

Reconnecting Railway with Thailand

(22 April 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)



22 April 2019 - Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha at Railway Reconnection Ceremony

The Stoeungbot-Ban Nang Ean Bridge

It is indeed a new event for which we Cambodians have been working with the Kingdom of Thailand to celebrate. A moment ago, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha of the Kingdom of Thailand and I sealed the last connection spot to connect the bridge between Cambodian on one side at Stoeungbot and Thailand on another side at Ban Nang Ean. Please allow me to take this opportune moment to convey my sincere appreciations and thanks to every assistances made so far by Thailand, over 26 million USD, in building this bridge as well as other constructions as is reported in the report of Senior Minister Sun Chanthol. With this bridge built [...] we will leave the current bridge at Poipet for tourists and travellers to and from. This new bridge at Stoeungbot will serve well in improving our connectivity and trade actions [...]

A Bailey Bridge for Hand-Pulled Carts and Light Trucks

The authority of Banteay Mean-

jei province of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Sa Kaeo province of the Kingdom of Thailand have filed an initiative to build a Bailey bridge (in Poipet) to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. I have already approved the request to build the 9-meters width and 50 -meters length Bailey bridge for pedestrians with hand-pulled carts. This should relieve them from jostling in the main bridge at Poipet with tourists and light travellers [...] the authorities of Banteay Meanjei of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Sa Kaeo of the Kingdom of Thailand have made their efforts to provide our carts pullers to have a better flow to and from on the one hand and to facilitate crossings to and from for tourists [...]

Think of What Makes It Possible

Let us figure out together every aspects relating to this event today. What has allowed to sit down here together? Why do we accomplish today what we have never been able to in the past? In fact, going back to our

(Continued on page 2)

Japan Aid for Kompot Water Supply

(02 April 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

Running Pipe under Riverbed Technology

[...] Please allow me express on behalf of the Cambodian people our sincere thanks to the government and people of Japan for always supporting the Cambodian efforts for development. Minister of Industry HE Cham Prasidh already informed us that this is one of the six projects to carry out by Japan. In fact, the government of Japan carried out numerous projects, including the water supply system that provides about two-third of the clean water need in Phnom Penh. With the former Japanese Ambassador, I also presided over the inauguration

of clean water supply system in Siem Reap [...] the project here contributes to improving access to clean water for our people in Kompot [...] the 27 million USD project provides 7,500 cubic meters of water per day on a distribution network of 88.9 km. What impressed us really is the new system used in Cambodia for the first time to run the pipe under the riverbed down to 15 meters from one side to another [...] this location is not far from a former airfield used by Japan in the former time [...] Japan is here now to help Cambodia's needed development [...]

(Continued on page 3)

Khmer-Chinese Solidarity Dinner

(09 April 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

AKC Contributes to Political and Macroeconomic Stability, and Growth

I am so glad to meet all of you once again after our meeting last year on 10 April 2018. HE Pong Khieu Se has already mentioned in his report to you all about what had happened in the past year. I am proud to see contributions of the Association of the Cambodian-Chinese Leagues to the country's political and macroeconomic stability leading to the 2018 economic growth at 7.5% [...] HE Pong Khieu Se informed me that in today's event, we also have presence of some Chinese friends from China. As Cambodia is about to move into a new year, we on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party welcome you to our country [...]

dence in the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) or we can say my leadership role in the development of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Our Cambodian-Chinese people who have been living in Cambodia for many generations have decided to vote and to choose CPP. This clarifies that you have fulfilled two important works. Firstly, you have supported the process of democracy and liberal pluralism through regular elections, in which, 83% of registered voters had participated [...]; secondly, you have chosen to keep peace and development because you voted for the Cambodian People's Party. To support continued leadership of the Cambodi-

(Continued on page 4)

AKC Voted and Chose CPP

I am very proud of the fact that you have placed your confi-

In This Issue

. Reconnecting Railway	1
.. Kompot Water Supply	1
... Khmer Chinese	1
.... Finance Museum	5
..... Graduations	6
..... Sportsmen/women	7

(Continued from page 1)

history, the rail between our two countries was there and working since (when we were under) French rule. It was at one point destroyed because of war. We have just had the ability to get the rail working again. What does this event indicate? We should see it clearly and look to our future, and figure out how to make our steps forward [...] we should see three successful strategies brought about by the win-win policy.

Passing Border to Meet Chatichai Choonhavan

We may all remember that this place was in the time of war a blood soaked battle. Artillery mounted in Malai would send shells up to here. There was also an armed battles between the armed groups at Malai and the government force at the point of Khla Nguab (dead tiger). In September 1989, with Samdech Tia Banh, I travelled from Serei Sophon of Banteay Meanjei to Poipet. We crossed the bridge which there was only rail left walking on makeshift pieces of wood to get to Aranyaprathet. From Aranyaprathet, we took helicopter to Bangkok to meet with former Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Chaovalit Yongchaiyudh [...] along the NR 5 section on Cambodian territory, there were no houses and I could not imagine how fast the city of Poipet has grown [...]

Shortage of Electricity May Go on Till Rain Comes

This year's hot weather has coupled with shortage of electricity. Due to natural factor we have not lost production ability of hydropower up to 1,000 megawatts out of the 1,400 megawatts power that we have combined. Last night, according to the report I received from Minister Suy Sem our hydro-power turned out 373 megawatts over 1,328 megawatts ability [...] prior to the Khmer New Year, the Kingdom of Thailand has transmitted electricity to Banteay Meanjei, Battambang, Siem Reap, Uddar

Meanjei, and Pursat. On the other side, we had some from Vietnam. However, we have not got enough power to answer to our needs at this moment. I am seeking our people's understanding on this shortage which would last until rain comes. We are seeking means to address this problem and will not allow it to repeat next year.

