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The King Presided Over the Water Festival Ceremony

Phnom Penh, October 30, 2009 AKP —

Cambodia celebrated a three-day Water Festival on Nov. 01-03 in the Tonle Sap River in front of the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh.

His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni presided over the water festival ceremony

There are as many as 391 racing boats with more than 25,384 crew members from 18 provinces and cities across Cambodia participating in the event, according to Chea Khean, deputy general secretary of the Committee for National and Festivals.

He adding, nine decorative lighted boats from public institutions, including Royal Palace, National Assembly, Senate, Government, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Tourism, and Phnom Penh City Hall, attended the event. Phnom Penh City Hall's decorative lighted boat, which was established to celebrate 575th Birthday of Phnom Penh City, also joined the Festival, which began on Sunday and ran through Tuesday night.

In this event, Phnom Penh city received more than 2 millions people from provinces across the country and abroad.

The Water Festival this year was presided over by His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, Senate President Samdech Akka Moha Thamma Pothisal Chea Sim, National Assembly President Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, and Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.—AKP

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Cambodian Prime Minister Leaves for Attending First Mekong-Japan Summit in Japan

Phnom Penh, November 5, 2009 AKP—

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen left here today morning to participate in the first Mekong-Japan Summit from Nov.6 to 7 in Tokyo.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen and Lok Chumteav Bun Rany Hun Sen.

A high delegation led by the Cambodia premier includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, and Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh...

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French Environment and Energy Minister Visits Cambodia

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, meets here on October 30 with H.E. Jean Louis BORLOO, Senior Minister and Minister of Ecology, Energy, Durable Development and Sea Affairs, in charge of Green Technologies and Negotiations of Climate of the Republic of France.

On the occasion, H.E. Jean Louis BORLOO briefed Cambodian top diplomat that his visit to Cambodia is to learn more about the climate change issue, which is part of his preparations to attend the upcoming summit in Denmark.

H.E. Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (right) and H.E. Jean Louis BORLOO, Senior Minister and Minister of Ecology, Energy, Durable Development and Sea Affairs (left).

In reply, H.E. Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said that the upcoming summit in Denmark on the climate change is very important. He also asked all industrialized countries to do their best in reducing the climate change as well as help provide the technologies to the developing countries.

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Cambodia Recalls Cambodian Ambassador to Thailand

Phnom Penh, November 6, 2009 AKP —

Cambodia has decided to recall Cambodian Ambassador to Thailand in response to the withdrawal of Thai ambassador to Cambodia.

In copies of a news release available to reporters in a press conference given here yesterday evening by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Minister Sok An, the statement said:

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers Sok An talk reporters at a press conference.

"In response to the recall of His Excellency Prasas Prasavinnitchai, ambassador-designate of Thailand to Cambodia, today by the Royal Thai Government, the Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to recall Her Excellency You Ay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Thailand."

"The Royal Government of Cambodia will send its ambassador back to Thailand to resume her work only after Thailand sends its ambassador-designate back to Cambodia."

"To reciprocate the recall of Thailand's ambassador-designate, the Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to recall its ambassador temporarily but this will not affect the relationship between peoples of both countries, especially those who live long the Thai-Cambodia border and cross border movement will continue as normal."

"Thailand's actions do not come as a surprise to Cambodia due to the fact that the Thai Yellow-Shirt protestors have been protesting outside the Royal Embassy of Cambodia for some time already and have been demanding the recall of their ambassador-designate to Cambodia."...

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PRESS RELEASE
BY
THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA

His Excellency Mr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, announced at a press conference on 5 November 2009 at 8:30 pm, that in response to the recall of His Excellency Prasas Prasavinitchai, ambassador-designate of Thailand to Cambodia, today by the Royal Thai Government, the Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to recall Her Excellency You Ay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Thailand.

The Royal Government of Cambodia will send its ambassador back to Thailand to resume her work only after Thailand sends its ambassador-designate back to Cambodia.

