



The Phnom Penh Post

Celebrating 20 Years 1992 - 2012

www.phnompenhpost.com

ISSUE NUMBER 1377

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2012

Successful People Read The Post

4000 RIELS

Rice export outlook not good



BUSINESS PAGE 7

Pacman floors Olympic hopes



SPORT BACK PAGE



The body of Heng Chantha, 14, lies on a mat at her family's home in Kratie province yesterday. She was shot dead by heavily armed officials who opened fire on a group of about 1,000 families they were sent to evict from the province's Chhlong district. Two other villagers were injured during the confrontation. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Girl killed in eviction

May Tithara and David Boyle

Teenager gunned down by security forces

POLICE and military forces shot dead a 14-year-old girl yesterday when hundreds of heavily armed officers stormed a village in Kratie province and sprayed automatic gunfire during a forced eviction.

Two other people were injured and five were arrested during the clash with residents of Prama village, in Chhlong district's Kampong Damrei commune, some of whom were armed with crossbows or axes.

The killing of the teenager is just

the latest, but perhaps most shocking, incident in a bloody wave of violence that military forces have committed against activists and protesters this year.

Witnesses said that about 8:30 yesterday morning, hundreds of military police, supported by a helicopter, had stormed into the village, rounded people into separate groups and opened fire on them with automatic weapons.

Teang Kem Srin, 28, said the forces

had sprayed heavy automatic gunfire at them twice. On the second occasion, a bullet hit his 14-year-old sister, Heng Chantha, in the stomach.

"My sister was just doing something in my house, but she got hit in her stomach and she died along the way when I took her to get medical treatment at Snuol [district] hospital," Teang Kem Srin said.

His sister "knew nothing", he said, and called on Prime Minister Hun Sen to intervene.

The forces were ordered to evict the residents by a joint committee of Minister of Interior Sar Kheng, National Police chief Neth Savoeun and Kratie provincial governor Sar Cham Rong, which accused them of forming an autonomous state through a group called "Democratic Association".

But the residents of Prama village have been in a long-running land dispute with the company Casotim, which has an active 15,000-hectare agricultural economic land conces-

sion granted in 2007 near the area and a 124,284-hectare logging ELC that has been cancelled.

A military police officer who took part in the operation and spoke on condition of anonymity said they had been ordered to storm the village by the joint committee on behalf of Casotim and another company that he did not name.

He said his forces acted in self-defence against the armed villagers, who attacked a police officer last month.

"If we did not fire on them, they

Continues on page 2

WORK ON 32-STOREY DE CASTLE ROYAL SPEEDS UP



ប្រឹក្សាអចលនវត្ថុ INSIDE 16 pages

National

Girl killed in violent eviction

Continues from page 1

would have killed us, because we had experience one time already," he said, adding that they arrested five people, who he did not identify, but confirmed they failed to catch the group's leader, Bun Ratha.

On April 6, Bun Ratha was arrested for allegedly inciting villagers to destroy a Casotim office, but police released him four days later after hundreds of villagers repeatedly blocked national road 78.

In a statement released after the incident, the Ministry of Interior said it was looking to investigate and arrest Democratic Association leader Bun Ratha, 32, and masterminds Bun Chorn, 55, Sok Tong, 61, Ma Chang, 47, and Khat Saroeun, 42.

The five men are accused of six offences including fraudulently distributing land, kidnapping two soldiers, illegally blocking roads, nullifying villages, threatening village chiefs and preventing officials from registering citizens.

Sok Phany, 34, who fled the village with her two children before the shooting, said the forces had evicted everybody and set up a perimeter around



Two villagers armed with homemade weapons were arrested following a violent eviction, during which a 14-year-old girl was shot dead by officials, yesterday in Kratie province's Chhlong district. PHOTO SUPPLIED

it so no one could get in. "I have been living in that area for about seven years already, now they come to take my house and give the land to the company. They were very cruel to shoot on villagers like we are animals," she said.

She denied any plot to create an autonomous state and said now she was homeless.

Kratie governor Sar Cham Rong was upbeat about the success of the operation, which he said had foiled the "Democratic Association" – the so-called organisation the joint committee has alleged is behind a succession movement.

"A lot of villagers are happy

with our measures, and now we can control that area and other villagers had left from that area already," he said.

But he was sorry a teenage girl had been killed by a stray bullet that he said accidentally ricocheted into her.

Rights groups, the opposition and observers expressed disbelief that the military police had yet again fired on the public this year, just over three weeks after they gunned down environmental activist Chut Wutty.

Surya Subedi, the UN special rapporteur on human rights, who just wrapped up a trip to Cambodia where he investigated economic land concessions and evictions, said he was shocked.

"I am very concerned by this killing, which comes soon after the killing of Mr Chut Wutty. This is a very worrying trend indeed," he said.

Sam Rainsy Party lawmaker and human rights campaigner Mu Sochua said Prime Minister Hun Sen had completely lost control of the military and needed to face up, in person, to his people to explain.

"The prime minister has lost control of his power. He is not the powerful person that he thinks he is; he has lost his credibility, people don't listen to him anymore. No more lives should be wasted on a government that has

lost its credibility," she said. Mathieu Pellerin, a consultant with the rights group Licadho, said the situation had reached a new low. "It is turning out to be the most violent year ever when it comes to the use of lethal force against activism," he said.

In January, security guards dressed in military fatigues opened fire on a crowd of protesters in Kratie's Snuol district, injuring three people, one seriously.

In February, three female protesters were shot, one through the chest, at a protest outside a shoe factory in Svay Rieng province's Bavet town, allegedly by the town governor who was charged but never arrested.

Ek Tha, a spokesman at the Council of Minister's Quick and Press Reaction Unit, called the killing "heartbreaking" and said the culture of violence had to stop.

"It is time for Cambodian armed officials to think and think again and again before raising guns to shoot at [their] own blood, own people," he said, adding that villagers also needed to not protest violently.

Ly Hout, a representative of Casotim; Khieu Sopheak, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior; and Choung Seang Hak, Kratie provincial police chief, all declined to comment.

