



The Phnom Penh Post

Celebrating 20 Years 1992 - 2012

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012

Successful People Read *The Post*

4000 RIELS



Buot Chinda, a 21-year-old garment worker, recovers at Svay Rieng provincial hospital after she was shot in the chest during a protest at the Kaoway Sports factory, near Bavet town, yesterday. DEREK STOUT

Bloody day in Svay Rieng

May Tithara and David Boyle

Three gunned down at shoe factory protest

A YOUNG woman is fighting for her life after she was shot in the chest during a protest of about 6,000 workers yesterday at a factory that supplies sportswear giant PUMA by an assailant that witnesses have said was dressed in police uniform.

The victim, Buot Chinda, was one of three people shot in front of police during the rowdy protest at the Kaoway Sports Ltd factory, in Svay Rieng province, in an incident PUMA has said it is taking "very seriously".

She remains in a critical condition from the bullet wound that narrowly missed her heart and punctured her lung and has been rushed to Phnom Penh's Calmette Hospital.

The shootings began when two truckloads of police confronted protesters after they began hurling rocks through the factory's windows, ignited tyres and invaded the premises, demanding increased benefits.

From her hospital bed, Bout Chinda said yesterday she could not identify

the person who shot her as she walked through the crowd, because she was in severe pain and shock.

"When I was walking to the toilet, I was shot. When the bullet entered my body, I didn't think I would survive," she said.

Her sister, Som Sina, who also works at the factory, said a man wearing a short-sleeved police uniform stepped out of a car and began firing randomly into the crowd, hitting her sister and two others.

"It didn't make a sound because he used a silencer. Some of the workers recognised him as a Bavet town police officer," she said.

A Kaoway Sports Ltd employee, who works for the management but wished to remain anonymous, also identified the perpetrator as a man dressed in a police uniform, adding that he was flanked by a police officer and a bodyguard.

"After he shot the workers, some of the protesters tried to follow and

capture him, but he got into a black Camry that was waiting for him and drove away," the employee said.

This account, which was confirmed by several other protesters who witnessed the scene, was disputed by Bavet police chief Keo Kong, who denied a police officer was responsible, adding that six officers had also been injured.

"We just know that one man wearing a white shirt fired on the workers. Police and workers tried to arrest him, but failed because he ran into

Continues on page 2

National

Svay Rieng shoe factory protesters gunned down

Continued from page 1

the forest," he said. Keo Kong said the 6,000 protesters at the Taiwanese-owned Kaoway Sports factory, in Bavet town's Manhattan Special Economic Zone, included employees from other factories in the zone including Kingmaker, Sheico Group and Ankor Supreme.

He identified the other workers who had been shot as Keo Neth, 18, Nuth Sakhorn, 23, both of whom were in a stable condition.

National Police spokesman Kirt Chantharith said a special team had been sent to investigate and arrest the gunman.

"The gunman is not in our police forces, and we did not hurt anyone," he said.

Kaoway Sports Ltd could not be reached by the *Post* for comment yesterday.

But PUMA was quick to respond to the incident, releasing a press statement before telling the *Post* it already had people on the ground investigating the situation.

"PUMA takes this incident very seriously and will take all measures to ensure that the safety of its supplier factory workers is paramount," the statement read.

"According to the information PUMA has been able to

obtain, factory management has evacuated all personnel from the compound to ensure the employees' safety and workers have been sent home."

The shooting, the latest in a series of incidents over the past two months in which protesters have been fired upon, has drawn outrage from civil-society groups and the opposition Sam Rainsy Party.

SRP lawmaker Mu Sochua, who visited Buot Chinda in hospital yesterday, said it was extraordinary such action had been taken against workers seeking about \$US25 in monthly benefits on top of the \$61 minimum wage they receive.

"Does PUMA want its name to be tainted by the blood of workers in Cambodia? These are young women who want nothing more than \$10 for transportation and an extra 50 cents for their food," she said.

Jill Tucker, chief technical adviser at the International Labour Organisation's Better Factories Cambodia, said that although details of the incident remained sketchy, it was worrying for the country's international reputation as a supplier of footwear and clothing.

"It doesn't look good for Cambodia when this type of violence is concerned," she said.

Ek Tha, a spokesman for the



A security guard walks past broken windows at the Kaoway Sports factory in Svay Rieng province following a protest yesterday during which at least three people were shot. About 6,000 workers reportedly turned out for the protest. DEREK STOUT

Council of Ministers, said no one should draw conclusions about what had happened until a full investigation was completed.

Ken Loo, secretary-general of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia, of which Kaoway Sports Ltd is a member, downplayed the severity of the situation.

"We all know that one worker was injured and it was originally rumoured that worker

was killed, but that's not the case," he said.

He suggested protesters were just looking for "an excuse to make trouble" rather than seeking genuine benefits due to external, non-union agitation and claimed the factory had accepted the workers' requests before they amended their demands and began vandalising the factory.

The protest reportedly erupted into violence when

Kaoway Sports Ltd agreed to only two or three demands made by workers, including monthly allowances of \$10 for transport, \$10 as an attendance bonus and US 50 cents a day for lunch.

