A sand dredging operation on the Mekong River has allegedly resulted in the collapse of riverbanks in Kandal province’s Kien Svay district.

PHOTO SUPPLIED

Shifting sands

Justine Drennan

The vision regional leaders have for an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 may become clearer after this week’s Economic Ministers meeting in Siem Reap, but not everyone has a rose-coloured view of what such integration might mean for Cambodia.

“My peers are really concerned that other countries have many more skills and higher study levels,” National Institute of Business student Chan Kakada, 22, said yesterday, ahead of Prime Minister Hun Sen officially opening the meeting today.

Students who have not mastered the English language also fear employment opportunities will fade into the ether in the face of stiffer competition for English skills, Kakada, who hopes to one day open her own travel agency, said.

“If Cambodian students can’t compete with other ASEAN countries, maybe in the future [Cambodians] will be jobless after ‘ASEAN-alisation’,” she said, using a term coined by one of her professors, who urges students to study hard and choose their subjects carefully so they can compete in a regional labour market when the AEC’s free movement of skilled labour agreement comes into effect.

The AEC’s proposed labour agreement — to facilitate work permits and relax foreign worker quotas — being discussed at the economic minister’s meeting only includes certain skilled sectors: architecture, engineering, accounting, surveying, medicine and tourism.

University students may have reason to fear, experts say. But, ultimately, few Cambodians have technical skills that will be impacted under the AEC labour agreement, Kang Chandararot, head of the economics unit at independent analyst group Cambodia Institute of Development Study, said.

“The issue is how many skilled labourers we can produce when 80 per cent of labour in the economy is in rural areas,” he said.

“Because of seasonal unemployment and the dependence on a subsistence economy of Cambodian rural households, it is very difficult to promote the benefits of acquiring more skills,” Chandararot said, emphasising that for

Continues on page 6

WORKERS striking at Ocean Garment factory say they will fear for their safety after being ordered back to work on Friday, where a manager accused of sexual harassment continues to work.

More than 2,500 workers at the Phnom Penh factory — which supplies retail giant Gap — rallied behind six female employees, who accused their Bangladeshi manager, Faruk Ahmad, of sexual abuse, in an August 11 protest that has stretched on for nearly two weeks.

The women lodged formal criminal complaints to the police and municipal court last week; however, investigations are still pending, president of the Collective Union of Movement of Workers, Pav Sina said.

He said the workers had continued their strike inside the factory’s walls yesterday, and would gather again today in support of five worker representatives, suspended by Ocean despite all workers being ordered back to the factory in a Phnom Penh Municipal Court injunction on Thursday.

According to Sina, Ocean Garment suspended the five worker representatives when the employees returned to work on Friday.

“The court released the protection warrant and asked all workers to return to work in 48 hours on Friday, and we agreed with the court order. But the

Continues on page 5

Supplier of Gap in spotlight

Mom Kunthear and Claire Knox

Continues on page 3
Is it the end of the start for Vietnam’s ruling party?

Regional Insider
Roger Mitton

THE media was awash last week with stories about Vietnam’s dire economic situation, which, as the Wall Street Journal noted, “is going from bad to worse.”

On Tuesday, the local Tuoi Tre newspaper revealed that the powerful banking mogul, Nguyen Duc Kien, had been arrested for financial violations. Kien is among Vietnam’s 20 richest and best-connected businessmen – he is close to Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and co-founded the Asia Commercial Bank, one of the nation’s largest.

News of his jailing caused Vietnam’s already moribund stock market to suffer its biggest drop in four years and resulted in panic-selling of moribund ACB branches to pull out their savings. Some $400 million was withdrawn over the next two days and the central bank had to dispatch trucks loads of cash to prevent commercial banks from running out of cash.

A brief semblance of calm was then shattered on Thursday when news outlets like the Agence France Presse headlined: “Second typhoon arrested amid bank run in Vietnam.”

Ly Xuan Hai, the ACB’s chief executive, joined Kien in the slammer for alleged financial irregularities and that led to yet more bank runs and a disastrous $4 billion slide in the stock market.

The picture was darkening ominously, as was evident from a front-page New York Times article headlined: “In Vietnam, Growing Fears of an Economic Meltdown.”

Those fears were reinforced when the official Vietnam News Agency reported mid-week that prices had begun to creep up again.

Not long ago, in order to curb rampant inflation which had hit 30 per cent, the government radically curtailed credit and restrained growth.

It worked and the rate of inflation came down to single digits this year; but the cost was severe.

Youth unemployment soared, infrastructure projects were postponed or scrapped, serious power shortages ensued, wildcat strikes spread, the central bank had withdrawn over the next two days and the stock market to suffer its biggest drop in four years.

Vietnam’s already moribund Asian Commercial Bank, one of the nation’s largest, was then shattered on Thursday and the central bank had withdrawn over the next two days and the stock market to suffer its biggest drop in four years.

As the New York Times article reported: “Vietnam’s major cities are now scattered with abandoned construction sites.”

As well, after multiple currency devaluations and rising prices, people pruned their spending; the sale of produce and general goods in stores, for example, has recently plummeted by 20 to 30 per cent.

Making matters worse, foreign investment for the first half of this year was only one-quarter the amount during the same period three years ago.

As a result, real GDP growth now down to barely 4 per cent and falling, Vietnam has the region’s worst-performing economy and faces the harrowing prospect of an inflationary depression.

As the Associated Press reported on July 19, there are now serious doubts about the financial stability of a country once seen as an emerging Asian tiger economy.

Last week’s jailings followed the conviction of Pham Thanh Binh, formerly head of state-owned shipbuilder Vi Na Ocean, whose financial misdeeds saddled the company with debts of $4.3 billion.

Concurrently, Duong Chi Dung, the ex-boss of state-owned shipping giant Vinalines, recently lied into hiding after raking up debts of $2 billion.

Both Binh and Dung were political acolytes of senior party men, none of whom have been punished, of whom hundreds of thousands of AK-47s have been manufactured – as yet.

But political storm clouds are growing, as discontent over the nation’s economic mismanagement mounts, even within the ruling Communist Party itself.

PM Dung, whose daughter Nguyen Thanh Phuong partnered Kien in banking endeavours, is now openly being challenged by his long-time rival, President Tran Duc Lam.

Support is growing from party boss Nguyen Phu Trong and Deputy PM Nguyen Sinh Hung, which means the PM’s days could be numbered.

In a devastating article last week, Sang slammed both the incompetent state-owned enterprises and the corruption, irresponsibility and moral degradation of Dung’s government.

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As a result, with GDP growth for end-of-season rains, the region’s worst-performing economy, the PM’s days could be numbered. The government has been targetted – as yet.

The advice extends beyond this year, Khortieth said, pointing out that most rainy seasons have a dry spell in the middle.

On Friday, a farmer in Banatey Meanchey’s Trina Pook district, who had planned to find work in Thailand after his rice crop was hit by drought, said he will now grow another crop.

“My family relies on the rice crops so we will grow another crop,” he said.

Khortieth said the advice applies more to upland areas.

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Sinking feeling on river’s edge

Buth Reaksmey Kangkea

ABOUT 50 villagers in Kandal province protested yesterday in an attempt to halt the activities of a Vietnamese sand-dredging company, which they said has caused a huge swath of their land to slide into the Mekong River.

Residents of Kien Svay district’s Koh Prak village said that over the course of the company’s first month of operations, a length of shoreline more than 500 metres long and five metres wide has collapsed into the river, taking crops with it, and threatening the homes of those living nearest the river.

According to village representative Tuy Phy, 51, villagers began their protest yesterday morning at the Koh Prak port – where the dredging barges dock – then piled into five motorboats and sailed over the barges to ask them to stop their work.

“The activity of sand dredging of this Vietnamese barge company has severely affected our villagers’ lands and houses,” he told the Post. “We protect villagers’ lands and houses,” he told the Post. “to protect villagers’ lives, their houses and their assets,” he added.

Vuon Sothear, a villager from Koh Phak village, said that some day, his house near the base of the Carapace mountains will slide into the river, taking crops with it, and threatening the homes of those living nearest the river.

“I am afraid that my house and land will slide into the river some day,” he said, adding that according to villagers’ reports, the company’s activities directly affected 46 families, and over 100 more indirectly.

Im Sarom, 52, another resident, said villagers have submitted a complaint asking Phnom Thom commune officials to intervene but have not yet received a response, adding that villagers will stage a protest at Prime Minister Hun Sen’s house if a solution is not found.

Kien Svay district police chief Var Samath said the “issue is a matter for the Kien Svay district governor, who issued the company’s licence”.

Samath said he had personally observed the loss of shoreline in Koh Prak, but maintained that much of the erosion was due to natural forces.

Neither representatives of the company, nor Kien Svay district governor Heng Theam could be reached for comment.

Suspect net widens in safrole oil bust: police

Phak Seangly

THREE more suspects and numerous additional safrole oil harvest locations are being pursued by Pursat provincial police after the biggest safrole oil bust this year took place on Thursday.

Over the weekend, provincial anti-drug officials questioned Vietnamese-Cambodian Koe Thou, who turned over new information about his accomplices and the large-scale safrole oil-producing racket.

Thou was charged by Pursat Provincial Court with stockpiling 114 barrels of the illegal compound, which can be used as a pre-cursor for MDMA, commonly known as the party drug ecstasy, at his dilapidated house near the base of the Cardamom Mountains in Pursat.

“The suspect admitted that he guarded and prepared to transport the 114 barrels of safrole, provincial court prosecutor Yu Yen Rn, said, adding the suspect was being held in pretrial detention while authorities continued to question him.

Questioning of Thou revealed new information about his accomplices and the large-scale safrole oil bust: police

Authorities also learned that the harvesting was not isolated in a single location but deep in the forest at various locations along the border of Koh Kong and Pursat, as well as Battambang.

Once the root of safras trees growing in those locations were harvested, they were bought to a sophisticated processing site and Pursat police after the biggest safrole oil bust this year took place on Thursday.

The three other suspects were recently freed and Pursat police are now pursuing the remaining activists involved in the smuggling of the safrole across Thai-Vietnamese borders.

“They are all Vietnamese and another Cambodian who were involved in the smuggling of safrole across Thai-Vietnamese borders. They were charged with drug trafficking and evasion of duty last week.”