To reciprocate the recall of Thailand's ambassador-designate, the Royal Government of Cambodia has decided to recall its ambassador temporarily but this will not affect the relationship between peoples of both countries, especially those who live along the Thai-Cambodia border and cross border movement will continue as normal.

Thailand's actions do not come as a surprise to Cambodia due to the fact that the Thai Yellow-Shirt protestors have been protesting outside the Royal Embassy of Cambodia for some time already and have been demanding the recall of their ambassador-designate to Cambodia.

If the Royal Thai Government decides to appoint His Excellency Sam Rainsy as an adviser, Cambodia would be pleased with such decision because a Cambodian would have been chosen to serve in the Thai government. Cambodia would like Thailand to be equally open-minded and therefore the Royal Thai government should not be displeased with the appointment of H.E. Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra as advisor to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia, and as advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia.

It caused more suffering and hurt for the Cambodian people when Thai soldiers intruded and set up camps in Cambodia territory around Preah Vihear areas which were clearly defined and internationally recognized by the Hague 1962 Judgment of the ICJ. Thailand claimed that Cambodia invaded Thai territory based on its secret and unilateral map without either legal basis nor recognition by the international community.

The inscription of the Temple of Preah Vihear on the World Heritage List is a purely cultural affair and the Temple legally belongs to Cambodia, but the Royal Thai Government has obstructed and now continues to disturb the noble tasks of UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee by creating unnecessary problems.

PHNOM PENH, 5 November 2009

Cambodia Is Allowed to Enter the World's Heritage Committee of UNESCO

Phnom Penh, October 27, 2009 AKP —

Cambodia has been allowed to enter the World's Heritage Committee of UNESCO in an election held at the 17th meeting of 186-member states of 1972 convention on the world's natural and cultural patrimony protection in Paris, France.

In a message written today by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen to compatriots across the country, he said that it is another new pride as Cambodia was elected to become a member of the World's Heritage Committee.

He said the new achievement gained was ascribed to the great efforts made by the royal government in its commitment to contributing to preserving the world's and national cultural properties.The Cambodian premier appreciated the both legislative bodies' leaders, historic and cultural scholars, civil societies, and local and foreign media for making a contribution to a strategic process of the election...

To be continued to page 5

Cambodia, Korea Sign Cooperation Agreements

Phnom Penh, October 26, 2009 AKP —

The Bilateral Agreement on the Co-Production of Broadcasting Programmes and the MoU on the Cooperation on T-DMB between the Cambodian Ministry of Information and Korea Communications Commission, and the Mutual Cooperation Agreement on T-DMB Trial Service between the National Television of Cambodia (TVK) and the Korea Radio Promotion Association (RAPA) have been signed.

Cambodian Information Minister H.E. Khieu Kanharith and visiting Chairman of Korea Communications Commission H.E. Choi See-joong signed here the agreements on Oct. 23.

Korean Ambassador to Cambodia Lee Kyung-soo was also present on the occasion.

The signing ceremony was followed by the delivering ceremony of Broadcasting Equipments and Contents to TVK by Korea Communications Commission under the presidency of H.E. Khieu Kanharith and H.E. Choi See Joong.

On the same day, the MoU on oil cooperation between the Cambodian National Petroleum Authority and the Korea National Oil Corporation and the MoU on rice production were signed by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Sok An, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers and President of the National Petroleum Authority, and H.E. Choi Kyung-hwan, South-Korean Minister of Knowledge Economy.

The Cambodian prime minister said thanks to the MoUs, Korea will help Cambodia in the exploration of oil and gas and the export of Cambodian high-quality rice to the international markets…

To be continued to page 6

International Federation of Red Cross Praises Cambodia's Efforts in Helping Ketsana's Victims

Phnom Penh, October 22, 2009 AKP —

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRCRC) Country Representative Mr. Vincent Toutain, highly praised Cambodia for its timely response in helping typhoon Ketsana's victims.

