



# NEWSLETTER



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Martina Mayr

Robert Hör

Johannes Vogel

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## Newsletter: 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

A selection of the latest local news in Cambodia

### National Assembly to Have Three Spokespersons

Following the new internal rules of the National Assembly, which requires the parties to set up parliamentary groups, a directive from the President of the National Assembly Heng Samrin now allows the parliamentary groups to select their own spokespersons to “disseminate and clarify to the public about party policies and positions”. This goes along with transferring the office of the spokesperson

of the National Assembly from CPP lawmaker Chheang Vun to the Assembly’s secretary-general Leng Peng Long. However, although both parties have not chosen their spokespersons yet, Chheang Vun is likely to be nominated for the parliamentary group of the ruling CPP. The change facilitating a balance of voices, executive director of Transparency International Cambodia, Preap Kol, called it a positive step, but said a lot depended on the actual implementation.



*The National Assembly of Cambodia will have three spokespersons, according to a new directive*

### Further Reading

CNRP get their say in National Assembly

By Meas Sokchea | November 24, 2015

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cnrp-get-their-say-national-assembly>

Assembly Will Now Have Three Spokespeople to ‘Balance Voices’

By Kuch Daren | November 25, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/assembly-will-now-have-three-spokespeople-to-balance-voices-101264/>

An opposition weapon neglected?

By Shaun Turton | December 2, 2015

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The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/opposition-weapon-neglected>

**Image Source**

[http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen/public/field/image/national\\_assembly\\_view\\_10\\_03\\_2015\\_scott\\_howes.jpg](http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen/public/field/image/national_assembly_view_10_03_2015_scott_howes.jpg)

**Russian Prime Minister Visits Cambodia**



*Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev visit Phnom Penh's Peace Palace*

During a three day state visit to Cambodia by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, a total of ten agreements were signed in order to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries. On request of the Russian Federation, media broadcasting of the visit was, apart from a few exceptions, largely restricted. Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Russian counterpart also discussed a still outstanding loan to the

Cambodian government from 1979. The agreements signed included an air transport services agreement, an agreement between the CPP and Vladimir Putin's United Russia as well as a memorandum on nuclear cooperation. Cambodian authorities not willing to discuss the latter any further, Rosatom chief Sergei Kirienko told Russian reporters a research reactor and a science center could be first steps in developing a nuclear energy program. However, some experts are worried the country might lack the capabilities to handle such a complex project. As of now, Cambodia still relies heavily on imported fuel and electricity.

**Further Reading**

Putin's party, CPP 'peas in pod'

By Igor Kossov | November 20, 2015

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/putins-party-cpp-peas-pod>

Russian PM's Arrival Met With Security, Limited Media Access

By Kang Sothear and Anthony Jensen | November 24, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/russian-pms-arrival-met-with-security-limited-media-access-101205/>

Medvedev Concludes State Visit; Cold War Debt Discussed

By Kang Sothear and Anthony Jensen | November 25, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

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<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/medvedev-concludes-state-visit-cold-war-debt-discussed-101249/>

Loan discussed, deals inked with Medvedev  
By Vong Sokheng | November 25, 2015  
The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/loan-discussed-deals-inked-medvedev>

Russia agreement could lead to nuclear power  
By Igor Kossov | November 27, 2015  
The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/russia-agreement-could-lead-nuclear-power>

**Image Source**

[http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen\\_watermarked/public/field/image/dmitry\\_medvedev\\_at\\_peace\\_palace\\_24\\_11\\_2015\\_sreng\\_meng\\_srung.jpg](http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen_watermarked/public/field/image/dmitry_medvedev_at_peace_palace_24_11_2015_sreng_meng_srung.jpg)

**Celebration of Traditional Water Festival**



*Fireworks at the Royal Palace on the first day of the traditional Water Festival*

The boat races for the traditional Water Festival in Phnom Penh were cancelled for the fourth time in five years. According to Prime Minister Hun Sen, the reason for calling off the festival's famous boat races were the low water levels of the Tonle Sap River interlinked with the drought. However, the opposition claims that the leading party is concerned about the large number of people travelling to the capital during a political tense time and suggests political motives.

While opposition and government blame each other, the majority of the Cambodian society sees a major holiday and old tradition in danger. Despite all concerns, suggestions and political dimensions, King Norodom Sihamoni traditionally pardoned 106 prisoners and reduced 576 sentences of 6 to 12 months. According to Ministry of Justice spokesman Chin Malin, most of them were imprisoned for crimes relating to drugs, theft and robbery.