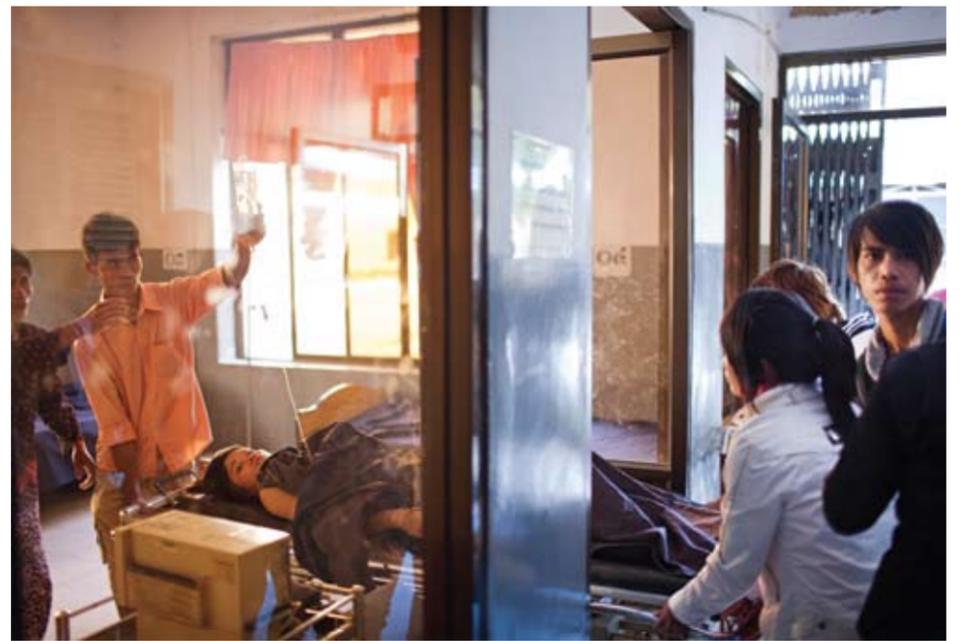
Svay Rieng provincial governor Chieng Am said that after the shootings, the company had agreed to all the workers' demands and vowed to give 500,000 riel compensation to each victim.

Meanwhile, Buot Chinda's doctor, Svay Rieng provincial hospital deputy Kouch Sipha, is just hoping his patient will stay alive.

"We are trying our best to save her life," he said before Buot Chinda was sent to Phnom Penh because her condition had deteriorated. ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY DEREK STOUT. MAY TITTHARA REPORTED FROM BAVET TOWN. DAVID BOYLE REPORTED FROM PHNOM PENH.



A Puma shoebox lies on the pavement in front of the Kaoway Sports factory following a violent protest yesterday during which at least three people were shot and injured. DEREK STOUT



Buot Chinda, 21, receives treatment at Svay Rieng provincial hospital after being shot in the chest yesterday during a protest at the Kaoway Sports factory. DEREK STOUT

Boeung Kak residents given more land titles

Khouth Sophak Chakrya

DISTRICT authorities issued land titles to another 46 families living in Village 22 around Boeung Kak lake in Phnom Penh yesterday, although some residents still feared eviction as the 12.44 hectares of land designated for them by the government was not clearly marked, a village representative said.

Tep Vanny, who received a land title yesterday, said 73 of the 194 families in Village 22 in Daun Penh district's Srah Chak commune had received land titles in the past week. Twenty-eight families had been told previously that they would not receive a title because their homes were not within the 12.44 hectares.

"We are happy, but we are not sure whether we all can avoid eviction a second time if the

12.44 hectares of land is not clearly marked," she said. The families also want the government to build a drainage system and issue titles to families cut from the 12.44-hectare area.

Resident Bou Chhorvy, 38, said she had waited five years to receive a land title.

"However, we're still all worried because we do not have a drainage system around our houses and the Boeung Kak area floods when it rains heavily," she said.

In Saophorn, deputy chief of Srah Chak commune, said one land title had been withheld yesterday because the family members involved were in dispute.

"In this case, we will provide the land title to either the husband or wife, based on who the court judges as the correct recipient. We have no right to make this decision," she said. ■

Manhattan melodrama

Tep Nimol

NEARLY 2,000 workers from the Manhattan Cambodia garment factory in Kampong Cham province's Kampong Siem district protested in front of the factory yesterday to urge its owner to implement multiple orders by the Arbitration Council on worker demands, a union official said.

Yen Sokheang, vice-president of the Free Trade Union of Cambodia at the factory, said workers had protested all day with no reaction from factory representatives or provincial labour department officials.

Yen Sokheang said that last Thursday, workers had sent a letter to the factory stating that they would strike if a

resolution was not reached.

"The Arbitration Council ordered the factory owner to agree to five of the 12 points demanded by workers, but the company did not follow [the order]," he said, adding that the most recent ruling had been handed down in October.

The Arbitration Council has ordered that the company offer permanent contracts to employees who have worked in the factory for more than two years, to provide a bonus of two months' salary for workers on permanent contracts who resigned and to allow workers to wear shoes at work to protect their safety.

It also ruled that workers whose contracts were not renewed immediately after

they expired should receive extra money for the time they worked without a contract, and that the company must pay one month's salary and other financial benefits to former worker Chea Phalla, who workers claim was unfairly dismissed.

Sam Seyha, administrative manager at the factory, could not be reached for comment yesterday, but has previously told the *Post* the company would not go against an Arbitration Council decision.