This was made known here on Oct. 20 in a meeting between Lok Chumteav Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross and Mr. Vincent Toutain.

On the occasion, Vincent Toutain also bid farewell to Lok Chumteav upon completion of his 15-month mission in Cambodia.

For her parts, Lok Chumteav Bun Rany Hun Sen deeply thanked Mr. Toutain for his fruitful mission in Cambodia. She further said that through his mission in Cambodia, he has further enhanced the ties of friendship and cooperation between CRC and IFRCRC. —AKP

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National Assembly Ratifies ASEAN Economic Cooperation Agreements with China and S. Korea

Phnom Penh, October 20, 2009 AKP —

The National Assembly ratified two remaining ASEAN economic cooperation agreements last Friday.

Ninety-six of 98 lawmakers present voted for the ASEAN-China economic cooperation agreement, while the ASEAN-Republic of Korea economic cooperation agreement was unanimously approved.

Earlier on Oct. 15, the National Assembly also ratified the ASEAN comprehensive investment agreement and the ASEAN-Japan economic partnership agreement.

H.E. Kong Vibol, secretary of state for the Ministry of Economy and Finance, said the ratification of these agreements is very important because the Cambodian premier will work on it with other countries in the upcoming ASEAN Summit to be held on Oct. 23-25 in Thailand. These new agreements will also attract more foreign direct investment to Cambodia in the context of global financial crisis. —AKP

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Vietnam, Cambodia Encourage Border Provinces To Enhance Cooperation

Phnom Penh, November 6, 2009 AKP —

Cambodian Consul General in HCM City Luon Kim Khuon has reaffirmed the Vietnamese and Cambodian Governments' pledge to create the most favourable conditions for bilateral cooperation in economics, culture, communications and tourism development, according to Vietnamese News Agency (VNA).

At a meeting to mark Cambodia's 56th National Day (Nov. 9) in HCM City on Nov. 5, Consul General Luon Kim Khuon said that the two countries consider trade promotion and the exchange of experiences in poverty reduction and hunger eradication as the best ways to help their people enjoy a better life.

He took the occasion to express the deep gratitude of the Cambodian Royal Government and people towards Vietnam for its sincere assistance to the nation to escape from genocide and restore it life.

President of the HCM City chapter of the Vietnam -Cambodia Friendship Association Truong Minh Nhat said that Vietnam's investment in Cambodia reached 114 million USD in the first nine months of the year, an increase of more than 20 percent compared with 2008…

To be continued to page 5

Cambodia Tourism Rebound Continues in September as Arrivals Rise

Phnom Penh, November 5, 2009 AKP —

Cambodia's key tourism sector showed further signs of recovery in September, although all-important air arrivals remained down on last year, Chinese News Agency Xinhua quoted a local media as reporting on Wednesday.

Total arrivals in the Kingdom hit 151,937 in September, the figures showed, up 4.68 percent on the same period last year and beating average annualized growth in first eight months of the year at 1.69 percent.

However, air arrivals, which bring in longer term, long-haul passengers that traditionally spend more, remained well down from last year. In September, 72,671 air passengers flew into Phnom Penh and Siem Reap international airports, down from 82,764 during the same month last year, a drop of 12.5 percent.

Though more passengers arrived by air in the first eight month of last year than in the first nine months of this year, September's fall was better than the 13.03 percent decline recorded on average over the first eight months, suggesting things are picking up after a dismal first three months of the year.

Also, visitor to Siem Reap-Cambodoa's main tourism destination-fell 8.45 percent in the first nine month on last year, while 12.18 percent more visitors went to Phnom Penh over the same period.

