

Hun Manet Sued in US For Torture, Terrorism

BY ALEX WILLEMYNS
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Imprisoned CNRP official Meach Sovannara has filed a lawsuit in a U.S. federal court against Prime Minister Hun Sen's eldest son, Hun Manet, and the Cambodian government, accusing them of "terrorism" and "torture through arbitrary, extra-legal, and long-term detention."

Lieutenant General Manet is currently traveling in the U.S., and an article published there yesterday claimed that a man who had allegedly been assaulted by his bodyguards in Los Angeles on Saturday was attempting to serve Lt. Gen. Manet legal papers for the case.

According to a filing made in California on Friday and obtained last night, lawyers for Mr. Sovannara—who is a U.S. citizen—are requesting that Lt. Gen. Manet and the Cambodian government itself be put on trial for damages resulting from Mr. Sovannara's imprisonment.

Mr. Sovannara was one of 11 found guilty last year of "leading an insurrection" and sentenced to 20 years in prison for a 2014 opposition protest that devolved into a violent street brawl between CNRP supporters and state security guards.

The filing requests a trial to hear claims for damages for "torture through arbitrary, extra-legal, and long-term detention," "acts of

Continued on page 6



Thmey Thmey

CNRP lawmaker Um Sam An is escorted from the Interior Ministry in Phnom Penh yesterday after being arrested in Siem Reap City shortly after midnight.

In Blow for Immunity, Lawmaker Arrested

BY AUN PHEAP
AND ALEX WILLEMYNS
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Demolishing the constitutional protection forbidding the arrest of lawmakers without National Assembly consent, police apprehended opposition lawmaker Um Sam An early yesterday morning in Siem Reap City over his advocacy against Vietnamese border intrusions.

One of the architects of a CNRP campaign last year to embarrass the government for allowing Vietnam-

ese civilians and soldiers to arbitrarily claim sovereign Cambodian territory, Mr. Sam An was arrested hours after returning from exile in the U.S. and Europe.

Under a very broad interpretation of a clause in the Constitution permitting lawmakers' arrests when they are caught in the act of a crime—referred to by the Latin phrase "in flagrante delicto"—he was seized over Facebook posts written last year, said Justice Ministry spokesman Chin Malin.

"We arrested him for discrimination, using fake maps and incitement causing insecurity in society," Mr. Malin said by telephone yesterday. "Police see that these are crimes, so they arrested him for questioning."

"They will send this case to court, and the prosecutor will charge him according to these crimes," Mr. Malin said, adding that Mr. Sam An was being detained at the Interior Ministry. "He

Continued on page 2

N Korean 'Ghost Ships' Washing Up in Japan

BY JONATHAN KAIMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Shizuo Kakutani sees no great mystery in the things that wash ashore in Monzen, his quiet fishing village on the Sea of Japan—the fishing boats ravaged by fierce winter storms, the Chinese garbage carried to land by the strong winds, the occasional body that drifts in from Yaseno, the nearby cliffs notorious for suicides.

The ghost ships, however, are harder to explain.

On an early morning in Novem-

ber, the 71-year-old retired fisherman received a call from his colleagues at the town's civilian coast guard. A black mass bobbing in the water—most likely a boat—had been spotted hooked to a distant buoy.

"When I saw the boat, I immediately knew that it was from North Korea," Kakutani said. He had seen similar vessels before—no more than 9 meters long, made of wood, its flat-bottomed hull covered in black tar.

"Then, as we were pulling the

boat to this port, we noticed a pair of legs sticking out from underneath, bobbing up and down with the waves," Kakutani said. Later that day, they discovered two more boats and a grisly cargo of 10 bodies, all badly decomposed.

In small towns along Japan's sleepy west coast, dozens of North Korean boats drift ashore each year—and while most arrive empty or reduced to kindling, some float eerily out of the haze with a crew of bodies, adding to the mystery of a

Continued on page 10



Kerry Joins G-7 Visit to Hiroshima Memorial

Page 9

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AND ALSO

Man Faces Jail Over Trump Flag

REUTERS

NEW YORK - Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump appears to have a passionate supporter in Joseph Hornick, a New Jersey man who faces a \$2,000 fine or 90 days in jail for flying a flag emblazoned with the billionaire candidate's name over his home.

Local officials said the flag violates an ordinance prohibiting the display of political signs more than

30 days ahead of an election and issued him a summons. New Jersey's primary is on June 7.

For weeks, Hornick has displayed the blue flag with Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan on a pole outside his house in a show of his support for Trump. Trump has been campaigning this week in neighboring New York in an effort to snag the Republican presidential nomination.

Lawmaker...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

will be sent to court tomorrow."

Yesterday afternoon, however, Mr. Sam An was also transferred briefly from the ministry to the municipal court for questioning, and used the opportunity to call out to reporters.

"This is an unjust case. I have been accused of incitement and causing turmoil in society," he said.

Mr. Malin, the spokesman, said Mr. Sam An's provocative and public Facebook posts from the U.S. last year, which accused the CPP of complicity in Vietnamese incursions into Cambodia and were widely covered by the media, rendered his case "in flagrante delicto."

"I give, as an example, that if Mr. Um Sam An killed someone and escaped but then returned, the police could arrest him because he committed an obvious crime, and everyone knows he did it before," Mr. Malin said.

"What he did in 2015 is considered as flagrante delicto. Even if it happened in the past, it's still considered flagrante delicto from a legal and technical perspective."

It is not clear which of Mr. Sam An's many Facebook posts violated the law, but the lawmaker last year continued to accuse the CPP of using fake border maps long after August 21, when Prime Minister Hun Sen warned that such claims would lead to arrest.

The lawmaker also often posted what he said were the correct French colonial maps of Cambodia's eastern border with Vietnam, which the Constitution dictates are the only ones that can be used for border demarcation.

"I say the government's maps are illegal because those maps differ from the maps stipulated in Article 2 of the Constitution," Mr. Sam An wrote in September, calling Mr. Hun Sen's maps of the Cambodian-Vietnamese border an "inheritance left by the Yuon in the 1980s."

"Yuon" is a word for the Vietnamese considered pejorative by many but often used by the opposition, which has long sought to take advantage of the fact that Vietnam installed Mr. Hun Sen and his government in power during its 1979 to 1989 military occupation of Cambodia.

Yesterday's arrest, which was carried out months after Mr. Sam An's alleged crime—and while he was withdrawing money from an ATM, according to deputy Siem Reap provincial police chief Huot Sothy—now raises questions about the future of the legal immunity granted to lawmakers.

The privilege is provided to all elected lawmakers by Article 80 of the Constitution, which reads: "The accusation, arrest, or detention of an assembly member shall be made only with the permission of the National Assembly...except in case of flagrante delicto."

A two-thirds majority vote in the Assembly is required to strip a lawmaker of his or her immunity—a procedure that the CPP has taken full advantage of in past mandates to jail opposition lawmakers. Yet the CPP has not enjoyed such a supermajority since 2013's election.

Koul Panha, executive director of the Committee for Free and Fair Elections, said the broad interpretation of "in flagrante delicto" used to arrest Mr. Sam An over six-month-old online posts rendered the protections provided by Article 80 essentially meaningless.

"The Constitution has become nothing now, in terms of its legal protections for members of parliament—nothing. The government can now proceed with arresting members of parliament as it wants," Mr. Panha said.

"The National Assembly must immediately take action and ask the government why they have violated the Constitution. They can propose a motion to ask the government to explain why they did this," he said.

However, Leng Peng Long, the spokesman for the National As-

sembly and its longtime secretary-general, said he approved of Mr. Sam An's arrest on the grounds of the apparently flagrant nature of his online posts.

"I have not yet received any reports from the authorities, but I think that the authorities probably have enough evidence to arrest Mr. Um Sam An," Mr. Peng Long said. "I think that the arrest did not break the law, because Mr. Sam An committed an obvious crime."

It's not the first time a parliamentarian has been arrested despite his immunity. On Mr. Hun Sen's orders in August, opposition Senator Hong Sok Hour was jailed for forgery and incitement over a fake border treaty with Vietnam he used in a lecture posted on Facebook.

While the CPP held the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate to strip Mr. Sok Hour of his immunity, the ruling party's senators met and decided not to strip him, citing the then-deleted video as a case of "in flagrante delicto" that would allow his imprisonment anyway.

Yesterday, the similarity between the two cases was not lost on Interior Ministry spokesman Khieu Sopheak, who drew upon the precedent of Mr. Sok Hour's arrest in defense of Mr. Sam An's arrest.

"The case of Um Sam An [is] not different from the case of Hong

Sok Hour, because he criticized the government about selling land to Vietnam and he also criticized the government for using fake maps," he said.

While officials have taken a broad interpretation of "in flagrante delicto," Mr. Hun Sen has offered a limited view of parliamentary immunity itself, warning that seven other CNRP lawmakers charged with "leading an insurrection" before accepting their seats in August 2014 could be jailed.

"The seven lawmakers will still be jailed because you received immunity after you were charged," Mr. Hun Sen said in a January 2015 speech. "Please study the law. Your side knows the law and our side knows the law."

Opposition leader Sam Rainsy—who is himself now living in France in self-imposed exile to avoid an ever-growing list of charges and sentences—said yesterday Mr. Sam An's arrest was a bad sign with 2017 commune elections and 2018 national election approaching.

"This arrest bodes ill for the climate surrounding the forthcoming elections," Mr. Rainsy wrote in an email from Paris. "It must ring the alarm bell in the ears of all those, including the international community, who look forwards to acceptable elections in 2017 and 2018."

NEWSMAKERS

■ LOS ANGELES - A passionate kiss, LEONARDO DICAPRIO's "Revenant" bear encounter and a foul-mouthed hosting duo dominated Saturday's profanity-laden MTV Movie Awards, where "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" came away the top winner. "The Force Awakens," the third-highest grossing film of all time, led with 11 nominations and beat out blockbusters such as "Jurassic World" and "Avengers: Age of Ultron" for movie of the year. Lead star DAISY RIDLEY won best breakthrough performance. "It's especially amazing to be part of a film that represents all genders—two genders—and races and ages in such a positive and aspirational way," Ridley said. Hosts KEVIN HART and DWAYNE "THE ROCK" JOHNSON set the tone for the evening as they opened with curse words and insults, at one point dressing up as Batman and Superman to throw barbs at the A-list superhero actors in attendance. (Reuters)

— International Brief —

Iran Says Russia Delivered Part of New Defense System

Russia has delivered the first part of an advanced missile defense system to Iran, Iranian media reported yesterday, starting to equip Tehran with technology that was blocked before it signed a deal with world powers on its nuclear program. The S-300 surface-to-air system was first deployed at the height of the Cold War in 1979. In its updated form it is one of the most advanced systems of its kind and, according to British security think tank RUSI, can engage multiple aircraft and ballistic missiles around 150 km away. Russia's agreement to provide Iran with S-300 has sparked concern in Israel, whose government Iran has said it aims to destroy. In a recorded transmission, Iranian state television showed Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari telling a news conference yesterday: "I announce today that the first phase of this [delayed] contract has been implemented." Ansari was replying to reporters' questions about videos on social media showing what appeared to be parts of an S-300 missile system on trucks in northern Iran. Russia says it canceled a contract to deliver S-300s to Iran in 2010 under pressure from the West. (Reuters)

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NATIONAL

Police Officer Sued Over Alleged Threat to Shoot Journalist

BY BEN SOKHEAN
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

A journalist in Pailin province yesterday filed a lawsuit against a local police officer for allegedly threatening to kill him if he published a story about a drunken shooting spree the officer went on last week.

Ouk Touch, a reporter for the Kampuchea Aphivat newspaper and the online Chhantak Khmer News, said he and two other journalists from other news organizations had traveled to Sala Krao district on Sunday to interview residents about the April 4 shooting.

He said villagers blamed the shooting on district police officer Khea Sokhorn and showed them four bullet casings and two bullet holes in one of their homes. No one was hurt.

Mr. Touch said he had returned home from the village that afternoon and Mr. Sokhorn showed up

at about 5:20 p.m.

"He rode a Scoopy motorbike and brought an AK rifle and parked in front of my house," he said. "He asked me, 'Why did you go to do interviews to write about my story? If I shoot, it's my right and you can't make it public.'"

After the officer stepped into his house, Mr. Touch said, "he grabbed his rifle and walked around pointing it at me. I was really concerned that he might shoot me. I went closer to him to try and calm him down.... I told him I would not write the story."

The officer left soon after, and Mr. Touch, along with other reporters, did publish the story about the April 4 shooting. Mr. Touch said he also reported the alleged threat to district and provincial police, but that they showed little interest, prompting him to file a complaint with the provincial court.

"I will be really worried about my family's safety if the authorities don't take action against him," he said. "I think this is a serious violation against a journalist."

"It's normal; he was too drunk to control himself, so he fired his gun playfully."

—NHIK THOL,
POLICE CHIEF,
SALA KRAO DISTRICT

Chum Sen Sothea, chief prosecutor at the Kratie Provincial Court, said he had received the complaint and would issue a summons today, asking Mr. Sokhorn to appear for questioning sometime after the Khmer New Year holiday, which ends Saturday.

Mr. Sokhorn could not be

reached, but his boss, district police chief Nhim Thol, denied that his officer had made a threat.

"He just went to ask the journalist questions. He did not make a threat or point a gun at anyone. I think someone is exaggerating the situation," he said.

Mr. Thol said his officer did fire his rifle while drunk on April 4 and might lose his job. But the police chief said he would not be sending his subordinate to court.

"Probably not," he said. "It's normal; he was too drunk to control himself, so he fired his gun playfully."

Run Sareth, publisher of both Kampuchea Aphivat and Chhantak Khmer News, said he had urged his reporter to file the lawsuit.

"We cannot accept that the police officer used his AK to threaten our reporter at his home," he said. "We suggest the court take action according to the law."

Man Shot Dead in Drug-Riddled Slum Over Motorbike Debt

BY SEK ODOM
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

A 23-year-old man died in Phnom Penh's Sen Sok district yesterday after being shot by two brothers for failing to deliver the money he owed them from a pawned motorbike, according to police.

Chhay Chenda was playing a popular fish-themed arcade game at a drug den in Toek Thla commune's squalid Trapaing Chhouk village when Kong Sophal, 31, and his younger brother Kong Chansovann, 22, showed up to demand \$500 the victim owed them, said commune police chief Sok Sophal.

"At about 2 a.m., the victim was

sitting playing the fish gambling game when two men came and asked him to walk outside to ask him about the money, as Chansovann had asked him to take the motorbike to pawn at Kandal market last week," Mr. Sophal said.

But when Chhay Chenda refused to hand over the money—telling the brothers they could retrieve the bike from the pawn shop if they wished—a fight broke out, he said.

"After the suspect named Chansovann beat the victim, Sophal took his gun and fired it five times until one shot hit the victim's stomach, causing serious injur-

ies," the police chief said, adding that the victim succumbed to his wounds at Preah Kossamak Hospital a few hours later.

Following interviews with witnesses, both brothers were arrested shortly before noon at their home in the village, where police also found the murder weapon, he said.

"We found out that Chansovann was a friend of Chenda, then we went to arrest him," he said, adding that Mr. Sophal was apprehended while attempting to flee from police.

Sen Sok police chief Mok Hong said the brothers had been questioned at the district police station

and would be sent to the Phnom Penh Municipal Court today.

"We have concluded that it was a revenge case because we know the two tried to find the victim to get back the money that he took from them," he said.

A beverage seller who witnessed the shooting said Chhay Chenda had attempted to escape from the brothers, but was caught in the barrage of bullets.

"I looked from the window and saw shots hit the wall a few times while a man tried to escape, but he was hit by one shot and fell to the ground," said the man, who declined to give his name for fear of reprisals.

Young Woman Murdered After Fighting Off Rapist in Kratie

BY BUTH KIMSAY
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

A woman fought off a rape attempt in Kratie province on Saturday night only to be murdered by her attacker, according to police, in what was at least the fifth murder connected to a sexual assault identified by authorities this year.

