mekong sub-region, contributing to the facilitation of cross-border transport and promoting international trade and logistics. It will turn the land on either side of the ring road into potential housing, logistics and industrial development areas.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50857557/third-ring-road-50-percent-complete/>

Laos strengthens border control to prevent imported COVID-19 risk



Laos News | 17 May, 2021

VIENTIANE, May 17 (Xinhua) -- The Lao government has instructed authorities across the country to

strictly monitor the border and record information about people entering Laos to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. Lao nationals who work in Thailand and other countries may return to Laos but must enter at official border crossings so that officials can screen them for COVID-19, local daily Vientiane Times reported on Monday. The Lao Ministry of Health is concerned about people entering Laos illegally across the Mekong River which is easy at this time of the year because of the low water level. Local authorities are continuing to face challenges in monitoring people at border crossings and providing assistance to returning workers affected by the pandemic. Returning Lao nationals must present a letter from their embassy or consulate granting permission to travel to a particular border crossing on a specified day, along with a fit-to-travel health certificate. Everyone crossing the border will be screened and informed of the basic facts about COVID-19 and what to expect during travel. They will then be sent to a quarantine center. The National Taskforce Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control has called for better collaboration within the health sector to lower the risk of the virus being transmitted across borders, and is working with local authorities to assess their preparedness and response to the virus threat. As of Sunday, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Laos is 1,591, with two deaths

and 574 people undergoing treatment in hospitals. Laos reported its first two COVID-19 cases on March 24 last year. Enditem

Source:http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2021-05/17/c_139950983.htm

Electricity and Energy Ministry

focuses on better supply of electricity



Myanmar News | 17 May, 2021

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is making efforts in order to generate electricity from hydropower stations, solar power stations, natural gas power plants, recycling power plants and LNG-fired power plants with various sources for ensuring safe and stable electricity to the people, said Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Aung Than Oo at the videoconferencing coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 and 16 May. The Union Minister noted that arrangements are being made for generating electricity yearly through hydropower projects, solar power projects and renewable energy projects with the least environmental impacts and social impacts and meet the year-wise electricity demand of the country in line with the 2030 national electrification plan-NEP. The Union minister stressed that the people had recognized the best services of the ministry without an outage of electricity. So, he urged all to maintain the excellent tradition with further effort to improve their tasks. Officials reported on work progress in the second quarter of the 2020-2021 financial year and plans for the third and fourth

quarters. Deputy Minister U Thant Sin gave a supplementary report. — MNA

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/electricity-and-energy-ministry-focuses-on-better-supply-of-electricity/#article-title>

Vietnamese electronics industry still low in technology and value



Vietnam News | 17 May, 2021

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - Vietnamese supporting industry enterprises for the electronics industry participate in the value chain, however, most of them only provide simple products with low technology and value. The Industry Agency under the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that production and trading of electronic products has grown significantly. Exports of the country's electronics industry have an average growth rate of over 50 percent in the period from 2010 to 2019, which is the highest in the world. The group of mobile phones and components exported reached 50.9 billion USD last year, down 1 percent compared to 2019 due to the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Particularly, the group of exported electronics, computers and components reached 44.7 billion USD, up 24.4 percent compared to 2019. Among 11 items with export turnover of over 1 billion USD, phones and components have the largest export value of 14.1 billion USD in the first quarter of this year, accounting for 18.2 percent of total export turnover, up 9.3 percent over the same period last year. Similarly, the group of electronic products, computers and components reached 12

billion USD, up 31.3 percent over the same period last year. Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy, Deputy Director of the Export Promotion Center of the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said that the Vietnamese economy continued to witness significant changes in its export structure in recent years. From a country with major exports such as agricultural products and labour-intensive commodities, Vietnam is gradually moving towards products with higher technology and added value such as precision mechanical products and electronic products and components. "With the experience of working and co-operating with the world's leading companies and corporations from the US, Europe, Japan and South Korea, Vietnamese businesses are fully capable to participate in the supply chains of large companies and corporations around the world," Thuy told VOV online newspaper. However, the current localisation rate of the electronics industry is low, only about 5-10 percent. Most of the electronic products on the Vietnamese market are completely imported or assembled domestically with a majority of imported components. In order to develop the electronics industry proactively, quickly and sustainably, a representative of the Industry Agency emphasised the need to develop measures to protect the market, with measures such as defensive taxes, technical barriers and fight against commercial fraud, counterfeit and smuggled goods. At the same time, the agency also noted the focus on supporting promising Vietnamese enterprises in the electronics

field to create opportunities for them to develop and play a leading role in the domestic market, especially electrical products and appliances. It is also necessary to review and complete legal policies, especially regulations on goods of Vietnamese origin; implement solutions to expand domestic and export markets. In addition, the agency also noted that electronic enterprises should pay more attention to identify core and breakthrough products to promote the electronics industry and develop faster and more efficiently./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnamese-electronics-industry-still-low-in-technology-and-value/201568.vnp>

Vietnam earns 362 million USD from rice exports in April



Vietnam News | 17 May, 2021

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - The volume of rice exported last month is estimated at 700,000 tonnes with a value of 362 million USD. This brought the total volume of rice exported in the first four months of this year to 1.9 million tonnes, worth 1.01 billion USD, down 10.8 percent in volume but up 1.2 percent in value year-on-year. The Agro Processing and Market Development Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development reported that the Philippines was the largest rice consumption market of Vietnam in the first three months of this year with 36.3 percent market share. The volume and value to the market reached 411,580 tonnes and 219.96 million USD, respectively, down 30.7 percent in

volume and 14.5 percent in value year-on-year. Markets with a sharp increase in rice export value in the three months were Ivory Coast with a 2.7 times rise and Australia with year-on-year growth of 66 percent. A market where the rice export value fell significantly was Mozambique (down 53.5 percent). The average rice export price in the first three months reached 547.8 USD per tonne, growing 18.6 percent over the same period last year. Regarding the types of rice, in the first three months of 2021, the export value of white rice accounted for 39.3 percent of the total turnover; jasmine rice and fragrant rice accounted for 36 percent and sticky rice accounted for 22 percent and other types of rice made up about three percent. On the world market, Vietnam's rice price reached 508 USD per tonne at the beginning of last month and fell to 488 USD per tonne at the end of the month. The main reason is because the winter-spring crop has been harvested, therefore, the demand for raw materials dropped, waiting for the coming summer-autumn crop. Poor weather conditions are forecast in many parts of the world this year, resulting in a decrease in food production in many countries, and demand for rice imports expected to increase this year. The European market is forecasted to be livelier thanks to the EU - Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), in which Vietnam is an important rice trading partner./.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-earns-362-million-usd-from-rice-exports-in-april/201573.vnp>