

**1.NEC**

The National Election Committee (NEC) has fined three former opposition party activists in Battambang province for their role in the “clean finger” opposition boycott campaign during the July 29 national elections.

<https://bit.ly/2V1nRky>;

**2-International Community**

A bill sponsored by the US House of Representatives aimed at democracy promotion in Cambodia is likely to hit a roadblock at the Senate when Congress closes in December, officials have said.

<https://bit.ly/2Q1rT8W>;

Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) expressed “grave concern and deep regret” last week after Cambodia 46 Republic of China (ROC) citizens accused of telecom fraud to China.

<https://bit.ly/2ELbMeA>;

Vietnam’s president congratulated Cambodia on the country’s achievements under the reign of King Norodom Sihamoni and the government of Prime Minister Hun Sen during the King’s official visit to Hanoi.

<https://bit.ly/2V6xWNB>;

French National Assembly vice-president Sylvain Wacziarg wishes to strengthen and expand diplomacy and cooperation with the Cambodian National Assembly, a statement issued on Monday said.

<https://bit.ly/2rTURy2>; <https://bit.ly/2rQZWal>;

The European Union is preparing about 115 million euro grant to offer Cambodia on three projects while the agreement will be signed early next year.

<https://bit.ly/2EJXMln>;

**3- Political Party**

The 41st Central Committee meeting of Cambodia’s ruling party ended with Prime Minister Hun Sen’s eldest son, Hun Manet, joining the powerful permanent commission of the Cambodian People’s Party committee. The 41st Congress of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), headed by its president and Prime Minister Hun Sen has laid out key policies and far-reaching reforms across all sectors in order to win provincial, municipal, district and national elections, party spokesman Sok Eysan said on Wednesday.

<https://bit.ly/2EOvVjX>; <https://bit.ly/2AgtGSv>; <https://bit.ly/2VbpUCy>; <https://bit.ly/2PXmWxW>;  
<https://bit.ly/2RcMJHa>; <https://bit.ly/2SiZtsS>; <https://bit.ly/2Cw1QDn>; <https://bit.ly/2A8itDX>;  
<https://bit.ly/2LA0TwD>; <https://bit.ly/2EJFy2w>; <https://bit.ly/2V5nipW>;

Cambodian opposition politician Sam Rainsy, living in self-imposed exile since 2016, has vowed to return

to Cambodia in 2019 to fight for democracy, amid stark divisions among the government's political opponents. Acting president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) Sam Rainsy was on Thursday labelled "bewildered" by a senior government official after predicting that "99 per cent" of his party's 118 banned former lawmakers would not seek a return of their political rights when a proposed law change takes effect. A former lawmaker of the court-dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) called on his party members to remain in the country and fight.

<https://bit.ly/2BDSdAK>; <https://bit.ly/2rQtmW3>; <https://bit.ly/2Lrfavz>;

A senior ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) official on Wednesday warned of opposition leader Sam Rainsy's impending "isolation" when the amendment to Article 45 of the Law on Political Parties comes into effect. Senior Cambodian People's Party (CPP) officials claimed on Wednesday that former opposition leader Sam Rainsy recently sent a "secret" message to Prime Minister Hun Sen requesting to negotiate.

<https://bit.ly/2AfKtVG>; <https://bit.ly/2EKyKSm>;

Former Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) lawmaker Ou Chanrath predicted that Sam Rainsy's contentious new position as acting president may cause an inevitable "split" in the party. Kong Korm, the former top adviser to the Supreme Court-dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) who recently announced his return to the political stage, has blasted Sam Rainsy's "arrogance".

<https://bit.ly/2EK8eYZ>; <https://bit.ly/2RaX4Dq>; <https://bit.ly/2T3aVJ8>;

A senior Cambodia People's Party (CPP) official has rejected accusations that the appointment of more than 100 advisers is a waste of government money, saying it will in fact boost efficiency.

<https://bit.ly/2LwF0ym>;

#### **4-Legislative and Executive**

Cambodian economy has been projected to grow by 7.3 percent this year, spurred by the robust performance of garment exports, tourism and construction, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia Neav Chanthana said Friday.

<https://bit.ly/2RfLNSj>; <https://bit.ly/2BHacqe>;

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen brought the country's largest hydropower dam online Monday, suggesting at a launch ceremony that opposition to the controversial project had been sown by foreigners bent on turning the public against development.

<https://bit.ly/2PGY11n>; <https://bit.ly/2T9tHyO>;

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen has been forced repeatedly to deny that China is building a military naval base in Koh Kong province on the Gulf of Thailand. A naval base in that location would give China commanding control of the southern part of the South China Sea, which it currently is occupying in violation of international law.

