Cintri strike ends, workers’ contracts to be terminated

Ministry urged to forge relations with Canada

Eu manufacturers urged to invest in the kingdom

Uncertainty clouds trilateral Asian summit

Cintri (Cambodia) rubbish collectors who have been on strike for the past 13 days agreed to return to work starting Wednesday evening after the company agreed to terminate their contracts at the end of January next year and provide seniority payments and other benefits to them in mid-February next year.

After a meeting attended by Phnom Penh municipal deputy governor Keut Che, Cintri representatives and union representatives on Wednesday, Cintri agreed to terminate the employment contracts of all workers on January 31 and provide payments and other benefits as per labour law.

This was announced by Cintri employees’ union president Kao Sovat, who relayed the news to workers waiting outside Cintri, where the meeting was held.

“Seniority” and other benefits resulting from employment contract termination will be paid to workers a month later than the second week of February 2021 and they will be guaranteed by the Phnom Penh Municipal Hall, Sovat said.

He said workers who went on strike from October 2 to 7 will be paid for that period.

However, those who did so from October 8 to 14 will not be paid for that time.

“From today onwards, workers on strike will not be paid wages, in accordance with the labour law, and all workers must return to work as usual from today (Wednesday) in their groups and shifts,” he said.

Municipal deputy governor Che said: “This compensation will be guaranteed by the Phnom Penh Municipal Administration by deducting from the budget package which will result when the contract between Cintri and municipal hall is terminated in January.

“The company will first terminate the contract and then pay seniority and other benefits no later than the second week of February 2021. Everything is solved according to law,” Che said.

Cintri workers clap after hearing the outcome of the meeting held at the company in Phnom Penh’s Dangkor district on Wednesday.

Cyprus ‘golden passport’ scrapped

CYPRUS said on Tuesday it will scrap its controversial “golden passports” scheme for foreign investors next month over alleged abuses uncovered in a television programme.

Government spokesman Kyriakos Koushos said the Cabinet had agreed in an emergency meeting to abolish the scheme as proposed by the finance and interior ministers.

He said: “The proposal of the two ministers was based on long-standing weaknesses, abuse and exploitation of the provisions of the investment programme.”

Koushos said the scheme, which has generated $8.25 billion, would be brought to an end on November 1.

The Cypriot government would “fully examine its policy to encourage investment”, he added, after the completion of an investigation into the scheme.

The move came hours after Qatar-based broadcaster Al Jazeera aired an hour-long programme showing its reporters pretending to represent a Chinese businessman keen to acquire a Cypriot passport despite him having a criminal record.

Al Jazeera reported: “Posing as representatives of a fictitious criminal character, our undercover reporters were ushered through the application process for the Cyprus Investment Programme by lawyers, property agents, and top-ranking politicians.”

Those involved – a Cypriot lawmaker and the parliament speaker – denied any wrongdoing.

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E-Crime 2020 to aid criminal tracking

Long Kimmarita

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on high alert over flood warnings

Orm Buntheurn

Ministries on high alert over flood warnings

Orn Buntheurn

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport have advised relevant units to be prepared in locations vulnerable to flooding.

Agriculture minister Veng Sakhon said officials have to be ready to work with the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) to prevent flood damage and be prepared to assist in rescuing those affected.

On Tuesday, he told the General Department of Agriculture to evaluate crop damage and prepare rice seed from the Cambodian Food Reserve System to restore damaged rice crops.

He also instructed the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production to prepare sufficient animal food, veterinary equipment and safe places to evacuate rescued animals.

Phnom Penh municipal and provincial agriculture departments have also been told to observe flood conditions regularly to prepare for rescues and evaluate damages.

Pursat provincial agriculture department director Lay Poeth said on Wednesday that people who suffered from floods have received food and animals have been evacuated to safe places.

“We have to wait for the water to recede to evaluate the damage specifically. We will request rice seeds and other crops from the NCDM,” he said.

Tan Phannara, director-general of the Technical General Department, said the Technical General Department, the Technical General Department, and public works departments across the country to gather comprehensive information in collaboration with the NCDM.

Chanthol also instructed the Technical General Department to take urgent measures to fix bridges. Trafic signs in places that are vulnerable to flood must be installed.

The ministry’s public works director-general Chhan Soth, announced that the ministry has already advised all departments to keep up with weather forecasts and reports to the general department.

“All level in the Rolaing Chrey sluice gate is not open in Kampong Speu province. But on Tuesday, five million cubic metres of water in the Chumker Te dam on Kompong Speu Mountain had been unleashed on surrounding low-lying lands. The excess water was dumped into the Prek Thnot River, causing its level to rise to more than 100%, 1m above the emergency level.”

Kampong Speu provincial governor Sam Samrong told The Post on Wednesday that water levels in the Peam Kley dam and the Roling Chrey sluice gate had risen to emergency levels.

Residents at the bottom of the dam should leave their homes for high ground before the water floods their homes, taking special care of children and the elderly, he said.

“The water level in the Peam Kley dam rose to an emergeny level of 7.7m. The water level in the Roling Chrey sluice gate also rose to 7.80m, flooding the suburbs of Chbar Mon town,” he said.

The woman, who said she was deceived into working in Phnom Penh by Prime Minister Hun Sen for help on Facebook earlier this week, in the video, she claimed to have been tortured by her boss.

The ministry reported on Monday that the Cambodia General Consulate in Shanghai worked with Chinese authorities to rescue the woman.

She is staying in China’s Jinjiang district. She is identified as Soth Koemsoeun, a 26-year-old native of Kompong Champa.

The Post could not contact Cambodia’s ambassador to China Kheleat Meas Sney for comment on Wednesday.

“Jamal has been repatriated to China to be with his family.”

“I am very miserable. I don’t have a phone to contact my parents. I really want to go back to Cambodia. I don’t want to work at this place anymore.”

Authorities scrambling to keep Phnom Penh dry

Phnom Penh Municipal Hall spokesman Mit Phareak told The Post that municipal authorities are deploying forces to release the water to the south of Phnom Penh and take it into the Bassac and Prek Hou rivers.

“We cannot allow the water to flood other northern areas of Phnom Penh because those areas house main industry, services and trading centres,” he said.

According to the National Committee for Disaster Management, the floods have affected nearly 40,000 families in the country, 3,000 of which were evacuated.

The floods have killed 12 people, including five children.

They have also damaged 110,000ha of rice crops and 53,000ha of corn. Prime Minister Hun Sen on Wednesday announced on Facebook that 37 donors have donated over $4.5 million to help the government respond to coping with disasters.
Sokhonn urges interior ministry to forge closer relations with Canada

Niem Chheng

MİNISTER of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn urged the Ministry of Interior to strengthen ties with Canada as its foreign policy was favorable to Cambodia.

“Canada has stressed the promotion of bilateral and regional trade and investment, mine clearance initiatives, the promotion of a rules-based international order, and local capacity building for responding to transnational crime threats in the region,” Sokhonn wrote to Interior Minister Sar Kheng in a recent letter seen by The Post on Wednesday.

Sokhonn referred to a letter by Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Francois Philippe Champagne to the letter. Champagne thanked Sokhonn for wishing Canada a happy 153rd National Day.

“The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is of the view that the Ministry of Interior use this opportunity to strengthen and expand Cambodia’s partnership with Canada in certain priority areas,” the letter said.

Champagne wrote to Sokhonn last month that Canada has deepened its long-standing and multi-faceted relationship with Cambodia. He said Canada looked forward to enhancing the collaboration to achieve common objectives on regional and global priorities, notably through the UN and as a dialogue partner with ASEAN.

Champagne said he recognized that ASEAN remained central to the prosperity and security of Cambodia and the region.

“We are eager to continue working with Cambodia on issues of mutual importance such as the enhancement of bilateral and regional trade and investment, mine clearance initiatives, the promotion of a rules-based international order, and local capacity building for responding to transnational crime threats in the region,” he said.

He expressed his full support for the establishment of bilateral consultations between the two foreign ministries. This would allow them to enhance economic cooperation and promote the exchange of ideas and economic development.

“I look forward to working together to deepen our engagement for the mutual benefit of our citizens,” he said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Phat Sophanit said Sokhonn’s letter was a notification to ministries and institutions in case they wish to establish cooperation with Cambodia amid this good bilateral relationship.

“The interior ministry doesn’t have official cooperation in the form of a memorandum of understanding or other official agreements with Canada. We only have cooperation on a case-by-case basis,” he said.

Sokhonn met outgoing Canadian ambassador Donica Pottie last year and thanked her for Canada’s support in the field of mine clearance, education, peacekeeping and climate change.

Pottie told Sokhonn the trade volume between the two countries had increased by 800 per cent after Canada opened its embassy in Phnom Penh in 2016.

Sokhonn said Canada provided Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) to developing countries without human rights as a string attached, according to a ministry press release issued at the time.

Trade between the two nations was worth $1 billion last year with apparels the main export products from Cambodia, according to the Council of Ministers.

Royal Academy of Cambodian President Sok Touch said Cambodia stands to gain from closer relations with Canada.

