

NA deputies adopt final 2017 budget account resolution

The National Assembly also discussed the need for a draft Law on Military Reserve Force at the ongoing seventh session of the 14th legislature yesterday in Hà Nội

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Cashless payment is here to stay, says deputy PM

Deputy Prime Minister Vương Đình Huệ spoke to a conference in HCM City about the benefits of non-cash transactions for businesses, offices, public agencies and consumers

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Italy's coalition to work to avert EU discipline

Leaders have agreed to collaborate to prevent punishments for Rome's worsening public finances, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's office said in a statement

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Minister of Health Nguyễn Thị Kim Tiến says disease prevention and control is the main duty of the health sector

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A medical worker at Tượng Sơn Commune Health Centre in the central province of Hà Tĩnh's Thạch Hà District administers vaccinations to local children. VNA/VNS Photo Dương Ngọc

NATIONAL

DON'T GET BURNED

Misleading advertising is causing customers to think they have found the perfect way to protect their skin from the sun

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INSIGHT

CORAL RESCUE PLAN

Ecologists are working to preserve and relocate protected coral in Eilat, Israel's resort town on the Red Sea

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LIFE&STYLE

TEMPLE IN NEED

A 200-year-old temple in the central province of Hà Tĩnh is integral to local spiritual life, but it has fallen into disrepair

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MARKET MOVES

VN-Index
962.07



HNX-Index
103.95



WEATHER FORECAST JUNE 12

HÀ NỘI

Temperature:
Min: 29°C Max: 37°C



HẢI PHÒNG

Temperature:
Min: 27°C Max: 33°C



ĐÀ NẴNG

Temperature:
Min: 27°C Max: 38°C



HCM CITY

Temperature:
Min: 26°C Max: 34°C



VN must remove regulatory barriers to wind power

HÀ NỘI Việt Nam has to cope with regulatory challenges to attract investors and accelerate the development of wind power projects in the long term, experts recommended yesterday at the Việt Nam Wind Power conference hosted by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) in Hà Nội.

According to the latest GWEC report entitled South East Asia Market Update - Insights on Việt Nam, by the end of 2018, the total capacity of wind power projects in the country had reached 228MW. This was an insignificant number compared to other developed markets.

The Government, meanwhile, set an ambitious goal to raise the capacity to 800MW by 2020, and then to 2GW by 2025 and 6GW in 2030.

According to Benoit Nguyen, head of the Renewables Advisory Section of Singapore-based DNV GL's Clean Technology Centre, Việt Nam and other Southeast Asian countries have great fundamentals to develop renewable energy with average wind speeds between 6.5 and 7.5m/s.

The feed-in-tariff (FIT) for wind energy is also favourable at US\$8.5 cents per kWh for onshore plants and 9.8 cents for offshore plants in order to promote investment and ease risks, specifically power pur-



Mũi Dinh Wind Energy Plant in the southern central province of Ninh Thuận came into operation in April, 2019. Investors have several challenges to face when joining the field. VNA/VNS Photo Công Thử

chase agreement bankability

The price range is exclusively set for projects coming into operation before November 2021, and the rates for later projects remain unknown.

Tax-free policies which apply to imported facilities and corporate incomes have become Việt Nam's competitive advantage to attract investment.

Meanwhile, arbitration law, curtailment, termination and government guarantees are among the biggest risk factors for international investors in the emerging market.

Regulatory risks involving land lease contracts, pricing, capacity-building, labour, insurance and environmental impact assessments also create barriers for the development of wind power in Việt Nam.

Liming Qiao, Asia Director of GWEC, recommended formalising power purchase agreements and simplifying the project approval procedure to encourage investors to join the field.

According to Bloomberg New Energy Finance, several factors have helped to reduce investment cost while increasing project efficiency.

Turbine prices have dropped about 45 per cent over the past seven years. Operation and maintenance expenses are also on the decline.

The GWEC's report states that Việt Nam has the potential to be a wind power leader in the region, as long as any issues and challenges can be overcome by stakeholders.

In late May, at a seminar held in HCM City, experts warned Việt Nam could experience a power shortage in the near future due to surging demand and challenges in development.

