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\$37 million Monivong flyover to open ahead of schedule by KNY



Cambodia News | 31 October, 2023

The \$37 million Preah Monivong flyover construction work is running ahead of schedule and the finished first phase stretch is expected to open for traffic four months before the target date by next Khmer New Year (KNY), according to Khuong Sreng, Governor of Phnom Penh. “Under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Manet, after the achievement of finishing the Koh Pich-Koh Norea cable bridge, the Monivong overpass connecting Monivong Boulevard to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen Boulevard and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Blvd (Street 271) is expected to be completed four months ahead of the plan. Phase 1 will be completed by Khmer New Year in 2024 (April 2024) and Phase 2 by Khmer New Year 2025 (April 2025),” the Governor said in a recent Facebook post. The Governor also apologised for the inconvenience caused to passengers using the roads during the construction of the flyover. The flyover, one of the major infrastructure development works in Phnom Penh, is expected to help ease the traffic in the Capital to a great extent and will be the most appreciated New Year gift for those living in the city. The Overseas Cambodian Investment Corporation (OCIC) started the construction of the Preah Monivong flyover on August 31, 2022. The project is a two-storey flyover facilitating the smooth flow of traffic on Monivong Blvd., Samdech Akka Moha

Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen Blvd., and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Blvd. in Khan Chamkarmon and Khan Meanchey and it will also ease the traffic flow from populated urban areas to the new Techo International Airport, now under construction. Phnom Penh, home to nearly 2.3 million people now and growing fast, is in an excellent position to progress as one of Asean’s future smart cities, according to some experts. The Cambodian capital is expected to host around six million people by 2035. The rising population has also put a severe demand on infrastructure facilities, especially road links. This has led to the government launching a series of road infrastructure development works in the last decade. According to reports, currently, seven flyover works are progressing in Phnom Penh including Kbal Thnal flyover, Lok Sang Hospital traffic light flyover, Stung Meanchey flyover, Makara flyover or Techno flyover, Cambodia-China Sen Sok Friendship flyover, Chom Chao roundabout flyover and Russey Keo flyover – all important projects that can help ease the traffic flow in the burgeoning Capital city. Cambodia also recorded an average annual increase of 11.3 percent in the number of vehicles registered in the country in the last five years (a good chunk of them in Phnom Penh), according to the vehicle registration management system of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), recently. The number of vehicles registered in the country from 1990 to 2022 stood at over 6.7 million, including 5.7 million motorcycles, 728,294 light vehicles and 285,271 heavy vehicles.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501384056/37-million-monivong-flyover-to-open-ahead-of-schedule-by-kny/>

Qatar Airways resumes Phnom Penh flights



Cambodia News | 31 October, 2023

Qatar Airways resumed the operation of daily flights to Phnom Penh via Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City on Sunday, according to a press release yesterday. The resumption of daily services to Phnom Penh reflected Qatar Airways' commitment to providing its passengers with excellent connectivity and more options for travel to over 160 destinations across the globe. Qatar Airways Country Manager for Vietnam and Cambodia, Vu Thi Thanh Huong, said that this route not only strengthens the airline's commitment to the Cambodian market but also opens up new travel possibilities for passengers. "We are proud to offer travellers the world-class service and connectivity that Qatar Airways is known for, ensuring a seamless and memorable journey. We look forward to welcoming passengers to the Pearl of Asia," said Huong. Cyril Girot, Chief Executive Officer of Cambodia Airports, a subsidiary of VINCI Airports, the world's leading private airport operator, said that the airport in Phnom Penh continues to steadily rebuild its network of destinations by reconnecting services. "The resumption of daily flights between Doha in the Gulf region and the capital city is a testament to it. It is a positive sign of Cambodia's leisure industry and the business

community," Girot said. "On another note, the airport teams work tirelessly to attract new airlines or lure them back, and increase flights. Therefore, seeing the resumption of Qatar Airways' flight to Phnom Penh International Airport is an invaluable reward for them," Girot added. The first nine months of 2023 witnessed a 162 percent increase in air travel by the airports in Cambodia with a staggering 3.7 million arrivals. The figures were revealed recently by the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation's report. The landmark statistics mark a gradual recovery of the country's civil aviation industry which was left reeling by the pandemic years. The report put the total number of flight movements at 37,200 for the three international airports between January and September. The number marks a year-on-year rise of an impressive 100 percent. A weekly average of 850 flights, both domestic and international, were recorded at the three international airports in the country.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501384054/qatar-airways-resumes-phnom-penh-flight/>

Laos, South Korea Partner to Simplify Cross-Border Money Transfers.