Som Chenda, 23, was attacked by brickmaker Chet Chanrith, 19, while walking to a DVD shop from her home in Chet Borei district at about 8 p.m. on Saturday, according to Hout Limheng, chief of the provincial police's serious crimes bureau.

"The suspect attempted to rape the victim as she was walking

along the path," Mr. Limheng said, adding that when the woman attempted to fight him off—scratching his face and body—he became angry and knocked her unconscious.

"The suspect dragged the body to a pond, but he was afraid she was still alive, so he snapped her neck before throwing her body into the pond," he said.

The body was discovered on Monday morning in the pond, from which water is pumped by local brickmakers for use in their trade, the bureau chief said.

Sreu Chealy, a deputy district police chief, said investigators later narrowed down the potential

pool of suspects to the workers who operated the brick kiln near where the body was found, then identified Mr. Chanrith as the perpetrator after they noticed scratch marks on his body.

"The suspect confessed to killing the victim," Mr. Chealy said. "He struck the victim until she was unconscious and pressed her neck with an iron bar and strangled her."

Kratie Provincial Court director Din Sivuthy said court officials were expected to lay charges against Mr. Chanrith today.

The brutal crime marks at least the fifth time this year that a victim of sexual assault has been

murdered by her attacker.

Prominent women's rights advocate Ros Sopheap said she believed crimes against women had become more brutal in recent years.

"I feel it is more savage than before, if I compare to 10 years ago," she said, adding that a lack of respect for the judicial system led many of the perpetrators to kill their victims.

"When people do not trust [the courts], the murderer feels they are OK to commit the crime," she said. "They believe they will not have any problems."

(Additional reporting by Taylor O'Connell)

Iodine Levels Dangerously Low in Moms, Children

BY BEN PAVIOUR
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

More than 60 percent of mothers and young children in Cambodia are suffering from dangerously low levels of iodine in what a new study describes as a "serious public health problem."

Members of poor, rural communities exhibited especially low levels of urinary iodine, a lack of which can lead to thyroid disorders and stunt physical and mental development, the study shows.

Published last week in the journal *Nutrients*, the study partially attributes the problem to a decline in the availability of iodized salt—the primary source of the nutrient in Cambodia. A 2014 survey by Unicef found that more than 60 percent of salt inspected in the country did not meet regulatory standards, up from 22 percent in 2011.

Unicef stopped funding iodine procurement in Cambodia in 2010.

Nearly three-quarters of the 736 mothers and two-thirds of the 950 children under the age of 5 examined as part of the 2014 Cambodian Micronutrient Survey are suffering from iodine deficiency, according to the study.

The odds of having a low urinary iodine concentration "were almost halved for mothers and reduced by two-thirds for children if they belonged to the richest socioeconomic category as compared to the poorest," it says.

Iodine allows for normal functioning of the thyroid and is used by cells to convert food into energy, according to the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Left untreated, iodine deficiency can impede mental development and severely stunt physical growth, warns the World Health Organization.

Although a 2003 sub-decree makes the iodization of salt mandatory in Cambodia, according to the new study, its authors—including representatives of Unicef, the National Nutrition Program and the Agriculture Ministry—recommend stronger enforcement of existing regulations and a lower mandatory level of iodine.

"It is essential to sustain strong enforcement from the government and ensure that everyone has access to affordable and adequately iodized salt," the study says.

Health Ministry officials could not be reached for comment.

Court Charges Five Over Massive Market Fire

BY SEK ODOM
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

The Stung Treng Provincial Court yesterday charged a goldsmith, three security guards and the manager of a market in Stung Treng City for negligence that contributed to the outbreak of a fire that gutted the market on Thursday, causing an estimated \$1 million in damages.

The blaze started at about 10 p.m. inside the Thmar market on Thursday, tearing through 1,220 stalls and shops over the course of five hours before firefighters from three provinces could bring it under control.

Deputy provincial police chief Horn Bunthel said yesterday that security guards Ros Saroeun, Chhoam Chamroeun and Chhoam

Sopheak, market manager Lim Yung and goldsmith Heng Map were arrested at various locations across Stung Treng City on Sunday afternoon and taken in for questioning by provincial police.

Yesterday, they were sent to the provincial court, charged with criminal negligence leading to property damage and provisionally detained at the provincial prison, Mr. Bunthel said.

He explained that Mr. Map, the goldsmith, had accidentally started the fire while melting down platinum earlier in the day, spilling some of the metal onto a soft surface where it smoldered for several hours until the fire broke out.

"We arrested the goldsmith as a suspect because we concluded that the fire started from a small fire

when he burned the platinum...and was careless," he said.

The three security guards had not been carefully patrolling the market that night, making it easier for the fire to spread, he added, while the manager was taken into custody because he was responsible for the safety of vendors and security of the premises.

The market is privately managed by businessman Sa Leang, who could not be reached for comment.

Provincial police on Friday estimated that the fire resulted in property losses of about \$1 million. Men Kong, a spokesman for the provincial government, said yesterday that an investigating team comprised of police, military police and provincial authorities had yet to determine the full scale of the destruction.

Mekong Dams Not Cause of Drought, PM Says

BY KHUON NARIM
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Prime Minister Hun Sen yesterday disputed the idea that water shortages along the Mekong River have been exacerbated by two massive hydropower dams being developed by Laos, saying the drought currently afflicting much of mainland Southeast Asia was caused only by "the sky."

Speaking during a ceremony to inaugurate a new pagoda building in Prey Veng province, Mr. Hun Sen said the government was "concerned" about the drought, but that he was convinced that upstream Mekong dams had nothing to do with the problem.

"Last year, unfortunately, rain avoided the Mekong River basin; it did not just avoid Cambodia," he

said. "The issue of big water or small water—the issue of having water or not having water—it does not just involve the hydroelectric dam at Xayaburi nor the Don Sahong."

"Don't blame Laos [and say] that it was caused by Laos building the Don Sahong hydroelectric dam—it hasn't been built yet—or caused by the Xayaburi hydropower dam, which has just been built a little bit and is 1,200 kilometers from Cambodia," he continued.

Rather than dams, the premier said, the culprit was simply the capricious climate.

"The issue of having water or not having water depends on the sky; the sky brings rain where they don't need it until people die," he said.

The Vietnamese government last week blamed upstream Me-

kong dams such as the Xayaburi and Don Sahong, along with this year's particularly strong El Nino, for catastrophic droughts and "salt-water intrusion" there, the Associated Press reported.

Saltwater intrusion—the movement of saltwater into freshwater bodies—is affecting large swathes of land in the Mekong Delta due to low water levels in the river. Mr. Hun Sen said that the current saltwater intrusion in Vietnam was unprecedented, and that it could become a concern for Cambodia.

"I am very concerned; it has already crossed 100 km from the sea, and if the water drops a little bit, seawater will rise up into Neak Loeung, and that would be a disaster related to global climate change," he said.

Gov't Mulls Online Driver's License Registration

BY KANG SOTHEAR
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Less than a week after taking over the Transport Ministry, Sun Chanthol has established a committee to move more services online, including the process for applying for driver's licenses, officials said yesterday.

Preap Chanvibol, director of the ministry's transportation department, said the committee was formed Friday and would focus on making better use of the internet.

Moving the license registration process online, Mr. Chanvibol said, was just one of several issues being discussed.

"That is also a part of discussions, but I cannot give any specifics yet—such as how the process would be organized—until the discussion has ended in results," he said.

Ministry spokesman Pheng Sovicheano explained that the committee was weighing the pros and cons of an online registration system for both users and the government.

"For example, people in rural areas probably do not have the ability or enough knowledge to access the online system, and so they will probably have to use existing services," Mr. Sovicheano said, adding that a web-based system would drastically reduce the opportunity for graft.

"There would not be face-to-face meetings between applicants and issuers [of licenses], and so there would be no under-the-table money," he said.

Mr. Chanthol, the spokesman noted, had moved the business registration process online while at the Commerce Ministry, which

he headed until last week, when he was moved as part of a cabinet reshuffle proposed by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Ear Chariya, director of the Institute for Road Safety, said that while he had not heard about the new Transport Ministry committee, he did not think an online license registration system would be practical.

"It is not really appropriate, given that an online system would likely require credit cards for payment, which most Cambodians do not have," he said.

Currently, drivers of commercial vehicles, cars and motorbikes with engines larger than 125cc are required to hold a driver's license, which costs about \$20 and takes up to a month to obtain.

(Additional reporting by Peter Ford)

NATIONAL

Garments to Keep Economy Strong Through China Slowdown

By ZSOMBOR PETER
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

The World Bank yesterday said it still predicted strong growth from the Cambodian economy—led by garment exports—and only a moderate cooling over the next few years despite a “faster than expected” slowdown in China, Cambodia’s biggest foreign investor.

Marking the release of its latest economic update for the region, the Bank said the year-on-year growth of Cambodia’s gross domestic product (GDP) would dip from 7 percent in 2015 to 6.9 percent this year and again to 6.8 percent in the two years after that, largely weathering China’s sharper downturn. But it warned of persistent struggles for Cambodia’s agriculture sector and the slowdown of a still-booming construction industry living increasingly off of credit.

“It’s still very high growth,” said Sodeth Ly, a country economist for the Bank. “So everything remains good in the mid-term outlook.”

Appearing at a press conference in Washington via video link, Sudhir Shetty, the Bank’s chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific, said China’s slowdown was likely to hurt Cambodia most in the tourism sector.

Although tourist arrivals from China are growing faster than from any other country, the year-on-year growth in total arrivals has dropped sharply, from 17.5 percent in 2013 to 6.1 percent last year.

Miguel Sanchez Martin, the Bank’s senior country economist, said the construction sector and stronger-than-expected garment exports—mostly to the U.S. and Europe—had been picking up the slack.

“It is also very interesting to see how Cambodian exporters have been able to deal with this more difficult situation, which is appreciation in the U.S. dollar,” he said. “You can observe already some diversification into higher value-added products and also intensification of the footwear industry.”

Mr. Sanchez Martin said he expected garment exports to keep growing over the next few years and tourism to pick up again.

“On the other hand,” he said, “we will need to monitor the possible deceleration [of] the construction sector and also how to respond to the weak sector in agriculture, which is the most concerning part.”

While the construction sector is expected to remain robust, he said, “a new trend that we observed is a deceleration in the number and amount of construction approvals. That means that growth in the construction sector could slow down a little bit in 2016.”

Mr. Ly blamed a “very sluggish” agriculture sector, expected to contribute virtually nothing to this year’s GDP growth, on bad weather and a shrinking supply of new land on which to expand production.

He said depressed international commodity prices were likely to keep the agriculture sector down for the next few years.

“Many commodity exporters [are] facing international prices falling down, so it [is] very difficult for agriculture, especially for export,” he said. “It’s very difficult to prosper during the depressed time, so it might take some time to boost agricultural production. It’s not going to be short-term; it’s going to be medium-term.”

Mr. Ly also raised alarms about the “large gap” between the rising value of bank loans and falling deposits and about a steady drop in public investment since 2011, as ever more donors have shied away from lending to a country approaching lower-middle-income status.

“So...the main message and policy option [is] that the government might have to spend a little bit more on public investment,” the economist said.

But he said government revenue was likely to stay stuck at about 17 percent of GDP through 2018 without new tax rates and incentives—unlikely until after the 2018 national election.

Terrorism...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

international terrorism,” “intentional infliction of emotional distress,” “assault,” “battery,” “false imprisonment” and “loss of consortium” with his wife.

Lt. Gen. Manet’s “actions taken against...Meach Sovannara and his family were part of a systematic and long-standing campaign of persecution and torture carried out by the Hun Sen government in Cambodia,” it says.

The filing, made by Morton Sklar, a longtime lawyer for Cambodia’s opposition, makes the case that the U.S. Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, which prevents foreign officials being brought to trial in the U.S., provides exceptions for torts seeking monetary damages.

It claims that Lt. Gen. Manet was responsible for the brawl that took place at Freedom Park in July 2014, for the arrest of Mr. Sovannara in November that year and for his ongoing jailing in Phnom Penh.

“It was in Hun Manet’s official capacities, and under his authority and jurisdiction and control, that the acts of torture against...Meach Sovannara that are the subject of this lawsuit took place,” the filing argues.

“The military and security forces

that...Hun Manet heads were principally involved in maintaining order at the political demonstration in Freedom Park on July 15, 2014, [and] the attacks that were directed against the civilian demonstrators at that protest event,” it continues.

“They also were responsible for filing the criminal charges placed against...Meach Sovannara that led to his arrest, prosecution and long-term imprisonment.”

The filing represents the first suggestion that Lt. Gen. Manet, who is the head of the Defense Ministry’s counterterrorism department and deputy commander of his father’s bodyguard unit, had any hand in the 2014 violence or in Mr. Sovannara’s arrest and jailing, although it provides no evidence to support the claim.

Besides that, the filing argues that Lt. Gen. Manet should stand trial for “international terrorism” under the U.S. Anti-Terrorism Act, due to the alleged torture he has inflicted on Mr. Sovannara during his imprisonment.

U.S. law, the filing says, defines “international terrorism” as “violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are in violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State.”

“Since acts of torture are made

subject to criminal sanctions [in the U.S.]...and also are defined as covering the type of treatment that...Meach Sovannara [sic] has been subject to by...Hun Manet and his subordinates, they come under the definition of ‘international terrorism,’” it says.

Council of Ministers spokesman Phay Siphon said that he could not take the case against Lt. Gen. Manet seriously.

“They have a right to sue whoever they want or lodge a complaint, but we have to understand there are jurisdictions. Let me explain to you: U.S. citizens, if you are overseas, you file a complaint there,” Mr. Siphon said.

“If there’s something wrong in my native country, I have to file the complaint in my native country. This is nothing related to Hun Manet. It happened in Cambodia.”

“This is a phony claim. They want to make a silly case through the media. It’s nothing to do with the law.”

Mr. Sklar, the lawyer who filed the lawsuit, did not respond to a request for comment last night. Opposition leader Sam Rainsy said he was unaware of the filing.

Lt. Gen. Manet’s tour of the U.S. got off to a rocky start on Saturday, with Cambodian-American protesters and the official’s bodyguards appearing to clash outside a restaurant, with videos showing a man who claimed to have been

beaten by a guard.

“I was serving a subpoena, and I got thrown down by the security and I hit my head,” says the man, who gives his name as Paul. “When it first happened, when I lay down, I couldn’t move for 30 seconds. I couldn’t move my arms or my legs; I was paralyzed.”

He denied that he was part of the protest against Lt. Gen. Manet, saying: “I have nothing to do with it. I had papers that I was trying to serve,” before declining to show the subpoena. “I can’t show you. I really can’t. I’ve really probably said too much,” he says in the video.

An article on the Huffington Post yesterday said that the man was attempting to serve papers to Lt. Gen. Manet.

“Saturday night outside the La Lune Restaurant in Long Beach, California, where Manet was having dinner, a process server arrived to serve papers on the case,” the article says. “The process server notified the police of what he was doing and was allowed to go forward.”

“Manet’s bodyguards were not pleased. There was a scuffle. The process server was slammed hard to the ground by one of the bodyguards, landing on his head and spine,” it said. “Long Beach police detectives, however, were at the hospital Saturday night questioning the process server.”

REGIONAL

G-7 Foreign Ministers Oppose Provocation Over Sea Dispute

REUTERS

HIROSHIMA - Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven advanced economies said they strongly opposed provocation in the East and South China Seas, where China is locked in territorial disputes with nations including the Philippines, Vietnam and Japan.

In the latest verbal exchange on who controls the vital trade waterways, China said it had not seen the G-7 statement, but that countries in the region were seeking to promote stability and that disputes were being "exaggerated."

"If the G-7 wants to continue playing a major role in the world, it should take an attitude of seeking truth from the facts to handle the issues the international community is most concerned with at the moment," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a daily news briefing.

"If the G-7 is taken hostage by the selfish interests of certain countries, then this probably won't be beneficial to the G-7's influence, role and future development."

