

Job drive heading to 5 provinces

Mom Kunthear

THE government is set to vaccinate more than 1.2 million people in five provinces after finishing with Phnom Penh and neighbouring Kandal in an ongoing campaign administered by the ministries of Health and National Defence.

The five provinces are Preah Si-

hanouk, Kampong Speu, Takeo, Kampong Cham and Svay Rieng, according to Ith Sarath, Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Joint Chief of Staff of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) who heads the military's vaccination campaign.

Sarath said during a review meeting of the vaccination drive across the six former red zone districts of Phnom Penh that the provinces being tar-

geted had a population of more than 1.2 million people between them. Of the number, he expects that roughly 839,294 people will be vaccinated by the army and another 400,727 by the health ministry.

Defence minister Tea Banh also told reporters following the meeting that the next phase of the vaccination campaign would kick off on June 21 in Preah Sihanouk province.

"We are preparing to administer vaccinations in the target provinces according to the Covid-19 vaccination commission," he said, adding that RCAF had successfully inoculated a great many people in a short period in the six districts in Phnom Penh.

"The fight against Covid-19 is a new experience [for the military]. It takes place on a shapeless and shadeless battlefield that has taught us some

necessary lessons," Tea Banh said.

As of June 15, Cambodia had inoculated more than three million people.

Hun Sen took note of the three-millionth person to be vaccinated in a Facebook post on the night of June 14, identifying her as Sum Sam Oeun, a 48-year-old widow residing in Chey Chumneas Hospital

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Belly up

A 180kg Irrawaddy dolphin was found dead in Stung Treng province's Borei O Svay Sen Chey district on Monday. INFORMATION MINISTRY

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Britain, Oz agree free trade deal post-Brexit

BRITAIN has agreed its first major post-Brexit free trade deal with Australia, London announced on June 15, adding that they plan to "intensify cooperation on security, climate change and science and tech".

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the deal "marks a new dawn in the UK's relationship with Australia, underpinned by ... shared history and common values".

"This is global Britain at its best - looking outwards and striking deals that deepen our alliances and help ensure every part of the country builds back better from the pandemic," he added.

The UK government said in a statement that the deal eliminates tariffs on all British goods "in the first major trade deal negotiated from scratch" since the country left the EU.

A final "agreement in principle" will be published in the coming days, it added.

The UK-Australia trade relationship was worth £13.9 billion (\$19.4 billion) last year and is set to grow under the deal, the statement said.

The deal eliminates tariffs on imported Australian goods such as wine, swimwear and confectionery, it added.

Going the other way, British products including cars, Scotch whisky, biscuits and ceramics will be cheaper to sell into Australia.

It comes after the two nations addressed issues surrounding the farming sector.

British farmers will be protected by a cap on tariff-free imports for 15 years, using tariff rate quotas and other safeguards.

"We are also supporting agricultural producers to increase their exports overseas, including to new markets in the Indo-Pacific," the UK said.

The deal with Australia - Britain's former colony on the other side of the world - is seen as low hanging fruit ahead of more difficult free trade talks with the US and major economic powers. AFP

Japan firm may grow marijuana

Thou Vireak

JAPANESE-OWNED Yamato Green Co Ltd expressed interest in commercial marijuana cultivation in Cambodia to export cannabis products to the US and Japanese pharmaceutical industries.

The notion was explored at an informal meeting between Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and

Fisheries Veng Sakhon and Yamato Green CEO Katsuhito Nabeshima on June 14 at the ministry.

Yamato Green highlighted the untapped potential of medical marijuana seeds, pointing out that many other companies are also interested in cultivating Cannabis sativa, importing seeds from the US and bringing finished products to the US and Japan, according to the minister.

"We will take things into consideration first. We've requested the company to work with the relevant ministries - especially the agriculture ministry - to test the plant on a proper designated area in a station or agricultural research centre, as scientific evidence, before submitting a proposal to the Royal Government for approval," Sakhon said.

Cambodian Centre for Study and

Development in Agriculture (Cedac) director Tong Chantheang told *The Post* that Cambodian law does not allow the cultivation of Cannabis sativa.

"I wonder - if the government were to consider this project, how would it stand, against Cambodian law? I think that it wouldn't provide much benefit to the people or society since

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National

New NEC chairman to be announced this June

Lay Samean

THE National Assembly's (NA) Permanent Committee approved two candidates for the position of National Election Committee (NEC) chairman. The new chairman should be announced this June.

NA President Heng Samrin on June 15 chaired a video conference of the NA's Permanent Committee to approve the candidates and forwarded their names to the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) to select one whose name will be returned to the committee.

NA spokesman Leng Peng Long told a press conference that the two had stepped forward for the position after the NA announced the selection of candidates from June 11-15.

"The two candidates – Prach Chan, currently chairman of the NA's First Commission, and Kar Lean are qualified to be candidates," he said without specifying the background of the latter.

"Therefore, the NA's Permanent Committee decided to send the candidates' names to the CPP, one of whom will be chosen to be the NEC chairman," he added.

Peng Long told *The Post* that according to the law, the NA has three days to decide and elect a candidate, starting June 15.

"According to the law, three

days are allowed, but the party can decide prior to the deadline. But it's not more than three days. The NA will then submit the result to the plenary session for a vote of confidence," he said.

He said that in this work, the NA will announce the decision concerning the new NEC chairman later this month.

CPP spokesman Sok Eysan said the party had not yet made a decision and is waiting for the NA to send the candidates' names.

Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia survey and advocacy coordinator Korn Savang said the new chairman must be neutral and ensure fairness for voters.

"Whether the NEC chairman is new or old, please look at the general independence and think about what are the principles that are useful for the electorate, and do not to think about the party's policies, even if they are from that party. I hope that the new chairman will be independent," he said.

Prach Chan declined to comment on his decision to run for office, while Kar Lean could not be reached for comment.

Former NEC chairman Sik Bun Hok's resignation was approved by the NA's Permanent Committee on June 4, citing poor health as the reason for his departure. ■

4.5 million more doses expected by month-end

Continued from page 1

in Kandal province.

Like the one-millionth and two-millionth vaccinees, Sam Oeun will receive 10 million riel as a reward.

Health ministry spokeswoman Or Vandine – who also heads the Covid-19 vaccination commission – will deliver the money to her.

"We have reached a signifi-

cant milestone with 30 per cent of the targeted 10 million vaccinated. This is a great achievement towards our goal," said the prime minister.

By the end of June, Cambodia will have seen another 4.5 million doses of vaccines arriving in the country, keeping the nation on track to reach its goal of 10 million people vaccinated either later this year or early next year. ■

Cambodia, Laos mark 65th anniversary of mutual bonds

Ry Sochan

PRIME Minister Hun Sen sent a congratulatory letter to Lao Prime Minister Phankham Viphavanh on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"On behalf of the government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency, the government, and the friendly people of the Lao PDR on this momentous occasion," Hun Sen said in a letter dated June 14.

Hun Sen said he is delighted to witness that over the past 65 years, Cambodia and Laos have enjoyed a strong bond of traditional friendship and excellent cooperation, built upon the spirit of good neighborliness, solidarity and mutual understanding.

"I would like to take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of my firm commitment to continue working closely with you to further deepen our comprehensive and long-lasting strategic partnership so as to promote our national development, address current regional and global challenges – particularly the COVID-19 pandemic – and jointly enhance peace, stability, prosperity and sustainable development for our peoples, as well as the ASEAN Community and beyond," he said.

He said he believed that under Viphavanh's leadership, Laos will achieve more success in economic diversification



Prime Minister Hun Sen and Lao Prime Minister Phankham Viphavanh. HONG MENEVA AND LAO NEWS AGENCY

and move steadily towards the realization of the National Social Economic Development Plan for 2021-2025.

Prime Minister Viphavanh also sent a congratulatory letter to Hun Sen to mark the occasion as well.

"Over the past 65 years, the traditional bonds of friendly relations and good cooperation existing between our two countries have been further expanded, mutual trust between our two governments and peoples have been further enhanced," Viphavanh said in a letter dated June 11.

"Particularly, with the strong desire our two peoples, we agreed to elevate our

relationship to a comprehensive and long-lasting strategic partnership in 2019," he said.

He said that he firmly believed that with close cooperation between the two countries, the existing traditional bonds of friendly relations will be further advanced.

"We can bring about mutual benefits to our two nations as well as continued peace, stability and cooperation for development in the region and the world at large," he added.

Kin Phea, director of the Royal Academy of Cambodia's International Relations Institute, told *The Post* on June 15 that technically Cambodia-Laos relations date back to

the 14th century.

However, more to the point, he said that the official relations between the two modern post-colonial regimes of the two countries for the last 65 years were good diplomatically and that Laos in recent years had been a stable country and a good neighbour, affirming the peaceful intentions of both countries.

"We have always seen mutual support between the leaders of the two countries. We have had a stable relationship with Laos, although trade between the two countries is not very significant compared to Thailand and Vietnam's trade with Cambodia," Phea said. ■

Methanol awareness campaign begins

Khouth Sophak Chakrya

THE General Department of Consumer Protection, Competition and Fraud Prevention (CCF) has launched a nationwide campaign to inspect the production of rice wine and educate citizens about using methanol in wine products. This initiative followed more than 30 deaths connected to rice wine poisoning in Kampong Chhnang, Kampot and Kandal provinces in May.

CCF director-general Phan Oun told *The Post* on June 14 that the campaign will highlight the dangers of methanol in rice and herbal wines, and is not limited to those provinces affected by alcohol poisoning.

"In general, rice wine products that are produced by families using traditional techniques do not cause serious health problems if methanol is not added. A series of deaths and illnesses caused by alcohol and herbal wine in May were caused by high levels of methanol," Oun said.

He said the campaign aims to educate people who produce rice wine to understand the dangers of using methanol in wine products and avoid using the chemical.

It also aims to investigate the techniques employed by small-scale traditional wineries in each province and assess the quality of rice and herbal wines in each area. Finally, a record will be compiled for the benefit of scholars to research Cambodian wine making.

Oun added that at the end of June, CCF's



CCF officers inspect wine products in Monduliri province's Sen Monorom district on June 11. CCF

general department will announce the results of this campaign and the test results on wine samples collected by the working group from the capital and provinces throughout the country.

CCF Monduliri branch manager Nal Vichet told *The Post* on June 14 that the campaign has been running in Sen Monorom town since June 11, where the specialist team collected samples of rice wine from 7 wineries in the town. The wine's quality will be tested and evaluated the

department's laboratory in Phnom Penh. "The team is also educating winery owners and wine dealers in some towns and districts about the risks of using methanol in the wine industry," said Vichet.

However, whether rice wine products in Monduliri province, which have attracted national and international tourists in the past, contain high levels of methanol or not is not known yet.

The CCF's laboratory has not yet announced the Sen Monorom results. ■

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 and Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CMAAPAGE/>
- 3) The submission deadline is at 15 pm on 30th 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

Kingdom observes 4th TVET Day

Long Kimmarita

MINISTER of Labour and Vocational Training Ith Sam Heng said more than 6,000 workers who were suspended or lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic had now attended a four-month special training course, while 68,000 more workers finished soft skills training.

Sam Heng made the statements during a live Facebook stream of a speech to celebrate the 4th annual National TVET Day (Technical and Vocational Education and Training), which is held annually on June 15.

Sam Heng said 6,500 workers who were suspended or lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 crisis received special training that was flexible and focused on quality. Upon graduation, they were granted a special technical and vocational certificate.

He said the workers also received a stipend during their study period, with each participant receiving 200,000 riel (\$50) per month to give them the opportunity to gain a specific skill for a new job that is in high demand now and expected to remain so in the future.

At the same time, 68,000 factory workers received soft skills training over the same period.

Sam Heng said that at the end of 2020, the ministry had launched a five-year master plan for the development of



A student builds an automated machine at PPIU university on October 3 last year. HEAN RANGSEY

TVET institutions from 2021 to 2025, which plans to spend about \$493 million, focusing on four strategies.

He said: "The four strategies are: building and improving the physical infrastructure at TVET institutions; improving equipment and training materials; strengthening the capacity of leaders, managers, specialty officials and technicians; and increasing the quantity and quality of technical and professional skills in a gender-inclusive manner."

Sam Heng also mentioned the efforts of the labor ministry to promote technical and vocational education and training

to promote the development of a high quality and efficient skilled workforce to meet the needs of the domestic and foreign labor market inside and outside the country.

"The global Covid-19 pandemic has impacted public health, the economy, our social fabric, education and training issues, the daily lives of the people, the loss of many jobs and it has been an impediment to the development of Cambodia," he said.

Sam Heng said for the academic year 2020-2021, as of June, nearly 40,000 trainees and students have been studying remotely or

online at TVET institutions in public, private and NGO programmes and associated schools across the country.

Phearum, a worker at a factory in Phnom Penh, considered providing technical and vocational training to the workers as a bonus that will help improve their lives.

"If workers know other skills besides working in a factory, it is much better because they can earn a living when the factory is closed or their employment is terminated," he said.

Dy Thehoya, project officer for labour rights organisation Central, said this is a good step that the ministry has taken

and urged technical and vocational education and training be pursued by more people.

He said however, that relevant institutions should value these skills in a way that can be compared to general education so that people recognise the value of studying technical and vocational skills.

Thehoya also urged the labor ministry to focus on training people in skills to meet market needs, especially youths, to reduce the number of foreigners in the skilled workforce and replace them with Cambodian nationals.

"Like in the construction sector, I see that Cambodian people do construction work, but they are not skilled workers. Vietnamese or Chinese nationals always come here to do the skilled work," he said.

"Hopefully, when [those in vocational training] graduate, they can get decent jobs and salaries to provide for their family members," Thehoya added.

Theav Oeang, owner of the E-Siri Free Company Ltd, said that people with technical skills are in demand in the labour market because Cambodia needs these resources for development.

