

NATIONAL

Briefing

Retired King Receives Cancer Treatment Again

Retired King Norodom Sihanouk, 86, attended a Chinese hospital again Tuesday to receive treatments for cancer, said Prince Sisowath Thomico, who spoke by telephone Tuesday. The retired king is being treated in Beijing for B-cell lymphoma cancer, his third cancer diagnosis in 15 years. He was treated with chemotherapy in 1993 and 2005. Chinese doctors are treating the retired king several times a week, a regiment that will last several months, said Prince Thomico, a recently appointed adviser to King Norodom Sihamoni. "As far as the Chinese doctors are concerned, they are optimistic about their ability to cure him," the prince said. Prince Thomico said he hasn't spoken directly with the retired king, but that the royal family has been told that he is in good spirits. "I think you can tell just by visiting his Web site, he is on his Web site every day...and that he is feeling well," the prince added. (Katie Nelson and Isabelle Roughol)

Sentence of US Man in Pedophilia Case Upheld

The Appeal Court on Tuesday upheld a 13-year prison sentence for a US national who was convicted in 2007 of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl, but then released two Cambodian accomplices in the case. Reading his decision aloud, Judge Seng Sivutha said that Boris Myron Ma's jail term would stand, though his conviction for debauchery, under the old human trafficking law, had been changed to the charge of procuring child prostitution, in compliance with the new anti-human trafficking law. The court, however, acquitted two Cambodian men, Ek Sok and Ros Ban, who were earlier sentenced to eight years each in prison for procuring the young girl for Boris Myron Ma, who was 46 years old when he was sentenced last year. Peng Maneth, attorney at the anti-pedophile organization Action Pour les Enfants who represented the abused teenager, said the court's release of the two men was a shock. "We are satisfied and welcome the upholding of the punishment on [Boris Myron Ma]. But we are upset that the two persons were released. The foreigner knew the child because of these two persons," she said. (Prak Chan Thul)

Street Gunfire Claims Life of 2-Year-Old

BY NEOU VANNARIN
AND KATIE NELSON
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

A ricocheting bullet from gunfire on the streets of Phnom Penh's Chamkar Mon district has left the family of 2-year-old Sarak Thidachey in mourning and local police with no suspects and few leads.

Two groups of young men—four strong each—apparently got into a fight at about 9 pm Saturday while drinking inside a beer garden on Street 205, said Pov Pidor, Tuol Svay Prey II commune police chief.

The argument spilled out onto the street and one man fired off two shots with a handgun, Pov Pidor said.

When the gunfire erupted, Sarak Thidachey was playing on the floor inside his house on the same street.

One of the bullets blasted through the house's wooden wall, ripped through a glass display case, and ricocheted off a cake stand before hitting the toddler in the head.

Relatives of the 2-year-old didn't notice he was hit right away. Not until a pool of dark red blood started gathering near his head that now lay on the floor where he had been playing, his uncle, Thong Ty, said Tuesday.

Sarak Thidachey never made a sound.

He had immediately lost consciousness, his uncle said.

Family members rushed the dying infant to three different hospi-

Lawyers Denied Access to Hospitalized Ieng Sary

BY ISABELLE ROUGHOL
THE CAMBODIA DAILY

Lawyers for former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister Ieng Sary said Tuesday they are being denied access to their hospitalized client, and are now asking the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia to mandate that they be allowed enter the hospital.

Ieng Sary was admitted to Calmette Hospital on Sunday and remained there Tuesday after blood was discovered in his urine, and his condition might require "medical interventions," said Michael Karnavas, one of Ieng Sary's lawyers.

According to Karnavas, Ieng Sary's Cambodian co-lawyer, Ang Udom, was not allowed in to see Ieng Sary at the hospital.

"What troubles us most is the fact that we do not have access to Mr Ieng Sary while he is in the hospital. It is a bit of a circus: who is in control?" Karnavas wrote in an e-mail, adding that he and Ang Ud-

om complained to the tribunal. Karnavas and Ang Udom were previously denied access to their client when he was admitted to Calmette in August.

ECCC Co-investigating Judges Marcel Lemonde and You Bunleng wrote to Calmette in June and again in July asking that hospitalized defendants be able to see their lawyers. The hospital's authorities responded that the hospital was for medicine only and that lawyers were getting in the way of treatment.

Karnavas said Tuesday that the co-investigating judge should now order the hospital to grant access.

"They should just issue a binding order and the hospital authorities should comply. If there is no compliance, [then] the OCJI should react, and if necessary hold who ever is responsible in contempt," he wrote in his e-mail.

Contacted Tuesday, Lemonde said it was not the judges' place to dictate how medicine should be

practiced. "I don't think we, judges, can settle the issue. We have said what was on our mind.... The tribunal cannot order doctors to practice medicine in such or such a way," Lemonde said by telephone Tuesday.

Ministry of Health Secretary of State Heng Taikry, who is also Calmette's director, declined to comment.

This latest hospitalization of Ieng Sary, who already stayed at Calmette overnight Dec 23 and 24, raises again the question of whether he is fit to remain in detention and stand trial, Karnavas added.

Lemonde responded that Ieng Sary's health was monitored daily.

"It's a recurring demand," Lemonde said.

"But the response is always the same: if he weren't fit to be in detention, it is self-evident that he wouldn't be detained anymore," he added.

Police are also searching for suspects based on physical descrip-

tals in Phnom Penh—including the National Pediatric Hospital on Russian Boulevard—in an attempt to find a doctor who could resuscitate him.

Their frantic efforts were in vain, and Sarak Thidachey died of his injuries at about 10 pm.

On Tuesday, the boy's mother lay motionless on a folding chair, while her other son, a 1-year-old, played and cooed under the watchful eye of other grieving relatives.

"We just want police to find the gunmen," Thong Ty said.

"We want both compensation and legal action taken against them. We are so sorry and upset and sad. He was very mischievous and lovely," Thong Ty said of his deceased infant nephew.

"We have already filed a complaint to commune police and we hope they arrest the gunmen soon," he added.

A small urn containing the child's ashes and a shrine displaying a baby bottle and bear-shaped plate of chicken and rice sits in the family's living room.

Commune police chief Pov Pidor said investigators found shell casings at the scene and believe the weapon used was a Colt 45 handgun, a pricey US weaponry brand.

"Only one group owned a gun. The suspects left before we arrived and we just gathered information from the eyewitnesses," he said.



Neou Vannarin/The Cambodia Daily

A relative holds a photo of Sarak Thidachey, 2, who was accidentally shot Saturday during a fight between two gangs.

tions from those who saw the fight, said Ouch Sokhon, Chamkar Mon district police chief.

Lieutenant-General Khieu Sopheap, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, downplayed the significance of the latest case of armed youths opening fire on the capital's streets.

He emphasized that the shooting was not indicative of a larger problem of gun violence in Phnom Penh.

"It's just one or two cases," Khieu Sopheap said, "but we have not denied the security of Phnom Penh."

The issue, he added, was really one for the country's lawmakers: "We need more laws implemented on weapons usage."