Earlier yesterday, the G-7 for-

eign ministers said after meeting in the Japanese city of Hiroshima that they opposed "any intimidating coercive or provocative unilateral actions that could alter the status quo and increase tensions."

In an apparent reference to China's territorial spat with the Philippines, the group also called on countries to observe international maritime laws and implement any binding judgments delivered by courts and tribunals.

Manila has asked the International Court of Arbitration in the Hague to decide on its dispute with Beijing, which has said it does not recognize the case. A ruling is expected by June.

China is building islands on reefs in the South China Sea to bolster its claims.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims on the waters, which are believed to have huge deposits of oil and gas and through which an estimated \$5 trillion in trade is shipped every year.

Thailand Steps Up Security as 'Terror-Linked' Uighurs Visit

REUTERS

BANGKOK - Thai police have stepped up security after two ethnic Uighur men from China linked to "foreign terror groups" visited a holiday island, a senior officer said on Saturday.

Fears of a militant attack in Southeast Asia have risen recently, especially after the Islamic State group claimed an attack in the Indonesian capital in January in which eight people, four of them attackers, were killed.

"At the end of March, two Uighurs came to Phuket and stayed one night and then left Thailand," police Lt. Gen. Suchart Teerasawat said, referring to a tourist island on Thailand's Indian Ocean coast.

"These two have links to foreign terror groups," he said.

Suchart said police did not have information about who the Uighurs met or where they went on the island.

"We're investigating this. After staying one night the pair traveled to Malaysia and Indonesia. We understand they were eventually caught in Indonesia," he said.

Suchart said authorities were also investigating several ethnic Chechens following reports last week that some were on Phuket.

On Thursday, Thai Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said he had ordered surveillance of Uighur and Chechen visitors who might have entered Thailand on fake travel documents.

Two Chinese ethnic Uighur men were arrested last year for their involvement in an August 17 bombing at a Bangkok shrine that killed 20 people. They were charged with murder and possession of explosives.

Authorities said the bomb had been in retaliation to a crackdown on human smuggling gangs and not a "terrorist" attack.

The Uighur people from China's far west are a Muslim minority and Chinese authorities accuse some of being involved in militancy.

In March, Indonesian forces killed two ethnic Uighurs who linked up with an Indonesian militant on Sulawesi island. Four Uighurs were jailed in Indonesia last year after trying to join the same network.



Empowering Communities for Health (ECH)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
#442-JA-042-04/16-ECH-C2

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Reproductive and Child Health Alliance (RACHA) is seeking a highly creative, committed and ambitious Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) for the USAID-funded Empowering Communities for Health (ECH) project. ECH aims to strengthen the capacity of local government counterparts in 9 coverage provinces in Cambodia to respond to citizen needs through improved decentralized services and increased citizen participation in health, primary education and local government services. DCOP will be involved in all facets of the project in providing technical leadership and administrative oversight of the complex and large scope of ECH project.

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JOB VACANCIES

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Contract Type: Permanent

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REGIONAL

For Babies in SE Asia Disasters, Experts Say Breast Is Best

REUTERS

BANGKOK - After each typhoon, earthquake or flood in disaster-prone Southeast Asia, individuals and groups meaning well donate infant formula, not realizing the dangers it can pose to children in a crisis, aid workers say.

Substitutes for breast milk in disaster-hit areas where clean drinking water is scarce have led to cases of diarrhea, the second leading cause of death for children under 5 and a key cause of malnutrition among young children, experts say.

"Most people don't realize how dangerous that is. In pretty much every emergency in this region, we see infant formula donated," Unicef regional nutrition specialist Dorothy Foote said.

"Instead of infant formula, communities and mothers need to understand how important it is to keep breastfeeding."

Infant formula is aggressively marketed in Southeast Asia.

However, in disaster-hit areas, water supplies and infrastructure are often damaged or inaccessible, making safe drinking water—needed to mix formula and clean bottles—a rare commodity and increasing the risk of disease.

Giving out breast-milk substitutes and baby bottles during emergencies should be avoided, according to a recent report by Unicef, the World Health Organization and Asean.

"Many do not know that this is an inappropriate donation that amplifies risks of malnutrition, disease and death for young children," the report says.

"Many do not know that [formula] is an inappropriate donation that amplifies risks of... death for young children."

—UNICEF, ASEAN AND WHO

REPORT

Some governments have breastfeeding policies, but often they are not implemented—or enforced in cases of violations—said Yvonne Serrano Duque, a specialist in public health in emergencies at the independent Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Bangkok.

Since 1986, the Philippines has had a "milk code"—executive order 51—which regulates the marketing and distribution of breast-

milk substitutes and promotes the "benefits and superiority of breastfeeding."

While disasters are not specifically mentioned in the executive order, a government website on the issue says: "Breastfeeding is best for babies especially during disasters."

Nonetheless, faith-based groups in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 solicited for infant formula donations, Duque said.

In Indonesia, the Ministry of Health and Indonesian Red Cross have promoted breastfeeding during disasters and providing breastfeeding rooms in temporary shelters, said Arfan Fathurohman, head of health and social services of the Indonesian Red Cross.

After the country's 2006 earthquake in Yogyakarta, Unicef experts said distribution of breast-milk substitutes had been "uncontrolled and widespread," and they found more cases of diarrhea among children who had received donated infant formula than those who had not.

The intergovernmental Asean Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Center) plays a

key role when well-meaning countries donate infant formula, which is turned down by disaster-affected countries with strong breastfeeding policies.

"AHA Center tells the donating country that the affected country doesn't need this. What is good about this is that the member states do not lose face," said Arnel Capili, AHA Center's chief of operations.

In normal situations, exclusively breastfed infants are 11 times less likely to die from diarrhea and 15 times less likely to die from pneumonia—the two leading killers of children under 5, researchers say.

Many women do not realize that if they switch to formula and breastfeed less, their bodies will decrease milk production, said Foote of Unicef.

"If she stops [breastfeeding] to give her baby donated formula, then she may not have milk when the donations stop, or not enough money to continue formula," she said.

"There are lots of reasons why it's good to support mothers to keep breastfeeding and make that common knowledge before an emergency happens to prevent malnutrition in the first place."

Tough-Talking Mayor Surges Ahead in Philippine Election Poll

REUTERS

MANILA - A tough-talking mayor in the southern Philippines who has vowed to end corruption and crime has topped the latest opinion poll and become the new front-runner in the presidential campaign ahead of elections in May.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, 71, the only candidate for president from the southern island of Mindanao, has seen a steady rise in support after polling badly early in the campaign. His tough stand on crime has begun to resonate with many Filipinos.

In the latest opinion poll, former favorite Senator Grace Poe dropped to second.

The May 9 general elections will be closely watched by investors, who fear the political succession in one of Asia's fastest growing economies could derail gains made during President Benigno Aquino's six-year single term.

The Social Weather Station opinion poll released yesterday found that Duterte was the top choice for 27 percent of 1,500 respondents in the March 30 to April 2 survey.

ril 2 survey.

"The SWS survey validated Duterte's numbers are rising steadily as evidenced by large crowds attending his political rallies," said Ramon Casiple, executive director of the Institute of Political and Electoral Reforms.

"But, elections are still about a month away, so you cannot count the other candidates out. It will be a tight race until the end. It's still anything goes."

In the previous SWS opinion poll in early March, Duterte had 21 percent while Poe had 27 percent in that period. She slid down to second place with 23 percent in the latest poll.

Vice President Jejomar Binay remained in third with 20 percent, former Interior Minister Manuel Roxas, who is the president's hand-picked successor, was fourth with 18 percent and Senator Miriam Santiago had 3 percent.

"We are grateful that the surveys are now reflecting what we have been witnessing and experiencing on the ground," Peter Tiu Lavina, Duterte's spokesman, said in a statement.

In the vice presidential contest, the only son and namesake of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos has taken a lead with 26 percent after Senator Francis Escudero, who led opinion polls since 2015, dropped seven points to 21 percent.

In power since 2010, Aquino is barred by the constitution from seeking a second term. Under his leadership, the Philippines has

seen economic growth of more than 6 percent on average, its best five-year record in four decades.

About 54 million of the population of 100 million are eligible to vote to choose a president, vice president and more than 18,000 local government executives and lawmakers in the general elections, which take place every six years.



A boy and an elephant splash each other with water during the celebration of the Songkran water festival in Thailand's Ayutthaya province north of Bangkok yesterday.

Reuters

REGIONAL

Kerry Joins Other G-7 Foreign Ministers at Hiroshima Museum

REUTERS

HIROSHIMA, Japan - John Kerry yesterday became the first U.S. secretary of state to pay his respects at Hiroshima, Japan's memorial to victims of the 1945 U.S. nuclear attack, raising speculation that U.S. President Barack Obama might make his own visit in May.

Following the visit by Kerry and his counterparts from the Group of Seven advanced economies, the ministers issued a statement reaffirming their commitment to building a world without nuclear arms, but said the push had been made more complex by North Korea's repeated provocations and by the worsening security in Syria and Ukraine.

Kerry toured the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum, whose haunting displays include photographs of badly burned victims, the tattered and stained clothes they wore and statues depicting them with flesh melting from their limbs.

The ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the U.S. then laid white wreaths at a cenotaph to the victims of the August 6, 1945, bombing by the U.S., which reduced the city to ashes and killed some 140,000 people by the end of that year.

While he is not the highest-ranking U.S. official to have toured the museum and memorial park, a distinction that belongs to then-



Kyodo

US Secretary of State John Kerry, center, prepares to lay a wreath at the cenotaph with other fellow G-7 foreign ministers at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Museum in Hiroshima, Japan, yesterday.

U.S. Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi in 2008, Kerry is the most senior executive branch official to visit.

"Everyone in the world should see and feel the power of this memorial. It is a stark, harsh, compelling reminder not only of our obligation to end the threat of nuclear weapons, but to rededicate all our effort to avoid war itself," the chief U.S. diplomat wrote in a guest book.

After a moment of silence by the ministers, Japanese school children, who had lined the entrance waving flags of all the G-7 nations,

presented them with leis made of paper cranes, symbolizing peace, in each country's national colors.

At Kerry's suggestion, the ministers also made an impromptu visit to the Atomic Bomb Dome, the skeletal remains of the only structure left standing near the hypocenter of the bomb explosion and now a Unesco World Heritage Site.

Three days after a U.S. warplane dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, another atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. Japan surrendered six days later.

Kerry's trip could pave the way for an unprecedented visit to Hiroshima by a sitting U.S. president when Obama attends the annual G-7 leaders summit in another Japanese city next month.

A visit could be controversial in the U.S. if it were viewed as an apology. A majority of U.S. citizens still view the bombings as justified to end the war and save U.S. lives, while the vast majority of Japanese believe it was not justified.

While saying the White House has not yet decided, a senior U.S. official on Sunday said Obama, who last month visited Cuba, has shown he is willing to do controversial things such as visiting Havana.

Hopes for Obama's visit to Hiroshima were raised after his April 2009 speech in Prague calling for a world without nuclear weapons. He later said that he would be honored to visit the two nuclear-attacked cities.

The G-7 foreign ministers' trip to the museum and memorial is part of Japan's effort to send a strong nuclear disarmament message from Hiroshima, the world's first city to suffer an atomic bombing.

"I think this first-ever visit by G7 foreign ministers to the peace memorial park is a historic first step towards reviving momentum toward a world without nuclear weapons," Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said in a statement.

Taiwan Accuses China of Kidnapping 8 of Its Nationals in Kenya

REUTERS

TAIPEI - Taiwan yesterday accused China, which regards the self-ruled island as a breakaway province, of kidnapping eight of its nationals who it said had been acquitted in a cybercrime case in Kenya.

Kenya's attorney-general said in January it was considering a request from Beijing to extradite 76 Chinese charged with cybercrime in Kenya for trial in their homeland.

But Taiwan said some of these people were actually from Taiwan and that a total of 23 of its people had been acquitted last Tuesday by a Kenyan court and given 21 days to leave.

Yet China pressured Kenyan police to put eight of the Taiwanese nationals on to a Chinese jet bound for China on Friday, Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said. It did not say how they were taken.

"This is an uncivilized act of illegal kidnapping and a serious violation of basic human rights," the ministry said in a statement, add-

ing that it was demanding the immediate return of the eight.

Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which distrusts China, also weighed in on the issue, demanding China "repatriate our people and guarantee their legal rights."

China views Taiwan as a wayward province to be brought under Beijing's control by force if necessary. Defeated Nationalist forces fled to the island in 1949 after a civil war with the Communists now in control in Beijing.

Only 22 countries recognize Taiwan, with most having diplomatic relations with Beijing and recognizing its "One China" policy.

Taiwan had sent officials from its representative office in South Africa to Kenya to try to deal with the case as it has no office in Kenya, the Foreign Ministry added.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said he needed to "further understand" the situation when asked about it during a regular news briefing yesterday.

"But in principle, countries which follow the 'One China' principle are worthy of approval," he added.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office, which oversees relations with Taiwan, said in a short statement that it was trying to find out what had happened. China's Ministry of Public Security did not respond to a request for comment.

Kenyan government officials were not immediately available for comment.

Last month, China resumed ties with former Taiwan ally Gambia. China and Taiwan had for years tried to poach each other's allies, often dangling generous aid packages in front of leaders of developing nations.

— Regional Brief —

US Officer Charged With Spying, Possibly for China

WASHINGTON - A U.S. Navy officer with access to sensitive U.S. intelligence faces espionage charges over accusations he passed state secrets, possibly to China and Taiwan, a U.S. official said on Sunday. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, identified the suspect as Lieutenant Commander Edward Lin, who was born in Taiwan and later became a naturalized U.S. citizen, according a Navy profile article written about him in 2008. A redacted Navy charge sheet said the suspect had been assigned to the headquarters for the Navy's Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, which oversees intelligence collection activities. It accused him twice of communicating secret information and three times of attempting to do so to a representative of a foreign government "with intent or reason to believe it would be used to the advantage of a foreign nation." The document did not identify what foreign country or countries were involved. The U.S. official said both China and Taiwan were possible but stressed the investigation was ongoing. (Reuters)

REGIONAL

S Korea Reveals Defection Last Year of 2 N Korean Officials

REUTERS

SEOUL - Two senior North Korean officials, including an army colonel specializing in espionage against the South, defected to South Korea last year, the Seoul government said yesterday.

News of the defections followed Friday's announcement by Seoul that 13 workers at a restaurant run by the North in an undisclosed third country had defected as a group, arriving in the South a day earlier.

Yesterday, the South's Unification and Defense Ministries said a North Korean army colonel defected last year and had been granted political asylum. He had worked in the secretive General Reconnaissance Bureau, which is

focused on espionage activities against the South.

The Unification Ministry, which handles North Korea issues, also said that a senior diplomat who was posted in an African country had defected to the South last year with his family.

The disclosures confirmed earlier reports in the South Korean media. The South Korean government's public acknowledgment of defections is unusual.

The main liberal opposition Minjoo Party yesterday accused the government of conservative President Park Geun-hye of trying to influence conservative voter turnout ahead of Wednesday's parliamentary elections by announcing the defection of the res-

taurant workers last week.

Both ministries denied suggestions that yesterday's revelations were made for domestic political reasons and said disclosing the defections was in the public interest.

About 29,000 people had fled North Korea and arrived in the South as of March, including 1,276 last year, with numbers declining since a 2009 peak.

Earlier yesterday, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the North Korean colonel specialized in anti-South espionage operations before defecting and had divulged the nature of his work to South Korean authorities while in the North.

South Korean officials declined to comment on that or give further details.

The defection of a high-ranking officer in the General Reconnaissance Bureau would be a coup for Seoul.

The North set up the bureau in 2009, consolidating several intelligence agencies to streamline operations aimed at the South.

Its head, General Kim Yong Chol, is accused by the South of being behind the 2010 torpedo attack against the South that sunk a navy ship and killed 46 sailors. The North denies any responsibility for the sinking.

The bureau is also known to operate an elite team of computer specialists working to infiltrate the networks of the South and other countries and to conduct cyber attacks against key institutions.

Ships...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

country that cloaks itself in secrecy.

