

No Charges For Official Who Killed 2 With SUV

By Khy Sovuthy
The Cambodia Daily

A top government official involved in a car crash that killed a husband and wife will not face charges after the Kandal Provincial Court decided to drop the case, even though the key eyewitness claims he did not even see the accident happen.

Nuon Someth, an undersecretary of state at the Tourism Ministry, was detained by provincial police on April 12 last year after the Toyota Land Cruiser he was driving to Phnom Penh crashed into a motorbike on National Road 1. The motorbike driver, Mith Sothea, 38, died at the scene, and his wife, Khorn Yeth, 32, died a few weeks later.

Mr. Someth claims his SUV struck the motorbike, which was heading in the opposite direction, after it was clipped on the front left side by an oncoming truck that fled the scene.

The undersecretary, at his request, was released from police custody hours after the crash.

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Reuters

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is swarmed by the media as he leaves a news conference at the National Assembly in Seoul yesterday.

Ban Quits Presidential Race, Cites Fake News

Reuters

SEOUL - Former U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon, once considered front-runner to be the next South Korean president, ruled out a run for the job yesterday, saying he was “disappointed at the selfish ways” of some politicians and complaining of “fake news.”

Ban told reporters at parlia-

ment, after meeting conservative party leaders, that he had been subject to “malign slander akin to character assassination” in the media and had given up his “patriotic” plan to spearhead political change.

“With all kinds of fake news, my intention for political change was nowhere to be seen and all that was left were grave scars

for my family and myself, and to the honor of the U.N., where I spent the past 10 years,” he said.

South Korea has been gripped by political crisis for months amid a corruption scandal that led to the impeachment of South Korean President Park Geun-hye. If the impeachment vote is upheld by the Constitutional Court, she

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Indonesia Islamic Council to Issue Fatwa Against Fake News
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CNRP Brushes Off Week of Leaks Despite Threats

News Analysis

By Sek Odom
and Ben Paviour
The Cambodia Daily

If the rumors are true, opposition lawmaker Ho Vann knew what he was getting into.

“Even though we have slept together, we should not leak information about it,” a man

alleged to be Mr. Vann tells a woman in an audio recording posted to an anonymous Facebook page on Tuesday. “I am worried about it.”

It was the latest in a deluge of rumors posted anonymously online over the past week against CNRP lawmakers, most of them about sexual indiscretions. Prime Minister Hun Sen took time during a

session of parliament on Tuesday to mention rumors that Yem Ponhearith had defiled the halls of parliament with an extramarital fling with a secretary, while photographs were spread of Eng Chhay Eang indulging a gambling habit he claimed to have kicked.

Like the other supposed scandals, the rumor was quickly

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And Also...

Museum Hopes Leaders Don't Have Meltdowns

U.S. President Donald Trump has found a home south of the border. Or, at least, his wax likeness has. At Mexico City's Wax Museum, locals can now find the new president standing next to their president, Enrique Pena Nieto. The two leaders were supposed to meet last month, but it was called off due to tensions over Trump's plan to build a wall along the U.S.'s southern border with Mexico and make Mexico pay for it. Wax Museum manager Cesar Urbano said he hopes the leaders would meet soon. "They have to meet to bring about new deals because at the end of the day we are civilized countries," Urbano said. "And as civilized countries, we have to find peace to have negotiations, right?" (*Reuters*)

Official...

Continued from page 1

Court prosecutor Lim Sokuntha later said he ordered the release based on the police account of the collision and because Mr. Someth had agreed to pay \$5,500 to the victims' families.

Mr. Someth returned to the court for questioning in June, along with a witness and relative of Mith Sothea. Police claim that witnesses told them they saw a truck—which was never found—clip Mr. Someth's Toyota before the SUV ran into the motorbike.

Police told reporters in May that they had recorded the name of only one of the witnesses, Tat Saing, the owner of a small motorbike repair shop on the side of the road where the crash occurred.

Mr. Saing, however, told reporters in May that he was not watching the road when the collision occurred, did not see the crash and said as much to police.

"I just heard the sound of the crash, but I didn't see the car crash with the motorbike with my eyes," he said at the time.

Under Cambodian law, causing a fatal crash carries a sentence of one to three years in prison, and two to five years if the crash causes multiple deaths or if the perpetrator is intoxicated. However, it is common practice in Cambodia for police and courts not to pursue charges against those who cause fatal accidents when they pay compensation to the victims' families.

Contacted yesterday, deputy prosecutor Sam Rithyveasna said he decided to drop the case last month because Mr. Someth had done nothing wrong.

"I dropped this case and will not proceed with it because it was not his mistake," he said. "He is a victim because his car did not hit the motorbike directly."

Mr. Someth declined to comment on the court's decision.

Questions still surround the

Trump Served by DeGeneres for Movie Showing

U.S. talk show host ELLEN DEGENERES on Tuesday took a dig at U.S. President DONALD TRUMP's immigration ban by explaining the plot of her hit animated movie "Finding Dory." DeGeneres, who voices the forgetful fish Dory on a mission to find her parents in the U.S., noted that "Finding Dory" was screened at the White House on Saturday, the day after Trump signed an executive order banning refugees and travelers from seven majority-Muslim nations from entering the U.S. In the movie, Dory arrives in the U.S. and can't find her parents. "Other animals help her, even though they're completely different colors. Because that's what you do when you see someone in need, you help them," DeGeneres said. (*Reuters*)

Newsmakers

case and differing accounts from witnesses.

Three other people who claimed to have witnessed the accident, but declined to give their names for fear of retaliation, told reporters in April that they did not see a truck clip the SUV before it ran into the motorbike. One of the three also said that immediately after the accident, a passenger who emerged from the SUV scolded the driver for ignoring his advice not to drive drunk.

Prum Samnang, deputy Kien Svay district police chief, said at the time that there was no equipment on hand to test Mr. Someth's blood alcohol level. But he said he believed the undersecretary was not intoxicated, judging by his appearance.

Mr. Saing, the shop owner, declined to comment yesterday on the court's decision or about the fact that police and court officials say he saw the accident, contrary to his previous

statement.

"I gave my answer to the court already, so I don't want to talk about it again," he said. "It is the court's decision, so I don't want to be involved with this case anymore."

Sarom Sokha, a nephew of Mith Sothea, the motorbike driver who died in the crash, also declined to comment. Last year, he lamented the lack of charges, but said he had accepted the court's decision because the family had already taken Mr. Someth's money.

Asked yesterday about the discrepancy between the police and witness accounts, Mr. Rithyveasna said the damage sustained by the SUV could not have been caused by something as light as a motorbike, corroborating the claim that it was clipped by a truck.

"People can change their answers, but the evidence, like the car, cannot change and it is very clear," he said.

Ban...

Continued from page 1

will have to quit and an election would be held two months later.

A ruling is expected as soon as late this month.

Ban, 72, returned to South Korea last month after serving 10 years as U.N. secretary-general. He was unable to capitalize on his much-anticipated homecoming, cutting a sometimes-irritable figure in public and mired in a series of perceived public relations gaffes and a scandal involving family members.

The media leapt on a series of minor blunders, for instance when he took the airport express train instead of a limo on his return to South Korea, but didn't know how to buy a ticket.

Even without announcing his intention to run, his support ratings in opinion polls had slipped to second place behind the presidential candidate for the main opposition Democratic Party, Moon Jae-in.

Ban had been expected to run as a conservative, but was unable to secure any party affiliation.

His clean image and his international profile were damaged

by the indictment of his brother, Ban Ki-sang, and a nephew in the U.S. in a bribery scheme.

Ban's announcement appeared to surprise the four main political parties aiming to field candidates, including Moon's Democratic Party. "I was looking forward to a good race, so it is disappointing," he said.

A poll of 1,147 people by R&Search released yesterday showed Ban's support continuing to slip to 16.5 percent from 18 percent a week ago, compared to 35.2 percent for Moon, up from 34.8 percent a week ago.

Ban's decision could boost

the chances of minor candidates such as Ahn Cheol-soo of the progressive People's Party, said Kim Jun-seok, a political science professor at Dongguk University in Seoul.

There had been little to propel Ban's chances for the presidency in the absence of a political base and the lack of a clear message after his return, Kim said.

"He has hit a wall with nothing but his high profile as the U.N. secretary-general," Kim said. "While his support ratings did not rise...he kept making mistakes."

PM Vows Unconstitutional Block of Ministers' Questioning

By Ben Sokhean
The Cambodia Daily

Following plans by opposition lawmakers to call the ministers of defense, agriculture and labor to be grilled at the National Assembly, Prime Minister Hun Sen reportedly vowed yesterday to block them from appearing—a move that would violate the Constitution.

Senior opposition lawmaker Son Chhay announced on Tuesday a plan to send letters to the ministers through National Assembly President Heng Samrin over the next two weeks. Among the issues on the table would be the promotion of three of Mr. Hun Sen's bodyguards following their release from prison last year after savagely attacking two opposition lawmakers, which the CNRP wishes to discuss with Defense Minister Tea Banh.

However, in an article uploaded to government mouthpiece Fresh News yesterday,

Mr. Hun Sen was quoted as saying that he would block any attempts to have the ministers questioned, citing the CNRP's boycott of a vote on whether to amend an article in the National Assembly's internal rules stripping the opposition of official "minority" status in parliament.

"I will not let [them] appear at the Assembly," Mr. Hun Sen was quoted as saying about the ministers. "You must respect the law first. Come to the Assembly's meeting first."

"If you do not respect the law, how can they come to appear?" he continued, according to the article.

The CPP voted unanimously on Tuesday to change the internal rules to end the official majority and minority party designations, which were designed to give the CNRP a channel to make its voice heard through a "culture of dialogue."

In the same session, Mr. Hun

Sen went on a tirade against the opposition, threatening to have the courts seize exiled opposition leader Sam Rainsy's property, including the CNRP's headquarters, and proposing a legal amendment that would ban the longtime opposition leader from political party leadership because he is a convicted criminal.

Contacted yesterday, CNRP lawmaker Eng Chhay Eang would not respond directly to the premier's reported comments, but said the party intended to press ahead with plans to summon the ministers.

"We have submitted the official letters yet, and what the prime minister said is also unofficial as he has not mentioned it in an official letter," Mr. Chhay Eang said.

"We have plans to summon at least three ministers to appear at the National Assembly, according to the Constitution, for questioning on each of their

sectors."

Political analyst Meas Ny said he believed this was simply another example of the premier's posturing in the run-up to commune elections in June.

"We know that it is barking season," he said.

Regardless, Mr. Ny pointed out that blocking ministers from appearing at the National Assembly was a clear violation of the Constitution. Article 97 of the Constitution reads: "The Commissions of the National Assembly can invite any minister to give clarifications on issue relating to his/her responsibility."

The CNRP heads five such commissions.

"The banning of ministers to appear is a serious violation of the Constitution because the National Assembly is an independent institution that is able to summon senior officials to the legislative institution," Mr. Ny said.



International Labour Office



Re - JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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Kratie Health Center Official Arrested Over Violent Rampage

By Buth Kimsay
The Cambodia Daily

The director of a commune-run health center in Kratie province has been arrested for allegedly running his girlfriend off the road in an ambulance, then beating and robbing her, police said yesterday.

Sim Chanveasna, 47, director of the O'Krieng commune health center in Sambor district, was arrested at the facility on Tuesday after his 22-year-old

mistress of seven years filed a complaint alleging a violent chain of events that occurred last week, district police chief Bun Chhoeun said.

"He was jealous that his mistress was with another man. When he saw her on a motorbike with the other man, he then chased them," he said.

The woman told police that she had been riding through the commune on the back of another man's motorbike at about 10 p.m. on January 24 when Mr. Chanveasna began

to pursue the pair while driving the center's empty ambulance, Mr. Chhoeun said.

He then rammed the ambulance into the side of the motorbike, causing the other man to crash and leaving the pair with minor injuries to their arms and legs, he said.

Mr. Chhoeun said the suspect beat the victims at the scene of the crash, then proceeded to drag his mistress into the ambulance and steal her jewelry while driving her home, instructing her not to

file a complaint.

Commune chief Keo Bopha said the suspect had frequently taken the ambulance for personal use and also routinely left work to spend afternoons at his farm.

"Everyone here knows he is rude toward the villagers and patients," Mr. Bopha said.

Kratie Provincial Court spokesman Tev Vuthen said the suspect had been detained at the provincial police headquarters and would be questioned again today by court officials.

Hundreds of Poultry Culled in S Rieng After Bird Flu Outbreak

By Sek Odom
The Cambodia Daily

Hundreds of chickens and ducks infected with H5N1 bird flu have been culled in Svay Reing province after an outbreak of the virus last week, the first reported cases since November 2015.

Flocks of birds belonging to three farming families in Svay Chrum district's Bassac commune have been destroyed by officials as part of efforts to contain the spread of the virus, said Thach Rotana, director of the provincial agriculture department.

Prompted by the sudden

deaths of 68 birds, local authorities alerted Mr. Rotana's office to a suspected outbreak on January 24.

"We brought three ducks to the Health Ministry for examination and found that it was a case of H5N1," he said yesterday, adding that officials suspected wildlife from a nearby pond had infected the birds.

"We had to destroy more than 300 birds. Now we are observing to make sure it doesn't spread to other villages or farms," he said.

Villagers understood the need for the culling, but had asked for compensation, which the department could not pro-

vide, he added.

"We don't have the budget," Mr. Rotana said.

Provincial health department director Keo Rotha said villagers had been instructed to keep birds confined until they received confirmation that the virus had not spread further.

Ly Sovann, a Health Ministry spokesman, said officers had found no human cases so far.

"We are continuing to monitor human health," he said. "If our staff detect any suspected cases, they need to collect a sample."

Mr. Sovann said officials had also warned community members not to eat locally

farmed poultry.

Cases of human infection with bird flu, which causes a highly infectious respiratory disease in birds, are not common. Almost all cases of H5N1 infection in people have been traced to close contact with infected live or dead birds, or H5N1-contaminated environments, according to the World Health Organization.

In 2015, an outbreak in the provinces of Siem Reap and Battambang led to the deaths of more than 2,000 ducks, less than a year after two children also died from the virus.

(Additional reporting by Sonia Kohlbacher)

Cabinet Officials to Receive Raises as Part of Broader Effort

By Aun Pheap
The Cambodia Daily

Cabinet members for senior government officials are the latest beneficiaries of a broad effort to raise the salaries of state employees, and according to a sub-decree signed this week, those working in the prime minister's cabinet are to have their salaries more than doubled.

Signed by Prime Minister Hun Sen, the sub-decree dated Tuesday sets out pay ranges and the organizational structure of cabinets for the prime minister, deputy prime ministers, senior ministers, ministers and

secretaries of state.

The new monthly salaries for the prime minister's cabinet will range from 1.5 million riel, or about \$350, to 5 million riel, or about \$1,250, depending on seniority, while officials working in cabinets for the country's nine deputy prime ministers will earn between 1 million riel, or about \$250, and 3.5 million riel, or about \$875.

All other cabinet officials—in a bureaucracy that includes well over 150 senior ministers, ministers and secretary of states—have had their wages bumped up to between 1 million riel, or about \$250, and 2.8 million riel, or about \$700.

Youk Bunna, a secretary of state and spokesman for the Public Functions Ministry, said cabinet officials had not received a raise in years, even as they rose through the ranks.

"We have prepared the new payroll list to raise salaries for cabinet officials because they were promoted, and some of them worked for many years and never received a pay raise," he said.

Mr. Bunna declined to list the preceding salaries of all the cabinet positions, but said the top members of the prime minister's cabinet were receiving about 2 million riel, or about \$500, per month, and would

now receive up to 5 million riel, or about \$1,250.