Death points up urgency of ELC review

Bridget Di Certo and Chhay Channyda

THE government needs to act – and act now – to review all economic land concessions, which underscore the Kingdom's dark disease of violent land disputes, rights groups said yesterday.

Ten days after Prime Minister Hun Sen signed a regulation for an immediate and indefinite moratorium on any new economic land concession grants and a review of all existing ones, a teenage girl, caught up in a protest over farmland, was shot and killed by military officials.

"This morning's [death] was linked to a conflict that arose from a land concession, and this further highlights the urgency of a review by the government of all land concession," Licadho consultant Mathieu Pellerin said.

"An honest review of all land concessions issued by the government whether technically labelled as economic land concessions or otherwise is necessary," Pellerin said. "These land concessions granted by the government have led to land conflict."

After the regulation was announced, which was determined by the Council of Ministers a day after the murder of forestry activist Chut Wutty, the *Post* contacted government officials to enquire about the implementation of the regulation.

At the time, officials did not have answers.

Yesterday, Minister of Agriculture Chan Sarun could not be contacted. Secretary of State Chan Tong Yve referred all questions to an under-secretary of

state at the department of planning and statistics.

The under-secretary, Ith Nody, could not be reached yesterday, while Chhay Sakun, deputy director of the department of planning and statistics in charge of economic land concessions, declined to comment and referred all questions about how the regulation would be implemented back to the ministry management level.

However, Council of Ministers' spokesman Ek Tha yesterday said that the regulation demonstrated Hun Sen's firm commitment to addressing the issue.

This morning's [death] ... highlights the urgency of a review by the government of all land concessions

"Recently, our Prime Minister issued a direct order to suspend ELCs, this shows the government commitment to pay more attention to the social needs of our people," Ek Tha said. "We all must respect and execute his policy for the benefit of our people and the nation as a whole."

Rights groups were initially sceptical of what change the regulation would introduce, with some labelling it a "political ploy".

Pellerin said yesterday's incident only added to doubts.

"The real issue here is whether the government has any will to do any type of real review," he said. "A 14-year-old girl dies less than 10 days after the issue of the regulation – it doesn't go very well to identifying whether there is any real will of the prime minister." ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY DAVID BOYLE



Villagers gather following a shooting incident in Prama village, Kampong Damrei commune, in Kratie province yesterday. PHOTO SUPPLIED

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal Web Design Competition

REGISTER NOW
www.sithi.org/webaward

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Monday, May 21 @ 5pm*

CONTEST DURATION
Friday, May 26 at 5:00pm until Thursday July 12th @ 5pm

KICK-OFF PRESENTATION/ORIENTATION WORKSHOP
Shortlist Candidate will be invited through email for a one day orientation workshop and submission work plan.

The Cambodian Human Rights Portal is a one-stop shop for individuals and organizations working to promote and protect human rights in Cambodia. CCHR has launched this competition to draw from the expertise and experience of website designers worldwide. Competitors will design a new user interface for the Portal and the winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$3,000 USD.

To learn more about our current website visit www.sithi.org

Organised by
Sithi Project of CCHR

Generously Supported by
Open Society Institute (OSI)

www.sithi.org

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE

STONEGRILL

Now Open!
The Hottest Concept in Dining

BELGIUM ON TAP, ONLY AT STONEGRILL!

Hoegaarden, Leffe, Stella Artois

#649, Preah Sisovath Quay, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: (+855) 10 626 272 / 23 999 950 | Fax: (+855) 23 999 951
www.stonegrill.com.kh

BEATOCELLO IN CONCERT

Jayavarman VII Hospital
(Kantha Bopha III)
Siem Reap Angkor

Every Saturday
7.15 pm

Dr. Beat Richner (BEATOCELLO)
plays Cello Music and informs about
the activities of the five
Kantha Bopha Children's Hospitals

Free admission



The Phnom Penh Post

Celebrating 20 Years 1992 - 2012

www.phnompenhpost.com

ISSUE NUMBER 1378

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012

Successful People Read The Post

4000 RIELS

UK to open investment office



BUSINESS PAGE - 7

Unexpected Champions League final



SPORT BACK PAGE



A soldier speaks yesterday to villagers being evicted from Kratie province's Chhlong district, the site of a deadly shooting incident on Wednesday. HENG CHIVOAN

Cops say pay docked for party politics

Kim Yuthana and Shane Worrell

THE ruling Cambodian People's Party has been accused of cutting the salaries of national police officers to help fund its political campaign ahead of the country's commune elections on June 3.

A police official at the National Police Commission's internal security department, who did not want to be named, told the *Post* yesterday that officers were being forced to "contribute" as much as 100,000 riel (US\$25) per month to the party.

The enforced deductions had begun last month and would continue until next year's general election, regardless of their political affiliations, he said.

"I'm not really happy with my money cut, because our salary - like other civil servants - is a small amount," he said. "It is not a good policy for the ruling CPP; they can find other ways to support the party."

The officer added that the contributions were being deducted on a sliding scale based on position, from as much as 100,000 riel per month for higher ranking posts, to 10,000 riel for ordinary officers.

Another police officer, who also asked not to be named, said he had been told the money would be used

Continues on page 4

Mourning villagers flee

May Titthara and David Boyle

HUNDREDS of people fled in fear yesterday from the village in Kratie province where a bloody security forces crackdown the previous morning left a 14-year-old girl dead.

Joint police and military police forces locked down the area where a land dispute has raged this year, and claimed they had arrested seven villagers accused of plotting a succession with the group Democratic Association.

On Wednesday, joint forces estimated to have numbered close to 1,000 moved in, firing on those who stood in their way, to evict about 1,000 families from Pro Ma village in Chhlong district's Damrei commune.

Fresh details emerged yesterday of what happened during the crackdown, which authorities have said was to capture the five masterminds of Democratic Association, including leader Bun Ratha, who has fled into hiding.

Pale-faced 44-year-old villager Pov Ban, who along with 10 others had taken refuge at an office of the rights

group Adhoc and was still visibly in shock, said before the forces moved in, residents were given no opportunity to leave.