A flotilla of the ghost boats—at least 14 of them, carrying more than 30 decomposing corpses—has washed ashore since late last year along a 1,600 km stretch of the west coast, leaving Japanese investigators puzzled. Who were these people? What happened to them?

The boats bore unmistakable signs of North Korean origin. Their hulls were emblazoned with painted numbers and Korean script; one was marked "State Security Department," and another "Korean People's Army." A tattered North Korean flag flew from one of the boats, the newspaper Asahi Shimbun reported. A backpack, found on another, had a pin bearing the portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, who died in 2011.

All of those on board appeared to be male, though some were so badly decomposed investigators couldn't be certain. All wore civilian clothing. Autopsies found that they had been dead for about two months, but the cause of death was elusive.

Perhaps they were defectors, analysts surmised—although scores of have attempted to flee the country in recent years, few have dared to cross the freezing, storm-tossed sea. Most travel overland into northeastern China.

Then, a new theory surfaced.

Satoru Miyamoto, a North Korea expert at Seigakuin University near Tokyo, said that the men on board were probably fishermen.

By studying photographs of the boats and the vessels' numbers, he deduced they probably belonged to the North Korean military's commercial branch.

The basis for those conclusions might be found in a series of undated photographs released in November of dictator Kim Jong Un touring a military fishery base, grinning and examining blocks of frozen fish.

Workers, Kim said, should "realize their lifetime desire by catching more fish for the servicepersons and civilians," according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

"So the military has been sending soldiers out onto the sea to fish," Miyamoto said. "But the soldiers don't have any training, so they sometimes get lost at sea."

The crews may have run into extreme weather, a typhoon perhaps. Boats may have flipped and righted themselves again. Those aboard probably drowned, starved or succumbed to hypothermia.

A search of the boat Kakutani helped bring to shore in November revealed what must have been a wretched existence for those on board.

There were so few things in there, said Kiyohito Tani, 52, a coast guard group leader who conducted the search.

There was a frying pan and a cabin strewn with fishing hooks and small lights, suggesting the crew intended to catch squid, he said. There were three bodies below deck, all decomposed.

"It smelled like them," he said. "It's something very difficult to describe."

Six more bodies were found in

one of the other two boats that were found that day, one of the vessels with only its hull protruding from the water.

Kakutani was more mystified than alarmed by the ghost ships; the fishing town has long been awash in macabre discoveries.

"This isn't something new for

find a picture of the cigarette pack, but returned empty-handed. "A body was just found in a river near here," he said, shrugging. "Everybody's busy checking it out. So I can't look into this right now."

Coast guard officials said that disposing of the boats had been a bureaucratic hassle. The three

"They're being held no differently than the other ashes. In death, we treat everyone the same."

—MONK

us, so people are just saying 'oh no, not again,'" Kakutani said.

Kakutani said that responding to suicides on nearby Yaseno—five or six each year—had hardened him.

"We have a rumor of a ghostly figure of a lady appearing at the pier," he said. "But that's been a rumor since way before the North Korean ships began arriving. So probably, she's just one of those people who jumped to death from the cliff."

And the arrivals have continued. In January, fishermen in Niigata found a small boat—apparently from North Korea—partially submerged about 13 km from the city's coastline. It remains in the city's port awaiting demolition, with all of its contents: fishing nets, a man's jacket, a rusty old motor.

Kazushi Nishikata, 37, a spokesman at the Niigata coast guard, said investigators found a pack of cigarettes bearing Korean script on board.

"I remember it was whitish-colored," he said in an interview at his office. He then left the room to

boats discovered off Monzen floated unattended for months before they were dismantled, destroyed and incinerated in February. Wajima, the municipality that oversees the town of Monzen, couldn't afford their disposal, leaving the local environmental ministry to cover most of the \$13,500 bill.

A Wajima government spokesperson, reached by phone, said those aboard, presumed to be North Koreans, were cremated and their ashes sent to the Soujiji temple, a placid Zen Buddhist compound on the city's outskirts. A monk at the temple confirmed that the ashes were there, but declined to say more—commenting on the situation, he said, could invite reprisals.

Between 1977 and 1983, North Korean agents abducted at least 17 Japanese citizens—including several who lived nearby.

Some locals, he said, still seek retribution.

"They're being held no differently than the other ashes," the monk said. "In death, we treat everyone the same."

តំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សប្រសាច ត្រូវបានចាប់ខ្លួន ខណៈអភ័យ ឯកសិទ្ធិការងារប្រហារឆ្នាំ

អូន ភាព និង ALEX WILLEMYNS
ខេមបូឌា ដេលី

នគរបាលបានចាប់ខ្លួនលោក អ៊ី សំអាត តំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សប្រសាចកាលពីរំលងអាធ្រាត្រឈានចូលព្រឹកម្សិលមិញនៅក្នុងសៀមរាប ទាក់ទិនការតស៊ូមតិរបស់លោកប្រឆាំងការទន្ទ្រានចូលព្រំដែនពីសំណាក់វៀតណាម ហើយនេះឆ្លុះបញ្ចាំងពីការបំផ្លាញការការពារដោយរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញដែលហាមប្រាមការចាប់ខ្លួនតំណាងរាស្ត្រដោយគ្មានការយល់ព្រមពីរដ្ឋសភា។

លោក អ៊ី សំអាត ដែលជាអ្នកផ្ដើមគំនិតមួយរូបនៃយុទ្ធនាការមួយរបស់គណបក្សសង្គ្រោះជាតិកាលពីឆ្នាំមុន ដើម្បីធ្វើឲ្យរដ្ឋាភិបាលអាម៉ាស់មុខពោះ ការបណ្ដែតបណ្ដោយឲ្យជនស៊ីវិល និងទាហានវៀតណាម អះអាងសិទ្ធិកាន់កាប់អធិបតេយ្យរបស់កម្ពុជា តាមតែអំពើចិត្តនោះ ត្រូវបានចាប់ខ្លួនប៉ុន្មានម៉ោងបន្ទាប់ពីវិលត្រឡប់ពីការនិរទេសខ្លួននៅសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក និងអឺរ៉ុប។

ក្រោមការបកស្រាយដ៏ទូលំទូលាយនៃមាត្រាមួយក្នុងរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញដែលអនុញ្ញាតឲ្យចាប់ខ្លួនតំណាងរាស្ត្រនៅពេលកំពុងប្រព្រឹត្តបទល្មើសដែលគេហៅថា "បទល្មើសជាក់ស្ដែង" លោកត្រូវបានចាប់ខ្លួនពាក់ព័ន្ធសារបង្ហាត់តាមហេតុការណ៍ដែលលោកសរសេរកាលពីឆ្នាំមុន នេះបើយោងតាមការលើកឡើងរបស់លោក ជិន ម៉ាលីន អ្នកនាំពាក្យក្រសួងយុត្តិធម៌។

អ្នកនាំពាក្យរូបនេះមានប្រសាសន៍តាមទូរស័ព្ទកាលពីម្សិលមិញថា "យើងចាប់ខ្លួនគាត់ពីបទរើសអើងការប្រើប្រាស់ដែនទីក្លែងក្លាយ និងបទញុះញង់ដែលបង្កអសន្តិសុខ

តទៅទំព័រ០៣



Thmey Thmey

លោក អ៊ី សំអាត តំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សសង្គ្រោះជាតិត្រូវបានចាប់ខ្លួននៅក្រុងសៀមរាប ក្នុងកំឡុងពេលពីម្សិលមិញបន្ទាប់ពីត្រូវបានចាប់ខ្លួននៅក្នុងសៀមរាប នៅពេលរំលងអាធ្រាត្រ។

ជនដែលសម្លាប់ស្រ្តីម្នាក់បន្ទាប់ពីប៉ុនប៉ងចាប់រំលោភនៅក្នុងខេត្តក្រចេះ

ប៊ុត គឹមសាយ
ខេមបូឌា ដេលី

យោងតាមនគរបាលបានឲ្យដឹងថា ស្រ្តីម្នាក់ដែលបានតដៃចំពោះការប៉ុនប៉ងចាប់រំលោភក្នុងខេត្តក្រចេះកាលពីយប់ថ្ងៃសៅរ៍ ត្រូវបានជនដែលសម្លាប់ ក្នុងអំឡុងពេលយ៉ាងហោចណាស់ជាករណីមនុស្សឃាតលើទី៥ ទាក់ទិនការចាប់រំលោភដែលអាជ្ញាធរបានកំណត់អត្តសញ្ញាណនៅឆ្នាំនេះ។

យោងតាមលោក ហួត លឹមហេង នាយការិយាល័យនគរបាលព្រហ្មទណ្ឌកម្រិតធ្ងន់ខេត្តបានឲ្យដឹងថា សោម ចិត្តា អាយុ២៣ឆ្នាំត្រូវបានឈ្មោះចិត្ត ចាន់វិទូ អាយុ១៩ឆ្នាំជាកម្មករឡឥដ្ឋបង់ចាប់រំលោភ ខណៈពេលនាងកំពុងដើរចេញពីផ្ទះទៅកាន់តូបលក់DVD មួយក្នុងស្រុកចិត្តបុរី នៅម៉ោងប្រហែល៨ យប់ថ្ងៃសៅរ៍។

លោកលឹមហេងបានថ្លែងថា "ជនសង្ស័យ

តទៅទំព័រ០៤

អ្នកកាសែតម្នីមន្ត្រីនគរបាលមូលដ្ឋានម្នាក់ជំរុញការកំរាមបាញ់សម្លាប់

បែន សុខហ៊ាន
ខេមបូឌា ដេលី

កាលពីម្សិលមិញ អ្នកកាសែតម្នីម្នាក់ក្នុងខេត្តប៉ៃលិនបានដាក់ពាក្យបណ្ដឹងប្តឹងមន្ត្រីនគរបាលមូលដ្ឋានម្នាក់ពីបទគំរាមសម្លាប់គាត់ប្រសិនបើគាត់ចុះផ្សាយអត្ថបទអំពីការបាញ់រះរបស់មន្ត្រីនគរបាលរូបនេះពេលស្រវឹងស្រាកាលពីសប្តាហ៍មុន។

លោក អ៊ុក ទូច អ្នកយកព័ត៌មានឲ្យកាសែតកម្ពុជាអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ និងគេហទំព័រព័ត៌មានឆន្ទៈខ្មែរបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា លោក និងអ្នកកាសែតពីរនាក់ទៀតមកពីស្ថាប័នព័ត៌មានផ្សេងៗបានធ្វើដំណើរទៅស្រុកសាលាក្រៅកាលពីថ្ងៃអាទិត្យដើម្បីសម្ភាសអ្នកភូមិអំពីការបាញ់បោះកាលពីថ្ងៃទី៤ ខែមេសា។

លោកបានថ្លែងថា អ្នកភូមិបានបន្ទោស

តទៅទំព័រ០៥

ព័ត៌មានជាតិ

អ្នកកាសែតម្នីមន្ត្រី...

តមកពីទំព័រ១១

ការបាញ់បោះនេះទៅលើលោក យា សុខន មន្ត្រីនគរបាលស្រុកហើយបានបង្ហាញសម្បក គ្រាប់ចំនួន៤ និងស្នាមធ្មេញពីរកន្លែងត្រង់ផ្ទះ របស់ពួកគាត់។ គ្មាននរណាម្នាក់រងរបួសទេ។

លោក អ៊ឹក ទូច បាននិយាយថា លោកបាន ត្រឡប់ពីភូមិមកផ្ទះវិញនៅរសៀលថ្ងៃនោះ ហើយថា លោក សុខន បានបង្ហាញខ្លួននៅ ម៉ោងប្រហែល៥ និង២០នាទីល្ងាច។

លោកបាននិយាយថា "គាត់ជិះម៉ូតូScoopy និងមានស្ពាយកាំភ្លើង AK ៨៨ ហើយបាន ឈប់ម៉ូតូនៅមុខផ្ទះរបស់ខ្ញុំ"។ គាត់បានសួរខ្ញុំ ថា 'ហេតុអ្វីបានជាអ្នកធ្វើសម្ភាសនាសរសេរពី រឿងខ្ញុំ? ប្រសិនបើខ្ញុំបាញ់ វាជាសិទ្ធិរបស់ខ្ញុំ ហើយអ្នកមិនអាចចុះផ្សាយជាសាធារណៈ បានទេ'។

លោក អ៊ឹក ទូច បាននិយាយថា បន្ទាប់ពី មន្ត្រីនគរបាលរូបនេះមកដល់ផ្ទះរបស់លោក "គាត់បានទាញកាំភ្លើង ហើយដើរក្រឡឹង ដោយ ភ្លង់សំដៅរូបខ្ញុំ។ ខ្ញុំពិតជាបារម្ភថាគាត់ ប្រហែលជាបាញ់ខ្ញុំ។ ខ្ញុំបានចូលទៅជិតគាត់

ព្យាយាមនិយាយឲ្យគាត់ស្ងប់អារម្មណ៍...។ ខ្ញុំបាន ប្រាប់គាត់ថាខ្ញុំនឹងមិនសរសេររឿងនេះទេ"។

មន្ត្រីនគរបាលរូបនេះបានចាកចេញទៅ វិញ ហើយលោក អ៊ឹក ទូច និងអ្នកយកព័ត៌ មានផ្សេងទៀតបានចុះផ្សាយអត្ថបទអំពីការ បាញ់បោះនោះកាលពីថ្ងៃទី៤ ខែមេសា ។

លោក អ៊ឹក ទូច បាននិយាយថា លោកក៏បាន រាយការណ៍អំពីការគំរាមកំហែងនេះទៅ នគរបាលស្រុក និងនគរបាលខេត្តដែរ ប៉ុន្តែ ថា ពួកគេមានការចាប់អារម្មណ៍តិចតួចតែ ប៉ុណ្ណោះ ជាហេតុបណ្តាលឱ្យលោកដាក់ពាក្យ បណ្តឹងទៅសាលាដំបូងខេត្ត។

លោកបាននិយាយថា "ខ្ញុំពិតជាមានការ បារម្ភអំពីសុវត្ថិភាពក្រុមគ្រួសាររបស់ខ្ញុំ ប្រសិនបើអាជ្ញាធរមិនចាត់វិធានការលើ គាត់ទេនោះ។ ខ្ញុំគិតថា នេះជាការរំលោភ បំពានធ្ងន់ធ្ងរលើអ្នកកាសែត"។

លោក ជឿសែន សុផា ព្រះរាជអាជ្ញាអម សាលាដំបូងខេត្តក្រចេះបានមានប្រសាសន៍ ថា លោកទទួលបានពាក្យបណ្តឹងនេះហើយ ហើយនឹងចេញដីកាកោះហៅនៅថ្ងៃនេះ សុំឲ្យលោក សុខន ចូលខ្លួនដើម្បីសាកសួរនៅ

ពេលណាមួយក្រោយបុណ្យចូលឆ្នាំខ្មែរ ដែលនឹងបញ្ចប់នៅថ្ងៃសៅរ៍។

លោក សុខន មិនអាចទាក់ទងបានទេ ប៉ុន្តែ ថាហ្វាយរបស់គាត់គឺលោកញឹកថុល អធិការ នគរបាលស្រុកបានបដិសេធថា មន្ត្រីរបស់ លោកមិនបានធ្វើការគំរាមកំហែងទេ។

លោកបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា "គាត់គ្រាន់ តែទៅសួរអ្នកកាសែតប៉ុណ្ណោះ។ គាត់មិនបាន គំរាម ឬយកកាំភ្លើងភ្លង់នរណាឡើយ។ ខ្ញុំគិត ថា គេនិយាយបំផ្លើសហេតុការណ៍នោះ"។

លោក ញឹក ថុល បានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា មន្ត្រីរបស់លោកពិតជាបានបាញ់កាំភ្លើង ខណៈពេលស្រវឹងស្រាកាលពីថ្ងៃទី៤ ខែ មេសាមែនហើយអាចបាត់បង់ការងារ។ ប៉ុន្តែ អធិការនគរបាលរូបនេះបានមានប្រសាសន៍ ថា គាត់នឹងមិនបញ្ជូនកូនចៅរបស់ខ្លួនទៅ តុលាការទេ។

លោកបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា "ប្រហែល ជាមិនបញ្ជូនទៅទេ។ វាជារឿងធម្មតាទេ គាត់ស្រវឹងស្រាខ្លាំងមិនអាចគ្រប់គ្រងខ្លួន ឯងបាន ដូច្នេះគាត់បាញ់កាំភ្លើងលេងតែ ប៉ុណ្ណោះ"។ សារុន

ជនដែលសម្លាប់មន្ត្រី...