Provincial hall administrative manager Kun Navuth said an inspection team from the Labour Ministry would travel to the factory today to investigate the dispute between workers and the company owner. ■



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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

Successful People Read *The Post*

4000 RIELS

Whitening cream murder trial

NATIONAL PAGE - 3

Bailout averts Greek default

BUSINESS PAGE - 7



Last light

A woman cycles across a 700-metre long bamboo bridge on the Mekong River in Kampong Cham province yesterday. HENG CHIVAN

Deportee video wins accolades

Diana Montano

LOCAL artists critical of the US government's deportation of Cambodian refugees have received accolades for their work from an unlikely source – the White House.

My Asian Americana, a short video produced by Phnom Penh-based media lab Studio Revolt, was announced on Friday as one of 11 finalists in the "What's Your Story?" Video Challenge launched by the White House Initiative on Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, a working group formed by the Obama administration to address issues affecting the AAPI community.

"We made the video to challenge the Challenge itself," says Studio Revolt co-founder and *My Asian Americana* director Anida Yeou Ali, adding that she never expected the video to make it this far because of its thorny political subject.

Yeou Ali, who was born in Cambodia and fled to the US with her family as a child, says she wanted to create a piece that would go beyond the "typical feel-good stories" about

Continues on page 2

Net tightens on gunman

May Titthara and David Boyle

THE man who shot three protesters at a demonstration outside a factory that supplies sportswear giant PUMA on Monday had been identified, the Minister of Interior said yesterday, before condemning police who shoot unarmed villagers.

Sar Kheng refused to disclose details of the alleged triggerman because doing so would compromise the investigation, but said sufficient evidence had been gathered to finger the suspect.

"We know who the shooter is, and we also have the evidence [to

convict him]. Every country has protests, but we [Cambodia] take a gun to find resolution for those who have no guns," he said.

"Ordering the police to shoot villagers – this practice is out of date. It is not the Khmer Rouge regime, we have to protect the villagers," he said.

The shootings took place during a protest of about 6,000 people outside the Kaoway Sports Ltd factory in Svay Rieng province's Bavet town, where company employees were joined by workers from Kingmaker, Sheico Group and Ankor Supreme.

Eyewitnesses told the *Post* that a man in a khaki police uniform

stepped out of a Toyota Camry and began shooting into a crowd at about 8am on Monday after protesters began hurling rocks at the Kaoway Sports factory and lighting tyres.

They said the perpetrator, flanked by a bodyguard and a police officer, then jumped into a getaway car and fled the factory in the Manhattan Special Economic Zone. Police have denied an officer shot the protesters.

One of the bullets hit 21-year-old Buot Chinda just above the heart, pierced her lung and exited her back, leaving the young woman in serious condition, with blood and fluid entering her lungs.

Two others, Keo Near – mistakenly identified by police on Monday as Keo Neth – and Nuth Sakhorn, were also shot, but did not sustain any serious injuries.

Keo Near yesterday questioned why PUMA had said that it could not verify whether or not the victims were Kaoway Sports employees in a statement the company released late on Monday.

"They [PUMA] said we are not employees for Kaoway. If we are not employees for the factory, then who are we? We protested, and they shot us," Keo Near said yesterday from her bed in a medical clinic.

The PUMA statement also said that,

based on an investigation by the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia and information from the factory, one person was shot but was not in critical condition and would be released in five days.

The statement incorrectly stated that Buot Chinda had undergone an operation and that workers from Kaoway Sports had not participated in the demonstration.

PUMA has since released a revised statement stating that a company official and a representative of the Cambodian Legal Education Centre (CLEC)

Continues on page 4



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National

Net tightens around gunman

Continued from page 1

would make a visit to Buot Chinda at Phnom Penh's Calmette hospital.

GMAC secretary-general Ken Loo stood by his version of events yesterday.

"What I told PUMA was that as far as we're concerned, as far as the factory was concerned, we didn't know exactly the identity of those who were shot, and if we didn't know their exact identity, how could we know if they were employees of the factory?" he said.

He claimed a surgeon at Svay Rieng provincial hospital told him Buot Chinda's condition was not serious, but that after he reported this to PUMA, her condition deteriorated following an operation.

Svay Rieng provincial hospital deputy director Kouch Sipa said yesterday that neither he, nor any of his staff members, had ever told anyone that her condition was not serious.

"The only people I spoke to yesterday were journalists, I did not talk to anyone from GMAC," he said, adding that no operation had been conducted on Buot Chinda.

The Kaoway Sports Ltd factory has now been temporarily closed, and police are



Keo Near (left), who was shot in the right arm during a protest on Monday at the Kaoway Sports factory, receives treatment for her injury at a private clinic in Bavet town yesterday. DEREK STOUT

deployed along National Road 1 from Svay Rieng town to Bavet town to ensure employees of the factory do not travel there to protest.

Svay Rieng provincial governor Cheing Am said during a meeting with the Ministry of Labour yesterday that the factory agreed to provide workers with US\$0.50 for food per day, \$10 per month for transportation and \$2 for

days when trucks could not take them to work.

In a joint statement yesterday, rights groups Licadho and CLEC slammed a culture of blatant impunity in Cambodia that fostered such attacks against unarmed protesters.