"They warned us that if we dared to walk into this area [where we live], they would open fire. They sprayed gunfire at us to threaten us while we entered, meanwhile, a girl was injured in her stomach at her house," he said, referencing young Heng Chantha, who died after being shot.

Pov Ban said he was unaware of any plan by Bun Ratha to create an autonomous state, saying he had merely

attempted to help villagers in their dispute with the Russian company Casotim - which has a 15,000-hectare economic land concession about 15 kilometres from the village.

In a statement released yesterday, rights group Licadho said based on collated eyewitness accounts, forces had surrounded the village the night before the eviction, blocked off all access points and moved in the next morning, firing as they did.

The statement said 20 villagers broke away from a group of hundreds as forces moved in and confronted a column

of 15 soldiers who opened fire on them when they refused to stop moving.

"Admidst [sic] the gunfire, several villagers, including 14-year-old Heng Chantha, took cover outside Chantha's home. They took shelter on an elevated rattan bed, which was partially obscured by a pile of wood," the statement reads.

Licadho president Pung Chhiv Kek said a witness claimed a soldier approached the pile of wood and shot Heng Chantha when she got up to see

Continues on page 2



Sprinting to a dream
Brush strokes Village studios on the rise
On the menu Balinese delight
Comic twist News from the stage



National



A soldier prevents United Nations representatives from entering Prama village yesterday in Kratie province's Chhlong district, where a teenage girl was shot dead by soldiers on Wednesday. HENG CHIVOAN

Mourning villagers flee

Continued from page 2

what was happening. Heng Chantha later died in hospital.

Speaking from hiding, Bun Ratha said he had not measured any land to distribute to villagers but merely helped villagers submit documents to authorities in their dispute with Casotim.

"It seems ironic that I was alleged to have formed an autonomous area – how easily it was established. I did not have any money to buy weapons to make a movement," he said.

Bun Ratha said he had already been imprisoned once before, and authorities had tried to catch him "many times" between 2004 and 2012.

Anonymous Chhlong district military officials said they had so far caught seven male suspects since the shooting: Hen Thoeun, 31; Mao Veasna, 32; Khan Sovan, 54; Poum Vanak, 53; Sanh Khen, 27; Touch Ream, 48; and Khourn Srooun, whose age is unknown.

Independent political analyst Lao Mong Hay suggested there were parallels between the Kra-

tie dispute and the 1967 Samlaut uprising, a rebellion in Battambang preceding the Cambodian civil war that was brutally suppressed by government forces.

"That was the beginning of the revolution of the Khmer Rouge; it was about land as well, similar circumstances, land grabbing issues," he said.

Though villagers, after undergoing frisking and rigorous checks, were allowed to attend a funeral yesterday for Heng Chantha at Pro Ma village, rights groups, the press and even United Nations personnel were kept strictly away from the area.

When asked why people had been prevented from visiting the site, Ministry of Interior spokesman Khieu Sopheak said it was standard procedure to have a police line, which would likely be maintained for a short time only.

"I think that [it is] the police line, after the crime scene happened. We are working. ... Even in New York, they have police lines," he said.

The shooting is the latest in a wave of bloody violence this year

that has been used against activists and protesters fighting industrial disputes, land concessions or illegal logging.

As the shooting made headlines in the global media yesterday – largely because it comes just weeks after the slaying of prominent environmental activist Chut Wutty – international organisations condemned the violence.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said it had on several occasions in the past urged Cambodian authorities to prevent law enforcement officials from using excessive force.

"Yet another lethal event in such a short period of time is a really worrying and sad development," the UNOHCHR said in an email, adding their officials had been barred from investigating the scene but would meet the provincial governor today.

Global Witness, the US Embassy in Phnom Penh and the Cambodian Center for Human Rights were among the other groups to release statements condemning the killing. ■

Teachers to take leave and work in election

Stuart White and Meas Sokchea

TENS of thousands of teachers are expected to walk out of classrooms this month and take jobs working as officials in commune elections, campaigning for which begins today, says the National Election Committee.

According to Mom Soth, a director of training with the NEC, there are more than 116,000 jobs available, manning polling stations and election offices. An estimated 55 per cent of them will be filled by teachers, he said.

However, if NEC figures are correct, more than 60,000 teachers will be working on the election, some for a few months. By comparison, the Ministry of Education employed a total of about 94,000 teachers for the 2006-2007

school year, leading some to wonder whether Cambodia's educational system has the teachers to spare.

"If the NEC will try to take out teachers for a number of months, then of course it will affect the education of the students," said Eang Vuthy, a program manager for Bridges Across Borders, an NGO that deals with education advocacy.

"In Cambodia, we have a huge number of students in classrooms."

Mak Vann, a secretary of state with the Ministry of Education, said he wasn't familiar with the details of the matter, but that teachers' contributions to free elections were important, and their absences



A woman casts her ballot at a polling station at the base of the Preah Vihear temple in July 2008. REUTERS

wouldn't seriously impede student's learning.

"The classes are not closed," he said. "The classes will still run; [we] have plenty of replacement teachers."

"Otherwise, who is able to do these jobs?" he asked, noting that teachers are often the most qualified candidates in rural areas.

UNESCO statistics show that Cambodia has nearly 50 primary school students for every teacher, a figure more than twice as high as neighbouring Vietnam's, and three times as high as that of the United States. Theoretically, a smaller ratio of students to teachers, UNESCO materials say, "enables the teacher to pay more attention to individual students, which may in the long run result in a better performance of the pupils".

According to Eang Vuthy, now is an especially poor time

for teachers to be leaving their posts.

"In a few months, there will be high school exams, and normally, students need an extra class to prepare for the exam," he said. "But if the teachers are going to work for the NEC, then it will affect schools and students."

"This is not a good idea," he added.

Tep Nytha, secretary general of the NEC, says that overall demand for qualified election workers has grown, but teachers aren't specifically targeted for recruitment.