Laos News | 1 November, 2023

Laos and South Korea are joining forces in a pilot project to facilitate the process of cross-border money transfers for Lao workers abroad and foreign workers in Laos. This move comes as Lao

employees abroad often face numerous barriers when dealing with cross-border money transfers, including difficulties in opening foreign bank accounts, complex transfer documentation procedures, and high transfer costs. These challenges have led to the use of unauthorized and often risky money-transfer channels, frequently resulting in unfavorable exchange rates and unscrupulous brokers that can harm the interests of Lao workers abroad. To overcome these hurdles, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, in conjunction with the Bank of Lao PDR, has long been researching effective mechanisms, tools, and payment channels. The goal is to create a more convenient system for workers sending money back to Laos through the banking sector. Such a system will not only simplify the process but also enable the government to monitor transactions, collect data, and formulate more effective policies and management procedures. Made possible through a partnership with the Lao Foreign Commercial Bank and South Korea's Global Loyalty Network Company (GLN), a global integrated platform that offers cross-border use of digital assets and benefits around the world, a pilot project will initially target South Korea. But future plans are to expand the model to other countries such as Thailand and Japan.

Source : <https://laotiantimes.com/2023/10/31/laos-south-korea-partner-to-simplify-cross-border-money-transfers/>

Lao, Thai PMs attend opening ceremony of station on Vientiane-Nong Khai rail link.



Laos News | 1 November, 2023

VIENTIANE, Oct. 31 (Xinhua) -- Lao Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone and visiting Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin have attended the opening ceremony of Khamsavath Railway Station, which is a key part of the rail link between the Lao capital city and Thailand's Nong Khai province. The event was held on Monday as Srettha was on an official visit to Laos at the invitation by his Lao counterpart, Lao News Agency (KPL) reported on Tuesday. The station, built under Phase II of the Lao-Thai Railway Construction Project, is located in Khamsavath village, Xaysettha district of the Vientiane prefecture. Addressing the opening ceremony, Lao Minister of Public Works and Transport, Ngampasong Muongmany, said the Laos-Thailand Phase II railway construction project was financially supported by the government of Thailand through its Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA), and expressed Laos' gratitude for the support. The minister said his ministry will supervise the management and maintenance of Khamsavath Railway Station as well as railway infrastructure to ensure that all parts of the rail link remain fully operational. Phase II of the Laos-Thailand railway project involved the construction of a rail link from Thanaleng Station, some 20 km east of capital Vientiane and 4 km north of the Lao-Thai

border on the Mekong River, to Khamsavath Railway Station over a distance of 7.5 kilometers, as well as building access roads to the station.

Source :
<https://english.news.cn/20231030/9c87d6967a994892a36a4a93e5706cf/c.html>

Myanmar, China decide to strengthen promotion of law enforcement, security cooperation

 Myanmar News | 31 October, 2023

State Administration Council Member Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Yar Pyae organized an informal meeting with Member of the State's Council of the People's Republic of China and Minister for Public Security Mr Wang Xiaohong in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Moreover, they held the seventh Myanmar-China ministerial meeting on law enforcement and security cooperation. At the meeting, they discussed peace and tranquillity in border areas of the two countries, the promotion of law enforcement and security cooperation, attendance to the Global Public Security Cooperation Forum (Lianyungang) and China-ASEAN police academies forum, implementation of the five-year plan of Action on the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (2023-2027), launching of operations against human trafficking, online fraud, cybercrime, money laundering, cross-border gambling, drug cases, cooperation in Lancang-Mekong security and law enforcement activities. Moreover, they cordially discussed bilateral relations in arresting Chinese

fugitives, communication among law enforcement organizations, joint research on crimes at border areas and other matters related to law enforcement, information, training, MoU on the tranquillity of border areas, law enforcement and security cooperation and real-time information exchange between the two ministries.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-china-decide-to-strengthen-promotion-of-law-enforcement-security-cooperation/#article-title>

