

1. National Election Committee (NEC) and Elections

The National Election Committee (NEC) on Thursday approved and announced the official results of 2018 official voter list. The results of the 2018 official voter list show that the number of voters in the voter list increased to 8.5 million.

<https://bit.ly/2s0kVay>;

Ninety-two lawmakers have called for an amendment to the Law on Municipal, Provincial, Town, District and Khan Council Elections in a drive to increase number of council seats while explain reason that further “unify the nation” and improve the effectiveness of sub-national governance, a high-ranking government official .

<https://bit.ly/2T7x35g>; <https://bit.ly/2Ajqohe>;

2-International Community

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has published three documents in preparation for a review next month on the situation in Cambodia. The three documents published by the UNHRC include a “Compilation on Cambodia”, a report submitted by the government and a summary of stakeholders’ submissions from rights organizations. Government officials hit back at UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) criticisms expressed ahead of the UN’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) scheduled for next month.

<https://bit.ly/2BGQue9>;<https://bit.ly/2Ador62>;

An EU delegation and civil society groups have called for better action on land disputes in Cambodia, even as the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction outlined its plans to offer speedier solutions to remaining disputes next year.

<https://bit.ly/2BINA8t>;

Defense Minister Gen. Ngo Xuan Lich is leading a high-ranking military delegation of Vietnam to make an official visit to Cambodia from December 27-29.

<https://bit.ly/2Q2eiyd>;

The People’s Republic of China’s ambassador to Cambodia, Wang Wentian, accused the West of attempting to sabotage the two nations’ friendship during a meeting with Cambodian officials, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation spokesman Ket Sophann said.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met here on Sunday with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong on bilateral ties with both sides vowing to enhance cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

<https://bit.ly/2GAKm1m>;<https://bit.ly/2rTccqR>; <https://bit.ly/2PYaRsl>;

3- Political Party

A Facebook post over the weekend claimed Cambodia National Rescue Party acting president Sam

Rainsy will return to Cambodia “before Khmer New Year” after moving to France to avoid arrest on a slew of outstanding legal cases and sentences.

The ruling party leader, Hun Sen on said handcuffs and a prison cell were waiting for Sam Rainsy should he step foot in the Kingdom, while one analyst said it was “a waste of time” to take seriously the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) acting president’s promise to return.

<https://bit.ly/2VbKqD7>; <https://bit.ly/2Vb8xSI>; <https://bit.ly/2ResLM8>;
<https://bit.ly/2BH5bhm>; <https://bit.ly/2SmjSx8>;

Two former opposition officials have fled Cambodia for the United States to avoid persecution as the government prepares to amend the law on political parties to allow more than 100 banned Cambodia National Rescue Party officials to return to political life.

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

The ruling party leader as Prime Minister Hun Sen warned a former provincial official of the former opposition party not to gather former commune chiefs in Kampot province as the party could not be reinstated. He also told banned former Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) politicians to request a restoration of their political rights or miss out on the 2022 commune elections.

<https://bit.ly/2CzsMlt>; <https://bit.ly/2T95ubG>;

Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) spokesman Sok Eysan that a “package deal” for banned opposition politicians to return to politics would not be possible.

<https://bit.ly/2ESXbg7>;

4-Legislative and Executive

Cambodia exported products worth 11.2 billion U.S. dollars in 2018, up 4 percent over 2017, according to a Commerce Ministry's annual report released on Monday.

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

The amendment to Article 45 of the Law on Political Parties was approved by the Senate on Tuesday. It will be reviewed by the Constitutional Council (CC) on Friday for its consistency before passing into law, the CC said.

The Senate is due to gather on Tuesday to discuss the proposed change to Article 45 of the Law on Political Parties before its likely adoption at the meeting, an amendment opposition leader Sam Rainsy claims came “thanks to international pressure”.The Senate approved a proposed new law to track the flow of money locally and from abroad and across all areas to combat tax avoidance, with special attention given to the private sector and civil society organizations.