“Even though there are many Cambodians living there, our state-to-state relations seem loose in all generations. If the two countries have good relations, why can’t we export products including textiles,” he said.

EU donates $2.3M to reopen schools

Youn Dara

THE EU recently donated €2 million ($2.3 million) to the Cambodian government in an effort to assist the country in the reopening of its schools.

The donation supports ongoing efforts of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the EU and UNICEF to protect and educate children amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a joint press release, a ministry delegation, the EU ambassador to Cambodia, and the UNICEF Representative visited Siem Reap province to evaluate the situation as the country reopens its schools.

Education minister Hang Chao Naron welcomed the additional support from the EU.

“This support will enable us to ensure children have a safe and healthy learning environment,” Chao Naron said.

The minister also acknowledged the role of the EU and UNICEF in supporting the ministry to open schools.

The funds were provided through the Safe School Reopening Programme which helps schools reopen and implement COVID-19 prevention measures.

The programme supports the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Euro-Med Monitor, Save the Children, Action Against Hunger and Save the Children’s local partner, the Cambodian Network for Health and Education.

The project covers the construction of two new schools in the province and supplies school supplies and protective equipment to 600 schools.

Cintri employs more than 2,500 rubbish collectors

An official at Cintri, which employs more than 2,500 rubbish collectors, said education is a basic human right and a key building block for Cambodia’s development.

“As part of our COVID-19 support and recovery program, we will also contribute to increasing the number of scholarships (available) to children and [as] much as possible for those who have been hit the hardest by the crisis,” he said.

The joint press release also added that the EU is working with UNICEF and the education ministry to enhance scholarship programmes in the country.

“The three institutions also advise children, parents and school staffs to make schools safe by following COVID-19 prevention protocols. They pledged to continue supporting Cambodian schools into 2021.”
Gov’t finds 145 cases of fake news last month

Voung Dara

The Fake News Monitoring Committee of the Ministry of Information found 145 cases of fake news, incitement, social pollution and insults against the Kingdom’s senior leadership on social media in September.

Ministry spokesman and Fake News Monitoring Committee permanent vice-chairman Phos Sovann told The Post on Wednesday that the cases were forwarded to the Ministry of Interior for further action and investigation.

“If a social media account user has registered at the information ministry spreads false news, as the first step, we tell him or her to correct or withdraw that news. In some cases, we allow him or her to write a letter of apology. “We sent more than 10 cases of social media account users who didn’t register to the interior ministry in order for it to check and probe,” he said.

Sovann said most of the media social account users who spread fake or false news were located outside the country.

According to a committee report, from September 1-30, a working group identified sources spreading a total of 145 messages and videos with fake news, incitement, social pollution and insults against the country’s senior leadership.

The report said 22 cases concerned Cambodia-Vietnam border issues and the false travel pamphlets issued by an Australian travel company which advertised Angkor Wat as being in Vietnam.

Eighty-three cases concerned insults against the King, the senior leadership and Buddhism. Eighteen cases were related to incitement. Nob Vy, the executive director of the Cambodian Journalists Alliance (Cambodia), said what the public worried about was the government’s method of cracking down on those who created fake news or socially polluting news.

Vy said the public are also worried about a crackdown on activists on social media, or any group who heed social matters and expressed their views through social media.

“We demand that [the government] … consider freedom of expression or freedom to make constructive comments as a basis for national development rather than banning the use of social media to spread constructive ideas beneficial to social development,” he said.

Vy observed that there were some cases concerning activists who were persecuted after commenting on investigative matters on social media that negatively affected powerful people.

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Call for better health education

Seth Koemsoeun

NATIONAL and international civil society groups are pushing for better health education, particularly in regards to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases.

The organisations said the press can play an important role in promoting health education, which they said is still limited.

On Wednesday, the groups issued what they call universal health coverage reporting guidelines for journalists to raise awareness among media professionals about health reporting.

Cheab Sok Chamrouen, executive director of NGO KHANA, said he had noted that media coverage and involvement of journalists in the production of health education articles remains limited.

He urged the press to produce videos and articles that explain how diseases can be easily transmitted from person to person. Most Cambodians do not have access to information about better health care, he said.

“I think this matter is not just for civil society organisations or the government. The press is also an important part. Journalists bring important messages and introduce health guidelines that have been presented by experts in the health sector. We call on them to help fill in the blanks,” he said.

Bachol Ong, regional coordinator of the Global Fund Advocates Network Asia-Pacific (GFAN AP) said the press is an important ally in the fight against diseases. The press is very influential and prompt leaders to resolve issues that arise.

Ong said she wants reporters to quote experts to inform vulnerable communities to be cautious about health matters.

“I am working with Global Fund in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. I am very interested in Cambodia and the government has paid a lot of attention. I would like to see Cambodia continue its efforts to fight all infectious diseases,” she said.

Cambodian Journalists Alliance (Cambodia) executive director Nop Vy said health coverage was improving. However, information related to promoting change for better health policies and financing remains low.

Vy said the shortcoming of some journalists is their limited ability to cover comprehensive news. He said there are very few media outlets in Cambodia that dare to write news which exposes the problems of society or information that urges the government to pay more attention.

“In terms of ability or professionalism, I think not all of them are incompetent, but the younger generation of journalist does not have a lot of work experience, so there are gaps. We have to support them through training.

“Some media outlets care about teaching their staff but other institutions do not pay much attention,” he said.

Ministry of Health spokeswoman Or Vande said on Wednesday that prior to the arrival of Covid-19, health-related information had been limited.

She said the ministry had made efforts to produce health education messages related to communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other important diseases, in order to raise public awareness.

“In the context of fighting against Covid-19, I have observed that our newspapers have done a lot to help spread the word, and we are calling for more coverage. During the floods, public health issue also poses a challenge. We are therefore working to deliver information to vulnerable communities so they can be vigilant,” she said.
Gov’t acknowledges 12 quality child care centres

Mom Kunthear

NINE organisations on Tuesday received certificates of acknowledgement for their child care centres from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation following ministerial evaluation at the centres.

The ministry’s General Department of Technical Affairs director-general Touch Channy told The Post on Wednesday that the organisations run 12 child care centres.

He explained that as per procedures, organisations running child care centres must submit requests to the ministry for evaluation. It would then decide if the centres practise standard policies set by the ministry.

Channy said: “When officials went to evaluate [the centres], they found that the centres followed the standards properly and we release certificates to acknowledge them. The evaluation analyses the actual situations such as the location, children’s accommodations.”

If a centre is found to not be following proper standards, the ministry would give it two to three months to change.

The certificate is valuable because the organisations can request aid from domestic or international donors. The donors will check whether the centres have signed memorandum of understanding with the ministry. Channy said however that not all the 232 centres have received certificates of acknowledgement.

He advised the accredited organisations to take their certificates and use them properly. They should not request assistance in a way that defies the ministry’s guidelines.

He also called for centres to take care of children according to the ministry’s guidance, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic and the onset of floods. If there is a flood in the centre, children must be evacuated quickly, he said.

ANCIENT BUDDHA statue pieces delivered to Apsara

Seth Keomseu

A PAGODA chief monk in Siem Reap town has handed over 41 pieces from ancient statues to the Apsara National Authority (ANA) for safekeeping.

Some of the sculpture pieces presented by the chief monk of Preah Intep pagoda, Sam Sem, were from statues of Buddha sitting in the cross-legged throne of the lotus position.

Sam, office head at the ANA’s Department of Conservation of Monuments in the Angkor Park and Preventive Archaeology, said on Wednesday the pieces will be preserved at the ANA office for registration, photography, file documentation and repair.

“I do not know much about the background of all these pieces of sculpture. We will store them and do research later,” he said.

Chhoun Sokmal, the officer in charge of archaeological registration at the department who received the sculptures, could not be reached for comment on Wednesday.

But the ANA quoted him as saying Wednesday that among the pieces, a large number were of lotus-sitting Buddha statues while others were only foot standing on a pedestal.

Sam could not be reached for comment as to how the pieces came into his possession.

The ANA, however, said the pieces were originally scattered around the pagoda and some were at the back of the Intep Buddha statue.

Sam collected and stored the pieces in the shelter on the south side of the pagoda to prevent loss and damage.

Many of the 41 pieces turned in by a chief monk date back to the 12th and 13th centuries.

ANCIENT BUDDHA statue pieces delivered to Apsara

Seth Keomseu

The Embassy of Sweden in Phnom Penh is inviting qualified candidates to apply for the following position:

Position Title: National Programme Officer Public Financial Management (PFM) Coordination

1. Background

The Development Cooperation Section at the Embassy of Sweden in Cambodia is responsible for implementing the Swedish Strategy for Development Cooperation with Cambodia. The Development Cooperation Section consists of Head of Development Cooperation, Programme Officers, Coordinator and Finance Officer Programme Administrator.

As part of the European Union’s Support Budget in Public Financial Management (PFM), EU has delegated EUR 5 million to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency – Sida – through the Embassy of Sweden to implement the so-called Partnership for Accountability and Transparency Programme (PAT) to strengthen the enabling environment for the PFM reform in Cambodia through improved public accountability and transparency. Sweden contributes with an additional EUR 7.3 million to the PAT programme. The objective of the PAT programme is to contribute to an enabling environment for the PFM reform by strengthening the demand for and supply of public transparency and accountability through institutional capacity development.

