



## MINISTRY: NO DATA REQUEST FROM CHINESE FOR COVID APP

NATIONAL – PAGE 3



## GOV'T-PRIVATE MEET TACKLES AGRICULTURAL PREDICAMENTS

BUSINESS – PAGE 7



## PHILIPPINES TO SEND LARGEST SATELLITE INTO SPACE IN 2023

WORLD – PAGE 10



## CYCLO PANTRY FOR SOLIDARITY AND KINDNESS SET IN MOTION

LIFESTYLE – PAGE 12

# Kingdom set to be a gold producer

May Kunmakara

CAMBODIA will soon join the roster of gold producing countries after the government announced the commencement of commercial gold mining operations in the Okvau area in southwestern Mondulkiri province's Keo Seima district from June 21.

Prime Minister Hun Sen on June 10 announced that

after 14 years of exploration and research by Australian miner Renaissance Minerals (Cambodia) Ltd, the company will be the first to commercialise the gold at the Okvau Gold Project.

Reportedly able to produce semi-finished gold alloys containing 90 per cent gold, Renaissance will be in compliance with recognised international standards.

An earlier report outlined an initial Life of Mine (LOM) of eight years, with an average of three tonnes of gold produced each year.

Cambodia expects the project to generate \$185 million per annum in pre-tax cash flow, with \$40 million from royalties and taxes transferred to the national budget, according to the prime minister. He noted the untapped

potential resting in the gold mining industry, but stressed that investing in the sector requires professionals and advanced technology, as well as long-term commitment, he said in a nod to Renaissance.

"Today's announcement of the launch of the gold industry is not just an invitation to encourage people to take up gold mining businesses – it is one of the most risky

ventures, and requires a lot of capital and specialised skills," Hun Sen said.

Renaissance's parent company, Perth-based Emerald Resources NL, on June 8 said it had commenced crushing activities, delivered the first ore feed to the mill and has commenced wet commissioning of the processing plant at its

CONTINUED – PAGE 8



## All in the same boat

Floating home owners remove their belongings along the rivers in Prek Pnov commune in Phnom Penh's Prek Pnov district on Sunday. HONG MENEA

STORY > 2

# US wants 'full access' to Ream Naval Base

Niem Chheng

ON JUNE 11, the US embassy's defence attache Colonel Marcus M Ferrara visited Ream Naval Base in coordination with Cambodian officials – following the recent approval by Prime Minister Hun Sen – in order to allay US concerns regarding a Chinese military pres-

ence at the base raised by US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R Sherman.

The visit was brief and the embassy then issued a statement claiming that Cambodian military officials refused to grant the defence attache full access to the naval base and the US embassy renewed its call for another visit at the earliest opportunity with "full access".

On June 11, *The Post* wrote to the embassy to inquire about its definition of "full access" to the military base and whether such access to a military base has ever been granted by any nation's military to any other non-allied foreign military – an enquiry to which US embassy spokesman Chad Roedemeier responded "we will let our statement stand", without

providing further elaboration.

*The Post* also pressed the embassy for more details on the visit, such as what the defence attache had or had not seen at the base, but the spokesman did not provide an answer, replying only that he would be "out of the office" until July 15.

On June 12, *The Post* asked the embassy for more details

CONTINUED – PAGE 2

## Guam OK as Afghan refugees' host, but wants say

GUAM on June 13 offered to temporarily house thousands of Afghans being evacuated from their country as part of the US troop withdrawal, but insisted it be consulted on the planning.

In a letter to US President Joe Biden, Guam governor Lou Leon Guerrero said she needed to be certain "these decisions reflect the best interests of our people".

US troops are expected to be out of Afghanistan by September 11 but lawmakers say it could take more than two years to process US visas for about 18,000 Afghan allies and their families.

There are fears that if they remain in Afghanistan they will suffer retaliation from the Taliban.

"I assure you that my administration is prepared to assist in executing your plans on this matter should Guam be chosen," Leon Guerrero said in her letter.

"If such a decision is made, I respectfully ask that I be part of critical discussions concerning Guam's role and any related task force should one be established.

"Due to the gravity and urgency of this matter, I would like to speak with you soon."

There has been mixed reaction in Guam to the possibility of again being used as an evacuation destination, after the Pacific US territory took in Vietnamese refugees in 1975 before they were resettled in the US. AFP

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9



## Sub-decree on pavements revised: transport ministry

THE PHNOM PENH POST  
National  
Inside ▶ page 5



## National

# Capital ban on river structures floats houses down to Kandal

Khouth Sophak Chakrya

**R**ESIDENTS of boats, floating houses and huts along with owners of fish farms on the rivers in Phnom Penh have dismantled and relocate following the orders from the Phnom Penh Municipal Administration.

As of June 13, about two-thirds of them have voluntarily dismantled and relocated.

Nop Pha, deputy governor of Chbar Ampov district, confirmed to *The Post* that more than two-thirds of the 500 houses and fish farms have moved. Those remaining are gradually dismantling their structures as instructed.

"I do not know where they moved to. However, the location where they set their floating houses and fish farms was not legal and it affected the beauty and environment of the river in Phnom Penh, especially the water quality," he said.

According to Pha, those who have not yet dismantled their homes or fish farming cages will have to leave in five days as ordered by the Phnom Penh municipal administration or they will face the enforcement of administrative measures wherein the authorities dismantle their property without any guarantees against property damage.

Chroy Changvar commune chief Mao Buntha told *The Post* that more than 50 per cent of the 170 boats and about two-thirds of the 58 floating houses, fish farms and 18 houses along the shore have been voluntarily dismantled or relocated.

"For floating houses with small-scale fish farming, we have set aside three days for them. We gave five days for medium-sized fish farms so that they can disassemble and relocate the fish to new places," he said.

Oeur Siphon, chief of Prek Tasek commune in Chroy



Floating home owners remove their belongings along the rivers in Prek Pnov commune in Phnom Penh's Prek Pnov district on Sunday. HONG MENEHA

Changvar district, said only about 10 out of 40 floating houses that have fish farms still haven't been demolished. The authorities have not taken administrative action yet, but advised them to voluntarily dismantle the structures themselves to avoid the iron glove of authority.

Prek Pnov district authorities confirmed to *The Post* that 60 per cent of the over 300 fish farms there have now voluntarily dismantled their floating houses and farms.

On June 13, the Russey Keo, Daun Penh, Chamkarmon and Meanchey district administrations declined to provide data on the number of people living in boats, floating houses or fish farms and how many houses have been dismantled. They referred the reporter to the Phnom Penh municipal administration.

Phnom Penh governor Khuong Sreng and municipal hall spokespersons Meth Meas Pheakdey could not be reached for comment on June 13.

On June 2, the Phnom Penh Municipal Administration issued a notification requiring the immediate dismantling or

removal of fish farms, floating houses, small boathouses and unregulated structures along the river in Phnom Penh.

Sreng said these constructs affect the order of the waterways, ecosystems and shallow waterways, especially the use of fish feed and the fish using the river as a toilet which caused severe damage to biodiversity in the water, damaged the water quality, polluted the environment and affected the beauty of Phnom Penh. He gave just seven days for all of them to move out or face legal action.

Phnom Penh municipal deputy governor and development planning management specialist Eang Onny told *The Post* that this was the right time for the Phnom Penh administration to take action to free the river from fish farms, floating houses, small boats and untidy structures on the river.

He said that if this activity is allowed to continue on the river, the problem will spread like "cancer".

"In implementing this plan, we need to strictly apply all aspects of the law in collaboration with all stakeholders and clearly identify the citi-

zens who live on boats, floating houses, fish farms and irregular structures on the river and reduce the impact as much as we can," he said.

According to Onny, most of the people living on boats, floating houses, fish farms and unregulated structures along the river in Phnom Penh are Vietnamese.

As the deadline fell on June 12, some floating houses have been seen in Kien Svay and Lvea Em districts of Kandal province.

Kandal provincial governor Kong Sophoan led the provincial unity command to inspect the river and immediately prevent them from settling there.

Sophoan confirmed that "there are some floating houses and some irregular constructions that just floated into Kandal province in Kien Svay and Lvea Em districts, which moved over from Phnom Penh."

According to the provincial governor, as of this morning, the number of floating structures was small and the provincial authorities are watching the situation and forcing the structures to move along or move from the water to more appropriate locations. ■

# Military embodies the 'heart and soul' of national security

Continued from page 1

via both email and Facebook, especially regarding where the embassy's defence attaché wanted to visit that he had been refused access to.

The embassy was also asked whether the US intended to visit the military bases of other countries in the same manner in which they have Cambodia's, but the embassy spokesperson said he did not have an answer.

General Suon Samnang – deputy director-general of the Ministry of National Defence of Politics and Foreign Affairs – told *The Post* that he brought US embassy defence attaché Colonel Ferrara to visit Ream Naval Base to have a look at the ships and the workshop built with Australian aid.

After that, Colonel Ferrara was brought to see a hospital building and the new location of the frontline command centre of the open-sea committee where he suspected Chinese military presence, as he requested.

"We prepared important locations which he wished to see in order to clear up their suspicions about an alleged Chinese military base," General Samnang said.

General Nem Sowath – adviser to Minister of Defence Tea Bahn – also expressed his surprise and dismay over the embassy's claims.

He told *The Post*: "What we saw from the embassy is a statement that is factless and untrue. It's a big misunderstanding to interpret [our actions today] as un-cooperative."

On June 12, Cambodia's defence ministry issued a press statement to clarify what the US embassy had said.

The defence ministry's statement said that Colonel Ferrara's visit lasted for three hours, starting at 9am. After the visit to the above mentioned places came to an end, Colonel Ferrara requested access to another location which was not in the plans that both sides had agreed upon and the request was turned down.

"Based on these factors, the defence ministry views the US embassy's statement as a provocation and a fabrication that brings more gloom to Cambodia-US military rela-

tions," the ministry said.

The ministry "insisted" that the US stop inventing new scenarios that had a negative impact on Cambodia-US military ties and that they respect Cambodia's sovereignty and its military's procedures.

The ministry said it will still thoroughly consider any future requests to visit the base.

"The only activity inside the military base that access was permitted for was a visit. Not a [comprehensive] search or [total] scrutiny," the ministry said.

The ministry and General Samnang did not say which location exactly the US defence attaché's request to visit had been refused.

Kin Phea, director of the Royal Academy of Cambodia's International Relations Institute, said he believed that no country should grant unconditional access to military bases to a foreign defense attaché like they were a prosecutor with a search warrant.

Phea said there should be a method to clear up these issues of alleged Chinese military presence without violating a sovereign country's military secrets that aren't relevant to the issue of a Chinese military presence.

"We don't have to talk about foreign military attachés as even ordinary people cannot have access to a military base. Our question to the US is will they let ordinary people enter the 800 military bases they have outside of US territory?"

"Cambodia already showed a gentle manner to allow the defence attaché to visit the naval base. But as they already know, the military is the heart and soul of a nation's security," Phea said.

Jean-Francois Tain, a geopolitical analyst, said: "The defence attaché being 'permitted or not permitted to visit any location came from the agreement made by both sides and it is the right of [Cambodia] as a sovereign country to decide'."

Both Prime Minister Hun Sen and defence minister Tea Bahn have repeatedly denied that there was any truth to the speculation about a Chinese military presence in Cambodia, stressing that the Cambodian Constitution does not allow foreign military bases on the Kingdom's territory. ■



US embassy military attaché visits Ream. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

## Communications Specialist



CAVAC is Australia's largest aid program in Cambodia and promotes a commercially viable and resilient agriculture sector that contributes to inclusive economic growth. It does this by promoting profitable irrigated agriculture and an increasingly competitive agriculture industry. The Program is in its final year and is now documenting the knowledge and experience it has generated in the 12 years it has been running.

CAVAC intends to engage a Communications Specialist to produce the communications and knowledge products that document CAVAC's extensive experience and knowledge.

A copy of the terms of reference can be obtained from the CAVAC website <https://cavackh.org/page/work-with-us>

Email your application with "Communications Specialist" in the subject line to [recruitment@cavackh.org](mailto:recruitment@cavackh.org)

Cardno is an equal opportunity employer. Cardno is committed to safety and the prevention of sexual abuse and harassment (PSEAH), child protection and bribery prevention.

The deadline to submit applications is Sunday 20 June 2021



CAVAC is supported by the Australian Government and managed by Cardno



[www.cardno.com/internationaldevelopment](http://www.cardno.com/internationaldevelopment)

## Procurement Specialist



CAVAC is Australia's largest aid program in Cambodia and promotes a commercially viable and resilient agriculture sector that contributes to inclusive economic growth. It does this by promoting profitable irrigated agriculture and an increasingly competitive agriculture industry.

CAVAC intends to engage a Procurement Specialist to play an important role in managing procurement and grants for CAVAC's agricultural competitiveness and cross-cutting activities. It is expected that many of these activities will be novated to DFAT's next aid investment and therefore the workload will rise as we near program completion, rather than decrease.

A copy of the terms of reference can be obtained from the CAVAC website <https://cavackh.org/page/work-with-us>

Email your application with "Procurement Specialist" in the subject line to [recruitment@cavackh.org](mailto:recruitment@cavackh.org)

Cardno is an equal opportunity employer. Cardno is committed to safety and the prevention of sexual abuse and harassment, child protection and bribery prevention.

