

*Highlight News / August 20/2021*



- Livestock conflict brewing between pig farmers, importers and officials
- China suspends Cambodia Airways flights over COVID-19 cases
- Attapeu extends lockdown until August 31
- Garlic price jumps on closure of Sino-Myanmar border post
- US - largest buyer of Vietnam's plastic products in H1
- Enterprises diversify plans to adapt to COVID-19 pandemic



## Livestock conflict brewing between pig farmers, importers and officials



*Cambodia News | 19 August, 2021*

Livestock importers are lobbying the government to allow more pigs into the country. Four firms submitted proposals to the minister of economy and finance and the commerce minister asking permission to import swine. They say consumers will benefit from cheaper pork prices – and higher sales will increase government revenue by \$3 million a year. The companies say local farmers will benefit from competitive bidding in a free market. Cambodian pig breeders disagree. They say they support the Agriculture Ministry's decision to limit foreign shipments, arguing that importing cheaper pigs from countries such as Thailand will put them out of business and may introduce diseases into domestic livestock farms. President of the Cambodia Livestock Raisers Association Srun Pov recommended that would-be importers try raising pigs domestically. They would then realise how hard it is to compete, he said. Pov said cheaper imports could kill the domestic market, leaving Cambodians reliant on foreign pork. He said the risk of infection also threatened domestic pigs. "We have had a lot of experience of imports bringing in diseases that make Cambodian farmers' pigs have no buyers, losing [farmers'] income to support their families," he said. Pov added that if, or when, the government banned imports it would help local farmers expand their businesses and sell pork at a reasonable price.

It would also help farmers supplying pig feed, such as corn, beans and rice, he said. "So if you want to help farmers and ensure the safety of local pork, importers should invest in raising pigs rather than importing them," Pov said. Live pig imports from Vietnam to Cambodia were made illegal because of an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in 2019. Cambodia allows live pig imports from Thailand under strict health controls. In April, Cambodian authorities culled more than 100 pigs to prevent the spread of ASF. It was the first outbreak since 2019. The pigs were culled in Takeo after illegal traders tried to transport them to Phnom Penh from the border. Authorities say they had been brought in from Thailand via Laos.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50918764/livestock-conflict-brewing-between-pig-farmers-importers-and-officials/>

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## China suspends Cambodia Airways flights over COVID-19 cases



*Cambodia News | 19 August, 2021*

China's civil aviation regulator has announced the suspension of a Cambodia Airways flight after passengers tested positive for COVID-19. The suspension of flight KR961 from Phnom Penh to Chengdu will last for two weeks, starting from Aug. 23, after five passengers tested positive on the flight on August 4, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) said Tuesday on its website. The CAAC said that the airline is not allowed to transfer

the original quota of the flights to other routes. According to the CAAC policy, flight suspension will last two weeks if the number of passengers testing positive for COVID-19 reaches five.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50919122>

[/china-suspends-cambodia-airways-flights-over-covid-19-cases/](#)

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## Attapeu extends lockdown until

### August 31



*Laos News | 19 August, 2021*

Attapeu authorities have ordered the continuation of a lockdown until August 31, after more locally-transmitted Covid infections were reported, with several villages being classified as red or yellow zones. Travel between Attapeu and other provinces is banned, except in the case of an emergency such as a hospital visit. People wishing to travel must get permission from provincial authorities, must have had two doses of a Covid vaccine, and must be resident in a green zone. Entry into and departure from the province is limited to the hours of 6am to 8pm. Entertainment venues, massage facilities, spas, snooker clubs, internet cafes, beauty salons, hotels, barber shops, night markets, sports facilities and tourist attractions have been closed, while gatherings of all kinds and school attendance are banned. Passenger transport services from Attapeu to other provinces have also been suspended, along with goods delivery, apart from essential items such as equipment needed for disaster recovery, fuel, and

food. In Khammuan province, authorities in Thakhaek district are ramping up Covid testing for people who have come into contact with individuals known to be infected, after more cases of the virus were reported. Phonsa-art, Souksavanh, Nahae, Pakbeng, Donethong and Dongtay villages have been named as being at particular risk of virus transmission. Anyone who thinks they have come into contact with a person carrying the virus should get tested and self-isolate for 14 days, provincial officials stated in a notice issued on August 18. In Bokeo province, the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone has been placed under lockdown until August 30 after 42 people in the Zone tested positive for the virus on August 16 and 17. Provincial authorities are testing people who have come into contact with individuals known to be infected, while all migrant workers employed at the Zone in Tonpheung district will be tested before they return to their country of origin. On Thursday the National Taskforce for Covid-19 Prevention and Control announced 284 new cases of Covid-19 countrywide, bringing the total to 11,313. Vientiane recorded seven new imported cases, while Tonpheung district in Bokeo province recorded two locally-transmitted cases. Oudomxay and Xayaboury provinces each reported one imported case. Khammuan recorded

66 imported cases, Savannakhet recorded 63 imported cases and 17 locally-transmitted cases, Saravan recorded 44 imported cases, and Champassak recorded 82 imported cases.