The programme consists of four distinctive components: projects to strengthen national capacities, donor coordination, institutional improvement and leadership, and enhanced financial budget and anti-corruption processes. However, as there is large potential for synergies between the different components, the Embassy of Sweden also proactively assists partners in finding ways to work together on what relevant.

2. Responsibilities and Duties

Under the supervision of the Head of Development Cooperation, the National Programme Officer will be responsible for:

- Assist with management of components/projects which are part of the PAT Programme (statistics, domestic revenue, parliamentary oversight and budget and/or budget literacy and anti-corruption) in line with Sida’s contribution management process, as well as relevant rules and regulations. This involves monitoring progress, analysis and report on results, financial follow-up, review audits, and handle various administration and documentation matters.
- Co-ordinate parts of the annual report to the EU for the PAT programme.
- Assist in monitoring and assessment of developments in relevant sectors in Cambodia such as PFM, domestic revenue, domestic public and national statistics.
- Assist in establishment and maintaining close cooperation with development partners such as government authorities, donors, NGOs and multilateral organisations within the area of competence.
- Setup meetings, write translation (oral or written), organise events, of various sorts.
- Collate information and follow up on the development cooperation strategy, operational planning and reporting.
- Report and communicate results of the PAT programme specifically and the Swedish development cooperation programme more generally.
- Represent Sweden at meetings, seminars and conferences of different levels.
- Support and conduct other tasks as needed within the Embassy.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The work requires an ability to independently perform duties, including taking initiative and responsibility for the completion and delivery of individual tasks. The work also requires ability to cooperate closely with colleagues and take responsibility for teamwork.

In carrying out the duties, the National Programme Officer will work particularly close with the Programme Officer for PAT, but will also liaise with other staff at the Embassy.

1. Qualifications

Education: Bachelor’s degree in business administration, law, political science, economics, or related fields.

Experience: At least 3 years of experience in similar roles in international organizations, embassies or large non-governmental organisations.

Professional knowledge and experience of PFM and corruption management.

Knowledge of national and subnational levels with diverse stakeholders and partners is an asset.

Good understanding of public sector reforms like decentralisation, good governance and local government as an asset.

Familiarity with PFM improve the chances of selection.

At least two of the following skills: Financial interpersonal skills; Service-minded; Analytical and problem-solving skills; Ability to independently perform duties and to ensure the delivery and completion of tasks with attention to details, under periods of high workload. Good communication skills. Flexibility and ability to perform tasks. Solid planning skills. Outstanding, motivated and willing to bring changes. Ability to adapt to different cultural environment and to changing responsibilities. Strong skills in Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel).

Language: Excellent command of the English and Khmer language, both oral and in writing. Swedish language skills would be an asset.

Base: Phnom Penh

Salary and Benefits

Based on the Swedish Foreign Service salary system for locally employed staff.

1. Application

Applicants should submit the following documents by email to the Embassy of Sweden in Phnom Penh:

- A brief but comprehensive CV, including details of relevant education and work experience;
- A two-page letter of application in English, setting out why you consider yourself a good candidate for this position;
- Names, telephone numbers, and addresses of two referees who are willing to provide a reference on your character and work capacity;
- Contact phone numbers and email address in Cambodia where the Embassy can rapidly contact you.

Applications shall be sent electronically to embass@eembassy.phnompenh.gov.kh. As the subject of the message, please write “NDCV”. Applications must be submitted no later than 5 November 2020.

Questions may be directed by email to Anouka Redondi (anoukarredondi@eembassy.gov.kh) or be sent to Seo ndea Hureg (Seo ndea@eembassy.gov.kh).

The Embassy will consider received applications and contact the selected candidates for interviews and written tests as soon as possible. The Embassy will not return documentation received from the applicants.

Tests of language proficiency may be performed by the Embassy as part of the interview process.
EU urged to invest in Cambodia

May Kunnakara

The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training wants EU manufacturers to establish operations here to capitalise on the Vietnam free trade agreement.

The WTO: EU can slap $4B in tariffs on US goods

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruled on Tuesday that the EU could impose tariffs worth $4.0 billion on US goods in retaliation for illegal US aid to impose tariffs worth $4.0 billion on US goods.

The US has 60 days to appeal the ruling, which is likely to further escalate tensions between the world's two largest economies.

The US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Tuesday said the US would "intensify" talks to find a resolution to the longstanding dispute.

"The United States is determined to find a resolution to this dispute that addresses the massive subsidies European governments have provided to Airbus and the harm this poses to American workers and businesses," Lighthizer said.

"We are waiting for a response from the EU to a recent US proposal and will intensify our ongoing negotiations with the EU to restore fair competition and a level playing field to this sector."

However, the EU said it was "seriously concerned" about the US's decision and would respond with countermeasures.

Guillaume Faury, the CEO of Airbus, welcomed the ruling and said Airbus would "continue to work closely with the EU and all our stakeholders to ensure a fair and level playing field in the global aerospace industry."

The ruling comes after years of disputes between the EU and the US over subsidies to their respective aircraft industries.

The revised ruling means that the EU could now impose additional tariffs on US goods in response to the US's support for Boeing, which is heavily funded by US taxpayers.

The US has repeatedly dismissed the EU's subsidies to Airbus as illegal and has been seeking to impose tariffs on European products.

The US has already imposed tariffs on European products such as wine, cheese and olive oil, but those tariffs have been delayed as the US seeks to negotiate a settlement with the EU.

The new ruling gives the EU a stronger negotiating position and opens the way for additional tariffs to be imposed on US goods.

However, the US has said it will not accept the new ruling and has indicated it will continue to seek a settlement with the EU.

The US has also threatened to impose tariffs on European products in response to the EU's subsidies to Airbus.

It remains to be seen how the US will respond to the new ruling and whether a settlement can be reached to avoid further escalation of the trade dispute.
Ministry, private companies sign MoUs on safe vegetables
Thao Vireak

T HE Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with private companies on the development of a model safe vegetable centre and the promotion of a safe vegetable value chain.

This will be realised in accordance with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards in a bid to meet local demand and exports, according to the terms of the MoU. General Director of Agriculture Chhay said the deal is another breakthrough for the country in its implementation of the government’s policy concerning agricultural modernisation and reinforcing the Kingdom’s vegetable value chain.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Chhay said he believes the private sector’s involvement has encouraged farmers to tighten up their production and supply and, therefore, drive the vegetable sector.

“Private sector investment is an important driving force in improving the government’s management in improving the quality and safety of vegetables and modernising agriculture as a whole,” Chhay added.

“We are trying to mobilise private capital, which is crucial in the vegetable value chain through the promotion of the public-private partnership mechanism between the state, the private sector and the local communes and groups, to work for agricultural development that uses contracts,” he said. “This will improve the production and supply of safe vegetables to meet domestic demand through quality, safety and competitiveness, as well as to further strengthen the vegetable export market. Cambodians have recognised the crisis of vegetables supply imbalance into a new opportunity for its agricultural sector,” he said.

Speaking at the ceremony, Tropicam Fruit and Vegetable Co Ltd CEO Huo Lak said his company has worked with the directorate to develop the first safe vegetable centre at the Baray Ddok Agriculture Research Station located along National Road 1.

Tropicam Fruit and Vegetable also signed MoUs with safe vegetable distributor Natural Agriculture Village and another of Lak’s ventures Tropicam Irrigation Solutions Co Ltd, which supplies modern agricultural equipment and represents “model farmers” from some provinces. It also signed MoUs with associations such as the Cambodian Chef Association, the Cambodia Tourism Federation and the Cambodia Hotel Association. Lak said: “The signing ceremony is vital to promoting dissemination to stakeholders in the vegetable sector to focus on the production of safe vegetables in keeping with the right standards until they are recognised by public institutions. ’We urge stakeholders in the safe vegetable production chain and consumers to support and promote the spread of safe vegetable production in accordance with GAP standards.”

According to Chhay, Cambodia’s annual demand for vegetables is around one million tonnes, which averages between 2,500-3,000 tonnes in the whole year. He then went on to say that 300-1,000 tonnes daily are kept up. He said 37,762ha of vegetables were planted last year.

The ministry has registered and evaluated 62 fruit and vegetable farms that operate under GAP standards in the period from January-August, and includes an automation system with three robots. It is marked for warehouses to store farm produce, steel, fertilisers, and other products from the Mekong Delta. The port is seen as key to reducing traffic congestion and logistics costs in Long An and the Mekong Delta. In May, TICO–IISC and Vietnam Innovation Parks Management Corporation broke ground for 140ha of the Phat Industrial Park, one of the country’s largest industrial parks. According to provincial leaders, the series of projects that have come to Long An recently, especially amid the Covid-19 pandemic, are expected to greatly contribute to socio-economic development and prove the attractiveness of the province to investors.