"The government has raised it...this year, because the salaries they earned in the past were not enough for them to support their families," he said. He added that he did not know the total number of cabinet employees, or the total cost of salary increases for the government.

However, he said there were more than 100 people employed within the prime minister's cabinet alone. The sub-decree limits the number of cabinet members for deputy prime ministers to 12 and ministers to eight.

Chief Monk, Authorities Quarrel Over Wat's Buddha Statues

By Chhorn Phearun
The Cambodia Daily

Authorities are attempting to seize two Buddha statues estimated to be about 500 years old after photographs of the relics locked up at a pagoda in Kandal province went viral on Facebook last week.

Sim Nang, chief of Ang Snoul district's Chhak Chhoeu Neang commune, said officials from the Culture and Fine Arts Ministry had repeatedly visited Preah Neak pagoda since Monday asking to take the statues to Phnom Penh's National Museum.

The statues are made of gold, copper and bronze, with one weighing 80.5 kg and the other 85.2 kg, said Noch Yan, a monk who has worked at the pagoda for more than 20 years. Elderly villagers have told him there used to be a third statue, and the three were "like brothers," he said.



Fresh News

Two Buddha statues the government wants to take to the National Museum are displayed at a pagoda in Kandal province's Ang Snoul district this week.

Ms. Nang said the ministry officials had listened to villagers' concerns, and had briefly received approval to take the statues from first deputy chief monk Mao Sreng, who has been serving as the pagoda's leader since the chief died in March.

"I don't know the reason why

he changed his mind, but [now] he wants villagers to worship the statues at the pagoda," she said.

Kur Hok, deputy director of the provincial culture and fine arts department, said a resolution had yet to be reached between the ministry and pagoda.

"We must make a proper

request. We can't just do it," he said, declining to comment further "because it's ongoing."

Ms. Nang, the commune chief, said the two statues had been displayed in the pagoda's dining hall for many years, but the chief monk locked them

"It is about mistrust among each other."

—Commune chief Sim Nang

away in his room after hearing they could be extremely valuable. After he died, there was debate among local worshippers about what to do with them.

"Some people want the statues to be displayed at the National Museum. Some villagers feel suspicious that someone might take them out and sell them," she said. "It is about mistrust among each other."



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- > Ensure work plan indicators are achieved, in close coordination with the Team Leader and technical leads of each Component.

A copy of the terms of reference can be obtained by contacting recruitment@cavackh.org. Salary will be negotiated based on the experience for the right candidate.

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Drug User Arrests Skyrocket in First Month of Crackdown

By Khuon Narim
and Matt Surrusco
The Cambodia Daily

In the first month of a six-month anti-drug crackdown, authorities have arrested nearly a quarter of the total number of people who were arrested for drug-related offenses in all of last year, according to government figures.

Last month, 2,428 people were arrested for drug-related offenses, with more than half—1,243—arrested for using drugs, according to government data.

In the entirety of last year, police arrested about 9,800 suspects in drug cases, about a third of whom were suspected drug users.

On January 1, the government launched a multipronged campaign to combat drug trafficking and expand rehabilitation programs in an effort to quell what officials said was a growing national narcotics problem.

When the government first announced its campaign in December, it cited a nearly 30 percent rise in the number of identified drug addicts in Cambodia from 2015 to last year.

In nearly 1,000 cases last month, police arrested 1,181 suspected traffickers, three people involved in a drugs processing case and one person growing illicit drugs.

Meas Vyrih, secretary-general of the National Authority for



Five people arrested last month in the government's anti-drug crackdown, in a photograph from the military police's website

Combating Drugs, said yesterday that arrested drug dealers were being sent to prison, while users went to hospitals, rehabilitation centers or temporary treatment centers.

When the government announced plans for new rehabilitation centers in December, Mr. Vyrih said that people who use drugs would not be sent to prison on account of their addictions.

"We never punish the drug user," he said at the time. "We consider the drug user to be the victim."

The number of drug arrests this year are on track to surpass last year's total arrests by May, and more users are being sent to compulsory, government-run rehabilitation centers.

"Most of those arrested are held in pre-trial detention, rehab in detention facilities and

prisons," said Sou Sochenda, a manager at Khana, an NGO that supports voluntary drug treatment programs, in an email yesterday.

"The centers are already overcrowded," she added.

While officials say rehab centers can handle the load, drug treatment experts say they lack the expertise or resources to effectively care for users.

Phnom Penh City Hall spokesman Met Measpheakdey said that 656 people arrested for using drugs were sent to the Mondul Orkhas Khnum center last month, where about 1,200 people are currently receiving detoxification treatment.

"We have offered them detox treatment at the center, including care for their mental and physical health," he said, adding that the center also offers opportunities

to exercise and play sports.

Asked about the potential for overcrowding in light of the growing number of arrests this year, Mr. Measpheakdey said there was a concern, but the municipality would continue to resolve any issues.

At a Social Affairs Ministry-run rehab center in Phnom Penh's Prek Pnov district, director Veth Valda said about 80 people, as of the middle of last month, were receiving detoxification and rehab treatment, mental health counseling and life skills training.

"Currently, we don't have a vocational training program because we do not have enough resources," he said. "We already have a plan, but we are lacking resources as well as funding and staff."

The lack of training and assistance with job placements was only one of the many deficiencies of government rehab centers, said David Harding, an independent consultant who has worked on drug abuse prevention programs in Cambodia for more than a decade.

"They are not run by any form of science-based treatment or rehabilitative process," Mr. Harding said. "They rely completely on sweating out drugs [and] exercise regimes."

"If they have a large influx of people in their centers, they're simply not going to be able to do anything beyond detain them."

Evicted Families Ordered to Pay \$1,000 for New Plots in K Chhnang

By Ben Sokhean
The Cambodia Daily

More than 200 families being evicted from Kompong Chhnang City's riverfront as part of a beautification plan have been asked to pay \$1,000 each to move inland to new state-provided plots, according to a notice issued by the provincial governor.

The notice, which was sent to 210 Khmer and Cham Muslim families on Monday, says evicted residents must agree to pay the fee over two years to get a new plot, with the money going to

filling in the land, which flooded during the rainy season.

The new 5-by-20 meter plots were bought from an unnamed private citizen, the notice says.

"Go build houses yourself," it says, promising residents they will receive land titles when they arrive.

The evictions are part of a five-year plan that began in 2015 to "beautify" the provincial capital's riverfront. The plan is intended to boost the city's image and help its tiny tourism industry.

Matt Saly, 49, a Cham Mus-

lim resident who has lived on the river for about 25 years, said most of her neighbors were refusing to move because they relied on the river for their livelihoods. The new plots are about 2 km inland, she said.

"Where can we go? We are fishermen. If we move away from the river, we will lose our jobs. Where can we dock our boats?" she asked.

Toth Kimsroy, provincial coordinator for Minority Rights Organization, which works with residents of the site, said the state's offer was not good enough.

"Ninety-five percent of the people there are refusing to move," he said.

Contacted by telephone yesterday, however, provincial governor Chhuor Chandoeun said most of the residents were pleased with the arrangement.

"Almost 100 percent of the people agreed to move," he said. "There are about 10 families who oppose it and demand bigger plots of land and more money."

The new plots in return for \$1,000 is his last offer, and the residents have until the end of this month to move.

Leaks...

Continued from page 1

picked up by the government-aligned Fresh News website and seized on by the ruling party as evidence of its rivals' improprieties, with the National Assembly secretary-general promising an investigation into Mr. Ponhearith's alleged tryst.

"It is embarrassing," said CPP spokesman and lawmaker Sok Eysan.

"If [the leaks] are true, then the assembly's secretariat will take legal action against the lawmakers," he added, without specifying what action.

But if the ruling party intended to catch the opposition with their pants down, analysts are not convinced the embarrassment will work in the CPP's favor in the long run.

"Seems like there's a lot more important people's business to do than to go investigate sexual trysts between consenting adults," said Sophal Ear, author of "Aid Dependence in Cambodia: How Foreign Assistance Undermines Democracy."

"It just looks desperate and makes people even more cynical."

"Scy Ha," the Facebook page that has served as a platform for a number of the alleged leaks, claimed that Mr. Vann was caught promising a young woman money and help finding work at a garment factory in exchange for sex.

In the recording, the man says he has many lovers that he holds dearly, but frets that their affair will be made public.

"I know that it will impact pa's honor, because there is also Facebook," the woman says.

Reached yesterday, however, Mr. Vann said he had "no concern about it" and "wanted the public to consider it by themselves."

"It's a competitive season with the election, so anything can happen," he said, neither confirming nor denying that it was him in the recording, and saying he had no plans to file a criminal complaint.

The recording ascribed to Mr. Vann followed a pattern set last spring, when another anon-

ymous Facebook page posted alleged conversations between deputy opposition leader Kem Sokha and a young hairdresser. That recording set off court cases that put Mr. Sokha under house arrest for much of the year, and the imprisonment of six others accused of bribing the woman to deny the affair.

There was no official investigation into how the recordings were obtained, and the CNRP adopted a policy of not responding to personal attacks.

Anonymous leaks have also bruised the CPP, including a series of chats posted to Facebook in November that CNRP President Sam Rainsy, among others, has claimed show Mr. Hun Sen offering rabble-rousing Facebook star Thy Sovantha \$1 million to campaign against Mr. Sokha.

Unlike the threats of investigation against CNRP lawmakers, those messages resulted in a defamation suit against Mr. Rainsy while officials said they had no interest in probing the veracity of the claims. Mr. Hun Sen this week threatened to seize and auction off the exiled leader's domestic assets, including the CNRP's Phnom Penh headquarters, if the court rules in his favor and awards him the \$1 million he is asking for.

The prime minister himself has been accused of infidelity. Actress Piseth Pilika, who was murdered in broad daylight in a 1999 case that has remained unsolved, allegedly left behind a diary that details her romance with the prime minister, and fear of first lady Bun Rany.

Interior Minister spokesman Khieu Sopheak yesterday defended the divergent responses by authorities, saying that Mr. Hun Sen's private affairs deserved extra protection rather than interrogation given his role as head of state.

"We don't follow personal affairs," he claimed, adding that the lawmakers were welcome to file criminal complaints.

With personal affairs increasingly creeping into the public domain, the leaks also raise questions about the privacy of Cambodia's internet and telephone communications.

Mr. Hun Sen boasted last

year of possessing extensive information on Mr. Sokha's alleged mistress stored on his personal phone.

"The prime minister has a right to understand that, he has a right to know that," govern-

"We don't follow personal affairs."

—Interior Ministry spokesman Khieu Sopheak

ment spokesman Phay Siphon said at the time.

A telecommunications law passed in December 2015 gives the government broad power to obtain data and communications, making it illegal to secretly listen in on or record communications except with "approval from a legitimate authority." The government said in 2014 that it had plans to install surveillance equipment on the networks of telecommunications companies, leading rights groups to warn of unchecked state spying.

"There's no definition of who

is a legitimate authority or how they are competent to approve surveillance," Craig Bradshaw, a legal consultant for Licadho, said last year, adding that there was a "total lack of transparency, accountability or safeguards for citizens' privacy."

Daniel McFarlane, a researcher who studies new media in Cambodia, said that smartphones were easier to hack and offered more information on their users than clunkier predecessors.

"Smartphone usage has made public figures such as lawmakers more vulnerable to surveillance through phone hacking," he wrote in an email.

How the public reacts to whatever is uncovered is a different matter, with Facebook users peppering the latest recordings with anti-government memes.

"The sex scandal has been used again and again," said political analyst Meas Ny.

"I don't think this kind of scandal will be in the minds of voters," he added. "I just have the feeling my government has lost its values."



Request for Expression of Interest for Civil Engineering and/or Construction companies

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Business

\$800M

cost for a Phnom Penh skytrain floated at a meeting in September

2040

final year of Cambodia Airports' monopoly over the country's airports

\$629M

Deutsche Bank's settlement for a Russian money laundering case

Proposed Skyline Train Is the Future, Transport Officials Say

By Phan Soumy
The Cambodia Daily

Anyone who has battled to get to work through congested roads during rush hour in Phnom Penh is only too aware just how long the daily commute across the city can take. But a solution could be in the offing—or rather, up in the air.

Japan's international aid agency is proposing to bring a driverless skyline train to the city, capable of whisking commuters on a smooth ride to and from work on a track above the streets.

At the moment, the project is only at the planning stage—and similar plans have been discussed and apparently dropped—but it could provide the answer to Phnom Penh's traffic problem if a proposed feasibility study discussed yesterday at City Hall bears fruit.

"The project will contribute to cutting down traffic congestion, which is part of the work that JICA has been doing," said City Hall spokesman Met Measpheakdey, referring to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is driving the idea.



A driverless train runs through a city in Korea, in a photograph posted to Phnom Penh City Hall's Facebook page yesterday.

An Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) features vehicles traveling along a "guideway" or rail system, similar to a SkyTrain, Tram or Monorail system, mostly on rubber tires, although some have steel wheels.

AGT systems are already used

in cities around the world, including Tokyo. City Hall posted a photograph of a train running through a Korean city on their Facebook page as an example of what the railway might look like.

Speaking at a meeting with City Hall officials in Phnom

Penh yesterday, JICA representatives said they would start by carrying out a feasibility study in April on building a line to link Monireth Boulevard, which girdles the Olympic stadium, to the city's Choam Chao area near the international airport.

Mr. Measpheakdey said that it was too soon to know if the project would work, how much it would cost or who would pay for it.

"After they finish conducting the study, we will know how many millions will be spent, and whether the money for implementing the project or building the skyline for AGT will be a donation from Japan through JICA," he said.

When the AGT idea was first mooted in September, a figure of \$800 million was mentioned.

Chan Samleng, director of the Transport Ministry's railway department, said a mass public transport system needed to be implemented in the future as the city's population expands, though he noted that funding could be an issue.

"I think if it is done solely with the state's budget, we might be a bit hard-pressed," he said.

New Siem Reap Airport Construction Ordered, But Details Sparse

By Khuon Narim
and Danielle Keeton-Olsen
The Cambodia Daily

The government agency that oversees the country's airports is set to create a committee to assess the redevelopment of Siem Reap's international airport, signaling the potential end of Cambodia Airports' current monopoly.

In a Tuesday memo issued by Mao Havannal, secretary of state for the State Secretariat of Civil Aviation, the agency said the new committee would

assess the potential challenges of replacing the airport.

Keo Sivorn, spokesman for the aviation secretary, said he did not know crucial details of the project, such as when construction might begin, but characterized the committee's establishment as a step toward governmental approval for a new airport.

The Council for the Development of Cambodia, which approves foreign investment, received an application for the project from a Chinese company, which has not been publicly identified, Mr. Sivorn said.

The council did not respond to requests for comment.

The construction bid follows Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Cambodia in October, during which he showered Prime Minister Hun Sen with economic development agreements. Among Mr. Xi's offerings was a pledge to support or finance improvements to Siem Reap's airport.

Cambodia Airports, owned by French construction giant Vinci Group, is contracted to operate the country's three international airports—the other two are in Phnom Penh and Si-

hanoukville—until 2040. Under the deal, the government can terminate the agreement early as long as Cambodia Airports is properly compensated.

Khkek Norinda, communications director for Cambodia Airports, said via email that the future of the Siem Reap airport is of "mutual concern" for his company and the government.

"We are confident that the dialogue with Cambodian authorities will be constructive, reflecting the solid and successful partnership between both parties since 1995," he wrote.

Workers at Trump's Hotel Unionize, Highlighting Conflict

By Drew Harwell
and Jonathan O'Connell
The Washington Post

Workers at U.S. President Donald Trump's Washington hotel have voted to join one of the U.S.'s leading labor unions, setting the stage for potentially tense labor negotiations at one of Trump's most high-profile businesses a few blocks from the White House.