តមកពីទំព័រ១១

រូបនេះបានប៉ុនប៉ងរំលោភខណៈនាងកំពុង ដើរតាមផ្លូវ"។ លោកបានបន្ថែមថា នៅ ពេលស្រ្តីរូបនេះព្យាយាមតដៃដោយក្រចៅ មុខនិងខ្លួនរបស់ខ្លួនជននេះមានកំហឹង ហើយ វាយនាងរហូតដល់សន្លប់តែម្តង។

លោកបានថ្លែងថា "ជនសង្ស័យបានអូស សាកសពទៅកាន់ស្រះទឹកមួយ ប៉ុន្តែ ជននេះ ខ្លាចនាងនៅរស់ក៏បានមូលកមុនពេលត្រូវវេង សាកសពចូលក្នុងស្រះទឹក"។

នាយការិយាល័យនគរបាលរូបនេះបាន មានប្រសាសន៍ថា សាកសពត្រូវបានរកឃើញ កាលពីព្រឹកថ្ងៃច័ន្ទនៅក្នុងស្រះទឹកទី ដែល កម្មករឡឥដ្ឋបានបូមទឹកយកទៅប្រើសម្រាប់ អាជីវកម្មរបស់ខ្លួន។

លោក ស្រី ជាលី អធិការរងនគរបាល

ស្រុកបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា ក្រោយមកក្រុម ស៊ើបអង្កេតបានស្វែងរកក្រុមជនសង្ស័យជា ច្រើនទៀតរហូតដល់កម្មករដែលធ្វើការនៅ ឡឥដ្ឋជុំវិញកន្លែងរកឃើញសាកសព ហើយ បានកំណត់អត្តសញ្ញាណ ចាន់វិទ្យា ថាជាជនដែល ដល់ក្រោយពីកត់សម្គាល់ឃើញមានស្នាម ក្រចៅលើដងខ្លួនជននេះ។

លោក ជាលី បានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា "ជន សង្ស័យរូបនេះសារភាពថាពិតជាបានសម្លាប់ ជនរងគ្រោះមែន។ ជននេះបានវាយជនរង គ្រោះរហូតសន្លប់ ហើយបានយករបាយដក សង្កត់ក ហើយរឹតសម្លាប់តែម្តង"។

លោក ឱន ស៊ីវុទ្ធី ប្រធានសាលាដំបូងខេត្ត ក្រចេះបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា មន្ត្រីតុលាការ នឹងធ្វើការចោទប្រកាន់ ចាន់វិទ្យា នៅថ្ងៃនេះ។

បទឧក្រិដ្ឋដ៏សាហាវនេះកត់សម្គាល់ឱ្យ ឃើញយ៉ាងហោចណាស់ជាលើកទី៥ហើយ

ដែលជនរងគ្រោះដោយការចាប់រំលោភ ត្រូវបានជនដែលសម្លាប់។

លោកស្រី រស់ សុភាព អ្នកតស៊ូមតិសិទ្ធិ ស្ត្រីដ៏ឆ្លើយតបបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា លោក ស្រីជឿថាបទឧក្រិដ្ឋមកលើស្ត្រីកាន់តែសាហាវ ទៅក្នុងរយៈពេលប៉ុន្មានឆ្នាំថ្មីៗនេះ។

លោកស្រីថ្លែងថា "ខ្ញុំគិតថា វាសាហាវ ជាងពីមុន ប្រសិនបើខ្ញុំប្រៀបធៀបទៅ១០ ឆ្នាំមុន"។ លោកស្រីបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា កង្វះការគោរពដល់ប្រព័ន្ធតុលាការបណ្តាល ឲ្យក្រុមជនដែលសម្លាប់ជនរងគ្រោះ។

លោកស្រីបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា "នៅ ពេលប្រជាពលរដ្ឋមិនជឿជាក់លើតុលាការ ជនដែលគិតថាគ្មានបញ្ហាទៅក្នុងការប្រព្រឹត្ត បទឧក្រិដ្ឋ ពួកគេជឿថា ពួកគេនឹងគ្មានបញ្ហា ឡើយ"។ សារុន

(រាយការណ៍បន្ថែមដោយ Taylor O'Connell)

ព័ត៌មានជាតិ

តំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្ស...

តមកពីទំព័រ១១

ក្នុងសង្គម។ នគរបាលមើលឃើញថា ទាំងនេះជាបទល្មើស ដូច្នេះហើយគេក៏ចាប់ខ្លួនគាត់យកទៅសាកសួរ។ គេនឹងបញ្ជូនសំណុំរឿងនេះទៅតុលាការ ហើយព្រះរាជអាជ្ញានឹងចោទប្រកាន់គាត់យោងទៅលើបទល្មើសទាំងនេះ។

លោកបានបន្ថែមថា លោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត កំពុងជាប់ឃុំនៅក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃ។ "គាត់នឹងត្រូវបញ្ជូនខ្លួនទៅតុលាការនៅថ្ងៃស្អែក"។

ទោះជាយ៉ាងណា កាលពីរសៀលម្សិលមិញ លោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត ក៏ត្រូវបានបញ្ជូនខ្លួនពីក្រសួងទៅសាលាដំបូងរាជធានីភ្នំពេញដើម្បីធ្វើការសាកសួរ ហើយបានឆ្លៀតឱកាសនេះដើម្បីអំពាវនាវទៅដល់អ្នកកាសែត។ លោកថ្លែងថា "នេះជារឿងក្តីអយុត្តិធម៌។ ខ្ញុំត្រូវបានចោទប្រកាន់ពីបទឆ្លុះបញ្ចាំង និងបង្កឧបសគ្គក្នុងសង្គម"។

លោក ជិន ម៉ា លីន មានប្រសាសន៍ថា សារបង្កហេតុដែលលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត បានបង្ហោះជាសាធារណៈតាមហ្វេសប៊ុកពីសហរដ្ឋអាមេរិក កាលពីឆ្នាំមុន ដែលបានចោទប្រកាន់ថាគណបក្សប្រជាជនកម្ពុជាថាឃុបឃិតឲ្យវៀតណាម ចូលលុកលុយកម្ពុជាចូលលុកលុយកម្ពុជានិងដែលត្រូវបានប្រព័ន្ធផ្សព្វផ្សាយចុះផ្សាយព្រោងព្រាត បានធ្វើឲ្យករណីរបស់គាត់ក្លាយជាបទល្មើសជាក់ស្តែង។

លោកបានគូសបញ្ជាក់ថា "ខ្ញុំផ្តល់ឧទាហរណ៍មួយថា បើលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត សម្លាប់មនុស្សម្នាក់ ហើយរត់គេចខ្លួន ប៉ុន្តែក្រោយមកត្រឡប់មកវិញ នគរបាលអាចចាប់ខ្លួនគាត់បាន ដោយសារតែគាត់បានប្រព្រឹត្តបទល្មើសជាក់ស្តែង ហើយគេគ្រប់គ្នាដឹងថាគាត់បានធ្វើវាពីមុន។ អ្វីដែលគាត់បានធ្វើកាលពីឆ្នាំ២០១៥ គឺចាត់ទុកជាបទល្មើសជាក់ស្តែង។ ទោះបីជាវាកើតឡើងក្នុងហួសទៅហើយក្តី វាក៏នៅតែចាត់ទុកជាបទល្មើសជាក់ស្តែងដែល បើគិតពីទិដ្ឋភាពផ្លូវច្បាប់ និងបច្ចេកទេស"។

គេមិនច្បាស់ថា តើសារជាច្រើនដែលលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត បានបង្ហោះតាមហ្វេសប៊ុក បានបំពានច្បាប់ឬយ៉ាងណាទេ ប៉ុន្តែកាលពីឆ្នាំមុនតំណាងរាស្ត្ររូបនេះ បានបន្តចោទប្រកាន់គណបក្សប្រជាជនកម្ពុជា ថាប្រើ

ប្រាស់ដែនទីពឹងដែលក្លាយក្រោយថ្ងៃទី២១ ខែសីហា ជាពេលដែលលោកនាយករដ្ឋមន្ត្រី ហ៊ុន សែន ព្រមានថា ការអះអាងបែបនេះអាចនឹងឈានដល់ការចាប់ខ្លួន។

ជាញឹកញាប់តំណាងរាស្ត្ររូបនេះក៏បានបង្ហោះដែរនូវអ្វីដែលលោកនិយាយថាជាដែនទីបារាំង ត្រឹមត្រូវដែលបង្ហាញពីព្រំដែនភាគឦសានរបស់កម្ពុជា ជាមួយវៀតណាមដែលរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញទទួលស្គាល់គឺជាអ្វីដែលអាចគេប្រើប្រាស់បានសម្រាប់ការកំណត់ព្រំដែន។

លោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត បានសរសេរកាលពីខែកញ្ញាថា "ខ្ញុំនិយាយថា ដែនទីរបស់រដ្ឋាភិបាលខុសច្បាប់ ព្រោះដែនទីទាំងនោះខុសពីដែនទីដែលមានចែងក្នុងមាត្រា២ នៃរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញ" ដោយហៅដែនទីព្រំដែនកម្ពុជា-វៀតណាមដែលលោក ហ៊ុន សែន មានថាជា "មរតកបន្ទុល់ទុកពីយួននៅទសវត្សរ៍ឆ្នាំ១៩៨០"។

"យួន" គឺជាពាក្យហៅសំដៅលើជនជាតិវៀតណាម ដែលមនុស្សជាច្រើនយល់ថាជាការប្រមាថ ប៉ុន្តែត្រូវបានប្រើប្រាស់ជាញឹកញាប់ដោយគណបក្សប្រឆាំងដែលជាយូរមកហើយតែងតែព្យាយាមកេងចំណេញពីការពិតដែលវៀតណាម បានលើកបន្ទុបលោក ហ៊ុន សែន និងរដ្ឋាភិបាលរបស់លោកឲ្យឡើងកាន់អំណាចអំឡុងយោធាវៀតណាមត្រួតត្រាកម្ពុជាពីឆ្នាំ១៩៧៩ដល់ឆ្នាំ១៩៨៩។

យោងតាមលោក ហួត សុផិ ស្តង់ការរងខេត្តសៀមរាប បានឲ្យដឹងថា លោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត ត្រូវបានចាប់ខ្លួនកាលពីម្សិលមិញដែលធ្វើឡើង២ខែបន្ទាប់ពីការប្រកាន់ថាលោកប្រព្រឹត្តបទល្មើស ហើយការចាប់ខ្លួនខណៈគាត់កំពុងដកប្រាក់ពីទូរទស្សន៍មិនមែននេះ បង្កឲ្យមានការចោទសួរកាន់តែច្រើនអំពីអនាគតនៃអភ័យឯកសិទ្ធិដែលផ្តល់ជូនតំណាងរាស្ត្រ។

អភ័យឯកសិទ្ធិផ្តល់ឲ្យតំណាងរាស្ត្រជាប់ឆ្នោតទាំងអស់តាមមាត្រា៨០នៃរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញចែងថា "ការចោទប្រកាន់ ការចាប់ខ្លួន ការឃាត់ខ្លួន ឬការយំខ្លួនសមាជិកណាមួយនៃរដ្ឋសភានឹងអាចធ្វើទៅកើតលុះត្រាតែមានការយល់ព្រមពីរដ្ឋសភា...រៀងរាល់តែក្នុងករណីបទល្មើសព្រហ្មទណ្ឌជាក់ស្តែង"។

សំឡេងភាគច្រើនពីភាគបីក្នុងរដ្ឋសភាត្រូវការចាំបាច់ដើម្បីដកអភ័យឯកសិទ្ធិតំណាងរាស្ត្រ ជាតិវិធីមួយដែលគណបក្សប្រជាជន

កម្ពុជាបានទទួលប្រយោជន៍ពេញលេញក្នុងអាណត្តិកន្លងមក ដើម្បីដាក់ពន្ធនាគារតំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សប្រឆាំង។ ប៉ុន្តែគណបក្សប្រជាជនកម្ពុជាចាប់តាំងពីការបោះឆ្នោតឆ្នាំ២០១៣មកមិនមានសំឡេងភាគច្រើនបែបនេះទេ។

លោក គល់ បញ្ញា នាយកប្រតិបត្តិនៃគណៈកម្មាធិការដើម្បីការបោះឆ្នោតដោយសេរីនិងយុត្តិធម៌នៅកម្ពុជា បាននិយាយថា ការបកស្រាយទូលំទូលាយនូវពាក្យ "បទល្មើសជាក់ស្តែង" ដែលត្រូវគេប្រើដើម្បីចាប់ខ្លួនលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត ទាក់ទិនទៅនឹងការបង្ហោះតាមអ៊ីនធឺណិត២ខែមកហើយបានធ្វើឲ្យការការពារដែលផ្តល់ដោយមាត្រា៨០គ្មានន័យជាសំខាន់។

លោក គល់ បញ្ញា និយាយថា "រដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញលែងបានការហើយពេលនេះ ពាក់ព័ន្ធការការពារតាមផ្លូវច្បាប់របស់ខ្លួនចំពោះសមាជិករដ្ឋសភាគឺមិនបានការ។ រដ្ឋាភិបាលឥឡូវនេះអាចបន្តការចាប់ខ្លួនសមាជិករដ្ឋសភាតាមដែលខ្លួនចង់"។

លោកបាននិយាយថា "រដ្ឋសភាត្រូវតែចាត់វិធានការជាបន្ទាន់ និងសួររដ្ឋាភិបាលហេតុអ្វីពួកគេរំលោភរដ្ឋធម្មនុញ្ញ។ គេអាចស្នើឲ្យតុលាការដើម្បីសួររដ្ឋាភិបាលឲ្យពន្យល់មូលហេតុដែលពួកគេបានធ្វើដូចនេះ"។

ទោះជាយ៉ាងនេះក្តី លោកឡេង ប៉េងឡុង អ្នកនាំពាក្យរដ្ឋសភា និងជាអគ្គលេខាធិការដើម្បីចាត់ បាននិយាយថា លោកបានយល់ព្រមឲ្យចាប់ខ្លួនលោក សំអាត លើហេតុផលនៃចរិតកេងចំណេញសំណើការបង្ហោះតាមអ៊ីនធឺណិតរបស់គាត់។

លោក ឡេង ប៉េងឡុង បាននិយាយថា "ខ្ញុំមិនទាន់បានទទួលរបាយការណ៍ណាមួយពីសមត្ថកិច្ចនៅឡើយ ប៉ុន្តែខ្ញុំគិតថា សមត្ថកិច្ចប្រហែលមានភស្តុតាងគ្រប់គ្រាន់ដើម្បីចាប់ខ្លួនលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត។ ខ្ញុំគិតថា ការចាប់ខ្លួននេះមិនល្មើសច្បាប់ទេ ពីព្រោះលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត បានប្រព្រឹត្តបទល្មើសជាក់ស្តែង"។

នេះមិនមែនជាលើកដំបូងទេដែលតំណាងរាស្ត្រមួយរូបត្រូវបានចាប់ខ្លួន បើទោះជាមានអភ័យឯកសិទ្ធិរបស់ខ្លួនក៏ដោយ។ តាមបញ្ជារបស់លោក ហ៊ុន សែន កាលពីខែសីហា សមាជិកព្រឹទ្ធសភាគណបក្សប្រឆាំង គឺលោក ហុង សុខហួរ ត្រូវបានគេចាប់ដាក់ពន្ធនាគារពីបទ

ព័ត៌មានជាតិ

តំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្ស...