Tran Van Can, chairman of the province’s People’s Committee, said with its location in a prime spot in the South, Long An is the economic region. Long An serves as a bridge between Ho Chi Minh City and the delta. It achieved annual growth of 9.1 per cent on average in the 2016-2020 period, among the highest in the country, he said. Its economic structure continues to shift quickly towards industrialisation and modernisation and per capita income has topped 72.6 million dong, among the highest in the delta. “The provincial government has determined that administration reform, improving the business environment, enhancing competitiveness, and supporting enterprises are among its key tasks.”

Since 2017, Long An has remained in the top group in the Provincial Competitiveness Index. It tops the delta in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) with total registered capital of $6.5 billion so far, and also has 2,000 local companies with combined capital of $231 million dong. According to the province’s People’s Committee, Long An has 16 industrial parks and 21 industrial clusters with occupancy rates of 87.3 per cent and 89.7 per cent.

To further attract investment in the coming time, especially FDI investment, the province has focused on developing infrastructure in key industrial areas, ensuring required territories and clusters and expanding the number of high-quality administrative services.

People’s Committee vice-chairman Nguyen Van Be said the province would continue to solicit investment in infrastructure in industrial parks and clusters and has prioritised projects in the supporting industries, high-tech agriculture, seafood processing, and others. Among others. In recent years, the province had focused on improving the quality of education and training to provide the market with a more skilled workforce, he said. Huynh Van Sun, director of the province’s Department of Planning and Investment, said every year activities were undertaken to promote investment, trade and tourism in key markets such as Japan, South Korea and the US.

In addition, infrastructure developers at industrial parks and clusters also directly sought investors to invest in their facilities, while national delegations abroad to solicit investment were also set up to publicise the province’s potential, image and media and participating in conferences to provide information about industrial parks.

Can said: “Long An will create the most favourable conditions for domestic and foreign investors and businesses.”

“Every year, we organise more and more the Ha Long Motor Group on February 5, it had begun construction of its open mobility innovation centre in Singapore.

The Korean automotive firm held an online groundbreaking ceremony for its new global lab called Hyundai Motor Group Innovation Center in Singapore, or HMGICS, at Hyundais-Kia Motors Nam Yang R&D Cen- ter in工业园, in western Singapore.

The ceremony was held on Saturday by representatives in the two countries by video link in consideration of the Covid-19 situation.

The ceremony was attended by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Minister of Trade, Industry and Enterprise Ng Eng Hen, and Hyundai Motor Group executive vice-chairman Chung Euisun. Phat Industrial Park, one of the country’s largest industrial parks.

HMGICS will change our future mobility paradigm. It tops the delta in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) with total registered capital of $6.5 billion so far, and also has 2,000 local companies with combined capital of $231 million dong. According to the province’s People’s Committee, Long An has 16 industrial parks and 21 industrial clusters with occupancy rates of 87.3 per cent and 89.7 per cent.

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Can said: “Long An will create the most favourable conditions for domestic and foreign investors and businesses.”

“The province’s motto is: ‘Difficulties are also your advantages. Your success is another success.'”
Urbanland steps up game with new gated community project Chankiri

May Kunnakara

T he locally-owned Urbanland Asia Investment Co Ltd on October 5 launched the Chankiri Palm Creek gated community project just south of Phnom Penh, which is planned to be made available for sale next year.

Chankiri is Urbanland’s first such residential project and is located along Nation Road 2, just off of Hun Sen Boulevard, the company said.

Its managing director Kang Hock said Urbanland was stepping up its game with Chankiri following the success of its other development projects since its founding in 2013. These include Raintree and Embassy Central in the capital and the TreeLine Urban Flex in Siem Reap town, he said.

“For our upcoming projects, we conceptualise our homes so that they enable the community to thrive and bring people to reconnect with nature,” he said.

“Our speed of life at home and at work has an intimate relationship with our living environment. Improving that space will vastly improve people’s lives.”

“We are prioritising what we now know people care a great deal about—security and safety, infrastructure, community and a sense of belonging as we incorporate the essence of nature through careful consideration of the flow of light and air inside each unit,” he said.

CPF, Cambodia Properties Ltd chairman and CEO Cheng Kheng told The Post that the market for gated-community projects has been flourishing, but noted that since prices of units sold $100,000 or more were currently on a downward trend.

He said: “We are witnessing a growing gated-community market notwithstanding the current (Covid-19) situation. Transactions of units in projects that target the middle class remain strong.

“The market for gated communities has blossomed everywhere across the capital’s outskirts and along National Road 2, he said. “There is demand everywhere for units that cost less than $100,000.”

Cambodia imported $565.91 million worth of building materials in the first half of this year, while arrivals were in excess of $1.51 billion for the whole year 2019, data from the Ministry of Economy and Finance’s General Department of Customs and Excises show.

Broken down by category, the Kingdom imported 217.15 tons of steel worth $140.8 million, 681.17 tons of cement worth $43.27 million and 672.785 tons of “construction equipment” worth $381.84 million.

“The government approved more than $3.84 billion in new projects in the construction sector during the first half of this year, surging 13.26 per cent year-on-year, the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction reported.

Vietnam real estate market goes digital

More and more realty firms in Vietnam are using digital platforms to sell their products, driven by the government’s encouragement of local digital technology firms amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pham Kim Xuan, a representative from realty research firm Jones Lang LaSalle Vietnam JLL, said: “The application of technology in the real estate sector is forecast to be the main trend in 2020 and in the future.”

Xuan said restricted travel during the pandemic has made it difficult for traditional site inspections and direct meetings, however, demand for land still increased.

To support the demand, many online platform forms and realty apps have popped up, offering virtual tours and online webinars so customers can experience products from their homes.

As an active Facebook user, Nguyen Thu Hoan said she had received a lot of information, pictures, videos, ratings and reviews about the real estate project she was interested in after clicking on the Facebook page of the project.

According to technology experts, tech trends have helped real estate brokers approach customers, using big data to help brokers analyse the habits, preferences, predict the wishes of customers. From there, the target audience can be selected to have suitable approaches to make advertising more effective.

Phan Ngoc Thien Thanh, manager of market research and development consulting for CBRE Vietnam, said: “The industry 4.0 is a global trend that helps the real estate market and other industries be developed in a more comprehensive and efficient manner.”

Among the first reality firms using technology to sell houses, Sunshine Group launched the Sunshine app in January.

Sunshine Group said the Sunshine app was developed to reflect a changing lifestyle and is designed to provide customers with easier and more efficient ways to search for their needs, as well as to support the demand, according to the Sunshine home’s infrastructure.

The company said the app helps maximise information transparency about the company’s real estate projects, allowing buyers and sellers to easily learn, access products and trade conveniently on their smartphone.

Other real estate firms such as LinkHouse Company or Kha Loan Land also developed house selling apps while real estate brokerage sites such as yohouse.vn and hoangdinh- san.com.vn developed special apps to attract buyers.

Vietnam Association of Realtors vice-chairman Nguyen Van Dinh said technology was changing very fast, forcing firms to be ready to adapt.

“Marketing teams of realty firms need to be creative and constantly update trends to have the best strategies to serve the customers to win the digital race,” he said.

Making real estate transactions via app increase dramatically.

“At the end of March and early April 2020, despite the social distancing, the group still recorded nearly 500 successful transactions,” Nam said.

The company said the group operate stably even in a period of market stagnation due to the pandemic, he said.

With the VinID app, Vingroup launched another, as a number of customers to transact real estate and make online payments without any physical contact.

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Villa for rent in BKK1
2 floors, 5 bedrooms, spacious living room, fully furnished. Big kitchen and balcony. Good for residence or office.

Price: $7,000/month

Garden Villa for rent in BKK1
2 floors, 5 bedrooms, spacious living room, fully furnished. Big kitchen and balcony. Good for residence or office.

Price: $7,000/month

Villa for rent in BKK1
2 floors, 5 bedrooms, spacious living room, fully furnished. Big kitchen and balcony. Good for residence or office.

Price: $5,000/month

Modern villa for rent in BKK1
3 floors, 5 bedrooms, large living room, modern designed, fully furnished, modern kitchen, big balcony.

Price: $7,000/month

Office space for rent
On main street, size from 200sqm to 400sqm. 7 floors, 2 lifts, parking, open space. Very safe.

Price: $34/sqm

Slophouse for rent near Aeon 2
Located in borry The Premier Land near Aeon 2. 6 bedrooms, good for office and business.

Price: $1,500/month

House size: 4.1m x 12m
Land size: 4.1m x 14m

Villa for rent next to BBK1
2 bedrooms, large living room, partially furnished, big balcony, serene time, very safe and quiet.

Price: $3,000/month

Renovated apartment for rent
Located near Royal Palace 2 bedrooms, well renovated, fully furnished, good security, many facilities around.

Price: $750/month

Price: $180/m² (Negotiable)

Location: Dang Kao

Price: $400/m²

Location: Prek Eng

Title: Hard

Land Size: 32m x 54m

Price: $700, $900, and $1800/M

Kitchen and balcony.

Living room, fully furnished, nice

Market, 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, open

Located at North West of Russian

Apartment for Rent

Price: $1,200/month

Kitchen, lot of sunlight.

