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NEWSLETTER

KAS CAMBODIA OFFICE

The following articles are a composition of last two weeks' (01.11.-15.11.) press releases in Cambodia. They give a review on current developments in the country.

59th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE



On Friday, the 9th of November, Cambodia marked the 59th anniversary of its independence from France. Around 10,000 Cambodians gathered around the Independence Monument in Phnom Penh to celebrate the occasion. The ceremony was chaired by National Assembly President Heng Samrin. King Norodom Sihamoni, who attended the event in the previous years, skipped the ceremony as he is still in mourning for the late King

Source: thecambodiaherald¹

Father Norodom Sihanouk who died in Beijing last month. The death of the King cast a somber mood on the whole celebration. The independence from France, who ruled the country from 1863-1953, is widely seen as one of the greatest achievements of the former King Sihanouk. The victory flame was kept burning for three days. Moreover, doves and balloons were released into the sky as a sign for freedom.

Further Reading:

Cambodians Somberly Mark Independence Day: http://www.voacambodia.com/content/cambodians-somberly-mark-independenceday/1542846.html Cambodia marks 59th anniversary of independence: http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=15&token=ZjJIMjMwNDMzYTA 4MzczYzVmZTVINzZmZjZjYmJj Cambodian Independence Day celebrated: http://en.vietnamplus.vn/Home/Cambodian-Independence-Daycelebrated/201211/29769.vnplus



¹http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/images/upload/cambodia/ZjJIMjMwNDMzYTA4MzczYzVmZTVINzZmZ jZjYmJj/760_450/Indep-Day-cen1.jpg

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE 21st ASEAN SUMMIT IN CAMBODIA



Source: thecambodiaherald²

During the first weeks of November, Cambodia is eagerly preparing to host a series of top-level meetings. From the 18th to the 20th of November the 21st ASEAN Summit will be held in Phnom Penh being followed by the 7th East Asia Summit on the 20th of November. The Summits will be the biggest international event ever held in Cambodia and bring together all ASEAN leaders and ASEAN's dialogue country leaders including newly reelected Barack Obama who recently confirmed his

attendance being the first sitting U.S. president to visit. Several Rights Groups have been calling for Obama to seek strict reforms in this context. Moreover, - as a preparation for the summit - the government already addressed that some schools will be temporarily closed to reduce traffic congestion, 10,000 members of the armed forces will be deployed in order to ensure safety and security and that protestors face arrest during the summit.

Further Reading:

Cambodia preps for ASEAN Summit:

http://www.bt.com.bn/news-national/2012/11/15/cambodia-preps-asean-summit July's Failure Looms as Cambodia Prepares for Major Regional Summits: http://www.voacambodia.com/content/july-failure-loos-over-asean-summit/1545084.html Clean sweep for ASEAN:

http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2012110959663/National-news/clean-sweepfor-asean.html

Rights group urges Obama to press Cambodia on abuses:

http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=11&token=ZjYyYTkxZjMxNm RiYWM2MzUzMDM5ZDM4YTg1MjM4

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBODIA



While last year the credit rating agency Standard and Poor's has lowered Cambodia's long-term sovereign credit rating by one notch to "B", this year the rating is affirmed. Moreover, the outlook for the long-term rating remains stable due to the country's positive growth outlook. The rating means, that Cambodia currently has the capacity to meet it financial commitments. But again, the rating agency warned of

Source: thecambodiaherald³

risks related to the country's narrow economic base and the low income.

²http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/images/upload/cambodia/Nzk3M2QyNGI2MmUyZTIyYjlkODA1YmQx NDA2NWJI/760_450/Khieu%20Kanharithj.jpg ³http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/images/upload/cambodia/N2U2ZjgxYWI5YzBiMiE5OGQ1Y2IxMmJm

MDMzODZk/760_450/Cambodia.gif

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Further Reading:
Sovereigns Ratings List:
http://www.standardandpoors.com/ratings/sovereigns/ratings-list/en/us/
Cambodia ratings affirmed, outlook remains stable:
http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=13&token=N2U2ZjgxYWI5Yz
BjMjE5OGQ1Y2IxMmJmMDMzODZk
Hun Sen: remove ASEAN trade barriers:
http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2012103159497/Business/hun-sen-remove-
asean-trade-barriers.html
Insight: Land conflict, impunity dim Cambodia's awakening:
http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/12/us-cambodia-protests-
idUSBRE8AB17J20121112

KHMER ROUGE TRIAL: IENG SARY BACK IN DETENTION



Source: thecambodiaherald⁴

On Thursday, 8th of November, the 88 year old leng Sary returned back to detention as the geriatric specialist Professor John Campbell considers him to be able to follow the proceedings. Ieng Sary was the Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs during the Khmer Rouge Regime between 1975 and 1979 under which about 1.7 million people came to death. In 2007, he was arrested by the ECCC and charged of genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Ieng Sary was admitted to hospital in September as he was suffering from heart and back problems. But after an examination on the 4th and 5th of November, the medical expert came to the conclusion, that the defendant would not benefit

from a further stay in hospital. leng Sary's defense team finds the "methodology of the diagnosis unacceptable" and is seeking discredit.

His wife, leng Thirith, was released from tribunal detention in September after she was found mentally unfit to stand trial due to her dementia. Her release and the subsequent hospitalization of leng Sary promoted the fear among the Cambodians that the leaders of the Khmer Rouge will not be brought to justice.

Further Reading:

ECCC – leng Sary:

http://www.eccc.gov.kh/en/indicted-person/ieng-sary

Khmer Rouge suspect back in detention after hospital stay:

http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/detail/1?page=15&token=NjhIMzc0ZjM5NDM 2Yjc5YWZhNTUzYzQyOGJmMjBm

leng Sary severance casts a shadow:

http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/KRTalk/ieng-sary-severance-casts-a-shadow.html

⁴http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/images/upload/cambodia/NjhlMzc0ZjM5NDM2Yjc5YWZhNTUzYzQy0 GJmMjBm/760_450/images.jpg

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OPPOSITION GETTING READY FOR NEXT YEARS ELECTION



2013, the opposition parties work hard to join forces in order to compete with the ruling Cambodian Peoples Party (CPP). But there are still many difficulties to be faced. The merger of the two major opposition parties Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) and Human Rights Party (HRP) to the newly created Cambodia National Salvation Party – also known as Rescue Party – is of critical importance. Sam Rainsy has therefore

As the elections are coming up next year in July

passed on his position as the president of the SRP to Kong Korm during the SRP Congress on the 2nd of November. But only shortly after, the National Election Committee has removed Sam Rainsy from the voter rolls on the grounds that he is a convicted criminal. His defense lawyer has already filed a complaint with the Constitutional Council appealing the decision. According to the procedure, the verdict will be made, at the earliest, 10 days following the submission of the complaint.

Further Reading:

Sam Rainsy Quits Party: http://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/quit-10032012181510.html Sam Rainsy deleted from Voter List for Election: http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/sam-rainsy-deleted-from-voter-list-for-election-5229/ Australian Senate Pushes for Fair Elections in Cambodia: http://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/australian-senate-pushes-for-fair-elections-incambodia-4930/ 'Unacceptable' Insult Leads to Opposition Walkout at National Assembly Session: http://www.voacambodia.com/content/unacceptable-insult-leads-to-opposition-walkout-at-

http://www.voacambodia.com/content/unacceptable-insult-leads-to-opposition-walkoutnational-assembly-session/1546042.html

⁵http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_8086-1442-1-30.pdf?121102110848