There has been little investment in wind power projects. Solar power is on the rise but is highly dependent on the weather. **VNS**

Unlicensed tours raise serious safety concerns

KHÁNH HÒA The increase in the number of unofficial tours in Khánh Hòa and Bình Thuận provinces has affected tourism safety.

Lê Kim Nhứt, chairman of the Nha Trang Tourism Promotion Forum, said that travel companies in Khánh Hòa Province are offering photo tours, meditation tours at Hòn Bà, Suối Đô and Ba Hồ, and climbing tours at Cô Tiên and Sạn mountains.

The demand for ecotourism destination is increasing, but the lack of safety measures taken by agencies has led to serious accidents.

Last year, a boat sank, leaving two people dead, and a tour guide died in a motorbike accident on Bình Ba Island in April this year. There have also been a number of drowning deaths at local beaches.

Nguyễn Thị Thu Hằng, deputy director of the province's Department of Tourism, said that tourism agencies were encouraged to start tours as long as they can provide safe conditions and professional services.

Tour programmes must be licensed by the department. Tourists can report violations to the depart-

ment at the hotlines 0258.3528.000 and 0947.528.000.

On Phú Quý Island in Bình Thuận Province, many tours are created by homestay owners and island motels.

Visitors to the island often want to visit neighboring islands, so the staff of homestays and motels often organise unlicensed tours.

Ngô Tấn Lực, deputy chairman of the island's People Committee, said that tourist units on the island are mostly amateurs since the area is a relatively new destination. This year, the island plans to recruit more professional employees.

In addition, Hòn Cau Island in Bình Thuận Province has only two transport ships licensed by the local authority.

Most tourists who want to go to the island often negotiate with local fishermen for transport to the island.

Bình Thuận Province has directed all related units to strengthen management of tourist waterway transport. Local authorities must inspect activities involving the transport of passengers, and not allow fishing vessels and unlicensed boats to carry tourists. **VNS**

Bạc Liêu struggles to protect coastal forests

BẠC LIÊU The coastal forest area in the Cửu Long (Mekong) Delta province of Bạc Liêu has declined in recent years because of climate change and improper fishing which has damaged protective mangrove trees.

The province's coastal mangrove forests play an important role in preventing erosion, which is often caused by strong waves and currents.

Many of the mangrove forest areas are taken care of by local residents who were assigned by the province to protect the areas.

Despite this, the forest area fell from 4,200ha in 2000 to about 3,100ha, and the quality has also deteriorated.

The province's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has asked the People's Committee to allocate a higher budget for forest protection and to build facilities for forest rangers.

It has also asked the committee to ease access to soft loans for households that protect the forest.

Nearly 950 households make a living on catching aquatic species in mangrove forests. They include peanut worms, giant mudskippers, mud crabs, obtuse

Rising sea levels, strong waves and high tides have also contributed to the loss of mangrove forests, especially in Bạc Liêu City's Vĩnh Thạnh Đông Commune and Nhà Mát Ward and Đông Hải District's Gành Hào Town.

horn shell, shrimp and other fish species.

The catching of aquatic species has caused damage to the roots of mangrove trees, causing many of them to die.

In addition, the breeding of aquatic species is often done without proper waste treatment, polluting the environment.

Rising sea levels, strong waves and high tides have also contributed to the loss of mangrove forests, especially in Bạc Liêu City's Vĩnh Thạnh Đông Commune and Nhà Mát Ward and Đông Hải District's Gành Hào Town.

In 2005, the province zoned more than 2,000ha of alluvial grounds in coastal areas for mangrove forests.

However, only 413.5ha of the

alluvial grounds remained in 2015 because of erosion, according to the Southern Academy of Forest Sciences.

With a coastline of 56 kilometres, the province plans to expand its coastal forest areas to 7,500ha by 2020.

To increase coastal forest areas, the province has taken many measures to protect mangrove forests, including allocating mangrove forests for local residents to protect and grow new forests.

About 400 households and organisations are protecting 3,100ha of the forests, according to the province's Forest Protection Sub-department.

The province has implemented three projects to create alluvial grounds for growing mangrove forests along a total coastal length of 20 km.