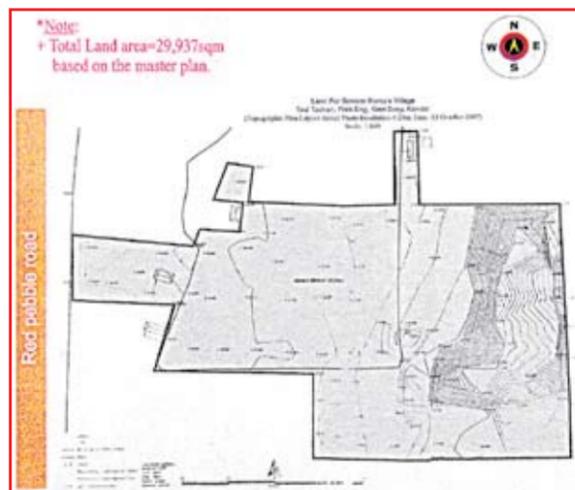
"The recruitment is open for the public to apply, not just teachers, but mainly teachers have the abilities to work for the NEC," he said. "And when they work for the NEC, they have to ask permission from their respective institutions, but the NEC isn't involved in that." ■

Land for immediate Sale

Location: About 700 meters off highway#1 and or about 70 meters off Tiger factory Road in Sangkat PrekEng of Khan Meachey, Phnom Penh. It is so peaceful and safe location. It is suitable for any resort or resident.

Price: \$ 63 per square meter but negotiable, Please call (855) 011 855 661 or 012 855 661 for more information.

Size: 29,937 m2



BEATOCELLO IN CONCERT

Jayavarman VII Hospital
(Kantha Bopha III)
Siem Reap Angkor

Every Saturday
7.15 pm

Dr. Beat Richner (BEATOCELLO)
plays Cello Music and informs about
the activities of the five
Kantha Bopha Children's Hospitals

Free admission



Mineral Analysing & Testing Center
Guangxi Nonferrous Metal
Group(Cambodia) Co.,Ltd

The first Mineral Analysing & Testing Center approved by Ministry of Industry Mines and Energy in Cambodia, with advanced precision instruments(Atomic absorption spectrophotometer, ICPE, Ultraviolet Spectrophotometer. etc) and experienced professional technical team, can provide mineral analysing and testing service to all sectors of the community.

Service including: Geological Samples Analysing, Dressing Products and Smelting Products Analysing, steel processing sample Analysing.

Contact:
(English) 097 3446508 Ms.Li
(Khmer) 023 650034 / 097 2127748 Ms.Zhang
(Chinese) 023 650034 / 097 2127748 Ms.Zhang

Agree or disagree? Got a comment?
SMS us your views. It's important.
Best each week wins a case of Kingdom
Beer. Every Week! SMS 012 635 239





The Phnom Penh Post

Celebrating 20 Years 1992 - 2012

www.phnompenhpost.com

ISSUE NUMBER 1374

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2012

Successful People Read The Post

4000 RIELS

Trade push towards China



BUSINESS PAGE 7

Drogba buries his demons



SPORT PAGE 24

Police raid 'extortion' racket

Buth Reaksmeay Kongkea

ANOTHER massive crackdown on Taiwanese and Chinese nationals accused of operating a Phnom Penh-based international extortion ring – the third in less than a year – yielded 49 arrests over the weekend, police said yesterday.

Lieutenant General Chhay Sinarith, director of the Internal Security Department at the Ministry of Interior, said the suspects, who were identified to Cambodian authorities by Chinese police, were arrested by his forces in raids on eight different sites in the Chamkarmorn, Tuol Kork and Sen Sok districts of Phnom Penh.

"This was the third time our Cambodian police have cracked down and arrested these Chinese mafia groups in Cambodia," Chhay Sinarith told the Post. "They were using VoIP [Voice over Internet Protocol, a type of internet phone service] from Cambodia to threaten and extort money from many people in China and Taiwan."

Authorities arrested nearly 200 suspected mafia members using the

Continues on page 4



Birds of remembrance

Phnom Penh Governor Kep Chuktema (fourth from the left) and his wife release birds at Choeng Ek yesterday for the Day of Anger. HONG MENEA

Story on page 4

The Kratie conspiracy

May Titthara

THE man police allege was behind a so-called secession plan in Kratie province – an accusation used to justify a crackdown in which a teenager was killed last week – plans to hold a press conference to defend himself in the next two days, his brother said yesterday.

Hundreds of heavily armed police and military police assisted by a helicopter stormed Pro Ma village in Chhlong district's Kampong Damrei commune on Wednesday and opened fire

Accused secessionist to meet with the press

on villagers with automatic weapons, killing 14-year-old Heng Chantha.

The Ministry of Interior said they ordered the operation because a group known as Democratic Association, which they alleged was led by Bun Ratha, was planning to create an independent state in the village.

Eight people have been arrested in connection with the accusations.

But villagers and an anonymous military police official involved in

the operation have said it was an eviction conducted on behalf of the company Casotim – which has a nearby 15,000-hectare economic land concession and long-running land dispute with the village.

Bun Thav, 22, said his older brother Bun Ratha – who is now in hiding – did not care if holding a press conference led to his arrest because he wanted to publicly clear his name.

"My older brother Bun Ratha is living

in a safe place, and he will be able to hold a press conference on Monday or Tuesday to demonstrate that the government allegation against him – he did not commit as alleged," he said.

"He had just been in the area from March 10, 2012, to May 6, 2012. How could he establish an autonomous area during that short period?" he said.

A 2000 International Monetary Fund staff country report listed the Cambo-

dian government as of June 2000 as a 20 per cent stakeholder in Casotim, the rest of which was Russian-owned.

Officials from the Ministry of Economy and Finance could not be reached to confirm whether or not the government still had a stake in Casotim.

Ministry of Interior spokesman Khieu Sopheak alleged in a statement released on the same day as the crackdown, that there were four other Democratic Association ringleaders: Bun Chhorn, 55, Sok Tong, 61, Ma Chhang, 47, and Khat

Continues on page 2



អត្រាការប្រាក់កាន់តែប្រសើរ ប្រាក់សន្សំកាន់តែកើន
A Better Rate to Grow Your Savings

023 220 102
prasac.com.kh | info.pp@prasac.com.kh



National

Going Gaga over morality

Regional Insider
Roger Mitton



IT may seem that chaos in Europe is about to bring down the global financial order and that rising tensions in the South China Sea presage warfare in our backyard.