The deadline to submit applications is Sunday 20 June 2021



CAVAC is supported by the Australian Government and managed by Cardno



[www.cardno.com/internationaldevelopment](http://www.cardno.com/internationaldevelopment)

# 'Stop Covid' QR Code report denounced

Ry Sochan

THE Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and Ministry of Health deplored an article by the Hong Kong-based Asia Times which reported that China was squeezing Cambodia to obtain private data accumulated from the country's Covid-19 QR code-based location and contact tracing app.

"The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the Ministry of Health completely dismiss the fabrications and exaggerations of this false information that is only intended to pollute society and public opinion as well as incite people to refuse to participate in the implementation of government measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Cambodia," the ministries said in a statement on June 12.

On June 10, the Asia Times published an article entitled "China squeezes Cambodia for its Covid app data" saying Cambodia's "Stop Covid" QR Code was for surveillance purposes rather than disease control.

Following the February 20 community outbreak of Covid-19, the government launched the app in an attempt to help prevent its further spread in Cambodia.

The app has users scan QR-codes assigned to physical locations such as shops when they enter them. If anyone who was present at a given location tests positive for Covid-19 then anyone else who checked in



An employee scans the 'Stop Covid' QR code before entering his office in Phnom Penh's Meanchey district on June 13. HONG MENEA

there at the same time can be quarantined and tested.

The Asia Times article notes that a report on April 6 by Human Rights Watch (HRW) said that the QR-code app raises serious concerns about privacy, intrusive data collection and population surveillance because it could put government critics and activists at greater risk.

"Shortly after the official announcement of the 'Stop Covid-19' app's launch, Wang Wentian, the Chinese ambassador to Phnom Penh, met with Cambodian officials and requested access to the personal data collected via the new [Stop Covid QR-code] system, according to sources familiar with the request," reported the Asia Times.

In response, the ministries said

the Asia Times article was politically motivated.

"The telecoms and health ministries have not received any requests for data access in the QR-code system from the Chinese ambassador. We completely reject this fabrication and condemn the people who invented it," they said in a joint statement.

The QR-code system being used

in Cambodia is also used in many other countries throughout the region and the world to combat the pandemic. The system only identifies people by their phone numbers without collecting any other personal data or data on the user's travel routes, the ministries said.

The introduction of the QR code system aims to protect the health of people in the event of a global epidemic as enshrined in the Cambodian Constitution and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), as well as other laws and regulations in force, they added.

"In fact, ministries, institutions, embassies, companies, national and international organisations and location owners have encouraged their citizens and staff to use it and participate in the government's efforts to protect their personal safety and the public welfare by preventing the spread of Covid-19," the statement said.

A telecoms ministry official who asked not to be named told *The Post* on June 13 that the article was nothing but a political stunt.

"It is unfortunate that an international news agency is saying these things. We set up this system to make sure that Covid-19 infections would be reduced. When someone is involved with someone else who may be at risk, then the person who has entered that location at the same time can be informed so they can protect themselves," he said. ■

# Provinces enforce restriction measure amid outbreaks

Mom Kunthear

THE Siem Reap Provincial Administration will continue to enforce Covid-19 administrative measures including a curfew, while the Banteay Meanchey Provincial Hall will take similar measures for Poipet town.

In Siem Reap, governor Tea Seiha announced his decision on June 12 to extend a curfew in the province for two weeks from June 13 to June 26.

"All traffic in Siem Reap is temporarily suspended from 10pm to 4am, save for essential travel," he said.

Seiha said business activities of food stalls, restaurants and shopping malls must be suspended from 10pm to 4am, except orders for takeaway or delivery.

The measure also prohibits gatherings with food, drink or alcohol, except among family members living in the same home and at funerals permitted by the authorities.

"Any person who violates the ban on travel, work, business or gatherings will have strict legal action taken against them and they will be sent to the court for punishment including

imprisonment and fines," he said.

In Banteay Meanchey, governor Oum Reatrey also introduced temporary administrative measures in Poipet town for one week from June 13 to June 19.

Curfew is imposed on this town from 10pm to 5am, with a few exceptions such as heavy cargo transport to and from the Thai-Cambodian border and some other essential travel.

"Anyone who fails to comply with these administrative measures will be subject to penalties according to the law on the control of Covid-19 and other

deadly contagious diseases," he said.

Along the same lines, Oddar Meanchey provincial governor Pen Kosal has decided to temporarily lockdown three locations in Samrong town's O'Smach commune until further notice.

"The lockdown is imposed on all traffic on streets 8 and 13 in Aphivath village and the Keo Heng noodle shop. The Samrong-town administration has cordoned off the three sites and is conducting a search for those with any direct or indirect contacts for testing and quarantine," he said.

The Te Meng Dry Port and sur-

rounding area in Konkriel commune's O'Pek village in Samrong town will also be temporarily closed from June 12 until further notice.

Svay Rieng provincial governor Men Vibol has decided to suspend medical services at Svay Tiep Referral Hospital and Kandieng Reay Health Centre in Kandieng Reay commune's Prasot 1 village of Svay Tiep district, because a number of people there have tested positive for Covid-19 or come in direct or indirect contact with infected patients. The suspension will last for two weeks from June 11-24. ■



## Fortune Deposit Account

Receive High Rate

# 8.25%

\*KHR Fixed Deposit

Save with WB Finance now!  
023 963 333 | 081 331 333 \* Terms and Conditions applied

A Family Member of Woori Bank, Korea

## Hope Saving Account

# 3%

p.a

Get free access to:

- WB WON Mobile
- ATM Services



## National

# Call for better protection of children amid Covid spread

Mom Kunthea

**C**HILDREN need better protection against Covid-19 and improved measures are needed as vaccine for children is currently unavailable, officials said.

During a visit to Kandal province on June 10, UNICEF Representative to Cambodia Forough Foyouzat said she had observed that children were infected by Covid-19 because they liked to play in closed rooms where infection was more likely.

"It should be standard practice that children aged 5 and over, especially children who can wear masks, to wear them properly and be protected from infection," she said.

She added that some guardians did not wear masks, and

if adults fail to adequately wear protection when they go out in public, children will be placed at risk.

World Health Organisation (WHO) representative to Cambodia Li Alian also said WHO is collecting data on vaccinations for people under 18.

"After the data is analysed, there could be changes to WHO recommendations. However, WHO still warns that frontline [health workers], old people and other groups are vulnerable to Covid-19," she said.

Ministry of Health spokeswoman Or Vandine has frequently spoken about child protection against the virus.

"The main problem is all adults. For now, what do we do to avoid infection, even small children get infected? There is nothing better than staying home. Do not leave home



Children leave the Koh Pich Convention and Exhibition Centre, which has been turned into a treatment facility, in Phnom Penh on June 13. TYDA

when unnecessary," she said.

Early this month, China approved the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use in people aged three to 17.

Sinovac CEO Yin Weidong was quoted as saying the vaccine could be administered to

people in that age group, but it required authorisation from Chinese authorities in line with the vaccination strategy.

Ros Sokna, 28, said he had not allowed his children aged 5 and 10 out of the house very often during the pandemic. He would

make sure they wear masks and wash hands frequently with alcohol gel otherwise.

"My children have grown up, so they know how to wear masks properly and they fear this disease themselves," he said.

Sokna said he really wanted

a Covid-19 vaccine for Cambodian children because he had seen that even small children and babies can get infected.

As of June 13, Cambodia had recorded a total of 38,427 Covid-19 cases with 31,858 recoveries and 335 fatalities. ■

## New vulture census to determine birds' numbers

Voun Dara

THE vulture census conducted by the Ministry of Environment and partner organisations on June 9 recorded 82 vultures in protected areas in the provinces of Preah Vihear, Monduliri, Stung Treng and Kratie, according to ministry spokesman Neth Pheaktra.

Pheaktra said on June 12 that the census will be conducted five more times to determine whether vulture numbers are increasing or decreasing.

The results reveal that

there are 13 red-headed vultures (*Sarcogyps calvus*), 42 white-rumped vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*) and 27 slender-billed vultures (*Gyps tenuirostris*).

Bird feeding stations at the so-called vulture restaurant recorded 23 vultures in Preah Vihear province, 52 in Stung Treng and seven in Kratie, but no sightings were recorded in Monduliri.

"The ministry's technical working group and partner organisations have scheduled five more national censuses

to determine whether the endangered vulture population is increasing or decreasing. The censuses will be on June 20, September 10 and 20, and December 10 and 20," he said.

He said Cambodia's annual vulture census surveys biodiversity in protected areas to understand what wildlife is present and facilitate planning, protection and conservation. It is aimed at preserving the Kingdom's biodiversity.

The census was conducted by collecting data from four different locations at the same

time of day to make sure that the number of vultures did not feed in different places.

According to Pheaktra, the results of the nationwide vulture census in 2020 showed the highest number of vultures at 129.

The birds live in groups and eat carcasses, and humans are vultures' biggest threat through pollution, habitat loss, and hunting.

"Some communities have used poison in or near ponds to catch birds and other animals. This is a major cause of death for vultures as the birds ate poi-

soned carcasses," he said.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS Cambodia) country director Ken Serey Rotha said that from January to May, WCS Cambodia organised additional feeding stations by establishing 10 vulture restaurants to monitor their numbers. The most endangered vulture species in Cambodia are white-rumped vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*), the red-headed vultures (*Sarcogyps calvus*) and the slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*).

"WCS, in collaboration with the environment ministry, is implementing conservation activities in protected areas through supplementary feeding and nest protection, developing a deeper understanding of vulture risk factors in Preah Vihear province," Rotha said.

He said WCS is currently implementing four biodiversity conservation projects in

four protected areas, including Kulen Promtep, Chheb and Preah Preah Roka wildlife sanctuaries, and the Phnom Tbeng Natural Heritage Park in Preah Vihear province, covering a total area of more than half a million hectares.

These areas support the livelihoods of nearly 10,000 indigenous families and are home to threatened wildlife. More than 30 species of Asian elephants and the endangered birds such as vultures can be found here.

The vulture census in Cambodia was carried out by the Cambodian Vulture Working Group in collaboration with the environment ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, BirdLife International, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF Cambodia) and the Angkor Centre for Conservation of Biodiversity and WCS Cambodia. ■

### Announcement

Banteay Srei is seeking for highly qualified and dynamic national staff to fill the position of Executive Director, based in Phnom Penh and 30% travels to provinces (Battambang, Siem Reap).

Job Title:	Executive Director
Job Location:	Banteay Srei office in Phnom Penh
Reporting to:	Governance Board
Responsible for:	Program Manager and Finance Manager
Other key relationships:	Provincial Coordinator, M&E Coordinator, HR Coordinator, Networks, Donors
Status:	Full time, Unspecified Duration Contract
Salary:	23,000 – 26,000 (USD) per annum starting salary plus other benefits

Interested and qualified candidates should send applications (CV and a cover letter) to Banteay Srei by email: [pfo@banteaysrei.info](mailto:pfo@banteaysrei.info) and copy to: [finance@banteaysrei.info](mailto:finance@banteaysrei.info) or office addresses in Phnom Penh: #19B, St. 145, Psar Doem Tkov, Chamcarmon, Phnom Penh. Tel: 023 216 922. Detailed job description is available up on requested. Women are considered for this position. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Closing date: 16 June 2021 at 5:00pm

Re-advertisement



**Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)**

**Project: Clearing for Results IV**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**For Provincial Mine Action Coordinator**

- 1) The Royal Government of Cambodia, represented by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) now invites qualified Cambodian candidates to submit the Letter of Application, Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Cover letter for Provincial Mine Action Coordinator (2 positions). Related to this position we will offer the salary \$700 per month.
- 2) Detailed information of the TOR with requirements can be obtained from the address given below or from CMAA website: [www.cmaa.gov.kh](http://www.cmaa.gov.kh) and Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CMAAPAGE/>
- 3) The submission deadline is at 15 pm on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- 4) The address for obtaining the TOR and for submission is:

**Human Resource Unit, CMAA**  
 Street 273 Corner 516,  
 Sangkat Toul Sangke, Khan Russey Keo, Phnom Penh.  
 Tel: 069 89 65 58 Email: [thimthoeun6558@gmail.com](mailto:thimthoeun6558@gmail.com)



Vultures feed on a carcass at a sanctuary in Preah Vihear province.

YOUSOS APDOULRASHIM

# Sub-decree on pavements revised

Long Kimmarita

THE Ministry of Public Works and Transport is discussing revisions on the sub-decree regarding the use of pavements along the streets and railways, with particular attention to the control of the former.

The revisions will incorporate the inter-ministerial committees' input on the matter before the sub-decree is submitted for approval.

In a virtual meeting held on June 11 among relevant officials, the ministry said the revisions will be from the members of the inter-ministerial committee on the management of pavements.

"The sub-decree is aimed at making improvements to the management of the use of pavements along the express ways, national roads, provincial roads, rural roads and railways, focusing on safety and effectiveness in infrastructure construction.

"This is to ensure sustainability and the livelihoods of the people in line with the development and prosperity of Cambodia," the ministry said.

According to the road traffic law promulgated in 2014, all construction on land preserved for road construction is forbidden except for some necessities like construction for national defence and the security sector and some necessary public services, all of which need approval from the government.

The law permits temporary use of pavements for other purposes which do not affect the facilities they are in front of or obstruct traffic. The actual use of the pavements must be pursuant to a sub-decree.



Vendors selling on pavements near Beoung Trabek market in Phnom Penh's Chamkarmon district on June 13. HONG MENEA

Public works ministry secretary of state Lim Sidenin, who led the meeting on the revision, told *The Post* on June 13 that the sub-decree was actually first put into use in 2009, but the ministry was making some revisions to make it widely applicable and to cover all pavement.