Living room, fully furnished, nice

Monument, 2 bedrooms, open

Located at west of Independence

Apartment for Rent

Price: $1,200/month

Kitchen, lot of sunlight.

Living room, fully furnished, nice

Monument, 2 bedrooms, open

Located at west of Independence

Apartment for Rent

Price: $1,200/month

Apartment for Rent Located at North West of Russian Market, 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, open living room, fully furnished, nice kitchen and bathroom.

Price: $750, $900, and $1800/M

Renovated apartment for rent
Located near Royal Palace 2 bedrooms, well renovated, fully furnished, good security, many facilities around.

Price: $750/month

Price: $3,500/month

Very big garden, 5 bedrooms, open living room, fully furnished, nice kitchen, big balcony.

Modern villa for rent in BKK1
2 floors, 5 bedrooms, large living room, fully furnished, modern kitchen, big balcony.

Price: $7,000/month

Office space for rent
Located at area 5 of Olympic Stadium, size from 840sqm to 5000sqm. 2nd floor, 2 lifts, parking, open space, very safe.

Price: $16/sqm

Slophouse for rent near Aeon 2 Located in borry The Premier Land near Aeon 2. 6 bedrooms, good for office and business.

Price: $1,500/month

House size: 4.1m x 12m
Land size: 4.1m x 14m

Villa for rent next to BBK1
2 bedrooms, large living room, partially furnished, big balcony, serene time, very safe and quiet.

Price: $3,000/month

Apartment for Rent Located at west of Independence Monument. 2 bedrooms, open living room, fully furnished, nice kitchen and bright sunlight.

Price: $1,200/month

Land size: 16m x 22m

Land for sale

Price: $385,000 (Negotiable)

Location : Chak Ang Re Luer

House Size : 6m x 12m

Land Size : 6m x 16m

Villa L1 for sale

Land size: 5.2m x 7m
House Size: 6m x 12m

Location: Borey Long Navatra

Sangkat Chuen Chor

Price: $670,000 (Negotiable)

Flat house for sale

Land size: 4.1m x 21m
House size: 4m x 15m
Location: Khan Russey keo

Phnom Penh

Price: $183,000

Land for sale

Land size: 11.5m x 150m

Location: Chaom Chau

Land size: 32m x 54m

Price: $67,000 (Negotiable)

Location : Sangkat Chaom Chau

House size :  4.1m x 12m

Land size :  4.1m x 14m

Twin Villa for sale at Borey Peng Huoth The Star Premier

Land size: 5.2m x 7m
House Size: 6m x 12m

Location: Chai Ang Rei Luor

Price: $385,000 (Negotiable)

Offices for sale

Price: $13,000 (Negotiable)

Location : Khan 7 Makara

Olympia condo SOHO type for sale

Size : 450sqm
Location: Sangkat Oroyity

Khan 7 Makara

Phnom Penh

Price: $15,000 (Negotiable)

Office space for rent
Located at west of Olympic Stadium, size from 840sqm to 5000sqm. 2nd floor, 2 lifts, parking, open space, very safe.

Price: $16/sqm

Slophouse for rent near Aeon 2
Located in borry The Premier Land near Aeon 2. 6 bedrooms, good for office and business.

Price: $1,500/month

House size: 4.5m x 12m,
Land size:4.5m x 20m,

Star Diamond, Road 60m,

Villa lC1 for sale

Land size: 5.2m x 7m
House Size: 6m x 12m

Location: Borey Long Navatra

Sangkat Chuen Chor

Price: $670,000 (Negotiable)

Flat house for sale

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House size: 4m x 15m
Location: Khan Russey keo

Phnom Penh

Price: $183,000

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Land size: 11.5m x 150m

Title Hard

Location: Prek Eng

Chbar Ampov, Phnom Penh

Price: $400/m²

Flat house for sale

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House size: 4m x 15m
Location: Khan Russey keo

Phnom Penh

Price: $183,000

Land for sale

Land size: 11.5m x 150m

Title Hard

Location: Prek Eng

Chbar Ampov, Phnom Penh

Price: $400/m²

Land for sale

Land size: 7.38ha

Location: Kandal Tuol Kao

Phnom Penh

Cambodia

Price: $180/m² (Negotiable)

Two flat houses for sale

Land size: 4.5m x 27m
House size: 4.5m x 15m
Location: Russey keo

Phnom Penh

Price: $490,000 (per flat)

Link house for sale

Land size: 4.5m x 16m
House size: 4m x 12m
Location: Borey Long Navatra

Sangkat Chuen Chor

Price: $670,000 (Negotiable)

Flat for sale

Land size: 4.2m x 20.5m
House size: 4.2m x 17m
Location: Borey Long Navatra

Sangkat Chuen Chor

Price: $69,000 (Negotiable)

Mini Warehouse and affordable office package

- National Road 2, behind Hun Sen Boulevard (60M), 10 minutes drive to Aeon 1.
- Warehouse size from 132m² to 3,000m²
- Warehouse price starts from USD 3/m²
- Office size from 24 m²
- Office starts from USD 5/m²
- 24 hrs security team and surveillance camera

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TATY 1381

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- Size from 32m²
- Price starts from usd 7/m²
- Air conditioning and carpets
- Motor bike and car parking space available

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E-Mail: info@katappraisal.com / www.katappraisal.com

089 888 366, 089 888 277 | 089 888 377, 089 888 755
Uncertainty clouds trilateral Asian summit on Seoul-Tokyo squabble

The trilateral summit planned later this year for South Korea, Japan and China was at risk on Wednesday as South Korea’s Supreme Court ruled that Japanese individuals involved in forced labour during the Japanese colonial period in Korea were entitled to compensation from companies over the theft and sale of their assets. The decision could lead to South Korea’s National Security Council urging Seoul to suspend the trilateral summit, sources told The Korea Herald on Wednesday.

The ruling confirms Seoul’s view that the dispute over forced labour during the Japanese occupation period poses a threat to the peace and prosperity of the three countries. If the ruling is upheld by the court, the three countries may be unable to establish a trilateral mechanism to handle the forced labour issue.

But the conflict reached a new level of acrimony after South Korea’s Supreme Court ruled in 2018 that Japan’s top steelmaker, Nippon Steel, was obliged to compensate the Korean victims who were forced to work for them during World War II. The decision drew a strong rebuke from Tokyo, which maintains that all related issues were settled under the 1965 treaty normalising bilateral relations.

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Great Barrier Reef’s corals in steep decline

Half of the Great Barrier Reef’s corals have died over the past 25 years, scientists said on Wednesday, warning that climate change is irreversibly destroying the underwater ecosystem.

A study published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society Journal found an alarming rate of decline across all sizes of corals since the mid-1990s on the vast World Heritage-listed reef off Australia’s northeastern coast. Larger species, such as branching and table-shaped corals, have been affected hardest – almost disappearing from the far northern reaches of the reef.

They’re typically depleted by (up to) 80 or 90 per cent compared to 25 years ago... They make the reefs and coves that fish and other creatures depend on, so losing big three-dimensional corals changes the broader ecosystem, reporter/co-author and James Cook University professor Terry Hughes told AFP.

Aside from its irreplaceable natural, scientific and environmental value, the 2,300km-long reef is worth an estimated $5 billion a year in tourism revenue for the Australian economy before the pandemic.

The reef is at risk of losing its coveted world heritage status because of ocean warming – fuelled by climate change – damaging its health. Changes in ocean temperatures stress healthy corals, causing them to expel algae living in their tissues – draining them of their vibrant colours in a process known as bleaching.

Nasa: Eight nations agree to US-led space rules

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) announced on Tuesday that eight countries have signed an international agreement with the Artemis Accords that outlines the principles of future exploration of the Moon and beyond.

The treaty paves the way for its founding members – Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the UAE, Britain and the US – to participate in Nasa’s Artemis programme, which aims to return humans to Earth’s nearest neighbour by 2024.

“Artemis will be the broadest and most diverse international space exploration programme in history,” the Artemis team wrote in the vehicle that will establish this singular global coalition,” said Nasa administrator Jim Bridenstine.

“With today’s signing, we are uniting the world to explore the Moon and are establishing vital principles that will create a safe, peaceful, and prosperous future in space for all of humanity to enjoy.”

While Nasa is leading the Artemis mission, it is putting a high need for international partnerships in building up a sustainable presence on the Moon, something the agency views as key ahead of an eventual commercial trip to Mars.

The agency hopes, for example, to evacuate ice from the Moon’s South Pole to supply both drinking water and to split the molecules apart to make rocket fuel for the onward journey.

It has also plans to establish an orbital space station called Gateway. Nasa said the Artemis Accords reinforce and implement the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, and are split broadly into 11 principles.

The signatories commit, for example, to adhering to peaceful exploration in a transparent manner, to create hardware systems that are operable by every member nation, and to regenerating their space objects.

Other principles include affirming that they will render assistance to each other in case of emergency, make their scientific data public, preserve the heritage of outer space and plan for the safe disposal of space debris.