"Our people don't like to learn technical skills because they often find that skilled people still do not get paid what they are worth. But the labour market here needs more skilled workers, so that

may change," he said. ■

Students win 23 medals at SASMO competition

THE Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport on June 15 congratulated 23 Cambodia students who won gold, bronze and silver medals at the Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad 2021 (SASMO). A total of 28,760 students from 26 countries entered the competition.

The ministry said ASMO was established in 2006, and is the largest math competition in Asia.

The ministry added that this year, the Texas International Academy sent students to participate with two students winning gold medals, one a silver medal, 8 bronze medals and two received honorary trophies. Ten students from the World International School Cambodia also joined the competition. One student won a gold medal and nine others received bronze medals.

"Obviously, SASMO has a high level of competition and aims to expand the thinking potential of students who join the test and helps them improve in maths and critical thinking skills," the ministry said.

The World International School Cambodia congratulated its students on winning gold and bronze medals at the international level.

"We are very proud of our brothers and sisters and we admire their ability and intelligence. The school firmly believes that our students will become a strong foundation for a great family society and human resource in participating in the development of our nation," the school board said. VOUN DARA

Tea Banh to attend Defence Ministers' meeting

Voun Dara

MINISTER of National Defence Tea Banh will virtually attend the 15th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the 8th ADMM-Plus meeting where ASEAN defence ministers meet with representatives from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the Russian Federation and the US on June 15-16.

In a press release on June 15, the defence ministry said Tea Banh led a delegation to attend this meeting at the invitation of Halbi bin Mohammad Yusof, the Minister of Defence of Brunei.

"At the meeting, Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh will participate in the adoption of the Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration by ASEAN's defence ministers in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the ASEAN defence ministers meeting together to ensure preparedness for the future peace and prosperity of ASEAN," the press release said.

Banh will exchange views on regional and international environments and security at the ADMM-Plus conference, the press release said.

Banh will also attend some additional informal meetings with China held separately from the ADMM conference. ■

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA NATION RELIGION KING

National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development Secretariat (NCDDS)

Request for Expression of Interest of Consulting Firms (EXTENSION)

Assignment	: Designing Online Web Application (OWP)
Project Title	: Support to Direct Access Entity in Cambodia to meet accreditation Conditions
Project Number	: KHM-RS-005
Duty Station	: NCDD Secretariat
Duration	: 180 Days

Background

The National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD) is an inter-ministerial committee established in 2008 to implement the Law on Administrative Management of the Capital, Provinces, Municipalities, Districts and Khans (2008), Law on Administrative Management of Commune/Sangkat and D&D reform policy through formulation of the national program on sub-national democratic development.

The NCDD is the first Direct Access Entity (DAE) accredited for Cambodia in November 2019 to Green Climate Fund (GCF), with an essential role to channel climate change grants to sub-national level (provinces, districts and communes) and the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) between the NCDD and GCF was signed on 8 May 2020.

As a part of the Stage 2 accreditation review assessment, the GCF Accreditation Panel (GCF AP) reviewed NCDD documents to be fully or partially met the GCF basic fiduciary standards. The goal of the readiness support is that NCDDS meets the accreditation conditions and fully performs its role and responsibilities as DAE and to produce a high-quality pipeline for GCF.

With regard to above task, there are two systems need to develop to support the GCF project activities as the following outputs:

- Online Complaint Handling System (CHS)
- Online Grant Award and Information Disclosure System (GAIDS)

The NCDDS seeks a qualified firm to develop Online Complaint Handling System (CHS) and Online Grant Award and Information Disclosure System (GAIDS) as mentioned in TOR.

Qualifications and Experience Requirements of the Firms

- At least 5 years' experience in managing data systems or developing similar system.
- Designing the dashboard system for data visualization and report engine adaptation
- Developing multiple system integration for any complaint system is a plus.
- Has strong presence in Cambodia.
- Has registered as required by Cambodia law.
- Demonstrate ability to establish and maintain strong working relationships with colleagues from different sectors.
- Experiences working with government counterparts and international organization and/or development partners.
- Should be able to work in a multicultural and multidisciplinary team environment and with the ability and willingness to travel inside Cambodia, as necessary.

Instruction for Application:

Interested firms are kindly requested to provide their Expression of Interest and organization profile indicating technical skills, experience of technical skills related job. The Firms/NGOs can download detail TOR from the NCDD website: www.ncdd.gov.kh/jobsprocurement. Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below by sealed envelope stating that **Expression of Interest** on Designing Online Web Application **OR** send email their **EOI in PDF file with protected password**, no later than **24th June 2021 (Before 10:00 am)**.

- NCDD Secretariat, Building T, Procurement Office, 1st floor, Ministry of Interior's compound, Norodom Boulevard, Khan Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. Attention to H.E Ngan Chamroeun, Head of NCDD Secretariat.
- Email: chankhan@ncdd.gov.kh
- Tell: 023 720 038/ 023 720 061/017258889

Only short-listed firms will be requested to Technical proposal and Financial Proposal.

National

Wildlife-friendly IBIS Rice project growing

Voun Dara

THE wildlife-friendly rice project implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS Cambodia), which was started in 2008 in Preah Vihear province, has expanded to three more provinces as of this month – Stung Treng, Ratanakiri and Monduliri.

The IBIS Rice project has 1,500 smallholder farmers growing rice using wildlife-friendly methods.

The Ministry of Environment has given its full-throated support to this project, which uses a sustainable supply chain to support conservation, protection of wildlife and a reduction in poverty for the communities involved.

Phan Sithan, community technical adviser at WCS, was accompanying ministry secretary of state Neth Pheaktra to inspect the project's rice cultivation in Krala Peas village of Prey Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary on June 10 that the wildlife-friendly rice project programme first implemented in 2008 in Tmatboey commune in 11 villages.

"We have now implemented the rice project in Tmatboey commune in 14 villages. We have just expanded to three more villages this year. We have also expanded this project to Stung Treng, Ratanakiri and Monduliri provinces," Sithan said.

He said that when the project first started in Preah Vihear province, only about 150 families participated and now there were around 600 families involved with the rice cultivation project there.

According to Sithan, the project's products have sold well in 2020 and early 2021, when the organisation bought more than 900 tonnes of rice from 11 villages in the commune.

After implementing the proj-



A farmer participates in the IBIS Rice project in Preah Vihear province's Chhep district. YOUSOS APDOULRASHIM

ect, three additional villages were trained by the WCS team in rice cultivation techniques and provided with specific contracts to ensure that their rice would be bought from them after planting at an above market value.

However, farmers who agreed to implement this project must also comply with the conditions set out in the contract before the organisation buys their rice.

"People are not allowed to clear forest land, they are not allowed to cut down trees, not allowed to use any kind of chemical pesticides and there is no hunting or trapping of

wild animals. If they do not follow the contract properly, the organisation will not accept the rice produced," he said.

During the visit, Pheaktra stated that the environment ministry has prepared policies and concrete plans for the economic development of the protected area community to help bring prosperity to the region.

"The Ministry of Environment highly values WCS's IBIS Rice project. It uses sustainable supply chains to support the conservation and protection of wildlife and it contributes to poverty reduction," he said.

According to Pheaktra, the project

has been of great benefit to conservation work, especially the conservation of the endangered giant ibis and the white-shouldered ibis. In addition, the IBIS Rice project has contributed to the protection of natural resources generally and the conservation of biodiversity in Cambodia.

He said that after starting the project to plant wildlife-friendly rice in Preah Vihear province, it has now been extended to several natural resource protection areas in Cambodia with 1,500 smallholder farmers participating in this project.

"The rice that the farmers cultivate is of good quality and is sold at

a price 50 per cent above the market price. This is because the people respect the principles of natural resource conservation," he said.

He said that currently, wildlife-friendly and organic products are sold by the Ibis Rice Conservation Company (IRCC), with the Wildlife Conservation Association responsible for purchasing and selling the rice products to national and international markets.

Preah Vihear provincial deputy governor Sou Serey said that the provincial administration supported the establishment of this project to develop wildlife-friendly rice because it contributed to improving the lives of people in the community. It's one step towards helping increase the income of farmers in addition to traditional farming.

"The market for this rice is easy to find. Producing this kind of rice is fast with high yields and it sells at a price that helps improve their livelihoods. This type of rice takes three months to grow and then it can be sold," he said.

According to the deputy governor, rice cultivation still depends heavily upon the amount of rainfall. If there is not enough rain, people's rice yields will decline.

He said that the provincial administration is looking for ways to solve these problems by having enough irrigation water for farming.

Lam Chhean, 65, a farmer participating in the Ibis Rice Project in Krala Peas village of Prey Preah Roka Wildlife Sanctuary, said that after hearing about it from the WCS, the villagers decided to implement the project according to the WCS instructions.

"As long as we can grow this rice and follow the organisation guidelines, after harvesting they will come to buy from us at a price higher than normal rice. Last year, I sold this rice to them for 1,700 riel per kg," he said. ■

Roluos Lake in B bang developing into tourist resort

Nov Sivutha

THE Battambang Provincial Administration has announced that it has a project to develop Roluos Lake in Peam Ek commune's Takorm village of Ek

Phnom district with the goal of protecting the lake as a sustainable tourist resort and preventing encroachment.

Provincial deputy governor Soeum Bunrith told *The Post* on June 14 that the provincial

administration is leading the development of the lake in line with the vision of four directions of development around Battambang town.

He said the lake covers 10ha and was previously shallow. Having seen the situation, residents had asked the province for permission through the commune and district authorities to dig the lake deeper. The administration then allowed the district authorities to dig it deeper so that it could provide water for irrigating agricultural land.

However, once the lake's depth was increased without any measures to compensate for further flooding so the administration had planted trees around the lake to green the area and make it a recreational waterway since it lies close to town. The administration has plans to plant 1,600 more trees and turn the lake into a tourist attraction to improve the local economy.

"We've prepared to develop it into green cover – it has a good environment for planting trees, preparing recreation and sports facilities and market area. The development also contributes to the promotion of people's livelihoods when they increase their income by selling food, souvenirs and planting organic fruits and vegetables or taking tourists on a tour of this area," Bunrith said.



Provincial administration officials meet with villagers at Boeung Roluos in Ek Phnom district. SUPPLIED

Peam Ek commune chief Uong Saron welcomed the project, saying that over 100 families had previously been wary of it because they did not yet understand the project.

He added that they did not understand the situation clearly because originally they asked the administration to dig the lake deeper to irrigate their rice fields and after they did that then the administration prepared to develop it into a tourist resort without notifying them, so they reacted badly.

Now, however, the commune hall has helped them under-

stand more about the benefits of the project.

"When there was a fierce dispute, it was when the lake had been dug deeper and then surrounded with fencing, making it difficult to enter and exit the area. They said that we fenced it for sales to a private company. So, they reacted badly to that and we pulled down the fence to open entrances as requested by rice field owners," he said.

He added that the land in the area is now being cleared so it can be planted with trees and an office will be opened to sell plots of land. Tourists are

expected to increase gradually over time.

Bunrith said that the administration set a goal of developing out in all four directions – the southern town with Banan temple and its surrounding areas; the northern town with Ek Phnom Temple and areas around Roluos and Takorm lakes.

In addition, the administration in cooperation with local authorities continued to inspect and develop plans for the western side of town – Phnom Sampov Temple and its surrounding areas, and the eastern side of town with Baset Temple and its surrounding areas. ■



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 ssamoecun@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.

Fishing communities get funds

Orm Bunthoern

THE government continues to provide funding to 150 fishing communities in the amount of four million riel (\$1,000) each for community management and fisheries management, flood protection, patrols, conservation and management planning.

Eang Nam, head of the Boeung Be fishing community in Kampong Cham province's Kang Meas district, said he had just received information that in 2021 his fishing community would receive additional funding for fisheries conservation.

However, he confirmed that as of the afternoon of June 15, his community had not yet received any cash, but the Fisheries Administration did notify them of the funding increase.

According to Nam, the budget provided by the government is for the protection and conservation of fisheries by the community, but most activities beyond patrolling their territory had been curtailed due to Covid-19.

"The government has funded us these past two years, 2020 and 2021. Last year we patrolled and bought equipment like raincoats, flashlights, shoes, airbags, border markers and other things. This year we have all the necessary equipment but we are just patrolling for conservation purposes," he said.

Nam said that the most im-



Family fishing boat in Prek Toal village, Tonle Sap Lake, in Battambang province in 2017. The government continues to provide funding amounting to \$1,000 per family in 150 fishing communities. HONG MENEA

portant time to patrol was during the wet season because the area has six months of dry land and six months of water.

If there are no Covid-19 issues, then the community can hold monthly meetings and various outreach meetings so that the public can understand what's going on and help with the protection of fishery resources.

"Since the flood, we have been cooperating with the Fisheries Administration every month to patrol and crack down on crime with their guidance," he said.

Hong Hy, director of the department of administration and legislation of the fisheries administration, was quoted by the Ministry of

Information as saying that the project to improve fish farming around the Tonle Sap Lake was very important to the community there and that it would make encourage people to actively participate in the conservation breeding fish to improve the fisheries resources available there.

"Through community planning, this year the Fisheries Administration has provided financial support through the government's EU project. Last year the fishery community got four million riel in support at [Prime Minister Hun Sen's] recommendation," he said.

According to the information ministry, there are 516 fishing communities through-

out Cambodia. Last year, the government gave direct financial assistance to 100 fishing communities, while this year the government plans to help 150 fishing communities.

Keo Yada, a fish farmer in Siem Reap province, said on June 15 that the government's assistance to the fisheries sector was plentiful. However, she complained that fish farmers in Cambodia were having a hard time selling their produce due to fish imports.

"The goal of raising fish for sale every day is to meet local demand, but if importation is not properly controlled or smugglers import fish illegally by any means, it will affect the farmers and we will fail," she said.