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Phnom Penh Shanouk Blvd, Siem Reap Svithara Road

VNC SALE
25 Aug - 4 Sept 2012
General arrested
Senior army official linked to drug bust

A TWO-STAR general and one other man were arrested in Phnom Penh by a joint force of police and military police, led by the anti-drug department at the Ministry of Interior, on suspicion of drug trafficking, police said yesterday.

According to department director Khieu Saman, General Chan Rithydy, the deputy chief of staff of the army’s infantry division and an unnamed associate were arrested at a luxury villa located in O’Anlong 1 village, in Meanchey district’s Prek Pra commune. In the raid, police seized more than one kilogram of crystaline ecstasy, and nearly 85,000 pills of an amphetamine-type stimulant known as WY. Rithydy isn’t the first high-ranking military officer to be linked to drug busts this year.

In May, an assistant to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Cabinet of General Command was caught with a cache of various drugs. Last month, a former royal palace site in Meanchey district’s Prek Pra commune. In the raid, police seized more than one kilogram of crystaline ecstasy, and nearly 85,000 pills of an amphetamine-type stimulant known as WY. Rithydy isn’t the first high-ranking military officer to be linked to drug busts this year.

More corruption cases heard

Buth Reaksmey Kongkea

THE Court of Appeal on Friday continued to hear the appeals of former anti-drugs chief Moek Dara, his second in command Chen Leng and fugitive Morn Doen in the seventh of 25 criminal cases against them.

In the fifth day of hearings focused on corruption charges against Leng and Doen who have been convicted for allowing two drug traffickers to escape detention and subsequently seizing the traffickers’ real estate properties as their own in 2009. The presiding judge at the Court of Appeal, Chay Chandaraivan, read aloud Bat reun Meanchey Provincial Court’s documents that on May 31, 2009, Chen Leng’s anti-drug police forces began a series of large-scale crackdowns leading them from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap to Ban Hun Meanchey.

“At each step of the crackdowns, illicit substances, cash and property were confiscated from arrested suspects.”

“One of the suspects, Chen Leng and Morn Doen had released 36 items of the suspects’ real estate properties and their bank accounts,” he added.

“These 36 items of documents seized, Chen Leng and Morn Doen brinded the suspects to purchase three luxury motorcycles for them to secure return of the seized property,” the judge read.

Their appeal hearings will continue on September 4.

Salvation Party sets million-dollar goal

Mean Sokhea

THE newly launched Cambodian Salvation Party (NSP) is setting aside a financial war chest for the upcoming 2013 national election by creating a foundation with the goal of raising US$1 million.

The money, said Mo Sochua, a senior lawyer and president of the NSP secretariat, will go toward the party’s campaign costs.

The National Rescue Foundation was established earlier this month, and according to an online tally, has raised about $26,000.

Most of the donations have poured in from Cambodians living abroad, with the bulk of the cash deriving from the US Cambodian community.

“We are very sure that we will collect at least $1 million,” said a confident Sochua. “They hate corruption, they want to have a change.”

Even if the NSP reaches its goal, however, it can’t begin to compete with the financial might of the Cambodian People’s Party, said Koul Panha, head of election monitoring organisation Comfrel.

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Shane Worrell

Carlsberg promises support

DANISH brewery Carlsberg has vowed to improve conditions for workers in theCambodian beer industry.

Carlsberg said it will work with the Cambodian Labour Union to help improve working and sexual abuse.

The company's comment follows a recent meeting with health officials from in and around the capital, where they were presented with a report on the impact of malaria.

The report focused on the need for improved access to medical treatment in local communities, particularly in areas where drug-resistant strains of malaria are prevalent.

The report noted that, despite efforts to combat drug-resistant malaria, the situation remains critical.

It highlighted the need for continued investment in malaria prevention and control measures, as well as greater awareness among communities about the importance of seeking prompt medical attention for suspected cases.

Carlsberg's commitment to supporting efforts to combat malaria is part of its broader commitment to sustainable development and corporate social responsibility.

The company actively works with local communities and organizations to promote health and well-being, including through initiatives focused on education, nutrition, and hygiene.

In addition to malaria, Carlsberg's efforts aim to address a range of challenges faced by communities in Cambodia, including access to clean water, sanitation, and waste management.

By partnering with local organizations, Carlsberg seeks to empower communities to take ownership of their health and development goals, while also supporting governments in implementing effective policies and programs.

Through its ongoing engagement, Carlsberg demonstrates its commitment to building a brighter future for Cambodia and its people, where everyone has access to the essential services and opportunities needed for a healthy and prosperous life.
In brief

Hun Sen to meet with non-aligned countries

PMI Minister Hun Sen on Friday approved a new sub-decree geared toward increased protection of the endangered Mekong river dolphin through a series of fishing and motorised transport restrictions in the Mekong river in Kratie and Stung Treng provinces.

There are approximately between 155-175 Mekong dolphins remaining in Cambodian Mekong River under the conservation efforts of the government throughout the last six years, the sub-decree reads.

Conservation efforts for the Mekong dolphins have increased after the species was listed in International Union for Conservation of Nature's endangered species list in 2004. The sub-decree bans the use of all kinds of fishing grills and motorised transport exceeding 30 kilometres per hour.

The clearance of forest and large-scale construction of infrastructure along the island near Kratie in the protected zone is also prohibited under the 12-point sub-decree.

Michelle Owen, acting country director of World Wildlife Fund in Cambodia, applauded the decree's role in Mekong River conservation.

"To be effective the sub-decree must be supported by local communities along the Mekong river," said Owen during Friday's meeting.

The Mekong river dolphin protection zone covers 7,630 square metres and stretches 180 kilometres from Laos into Cambodia.

Suppliers of Gap in the spotlight

Company then announced to suspend us five workers representatives — that's why all workers decided to strike again," worker representative Keo Kim Heang added.

Sima said the company yesterday agreed to immediately respond to the Post's requests for comment. One of the six to allege the sexual harassment of 27-year-old Heng Sangphors, she said, was terrified for her safety with the knowledge ahmad was still employed at the factory, but that he had not made contact with the workers.

Ocean Garment and Ahmad did not respond to the Post that two major donor countries will make good on their pledges of financial support. Australia's offering of almost $1.5 million should arrive at the end of this month, and a $1.1 million donation from the Norwegians will be paid ‘as soon as possible’, he said.

The financial reprise will expire at the end of October, when the court will face a $US4 million shortfall for the rest of 2012.

Souvenirs d’Orient

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Phnom Penh Promethra

Life is Magnifique

PM gives pro-dolphin decree

By Chhay Channyda

Khmer Rouge tribunal's day to attend the 16th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement to be held in Tehran on August 30-31, according to a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Hun Sen will hold talks with the presidents of Iran and North Korea. The trip comes ahead of the October 18 United Nations Security Council vote.

Cambodia is campaigning for a non-permanent seat for 2013 to 2014. Koy Kuong, a non-permanent seat for non-aligned movement to 2013 to 2014. Koy Kuong, a non-permanent seat for non-aligned movement to

Hun Sen will leave for Iran on Wednesday with a delegation of senior officials.

In brief

Police arrest thieves

Mob attacks innocent man

Police find machatex in car of local joy-riders

Military police have arrested three men, aged 18 to 24, who are believed to have habitually trouble-makers, and locals feared them. One resident, however, remembered a young couple who were blasting loud music from their car. Police stopped the joy-riding pair, and when officers did a search, they found a stash of machetes.

Gang of six snatch cell phone in Phnom Penh

ONe security guard was killed in motorbike accident

A 26-YEAR-OLD man was arrested on Saturday for allegedly snatching a necklace from a woman in Kamping Chhnang’s Kamping Chhnang town, police said. After pursuing the pendant, the thief escaped on a motorbike, and the victim filed a complaint with police who located and arrested the suspect. The suspect confessed not only to stealing the necklace, but to stealing his getaway motorbike at the same time.

Three men arrested in motorbike accident

Two men were arrested in motorbike accident.

Police: stolen motorbike used to steal necklace

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ASEAN’s newest look for cash

May Kumnakara
Siem Reap

OUNGER Southeast Asian countries will look for a means of filling the financial gap between poorer mainland ASEAN members and more developed states this week during the 44th ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting, which kicked off today.

At the five-day meeting, which Prime Minister Hun Sen is expected to attend this morning, Cambodia will also push for a higher degree of accessibility for businesspeople traveling within the 10-member economic bloc, according to officials.

While Cambodia’s ASEAN Economic Minister Cham Prasidh said the Kingdom was well prepared to lead the meeting, insiders will watch carefully the cohesiveness of the region’s top economic policymakers after the bloc’s foreign ministers failed to issue a joint communiqué at the ASEAN Summit in July.

Cham Prasidh, who will host the meeting, expressed confidence in finding new sources of development funding for Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam – ASEAN’s newest members collectively known as CLMV countries – from the region’s economic and financial powerhouses such as Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

“We are meeting here today to raise the projects and ask [the more developed countries] for help in order to lessen the gap between us,” Cham Prasidh said yesterday during a game of golf held for the ministers.

“I do believe that the meeting will seek more donations from other country members to help the four younger member of ASEAN,” ASEAN leaders hope to meet a 2015 deadline for integrating many aspects of the region’s trade and finance regulation, a goal some experts have called impractical.

Fear of global economic recession and its potential effects on the region’s weaker states echoed among ministers from mainland countries yesterday. Nam Viyakhet, Laos PDR’s Minister of Industry and Commerce, told reporters on the sidelines of the 10th ASEAN-Business Advisory Council that the private sector will seek approval for special travellers’ card for businesspeople from member states.

“If course, we have a lot of proposals for the ministers, but what we are eagerly requesting from them is an agreement on issuing special travellers’ card for businesspeople,” he said.

“This would make it easier for us to travel – no wasted time queuing. Special cards would be issued for businesspeople so they would be able to quickly get through security”, he said.

“The ASEAN governments would recognise us. We hope that we will get a reply from them by November.”
EVN may have massive debts

F

From the rural heartlands to traffic-choked cities, Vietnam Electricity Group is hard to miss. It builds apartments, runs a bank, oversees a stock brokerage, provides electrical power to millions of homes and employs 100,000 people.