Three Successful Strategies – (1) Former Battlefields Becomes Development Areas

However, after twenty years of successful implementation of the win-win policy, we have carried out three successful strategies which I must lay them out here. *Firstly, we have been able to turn former battlefields into development areas.* People living in this area, for instance, could have understood how hard it was to escape from fighting [...] after ending war in the country, we have worked together to turn battlefields into development areas [...] there is no more fighting here. We have good asphalted roads now that connect these parts of the border areas to the central parts of the country. People can cultivate and embark on other business on such a vast land [...] about 90% of former battlefields have already become marketplaces and development areas [...] we are working to remove mines and UXOs to liberate land for our people [...]

(2) Building a Border of Peace, Friendship, Cooperation, and Development

Secondly, we have transformed border areas with neighbouring countries into a borderline of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development. The event today has clearly reflected what we have been doing and achieving in this strategy. Should there be no good relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand, we would not be able to connect our countries with this bridge or send in power to each other. We would not be able to look at each other in the face. We have made it. We have realized this strategy [...]

Four More Passes – An Sheh,

Chup Koki, Phnom Dei, Thmor Da

Judging by the fact that bilateral trade between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand has reached a size of over six billion USD, there is this urgent demand for connectivity. More so, we are after a good relation with each other. A moment ago, I had a discussion with Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha and I have suggested opening four more border passes – An She in Preah Vihear on Cambodian side and Ubon of Thailand; Chup Koki in Cambodia's Uddar Meanjei and Thailand's Buriram; Phnom Dei and Thmor Da for the sake of better trade connectivity.

Thai Prime Minister Positive on 140 Km Used Rail

Let me also share with you that we have received a positive response to my request to Prime Minister of Thailand HE Prayuth Chan-o-cha through the transport minister of Thailand for the used 140 km rail. They have replaced them with new ones. We can still use them in Cambodia. We also used old rail given by Malaysia and former Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont provided transportation from Malaysia through Thailand to Cambodia [...] we have received today a locomotive and a number of wagons from the Kingdom of Thailand.

(3) Internal and Neighboring Connectivity

Thirdly, we have made it happened all along is ensuring internal connectivity and establishing connectivity with neighbouring countries. Our people may want to think about this. Did we have roads (or good roads) before in this area? It is true that what we have achieved so far is not enough. However, judging by what we have now, Banteay Meanjei has in fact been lucky as far as connectivity is concerned [...] soon people in Banteay Meanjei will travel to Phnom Penh on rail. What did we have in the time of war? Even before the war, there were no (good) roads as we do

now. People in Banteay Meanjei or in the whole country so to speak will benefit from connectivity between province and province, within own provinces, thanks to infrastructural development such as roads, bridges, rails, and also electricity [...]

Keeping Hard-won Peace

HE Prayuth Chan-o-cha composed two songs and I composed four songs. That is how things should be. We two countries – with some similarities in tradition and custom – should be happy together. We celebrate the Songkranta together and well wish each other. Let us keep this relations. First and foremost, however, we must keep our hard-won peace. Should we keep no peace, bridges, roads or rails would all be blown off as what happened in 1970s after the 18 March 1970 coup [...] I do not mean to respond to anyone. Even Samdech Krolahaom (Sar Kheng) whom they enticed to launch a coup against me needs not to reply to them. Let us think together, if a Deputy Prime Minister launches a coup against the Prime Minister, what would that be? It is a coup. The power from this coup would go to who? Did they think that Samdech Krolahaom is that naïve to do all that? As we have made a point in the last Cabinet meeting, let us not respond to anyone. Let them bark to themselves [...]

People Welcome Hun Sen

... (S/he claimed) to march in (on me) [...] to arrest me. That would be too easy, wouldn't it? They may see people present here, are they here to catch or to welcome Hun Sen? They may have misconceived. Let them lose their ways. When they cannot see what strategy we are pursuing, they would have no way to win over us. I need not speak much on this. I have given my order already. Just hit down every troublemakers. There would be no more concerns as long as they are illegal [...] there had been some natural disaster last night in this area and two people died because of

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 1)
**War Ended in 1996 in
 Kompot**

Please allow me to remind you all that after implementing successfully the win-win policy, which ended war in the whole country in late 1998 and in Kompot in 1996, [...]

I issued and we have implemented two strategies – (1) transforming former battlefields as development and market places, and (2) transforming borderline areas with neighboring countries those of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development. We have realized these two strategies on about 90% of the Cambodian territory now. Another 10% is still under mines, UXOs, etc. [...]

We continue to make further efforts in making them safe for our people to use land for cultivation and market purposes [...] this should remind us facts as to why do we have this event today since this area used to be a part of battles too. We now have our people and Buddhist monks, Japanese and foreign friends to celebrate this magnificent Japanese government and people grant-aid achievement together [...]

**Four-Lane National Road 3 to
 Kus Junction, and a Blue
 Water Port**

[Besides other achievements] if we talk about national road 3, we have already expanded it twice. We asked former President of Republic of Korea Roh Moo-hyun to help connect the segment of road with a bridge to link up one part of Kompot to the city and to get a connection to the other segment funded by loan from the World Bank [...] we have the NR 3 then running all the way to Phnom Penh.