The announcement came a day after Dmitry Rogozin, the head of the Russian space agency Roscosmos, said Moscow was unlikely to participate in the Gateway space station, marking the probable end of the type of close cooperation for two decades on the International Space Station project.

The Artemis Accords also exclude China, a rising space rival to the US.

China has an active lunar programme with its own international collaborations. Last month, a Chinese-German team published daily radiation measurements on the lunar surface recorded by the Chang’e-5 Lunar lander last year.

They concluded that the level of radiation limited astronauts to two or three months on the Moon – vital information that the US Apollo mission of the 1960s and 1970s had not gathered.

Qingdao: No spread of Covid-19

No additional cases of Covid-19 had been identified in Qingdao, Shandong province, as of mid-afternoon on Tuesday, following an outbreak of new cases that appeared over the weekend, the Chinese city’s health authorities reported.

At noon on Monday, the city reported 12 new cases, six of them asymptomatic, though officials said that night that the city as a whole was at low risk of a community-level spread of the virus.

Further testing and investigation have shown that the confirmed and asymptomatic cases are closely linked to the city’s Pulmori hospital and there was no evidence of community-level spread, according to Jiang Fachun, deputy director of the city’s disease prevention and control centre, who spoke at a news conference on Tuesday afternoon.

Of the six patients with confirmed cases, three have developed serious symptoms and have been isolated, three have developed serious symptoms and have been isolated, and after two rounds of tests, the results were negative, Chen said.

Officials said they planned to complete free coronavirus tests in five districts by Wednesday night, and the entire city of nine million people is to be tested within the week, the municipal health commission said.

Free testing on campuses is provided for all students in universities, middle and primary schools and kindergartens. Some student group activities, such as trips to rural areas to learn about agriculture, have been temporarily suspended.

At the Second Experimental Middle School in Qingdao, all students, teachers and other staff members had undergone testing by 3pm on Monday, according to the school’s vice principal Yan Ke.

“We must guarantee absolute safety at every corner of the schoolyard,” Tian said.

Chen said Shandong province sent seven medical teams that included 216 people to help with processing tests and another 1,050 people to handle sampling work.

More than 10,000 medical workers have already been engaged in fighting the outbreak in the city, officials said.

For more news and analysis, see the latest edition of THE KOREA HERALD DAILY NEWS NETWORK.

Qingdao officials said the entire city of nine million people is to be tested within the week. (Yonhap)
HCMC passes resolution on new city within city tech hub

The plan would merge the Vietnamese city's eastern districts of 2, 9 and Thu Duc into one administrative unit. (Vietnam News Agency)

Pandemic still threatens AIDS care in Indonesia

COVID-19 has killed eight people with HIV/AIDS in Indonesia, and 77 people with HIV have tested positive for the coronavirus, the Ministry of Health has said.

So far, 100 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Indonesia, according to ministry data.

HIV should be 100 per cent disciplined with prophylactic protocols. "Wear your mask, wash your hands," the ministry's HIV/AIDS and sexual transmission control head, Nurjanah Sulaiman, said, adding that Covid-19 patients with comorbidities, including those of HIV/AIDS, such as chronic kidney disease, have worse outcomes than patients without comorbidities. The pandemic hit Indonesia as the government and the people continued to try to reduce HIV infections and help people with the virus live longer and healthier lives.

The Indonesian National Council of Sustainable Development, Indonesia aims to end the global HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030. This includes zero new infections, zero deaths and zero discrimination. The current Thu Duc district, which measures 480sq km, has a high concentration of educational institutions and research centres and four large universities with more than 100,000 students.

The 30sq km District 2, which includes the Thu Thu Duc new urban area, will provide international exhibition and financial centres for the new urban area and the city as a whole. The 114sq km District 9, which includes the Sai Gon Hi-Tech Park, would be a hub for research and an incubator for innovative technologies. The new city is expected to contribute 30 per cent of the city's economic growth, and four to five per cent of the country's.
What to expect from China’s next five-year plan

Zhong Nings and Wang Tao

What to expect from China’s next five-year plan

**Opinion**

NEW starting point and a more challenging environment have been driving China to adjust its economic development pattern. The trade war US launched against China more than two years ago and the COVID-19 pandemic have had significant negative impacts on the Chinese economy. Yet most of the objectives of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) will likely be achieved by the end of this year except GDP growth and household income growth due to the pandemic shock. China’s per capita GDP will likely reach $10,400 by the end of the year compared with $8,000 five years ago, which is significant because the number of people in the middle-income group already exceed 400 million. But despite the previous five-year plan witnessing significant progress in poverty reduction and supply side structural reforms, China now faces more challenges, especially on the external front.

**Challenges from domestic and global economy**

The COVID-19 pandemic has dragged the global economy into recession, squashed macro policy room in most economies, and postponed the time of globalisation. Sino-US tensions have been escalating across the board, leading to stricter US tech restrictions on China, increasing “decoupling” pressure, and accelerated restructuring of supply chains.

Domestically, aging demographics, a slower saving rate, elevated macro leverage, technology bottlenecks, and low efficiency in some areas remain key headwinds for China’s long-term growth.

Given these facts, what can be expected from the new 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025)?

Compared with the 8.1 per cent above average annual growth target set in the 13th Five-Year Plan, we, at UBS (Group) expect China’s government to either not set an explicit growth target or set a lower and more flexible (for example, about five per cent) growth target in the new five-year plan. And in spite of an expected sharp rebound in 2021, we see China’s growth averaging five per cent in the next five years.

The 14th Five-Year Plan is likely to put emphasis on fostering structural changes domestically and improve the quality of growth along the lines highlighted by the recent “dual circulation” development pattern put forward by the country’s leadership. Ambitious urbanisation.

This means the 14th Five-Year Plan could set ambitious targets for the urbanisation rate (likely another five percentage point increase in urban hukou, or household registration), new urban employment growth (possibly another 50 million from 2021 to 2025), increase in shares of consumption and services, improvement in social safety net, and higher education and research and development spending. Also, the next five-year plan may continue emphasizing environmental protection and risk controls on the financial and property sectors. The new five-year plan is expected to follow the theme of “dual circulation”, which is centered on the domestic economy (or “internal circulation”) and aimed at integrating the further easing of hukou restrictions mean an increase of more than 80 million urban hukou holders in the 2021-2025 period.

As for the ongoing land reform, it could lead to more rural land entering the market directly and accelerated land exchange. And further State-owned enterprises reform may focus on more mixed-ownership reform, divesting some of State capital from competitive sectors, and increasing competition.

Besides, as a key part of the “dual circulation” strategy, we are convinced China will further open up its economy during the next five years. Indeed, China has further opened up to the world in the past five years with an expanding range of export markets. The total consumption is expected to reach $12 trillion in 2025, almost $4 trillion more than the estimated 2020 figure. Also, consumption upgrading will likely continue toward more services, better quality, more health-related spending, more experience and self-improvement, and more online shopping.

China is likely to target its R&D share in GDP from 2.5 per cent in 2020 to about 6 per cent in 2025 ($600-650 billion), and further increase spending on education and vocational training. In light of the decoupling pressure and tech restrictions by the US, China may allocate more resources to fundamental research, frontier research and tech bottleneck areas (for instance, chips and semiconductors, software, precision machinery, fine chemicals, advanced robotics, new materials), better protect intellectual property rights, and offer more market access and support to foreign firms.

In addition, China’s significant talent pool (about eight million college graduates per year, of which about four million are majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics) to the global market and a relaxed regulatory environment should help underpin China’s future growth and the application of R&D outcome.

We expect the government to further support digitalisation and related implications in the next five-year plan. China’s online sales penetration may rise further from an already high ratio of 21 per cent in 2019 and 25 per cent year-to-date, while there is a provision of other services including remote working, education, healthcare and financial services evolving rapidly.

“New infrastructure”

The government is likely to help facilitate Chinese corporations to transform their business model with more digital services by increasing the provision of “new infrastructure”, which is central to the domestic economy or “internal circulation”. This includes the provision of “new infrastructure” which is centred on the domestic economy to transform their business model with more digital services by increasing the provision of ‘new infrastructure’. The government is also likely to help facilitate Chinese corporations to transform their business model with more digital services by increasing the provision of “new infrastructure” that (is, data centres, 5G networks, artificial intelligence, etc.). And although the annual investment of officially defined “new infrastructure” is still small (about one trillion yuan or $148 billion), we expect related investment to grow more rapidly than the “old infrastructure” in the next five years. CHINA DAILY/ CHINA NEWS NETWORK

Zhong Nings is a senior China economist, and Wang Tao is chief China economist and head of Asia Economics at UBS.
Contemporary artist takes a hard look at Cambodia’s troubled past

Hun Sopheara

In the darkness of the forest, blurred barefoot students attempt to chase – or escape, depending on one’s perspective – burning books resembling fireballs. This is the scene set in one of Phay Bunarath’s creative photographs displayed in his “Recollection” exhibition at TorTim, a contemporary art gallery established by four young Cambodians to showcase local emerging artists.

