



NEWSLETTER



KAS CAMBODIA OFFICE

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Newsletter: 1st – 31st August 2016

A selection of the latest local news in Cambodia

CNRP Plans Committees to Develop Policies before Election



Son Chhay, CNRP's Chief Whip rejects claims that the opposition was planning a shadow cabinet (KT/Chor Sokunthea)

The CNRP has announced plans to set up a number of committees that ought to mirror the work of the National Assembly's commissions. The announcement sparked a controversy which has revolved around whether the opposition party was planning to create a 'shadow cabinet' or simply party internal working groups. The creation of an actual shadow cabinet has been called illegal by, amongst others, the president of the National Assembly.

Furthermore, a current CNRP lawmaker, who would head the Committee for Interior, National Defense and Civil Service, had been imprisoned when he assumed a similar position in 2005. At that time, the Sam Rainsy Party tried to establish a number of committees but was hindered on the grounds that the creation of a shadow cabinet was illegal and exemplified an ambition to overthrow the government. Thus, the opposition has been eager to emphasize that the committees would only constitute party internal working groups. They could advise parliamentary officials and also gather resources for the compilation of a coherent set of policies. Such a concrete set of policies has often been stated as crucial if the CNRP was to win the next elections and try to successfully govern the country. Such a set of policies would follow up on the earlier creation of an updated political program for the next election. However, these strengthening and preparatory measures are mitigated by the fact that the CNRP's parliamentarians are still boycotting the National Assembly and it is unclear when they will resume their work.

Further Reading

Opposition: No Shadow Cabinet
By Taing Vida | August 12, 2016
Khmer Times

<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/28423/opposition--no-shadow-cabinet/>

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CNRP sets up 'shadow government' to prepare for possible election win
By Meas Sokchea and Shaun Turton | August 10, 2016

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cnrp-sets-shadow-government-prepare-possible-election-win>

To Boycott or Not? The CNRP's Parliamentary Quandary

By Colin Meyn | August 27, 2016

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/boycott-not-cnmps-quandary-117230/>

Image Source

<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/28423/opposition--no-shadow-cabinet/>

Cambodia and Russia Continue Nuclear Energy Talks

The Council for the Development of Cambodia and Rosatom, the Russian state nuclear firm, signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in order to create a nuclear information center and to establish a joint working group with the goal of developing nuclear energy in Cambodia. The signed MoUs were directly linked to Prime Minister Hun Sen's official state visit to Moscow this May. According to the head of Rosatom, Sergei Kirienko, the two countries



Prime Minister Hun Sen and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in Phnom Penh last year (Sreng Meng Srun)

took first steps in the area of nuclear energy when the Russian Prime Minister Dimitry Medvedev visited Cambodia last November. This month representatives from both countries officially began discussions about how Russia could help the Kingdom to efficiently develop the use of nuclear energy. Sok Kean, a representative from the Ministry of Environment, stated that both countries would initially focus mostly on human resource development in important fields like mathematics or physics. The Cambodian government's goal was not just to construct a nuclear reactor but to use nuclear energy in other fields like medicine or construction as well. According to Om Romny, Director General of the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, the nuclear information center would be an excellent opportunity for Cambodian students to learn about Cambodia's chances and benefits from nuclear technology. In contrast, Professor Sophal Ear from the Occidental College in Los Angeles argued that it would take long until local Cambodians could use and maintain nuclear technology themselves.

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First Joint Meeting for Nuclear Plant
By May Kunmakara | August 18, 2016
Khmer Times

<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/28623/first-joint-meeting-for-nuclear-plant/>

Cambodia, Russia continue discussing nuclear energy plans
By Cristina Maza | August 12, 2016
The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/cambodia-russia-continue-discussing-nuclear-energy-plans>

Russia Says Cambodia Mulling Nuclear Power Plant
By Reuters | November 12, 2015
The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/russia-says-cambodia-mulling-nuclear-power-plant-101367/>

Image Source

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/nuclear-plans-among-topics-russian-meet>

SRP Senator Thak Lany Sued for Suggesting that Prime Minister Hun Sen Was Involved in the Murderer of Dr. Kem Ley



PM Hun Sen said he will sue opposition Senator Thak Lany (middle) after she allegedly accused the Prime Minister of killing Kem Ley (Khmer Times)

Prime Minister Hun Sen sued opposition Sam Rainsy Party senator Thak Lany for defamation for publicly accusing him of being involved in the shooting of the political analyst Dr. Kem Ley in July. She allegedly made the accusation during a public speech in Ratanakiri. Hun Sen's lawyer, Ky Tech, has filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Prime Minister. A similar case was brought before the court against opposition party leader Sam Rainsy. Ky Tech mentioned that the Prime Minister wanted to be cleared of blame. By not saying the truth, Thak Lany and Sam Rainsy would affect the honor of both the Prime Minister and of the whole Cambodian government. Senator Thak Lany denied having accused Hun Sen of being involved in the shooting of Dr. Kem Ley. She argued that the audio of the recording of her speech had been falsified. Until today the senator failed twice to turn up at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court. Her lawyer stated that Ms. Lany enjoyed parliamentary immunity and would not show up at the court unless her immunity was revoked. This was required by parliamentary rules and procedures. Ly Sophana, spokesman of the court, denied Ms. Lany's law-

tioned that the Prime Minister wanted to be cleared of blame. By not saying the truth, Thak Lany and Sam Rainsy would affect the honor of both the Prime Minister and of the whole Cambodian government. Senator Thak Lany denied having accused Hun Sen of being involved in the shooting of Dr. Kem Ley. She argued that the audio of the recording of her speech had been falsified. Until today the senator failed twice to turn up at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court. Her lawyer stated that Ms. Lany enjoyed parliamentary immunity and would not show up at the court unless her immunity was revoked. This was required by parliamentary rules and procedures. Ly Sophana, spokesman of the court, denied Ms. Lany's law-

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yer's request for postponing the trial. He said that the investigation of the case would continue with or without the senator.