At present, transportation demand through Kompot has exceeded its first-time enlarged capacity. We have decided to expand a segment from Phnom Penh through to the Kus Junction of the national road 3 to four lanes – two lanes to and two lanes from. Some have requested for the whole national 3 to go four lanes but we should

limit our investment up to this length for the moment [...] in the time to come, Kompot will host a blue water port and transportation will be busy down here. Our economy and trade volumes have demanded that there is a need for another blue water port besides the one in the province of Sihanoukville [...]

(On) this, I must have your attention again, is possible because of peace and the two far-sighted strategies (I mentioned earlier) [...]

**Japan's Honest Assistance
 for Cambodia's Development**

I am here today to join with you all to put into official use the water supply system (here in Kompot) [...] and tomorrow, I have another event (to honor with the Japanese Ambassador) with people in Phnom Penh as well as those who travel to/from Phnom Penh [...] we will be inaugurating the newly repaired Cambodian-Japanese Friendship Bridge at Jroy Jangva [...] I am glad that this is happening before the Khmer New Year. I hope it will help relieve traffic congestions to get out of and to get into Phnom Penh on in that area [...] there will not be any speeches tomorrow.

Ambassador of Japan and I, after cutting off the ribbon, will walk on the bridge before we hop on to our cars to return home [...] as far as cooperation with foreign partners, this kind of assistance is integral to Cambodia's development [...] in fact, the Japanese Ambassador will be busy working in Cambodia [...] because we have good cooperation in our partnership with Japan. This indicates a high-level relation (between the two countries) [...]

**A Reservoir of Freshwater;
 Distribution Pipes Investment**

We have two things to pursue on water supply issue here [...] we have taken untreated water from the river (of Kompot) and it is a tributary that links fresh water to salt water from sea. This has suggested that rising and receding water from sea would bring seawater further in to our freshwater reservoir [...]

undertaking of the project to build freshwater supply reservoir will come after discussion among three ministries – Industry and Handicraft, Mines and Energy, and Environment [...] this project will help us conserve water on the one hand and to prevent salt water from reaching it on the other [...]

We all need to find investments in water supply distribution to enlarge its area of coverage in Kompot, to Kep and also to a part of Sihanoukville province [...]

**Irresponsible Conclusions
 on Shortage of Power; Local
 Dialects**

(As for lack of electricity) some people have, with bad intentions, concluded that that Cambodia is now in shortage of electricity (is a false) fact because Hun Sen needs to have a pretext to build more hydropower plants. That they have made that their analysis, are they not afraid of being hit by a lightning? [...] did they not see how much effort we have been doing to restore and ensure that the country is energy sufficient? We have plenty of power in rainy season but not enough in dry season [...] I do not want to talk about this but they have made me to.

I would have their access to electricity cut, if I know where their houses are, to get them to their senses how hard it would be to go without or with insufficient power [...] I would not scold them as we heard how the President of the Philippines did to some [...] I do not go that far. I just used some local dialects [...]

**After Hun Sen
 Is Still Hun Sen**

... My wife and I have been given Japanese names [...] and I have my artificial eye made in Japan [...] some teased me of my vision because I am wearing Japanese glass eye. It is true that Japan has always have a far sighted vision [...] the Ambassador of Japan could have less contacts with Japanese Prime Ministers than I do.

I have worked with Prime Ministers Toshiki Kaifu, Kiichi Miyazawa, Tsutomu Hata, Tomiichi Murayama, Ryutaro Hashimoto, Keizo Obuchi, Yoshiro Mori, Junichiro Koizumi, Shinzo Abe, Yukio Hatoyama, Yoshihiko Noda, and then Shinzo Abe. After Shinzo Abe, it is Shinzo Abe still. In Cambodia too, after Hun Sen is Hun Sen still [...]

**Areng – No Hydropower Development,
 Electricity Help
 on the Way**

(When they come up with such false accusation about building more hydropower dams) we may ask where they have in minds that we are going to do that. Let me tell you all that we do not allow any hydropower development in the Areng area. It was originally studied by Japan (on hydropower feasibility) but we decide to keep it the way it is for ecotourism and we need to protect natural resources in the area. We are now busy working on laying out infrastructures serving demand for ecotourism [...] I am sorry that I have used some dialects on such accusation [...] while we are in need of electricity and have gone to sign a contract to bring in power ship of 200 megawatts from Turkey [...] to purchase electricity from Vietnam, from Laos [...]

**Transparent Use
 of Japanese Aid**

I believe in the Japanese construction capacity as we can see its quality everywhere and this system right here before us [...] let me reaffirm that for Japanese assistance/aid, all I am doing is to come and cut the ribbon to put the projects into their official use. Japan is the one who is managing the money [...] how come some have accused us of being corrupted in Japanese aid? That is unjust [...] we will have another ribbon to cut tomorrow [...] it is all in Japanese hands as far as financial management is concerned [...] the Japanese are responsible [...] they (those critics) have to be aware of ways to use foreign aid, especially the Japanese ones [...].

(Continued from page 1)

an People's Party means to keep peace and development, and we have done it so far [...]

2018-Elections Keep Stability and Economic Growth

There was in the elections of 2013 reactionary forces attempting to destroy democratic process and come into power by undemocratic means. They had caused so many unstable conditions and even until April (the following year), situation was not yet calm [...] after the (2013) elections life in Phnom Penh was unstable. However, after the elections in 2018, things went starkly different because we had destroyed forces that attempted to derail democracy and take power outside democratic system (through undemocratic means). Life in Phnom Penh and in the whole country goes on normally. Cambodia has achieved a 7.5% economic growth – higher than expected [...]