But set aside the offshore aggro and Eurozone turmoil for a moment and focus instead on the more intriguing Eroszone, which has suddenly become a focus of attention, particularly in the Philippines and Indonesia.

Although these are green and pleasant lands of largely tolerant, friendly people, they both harbour a minority of religious extremists who routinely take umbrage at any display of sexuality, visual or vocal.

Over the past week, these divinely blessed folks have been raising a stink at the prospect of the bisexual singer and provocateur, Lady Gaga, staging her "Born this Way" concert in their capital cities.

Gaga, an Italian-American whose actual name is Stefani

Germanotta, is scheduled to play in Manila tonight and tomorrow, and then, after more gigs in Bangkok and Singapore, to strut her stuff in Jakarta on June 3.

Why the objections and raucous protests? Because Gaga and her promoters have choreographed her stage show to stimulate precisely this kind of outrage.

She's no dumb broad. She's loud. She's in your face. She's like a triple espresso laced with flaming cognac.

As a chart-topping singer who writes most of her own material, Gaga has garnered global fame by the well-worn path of being as crudely provocative as is legally possible.

In the Philippines, which is 80 per cent Catholic, and Indonesia, 86 per cent Muslim, Gaga's sexually brazen and religiously insensitive lyrics and outfits have ruffled feathers, just as they are intended to do.

Her Manila show will go ahead tonight provided, say

the authorities, it does "not exhibit any nudity or lewd conduct, which may be offensive to morals and good customs" in the Philippines.

If you wish to check on these morals and good customs, pop into any of the bars along Burgos Street in Makati near the concert location in the Mall of Asia, or perhaps take a short journey to Fields Avenue in Angeles.

There you will discover conduct of such an extreme lewdness that it might even make Lady Gaga revise her routine.

And your visit will also reveal that most patrons are Filipino males, all of good Catholic stock, of course.

Meantime, over in Jakarta, the city police have refused to issue a permit for Gaga's concert due, they claim, to objections from community leaders, including the august National Ulema Council.

As well, but more regrettably, activists belonging to the Front for the Defence of Islam have said they are "ready to be thrown in jail and be killed" if that's what it takes to stop Gaga.

They assert that she is the "devil's messenger" and that she appears on stage wearing only "a bra and panties" – a vision far worse to them

than a video of Daniel Pearl having his head cut off.

Well, ho hum, it seems the force is with them – or at least, the fear.

A few Gaga groupies have come out online, effectively waving their knickers in the ether and saying they are also willing to die if that's what it takes to allow her to perform in Jakarta.

But no one believes them, whereas based on past actions, everyone believes the FDI.

Truth to tell, most Indonesians almost certainly couldn't care less one way or the other, although, like their Filipino counterparts, they would like more action taken against religious and political leaders who transgress.

As revelations in recent times have shown, far too many Catholic bishops and Muslim mullahs have been getting away with the most appalling kind of lewd behaviour, often involving the sexual abuse of minors.

What is galling is the hypocrisy of these people and their followers, who express bogus horror at any hint of sexual permissiveness, including Lady Gaga's concert, yet engage it in themselves.

rogermitton@gmail.com

Handcuffed men flee scene after stabbing

May Titthara

TWO members of the Disabled Survivors' Association were on the run last night – possibly in handcuffs – after allegedly stabbing two villagers before fleeing in the latest chapter of a long-running land dispute in Kam-pot's Chhouk district.

Village representative Moul Sroeung, 39, said an altercation had occurred in Techo An-long Khmeng Leng village after the two villagers had tried to prevent two members of the association from tending to crops on 20 hectares of disputed land.

"The villagers told them the land belongs to them, but the two members of the association took knives to cut them, severely wounding them," she said.

"The dispute has existed since 2007. Authorities have promised they would settle the dispute, but they haven't."

Seng Thav, 49, who received head, leg and chest injuries in the attack, and Sroeung Yan, 49,

whose hand was injured, were recovering in Kampong Speu provincial hospital last night.

Villager Cheam Roeung said police and military police had arrested and handcuffed two men who later ran away while still handcuffed.

Touch Soeu Ly, president of the Disabled Survivors' Association, said he did not know what sparked the incident, but suggested the villagers may have hit the association members, who are not disabled former soldiers themselves.

The association, which was awarded the tract as a social land concession for injured soldiers, had in turn given it to two former military men, a gesture that had been recognised by authorities, he said.

"The villagers have occupied the members' land for a long time, and the issue is yet to be settled."

Chhouk district governor Him Ham said his authorities are investigating the case. ■

Villagers vs bulldozers

Khouth Sophak Chakrya

ONE hundred and thirty-five ethnic Kouy families from the Brame, Srae Preang and Bos Tom villages in Preah Vihear's Tbeng Meanchey district gathered on Saturday and yesterday to protest the Lan Feng Company's alleged bulldozing of their farmland.

Phan Suket, 23, the representative of the 135 families, said that Lan Feng Company employed 10 bulldozers to level their farmland – consisting of one roughly 600-square-metre plot per family – to make way for a sugar plantation.

"Their [the Kouy's] living is dependent on cultivation, but now the company bulldozed their farmland," he said. "So how do our next generations

survive without farmland?" Khan Chern, one of the Kouy villagers from Brame village, said that nearly a half-hectare of his farmland was bulldozed and taken without payment, and that the bulldozers only stopped after villagers went to ask local authorities to intervene.

Pich Theara, 42, one of Lan Feng Company's two foremen who allegedly levelled the area, denied bulldozing any of the villagers' farmland.

"I was employed to bulldoze the company's land, an area 20 metres wide and 5,500 metres long, but I accidentally drove the car across their rice field," he said. "We neither damaged their plants, nor their rice field, because they had not been ploughed or sowed." ■

Accused secessionist to meet press

Continues from page 1

Saroeun, 42. All of them have thus far evaded arrest.

Kratie provincial court deputy prosecutor Nong Thuch Banchak Santepheap said yesterday that eight other suspects had been arrested since the operation began and were being held temporarily in jail for questioning.