តមកពីទី៣១៣

ក្លែងបំប្លែងនិងញុះញង់ទាក់ទិននឹងសន្តិសុខស្ថានភាពក្នុងតំបន់ដែលកាន់ប្រើក្នុងបទបង្ហាញដែលបានបង្ហាតាមហ្វេសប៊ុក។

នៅពេលដែលគណបក្សប្រជាជនកម្ពុជាមានសំឡេងពីរភាគបីចាំបាច់ក្នុងព្រឹទ្ធសភាដើម្បីដកអភ័យឯកសិទ្ធិរបស់លោក ហុង សុខហួរ សមាជិកព្រឹទ្ធសភារបស់គណបក្សកាន់អំណាចនេះបានជួបប្រជុំ ហើយបានសម្រេចមិនដកអភ័យឯកសិទ្ធិគាត់ទេ ដោយលើកឡើងនូវវិធីអនុវត្តដែលគេលុបចោលនៅពេលនោះ ថាជាករណីនៃ "បទល្មើសជាក់ស្តែង" ដែលអនុញ្ញាតឲ្យដាក់ពន្ធនាគាររូបគាត់ដដែល។

កាលពីម្សិលមិញ ភាពស្រដៀងគ្នារវាងករណីទាំងពីរគឺច្បាស់លាស់ដែលចំពោះលោក ខៀវ សុភក្តិ អ្នកនាំពាក្យក្រសួងមហាផ្ទៃដែលបានលើកឡើងដើមថងនៃការចាប់

ខ្លួនលោក ហុង សុខហួរ ក្នុងការការពារការចាប់ខ្លួនលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត។

លោកនិយាយថា "ករណីលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាតមិនខុសគ្នាពីករណីលោក ហុង សុខហួរ ទេ ពីព្រោះគាត់បានវិនិច្ឆ័យរដ្ឋាភិបាលអំពីការលក់ដីឲ្យរៀនតាម ហើយគាត់ក៏បានវិនិច្ឆ័យរដ្ឋាភិបាលថាបានប្រើផែនទីក្លែងក្លាយដែរ"។

នៅពេលដែលក្រុមមន្ត្រីបានទទួលយកការបកស្រាយទូលំទូលាយនៃពាក្យ "បទល្មើសជាក់ស្តែង" លោក ហ៊ុន សែន បានបញ្ចេញទស្សនៈគិតតួចអំពីអភ័យឯកសិទ្ធិសភាដោយលោកបានព្រមានថា តំណាងរាស្ត្រគណបក្សសង្គ្រោះជាតិប្រាំពីររូបផ្សេងទៀតដែលជាប់ចោទពីបទ "ដឹកនាំកុបកម្ម" មុនពេលទទួលអាសនៈ របស់ខ្លួននៅខែសីហាឆ្នាំ២០១៤ អាចជាប់ពន្ធនាគារ។

លោក ហ៊ុន សែន បាននិយាយក្នុងសុន្ទរកថានៅខែមករាឆ្នាំ២០១៥ថា "តំណាងរាស្ត្រប្រាំពីររូបនោះ នឹងនៅជាប់ពន្ធនាគារព្រោះអ្នកឯងបានទទួលអភ័យឯកសិទ្ធិបន្ទាប់ពីអ្នក

ឯងត្រូវរងការចោទប្រកាន់"។ សូមសិក្សាច្បាប់មើលទៅ។ ខាងអ្នកឯងចេះច្បាប់ ហើយខាងយើងក៏ចេះច្បាប់ដែរ"។

លោក សម រង្ស៊ី មេដឹកនាំគណបក្សប្រសាសន៍ដែលលោកខ្លួនឯងឥឡូវនេះកំពុងរស់នៅនិរទេសដោយខ្លួនឯងនៅប្រទេសបារាំងដើម្បីគេចចេញពីការចោទប្រកាន់ និងទោសកាន់តែច្រើនឡើងមិនធ្លាប់មានពីមុនមក បាននិយាយកាលពីម្សិលមិញថា ការចាប់ខ្លួនលោក អ៊ុំ សំអាត គឺជាសញ្ញាអាក្រក់មួយចំពោះការបោះឆ្នោតឃុំ-សង្កាត់ឆ្នាំ២០១៧ និងការបោះឆ្នោតជាតិឆ្នាំ២០១៨ ដែលជិតមកដល់។

លោក សម រង្ស៊ី បានសរសេរក្នុងអ៊ីម៉ែលមួយពីទីក្រុងប៉ារីសថា "ការចាប់ខ្លួននេះឲ្យប្រផ្នួលអាក្រក់ចំពោះបរិយាកាសជុំវិញការបោះឆ្នោតដែលជិតមកដល់។ វាជាការព្រមានដល់អ្នកដែលទន្ទឹងរង់ចាំការបោះឆ្នោតដែលអាចទទួលយកបាននៅឆ្នាំ២០១៧ និងឆ្នាំ២០១៨ ក្នុងនោះមានសហគមន៍អន្តរជាតិផង"។ **សុខុម និង និត**

ព័ត៌មានតាមអ៊ីនធឺណិតជាភាសាខ្មែរ និង ព័ត៌មានថ្មីបំផុតដែលកំពុងកើតឡើង



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Fragile Truce Starts in Yemen; Reports of Continued Fighting

REUTERS

ADEN, Yemen - A shaky truce took hold in Yemen yesterday under a U.N.-backed effort to end a war that has made the country a front in Saudi Arabia's region-wide rivalry with Iran and caused one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The war-damaged capital Sanaa spent a quiet night, witnesses said, but residents said fighting flared in the southwestern city of Taiz soon after the planned start of the cessation of hostilities.

The government, backed by a Saudi-led Arab coalition, and its Iranian-allied Houthi adversaries blamed each other for the violence in Taiz, a city that has been hit hard by the war.

The government accused Houthis of using heavy artillery within moments of the start of the truce, while the Houthis said coalition warplanes staged three strikes on the city.

"People are no longer able to live because of the war that destroyed everything," said Shawqi Abdullah, a 30-year-old taxi driver in Sanaa, which lies in the north of

the country. "We had a calm night with no planes flying or fear of bombs. And we hope the calm will continue and the war ends."

The main southern port city of Aden, where coalition fighters expelled Houthi forces in July, was also quiet.

The halt in fighting precedes peace talks set to begin on April 18 in Kuwait under U.N. auspices between the government and the Houthis foes aimed at ending a conflict that has killed more than 6,200 people and displaced millions. The coalition began a military campaign in March last year with the aim of preventing Houthi rebels and forces loyal to Yemen's ex-President Ali Abdullah Saleh from taking control of the country.

The Houthis, who seized the capital Sanaa in September 2014 and now control tracts of Yemen with the help of forces loyal to Saleh, say they are part of a revolution against corruption.

Saudi Arabia and allied Sunni Muslim states fear that the Houthis, who belong to a Shiite sect, will spread the influence of Iran.



Reuters

A man injured in a fire at Puttingal Devi temple ties a bandage around the head of another injured man in Kollam, India, yesterday.

Five Detained After Indian Temple Fire Kills 108

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, India - Indian police have detained five people after a fireworks display at a Hindu temple set off explosions and fire killing 108 people, an officer said yesterday, in one of the worst accidents at a religious festival. Thousands of people were gathered at the temple in Kollam in the southern state of Kerala on Sunday for the pyrotechnic show to mark the start of the Hindu year when sparks ignited a cache of fireworks stored inside the temple grounds. The district administration said it had not given permission for the fireworks display following complaints of noise and pollution. Police officer Anantha Krishnan said the five taken into custody were employees of a fireworks manufacturer that was given the contract for running the show at the Puttingal Devi temple. The head of the manufacturing unit was injured, one of 380 people who were in hospitals across the state with burns as well as injuries caused by flying concrete and debris. (Reuters)

Hit by Panama Row, UK's PM To Push Tax Evasion Penalty

REUTERS

LONDON - British Prime Minister David Cameron was yesterday set to announce new legislation making companies criminally liable if their employees aided tax evasion, with the law to be introduced this year as he seeks to repair the damage from a week of questions about his personal finances.

Cameron published tax records on Sunday to try and defuse criticism over his handling of the fallout from the Panama Papers, in which his late father was mentioned for setting up an offshore fund.

After four carefully worded statements in four days, Cameron bowed to pressure and admitted that he had benefitted from selling his share in his father's fund in 2010.

He recognized on Saturday that he had mishandled the disclosure.

Cameron is leading efforts to persuade British voters to stay in the E.U. in a June 23 referendum that the polls suggest will be tight, and the tax row has raised concerns among the "in" camp that

their cause may have been damaged in the past week.

The prime minister was to attempt to regain the upper hand when he appeared in the House of Commons yesterday.

"This government has done more than any other to take action against corruption in all its forms, but we will go further," Cameron was to say, according to advance excerpts of his statement circulated by his Downing Street office. "That is why we will legislate this year to hold companies who fail to stop their employees facilitating tax evasion criminally liable."

The plan had already been announced by Finance Minister George Osborne in March of last year, but previously the commitment was to introduce the legislation by 2020, Downing Street said.

The decision to speed up that particular measure is unlikely to satisfy Cameron's many critics in opposition parties and in some campaign groups that say Britain already has the tools it needs to crack down on tax evasion but lacks the will.



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CAMBODIA LAW SERVICES

Phnom Penh, 06 March 2016

Right to Present Defense Witnesses Has Been Fiercely Violated in the U.S. Court After Defendant was Kidnapped from Cambodia

Dear Editor,

I am writing this article to express my concern and to keep the public informed that right to present witnesses of my client, Mr. Ronald Gerard Boyajian (alias John) have been abused by the U.S. District Court, Central District of California presided by Hon. Christina A. Snyder.

I am a lawyer representing Mr. Boyajian in pending Cambodian criminal court proceedings against U.S. and Cambodian officials. Mr. Boyajian is an American citizen and 10 years Cambodia resident whom the U.S. kidnapped in August 2009 and is now being tried by the Los Angeles federal court for the absolutely identical crime of alleged sex with a minor in Cambodia where all witnesses and evidence are located.

On February 26, 2016 Judge Snyder denied permission to testify for seven Cambodian witnesses who had already travelled to Los Angeles. Five days later, on 2nd March 2016 Judge Snyder denied permission for the jury to receive testimony from additional Cambodian witnesses still in Cambodia who could not travel but were available to testify over video (Skype). Judge Snyder also denied permission for the defense to present many other witnesses who are US citizens. Judge Snyder closed the case by denying all witnesses submitted by Mr. Boyajian. Such denial of witnesses of Mr. Boyajian has substantially affected his right to present facts to the jury as well as his right to fair trial. There were three stages that the U.S. Court and officials effectively barred defense witnesses: (1). US Department of State Visa Officials rejected these witnesses from entering the U.S., and (2). Judge Snyder denied the hearings of these witnesses who were already in Los Angeles to testify before the jury in the U.S. Court, and (3) Judge Snyder rejected video testimony of witnesses remaining in Cambodia as well as in person testimony from domestic witnesses in the United States.

This case (Case No. CR 09-933(A)-CAS) is a U.S. case under Common Law System and tried by juries. Each party has power to conduct investigation and presents witnesses and evidence. During the course of trial proceedings, Judge Snyder has allowed the U.S. Attorney to present all witnesses and evidence against Mr. Boyajian but she denied all witnesses testifying for Mr. Boyajian. This practice eventually established double treatment between the U.S. Attorney and the defendant. Moreover, it is worst when it occurred in the U.S. court where the public generally recognized and acknowledged the credibility and fairness of the U.S. Court system. However, Judge Snyder has tried to block all means of Mr. Boyajian in defending his case against the U.S. Attorney. Thus, she downgraded the reputation of the U.S. Court as human rights guarantor to be human rights violator.

This message is calling for public attention and publicly informing both the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the U.S. Government to reconsider and review their actions in Boyajian case in order to follow the law of both countries and international human rights law properly. It is widely accepted that there are more productive and efficient for local court to conduct judicial proceedings in its territorial jurisdiction than foreign court. In recent years, the U.S. Supreme Court has forbidden federal courts to receive cases that involve Americans, when the involved incidents originate in foreign countries. The US Supreme Court explained that the trial at local state is more practical as matter of witnesses and evidence existing located at that country. The most recent in this line of cases is *OBG Personenverkehr AG v. Sachs*, 136 S. Ct. 390.

Moreover, on 1 July 2015, the decision of the England and Wales High Court Case No: CO/1976/2015 between the Government of the the United States of America and Roger Alan Giese concluded that "The DJ was correct to conclude that there is a real risk that Mr. Giese would, if extradited, be made subject to a civil commitment order. The DJ was also correct to conclude that, if he was, that would be a flagrant denial of his article 5 rights. Accordingly, the DJ was correct in concluding that the extradition of Mr. Giese would be inconsistent with his Convention rights, so that, in accordance with Section 87(2) of the EA, he must be discharged." [see para.68]. Therefore, based on such circumstances, Mr. Boyajian should not be handed over to the U.S. for the same ground.

For the sake of justice, RGC should consider all means before conducting extradition or expulsion any person from Cambodia and it must be done in accordance with the law of Cambodia in force



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Peru Election Goes to Run-Off; Fujimori Vulnerable Despite Lead

REUTERS

LIMA, Peru - Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of a jailed former president, led Peru's election on Sunday but she likely faces a tight run-off against centrist economist Pedro Pablo Kuczynski in a vote between two candidates who would protect the country's free-market economic model.

Fujimori, whose father Alberto was Peru's authoritarian leader throughout the 1990s, fell well short of the 50 percent needed for outright victory in the first round of voting and will likely be vulnerable in a second-round vote on June 5.

With about 40 percent of votes counted, Fujimori had 39 percent support while Kuczynski, a former World Bank economist, had 24 percent and leftist lawmaker Verónica Mendoza trailed with 17 percent.

A quick count by pollster Ipsos also showed Kuczynski securing second place and heading to the run-off.

Despite her lead on Sunday, polls have shown opposition to Fujimori has grown since the start of the year and many opposed to her father's divisive rule will likely rally behind her rival, whether Kuczynski or Mendoza.

The son of European immigrants, Kuczynski is a pro-business economist and a former finance minister but is more moderate on some social issues than Fujimori, 40, and does not have the baggage associated with her last name.

"We don't want a polarized nation," he said after dancing in front of supporters on Sunday night, although he urged calm until official results were in. "We've made progress but not enough. We're

going to be a progressive government socially and economically."

Fujimori has said she would drive economic growth forward at the end of a decade-long mining boom by tapping a rainy day fund and issuing new debt to fund badly needed infrastructure. She has portrayed herself as the only candidate who would be tough enough on crime.

Fujimori's chances in the run-off will depend largely on whether she can distance herself from her father, who was convicted of corruption and human rights abuses tied to a crackdown on leftist insurgents during his 1990 to 2000 rule.

In a reminder of that bloody conflict, rebels presumed to be remnants of the Shining Path ambushed soldiers sent to safeguard ballots on the eve of the election, leaving at least six dead, authorities said.

Fujimori criticized President Ollanta Humala, a former military officer who defeated Fujimori during her first presidential bid in 2011.

"I'm sorry this government had allowed not only crime to advance in the streets but has also permitted Shining Path to keep taking lives and shedding blood in our country," Fujimori said as she celebrated her first-round win.

Financial markets will likely rise on news of a Fujimori-Kuczynski run-off. Mendoza's late surge before elections led Peru's currency, the sol, to weaken 1.5 percent and the benchmark stock index to fall 4.39 percent over the past week.

Mendoza, 35, promised leftist social reforms and said Peru's powerful mining industry should



Reuters

A combination file photo shows Peru's presidential candidates Keiko Fujimori, left, and Pedro Pablo Kuczynski.

have less sway. She also proposed stopping natural gas exports to favor domestic use.

In an emotional speech on Sunday night, Mendoza thanked her supporters before a crowd in Lima. "This campaign belongs to the people that want change!"