"This latest shooting appears to be a clear-cut case of attempted murder," the statement quoted Licadho senior investigator Am Sam

Ath as saying. At Phnom Penh's Calmette hospital yesterday, Buot Chinda spoke briefly, telling a reporter that knowing the perpetrator had been identified was making her feel better.

"Now I'm a little bit better. I have no power. I was hurt very badly in my chest. The scene seemed so cruel. I was afraid," she said. ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY DEREK STOUT AND SEN DAVID

Migrant workers seek way out of Thailand

Meas Sokchea

A DISPUTE between more than 1,000 Cambodian migrant workers and a seafood factory in Thailand over pay conditions has escalated, with the majority of them seeking to leave, several of the employees have said.

In late January, the *Post* reported that workers at the Pathana Frozen Food Factory in Thailand's Songkla province had reported that hundreds of workers felt they had been cheated by the Cambodian recruitment firm that sent there, CDM Trading Manpower Ltd.

Four employees, all of who wish to remain anonymous, and former employee Keo Ratha have now told the *Post* that most of the 1,000 workers want to leave but are waiting for the company to answer their requests for their passports back.

Keo Ratha, who managed to secure his passport last month and return to Cambodia, said CDM Trading Manpower Ltd had sent 300 more recruits to the factory this month, despite his protestations that they were being exploited.

"A lot of workers want to return home, but they cannot return because they do not have passports and money for travelling," he said.

Contrary to the promises of CDM Trading Manpower Ltd, they were receiving a salary of just 177 baht a day without promised accommodation or food and were docked 1,500 baht for the cost of their passports.

One of the workers who wished to remain anonymous said on one occasion workers had only been paid half their monthly salary, which made it even more difficult for them to escape the factory.

Duong Sarann, director of CDM Trading Manpower, called the workers lazy, said they were exaggerating their situation and claimed the passports were held by the factory to avoid loss.

"If passports are lost, who is responsible for this? The company is responsible for the loss of passports. It is very difficult to make it again," he said.

Seng Sakada, director general of Department General of Labour at the Ministry of Labour & Vocational Training, declined to comment yesterday, saying he was busy.

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National



Buot Chinda receives treatment at Calmette hospital in Phnom Penh on Tuesday. The 21-year-old garment worker was shot in the chest during a protest near Bavet town, in Svay Rieng province, on Monday. VIREAK MAI

Fear, rumours in wake of shooting

May Titthara and David Boyle

SPECULATION is bubbling in Bavet town over the identity of the man who shot three people protesting outside a shoe factory on Monday, with eyewitnesses, police and villagers suggesting blame lies with town officials.

The shooting, which took place outside the Kaoway Sports Ltd factory in Svay Rieng province, left one woman in critical condition and has caught the eye of the international media largely because the company supplies sportswear giant PUMA.

One name surfacing amid the swirl of rumours is that of town governor Chhouk Bannith, who admitted as much during an interview with the *Post* yesterday but categorically denied he had any involvement in the incident.

"It is not true, because during that time, I went to the crowd to find a resolution for the workers and then I heard the sound of the guns. I feared for my safety because the situation was dis-

order," he said. Chhouk Bannith said no officials had come to question him yet and promised that if they did, he was ready to answer their questions.

On Tuesday, Interior Minister Sar Kheng said the perpetrator had been identified, but no arrest has since been announced.

Fear that a low-ranking official will be made a scapegoat for the incident led one police officer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, to tell the *Post* that he and his colleagues knew the shooter's identity with 99 per cent certainty.

"We don't want to stay in the jail instead of him, so the man who opened fire on the workers was not police, it was the high-level official who works in Bavet town," he said.

These fears were echoed by opposition Sam Rainsy Party lawmaker Mu Sochua, who visited the scene after the shooting and said yesterday one thing was certain – it was the not the work of a lowly security guard.

"He came out of a car, he had bodyguards, he pulled his gun out of his holster – so it is not someone who is just a security guard," she said, adding that the ministry should make a photo of the suspect public.

Witnesses reported that a man dressed in a khaki police uniform stepped out of a Toyota Camry on Monday morning flanked by a police officer and a bodyguard and fired into the crowd of about 6,000 people before jumping back in the car, which sped off.

Mathieu Pellerin, a monitoring consultant with rights group Licadho, said he was worried the high-profile nature of the case would lead authorities to convict scapegoats as they did after the notorious slaying of garment-sector unionist Chea Vichea.

"My big worry in this story is that we are in the exact conditions as what happened with the killing of Chea Vichea in 2004, which is an outrageous act of violence linked to one of the only viable sectors Cambodia has," he said.

Ek Tha, a spokesman for the Quick and Press Reaction Unit at the Council of Ministers, said the government opposed violence and would find justice.

In a press statement yesterday, PUMA said it would pay the medical expenses of 21-year-old Buot Chinda, who was shot through the chest and is receiving medical care at Phnom Penh's Calmette hospital.

Moeun Tola, head of the labour program at the Community Legal Education Centre, said Buot Chinda was in a stable condition in hospital but still had some internal bleeding and could be released in two weeks provided her health did not deteriorate.

PUMA deputy head of corporate communications Kerstin Neuber confirmed PUMA would also cover the medical expenses of the other two victims, 18-year-old Keo Neth and 23-year-old Nuth Sakhorn.