"We held the meeting to get input from everyone before we wrap it up for the sub-decree revision. We already have the sub-decree, but we are making some changes to include

all pavements in the countryside, which was not well-defined by the existing sub-decree," he said.

Sidenin urged relevant stakeholders from all provinces to provide input on the revisions to make them comprehensive and enable them to go as quickly as planned.

Kong Sovann, a public health specialist and director of the International Safety Fund Programme, said such a sub-decree was necessary to complement the law in order to

make the enforcement effective and transparent.

He urged a wide public awareness campaign before the new sub-decree is enforced – of at least three to six months – in order for the law enforcement authorities and the public to understand its content.

"In real practice, reasonable measures should be applied before penalties or punishment is imposed. What is important is to stand up for the public interest," Svann said. ■

## Ex-SRP Senator given ministry job post-pardon



Ex-SRP Senator Thak Lany. FACEBOOK

THAK Lany, a former Senator for the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) who has recently returned to the Kingdom after receiving a royal pardon, has been appointed as secretary of state for the Ministry of National Assembly-Senate Relations and Inspections.

The appointment was made official in a royal decree signed by King Norodom Sihamoni on June 12.

Lany received a royal pardon in March this year following a request from Prime Minister Hun Sen. The pardon came four years after she fled Cambodia to avoid serving her sentence for a criminal conviction.

Back in November 2016, she was convicted and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment by the Phnom Penh Municipal Court for defamation and incitement to cause social chaos.

The case stemmed from her comments made in a public forum in Ratanakiri province's Lumphat district, where she accused Prime Minister Hun Sen of orchestrating the murder of political analyst Kem Ley who was shot dead on July 10, 2016.

The Appeal Court and Supreme Court upheld the sentence in 2017 and 2018, respectively. MOM KUNTHEAR



Salvage offers remove the wreck of a warship from the river in Kampong Cham province's Srei Santhor district on April 7. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

# Warship museum planned

Nov Sivutha

AN INTER-MINISTERIAL working group has been searching in Kandal and Prey Veng provinces for 10ha to 15ha of land to construct a museum for unexploded ordnance (UXO) recovered from a warship sunk in the Mekong River during the Cambodian civil war in the 1970s.

Mey Sophea, commander of the UXO Clearance Unit of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Force and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance, told *The Post* on June 13 that talks are being held with the governors of Kandal and Prey Veng

provinces to locate an appropriate site for the building.

Officials are focusing the search for land in Kandal province's Lvea Em, Khsach Kandal and Kien Svay districts and Prey Veng province's Neak Leung.

The museum is aimed at attracting local and international tourists and will also include a green area for research.

"If we only build a museum, it will be too simple and does not have any meaning in the future, so we will prepare a beautiful and green landscape," he said.

According to Sophea, the inter-ministerial plan is for construction work and land-

scaping to be completed in about three years.

Funding for the project will be from the state as well as contributions from generous people. For now, a development master plan is being prepared for the museum and once complete, officials will determine the budget required.

According to Sophea, officials are currently collecting UXO from a sunken warship in a river in Kandal province's Lvea Em district. They will then start salvage work in two other places in Prey Veng province. Munitions were also extracted from another wreck in Kampong Cham province. ■

**Shinhan Bank** | Shinhan Financial Group, Korea

## Smart Financing with Shinhan Bank

Offer Special Interest Rate For Housing Loan

✓ Housing Loan

4.49%

From 2nd year : 7.45%

We Provide All Kind Of Loans

- ✓ Personal Loan
- ✓ Employee Unsecured Loan
- ✓ Car Loan
- ✓ Corporate Loan / Business Loan / SME Loan

Employee Unsecured Loan

Up To USD15,000

8% p.a.

Interest rate from

No collateral Required, simple & Fast Process

Offer to employees who received monthly salary through Banks or MFI's account payroll.

Car Loan

From 8.25%

/p.a.

- Loan amount up to 90%

- Tenure up to 7 years

Call Center Tel: +855 23 955 001 / 002 / 095 777 665 / 098 222 595

# Business

The rates are for indicative purpose only and subject to change without prior notice. Please contact info@ababank.com or call 023 225 333 for further details.

USD / KHR	USD / CAD	USD / CNY	USD / JPY	USD / MYR	USD / SGD	USD / THB	AUD / USD	EUR / USD	GBP / USD
↓ 4,105	↓ 1.2102	↓ 6.3904	↑ 109.54	↓ 4.1080	↓ 1.3230	↓ 31.08	↑ 0.7756	↓ 1.2156	↑ 1.4151

ABA NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA GROUP

## TRADING INFORMATION ON CAMBODIA SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Date: June 11, 2021

Auction Trading Method (ATM)

NO	STOCK	CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW
1	ABC	16,300	16,340	16,380	16,280
2	GTI	4,300	4,320	4,320	4,280
3	PAS	14,500	14,460	14,540	14,420
4	PEPC	3,300	3,330	3,350	3,300
5	PPAP	15,000	15,100	15,100	14,840
6	PPSP	2,280	2,280	2,280	2,260
7	PWSA	7,300	7,340	7,360	7,220



Where Financial Investment Begins...  
www.goldenfxlink.com | 023 22 6666

# Tools out for P Sihanouk's transition

Hin Pisei

**T**HE government is looking to unleash the immense economic potential of southwest Cambodia's Preah Sihanouk, the Kingdom's most important shipping gate.

This, as it launches a policy outlining the duties and responsibilities of a key committee assigned the monumental task of turning the coastal province into a multi-purpose special economic zone, to respond to development in all areas.

On June 9, Prime Minister Hun Sen signed Sub-Decree No 82 on the Organisation and Functioning of the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee for Land Management and Use Policy for the Development of Preah Sihanouk Province into a Multi-Purpose Special Economic Zone.

Comprised of provincial governor Kuoch Chamroeun and 24 other senior officials from government ministries and institutions, the committee is to provide strategic and technical guidance concerning land use and management for the development of Preah Sihanouk, as well as policy formulation, according to the sub-decree.

It must also monitor and examine the progress of policy development, prepare regular reports for the Master Planning Council on developments relating to policy on land use and management, and work with national and international development partners in a technical and financial capacity.

Cambodia Logistics Association (CLA) president Sin Chanthy told *The Post* that a clear land use policy setting would help accelerate development in all areas and provide a "reserve site" for long-term use.

He stressed that investors prefer lo-



Preah Sihanouk province has attracted nearly \$4 billion in investment projects since 1994, with just 20 companies having developed projects on a cumulative 11,647ha on the province's beaches and islands with a total capital investment of \$3.9 billion. YOUSOS APDOULRASHIM

cations that are favourable for transportation – especially by water, which is a popular and inexpensive international means of transportation.

"Currently, about 80 per cent of Cambodian goods to be exported to international markets pass through the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port," Chanthy said.

Hong Vanak, director of International Economics at the Royal Academy of Cambodia, said effective land management will be one of the quick-

est ways to build confidence among investors interested in Preah Sihanouk province, not merely as a social tactic, but also an economic one.

He said "good investors" always look to invest in places where there are clear land management practices and rules.

"Although the sub-decree does not directly refer to economic stimuli, the organisation and management of an orderly place and a clear land-use plan is very important for in-

vestment planning," he said.

The sub-decree comes at a time when the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port is striving to expand its potential through the construction of a new 350m-long container terminal with a water depth of 14.5m.

The new terminal will also be able to handle international ships with a storage capacity of 60,000 DWT (deadweight tonnage) – or those carrying around 5,000 TEUs, or twenty-equivalent units.

A TEU is an inexact unit of cargo capacity used in the shipping industry roughly equivalent to a container with internal dimensions measuring about 20 feet long, eight feet wide and 8.5 feet tall, or a volume roughly 38.5 cubic metres.

Lou Kim Chhun, director-general of the deep-sea port's stock-listed operator Sihanoukville Autonomous Port (PAS), told *The Post* in April that construction of the new terminal was on track to begin early next year, slated to be completed by the end of 2024.

Its larger size and deeper water depth will provide Cambodia with more direct access to international ships, he said, noting that the greater part of freight passing through the Kingdom's inland waterways are en route to seaport trade gateways in regional countries.

"When Cambodia has a deep-sea port, there'll be larger ships docked at the port of Sihanoukville," he said, adding that this will reduce costs and save time, which will improve the competitiveness of Cambodian merchandise on the international market.

The provincial governor told a press conference on June 9 that the province had attracted nearly \$4 billion in investment projects since 1994, with just 20 companies having developed projects on a cumulative 11,647ha on the province's beaches and islands with a total capital investment of \$3.9 billion.

He said the government is striving to turn the province into a "smart city" and has built more than 30 roads to woo more tourists and investors.

"We are open to investments and want to draw in more foreign investors and tourists," he said, adding that as of then, 60 companies had planned to invest a total of \$10.74 billion in hotels and tourism. ■

# Online CO system up for ASEAN-, HK-bound goods

Thou Vireak

THE Ministry of Commerce has launched an online automated system to apply for Form AHK, or certificates of origin (CO) issued under the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Area, to facilitate goods exports to those regional markets.

In an announcement issued on June 11, the ministry invited exporters interested in applying for Form AHK, or seeking more information regarding its rules-of-origin implementa-

tion and operational certification procedures, to visit the website at co.moc.gov.kh

The development of the system comes after Cambodia on November 14 ratified the ASEAN-Hong Kong, China Free Trade Agreement.

The journey to the Fourth Industrial Revolution has encouraged legions of operators to work electronically, which will reduce some unnecessary procedures, save time and money.

The commerce ministry defines a CO as "an official doc-

ument used to certify the products originated, wholly obtained, produced or manufactured in a country", adding that it is "generally an integral part of import documents required by the imported countries".

Cambodian Pepper and Spices Federation (CPSF) president Mak Ny told *The Post* that COs are an important part of shipping goods to the international market, especially to countries under the US' Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme.

He hailed online automated systems for COs as an important strategy on part of the ministry that serve to boost exports amid Covid-19, as well as to minimise the risk of transmission during the preparation process.

"Moreover, companies can reduce costs and really save a lot of time to ramp up exports, because slow exports make exporters lose money every day," Ny said.

Ministry spokesman Seang Thay told *The Post* in April: "Since pretty recently, the

ministry no longer requires exporters to apply for COs if importing countries do not require them. This follows a global trend to eliminate unnecessary documents."

In the interest of further bolstering trade this year, the ministry plans to launch a new data centre to store business registration information, CO details and other data.

At the same time, the ministry will prepare other online automated systems for other forms of CO, in accordance

with the rules-of-origin requirements of importing countries.

In the same fashion as its ASEAN counterparts, the ministry will continue to support its automated system to certify the origin of goods with the UN Conference on Trade and Development's Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) system.

Ministry statistics show that it issued 29,199 COs last year worth \$1.301 billion and 35,624 associated annexes valued at \$1.365 billion. ■

# Public-private meet tackles predicaments in agriculture

Hin Pisei

**H**IGH electricity prices, underdeveloped transport infrastructure and lofty logistics costs, inadequate irrigation systems, limited access to finance and high interest rates, value-added tax (VAT) and lax controls on aquaculture imports are just some of the lingering concerns plaguing the Kingdom's agriculture industry.

The Government-Private Sector Forum's Working Group A met virtually on June 9 to discuss the issues and explore possible resolutions, with the express goal of spurring domestic production and enhancing competitiveness on international markets.

Present at the meeting was Working Group A co-chair Mong Rithy, representatives of the Cambodian Aquaculturist Association and Cambodia Livestock Raisers Association (CLRA), as well as many agribusinesses and agro-industrialists.

Cambodia Chamber of Commerce vice-president Lim Heng stressed

the importance of the dialogue towards stimulating local agricultural and agro-industrial production.

He told *The Post* on June 10 that many hurdles remain for the private sector, even after previous government steps towards the solution of other conundrums facing the community. And these challenges are now further aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic, he added.

"All of these setbacks will be submitted to the agriculture ministry to help solve, and if the ministry is unable to riddle them out, we'll address them at another forum between the government and the private sector under the judgement of the prime minister," Heng said.

CLRA director Srun Pov said the meeting was a crucial tool for the private sector to provide the government with an up-to-date picture of their plight, to more effectively tackle the various quandaries they are grappling with.

He said the livestock community's main requests to the government



Cambodia sold 3,584,780 tonnes of rice – paddy and milled – worth more than \$1.26 billion last year. HENG CHHOAN

were to turn a temporary waiver of VAT on livestock production into a permanent one, to take clear control measures for animals entering the country that are susceptible to certain diseases, and to curb imports of poultry and aquaculture items that hurt domestic producers.

He pointed out that more than 50,000 tonnes of aquaculture fish remain unsold among the CLRA's members.

"[Solving] these challenges is essential to ensuring the stability of the domestic market, as well as to encourage locals to ramp up production and to greatly reduce international migration for work," Pov said.

When the local livestock sector is chugging along nicely, not only are farmers' needs being met, but they are able to crank out more of the various ingredients used for animal feed.

Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) chairman Hun Lak stressed that the private sector was not seeking handouts.

He echoed Heng's comment that problems persist even after numerous government actions taken to smoothen out many of the snags hindering agriculture.

On the other hand, he appreciated the government intervention, saying it would "more or less help those in agriculture and agro-industry

sectors", adding that the private sector would not go to the government for additional help if there were no pressing issues.