About 40 workers at the Trump International Hotel Washington voted last week to join Unite Here Local 25, a chapter that represents 6,500 hospitality workers across the Washington area, a union executive said.

The vote, the first major unionization effort by Trump-company workers following Trump's inauguration, again highlights the thorny entanglements facing the businessman-president, who has given corporate management responsibilities to his children, but has refused to divest from his business interests.

The president will be able to appoint the top members of the National Labor Relations Board, which rules on labor disputes, including the bitter monthslong battle last year between Trump and workers at his Las Vegas hotel.

Trump's company agreed to end that dispute in December by negotiating with Unite Here's Nevada affiliate and offering new benefits to hundreds of the Vegas hotel's housekeepers, cooks and other employees.

Trump Organization representatives did not respond to requests for comment. Trump Hotels chief executive Eric Danziger said in a statement last month that the company and the Washington union shared a mutual goal to make the Washington hotel "one of the finest hotels in the world."

Trump's duel with the Vegas union during his campaign spurred members to protest his hotels and campaign events nationwide. During the days after his election, Trump fired off tweets slamming the leader



US President Donald Trump holds a roundtable meeting with labor leaders at the White House in Washington, last month.

of an Indianapolis steelworkers union who had questioned Trump taking credit for saving jobs at a Carrier plant.

But Trump has also sought to court unions since his election. Trump last month convened half a dozen construction-union leaders for an hour-long talk at the White House and hosted the head of U.S.'s biggest union federation, the AFL-CIO, for a meeting at Trump Tower.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer on Tuesday pointed to how the president had "brought unions together" to rebut a question during a press briefing about whether Trump's language was divisive.

Unite Here, whose members largely include hotel, food-service and casino employees, was not part of Trump's early union talks, and they could remain a potential opponent of Trump's policies. The union marched during the Women's March in Las Vegas the day after Trump's inauguration, saying in a statement, "We will fight and ensure that all people who make this country great have a seat at the table."

John Boardman, executive secretary and treasurer of the Unite Here's Washington affiliate, said 95 percent of Trump

housekeepers and guest-room workers voted to join the union, which will push to adopt the same benefits and protections offered to workers at other downtown Washington hotels.

Another 80 bartenders, servers, porters and other Trump hotel workers are expected to vote on union membership within the coming months.

The union will serve as the workers' bargaining agent with the Trump company, said Boardman, who expects contract negotiations to begin "very soon." He said he thought the company "would like to reach an agreement" and that negotiations would end fairly quickly.

The union, Boardman said, hoped to cover Trump hotel workers under a broader multi-hotel agreement, with housekeepers and dishwashers' annual income rising to \$52,000 by the end of the five-year contract.

Trump leases the Pennsylvania Avenue building, the historic Old Post Office Pavilion, but it is owned by the federal government. Trump owns a 76 percent share in the hotel project, with most of the remaining stake divided between his children Donald Jr., Eric and Ivanka, lease documents show.

The luxury hotel opened its doors last fall and quickly became a fixture in Trump's campaign, hosting news conferences and lavish parties for his inauguration. Trump said this month he would put his sons in charge of managing his businesses, but that he would retain his ownership stakes.

The hotel has become a key vulnerability and major distraction for Trump in the first days of his presidency. A liberal watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, filed a lawsuit last week alleging Trump has violated a constitutional clause banning federal officials from accepting payments or gifts from foreign governments.

An attorney for Trump, who has said the case was "without merit," argued this month that the constitutional ban, under the "emoluments clause," does not apply to hotel stays and other fair-market transactions.

The attorney also pledged that Trump would donate hotel profits from foreign business and government clients to the U.S. Treasury. Trump has not released details on how those payments would be tracked, collected and disbursed.

Reuters

Deutsche Bank Settles for \$629M Over Russian Laundering

By Jenny Strasburg
The Wall Street Journal

Deutsche Bank AG has agreed to pay \$629 million to end investigations by U.K. and New York regulators into Russian equity trades that transferred \$10 billion out of that country in violation of anti-money laundering laws.

The two fines—\$425 million to New York's Department of Financial Services and \$204 million to the U.K.'s Financial Conduct Authority—only partially resolve legal issues hanging over the German lender.

The U.K. regulator said on Tuesday that the fine was the largest the group or its predecessor body had ever imposed for failings in money laundering prevention.

The settlement doesn't end a separate probe into the Russian trades by the U.S. Justice Department. It is unclear when a settlement into that investigation might be reached.

Deutsche Bank said the \$629 million in settlements announced on Monday and Tuesday were "materially" covered by existing litigation reserves and that the bank was cooperating with ongoing investigations.

Regulators said Deutsche Bank had made significant improvements to its anti-money laundering program and other controls, and had cooperated with probes. But authorities in both countries lambasted what they described as the bank's lackadaisical oversight, partic-



Reuters

A statue is seen next to the logo of Germany's Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt last month.

ularly in light of past misdeeds, including behavior tied to interest-rate rigging and sanctions violations.

The lender agreed with New York authorities to bring in an independent monitor for up to two years.

Early last month, Deutsche Bank completed a separate agreement with the U.S. Justice Department to pay \$7.2 billion in cash and consumer relief to end a series of mortgage-securities probes. The \$3.1 billion cash portion was seen by analysts and investors as a manageable outcome and ended speculation that the settlement might force the bank to immediately raise capital.

Investors remain focused on the bank's mounting legal costs ahead of its year-end earnings report, scheduled for today.

The Russian trades involved Deutsche Bank offices in Moscow, London and New York

between 2011 and 2015. The bank notified regulators of its concerns about the trades in early 2015.

In July 2015, Deutsche Bank named John Cryan as the replacement for then-co-CEO Anshu Jain. Within months, the bank shut down its domestic trading and investment-banking business in Russia.

The U.K. and New York regulators cited repeated shortcomings in Deutsche Bank's controls to detect suspicious trades or determine clients' identities and sources of wealth. The lender executed more than 2,400 pairs of so-called mirror trades between April 2012 and October 2014 alone, the U.K. regulator said. Customers of Deutsche Bank's Moscow office bought highly liquid Russian securities in rubles, while Deutsche Bank arranged for non-Russian customers to sell the same securities in exchange for U.S. dollars.

The U.K. authorities called the transfers "highly suggestive of financial crime."

The trades allowed customers to transfer billions of dollars out of Russia to banks in Cyprus, Estonia and Latvia, U.K. authorities said. Deutsche Bank's Moscow office handled both sides of the trades simultaneously.

Deutsche Bank's London office took a hands-off approach with Moscow and other offices, allowing them to establish accounts and book trades with-

out the supervision required by U.K. law, the U.K.'s FCA said. In the process, Deutsche Bank set out to streamline its risk controls and trading through its big London office, but allowed "remote booking" of trades that it routinely failed to monitor, the regulator said.

Deutsche Bank missed numerous red flags that could have halted the trades early on, the regulators said. In one case, another bank questioned potentially suspicious wire transfers involving a London customer of Deutsche Bank in 2013 and 2014 totaling more than \$650 million. The other bank wanted to know Deutsche Bank's relationship with the customer and other details, but Deutsche Bank failed to respond. Ultimately, Deutsche Bank's U.K.-based managers improperly allowed its Moscow office to handle the inquiry, according to the FCA.

Another time, members of Deutsche Bank's anti-financial crime team in Moscow told colleagues they suspected money laundering in certain trades. "There is no economic sense behind these transaction [sic] and the whole flow is organized to facilitate cross-border transfers and in order for them to look legitimate," the Moscow office reported, according to the bank's settlement agreement with U.K. regulators.

Deutsche Bank failed to follow through when it faced internal resistance to investigating the trades, missing a chance to reveal a single scheme in which two customers were involved in "at least 900 transactions" in less than a year, the regulators said.

The New York regulator said the average size of orders in the "well-developed" scheme was between \$2 million and \$3 million and cited suspicious payments to a "close relative" of a Deutsche Bank supervisor in Moscow. The clients typically didn't care what securities they were buying or selling, just that the matching trades were big enough to move the amount of currency desired.



Photo Contest:

Youth Engagement on Safe Labour Migration for Cambodian Women

The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) is inviting all Cambodian youth (aged 15–30 years) to participate in a photo contest on the issue of safe labour migration for women. Information and details about the contest, including orientation package, prizes and how to submit photographs available at: <http://bit.ly/2kr0nCd> (Facebook) and <http://bit.ly/2kgv1Pz> (Google Drive).

Deadline for photo submissions: **19th February 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Cambodian time.** Please send your application to sarah.lewis@unwomen.org

For any further inquiries regarding to the contest, please contact our UN Women Cambodia Country Office via e-mail at: sarah.lewis@unwomen.org or neousovattha@unwomen.org

Apple Faces Uphill Battle in Competitive Chinese Market

By Eva Dou
The Wall Street Journal

JINAN, China - The walls of the train station in this eastern metropolis are papered with reminders of Apple Inc.'s challenge in China.

The terminal is blanketed with giant green Oppo Electronics ads showing a young starlet clutching a sleek Chinese phone. Ads like these have swept across much of the country in the past year—they are also visible in bus terminals, subways and shopping malls—helping make the home-grown Oppo brand a huge hit.

On Tuesday, Apple said its fiscal first-quarter sales rose in every region except for China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. On a call with investors, CEO Tim Cook said there were challenges. It was the fourth consecutive quarter in which Greater China was Apple's worst-performing region.

Apple said its Greater China sales fell 12 percent to \$16.2

billion for the quarter ended December 31, compared with 14 percent growth a year earlier.

Its performance in the region dragged Apple's global sales growth to 3 percent, despite 9 percent growth in the Americas.

China's smartphone boom helped drive Apple's growth for several years, but now Chinese companies such as Oppo and Huawei Technologies Co. are offering handsets that are cheaper and nearly as sophisticated as iPhones.

China's smartphone market, the world's largest, is brutally competitive and fickle: When Hugo Barra left Xiaomi Corp. last month to return to Silicon Valley, the company he touted a couple of years ago as China's next big thing had fallen from first to fourth in the sales rankings.

Apple's sales in the region were also hampered by the limited visual difference between iPhone 6S and iPhone 7, Coun-

terpoint Research analyst James Yan said. With lower average disposable income than western shoppers, Chinese consumers are less eager to splurge on an expensive new phone that could be mistaken for an older one.

At least four homegrown companies are selling more handsets than Apple in China: Oppo, Vivo, Huawei and Xiaomi.

Oppo and sister brand Vivo have climbed to the top of China's smartphone market by copying a page from Samsung Electronics playbook, blanketting target markets with soft-lit ads featuring popular celebrities. Oppo's market share in the third quarter was 17.5 percent and Vivo's was 16.7 percent, according to market research firm IDC.

Zhang Dong, a 34-year-old Jinan resident, said he bought a Vivo phone last year because it was a good deal.

"Apple phones are too expensive," he said. "If I don't buy Vivo, I'll probably buy Huawei."

Huawei reached double-digit market share globally for the first time, accounting for 1 in 10 smartphones sold worldwide in the fourth quarter, according to Strategy Analytics.

Xiaomi, ranked fourth in sales, remains a solid contender, though it has been outshone lately by rivals. Just three years ago, it was the country's leading smartphone vendor with a valuation of \$46 billion, making it the world's most valuable startup at the time.

Xiaomi shook up China's smartphone market when it started selling handsets that could compete with iPhones for less than half the cost. Oppo found favor with mainstream consumers by building out vast networks of brick-and-mortar stores where customers could try phones before buying them.

China remains an important market for Apple, as it contributes 20.7 percent of its revenue and is the location for the bulk of its manufacturing facilities.

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Trump's Newest Trade Target is Germany, Top Adviser Says

By Ana Swanson
The Washington Post

U.S. President Donald Trump's top trade adviser said Germany was using a "grossly undervalued" euro to "exploit" its trading partners in Europe and the U.S., comments that triggered a spike in the euro's value to a one-week high.

In comments to the Financial Times, Peter Navarro, the head of Trump's National Trade Council and an architect of many of the administration's trade policies, also declared a proposed trade agreement between the U.S. and Europe to be dead, citing Germany's currency as an impediment.

Trump's tough campaign rhetoric regarding trade has long fueled speculation of tensions with China and Mexico, countries that export large volumes of cheap goods to the U.S. But Navarro's aggressive statements against Germany and the E.U. appear to have taken

markets and European leaders by surprise.

Navarro's comments appear to reflect a deep antipathy on the part of the Trump administration to multilateral trade deals and institutions, an attitude that has unsettled U.S. allies in Europe and around the globe in recent weeks.

On January 23, his first full working day in office, Trump declared his intention to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an Obama-era trade deal that Trump claimed would kill U.S. manufacturing jobs. During the campaign, Trump also announced his intention to renegotiate the U.S. free trade deal with Canada and Mexico, and called the primary military alliance between Europe and the U.S. "obsolete."

In his comments, Navarro cited Germany as a main obstacle to a proposed U.S.-E.U. trade deal called the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. "A big obstacle to

viewing TTIP as a bilateral deal is Germany, which continues to exploit other countries in the E.U. as well as the U.S. with an 'implicit Deutsche Mark' that is grossly undervalued," he said.

Angela Merkel responded on Tuesday by saying that Germany does not influence the value of the euro and supports an independent European Central Bank.

Navarro's comments about TTIP appeared to stem from his preference for bilateral trade deals, which he, Trump and other advisers believe give the U.S. more leverage in trade negotiations.

The U.S. and other European countries have long criticized Germany for its trade deficit, though typically in subtler and more diplomatic tones.

Economists say that Germany's position as a strong exporter in a currency union made up of weaker economies has boosted Germany's exports and exacerbated its trade deficit. The shared euro effectively results in Germany having a weaker currency than it otherwise would, making its exports relatively cheap on the world market. Meanwhile, net

importers like France, Greece and Portugal end up with a stronger currency.

That dynamic has fueled exports by German firms like BMW and Siemens and resulted in a German current account surplus that is larger even than China's in absolute terms.

Last month, the euro fell to its lowest value against the dollar in 14 years.

In recent years, gathering economic strength and falling unemployment in the U.S. has allowed the U.S. Federal Reserve to start tapering off purchases made under its massive bond-buying program known as quantitative easing and begin gradually lifting U.S. interest rates. In the E.U., in contrast, the European Central Bank has continued quantitative easing and held interest rates low, as many economies around the periphery are still mired in recession.

Navarro also blamed the failure of the proposed trade deal between the U.S. and Europe on the U.K.'s decision to leave the E.U. "Brexit killed TTIP on both sides of the Atlantic even before the election of Donald Trump," Navarro said.

Finance and Administration Officer (Phnom Penh, Cambodia) US\$16,998 - \$20,822 per annum (Full Salary Range)

CAFOD, one of the UK's leading international aid agencies, is currently looking for a Finance and Administration Officer for South East Asia.

Job Profile*

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This position is part of the South East Asia team and sits in the main South East Asia office, based in Phnom Penh Cambodia.

Your role*

Working within the South East Asia team based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and closely with others across the region and with finance, human resources and operations teams in London, the main responsibilities include:

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- ensure the efficient and effective administration of the SEA offices
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- Line management of office support staff in the SE Asia team based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Yangon, Myanmar.

Your profile*

The successful candidate will have qualifications and experience in office administration and double entry book keeping and accounting. You will demonstrate strong analytical and deductive skills to be able to investigate and advise stakeholders on legal, financial, HR and administrative requirements. Able to work effectively in a diverse cross cultural and multilingual environment, the ideal candidate will have effectively managed staff both face to face and remotely. You are passionate about mentoring staff and guiding them to maintain strong financial controls and swift administration support. Strong Microsoft Office skills are a must. Fluent written and verbal English is essential. Khmer, Burmese or other relevant language an advantage.