She said Kaoway had confirmed their security guards did not carry guns and had nothing to do with the shooting. ■

Rescued men due to return

Sen David

ANOTHER eight fishermen will be repatriated today after being saved from forced labour on fishing boats in Indonesia, according to a press release issued yesterday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The statement said the men had been saved in Indonesia's Maluku province by a co-ordinated action of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the International Organisation for Migration and Indonesian authorities.

Seven Cambodians who were repatriated from Indonesia on February 7 reported being overworked and abused, and having received no salary for more than two years.

More than 100 Cambodian men have been repatriated from abroad since December after being trafficked onto Thai fishing boats, and either escaping or being saved in the various locations the boats ply.

Chhiv Phally, deputy director of the Ministry of Interior's anti-human trafficking and juvenile protection department, said police would focus on investigating and catching brokers who cheated people into forced labour abroad.

"The authorities have appealed to Cambodians to not risk migrant work abroad. It is not the first time that Cambodians have been trafficked to be boatmen," he said.

Am Sam Ath, senior investigator for rights group Licadho, said many trafficking victims still languished abroad.

"It is still a big concern that many Cambodians are mistreated abroad," he said.

Meanwhile, Chea Mon, the mother of Soy Sros, whose whereabouts have been unknown since he left 11 years ago to work on Thai fishing boats, said she would attend the fishermen's homecoming.

"I hope one among them is my son," she said. ■

Villagers take hostages

Continues from page 1

a solution could be reached between local authorities and the villagers to prevent further violence.

"The villagers are completely naïve, because the company's investment is to promote national development," Chhay Em said.

"Any destruction of company property destroys their country, and what we have been doing is in line with the law."

Tumpoun representative Tuy Nheb said the detention was a desperate act to stop the company razing their land and retaliation to being threatened with gunfire. ■

"The villagers just want to protect their land, it is not illegal," Tuy Nheb said.

Pen Bunna, co-ordinator of Adhoc, said the company had not yet been licensed to raze the land in their concession and had been given a green light by the government only to conduct an investment study.

"The solution here was only reached after the villagers' violence, and it sets a good example for all communities to protest after their cause is ignored by the local authority and legislative institution," Pen Bunna said. "Therefore, I suggest the government resolve this problem as soon as possible." ■

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Women and those with disadvantage background are encouraged to apply.



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ISSUE NUMBER 1324

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2012

Successful People Read The Post

4000 RIELS

Arable land shrinking fast



NATIONAL
PAGE 3

PPWSA sets IPO date



BUSINESS
PAGE 7

Death toll from bus crash rises

Tep Nimol and Bridget Di Certo

THE death toll from Tuesday's tour bus crash in Koh Kong climbed by one yesterday when an Austrian man died at the provincial hospital, while the man behind the wheel was detained by authorities.

Koh Kong Provincial Hospital director Mat Ly Hsai Song said the 72-year-old Austrian man who had been traveling on the bus from Siha-noukville to Koh Kong was due to be evacuated to Thailand for medical treatment yesterday.

"Before getting in the car to go to Thailand, the Austrian man, who had high-blood pressure, walked into the bathroom, where he fell down dead," Mat Ly Hsai Song said. "He died instantly from a blood clot and was unable to be saved."

The Austrian is the second fatality after a 23-year-old Russian woman was killed on Tuesday when the Paramount Angkor Express bus sustained a punctured tyre and rolled over, injuring all 46 passengers - most of



Pipe dream

Thon Thoeun, 12, sleeps in a concrete pipe that serves as his family's home near the former Boeung Kak lake in Phnom Penh. MENG KIMLONG

Story - page 6

Continues on page 2

Warrant sought for shooter

May Titthara and David Boyle

THE Ministry of Interior has sought a warrant for the suspect who shot three people at a protest outside a shoe factory last week amid more allegations from government and police officials that the perpetrator was Bavet town governor Chhouk Bandith.

Interior Ministry spokesman Khieu Sopheak said yesterday that a complaint had been filed seeking an arrest warrant for the suspect.

"The shooter was not police, he was a civil person," he said, adding that

More fingers pointed at Bavet governor

the ministry would go ahead and arrest the suspect if the court decided to issue a warrant, before declining to provide further details.

The shootings took place outside the Kaoway Sports Ltd factory in Svay Rieng's Bavet town on Monday.

A police officer who was an eyewitness at the scene of the shooting and asked not be named, said Chhouk Bandith became enraged after a worker threw a stone at his head while he

tried to find a solution to the protest. "So he took the gun from his waist to shoot three times into the sky to protect himself [and] get out of the crowd, but I don't why the bullets hit the workers," he said.

A senior official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said the perpetrator was Chhouk Bandith, but declined to comment further.

Both of Chhouk Bandith's phones have remained switched off since

he told the *Post* on Tuesday that he was aware of rumours that he had shot the three workers, which he categorically denied.

But Keo Kong, Bavet municipal police chief, said his part of the investigation had now concluded and in his opinion, Chhouk Bandith was not the perpetrator.

"National police have got everything, but from my point of view, I don't think that Mr Chhouk Ban-

dith did it," he said. Eyewitness reports of the incident suggest a man dressed in a khaki police-style uniform flanked by a bodyguard and another man dressed in police clothing stepped out of a Lexus, fired into the crowd and ran to a nearby black Toyota Camry, which he fled in.