Mineral Wealth

On track to become the world's second-largest copper producer, Peru has enjoyed nearly two decades of uninterrupted economic growth.

Despite its vast natural resources, it remains largely undeveloped outside its main cities, and many voters say Humala failed to fulfill his promises of reducing inequality.

Presidents are not allowed to run for consecutive terms in Peru and Humala has not endorsed any candidate.

The campaign was jolted by the unprecedented barring of two leading candidates late in the

campaign, one for violating minor electoral procedures and the other for handing out cash while campaigning.

Critics said the ejections unfairly favored Fujimori and the head of the Organization of American States warned elections would be "semi-democratic."

Fujimori has promised not to use her power if elected to free her father from prison, but she believes he will ultimately be absolved by the courts.

Human rights activists remain wary and protests on April 5—24 years after Alberto Fujimori dissolved Congress—drew tens of thousands of Peruvians.

An Ipsos opinion poll afterward showed Fujimori would likely lose to Kuczynski by seven points if they faced each other in a run-off. Fujimori's rejection rates also jumped, with 51 percent of Peruvians saying they would "definitely not" vote for her.

Chad Holds Presidential Election as Deby Vies to Extend Rule

REUTERS

N'DJAMENA, Chad - Chad voted in a presidential election on Sunday with incumbent Idriss Deby running for a fifth term in office, arguing that only his government can maintain stability in the face of a threat from Islamist militants.

Boko Haram has staged a series of attacks in Chad in the past year as part of a campaign to expand its Islamist insurgency from bases in northeastern Nigeria into neighboring countries.

Chad has one of the most capable armies in the region and Deby has played a key role in efforts backed by the West to combat the group, which is linked to the Islam-

ic State militant group, as well as other militants linked to al-Qaida.

"I call on Chadians to vote in calm and serenity. Our country is starting from a long way back but the future looks bright. I ask all politicians to respect the verdict of the ballot box," Deby told journalists as he voted.

Witnesses said thousands of voters cast their ballots at polling stations in the capital in the first election the central African country has held using biometric data.

"We came to vote for the president to guarantee peace in our country. Around us in the neighboring countries there are too many problems," said civil servant

Fatima Zara.

Polling stations closed at 6 p.m. and vote counting began, watched in some places by small crowds. Results are not expected for two weeks, according to a timetable set out by the electoral commission.

The president, who led a rebellion to power in 1990, is the favorite to defeat 13 challengers including opposition leader Saleh Kebzabo, who argues that Chad needs change.

Chad's constitution allows Deby to run but he has pledged to reintroduce term limits which were abolished by his government in 2004. Other African leaders have been trying to abolish term limits in order to extend their rules, lead-

ing to violence in Burundi, Burkina Faso and the Republic of Congo.

Deby's political advantages after decades in power include effective control of state media as well as the institutions of state and local administrations.

The economy of the landlocked country relies largely on oil production, and a slump in global prices has hit government revenue. One challenge facing the next government will be to diversify an economy in which many live in poverty.

"I got up early to come and vote because we want change," said Mathieu Madjitulngar, an unemployed man queuing at a polling station in a suburb of the capital.

IMF Supports Negative Rates Of Some Central Banks

REUTERS

WASHINGTON - The International Monetary Fund said Sunday that a move to negative rates by some of the world's central banks would help deliver extra monetary stimulus and ease lending conditions.

Six of the world's central banks have introduced negative rates, most notably the Bank of Japan and the European Central Bank, and around a quarter of the world economy by output is now experiencing official rates that are less than zero.

They have achieved this by cutting deposit rates into negative territory, ranging from minus 5 basis points in Hungary to minus 125 basis points in Sweden—essentially a “tax” on deposits.

“Although the experience with negative nominal interest rates is limited, we tentatively conclude that overall, they help deliver additional monetary stimulus and easier financial conditions, which support demand and price stability,” the IMF’s financial counselor and director of monetary and capital markets, Jose Vinals, wrote in a research paper.

The report was published ahead of this week’s International Monetary Fund meetings in Washington.

Negative interest rates were first adopted in Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland in a bid to halt currency appreciation against the euro and Hungary’s central bank has also joined the move.

Critics argue that the move to negative rates, especially in Japan where the central bank has failed to ignite growth or shift inflation upward, are a sign of desperation. What is needed, they say, is additional government spending instead of more loose monetary policy.

They charge that the move may damage the economy by inflating financial market asset bubbles and squeezing bank profit margins.

The IMF said that evidence so far showed negative rates had encouraged investors out of low risk government bonds and reduced borrowing costs for companies.

For banks, the picture was mixed, but it said that in most cases lending rates had fallen since the introduction of negative rates by central banks, despite a squeeze on net interest margins.

World Bank Trims East Asia Growth Forecasts

REUTERS

SINGAPORE - The World Bank trimmed its 2016 and 2017 economic growth forecasts for developing East Asia and Pacific, and said the outlook was clouded by risks such as uncertainty over China’s growth prospects, financial market volatility and further falls in commodity prices.

The Washington-based lender now expects the developing East Asia and Pacific region, which includes China, to grow 6.3 percent in 2016 and 6.2 percent in 2017, slowing from 6.5 percent growth in 2015.

Its previous forecast in October was 6.4 percent growth in 2016 and 6.3 percent in 2017.

The expected slowdown in the region is mainly due to the continued moderation of growth in China, which is likely to see growth slow to 6.7 percent in 2016 and 6.5 percent in 2017, from 6.9 percent in 2015, the bank said. The growth forecasts for China were unchanged from October.

“The fundamentally positive base case for growth and poverty reduction in the region is subject

to elevated risks,” the World Bank says in its latest East Asia and Pacific Economic Update report released yesterday.

Possible risks include a weaker-than-expected recovery in high-income economies, a faster-than-expected slowdown in China, as well as increases in financial market volatility that could cause monetary conditions to tighten and have adverse effects on the real economy, the bank said.

“In particular, vulnerabilities created by the interplay between high levels of indebtedness, price deflation, and slowing growth in China bear close monitoring, as do corporate and financial sector vulnerabilities across much of the region.”

A further fall in commodity prices would have a negative impact on major commodity exporters and reduce the space for public spending and investment, the bank added.

Growth in Malaysia was likely to come in at 4.4 percent in 2016 and 4.5 percent in 2017, down from 5.0 percent in 2015, as weaker demand from China and low com-

modity prices constrain growth and public spending, the bank said.

Growth in Thailand is seen at 2.5 percent in 2016 and 2.6 percent in 2017, down from 2.8 percent in 2015, with weaker external demand and policy uncertainty likely to weigh on private investment.

Indonesia is likely to see growth accelerate to 5.1 percent in 2016 and 5.3 percent in 2017, from 4.8 percent in 2015, despite low commodity prices and headwinds to external demand.

“However, this outlook is contingent on the implementation of an ambitious public investment program, and the success of recent reforms to reduce red tape and uncertainty for private investors,” the bank said, regarding Indonesia.

Growth is expected to firm in the Philippines to 6.4 percent in 2016 from 5.8 percent in 2015, on the back of accelerated implementation of the existing pipeline of public-private partnership projects, and spending related to the upcoming presidential election, the bank said.

Moody’s Says Rate Cuts to Hit Thai Banks’ Profits

REUTERS

BANGKOK - A rate cut by Thailand’s major banks is “credit negative” because it will squeeze net interest margins while funding costs are unlikely to change over the next two to three quarters, Moody’s Investors Service analysts said yesterday.

The negative effect on margins would be more pronounced for banks such as Standard Chartered Bank (Thai) Pcl., Bangkok Bank and CIMB Thai Bank Pcl. because of their lower risk adjusted NIMs, Moody’s analysts said.

Thailand’s four biggest lenders cut their minimum lending rates last week saying it would help the flagging economy.

The coordinated cuts were surprising because the central bank had not reduced policy rates since May, Moody’s said.

“We do not expect the lending rate cut to materially improve credit demand in the system. We expect economic growth to remain subdued given that an uncertain political environment and high household leverage have negatively affected domestic demand and consumer sentiment,” it said.

The Thai banking index has fallen 7 percent in the past month, making it the worst performer on the Thai market.

Moody’s said it expected Thailand to post real GDP growth of about 2.5 percent in 2016, down from 2.8 percent in 2015, as the economy shrinks in the wake of paralyzing anti-government protests in 2014 that were followed

by a military coup.

Banking sector credit growth also slowed to about 4.3 percent in 2015, compared with an average of 11 percent from 2010 to 2014.

Given that most loans in Thailand are floating-rate, the rate cut would immediately ease the burden on borrowers, particularly highly leveraged small and mid-size businesses, Moody’s said.



Reuters

A Buddhist monk walks outside a bank in Bangkok last month.

Business

UK's Daily Mail Explores Bid for Yahoo Backed by Private Equity

BY LUKAS ALPERT
AND DOUGLAS MACMILLAN
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The U.K.'s Daily Mail has emerged as a suitor for Yahoo Inc.'s assets, joining a wide group of interested companies that includes telecom giant Verizon Communications Inc. as an April 18 deadline for preliminary offers nears, according to people familiar with the matter.

The parent company of the Daily Mail, the British newspaper and global tabloid website, is in talks with several private-equity firms to launch a bid for Yahoo, the sources said. Daily Mail & General Trust Plc., whose main interest is Yahoo's news and media properties, is just one of some 40 players that have expressed interest in the Web portal.

Yahoo has held meetings with Verizon, IAC/InterActiveCorp. and CBS Corp., one of the people said. The Mail hasn't yet met with Yahoo executives. Verizon, which owns AOL and is looking to beef up its digital media and advertising businesses further, is considered a front-runner for Yahoo, according to many executives and analysts following the sale process.



Reuters

The Yahoo campus in Sunnyvale, California

A possible bid by the Daily Mail could take one of two forms, the people familiar with the matter said. In one scenario, a private-equity partner would aim to acquire the entirety of Yahoo's U.S. operation, with the Mail taking over the news and media properties.

Those assets include verticals such as Yahoo Finance and Yahoo Sports plus Yahoo News and a video operation whose big star is Katie Couric. Yahoo has been

retrenching in those businesses—in February the company closed seven digital magazines including sites dedicated to food, parenting and health.

In the other scenario, the private-equity firm would acquire Yahoo and merge its media and news properties into a new company that would include the Mail's Web properties, DailyMail.com and Elite Daily, the people said. The Mail would run that business and would get a larger equity stake than under the first scenario.

The Mail has been in talks with half a dozen private-equity firms to help finance a bid, including General Atlantic LLC, one of the people familiar with the matter said. A General Atlantic spokeswoman declined to comment.

A takeover of Yahoo's news properties would markedly increase the Daily Mail's presence in the U.S., where it launched a version of its website in 2012. Since then, the publisher's aggressive mix of news aggregation and celebrity and scandal coverage has made it a top-ranking news site with 66.7 million unique U.S. visitors in February, according to comScore Inc.

Other firms that have expressed interest in Yahoo include Time Inc. and private-equity firms TPG and KKR & Co. Microsoft Corp. has held discussions with private-equity firms about helping to finance a buyout, people familiar with the process say. Alphabet Inc.'s Google reviewed the materials but is unlikely to move forward with a bid, a person familiar with the situation said.

A spokeswoman for Yahoo declined to comment on the sale process. Representatives for IAC and Verizon declined to comment. A CBS spokesman didn't respond

to a request for comment.

Last month, Yahoo sent a letter to possible buyers asking them to submit proposals for their bids, including which assets they were looking to buy and for what price. Some buyers may only be interested in Yahoo's core Web business, or pieces of it, while others may want Yahoo's stakes in Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. or Yahoo Japan.

Potential bidders have been given a document with more than 80 pages of metrics about the businesses, one of the people familiar with the matter said.

Estimating Yahoo's value is difficult because investors ascribe a large portion of its roughly \$34 billion market value to its Asian holdings. In a March 4 note, Cantor Fitzgerald analyst Youssef Squali estimated Yahoo's core business, excluding the Asian assets and its cash, was worth around \$4.3 billion.

A buyer of Yahoo's core business would inherit a shrinking operation. The company has said it expects revenue, after traffic acquisition costs, of around \$3.5 billion this year, a drop of 14 percent from 2015.

Yahoo said it expected earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization to drop 21 percent to about \$750 million this year. The company reported a \$4.36 billion annual loss for 2015.

Some executives who attended meetings with Yahoo expressed frustration that management, including chief executive Marissa Mayer, declined to answer questions about the business, such as the profitability of its search partnership with Mozilla Corp., one of the people familiar with the matter said. Yahoo said it would answer more questions in detail after the first round of preliminary bids was in, the source said.

Yahoo had initially asked bidders to submit bids by yesterday but postponed the deadline by a week, people familiar with the matter said.

Yahoo is under pressure to get an auction process moving before this summer, when its shareholders are likely to vote on whether to replace all nine members of its board of directors with a slate of directors nominated by activist investor Starboard Value LP.

The hedge fund began a proxy battle late last month with a letter to Yahoo that criticized the board for taking too long to hold sale discussions with potential buyers.

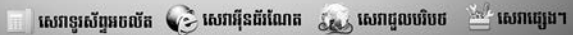


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Business

How Disney Used Shell Companies to Start Its Magic Kingdom

By JAMES KOREN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Politicians and the global elite exposed in the so-called Panama Papers aren't the only ones that set up shell companies to hide what they're up to.

In fact, one classic example of how such companies are used comes from Burbank, California's own Walt Disney Co.

In the mid-1960s, when the company was looking to buy tens of thousands of hectares of land in Florida for its Disney World resort, the company made the purchases using several shell firms—with names such as Latin-American Development and Management Corp.,

Tomahawk Properties and M.T. Lott Co.

The idea was that if property owners knew Disney was interested in their land, they might hold out for a far higher price, said David Koenig, the author of several books about Disney theme parks, including "Realityland," which chronicles the creation of Disney World.

"There were dozens of landholders, and as soon as someone heard that Disney bought lot one, they knew the price on lots two through 50 would go through the roof," Koenig said. "It had to appear as if it were just a coincidence that there were 10 different

companies buying land in the same area."

Beyond using shell companies, Disney took other steps to hide its identity. For instance, Disney attorney Bob Foster called himself Bob Price when he was scouting for land, according to a story posted on an official Disney Parks blog in 2013.

What's more, instead of flying directly from Florida to Los Angeles, Foster would stop in St. Louis, Missouri—resulting in rumors that McDonnell Aircraft, then based in that city, was the mystery buyer.

Heather Lowe, legal counsel for Washington advocacy group

Global Financial Integrity, said the Disney World example was often cited as a way that shell companies could be used for legitimate business purposes.

Still, it's an argument she doesn't accept. By hiding its identity, Lowe said Disney had withheld information from land owners, potentially giving the company an unfair advantage in negotiations.

"What you're saying is that one party should have more information in the transaction than the other—that the buyer should have more information than the seller," she said. "That goes against the entire concept of an economically sound transaction."

Australia-India Consortium Wants to Restart Historic Gold Mines

REUTERS

SYDNEY - An Australian-Indian consortium wants to restart gold mining in a district that helped symbolize former British rule in India and produced some 25 million ounces over 150 years before being abandoned due to low bullion prices.

Mining in the Kolar field in Karnataka state in Southern India ended in 2001 as gold prices slumped. But a government tender could lead to mining leases held by Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.

sold to the highest bidder and operations resuming.

A restart would come amid resurgent gold prices and steps by India to monetize some of the estimated 20,000 tons of gold held by its citizens and slow imports to free up capital to strengthen its economy.

India is one of the world's largest importers of gold, but mines only a pittance on its own. National demand reached 654.3 tons in the second half of last year, the third

highest year on record, according to the World Gold Council.

Australian miner Citigold Corp., which has been conducting field visits to the Kolar sites since 2006, has agreed to partner with Indian conglomerate Essel Group to tender for the assets from the government.

"India can be a challenging place to work and partnering up with a solid local partner is key to making this happen," Citigold executive chairman Mark Lynch said. "We made sure we did our homework."