Dolphin found dead in S Treng pleasance

Ry Sochan

A 180kg Irrawady dolphin in the Ochheuteal dolphin pleasance in Preah Rumkel commune of Stung Treng province's Borei O'Svay Sen Chey district was found dead on June 14, most likely from natural age-related causes.

Anlong Svay village chief Sorn Pan - who is also the head of river guards - told *The Post* on June 15 that the carcass was 230cm long. A fisherman found it while casting his net in the evening of June 14.

"It died on June 12 in the evening, because in the morning of June 13 we could not find it. On June 14 it was found dead," he said.

"The fisherman had cast his net that night and he found it and then reported it to the commune. Our guards went to inspect the scene," he said, adding that veterinary specialists had performed an autopsy on the dolphin.

"This is very regretful. There were only two dolphins and now one is gone with just one remaining," Pan said.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Cambodia) country director Seng Teak told *The Post* on June 15 that the dead dolphin was a female and there were no wounds or marks left on its body that would indicate foul play.

"Our team suspects that it may have died from aging.

It was maybe 25 to 30 years of age and the dolphins live from 20 to 30 years on average," he said.

He added that from at least 2017 onward there had been three dolphins in the Ochheuteal dolphin pleasance bordering Laos. Then in April 2021, a dolphin died. And now in June, another dolphin has died - meaning there is only one dolphin left there.

Teak continued that dolphins in the Ochheuteal pleasance upstream have never met with those in the Anlong Kampi pleasance downstream. So, it is concerning for the dolphin's reproduction and survival.

Teak said that due to problems related to sedimentary deposits, the dolphins have all gradually been dying over time. Prior to 2007, he said, the Ochheuteal dolphin pleasance had at least 15 dolphins.



The 180kg Irrawady dolphin was found dead in Stung Treng's Borei O'Svay Sen Chey district. INFORMATION MINISTRY

Grab your Uefa Euro 2020 Heineken goodies!

AFTER concluding another legendary season of the Uefa Champions League last month, Heineken continues to bring its fans another world-class football experience with Uefa Euro 2020.

As the official global sponsor of Uefa Euro 2020, Heineken invites Cambodia's football fans to celebrate the rivalry in this highly anticipated international football tournament.

To kick off Euro 2020, Heineken has introduced their "Enjoy the Rivalry" global campaign, which features a television commercial that captures the passionate fans who support their teams responsibly and the intense competition between the European teams in a lighthearted way.

Sixtieth anniversary

Euro 2020 will be hosted by 11 countries for the first time to celebrate the tournament's 60th anniversary, with the final to be played at Wembley Stadium in London on July 11.

With 24 nations battling it out to become the champions of Euro 2020,



the tournament kicked off on June 11.

The final will be played at 2am on the morning of July 12 Cambodian time.

"Our consumers are at

the heart of everything that we do.

"We know that Cambodians are very passionate about football and Heineken recognises that.

Hence, we are very excited to bring two world-class tournaments - the Uefa Champions League and Uefa Euro 2020 - to our consumers," said

Heineken Cambodia marketing director Loic de Laubriere.

From now until July 31, order a Heineken 12-can pack and receive

a complimentary limited-edition Heineken Euro 2020 water bottle and cap.

This promotion is available via online home delivery services including Nham24, Grab, Muuve and Foodpanda, as well as at selected Fairplus supermarkets.

Alternatively, buy a case of 24 Heineken cans or bottles from Aeon Mall 1 and 2, selected Lucky Supermarkets or Makro to receive two Heineken Euro 2020 water bottles.

You can also pick up a six-can or six-bottle pack of Heineken from Smile Shop, Kiwi Mart, Aeon MaxValue or Circle K and collect a complimentary Heineken cap.

There will be special promotions running at selected venues around Phnom Penh giving out limited edition Heineken Euro country jerseys with five exciting designs.

Heineken encourages fans to #SupportResponsibly by practising social distancing at all times and to remember that when you drink, never drive.

For more details about Heineken campaigns and promotions in Cambodia, follow our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/heineken

Business

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TRADING INFORMATION ON CAMBODIA SECURITIES EXCHANGE Date: June 15, 2021
Auction Trading Method (ATM)

NO	STOCK	CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW
1	ABC	16,220	16,200	16,240	16,200
2	GTI	4,260	4,340	4,340	4,260
3	PAS	14,760	14,640	14,880	14,640
4	PEPC	3,290	3,330	3,330	3,290
5	PPAP	15,020	15,020	15,080	15,000
6	PPSP	2,240	2,260	2,260	2,230
7	PWSA	7,200	7,220	7,260	7,180



Affordable finance set for women

May Kunmakara

USAID-FUNDED, Pact Cambodia-implemented Women Entrepreneurs Act (WE Act), Wing (Cambodia) Limited Specialised Bank and Boost Capital (Cambodia) Co Ltd will team up to provide affordable financial services and products to underserved young women entrepreneurs (YWE) in the Kingdom and increase access to finance.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed to this effect on June 15 – and witnessed by US ambassador to Cambodia W Patrick Murphy – aiming at providing better access to finance to young women entrepreneurs with micro- and small-scale businesses that often do not meet eligibility criteria set by formal financial service providers and have been adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Murphy emphasised that Cambodia's female entrepreneurs are important players in the Kingdom's economy. "Ensuring they have all the resources they need to succeed will benefit all Cambodians by encouraging the economic growth needed to mitigate the effects of the pandemic."



A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is signed on Tuesday to provide better access to finance to women entrepreneurs with micro- and small-scale businesses that often do not meet eligibility criteria set by formal financial service providers. SUPPLIED

Pact Cambodia country director and WE Act chief of party Sabine Joukes said WE Act is proud that two very different private sector partners took up the challenge of designing products specifically addressing the two main issues of accessing finance – as regular microfinance institutions (MFI) ask for registration and collateral – leaving

many women entrepreneurs without access to affordable financing.

"We thank Boost and Wing Bank for their willingness to partner with us to the benefit of women entrepreneurs," said Joukes.

Partnering with the two digital financial services companies to design targeted products and services, WE Act

will expand opportunities for young women entrepreneurs to access affordable financial resources, she said.

She added that the initiative will offer preferential terms on productive loans to over 500 young women entrepreneurs and provide them with ongoing financial literacy resources to enable them to manage their businesses.

Wing Bank deputy CEO Hor Bunthe said: "Through this partnership, we will be able to offer financial assistance to women entrepreneurs across Cambodia who would otherwise be neglected, helping them to focus on growing and improving their business despite the Covid-19 pandemic."

"Wing Bank is committed to our vision of providing every Cambodian with convenient access to financial services relevant to their daily lives."

Boost and Wing Bank will offer a unique loan-services catering for young women entrepreneurs who have unregistered businesses and do not have collateral while still offering a highly competitive interest rate.

Boost co-founder Lucinda Revell said: "These hard-working female entrepreneurs want to access financing to grow their businesses. Applying for a loan from anywhere and at any time with our technology makes it easy and convenient for them to get a loan from an MFI they can trust to support their business needs."

"Through our MFI partners, we have already enabled over \$1 million in loans disbursed, and we're excited to further support women-led businesses."

Three more factories get CDC stamps of approval

Hin Pisei

THE Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) has approved three garment-related investment projects worth nearly \$15 million and expected to generate more than 3,200 jobs, according to a press release.

The CDC said in a June 14 press release that it will issue final registration certificates for JAK Garment Co Ltd's \$2.4 million factory in Sitbou commune's Kampong Pring of Kandal province's Takhmao town and Premier Tech Garment (Cambodia) Co Ltd's \$4.3 million venture in Sophy commune's Trapaing Chhouk village of northern Takeo province's Bati district, which are anticipated to create 1,053 and 1,748 jobs, respectively.

Also receiving the go-ahead was Chanco Textiles (Cambodia) Co Ltd's \$8.2 million garment, blanket, pillow and pillowcase plant in Tuol Sangke I commune's Chong Khsach village of Phnom Penh's Russey Keo district, which is predicted to bring 424 jobs.

Cambodia Chamber of Commerce vice-president Lim Heng previously told *The Post* that favourable geographical and political circumstances had led to a steady influx of investment in the Kingdom despite the global economic crisis stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic.

He attributed the surge of foreign interest in investing in Cambodia to a number of key factors such as the ongoing Sino-US trade dispute, favourable Cambodian investment laws, round-the-clock development of road infrastructure and windfall from the political situation in Myanmar.

"Each new investment will give Cambodia a stronger pace of economic growth," Heng said.

The CDC approved 238 investment projects worth a total of \$8.2 billion last year, down 12 per cent from 2019, it said in a press statement.

Overall, the decline is still at an acceptable level compared to the UN Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) forecasts for foreign direct investment flows in the world.

PWSA records 15.7% higher net profit in Q1

May Kunmakara

STOCK-LISTED utility Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PWSA) reported strong business performance in the first quarter (Q1) of the year, despite the effect the spread of the novel coronavirus has had on economic activity.

In a financial report filed to the Cambodia Securities Exchange (CSX) on June 15, PWSA reported net profit of 30.7 billion riel (\$7.5 million) for Q1, increasing by 4.1 billion riel or 15.67 per cent quarter-on-quarter.

"The increase in net profit in the first quarter of 2021 was mainly due to the rise in finance income-net, amounting to 6.1 billion riel or 361.86 per cent quarter-on-quarter," it said.

CSX Market Operations Department director Kim Sophanita told *The Post* on June 15 that household and commercial demand for clean water remains despite the coronavirus outbreak's effects on businesses.

"There's no doubt for PWSA's good financial performance. Its sale of water to household and commercial clients, which are the main source of revenue, stands strong regardless of the Covid-19 crisis. This is its absolute advantage of doing a monopoly business, selling basic consumption goods to serve the daily lives of people," she said.

In full-year 2020, PWSA reported 324,367,856,000 riel in revenue, up 107,871,040,000 riel or 49.83 per cent from 2019. Full-year net-profit came in at 88,351,845,000 riel, gaining 55,059,932,000 riel or 165.39 per cent year-on-year, according to PWSA.

PWSA on February 1 broke ground on the \$380 million Bakheng Water Treatment Plant on the northeastern outskirts of the capital in response to rising demand, offering new investment growth potential for the company.

The construction of the plant will be carried out in two phases. The first is slated to be completed by the end of next

year, with water production following soon after at 195,000 cubic metres per day. Scheduled to be delivered by the end

of 2023, the second phase will add another 195,000 cubic metres to the facility's daily capacity for a total of 390,000.



Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PWSA) reported net profit of 30.7 billion riel (\$7.5 million) for the first quarter of this year, up by 15.67 per cent over the previous quarter. POST STAFF

Royal Group to dredge sand

Thou Vireak

LOCAL conglomerate Royal Group of Companies Ltd has received in-principle approval from the government to dredge sand in the Prek Sre Ambel River in northern Koh Kong province to fill some of the areas in the company's Botum Sakor Special Economic Zone development project and 700MW coal-fired power station.

Ministry of Mines and Energy director-general for Mineral Resources Yos Monirath stressed that this was not a commercial dredging operation, but merely government consent to use the sand and mud to fill parts of the two developments.

He told *The Post*: "The company requested only to dredge mixed sand [and mud sediment] from Prek Sre Ambel to fill in the development sites, and they've received in-principle [approval] from the government, because they also own a coal-fired power factory and special economic zone where more soil is needed to fill the lower portions."

Botum Sakor Energy Co Ltd, a subsidiary of the Royal Group, obtained the go-ahead from the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) on December 8 for the coal-fired power station in Koh Kong's Botum Sakor district.

And according to a sub-decree issued on August 6, the government has allocated 168ha of land in Botum Sakor National Park to the Royal Group to build the power plant.

The Royal Group also received government approval to build the special economic zone (SEZ) on 100sq km in the national park, in Botum Sakor district's southern-most Ta Noun and Thma Sar communes.

Provincial deputy governor Ouk Pheaktra and Ministry of Environment secretary of state Srun Darith on June



Ministry of Environment secretary of state Srun Darith (fifth left) and Koh Kong provincial deputy governor Ouk Pheaktra (sixth left) visit the site to be dredged in the province's Thma Bang district, on Friday. OUK PHEAKTRA VIA FACEBOOK

11 inspected the site to be dredged in northern Koh Kong's Thma Bang district, and put in a request for the operation, with the condition that the sediment removed be used for the two projects.

Pheaktra said: "The inspection of the physical location was to prepare a joint minute for the management to review and approve."

He asked the company to perform a clear-cut socio-economic impact study and properly address unintended consequences and compensation for project-affected property, land owners and people, with emphasis on improving the living standards of locals by recruiting workers from the site.

"The company must also take care

of the environment, natural resources and biodiversity in and near the investment project site and must comply with the guidelines of the Royal Government, the Ministry of Environment, and other normative acts that have been approved, and cooperate with local authorities, if at all necessary," he said.

Cambodia exported \$2.9 million worth of sand in 2019, down 73.9 per cent from \$11.2 million in 2018, according to data presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

But nowadays the government does not allow the export of sand, focusing on investment in domestic processing rather than the export of raw materials, according to Monirath.

Sakhon: 'Safe veg' deal catalyst for Japan firm

Continued from page 1

the plants are prohibited. If our people consume it unlawfully, outside of use in the health sector, it'd create social issues," he claimed.

On March 8, Toronto-listed Asia Green Biotechnology Corp (AGB) and Prek Leap National Institute of Agriculture in Phnom Penh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to advance production techniques of medicinal and commercial crops.

"The purpose of this agreement is to allow AGB and Prek Leap to collaborate in the pursuit and execution of a business development plan tied to the evaluation and implementation of seed and plant production techniques relating to hemp and other plants with medicinal, practical or other benefits," AGB said.

"[AGB] continues to successfully implement its business plan in Southeast Asia with the execution of the MoU ... [and] Prek Leap will play a leading role in the research and development of industrial and other varieties of hemp using Cambodian heritage varieties and varieties provided by AGB and its partners in order to obtain suitable varieties that can be utilised for biofuel, fibre, food, foundation and medical purposes.