"I do not remember what they were accused of, because

they were charged with four or five cases," he said.

Police have said the eight male suspects being detained are Touch Riem, 33, Kan Sovann, 54, Pom Vannak, 24, Poan Sroeun, 32, Mao Veasna, 33, Hang Phal, 48, Heng Thoeun, 31, and Sa Roeun, 24.

Heng Srey Mom, the older sister of Heng Chantha, said the 14-year-old was innocent of any crime and yet had been shot dead.

"When we heard the sound of explosions [gunfire], myself and my sister knelt down below the house together, but my sister was shot," she said. "I would like to call for the government to find justice for my younger sister, because she should not have been killed like an animal."

Kratie provincial governor Sar Chamrong refused to comment on Sunday because he said he was too busy.

Chan Sovet, an investigator for the rights group Adhoc, said the area – which was closed to human rights groups and the United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights – remained under police lockdown yesterday.

"We are concerned about armed forces who try to arrest the villagers that want to live in the area, and have asked the authorities to stop continually apprehending them," he said. ■

ROOMCHANG
DENTAL & AESTHETIC HOSPITAL
ISO 9001:2008 | certified

"International standard quality dentistry with uncompromising attention to detail"

☎ 023 211 338 ☎ 011 811 338 (Emergency)
✉ hospital@roomchang.com 🌐 www.roomchang.com
📍 No.4, St.184, Phsar Thmey 3, Daun Penh, 12210, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Irrigation Engineer (re-advertised)
> Join a global leader committed to achieving sustainable development

The Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program (CAVAC) is a large agricultural development program which is an Australian Government, AusAID initiative. It focuses on ensuring accelerated growth in the value of agricultural production and smallholder income in the rice-based farming systems of targeted provinces through agribusiness development, water management, research and extension and improving the business enabling environment. The Program is based in Phnom Penh and operates in the provinces of Takeo, Kampong Thom and Kampot.

CAVAC is a dynamic organisation seeking highly qualified people to contribute to agricultural development in Cambodia with the following experience:

- > Extensive experience in agricultural development
- > A Masters degree in a relevant field
- > Relevant professional experience in irrigation
- > High level technical and analytical skills in engineering
- > Experience in all project cycle activities from scheme selection and feasibility study to design and construction
- > Fluent in English and Khmer (written and spoken)
- > Excellent interpersonal and general communication skills in Khmer and English
- > Ability to work with minimum supervision in a multi-cultural environment

Please note that the rate of pay will be based on local labour standards.
A copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained by contacting Mr Chhun C. Tate at the CAVAC office on +855 (0)23 218 310 or chhuncate@cavack.org.
Cardno is committed to Child Protection in all fields. Cardno is an equal opportunity employer.
The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest, addressing the criteria stated in the TOR and the provision of CVs is by 3.00pm on 25 May 2012.

Australian Aid – managed by
Cardno on behalf of AusAID
www.cardno.com/emergingmarkets

UNAKRT
United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Vacancy Announcement Number: 2012/NOB/DSS/07

Functional Title and Grade **Associate Case Officer (NO-B) (3 positions)**

Department/Service Defence Support Section, UNAKRT

Remuneration: Starting from US\$ 26,539 net per annum depending on relevant background and experience.

Duration: Appointment against this position is limited to the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT). The initial appointment will be for a period of one year with a possible extension. Filling of the post and subsequent extension is subject to approval and availability of funds.

Deadline for Applications **8 June 2012**

For more details, visit our web site:
http://www.unakrt-online.org/06_recruitment.htm



The Phnom Penh Post

Celebrating 20 Years 1992 - 2012

www.phnompenhpost.com

ISSUE NUMBER 1380

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012

Successful People Read The Post

4000 RIELS

> Spurs sweep Clippers but the Heat get level



SPORT
BACK PAGE



Women in upper union positions vital

Shane Worrell and Mom Kunthea

FEMALE union leaders in the garment industry – where women constitute 90 per cent of the work force – are effective at bargaining for better working conditions, but their voices aren't being heard in a union landscape dominated by men, a labour expert said yesterday.

Veasna Nuon, co-author of *Building Unions in Cambodia: History, Challenges, Strategies*, said even in factories where women are elected as union leaders, they are often unable to effect much change because bargaining usually takes place further up the union chain, where men hold most positions of power.

"In terms of union representation, there are more women at a lower level," he said. "But the number of women elected at federation level is less than 10 per cent," he said. "They have . . . almost nothing when it comes to national representation . . . men are making decisions for women."

Cambodia's garment industry has an estimated 400,000 employees working in hundreds of factories. But while the vast majority of these workers are women, little more than half of elected union representatives at the factory level are female, Veasna Nuon said.

One of these union leaders is Ti Sok-hun, a 36-year-old garment worker who works at a factory in Phnom Penh.

After seven years of frustration at

Insuring a good view

Men attend the opening ceremony of a new insurance company at Canadia Tower yesterday in Phnom Penh. HENG CHIVAN

Story - page 7

Continues on page 2

Tales of brutality surface

May Titthara

VILLAGERS detained during a bloody crackdown in Kratie province last week in which a 14-year-old was shot dead have accused security forces of brutal acts of cruelty, including forcing pregnant women to stand naked in the sun for hours.

The villagers from Pro Ma village in Chhlong district's Kampong Damrei commune have alleged that military police and police forced men and women to strip naked,

Women stripped, handcuffed: Kratie villagers

handcuffed them and left the females in broad daylight for hours while the males were not freed until the end of the day.

Almost 1,000 police and military police officers stormed the village, where residents have a longstanding land dispute with the company Casotim, at about 8:30am last Wednesday in an operation they said was to arrest the ringleaders of a group attempting to create a

mini autonomous state. Sotheavy, a 19-year-old who requested her real name be concealed, said she had "never seen such brutality" as the violence the forces employed while storming the village of about 1,000 families – which led to the death of 14-year-old Heng Chantha.

"It is so difficult to forget the event. They pointed their guns at me and ordered many women to take their shirt and underwear off, then seized

our money and tied our hands behind us and ordered us to stand in broad daylight for two or three hours," she said.