**Further Reading**

Water Festival cancelled, doubts over motives  
By Aun Pheap and George Wright | November 2, 2015  
The Cambodia Daily

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<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/water-festival-canceled-doubts-over-motives-98935/>

Hun Sen defends decision to cancel annual Water Festival  
By Khuon Narim | November 6, 2015  
The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/hun-sen-defends-decision-to-cancel-annual-water-festival-99535/>

More than 100 receive royal pardons for Water Festival  
By Taing Vida | November 25, 2015  
The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/more-100-receive-royal-pardons-water-festival>

Water Festival at low ebb  
By Khouth Sophak Chakrya | November 25, 2015  
The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/water-festival-low-ebb>

**Image Source**

[http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen/public/field/image/fireworks\\_at\\_royal\\_palace\\_water\\_festival\\_24\\_1\\_1\\_2015\\_heng\\_chivoan.jpg](http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen/public/field/image/fireworks_at_royal_palace_water_festival_24_1_1_2015_heng_chivoan.jpg)

**Sub-Decree on Solid Waste Management Disseminated**



*The Royal Government of Cambodia is working on improving the country's waste management*

Cambodia, just as many other countries in Asia, is embarking on a period of rapid urban development, societal turn and interlinked challenges. One of these emerging challenges is a solid waste management system in urban and rural areas. Even though there are guidelines and policies, implementation in cities is still improvable. In small towns and districts the waste collection rate is less than 50

percent. According to Interior Minister Sar Kheng the new Sub-Decree on Solid Waste Management in Urban Areas shall resolve the increasing problems. The sub-decree outlines responsibilities, measures and punishment mechanisms. For instance, the municipalities, towns and district administrations are to carry more responsibility and to implement measures to improve public awareness. Furthermore, the Sub-Decree includes a punishment catalogue, which regulates fines for improper waste disposal across the country.

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New fines announced for trash code violators

By Khouth Sophak Chakrya | November 17, 2015

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/new-fines-announced-trash-code-violators>

Waste2Resource Cambodia

N.N. | November 30, 2015

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

<http://waste2resource.org/cambodia/>

**Image Source**

[http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen\\_watermarked/public/field/image/rubish.jpg](http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sites/default/files/styles/full-screen_watermarked/public/field/image/rubish.jpg)

**Mass Fainting in Cambodian Factories**

Nearly 400 factory workers, especially in the garment and footwear sector, fainted at the Kandal province Special Economic Zone. The officials blame a nearby farmer who has sprayed pesticide onto his rice. In all six affected factories, among them Indochine Apparel, Dream Toy International and Cambo Unisoll, the workers had experienced dizziness, vomiting and fainting.



*Workers fainted in six factories in Kandal Province*

One woman died two days after the mass fainting, with the death cause still being unclear. The case is not unique: According to the Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC) over 1800 women had fainted in 2014 and while the National Social Security Fund (Ministry of Labour) regularly refers to bad health conditions of the workers as the main reason for mass fainting, international organizations and labor unions are concerned about bad working conditions in many of the factories. Mainly affected are the garment and footwear sector, two key sectors for the Cambodian economy, which comprises 600.000 employees (86% of them are young women) and exported over \$5,8 billion worth of goods in 2014, especially because of the strong demand of European and American consumers.

**Further Reading**

Labour standards in global supply chains

By International Labour Organization | July, 2015

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms\\_383562.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_383562.pdf)

Two Days at two Factories, 184 Female Workers Faint

By Aun Chhengpor | July 1, 2015

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<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/business/over-two-days-at-two-factories-184-female-workers-faint-87006/>

Hundreds faint in Cambodian factories

By Associated Press | November 20, 2015

The Bangkok Post

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/771600/mass-faintings-in-cambodian-factories>

Kandal SEZ workers dies after bout of dizziness

By Mom Kunthear | November 24, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/kandal-sez-worker-dies-after-bout-dizziness>

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**Sam Rainsy Stays Abroad**



*CNRP President Sam Rainsy speaks to reporters during a visit in Japan*

While tensions between the governing CPP and the oppositional CNRP persist, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court issued an arrest warrant against opposition leader Sam Rainsy on 13<sup>th</sup> November. It refers to a four year old verdict concerning a 2008 defamation case, which had widely been considered obsolete after a Royal Pardon for the CNRP leader prior to the parliamentary elections in 2013. Sam Rainsy first announced he would return to Cambodia

anyway but when stripped of his lawmaker status and parliamentary immunity on 16 November, he decided to stay abroad. The United Nations, the European Parliament and the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) announced serious concerns and called on the government to drop the cases against Sam Rainsy and other opposition figures. Worried about their safety, remaining CNRP lawmakers decided not to attend the session of the National Assembly on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Nonetheless, both parties still pursue the 'culture of dialogue', which was agreed upon in July last year.

**Further Reading**

Court Issues Arrest Warrant for Sam Rainsy

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By Kuch Naren | November 13, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/court-issues-arrest-warrant-for-sam-rainsy-100293/>

Stripped of immunity, Sam Rainsy delays return

By Shaun Turton and Meas Sokchea | November 17, 2015

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/stripped-immunity-rainsy-delays-return>

Cambodia: Ban calls arrest warrant for opposition leader 'worrisome development'

N.N. | November 17, 2015

UN News Center

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52581>

ASEAN MPs call on Cambodian government to end persecution of opposition

N.N. | November 30, 2015

ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR)

<http://aseanmp.org/2015/11/30/cambodia-end-persecution-of-opposition/>

Opposition Lawmakers to Boycott Assembly

By Alex Willemyns and Mech Dara | November 30, 2015

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/opposition-lawmakers-to-boycott-assembly-101443/>

'Busy' CPP pols in no rush to meet with CNRP

By Meas Sokchea | December 1, 2015

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/busy-cpp-pols-no-rush-meet-cnrp>

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