Rights groups and the opposition Sam Rainsy Party have attacked authorities for taking so long to arrest a suspect in a shooting that took place in front of police officers in a crowd of some 6,000 protesters.

Continues on page 2

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National

Death toll from bus rises

Continues from page 1

them foreign tourists. Another Austrian man and an American man were evacuated to Thailand for medical care yesterday, Koh Kong Provincial Hospital deputy director Suon Samit said, adding the men were seriously wounded, with broken bones, head injuries and shortness of breath.

A Finnish woman who sustained a serious back injury and a 5-year-old Cambodian girl who had her arm amputated at the shoulder directly after the crash were evacuated to Thailand on Tuesday, Suon Samit said.

The Finnish Embassy in Bangkok told the *Post* that seven Finnish nationals had been involved in the crash. All were being treated in Bangkok, but only one was seriously injured.

A Swedish woman was transported from Koh Kong by ambulance yesterday afternoon to Royal Rattanak Hospital in Phnom Penh, hospital staff said yesterday. She was undergoing operations last night and would be in hospital for seven to 10 days, staff said.

Seven foreigners and five

Cambodians who were in stable condition remained at Koh Kong Provincial Hospital yesterday, Suon Samit said, adding that those who had been discharged from hospital had been sent to stay at the Ear Aun guesthouse in Koh Kong district near the hospital.

Provincial governor Bun Loert paid for the accommodation and food expenses for those crash victims who had sought refuge in the guesthouse.

Bun Loert said yesterday that all the crash victims with the exception of one Japanese man had already left the guesthouse.

"We will check to find out the reason for this traffic accident, strengthen the traffic law and the vehicles, and look after the victims until they are better," he said by telephone yesterday.

The driver of the bus had initially fled the scene of the accident and escaped into a nearby forest, however Koh Kong authorities said yesterday that Phnom Penh police had apprehended him at the central office of Paramount Angkor Express.

The driver will be detained while police complete their investigation of the accident,



An injured woman rests at Koh Kong provincial hospital on Tuesday following a bus crash that left one dead and 46 injured. A second passenger died yesterday before he could be transported to Thailand. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Koh Kong traffic office chief Uk Sopha said.

"We anticipate handing our investigation over to the court next week because such a big crash takes a long time to investigate," Uk Sopha said. "According to the traffic law, if the court finds the driver guilty of provoking the accident, he can be sentenced for between

one and two years and the company will have to take some responsibility, too."

Representatives from Paramount Angkor Express could not be reached yesterday.

Paramount's insurer, Caminco Insurance Company, said their investigators had visited the hospital and the scene of the crash yesterday.

"The company has third-party liability and passenger liability insurance," Dy Len, a planning officer at Caminco told the *Post*. "This is the biggest case we have ever had," he said, adding that other concerned parties such as embassies and ministries were also conducting their own investigations. ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY CHEANG SOKHA AND MOM KUNTHEAR ■

Treacherous walk Tripped mine injures three, one severely

THREE men were injured on Monday afternoon after one of them stepped on a landmine in Battambang province's Samlot district.

Moeurn Muth, chief of staff for the district police, yesterday said Soy Kosal, 25, Sok Chhoan, 28, and Nuon Kim, 27, had been clearing a forest to cultivate corn. When returning home on an old path, Soy Kosal stepped on a landmine, sustaining serious injuries to his right leg. The other two men suffered slight wounds to their hands and legs.

"Soy Kosal stepped on the mine and detonated it. His right leg may be amputated," said Moeurn Muth.

He added that the landmine was leftover from wartime.

Chhiv Lim, project manager for the Cambodia Mine Victims Information System, said in 2011 there had been 211 landmine victims, with 43 having died, 135 wounded and 33 becoming disabled. PHAK SEANGLY

Arrest warrant sought

Continues from page 1

They have also asked that security camera footage recorded during the incident, which has reportedly been viewed by MOI officials, be released to reassure the public the real perpetrator was being pursued.

Mathieu Pellerin, a monitoring consultant for the rights group Licadho, said testimony from eyewitnesses and the victims' injuries suggested the shootings were intentional, but he stressed the most important thing was that a suspect be arrested and an impartial trial conducted.

"What matters is the evidence is brought forward to the court, and if the evidence is showing that there was attempted murder, then that person, however

important they may be, should be charged with attempted murder," he said.

The shooting put three women in hospital: 18-year-old Keo Neth, 23-year-old Nuth Sakhorn and 21-year-old Buot Chinda - who was left in critical condition after a bullet pierced her chest.

Buot Chinda's older brother, Sam Sinat, said yesterday his sister continued to receive medical treatment, and labelled authorities "hopeless" for failing to arrest a perpetrator.

"I want the authorities to arrest the perpetrator and send them to jail to provide justice for the victim," he said.

The Kaoway Sports factory supplies sportswear giant PUMA, which has previously said it was investigating the case.

Case 004 investigation rolls on

Bridget Di Certo

RESERVE international Co-Investigating Judge Laurent Kasper-Ansermet's investigation into government-opposed Case 004 will continue after the Khmer Rouge tribunal's Pre-Trial Chamber judges yesterday failed to agree on key issues that could have stopped it in its tracks.