Aiming to recall the history before and during the Khmer Rouge era (1970-1979), “Recollection” presents two series of performance photos by globally renowned classical dance and music company Sophiline Art Ensemble and Bunarath, an emerging photographer.

The exhibition depicts symbolic scenes of religious building bombings, destroyed schools, forced marriages, sexual violence, and crimes against humanity committed by the Khmer Rouge. Six of the photos are from Bunarath, a 2018 graduate of Sa Sa Art Project’s contemporary staged photography class. His graduation exhibition was called “Passion in Liberated Zone (1970-1974)” and showed his knack for artistically visualising Cambodian history.

Some students produced photos about climate change, development and daily life documentaries. I decided to produce documentary photos called “Passion in Liberated Zone”, which led me to my current project,” Bunarath says. “Because there are not many research documents or works of art portraying this area, I decided to choose this unique topic in order to make the audiences learn about it.”

Honoring his craft

Bunarath grew up in Battambang province, where his divorced parents struggled to make ends meet. When the 31-year-old photographer started researching and creating artistic photographs about Cambodian history, his family was surprised.

“Since I was young, there was one camera in my house and I always played and tinkered with it. When I grew up, I didn’t have my own childhood photos but that made me want to be a photographer,” he said.

When he moved to Phnom Penh in 2014, he dove into the photography scene. “In 2014 I started studying by myself and asked for help from senior photographers. Then I had a dream of making my own artwork which I could show to the public and I started learning more,” Bunarath says. “I put forth my best effort these last few years. During my first year, I used to think that I would give up on it but when I saw beautiful pictures on social media, it gave me the motivation to continue sharpening my skills.”

Bunarath considers fellow photographer Tham Tham an inspiration. Tham is known for his dramatic, powerful and emotional portraits of children. He says Tham’s work helped him realise that true photography is not about having a good camera and taking beautiful pictures.

“It has to be aesthetic and meaningful. It requires study, practice, training and research,” he says.

Avant-garde art

To achieve the unique look in his stylised photographs, Bunarath recruited Srey Diro as a model. In one of the photos, Diro holds burning papers in one hand and an engulfed bunch of incense sticks in the other against a gloomy dark background.

Another photo depicts multiple exposures of Diro in a single frame. He hides in a hut filled with anxiety and fear. He covers his ears and face with a book. He peeks through the window to see what looks like a bomber.

“Some people who have seen my artwork literally think they look like ghost stories. Often managed to get the hidden meaning behind them, while some asked me to explain what message I wanted to convey through my artwork,” Bunarath says people may not realise how much time and effort it takes to create his contemporary staged photographs.

“A project like this might take around a year to finish, but I tried so hard to produce it within six months,” he says. He divided the project into four steps – organising and planning, researching, shooting in the field, and retouching and editing photos to make them more attractive.

The research part was challenging as he had to find people willing to talk to him about life during the Khmer Republic.

The information he collected was complemented by documents from the Bophana Audiovisual Resource Centre. “I was struggling to manage time since I was working a regular job and producing this project at the same time,” he says. Bunarath currently works as a freelance photographer and has a job in IT and design at a private company.

“All the photos were produced in the forest, and sometimes the lighting wasn’t good. I was trying so hard to finish it on time.”

Among all the photos, his favourite one is a photo showing how people struggled to make ends meet. “I didn’t expect to sell them. If there are people interested in purchasing my artwork, I’d sell them under a few conditions.”

The “Recollection” exhibition opened September 12 and will run until January 12 next year. TorTim contemporary art gallery is located at 181, Street 426, Tuol Tompunng II commune, Phnom Penh. For questions, contact 070 564 405.
As virus rages, Mexicans pray to ‘death saint’

Their arms raised towards the sky, wor-shipers of Mexico’s “saint of death” pray before a giant cloaked skeleton asking for protection from the coronavirus and its devastating economic fallout. The Grim Reaper-like figure, whose devotees include drug cartel members as well as ordi-nary Mexicans, has been rejected by the Roman Catho-lic Church as blasphemous.

But with tens of thousands of Mexican lives lost to Covid-19, there is no shortage of fol-lowers of “Santa Muerte.”

With the pandemic, more devotees want to come to ask for health and protection,” said 30-year-old Cristel Legar-des into an icon, prompting the Church to destroy chapels devoted to the folk saint. Historians trace Santa Muerte back to the 18th century, when indigenous people turned images of the Grim Reaper brought by Spanish conquista-dores into an icon, prompting the Church to destroy chapels devoted to the folk saint.

After many decades under shadow, the practise emerged back to the 20th century, particularly in the impoverished countryside. “Always here’
The number of followers grew in 2001, when a woman named Enriqueta “Dona Queta” Romeo displayed her Santa Muerte figure in Mexico City’s rough neighborhood of Tepeito.

Hundred of “Santa Muerte” followers of Mexican lives lost to covid-19, there is no shortage of fol-lowers of “Santa Muerte.”

With Covid-19 “there are more people who have taken an interest in a cult,” he said. “It’s a way to help them, but that does not make us immune,” he added. With around 84,000 deaths, Mexico has the world’s fourth-highest coronavirus toll, and many have lost a relative, friend or neighbor.

“The only thing I ask of my saints is to give me strength, health and harmony. Nothing else matters if you don’t have good health,” said 23-year-old shoeshiner Jonathan Flores.

Some tattoos of “Santa Muerte” on their neck or chest and indoctrinate their children.

Thinking caps

ACROSS
1. Apologetic preorder 6. Leave it to Beaver” smooch-talker
11. Understand, in hype lingo 12. Narcotic from peppers
15. Lush tropical area 16. Zero, in soccer
17. Voice in producer 18. Airport info, informally
21. They’re often asked to look 22. Affirmative action
23. Fumigated dessert wine 27. False identities
29. Jackie’s “O” 30. Dinky stuff
32. Dull as dishwasher 33. Japanese currency
36. Libes with bell-shaped flowers 37. Ladies man
42. “Silent Night,” for one 43. Severely inclined
44. “Haven Night” for one 45. Beggard
46. Eggs, in bio labs

“D GRADES”

1. Bight on the landscape 11. Breezes
2. “Eat crow” or “talk turkey” 12. Neurons, as a horse
4. Large-headed match 14. Total swammp
5. “You ___ the only one!” 15. Blighted
6. Shorts, for a Scout 16. Big, awkward klutzes
7. Ipecac and others 17. Parole alternatives
8. Hosted event 18. Some door knockers
9. Word said with a head slap 19. Word said with a head slap
10. Group with no members, in math 20. Foot’s lack
11. Word said with a head slap 21. Word said with a head slap
13. “Eat crow” or “talk turkey” 23. Noted pyramid builders
14. Hosted event 24. Word said with a head slap
15. Some door knockers 25. Foot’s lack
16. Word said with a head slap 26. Word said with a head slash
17. Noted pyramid builders 27. Word said with a head slash
18. Some door knockers 28. Foot’s lack
19. Word said with a head slash 29. Word said with a head slash
20. Word said with a head slash 30. Word said with a head slash

Sudoku Pacific

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.
Argentina barely squeezes past Bolivia in a 2-1 victory

Joaquin Correa scored the winner 11 minutes from time as Argentina laboured to a 2-1 victory over Bolivia in a World Cup qualifier in La Paz on Tuesday. It was a second narrow victory in a row for Lionel Scaloni's team following Thursday's 1-0 win over Ecuador.

Marcelo Moreno Martins had given hosts Bolivia a deserved lead but Argentina scored a fortuitous equaliser through Lautaro Martinez elsewhere, Ecuador bounced back from their loss in Argentina to stun Uruguay 4-2 in Quito. Bolivia should have been ahead on six minutes when Argentina goalkeeper Franco Armani was caught off his line but Moreno Martins sent his header from an angle onto the roof of the net.

Moreno Martins made amends on 24 minutes as the rise between Argentina's center-backs to power home a header from eight yards after Alejandro Chamacero was allowed to run from halfway into the visitors' box before crossing from the left.

While the Estadio Hernando Siles was empty due to coronavirus restrictions, some fans standing on a nearby roof overlooking the ground celebrated enthusiastically. Argentina came to life just before the break as an otherwise subdued Lionel Messi had a shot deflected just wide and from the resulting corner, Leandro Paredes crashed a shot off the post.

But in the final minute of the half, Argentina were level. Jose Carrasco tried to clear the ball out of his six yard box after cutting out Martinez's cross, but he shanked the ball off the forward's shin and past goalkeeper Carlos Lampe.

Messi was wasteful with a free kick from 20 yards just past the hour mark as he fired it straight into the wall. His pass 15 minutes from the end released Martinez in the box only for Lampe to brilliantly save his fierce right-foot drive.

The reprieve was brief as Messi and Martinez combined to tee up Correa to thrust home the winner.

Ecuador totally dominated Uruguay and took the lead on 15 minutes as Moises Caceres headed home an Angel Mena cross from close range.

They had a second goal by Michael Estrada ruled out by VAR review for a handball against goalkeeper Darío Valera.

But Estrada got his goal on the stroke of half-time, rifling home from inside the box after a mistake by veteran Uruguay center-back Diego Godin.