Further Reading

Lany Lawyer Requests Trial Pause
By Pech Sotheary | August 18, 2016

Khmer Times
<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/28648//>

Hun Sen to sue opposition senator over alleged Kem Ley remarks
By Meas Sokchea and Mech Dara | August 1, 2016

The Phnom Penh Post
<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/hun-sen-sue-opposition-senator-over-alleged-kem-ley-remarks>

Hun Sen Sues Sam Rainsy, Senator Over Killing Claims
By Khuon Narim and Zsombor Peter | August 2, 2016

The Cambodia Daily
<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/hun-sen-sues-sam-rainsy-senator-over-killing-claims-116151/>

Image Source

<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/28342/cnrp-senator-summoned-to-appear-in-once-again/>

Cambodia Sends Six To Rio Olympics

Six athletes represented Cambodia at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The first athlete to represent Cambodia in competition was 21 year old swimmer Pou Sovijja. The medical student finished the men's 100 meters freestyle in less than one minute. He thereby reached his personal goal. Cambodia's second swimmer was Hem Thon Vitiny who participated in the women's 50 meters freestyle. The country's hopes for a medal, however, rested on Sorn Seavmey who competed in the discipline of women's Taekwondo (+67kg). The 21 year old had previously won gold at the 2014 Asian Games. Unfortunately, she was unable to proceed to the quarter finals after being defeated by the Dutch Reshmie Oogink. Cambodia's fourth representative at the games was the wrestler Chow Sotheara (women's 48kg freestyle wrestling). The athlete experienced an early out after losing to Colombian wrestler Carolina Castillo Hidalgo. Both the women's and men's marathon in Rio had Cambodian participants. Kuniaki Takizaki, who had been unable to compete in the 2012 London Olympics as he had acquired Cambodian citizenship only a year



Nary Ly crosses the finish line in Rio with the Cambodian flag in her hands (AFP / Johannes Eisele)

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earlier, finished his run as second last. 44 year old Nary Ly represented Cambodia in the women’s marathon and finished as 133rd.

Further Reading

Olympic Bid Ends With Sorn Seavmey Loss
By Ouch Sony | August 22, 2016

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/news/olympic-bid-ends-sorn-seavmey-loss-116980/>

Team Cambodia in training in Rio as opening ceremony approaches
By H S Manjunath | August 1, 2016

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/sport/team-cambodia-training-rio-opening-ceremony-approaches>

Nary Ly Creates History for Cambodia at Rio

By Ismail Vorajee | August 16, 2016

Khmer Times

<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/28489/nary-ly-creates-history-for-cambodia-at-rio/>

Image Source

<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/28489/nary-ly-creates-history-for-cambodia-at-rio/>

Entrance Fees at Angkor Archaeological Park Set to Rise in February 2017



Tourists cuing to purchase Angkor Wat Archeological Park passes (Thik Kaliyann / The Phnom Penh Post)

The Cambodian government has announced a major increase in entrance fees for the Angkor Archaeological Park starting on February 1st 2017. Last year in November the government took over ticket sales and ticket price setting for the Angkor temple complex from businessman Sok Kong’s Sokimex group. Tourism Minister Thong Khon has argued that the entrance fees for the whole Angkor temple complex were significantly lower compared to other major tourist complexes within the region.

Thus, it was time to adapt them. The ticket price of a one-day pass will rise from \$20 to \$37, while the price of a three-day pass and weekly pass, now priced at \$40 and 60\$ will rise to \$62 and \$72 respectively. Two Dollars from each ticket will go to the Kantha Bopha Children’s Hospital. The Swiss-owned hospital provides free treatment to Cambodian children. Representatives of the Cambodian tourism sector are partly afraid of the aftermath of raising fees that high. Chhay Sivlin, president

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of the Cambodian Association of Travel Agents, mentioned that negotiating travel packages with travel agencies abroad would become harder. Other employees related to the tourism sector in Siem Reap fear a decrease in the number of visiting tourists and that business will become even more competitive. The spokesman for the Council of Ministers, Phay Siphon, doesn't see any upcoming effects on the number of tourists as compared to other world heritage sites even the new prices remained on a low level. In addition, tourists would understand that the government needs the money to protect the Angkor temple complex for future generations.

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Tickets into Angkor to Nearly Double

By Chea Vannak | August 8, 2016

Khmer Times

<http://www.khmertimeskh.com/news/28158/tickets-into-angkor-to-nearly-double/>

Angkor Wat Ticket Prices Set to Rise After Government Takeover

By Kang Sothearc | August 8, 2016

The Cambodia Daily

<https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/angkor-wat-ticket-prices-set-to-rise-after-govt-takeover-116386/>

Angkor Wat ticket price hike could hurt visitor numbers

By Hor Kimsay | August 8, 2016

The Phnom Penh Post

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/angkor-wat-ticket-price-hike-could-hurt-visitor-numbers-experts>

Image Source

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/angkor-wat-ticket-price-hike-could-hurt-visitor-numbers-experts>