Today, Vietnam’s sole retail power supplier, known as EVN, looks badly over-extended, according to a senior industry official with knowledge of its business. It is the latest state behemoth to face scrutiny in the wake of debt blowouts that have shaken investor confidence and symbolised the decline of a country once tipped as southeast Asia’s next economic star.

Some fear that the debt problem at EVN could dwarf that at shipbuilder Vinashin, whose default on a US$600 million loan damaged Vietnam’s reputation among foreign investors, although the monopoly has garnered far less international attention.

“I can tell you that its debt is far worse than Vinashin, maybe hundreds of trillions dong,” said the industry official with first-hand knowledge of EVN’s debts who asked not to be identified. The arrest this week of high-profile tycoon Nguyen Dac Kien, the multi-billionaire founder of Vietnam’s fourth-most valuable bank, Asia Commercial Joint Stock Bank (ACB), adds to deepening fears of financial malaise in the Communist-run country of about 90 million people.

His detention inflamed worries about a sector strained by ties to debt-laden state companies, including many like EVN that have stayed well beyond core businesses as policymakers sought to build world-beating conglomerates in the mould of South Korea’s “chaebol”.

The central bank was forced to make a rare public assurance that funds in ACB were safe as depositors queued up to withdraw their money, while Vietnam’s main stock index has fallen about 9 per cent this week.

The near-collapse of Vinashin in 2010, nearly three times that of ACB, has shaken investor confidence in the country’s main stock index and added to deepening fears of financial malaise in the Communist-run country of about 90 million people.

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But the latest proposals announced in July appear to fall short of tackling the cronyism and muddled priorities that have allowed the 100 largest state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to run up debts of $50 billion – equal to nearly half Vietnam’s annual economic output in 2010.

The problems, say bankers and industry experts, extend well beyond Vinashin and Vinacable.

“They are the tip of the iceberg,” said David Koh, a Vietnam expert at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

A failure at EVN, for example, could have a far bigger impact on the overall economy by disrupting the cheap energy supply that is the lifeblood of the its manufacturing sector.

A report in the Saigon Times in May citing a State Audit body document said that EVN had debts of 240 trillion dong ($11.5 billion) at the end of 2010, nearly three times that of Vinashin at the same time.

The Tuoi Tre newspaper reported in December that EVN had losses from production of 8.4 trillion dong, more than 12 times the amount reported by EVN itself, according to the same report. Reuters
Developed by Panasonic, ECONAVI technology utilizes Intelligent Sensors and Control Programmes to detect where energy is normally wasted and automatically adjusts performance to reduce energy wastage.

Self-adjusts compressor's rotational speed for optimal performance that dramatically reduces energy consumption.

** Washing machines: <Model> NA-149V63 <Testing Institution> TUV Rheinland (Shanghai) <Test Condition>: "Cold Wash" programme – Up to an additional 45% energy savings – Comparison made with ECONAVI operation (clothes amount: 2kg; water temperature: more than 30°C) against operation without ECONAVI (clothes amount: 2kg; water temperature: less than 25°C) – Test was conducted based on IEC60456 other than water temperature.

# Washing machines: Up to 58% energy savings on top of ECONAVI – Comparison between NA-F5 series Inverter model and Non-Inverter model.
Chinese bank loans seek aid rice millers

Rann Reuy

Rural Development Bank, told the Cambodian state-owned officials and rice millers to Cambodia last week to meet for rice milling, which would make the nation’s rice milling facilities as it aims to accelerate the export of rice in accordance with Prime Minister Hun Sen’s wishes.

Kunthor, said yesterday that the 270,000 tonnes of milled rice would be exported to China, while the final 10,000 tonnes would be distributed to the domestic market.

Under the proposed loans, rice mills would be established in the Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Prey Veng or Takeo province.

This is their plan. We don’t know how much about it if it will come to fruition, because first there are some conditions the government needs to ensure,” he said.

When an agreement is reached it was not disclosed because Kunthor’s Chinese counterpart requires the Cambodian government to insure the loan, while the government needs more time to examine the proposal and before making a decision. Approval must also be sought from the National Assembly as well, he said.

“The government is examining the proposal, but when a decision will be made is unclear,” he said, adding that the the discussed loans would have a normal interest rate of one per cent, with the interest rate jumping to 2.5 per cent for loans to the private sector.

Seth Rith, president of Seth Rith Milling Association, said the private sector also met with the bank officials, but for any agreement to be reached they need the government’s guarantee on the loans.

Interest rates between three and three per cent annually are fine for the producers and better than any interest rate received from domestic banks, which are between eight and 10 per cent a year, he continued: “Our private sector always looks to cooperate with the government and to have low interest rates, so the government should inform us,” he said.

Earning money and making a difference

Social enterprise may be more than just a buzzword if last Saturday’s attendance at Cambodia’s second-ever conference on the matter was anything to judge by.

The 350 person-plus crowd of attendees consisted pre-dominantly of Cambodians, for whom doing business appears to be about more than merely creating jobs and turning a profit. These aspiring entrepreneurs also want to do good.

Lina, a fourth-year chemical engineering and food technology student from the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, said that she attended the conference at the Cambodia-Japan Cultural Centre to learn how to make any future business she may run socially benefit the community.

“This conference is about social enterprise and I’m interested in participating, because maybe in the future I will run a business and somehow help the community. I want to know what are the things we can repair before running a business.”

Her definition of social enterprise was much the same as the others at the conference: a business that can both make money and help the community.

Lina’s idea of help from business was in line with the models described by Alissa Caron, country coordinator for Population & Development International Cambodia, who in her speech discussed the various models on which social enterprises could be based and the need for them to be businesses first.

Caron saw a need at the conference to dispel the notion that social enterprises and NGOs are one and the same, even when they may share similar goals.

“(There is) this attitude which I heard this morning in the questions of still thinking social enterprises as NGOs, or not being able to separate in one’s mind the NGO men-tality,” she said.

“Think that is really critical when you look at a social enterprise. People really have to focus on the profit maximisation and not lose sight of the social goal, but drive the business forward and not think we need to pay our workers extravagant salaries just because we are a ‘socially vulnerable community,’ she continued.

“Making profit maximisation is what Caron has limited the growth of social enterprise invest-ments in Cambodia and around the world.

“I think it ultimately comes down to this misconception that some investors feel like social enterprises just really aren’t NGOs trying to help people and they’re not looking at it as a social enterprise. Because maybe in the future they wouldn’t be good on their investment, they wouldn’t be good on their investment, they’re just going to lose money. Perhaps that’s because maybe they think or enterprises do, but I don’t think for the most part it’s a fair assumption to make. And just as a social enterprise isn’t just a business model, it also must have a clear message, she said.

“A social enterprise message to be integrated or your customers won’t be interested,” she continued. “And to have the importance for a social business to be clearly more than just a business.”

Fixed Deposit Interest Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank (Country)</th>
<th>3 Months</th>
<th>6 Months</th>
<th>12 Months</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>PSBAC</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>5.50%</td>
<td>6.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABA Bank</td>
<td>3.50%</td>
<td>4.00%</td>
<td>4.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACLBSEDA</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>3.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANZ Royal Bank</td>
<td>1.50%</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
<td>2.25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank of India</td>
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<td>2.30%</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia Public Bank</td>
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<td>2.75%</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
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<td>Canada Bank</td>
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<td>Maybank</td>
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<td>OSH Indochina Bank</td>
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<td>SBC Bank</td>
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<td>Unum Commercial Bank</td>
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<td>4.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARSHAN Japan Bank</td>
<td>2.00%</td>
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Post Title: Consultant: Development of National Standard Operating Procedures, Smuggling of Migrants, Cambodia

Agency: UNODC Cambodia

Country of Assignment: Cambodia

Due to the volume of applications, only candidates under positive consideration will be notified.

For candidates employed as a civil servant or government official, whose appointments are subject to approval by the government authorities, no objection to paid employment with UNODC for a period of unpaid leave from current employer.

Applications deadline is 5 September 2012.
Syria opposition say Assad forces massacred hundreds

Khaled Yacoub Oweis

S YRIAN opposition activists accused President Bashar al-Assad’s forces yesterday of committing a massacre of scores of people in a town close to the capital that the army had just retaken from rebels.

More than 200 bodies were found in houses and basements around Daraya, a working-class Sunni Muslim town to the southwest of Damascus, according to activists who said most had been killed “execution-style” by troops on house-to-house raids.

Due to restrictions on non-state media in Syria, it was impossible to independently verify the accounts.

“Assad’s army has committed a massacre in Daraya,” said Abu Kinan, an activist in the town, using an alias to protect himself from reprisals.

“In the last hour, 122 bodies were discovered and it appears that two dozen died from sniper fire and the rest were summarily executed by gunshots from close range,” Abu Kinan said.

The activist said he witnessed the death of an 8-year-old girl, Asma Abu al-Laban, shot by army snipers while she was in a car with her parents.

“They were trying to flee the army raids. Three bullets hit her in the back as she was in a car with her parents,” he said.

The official state news agency said: “Our heroic armed forces cleansed Daraya from remnants of armed terrorist groups who committed crimes against the sons of the town and scared the rest of the population and destroyed public and private property.”

The Local Coordination Committees, an activists’ organisation, said Assad’s forces killed 440 people across Syria on Saturday, including dozens of women and children, in one of the highest death tolls since the uprising against the regime broke out in March last year.

The organisation, which monitors Assad’s military crackdown, said 310 people were killed in Damascus and its environs, including Daraya, 40 in the northern province of Aleppo and 28 in Syria’s Sunni tribal heartland region of Deir al-Zor.

The rest were reportedly killed in the Idlib, Deraa, Hama and Homs, oulying provinces where poverty and discontent with Assad’s minority Alawite rule have been building up since bloody repression by Assad’s father, the late President Hafez al-Assad, killed tens of thousands of people in the 1980s.

Video footage from activists showed numerous bodies of young men side-by-side at the Abu Sleiman al-Daruni mosque in Daraya, many with what looked like gunshot wounds to the head and chest.

“A massacre,” said the voice of the man who appeared to be taking the footage. “You are seeing the revenge of Assad’s forces ... more than 150 bodies on the floor of this mosque.”