"The partners intend to study cultivation systems and techniques for production and industrial use of hemp in Cambodia with the aim of applying the knowledge gained directly to current agricultural practises employed in the country," it said.

Growing marijuana in Cambodia may be illegal and punishable by law, but according to Yamato Green, Thailand and South Korea now allow the cultivation and processing of marijuana for export to the US and Japan under "technical and scientific contractual terms".

In 2018, Thailand became the first country in Southeast Asia to legalise marijuana cultivation, specifically to serve the health, cosmetics and food sectors, but its recreational use remains forbidden, according to Bloomberg News.

Yamato Green will start its activities step-by-step after signing an MoU with the ministry in July, according to the minister.

The MoU in question is on the cooperation, investment and development of the Kingdom's 'safe vegetable' sub-sector for the domestic market and export, and came as part of the government's ambitions to boost vegetable exports and take advantage of the EU market, which issued Vietnam and Thailand "red cards" temporarily blocking their exports to the bloc.



RE-NOTICE OF TENDER For Construction Work

Date: 16 June, 2021

- The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Cambodia Office invites prospective bidders for the Construction of "Project for Establishment of Business Incubation System between University and Industry in Cambodia".
- The Project is to be constructed with the grant aid of the Government of Republic of Korea

Brief of Bidding

- Bid Title:** Project for Establishment of Business Incubation System between University and Industry in Cambodia
- Contract Duration:** 18 months from the effective(contract) date
- Estimated Budget:** Approx. USD 2,681,250 (VAT excluded)
- Summary of Construction Services**
 - Type: New construction
 - Construction outline
 - Gross Floor Area: approx. 2,299.26 m²
 - Mechanical Room, Electrical Room & Generator Room, Meeting hall, ICT lab, Seminar Room, Septic Tank and etc.
 - Construction Duration: 18 months from the contract of construction
 - Location: Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA
- Time zone:** Cambodia time

Employer: Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) CAMBODIA Office

Bid Type: International Open Competitive Bidding with Qualification

Receipt and submission of tender documents

Interested applicants should obtain the bidding documents by visiting KOICA Cambodia Office or sending E-mail till June 30, 2021, 17:00.

Bidding documents can be received by E-mail.

All documents submitted must be notarized.

(Submission quantity is specified in the RFP distributed.)

Selection of the Successful Bidders:

Selection by Lowest Bidding Price with Eligibility Evaluation.

Only bidders eligible to bid for [Bid Eligibility] below are eligible to bid.

Eligibility Evaluation consist of Bid Price Evaluation of Seventy (70) Points and Performance Ability Evaluation of Thirty (30) Points. Total of One hundred (100) points

The details of the successful bidder selection are described in the tender distribution document.

The Request For Proposals (RFP):

RFP is provided as part of the Bid distribution document.

Instructions and Schedule:

[Bid Eligibility]

As of the tender submission date, a company that has completed the registration of local subsidiaries Cambodia and is capable of carrying out construction business, and a company that submits evidence to licensed

- contractor (a company with a technical qualification or holder)
- A company that has more than 2,000,000 USD in completion performance of single construction of business facilities over the past 5 years (2016 ~ 2020). (However, at least one project meets the requirement is acceptable.)

[Pre-Bid Meeting]

- A Pre-Bid Meeting shall not be held and shall be substituted by the distribution of tender documents.
- Site Visit: Site Visit is not required

[Bid]

- The distribution of bids and answers to questions about bids will be held from 16 June 2021 to 17:00 on 30 June 2021.
- Place for Bid Submission: at KOICA Cambodia Office
- Bid Closing (Submission): July 9, 2021, 17:00 at KOICA Cambodia Office
- Bid Opening: July 12, 2021, 14:00 at KOICA Cambodia Office

Currency of Financial Proposal (Bid Price): United States Dollar (USD)

Currency of Contract: United States Dollar(USD)

Consortium or Joint Venture is NOT allowed for this Bid.

- Price proposal shall be equal or less than the 'Estimated Price' and equal or more than the 'Minimum Price'. Any bid exceeding the above limitation may result in rejection of its bid.

'Estimated Price' will be announced at the Bid Opening by a random draw and 'Minimum Price' will be determined based on the announced 'Estimated Price'.

Detailed information on the selection of successful bidders, eligibility assessment, 'estimated price' decision, and 'minimum price' decision will be explained in the tender documentation distributed.

- Price proposal by bidders and final contract price shall be exclusive of VAT.

As this bid is a part of ODA (Official Development Assistance) project between the Government of Republic of Korea and Kingdom of Cambodia, this project benefits exemption of Value Add Tax(VAT) according to MOU between countries, and the Record of Discussion (RD) between KOICA and MoEYS. Thus, KOICA Cambodia office is not responsible for any VAT discharge or refund. All inquiries regarding VAT exemption or tax refund shall be referred to MoEYS in case needed.

- The Request for Proposal (RFP) includes following documents but not limited to:

Note: RFP including below documents will be provided to the bidder when distributing the bidding documents.
Instructions to Bidders

Conditions of Contract including Contract Form

Bidding Forms

Attachment (Technical Specifications, Design Drawings, Unpriced Bills of Quantity(BOQ-the statement must be submitted at contract)

- Language of Proposal: All documents shall be in English except the documents delivered by the government administration, bank, educational and professional organizations for the proof of Bid Evaluation Criteria.

- The KOICA Cambodia Office requires that Bidders and Contractors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, KOICA;

(a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question.

(b) will recognize such a Contractors as ineligible, for a period determined by KOICA

- The KOICA Cambodia Office will receive sealed price proposals from bidders.

- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of amount equivalent to

Two point Five percent (2.5%) of the "Bid Price" with its guarantee period from no later than Bid Closing Date (before July 9, 2021) to not earlier than Thirty Days (30Days) after the Bid Opening Date (after July 10, 2021)

*Note: For more information regarding the submission and restoration of Bid Security will be included in RFP and its supplementary documents.

- KOICA Cambodia Office shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids

- All bidders are expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms and specifications of the bidding documents. Failure to furnish all information required by the bidding documents or submission of a bid not substantially responsive to the bidding documents in every respect shall be at the Bidder's risk and may result in the rejection of the bid.

- Contact Information

KOICA Cambodia Office

Address: Boritra Building 4th Floors, #61-64, Preah Norodom Blvd(41), Corner of St.306, Sangkat Boeng Keng Kang 1, Khan Chamkar Mon, Phnom Penh Cambodia.

Tel: +855 23 964 150/1/3, Fax: +855 023 964 152

E-mail: africanjune@koica.go.kr / thydakolca@gmail.com

pjwoo312@heerim.com

Attention: Kim Jun Su, Deputy Country Director of KOICA

Cambodia Office (bidding no.2021-04)

Business



Singapore's gross domestic product (GDP) may expand by 6.5 per cent this year, higher than the 5.8 per cent estimated in March, after the economy grew by 1.3 per cent in the first quarter, when respondents of a Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) survey had forecast a 1.1 per cent contraction. THE STRAITS TIMES

Economists expect S'pore GDP to grow 6.5% in 2021

PRIVATE-SECTOR analysts have raised their forecast for Singapore's economic growth this year to above the Government's four-to-six per cent range, despite the latest round of tighter Covid-19 restrictions.

The city-state's gross domestic product (GDP) may expand by 6.5 per cent this year, higher than the 5.8 per cent estimated in March, according to the latest quarterly survey released by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) on June 14.

This comes after the economy grew by 1.3 per cent in the first quarter, when survey respondents had forecast a 1.1 per cent contraction.

Survey respondents expect the economy to grow 15 per cent year on year in the April-to-June quarter, a robust jump off Singapore's worst-ever quarter on record last year when GDP plunged 13.2 per cent.

The forecast for growth next year has also been raised to four per cent from 3.8 per cent tipped in the March survey.

Analysts said the Covid-19 restrictions rolled out in Singapore in recent weeks are not expected to weigh too heavily on the overall recovery picture.

CIMB Private Banking economist Song Seng Wun pointed to the momentum seen from the stronger-than-expected performance in the first quarter, and noted that most sectors in Singapore have still been able to operate despite the tighter measures under the heightened alert phase.

It is largely the consumer-facing sectors like retail and food and beverage which have been hit, he added.

OCBC Bank head of treasury research and strategy Selena Ling highlighted that the low base seen last year in addition to the expectation that tighter measures will be gradually lifted also contributed to the view that any adverse performance during this period is only a "temporary speed bump to growth recovery".

"Moreover, the vaccination pace has been stepped up and vaccine supply is expected to resolve in the coming period," she said.

Effective containment of the Covid-19 outbreak topped the list of factors that could see the economists raising their growth outlook for Singapore.

They also flagged the stronger-than-expected manufac-

turing sector performance, driven in part by robust global demand for electronics, as a big upside factor.

The prospect of reopening borders to international travel could also be a boon to the economy.

At the same time, deterioration in the pandemic situation and tighter public health measures as a result was the top downside risk to the growth outlook.

The economists polled were also concerned about geopolitical risks, including those stemming from Sino-US tensions, and a slower-than-expected labour market recovery, which could weigh on private consumption.

OCBC Bank's Lingsaid: "The main downside risk is if the borders don't reopen, then manpower costs will continue to be the extra whammy for the construction and other labour-intensive sectors."

This is in addition to the periodic setbacks that new Covid-19 variants and resurgence in infections that could disrupt economic activities, she added.

The survey predicts a lower unemployment rate of 2.7 per cent at year-end, down from the

2.9 per cent forecast in March.

The key manufacturing sector is expected to provide an important boost to Singapore's economy, with economists hiking their 2021 growth forecast for the sector to 8.3 per cent, way above the 4.7 per cent predicted in March.

The forecast for non-oil domestic exports growth was also raised, to 7.5 per cent from 6.9 per cent, reflecting upbeat sentiments for global trade.

Meanwhile, predictions for construction, accommodation and food services – sectors which have been weighed down by Covid-19 restrictions – were lowered slightly for the full year.

Inflation, measured by the consumer price index for all items, is expected to come in at 1.4 per cent for the year, higher than the median forecast of 0.9 per cent in March.

The median forecast for core inflation, which excludes volatile accommodation and private transport costs, was raised to 0.8 per cent from 0.7 per cent previously.

The survey was sent out on May 25. It reflects the views of 24 respondents and not MAS' own forecasts. THE STRAITS TIMES

(SINGAPORE)/ASIA NEWS NETWORK ■

Alibaba, BPEA, partners complete \$400M stake sale in Masan retail arm

HO CHI MINH City-listed Masan Group Corp (HoSE: MSN) on June 14 announced the completion of a private issuance of a 5.5 per cent stake in The CrownX Corporation to a consortium led by Alibaba Group and Baring Private Equity Asia (BPEA) for a cash consideration of \$400 million.

The deal was first announced on May 18.

The CrownX is Masan's integrated consumer retail arm that consolidates its interests in Masan Consumer Holdings and VinCommerce (VCM).

The transaction implies a pre-money valuation of \$6.9 billion for The CrownX, or \$93.5 per share. Masan now owns 80.2 per cent in it.

The formation of The CrownX last year brought together two industry leaders to form a consumer and retail powerhouse.

The transaction marks a shared vision across the company's shareholders that The CrownX has the potential to establish Vietnam's first tech-enabled consumer ecosystem and expand its reach to serve consumers nationwide.

Masan Group CEO Danny Le said: "This strategic partnership will accelerate our ability to achieve our goal of transforming The CrownX into a one-stop shop to serve consumers' everyday needs, whether offline or online, 'Point of Life'.

"Our immediate priority is to modernise Vietnam's grocery market and develop an unparalleled consumer proposition from assortment to shopping experience.

"I strongly believe that this partnership will reduce our learning curve and enable us to reach our endgame more efficiently and effectively."

BPEA managing director Janice Leow said: "We are delighted to be partnering with Masan and Alibaba, and believe this strategic investment has the potential to supercharge The CrownX's growth in a nascent retail market and create the largest consumer ecosystem in Vietnam.

"As a long-term investor in the country, we think Vietnam has a long runway for growth supported by strong macroeconomic tailwinds and

attractive demographics.

"The CrownX also has tremendous digital potential, particularly in e-commerce and data analytics. BPEA prioritises digital transformation in all of our portfolio companies, and we look forward to working with the company in its next stage of growth."

As part of Alibaba's investment, The CrownX will now partner with Lazada to build the company's digital presence and capabilities and accelerate the offline-to-online (O2O) market in Vietnam.

VCM will enter a strategic cooperation agreement with Lazada, Alibaba's Southeast Asian e-commerce platform.

It will be the grocery retailer of choice on Lazada in Vietnam.

The parties will share know-how, co-develop analytics to develop grocery as a key online category, transform VCM's offline stores into pick-up points for online orders, and explore synergies between the respective parties' logistics platforms for service and cost optimisation for consumers.

Grocery accounts for 50 per cent of Vietnam's retail market and 25 per cent of consumer wallet share and is of essential daily use, but online penetration is still nascent.

Masan targets The CrownX's online gross merchandise accounting for at least five per cent of its total sales in the near future.

Masan is also in advanced discussions for a further strategic investment of \$300-400 million in The CrownX from other investors, and these are expected to be wrapped up this year.

VIET NAM NEWS/ASIA NEWS NETWORK ■



The CrownX is Masan's integrated consumer retail arm that consolidates its interests in Masan Consumer Holdings and VinCommerce. MASAN

Int'l investors delve into offshore Philippine mining



Several investors from at least 12 countries are looking at the possibility of tapping offshore mining opportunities in the Philippines. RSCMME.COM

A NUMBER of foreign companies have signified interest to invest in the Philippine's offshore mining sector, encouraged by the recent issuance of Executive Order No 130 that lifted the moratorium on the approval of new mining permits.