 Uruguay thought they had a goal back three minutes into the second half but it was disallowed for a handball by Darío Nunez.

And after a lengthy VAR check, Ecuador went straight up the other end where Estrada cracked home Valencia's backheel from 20 yards.

Ecuador's final goal was a work of art as Alan Franco reverse passed bemused Uruguayan defender and goalkeeper Matias Campagnoli before stroking the ball into the far corner.

Luis Suarez scored his record-extending 61st and 62nd goals for Uruguay with a pair of late penalties.

A much-anticipated Test match between the All Blacks and Wallabies ended in a 16-16 draw, as New Zealand and Australia have undergone new quick tests in the run-up to the Rugby World Cup.

Argentina's Joaquin Correa celebrates with Lionel Messi (top) after scoring against Bolivia in the World Cup qualifier. AFP

Sagan goes it alone to win Covid-hit Giro 10th stage

Peter Sagan soloed to victory in the Giro d'Italia's 10th stage on Tuesday after two teams, Mitchelton and Jumbo-Visma, were forced to pull out before the stage because of positive COVID-19 tests.

Sagan, riding for Bora, ended his winless drought going back to the 2019 Tour de France, as Portugal's Joao Almeida kept the leader's pink jersey in the race and will focus on the Tour de France this way.

Sagan, one of the most successful riders in the peloton with three world titles, achieved his first success in the Giro, to complete his set of stage wins on the three big tours - France, Italy, Spain.

The Slovak attacked several times in the mountainous last 60km, finally breaking clear uphill 12km from the finish line to cross alone 19sec ahead of American Brandon McNulty with Almeida third at 23sec.

Danish Jakob Fuglsang was the day's biggest loser after suffering a puncture 10km from the finish and losing a minute on his rivals.

The peloton was reduced to 145 riders from the 176 who started the race in Sicily on October 3.

The Mitchelton team said they had been notified of four positive results for "staff members" after tests conducted on Sunday.

"We are trying to keep the situation under control," said Giro race director Mauro Vegni.

"This morning, all the teams that have had positive cases have undergone new quick tests and we will do the same the day after tomorrow. So far we have done almost 1,500 tests and it is impossible to do more."

"Upon receiving the results, Mitchelton-Scott immediately withdrew its team from the race and will focus on the health of its riders and staff and their safe movement to areas of quarantine," the team said.

Mitchelton general manager Bartel Copeland added: "As a social responsibility to our riders and staff, the peloton and the race organisations we made the clear decision to withdraw from the Giro Aikalties."

Copeland said those who tested "remain asymptomatic or with mild symptoms" and would undergo a period of quarantine.

Mitchelton had already been hit by Saturday's withdrawal of Briton Simon Yates, their lead rider, who became the first rider to test positive for Covid-19 at a Grand Tour.

Yates, who was 21st in the standings a head of Saturday's stage with overall victory still potentially within his grasp, tested positive for coronavirus after developing a mild fever on Friday.

The announcement of Jumbo-Visma's complete withdrawal followed another blow for Kruijswijk, a top-five finisher in all three Grand Tours who missed this year's Tour de France with a knee injury.

"Within the team we take a lot of measures to avoid contamination," said the 33-year-old Dutchman, who showed no virus symptoms.

"I just feel fit. I can't believe I got it. It is a very big disappointment to get this news. It is a pity that I have to leave the Giro this way."

And Team Sunweb added that their quarantined Matthews was "asymptomatic, feels healthy."

The positive tests throw into doubt the future of the three-week Giro, which now has 21 teams, with nearly two weeks to run.

Although Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme and four staff members from four different teams tested positive, last month's Grand Boucle finished without any riders failing tests.
Braves survive Dodgers scare, Rays roll over winless Astros

Atlanta first baseman Freddie Freeman belted a two-run home run in the fourth inning as the Braves built a big lead then held off the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-7 in baseball’s National League Championship Series.

The victory in Arlington, Texas, on Tuesday gave the Braves a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

“This is a good ballclub we’re playing, and they’re explosive, as we saw,” Braves manager Brian Snitker said. “I didn’t feel good with a big lead because these guys are too powerful. That is a good ballgame to win. They all are now.”

The winner of the series will take on either the Tampa Bay Rays or Houston Astros in the World Series.

In the ALCS contest, Joey Wendle and Hunter Renfroe each drove in two runs in the ninth inning as the Rays moved within one win of their second World Series appearance with a 5-2 victory over Houston.

The Rays, trying to return to the World Series for the first time since 1999, took charge early against a Dodgers team that endured a big blow with the late scratch of expected starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw with back spasms.

His replacement, Tony Gonsolin, got off to a solid start, retiring the first nine batters he faced.

But he gave up a walk to Ronald Acuna to open the fourth and Freeman followed with a homer to the right field stands off a slider from the rookie.

Freeman added a run-scoring single in the Braves’ four-run fifth inning and the Rays were up 7-0 before Max Muncy hit a two-run homer off a slider from the rookie.

Cody Bellinger then delivered a run-scoring triple off closing pitcher Mark Melancon, who was able to induce a ground out from Justin Turner to seal the win.

“This team has a lot of fight and we’ve done it all year,” said Dodgers Seager. “We were one swing, one anything away from tying that ballgame and going into extras. This is a long series and we are looking forward to the challenge.”

Braves starter Ian Anderson stretched his personal post-season scoreless streak to 15 2/3 innings, striking out five and surrendering five walks over four innings.

Five Atlanta relievers combined to notch the final 15 outs. “The coaching staff does such a good job of keeping you in the moment and giving you the information you need at that time. Then it’s up to executing. We had a good game plan, and in the playoffs you have to keep your opponent from scoring and we were able to do that,” Anderson said.

In San Diego, Renfroe and Kevin Kiermaier each made a pair of sterling defensive plays for the Rays, who seized a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven AL Championship Series.

Rays eye World Series

Randy Arozarena had a double and two singles to become the first rookie with four three-hit performances in a single playoff season.

The top seeded Rays can book a berth to the World Series for the first time since 2008 with a win over Houston in game four on Wednesday. “We have a good chance. We will have a good show,” said Renfroe.

Renfroe made a clutch sliding catch in right field to end the seventh inning and another for the second out in the eighth, the latter with the bases loaded and one out.

“I knew I had a good chance to catch it. I got a good jump on it,” he said. “If I didn’t catch it I was going to block it any way possible.”

Neymar scores hat-trick to fire Brazil past 10-man Peru

NEYMAR scored a hat-trick to become the second highest goalscorer in Brazil’s history as the Copa America champions won 4-2 away to 10-man Peru in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

The goals took Neymar to 64 international strikes, two more than Ronaldinho but still behind Pelé’s record of 77.

Elsewhere, Joaquin Correa scored the winner 11 minutes from time as Argentina thumped a 2-1 victory over Bolivia to maintain their 100 per cent record after two matches.

Peru twice took the lead through Andre Carrillo and a heavily deflected strike from Renato Tapia, but two controversial Neymar penalties, an injury time third and a close range strike from Richarlison maintained the Selecao’s winning start to qualifying for Qatar 2022.

Carrillo opened the scoring on six minutes with a dipping volley from 20 yards after latching onto Marquinhos’s weak clearance.

PeruGoalkeeper Pedro Gallese then denied Firmos from point blank range after he seemed certain to tap home from Richarlison’s cushioned header.

Brazil dominated the ball but Peru’s pacey forwards looked dangerous on the counter-attack and visiting goalkeeper Weverton had to be alert to keep out a shot from Cristopher Gonzales.

But Neymar sent Gallese the wrong way from the spot after Yoshimar Yotun was penalised for tuggin his shirt in the box.

Rodrigo Caio and-wrong-footed Weverton on 59 minutes. The lead lasted only a few minutes before Richardalson touched a Firmino header from a corner over the line to restore parity.

The winner came seven minutes from time as Carlos Zambrano was harshly adjudged to have fouled Neymar. Worse was still to come for Zambrano as he was sent off minutes later for a stray elbow that caught Richarlison.

Neymar drilled home the penalty to seal the final nail in Peru’s coffin.

Ronaldo positive for Covid-19

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has tested positive for coronavirus, the Portuguese football federation announced on Tuesday.

Ronaldo “is asymptomatic” and “will not play against Sweden” in Wednesday’s Nations League match, the federation said on its website.

The 35-year-old Juventus forward, who has been voted the world’s top player five times, played in Portugal’s goalless Nations League draw against France on Sunday.

Ronaldo has scored 101 goals for Portugal and will be a huge absence for his team against Sweden as they aim to hold on to top spot in their group. The test result also means Ronaldo is a doubt for Juventus’ Champions League group match with Barcelona on October 28, which was set to pit Ronaldo against his old rival Lionel Messi.

Ronaldo, who has also started for Manchester United and Real Madrid, is the highest-profile footballer to test positive for Covid-19, which has killed over a million people since the start of the pandemic earlier this year.

Brazils forward Neymar, his Paris Saint-Germain teammate Kylian Mbappe and AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic have also tested positive for the virus in recent weeks.

Cristiano Ronaldo positive for Covid-19