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CAFOD is the official development and relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation.



Cambodia Securities Exchange

Wednesday, February 1, 2017



| Index | Value | Change | Open | High | Low | Volume |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| CSX | 363.45 | -1.80 | 365.25 | 365.25 | 363.45 | 102 |

| Stock | Value | Change | Open | High | Low | Volume |
|-------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| PPWSA | 4,080 | -40 | 4,080 | 4,080 | 4,080 | 102 |
| Grand Twins | 4,920 | 0 | - | 4,920 | 4,920 | 0 |
| PPAP | 5,200 | 0 | - | 5,200 | 5,200 | 0 |
| PPSP | 2,790 | -10 | - | 2,790 | 2,790 | 0 |

Foreign Exchange

Source: Ly Hour Exchange

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| ¥/US\$ | 113.317 | Sing\$/US\$ | 1.4117 |
| £/US\$ | 0.7915 | Euro/US\$ | 0.9263 |
| AU\$/US\$ | 1.3176 | SKoreaW/US\$ | 1,156.57 |
| HK\$/US\$ | 7.7585 | ThaiB/US\$ | 35.15 |
| SwissF/US\$ | 0.9895 | Riel/US\$ | 4,040 |

Local Gold

Source: Ly Hour Exchange

| Gold Type (O'Russei Market) | Buying | Selling |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Canadia (\$/damlung) | 1,455 | 1,465 |
| Kilo (\$/damlung) | 1,455 | 1,465 |
| 99% (\$/damlung) | 1,410 | 1,420 |
| 97% (\$/damlung) | 1,380 | 1,390 |

ខេមបូឌា ដេលី

The CAMBODIA DAILY

ថ្ងៃព្រហស្បតិ៍ ទី២ ខែកុម្ភៈ ឆ្នាំ២០១៧

១៣

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ឃី សុផ្លី
ខេមបូឌា ដេលី

មន្ត្រីរដ្ឋាភិបាលជាន់ខ្ពស់មួយរូបដែលជាប់ពាក់ព័ន្ធក្នុងគ្រោះថ្នាក់ចរាចរណ៍បង្កឡើងដោយរថយន្តដែលបានបុកប្តីប្រពន្ធស្លាប់ពីរនាក់ស្លាប់នោះ និងមិនប្រឈមការចោទប្រកាន់ឡើយ បន្ទាប់ពីសាលាដំបូងខេត្តកណ្តាលបានទម្លាក់ចោលរឿងក្តីនេះ សូម្បីសាក្សីដ៏សំខាន់ម្នាក់អះអាងថាគាត់មិនទាំងបានឃើញហេតុការណ៍នេះកើតឡើងផង។

លោក នួន សុផេធ អនុរដ្ឋលេខាធិការក្រសួងទេសចរណ៍ត្រូវបានគេចាត់ទុកថាជាមន្ត្រីខ្ពស់កាលពីថ្ងៃទី១២ ខែមេសា បន្ទាប់ពីរថយន្តគូយ៉ូតាឡុងត្រីស័រដែលលោកកំពុងបើកបរមកកាន់រាជធានីភ្នំពេញនោះ បានបុកម៉ូតូមួយគ្រឿងនៅតាមផ្លូវជាតិលេខ១។ អ្នកបើកបរម៉ូតូឈ្មោះ មិត្ត សុផា អាយុ៣៨ឆ្នាំបានស្លាប់នៅកន្លែងកើតហេតុ ហើយប្រពន្ធរបស់គាត់ឈ្មោះ យន យ៉េត អាយុ៣២ឆ្នាំបានស្លាប់រយៈពេលពីរបីសប្តាហ៍ក្រោយមក។

លោក នួន សុផេធ អះអាងថា រថយន្តរបស់លោកបានបុកម៉ូតូនេះដែលបើកក្នុងទិសដៅផ្ទុយគ្នា បន្ទាប់ពីម៉ូតូនេះត្រូវបានបុកចំចំហៀងខាងឆ្វេងផ្នែកខាងមុខដោយរថយន្តមួយគ្រឿងទៀតមកពីខាងមុខ ដែលបានបើកគេចពីកន្លែងកើតហេតុបាត់។

អនុរដ្ឋលេខាធិការរូបនេះត្រូវបានដោះលែងពីការឃុំខ្លួនរបស់នគរបាលរយៈពេលប៉ុន្មានម៉ោងប៉ុណ្ណោះបន្ទាប់ពីគ្រោះថ្នាក់កើតឡើងតាមសំណើរបស់លោក។ ក្រោយមកលោក លីម សុគន្ធា ព្រះរាជអាជ្ញាអមសាលាដំបូងខេត្តបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា លោកបានបង្គាប់ឱ្យដោះលែងនេះផ្អែកលើរបាយការណ៍

តទៅទំព័រ១៦



ឃីសុផ្លី

លោកនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ហ៊ុន សែន ចុះវត្តមានពេលអញ្ជើញទៅដល់រដ្ឋសភាមុនពេលចូលរួមមិច្ឆិកាប្រជុំកាលពីថ្ងៃអង្គារក្នុងរាជធានីភ្នំពេញ។

នាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រីប្តេជ្ញារាល់មិនឱ្យរដ្ឋមន្ត្រីមួយរូបទៅបំភ្លឺ ដោយផ្ទុយនឹងច្បាប់

ប៊ែន សុខហ៊ាន
ខេមបូឌា ដេលី

បន្ទាប់ពីតំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សប្រសាំងមានគម្រោងកោះហៅរដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ក្រសួងការពារជាតិ រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីក្រសួងកសិកម្ម និងរដ្ឋមន្ត្រីក្រសួងការងារមកឆ្លើយបំភ្លឺនៅរដ្ឋសភាលោក ហ៊ុន សែន កាលពីម្សិលមិញបានប្តេជ្ញារាល់មិនឱ្យរដ្ឋមន្ត្រីទាំងនេះមកឆ្លើយបំភ្លឺទេជាចំណាត់ការមួយដែលនឹងរំលោភរដ្ឋ ធម្មនុញ្ញ។

កាលពីម្សិលមិញ លោក សុខ ឆ័យ តំណាងរាស្ត្រជាន់ខ្ពស់គណបក្សប្រសាំងបានប្រកាសគម្រោង ឆ្លើយវិចិត្រទៅកាន់ រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីទាំងបីរូបនេះ តាមរយៈលោក ហោង សំវិន ប្រធានរដ្ឋសភានៅពីរសប្តាហ៍ក្រោយ។ ក្នុងចំណោមបញ្ហាដែលត្រូវលើកឡើង គឺនឹងសាកសួរលោក ទៀ បាញ់រដ្ឋមន្ត្រីការពារជាតិពាក់ព័ន្ធការដំឡើងឋានន្តរសក្តិឱ្យអង្គរក្សប៊ីនាក់របស់លោក ហ៊ុន សែន ក្រោយពេលពួកគេត្រូវ

តទៅទំព័រ១៥

បក្សប្រឆាំងបានចោលរឿងអាស្រូវដែលបែកធ្លាយជាបន្តបន្ទាប់

សេក ឧត្តម និង BEN PAVIOUR
ខេមបូឌា ដេលី

ប្រសិនបើពិតដូចពាក្យចោមអាវាមមែន លោក ហួរ វ៉ាន់ តំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សប្រសាំងប្រាកដជាដឹងហើយថា លោកធ្លាក់ចូលក្នុងស្ថានភាពបែបណា។ បុរសម្នាក់នៅក្នុងខ្សែអាត់សំឡេងដែលគេបង្ហោះលើទំព័រហ្វេសប៊ុកអនាមិកមួយកាលពីថ្ងៃអង្គារ និង

ដែលគេអះអាងថាជាលោក ហួរ វ៉ាន់ បាននិយាយថា "បើថា យើងដេកជាមួយគ្នាក៏ដោយ ប៉ុន្តែពាក្យមួយគេថាខ្ញុំខ្សែកោង តែកោងទៅ ឃើញរូបភាពហើយ [បែកធ្លាយ] យើងត្រូវប្រយ័ត្នអាហ្នឹង ខ្ញុំខ្លាចអាហ្នឹង"។

វាជារឿងអាស្រូវចុងក្រោយក្នុងចំណោមរឿងអាស្រូវជាច្រើនដែលជនអនាមិកបានបង្ហោះតាមអ៊ីនធឺណិតក្នុងរយៈពេលមួយ

តទៅទំព័របន្ទាប់

បក្សប្រឆាំងប្រធានបោះ...

តមកពីទំព័រ ០៣

សប្តាហ៍មកនេះប្រឆាំងតំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សសង្គ្រោះជាតិ ហើយពាក្យចោមអាវាមភាគច្រើនគឺទាក់ទងរឿងអាស្រូវរដ្ឋបាលភេទ។ លោកនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ហ៊ុន សែន បានឆ្លៀតឱកាសអំឡុងសម័យប្រជុំសភាកាលពីថ្ងៃអង្គារ ដើម្បីលើកឡើងនូវពាក្យចោមអាវាមថា លោក យ៉ែម បុញ្ញបូទី បានធ្វើឱ្យខូចកេរ្តិ៍ឈ្មោះរដ្ឋសភាដោយសារការមានស្នេហាលួចលាក់ជាមួយលេខាម្នាក់ ស្របពេលរូបថតលោក អេង ឆៃអាំង ត្រូវបានចុះផ្សាយព្រាងព្រាតបង្ហាញពីសកម្មភាពលោកលែងលែងស៊ីសង ដែលលោកអះអាងថាបានបោះបង់ទម្លាប់អាក្រក់នេះចោលទៅហើយ។

ដូចរឿងអាស្រូវផ្សេងៗទៀតដែរ ពាក្យចោមអាវាមនេះបានលេចធ្លោ និងចុះផ្សាយភ្លាមៗដោយគេហទំព័រព័ត៌មាន Fresh News ដែលគាំទ្ររដ្ឋាភិបាល ហើយត្រូវបានគណបក្សកាន់អំណាចចាប់អារម្មណ៍យកធ្វើជាភស្តុតាងដាក់បន្ទុកលើការប្រព្រឹត្តិមិនត្រឹមត្រូវរបស់គូបដិបក្ខខ្លួន ដោយអគ្គលេខាធិការនៃរដ្ឋសភាបានសន្យាបើកការស៊ើបអង្កេតលើរឿងអាស្រូវស្នេហាលួចលាក់របស់លោក យ៉ែម បុញ្ញបូទី។

លោក សុខ ឥសាន អ្នកនាំពាក្យគណបក្សប្រជាជនកម្ពុជា និងជាតំណាងរាស្ត្របានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា "វាក្មេងៗអាម៉ាស់ណាស់ បើគ្រាន់បែកឆ្នាយ ជាការពិតមែន អគ្គលេខាធិការដ្ឋាននៃរដ្ឋសភានឹងចាត់វិធានការផ្លូវច្បាប់លើតំណាងរាស្ត្រទាំងនោះ" ប៉ុន្តែលោកមិនបានបញ្ជាក់ថា វាជាវិធានការអ្វីនោះទេ។

ប៉ុន្តែប្រសិនបើគណបក្សកាន់អំណាចមានចំណងធ្វើឱ្យគណបក្សប្រឆាំងរងភាពអាម៉ាស់ក្រុមអ្នកវិភាគមិនប្រាកដថាការអាម៉ាស់នេះនឹងផ្តល់ផលចំណេញដល់គណបក្សប្រជាជនកម្ពុជារយៈពេលយូរឡើយ។

លោក អា សុផល អ្នកនិពន្ធសៀវភៅមានចំណងជើងថា "ការពឹងផ្អែកលើជំនួយនៅកម្ពុជា៖ របៀបដែលជំនួយបរទេសធ្វើឱ្យខូចលទ្ធិប្រជាធិបតេយ្យ" (Aid Dependence in Cambodia: How Foreign Assistance Undermines Democracy) បានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា "វាដូចជាមានរឿងសំខាន់ៗជាងនេះច្រើនដែលត្រូវធ្វើ

ជាជាងទៅស៊ើបអង្កេតរឿងអាស្រូវរដ្ឋបាលភេទរវាងមនុស្សពេញវ័យគ្រប់អាយុរៀបការ។ បើក្រឡេកមើលទៅ វាគ្រាន់តែជាការអស់សង្ឃឹម ហើយនឹងធ្វើឱ្យប្រជាពលរដ្ឋកាន់តែលែងជឿ"។

ទំព័រហ្វេសប៊ុកឈ្មោះ "សីហា" ដែលបានក្លាយជាទីកាសសម្រាប់ការទម្លាយរឿងអាស្រូវមួយចំនួនបានអះអាងថា លោក ហួរ វ៉ាន់ បានសន្យាឱ្យលុយនារីវ័យក្មេងម្នាក់ និងជួយស្វែងរកការងារឱ្យនាងធ្វើនៅរោងចក្រកាត់ដេរជាថ្មីនឹងការរួមភេទ។

នៅក្នុងខ្សែអាត់សំឡេង បុរសដែលគេអះអាងថាជាលោក ហួរ វ៉ាន់ និយាយថា គាត់មានស្រីស្នេហាជាច្រើន ប៉ុន្តែគាត់បានបោះបង់ស្នេហាលួចលាក់ជាមួយពួកគេត្រូវបែកធ្លាយជាសាធារណៈ។ នារីម្នាក់នោះបានឆ្លងឆ្លើយថា "ចាស ប៉ា ខ្លាចគេមានរូបភាពអាក្រក់ អាឡូវវាមានហ្វេសប៊ុកទៀត"។

ទោះជាយ៉ាងណា នៅពេលទាក់ទងបានកាលពីម្សិលមិញ លោក ហួរ វ៉ាន់ បានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា លោក "មិនបានប្តូរចំពោះរឿងនេះទេ" ហើយ "ចង់ឱ្យសាធារណជនធ្វើការពិចារណាដោយខ្លួនឯង"។

លោកបានលើកឡើងថា "វាជារដូវកាលប្រកួតប្រជែងការបោះឆ្នោត ដូច្នេះអ្វីក៏អាចកើតឡើងដែរ"។ ទោះជាយ៉ាងណា លោកមិនបានអះអាងទេ ហើយក៏មិនបានបដិសេធថាបុរសនៅក្នុងខ្សែអាត់សំឡេងនោះជារូបលោកដែរ ហើយលោកបញ្ជាក់ថា លោកគ្មានគម្រោងដាក់ពាក្យបណ្តឹងព្រហ្មទណ្ឌទេ។

ខ្សែអាត់សំឡេងដែលគេអះអាងថាជាសំឡេងរបស់លោក ហួរ វ៉ាន់ នេះកើតមានឡើងក្រោយមានករណីស្រដៀងគ្នាកាលពីឆ្នាំមុន ដែលនៅពេលនោះទំព័រហ្វេសប៊ុកអនាមិកមួយទៀតបានបង្ហាញខ្សែអាត់សំឡេងសន្ទនារវាងលោក កឹម សុខា អនុប្រធានគណបក្សប្រឆាំង និងនារីជាងធ្វើសក់ម្នាក់ ដែលមានវ័យក្មេងជាងលោកឆ្ងាយ។ ខ្សែអាត់សំឡេងនោះបាននាំឱ្យមានកិច្ចការតុលាការដែលបានធ្វើឱ្យលោក កឹម សុខា ត្រូវសម្លាប់ខ្លួននៅក្នុងទីស្នាក់ការគណបក្សជាច្រើនខែកាលពីឆ្នាំមុន និងការឃុំខ្លួនមនុស្សប្រាំមួយរូបទៀតដែលជាប់ទោសពីបទស្នេហាលួចលាក់នារីរូបនេះដើម្បីឱ្យនាងឆ្លើយបដិសេធស្នេហាលួចលាក់របស់ខ្លួន។

