

NATIONAL

Briefing

Police Officer Kills Son, Wounds Wife, Daughter

A commune police chief in Kompong Thom province's Stong district shot three members of his family on Sunday night, killing his teenage son and leaving his wife and young daughter seriously injured, provincial police officials said yesterday. "The suspect's 14-year-old son was shot dead and his 32-year-old wife and a 5-year-old daughter were injured," provincial police chief Phan Sopheng said. According to Mr. Sopheng, the suspect, Chork Kimchin, a 42-year-old Chamna Krom commune police chief, shot his wife and daughter after they returned home from watching television at a neighbor's house at about 9 p.m. The son was shot and killed while trying to protect his mother. "The son was shot in the back on his left side. The wife was shot in the stomach, and the daughter was shot in the thigh," said Mr. Sopheng, adding that the wife and daughter were now recovering in hospital. "The suspect was detained yesterday," said Mr. Sopheng, adding that he was unsure why the husband had carried out the shooting, but that it may have stemmed from jealousy. (*Chin Chan*)

Man Killed With Sword Over Dance-Floor Misstep

A 25-year-old man was killed with a sword, and another man was injured, when a brawl broke out during a wedding party in Pursat province's Krakor district on Sunday night, officials said. Seng Theang was dancing at his friend's wedding party in Boeng Kantuot commune when he accidentally stepped on the foot of another dancer. The misstep started a large fight, which culminated in Seng Theang being killed with a sword, according to district police chief Bin Vanna. He added that another man, Sok Theara, 18, was stabbed in the leg during the fight and was still recovering in the hospital. "There were about 10 people fighting at the wedding party, but after a man was killed and another was injured, the man [who started the fight] and the other suspects ran away," Mr. Vanna said, adding that the attackers have been identified. The death is the fourth in a year in Krakor resulting from wedding party fights, deputy provincial police chief Ros Bunnan said. "It is

Lawyer Says Nuon Chea's Health 'Deteriorating'

BY ZSOMBOR PETER
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THE CAMBODIA DAILY

A lawyer representing Khmer Rouge tribunal defendant Nuon Chea told the court yesterday that his client's health was deteriorating, as hearings resumed for the first time since Nuon Chea and fellow accused Khieu Samphan were admitted to the hospital earlier this month.

Nuon Chea, 86, was admitted to the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital on January 13 after collapsing at the court's detention center suffering from severe bronchitis. Former Khmer Rouge head of state Khieu Samphan, 81, was admitted to the hospital three days later complaining of fatigue and shortness of breath.

Asked for an update on their conditions by the Trial Chamber, Nuon Chea's lawyer Victor Koppe said his client's condition was in decline. "The health situation is deteriorating, though, so that's troubling," Mr. Koppe told the court, without elaborating.

Mr. Koppe noted that his client had waived his right to attend yesterday's hearing, which focused on the admissibility of new documents from all parties.

Ngy Meng, a doctor at the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital where the two defendants are being treated, said he had sent the tribunal an update on their conditions yesterday morning but declined to

share the report. "We cannot provide news of the report to the press; please ask the [tribunal]," he said.

Lars Olsen, legal communications officer for the tribunal, said he could neither confirm nor deny Mr. Koppe's claim about Nuon Chea's declining health, and that he was still waiting for an update himself. He said the latest information he had received arrived Sunday, which maintained that Nuon Chea was improving.

Nuon Chea's wife, Ly Kimseng, said she had last visited her husband at the hospital Sunday. "My husband can't speak because he has bronchitis," she said. "Today I stayed away, so I don't know his condition."

Anta Guisse, defense lawyer for Khieu Samphan, said her own client's health remained steady.

"He's very weak and he's very tired," she said in court. "We are waiting for fresh information from the medical team."

Until his admission to the hospital last week, Khieu Samphan appeared to be the healthiest of the three defendants and consistently attended hearings.

As for the third and final co-defendant and Khmer Rouge former Foreign Minister Ieng Sary, the court said yesterday that he had decided to observe the day's proceedings from a holding cell at the tribunal due to fatigue.

The oldest of the three defendants, the 88-year-old has suffered from a number of ailments, includ-

ing heart disease, and has undergone four heart operations since 1994. He was hospitalized for two months late last year after reporting lightheadedness.

Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan's admissions to the hospital have been further setbacks for the tribunal's Case 002, which is making slow progress through the first of several planned "mini-trials," and has added to fears that the war crimes defendants might not survive to see a verdict.

Due to their hospitalization, the court expedited plans to have the prosecution and defense teams debate the admissibility of several new documents being proposed as evidence, including books, film footage, and U.S. State Department records—holding the document hearing yesterday.

In the afternoon, prosecutors started presenting Khmer Rouge regime documents that assistant prosecutor Dale Lysak said "will show the detailed and frequent reporting to the senior leadership." The documents included minutes of Standing Committee meetings attended by the defendants in which military plans were discussed and decided on.

During their trial, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan have repeatedly claimed to have been left out of many key decisions made during the Pol Pot regime.

The prosecution will resume its presentation of the regime documents this morning.

Chinese Mining Firm Plans Siem Reap Extraction

BY SIMON LEWIS
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THE CAMBODIA DAILY

A Chinese conglomerate headed by an adviser to Senate President Chea Sim plans to begin extracting gold and copper in Siem Reap province in two months, the firm's chairman said yesterday.

Khmer Holding, a group of companies that claims vast mineral interests in Cambodia, opened an office in Hong Kong last week to drum up investment for their plans in Cambodia.

Cao Yunde—who says he is an adviser to Mr. Sim but that the Senate president is not directly involved in his mining business—said in an interview at his office in Phnom Penh that Khmer Holding already has a license to extract minerals on 36 square km of land in Siem Reap's Chi Krong district.

"We have not yet dug the mine. We bought the equipment and we

1 million tons of copper and 20 tons of gold," he said, claiming the copper to be worth as much as \$6 billion and the gold \$800 million at current market prices.

The ambitious plan would make the firm the first company in Cambodia to begin extracting minerals on a commercial level.

Khmer Holding, which Mr. Cao said entered Cambodia in 2007, has made no previous public statements about its mining work in the country, and has not released any results from exploration activities.

Cheung Bunlong, director of the Siem Reap provincial department of industry, mines and energy, said he had not heard of Khmer Holding, or a subsidiary named Khmer First Wealth Holding, which company literature says holds the Chi Krong mining license.

"I've only ever received [notification] of a license that the Ministry [of Industry, Mines and En-

the wife of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces General Nim Meng. In 2011, the government fined the company after it was found to have illegally exported minerals from Chi Krong district to Taiwan through the Ream Naval Base in Preah Sihanouk province.

Chi Krong district police chief Toch Sakal said that Nim Meng was the only company he was aware of operating in the area, but that they had since ceased operations. "They stopped and I'm not sure who they transferred [the project] to," he said.

Mr. Cao would not disclose the amount of money his company planned to invest in the Siem Reap mining operation, but claimed a separate, and yet more ambitious project, would involve \$6 billion of investment. That project would involve a coal mine in Oddar Meanchey province's Anlong Veng district, fueling a power plant. That