The southern fringe of Damascus is a frontline in what has snowballed over the last 17 months from anti-Assad protests into a sectarian civil war.

Tanks deployed on the Damascus ring-road shelled the southern neighbourhoods of al-Lawza and Nahar Aishieh late into Saturday night and fighting raged in the eastern Ghouta suburbs of the capital, residents said.

The army overran Daraya, one of a series of mostly rundown Sunni Muslim towns that surround Damascus, on Saturday after three days of heavy bombardment that killed 70 people, according to opposition sources and residents. They said most of the dead were civilians.

“The activist Daraya Coordination Committee said in a statement that among those found with gunshot wounds to the head were eight members of the Al-Qasaa family: three children, their father and mother and three other relatives. UN investigators said in a report this month that both sides in the conflict had performed summary executions – a war crime – but that Assad’s troops and militia loyal to the president had committed many more offences than the rebels.”

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The report said government forces and militias loyal to Assad committed a massacre of more than 180 civilians in the town of Houla in May that the government blamed on Islamist “terrorists.”

The United Nations estimates that more than 18,000 people have been killed in the conflict that pits a mainly Sunni opposition against a ruling system dominated by the Assad family for the last five decades.

Assad is an Alawite, an offshoot of Shi’ite Islam, and the sectarian nature of the conflict has already had an impact on neighbouring countries.

A Lebanese man who was abducted with a group of 10 other Lebanese Shi’ites pilgrims in Syria in May, triggering tit-for-tat kidnappings of Syrian activists in Lebanon, arrived home on Saturday hours after Syrian rebels released him as a “goodwill gesture.”

*ADAMICUS*
Israel army soldiers speak of abuse

Harriet Sherwood

More than 30 former Israeli soldiers have disclosed their experiences of the treatment of Palestinian children during military operations and arrests, pointing to a pattern of abuse. A booklet of testimonies, published by Breaking the Silence, an organisation of former Israeli soldiers dedicated to publicising the day-to-day actions of the army in the occupied territories, contains descriptions of beatings, intimidation, humiliation, verbal abuse, night-time arrests and injury. Most of the children are suspected of stone-throwing. The witness statements were gathered to show the “common reality” of acts of violence by soldiers towards Palestinians, including children, in the West Bank, said Yehuda Shaul of Breaking the Silence. “Sadly enough this is the moral consequence of prolonged occupation of the Palestinian people,” he said.

One of the ex-soldiers describes serving in Hebron in 2010. “You never know their names, you never talk with them, they always cry, shit in their pants … There are those annoying moments when you’re on an arrest mission, and there’s no room in the police station, so you just take the kid back with you, blindfold him, put him in a room and wait for the police to come and pick him up in the morning.”

“Children frequently soiled themselves, according to the testimonies. “I remember hearing him shouting his pants … I also remember some other time when someone pissed in his pants. I just became so indifferent to it, I couldn’t care less. I heard him do it, I witnessed his embarrassment, I also smelled it. But I didn’t care,” said another.

Another soldier describes an incident in Qalqilya in 2007 in which a boy was arrested for throwing stones. “At the end of the day, something has to make these kids stop throwing stones on the road because they can kill,” he said.

Another witness said: “If you actu-
ally lay there on the ground, begging for his life, was actually nine years old. I think of our kids, nine years old, and a kid handling this kind of situation, I mean, a kid has to beg for his life! A loaded gun is pointed at him and he has to plead for mercy! This is something that scars him for life.”

Some of the statements illustrate the disjunction between the Israeli military and Palestinians. One soldier said: “You put up a checkpoint out of boredom, sit there for a few hours and then continue on. Once I saw kids passing, and one of the guys, a reservist who spoke Arabic, wanted to ask them what they studied. He didn’t mean it in any bad way. Then I saw how the kid nearly pissed his pants as the guy tried to kid with him, how the two worlds are simply disconnected. The guy was kid-
ing and the kid was scared to death.”

The idea was not to run too big a deficit – the deficit should tend towards zero pean rule.

“The idea was not to run too big a deficit. In the long run, the deficit should tend towards zero,” Kox said, interviewed at party headquarters, a modernist building in the city of Amersfoort.

The party rejects austerity – at home and elsewhere in the euro zone – and all charges of extremism.

“This is a normal, Krugman view of how to get out of the crisis,” Kox said, referring to the Nobel Prize-winning economist who has criticized European countries for focusing more on deficit reduction than on economic growth.
Hollande sends message to Greece

Elizabeth Pineau

FRENCH President François Hollande said Greece’s leaders must demonstrate their commitment to reform and Europe must decide on how to help the country as soon as possible after it receives a troika report from Athens’ international lenders in October.

Hollande also said he must stay in the euro zone, added after a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras on Friday.

Merkel, who held similar talks with Samaras on Friday, said Greece’s leaders must demonstrate the credibility of its program and the will of its leaders to go through with it to the end, whilst ensuring it’s bearable for the population.

Hollande told reporters.

He said that once the “troika” of the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund lenders have handed in their next report on Greece’s fiscal situation, Europe should not hesitate to act.

“Once we have this report, once the commitments are confirmed, Europe has to do what it has to do,” he said.

“That means after the troika report at the European summit in October.”

Samaras, whose conservative-led government took power in June promising to fulfill the austerity pledges Greece made to receive its bailout, wants European leaders to give his country more time to push through the unpopular reforms.

He has been hoping for a two-year extension to the budget targets promised under Greece’s second, €130 billion (182.163 billion) bailout from the European Union and International Monetary Fund, as the country struggles through its fifth year in recession.

German’s finance minister reaffirmed his opposition to giving Greece more time in an interview with the Tagesspiegel on Sunday newspaper, according to advance excerpts.

“A more time generally means more money, and that very soon means a new [bailout] program,” Wolfgang Schäuble was quoted as saying. “That would not be the right way to solve the fundamental problems of the euro zone.”

Schäuble said extending the period of the program so soon after it was agreed at the end of 2011 would send a bad signal.

“If after just half a year that were no longer to be sufficient, that would not be a confidence-building measure,” he said.

Samaras said in a German newspaper interview earlier this week that Greece could stay afloat if it received its next tranche of aid later than October, but will be broke if the money does not arrive.

France’s President Francois Hollande (right) welcomes Greece’s Prime Minister Antonis Samaras at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Saturday.

FRENCH President Francois Hollande’s approval rating fell to 54 per cent in August, continuing a steady decline since he came to office, according to a poll released on Saturday.

The declining ratings reflect the challenges Hollande faces in tackling high unemployment and a stagnant economy as he seeks to stanch €33 billion from next year’s budget to meet deficit targets, part of a drive to restore faith in the euro.

The poll, by Ifop for Le Journal du Dimanche newspaper, marked a slide from 61 per cent who were satisfied or very satisfied with Hollande’s performance in August to 59 per cent in June and 56 per cent in January.

The poll’s prime minister Jean-Marc Ayrault also declined, falling by four percentage points to 57 per cent in August, according to the survey. This compares with an approval rating of 65 per cent in his first two months in the job.

The poll was based on the views of 920 people aged 18 and over, interviewed by telephone on August 23 and 24.

Armored group bulldoze a Sufi mosque in Libya

Taha Zargoun

ATTACKERS bulldozed a mosque containing Sufi Muslim graves in the centre of Tripoli in broad daylight on Saturday, according to a妇联 newspaper, marking a slide from 61 per cent who were satisfied or very satisfied with Hollande’s performance in August to 59 per cent in June and 56 per cent in January.

The poll was based on the views of 920 people aged 18 and over, interviewed by telephone on August 23 and 24.

But Hollande, who has taken a softer line than Germany on the need for austerity to help the euro zone rein in its deficits, added that Greece, where unemployment has hit a record 23 per cent, must not push its people too far.

“That [Greece] must demonstrate again the credibility of its program and the will of its leaders to go through with it to the end, whilst ensuring it’s bearable for the population,” Hollande told reporters.

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But Hollande, who has taken a softer line than Germany on the need for austerity to help the euro zone rein in its deficits, added that Greece, where unemployment has hit a record 23 per cent, must not push its people too far.

“That [Greece] must demonstrate again the credibility of its program and the will of its leaders to go through with it to the end, whilst ensuring it’s bearable for the population,” Hollande told reporters.

He said that once the “troika” of the European Commission, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund lenders have handed in their next report on Greece’s fiscal situation, Europe should not hesitate to act.

“Once we have this report, once the commitments are confirmed, Europe has to do what it has to do,” he said.

“That means after the troika report at the European summit in October.”

Samaras, whose conservative-led government took power in June promising to fulfill the austerity pledges Greece made to receive its bailout, wants European leaders to give his country more time to push through the unpopular reforms.

He has been hoping for a two-year extension to the budget targets promised under Greece’s second, €130 billion (182.163 billion) bailout from the European Union and International Monetary Fund, as the country struggles through its fifth year in recession.

German’s finance minister reaffirmed his opposition to giving Greece more time in an interview with the Tagesspiegel on Sunday newspaper, according to advance excerpts.

“A more time generally means more money, and that very soon means a new [bailout] program,” Wolfgang Schäuble was quoted as saying. “That would not be the right way to solve the fundamental problems of the euro zone.”

Schäuble said extending the period of the program so soon after it was agreed at the end of 2011 would send a bad signal.

“If after just half a year that were no longer to be sufficient, that would not be a confidence-building measure,” he said.

Samaras said in a German newspaper interview earlier this week that Greece could stay afloat if it received its next tranche of aid later than October, but will be broke if the money does not arrive.

France’s President Francois Hollande (right) welcomes Greece’s Prime Minister Antonis Samaras at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Saturday.

FRENCH President Francois Hollande’s approval rating fell to 54 per cent in August, continuing a steady decline since he came to office, according to a poll released on Saturday.

The declining ratings reflect the challenges Hollande faces in tackling high unemployment and a stagnant economy as he seeks to stanch €33 billion from next year’s budget to meet deficit targets, part of a drive to restore faith in the euro.

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A N EXPLOSION tore through Venezuela’s biggest oil refinery on Saturday, killing 39 people, injuring dozens more and halting operations at the facility in the worst accident to hit the OPEC nation’s petroleum industry.

Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said no production units at the Amuay refinery had been affected and there were no plans to halt exports — a sign that the incident will likely have little impact on fuel prices.