ទោះជាយ៉ាងណា គ្មានការស៊ើបអង្កេតផ្លូវការទេជុំវិញថាតើខ្សែអាត់សំឡេងទាំងនោះទទួលបានតាមវិធីណា ហើយគណបក្សសង្គ្រោះជាតិបានប្រើគោលការណ៍មិនឆ្លើយតបទៅនឹងការវាយប្រហាររឿងផ្ទាល់ខ្លួន។

ការទម្លាយព័ត៌មានដោយជនអនាមិកក៏បានធ្វើឱ្យគណបក្សប្រជាជនកម្ពុជារងផលប៉ះពាល់ខ្លាំងណាស់ដែរ ក្នុងនោះរួមមាននាគសន្តនាជាបន្តបន្ទាប់បង្ហាញតាមហ្វេសប៊ុកកាលពីខែវិច្ឆិកា ដែលលោក សម រង្ស៊ី ប្រធានគណបក្សប្រឆាំងក្នុងចំណោមអ្នកផ្សេងទៀតអះអាងថា វាបង្ហាញពីលោក ហ៊ុន សែន ផ្តល់លុយ១លានដុល្លារដល់កញ្ញា ធី សុវណ្ណាថា តារាហ្វេសប៊ុកដែលពួកខាង វាហារសាស្ត្រដើម្បីឱ្យនាងធ្វើយុទ្ធនាការប្រឆាំងលោក កឹម សុខា។

ដោយមិនដូចការគំរាមស៊ើបអង្កេតប្រឆាំងតំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សសង្គ្រោះជាតិ សារទាំងនោះបាននាំឱ្យមានពាក្យបណ្តឹងបរិហារកេរ្តិ៍ប្រឆាំងលោក សម រង្ស៊ី ខណៈមន្ត្រីនិយាយថា ពួកគេមិនចាប់អារម្មណ៍លើការស៊ើបអង្កេតពីភាពត្រឹមត្រូវនៃការអះអាងទាំងនោះឡើយ។ នៅសប្តាហ៍នេះលោក ហ៊ុន សែន បានគំរាមរឹបអូស និងលក់ឡាយឡុងទ្រព្យសម្បត្តិនៅក្នុងស្រុករបស់ប្រធានគណបក្សប្រឆាំងដែលនិរទេសខ្លួន ក្នុងនោះរួមមានទាំងទីស្នាក់ការកណ្តាលរបស់គណបក្សសង្គ្រោះជាតិនៅក្នុងរាជធានីភ្នំពេញផងដែរ ប្រសិនបើចេញការសម្រេចឱ្យលោកឈ្នះក្តី និងផ្តល់សំណងជំងឺចិត្ត១លានដុល្លារតាមការទាមទាររបស់លោក។

សូមរំលឹកថា លោកនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រីខ្លួនឯងក៏ធ្លាប់រងការចោទប្រកាន់រឿងជិតក្បត់ដែរ។ តារាភាពយន្តអ្នកស្រី ពិសិដ្ឋ ពិសិកា ដែលត្រូវបានខ្មាន់កាំភ្លើងសម្លាប់ទាំងកណ្តាលថ្ងៃថែស នៅក្នុងសំណុំរឿងមួយដែលមិនទាន់មានការដោះស្រាយតាំងពីឆ្នាំ១៩៩៩មកនោះបានបន្ទូលទុកសៀវភៅកំណត់ហេតុមួយក្បាលដែលរៀបរាប់លម្អិតពីស្នេហាលួចលាក់របស់ខ្លួនជាមួយលោកនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី និងការភ័យខ្លាចចំពោះជំទាវធំ ប៊ុន រ៉ានី។

លោក ខៀវ សុភក្ត អ្នកនាំពាក្យក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ កាលពីម្សិលមិញបាននិយាយការពារការឆ្លើយតបខុសៗគ្នារបស់ អាជ្ញាធរ

បក្សប្រឆាំងប្រធានខោល...

តមកពីទំព័រ ០៤

ដោយ លើកឡើងថា រឿង ឯកជន របស់ លោក ហ៊ុន សែន សមនឹងទទួលបានការការពាររបស់ មិនមែនការចោទសួរទេ ដោយសារតួនាទីរបស់លោកជាប្រមុខរដ្ឋ។

លោក បាន អះអាង ថា "យើង មិន តាម ដាន រឿង ផ្ទាល់ ខ្លួន ទេ"។ លោក បាន បន្ថែម ថា តំណាង រាស្ត្រ ត្រូវ បាន ស្វាគមន៍ ក្នុង ការ ដាក់ ពាក្យ បណ្តឹង ព្រហ្មទណ្ឌ ។

ដោយ រឿង ផ្ទាល់ ខ្លួន ជ្រួត ជ្រាប កាន់ តែ ច្រើន ឡើង ៗ ដល់ សាធារណជន នោះ ការ បែក ធ្លាយ ទាំង នេះ ក៏ ធ្វើ ឲ្យ កើត មាន ជាការ ចោទសួរ អំពី ភាព ឯកជន នៃ ការ ប្រាស្រ័យ ទាក់ ទង គ្នា តាម អ៊ិនធឺណិត និង តាម ទូរស័ព្ទ នៅ កម្ពុជា ផង ដែរ ។

កាល ពី ឆ្នាំ មុន លោក ហ៊ុន សែន បាន អត់ អាង ថា មាន ព័ត៌មាន យ៉ាង ច្រើន ស្តី ពី ស្រី កំណាត់ របស់ លោក ក៏ ម សុខា ដែល មាន ផ្ទុក នៅ ក្នុង ទូរស័ព្ទ ផ្ទាល់ ខ្លួន របស់ លោក ។

លោក ដែ ស៊ី ដាន អ្នក នាំ ពាក្យ រដ្ឋាភិបាល បាន លើក ឡើង អំឡុង ពេល នោះ ថា "នាយក រដ្ឋមន្ត្រី មាន សិទ្ធិ ស្វែង យល់ អំពី បញ្ហា នោះ លោក មាន សិទ្ធិ ដឹង អំពី បញ្ហា នោះ" ។

ច្បាប់ ទូរគមនាគមន៍ ថ្មី ដែល ត្រូវ បាន អនុម័ត កាល ពី ខែ ធ្នូ ឆ្នាំ ២០១៥ ផ្តល់ សិទ្ធិ អំណាច ដ៏ ទូលំ ទូលាយ ដល់ រដ្ឋាភិបាល ក្នុង ការ ទទួល បាន ទិន្នន័យ និង ការ ប្រាស្រ័យ ទាក់ ទង គ្នា ដោយ ធ្វើ ឲ្យ វា ក្លាយ ជា រឿង ខុស ច្បាប់ បើ លួច ស្តាប់ ឬ ថត ការ ប្រាស្រ័យ ទាក់ ទង គ្នា នេះ លើក លែង តែ ទទួល បាន ការ អនុញ្ញាត ពី អាជ្ញាធរ ដែល មាន សិទ្ធិ អំណាច" ។ រដ្ឋាភិបាល បាន លើក ឡើង កាល ពី ឆ្នាំ ២០១៤ ថា ខ្លួន មាន គម្រោង ដ៏ ឡើង ឧបករណ៍ ឈ្លប យក ការ ណាំ តាម បណ្តាញ របស់ ក្រុមហ៊ុន ទូរគមនាគមន៍ នានា ដោយ ធ្វើ ឲ្យ អង្គការ សិទ្ធិ មនុស្ស ព្រម មាន ពី ការ ធ្វើ ចារកម្ម ដ៏ រាលដាល ពី សំណាក់ រដ្ឋាភិបាល ។

អ្នក ផ្តល់ ប្រឹក្សា ផ្នែក ច្បាប់ នៅ អង្គការ សិទ្ធិ មនុស្ស លី កា ដូ ម្នាក់ ឈ្មោះ ក្រេក ប្រិដ-ស (Craig Bradshaw) បាន លើក ឡើង កាល ពី ឆ្នាំ មុន ថា "គ្មាន និយមន័យ បញ្ជាក់ ពី ថា តើ នរណា ជា អាជ្ញាធរ មាន សិទ្ធិ អំណាច ឬ ថា តើ ពួក គេ មាន សមត្ថកិច្ច យ៉ាង ដូច ម្តេច ក្នុង ការ ផ្តល់ ការ អនុញ្ញាត ឲ្យ មាន ការ ឈ្លប យក ការ ណាំ នោះ ឡើយ" ។ លោក បាន បន្ថែម ថា គ្មាន "តម្លាភាព គណនី ភាព ឬ ការ ការពារ ភាព ឯកជន របស់ ពលរដ្ឋ ទាំង ស្រុង" ។

លោក ដានី ដ្រែល ម៉ាកហ្វារឡេន (Daniel McFarlane) អ្នក សិក្សា ស្រាវ ជ្រាវ មួយ រូប ដែល សិក្សា អំពី ប្រព័ន្ធ ផ្សព្វផ្សាយ នៅ កម្ពុជា បាន លើក ឡើង ថា ស្ថិត ប្តូរ ងាយ ហ៊ុក ចូល ណាស់ និង ផ្តល់ ព័ត៌មាន ស្តី អំពី អ្នក ប្រើ ប្រាស់ វា ច្រើន ជាង ឧបករណ៍ ទំនាក់ ទំនង មុន ៗ ។

លោក បាន សរសេរ នៅ ក្នុង អ៊ីម៉ែល មួយ ថា "ការ ប្រើ ប្រាស់ ស្ថិត ប្តូរ ធ្វើ ឲ្យ បុគ្គល សាធារណៈ ដូច ជា តំណាង រាស្ត្រ ជា ដើម ងាយ រង គ្រោះ ចំពោះ ការ ឈ្លប យក ការ ណាំ តាម រយៈ ការ ហ៊ុក ចូល ទូរស័ព្ទ" ។

សាធារណជន មាន ប្រតិកម្ម ចំពោះ អ្វី ៗ ដែល ត្រូវ បាន បញ្ចេញ ឲ្យ ដឹង តាម វីធី ផ្សេង ៗ គ្នា ដោយ អ្នក លេង ហ្វេសប៊ុក បាន ចែក រំលែក ខ្សែ អាត់ សំឡេង ថ្មី ៗ បំផុត អម ដោយ មតិ ប្រឆាំង រដ្ឋាភិបាល ។

លោក មាស នី អ្នក វិភាគ នយោបាយ បាន លើក ឡើង ថា "រឿង អាស្រូវ ផ្លូវ ភេទ នេះ ត្រូវ បាន ប្រើ ប្រាស់ ម្តង ហើយ ម្តង ទៀត" ។ លោក បាន បន្ថែម ថា "ខ្ញុំ គិត ថា រឿង អាស្រូវ បែប នេះ មិន ស្ថិត នៅ ក្នុង ចិត្ត របស់ អ្នក បោះ ឆ្នោត ទេ ។ ខ្ញុំ មាន អារម្មណ៍ ថា រដ្ឋាភិបាល របស់ ខ្ញុំ បាន បាត់ បង់ តម្លៃ របស់ ខ្លួន" ។

សុខុម និង ស៊ុយ ឈាង

នាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ម្តង ម្តង...

តមកពីទំព័រ ០៣

បាន ដោះ លែង ពី ពន្ធនាគារ កាល ពី ឆ្នាំ មុន បន្ទាប់ ពី វាយ ដំ យ៉ាង ព្រៃ ផ្សែង លើ តំណាង រាស្ត្រ គណបក្ស ប្រឆាំង ចំនួន ២ រូប ។

ទោះ ជា យ៉ាង ណា នៅ ក្នុង អត្ថបទ មួយ ចេញ ផ្សាយ ដោយ គេ ហា ទំព័រ ព័ត៌មាន Fresh News ជា គេ ហា ទំព័រ ដែល ចុះ ផ្សាយ ព័ត៌មាន ទាក់ ទង រដ្ឋាភិបាល នោះ លោក ហ៊ុន សែន ត្រូវ បាន ដក ស្រង់ សម្តី ថា លោក នឹង រារាំង រាល់ ការ ព្យាយាម កោះ ហៅ រដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ទាំង នេះ មក ឆ្លើយ បំភ្លឺ ដោយ លើក ឡើង ពី ការ ធ្វើ ពហិការ របស់ គណបក្ស សង្គ្រោះ ជាតិ មិន ចូល រួម ការ បោះ ឆ្នោត មួយ ស្តី អំពី ថា តើ ត្រូវ ឬ មិន ត្រូវ ធ្វើ វិសោធនកម្ម ប្រការ មួយ នៅ ក្នុង បទ ព្រា ផ្នែក ក្នុង នៃ រដ្ឋសភា ដើម្បី ដក ឋានៈ "ក្រុម សំឡេង ភាគ តិច" ផ្លូវ ការ របស់ គណបក្ស ប្រឆាំង នៅ ក្នុង រដ្ឋសភា ។

លោក ហ៊ុន សែន ត្រូវ បាន ដក ស្រង់ សម្តី

មក ថា "ខ្ញុំ មិន អនុញ្ញាត ឲ្យ ទៅ បំភ្លឺ នៅ សភា ទេ អ្នក ឯង ត្រូវ គោរព ច្បាប់ ជា មុន សិន ចូល ប្រជុំ សភា សិន បើ អ្នក ឯង មិន គោរព ច្បាប់ ផង ឲ្យ គេ ចូល បំភ្លឺ យ៉ាង ម៉េច មិន ឲ្យ ទៅ ទេ អ្នក ឯង ត្រូវ គោរព ច្បាប់ សិន" ។

គណបក្ស ប្រជាជន កម្ពុជា បាន បោះ ឆ្នោត សម្រេច ជា ឯកច្ឆន្ទ កាល ពី ថ្ងៃ អង្គារ ដើម្បី ធ្វើ វិសោធនកម្ម បទ ព្រា ផ្នែក ក្នុង រដ្ឋសភា ដើម្បី បញ្ចប់ ការ កំណត់ ឲ្យ មាន គណបក្ស សំឡេង ភាគ ច្រើន និង គណបក្ស សំឡេង ភាគ តិច ជាការ កំណត់ ដែល បង្កើត ឡើង ដើម្បី បើក ផ្លូវ ឲ្យ គណបក្ស សង្គ្រោះ ជាតិ មាន ឱកាស សំដែង មតិ យោបល់ តាម រយៈ "វប្បធម៌ សន្តិសុខ" ។

នៅ ក្នុង សម័យ ប្រជុំ ដែល នោះ លោក ហ៊ុន សែន បាន បន្ត ប្រើ ពាក្យ ធ្ងន់ ៗ លើ គណបក្ស ប្រឆាំង ដោយ គំរាម វិបត្តិ សទ្ធា ព្យសម្បត្តិ របស់ លោក សម រង្ស៊ី ប្រធាន គណបក្ស ប្រឆាំង តាម រយៈ តុលាការ ក្នុង នោះ រួម មាន ទីស្នាក់ ការ កណ្តាល របស់ គណបក្ស សង្គ្រោះ ជាតិ និង

ស្តី ឲ្យ មាន ការ ធ្វើ វិសោធនកម្ម ច្បាប់ ដែល នឹង រារាំង មេដឹកនាំ គណបក្ស ប្រឆាំង ជា យូរ មក ហើយ រូប នេះ មិន ឲ្យ ធ្វើ ជា ថ្នាក់ ដឹកនាំ គណបក្ស នយោបាយ ព្រោះ លោក គឺ ជា អ្នក ទោស ។

ពេល ទាក់ ទង កាល ពី ម្សិល មិញ លោក អេង ឆែង រាំង តំណាង រាស្ត្រ គណបក្ស សង្គ្រោះ ជាតិ មិន បាន ឆ្លើយ តប ចំ ចំពោះ ការ លើក ឡើង របស់ នាយក រដ្ឋមន្ត្រី នោះ ឡើយ ប៉ុន្តែ ថា គណបក្ស របស់ លោក មាន បំណង ធ្វើ តាម ការ គ្រោង ទុក ក្នុង ការ កោះ ហៅ រដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ទាំង នេះ មក ឆ្លើយ បំភ្លឺ ។

លោក បាន មាន ប្រសាសន៍ ថា "យើង មិន ទាន់ មាន អ្វី ជា ផ្លូវ ការ ខាង យើង ក៏ យើង មិន ទាន់ ដាក់ សំណើ ជា ផ្លូវ ការ ហើយ អ្វី ដែល នាយក រដ្ឋមន្ត្រី បាន និយាយ អាហ្នឹង ក៏ មិន ផ្លូវ ការ ដែរ លោក មិន និយាយ តាម លិខិត ឯណា" ។ លោក បាន បន្ថែម ទៀត ថា "យើង មាន ផែន ការ របស់ យើង ពី រឿង អញ្ជើញ រដ្ឋមន្ត្រី យ៉ាង

តមកពីទំព័រ ០៦

មន្ត្រីរដ្ឋាភិបាលជាន់ខ្ពស់...