The projects are in Hòa Bình District's Vĩnh Hậu and Vĩnh Thuận communes; Đông Hải District's Long Điền Đông Commune and Gành Hào Town; and Bạc Liêu City's Nhà Mát Ward, and Hiệp Thành and Vĩnh Trạch Đông communes.

The project in Bạc Liêu City covers more than 200ha along 8km of coast. **VNS**

MoIC asks enterprises to pull YouTube ads

HÀ NỘI The Ministry of Information and Communication's Authority of Broadcasting and Electronic Information has asked dozens of brands to pull their ads from video clips that contain anti-State propaganda on YouTube.

The request was made after the authority reported the re-occurrence of advertising clips which were attached to video clips containing illegal and malicious content.

The list of firms provided by the authority included Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd, FPT Digital Retail Joint Stock Company, Grab Company Limited, Samsung Vina Electronics Co. Ltd, Shopee Limited Company, Việt Nam Food and Beverages Service Co. Ltd, Japanese International Eye Hospital, California Fitness and Yoga Centre, Yamaha Motor Vietnam Co. Ltd, and many others.

On June 7, the authority announced violations of Việt Nam's laws by Google and YouTube.

Google was found to loosely manage its content, allowing users to buy ads directly from YouTube and Google without the involvement of domestic ads agents.

Currently, Google is not applying measures to prevent the republication of violating and deleted clips as required by competent agencies. It still suggests clips with inappropriate and harmful content, which account for 0.1 per cent of the total.

According to the authority, Google's advertising agents in Việt Nam, YouTube ads buyers, content creators, and Google's multi-channel network in Việt Nam were also involved in violations.

In early 2017, the ministry found many clips by both domestic and international entrepreneurs con-

taining malicious and anti-government content on YouTube.

Notably, the advertising cash flow earned from these clips was shared with those who produced the clips.

The actions supported the violations of national law in social media content, affecting the reputation and safety of brands and entrepreneurs.

The ministry sent warnings to entrepreneurs and worked with businesses, advertising agents and Google's representatives to take measures to curb the violations.

The situation was solved by March, 2017, but has been found to have re-occurred.

The authority has asked entrepreneurs to actively review their advertising activities on social media and inform the service providers in case they find violations. Entrepreneurs must report any vio-

lations before June 17.

According to the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), there are about 55,000 clips on YouTube which are harmful or violate the law. Nearly 8,000 of them have been deleted as requested by the authority.

In the near future, the authority will ask YouTube to identify Vietnamese channels, and only certified ones will be considered for ad revenue sharing.

The ministry will work with the State Bank of Việt Nam and relevant agencies to closely manage ad revenue flows on YouTube and Google.

The authority will request YouTube remove the suggestion feature for violating channels, ban users from republishing deleted clips, and partner with the ministry to remove inappropriate clips and channels. VNS

BRIEFS

Scholarship fund raises \$1.5 million

HCM CITY The HCM Communist Youth Union's Vũ A Đình Scholarship Fund has received donations of nearly VNĐ35.24 billion (US\$1.5 million) from 20 Vietnamese and foreign individuals and organisations this year.

Trương Mỹ Hoa, former vice president of Việt Nam and the chairwoman of the fund, said at a press conference held in HCM City yesterday that the fund gives away 5,000 scholarships every year to outstanding ethnic minority students in mountainous areas and 3,000 scholarships to students living on islands.

For 20 years, the fund has provided more than 85,000 scholarships to students living in difficult circumstances who have high marks at school.

MoT takes on staff assault at airports

THANH HOÁ The Ministry of Transport has asked the Civil Aviation Authority of Việt Nam, in co-operation with local authorities, to get serious about an assault on security staff at Thọ Xuân Airport in central Thanh Hoá Province.

It has ordered heavy penalties for the tourist who attacked the security guards.

Lê Văn Hùng attacked two airport staff after failing to comply with their instructions at a security gate on June 1.

Hùng, 38, reportedly arrived at Thọ Xuân Airport to check in for a flight to HCM City. He failed to follow instructions and became frustrated. He grabbed one staff member and pushed him to the floor, and then attacked another officer, leaving him with a head wound. Hùng was detained for further investigation. He has been banned from domestic and international flights for a year.