The controversial case, which Prime Minister Hun Sen has said "will not be allowed", involves the alleged crimes of three former Khmer Rouge cadre, including one current commune chief in

Oddar Meanchey's Anglong Veng district, a former Khmer Rouge stronghold.

Case 004 investigations cover a range of crime sites including former security centres and execution sites in Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Takeo provinces.

The three suspects are allegedly being investigated for their responsibility in the deaths of tens of thousands of individuals through executions, starvation, disease and genocidal massacres.

The UN-nominated Kasper-Ansermet has been at loggerheads with his Cambodian

counterpart since he assumed office upon his predecessor's resignation.

Cambodian Co-Investigating Judge You Bunleng has refused to recognise Kasper-Ansermet as his legitimate counterpart until the government's Supreme Council of the Magistracy "approves" him, and has stonewalled all attempts by Kasper-Ansermet to perform judicial duties.

Kasper-Ansermet took two proposals to You Bunleng in

December. One was to resume investigations in Case 003, which was closed by his predecessor and You Bunleng. The second was to continue investigations in Case 004.

The two international judges in the Chamber, Rowan Downing and Chang-Ho Chung, fully accept Laurent Kasper-Ansermet's power to act, while the three Cambodian judges in the Chamber, like You Bunleng, refuse to acknowledge his authority. ■

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Cambodia Chamber of Commerce

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International Trade Consultant

Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) is implementing a trade support project jointly funded by Export Market Access Fund (EMAF) to providing support on international trade, promoting local products and, by doing so, increasing Cambodia's presence globally. To help us achieve our objectives, we are seeking experienced international trade consultant who possesses the following qualifications:

- Internationally accepted degree on trade or professional business qualification
- An extensive knowledge of "Doole Model", an export model that CCC is going to adapt
- Over 10 years working experience in trade support and business advisory programs
- Fluency in English (with knowledge of other languages as an asset)
- Have an understanding of the Cambodian business support structures, including the CCC, the MoC, and the general Cambodian business environment
- Have previously implemented business advisory programs that have yielded quantifiable results
- Have previously written award winning entries for business support projects, and have a demonstrable understanding of the Chamber movement worldwide

For detail scope of work and project main objectives, please refer to Term of Reference for International Trade Consultant at

www.ccc.org.kh/tradeconsultant or go to the announcement section of our website at www.ccc.org.kh.

Expression of interest should be submitted by 09 March 2012 to: Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, 7D, Russian Blvd. (Street 110), Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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Successful People Read The Post

4000 RIELS



Thai rice stocks surge

Business - page 8

Faldo teed up for Siem Reap

Sport - back page



One killed as crowded truck rolls

Kim Yuthana

A WOMAN was killed and five others were seriously injured when a truck carrying about 50 garment workers ran off national road number 4 in Kandal province and overturned on Wednesday night, only one day after a bus crash in Koh Kong killed two and injured more than 40.

Norng Chinda, deputy police chief in Ang Snuol district, said the truck had swerved to avoid another truck stopped on the road at about 7pm.

The driver of the stationary truck had not used lights, the other had not been paying attention - and both had fled on foot, Norng Chinda said.

"It is the carelessness of the drivers," he said. "We have been trying to arrest the two drivers after learning their identity."

The woman killed, a 26-year-old, was one of about 50 people crammed into the back of the overturned truck - a mode of transport many young women use to get to and from their factory jobs.

Chhoeun Leang, 29, was one of five women seriously injured and was taken to Calmet Hospital in Phnom Penh for medical treatment.



Continues on page 2 Chhoeun Leang (right), 29, recovers yesterday at Calmette Hospital after a truck carrying about 50 garment workers ran off National Road 4 in Kandal province. HENG CHIVAN

Bavet governor implicated

May Titthara and David Boyle

Interior minister names shooting suspect

BAVET town governor Chhouk Bandith is the man who gunned down three unarmed women at a protest last week, Interior Minister Sar Kheng alleged yesterday, saying an official complaint had been filed against him.

Outside an unrelated conference, the minister told reporters the governor would be arrested imminently in relation to the shootings at the Kaoway Sports Ltd shoe factory in Svay Rieng province's Bavet town during a Febru-

ary 19 protest of about 6,000 people. "Related to the arrest of a suspect or not, it is not the duty of the Ministry of Interior, it is the duty of the court, but it will not take longer than one week because we have to do it clearly," he said.

Allegations have steadily surfaced against the high-profile suspect since he told the Post last Tuesday he was aware of accusations against him which he categorically denied.

Anonymous police officials have previously told the Post that Chhouk Bandith became enraged and accidentally shot the three women while attempting to fire warning shots after a protester threw a rock at his head.

He had reportedly come to mediate the protest, which had turned violent, with workers hurling rocks at the factory and lighting tyres as they demanded basic benefits.

Rights groups have expressed con-

cern that the slow reaction of authorities to the shooting may have given the suspect ample time to flee the country from Bavet town, near the Vietnamese border.

When contacted yesterday, Chhouk Bandith simply said he had a "meeting with Vietnam" before declining to comment further.

Men Vibol, deputy governor of Svay Rieng, said he did not know where Chhouk Bandith was, but that he had

not attended provincial hall meetings since the shooting.

"I was surprised when I got that news. I don't know why he did this to his villagers. In name, he is the governor of Bavet town, which means that he is the father of villagers who live there," he said.