Sopheap, 63, who also requested her real identity be concealed, said the villagers would file a complaint against the perpetrators.

"I experienced Pol Pot's regime, but it was not as cruel as this. Now that I've tasted being handcuffed and bound in the hot daylight, if I had land

in another place, I would not live in the area," she said.

Kratie provincial governor Sar Chamrong – who took the post on Friday, replacing recently deceased governor Kham Phem – said the forces had only been authorised to search for weapons.

"If the forces hit, harassed and forced people to undress, it is not a policy," he said.

The operation, ordered by a joint committee of the Ministry of Interior, the national police and the provincial

Continues on page 2



National

Women in upper union positions vital: expert

Continued from page 1

issues her co-workers faced, Ti Sokhun decided last year it was time for change.

"I couldn't stand to see female workers constantly threatened and looked down upon by factory officials," she said.

"I asked my fellow workers if they would support me to be their leader in the factory, even though I didn't particularly want to do it."

Ti Sokhun stormed to victory in an internal Cambodian Federation for Workers' Rights leadership vote in October to become her factory's first female union representative.

It was only then she began to notice things change for women – and even men – in her factory.

"The difference between before I was union leader and after was enormous," she said.

"The factory officials, who had not paid attention to our demands before, began to listen. They stopped threatening workers, so more joined the union – now we have more freedom, attendance bonuses and other things."

Achieving major changes that would affect the whole industry are much more difficult to achieve, Veasna Nuon said.

"At a factory level, it is more democratic than at a national level," he said. "[At a national level], there are so many issues that are not met," he said. "It's very broad."

Perpetuating the problem were barriers preventing women from climbing the union ladder.

"The union job is not an easy job. People have competing interests, it's long hours, voluntary, and [many women] have family commitments and often no support from their families to become a union leader at this level," he said.

Dave Welsh, country director of the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, said the industry faces a huge challenge in getting women more involved in the labour movement at all levels.

"There needs to be more gender diversity," he said.

"Just from a morale point of view, if you're looking across the trade union movement and thinking: 'We're all women. Why aren't any of us in leadership positions?' then it's an issue."

"There are certain issues that require gender sensitivity – there are certain issues embedded in



Garment workers make athletic apparel at a factory in Phnom Penh's Meanchey district last year. WILL BAXTER

the labour law that require gender sensitivity."

Under Cambodia's Labour Law, factories must allow women to breast feed, they must provide them Western toilets and they cannot order them to lift heavy boxes if they have recently given birth or miscarried. Protection from sexual harassment is also clearly spelled out.

In his book with Melisa Serano published in 2010, Veasna

Nuon wrote that Cambodia's labour movement was "essentially a women's movement under male leadership".

"It would augur well for unions to adopt policies and strategies that would enhance women's participation of women in union activities."

"I don't think anything has changed since then," he said yesterday.

Rong Chhun, president of the

Cambodian Confederation of Unions, said he encouraged such participation within his confederation. "We need to have more women union leaders, because more than 90 per cent of garment workers are women. If their leaders are women, they can easily understand women's issues," he said.

Women are often lacking inside knowledge of how unions work and are therefore not con-

fidant when it comes to being involved, he said.

"We need to [nurture] their leadership and [encourage participation]," he said.

Ti Sokhun will be one person relieved when more of her co-workers become involved in the union movement.

"Sometimes I feel tired and I want to abandon this work, but I think there will be no one else to help the workers," she said. ■

Ieng Sary health woes prompt adjournment

Bridget Di Certo

FORMER Khmer Rouge Minister for Foreign Affairs Ieng Sary has been undergoing emergency treatment for bronchitis since Thursday, according to a medical report read aloud at the Khmer Rouge tribunal yesterday.

Judges adjourn proceedings until Wednesday, when they will hear from doctors who have been treating the octogenarian at the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital since his evacuation to the facility.

"Having read the report that clearly indicates that Ieng Sary cannot be discharged from the hospital until [Tuesday], the chamber now decided that [Monday and Tuesday] proceedings cannot go on," Trial Chamber president Nil Nonn said.

Ieng Sary defence counsel Michael Karnavas told the court that he had been blocked from visiting his client in hospital.

"It would be good if the lawyers were informed about his medical condition. Normally, we are not; normally, we are kept in the dark," Karnavas said of his client, who has been hospitalised several times since his detention at the tribunal began in 2007.

Speaking to the *Post* by telephone yesterday, Karnavas said that he had visited his client at the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital – some-



Former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister Ieng Sary attends a hearing at the ECCC in 2010. ECCC/POOL/MAK REMISSA

thing previously barred by Calmette Hospital.

"My impression is that my client is probably best to have the week off and rest," Karnavas said. "And there will be no waiver [of his right to be present at trial] provided for witnesses testifying to his case particularly."

Karnavas said the former diplomat was very active in his defence and gave lawyers guidance and advice during proceedings.

"With his present condition, we don't know yet how capable he is to follow proceedings," Karnavas said. "If he falls asleep in the holding cell, that is not active participation."

"That would be nothing but a charade to suggest that he is following the proceedings." ■

Open Society Justice Initiative trial monitor Clair Duffy said the decision to adjourn was "absolutely correct".

"We are exploring issues of policies, and authority over individuals. It is very hard for the Trial Chamber to proceed without him," Duffy said.

"If this unravels over a period of time, there might be other measures the court needs to consider, like severing him from the proceedings, and that will come down to what his health conditions are and how likely they are to worsen," she added.

Ieng Sary's wife, Ieng Thirith, has already been severed from proceedings in Case 002 for health reasons. The "first lady of the regime" has been diagnosed with dementia believed to be caused by Alzheimer's. ■

Tales of brutality surface in Kratie

Continued from page 1

governor, was launched under the pretext that a group called the Democratic Association, led by Bun Ratha, was provoking a separatist movement.

But villagers have repeatedly said Bun Ratha, who evaded arrest along with the four other alleged ringleaders of the group, was merely helping them stand up to the company Casotim.

Eight people have been arrested as a result of the crackdown.