Photographs taken just after the pre-dawn blast showed wreckage of vehicles, flattened fences and giant storage tanks buckling and crumbling as flames lit the night sky.

A nearby National Guard building was shattered, and officials said a 10-year-old child was among the dead.

The explosion followed repeated accidents and outages at various units at the Amuay refinery within two days.

“The explosion could spill into an already stretched market,” said George Pimentel, executive director of the American Petroleum Institute.

Pimentel said refining remains crucial to maintaining adequate supplies of gasoline and diesel fuel.

The explosion broke windows at homes in the area, a peninsula in the Caribbean sea in western Venezuela, as well as at Amuay’s main administrative building.

The blast was felt at sea in Paraguana Bay, where crew members of moored tankers were knocked off their feet by the shock wave, a shipping source said.

Ramirez said the fire that resulted was burning off residual fuel, including naphtha, some processed fuels and oil and some processed fuels.

Officials said two tanks were affected only nine storage tanks holding mostly crude oil and some processed fuels.

Ramirez said fuel stocks were burned, tanks were knocked off their feet by the shock wave, as smoke hung above the area.

Chavez told state television. He declared three days of mourning.

Venezuela has traditionally been a big supplier of fuel to the United States and the Caribbean, but refinery shutdowns have become so common that they rarely affect market prices.

Traders said the docks at the refinery were shut, and tankers were anchored off-shore waiting. They said this would cause delays to some of the country’s exports.

The explosion had caused the explosion, and many of those killed were National Guard troops providing security for the 654,000 barrels-a-day facility, Ramirez said.

Officials said 18 of the soldiers were confirmed dead, along with 15 civilians. Six bodies were still unidentified.

“There was a National Guard barracks near the explosion... The installation was too close to the operations,” Ramirez said, adding that production could resume at Amuay within two days.

“We need to boost production at other refineries and look for floating storage near the complex,” he said.

The explosion follows repeated accidents and outages during the past decade across installations run by the state oil company PDVSA that have limited oil output and crimped expansion plans.

Operations at Amuay have partly shut down at least twice this year after a small fire and the failure of a cooling unit.

Ramirez also said fuel stocks were burned, tanks were knocked off their feet by the shock wave, as smoke hung above the area.

The explosion also affected a nearby National Guard building that was shattered.

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These problems have spurred accusations of inept management by the government of President Hugo Chavez, who is running for re-election on October 7.

Acritism over the explosion could spill into an already battered, but is unlikely to overtake larger political concerns such as crime and the economy.

“I want to convey the deep pain that I’ve felt in my heart and soul since I started to get information about this tragedy,” Chavez told state television.

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Ramirez said the fire that resulted was burning off residual fuel, and a witness at the scene said large, black clouds of smoke hung above the area.

Ramirez said fuel stocks around the country were sufficient to guarantee 10 days of exports and local sales.

PDVSA had no plans to invoke force majeure, which lets companies stop shipments because of accidents or extreme weather, he said.

Amuay, together with a neighbouring facility, forms part of the Paraguana Refining Centre, the second-biggest refinery complex in the world, with an overall capacity of 955,000 barrels a day.

In 2010, there was a huge fire at a PDVSA fuel terminal on the Caribbean island of Borinquen, then a blaze at a dock at the Paraguana complex that halted shipping for four days.

Also in 2010, a natural gas explosion rig, the Aban Pearl, sank in the Caribbean. All its 95 workers were rescued safely.

US claims insurgent dead but comrade begs to differ

Michael Georgy

A US drone in Pakistan may have killed a senior commander of Haqqani insurgents behind some of the biggest attacks on Western and government targets in Afghanistan, sources say, but this has been denied by a senior Haqqani leader.

Pakistan intelligence officials and militant sources said Badruddin Haqqani, the network’s head of operations, who is also believed to handle its vital business interests and smuggling operations, may have been killed during the strike last week in Pakistan’s North Waziristan province.

A senior Pakistani intelligence official said Badruddin had fled a compound he and other militants were in after it was hit by a missile, but was killed by a second drone strike on a car he was in.

But Maulvi Ahmed Jan, a senior Haqqani network commander, denied Badruddin had been killed. He said a distant relative, 13-year-old Osaama, was killed in the strike and his funeral had been mistaken by locals for Badruddin’s.

The insurgents would soon provide proof that Badruddin was alive, Jan said.

“We have proudly announced before when our people died in action or in drone strikes. Jihad against the occupying forces in Afghanistan is our mission, and death is certain in fighting them. Why would we keep it secret?” he said.

Afghanistan’s Taliban movement, allies of the Haqqani network, also said Badruddin was alive.

There was no official word on Badruddin’s fate from the network. Other intelligence officials were cautious.

“Our informers have told us he was killed in the drone attack on the 21st, but we cannot confirm it,” one of the Pakistani intelligence officials said.

If Badruddin’s death is confirmed, it could deal a major blow to the Haqqanis, one of the US’s most feared enemies in Afghanistan.

The Haqqanis are the most experienced fighters in Afghanistan, and the loss of one of the group’s most important leaders could ease pressure on NATO as it prepares to withdraw most of its combat troops at the end of 2014.

“We are 90 percent sure he was in the house that was attacked with a drone on Tuesday,” another Pakistani intelligence official said.

Sources close to the Haqqani network also said Badruddin was believed to be in the house by a drone strike as militants were planning explosives in a vehicle meant to be used for an attack on NATO forces in Afghanistan.

“The drone fired two missiles on the house last Tuesday and killed 35 people, most of them members of the Haqqani family,” one of the sources said.

Pakistani Taliban and tribal sources said they believed Badruddin had been killed in the drone attack.
Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, has died aged 82. The former US astronaut, who will go down in history as the most famous face of America’s space exploration, has passed away as the result of heart complications following surgery.

Armstrong underwent heart bypass surgery earlier this month, just two days after his birthday on August 5, to relieve blocked arteries. His family released a statement on Saturday describing him as a “reluctant American hero who always believed he was just doing his job.”

“It was heartbreaking to hear the news that Neil Armstrong has passed away following complications resulting from cardiovascular procedures,” the family said in a statement. “He served his nation proudly as a Navy fighter pilot, test pilot and astronaut. He was also a reluctant American hero who always believed he was just doing his job.”

He went on to say that Armstrong was “a true American hero and the best pilot I ever knew.” The Apollo 11 mission turned out to be Armstrong’s last space flight. The following year, he was appointed to a desk job at NASA, later becoming a lecturer in engineering at Cincinnati University.

In 1961 President Kennedy had declared before the United States Congress that the US would have a man on the moon before the turn of the decade and the moon walk marked America’s victory in the Cold War space race. An estimated 600 million people – a fifth of the world’s population – watched and listened to the moon landing, the largest audience for any single event in history.

Consultancy Opportunities
International Technical Advisers

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is seeking to hire two international technical advisors to support the Cambodian Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS) to strengthen national systems in key areas.

The technical support is targeted to strategic areas within MoEYS which will facilitate improved governance and management of the sector as a whole. The advisors will be supported by the Capacity Development Partnership Fund (CDPF), which is a multi-donor fund financed by the European Union, the Embassy of Sweden and UNICEF. The CDPF is to support the implementation of the capacity development objectives of the MoEYS Education Strategic Plan and the MoEYS Annual Operational Plans through the Capacities Development Plan.

The fund is based on the principles of ownership, alignment, harmonisation and simplicity.

We invite potential candidates to apply for the following consultancy assignments:

International Technical Advisor to Support the Sub-National Democratic Development Reform in the Education Sector

Duration: 6 months
Reference: V/CTI/02/12/2021

Provide technical support to MoEYS for the functional mapping and review process related to sub-national democratic development reform (KDRO), facilitating collaboration between the Department of Land Management (of the MoEYS) and other relevant technical departments as well as Provincial (Municipal) Offices of Education (PDEOs), District Offices of Education (DDEOs), Provincial, District and Commune Councils and School Directors.

International Technical Advisor to Support Analysis and Reporting of Grade Three National Test Data

Duration: 3 months
Reference: V/CTI/02/12/2021

Support the Education Quality Assurance Department (EQAD) in preparing for and analysing the data from the Grade 3 national test on Khmer and Mathematics. As a result of the consultation, EQAD will be able to present comprehensive data related to student achievements in Grade 3 with a view to informing policy development and planning. The consultancy will support EQAD in preparing the tests and application, analyse the results of the Grade 3 test on Khmer and Mathematics and to write a full report which can be used officially by EQAD / MoEYS.

Substitution of Applications: Applications will be considered only if accompanied by an updated CV and Professional History Form (PHF), as well as the two most recent performance evaluation reports for their equivalent at UNICEF Cambodia, Human Resources Unit, No. 11, Street 75, Saramek Sopham, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, or email to: phf@unicef.org

Applications MUST Include the title and summary page. The PHF in MSWord can be downloaded from our website at: www.unicef.org/cambodia. Resumes sent only will be sent to shortlisted candidates. All applications are treated with strict confidentiality.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Thursday 13 September 2012 (GMT +7 hours)

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Past, future haunt Greek isle

Vanessa Thorpe

A coachman drives alongside the coast on the Greek island of Spetses, a playground for the wealthy. [REUTERS]

While Athenians can enjoy browsing in the expensive delis that has replaced the souvlaki outlet in the square, the majority of Spetsiots can no longer afford to eat in local restaurants. The price of food in supermarkets and shops has soared.

"It is a theatre now," says Kostas, who is stockpiling food against a coming national emergency and has hunting guns positioned around his home. But as the son of an old Spetses family, he knows that appearances must be kept up to attract wealthy guests, no matter how difficult life becomes for residents. Leisure and pleasure are Spetses' only lifeline in the crisis, but might also put islanders in peril. Kostas is aware that communities on the mainland are envis- ing the apparently lavish lifestyle on the island. There are fears that if the Greek economy really does melt down, Spetses could be targeted as a symbol of the feckless rich even as most of its year-round inhabitants struggle to get by.

The glitzy reputation is not new. By custom elderly women, wrapped in black scarves and long dresses, would gather in the afternoon to share slices of watermelon as they sat in the shade. A scene from old Greece, sure enough, but this was never really a rustic island - not the kind with donkeys and quiet tavernas with broken chairs. Proximity to Athens ensured that it became a tycoons' playground as soon as international shipping began to make billions.