Myanmar exports 76,000+ tonnes of rubber worth US\$94 mln in 5 months

 Myanmar News | 31 October, 2023

More than 76,594 tonnes of Myanmar's rubber were exported to foreign countries in the past five months (April-Aug) of the current financial year 2023-2024, with an estimated value of US\$94.48 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar's annual rubber production is estimated at 300,000 tonnes. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries. The rubber production in the FY 2022-2023 reached over 360,000 tonnes, more than 200,000 tonnes of which were shipped to foreign trade partners. Myanmar aims to achieve rubber exports of 300,000 tonnes in the current 2023-2024 financial year beginning 1 April, as per the association. Global demand for rubber, rubber production in the Southeast Asian nations and the market supply are

contributing factors to Myanmar's rubber prices. The rubber price in Mon State, a major rubber-producing state in Myanmar, is related to those factors as well, the traders elaborated. Rubber is commonly produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. Myanmar bagged more than US\$449 million in revenue in rubber exports in the 2020-2021 FY and \$264.442 million in the 2019-2020 FY.

Source : <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/myanmar-exports-76000-tonnes-of-rubber-worth-us94-mln-in-5-months/#article-title>

Int'l visitor arrivals improve sharply

 *Vietnam News | 31 October, 2023*

HCMC – Vietnam has attracted more than one million international tourists per month for four consecutive months, showed data from the Vietnam National Authority of Tourism and the General Statistics Office. The recent surge has sent the total number of foreign tourist arrivals in the first 10 months of this year reaching nearly 10 million. The total number of foreign guests to the country between January and October has surged by 4.2 times compared to the same period last year. This achievement has beat the original target of eight million international visitors set for the entire year. In October alone, over 5.2 million domestic tourists have been recorded, with

3.7 million using lodging services. The total number of domestic tourists in the first 10 months has reached nearly 1.3 million. South Korea has continued to be Vietnam's largest source market for tourism, with 2.9 million visitors from January to October, followed by China with 1.3 million. Other significant markets generating substantial numbers of tourists to Vietnam include the U.S., Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Australia and India. Among the three major European tourism source markets for Vietnam, the UK has provided the most significant number of guests, with 206,000 arrivals. France and Germany follow with 169,000 and 159,000 arrivals, respectively. Thailand has displayed the most substantial growth among Vietnam's tourism source markets in October, with 41,000 arrivals, rising 28% against the previous month. In the year to date, 392,000 Thai guests have visited Vietnam, nearly tripling the previous year's figure and approaching the pre-pandemic level of 397,000. Total tourism revenue generated between January and October has amounted to VND583 trillion, fulfilling nearly 90% of the full-year target of VND650 trillion. According to a report on the country's January-October socio-economic performance, the services and tourism sector has grown by 6.24%, contributing significantly to the overall GDP's growth.

Source : <https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/intl-visitor-arrivals-improve-sharply/>

Vietnam has over 15,000 new market entrants in October



Vietnam News | 31 October, 2023

HCMC – October saw 15,435 companies being established with total pledged capital of VND126 trillion, showed data of the General Statistics Office (GSO). In comparison to the same period last year, the number of new businesses set up in October this year was 18.5% higher and their capital increased by 17.7%. Their employment rose 71.2% year-on-year. The number of businesses that suspended operations in October was 5,500, a 33% increase against the previous month and a nearly 36% rise versus 2022. From January to October, Vietnam had 131,800 new companies established with total pledged capital of VND1.2 quadrillion. While this reflects a 4.7% increase in the number of businesses, it also shows a 12% decrease in pledged capital. These businesses have collectively created 880,000 jobs, up 5.4% year-on-year. According to the GSO, nearly 18,400 businesses were established and resumed operations each month in the nine-month period. In the first 10 months of this year, the number of businesses temporarily suspending operations reached 81,000, a 22% year-on-year increase. On average, 14,700 businesses exited the market per month.

Source :

<https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/vietnam-has-over-15000-new-market-entrants-in-oct/>