Touch Sok, 52, alleged that during the operation, forces had also confiscated rice and gasoline as well as slaughtered their poultry. "I seem defeated, but if I am not allowed to live in the area, where can I live to farm and feed myself? I have to return to the area when the situation becomes normal," he said.

Sar Chamrong said forces had begun pulling out of the area but that some would remain to protect the safety of some 200 fami-

lies that had lived in the area since 2006.

Others who had migrated to the area from Kampong Cham and other provinces after being tricked by Bun Ratha had been sent home, he said.

But a 2010 Phd thesis suggests their migration there had been economically motivated.

Titled *The Geographies of Evasion: The Development Industry and Property Rights Interventions in Early 21st Century Cambodia*, the thesis found that significant numbers of migrants, most from Kampong Cham, had moved to Chhlong district after Casotim was awarded a logging concession there and in Snuol district.

Part of the thesis, by Robin Bidulph of Sweden's University of Gothenburg, examines the impact that Casotim's 124,000-hectare logging concession, granted in the 1990s, had on the local population.

The thesis found the conces-

sion had led to industrial-scale logging in Chhlong and Snuol districts where officials responsible for the forest became "far more ambivalent".

"Anyone with a tractor or truck that could carry felled trees from the forest to the Mekong was able to pay a fee to Casotim to go into the forests, cut wood, and then sell it to the company. As many as 50 locally owned tractors and trucks participated in this business," the thesis reads.

Villagers had developed the perception that the military and the Forestry Administration, which had become the equivalent of informal regulators and tax collectors, worked for the concessionaires, the thesis found.

"For the villagers, these soldiers were known simply as the 'Casotim soldiers,'" it says, referring specifically to the military.

Ly Hout, a representative of Casotim declined to comment yesterday. ■



Villagers are forced to leave Pro Ma village, in Kratie province's Chhlong district last week, during a military-led eviction which resulted in the killing of a 14-year-old girl. HENG CHIVON

'Outsiders' denied right to vote

May Tithara and David Boyle
Kratie

JUST under three weeks ago, residents in Pro Ma village were running for their lives as security forces opened fire on them with automatic weapons, killing a 14-year-old girl.

About 1,000 police, military police and soldiers stormed their village, fired at them indiscriminately, evicted hundreds of families and has maintained a significant presence ever since.

As the most recent victims in a series of violent crackdowns against communities protesting against land encroachments in Kratie province, their vote in yesterday's commune elections could have been telling.

But about 180 families in Pro Ma village, which lies inside Chhlong district's Kampong Damrei commune in an area that has been deforested as far as the eye can see, are not even considered residents and thus do not have the right to vote.

Duch Kunthear, 60, who came to Pro Ma in 2006 from Takeo province during a wave of migration to the remote village, said yesterday he had been waiting ever since for the acting village chief to formally recognise him as a resident.

"I don't want anybody looking down on us any more, because we have lived here since a long time ago. They should allow us to vote," he said.



Houy Lai Hin (centre), the mother of Heng Chantha, who was shot dead by security forces last month in Kratie province, speaks to the *Post* yesterday. DAVID BOYLE

The migrants to Pro Ma established three sub-villages: Chhak Dambang point, Andong Chrov and Sre Chin Phoeng. None of these villages have been officially recognised, stoking anxiety that they will be brutally evicted, just as about 200 other families, deemed "newcomers", were on May 16.

The operation was conducted on the pretext of foiling a secessionist plot, but villagers and rights groups alleged it was a forced eviction ordered by the government on behalf of the logging and agro-business firm Casotim.

Military police have maintained a heavy presence in the area since the operation and many, such as 19-year-old Moeun Rin, are nervous that having migrated, they still have no formal recognition as voting citizens.

"I've lived here since I was 12, but my commune chief did not recognise me. The reason I want to vote is because I want to show other people I am safe and I will not be forcibly evicted from my village as [others were] the previous time," he said.

Chheng Chhat, the deputy chief of

Kampong Damrei commune, said there were 264 families registered in Pro Ma village and 180 who had yet to be recognised.

"I have requested for those families to the provincial governor already, and I hope that next election they can vote," he said.

Im Many, Kratie observer for the election monitoring group Comfrel, said about 40 per cent of registered voters in the province had forfeited their right, largely because they were migrants who had no identity card, were confused about voting or simply had no will to.

In Pro Ma, the only people who were allowed to vote were the families that originally settled there after the Khmer Rouge in what is known as Old Pro Ma village, which was not attacked during the May 16 crackdown.

Lai Hit comes from one of those families. Like everyone else in the area, he had no intention of revealing which party he voted for, but said he was well equipped to make a good choice.

"If they do not do what they promised – they said they would reduce corruption – I will not support them any more, because it is my right," Lai Hit said.

Unofficial results yesterday suggested the ruling Cambodian People's Party had won all 46 positions as commune chief in Kratie province.

Cambodia's main opposition, the Sam Raisy Party, picked up 70 council seats, while the royalist Norodom Ran-ariddh Party won just two. ■

Radio daze Stations put kibosh on poll news

HOSTS of a radio show scheduled to broadcast commune election news yesterday were forced to play music instead after pressure from the government, its spokesman told the *Post*.

Pa Nguon Teang, executive director of the Cambodian Centre for Independent Media, said Voice of Democracy, an independent media outlet, had planned to broadcast election news on Sarika FM 106.5 in Phnom Penh and Angkor Ratha FM 95.5 in Siem Reap.

Management of both stations, however, intervened to stop the content being aired.

"The ministry said all broadcasts of the election were not allowed. They said it was a National Election Committee regulation for two days," he said, adding that the Phnom Penh station had aired music, while the Siem Reap station closed for the day.

A spokesman from Angkor Ratha said the station's transmitter had been damaged.

Information Minister Khieu Kanharith and Sarika executives could not be reached.

SHANE WORRELL

TO REACH THE TOP CHOOSE SMART MOBILE

To be the best, you've got to move! Like music, you've got to reach out and touch lives. It's all about having the right connections. That's why I choose Smart Mobile!



AOK SOKUNKANHA
Famous Singer

010 070 093
069 086 098

More Info:
888 or 010 200 888
www.smart.com.kh

Smart
mobile