Electronic system launched by Party

HÀ NỘI The Communist Party of Việt Nam Central Committee's Commission for Information and Education launched its electronic information and education system, VCNET, at a ceremony in Hà Nội yesterday.

The system is a joint project of the commission and Viettel Military Industry Telecoms Group. All citizens can join the network by logging in at vcnet.vn or via the system's smartphone app. VCNET is expected to save at least 50 per cent of the agency's working time and cut about 90 per cent of the time used for document circulation.

Nguyễn Thanh Long, deputy head of the commission, said the system would help manage the activities of the information and education sector nationwide by digitising most of its paperwork. It would also serve as a social network to share official information about the policies of the Party and State, he said. VNS

Pagodas illegally built on forest land in Hà Nội

HÀ NỘI The KOVA Tourism Joint Stock Company, investor of Bạc Waterfall-Sao Stream tourism area in Hà Nội, has built and renovated six structures without approval from authorities.

The violations were revealed after an investigation by Hà Nội's Construction Department.

Earlier media reported that a series of pagodas and temples had been built in the forests in two communes of Yên Bình and Yên Trung of Thạch Thất District.

The inspection team reported to the municipal People's Committee that the KOVA Company committed violations on construction and the information reported by the media was correct.

The newly built structures are Ngọc Hoàng Gate, a security house, a restroom. Other renovated structures include the Tứ Trấn Temple.

The team also discovered six other structures in the tourism area that are not in the list managed by the Thạch Thất District's People's Committee.

The Thạch Thất District's People's Committee was blamed for lacking supervision.

The KOVA Company admitted their violations on land use and management, and pledged to deal with the issues.

Inspectors ordered the Thạch Thất District's People's Committee to ask the violator to dismantle the buildings.

The company was also told to stop construction of pagodas and temples in the forest.

The KOVA Company started investment in Bạc Waterfall-Sao Stream tourism area which covered 59.2ha, in 2002. The project was then located in Yên Trung Commune, Lương Sơn District, Hòa Bình Province before the commune was merged into Hà Nội's administrative boundary.

Continued Page 6

Dangerous road



Prolonged heavy rain in the last few days caused landslides on provincial road 132 in the northern mountainous province of Lai Châu's Phong Thổ District, disconnecting the district centre to eight border communes. Local authorities yesterday mobilised people and excavators to clear the road.

VNA/VNS Photo Công Tuyền

Overseas Vietnamese help local start-ups

HCM CITY Many overseas Vietnamese have returned to Việt Nam to start their business as they see high potential and good economic growth.

Phùng Công Dũng, chairman of the Overseas Vietnamese Committee in HCM City, told *Việt Nam News* that many people who have been successful in their career in other countries have invested in businesses here.

Many young overseas Vietnamese have also returned with many experiences and broad knowledge to set up businesses, especially in HCM City.

City authorities, including the Department of Science and Technology, has provided preferential policies on innovation to assist business startups, Dũng said.

Many conferences, such as the one held yesterday by the committee, help overseas Vietnamese connect

with young people who have ideas for startups. At the conference held yesterday, young people presented their startup ideas to investors.

Peter Hồng, who is Vietnamese-Australian, and vice chairman of the board of the Business Association of Overseas Vietnamese (BAOOV), said that many foreigners come to the country to start businesses.

"Overseas Vietnamese have more advantages, such as the native language and a deeper understanding about culture and laws of Việt Nam," he said. "It is also very important that they comply with laws and understand tariffs."

Danny Võ Thành Đăng, vice chairman of BAOOV, said that he returned to Việt Nam from Singapore in 2008 because of Việt Nam's economic growth.

Đăng provides counselling on brand names and startups. He said

that startups should not only help Vietnamese customers but others around the world, and should change consumers' behaviour as the ride-hailing service Grab has done.

Startups should also have a deep understanding about the needs of each market, Đăng said, adding that they should also connect with many enterprises to seek opportunities.

"It's very important that they build a brand name, which will help with promotion and advertising," he added.

According to the Department of Science and Technology, nearly 15 per cent of enterprises in the city are science and technology companies.

There are 75 universities and colleges, more than 270 research institutes and centres with more than 125 labs, and more than 20,000 scientists. VNS