AKC Contributions to Social Works

Please allow me to take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to AKC for its contributions in addressing social works. On 10 April 2018, as far as I could remember, I called on the Cambodian-Chinese Associations to help support the Kuntha Bopha Children Hospital. Many of its members have made so generous contributions. They have also responded to the Cambodian Red Cross calls for resource mobilization to help needy Cambodian people [...]

Looking for Foreign and Local Investments

According to data I have here, a major part of current investments is made by local investors, and a majority of them is among you here. This is what I wanted in the political platform of the Cambodian People's Party and also my thoughtful strategy. While we wanted to have foreign direct investments in Cambodia in real estates, services, and other sectors, it is also true that local companies have grown firmer. As we have

many of local investors present here today, I am calling on all of you to continue to make more investments and help [...] as I have said it before, in the past, many Cambodians placed their money abroad [...] while in the new stage, under the leadership of the Cambodian People's Party, the Cambodian-Chinese living abroad have gathered their capitals and technology to invest in the country [...]

Tax-Paying Culture for National Development and Defense

I wish to also take this opportune moment to express my sincere appreciation to our people for their spirit of tax paying culture. I think that those of you here – because you are businessmen – have paid between 30% and 50% of the current tax collected or roughly about half of the national incomes either through tax or custom duty and/or non-tax revenue. I hope that we all continue to embolden spirit of tax-paying culture to enable state with more ability to serve in national development and defense [...] collecting taxes/custom duty is a work performed in every country. In Cambodia, we do not aim to raise tax ceiling yet but to collect every taxes required by law, in a timely manner, and without losses [...]

Losing Peace, Losing Economic Progress

I am calling on you to join with the Royal Government and the Cambodian People's Party to keep peace which is the foundation for development. Let us remember that where there were no peace, there would be no development. If there were to be any movement to take place in the country, the country would lose not only its peaceful life but also economic progress. You may have remembered what destructions the war in 1970s caused to our country. Followed by the regime of genocide, our economy was uprooted. It has taken us a long time and uncountable hardships to get to where we are today [...] as of present, we have the opportunity to bring about de-

velopment in every field. The Khmer New Year is approaching and I hope our people in the whole country will welcome the New Year with joy [...]

Invincibly Strong, United, and Peacekeeping Cambodia

We should look into our past and what other countries are going through with problems now. We must be united to keep peace that we have won and maintained through numerous hardships, sacrifices of flesh and blood, and our determination to implement the win-win policy. We have forces wishing to destroy us. Should they succeed, it would not be because they were stronger but because we were definitely weak. When we are strong, stand united, and keep peace, no matter how powerful that force may be, they would find us invincible [...]

Strictly Adheres to "One China Policy"

Today, beside the Cambodian-Chinese in Cambodia, we have Chinese coming from mainland China, Macau, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. I have said it before and I wish to reiterate it so that everyone here [...] understand Cambodian major policy adhered since the time of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Preah Borom Ratanak Kaod, the Cambodian King-Father, in 1950s and 1960s. Under my leadership, Cambodia is adhering to this policy of one China policy strictly [...] this should explain you why Hun Sen does not allow a representative office of Taiwan in Cambodia as some countries do [...] Cambodia is open for Chinese from Taiwan to do businesses but will not allow office of representation or Taiwan flag to raise in any given event [...]

I am sure you understand this important in my foreign policy [...] you may think of it this way, if anyone cut out a province from Cambodia, we would be angry too. We do not allow them to do so – either to make it a part of another country or to become an independent state. We will not allow that to happen. If we do not agree to it, so

does China. To respect the Chinese sovereignty on Taiwan or Tibet is nothing different from respecting Cambodia's own independence and sovereignty. Cambodia respects China's implementation of its policy of one country two systems currently applied in Hong Kong and Macau. I hope the system will also extend to Taiwan. I am asking those of you who may tend to go for Taiwan to understand [...]

Cambodia-China Relations – Comprehensive Strategic and Staunch

This (Cambodia-China friendship) has been a policy set out by the King-Father Samdech Preach Norodom Sihanouk. We must continue to promote this friendship, which has now evolved into a stage of comprehensive strategic partnership, and both countries are staunch friends. In January 2019, I visited the People's Republic of China and I conducted discussions on a wide range of cooperation issues with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. In late April, I will go to China for the second round meeting of the forum on "one belt-one road." As scheduled I will have discussions with Premier Li and also a talk with President Xi [...] in 2018, we had some 1.7 million Chinese tourists coming to Cambodia. I hope we will have more and they will be making one part of Cambodia's incomes. We will make further efforts to bring Cambodian produces/products into the China markets and create conditions to attract Chinese investors and tourists [...]

Meeting Nine More Times

I thank you very much for your participation and listening to my speech. I have said that I will seek premiership for the next ten years. We now have nine more years [...] I hope the Cambodian People's Party will continue to win the elections. I will continue to be in power until 2028. When that time comes, whether I will go on or not will be up to how the situation evolves [...]./■

Economy & Monetary Museum

(08 April 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

In addition to the prepared text, Samdech Techo made a wide range elaborations on when the Riel currency was reprinted and circulated, and re-admitted as national currency under UNTAC and to the present.