The Offshore Mining Chamber of the Philippines (OMCP) over the weekend said several investors from at least 12 countries were looking at the possibility of tapping offshore mining opportunities in the Southeast Asian archipelagic country, and had gotten in touch with their member-companies.

Among these companies are

Primetals Technologies of Austria; Duro Felguera of Spain; Nakanishi Shipbuilding, Kurimoto Iron Works, Kansai Design Co and JTrade Co in Japan.

Also interested to look at prospects here are funders from Switzerland as well as offshore mining-related companies from Malta, Australia, mainland China, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Japan.

The OMCP is an organisation founded in 2019, comprising of seven offshore mining companies that include Agbiag Mining and Development Corp, Cagayan Blue Ocean Offshore Aquamarine Services Corp, JDVC Resources Corp, Northern Orient Resources Develop-

ment Corp, Advanced Technology Resources Mining and Business Process Technology Provider Corp, Mineralogic Resources Corp and Royal Line Mining Corp.

To date, only JDVC has the go-ahead from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to operate a large-scale offshore mining operation in the country.

Under the mineral production sharing agreement, it can mine within an area of 1,903ha in the seabed off Cagayan. Commercial operations are expected to start this year.

With the expected influx of foreign investments into the mining industry, OMCP chair

Gary Olivar said the DENR should start the review of its mine tenement ownership systems and processes to avoid land banking, or the practice of aggregating properties for future sale or development.

"Land banking can occur offshore as well as onshore, and must be curbed in the greater interest of spurring this new industry to contribute to the country's recovery," he said.

The group also urged the government to enhance its policing and regulation powers to ensure that only legitimate offshore mining companies will be given permits.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER/ASIA NEWS NETWORK ■

World

'Dawn of a new day' in Israel after close of Netanyahu era

ISRAEL'S new prime minister, Naftali Bennett, got down to work on June 14 at the head of a precarious coalition government that faces stark challenges, after 12 years under right-wing Benjamin Netanyahu.

The watershed moment saw an ideologically disparate eight-party bloc, ranging from right to left to Arab Islamic conservatives, band together in parliament on June 13 to unseat the battling veteran known as Bibi by a wafer-thin margin of 60 votes to 59.

Within hours Bennett, a tech millionaire and former special forces commander, was stepping into his new role, speaking with US President Joe Biden and receiving a briefing from national security adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat.

And later on June 14, the 49-year-old's first full day as Israel's leader, he met his one-time ally Netanyahu as new ministers marked the beginning of Israel's 36th government at the presidential residence.

In a statement, Biden said: "I look forward to working with Prime Minister Bennett to strengthen all aspects of the close and enduring relationship between our two nations. Israel has no better friend than the United States."

In response, Bennett tweeted: "I look forward to working with you to strengthen the ties between our two nations."

But the potential for strain appeared on the horizon – Biden has encouraged the negotiation of a new nuclear deal with Iran, which Bennett promised in his speech to parliament he would staunchly oppose.

That vow was among the plans Bennett laid out that could be heard over rancorous jeers and shouts of "liar" and "criminal" from the Knesset (Israel's unicameral parliament), where many right-wing members are furious he joined forces with coalition architect Yair Lapid, a centrist.

Lapid, a 57-year-old former television presenter, is set to take over the premiership after two years serving as foreign minister – if the fragile coalition manages to hold onto power that long.

After four inconclusive elections in under two years, Bennett said the "time has come for different leaders, from all parts of the population, to stop, to stop this madness".

Whether the bloc manages to keep power was an afterthought for many Israelis on the night of June 13, with thousands clamouring into the streets to celebrate Bibi's demise.

During his record-long tenure, Netanyahu became practically synonymous



Israelis celebrate the passing of a Knesset vote confirming a new coalition government during a rally in coastal city of Tel Aviv on Sunday. AFP

with Israeli politics, and for some young people the only leader they had known.

"This morning is the dawn of a new day," said Ben Caspit, a Netanyahu biographer, in a column published in the Israeli outlets *Maariv* and *Walla*.

"It is a morning of hard, sometimes Sisyphean work, to rebuild the ruins. Netanyahu and Bibi-ism were not defeated by the left or by the right, but by sanity, or at least by the yearning for sanity," said Caspit.

After meeting his successor on June 14, Netanyahu spoke with opposition party leaders.

"We have a strong opposition" determined "to bring down this dangerous left-wing government, this scam government that will fall quickly", he said.

"The only thing that unites them is hatred, rejection and thirst for power," said the hawkish veteran who is mired in a legal battle involving corruption charges, which he denies but that could see him imprisoned.

On June 15, Israel's new government was due to face what could already be its first test – a nationalist "March of the Flags", which had been scrapped a week prior because of its route through flash-point zones of annexed east Jerusalem, was expected to proceed.

The risk of unrest has been exacerbated as far-right figures denounce restrictions meant to avoid scuffles in Jerusalem's Old City, with police urging marchers to avoid tense areas.

The Knesset approval of a new government comes at a time of simmering

tensions with the Palestinians, and just a month after an 11-day war between Israel and the Hamas militants who rule the Gaza Strip.

Leaders of the blockaded coastal enclave have said political developments in Israel don't "change the nature of our relationship".

"It's still a colonising and occupying power that we must resist," said Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoun.

The West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA) lauded Netanyahu's departure, but lashed out at the new government.

Netanyahu's ousting closes the chapter on one of the "worst periods in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict", said PA Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh, even as he dismissed the new Israeli government as being as "bad" as the previous one.

Israel's arch-foe Iran also dismissed the significance of the change of government.

"I don't think that the policy of the occupation regime in Jerusalem will change with the arrival of this person or the departure of that person," said foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh.

On the streets of Tel Aviv, there was optimism about the new government.

"There is a sense of renewal in the air ... what used to be is over now and a new door is being opened," Veren, a resident of Ramat Gan, told AFP.

But others said they would not vote for Bennett again after he joined forces with rivals. "I voted for him and he stole my vote. I feel cheated," said Yossi. AFP

Pacific islanders 'likely found Antarctica first'

POLYNESIAN seafarers likely reached Antarctica hundreds of years before the Western explorers usually credited with discovering the frozen continent, a new study has concluded.

New Zealand researchers scoured so-called "grey literature" – including oral records, historic indigenous artworks and non-academic sources – looking for links between Maori people and Antarctica.

"When you put it together, it's really clear, there's a very long history of connection to Antarctica," said project leader Priscilla Wehi from New Zealand's government research institute Manaaki Whenua.

"We found connection to Antarctica and its waters [has] been occurring since the earliest traditional voyaging, and later through participation in European-led voyaging and exploration, contemporary scientific research, fishing, and more, for centuries."

Polynesian seafarers are widely regarded as some of history's greatest sailors, navigating vast distances between Pacific islands with pin-point precision on their double-hulled waka, or canoes.

The research, published last week in the *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, found they reached Antarctica long before the first West-

erners in the 1820s.

The researchers believe the first voyage to Antarctica waters even pre-dates Maori arrival in New Zealand in the 14th century.

"We find Polynesian narratives of voyaging between the islands include voyaging into Antarctic waters by Hui Te Rangiora and his crew on the vessel Te Ivi O Atea, likely in the early seventh century," Wehi said.

"These navigational accomplishments are widely acknowledged."

Oral histories of the voyage include reference to "a foggy, misty and dark place not seen by the sun" and iceberg-like summits "piercing the sky with no vegetation".

The study said that Maori carving and weaving also supported accounts of early Antarctic exploration.

Wehi said collating traditional Maori accounts helped give a broader view of Antarctic history, beyond the accounts of European male explorers that usually predominate.

"History tends to be told by one voice and there's often a dominant narrative," she told the *New Zealand Herald*.

"Often indigenous history and even women's history becomes invisible, so for me it's about making that history visible." AFP



A new study has concluded that Polynesian seafarers likely reached Antarctica hundreds of years before the Western explorers usually credited with discovering the frozen continent. AFP

Sri Lanka nabs captain over cargo-ship fire pollution



Tyutkalo Vitaly (centre), the skipper of the sinking Singapore-registered container carrier *MV X-Press Pearl*, faced the High Court before being released on bail. AFP

THE Russian skipper of a container ship that caught fire and burned for almost two weeks before sinking off Sri Lanka's coast has been arrested and is expected to be charged with marine pollution, police said on June 14.

The island nation is seeking \$40 million in damages from the operators of the ship, which released tonnes of plastic raw materials that swamped local beaches in what officials called the "worst marine disaster" in the country's history.

Vitaly Tyutkalo, the captain of the Singapore-registered *MV X-Press Pearl*, was arrested at his hotel in the capital Colombo on June 14 and faced the High Court before being

released on bail.

"No formal charges were laid, but he was produced before court on suspicion that he has committed an offence under the Marine Pollution Prevention Act," a police official told AFP.

Tyutkalo, whose passport had previously been seized, will return to the court, which has jurisdiction over maritime issues, on July 1, he added.

The passports of the chief engineer, Oleg Sadilenko, who is also a Russian national, and Chief Officer Peter Anish, an Indian, were also seized. All three were questioned by police after a criminal probe was launched.

Police told a Colombo magistrate last week the local agent of *X-Press*

Pearl had deleted emails vital to the investigation.

The ship reported an onboard acid leak to its Sri Lanka representative Sea Consortium Lanka, which in turn failed to alert local authorities, the state prosecutor had said.

Sri Lankan environmentalists earlier sued the government and the ship's operator X-Press Feeders for allegedly failing to prevent the disaster.

The vessel has been submerged in seas off Colombo since June 2.

Officials have said that about 1,200 tonnes of plastic pellets and other debris scooped from the beaches are being stored in 45 shipping containers. AFP

ASEAN

ICC seeks investigation into Philippines drug war killings

THE International Criminal Court's (ICC) chief prosecutor on June 14 sought a full investigation into crimes against humanity during the Philippines' "war on drugs", in one of her last acts before stepping down this week.

Fatou Bensouda asked judges at the world's only permanent war crimes court to authorise a probe into allegations that police unlawfully killed as many as tens of thousands of civilians between 2016 and 2019.

The Philippines left the ICC in 2019 after the court launched a preliminary examination into President Rodrigo Duterte's drug crackdown, but Bensouda said it could still investigate crimes committed while Manila was a member.

"I have determined that there is a reasonable basis to believe that the crime against humanity of murder has been committed ... in the context of the government of Philippines 'war on drugs' campaign," Bensouda said in a statement.

"The available information indicates that members of the Philippine National Police, and others acting in concert with them, have unlawfully killed between several thousand and tens of thousands of civilians" during the period under investigation.

Gambian lawyer Bensouda, whose term of office ends on June 15, said "any authorised investigation in the Philippines will fall to my able successor, Mr Karim Khan, to take forward".

Britain's Khan will be sworn in on June 16 with a host of other challenges in his inbox including a probe into Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Duterte's drug crackdown has drawn international censure and prompted the ICC to launch its preliminary probe three years ago.

The crackdown is Duterte's signature policy initiative and



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has repeatedly claimed that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has no jurisdiction over him. AFP

he defends it fiercely, especially from critics like Western leaders and institutions which he says do not care about his country.

He was elected in 2016 on a campaign promise to get rid of the Philippines' drug problem, openly ordering police to kill drug suspects if their lives are in danger.

More than 6,000 people have been killed in over 200,000 anti-drug operations conducted since July 2016, according to official data. Human rights groups estimate the number of dead could be several times higher.

Many suspects have been put on "drug watch lists" by local officials and then visited by police at their homes – a situation which often ends in a deadly shooting that officers claim was self-defence.

Amnesty International said the ICC investigation was a "landmark step".

"This announcement is a moment of hope for thousands of families in the Philippines who are grieving those lost to the government's so-called 'war on drugs'," Amnesty head Agnes Callamard said in a statement.

Human Rights Watch said the court had "dealt a blow" for Duterte's "presumption of impunity" for the killings.

The tough-talking Duterte has repeatedly claimed the ICC has no jurisdiction over him and that he will not cooperate with what he has called an "illegal" probe. He even threatened to arrest Bensouda.

Duterte has previously told the tribunal that the country's justice system is working amid allegations that local courts cannot or are unwilling to prosecute suspects in the killings – one of the criteria for the ICC to open a full investigation.

Duterte has said he is willing to go behind bars if proven

guilty in the Philippine judicial system.

"If the court says that I should go to jail, I will go to jail. That's no problem. I did what I embarked to do," Duterte said in a televised speech in December.

Bensouda said previous cases showed that the ICC "retains jurisdiction over crimes that are alleged to have occurred on the territory of that state during the period when it was a state party" to the international court.

She added that the court "does not take a position on any government's internal policies" to combat drugs but that it was acting under its mandate to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The court would also investigate allegations of torture and other "inhumane acts" dating back as far as 2011, it said. AFP

Delta variant drives up Jakarta virus cases 50%

JAKARTA governor Anies Baswedan has warned that the Indonesian capital may return to a strict restriction regime as coronavirus cases surged 50 per cent in the past week amid a rise of infections of the Delta variant.

Active cases in Jakarta rose to 17,400 cases on June 13 from 11,500 on June 6.

Anies said in a June 14 statement: "The capital is in a state that needs extra attention. If the current situation gets out of hand, we would enter an emergency phase, and if that happened, we would have to take drastic steps like we did in September and February. We do not want that to recur."

The Delta variant, first detected in India, has started to dominate cases in Indonesian cities, with health minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin confirming that Covid-19 cases in Jakarta, Kudus (Central Java province), and Bangkalan (East Java province) are dominated by the Delta variant, based on genome sequencing tests.

Bed occupancy rate for isolation wards in Jakarta reserved to treat Covid-19 patients also increased to 75 per cent on June 13, from 45 per cent a week ago.

One out of four Covid-19 patients in Jakarta, however comes from outside the city, mostly the surrounding satellite towns.

Anies urged residents to strictly comply with health protocols in order to avoid another round of strict social distancing restrictions.