Last year, the Kingdom produced more than 20 million tonnes of agricultural products, of which it exported more than 13 million tonnes and earned over \$3.433 billion, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Cambodia sold 3,584,780 tonnes of rice – paddy and milled – worth more than \$1.26 billion last year, it said.

CRF's Lak added: "When production goes well, export capacity will increase further." ■

## ASEAN Infrastructure Fund

### Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Project Management Unit for

#### Agriculture Value Chain Competitiveness and Safety Project (PMU/MAFF for ACSEP)

Loan Nos.: 4013 (ADB), 8387 (AFD CKH1238-01R), 8389 (AIF)  
and Grant No. 9216 (JFPR)-CAM

#### REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

for

#### The Supply and Delivery of 24 Motorcycles for PMU/MAFF

Contract Identification No.: MAFF-GD09-ADB/  
ACSEP/2021/01

RFQ No.: MAFF-GD09-ADB/ACSEP/2021/RFQ01

- The Kingdom of Cambodia has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB Loan 4013), the Agence Française de Développement (AFD Loan 8387), the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund through its Inclusive Finance Facility (AIF Loan 8389), and the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR Grant 9216) towards the cost of Agricultural Value Chain Competitiveness and Safety Project (ACSEP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of ADB Loan 4013 to payments under the Contract for the supply and delivery of 24 Motorcycles for Project Management Unit under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PMU/MAFF).
- The goods are required by four weeks from the date of contract.
- Interested qualified eligible suppliers are invited to obtain a copy of the bidding documents free-of-charge from the address given below by submitting a written application from Monday to Friday during office hours from 8:30-12:00 and from 14:00-17:00 hours. Except for the submission of a written application, there shall be no other conditions for obtaining the bidding documents.
- To be considered eligible and qualified a bidder must:
  - Meet the eligibility criteria of the Asian Development Bank.
  - Have completed at least two contracts for supply of similar goods in the preceding 3 years of not less than 50% of the quoted price in each contract.
  - Have completed contracts with a total cumulative value equal to at least two times the value of the quoted price in the preceding 2 years.

iv) Not be under any notice of suspension or disbarment issued by the Government nor in the sanctions lists of the Asian Development Bank.

- Quotations must be delivered to the address given below on or before 09:00 AM 28 June 2021. Late Quotations will be rejected. Quotations will be opened in public immediately thereafter at the address given below in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the Bidder whose offer has been determined to be the lowest evaluated quotation and is substantially responsive to the Bidding Documents, provided further that the Bidder is determined to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.
- All quotations must be accompanied by a performance securing declaration as described in the bidding documents. Any quotation not accompanied by one will be rejected as non-compliant.
- The address where the Bid Document may be inspected and obtained is: Project Management Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, No. 200, Preah Norodom Blvd., Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. You may contact Mr. Khy Rotnak, Chief of Procurement Section, on Phone no: (+855) 10 911 891, Email address: khyrotnak@gmail.com to obtain the Bid Documents at no cost.
- In case of any difficulty in obtaining the Bid Documents, interested parties may contact in writing Mr. Chheng Vibolrith, Project Manager, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, No. 200, Preah Norodom Blvd., Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, telephone: (+855) 12 465 398 and also send a copy of the communication to

H.E. Chhoun Samrith,

Director General, General Department of International Cooperation and Debt Management,  
Ministry of Economy and Finance,  
Street 92, Sangkat Wat Phnom, Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia Fax No. (+855) 23 725 341.

a. Dr. Takeshi Ueda,

Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist  
Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division  
Southeast Asia Department  
Asian Development Bank  
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550 Metro Manila, Philippines,  
Telephone No.: +63 2 8632 4409/6973  
Facsimile No.: +63 2 8636 2444 / E-mail: taueda@adb.org

- The quotation must be submitted on or before 09:00 AM 28 June 2021 at the following address:  
PMU/MAFF for ACSEP  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,  
No. 200, Preah Norodom Blvd., Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Name of officer: Mr. Khy Rotnak  
Tel: 010 911 891, 089 911 991  
Email: khyrotnak@gmail.com (cc to: leakhena260@yahoo.com, and sreydouch.sen@gmail.com)
- The Government and/or the Asian Development Bank will declare a firm ineligible either indefinitely or for a stated period of time to be awarded a contract financed by the Government and/or the Asian Development Bank respectively, if it at any time determines that the firm has engaged in fraud and corruption during the procurement and execution of this contract as described in ITB Clause 4.
- A complaint may be made by any party at any stage of the procurement process. The procedure is described in Instructions to Bidders, Clause 21 of the Bidding Documents.

## Business

# Maiden ore feed, start of wet commissioning a 'milestone': Emerald

Continued from page 1

wholly-owned 1.14-megatonne Okvau Gold Project in advance of the maiden gold pour this month.

Emerald managing director Morgan Hart said: "The first ore feed and commencement of wet commissioning of the Okvau Gold Project is a significant milestone for the company and represents the exceptional efforts by our experienced construction and development team with cooperation from our quality contractors and global suppliers.

"The project has remained on budget and on schedule despite the logistical challenges brought on by the global pandemic and is a testament to the skill and experience of the team we have assembled on site throughout this process," he said.

"Construction activities are nearing practical completion and open-pit mining has delivered over 245,000 tonnes of predominantly oxide ore on the ROM [run-of-mine] pad.

"The oxide feed is being used to wet commission the SAG [semi-autogenous grinding] mill and leaching circuit for the first few weeks of operation allowing a ramp-up of gold in

circuit in advance of the maiden gold pour this month.

"Hard rock, sulphide feed will be added to the circuit in the coming weeks to commission the float regrind circuit," Hart added.

Prime Minister Hun Sen claimed that with the start of the first international small-scale industrial mining business in Cambodia, the Okvau Gold Project will serve as a role model for other would-be miners, and motivate them to comply with sustainable mineral-resource development principles.

"The start of operations makes it clear that our past efforts in the mining sector were indeed viable, and we can extract natural resources from underground and reap their benefits for our socio-economic system, with high accountability for the environment and society," he said.

"All mining companies are encouraged to use this model of accountability development at all stages."

The environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for the project was finalised in July 2017 and approved by the Ministry of Environment in November that year, according to Renaissance.

In July 2018, Renaissance was granted an Industrial Mining Licence covering 11.5sq km and allowing for the development of the project. The company notes that the "licence has an initial 15-year period with the right to two renewals of up to 10 years for each in accordance with Cambodian laws".

In December 2019, a Mineral Investment Agreement (MIA) was signed by the ministries of Mines and Energy; and Economy and Finance, which Renaissance stresses "provides certainty and stability of the fiscal regime for the development and operations of the Okvau Gold Project". ■



Emerald Resources NL says it has delivered the first gold ore feed to the mill. EMERALD



US imports from the Kingdom in the first four months of this year were worth \$2.5192 billion, up by 24.43 per cent year-on-year from \$2.0246 billion. AFP

## Cambodia-US trade climbs over 24.5% in January-April

Hin Pisei

**A**LTHOUGH the economic crisis unleashed by Covid-19 has driven large international trade declines, Cambodia-US trade seems to have largely eluded the clutches of the pandemic wobbles, worth \$2.6549 billion in January-April, an increase of 24.48 per cent over the \$2.1327 booked in the same period of 2020.

Of that, the Kingdom exported \$2.5192 billion, up by 24.43 per cent year-on-year from

\$2.0246 billion, and imported \$135.7 million, up by 25.53 per cent on a yearly basis from \$108.1 million, according to the US Census Bureau.

Cambodia Chamber of Commerce vice-president Lim Heng told *The Post* that although Covid-19 influences production chains at all levels, the US market still boats large potential for the Kingdom's finished textile products.

He said he remains optimistic that the upward trend of bilateral trade growth will continue as the US economy,

which has been hard-hit by the Covid-19 crisis, shows more positive signs.

The Kingdom is also gaining traction in US market share due to the ongoing Sino-US trade row and investment diverted from Myanmar, he said.

"The trade volume between the two countries will increase further if Cambodia continues to qualify for the Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] from the US," Heng said.

He asserted that plans in many countries around the world to reopen tourism

would provide significant momentum for orders of garments and finished textile products from Cambodia.

Bilateral trade between the Kingdom and the US amounted to \$6.9213 billion in 2020, up 17.89 per cent from 2019, data from the US Census Bureau show.

The export value of Cambodian goods was \$6.5777 billion, up 22.79 per cent from the \$5.3568 billion posted in 2019, while goods imported from the US were worth \$343.6 million, down 33.15 per cent from \$514 million. ■

## Project set to power rural solar shift

Thou Vireak

CZECH NGO People in Need, with support from the EU and the Czech Development Agency (CzDA), launched the Switch to Solar project, aiming to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the Kingdom's rural areas, CzDA said in a press release.

"The goal of the project is to enable small, medium and micro-enterprises [to] switch from using unsustainable energy to solar energy and thus help improve consumer habits in rural areas of Cambodia.

"The project will thus also support sustainable and inclusive economic growth in rural areas by reducing the environmental impact caused by the energy consumption of these businesses," it said.

The press release issued on May 26 said the EU will provide €2,560,000 (\$3.1 million) for the project, which is set to be implemented for four years to 2024.

Darina Vlckova from the CzDA, which is in charge of grant support for tripartite projects, was reported as saying: "This project will also help Cambodia meet its targets for the ASEAN Energy Cooperation Action Plan 2016-2025, in which ASEAN countries aim to achieve an overall higher share of renewable energy by 2025.

"The project mainly focuses on building local capacity through training or providing necessary assistance, as well as supporting links between relevant actors in the sector, such as solar energy providers, consumers and financial institutions," she said.

CzDA said: "The project, aptly named Switch to Solar, takes a systematic



The Switch to Solar project aims to support sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the Kingdom's rural areas. SUPPLIED

approach to developing the market by encouraging demand at the lowest level and supporting supply chain development of solar energy providers.

"This approach attempts to address the root causes of the shortcomings of the solar sector by cooperating with key factors such as financial institutions, investors and retailers, which will lead to long-term improvements and efficiency gains in the solar energy market.

People in Need programme manager Hugo Agostinho was quoted as saying: "I believe that this project will make a significant contribution to economic inde-

pendence and improve the living conditions of people in rural areas.

"Solar is currently one of the most easily introduced and fastest-growing renewable energy technologies. For us to build a sustainable and functional economy, we must focus more on developing sustainable forms of energy," he said.

CzDA added: "During the four years of the project, four workshops are planned in which agriculture and fishery experts will serve as mentors to local communities and present the challenges and possible solutions related to the use of 'green' technologies." ■



IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

### Individual Consultancy – H-EQIP Pooled Fund Coordinator

The World Bank Cambodia Country Office is seeking to hire an international consultant to provide coordination and support multi-donor trust fund partners (including the World Bank, DFAT, KfW, and KOICA) in the operations and implementation of the Cambodia Health Equity and Quality Improvement Project (H-EQIP, 2016-2022). The development objective of H-EQIP is to improve access to quality health services for targeted population groups with protection against impoverishment due to the cost of health services in Cambodia.

Duties of the position include managing communication, liaising with development partners and government counterparts, supporting overall quality and achievements of H-EQIP, contributing to analytical activities, and planning for key program events. A complete terms of reference can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zka9RnXPgjc5-PsGnk8cDeMr5-AeIXuh/view?usp=sharing>

Interested candidates should submit an updated CV, along with any supporting documents to [ssamocun@worldbank.org](mailto:ssamocun@worldbank.org) for consideration. The deadline for applications is **June 23, 2021**. This is a jointly funded position by H-EQIP partners. The consultant will receive an initial contract for 150 working days as per World Bank rules with possibility of extension.

## World

## G7 leaders take on pandemic, climate change, infrastructure

**G**ROUP of Seven (G7) leaders on June 12 confronted the threat of future pandemics as the elite club of wealthy nations advertised a newfound Western unity at its first physical summit since 2019.

After an informal evening get-together – featuring a Royal Air Force aerobatics display, beach barbecue, firepit marshmallows and a Cornish troupe singing sea shanties – the leaders were to wrap up their three-day summit on June 13.

At their concluding session in Cornwall, southwest England, US President Joe Biden and his colleagues will back new conservation and emission targets to curb climate change, according to the UK hosts.

In a “Nature Compact”, slated for a June 13 release with the G7’s final communique, they will commit to nearly halving their carbon emissions by 2030 – relative to 2010 – as well as vowing to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

The leaders are also set to promise more financial support for developing countries on the sharp edge of climate change, in the buildup to the UN’s COP26 environmental summit in Scotland in November.

Such actions were unthinkable under former president Donald Trump, but Biden is touting a message of revived US leadership on his first foreign tour.

“We’re on the same page,” Biden told reporters as he met French President Emmanuel Macron on the summit sidelines, pushing to rally the West against a recalcitrant Russia.

Asked if other G7 leaders agreed with him about a US diplomatic renaissance, Biden pointed to Macron, who replied: “Definitely.”

Promising to “collectively catalyse” hundreds of billions



The Group of Seven (G7) has been rallying behind collective action on climate change. AFP

of infrastructure investment for low- and middle-income countries, the G7 leaders said they would offer a “values-driven, high-standard and transparent” partnership.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the “Build Back Better World” (B3W) project an “important initiative” that was much needed in infrastructure-poor Africa.

Britain meanwhile hailed G7 agreement on the “Carbis Bay Declaration” – a series of commitments to curb future pandemics after Covid-19 wrecked economies and claimed millions of lives around the world.