USD Peaked under UNTAC

Let me elaborate on this point for us to understand and figure out our next strategy for the future. The USD peaked its presence and circulation in Cambodia under the time when there was this peacekeeping operation in Cambodia – UNTAC (or United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia). We all know that UNTAC spent almost two billion USD in its intervention to seek peace for Cambodia. UNTAC did not pay its staff in the Khmer Riel but in USD. The UNTAC staff used USD in their transactions with locals. This has called for a consideration of what to do for country that needs peacekeeping operations [...] as of now I have no idea yet in what currency the UN pay the Cambodian peacekeeping troops in Mali, Central African Republic, Sudan, South Sudan, and Lebanon [...] it is true that the Riel currency is playing a strong role (in our economy) but we cannot end presence of the USD (de-dollarize) at this time [...] that I have mentioned this is because I do not wish those countries to follow Cambodia's path in the past that it had suffered influx of foreign currency (in its economy) [...]

Trading Goods for Goods (Bartering)

In Cambodia, (the regime of Pol Pot abolished everything (including money). After the liberation, we had to go with bartering [...] later, some people who had saved from or picked up gold (after) the regime of Pol Pot, they started trading gold with goods [...] a while later, for provinces along the western border between Cambodia and Thailand, we started to have presence of Thai Baht [...] while in the eastern part of the country we started

with the Vietnamese Dong [...] it was on 20 March 1980 that we reprinted our Riel currency in Moscow. It was hard. After printing the money, we had difficulties in getting them to Cambodia [...] it was until 1989 or 1990 that we bought a money printing machine [...] be we were able to print only small banknotes. Later, we have our money printed in Germany, in France, etc. [...] now we are able to print our own banknotes with high security measures [...]

Through Times and Transformations, Riel Banknotes Came from PRK

People may want to read about what I wrote on this particular subject in a book I titled "Ten Years of Cambodia's March" printed on 9 January 1989. I have it written about the Cambodian financial issues that from the onset, the Riel banknotes (printed by the People's Republic of Kampuchea – PRK) used only between the government officials and traders, and gradually, the Riel banknotes have been accepted in the Cambodian market. Through times and transformations, up to the present, the Riel banknote in circulation issued under the time of PRK. I could remind you that (in the process of peace negotiation) the tripartite coalition (of Democratic Kampuchea) – especially the Khmer Rouge and Son San demanded to abolish the Khmer Riel banknotes (issued by PRK) [...]

Son San proposed to print passports and cash branding SNC (Supreme National Council) [...] I agreed to one of the two proposals – printing special SNC passports for members of the SNC and its secretariat staffs [...] it was unbelievable for them to have proposed an abolishment to the PRK printed Riel banknotes [...] I rejected the proposal. Let me underline that the Riel banknotes were first reprinted on 20 March 1980. We must keep that in mind [...]

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 2)

rain and lightning [...] besides my condolence to those families, I would instruct Deputy Prime Minister General Ke Kim Yan and his working team to carry through a number of works. I urge the armed forces, military and police, and the military police, to continue to provide assistance whenever needed and possible to our people in hardships [...]

Thank You for Voting CPP, Peace and Development

Let me thank our people here today for making their valuable times to come and welcome me. I thank you all once again for voting the Cambodian People's Party. Your choice has given me chance to return and make my statement here today.

(Continued from page 7)

ganize areas where people can go out and exercises [...] to relieve them from stress and other sickness resulting from less physical exercises [...] though they may not be professional sportsmen-women, they need places where they can do regular exercises [...]

(Fifthly,) I am calling on referees for every sports/games especially those in football and boxing [...] to exercise flawless and strong moral principles to ensure fair play [...]

120 Buses to/from Provinces for Free between 12 and 18 April

Let me take this opportune moment to inform our sportsmen-women and our people in the whole Kingdom of Cambodia that in between 12 and 18 April, for seven days, the Municipal of Phnom Penh will prepare 120 buses at disposal for our people to travel from Phnom Penh to/from provinces free of charge. I cannot repeat what I have asked to private bus owners to maintain their normal charges. They do not heed my requests. We will have the Phnom Penh Municipality buses running on national road 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 [...] for Phnom Penh, we also allow people to use public buses free of charge for seven days from 12 through to 18

I just remind you that voting for the Cambodian People's Party is in fact voting for one's own self, for peace and for development. Other (political) parties have not been able to replace the role of the Cambodian People's party in keeping peace and development [...] having had nothing yet they called on for a coup or a party coup [...] should a coup be real, would there be a war or not? Truly, it would [...]

With peace preserved, we are making our steps ahead. People in different parts of the country travel to and from to see their relatives and/or to visit places. For the Khmer New Year this year, a large number of people, despite hot weather, have travelled for holiday [...].

April. People have same benefit when they travel by speed boats between Kandal and Phnom Penh [...]

Sportsmen/women for Traffic Education; Drug, HIV/AIDS Prevention

I have three requests for our sportsmen-women to help. Firstly, I am asking our sportsmen-women to help in land traffic education to reduce accidents both for sportsmen-women themselves, and for friends and society [...] one critical way to do that is to avoid driving under drunkenness [...] secondly, please help our society to prevent (our society from) drug [...] some of you may have remembered my advice before our sportsmen-women were on their ways to competitions abroad. I always asked them not to use prohibited substance in sports or doping [...] our country is not producing those stuffs but many of them have targeted our country [...] and thirdly, please help in preventing HIV/AIDS. The infection rate of HIV/AIDS has in fact gone down promisingly but lately we noticed a recurrence among same-sex couple. I am calling on them to pay attention [...] I hope it is an obligation for our sportsmen-women to help prevent further outbreak of HIV/AIDS [...].

Graduations and Diplomas Presenting

(23 & 01 April 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

A. National University of Management Graduation — 23 April 2019

Re-connecting Road/Bridge and Rail with Thailand

I am glad to join with you in the beginning of this week. You may all have known that yesterday there was this historic event to re-connect road/bridge and rail between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand. We have built a bridge and road to divert flow of goods from tourists. The railway – cut off over the past forty years – has been reconnected. Prime Ministers of the two countries have travelled together in the train. According to the agreement signed yesterday, people can travel to the border and even into Thailand [...]