In 1962 Stavros Niarchos, second only to Aristotle Onassis in the magnate stakes, bought the tiny neighbour- ing private island of Spetsopoula where Charles and Di- ana later spent part of their honeymoon; and in the early 1980s when Duran Duran's Simon Le Bon wanted to cel- ebrate a birthday, he did so under the flashing lights of a disco in Spetses' glamorous Old Harbour.

The island, once described by Fowles as "a place so beautiful, quiet and empty" is full of worried people. Memories of the atrocities distorted in the retelling, but they remain powerful enough to create fear and suspicion. After all, people were lynched on the Dapia and shot outside the Poesidnian.

An old sense of vulnerabili- ty is returning to Spetses, be- hind the beach parasols and designer sunglasses.

The words on the island's flag, which dates back near- ly 200 years to the Greek War of independence, are: "Freed- om or Death". They no lon- ger seem such a quaint rem- nant from a swashbuckling past.

The majority of Spetsiots can no longer afford to eat in local restaurants. The price of food in supermarkets has soared.
Deadly shark attacks spark debate

Alison Rourke

The deaths of five swimmers killed by sharks in the waters off Western Australia during the past 12 months have led local officials to consider ending the ban on the killing of great whites.

“There’s no documented account of fatal attacks attributed to white sharks in such a short time and geographic location, anywhere in the world, like we have experienced in Western Australia, and action is necessary to deal with it,” state fisheries minister Norman Moore said in the wake of the most recent fatal attack last month.

“I think we need to have another look to see whether there’s been a significant increase in great white numbers since they became protected. And if that’s the case, should they still be on a protected list?”

Moore asked for urgent clarification from Canberra on the shark’s status as a protected species. Since 1999, the animals have been listed as “rare or likely to become extinct,” and fishing or culling them has been banned.

Many conservationists believe the sharks should remain protected. “Australia has an immense moral and legal responsibility to protect great white sharks in our waters,” Alexia Wellbelove, of the Humane Society, said.

The latest fatality was Ben Linden, 24, who was surfing 200 metres offshore when a great white bit him in half, according to witnesses. A would-be rescuer on a jet ski was driven away by the shark.

Theories to explain the number of attacks range from increasing populations of seals, sea lions and whales that the sharks feed on, to there being more people in the water as Western Australia’s population grows.

What is clear to scientists is that the sharks are now bigger. Professor Shaun Collin, from Western Australia University’s Oceans Institute, said: “There’s no doubt the bans have allowed the sharks to grow to greater maturity.”

Collin believes removing great whites from the protected list would be a mistake. “Sharks may be apex predators, but they are also a very important part of the ecosystem. If you remove them, there can be hugely detrimental effects on whole species, as new predators step up to where the sharks were.”

“The big question is why there have been so many attacks in the past year. “There’s been something about Western Australia in that time that has brought them closer, and that’s what we need to find out.”

The federal government says it is reviewing its great white protection plan, but getting accurate information is not easy. Only about 100 great white sharks have ever been tagged or sampled in Australian waters.

“Trying to find them is like looking for a needle in a haystack, because they roam across such large distances and don’t necessarily hang out in groups,” said Professor John Pandolfi of Queensland University, whose recent study on great whites established that there are two genetic populations in Australia: one on the east coast and another that travels between South and Western Australia.

Last week, at Perth’s Cottesloe beach, where Bryn Martin, 64, was killed by a shark last October, swimmers from the surf club were enjoying the water. About a dozen women aged from 60 to 90 swim up and down the beach for 20 minutes each day. They stick closer to shore now than they used to. “We err on the side of caution and only swim about 20 metres off the shore, in water that’s waist-deep,” said Jean Burlington, 67, who swims at Cottesloe every day. Surf clubs have been given fresh instructions on shark sightings and encouraged to put up posters about shark safety. At Cottesloe, there are beach patrols and a helicopter monitors the coastline.

Constable Jeremy Jones holds a surfboard involved in a fatal shark attack at Gracetown, Western Australia, in August, 2010.
Cheat sheets will also be on the cheat sheets, often with the claim sprung up to supply test-takers with cheat sheets, often with the claim that questions covered in these cheat sheets will also be on the real exams.

In addition, parents are willing to give their children money to bribe proctors, and a small industry has sprung up to supply test-takers with cheat sheets, often with the claim that questions covered in these cheat sheets will also be on the real exams. Not all engage in this corrupt practice, but the consequences of tolerating it can be grave.

Students are ill-served by a system that allows an easy pass. Presented with the option of paying for their degree, students have fewer incentives to apply themselves to their studies. They may fail to gain through schooling the skills and knowledge needed to lead a fulfilling life and become productive, responsible citizens able to contribute to their country's development. Additionally, in a more globalised society, they will find it difficult to compete with the knowledge workers of other countries in the region and the wider world.

I also cannot help but wonder how this experience shapes the moral character of 18-year-old examination candidates. In addition to being a yardstick for university admission, a high-school degree is a symbol of intellectual accomplishment that is worthy of recognition and praise. That it can be bought and sold so readily may send the wrong signal to young Cambodians that money reigns supreme over honour and respect, and is an acceptable alternative to hard work and real effort.

Grade 12 students in Phnom Penh are blessed by Buddhist monks during a ceremony before their final exams last month. HENG MENEA

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A mellower Colin Farrell finds solace in family life

Colin Farrell is giving someone a right ticked-off, gut-scuttling good-natured dressing-down. The fellow, a reporter, seems embarrassed but doesn’t object; several pokers later he retreats into another room. Farrell follows him, maintaining a frown and daggering the man with suspicious glances. We’re both here, in a Mexican hotel, to interview the actor, who is promoting his new film. Farrell has beenchippered all day. I wonder what’s got his goat.

A while later, when I sit down with him, he looks at meaghast.
"Can you f---in’ believe what he said?" he asks with eyebrows immediately changed. But I’m different to what I was yesterday, because I know that back in the day I would have dragged myself through this and been as loud as hell, smoking two cigaretes at once and being really obnoxious. But that’s not part of my life now and I’m glad.

Farrell’s journeys through obnoxiousness – fuelled at various stages by heroin, cocaine and alcohol – have been well documented, and the actor himself has proved a good sport when talking about his troubles. “It’s helped to stay away from cocaine and and whisky,” he says, smiling, when we touch on past misdemeanours. “Life moves in cycles. I’m not going to say there was a particular day or time (when things changed), or even that I’m a different man. I enjoy the work more. I enjoy being a dad more, I enjoy doing things that I never thought I’d enjoy. Like what? Like yoga,” he says.

Yoga, parenting or enjoying his work, the moves are paying off – Total Recall is the actor’s first big-budget Hollywood picture since 2004’s Miami Vice. It was after that film wrapped that Farrell checked into rehab, back in December 2005. “Everything is by design, even if you think it’s not,” he says. “I can’t say that I sat down and said, ‘Right, I’m going to reinvent.’ I know from talking to some friends and different people that it looks as though I’ve tried to redesign my career but it’s not really like that.”

His last blockbusters were both commercial misfires. Oliver Stone’s 2004 swords-and-sandals epic, Alexander, in which Farrell tackled the lead role, earned less than $35 million at the US box office (against a production budget of around $130 million), while Michael Mann’s Miami Vice fell short of the $65 million mark in the States (it cost $135 million to make). More recent outings – the likes of London Boulevard and Fright Night – have gone largely unnoticed. “I had signed up to do quite a few of those films before I went away to rehab after Miami Vice,” he says of his independent output but "I had also done a certain amount of big-budget films that didn’t perform that well. Consequently, there weren’t that many big films that were coming knocking for me.

“I was probably due an arse-kicking,” he continues. “I really was. I was having too much fun and being too loud about it. I’m not saying that my hand was totally forced but, of the work that then presented itself, I did the most interesting jobs. They weren’t not all particularly good films, but not of all them worked.” Farrell exulted referred, now begins to emerge. The actor, as we’ve seen, cannot identify an epiphany moment, a day where his life turned around, but by shooting smaller films he edged out of the spotlight and, as a consequence, sidled away from many of the pleasures and temptations that follow in its shadow. Whether he sought it or not, the actor has finally found time to work out what he really wants.

He doesn’t mind recalling the dark days of inebriation and sexual indiscretion, because “I can talk about it objectively. I feel so far away from that, expecially, now. And the fact that I had from the point of glorifed through all these films, and the money I had thrown at me, and the beds I ended up in, it was crazy.” It’s many blokes’ dreams, I note, being romantically linked to the likes of Britney Spears, Demi Moore or any one of the more glamorous yet lesser-known models. “I know, and the fact that I got to experience that was amazing. But I am glad it is done.”

The small, smartly dressed lady who’s been sitting in the corner suddenly appears at the actor’s elbow. “This is my mum,” says Farrell, confirming my earlier suspicion. “She’s here to make sure you don’t write anything mean,” he half-jokes. His mum, Rita, then flares me with a steely look and offers an inscrutable smile. “I say my goodbyes and hope that she likes the piece.”
Travel

Now hiring: Brazil wants more foreign professionals

Esteban Israel

Brazil’s government is exploring ways to ease immigration rules in order to attract up to 10 times more foreign professionals and help spur economic growth, a senior official told Reuters.

A lack of skilled workers is one of many bottlenecks that have lately brought the world’s sixth largest economy to a near standstill. From construction sites to oil rigs and technology operations, companies are struggling to find qualified workers to ramp up their operations in Brazil. Internet giant Google, for instance, currently has 39 open positions in Brazil.

“This country has become very isolated from the rest of the world in terms of its labour markets and that is affecting our competitiveness,” said Ricardo Paes de Barros, a Yale-educated economist who heads a team on strategic initiatives at the president’s office.

“We want to turn that around so Brazil will be better connected with the rest of the world in terms of transfer of knowledge,” he said in a telephone interview.

A former Portuguese colonist, Brazil has a long history of welcoming immigrants from all over the world, similar to the United States. In the last few centuries, the country has received waves of immigration from Africa, Europe, Japan and most recently from poorer neighbours such as Bolivia.