Hing Bun Chea, chief Svay Rieng provincial prosecutor, confirmed he had received a complaint against Chhouk Bandith, which he said he was now checking.

Continues on page 2



RETRO SEXY?

MINORITY AIRWAVES Tibetan quest for connections BRONZE REVIVAL

INSIDE

National

One killed as crowded truck crashes and rolls

Continues from page 1

"The truck overturned twice," she said. "Workers fell on each other. The next thing I knew, I was unconscious."

Factory worker Mom Mary, 25, said she could not afford any other mode of transport and paid \$10 per month to climb into an overcrowded truck each day.

"Travelling together like this is cheap – but it is very difficult and it is easy to get into an accident. If I don't use it, I have no choice because I am on a very low salary," she said.

Chea Momy, president of the Free Trade Union of Cambodia, said workers on low wages often had no choice but to pile into the back of small trucks that were old, overloaded and driven by inexperienced drivers.

"The workers don't want to use a truck with so many people in it, but they're on a low salary so they have to do it to save money," he said.

Ou Virak, president of the Cambodian Center for Human Rights, said low wages, poor roads and long distances to factories were putting a lot of pressure on young women in the garment industry.

"The government could certainly do more... such as building alternative routes," he said.

"One alternative is for companies to begin sub-contracting and bringing work back to villages," he said. "This would put less strain on the road network, which would take unnecessary traffic off the roads... reducing the road toll."

Jill Tucker, chief technical adviser at the International Labour Organisation's Better Factories Cambodia, said sub-contracting garment work was not viable for many large factories.

"I wish it were. But from what I've been told, it's an energy problem. They can't get reliable energy sources for big-scale operations," she said.

"Many garment workers live quite a distance from the factories. A transportation allowance might allow [workers] to take more safe and comfortable forms of transport," she said.

ILO was about to launch a "one-change" campaign encouraging factories to make a change that was not required by law, but which would benefit employees, she said.

"We would then promote the factory as a 'one-change' factory."

"Transportation is certainly one of these issues. It's not going to change the world, but it's a small start." ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY SHANE WORRELL



Buot Chinda (left), who was shot last month during a protest, is attended to by her brother Sam Sinat at Calmette Hospital yesterday. VIREAK MAI

Governor implicated

Continues from page 1

Though Chhouk Bandith's whereabouts remain a mystery, Moeun Tola, head of the labour program and the Community Legal Education Centre, alleged yesterday that the politician had been in Phnom Penh three days ago attempting to buy the silence of a victim.

He said the family of 21-year-old Buot Chinda – the most seriously injured victim, who was shot through the chest – were approached at Calmette hospital by a man they recognised as the Bavet town governor.

"One question he asked to the family, he asked how much compensation do you need? He did not say that he was the shooter, but it was an interesting question that he asked how much compensation do you need?" he said.

Buot Chinda's brother Sam Sinat said seven Bavet police officials also visited his family on Wednesday and offered his

family "a gift from Deputy Prime Minister Men Sam An" of 2 million riel, about US\$500, in return for not filing a complaint.

"The money that they gave to me, I am wondering if they don't want me to file a complaint against them, [but] even though I got that money, I still filed a complaint to find justice for my sister," he said.

Moeun Tola said the family had told him the officials also convinced them to thumbprint a document, which they could not read and later discovered was an agreement not to press charges. "We don't understand why the group from city hall approached the victim and asked her to thumbprint the agreement not to sue – it is a crime, it cannot be conciliated or mediated," he said.

He also questioned whether charges would be laid against police officers that eyewitnesses had seen assisting the suspect to escape after he shot the victims in front of thousands of protest-

ers outside a factory equipped with security cameras.

Two other women, 18-year-old Keo Neth and 23-year-old Nuth Sakhorn, were also shot in an incident that has potentially serious consequences for one of Cambodia's biggest industries – the manufacturing of footwear and garments for international brands.

Before the shooting outside Kaoway Sports, which supplies sportswear giant PUMA, workers were lobbying for a \$10 monthly travel allowance and 50 cent daily food subsidy, which the company has since agreed to.

Maeve Galvin, a consultant at the International Labour Organisation's Better Factories Cambodia, said the shooting could have "frightening" implications for an industry that employs 350,000 women who indirectly support about 10 per cent of the population.

"We're one of the organisations trying to ensure that the Cambodian garment industry keeps a good name, and in reality, an incident like this is

quite damaging to the industry," she said.

Buyers were "really" concerned and looking at collaborative action they could take, including discussions with the Ministry of Commerce, she said, adding that it was crucial a full, transparent investigation was conducted.

In a statement released late yesterday, PUMA said it was trying to get official government confirmation that a complaint had been filed against Chhouk Bandith, emphasizing it was in their own interests to rapidly establish what had happened.

Ken Loo, secretary-general of the Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia, welcomed the identification of the shooter, which he said cleared staff at Kaoway – a GMAC member – of any wrongdoing.

"[But] what about the violence? We also need the government to take action against the workers or whoever was behind the mob activity that destroyed the property of Kaoway factory," he said, adding this was also a concern of buyers.



Garment worker Ngim Phaon, 24, recovers yesterday after a transport truck she was travelling in ran off National Road 4. HENG CHIVON



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