In the early years, the gold mine sported a sprawling estate for its operators, with its own golf course and tennis courts. British engineers also constructed the world's longest transmission line with the highest voltage at the time to meet the hydro power needs of the mine.

By the 1920s 24,000 workers were employed, with Europeans holding most of the top jobs. The mines were nationalized in 1956—nine years after the end of British rule—and by 1980 were running at

a loss, though it would be two decades before operations ceased.

India last year launched a "Gold Monetization Scheme" to mobilize gold hoardings. The scheme has so far collected about three tons of gold in four months.

India plans to auction at least three gold mines this year, including Kolar, Mines Secretary Balvinder Kumar said. Kumar said several local and multinational companies had shown interest in the mines, without naming them.

Lynch said the Bharat project would require new infrastructure and mine equipment but that potential existed to get an early leg up by processing 32 million tons of mine waste at the site, as well as open pit and shallow underground extraction.

Gold prices rose by 17 percent in the first quarter, the best performance in almost three decades.

"At today's prices, this project would be making money," Lynch said.



Reuters

Tourists pose for pictures with shop clerks outside a duty free store at Ginza shopping district in Tokyo last month.

Airport-Style Duty-Free Shops Open Around Japan

TOKYO - Claiming to offer the utmost in convenience to foreign visitors, "airport-style duty-free shops" are springing up in popular shopping districts across Japan. These stores allow customers to purchase items without consumption taxes and other duty charges, and pick up the goods at airports upon departure from the country. Lotte Duty Free, a South Korean chain, opened a large outlet on March 31 in Tokyo's posh Ginza district. Operators of Japanese department store chains are also rushing to open shops of that category to meet the demand at a time when visitors to Japan are rising sharply in number. The sellers have begun using their ingenuity to respond to the changing shopping needs of visitors to Japan. The sales of duty-free products by department stores rose 18.7 percent year-on-year in February, according to Japan Department Stores Association figures. (*Asahi Shimbun*)

CAMBODIA SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Monday, April 11, 2016



Index	Value	Change	Open	High	Low	Volume
CSX	389.02	0	389.02	389.02	389.02	277
Stock	Value	Change	Open	High	Low	Volume
PPWSA	4,900	0	4,900	4,900	4,900	77
Grand Twins	3,990	0	0	0	0	0
PPAP	5,440	0	5,440	5,440	5,440	200

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Source: LY HOUR EXCHANGE

¥/US\$	108.229	Sing\$/US\$	1.3454
£/US\$	0.7021	Euro/US\$	0.8766
AUS\$/US\$	1.3162	SKoreaW/US\$	1,145.12
HK\$/US\$	7.7535	ThaiB/US\$	35.10
SwissF/US\$	0.9536	Riel/US\$	4,025

LOCAL GOLD

Source: LY HOUR EXCHANGE

LOCAL GOLD TYPE (O'RUSSEI MARKET)	BUYING	SELLING	26.67 damlung are equal to 1 kg
Canada (\$/damlung)	1,490	1,500	
Kilo (\$/damlung)	1,490	1,500	
99% (\$/damlung)	1,470	1,480	
97% (\$/damlung)	1,430	1,440	

OPINION

Awareness of Rigged Game Spurs Revolt Against Globalization

BY LAWRENCE SUMMERS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Since the end of World War II, a broad consensus in support of global economic integration as a force for peace and prosperity has been a pillar of the international order. From global trade agreements to the E.U. project; from the work of the Bretton Woods institutions to the removal of pervasive capital controls; from the vast expansion in foreign direct investment to major increases in the flow of people across borders, the overall direction has been clear. Driven by domestic economic progress, by technologies such as containerized shipping and the internet that promote integration, and by legislative changes within countries and international agreements between countries, the world has gotten smaller and more closely connected.

This broad program of global integration has been more successful than could reasonably have been hoped. We have not had a war between major powers. Global standards of living have risen faster than at any point in history. And material progress has coincided with even more rapid progress in combating hunger, empowering women, promoting literacy and extending life. A world that will have more smartphones than adults within a few years is a world in which more is possible for more people than ever before.

Yet a revolt against global inte-

gration is underway in the West. The four most prominent candidates for president of the U.S.—Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Donald Trump and Ted Cruz—all oppose the principal free-trade initiative of this period: the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Trump's proposals to wall off Mexico, abrogate trade agreements and persecute Muslims are far more popular than he is. The Brexit movement in Britain commands substantial support and could prevail. Whenever any aspect of the E.U. project is submitted to a popular referendum, it fails. Under pressure from a large influx of refugees, the European commitment to open borders appears to be crumbling. In large part because of political constraints, the growth of the international financial institutions has not kept pace with the growth of the global economy.

One substantial part of what is behind the resistance is a lack of knowledge. Everyone who loses a job because a factory moves abroad knows it; many who lose their jobs for local reasons blame globalization. But no one thanks international trade for the fact that their paycheck buys twice as much in clothes, toys and other goods as it otherwise would. Those who succeed as exporters tend to credit their own prowess, not international agreements. So there is certainly a case for our leaders and business communi-

ties to educate people about the benefits of global integration. But at this late date, with the trends moving the wrong way, it is hard to be optimistic about such efforts.

The core of the revolt against global integration, though, is not ignorance. It is a sense—unfortunately not wholly unwarranted—that it is a project being carried out by elites for elites, with little consideration for the interests of ordinary people. They see the globalization agenda as being set by large companies that successfully play one country against another. They read the revelations in the Panama Papers and conclude that globalization offers a fortunate few opportunities to avoid taxes and regulations that are not available to everyone else. And they see the kind of disintegration that accompanies global integration as local communities suffer when major employers lose out to foreign competitors.

What will happen going forward? What should happen?

Elites can continue on the current path of pursuing integration projects and defending existing integration, hoping to win enough popular support that their efforts are not thwarted. On the evidence of the U.S. presidential campaign and the Brexit debate, this strategy may have run its course. This will likely result in a hiatus from new global integration efforts and an effort to preserve what is already in place while relying on

technology and growth in the developing world to drive any further integration. The historical precedents, notably the period between World War I and II, are hardly encouraging about unmanaged globalization succeeding with neither a strong underwriter of the system nor strong global institutions.

Much more promising is this idea: The promotion of global integration can become a bottom-up rather than a top-down project. The emphasis can shift from promoting integration to managing its consequences. This would mean a shift from international trade agreements to international harmonization agreements, whereby issues such as labor rights and environmental protection would be central, while issues related to empowering foreign producers would be secondary. It would also mean devoting as much political capital to the trillions of dollars that escape taxation or evade regulation through cross-border capital flows as we now devote to trade agreements.

And it would mean an emphasis on the challenges of middle-class parents everywhere who doubt, but still hope desperately, that their kids can have better lives than they did.

Lawrence Summers is a professor and past president at Harvard University. He was an economic adviser to U.S. President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2010.

The Pope, Jesus and Bernie Sanders All Share a Radical Streak

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Imagine emerging from a rocky political week only to watch your rival announce, as candidate for U.S. Democratic presidential nominee Bernie Sanders did, that, oh, by the way, the Vatican called.

Actually, it was the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, but close enough, I suppose.

Hillary Clinton thought bubble: He's Jewish for crying out loud. What am I, chopped liver? No, I'm Methodist! But if I can become a New Yorker, I can become a Catholic! Some people have all the kismet. Or, maybe sometimes people just happen to agree that communism isn't really so bad.

It should surprise no one that the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences—or especially Pope Francis—might find common cause with Sanders' worldview.

Both the Pope and the Bern speak of helping the disenfranchised and the poor.

Francis, a pastoral leader who washes the feet of the homeless and eschews the elaborate trappings of the corner office, is the real deal, as in living as Christ did, spiritually if not physically. Also like Christ, he's a radical. Just ask Sanders.

"People think Bernie Sanders is radical," Sanders said Friday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." "Uh-huh. Read what the Pope is writing."

What's radical about this Pope is that he, like both Sanders and Jesus, says fresh, untraditional things that sound an awful lot like liberal ideas.

What he says (and writes) is aspirational both in scope and application. As Popes often do, Francis asks us to love one another, which makes us uncomfortable because loving others ultimately means

sacrificing our interests to others'. This comes naturally with our children but not so much with strangers, whose behavior probably annoys us and, oftentimes, costs us money.

The core difference between the two men is that one wants to raise consciousness about our obligation to the less fortunate; the other wants to restructure the U.S.' economic institutions to ensure that money trickles down—mandatorily rather than charitably.

This is a noble concept. Resistance is less common than it once was, judging by the popularity of Sanders' proposals.

His bid to break up the too-big-to-fail banks sounds awesome enough: Let's stick it to the fat cats and watch 'em squirm.

To the larger point, the highest priest urging morality in all human endeavors, including economic policies that fail to ade-

quately address the needs of the poor, plainly speaks from the heart.

It's important for Francis to speak out as a messenger for the greater good. It's important, too, that we be reminded of our moral obligation to each other. The fact that more people are doing less well—and the middle class has suffered—means there's work to do, but it doesn't necessarily require radical restructuring. The striving for greater equality is always a proper operating principle.

A Pope is free to ponder the universe through the pulpit's lens. He is also free to chat with politicians who share his worldview.

It isn't clear whether Sanders and the Pope will actually meet. Still, a visit to the Vatican a couple of days ahead of the New York primary surely can't hurt. If Sanders wins, one might even say it was divine intervention.

opinion

The Dutch Just Showed How Russia Influences EU Elections

By Anne Applebaum
THE WASHINGTON POST

In a vague sort of way, many people are aware that the Russian government provides material and moral support to extremist political groups in Europe. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has asked her security officials to look into Russian influence in German online media. Marine Le Pen, the leader of France's far-right National Front, has taken loans from a Russian bank to fund her party, and is asking for more.

But until last week's Dutch referendum, we hadn't seen a good example of how Russian influence actually works in a Western European election. The referendum, the first to be held under a new law, was launched when a populist, hoax-loving website gathered more than 300,000 signatures on a petition. Its editors were searching for an issue—any issue—and they found one: On Wednesday, Dutch citizens were asked to express their feelings about a European trade agreement with Ukraine, the same treaty that Ukrainians fought for, and died for, in February 2014.

In retrospect it is extraordinary that this treaty, designed to facilitate trade and cooperation between Ukraine and Europe, has caused any controversy at all. It is a long, technical document, more than a thousand pages of jargon. It already went into effect, on January 1. It is not unique or interesting: The E.U. has many such treaties, with Chile, Jordan and others. Of those who bothered to vote, it's probably safe to say that few read it. One of the referendum's initiators told a Ukrainian journalist of my acquaintance that he certainly hadn't read it and wasn't going to—but “don't take it personally.”

It's true that the Dutch far-left and the Dutch far-right had other goals. They used the vote to undermine a center-right, economically liberal government, and to galvanize their anti-European followers. They succeeded: On Wednesday, 32 percent of the Dutch population turned out, just above the percentage needed to make the referendum legal, and two-thirds of them voted against the treaty.

How many of them were moved by Russian disinformation? It's hard to say, though certainly there has been a lot of it in the Netherlands in recent years, and it accelerated in recent months. Much of

it served to create extra uncertainty and fears about nonexistent Ukrainian threats. Many of the “no” campaign's themes, headlines and even photographs were lifted directly from Russia Today and Sputnik, Russia's state propaganda website. According to a poll cited by a Ukrainian foreign min-

istry official, 59 percent of those who voted against the treaty listed, as an important motivation, the fact that Ukraine is corrupt; 19 percent believed that Ukraine was responsible for the crash of a passenger jet, MH-17, that Russian separatists shot down over Ukraine in 2014; 34 percent believed

that the treaty would guarantee Ukraine's membership in the E.U. Of those three points, the second two are certainly false. The first, while true, is hardly a rational argument against a treaty designed to reduce corruption in Ukraine.

Other than that, the campaign was muddled. Far-left campaigners took Palestinian flags to “no” rallies. The far-right talked about Muslim immigrants. The Dutch government, obligated to subsidize electioneering groups, botched the job and distributed money, among other things, to a group that printed Ukrainian national symbols on toilet paper as well as to animal rights and nuclear activists. Ironically, or perhaps not, the Dutch far-right used corrupt methods to fight corrupt Ukraine, and obtained a good deal of money under false pretenses.

The Dutch government itself never joined the campaign. In Amsterdam a month before the vote, I met Dutch officials who seemed openly afraid of the far-right media. They didn't want to be denounced, or mocked in the tabloids, or shouted at by thugs in the street. The government's majority is small, I was told. Sure there are lies being told, they said, but we don't want to take the risk of correcting them.

What happens next is unclear. The referendum was meant to be “consultative,” not binding. A treaty already approved by 27 countries can't be renegotiated from scratch. No doubt some solution will be found, but whatever it turns out to be, it's not as important as the lesson we've just learned: Small minorities of angry people, when well organized, can shout out the divided, fearful, apathetic centrist majority in Western Europe—and Russia is prepared to help them do it. This time the stakes weren't so high, but next time, they might be: The far-right is now the largest political force in the Netherlands. We learned a parallel lesson in the 1930s, but it seems we need to be taught it once again.

Anne Applebaum is the director of the Global Transitions Program at the Legatum Institute in London.



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HEALTH

Marijuana Use in Pregnancy Tied to Health Problems for Babies

REUTERS

Babies exposed to marijuana in the womb are likely to be born smaller than those not exposed, and more likely to need intensive care after birth, according to a new analysis of existing evidence.

Mothers who smoke marijuana while pregnant are also more likely than those who don't to have iron-deficiency anemia, researchers report in the journal BMJ Open.

"We know that caring for yourself before you become pregnant is one of the best ways to make sure your baby will be born healthy," said study author Dr. Cara Christ, director of Arizona's Department of Health Services in Phoenix.

"This may include taking vitamins including folic acid, making changes to your diet, and not using tobacco, alcohol, or drugs," Christ said by email.

Marijuana is one of the most commonly used drugs worldwide and in North America. Nearly one in eight people aged 15 to 64 use marijuana, the researchers note.

The team reviewed results from 24 studies across the world

to determine how marijuana use affected pregnant mothers and their unborn children. They looked at various health factors including how much babies weighed, their length and head size at birth, as well as how many weeks the infants were in the womb before being born.

Babies who were exposed to marijuana during pregnancy were 77 percent more likely to be born underweight, meaning they weighed less than 2.5 kg, compared to infants whose mothers did not use marijuana.

The average weight difference between exposed and unexposed babies was approximately 113 grams.

Babies of mothers who used marijuana while pregnant were also twice as likely to be placed in a neonatal intensive care unit.

Mothers who used marijuana were 36 percent more likely than those who didn't to have anemia, but were not more likely to have issues with prenatal care, labor, bleeding, weight gain, or to have longer hospital stays.

Many marijuana users also use tobacco or alcohol, the researchers note, and these factors

were not examined separately in most studies, so it's not possible to separate out the effects just of marijuana.

Further limitations include the fact that not all studies looked at the same outcomes, the authors point out. So understanding the effects that are consistently seen among mothers who use marijuana while pregnant, and their infants, requires more research.

"We know there is a potential for anything pregnant women eat or drink to cross the placenta."

—CARA CHRIST,
STUDY AUTHOR

"We know there is a potential for anything pregnant women eat or drink to cross the placenta and have an effect on their baby's health," Christ said.

In light of changes in government and public attitudes toward marijuana, it's important to

gather information on its health effects, said Peter Fried, emeritus psychology professor at Carleton University in Ottawa, who was not involved in the study.

In addition to the possibility that the women in these studies may be taking other drugs, there are many factors that can affect a baby's health, he said.

"If you look at poor nutrition, very young, no prenatal care, very stressed single moms, those things are going to add together to the potential impact of marijuana during pregnancy," Fried said by email.

Pregnant women must consider the consequences of marijuana use, Fried said. "She and the rest of the family have to determine whether it's worthwhile to take the drug for its positive effects versus its potential issues for the newborn."

"Women who are pregnant or plan to become pregnant should have a discussion with their doctor about the risks and possible adverse effects to their baby for all medications and substances they are taking," Christ said.



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