Source : [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2021-08/18/c\\_1310134226.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2021-08/18/c_1310134226.htm)

## Garlic price jumps on closure of Sino-Myanmar border post



*Myanmar News | 19 August, 2021*

The price of garlic (Kyukok variety) imported by China is on the rise tracking the shutdown of the border post between Myanmar and China, Mawlamyine commodity depot stated. The shortage of this garlic variety happened following the closure of the Sino-Myanmar border posts. Consequently, the price hike occurred in the retail market, with exorbitant price of K5,100 per viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg). The garlic price may vary depending on the COVID-19 containment measures. The price of garlic (Kyukok variety) is primarily related to the permit of the border posts. The price of garlic moved in the range of K1,900-K2,950 per viss on 1 July. The market, however, sees a gradual rise in prices between K3,500 and K4,000 per viss. The price stays on the upward trend on 18 July, ranging between K2,600 and K5,100 per viss depending on the different varieties.—NN/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnln.com.mm/garlic-price-jumps-on-closure-of-sino-myanmar-border-post/>

## US - largest buyer of Vietnam's plastic products in H1



*Vietnam News | 19 August, 2021*

Hanoi (VNA) – The US was the top destination of plastic products from Vietnam in the first half of 2021, accounting for 36.5 percent of total shipments, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs. Vietnam recorded a year-on-year surge of 41.5 percent in the H1 export value of plastic products, which approximated 2.33 billion USD, preliminary statistics show. Following the US, Japan was the second largest importer of these items, making up 14.3 percent. The Ministry of Industry and Trade said FDI companies are the main exporters of plastic products when they hold 60 percent of the turnover. Meanwhile, local businesses have just sold plastic packaging bags, components, and spare parts that have low added value to foreign partners. /.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/foreign-investment-poured-in-vietnam-despite-covid-19-883511.vov>

## Enterprises diversify plans to adapt to COVID-19 pandemic



*Vietnam News | 19 August, 2021*

HÀ NỘI — Vietnamese enterprises have proven their dynamism and high adaptability to the situation as the fourth outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has led to successive social distancing measures over the past month. Tô Hoài Nam, vice president

and general secretary of the Việt Nam Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (VINASME), said that in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnamese businesses had really made many changes to adapt to difficulties and challenges. Many businesses have organised rotational work for employees to minimise absence and leave no one behind; applied cost-saving measures by adjusting personnel towards concentration and giving priority to positions generating direct revenue; at the same time, created conditions for some positions to work from home. Along with that, businesses reviewed spending plans in the direction of minimalism and adjusted investment programmes which are not urgent or are no longer suitable for pandemic conditions and after it is over to adapt to changes in consumer behaviour. Enterprises also actively negotiated to reduce office rent and production and business rates; adjusted internal regulations to ensure the safety of labour positions, while also ensuring the maintenance of operations. In addition, enterprises also have implemented internal policies to strongly encourage initiatives and creativity in production and business, meeting the requirements of pandemic prevention and control while maintaining revenue growth. Nam also said that many businesses had actively changed and sought credit sources with lower interest rates from the Government's supportive policies, commercial

banks' support packages as well as finding new sources of supply of raw materials, sources of new goods or services, or implemented the "sharing economy" with customers, business partners or investors and consumers. There are also businesses converting to online sales, attaching importance to e-commerce platforms. Trần Thoa, Deputy Director of Thiên Tâm Thảo Company Limited, said that the outbreak of COVID-19 had seriously affected the business activities of all enterprises. Facing that influence, the company has changed business and sales strategies to promote online business based on e-commerce platforms and online services. This has helped the business maintain revenue and profit. In order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, Phạm Thị Bích Huệ, vice president of the Việt Nam Young Entrepreneurs' Association, also noted three issues to focus on at this time, which are the reasonable adjustment of personnel; distinctive development strategies and specific management solutions to respond to the current crisis of the risk of pandemic outbreaks. — VNS  
Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1015327/enterprises-diversify-plans-to-adapt-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>