Political, Administrative and Business Chances for Women

As far as number of female graduates is concerned I may invite Minister of Women's Affairs, HE Ing Kantha Phavi, to follow it closely [...] though we have not yet reached a 50-50 status but growth (of female students) is an encouraging sign. We have set out goal to designate female civil servants in every level whether in politics, administration, and business. We are encouraging women to take up opportunity. (As some female students may have to marry after finishing high educations) I am encouraging husbands to allow their wives to continue their studies to higher level of education. Though we still have inequality between men and women, we also noticed that barrier of tradition and custom has been removed gradually. That we have now 31% are female graduates (recorded in senior level of post-graduation education) means that there will be more women pursuing higher education and this will respond to goal on development set for gender equality [...]

Khmer New Year Strength-

ens Cultural Activities and Tradition

Yesterday, at the groundbreaking ceremony to build a border inspection office and a road connecting the bridge at Stoeungbot to the national road 5 there was not enough time to talk about this, please allow me to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to national and sub-national authorities, the armed forces for making their efforts to create and to protect public order and security for our people to welcome the Khmer New Year [...] besides the traffic accidents that caused 50 deaths and 300 injuries, the Cambodian people in general have, despite growing heat because of climate change condition coupling with lack of electricity, really enjoyed the festivities [...] with extra electricity provided from Vietnam and Thailand, we have ensured that the Khmer New Year festivities have gone on joyfully. This year, people organized Sangkranta activities everywhere [...] we must take the Khmer New Year chance to strengthen cultural activities and tradition in community [...]

Four Factors to Enjoy Khmer New Year

We have two major traditional events – the Khmer New Year and Phjum Ben. People have taken good care of our tradition concerning Phjum ben [...] now we are spreading concept of Sangkranta further after we have re-introduced it at Angkor Wat over the past years. Important factors making all this happen is peace. *Peace is the first and key factor in providing our people chance to enjoy the festivities [...]* *secondly, infra-structural connectivity.* It is true that war ended in late 1998 but through to 2000, people had had hard times traveling to their native villages because there were still not many roads [...] *thirdly, people have better means of transportation.* Some may have their own means of transportation [...] and some

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 8)

yond acceptability, and unspeakable. I leave him time to apologize but how could he ever do it, since he was the one to instruct his men to do things like that [...]

Running in Communal Elections or Waiting for 2022?

I have laid out a package of reforms last Friday and they may wait to see if Hun Sen stumbles. Those of them who wish to wait for reincarnation of their dissolved party and someone to get out of custody may do so. They just had to choose between running in the communal elections [...] and waiting for renewal of their political rights in November 2022. I would not beg anyone. If they made requests with insufficient conditions, I would not approve too [...]

I needed to talk about this today. Tomorrow, I will go to Kompot (to inaugurate the Japanese assisted drinking water tower and system). The day after tomorrow, I will just walk across the newly repaired Cambodian-Japanese Friendship Bridge at Jroy Jangva [...]

Cambodia Survived Past Hardships

They had done so much injustice in the past on Cambodia.

(Continued from page 5)

it was on that note that we have secured the current banknotes printed with images of Samdech Father, Samdech Mother, and HM the King. They all came from original banknotes of the Khmer Riel printed and issued under PRK [...]

UN Peacekeepers Paid in Local Currencies

(*Samdech Pichey Sena Tia Banh reported that the UN paid their peacekeepers in local currencies of countries they worked in ...*) well, it seemed that the UN has changed the USD into local currencies to pay the peacekeepers. That was not what they did in Cambodia [...] it is now a good example.

Firstly, that they involved in launching a coup to remove Cambodia's then legitimate head of state Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, had they say they were sorry? [...]

Did they express regret that they had supported the Lon Nol and his people to launch the coup? [...] secondly, that they continued to support Pol Pot and to allow them to occupy the Cambodian seat at the United Nations in between 1979 and 1991, while imposing on Cambodia economic and political embargoes, had they regretted? [...]

We survived the embargoes in the past. We stood on our feet for survival in tremendous poverty and uncountable hardships [...]

You – young generation of Cambodia – must remember that your grandparents, parents and relatives have journeyed with me to topple and to prevent Pol Pot from holding on and/or returning to power. That is your pride. That is the pride of your grandparents and parents. You voted to support the Cambodian People's party. It means you voted for your grandparents and parents who stood up with the Cambodian People's Party for survival until today. We leave our country no more to anyone's insult [...]./■

Those countries must not follow what the UN peacekeeping operation did in Cambodia [...] I just wanted to share with you all about this happening in our country's history that there was an attempt to abolish the Khmer banknotes [...] they – Son San and Khieu Samphan branded me a puppet but in the end Khieu Samphan reported himself to the puppet's house to end war. I shared a meal with them. 29 December 1998 has now become our day of war's end. UNTAC did not end war in Cambodia. Now, though we still have many different foreign currencies in circulation altogether (in our market) the Riel currency/banknotes have played important role in the Cambodian economy [...]./■

Dining with Sportsmen/women

(04 April 2019 — Unofficial Selection and Translation)

May-2023 SEA Games before Elections

(Firstly,) let me on behalf of the Royal Government, the Cambodian people and sportsmen-women express our sincere thanks to Samdech Pichey Sena Tia Banh in leading this joint commission to oversee infrastructural development necessary for hosting SEA Games 2023 [...] as is stated by Minister of Tourism and President of the National Olympic Committee, many countries hosting SEA Games before always choose the period of competition in later part of the year. However, in Cambodia, we have chosen May 2023 instead [...] the explanation to this is because Cambodia is going to hold its general elections in July 2023 [...]