តមកពីទំព័រ ១៣

នគរបាលអំពីហេតុការណ៍គ្រោះថ្នាក់នេះ និងដោយសារលោក នួន សុមេធ បានយល់ ព្រមបង់ប្រាក់សំណងចំនួន ៥.៥០០ ដុល្លារ ដល់ក្រុមគ្រួសារជនរងគ្រោះ។

លោក នួន សុមេធ មានវត្តមាននៅតុលាការសម្រាប់ការសាកសួរកាលពីខែមិថុនា ជាមួយសាក្សីម្នាក់ និងសាច់ញាតិរបស់លោក មិត្ត សុផា។ នគរបាលអះអាងថា សាក្សីបាន ប្រាប់ពួកគេថា ពួកគាត់បានឃើញថយន្តផុស ធំមួយគ្រឿងបុកថយន្តតូចមួយរបស់លោក នួន សុមេធ មុនពេលថយន្តរបស់គាត់បាន ជ្រុលទៅបុកម៉ូតូនោះ។

នគរបាលបានប្រាប់ក៏សត ខេមបូឌា ដេលី កាលពីខែឧសភាថា ពួកគេបានកត់ឈ្មោះសាក្សី តែម្នាក់ប៉ុណ្ណោះ គឺលោក តាត សាំង ម្ចាស់ កន្លែងជួលដុលម៉ូតូតូចមួយនៅតាមចិញ្ចើម ផ្លូវ កន្លែងដែលគ្រោះថ្នាក់កើតឡើង។

ប៉ុន្តែលោក តាត សាំង បានប្រាប់អ្នកយក ព័ត៌មានកាលពីខែឧសភាថា គាត់មិនបានសម្លឹង មើលទៅផ្លូវទេនៅពេលគ្រោះថ្នាក់បុកនោះ កើតឡើង ដូច្នេះគាត់មិនបានឃើញហេតុ ការណ៍បុកនោះឡើយ ហើយក៏បាននិយាយ ប្រាប់នគរបាលអំពីចុងដៃ។

គាត់និយាយនៅពេលនោះថា "ខ្ញុំឮសំឡេង បុកគ្នាក្តី ប៉ុន្តែខ្ញុំមិនបានឃើញថយន្តបុក ជាមួយម៉ូតូដោយផ្ទាល់ភ្នែកឡើយ"។

តាមច្បាប់កម្ពុជាការបង្កគ្រោះថ្នាក់បណ្តាល ឱ្យមនុស្សស្លាប់មានទោសជាប់ពន្ធនាគារពី១ឆ្នាំ ទៅ៣ឆ្នាំ និងពី២ឆ្នាំទៅ៥ឆ្នាំប្រសិនបើគ្រោះ ថ្នាក់នោះបណ្តាលឱ្យមនុស្សស្លាប់ច្រើន ឬបើ ជនបង្កស្រវឹងទៀតនោះ។ ទោះជាយ៉ាងណា វាជាការអនុវត្តទៅក្នុងប្រទេសកម្ពុជាដែល

នគរបាល និងតុលាការមិនបន្តការប្រកាន់ លើអ្នកដែលបង្កគ្រោះថ្នាក់ឱ្យមានមនុស្ស ស្លាប់នៅពេលពួកគេបង់សំណងដល់ជនរង គ្រោះឬក្រុមគ្រួសាររបស់ពួកគេហើយនោះ។

នៅពេលទាក់ទងកាលពីម្សិលមិញ លោក ព្រះរាជអាជ្ញារង សំ វិទ្ធីវាសនា បានមាន ប្រសាសន៍ថាលោកបានសម្រេចទម្លាក់ពោល រឿងក្តីនេះកាលពីខែមុន ពីព្រោះលោក នួន សុមេធ មិនមានកំហុសទេ។

លោកបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា "ខ្ញុំបានទម្លាក់ ពោលរឿងក្តីនេះ ហើយនឹងមិនអនុវត្តទេ ពីព្រោះវាមិនមែនជាកំហុសរបស់គាត់។ គាត់ គឺជាជនរងគ្រោះ ពីព្រោះថយន្តរបស់គាត់ មិនបានបុកម៉ូតូនោះដោយផ្ទាល់ឡើយ"។

លោក នួន សុមេធ បានបដិសេធមិនធ្វើ អត្តាធិប្បាយអំពីសេចក្តីសម្រេចរបស់តុលាការ ឡើយ។ នៅតែមានចម្ងល់ជុំវិញរឿងក្តីនេះ និងការលើកឡើងខុសៗគ្នាពីសំណាក់សាក្សី។

មនុស្សបីនាក់ទៀតដែលអះអាងថា បាន ឃើញគ្រោះថ្នាក់នេះកើតឡើង ប៉ុន្តែបាន បដិសេធមិនប្រាប់ឈ្មោះរបស់ខ្លួនដោយខ្លាច ការសងសឹកនោះ បានប្រាប់ក៏សត ខេមបូឌា ដេលី កាលពីខែមេសាថា ពួកគាត់មិនបាន ឃើញថយន្តផុសធំបុកថយន្តនេះមុនពេល វាជ្រុលទៅបុកម៉ូតូឡើយ។ ម្នាក់ក្នុងចំណោម អ្នកទាំងបីក៏បាននិយាយផងដែរថា ភ្លាមៗ បន្ទាប់ពីហេតុការណ៍គ្រោះថ្នាក់កើតឡើង អ្នក រួមដំណើរម្នាក់ដែលបានចេញពីថយន្តបាន បន្ទោសអ្នកបើកបរចំពោះការមិនស្តាប់ការ ណែនាំរបស់ខ្លួនថា កុំឱ្យបើកបរពេលស្រវឹង។

លោក ព្រី សំណាង អធិការរងនគរបាល ស្រុកកៀនស្វាយមានប្រសាសន៍នៅពេលនោះ ថា លោកមិនមានឧបករណ៍ជាប់មកជាមួយ ដើម្បីធ្វើតេស្តរកកម្រិតជាតិអាល់កុលក្នុងឈាម

របស់លោក នួន សុមេធ ឡើយ។ ប៉ុន្តែលោក បាននិយាយថា លោកជឿថាអនុវត្តលេខាធិការ រូបនេះមិនមានជាតិស្រវឹងទេ បើវិនិច្ឆ័យតាម អាការៈខាងក្រៅ។

លោក តាត សាំង ដែលជាម្ចាស់តូបជួស ជួលម៉ូតូបានបដិសេធមិនធ្វើអត្តាធិប្បាយទេ កាលពីម្សិលមិញអំពីសេចក្តីសម្រេចរបស់ តុលាការ ឬអំពីអង្គហេតុដែលនគរបាល និង មន្ត្រីតុលាការនិយាយថា គាត់បានឃើញហេតុ ការណ៍គ្រោះថ្នាក់នោះ ដុយទៅនឹងការរៀប រាប់ពីមុនរបស់គាត់។

គាត់បាននិយាយថា "ខ្ញុំបានផ្តល់ចម្លើយប្រាប់ តុលាការរួចហើយ ដូច្នេះខ្ញុំមិនចង់និយាយទៀត ទេ។ វាជាសេចក្តីសម្រេចរបស់តុលាការ ដូច្នេះ ខ្ញុំមិនចង់ពាក់ព័ន្ធករណីនេះទៀតឡើយ"។

លោក សារ៉ុ សុខា ក្មួយប្រុសរបស់លោក មិត្ត សុផា អ្នកបើកបរម៉ូតូដែលបានស្លាប់ក្នុង គ្រោះថ្នាក់នោះ ក៏បានបដិសេធមិនធ្វើអត្តា ធិប្បាយដែរ។ កាលពីឆ្នាំមុន គាត់បានសម្តែង ការសោកស្តាយចំពោះការមិនធ្វើការបោទ ប្រកាន់ ប៉ុន្តែបាននិយាយថា គាត់បានទទួល យកសេចក្តីសម្រេចរបស់តុលាការ ពីព្រោះ ក្រុមគ្រួសារបានទទួលយកប្រាក់របស់លោក នួន សុមេធ រួចហើយ។

នៅពេលសួរកាលពីម្សិលមិញអំពីភាព ខុសគ្នារវាងរបាយការណ៍របស់នគរបាល និង ការរៀបរាប់របស់សាក្សី លោក សំ វិទ្ធីវាសនា បានថ្លែងថា ការខូចខាតថយន្ត មិនអាចបង្ក ឡើងដោយអ្វីដែលស្រាលដូចជាម៉ូតូឡើយ ដោយបញ្ជាក់ពីការអះអាងថា ថយន្តនេះ ត្រូវបានថយន្តផុសធំបុក។ លោកថ្លែងថា "មនុស្ស អាចកែប្រែចម្លើយរបស់ខ្លួនបាន ប៉ុន្តែភ័ស្តុ តាងដូចជារថយន្តជាដើម មិនអាចកែប្រែ បានទេ គឺវាច្បាស់ក្រៃឡែក"។ **សារ៉ា**

នាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រីប្តេជ្ញា...

តមកពីទំព័រ ១៥

តិចពាររូប ដើម្បីឱ្យគាត់មកបំភ្លឺនៅរដ្ឋសភា ស្របតាមរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញ នៅក្នុងវិស័យរបស់ពួក គាត់"។

លោក មាស នី អ្នកវិភាគនយោបាយបាន លើកឡើងថាលោកជឿជាក់ថា នេះគ្រាន់ តែជាឧទាហរណ៍មួយ ផ្សេងទៀតនៃការ លើកឡើងរបស់លោក ហ៊ុន សែន នៅមុន ការបោះឆ្នោតឃុំស្អាតដែលនឹងធ្វើឡើង នៅខែមិថុនា ប៉ុណ្ណោះ។

លោកបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា "យើងដឹង ហើយថា រដូវនេះជារដូវផ្អែកព្រល បានន័យ ថាពលរដ្ឋតែងតែចាត់ទុកពេលជិតបោះឆ្នោត ជារដូវផ្អែកព្រល ព្រោះគាត់សំដៅទៅលើ អ្នកនយោបាយហ្នឹងញញើតជាក់គ្នា"។

ទោះជាយ៉ាងណា លោក មាស នី បាន គូសបញ្ជាក់ថា ការរារាំងមិនឱ្យរដ្ឋមន្ត្រីមក ឆ្លើយបំភ្លឺនៅក្នុងរដ្ឋសភាគឺជាការរំលោភ បំពានលើរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញច្បាស់ក្រៃឡែក។ មាត្រា ៩៧ នៃរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញចែងថា "គណៈកម្មការ ទាំងឡាយរបស់រដ្ឋសភាអាចអញ្ជើញរដ្ឋមន្ត្រី

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តំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សសង្គ្រោះជាតិ ធ្វើ ជាប្រធានគណៈកម្មការបែបនេះចំនួន ៥ ។

លោក មាស នី បានថ្លែងថា "ការមិនឱ្យរដ្ឋ មន្ត្រីទៅបំភ្លឺវាខុសឆ្គងឆ្គងនឹងរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញ ព្រោះរដ្ឋសភាជាស្ថាប័នឯករាជ្យដែលអាច ហៅរាល់មន្ត្រីជាដាច់ខ្ពស់នៅក្នុងស្ថាប័ននីតិ ប្រតិបត្តិទៅឆ្លើយបំភ្លឺការអនុវត្តការងារ របស់ខ្លួន"។

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Regional

“He was a user, but he’d stopped. He was running away, but they still shot him.”

—Mother of a victim of the Philippine drug war
Page 20

Indonesia Islamic Council to Issue Fatwa Against Fake News

Reuters

JAKARTA - Indonesia’s highest Muslim clerical council is to issue an edict, or fatwa, declaring the spreading of fake news un-Islamic, the organization’s chairman said yesterday.

Indonesia has one of the world’s highest number of Facebook and Twitter users, and the largest Muslim population, and concern is growing that fake news is fueling religious and ethnic tension.

“We will issue it as soon as possible, because the situation is worrying,” said Maaruf Amin, chairman of the Indonesia Ulema Council. “Hopefully, at least Muslims won’t be involved anymore in hoaxes.”

The council is not a government or lawmaking body and its fatwas are not legally binding.

The edict is expected before a hotly contested election on February 15 for governor of Ja-



Reuters

Muslim protesters shout slogans during a rally outside a court at the blasphemy trial of Jakarta’s incumbent governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama in Jakarta at the start of last month.

karta, with the ethnic Chinese, Christian incumbent running against two Muslim candidates.

Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, or Ahok as he is known, has been embroiled in a blasphemy trial in which he stands accused of insulting the Quran.

He has denied the charges.

The case arose from an incorrectly subtitled video, which went viral on social media late last year, of comments that Purnama made about his opponents’ use of the Islamic holy book in political campaigning.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims led by a hard-line group have twice descended on Jakarta to protest against Purnama and call for his jailing, leading to questions in the world’s third largest democracy on the protection of the rights of minorities.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has repeatedly urged social media users to refrain from spreading fake news, and his government has invited executives from social media giant Facebook for talks this month to help combat the problem.

The council, with representatives from the country’s main moderate and conservative Muslim groups, frequently issues such edicts but they usually have little immediate impact.

The council last year issued a fatwa against clearing land for plantations by burning vegetation, in an effort to prevent smoke pollution that blankets Southeast Asia almost every year.

Philippine Maoist Rebels Halt Cease-Fire, But Still Support Talks

Reuters

MANILA - The Maoist-led rebel group in the Philippines said yesterday it was terminating a unilateral cease-fire it declared five months ago and resuming a protracted guerrilla war that has killed tens of thousands of people.

The New People’s Army said in a statement that the cease-fire agreed to in August would expire on February 10, but added the rebels would still support peace talks with the government of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

“In our experience and in the experience of other peoples, it is possible to negotiate while fighting until the substantive agreements are forged to address the roots of the armed conflict

and lay the basis for a just and lasting peace,” the group said.

It said the decision was made because the government failed to comply with its “obligation” to pardon and release all political prisoners and “has treacherously taken advantage” of the cease-fire to encroach on its territory.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said he was “dismayed” with the move, which came after peace negotiators agreed to further discuss a bilateral cease-fire.

But he said he would recommend to Duterte that the government’s unilateral cease-fire be maintained to provide an “enabling and conducive environment” to peace talks.

“The road to peace is not easy to traverse. What is important is that we all stay the

course,” Dureza said.

Defense Minister Delfin Lorenzana said in a statement that the army would continue to enforce the government’s unilateral truce and would “not actively operate against the New People’s Army while our cease-fire is in effect.”

