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- Top Chinese diplomat in Kingdom to push BRI projects.
- Lao coffee growers feel pinch of worker shortage, high inflation.
- Industry Union Minister talks to elevate edible oil crops & cotton production, productivity of garment factories.
- Vietnamese rice prices on the hike.
- US chip giant NVIDIA keen to explore investment opportunities in Vietnam.



More than 7.5 tonnes of damaged chicken meat, chicken parts, and duck legs destroyed.



Cambodia News | 22 April 2024

The General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, on April 21, burned 7 cases of meat, equivalent to 7,595 kg, imported without documents, unsanitary packaging, and improper transport, leading to damage to the quality. In this operation, the customs and relevant authorities cracked down on two different cases: Case 1: 395 kg of chicken pieces and chicken offal were burned by the Customs and Excise Office of Battambang Provincial Customs and Excise in cooperation with Kamrieng District Police after being cracked down on and confiscated from traders who smuggled into the country illegally through DOUNG International Border Checkpoint on the night of April 20, 2024. Case 2: Officers from the Office of Investigation and Suppression of Smuggling, Area 5 of the Department of Crime Prevention and Suppression, in collaboration with officers from the Banteay Meanchey Provincial Production and Veterinary Office, seized 7,200 kg of chicken gizzard and duck legs and burned.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501476170/more-than-7-5-tonnes-of-damaged-chicken-meat-chicken-parts-and-duck-legs-destroyed/>

Top Chinese diplomat in Kingdom to push BRI projects.



Cambodia News | 22 April 2024

Coinciding with the Cambodia-China exchange year, Beijing dispatched its foreign minister to take part in the seventh intergovernmental coordination committee (ICC) meeting between the two countries, which aims to effectively implement projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) from April 21 to 23. Since Prime Minister Hun Manet assumed office, this is the second time Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, has paid official trip to the Kingdom. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC), Wang will be granted a royal audience at the Royal Palace by King Norodom Sihamoni. He will also pay courtesy calls to former Prime Minister Hun Sen, the new President of the Senate and Prime Minister Hun Manet. Further, the Chinese Foreign Minister and Sun Chanthol, Deputy Prime Minister and First Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) will co-chair the 'Seventh Cambodia-China ICC meeting' to effectively carry out projects under the BRI introduced by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Wang is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of MFAIC to exchange views on further consolidating

close and excellent bilateral ties spanning wide-ranging areas. Based on the Department of Information of MFAIC, the visit coincided with the Cambodia-China People-to-People Exchange Year and will contribute to further strengthening the ironclad friendship as well as the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation. The objectives are to deepen the building of a high-quality, high-level and high-standard community with a shared future, promoting the Diamond Cooperation framework and stimulating collaboration across regional and international platforms, thus mutually benefiting the two nations and their peoples, the statement added. Lin Jian, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (PRC) last week announced that Wang's trip happens as China is stepping up its diplomacy with Southeast Asian nations amid tightening strategic competition with the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. Speaking to Khmer Times, Lor Vichet, Vice President of Cambodia Chinese Commerce Association said, "The latest visit of China's top diplomat to the region is to strengthen existing bilateral cooperation mechanisms as well as to further promote high-quality projects under the BRI aimed at accelerating physical infrastructure development. The presence of the Chinese Foreign Minister will also enhance regional economic integration to achieve the common prosperity objective as well as attach China's commitments to enhance trade and investment vis-à-vis countries within the region to achieve mutual benefit and

shared development, he added. In mid-August 2023 – a week before Mr Hun Manet officially become the Premier – Wang held a meeting with Sun Chanthol, Deputy Prime Minister and First Vice-Chairman of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) where he committed to provide 300 million yuan, equivalent of \$41.34 million, to develop high-speed railway infrastructure connecting the Kingdom to Thailand, Laos and China. According to sources in the CDC, the 7th Cambodia-China ICC is a joint committee that the two nations organised to discuss various issues and tomorrow [April 22] CDC will meet with the Chinese Foreign Minister as we have a lot of things to work on; after the discussion, the two parties will issue a joint statement to confirm the result of the meeting to the public. Khmer Times tried to contact the MFAIC spokesperson for comments but could not reach them till the time of filing this report.

Source :

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501475828/top-chinese-diplomat-in-kingdom-to-push-bri-projects/>

Lao coffee growers feel pinch of worker shortage, high inflation.