But economic woes in the second half of the last century reduced the arrivals to a trickle. Today foreigners represent just 0.5 per cent of Brazil’s workforce, down from 7 per cent at the beginning of the 20th century. In Australia, a similarly sized country that has long attracted immigrants, foreigners account for about 20 per cent of the workforce.

The debate over a more flexible immigration framework reflects Brazil’s new status as an emerging economic power. Near full employment has boosted the popularity of President Dilma Rousseff, herself the daughter of a Bulgarian immigrant.

“We need to reach a level of 2 to 3 per cent of our workforce made up of foreigners. That means multiplying the current levels by 10,” said Paes de Barros, a Yale-educated economist. “If we do that we should be fine.”

Brazil granted 70,524 work permits to foreign professionals in 2011, 25.9 per cent more than in 2010, according to the Labour Ministry. That’s almost three times more than the 26,400 permits issued in 2008.

And yet by some estimates the country still needs an additional 20,000 engineers a year to keep up with ambitious plans to modernise its obsolete infrastructure and tap massive offshore oil resources.

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**INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE**

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**DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULE**

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NOW SHOWING

__LEGGEND CINEMA__

PARANORMAN (3D)
In this animated adventure horror film, a misunderstood boy who can speak with the dead takes on ghosts, zombies and grown-ups to save his town from a centuries-old curse.
11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.40pm

THE BOURNE LEGACY
An expansion of the universe from Robert Ludlum’s novels, this centres on a new hero whose staves have been triggered by the events of the previous three films.
9.40am, 2.35pm, 9.15pm

__PLATINUM CINEPLEX__

TOTAL RECALL
A factory worker, Douglas Quaid, begins to suspect that he is a spy after a visit to a company that provides its clients with implanted false memories. He finds himself on the run.
11.50am, 4.35pm

DARK KNIGHT RISES
Eight years on, a new terrorist leader, Bane, overwhels Gotham’s finest, and the Dark Knight surfaces to protect a city that has branded him an enemy.
7.40pm

THE FLICKS 1 & 2

WOOODY ALLEN
Iconic writer, director, actor, comedian, and musician Woody Allen has allowed his life and creative process to be documented on-camera for the first time.
6.00pm

FOOTNOTE
Eliezer and Uriel Shkolnik are father and son as well as rival professors in Talmudic Studies. When both Eliezer and Uriel Shkolnik are father and son as well to be documented on-camera for the first time.
6.00pm

2.00PM - CURB YOUR ENTHUSIASM: Seinfeld co-creator Larry David stars as himself in this hilarious, off-kilter comedy series that presents an unflinching, self-deprecating depiction of his life. MAX
3.25PM - THE FIRST WIVES CLUB: Reunited by the death of a college friend, three divorced women seek revenge on the husbands who left them for younger women. HBO
5.35PM - GROWN UPS: After their high school basketball coach passes away, five good friends and former teammates reunite for a Fourth of July holiday weekend. HBO
7.20PM – HALF PAST DEAD: the story of a man who goes undercover in a high-tech prison to find out more about the mysterious Bratva brothers and his own past. HBO

Sailboats fill the harbour in Chicago, Illinois. Gang violence in the city is the subject of a new documentary to be shown at Meta House tonight at 7pm.

7pm

The Interrupters @ Meta

New doco from director Steve James is an unusually intimate journey into the stubborn persistence of violence in American cities. It tells the story of ex-convicts who go daily into the streets of Chicago to try to talk gang members out of shooting each other.

Meta House, #38 Sothearos Blvd. 7pm

Margarita mayhem

Shake your blues away with margaritas in every flavour. Buy one get one free all night. Enjoy mash-up remixes and tunes with DJ Narata.
Riverhouse Lounge, Cnr Sisowath Quay and Si Irom Blvd. 7.30pm

GTS @ Sofitel

A selection of standard and original tunes to recreate a typical jazz club feel.
Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra, 25 Old Auguste Site, Sotheas Blvd 7.30pm

Yoga @ The Flicks

The highly experienced Oskar Nery is your yoga teacher for one hour; every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8.00am and Saturday at 9am.
The Flicks Community Movie House on Street 95 (between Str 310 and 360)

2pm

Larry David in a scene from Curb Your Enthusiasm, on Max today at 2pm. BU/DOUGLAS

TB PICS

Thinking caps

Sudoku Pacific

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

ACROSS

1. French cleric
2. Extremely dry champagne
3. Fictional plantation of Georgia
4. Captain Blood star
5. Diameter halves
6. Weight is one
7. Three holes to fill
8. Lanka
9. Squeeze from mom
28. Hero
29. Daisy look-alike
30. Oil-bearing vessel
32. Parent's sisters
33. Oil-bearing vessel
35. Island in the Java Sea
36. Cargo measure, perhaps
38. Roof projections
39. Presentation type
40. Hackneyed
42. Thigh-
44. Prefix for “act” or “play”
46. Most concise
48. Feeding trough site
49. Mode of being
50. Soft foods
51. Tool for this puzzle’s title
52. Soft foods
53. Presentation type
54. Fictional plantation of Georgia
55. Fluid from the liver
56. Hat part
57. Hairy Himalayan, reportedly
58. Rhinoceros protuberance
59. English novelist Bagnold
60. Iron-pumper’s count
61. Length × width
62. Temptress
63. Highly rated
64. Breathe like a dog
65. Creme de la creme
66. Job for a plumber
67. Blackthorn fruit
68. Relinquish office
69. They can be made to meet

DOWN

1. Sitting on
2. Island in the Java Sea
3. Indulge in self-praise
4. Roof projections
5. Late comedian Mac
6. Middle East desert
7. Descendant of Sanskrit
8. That oughta...
9. Like snakes and eels
10. Tote with you
11. Abrade with a tool
12. Fruit that doesn’t sound pretty
13. Persan ‘baist 12 and 20
14. DuPont fiber
15. ‘Mia!
16. Fury
17. Big name in Norwegian royalty
18. Diameter halves
19. Tote with you
20. Modem units
21. DuPont fiber
22. Your and my
23. Person ‘twixt 12 and 20
24. Squeeze from mom
25. “That oughta...”
26. To no
27. ‘Bia!
29. “What she said”
30. Heats up in a microwave
31. Name on many tractors
32. Parent’s sisters
34. Oil-bearing vessel
35. Late comedian Mac
36. Hole in the hole
37. Yorba ___, Calif.
38. Cargo measure, perhaps
39. Presentation type
40. Hackneyed
41. “What she said”
42. Thigh-
43. Feeding trough site
44. Prefix for “act” or “play”
46. Most concise
47. Covering skirt
48. Roof projections
49. Mode of being
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“GRAB A SHOVEL”

Every Friday!
On 23 August internet service provider Ezecom launched a special eco-fashion drive. They donated their old advertising banners to the NGO Mith Samlanh who made it into dresses and accessories. They will go shown at the Ezecom e-café on Preah Sihanouk Boulevard for a month. The dresses and accessories will be given out to Ezecom customers when they sign up with the company. The eco-friendly exhibition is intended to highlight Mith Samlah’s work. The organisation supports street-children and people struggling to find work. They also help the community to develop creative projects.

The opening of Siem Reap’s Asian Square Restaurant and Lounge was marked with a grand party on August 25. A mix of international and national guests from hotels and travel agencies, including His Excellencies Lok Chum Chhor Bonavy and Sour Yara. They were treated to Western and Khmer food and enjoyed Khmer traditional music played with classical instruments.

A violin band from Siem Reap serenaded the party all night.
Semi-final in race to find face of Hiruscar at Legend cinema

Local and international stars enjoyed a night at the Legend Cinema on August 25 for the semi-final of the competition to find the new face of Hiruscar skin care. Judges picked the 10 best to go through to the final in the race to win the US $1000 top prize. The top 10 will also model clothes at Cambodia Fashion Week.
Thin Seng Hong to fly the flag at Paralympic Games

Yeon Ponlok and Dan Riley

Thin Seng Hong, Cambodia’s sole representative at the 2012 Paralympic Games, set off for London on Friday ahead of her participation in the women’s 100-metre and 200-metre T44 competitions. The T44 group of ambulant athletes with a disability are classified by the International Paralympic Committee as those with a unilateral below-knee amputation or equivalent. Preliminary heats for the women’s 100-metre T44 are this Saturday, with the final on Sunday. Women’s 200-metre T44 heats are on September 5 with the final the following day.

The Kampeng Cham native, 26, lost her right leg when she was 10 years old after stepping on an anti-personal mine. Running with a carbon-fibre blade in place of her missing limb, Seng Hong has become one of the Kingdom’s most prolific athletes with a disability, capturing gold in the 400-metre and silvers over 100-metre and 200-metre at the 6th ASEAN ParaGames in Solo, Indonesia, last December.

She said she was determined to break her personal bests in her events in London, being inspired by the chance to race against the world’s top athletes.

“The real problem for me is the [cold] weather in London. Also, my [prosthetic racing] limb is not a new model. Other athletes will have better models,” Seng Hong told the Post before her departure.

Seng Hong set her record times in Indonesia last year, running the 100 metres in 17.13 seconds and 200 metres in 36.07 seconds. American sprinter April Holmes currently holds both of the women’s T44 world records over the same distances – 12.98 in the 100 metres and 27.10 in the 200 metres set in 2006 and 2008 respectively. The 39-year-old is competing in both races in London, where she will look to retain her 100-metres gold medal from Beijing.

Should Seng Hong succeed in achieving qualification for the finals of either of her events, she would set a new precedent for Cambodian Paralympians. The Kingdom’s representatives have failed to progress from the opening rounds in all previous editions.

At the 2000 Sydney Games, the men’s standing volleyball team won just two sets during five group match losses against the likes of gold medallists Germany, bronze medalists Slovakia, USA, Israel and Poland. However, they bowed out on a high note, beating Australia 3-2.

At the 2004 Athens Games, men’s T44 sprinter Nheork Kimhor did not advance past the first round with times of 12.93 and 26.55 over 100 metres and 200 metres respectively. Four years later in Beijing, Kim Vanna set slower times in identical events to also miss out on the final.