He said soldiers would defend themselves if attacked and will pursue all lawless groups to maintain peace and order.

The communists accused the military of occupying 500 barrios, or town districts, that are supposedly within their control and that government forces were allegedly engaged in “hostile actions” and other “offensive operations.”

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the NPA was still involved in

extortion, recruitment and attacks on plantations, mines and other businesses.

“It is possible to negotiate while fighting.”

—New People’s Army

He cited nine incidents showing rebel violations of their own truce, including abducting a soldier in the south and killing two others in a northern province.

From September to November last year, the military reported zero armed encounters with communist guerrillas, but it has observed an increase in rebel attacks in the last two months.

Philippine Police Act Like 'Criminal Underworld' in Drug War

Reuters

MANILA - Police prosecuting the war on drugs in the Philippines have behaved like the criminal underworld they are supposed to be suppressing, taking payments for killings and delivering bodies to funeral homes, according to a report released yesterday.

Amnesty International's report said the wave of drugs-related killings since Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte came to power in June appeared to be "systematic, planned and organised" by authorities and could constitute crimes against humanity.

Responding to the findings, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella defended the Philippine National Police, saying no extrajudicial killings were state-sponsored and investigations by Senate committees had proved that.

"There is no state-sponsored policy of extrajudicial deaths and...there is relentless effort on the part of the PNP to carry out the campaign properly and within legal processes," he said.

In a series of reports last year, reporters showed that the police had a 97-percent kill rate in their drug operations, the strongest proof yet that police were summarily shooting drug suspects.

The reports also found that low-level officials in poor neighborhoods helped police assemble "watch lists" of alleged drug users and pushers that were effectively hit lists, with many of the people named ending up dead.

Duterte used exaggerated and flawed data, including the number of drug users in the Philippines, to justify his anti-narcotics crackdown, according to an investigation by reporters.

The release of Amnesty's investigation, which was based on 59 killings in 20 cities and towns, comes amid uncertainty over the crackdown after the government suspended all anti-drug operations by police on Monday due to rampant corruption. The Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency has now been given the



Reuters

Mourners watch as graveyard workers carry the closed coffin of Marlon Pepito, 42, to be placed inside an apartment-type tomb next to his brother, Maximo Pepito, 49, both victims of summary executions by unknown assailants related to the drug war, during their funeral at the Navotas cemetery, north of Metro Manila, on Tuesday.

lead role in the campaign.

Duterte made the decision after a security meeting on Sunday triggered by the kidnap and killing of a South Korean businessman by drugs squad police.

He said the incident, which took place at the National Police headquarters, had embarrassed the country and tarnished the image of the police.

The report says the vast majority of the killings it investigated "appear to have been extra-judicial killings—unlawful and deliberate killings carried out by government order or with its complicity or acquiescence."

"The Duterte administration's relentless pressure on the police to deliver results in anti-drug operations has helped encourage these abusive practices," the report says.

A senior police officer told Amnesty that police are "paid by the encounter," receiving the equivalent of at least \$160 per killing. They receive nothing for making arrests.

Amnesty reported that some police are rewarded by undertakers for sending dead bodies their way, police steal from victims' homes and paid killers are on

the police payroll.

"The police are behaving like the criminal underworld that they are supposed to be enforcing the law against, by carrying out extrajudicial executions disguised as unknown killers and 'contracting out' killings," the report says.

The government has denied sponsoring extrajudicial killings, or police collaboration with assassins.

Amnesty's report included numerous references to a series of stories and investigations into the war on drugs in the Philippines by Reuters.

In the series, reporters found that officers often gave remarkably similar accounts of drug operations each time a suspect was shot dead. Eyewitnesses also provided starkly different accounts of drug operations, with some saying suspects were shot dead as they pleaded for their lives.

Amnesty's report had similar findings. The report said that police accounts of shootouts and deaths during operations were "startlingly similar," and often far different to witness testimony and witness accounts of

victims being shot dead despite having shouted that they would surrender.

The investigation by Amnesty, a London-based advocacy group, was carried out mainly in November and December and was based on interviews with 110 people.

Latest police data shows 7,669 people have been killed since Duterte unleashed his war on drugs seven months ago, 2,555 in police operations, which the police said were all in self-defense.

The other deaths are classified as investigated, or under investigation. Human rights groups believe most of those are drugs-related, carried out by vigilantes or hit men.

The PNP said in a statement it took "strong exception to the opinions raised" in the Amnesty report, adding the force had "always observed and upheld respect for human rights as a fundamental principle in policing."

"The police cannot help being typecast as alleged violators of human rights partly because of the basic nature of its law enforcement function," it said.

Shadowy Killings Persist in Manila After Police Quit Drug War

Reuters

MANILA - A young man's body lay in a pool of blood, surrounded by bullet casings. A loved one rushed to the scene in the dark, rundown Manila neighborhood and howled in anguish as on-lookers huddled behind a police cordon.

It's a scene that has been replayed thousands of times in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's brutal war on drugs over the past seven months.

But this was on Tuesday night, a day after Philippine police were ordered to halt anti-drugs operations that have left more than 2,500 people dead in what police say are shootouts.

Thousands of users and small-time dealers have also been killed outside of the police anti-drugs missions. Human rights groups say many are by assassins paid by police, or are police themselves. Police deny involvement in extrajudicial

killings.

Aldrin de Guzman, 24, was gunned down outside his home before midnight on Tuesday in circumstances all-too-familiar for the dwellers of Manila's poorest neighborhoods.

Another man was shot and killed in a crumbling shophouse not too far away, at about the same time.

Mystery gunmen on a motorcycle shot de Guzman repeatedly, according to police, following the same pattern as thousands of other vigilante-style killings of drug dealers and users.

De Guzman's mother, Elisa, said her son had no enemies, but had used drugs in the past.

"That's a long time ago. If the person is already reforming, they still do this?" she said, tears building in her eyes. "They should stop all these shootings.... Many are caught in between, just like my son. They should stop claiming lives."

No witnesses saw the killers.

The attack bore the hallmarks of the other killings over the past seven months that activists believe are carried out by hit men working in cahoots with police, or by officers in plain clothes.

The Philippine National Police has said allegations that hit men were on the police payroll "are obviously not the norm" and the PNP was making "significant breakthroughs" in investigations into killings.

Duterte has suspended drugs operations to allow a purge of corrupt police following the kidnap and killing of a South Korean businessman by counter-narcotics officers. He has handed over charge of the anti-drugs campaign to the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency, a body a fraction of the size of the National Police.

Not far from the where Guzman's body lay for hours on Tuesday night, crowds gathered next to crumbling buildings along a

narrow, poorly lit alley where another killing took place.

Police stood by, some playing on their smartphones, awaiting the arrival of a funeral home vehicle to take away the corpse of an unidentified man killed at about the same time.

Witnesses said he was chased by gunmen onto the second floor of a shophouse before the shots were fired. They did not know who pulled the trigger.

"I heard two gunshots. I was in the hallway, opened the door and saw his body slumped over," said neighbor Fernando Briones, 51. "He was shot in the forehead and neck."

A woman described by on-lookers as the victim's mother declined to speak to media, but spoke out aloud as police ushered neighbors behind a piece of rope that was used as a cordon.

"He was a user, but he'd stopped," she said.

"He was running away, but they still shot him."

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Trump's Defense Chief Heads to Asia, Eyeing China, N Korea

Reuters

WASHINGTON/TOKYO - U.S. President Donald Trump's defense secretary is expected to underscore U.S. security commitments to key allies South Korea and Japan on his debut trip to Asia this week as concerns mount over North Korea's missile program and tensions with China.

The trip is the first for retired Marine Gen. James Mattis since becoming Trump's Pentagon chief, and is also the first foreign trip by any of Trump's cabinet secretaries.

Officials say the fact that Mattis is heading to Asia first—as opposed to perhaps visiting troops in Iraq or Afghanistan—is meant to reaffirm ties with two Asian allies hosting nearly 80,000 U.S. troops and the importance of the region overall.

That U.S. reaffirmation could be critical after Trump appeared to question the cost of such U.S. alliances during the election campaign. He also jolted the region by pulling Washington out of an Asia-Pacific trade deal that Japan had championed.

"It's a reassurance message,"

said one Trump administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"This is for all of the people who were concerned during the campaign that then-candidate, now-president, Trump was skeptical of our alliances and was somehow going to retreat from our traditional leadership role in the region."

Trump himself has spoken with the leaders of both Japan and South Korea in recent days and will host Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Washington on February 10.

Mattis left the U.S. yesterday, heading first to Seoul before continuing to Tokyo on Friday.

Trump singled out both South Korea and Japan on the campaign trail, suggesting they were benefiting from the U.S. security umbrella without sharing enough of the costs.

In one television interview last year, Trump said of the 28,500 U.S. troops deployed to South Korea: "We get practically nothing compared to the cost of this. Why are we doing this?"

Mattis, in his confirmation hearing, appeared to play down

those remarks, noting that there was a long history of U.S. presidents and even defense secretaries calling on allies to pay their fair share of defense costs.

But his visit to the region comes amid concerns North Korea may be readying to test a new ballistic missile, in what could be an early challenge for Trump's administration.

Speaking with South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-koo ahead of his trip, Mattis reaffirmed a U.S. commitment to defend the country and "provide extended deterrence using the full range of U.S. capabilities."

Analysts expect Mattis to seek an update on South Korea's early moves to host a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, which, once in place sometime this year, would defend against North Korea's nuclear and ballistic capabilities.

Still, a South Korean military official played down expectations of any big announcements during the trip, saying Mattis' first visit would likely be "an ice-breaking session" for both countries.

In Tokyo, Mattis is to meet Japanese Defense Minister To-

momi Inada, who has repeatedly said Japan is bearing its fair share of the costs for U.S. troops stationed there and has stressed that the alliance is good for both nations.

Japan's defense spending remains about 1 percent of GDP, far behind China, which is locked in a dispute with Japan over a group of East China Sea islets 220 km northeast of Taiwan known as the Senkakus in Tokyo and the Diaoyus in Beijing.

The trip also comes amid growing concern about China's military moves in the disputed South China Sea. Tension with Beijing escalated last week when Trump's White House vowed to defend "international territories" there.

China responded by saying it had "irrefutable" sovereignty over disputed islands in the strategic waterway.

"What U.S. military people say is that, considering the pace of China's military build-up such as anti-ship missiles and fighters, there are worries about Japan's capabilities," said a senior Japanese Defense Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

US to Apply 'Extreme Vetting' in Refugee Swap Deal With Australia

Reuters

SYDNEY - The U.S. will apply "extreme vetting" to up to 1,250 asylum-seekers it has agreed to resettle as part of a deal with Australia, a spokesman for U.S. President Donald Trump said in the U.S. on Tuesday.

Washington agreed on a deal late last year to resettle asylum-seekers, mainly from Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq, held in Australia's processing centers on remote Pacific islands in Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

Under the deal, Australia would in return resettle refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Providing details of the plan for the first time, White House Press Secretary Sean

Spicer said the deal covered many of the refugees held in the two offshore processing centers, although they must satisfy recently tightened immigration policies.

"The deal specifically deals with 1,250 people that are mostly in Papua New Guinea being held," Spicer told reporters in Washington.

"Part of the deal is that they have to be vetted in the same manner that we're doing now. There will be extreme vetting applied to all of them," he said.

Trump's executive order last week suspended the U.S. refugee program and restricted entry to the U.S. from Muslim-majority countries Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, casting doubt over the deal with Australia.

Despite the restrictions, Trump assured Australia on Sunday that the U.S. would honor its agreement to resettle the asylum-seekers.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull dismissed speculation in domestic media that Trump had not yet committed fully to the deal.

"The Trump administration has committed to progress with the arrangements to honor the deal," Turnbull told reporters in Canberra yesterday.

"That was the assurance the president gave me when we spoke on the weekend," he said.

Australia's hard-line immigration policy is a contentious issue that has drawn international condemnation from the U.N. and other rights groups,

but which remains popular at home and has bipartisan political support.

About 1,161 men, women and children remain in indefinite detention on Manus Island and Nauru as of November 30, the most recent data from Australia's Department of Immigration shows.

Another 1,000 or so people are in detention in Australia, some of them asylum-seekers transported from Manus Island and Nauru for medical treatment.

It was not clear how many of these would be eligible under the deal with the U.S.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials have begun assessing the asylum seekers, although there is no timeline for resettlement.

International

“We want to give a chance to this Astana initiative to actually implement itself.”

—Staffan de Mistura, UN envoy for Syria
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Trump's Top Court Pick Questions Power of Federal Agencies

Reuters

NEW YORK - Supreme Court nominee Judge Neil Gorsuch is known for questioning how far courts should go in deferring to federal agencies on interpreting the law, a view that could be important for U.S. companies and, perhaps, for U.S. President Donald Trump.

Nominated by Trump on Tuesday to fill a vacancy on the nation's highest court, the 49-year-old Gorsuch is widely viewed as a sharp-eyed jurist and a crisp writer who has the potential to be a persuasive voice on the court.

In a recent case, Gorsuch took a dim view of a landmark 1984 high court ruling, *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*. Widely cited, the ruling directed judges nationwide to defer to agencies' interpretation of laws that may be ambiguous. It is known as “Chevron deference.”

Last August, in a case over immigration rules, Gorsuch called the doctrine the “elephant in the room” that concentrates federal power “in a way that seems more than a little difficult to square with the Constitution.”

Showing his willingness to tackle the issue head on, he added, “Maybe the time has come to face the behemoth.”

If Gorsuch can persuade other Supreme Court justices to question Chevron deference, companies arguing before the high court against federal regulations might have a better chance on issues ranging from the environment to immigration.

At the same time, broader skepticism of deference to agencies could have long-term consequences for Trump.

The new president is moving swiftly to reshape the federal bureaucracy, appointing agency



Reuters

US President Donald Trump announces his nomination of Neil Gorsuch to be an associate justice of the US Supreme Court as Gorsuch, right, stands with his wife at the White House in Washington on Tuesday.

heads who could upend the legacy of former President Barack Obama on emissions, health care and internet policy. The court's views on agencies' agendas will be critical.

“The idea that President Trump of all people would be the one to choose a justice who might push the court to reduce the executive power is pretty ironic,” said John Nagle, a professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School.

If the Supreme Court were to overturn or limit the Chevron precedent, lower courts could become more active in deciding the ultimate meaning of a statute, making it less likely that an agency's view would stand, Nagle said.

“It could make it more difficult for the Trump administration to defend some of its regulatory actions in federal court,” said Case Western Reserve University School of Law

professor Jonathan Adler.

Republicans in Congress, particularly when Obama was in office, frequently complained about Chevron deference. They have even debated legislation that would override it. The House of Representatives passed such a bill on January 11, although it is unlikely to win approval in the Senate.

Gorsuch is not the first judge to take aim at the issue.

In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled against the Environmental Protection Agency over its regulations for limiting pollution from mercury and other toxic materials. At that time, conservative Justice Clarence Thomas wrote a separate opinion saying the government's position “raises serious questions about the constitutionality of our broader practice of deferring to agency interpretations of federal statutes.”

While Thomas has argued

the doctrine threatens the Constitutionally mandated separation of the different branches of government, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy have said it may threaten individual liberties, said Andrew Grossman, a conservative lawyer who has represented companies challenging government regulations.

“Gorsuch may be the one to bring the court together on fundamental questions of administrative power that have sparked so much controversy and divisiveness in recent years,” Grossman said.

Some court-watchers say that in practice the justices are inclined to support executive actions that are in keeping with their own views. But an analysis of their votes carried out by Jack Beermann, a professor at Boston University School of Law, showed that such an outcome is not uniform.

