

Highlight News / July 07/2021



- Siem Reap authorities extend the lockdown of Phsar Loeu Thom Thmey market for another 2 weeks
- USAID initiates \$3-million Cold Chain Logistic System in Cambodia
- Govt mulls measures to overcome Covid-19 crisis
- Watermelon growers suggested 50% production drop next growing season
- Viet Nam's agriculture sector gains export growth in H1
- Trade deficit nears \$1.5 bln



ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (Aiti)

Siem Reap authorities extend the lockdown of Phsar Loeu Thom Thmey market for another 2 weeks



Cambodia News | 6 July, 2021

The Siem Reap provincial administration has decided to extend the lockdown of Phsar Loeu Thom Thmey market for another two weeks from 7th to 20th July in a bid to stem the spread of Covid-19. The administration said that the continued closure of Phsar Loeu Thom Thmey Market in Dak Po village, Slor Kram commune, Siem Reap City was made today to ensure the effective control of Covid-19 in the community. The market has been temporarily closed since June 24 as more than 200 vendors and those involved were diagnosed with the Covid-19. As of July 7, Siem Reap province has registered a total of 1,654 Covid-19 cases, 605 recoveries, and 18 deaths, with 1,031 patients being treated at Siem Reap Provincial Referral Hospital and Dom Dek High School.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50888390/siem-reap-authorities-extend-the-lockdown-of-phsar-loeu-thom-thmey-market-for-another-2-weeks/>

Battambang-Banteay Meanchey road construction project nears completion



Cambodia News | 6 July, 2021

ration Agency (JICA) Cambodia Office, after the inspection visit to the construction site by Tauch Chankosal, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Mikami Masahiro, Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia, and Ms.

Kamei Haruko, Chief Representative of JICA Cambodia Office. Besides the Battambang-Banteay Meanchey section, the road construction from Prek Kdam, north of Phnom Penh capital, to Battambang province, has been achieved at approximately 50 percent, the source added. “We would like to express our gratitude for the understanding of Cambodian people during the construction and request the public to respect the traffic laws for safety for everyone,” said JICA. The National Road No. 5 Improvement project has a total length of 366 kilometres connecting the capital to the northwestern part of the country passing through Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey provinces. The road is being built with four lanes with a width of 23 metres. Built with Japanese grant of \$500 million, the National Road No. 5 is part of the ASEAN highway connecting Cambodia to Thailand and Vietnam. Chea Vannak – AKP

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50887824/battambang-banteay-meachey-road-construction-project-nears-completion/>

Govt mulls measures to overcome Covid-19 crisis



Laos News | 7 July, 2021

The government is holding a special virtual meeting to discuss ways to better respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and overcome the economic and financial difficulties Laos is facing. Chaired by Prime Minister Phankham Viphavanh, the open government

meeting is taking place in Vientiane from July 6-8. Cabinet members, the mayor of Vientiane, provincial governors, together with representatives of other state agencies, are attending the meeting. Participants are reviewing the government's battle against Covid-19 over the past six months and drawing up plans for the rest of the year. The progress made in implementing the national socio-economic development plan over the past six months is also tabled for discussion. Participants will also discuss the two national agendas relating to the resolution of economic and financial difficulties and drug abuse, which have hindered national development for many years. The two national agendas were adopted by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party's central committee at its extraordinary plenary session, which took place in Vientiane from June 21-25. The government is determined to urgently address drug abuse and trafficking after learning that drugs are destroying the future of young people and the nation. Despite great attempts by all sectors of society, drug use and trafficking is escalating annually. To address economic difficulties, the government will need to take stronger action to strengthen revenue collection, encourage austerity, increase the effectiveness of state investment, curb spending and tackle debt repayment, and stabilise the kip. On Monday, cabinet members met with members of the National Assembly (NA)'s Standing Committee to discuss measures and ways to settle the nation's debts, according to the Phouthen Pasaxon News.