Currently, dining in eateries is allowed with limited capacity, and non-essential staff are partially required to work from

home.

The governor also stressed that the positivity rate in Jakarta increased to 17 per cent on June 13, from nine per cent the previous week.

The positivity rate indicates the percentage of positive Covid-19 cases detected out of the total tests conducted.

The threshold set by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for adequate testing is a five per cent positivity rate.

Anies pointed out that the testing rate in Jakarta rose to eight times what the WHO recommended, from four times in the previous week.

He ordered all his personnel on June 13 night to take stricter measures and to step up enforcement of the health protocols on individuals as well as in places.

To ensure that residents comply with the strict health protocols, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo on June 14 decided to beef up the deployment of military and police officers across 7,000 sub-regencies in the country.

Indonesia's 34 provinces are made up of more than 500 regencies and cities, which in turn consist of 7,000 sub-regencies.

Jokowi also decided to speed up daily vaccination rate from the current 500,000 doses a day to 700,000 later this month and then one million next month.

People living in Covid-19 red zones – places with hospital bed occupancy ratio exceeding 60 per cent – will get priority in vaccination, said Budi, following a meeting with the president. In addition, places of worship in the Covid-19 red zones will be closed for the next two weeks. THE STRAITS TIMES (SINGAPORE)/ASIA NEWS NETWORK



The Delta variant of the novel coronavirus, first detected in India, has started to dominate cases in Indonesian cities including the capital Jakarta. AFP

UN envoy calls for 'effective' Myanmar measures

MYANMAR'S ambassador to the UN, who has refused to leave his post despite being fired after the February coup, has called for "effective collective measures"

against the junta, ahead of expected Security Council talks on the situation.

"It is most urgent that the international community take

effective collective measures to prevent any possible crimes against humanity from happening and the emergence of a potential regional humanitarian crisis," Kyaw Moe Tun wrote in a letter to the world body dated May 28 and published on June 14.

"Strong, decisive and unified measures are imperative and needed immediately," he wrote.

"The lack of such actions by the international community will further encourage the military to continue committing inhumane and brutal acts against civilians and will result in the further loss of lives of innocent civilians in Myanmar."

Kyaw Moe Tun has passionately rejected the February 1 coup and brushed aside the junta's claims that he no longer represents Myanmar. The UN still considers him as the rightful

envoy.

He said the lack of forceful international reaction in the wake of the coup, which ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, helped facilitate the deadly crackdown on anti-coup protesters.

"If the international community, including the United Nations, had taken decisive and timely action against the military, it would have prevented the loss of over 800 innocent lives," he wrote.

China has repeatedly worked to delay Security Council talks on Myanmar, but a closed-door meeting is scheduled for June 18, in order to discuss mediation efforts by ASEAN, diplomats said on June 14.

The Council is expected to hear a presentation by Erywan Pehin Yusof, Brunei's second minister for foreign affairs, who

was one of two ASEAN envoys to meet with junta leader Min Aung Hlaing earlier this month.

The pair were unable to meet with members of a "shadow" government made up of former lawmakers – mostly from Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party.

ASEAN has led diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis in Myanmar, but the regional bloc is not known for its diplomatic clout and observers have questioned how effectively it can influence events in the country.

Brunei is the ASEAN chair for 2021.

The last Security Council meeting on Myanmar took place on April 30. In a unanimous statement, the council's 15 members called for an immediate end to violence in Myanmar as stated in an ASEAN plan.

That plan also called for the

naming of an ASEAN envoy tasked with handling the crisis, but so far, no one has been named to that position.

On June 18, the Council is also expected to hear from the UN special envoy to Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, who recently returned from a long trip to the region, but without a stop in Myanmar, as the junta has barred her.

The UN General Assembly is currently at an impasse over a resolution proposed by Liechtenstein that would call for an arms embargo on the military leadership.

Diplomats say Liechtenstein has been kept out of recent discussions, with Western powers taking over, adding it is less and less likely that an arms embargo, as called for by Myanmar's UN envoy, will be put to a vote anytime soon. AFP



Myanmar ambassador to the UN Kyaw Moe Tun makes a three-finger salute as he addresses an informal meeting of the UN General Assembly on February 26 – he is against the junta and has refused to leave his post despite being fired. AFP

A decade of decent work for domestic workers; are we making a difference?

Opinion

Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa

TEN years on from the adoption of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s Domestic Workers Convention, much more needs to be done to recognise the rights and improve working conditions for domestic workers.

When I took up my role as the regional director of ILO in Bangkok, domestic workers were at the forefront of my mind. Not only is the Asia Pacific region home to half of the world's domestic workers, but this group of workers exists at the nexus of so many areas of my own personal interest – the rights of women workers, health and housing, international cooperation and migration governance.

For so many of us, it is impossible to think about the issue of domestic work without emotion. Many of those reading this will have had close relationships with domestic workers: in childhood, as vital household support later in life, or for those with special care needs. Others will have been able to support their families or made additional income through wages from domestic work.

Domestic workers do so much for us. They keep us safe, in comfort, well fed as well as enable work outside of our homes. When we consider domestic work in our own experience, it is often in such a positive light. The emotional bonds that are forged by sharing a home, and the feeling that domestic workers are "part of the family" are aspects of this job that make it "work like no other".

However, in 2011, the adoption of ILO's Domestic Workers Convention finally recognised domestic work is also "work like any other". Known as Convention 189, it was the first international instrument to establish that, despite all the very specific and personal experiences of domestic work, domestic workers deserve protection, just like all other workers.

The Convention gave fresh momentum to domestic



Two Indonesian foreign domestic workers enjoy their day off in front of the Bo Law animation artwork on the Hong Kong Museum of Art in Hong Kong. The vast majority of domestic workers are women and the sector offers employment opportunities to those who may have few qualifications and to migrant women who may be unable to gain access to the labour markets at home and risk so much to take up these opportunities. AFP

workers and their allies who had been fighting for years to ensure that domestic workers were entitled to basic labour rights such as access to minimum wages, safe working conditions and protection from discrimination. This international recognition remains especially critical, because we know that 10 years on, many domestic workers still remain underpaid, overworked, harassed and exploited.

This year, the ILO has looked at just how far we have come over the last decade in achieving the goals of the Domestic Workers Convention. Despite some progress – notably the Philippines has ratified the Convention and several other countries in the region have improved legal protection for domestic workers – we still have a long road to travel until we realise decent work for domestic workers in the Asia Pacific.

There are myriad reasons

why we must use this anniversary to reinvigorate our commitment to improving conditions in domestic work. In the global push towards women's empowerment, domestic work plays a crucial role. The vast majority of domestic workers are women and the sector offers employment opportunities to those who may have few qualifications and to migrant women who may be unable to gain access to the labour markets at home and risk so much to take up these opportunities.

More broadly, it is not hard to see how the varying intersections of gender and social norms have influenced the status of domestic work and domestic workers in society. Work in the home has traditionally been unpaid, and not considered an economically valuable job. Because the home has not generally been considered a 'workplace,' many countries still do not include domestic work as

formal employment meaning domestic work is not yet recognised as work within labour legislation.

The informality of domestic work contributes to its invisibility, and this in turn, creates a circumstance where the plight of domestic workers is more easily overlooked. When domestic work remains informal, workplaces aren't registered, working conditions aren't monitored and domestic workers' access to social security, income protection, and even the Covid-19 vaccine, is limited. Until domestic work is truly recognised for what it is – work – it will be difficult to fully capture domestic workers' contributions to our broader socio-economic wellbeing.

We therefore urge governments to ratify the Domestic Work Convention and take the catalytic first step of recognising the services performed by domestic workers.

At the ILO, we advocate for

this not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because the opportunities for advancement and the scope for changes to the sector having a transformative effect on domestic workers' lives are immense.

Domestic work needs to be considered as an even more essential source of employment in post-Covid-19 economic recovery, as a job-intensive sector that meets growing household needs for care services and provides employment opportunities for women who have been hardest hit by the pandemic.

When domestic workers are able to claim their rights and domestic work is appropriately valued, we will see the benefits of a more equitable and just society. Only then, will we be able to claim that we have 'built back better'.

The writer is ILO's assistant director-general and regional director for Asia and the Pacific

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Lifestyle



Rany Som, 34, founder of Graines de Cambodge, poses with her seed jewelry collection. SUPPLIED

Graines de Cambodge seeds world with beauty

Roth Sochieata

WHILE glittery accessories made of precious metals and gemstones need to have those expensive materials mined from the Earth, Siem Reap based Graines de Cambodge instead uses a variety of seeds harvested from plants to create jewelry that is sustainable, ethical and makes a green fashion statement.

In 2011, after her divorce, Rany Som – the 34-year-old founder of Graines de Cambodge – returned from India back to her hometown of Siem Reap. Unfortunately, at the time her parents disapproved of the divorce and did not welcome her back into the family.

With no one to lean on, the precariousness of day-to-day survival evoked within her talents that she'd previously only demonstrated by always having had an artistic streak and a love for being creative.

"After my divorce I came back empty handed and I felt ashamed and all alone. I lived on my own and I struggled to find work. I didn't have a degree or much school education so I knew I couldn't find a great job. I couldn't stand to hear all the gossip about me if I'd gotten regular work because it would have disappointed and depressed me even more," Rany says.

She came up with her seed-based jewelry at that time and sold it to foreign shops until she could buy her own shop the following year.

"Therefore, I chose to do anything that I could to isolate myself from people. And in order to have a good income without too much investment, I decided to work for myself and make things with my hands," Rany tells *The Post*.

Times were tough and she started her business with just a hundred dollars to her name. After thinking things over, the idea to create jewelry using different kind of seeds

came to mind when she was thinking back on her life in India.

Rany's ex-husband is a tour guide and he brought home some seed jewelry when he was away on a trip for work. She says that it was only around five or six necklaces and they tried displaying them in their small cafe.

Those necklaces combined with the inspiration she felt when observing nature in Cambodia. She says that plants and trees come in so many varieties and are all so effortlessly beautiful with a huge variety of different looking seeds among them.

From there Rany started her collection by gathering over 20 types of seeds found growing locally and she used them to create delicate and intricate necklaces, bracelets, earrings and more using only a drill and a needle to punch holes in them.

"After finishing a few designs, I took them to try selling them at the night market as well as to some foreign booths and shops. They said it's too simple and no one would buy it. So I started again and tried making more unique and bigger designs," Rany says.

With no background or education in jewelry, she learned the art solely by trial-and-error. The scars on her hands and legs are reminders of her early experiences trying to drill into slippery tiny seeds with irregular shapes and surfaces.

"Ten days after my first visit I went back and showed them what I've got and they thought they were at least sort of interesting so they bought some, so I continued to improve my designs. Mostly through support from foreigners, I found myself owning a shop a year later in 2012," says Rany.

The shop – Graine de Cambodge – translates from French to Seeds of Cambodia. She says she gave her shop a French name because early on many of her foreign clients were French.

She then further explains about the grain when being asked if this is keepable in the long term. When Rany first started she knew nothing about how to ensure that her creations would last instead of just rotting away through natural decomposition like some seeds do naturally.

She learned early on that if the wrong chemicals were used to protect the seeds then the jewelry could cause rashes and skin irritation to the wearers, but she finally found a safe preservation strategy.

"We have a team that makes holes in seeds. Then we need to heat the seed and then dry it. Once dried, we treat the seeds with oil. And I only chose around six kinds of seed, the ones I think are best to use because they are the most beautiful and the strongest," Rany says.

She says the jewelry she makes is good for both casual wear and special occasions, and she even has large statement pieces that are red carpet-worthy. Her personal favorites are her long pendants made of smooth brown lotus seeds.

They gleam with a rich gloss that is achieved not from varnishing them, but rather from being rubbed with coconut and lemongrass oil, which also gives them a pleasant aroma.

Selecting the seeds to use is a painstaking process – each one has to be the perfect size, shape and symmetry to fit Rany's designs.

The price for her jewelry ranges from \$3 to \$100 and decorative items like Buddhas range from \$60 to \$400.

Achieving the success she enjoys now wasn't easy and Rany credits her perseverance and refusal to give up over the years. Her hard work has paid off and in the past 10 years she's managed to expand with two more branches and about 30 total staff members in her employ.

Rany first taught the skills to make the jewelry to her managers and



Angkor short necklace styled with flower made of small brown seeds and pieces of metal. SUPPLIED



Graines de Cambodge uses 20 types of seed grown locally to create jewelry. SUPPLIED

then lets her managers pass the skills on to the rest of the workers, most of them women.

Sadly, with the loss of tourism due to Covid-19 still devastating Siem Reap, two of her shops were forced to close.

However, Rany does still have two shops open – a new one called A & Eva Fashion where she sells 100-percent linen clothes and bags that she designs and that are also handmade in Cambodia, just like the jewelry she continues to sell at Graine de Cambodge.

Rany's clients are mostly tourists, but she's been shipping to foreign countries and also putting items on consignment at hotels in Siem Reap.

"Clients I work with abroad do wholesale, including from France, England, Germany and elsewhere in Europe, the US and even Hong Kong. They all have met me and seen my shops, my products, my quality and my workshop when they traveled to Cambodia. And even then though they're back in their own country now, we keep in contact and do business," Rany says.

Although the situation in her remaining shops remains tough, Rany says she still hopes to be around when tourism – and Siem Reap's economy with it – eventually makes its big comeback.

"These two shops of mine are like my babies. I will try my best to keep them open no matter what. I know the jobs are also important for my few remaining staff members," she says.

Lately, Rany has been living in Thailand with her new family and traveling back and forth to Cambodia, at least when the borders were open.

"With the current Covid crisis, our business suffers from the lack of customers and tourists in the country. I wish I could improve my business digitally and make up the losses through online sales. Customers cannot come to my country or to my shop, so I wish I could reach out to the customers anywhere in the world and do online sales and export more of my products around the globe," Rany says.