Laos News | 22 April 2024

Many laborers are switching to cassava farms or leaving the country for higher-paying jobs in Thailand. As the coffee bean harvesting season begins, plantation owners in southern Laos face a shortage of laborers because of low wages and high inflation in the small, landlocked Southeast Asia

country, said people who work in the industry. Workers on plantations in Champassak province's Paksong district are shunning jobs that pay just US\$10-13 a day, based on the weight of coffee beans they pick, and instead heading for better paying work in neighboring Thailand. Others have sought jobs on cassava farms, where the pay is slightly better, a coffee farm worker told Radio Free Asia on Tuesday.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/coffee-growers-04192024141053.html>

Industry Union Minister talks to elevate edible oil crops & cotton production, productivity of garment factories.



Myanmar News | 22 April 2024

A meeting for boosting edible oil crops, cotton plantation and manufacturing, and textile industry took place at the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Union Minister for Industry Dr Charlie Than said that the State Administration Council formed the Oil Mills Development Loan Management Task Force on 6 July 2022. It is tasked with providing loans for upgrading and expanding oil mills to increase edible oil production and reduce reliance on imports. By recycling some edible oils, except Extra-virgin Cold Pressed Oil and Virgin Cold Pressed Oil, entrepreneurs may be able to boost oil production. He also highlighted that the manufacturing process must follow the GMP and be approved by FDA. The cotton plantation meets the local consumption, according to statistics. The

ministry operates 16 cotton ginning mills and the private sector has 191. The ministry oversees 14 cotton and garment factories, two of which are leased by businesspeople, while the private sector operates nine factories. Subsequently, the relevant officials debriefed the Union minister on the progress of upgraded oil mills to reduce waste in milling peanut and sesame in producing edible oils, status of cooperation with private millers, and developments in textile sector. He also inspected No 8 Garment Factory in Pyawbwe Township and No 8 Garment Factory Branch in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region, on 20 April. Following this, the Union minister instructed the repair of cotton ginning to boost production, the sale of finished goods to increase revenue, raising awareness among MSME entrepreneurs about the factory's products, managing production increases, conducting repairs of automatic machines, management for full capacity of machinery, warehouses for raw materials and finished goods, and the installation of equipment for the cotton production process. He also urged officials to develop plans for activities to be undertaken during the financial year, adding purchase and installation of the necessary equipment to increase productivity for finished goods. Moreover, the Union minister advocated for the opening of training courses to repair machinery of factories.

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/industry-union-minister-talks-to-elevate-edible-oil-crops-cotton-production-productivity-of-garment-factories/>

Vietnamese rice prices on the hike.



Vietnam News | 22 April 2024

The prices of Vietnamese paddy and rice continued to increase last week, according to the the Vietnam Food Association (VFA). Specifically, the average paddy price at fields rose by 214 VND to 8,000 VND (0.31 USD) per kilo, with the highest reported at 8,050 VND. The average price for paddy at warehouses expanded by 183 VND to 9,475 VND per kilo, the highest recorded at 9,650 VND. Meanwhile, 5% broken rice was priced up to 14,200 VND per kilo; 15% broken rice, 13,950 VND; and 25% broken rice, 13,750 VND. Premium white rice saw an increase of 35 VND per kilo to 14,010 VND. For export, the price of 5% broken rice was 582 USD per tonne, higher than 579 USD of Thailand, and 581 USD of Pakistan. Vietnam's 25% broken rice was sold at 557 USD per tonne, as compared to 530 USD of Thai rice.

Source: <https://en.nhandan.vn/vietnamese-rice-prices-on-the-hike-post135006.html>

US chip giant NVIDIA keen to explore investment opportunities in Vietnam.



Vietnam News | 22 April 2024

VOV.VN - A delegation of NVIDIA Corporation of the United States led by Keith Strier, vice president of NVIDIA, is scheduled to arrive in Vietnam from April 22 to 26 to explore investment opportunities in the country, according to Dau Tu (Investment) newspaper. The working trip will take them to Hanoi,

Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City that are the country's largest economic hubs, revealed the newspaper. During the trip, NVIDIA leaders will work alongside representatives of relevant businesses and institutions from these localities in an effort to establish the Artificial Intelligence Center for Research and Training, install supercomputer systems, and transfer part of the production of graphic processing units (GPUs) for supercomputers to the Vietnamese market. Specifically, they will have four working sessions on April 25 and 26 with the Management Board of Saigon High-Tech Park (SHTP), the Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City, and CMC Technology Group. They are also scheduled to meet with the chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee to discuss investment opportunities in the semiconductor field in the southern hub. Late last year, Jensen Huang, president and CEO of the NVIDIA, went on a working visit to Vietnam. During his meeting with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Huang unveiled the group's plan to establish a base in the country. The base aims to attract talents from around the world to contribute to the development of the Vietnamese semiconductor ecosystem and artificial intelligence (AI), whilst also promoting startups, thereby further boosting the digitalisation process in the country.

Source: <https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/us-chip-giant-nvidia-keen-to-explore-investment-opportunities-in-vietnam-post1090597.vov>