<https://bit.ly/2GJzae9>;<https://bit.ly/2LzS321>; <https://bit.ly/2rT4oVU>; <https://bit.ly/2T9Hm8N>;

Cambodia's government will host the start of a three-day celebration marking the 20-year anniversary of the end of civil war. The event, beginning Dec. 29, is designed to lay to rest the issue of when the long-running conflict finally ended.

<https://bit.ly/2LCbes7>;

Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng has suggested that many national level ministries are yet to fully implement the much-heralded decentralisation and “deconcentration” reforms outlined by the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD).

He also has lashed out at former opposition leader Sam Rainsy for asking the European Union to sanction Cambodia, noting that Mr Rainsy does not have the interest of Cambodia at heart.

<https://bit.ly/2CA3vrm>; <https://bit.ly/2Ro5irG>;

5- Civil Society

Cambodia’s Anti-Corruption Unit is obligated to investigate Prime Minister Hun Sen to ensure payments he made to reporters at privately owned, pro-government news outlets weren’t taken from the national budget, observers said Thursday.

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

A senior rights group official and eight ethnic community members were questioned by a Ratanakkiri provincial court prosecutor on Tuesday over alleged incitement to forestry crimes.

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

A protest by more than 100 of 300 Prestige Garment Co garment workers in front of their factory in Kandal province’s Kandal Stung district’s Tbeng commune, the result of their representative being dismissed, entered its second day on Tuesday.

<https://bit.ly/2QRAAYR>; <https://bit.ly/2GHbNSn>;

The Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) released a report on Thursday on the experiences of local communities across three provinces who suffered rights violations as a result of land disputes with companies operating in the Kingdom.

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

Ninety-five NGOs have issued a joint statement condemning the convictions of six union leaders for their roles in a minimum wage protest at Veng Sreng Boulevard in Phnom Penh in 2013.

<https://bit.ly/2Ae3ulc>;

More than 1,000 garment workers from Seduno Investment Cambo Fashion in Dangkor district in Phnom Penh yesterday rallied to demand their severance pay before the end of the year.

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

6- Media

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/2CvLxqf>;

A senior Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) official said Prime Minister Hun Sen has the right to intervene in the internal affairs of companies after an audio recording emerged this week in which he is heard

ordering the removal of CNC TV's CEO.

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

7-Judiciary, Authority and Military

A Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) supporter in Kandal province has claimed he was questioned by police for more than four hours after posting a video clip on Facebook in support of the court-dissolved opposition's acting president Sam Rainsy.

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

Banteay Meanchey provincial court on Wednesday held a hearing against a unionist and former opposition party official accused of hitting an immigration officer with his car in the province's Poipet town in 2016.

<https://bit.ly/2V6ero5>; <https://bit.ly/2GGgbB3>;

The Appeal Court on Thursday overruled a Preah Sihanouk provincial court verdict that ordered a former union leader to pay \$3,000 to Cambrew Ltd, the Sihanoukville-based brewers of Angkor Beer over a 2016 strike.

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

8- Other and Political Opinions

China's media [recently reported](#) that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) would conduct a study into Cambodia's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). If it had been just China conducting this study, there would be little interest in the topic. It is a foregone conclusion that Cambodia's ruthless oligarchic regime is already a subsidiary of China. As testimony, the country's seaside province of [Sihanoukville](#) now resembles China's Macau.

<https://bit.ly/2GGyQg8>;

Charles Dunst, writing for the [Council on Foreign Relations' Asia Unbound](#) blog, takes a lengthy look at succession of power in Cambodia — specifically, the passing of CPP leadership from Prime Minister Hun Sen to his eldest son, Hun Manet.

<https://bit.ly/2V8pXzn>;

Hun Sen 'win-win' legacy debated on Khmer Rouge fall anniversary.

<https://bit.ly/2BHRJK6>;

Thanks,