Rany also has a dream of creating a space where people can learn about the process of making jewelry from seeds.

"In the future, I would like to have a small piece of land in the countryside and to have a proper workshop and a garden where I grow all my plants, so I can teach people how to do what I do."

For more information customers can contact Rany's shops on Facebook: @aevafashion and @grainesdecambodge or go to her website: <https://grainesdecambodge.com/> ■

Maestro of Alpine climbing Marcel Remy still scaling mountains at 98

MARCEL Remy is the grand old man of Swiss Alpinists, and with his sure and steady progress as he conquers a climbing wall, few would realise he is 98-years-old.

Week in, week out, every Monday morning, Remy drives his old Toyota to the indoor climbing centre in Villeneuve on the eastern shores of Lake Geneva, where he meets his son Claude to plot a path to the top.

The veteran slowly puts on his climbing shoes and

harness and having picked out his ascent route, makes his way to the 16-metre high wall.

"It gives me a lot of pleasure because you have to work, think and surpass yourself; that's what suits me well," Remy said, between his two morning climbs.

"I do it for my health – that's the first thing, I carry on for my muscles, because I've noticed quite often that if I stop for two or three weeks, it's much harder to start again. It's better to keep coming often."

Remy said the secret to his

continued success was pacing himself.

"It's the rhythm that you have to take – for breathing, for the movements," he explained.

"If I go beyond that, there's a price to pay afterwards. I can't tell you exactly what, but either the shoulders or the muscles. It's better to go calmly, without over-exertion – and then it works."

'Do or die'

Climbing has always been major part of Remy's life. Brought up on tales of the mountains, he never stopped going off to discover the great outdoors and the Alps became his playground.

Remy worked on the Swiss railways and spent all his free time in the mountains, taking his two sons with him.

"He was a tough dad. With him it was do or die, whatever the conditions," said his oldest son Claude, 68.

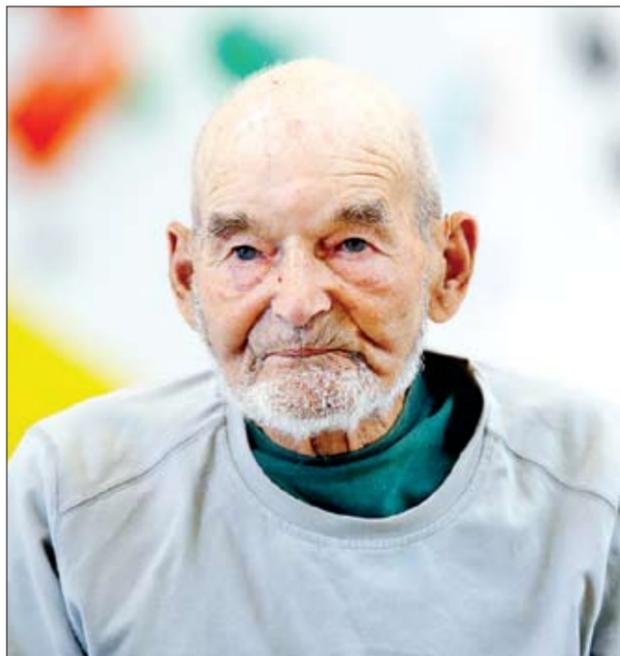
But despite his ruggedness, he knew how to pass on his passion for the Alps. Claude and his 65-year-old brother Yves have also become well-known in the climbing world.

In August 2020, the top French climbing magazine *Grimper* devoted 40-odd pages to their exploits and the most impressive climbs they have accomplished together.

Nowadays, the roles are reversed and it's Claude guiding his father as he makes his second ascent of the morning at the Villeneuve climbing hall, one of the biggest in Switzerland.



Climbing has always been a major part of Remy's life. Brought up on tales of the mountains, he never stopped going off to discover the great outdoors and the Alps became his playground. AFP



Swiss 98-years-old veteran Alpinists Marcel Remy poses for a picture at the indoor climbing centre in Villeneuve on the eastern shores of Lake Geneva. AFP

This time, Remy is the first one up the route, making it all the harder.

He scales the first few metres with no trouble at all but in the upper sections, he struggles for several minutes to find the breakthrough that will take him to the top.

It is only with an agile jump that he finally unlocks the path to the summit, nimbly springing off his left foot and instantly landing on the same toehold with his right.

"It's good!" he says, out of breath, before making his way down.

Motivation

Back at the bottom, sitting on a bench for a well-earned rest, he clenches his fists and says to his son: "I'm happy."

Claude explained: "He's a tough character. He's very resistant to hardship."

"Even if it's a very difficult section on the wall, as we saw towards the end, he searches and finally works out how to resolve it because he's motivated."

Claude said most people were stunned when they find out how old his father is, but the respect flows in both directions.

"He inspires great admiration in all age groups, even among the very young," but even so, "he'll look at how young people climb and try to copy their movements".

Though he mostly climbs indoors these days, Remy still does sorties into the mountains.

In 2017, at the age of 94, he conquered the Miroir de l'Argentine, a Swiss climbing classic with its 500 metres of limestone wall.

And he shows no sign of stopping.

"If I'm still enjoying it and feeling good, why not continue?" he said. AFP

Illusion institution: A Croatian museum goes global



Museum creator Roko Zivkovic poses in the anti-gravity room of Zagreb's Museum of Illusions inspired by a US science TV show 'Brain Games'. AFP



A girl poses at the 'Head on a Platter' illusion of Zagreb's Museum of Illusions. AFP

SEEING your own head on a platter or posing for a photo while walking on the ceiling – absurd images served up by a Croatian museum that has gone global.

"It's something different, it makes you use your brain but it's also fun," says Roko Zivkovic, who set up the original Museum of Illusions with one of his friends in Zagreb in 2015.

Inspired by a US science TV show called "Brain Games", they wanted to create a place where visitors could be entertained while stimulating their

grey cells – and now they have licensed franchises from New York to Kuala Lumpur.

The museum displays dozens of optical illusions, including the visitor favourites "Head on a Platter", the "Ames room", which has an Alice In Wonderland effect on the size of the people in it, and the anti-gravity room.

"I almost fell down, I had to climb all the time," says nine-year-old Dora, exhilarated from her experience of weightlessness.

French student Yousfi Mezyan, 22,

touring the museum with his friend, says he appreciated that the exhibits "make you think a bit".

Not a 'classical' museum

Much to the surprise of its creators, the museum was immediately a huge hit – more than 100,000 visitors in its first year made it Zagreb's most popular museum.

Success in Zagreb led to expansion – first around Croatia, then into European capitals including Vienna, Belgrade and Paris.

"We haven't stopped since. Today we have 30 museums around the world," Zivkovic said.

Branches are now open on four continents, and six new franchises, including one in Israel, are to open by the end of the year.

Zivkovic says they did not want to make a "classical museum" where people are expected to be silent and contemplate exhibits, instead visitors are encouraged to have fun.

There is another vital part to their strategy – inspiring visitors to share

images online.

"We want the exhibits to entertain and educate, but we also want them to be photogenic so people can put them on social networks," says Zivkovic.

Countless posts attest to the shareable nature of activities such as "Walking on the Ceiling".

And the coronavirus pandemic has not dimmed Zivkovic's desire for expansion.

South America and Australia do not have such a museum yet, he says, but they will. AFP

Lifestyle



A man checks his mobile phone against a backdrop of narrow residential houses, known as 'nha ong' in Vietnamese or 'tube houses', in an urban area of Hanoi. AFP

Tall and thin 'nha ong' houses dominate the streets of busy Hanoi

ALL, thin and brightly coloured, Hanoi's "tube houses" dominate the city's streets as nine million people compete for space in Vietnam's bustling capital. Although Vietnam saw a number of villas and garden houses built during the French colonial period, Hanoi has few of these grand residential homes. Instead, tree-lined streets are packed with dwellings that are barely four metres wide, but are three times that in depth. Typically, a tube house might be home to a family of four but two or three generations of relatives sometimes have to jostle for space. The first tube houses – known as "nha ong" in Vietnamese – are thought to have appeared in

the capital at the end of the 19th century, when villagers looking to sell silver, traditional herbs and tools began to move to the area. A narrow architectural style evolved from the limited available space, said Tran Quoc Bao, a senior lecturer at the National University of Civil Engineering. The design is still a favourite in modern day Hanoi, where architects now refer to them as "adjoining houses". "This model of house is essential for an urban architect [today]. The adjoining house is a combination of both the traditional and modern residence," the Hanoi-based lecturer said, adding that they can also be found in many other Vietnamese cities. AFP

Ferrari moves into food, fashion

ITALIAN luxury sports car maker Ferrari has diversified, presenting its first fashion collection and launching itself into the high-end restaurant business. The brand colours of red and yellow dominated at the debut catwalk show on June 13, which took place amid the production lines of Ferrari's Maranello base in northern Italy. Designed by Armani veteran Rocco Iannone, Ferrari's creative director, there were over-

sized bomber jackets and parkas, blending nylon, silk and recycled fabrics, worn with loose or fitted skirts, shorts and trousers. Many of them carried the Ferrari logo, could be worn by men or women and showcased what the company called a "bold, intrepid and assertive" style. On June 14, Ferrari will reopen to the public the legendary Cavallino restaurant at Maranello, under the direction of Italian chef Massimo Bottura,

who has three Michelin stars. It began life as a canteen and became the favourite spot of the brand's charismatic founder, Enzo Ferrari, to receive employees, clients and friends in a small private room. It opened to the public for the first time in 1950 and has been remodelled over the last 18 months by architect and designer India Mahdavi. Ferrari chief John Elkann said the company was keen to "support excellence and the best Italian creativity". AFP



A woman walks past a Ferrari displayed at Beirut Fashion Week. AFP

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		

"PACKING LIST"

ACROSS

- 1 Type of jet
- 5 True item
- 9 Food shops
- 14 "___ Christie"
- 15 Brown shade
- 16 Make used (to)
- 17 Where you might testify
- 20 Have regrets
- 21 Was in front of the others
- 22 Antiquated
- 23 Brush aside
- 25 Costa del ___
- 26 Attendance fig.
- 27 Noted Chinese dynasty
- 29 Off-painted jug
- 33 Mowed row
- 36 Acted the ratfink
- 37 Poetic "before"
- 38 Do well before a judge
- 42 Canton in central Switzerland
- 43 Domestic fowls
- 44 Hick
- 45 DNA holder
- 47 Word with "too late"
- 48 Intimate apparel item
- 49 Part of the world's population

- 51 Fulfill, as one's desires
- 55 Bring to life
- 59 Finish fasting
- 60 Farm sound
- 61 Fires
- 64 Give cheer to
- 65 Sullen
- 66 Bad fit?
- 67 Dings
- 68 Home run swings
- 69 Seriously untidy state

DOWN

- 1 Nixon's Secretary of Defense
- 2 You'll feel it in Dullsville
- 3 Pre-deal payments
- 4 "Yay, team!"
- 5 Least amount
- 6 Reactors to litmus
- 7 "You've Got Mail" screen
- 8 Deep sea catch
- 9 '70s dance hall
- 10 Do a farm chore
- 11 Do an auto service job
- 12 Muscle maker when pumped
- 13 Canonical hour
- 18 "24" actress Cuthbert
- 19 Navy officer

- 24 Apportion (out)
- 27 Issues an advisory
- 28 Grandson in Genesis
- 30 Watered down
- 31 Emerald Isle language
- 32 Barn-dance number
- 33 Overly content
- 34 "Cook" or "kitchen" add-on
- 35 Like everyone in the family
- 36 "Don't change," to an editor
- 39 Japanese religion
- 40 Work a hula hoop
- 41 Layer
- 46 Famed clown Kelly
- 48 "A German Requiem" composer
- 50 Relents (with "up")
- 51 Crazy-looking outfit
- 52 Mirror reflection
- 53 Photog's concern
- 54 Ox harnesses
- 55 Became more mature
- 56 Cleopatra's river
- 57 Director Reitman
- 58 Ga. Tech. grad., perhaps
- 62 Bulldog booster
- 63 American Uncle

Sudoku Pacific

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Tuesday's solution

N	O	B	L	E	T	H	U	S	W	O	L	E		
E	R	R	O	R	R	I	S	E	A	P	E	S		
D	R	I	V	E	H	O	M	E	A	P	O	I	N	T
C	E	C	I	L										
V	A	K	T	E	L	L								
E	M	B	O	S	S	A	B	U	T					
S	E	A	R											
S	T	E	E	R	S	C	L	E	A	R	O	F		
E	R													
E														
T	E	M	P	T	S									
U	T	E	R	I										
D	I	R	E	C	T	O	P	O	S	I	T	E	S	
E	R	G	S											
S	E	E	S											

Tuesday's solution

Tuesday's Puzzle Answer

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

Italy's ignored Insigne finally in the spotlight

LONG overlooked in the national team set-up, Lorenzo Insigne served notice of his intentions at Euro 2020 with a sublime goal in Italy's impressive opening win against Turkey last Friday night.

Under Roberto Mancini, the 30-year-old Napoli captain has finally been given his chance to shine on the international scene as a starter, a position he hopes to keep in Italy's second Group A game against Switzerland tonight (at 2am Thursday morning Cambodian time).

"Do I feel like a leader? No, only older," said Insigne, who made his international debut nine years ago and has scored nine times in 42 appearances, with five goals coming during Mancini's spell in charge.

It was nearly four years ago that Azzurri manager Gian Piero Ventura's refusal to utilise Insigne from the bench in a goalless draw against Sweden condemned the four-time World Cup winners to miss out on the finals for the first time since 1958.

On that November night at the San Siro, former World Cup winner Dan-

iele De Rossi, when told to warm-up, pointed to Insigne, angrily asking: "Why should I go on? We don't need a draw - we need a win."

At the time, Insigne was on top form for Napoli, having scored 20 goals in all competitions the previous season.