The government and NA leaders also discussed the enactment and amendment of laws in association with the national agendas. They touched upon measures and methods to settle the debts owed by the government to private companies that carried out State investment projects. At the open government meeting, PM Phankham urged cabinet members and representatives of all State sectors to responsibly debate measures to help Laos overcome all challenges. One of the main challenges for Laos is the rising debt burden and fluctuation of exchange rates, which are driving up inflation and the cost of living. In addition, the Covid-19 crisis is disrupting economic activity, especially impacting on foreign investment and tourism, which are considered Laos' main sources of revenue. Economic activities stalled when Laos went into full lockdown in March last year, prompting companies to lay off workers and close factories. Vientiane has been under lockdown or partial lockdown for more than two months since the first community outbreak of Covid erupted in mid-April.

Source : https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Govt_130.php

Watermelon growers suggested 50% production drop next growing season



Myanmar News | 7 July, 2021

Watermelon growers flooded markets with excess supply this year and led to a market failure. Consequently, they are suggested to reduce the sown acreage acres by 50 per cent for the coming

season, cross-border fruit depots stated. This year, about 30,000 trucks of watermelon and 12,000 trucks of muskmelons were conveyed to China via the land border. Nevertheless, a thousand trucks went in vain as they stranded in the road part, affecting the quality of the fruits. Some watermelons have been disposed of as well. The exports of watermelon drastically plunged as against last year as watermelon supply is exceeding the demand and transport delay triggered by the heightened COVID-19 measures in the border areas harm the quality of the fruits. As a result of this, the traders are encouraged to keep market balance and maintain the quality, Khwar Nyo Fruit Depot stated. As China is stepping up the coronavirus containment measures in the border areas, the exporters of agricultural products including watermelon are suffering amid the COVID-19 resurgence. This year, some watermelon trucks returned from the Myanmar-China North-East border checkpoint as the watermelon was not traded well and the truck drivers were no longer bear the cost and tariff on the China border. Additionally, starting from 20 April 2021, the coronavirus test is mandatory for cross-border traders. Following the detection of the coronavirus cases in border Ruili, China restricted border access at the Man Wein checkpoint. Ruili-Kyalgaung river crossing has been also closed. Only Kyinsankyawt post is available for cross-border trade, causing delays and long queues. It takes about a month for a truck to enter the checkpoint. As a result of this, the cross-border fruit depots suggest that the growers

harvest the watermelon depending on the market condition to avoid a mismatch between supply and demand. A truckload of watermelon (855 variety) fetches 45,000-65,000 Yuan in mid-March. The price drastically plunged to 13,000 Yuan in mid-May and it does not even cover the truck freight rate. Myanmar's watermelon market earlier relied only on China. Myanmar shipped 45 tonnes of seedless watermelon to the Dubai market in December 2020 and January 2021. After the country achieves success in the Dubai market, Myanmar has a plan to expand its market to Hong Kong SAR, the UAE and Qatar, the association stated. On 5 January 2021, 105th mile Fruit Wholesale Centre released a statement that the number of watermelon and muskmelon trucks for exports is to be set to govern the market. Myanmar yearly exports over 800,000 tonnes of watermelon and about 150,000 tonnes of muskmelons to China, the association stated. — KK/GNLM

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/watermelon-growers-suggested-50-production-drop-next-growing-season/>

Viet Nam's agriculture sector gains export growth in H1



Vietnam News | 6 July, 2021

HA NOI — Viet Nam's agriculture sector gained export growth of agricultural, forest and seafood products in the first six months of this year despite difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first half of the year, Viet Nam earned US\$24.23

billion from exporting agriculture, forestry and seafood products, an increase of 28.2 per cent compared to that of the same period last year. During this period, the complicated development of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted material supply chains all over the world and had negative impacts on the production, consumption and exports of farming products. However, Viet Nam's agriculture made great efforts to achieve twin goals – ensuring COVID-19 prevention and control and maintaining growth in production and business. Of which, the export value reached \$10.40 billion from major agriculture products, \$4.05 billion from seafood products and \$8.7 billion from forestry products, a year-on-year increase of 13.3 per cent, 12.5 per cent and 61.5 per cent, respectively. Key export farming products with growth in both export volume and value included rubber, tea, cashew, cassava and products made from cassava. Products with higher export value mainly thanks to growth in export volume included timber and wooden products, bamboo products and shrimp. China, the US, Japan and South Korea were the four major export markets for Vietnamese agricultural products. Of which, the US was the largest export market for Viet Nam's agriculture sector with a total export value of \$6.7 billion, mainly from exports of timber and wooden products, a year on year surge of 59.8 per cent. China was the second largest market with an export value of \$4.8 billion, 32 per cent higher than the same period of last year. Viet Nam's agriculture sector saw a trade surplus of \$3.14 billion in the first