The collective steps include slashing the time taken to develop and licence vaccines, treatments and diagnostics for any future disease to under 100 days, while reinforcing global surveillance networks.

The G7 – Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US – was due to formally publish the pact on June 13, alongside the summit communique containing further details on the B3W.

“The #CarbisBayDeclaration marks a proud and historic moment for us all,” British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Twitter.

World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus welcomed the health pact.

The G7 leaders are also expected to pledge to donate one billion vaccine doses to poor countries this year and next – although campaigners say the rollout is much too slow to end the crisis now.

After briefing the leaders in Cornwall, Tedros said he had set them the challenge of vaccinating at least 70 per cent of the world’s population by their next summit in Germany next year.

“We welcome the generous announcement made by G7 nations about donations of vaccines but we need more and we need them faster,” he told reporters. “Immediate donations are vital.”

Aid charity Oxfam said the declaration “does nothing to address the fundamental problems that are preventing

vaccines being accessible to the vast majority of humanity”.

The G7 was joined on June 12 by the leaders of Australia, South Africa and South Korea, with India taking part remotely, for a wide-ranging discussion about foreign policy challenges.

The regimes of Belarus and Myanmar are among those in the G7’s sights.

The US president will also seek to address frayed relations with Moscow, in particular over its cyber activity.

Most of the G7 leaders will reconvene on June 14 in Brussels for a NATO meeting, before Biden heads on to his first summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva, vowing to deliver a blunt message about Russian behaviour.

In an interview with US network NBC News released on June 11, Putin voiced hope that Biden would exhibit none of the “impulse-based movements” of Trump, who notoriously sided with the Russian leader against the views of his own intelligence chiefs. AFP ■

## Auction winner bids \$28M for space trip with Bezos brothers

A MYSTERY bidder paid \$28 million at auction on June 12 for a seat alongside Jeff Bezos on board the first crewed spaceflight of the billionaire’s company Blue Origin next month.

The Amazon founder revealed this week that both he and his brother Mark would take seats on board the company’s *New Shepard* launch vehicle on July 20, to fly to the edge of space and back.

The Bezos brothers will be joined by the winner of June 12’s charity auction, whose identity remains unknown, and by a fourth, as yet unnamed space tourist.

“The name of the auction winner will be released in the weeks following the auction’s conclusion,” tweeted Blue Origin following the sale.

“Then, the fourth and final crew member will be announced – stay tuned.”

June 12’s successful bidder beat out some 20 rivals in an auction launched on May 19 and wrapped up with a 10-minute, livecast frenzy.

Bidding had reached \$4.8 million by June 10, but shot up spectacularly in the final live auction, rising by million dollar increments.

The proceeds – aside from a six per cent auctioneer’s commission – will go to Blue Origin’s foundation, Club for the Future, which aims to inspire future generations to pursue careers in stem – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Taking off from a desert in the western portion of the US state of Texas, the *New Shepard* trip will last 10 minutes, four of which passengers will spend above the Karman line that marks the recognised boundary between Earth’s atmosphere and space.

After lift-off, the capsule separates from its booster, then spends four minutes at an altitude exceeding 100km, during which time those on board experience weightlessness and can observe the curvature of Earth.

The booster lands autonomously on a pad two miles from the launch site, and the capsule floats back to the surface with three large parachutes that slow it down to about 1.6km/h when it lands.

Bezos, who announced earlier this year he is stepping down as Amazon’s CEO to spend more time on other projects including Blue Origin, has said it was a lifelong dream to fly into space.

Blue Origin’s *New Shepard* has successfully carried out more than a dozen uncrewed test runs from its facility in Texas’ Guadalupe Mountains.

“We’re ready to fly some astronauts,” said Blue Origin’s director of astronaut and orbital sales, Ariane Cornell, on June 12.

The reusable suborbital rocket system was named after Alan Shepard, the first US citizen in space 60 years ago.

The automated capsules with no pilot have six seats with horizontal backrests placed next to large portholes, in a futuristic cabin with swish lighting. Multiple cameras help immortalise the few minutes the space tourists experience weightlessness.

Blue Origin’s maiden crewed flight comes in a context of fierce competition in the field of private space exploration – with Elon Musk’s SpaceX, and Virgin Galactic, founded by British billionaire Richard Branson, all jostling for pole position. AFP ■

## Start-up rolls out India’s first Covid home test

INDIAN start-up Mylab Discovery Solutions hopes that its inexpensive Covid-19 home test kit – the country’s first – will help the massive South Asian nation better track the pandemic’s spread among its 1.3 billion people.

CoviSelf was launched earlier this month and is the first home testing kit to be approved in India, which is slowly emerging from a brutal second wave that overwhelmed its hospitals and crematoriums, with almost 30 million infected so far and over 350,000 dead.

But many experts suspect that the real numbers are much higher, blaming insufficient testing and inaccurate recording of the cause of patient deaths.

The start-up, which also makes

PCR tests to detect HIV infections, says that widespread access to CoviSelf – sold for 250 rupees (\$3.40) – would reduce pressure on overburdened laboratories and improve infection tracking.

The kit uses a nasal swab and a QR code to connect to a mobile app which reveals results in 15 minutes, and sends the details to the Indian Council for Medical Research, the scientific agency leading the government’s response.

Shrikant Pawar, head of Serology and Microbiome at Mylab, said: “It has been designed so people can do it at home. So the contents of the kit are simple, the way to dispose of it is simple, the way to perform it is simple.”

At the firm’s factory in the hillside resort town of Lonavla in western In-

dia, masked and gloved workers ran detailed quality checks on the kit’s components before shipping them out to pharmacies across the country.

“Our current production capacity is 10 million tests in a week”, Pawar told AFP, with the kit also sold on Flipkart, a Walmart-backed online behemoth.

“If the market demand goes high, we will be able to cater to more tests a week and yes, we are also planning to go overseas, so it will be available in international markets as well.”

But with the kit only accessible to smartphone users, its impact may be limited, especially as the pandemic makes deeper forays into rural India, where mobile networks are weak and internet penetration remains low. AFP ■



CoviSelf, launched earlier this month, is the first testing kit to be approved in India, which is slowly emerging from a brutal second wave that overwhelmed its hospitals and crematoriums. AFP

# Philippines poised to launch its biggest satellite in 2023

**T**HE Philippines will soon be sending its biggest Filipino-made satellite to space.

Called *Mula*, or Multispectral Unit for Land Assessment, the newest Earth-observation satellite can capture operational-quality images of approximately 100,000sq km of land area daily.

*Mula* weighs 130kg compared with microsatellites *Diwata-1* and *Diwata-2*, which weighed around 50 kg.

*Mula* is being developed under the Advanced Satellite and Know-How Transfer for the Philippines (ASP) project of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST).

The project is being implemented by scientists and engineers of the University of the Philippines Diliman and the DoST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute (Asti), in coordination with the Philippine Space Agency (Philsa).

The Philsa will oversee its completion and launch in 2023, as well as the satellite's management and operation.

*Mula* is being designed and manufactured together with British small satellite developer Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL), which won the 370 million peso (\$7.7 million) contract in September.

In August 2019, the DoST-Asti signed an £11 million (\$15.5 million) agreement with SSTL for the country's share of data tasking and acquisition of its *NovaSAR-1* satellite's services.

*Mula*'s design is based on



An artist's impression of Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd's (SSTL) TrueColour spacecraft, whose design is the basis of the Philippine's *Mula* satellite. SSTL

SSTL's *TrueColour* earth-observation satellite, capable of capturing 5m resolution images with a swath width of 120km – an improvement from *Diwata-2*'s cameras, which have a 54m spatial resolution with a field of 90km.

Once launched, the satellite shall provide data on a regular basis for a wide variety of applications, including coastal mapping and monitoring; disaster damage assessment; agriculture and aquaculture monitoring; and forestry management, among others.

*Mula*'s payload also includes Automatic Identification System and Automatic Dependent

Surveillance-Broadcast, which can be utilised for ship and aircraft detection and tracking.

"With its capability to capture higher-resolution images, we will be able to better monitor terrestrial ecosystems, as well as our land and marine resources to ensure both agricultural productivity and environmental integrity," said Gay Jane Perez, deputy director of Philsa and ASP project leader.

According to engineer John Leur Labrador, *Mula* project manager, the new satellite can be described as having our own astronaut in space.

"We can think of this space-

craft as a Filipino astronaut tasked to take images of our natural resources while monitoring aircraft and ship activity in our country at the same time," said Labrador, who also worked on *Diwata-1* and *Diwata-2*.

After the launching in 2016 of the *Diwata-1*, the first Filipino-made satellite, into space, the country, through the DoST, has picked up the pace in space development. Since then it has launched another microsatellite (*Diwata-2*) and two cube satellites (*Maya-1* and *Maya-2*).

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

# Official warns Laos 'still at high risk' of major outbreak

**ALTHOUGH** the number of new Covid cases is continuing to fall, further community outbreaks remain a great concern in Lao capital Vientiane.

In addition, a large number of new cases are being reported in neighbouring countries, especially in Thailand, where the Indian variant of the virus has been found in Udon Thani province, not far from the Lao border.

According to a report in Thailand's *The Nation* newspaper, the daily death toll from Covid-19 reached a new June high of 43 deaths on June 10, with 2,310 new infections. Of the total new Covid-19 cases, 102 have occurred in prisons.

"Laos is still placed at a high risk for a major outbreak," Ministry of Health deputy director-general for Communicable Disease Control Dr Sisavath Southanilaxay told a press conference on June 10.

"We need to comply with all of the government's guidelines to contain the spread of the virus, otherwise we won't overcome the Covid-19 crisis."

As of June 10, 1,975 Covid-19 cases have been recorded in Laos after four new infections were reported that day. These occurred in Vientiane (two) and Champasak province (two imported cases). Meanwhile, at least 1,800 people have been discharged from hospitals.

The good news is that authorities have traced a 57-

year-old man who tested positive for the virus on June 9. Health officials had not been able to get in touch with the man after getting the test result because of inaccuracies in his contact details.

An appeal went out on social media in a bid to track him down before he could pass on the virus to other people. He was eventually traced to Nongsanokham village in Vientiane's Sikhottabong district.

Two other people had been in close contact with him, one of whom also tested positive on June 10 while the other was placed in quarantine. As a result, authorities have classified Nongsanokham village as a new red zone, bring the total number of red zones (villages with one or more infections) in Vientiane to 18.

Another person who was identified as having the virus on June 10 lives in an apartment in Tamixay village, Xaythany district. Tamixay remains a red zone, with authorities blocking the road into the village to prevent people entering and leaving, except for essential purposes such as to buy food and medicine.

Members of the public have been urged to follow government guidelines until no new case has been reported for a period of 28 days. Anyone who has come into contact with an infected individual should get tested for the virus. VIET NAM

NEWS/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

# Free Palestine banner in Bangkok: Ministry denies removal order

**THAILAND'S** foreign ministry on June 11 clarified that the removal of the "Free Palestine" banner near Sathu Pradit Expressway in Bangkok was not done on the orders of the ministry.

A giant banner with the Palestinian flag along with the message "Free Palestine" was reportedly seen covering a billboard near the expressway on June 3. No group has claimed responsibility for the banner until it was later removed by the billboard owner. Rumours then emerged that the ministry had forced the owner to take it down, fearing that it could affect international relations.

Ministry spokesman Thani Saengrat said: "Thailand has been advocating peace talks between Israel and Palestine under the two-state solution approach in which both countries can coexist peacefully and with mutually accepted borders in the Middle East.

"We also promote a non-violent approach and hope that both countries would start peace negotiations again in an appropriate environment."

He said Thailand had officially acknowledged Palestine as a state on January 17, 2012 and started diplomatic relations with Palestine on August 1 that year.

"For nine years, Thailand and Palestine have maintained a positive relationship. The Palestinian president visited Thailand as a government guest in 2016, while Thailand donated \$30,000 to help Palestine fight the Covid-19 outbreak on June 23, 2020," Thani said.

He added that Thailand had also maintained academic and development cooperation with Palestine at bilateral and multi-lateral levels, including providing academic training through Thailand International Cooperation Agency, hosting the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development in 2018, and donating to UN Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East at \$40,000 per year since 1978 under a multi-year pledge. THE NATION (THAILAND)/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

# HCMC establishes working group to purchase coronavirus vaccines

**HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC)** authorities have set up a working team responsible for buying Covid-19 vaccines for at least two-thirds of its population by year-end, HCMC People's Committee chairman Nguyen Thanh Phong told an online meeting on June 11.

Speaking about the southern Vietnamese city's economic development in the first five months of the year, Phong said HCMC would speed up the vaccination drive by encouraging the business community to connect with suppliers.

Vietnam's most populous city had achieved "remarkable results" in its implementation of its "dual goal" of maintaining the economy while applying strict Covid preventive measures in the first five months, he said.

"The city will continue its flexible economic management and pandemic prevention measures."

Since the fourth wave that began in late April, the city has detected more than 630 locally transmitted cases, ranking third in the country. The cases have been mostly related to the Go Vap district cluster.

Phong said the outbreak was basically under control, but warned that the situation remained unpredictable because infection chains without known sources of infection continue to occur.

HCMC will continue to take serious measures to contain the spread. It has banned religious and group activities, suspended citizen-identification granting procedures, and postponed the entrance



Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) People's Committee chairman Nguyen Thanh Phong speaks during an online meeting on Friday. HCMC PRESS CENTRE

exam for 10th grade until further notice, among other social-distancing measures.