<https://bit.ly/2T6UjAs>; <https://bit.ly/2SdRL3g>;

The Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Chea Sophara, and a senior MP, Khun Haing, have been appointed NALDR president and deputy, respectively, following an order signed

by Prime Minister Hun Sen on December 13 and announced on Thursday.

<https://bit.ly/2Bzxoqa>; <https://bit.ly/2RapoG3>;

Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Monday that only his ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) "is capable of ensuring peace" and that he intended to serve in office until the opposition was "destroyed".

<https://bit.ly/2RhCR3E>;

Prime Minister Hun Sen on Friday lauded the Chinese developer behind Koh Kong province's \$3.8 billion tourism project, despite it causing a decade-long dispute with the villagers there.

<https://bit.ly/2PZPKps>;

The government on Tuesday issued a sub-decree to increase the wages of civil servants by between 2,130 to 2,340 riels, and another one to raise the monthly wages of contract officers from 600,000 to 650,000 riel starting January 1.

<https://bit.ly/2EPxBK7>;

#### **5- Civil Society**

Around 1,200 hectares (2,965 acres) of protected forest from a commune in Cambodia's Ratanakkiri province has been illegally logged for timber and sold to businessmen from neighboring Vietnam through collusion with Cambodian authorities, an environmental watchdog group said Wednesday.

<https://bit.ly/2GB1v6c>;

The wife of detained alleged filmmaker Rath Rott Mony and a number of Boeung Kak land activists filed a petition on Tuesday at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Phnom Penh calling for his release. The president of the Cambodian Confederation of Unions yesterday asked the International Labour Organisation to intervene in the case of Rath Rott Mony, a news fixer who was charged over his role in the production of a controversial sex trafficking documentary.

<https://bit.ly/2LxhjFV>; <https://bit.ly/2LxHw7o>; <https://bit.ly/2GAJuol>;

#### **6- Media**

Prime Minister Hun Sen, prompted by a family quarrel, has called for the dismissal of CNC Television CEO Ouk Vora, according to a recording of the conversation made available to The Cambodia Daily. Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen alleged that the main opposition party he had banned last year is spreading fake news, while it emerged that his government has exerted heavy-handed control of a purportedly independent outlet. In a rare phone interview with Radio Free Asia, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has lambasted the U.S.-funded broadcaster despite recent conciliatory comments by his government suggesting RFA was welcome to resume its operations in the Southeastern Asian nation. Prime Minister Hun Sen has called on local and international journalists to join hands in tackling fake news, which he said could cause social turmoil in the Kingdom and beyond.

<https://bit.ly/2EJS7us>; <https://bit.ly/2QDzqQv>; <https://bit.ly/2QNms2A>; <https://bit.ly/2T7XaJs>;

Former Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) lawmaker Ou Chanrath claimed that Radio Free Asia (RFA) disseminated "baseless information" against him, and called on the radio's journalists to be

“professional and neutral”.

<https://bit.ly/2GCKtJH>;

### **7-Judiciary, Authority and Military**

Following a recent pledge by opposition leader Rainsy to return next year to Cambodia, police in Kandal province have questioned local Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) activists concerning their possible support for the party’s acting president in the event he comes back, Cambodian sources say.

<https://bit.ly/2V4vLto>;

Cambodia’s Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld a lower court ruling to fine the acting president of the country’s now-dissolved opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) Sam Rainsy for defamation in connection with a lawsuit brought against him by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

<https://bit.ly/2AbCFV2>; <https://bit.ly/2Q0ICcn>; <https://bit.ly/2BClw6X>;

A violater of the lese majeste law continued to be held in jail in Siem Reap province despite having served his sentence, after an appeal from the provincial prosecutor blocked his release.

<https://bit.ly/2RfYBYT>;

All six union leaders convicted for their roles in the 2013 Veng Sreng Boulevard protests plan to bring their case to the Appeal Court, spurred on by Prime Minister Hun Sen’s assertion that three of the six men were not involved in the violent protests.

<https://bit.ly/2Cyiy4X>; <https://bit.ly/2GCwizz>;

### **8- Other and Political Opinions**

Cambodian Prime Minister, [Hun Sen’s authoritarian crackdown](#) has rendered his critics defenseless. His last major blow to the opposition was the dissolution of the main opposition party, the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP).

<https://bit.ly/2Sl8Ok0>;

Cracks are beginning to be seen in Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) unity and analysts predict that a real split in the opposition may be seen in the coming weeks, after party co-founder Sam Rainsy said his position as CNRP “acting president” had become fully effective following blessings from Buddhist monks in Paris on Sunday.

<https://bit.ly/2Ra9wTZ>;

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**Thanks,**

**Greeting from COMFREL,**