half of this year as the country spent about \$21.09 billion importing agriculture products. The COVID-19 pandemic has been causing disruptions in consumption and exports of farming products, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has actively boosted farming product exports to markets like Peru and Australia as well as studied free trade agreements (FTAs) to take advantages relating to agriculture product exports, said deputy minister of agriculture and rural development Nguyễn Thành Nam. The ministry co-operated with Vietnamese embassies and trade offices in countries to exchange market information for having forecasts and analysis in timely manner on market development during and post-COVID-19 pandemic. Viet Nam also created favourable conditions for Chinese traders to purchase lychee in Viet Nam. It also negotiated with China, Thailand and the EU to boost the exports of fruits and seafood products from Viet Nam. The ministry followed the production and consumption of farming products nationwide, especially in COVID-19-hit areas. Besides that, MARD, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and localities have also implemented measures to support farmers and enterprises in consuming agro products amid the COVID-19 pandemic. They help farmers sell farming produce to supermarket chains like Big C, AEON, Hapro and Vinmart. The farming products are available on e-commerce platforms like Alibaba, Amazon, Sendo, Voso and Shopee, Nam said. MARD expects the export revenue of agriculture, forestry and seafood

products this year to reach about \$45 billion, including \$21.5 billion from main agriculture products, \$14 billion from forestry and wooden products, \$8.5 billion from seafood products and about \$1 billion from other products. According to the General Statistics Office, in the first half of this year, the agriculture sector gained a GDP growth of 3.6 per cent in the first six months of this year. Meanwhile, its agriculture, forestry and fishery production value achieved an increase of 3.84 per cent. VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/986726/vietnams-agriculture-sector-gains-export-growth-in-h1.html>

Trade deficit nears \$1.5 bln



Vietnam News | 6 July, 2021

Vietnam had a H1 2021 trade deficit of \$1.47 billion, compared with a surplus of \$5.86 billion in the same period last year. The Ministry of Industry and Trade had reported a trade deficit of \$1 billion in June, the second straight month that a deficit was recorded. Between January and June, local firms posted a trade deficit of over \$15 billion, while foreign-invested enterprises secured a trade surplus of \$13.64 billion. Production expansion after three waves of Covid-19 before April resulted in increased import of materials by local firms, the ministry explained. Local firms often import more materials in the first half of a year, but this is reduced in the second half, while export intensifies, the ministry said. Exports of such products to big markets,

including the U.S., China and the European Union saw high growth in the first half of this year. Specifically, Vietnam earned \$25.1 billion from exporting phones and their components, a year-on-year rise of over 14 percent; \$17 billion from machines, equipment, tools and spare parts, up more than 63 percent; \$15.2 billion from garments and textiles, up 14.9 percent; and \$10.4 billion from footwear, up nearly 28 percent. The U.S. continued to be Vietnam's biggest export market with a turnover of over \$45 billion, up 43 percent plus, followed by China with \$24.6 billion, up 25 percent plus and the European Union with \$19.3 billion, up 17.4 percent. Meanwhile, China was Vietnam's biggest import market with a turnover of nearly \$54 billion, surging 53.6 percent year-on-year. Import turnover from South Korea rose 21.6 percent to \$25.2 billion, and from ASEAN surged 49 percent to \$21 billion. Vietnam is set to export more products, mainly electronics, machines, equipment, woodwork, garments, textiles and seafood in the second half of 2021, the ministry said, noting that the U.S. and European countries were removing lockdowns and global demand for goods was recovering. The country's imports in the second half of this year is likely to be hit by the ongoing fourth Covid-19 wave in many cities and provinces, especially those with large production and import-export capacity like Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, HCMC, Dong Nai and Binh Duong.

Source : <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/economy/trade-deficit-nears-1-5-bl-4304873.html>