The city plans to offer another support package for companies and workers affected by the outbreak, according to Phong.

Since the beginning of this year, some 1,365 firms in the city have been affected, with more than 42,500 workers losing their jobs, according to the municipal Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs.

More than 400 companies are in urgent need of preferential loans for wage payments to workers to maintain their business operations.

More than 2,270 enterprises completed dissolution procedures in the first five months of the year, up 4.99 per cent year-on-year, and 9,308 enterprises temporarily suspended operations, up 22.99 per cent year-on-year. VIET NAM NEWS/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

# School reopening can't wait

Opinion

Takeshi Kasai and Karin Hulshof

WITH the Covid-19 pandemic now well into its second year, safely reopening schools has become an urgent priority. School attendance is critical for children's education and lifetime prospects. The long-term costs of closures – both for individual children and society – are simply too large to justify on a continuing basis.

Evidence since the start of the pandemic shows that Covid-19 does not pose a high risk to children, and that schools are not drivers of transmission within the surrounding community. We have also amassed a large body of knowledge about how to reduce the risks to children, teachers, and their families. Using this knowledge, we all need to urgently work toward reopening schools safely to protect our children's future.

Prolonged school closures have a significant impact not just on children's skills attainment and earning prospects, but also on their physical and mental health. While online education can guarantee some continuity of learning for some children, these services are no substitute for in-person attendance. Moreover, access to online learning remains woefully uneven, with disadvantaged children – including those with disabilities, those affected by migration, and excluded minorities – bearing the brunt of the shortcomings of digital education.

The evidence shows increases in anxiety, depression, and self-harm among school-aged children since the start of the pandemic. Children who are not in the classroom also experience increased loneliness, difficulty concentrating, and high levels of learning anxiety. These problems will only grow worse the longer schools remain closed.

School closures have also led to reduced physical activity, poor eating habits, and disrupted sleep patterns. For some children, more time at home has increased the risk of domestic violence, just as more screen time has exacerbated the risks of online harm. And with schools closed, a critical avenue for identifying and reporting abuse and mental health issues has been closed off.

In nearly half the countries in developing Asia, schools have been closed for more than 200 days during the pandemic. The region should prepare for a reduction in the expected gains in reading and math skills for children in both preschool and primary school, as well as a wider achievement gap between disadvan-



Preah Norodom Primary School in Phnom Penh. Members of the Student Council provide alcohol gel and check the temperatures of their classmates before they enter the school compound. UNICEF CAMBODIA

tagged children and their peers.

The Asian Development Bank warns that the learning losses caused by prolonged school closures will significantly reduce the future productivity and lifetime earnings of affected students in the region. It estimates the present value of these losses to be \$1.25 trillion – 5.4 per cent of the region's 2020 GDP. Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal for education was already going to be challenging enough before the pandemic. Now, UNICEF and UNESCO estimate that education budgets in the region will need to increase by at least seven per cent to stay within striking distance of those targets.

Despite the obvious costs of school closures, many countries are still reluctant to reopen, citing fears of further transmission. But our focus now should be on using what we know about Covid-19 and children to work towards the safe reopening of schools.

Globally, children account for a very small proportion of confirmed Covid-19 cases. Children of primary-school age and younger are among the least likely cohorts to be infected. And even when they do contract Covid-19, they tend to have milder symptoms than adults (which is why they have not contributed significantly to the proportion of hospitalised cases or reported deaths). And a study of children from South Korea shows

that infected children are less likely to spread the virus.

In short, primary schools, pre-schools, and early childhood development (ECD) centres are not high-risk settings for transmission, especially if the right safety measures are followed. Transmission levels in these settings have been found to reflect those of the surrounding community.

The one possible exception is secondary schools (high schools), which have accounted for a higher number of outbreaks than primary schools. Because adolescents appear to transmit the virus much like adults, partial closures for secondary schools should remain an option, but only as a last resort and for limited periods where community transmission is surging. When schools are forced to close temporarily, this must be done in conjunction with other community-level public-health and social measures.

But overall, the evidence overwhelmingly points to the need for schools, especially preschools and primary schools, to be reopened. The same applies for ECD centres. There is no such thing as zero risk. But the risks are manageable with robust mitigation strategies. The World Health Organisation's guidance on operating schools during the pandemic includes several measures to reduce Covid-19 exposure and transmission. These include personal hygiene prac-

tices, proper mask use, physical distancing, adequate ventilation, and regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces. Clear and consistent communication with parents and children to ensure compliance both in the classroom and during after-school activities is equally important.

Policymakers must also consider the local context for resuming in-school learning, including factors such as the level of community transmission and the capacity to respond to an increase in infections. In some places, health and education services will need additional resources to implement the necessary safety measures.

Maintaining vigilance and adherence to all of these measures is critical – not only for schools, but also for our broader efforts to contain Covid-19, including the development and spread of virus variants and mutations.

The good news is that school reopenings are not dependent on the availability of vaccines. We need to work toward a sustainable "new normal" right now. While the relatively low risks of children being in school are easily managed, the consequences of keeping them out of their classrooms are grave and far-reaching. It is time for the school gates to reopen. ■

Takeshi Kasai is WHO regional director for the Western Pacific. Karin Hulshof is UNICEF Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific

The Phnom Penh Post  
ភ្នំពេញ ប៉ុស្តិ៍  
www.phnompenhpost.com

EDITORIAL PERSONNEL

- Publisher & Chief Executive Officer**  
Ly Tayseng
- Managing Editor**  
Sam Rith
- Deputy Managing Editor**  
Phuon Chansereivuth
- Chief of Staff**  
Phak Seangly
- Business Editor**  
May Kunmakara
- Deputy Business Editor**  
Sangeetha Amarthalingam
- Deputy Head of Lifestyle Desk**  
Pan Simala
- Senior Reporters**  
Meas Sokchea, Niem Chheng, Mom Kunthear
- Reporters**  
Khouth Sophak Chakrya, Kim Sarom, Long Kimmarita, Hin Pisei, Hong Raksmeay, Pann Retha, Voun Dara, Roth Sochieata, Orm Bunthoern, Ry Sochan, Lay Samean, Thou Vireak, Nov Sivutha
- Photographers**  
Heng Chivoan, Hong Menea, Hean Rangsey
- Web Editor**  
Leang Phannara
- Digital Team**  
Sous Chanthy, Pang Vichea, Suy Sovandy
- Desktop Publishing**  
Suon Savatdy, Chum Sokunthy, Danh Borath, Than Veasna

SIEM REAP BUREAU

- Office Manager**  
Sophearith Blondeel
- PRODUCTION & PRINTING**  
Nhim Sokphyrak
- Commercial and Graphic Designer**  
Tep Thoeun Thyda, Tim Borith

POST MEDIA

HEAD OFFICE

Post Media Co., Ltd.  
The Elements Condominium Level 7,  
Hun Sen Boulevard, Phum Prek Talong,  
Sangkat Chak Angre Krom, 12353, Phnom  
Penh, Cambodia  
Tel: 023 888 161, 023 888 162  
Cellcard: 078 555 166, 078 555 133  
Smart: 086 822 999, 086 277 999

SIEM REAP

No 629, Street 6, Dangkm Commune  
Tel: 063 966 290, Fax: 063 966 590

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

- Chief Operating Officer**  
James Ong Soon Teck
- Advertising Department**  
Chap Narith, 017 996 241  
Hun Channet, 017 578 768  
Prach Monnyreak, 015 239 293  
Keo Puthy, 012 966 605  
Paing Patrya, 081 872 202  
Jessa Piastro, 092 445 983

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

- Acting Distribution Manager**  
Thenh Rithy, 087 888 854
- Circulation Supervisor**  
Nou Chanthy, 096 999 2828  
Yim Veasna, 015 814 499

ADMINISTRATION

- Admin & HR Manager**  
Pich Socheat
- Assistants Admin & HR Manager**  
Nhel Soaphea
- Financial Director**  
Heang Tangmeng
- Chief Accountant**  
Sren Vicheka
- Treasurers**  
Sok Sophorn, Yon Sovannara,  
Cheam Sopheak, Huy Hamsovannary
- IT & Networking**  
Vong Oun

TO CONTACT US

newsroom@phnompenhpost.com  
advertising@phnompenhpost.com  
subscription@phnompenhpost.com  
webmaster@phnompenhpost.com  
www.phnompenhpost.com

© Post Media Co., Ltd  
The Phnom Penh Post is wholly owned and printed by Post Media Co., Ltd. The title The Phnom Penh Post in either English or Khmer languages, its associated logos or devices and the contents of this publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the written consent of Post Media Co., Ltd.

www.phnompenhpost.com

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

SUBSCRIPTION PERIOD	PRINT EDITION			POST DIGITAL INCLUSIVE OF E-PAPER
	THE PHNOM PENH POST	POST KHMER	DUAL SUBSCRIPTION	
All subscription fees include VAT				
1 MONTH	\$18.70	\$8.25	\$26.95	\$10.00
3 MONTHS	\$52.80	\$22.00	\$74.80	\$27.00
6 MONTHS	\$99.00	\$38.50	\$137.50	\$50.00
1 YEAR	\$192.50	\$66.00	\$258.50	\$96.00
2 YEARS	\$374.00	\$121.00	\$495.00	\$180.00



FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME OR OFFICE

FOR ALL INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:  
087 888 854 / 017 666 181

SUBSCRIBER'S NAME:  
ADDRESS:  
TEL:

EMAIL:

# Lifestyle

## Cyclo Pantry for solidarity and kindness set in motion

Hong Raksmeay

JUST two months into its existence the NGO Local4Local is launching another project to fight hunger called the Cyclo Community Pantry or Cyclo Pantry with support from the Cyclo Association.

During the lockdown of Phnom Penh in April, Local4Local was established by a Cambodian college student stuck at home and unable to resume his studies in person back in the freezing winters of St. Paul, the capital city of the state of Minnesota in the US.

Local4Local's overall mission is to provide food assistance to the poor and underprivileged people of Phnom Penh and their cyclo pantry programme will be Phnom Penh's first mobile community pantry with groceries donated by the local community delivered to those in need via cyclos.

The cyclo drivers – who will also benefit from the campaign – will distribute the donated groceries and essential items to different areas in the city where people in need live.

Founder of Local4Local Taing Huang Hao, 21, told *The Post* that “the cyclo pantry creates community solidarity through sharing and kindness to people in need. It also shines a positive light on cyclo drivers and helps to sustain the livelihoods of the cyclo drivers and people living on the street.”

“And [the programme] also makes these vulnerable cyclo drivers feel happy spiritually and emotionally because I have spoken with them and they say things like ‘if we do good, we will receive good’ and their spiritual belief is that by sharing these donations of food and necessities to others in need, their good deeds will be returned to them in kind,” he says.

The community pantries rest on the cyclo seats where people are normally seated. A passing motorist might observe a refrigerator-like box taking a cyclo ride along the riverside. Anyone can hail the cyclo driver – not for a ride, but to donate anything they'd like to the pantry.

At present there is only one mobile pantry and it will be going around the riverside and Wat Botum areas in the mornings and sometimes the afternoons.

“People can donate necessities such as meals, masks, water, canned goods, books,

clothing and any non-perishable foods,” said Hao, who was inspired to start these charity programmes by a cyclo driver who drove him around the city.

Hao plans to deploy more cyclo pantries in the city across eight to 10 different zones he has identified and he'd like to extend the programme to the provinces.

Since the concept of food banks or community pantries are somewhat new to the Kingdom, Hao said, he hopes that this generosity will inspire others to start similar programmes throughout Cambodia.

“I encourage all restaurants and shops to have a donation site inside their store with a sign suggesting that their customers donate or drop off necessities. Once a day, the cyclo drivers can come around to their location to pick up donations to restock the mobile pantries and distribute the items to those in need,” Hao says.

Hao is running the campaign himself and doing everything from graphic design to donations outreach and coordinating the logistics.

“Hopefully the cyclo pantry will become a community initiative that is locally sustainable,” he says.

Hao says he first encountered the idea of having small pantries with free items installed in front of homes and schools online and he wanted to bring the idea to Cambodia.

“During Covid-19 it has been hard for people to go outside so that's how the idea of the cyclo community pantry began, because it allows the pantry to travel around so people can donate or receive items close to home,” says Hao.

Hao's Local4Local campaign was also inspired by a mobile food truck that would



People in need receive meals and necessities donated to the Local4Local's Cyclo Pantry. SUPPLIED

regularly come to the University of St Thomas campus in St. Paul while Hao was studying there to distribute free groceries to people from the neighbourhood.

Local4Local's services focus on helping street people or homeless people who have been made especially vulnerable in the Covid-19 era. Local street food vendors have seen their sales plummet and cyclo drivers have hardly been able to earn any living at all during the pandemic due to the lack of tourists.

Local4Local's initial programme uses money from donors to pay street food vendors to supply meals and pay cyclo drivers to deliver them to those in need. Though the organisation is only two months old and was launched by a 21-year-old student, it has already achieved quite a bit.

Nearly 17,000 warm meals have already been distributed to people in need and over 760 families have been given support with Covid-relief packages in the red and orange zones in Phnom Penh during the lockdown – and the relief package

programme has now been extended to Siem Reap and Banteay Meanchey's Poipet-town.

Local4Local has also been hosting weekly cyclo tours to help sustain employment for cyclo drivers. The weekly tour is one of many initiatives, which also include food coupons that people can exchange for warm meals and a volunteer kitchen programme where students and their friends are encouraged to host a soup kitchen and cook meals for those in need. “The food coupon programme is planned to debut around mid-June, and it will start with 130 cyclo drivers and it also has the support of the Cyclo Association,” says Hao.