Schulz: German Workers Must Get Higher Wage Increases

Reuters

BERLIN - Germany's center-left candidate for chancellor, Martin Schulz, has called for bigger pay rises for workers, an unusual move in a country where wages are traditionally negotiated by managers and union leaders without political interference.

Schulz made his case for higher wages a week after his nomination by the Social Democrats to run against German Chancellor Angela Merkel, a surprise move which has seen support for his party jump, according to a Forsa poll released yesterday.

"We have a lot of catching up to do when it comes to wages," Schulz told the Funke media group in an interview.

The former European Parliament president said the profits of German companies had grown faster over the past decades than the incomes of workers.

"Unions and management should keep that in mind in the upcoming wage negotiations," Schulz added.

Schulz was calling for the higher wage increases in both the private and public sectors.

Germany's federal government posted a budget surplus of 6.7 billion dollars last year, and while the debate over whether the windfall should be used to



New Social Democrats leader Martin Schulz addresses a news conference at the party's headquarters in Berlin last month.

Reuters

pay off old debt or raise public investments, the eurozone's largest economy would have room to finance higher public salary increases.

Real wages for the 19 million workers with collective agreements rose by an average 1.9 percent last year, a study showed last month. That compares with an average real wage increase of 2.4 percent in 2015 and 2.2 percent in 2014.

Germany's biggest white collar union Verdi has demanded a 6 percent pay hike for more than 2 million civil servants and other public sector employees.

A second round of negotiations ended deadlocked on Tuesday, prompting unions to threaten strikes at schools, hospitals, police and administrative offices in the coming weeks. More talks are scheduled for February 16.

Separately, the IG Metall union has sought a 4.5 percent rise for steelworkers in the northwest, where most of Germany's steel industry is concentrated.

Yesterday's Forsa poll showed support for Schulz's SPD ahead of September's federal election jumping 5 percentage points to 26 percent, its highest level in that survey since the last federal election in September 2013.

Kiev, Kremlin Trade Blame Over Surge in East Ukraine Fighting

Reuters

KIEV/MOSCOW - Ukraine and Russia blamed each other on Tuesday for a surge in fighting in eastern Ukraine in recent days that has led to the highest casualty toll in weeks and cut off power and water to thousands of civilians on the front line.

The Ukrainian military and Russia-backed separatists accuse each other of launching offensives in the government-held industrial town of Avdiyivka and firing heavy artillery in defiance of the two-year-old Minsk cease-fire deal.

Eight Ukrainian troops have been killed and 26 wounded since fighting intensified on

Sunday, according to government figures.

"The current escalation in Donbass is a clear indication of Russia's continued blatant disregard of its commitments under the Minsk agreements with a view of preventing the stabilization of the situation," Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The peace deal was agreed in February 2015, but international security monitors report cease-fire violations on a daily basis, including regular gun and mortar fire. The latest clashes mark the first significant escalation in Ukraine since the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump, whose call for

better relations with Moscow has alarmed Kiev while the conflict remains unresolved.

Ukrainian authorities said they were prepared for a possible evacuation of Avdiyivka's 16,000 residents, many of whom have little or no access to utilities after shelling hit supply infrastructure.

The International Committee of the Red Cross's Ukraine delegation tweeted that there was no water, electricity or heating in the town and the temperature was minus 18 degrees Celsius. "Hostilities continue and people start to lose hope," it added.

Meanwhile, Russia's Foreign Ministry said Ukrainian government troops had launched deadly offensives on rebel positions and

warned that the region was "on the verge of humanitarian and ecological catastrophe."

Earlier, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused the Ukrainian authorities of organizing the attacks as a ruse to try to distract attention from domestic and other problems.

Close to 10,000 people have been killed since fighting between Ukrainian troops and rebels seeking independence from Kiev erupted in April 2014.

Ukraine and NATO accuse the Kremlin of supporting the rebels with troops and weapons. The U.S. and E.U. have imposed sanctions on Russia over the conflict, as well as for its annexation of Crimea.

Israel to Build More Homes In West Bank

Syria Peace Talks Will Restart in Two Weeks

Reuters

JERUSALEM - Israel announced plans on Tuesday for 3,000 more settlement homes in the occupied West Bank, the third such declaration in the 11 days since U.S. President Donald Trump took office. Trump has signaled he could be more accommodating toward such projects than his predecessor Barack Obama.

A statement from the Israeli Defense Ministry, which administers lands Israel captured in a 1967 war, said the decision was meant to fulfill demand for housing and "return to life as usual."

The announcement came close to midnight as preparations began for the eviction of 330 settlers from an outpost in the West Bank. The Supreme Court had ruled that the Amona outpost must be evacuated by February 8, because it was built illegally on privately owned Palestinian land.

Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are due to meet in Washington on February 15. The president's chief spokesman said last week the two leaders would discuss settlement building.

An announcement a week ago by Israel that it would build about 2,500 more homes in the West Bank drew rebuke from the Palestinians and from the E.U. It followed approval of more than 560 new homes in East Jerusalem days before.

Palestinians want the West Bank and Gaza Strip for an independent state, with its capital in East Jerusalem. Israeli troops and settlers withdrew from Gaza in 2005. Most countries consider settlements illegal and an obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace as they reduce and fragment the territory that Palestinians need for a viable state.

Israel disagrees, citing biblical, historical and political connections to the land—which the Palestinians also assert—as well as security interests.

Reuters

UNITED NATIONS - The next round of U.N.-brokered peace talks on Syria have been scheduled for February 20, diplomats told reporters on Tuesday.

The talks had been planned to begin in Geneva on February 8, but Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said last week that they had been postponed.

The U.N. envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, said on Tuesday that he had decided to delay the U.N.-sponsored talks in order to take advantage of last week's negotiations between the Syrian government and opposition in Astana, Kazakhstan, hosted by Russia, Turkey and Iran.

The Astana talks ended with the three countries agreeing to monitor Syrian government and opposition compliance with a December 30 truce.

"We want to give a chance to this Astana initiative to actually implement itself," de Mistura



Reuters

Workers repair the damage in front of Aleppo's historic citadel as posters depicting Syria's President Bashar al-Assad are erected in the Old City of Aleppo, Syria, last month.

told reporters outside the Security Council. "If the cease-fire becomes as solid as we hope, that will only help the serious talk to achieve the concrete."

He added that invitations for the U.N.-sponsored talks in Geneva would go out on Wednesday. If the Syrian opposition cannot agree on its delegates, de Mistura

said the U.N. would choose the opposition's representatives "in order to make sure that it can be as inclusive as possible."

De Mistura said the U.N. would be attending a follow-up technical meeting on Monday of the Astana talks on the implementation and monitoring of the Syria cease-fire.

US Ambassador: Iran Missile Test Is Unacceptable

Reuters

UNITED NATIONS - The new U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Nikki Haley, warned Iran that its testing on Sunday of a long-range ballistic missile is unacceptable and an act the U.S. believes violates its nuclear accord with world powers.

"I will tell the people across the world that is something you should be alarmed about," Haley told reporters after the Security Council's consultations on Iran. "The U.S. is not naive. We are not going to stand by. You will see us call them out as we said we would and you are also going to see us act accordingly."

Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif neither confirmed nor denied the launching of the missile.

Iran said on Tuesday it would never use its ballistic missiles to attack another country and defended its missile tests, saying they are neither part of a nuclear accord with world powers nor a U.N. Security Council resolution

endorsing the pact.

The Security Council recommended the matter of the reported missile testing be studied on a committee level, according to U.K. Ambassador to the U.N. Matthew Rycroft.

"On Iran, there was very significant concern about the ballistic missile launch which has now been confirmed," Rycroft said.

croft said.

A U.S. official said on Monday that Iran had test-launched on Sunday a medium-range ballistic missile that exploded after 1,010 km.

In July 2015, Iran and six world powers reached a deal under which it curbed its nuclear program in exchange for relief from sanctions.



Reuters

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley makes a statement upon her arrival at the UN headquarters in New York last month.

Groups Slam Global Conference on Abolition of Prostitution

Reuters

NEW DELHI - Sex workers in India have slammed a global conference on the abolition of prostitution, saying campaigners for the end of the sex trade failed to recognize some women were prostitutes out of choice and not due to coercion, trafficking or force.

Participants at the Delhi conference—including former sex workers from South Africa, Canada, India and the U.S.—have been sharing stories of sexual slavery and calling for an end to prostitution by punishing clients, pimps and traffickers.

But sex workers' groups in India said there was a difference between voluntary sex work and sexual exploitation, and that not all women in the trade are victims or trafficked sex slaves.

"We are against anyone who does not recognize us as human beings who can make our own decisions," said Kiran Deshmukh,

a sex worker from Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad, a collective of sex workers from India's western state of Maharashtra.

"Making us victims with no agency is a violation of our human right to work in sex work. By 'abolishing' us, they are not helping us—they are ignoring our need to work and earn a living with dignity."

Sex work is illegal in most countries across the world, yet it exists everywhere. There are an estimated 40 million sex workers globally, according to French charity Fondation Scelles.

Abolitionists say most have been lured, duped or forced into sexual slavery by pimps and traffickers, largely due to poverty, a lack of opportunities and having a traditionally marginalized status in society.

Once forced to work in brothels, on street corners, in massage parlors, strip clubs or private homes, it is difficult for sex workers to leave, activists say.

For many, it is the threat of physical abuse from their pimp that keeps them in prostitution, but some stay of their own accord, ostracized by their families with nowhere to go.

Groups from the National Network of Sex Workers in India said abolitionists were being moralistic and judgmental. They said legalizing the trade would regulate the industry and ensure there was no exploitation of women and girls.

"The violence of a judgmental attitude has contributed untold misery on sex workers, encouraging lumpen elements to justify the violence meted out to sex workers," said a statement from the group, signed by over 2,000 sex workers, sex workers' children and 20 groups representing their rights.

Several speakers at the conference said the vast majority of sex workers were exploited.

"So what if there are women out there who are doing this

out of their own free will?" said Rachel Moran, an Irish prostitution survivor and founder of the charity SPACE International.

"There are 40 million women and girls on this Earth that are prostituted and if you have a tiny sprinkling of those who say they have chosen it fully and voluntarily, that doesn't negate the experience of the vast majority."

Hollywood actress Ashley Judd, attending the conference as a strong advocate for prostitution to be abolished, said women and girls were being bought and sold like commodities, and that action had to be taken to end the global sex trade.

"We need to put on the onus and shame where it belongs—which is on the perpetrator, the aggressor and the person who thinks that women and girl's bodies are purchasable," Judd said.

"We are not commodities... we are entitled to the right to be free from all forms of body invasion."

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Abe Can't Use Trump 'Pressure' to Push for Defense Buildup

Editorial
The Asahi Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and U.S. President Donald Trump reaffirmed the importance of the Japan-U.S. security alliance in a telephone conversation on Saturday.

In a flurry of bilateral diplomacy, U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis will visit Japan on Friday while Abe has agreed to travel to the U.S. to meet with Trump on February 10.

The relationship between the two countries is, in a sense, a "public asset" that contributes to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Tokyo and Washington reaffirming this fact through a rapid series of diplomatic talks has great importance not just for the bilateral ties but also for the entire region.

But it is troubling to see Abe apparently being overzealous in his efforts to enhance Japan's defense capabilities.

Abe calls Japan's alliance with the U.S. an "unchanging principle." He recently took one step further in laying out his security policy agenda by saying, "We will strengthen our defense capabilities and seek out ways to expand the roles that Japan can play."

As Trump has vowed to stop the U.S. from acting as the "policeman of the world," Abe probably thinks Japan needs to bear more of the burden of its defense to keep the Trump administration committed to the security of its allies in the Asia-Pacific region.

It would be risky, however, for Japan to announce a defense buildup plan while it is unclear what kind of security policy Trump will actually adopt.

With the world situation changing dramatically, it would be difficult for Japan to ensure regional peace and stability through efforts focused solely on its security alliance with the U.S.

First of all, it is vital for the administrations of the two countries to develop common ideas about how the bilateral relationship should function as

a regional "public asset."

The two sides need to agree on how to respond to a more assertive China and how to cooperate with South Korea, Australia and Southeast Asian

nations, among others.

Tokyo and Washington also need to review the roles and the capabilities of both the U.S. military and Japan's Self-Defense Forces as they work out a broad

foreign and security policy agenda for their alliance not limited to military matters. This should be the starting point for Japan's debate on specific issues related to its bearing of the burden.

In discussing Trump's call on Tokyo to pay more of the costs of the U.S. forces stationed in Japan, the two countries should first have common views about how the U.S. forces in Japan also serve the interests of the region and the U.S. itself.

If the two governments forcefully push through the plan to relocate U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from Ginowan, Okinawa prefecture, to the Henoko district of Nago, also in the prefecture, in the face of strong local opposition, they will further antagonize the people of Okinawa, possibly destabilizing bilateral relations.

Japan should take the opportunity created by the advent of the new U.S. administration to initiate a wholesale review of the scale and functions of the U.S. Marines stationed in Okinawa, for transfers of part of their operations outside Okinawa or Japan. Japan and the U.S. also have common roles in upholding and promoting universal values such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

It is regrettable that Abe has refrained from discussing the executive order signed by Trump to block citizens of seven countries in the Middle East and Africa from entering the U.S.

As an ally of the U.S., Japan has a duty to demonstrate to the world its commitment to point out any serious mistake made by the country while urging it to take responsible actions.

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Letter to the Editor

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Letters for publication should be no longer than 150 words, and must refer to an article published in The Cambodia Daily. Letters must include a phone number for verification purposes.

Cuban Artists Paint Garments, Not Canvases, for Art Show

Reuters

HAVANA - A fantastical blue bird emerges from leaves in the latest work by Manuel Mendive, considered Cuba's foremost living artist. But this isn't a framed canvas, it's a painting on a dress, for the exhibit "Fashion Art Havana," which opened on Tuesday.

In creations by other Cuban artists, a ghostly face seems to scream out from a dark cape, a red and blue matryoshka doll is painted onto a dress, while a bubble-shaped frock is covered with wooden spikes.

The show is the latest in the "Fashion Art" series by Spanish designer Manuel Fernandez, who has worked with artists from all over the world to create one-off garments at the intersection of both disciplines.

"Art doesn't have to always be hung on walls. It could also be on floor tiles, earrings, tights or many other places," Fernandez said.

Participating artists said at



Reuters

A visitor at the 'Fashion Art Havana' exhibition in Havana on Tuesday

the opening they had high hopes the exhibit would help fashion become viewed in communist-ruled Cuba as more than a mere consumerist indulgence.

"Fashion is also art, and this is a concept we need to start understanding," said Jorge Perugorria, who painted a graphic black and white design on his dress.

Fernandez says he first designs a garment for an artist,

letting their work and personality inspire the form. He leaves the fabric blank like a canvas for them to paint.

Given that he lets the artists paint whatever they wish, he has no idea what his shows will look like until the very last minute—a nail-biting experience.

In the case of "Fashion Art Havana," which will run in Havana's sumptuous, neo-baroque

Gran Teatro until February 11, Fernandez said he was struck with how two painters ended up drawing on Russian themes.

Eduardo Abela, son of the Cuban artist of the same name, daubed a matryoshka doll onto his dress, while Gustavo Echevarria, known as "Cutu," stained his dress scarlet, then painted communist symbols like a hammer and sickle on it.

With this show, Fernandez said he decided to juxtapose the new Cuban creations with works from previous collections by Puerto Rican and Spanish artists like Antonio Martorell and Rafael Canogar.

Since embarking on his "Fashion Art" project in 1998, he has worked with 300 artists worldwide with a particular focus on Latin America. His next exhibit will be in Zimbabwe in May. His long-term aim is to create a museum for his collection, currently stored between Spain and Panama.



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