Latest figures showed that the quarter was the best of the year with a 8.39 percent rise in total arrivals compared to growth of 2.25 percent in the second quarter and a contraction of 3.4 percent in the first.—AKP

From page 3

Cambodia Is Allowed to Enter…

Cambodia was elected as a member of the World's Heritage Committee of UNESCO because the country has plenty of historic and cultural wealth, concrete and abstract, some of which were listed successively as the World's Heritage such as royal classical dance, puppet theatre, Angkor surrounding area and Preah Vihea temple, he said, adding that the country has also the experience for managing and conserving the national and the world's heritage and used not to be a member of the committee since 1951.

Cambodia being elected historically not only shows a big success in the cultural field, but also its diplomatic ability to explain and persuade other countries to be supported, he said, stressing that the glorious success made the reputation and the prestige of Cambodia higher and higher in the international arena.

In response to the confidence provided by the signatory countries to the 1972 convention, Cambodia should promote the international cooperation on heritage conservation and development, take opportunity to draw the experience of the World's Heritage Committee of UNESCO and other international forums, and share the experience, he said.

The Cambodian premier also thanked His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni for his attention to all endeavors made by the Cambodian royal government since he was a representative of standing delegate of Cambodia to UNESCO in Paris.—AKP

From page 1

Cambodian Prime Minister Leaves for Attending ...

The summit hosted by Japan clearly demonstrates the political commitment at the highest level of the Mekong countries and Japan for a comprehensive development of the Mekong region, including management of the Mekong River, according to a news release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his stay in Japan, the Cambodian premier will be received in the Royal Audience by His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito at his Royal Palace He will meet with Takahiro Yokomichi, speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, Eda Satsuki, president of the House of Councilors, and also hold a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Hatoyama Yukio.

At the end of the summit, the Cambodian prime minister will attend a joint press conference and signing ceremony on the Tokyo Declaration on a "New Partnership for the Common Flourishing Future" between Japan and the Mekong region countries, appended with the Japan-Mekong Action Plan.

The Cambodian premier will try his best to attract more Japanese investments to Cambodia while staying in Japan, said a high-ranking Cambodian government official.—AKP

From page 2

Cambodia Recalls ...

"If the Royal Thai Government decides to appoint His Excellency Sam Rainsy as an adviser, Cambodia would be pleased with such decision because a Cambodian would have been chosen to serve in the Thai government. Cambodian would like Thailand to be equally open-minded and therefore the Royal Thai government should not be displeased with the appointment of H.E. Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra as advisor to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia, and advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia."

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From page 5

Vietnam, Cambodia Encourage...

Both sides committed to promoting trade and service activities to increase two-way trade to 2 billion USD next year, he said, adding that trade activities between HCM City and Phnom Penh have increased significantly with at least three fairs each year.

Last June, the fifth conference on cooperation and development between Vietnam-Cambodia border provinces was co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Gia Khiem and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sar Kheng in HCM City.

At the conference, 22 Vietnamese and Cambodian border provinces reached consensus on priority fields and measures to deepen cooperation between their localities.—AKP

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From page 4

Cambodia, Korea Sign Cooperation...

Meanwhile, the MoU concerning the cooperation on investment in forest plantation and climate change was also signed. It focuses on the consolidation of bilateral cooperation on reforestation on an area of 200,000 ha in Cambodia in order to promote the creation of the carbon credit market.

The South-Korean delegation led by President Lee Myung-bak concluded its state visit in Cambodia last Friday. During the two-day visit, the delegation was received in audience by His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia. President Lee Myung-bak held official bilateral talks with Cambodian Premier Samdech Techo Hun Sen. After that, they witnessed the signing of two agreements on Extradition and Framework Arrangement concerning Loans from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) for 2009-2012.

A Korean-Cambodian Business Luncheon was organized in honor of the visiting Korean delegation under the presidency of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The Korean delegation also visited a South Korea's company here and the world famous tourism site Angkor Wat in Siem Reap province before traveling to Thailand for a regional forum hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). —KP

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Activities during the Water Festival

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