Each cyclo driver will receive 10 coupons that are valid for two weeks and each coupon can be exchanged for a meal at designated street food vendors.

Hao says the purpose of the food coupon is to reduce the amount of contact between people in light of Covid-19 and that they can be used by anyone –

not just cyclo drivers – to get a free meal.

Local4Local is also trying to encourage volunteer programmes among youth in schools in Cambodia too,” Hao says.

Local4Local has received support from Chea Serey's Raksa Koma Foundation, Tiger Beer, PPC Bank and other corporations along with publicity from partners like Grab, WOWNOW, MUUVE and more.

Hao also mentions that Prudential Cambodia is collaborating with Local4Local on a “Futuristic Cyclo Competition” to build a bridge between the cyclo drivers and the artistic community

in solidarity and to provide an opportunity for illustrators to use their creativity and imaginations to design the future for cyclos.

“We've received a lot of support from artists. Some of them I know personally as friends, but the majority of them I've met on social media as strangers after they followed @Local4Local on Facebook/Instagram,” says Hao.

It has been around eighteen months since Hao came back to Cambodia to visit his parents on a short break between semesters from his university in the US, but he says being stuck in his home country has turned out great because it gave him the opportunity to do something good for people in need as a consequence.

“I'm still a year three student in Minnesota, and I will be going back to the United States around September. The hope is that there will be a way to keep Local4Local sustainable [without me present],” Hao says.

For more details, please contact Hao via email: haotang101@gmail.com

Donations to Local4Local can be made via ABA account: 002 851 840 (Taing Huang Hao). ■



Local4Local launches the Cyclo Pantry where people can donate and receive necessities. SUPPLIED



Cyclo drivers play an important role for Cyclo Pantry. SUPPLIED

# Japan gives 30 more ambulances to health ministry



Japan has donated a further 30 ambulances to Cambodia to support the Kingdom's healthcare sector during the Covid-19 outbreak. The medical vehicles were handed over at the Ministry of Health last month in a ceremony presided over by Minister of Health HE Mam Bunheng and Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia HE Mikami Masahiro. The Japanese government has so far supplied 70 ambulances, 10 X-ray inspection machines, 26 ultrasound diagnostic systems, 63 oxygen generators and 100 ICU beds to Cambodia.



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

## Canada Bank joins CGCC to help SMEs in distress

Canada Bank Plc on Wednesday became the latest financial institution to join the state-owned Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia (CGCC) to support the latest Business Recovery Guarantee Scheme. The initiative provides working capital to assist cash-stressed micro, small and medium enterprise (MSMEs) as well as larger enterprises in expanding their businesses during the pandemic.



PHOTOS SUPPLIED



# INCREASE

YOUR REACH WITH THE POST

With an average monthly gross reach of more than **seven million** people across print and digital in English and Khmer. The Phnom Penh Post is the perfect platform on which to be heard.

Be assured of the greatest impact with The Post and Post Khmer's unmatched levels of readership.

So advertise with the award-winning Phnom Penh Post, and let the Kingdom's oldest and most respected English language newspaper deliver your message to the greatest number of prospective customers.

Contact: 023 888 161 162 // [advertising@phnompenhpost.com](mailto:advertising@phnompenhpost.com)  
[www.phnompenhpost.com](http://www.phnompenhpost.com) // [www.postkhmer.com](http://www.postkhmer.com)

# Lifestyle

## Thinking caps

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16				
17						18				19				
20					21					22				
			23					24						
25	26	27			28		29				30	31	32	
33			34	35			36			37	38			
39					40	41								
42										43				
44					45			46	47			48		
			49	50				51		52	53			
54	55	56					57					58	59	60
61						62				63				
64						65				66				
67						68				69				

### "SANTA'S COMING II"

**ACROSS**

- 1 Salvage aid
- 6 Herd of whales
- 9 Defeat decisively
- 14 "Home \_\_\_" (1990 film)
- 15 Branch of the U.N.
- 16 Learner at a desk
- 17 Warbles
- 18 Delay
- 19 "Remember the \_\_\_"
- 20 Churches and such
- 23 "Terrible" age
- 24 Length x width, for a rectangle
- 25 Store convenience, for short
- 28 Dividers in biology
- 30 Airline overseer (Abbr.)
- 33 Group of lions
- 36 Eight-angled figures
- 39 Be in the best possible position
- 42 Harm
- 43 Mike holder
- 44 551, in old Rome
- 45 Indian silk center
- 48 Broadway time zone
- 49 Creole veggie
- 51 Person of action

- 54 Some inner-city developments
- 61 Monte of Cooperstown
- 62 "The Matrix" hero
- 63 Word on old gas pumps
- 64 Jousting's mount
- 65 Manning of the NFL
- 66 Pancake relative
- 67 Bygone autocrats (Var.)
- 68 Tennis grouping
- 69 Hauled to the body shop

**DOWN**

- 1 Obi, e.g.
- 2 Vaudeville shtick
- 3 Unfit for highborn Brits
- 4 Unfocused dread
- 5 Adjust, as a hem
- 6 Covered with soft hair
- 7 Norway's patron saint
- 8 16:00 to 20:00, on a boat
- 9 Bowler's feat
- 10 Second-largest city in Oklahoma
- 11 Brilliantly colored fish
- 12 Drew Carey's nemesis, once
- 13 Alka-Seltzer sound
- 21 Shipwreck signal
- 22 Provide an address

- 25 Food for a ladybug
- 26 Dweller under a bridge, in fairy tales
- 27 Lip syncers \_\_\_ Vanilli
- 29 "Designing Women" co-star
- 30 Jedi's power
- 31 Chilean range
- 32 Good looks, in Hollywood
- 34 Banned bug killer
- 35 Listening device
- 37 Crackerjack
- 38 Pinup's leg
- 40 Be educated
- 41 Some baked Italian dishes
- 46 Cleverly skilled
- 47 Cow comment
- 49 Basket-maker's willow
- 50 Varieties
- 52 Button in Bond's car
- 53 Nostalgic, in a way
- 54 H.S. subject
- 55 Dog bowl bits
- 56 Eye layer
- 57 Brazilian soccer legend
- 58 Prepare to swallow
- 59 Pound a keyboard
- 60 Gravity-powered vehicle

## Sudoku Pacific

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

1				9	7			5
			1					3
		2		3		7		
				5		4		2
	8		2	4	3		7	
5		4		7				
		3		8		2		
	9				5			
8			6	2				7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### Friday's solution

B	A	S	M	U	T	P	A	S						
U	S	R	P	H	O	R	A	R	I	C	O			
M	E	R	C	I	A	X	I	L	O	K	A	Y		
P	A	N	O	R	A	M	I	C	A	M	E	R	A	
R	A	P	S	E	N	O	N	E	S					
R	A	B	L	E	K	E	G							
A	L	O	E	S	C	A	R	E	C	R	O	W		
P	A	N	A	M	A	C	A	N	A	L	Z	O	N	E
T	R	A	D	E	N	A	M	E	A	M	I	R		
T	A	B	T	E	R	E	T	E						
O	P	E	R	A	E	A	R							
P	A	N	E	L	O	S	C	U	S	S	O	N		
A	L	A	S	U	R	A	L	A	U	R	A	E		
R	E	T	E	M	I	R	A	T	R	E	S	S		
T	R	E	E	P	S	S	T	Z	E	S	T	S		

### Friday's solution

Friday's Puzzle Answer

7	4	6	3	8	1	5	2	9
9	1	5	7	2	4	8	3	6
8	2	3	6	5	9	7	4	1
5	8	7	9	1	2	4	6	3
3	9	2	4	7	6	1	8	5
4	6	1	5	3	8	2	9	7
2	5	8	1	9	3	6	7	4
6	7	9	2	4	5	3	1	8
1	3	4	8	6	7	9	5	2



This undated screengrab released by Ubisoft shows an image from the trailer of the firm's new game *Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora*, featured on the opening day of video game trade show E3 2021 in Los Angeles. UBISOFT

# E3 video game trade show kicks off online with *Avatar* offering

THE world's premier video game trade show, E3, kicked off online June 12, celebrating play that "kept us sane" during the pandemic, celebrating fantasy worlds with Ubisoft's new offering *Avatar*, and promising a real-world gathering next year.

The Electronic Entertainment Expo that each year turned the Los Angeles Convention Centre into a players' paradise was cancelled in 2020 because of Covid-19, and went virtual this year with a streamed event.

"During the pandemic that prevented us from being with so many family, friends and colleagues, video games connected us, entertained us and brought us together," said Entertainment Software Association chief executive Stanley Pierre-Louis.

"Games kept us sane," he said. The association has hosted E3 annually since 1995, most of those years in Los Angeles.

"It's an opportunity to convene and celebrate as a community," Pierre-Louis said during an opening presentation.

Video game play has surged during the pandemic, as people turned more than ever to the internet for entertainment.

Overall consumer spending on gaming in the US totaled just shy of \$15 billion in the first quarter of this year, up 30

percent from the same period in 2020, according to industry tracker NPD Group.

"We've been amazed by the role games have played in our everyday lives," Pierre-Louis said.

Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti joined the pre-recorded presentation to reveal E3 will return to the city next year, and that he is eager to see it back in action.

"We look forward to seeing you in person, here in the City of Angels in 2022," Garcetti said.

What had long been an industry-only event has opened to fans in recent years, as the world of gaming has expanded beyond consoles to smartphones and play hosted in the internet cloud.

#### 'Amazing journey'

This year's virtual event is spread over four days, and features presentations by major game studios along with console titans Microsoft and Nintendo.

French video game powerhouse Ubisoft opened the show with a look at fresh additions to its diverse line-up, including a new game based on the blockbuster film *Avatar*.

*Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora* is a first-person, action-adventure game developed by Ubisoft in collaboration with Disney, according to the company.

A trailer for the game, set for release next year, showed an open world in which players take on the role of the tall, blue Na'vi characters from the film that won an array of Academy Awards in 2010.

"It is a glimpse of the amazing journey that awaits you in one of the most beautiful but dangerous places of all," Ubisoft chief executive Yves Guillemot said of the *Avatar* game teaser.

Ubisoft also showed off its latest collaboration with Nintendo combining the beloved Mario character with its impish Raving Rabbits.

Keenly awaited Ubisoft games spotlighted included additions to the popular *Assassin's Creed* and *Far Cry* franchises as well as *Rainbow Six*.

E3 continued on June 13 with an event by Microsoft's game unit Xbox and recently-acquired Bethesda Softworks, the maker of hits including *Fallout* and *Elder Scrolls*.

US telecom operator Verizon will hold its first E3 media event on Monday, focusing on how superfast 5G networks will influence gaming.

Many are expected to tune in on June 15 for a Nintendo streamed event at which it may reveal a new version of its coveted Switch consoles along with showing off new games.



A screengrab from the trailer of Ubisoft's new game *Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora*, featured on the opening day of video game trade show E3 2021 on Saturday. UBISOFT

# 'Excellent' Moore grabs point for Wales in Euro 2020 opener

**W**ALES coach Robert Page praised Kieffer Moore after the towering striker claimed a point for Wales in a 1-1 draw with Switzerland in Baku on June 12 to start both teams' Euro 2020 campaigns.

Moore responded to Breel Embolo's second-half opener with a quarter of an hour remaining. Both sides trail Group A leaders Italy, who beat Turkey 3-0 the June 11 tournament curtain-raiser.

"I thought his link-up play was excellent, he's not just a presence up top," Page said.

"He's got a good touch for a big lad and he's a willing runner. When you have all those attributes it can be a recipe for success.

"The group does look wide open apart from Italy as I sit here. We thought Italy would be good, they didn't let us down last night."

Switzerland boss Vladimir Petkovic said his outfit dropped their quality after Embolo's effort.

"Our opponents risked more after it. We dropped 10 per cent in standard," Petkovic said.

"We wanted to control the match too much. They were dangerous."

Page named Gareth Bale on the left wing as the Real Madrid attacker was one of three Wales survivors in the starting line-up from the 2016 semi-final loss to Portugal.

Petkovic kept Benfica's Haris Seferovic and Borussia Moenchengladbach's Embolo up front despite Mario Gavranovic scoring four times in two pre-tournament friendlies.

With Petkovic naming a narrow back three, Bale and fellow winger Dan James found space out wide early on in front of an estimated 10,000 crowd as local authorities allowed up to 50-per cent



Wales' midfielder Kieffer Moore (left) vies for the ball with Switzerland's defender Ricardo Rodriguez during the UEFA EURO 2020 Group A football match on Saturday. AFP

capacity in the 69,000-seater Olympic Stadium.

After a quarter of an hour played, James broke free down the left before finding 1.95 metre-tall Moore who forced opposition goalkeeper Yann Sommer to tip the ball over the bar.

From the resulting corner, Moore rose highest again and clashed in the air with Manuel Akanji, which left the Cardiff forward playing the remainder of the game with red tape around his head.

With Moore bandaged, the momentum swung towards Petkovic's side and they dominated the remainder of the half but Seferovic wasted three chances.

Petkovic's Switzerland remained in control with captain Granit Xhaka, Liverpool's Xherdan Shaqiri and Atalanta's Remo Freuler dominating midfield.

## Embolo sparks to life

They broke the deadlock four minutes into the second half as Embolo sparked into life after a quiet opening 45 minutes.