The Constitution (of the Kingdom of Cambodia) allows a sixty-day period after the elections to form a new Royal Government – which is normally falling on September 2023. We will have, after that, many works to carry through [...] in addition to usual happenings caused by circles rejecting results of the elections [...] they had always caused troubles in 1998, 2003, 2008, and in 2013. Except the elections in 2018 that they could not cause any troubles [...]

2023 – Hosting SEA Games, Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway Ready

In fact, 2023 will be the time when we will have our expressway connecting between Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville ready [...] we also will chair ASEAN meeting in 2022. These events will indicate continuity of Cambodian international and regional roles one after the other [...] as I have said it on various occasions that Cambodia is the last country in ASEAN to host SEA Games [...] Cambodia has decided to focus its resources on priorities relating to reconstruction and rehabilitation. We needed fund for roads, bridges, water canals,

schools, hospitals and other infrastructures with economic benefits for the sake of poverty alleviation [...] to host such sports event would need a lot of money. The People's Republic of China has provided us assistance to build a huge stadium spending hundreds of millions of USD [...] in 2011, in one of the ASEAN meetings in Bali, Indonesia, I brought this to the attention of the ASEAN rotating chair [...]

Human Resource in Sports

(Secondly,) I am calling on the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and especially the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and every sports federation to make further efforts concerning training of human resource [...] we have four more years between now and 2023 [...] besides from training, we must send our sportsmen-women for competitions at national and regional levels, and in other levels [...] I think that NOC has looked to take the fifth rank in this sports event. I think it is not an ambitious plan. It can be achieved [...]

Promoting Sports Activities

(Thirdly,) I am also calling on local authorities and schools of every levels to focus attention on promoting sports activities [...] since sports started from local level, in every corners of the country. I am asking leaders of working groups at national level to help invigorate sports activities [...] and take actions to prepare courts and pitches for whatever sports they may need [...] in 2016, during my visits to provinces, I noticed children and youth demanding for courts/pitch for their games and sports activities [...] I insist (concerned) local authorities reserve lands for this purpose for both male and female youths [...]

Reserving Places for People's Physical Exercises

(Fourthly,) I calling on the sub-national level authorities to or-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 6)
are using public and hired means of transportation [...]

(Talking about transportation) I thank the Phnom Penh Municipal for disposing free ride – first 120 public buses, and later increased to 150 buses – for seven days [...] **and fourthly, people have improved incomes with which they can spend for trips to enjoy the festive seasons and to contribute to religious rites** [...] according to figures from tourism, about nine millions people travelled for festivities purposes and many have travelled abroad [...] I told Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha yesterday that I believe about one million Cambodians toured Thailand [...] Prayuth said among neighbouring countries – Laos, Myanmar, and Malaysia, trade with Cambodia is the biggest [...]

Making Cambodia Safe from Terrorists

Let me take this opportune moment to condemn vehemently terrorist acts carried out in Sri Lanka [...] it was on this ground that I always urged our competent authorities to take high responsibility on national security issues [...] we must not allow Cambodia to be target of terrorist acts or shelter for terrorists [...] that we are now living in peace, we must keep working to secure our country is safe from terrorist acts causing loss of life [...] some may know how to talk nicely but to manage the country is yet a different matter. To keep the country safe is not simple and anyone can just do it as s/he may wish to. I do not infer to anyone but (it was a silly thing to say about) arresting Hun Sen. S/he may come herself/himself to do so and we will see. S/he would not dare come [...]

Control of Weapons and Explosives

We are in pondering whether or not this terrorist act in Sri Lanka is connecting to last-month terrorist act in New Zealand [...] terror in Sri Lanka and New Zealand give Cambodia lessons on need to keep strict controls on uses of weapons

and explosives. Too much freedom of using arms and explosives would harm people's peaceful life. In some countries, there have been incidents of school shooting [...] Cambodia must be strict on that. Besides our strict measures, there had been cases of man pointing guns at others [...]

Busy Diplomatic and Regional Relations

Yesterday I have fulfilled tasks regarding economy and trade. We have improved connectivity through land and rail, which will have positive repercussion on macro-economy. Today I am working on education. Tomorrow, I have some diplomatic tasks to carry on – meeting with foreign delegation and ambassador ending missions. On 25 April, I will leave the country to Beijing, the People's Republic of China, for a conference of “one belt, one road” [...] according to schedule, on 29 April, after meeting with President Xi Jinping, I will set my return to Phnom Penh. Madame Aung San Sukyi – state adviser of Myanmar, will also travelled back from Beijing on the same day to conduct her official visit in Cambodia on 30 April. We are busy with regional diplomacy and relations not only in political but also socio-economic setup for cooperation and development [...]

B. Vanda Institute Graduation — 01 April 2019

Liberalized Education Investments Started Since State of Cambodia

I am happy to start this week by meeting students and presenting 3,216 graduates, 82% of which are women, of the Vanda Accounting Institute with diplomas. Take this opportune moment I thank HE Heng Vanda for the report regarding the Vanda Institute's progress [...] along with Banana, which is now the Norton University, liberalization of investment in education sector started since before we joined the World Trade Organization or the Paris Peace Agreement. We offered

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

chances to private sector to take parts in making investment in human resource training. We have made every efforts to ensure that education and training would provide Cambodia human resources acting as locomotive to tug economic growth and national development [...]