But the winger did not fit Ventura's rigid tactics, and he never made it onto the pitch that night, after a brief appearance in the first leg.

Called up to the national side under Cesare Prandelli in 2012, Insigne has been in all the Italy coaches' squads since, but never regarded as a key player.

During the 2014 World Cup he had a mere spectator's role during a group-stage exit, and again at Euro 2016 under Antonio Conte, when Italy lost on penalties to Germany in the quarter-finals.

On Friday, he got his big chance, his first as a starter in a major international tournament.

"Insigne is fundamental for us," said Mancini. "For the role of linking things together. He's an important player for our game."

And Insigne repaid Mancini's trust with a relentless performance, powering up and down the wing for 80 minutes before curling in the third goal of the night.

'Right frame of mind'

At Napoli, where he has scored 109 goals in almost 400 games since 2010, it was a mixed 2020-21 season for Insigne.

He hit a personal best 19 league goals in Serie A, but missed a penalty in the Italian Super Cup defeat by Juventus and saw Napoli miss out on the Champions League.

But he has found his place in an Italy side alongside long-time friend Ciro Immobile of Lazio, who also scored against Turkey to bring his tally to 14 international goals.

"The coach has got us in the right frame of mind to express ourselves as best we can and have fun," said Insigne, who played alongside Immobile and Domenico Berardi on Friday.

Rivals for a forward position include Torino's Andrea Belotti, Juve pair Federico Bernardeschi and Federico Chiesa, and Sassuolo



Italy's Lorenzo Insigne (right) and Turkey's Zeki Celik vie for the ball during their Euro 2020 Group A match on June 11. Italy won the game 3-0. AFP

youngster Giacomo Raspadori, who has been included in the squad for the first time.

"The strength of this Italy? It's the group. The coach has created a great group," Insigne said. "No one is assured of a place. Whoever plays knows what we have to do, to put ourselves at the service of each other."

Mancini could decide to rotate some players, with Chiesa and centre-back Francesco Acerbi ready to step in, but a chance to seal a last-16 berth with a game to spare may be

too tempting to take any risks.

Italy, European champions in 1968, head into tonight's game on a 28-match unbeaten run, as they look for a 10th consecutive win with a clean sheet.

Switzerland, who reached the last 16 in 2016, were held to a 1-1 draw by Wales in their first game, despite forward Breel Embolo's opener.

The strength of the Swiss is a mid-field powered by Atalanta's Remo Freuler, Arsenal's Granit Xhaka and Liverpool's Xherdan Shaqiri. AFP

Maradona nurse following orders, prosecutors told

A NURSE accused of neglect in Diego Maradona's death told Argentine prosecutors on June 14 that he was following orders "not to disturb" the football icon while he slept.

Ricardo Almiron, 37, was Maradona's night-time carer and was one of the last people to see the World Cup-winning captain alive.

He is suspected of lying

when he claimed Maradona was sleeping and breathing normally hours before he died.

An autopsy revealed he was dying at that time.

Almiron is one of seven people under investigation for manslaughter after a board of experts looking into Maradona's death found he had received inadequate care

and was abandoned to his fate for a "prolonged, agonising period".

The football legend died of a heart attack last November at the age of 60, just weeks after undergoing brain surgery for a blood clot.

Almiron arrived just after midday with his lawyer Franco Chiarelli at the San Isidro public prosecutor's office on the outskirts of the capital Buenos Aires.

Speaking to journalists after the interview, Chiarelli said Almiron "always treated Maradona as a patient with a complex psychiatric condition but was never told about "an issue related to heart disease."

"He was told by his superiors not to disturb the patient. My client had the wisdom to carry out his tasks without the patient feeling encroached upon, which was something he had to deal with the entire time he was there," Chiarelli added.

An investigation was opened following a complaint filed by two of Maradona's five children against neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque, who they blame for their father's deteriorating condition after the operation.

A panel of 20 medical experts convened by Argentina's public prosecutor said last month that Maradona's treatment was rife with "deficiencies and irregularities" and the medical team had left his survival "to fate".

The panel concluded he "would have had a better chance of survival" with adequate treatment in an appropriate medical facility.

Instead, he died in his bed in a rented house in an exclusive Buenos Aires neighbourhood, where he was receiving home care.

The others under investigation are Maradona's psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov, 35; psychologist Carlos Diaz, 29;

nurse Dahiana Madrid, 36; nursing coordinator Mariano Perroni, 40; and medical coordinator Nancy Forlini, 52.

Over the next two weeks, they will appear one by one before prosecutors, accompanied by defence lawyers, to reply to the allegations against them.

'I did my best'

The hearings, postponed from last month due to a spike in coronavirus cases in Argentina, will end with Luque, 39, on June 28.

A judge will then decide whether the matter should go to trial in a process expected to last months, even years.

All seven accused are prohibited from leaving the country, and face between eight and 25 years in prison if convicted.

Luque has repeatedly defended his actions, saying: "I did my best. I offered Diego everything I could; some things he accepted, others not."

The doctor is seeking a dismissal of the case, and says Maradona had been depressed in his final days.

"I know that the [coronavirus] quarantine hit him very hard," Luque has said.

Maradona had battled cocaine and alcohol addictions during his life.

The former Boca Juniors, Barcelona and Napoli star was suffering from liver, kidney and cardiovascular disorders when he died.

Maradona is an idol to millions of Argentines after he inspired the football-mad South American country to only their second World Cup triumph in 1986.

His death shocked fans around the world, and tens of thousands queued to file past his coffin, which had been draped in the Argentine flag, at the presidential palace in Buenos Aires amid three days of national mourning. AFP



Diego Maradona died of a heart attack last November at the age of 60, just weeks after undergoing brain surgery for a blood clot. AFP

Secret recipe: Qatar's Samba eyes Tokyo breakthrough

QATAR'S Abderrahman Samba was thrown an Olympic lifeline when the postponement of the Tokyo Games allowed him to make a timely recovery from injury that will see him ready to target a podium finish in the 400m hurdles.

The 25-year-old, born in Saudi Arabia to Mauritanian parents but now a naturalised Qatari, will head to the Japanese capital alongside a handful of arch-rivals all on the cusp of being capable of breaking the long-standing world record in the event.

Samba came to prominence at the Asian Games in 2018,

going on to set what was at the time the second fastest 400m hurdles time ever run - 46.98 seconds - later that year.

After a bout of injury last year, the fast-talking youngster, called "Baby" by his coach, will be hoping to prove he is fully recovered by winning a medal in Tokyo.

"The last year was very difficult due to the coronavirus pandemic, and there were many pitstops," Samba said during a training session at Qatar's elite Aspire academy for athletes.

"The first stop was at the beginning of the season, and I

was in South Africa at that time, and the period was very difficult for us.

"Then we came to Doha and stopped for quarantine for two weeks, training suspension dragged on for two months, so it was difficult to try to maintain fitness."

Despite the challenges posed by training amid Covid-19 restrictions, Samba said the pandemic was a blessing in disguise for his Olympic dreams.

"The opportunity posed by the postponement of the Olympics to this summer was great because in 2019 I was

injured, and my injury was significant," he said.

Tokyo will be Samba's first Olympic outing while it will be the second for Norwegian arch-rival Karsten Warholm, who has clocked the second and third fastest times in the event (46.87 in Stockholm last year and 46.92 in Zurich in 2019).

Samba had the opportunity to experience top-flight competition at the 2018 Asian Games that he said will stand him in good stead for a clash against two-time world champion Warholm in Tokyo.

"This was a good opportunity and gave me a similar

taste to the Olympics."

Also in the running will be American Rai Benjamin, who matched Samba's personal best when finishing second to Warholm in Zurich.

All three head to Japan capable of hunting down American Kevin Young's world record of 46.78, set back in 1992.

Samba said he had fond memories, but no regrets, of the 2018 Paris Diamond League when he became just the second man to run the event in under 47 seconds, clocking 46.98, just 0.20 off Young's record.

"The Paris race was very

cool. I remember that I slowed down in the last few metres, but I think I did not regret that I did not break the record in that period because it gives me more motivation to break it in the next," he said.

Samba is coy, however, about whether he'd come even closer to the world record in training.

"Of course the competitor prefers not to divulge training times, like every chef has their secret recipes - practice is like the secret recipe, and no competitor wants to share," said Samba with his customary grin. AFP

Spain held by Sweden in opener as Schick 45-yard stunner downs Scots

SPAIN opened their Euro 2020 campaign with a goalless draw against Sweden in Seville on Monday after their preparations were badly affected by Covid-19, while Patrik Schick scored one of the championship's great goals in the Czech Republic's 2-0 win over Scotland.

Elsewhere on day four of the tournament, Slovakia edged out 10-man Poland 2-1 in Saint Petersburg.

They lead the early Group E table ahead of Spain and Sweden, after the Scandinavians held on for a point at La Cartuja, with Alvaro Morata wasting the hosts' best opportunity.

"There are no doubts about a striker like Morata," Aymeric Laporte said of his teammate.

"We know what he can do, it didn't go in for him today it's true, but in the next game he can score three and shut everyone's mouth."

Jordi Alba captained Spain in the absence of Sergio Busquets, who is still self-isolating at home after testing positive for the coronavirus.

Defender Diego Llorente was only allowed to rejoin the group on Saturday after giving a fourth consecutive negative test and was an unused substitute against the Swedes.

The squad was forced to train individually and their last friendly against Lithuania was passed over to the under-21s.

But Spain, bidding for a record fourth European Championship title, started strongly against Sweden, dominating possession.

Morata fired the clearest chance of the first half wide though, while Alexander Isak saw an effort deflected onto his own post at the other end by Marcos Llorente.

Juventus striker Morata dragged another effort off target early in the second half, while Sweden striker Marcus Berg miskicked wide of an open goal.

Spain laid siege to the visitors' net



Scotland goalkeeper David Marshall is beaten by Czech Republic forward Patrik Schick's goal of the tournament contender at Hampden Park in Glasgow on June 14. AFP

late on, but a series of blocks and an excellent save by Robin Olsen to deny Gerard Moreno preserved Sweden's point.

Scotland sunk by Schick

The Scots, absent from major tournament finals since the 1998 World Cup, were sunk by Bayer Leverkusen striker Schick in front of 12,000 fans at Hampden Park.

The home side started the Group D contest brightly in Glasgow but fell behind shortly before half-time as Schick headed home Vladimir Coufal's cross.

There was even better to come from the 25-year-old Schick, as he struck a high, curling shot from just inside the Scotland half over the head of backpedalling Scottish goalkeeper David Marshall and into the net.

"The ball bounced back, the goalkeeper was quite high. I took a look, I saw he was out there so I slammed it in," said Schick.

Czech goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik made two important second-half saves from Scotland striker Lyndon Dykes as the hosts tried to force their way back into the game.

But there was no way through for

Steve Clarke's men, as the Czech Republic moved top of Group D ahead of their game with Croatia at Hampden on Friday.

"We want to advance, we are now facing the two favourites. Sometimes you can get there on three points, but I think we'll have to clinch one more to be sure," said Czech Republic coach Jaroslav Silhavy.

The Scots will next face old rivals England, who made a successful start to their campaign with a 1-0 win over Croatia, at Wembley on Friday night.

Poland will rue Grzegorz Krychowiak's 62nd-minute second yellow

card in Russia as the midfielder became the first player to be sent off in this year's tournament.

Slovakia took a 18th-minute lead when Robert Mak's shot hit the post and bounced in off Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny before Karol Linetty levelled shortly after the break.

The game was settled with 21 minutes to play, though, as Inter Milan defender Milan Skriniar drilled in to give Slovakia a winning start.

Poland striker Robert Lewandowski was a peripheral figure and has still only scored two goals in 12 appearances at major finals. AFP

Capacity for Euro 2020 Wembley final raised to 40,000

THE Euro 2020 semi-finals and final will be played in front of 40,000 fans at Wembley, while a capacity crowd will witness the Wimbledon finals as part of a series of new pilot events in England.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday announced a four-week delay in England to the full lifting of coronavirus restrictions - which were due to end on June 21 - because of a surge in infections

caused by the Delta variant.

However, the final four matches at Wembley of the European Championship will be able to nearly double the crowd that saw England win their opening match against Croatia 1-0 on Sunday.

England will also face Scotland and the Czech Republic in front of 25 percent capacity at Wembley in the next week.

But a last 16 match on June 29, plus the semi-finals and

final in July, will be staged in front of the largest crowd in the UK for more than 15 months.

Wimbledon will be allowed to operate at 50 per cent capacity during the two weeks of the tournament, which was cancelled last year due to Covid restrictions.

The women's final on July 10 and men's showpiece the following day will be watched by a full 15,000 crowd.

"We want to gather further

evidence on how we can open up all big events safely, and for good," Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said.

"The expansion of trials of the NHS app and lateral-flow testing will mean that bigger crowds will be able to attend a limited number of major sporting and cultural events early this summer as part of our events research programme.

"In the next few weeks this means more fans enjoying the

Euros and Wimbledon, and some of our biggest cultural and sports events."

England's group games at Euro 2020 had already been included on the government's extended events research programme and will continue to be played in front of crowds of 22,500.

Ticket holders for matches at Wembley have to provide proof of full vaccination or a recent negative Covid-19 test result.

Wimbledon welcomed Monday's developments and said it would announce further details on Wednesday regarding spectator capacity and covid protocols for the Championships.

"We are continuing to work closely with the government to finalise the details of our participation in the event research programme, including the requirements for Covid-status certification for spectators," a statement read. AFP

MONDAY'S RESULTS			TONIGHT'S MATCHES		
Scotland	0 - 2	Czech Republic	Finland	GROUP B 8PM, 16 June St Petersburg	Russia
Poland	1 - 2	Slovakia	Turkey	GROUP A 11PM, 16 June Baku	Wales
Spain	0 - 0	Sweden	Italy	GROUP A 2AM, 17 June Rome	Switzerland