Shaqiri delivered a corner to Embolo who headed home after beating Wales right-back Connor Roberts with ease for just his sixth goal in 44 international appearances.

Shaqiri, who played just 14 Premier League games for Liverpool last season, was substituted on 66 minutes for the more defensive Denis Zakaria.

Despite Petkovic's pragmatic change in personnel, Wales equalised with 16 minutes remaining.

Manchester United's James played a corner short which ended up at Joe Morrell's feet and he crossed into the box.

Moore lost his marker and headed a well-placed effort past the out-stretched Som-

mer to send the roughly 300 travelling Wales fans into a frenzy behind the opposite goal.

Seferovic was substituted for 31-year-old Gavranovic on 84 minutes and the Dinamo Zagreb forward thought he had claimed all three points for his side with his first touch.

After edging past the Wales backline he beat Ward but his effort was chalked off for offside by VAR.

Switzerland pressed on in five minutes of injury time and Gavranovic was denied another potential winner, this time Ward saving with his finger tips.

Ramsey left the field for Ethan Ampadu during added time and Page's men held on for a point.

Wales stay in Baku for their next game when they face Turkey on Wednesday, with Switzerland taking on Italy in Rome later that day. AFP

# 'Excited' Moyes signs new 3-year contract with 'The Hammers'

DAVID MOYES has been rewarded for guiding West Ham to sixth place in the Premier League with a new three year contract and says he is "really excited by the ambition" at the club.

The 58-year-old Scot surpassed expectations in his second spell at the Hammers securing them a place in next season's Europa League with 65 points, their highest Premier League tally.

The previous season after replacing the sacked Manuel Pellegrini in December 2019 he had saved them from relegation.

"We have made tremendous progress in the past 15 months and that has been a collective effort from everyone at the club," said Moyes in a statement on the club website.

"We must keep pushing boundaries for consistent improvement as we all aim to continue the growing of the club.

"I am really excited by the ambition that we have at the club and we are going to work as hard as we possibly can to keep moving forward and hopefully give our supporters many a great memory."

Moyes is closing in on 100 matches in charge at West Ham and 1,000 competitive games as a manager.

West Ham's performances last season also helped to re-

build his reputation after underwhelming spells at Manchester United, Real Sociedad and Sunderland.

Moyes, who previously managed West Ham from November 2017 to May 2018, said he and club owners David Sullivan and David Gold were united in their vision.

"This is where I want to be and I'm happy," said Moyes.

"I'm excited to be given this opportunity to build on what we all have already achieved here.

"The owners and I are fully aligned with how we want to keep developing and improving the football club."

Gold and Sullivan expressed their delight at Moyes agreeing to extending his stay.

"This is fantastic news and we are delighted that David has committed his long-term future to the club, ensuring great stability going forward," they said in a joint statement.

"His strong work ethic and determination to build success in the right way have proved a perfect fit for West Ham United, and we are all aligned with what needs to be done to keep progressing and improving."

"The experience of the past 12 months has created a fantastic unity throughout the club and we are very excited about what the future holds for our supporters." AFP



West Ham United's Scottish manager David Moyes has been rewarded for guiding West Ham to sixth place in the Premier League with a new three year contract. AFP

# Taylor urges Kiwis to stay 'professional' in search of win

ROSS TAYLOR insisted it was important New Zealand maintained their standards after a fine all-round display at Edgbaston on June 12 left them on the brink of just their third Test series win in England.

The experienced batsman made a valuable 80 on the third day's play of the second and deciding Test to help New Zealand establish a first-innings lead of 85 runs.

If that was not as big an advantage as looked likely at one stage, it proved more than enough for New Zealand's attack as they reduced England to 76-7 in their second innings.

England just avoided the humiliation of a defeat inside three days after reaching stumps on 122-9, a slender lead of 37 runs with a lone wicket standing.

"You want to be professional in the way you go about it," Taylor told reporters after stumps.

"The batters out there can score runs and if they can get a decent lead, then obviously they can get



New Zealand batsman Ross Taylor plays a shot on the third day of the second Test cricket match against England on Saturday. AFP

their tails up, and you never know what happens.

"Whatever we do, we need to do it well tomorrow and get that one wicket then go about the chase in a professional manner."

Matt Henry, only in this side be-

cause spearhead Tim Southee was rested ahead of next week's World Test Championship final against India at Southampton, removed the top order in a return of 3-36.

Neil Wagner followed up with 3-18 and spinner Ajaz Patel, like Henry

one of an exceptional six changes to the New Zealand side that played in the drawn series opener at Lord's, took 2-25.

New Zealand are on the cusp of joining their 1986 and 1999 predecessors as series victors in England.

Nevertheless, Taylor insisted: "There hasn't been much talk in the dressing room. I think we were just happy with the way we bowled in that last session and how we stuck at it.

"To put a very good England side under pressure for long periods of time and to get the rewards was what was satisfying from our point of view."

## 'Not good enough'

England's batting has long been a concern and a team without injured all-rounder Ben Stokes and the rested Jos Buttler were well below the required standard on June 12.

"It was obviously not good enough," said England coach Chris Silverwood.

"There's things to work on without

a shadow of a doubt, no one's going to hide from that or deny it," he added after specialist batsmen Zak Crawley and Ollie Pope, regarded as rising stars, had once again fallen cheaply.

England are on the brink of their first Test series loss on home soil since a 2014 reverse against Sri Lanka.

This season will also see them take on India in a five-match series before they try to regain the Ashes in Australia.

"Things will change naturally once you get Stokes and Buttler back," said Silverwood.

Stuart Broad led England's attack with 4-48 only to see his team-mates at the top of the order fall cheaply on a good batting pitch.

A sympathetic Silverwood, himself a former England paceman, said: "I always feel for the bowlers because I'm an ex-bowler."

"We know we have the bowling attack that can do that but we are trying to put those big runs on and we haven't this time round." AFP

## Eriksen collapse stuns teams

EURO 2020 was still reeling on June 13 after Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen collapsed and had to be revived by medics on the pitch during his country's defeat to Finland.

Eriksen was "awake and undergoing further tests" after he received CPR as his distraught teammates formed a circle around him to shield the stricken player from the view of 16,000 stunned spectators in Copenhagen's Parken Stadium on June 12.

The Group B game – just the third of the month-long tournament which kicked off a year behind schedule on June 11 – was halted just before half-time with the score goalless and suspended for nearly two hours before restarting.

The Finns won 1-0 thanks to a Joel Pohjanpalo header in their first ever appearance in the European Championship but Eriksen's plight overshadowed the match.

"We've been in contact with him, and the players have spoken to Christian. That's the great news. He's doing fine, and they are playing the game for him," DBU director Peter Moeller told Danish media.

Denmark's team doctor Martin Boesen described how his team saved Eriksen's life.

"When I get to him, he's on his side. He is breathing and I can see pulse but suddenly that changes, and as everyone saw we started giving him CPR," he told a press conference.

"The help came really, really fast from the medical team and the rest of the staff, and with their cooperation we did what we had to do. We managed to get Christian back."

Messages of support poured in for Eriksen and Belgium forward Romelu Lukaku, his teammate at Inter Milan, shouted "Chris, Chris, stay strong – I love you" into a pitchside camera during the celebration for his opening goal in the 3-0 defeat of Russia in Saint Petersburg.

### England launch challenge

Gareth Southgate's youthful England side get their challenge under way on June 13, as they face 2018 World Cup finalists Croatia at Wembley in a 1300 GMT kickoff.

England are playing all three group games at their London home. If they top Group D they will also play there in the last 16, while London is also the venue for both semi-finals as well as the final on July 11.

Croatia skipper Luka Modric admitted the



Denmark players help midfielder Christian Eriksen after he collapsed before medics arrive during the UEFA EURO 2020 Group B football match on Saturday. AFP

situation could work in England's favour.

"Everyone would say teams at home with a crowd, that there is a slight advantage," Modric told the BBC.

Centre-forward and captain Harry Kane holds the key to ending England's 55-year wait for a major trophy.

The Netherlands play Ukraine in Amsterdam to open their account, deprived of the services of the long-term injury absentee Virgil van Dijk but still able to call on a wealth of talent including Barcelona midfielder Frenkie de Jong.

Ukraine's pre-match preparations have been marred by a row with Russia over their jersey that features patriotic slogans and the outline of Ukraine that includes Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014.

In the third match on June 13, tiny North Macedonia will make history as they play their first match in a major tournament as an independent nation when they face Austria in Bucharest.

### Belgium impress

Much-fancied Belgium showed they will be a force to reckon with as Lukaku scored twice in a 3-0 win for the Red Devils on June 12.

Thomas Meunier, on as an early substitute, doubled the lead in the 34th minute before Lukaku's late second capped an impressive Belgium display.

Roberto Martinez's side coped admirably with the absences of injured

midfielders Kevin De Bruyne and Axel Witsel, with captain Eden Hazard only fit enough to make an 18-minute cameo off the bench.

Earlier in the tournament, which is taking place in 11 venues all across Europe, stopped off in Baku where Euro 2016 semi-finalists Wales drew 1-1 with Switzerland.

Kieffer Moore, the giant Cardiff City striker sporting a red bandage around his head, scored the equaliser for Wales in the 74th minute, heading in to cancel out Breel Embolo's opener early in the second half.

"We showed a lot of character, like we always do, to fight back, be brave, get on the ball and get the equaliser," Wales captain Gareth Bale said.

That result followed Italy's 3-0 defeat of Turkey in the same Group A in the tournament's opening game in Rome on June 11, as Andrea Bocelli performed 'Nessun Dorma' in the Stadio Olimpico before Roberto Mancini's side cruised to victory.

World Cup holders France – with Karim Benzema recalled from a five-and-a-half-year international exile – are the favourites to add the continental crown.

They begin their campaign against Germany in Munich on June 15, just after holders Portugal play Hungary in the same Group F. AFP

## Belgium beat Russia in comfortable start

BELGIUM striker Romelu Lukaku sent a message of support to his stricken Inter Milan teammate Christian Eriksen after scoring, as his double helped the Red Devils open their Euro 2020 campaign with a 3-0 win over Russia on June 12.

Lukaku gave Belgium an early lead in Saint Petersburg, then shouted "Chris, Chris, stay strong – I love you" into a pitchside camera during the celebration for his opening goal.

Eriksen is recovering in hospital in Copenhagen after collapsing on the pitch during extraordinary scenes which overshadowed Denmark's 1-0 home defeat by Finland in an earlier Group B game on June 12.

"I am really happy with the win, but it was hard for me to play because my thoughts were with Christian Eriksen," said Lukaku, who revealed he cried tears of concern before kick-off for his Inter team-mate.

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez admitted other members of his squad were also affected after seeing Eriksen suddenly slump to the turf during the Denmark-Finland game.

"We were watching the game live and five minutes after Christian collapsed, we went into a team meeting. As you can imagine, the last thing we wanted to do was talk about football," said Martinez.

"There were a lot of tears from players who have shared dressing rooms and big moments with Christian."

"All our thoughts go to him and his family, but also to the Danish team, as that was a really tough moment."

Substitute Thomas Meunier doubled Belgium's lead on 34 minutes before Lukaku put the result beyond doubt with a late second goal.

Belgium, the world's top-ranked team, are under pressure to deliver at the European Championship as some pundits claim this is Martinez's last chance to win a title with an ageing squad.

Yet even with Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne and Borussia Dortmund midfielder Axel Witsel sidelined by injury, Belgium were too strong for Russia.

The hosts got off to a bad start when Andrei Semenov failed to deal with a cross by Dries Mertens in the build-up to the opening goal.

The ball fell to Lukaku, who span away and drove his shot into the bottom far corner on 10 minutes.

Belgium's Timothy Castagne and Russia's Daler Kuzyaev had to be helped off following a nasty clash of heads which saw both players substituted.

Meunier, Castagne's replacement at right-back, grabbed Belgium's second by slotting home the rebound after his Dortmund team-mate Thorgan Hazard swung in a cross which Anton Shunin failed to hold.

Russia raised the tempo in the second half as Roman Zobnin fired over the Belgian goal.

Real Madrid star Eden Hazard replaced Mertens for the final 18 minutes to lift the Belgian attack.

With two minutes left, Lukaku swept Meunier's pass into the Russian net to claim his 20th goal in his last 15 international games.

Before kick-off, the Belgium team were booed for taking a knee to highlight racial injustice, while their Russian opponents stood.

Jeers echoed around the Krestovsky Stadium as the entire Belgian team, as well as Spanish referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz, knelt, while Lukaku, whose parents come from the Democratic Republic of Congo, raised his right fist.

England have said they will do the same for their opening game of the European Championship against Croatia on June 13.

Ex-NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick started kneeling to protest against racial injustice in 2016. AFP

# EURO2020

## Standing

### Group A

- Italy 3Pts
- Wales 1Pts
- Switzerland 1Pts
- Turkey 0Pts

### Group B

- Belgium 3Pts
- Finland 3Pts
- Denmark 1Pts
- Russia 0Pts

## Results

### Group A & B

- Turkey 0 vs Italy 3
- Wales 1 vs Switzerland 1
- Denmark 0 vs Finland 1
- Belgium 3 vs Russia 0

## Matches

### Group C, D, E & F

- Scotland vs Czech Republic (8:00 PM, 14 June)
- Poland vs Slovakia (11:00 PM, 14 June)
- Spain vs Sweden (2:00 AM, 15 June)
- Hungary vs Portugal (11:00 PM, 15 June)
- France vs Germany (2:00 AM, 16 June)