An Island of Peace

Samdech Preah Karuna King-Father had led the country, when Cambodia was a monarchy but with Head of State as stipulated in the Constitution after King Suramarith passed away in 1960, through a time when Cambodia was like an island of peace, while countries around it were at wars. The late King-Father put Cambodia in a path of guaranteed peace. Even though there had incidents of bombardments along the Cambodia-Vietnam border, instabilities along the Cambodia-Thai border, and armed disturbances by the many Khmer factions – red, blue and white by colors, Cambodia was in general in progress.

Coup Brought about War

Everyone received benefits from the leadership of Samdech Preah Karuna King-Father in that era. Cambodians went to study and developed their skills and jobs, while in neighboring countries, there was military obligation [...] after the coup on 18 March 1970 that unjustly brought down the head of state, the country started to fall into flame of war. Everything in its way destroyed [...] Cambodia divided into two. One side submitted to foreign aggression and another had has to fight against such aggression to support the legitimacy of the head of state [...] from the onset, my brother and I joined the demonstration in support of the King-Father from Kompong Cham to Phnom Penh. We came as far as the current bridge of Jroy Jangva, where they opened fires on us [...]

From Being Displaced for War to Migration for Better Life

Let me get back to youth and

chances. As of now, everyone has the chance of finding and doing whatever s/he wanted in her/his studies and career. They may have to migrate in search for them. That is not something new or strange [...] some said that Hun Sen's leadership had caused people to move from one place to another [...] migration from rural areas to urban areas is a normal process. Some have even gone abroad to find jobs and better life. However, it is not a displacement by war like in 1970s [...] after the coup in 1970, people displaced against their wills from war zones. Land claimed and developed before 1970 left uncultivated as people ran wherever they thought would be safe [...]

Civil Servants/Armed Forces to Cash Whole Month Salaries plus Bonus

I have a few things to share with all of you and our people today. Firstly, I thank our people for their spirit of exercising tax obligations. It has proven by the fact that national income has soared. It is high time for me to affirm to our civil servants, the armed forces, and retirees that in April we are not going to cash salaries on a two-week basis [...]. I approved request presented by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy and Finance to cash the whole month salary in April of civil servants, armed forces, retirees, administrative officials from village level and up, only one time before the Khmer New Year [...]

March Collects High Incomes from Taxes

It is worth noting that for the month of March, we have collected high income from taxes. This has been possible because our people are exercising taxes and customs duty obligations regularly. I should share with you some of the figures here. In March this year, incomes from both customs duty and taxes have reached 700 million USD. This does not count in fiscal taxes yet. In breaking down figures, we have collected a sum of 476 million USD from internal taxes, and 250 million

USD from customs duty [...]

Spending Seventh to Eighth of Every Ten Made

It is time for our people to exercise strictly our tax and customs duty culture [...] we must be patriotic and implementing culture of tax paying altogether. It is playing a great role in our country's progress. The taxes collected will go back to our people in government spending in education, health, and infrastructures. Without incomes, we would not be able to do anything. Every year, we reinvest millions of USD from our saving. We are applying strictly a culture in which we are spending only seventh to eighth in every ten we made. We are keeping the remaining for investments in the following year. We have to have reserves [...] that would not include the foreign capital reserves [...]

To Collect Taxes Uncollected Yet

As of now, we have a cash flow of nearly three billion USD. We can use for salary. In the past, we have order to cash money for salary but the treasures did not have what it needed. We now have distributed money to banks (from where our civil servants, armed forces, and retirees can cash their salaries and pensions). This has clearly illustrated our people's culture of tax paying [...] on this note, I reiterate what I recommended that no need to high up taxes. We just have to make efforts collect every collectable taxes [...] that would increase our incomes and allow us to do more and to expedite what we needed to do for the country [...]

Royal Railway Continues Until New Agreement Comes

Let me clarify this issue about railway. Yesterday there was this clarification. It could have been because I did not hit every point in my elaboration. I did not talk about this period of transition with regard to withdrawing Royal Railway Company from the rail operation deal. I did instruct the Royal Railway to go into negotiation

with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works [...] I did not say anything about transition period [...] the agreement (with the Royal Railway) is still valid. While we are waiting for the new agreement to come, the company continues to observe the existing agreement. The company also has right to take part in the process of realizing a new agreement too [...]

Loeu Lay Sreng Can Return

There was that fellow who left the country. Recently, he went on VDO live asking to return to the country. Nobody chased him out. Why did he not return to the country? [...] you can return. No one is making you an arrest. I have no need to write you a letter granting you any pardon. You talked to me, now I am talking to you. I am declaring that Loeu Lay Sreng can return. I wave my hand calling you to come. However, he should not be so absentminded to call HM the King a eunuch [...] you have make problem to yourself. It was an insult. Now, I waved hand for you to come in to enjoy the Khmer New Year [...] now that you are declaring yourself a neutral person, and reminded me of the fact that you used to serve under me, you should not go on appointing yourself a guru in politics [...]

Insult Beyond Acceptability and Unspeakable

I use bad words of them. There is no rule that as a Prime Minister one cannot use them. I am a human being. Even the Buddhist monk would still scold. They have used on me every terms impolite. They even got my mother involved [...] they insulted my wife as a woman for Vietnamese leaders and my son as their offspring, at their leader's consent and instruction. I will in no way forgive them [...] I will send VDO clips of their actions to every embassies. Just you must not say it is a personal matter. That far you have gone insulting me, and you have made it your goal to take me out, I would do so in return [...] that insult was be-

(Continued on page 6)