Yi Veasna, executive director of the National Centre of Disabled Persons and general secretary of the National Paralympic Committee of Cambodia and who requires a wheelchair having had both legs amputated after contracting polio as a child, is heading the Cambodian delegation bound for London. He is being accompanied by his wife as his personal assistant, while Thin Seng Hong’s assistant coach Mao Sochea will also travel after getting the nod ahead of national team coach Phay Sok.
Pressure builds on Deans

Greg Sturbridge

AusTralia’S failure to regain the Bledis-loe Cup from New Zealand has upped the pressure on under-fire coach Robbie Deans and raised questions as to whether he will see out his contract. The Wallabies were humbled 22-0 by the world champions’ at Eden Park in Auckland on Saturday, continuing their run of losses at the ground stretching back to 1986. It was also the first time in 50 years Australia had failed to score against the All Blacks, whose defence swamped a Wallabies backline capable of destroying most other teams when the mood takes them.

The All Blacks’ victory ensured they retained the Bledisloe Cup for a 10th successive season and made the third match in Brisbane, which is not part of the Rugby Championship, a dead rubber before both sides embark on northern hemisphere tours.

Deans’ contract runs until after the British and Irish Lions tour of Australia next year, but after a 14th loss in 17 internationals against their trans-Tasman rivals with the New Zealander at the helm, the drums will be beating louder for a change.

But as told reporters in Auck-land on Saturday that his side had met a team showing the confidence of their World Cup triumphs last year, and few would have matched them.

“We’re giving credit to the All Blacks. That was an outstanding performance,” Deans was quoted as saying by New Zealand’s Herald on Sunday newspaper.

“They’re in a side playing with the confidence of being world champions, and I don’t think there’s any side in the world that could have footed it with them today – including ourselves, obviously.”

Meanwhile, Argentina stood on the brink of a remarkable first victory over South Africa in their second Rugby Cham-pionship match, before the Springboks rallied to snatch a 16-16 draw.

The match had looked like ending in a perfect home de-feat for the Pumas, famously tough opponents on Argentine soil long before their entry into their first annual major tour-

ment.

Don’t cry for me, says Armstrong

LANCE Armstrong was back on his bike on Saturday, urg-ing his supporters not to cry for him a day after the United States Anti-Doping Agency’s (USADA) decision to strip his seven Tour de France titles and ban him for life.

In his first public appear-
ance since announcing he would no longer fight doping charges brought by USADA, Armstrong finished second in a 36-mile mountain bike race in Aspen, Colorado, five minutes behind a 16-year-old rider, Keegan Swirbul.

Wearing sunglasses and black and gold riding gear adorned with sponsors’ lo-

gos, Armstrong appeared un-

fussed by the media throng that had travelled to the mountain resort amid con-

cerns his legacy has been ir-
revocably tarnished.

“Nobody needs to cry for me. I’m going to be great,” Armstrong told reporters.

“I have five great kids and a lovely lady in my life. My foundation is unaffected by all the noise out there.

“I think people understand that we’ve got a lot of stuff to do going forward. That’s what I’m focused on, and I think people are supportive of that. It’s great to be out here,” he said.

Despite giving up the fight against the charges, Arm-
strong has maintained his innocence and railed against what he says is an unfair witch hunt.

The Texas-born cyclist, who famously beat cancer and whose foundation, Live-

strong, has raised hundreds of millions of dollars in the fight against the disease, has retained major sponsors and enjoyed the backing of many key cycling figures.

Others, including WADA chief John Fahey, say his fail-

ure to contest his charges can only mean he is a drug cheat who has defrauded the cy-

cling tour, his rivals and mil-

lions of sports fans for more than a decade.

The Armstrong case has yet to rest, with cycling’s global governing body, the Inter-
national Cycling Union, de-

manding USADA hand over its evidence. The Court of Ar-

bitration for Sport could ulti-

mately have a final say on his guilt or innocence.
Team Sharky in overtime

Team Sharky's Curran Hendry (centre) drives to the hoop during their Cambodia Basketball Challenge game against Raid-Alaxan FR on Saturday at Beeline Arena. Team Sharky won 61-54 in overtime. STENG MENG GRIL

Raid-Alaxan reeled in by Team Sharky in overtime

TEAM Sharky lived up to their name when they meted revenge against the mighty Raid-Alaxan FR in a fierce battle that was grudgingly settled in extra time, 54-51.

The heightened excitement of Team Sharky's 61-54 victory ended Raid-Alaxan's two-week unbeaten run in the Cambodia Basketball Challenge presented by Banzai and Sabay at the Beeline Arena.

Curran Hendry, just back after a trip to Scotland, produced one stunning basket for Sharky with barely 25 seconds left in the fourth quarter that would turn the contest on its head.

Raid-Alaxan, who had jumped into an early lead, managed to cling on to it for all of 39 minutes before Team Sharky's two-week unbeaten run in extra time was finally ended.

Hendry's basket tied the game at 50-50, forcing extra time, which Team Sharky quickly turned into their advantage as Colin Meyn hit back-to-back three-pointers. Meyn then scored for Team Sharky with 24 points with team-mate Jeff Kane adding 14.

Raid-Alaxan could hardly raise their own game, and the side's leading scorer Aimer Sabayo, who accounted for one of his side's 18 points in the second half, failed to capitalise on his extra time. Overall, Sabay was easily the most productive, tallying 26 points, his third straight over-20-point performance. Well before this dramatic finish unfolded, Sabay saluted the fans who rallied behind him in extra time, which time shutting off CCPL Heat 51-44. The Crabs led early and kept going at it at the end of the third quarter, as well as bringing their lead in the fourth quarter, but it was far too late to make any impact.

Served well by Im Primonta's triple of three-pointers, the Crabs, who remain unbeaten, owed their victory to Sokhun Vireak (9 points) and Kim Veng Ngoun (8). For CCPL Heat, Sok Tour and Sovan Panha scored 13 points apiece.

In a game dominated by fast breaks and a hoard of three-pointers, the all-Cambodian team Sela Meas posted the highest score and the biggest winning margin of the competition so far when beating HTTPS Mike's Burger Knights 85-59.

Sok Pagna drilled five three-pointers, four of them in the third quarter, as Sela Meas took a firm hold and picked scores of over 20 in all the four quarters. Pheng Dara came into his own game, and the side's leading scorer Aimar Sabayo, who accounted for every one of his side's 18 points in the second half, failed to capitalise on his extra time. Overall, Sabay was easily the most productive, tallying 26 points, his third straight over-20-point performance. Well before this dramatic finish unfolded, Sabay saluted the fans who rallied behind him in extra time, which time shutting off CCPL Heat 51-44. The Crabs led early and kept going at it at the end of the third quarter, as well as bringing their lead in the fourth quarter, but it was far too late to make any impact.

Wayne Rooney faces four weeks after gashed leg

Wayne Rooney faces at least four weeks on the sidelines after picking up a badly gashed knee at the end of Saturday's game against Fulham. The striker will miss England's World Cup qual-

ifiers against Moldova and Ukraine next month as a result of being caught by Hugo Rodal-

leg's studs as the pair chal-

lenged for the same ball follow-

ing a free kick.

“It's a very bad one, he's gone straight to hospital,” Sir Alex Ferguson said.

Several players near the inci-

dent on the pitch recied in hor-

ror at the sight of the gaping

wound, but the injury is thought to be just a deep cut with no added complications.

“I don't know quite what hap-

pened. I think the player fol-

lowed through and caught him

but Wayne is going to be miss-

ing for maybe four weeks,” the

United manager said. “It was just an accident.”

If Manchester United are going to have to manage with-

out Rooney during September they made a start on Saturday. The England man began the
game on the bench, with Robin van Persie up front and Shani Kagowa just behind him, and
each managed their first goals for the club in a 3-2 win.

Van Persie's equaliser was probably the pick of United's goals, an unanswerable left-

foot half-volley that gave the Fulham goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer little chance after Patrice Evra had sent over a cross from the left.

“It was a fantastic goal from Robin to get off the mark,” Ferguson said. “It was his first full game for us and he will develop a better understanding with the other players as time goes on.”

That goal lifted the team, from that moment on we played very, very well, but instead of winning by four or five goals, as we should have done, we gave away a goal in the second half through bad defending and suddenly it became a match again when it should never have been a match.

“Once again, it was all a bit too nervy as the end, when we should have been in easy street.”

Fulham manager Martin Jol actually agreed with Ferguson about United being up to half a dozen goals better. “We had a good win last week, put play-
ing here is a little bit different to playing at home against Norwich,” Jol said.

“Even though we scored an early goal, we were still not full of confidence, and United played so well in the first half I thought it might be a really bad day for us. We just couldn’t keep up with Tom Cleverley and Anderson, but we managed to win the second half 1-0, so it was a game of two totally dif-

ferent halves.”

THE GUARDIAN
Australia win but Afghanistan impress in ODI

AUSTRALIA won the match but Afghanistan won plenty of admirers before going down by 66 runs in their one-day international in Sharjah.

Playing only their second ODI against an established side, Afghanistan restricted Michael Clarke’s team to 272-8 before responding with 206 all out from 43.5 overs.

“It was a big occasion and we learnt a lot from the experience of playing Australia,” Afghanistan captain Nawroz Mangal told reporters through an interpreter.

“I’m satisfied with the performance of my team. We couldn’t put runs on the board in the top order but Australia are a major team and they know how to win.”

The match actually spanned two days, starting at 6pm local time (9pm Cambodian time) on Saturday and finishing at 1:30am the following day in an effort to combat the extreme heat of the United Arab Emirates summer.

There was no direct sunlight for the players to contend with but extremely high humidity allied to a temperature that never dipped below 30 degrees Celsius made it as much a case of the survival of the fittest as a cricket match.

Afghanistan, who lost by seven wickets to Pakistan in February in their previous ODI encounter with a leading side, now head to Trinidad to continue preparations for the ICC World Twenty20 tournament in Sri Lanka next month, which they have qualified for along with Ireland.

REUTERS

Sport

Clijsters praised as role model before last slam

Will Swanton

MARI Sharapova and Andy Murray led a torrent of praise for Kim Clijsters on Saturday as the three-time US Open champion prepared for the final tournament of her storied career. Clijsters is chasing a fairytale ending at Flushing Meadows before retiring at the age of 29. She first retired in 2007 but returned two years later to become the first wildcard to win the US Open and the first mother to win a major championship since Australia’s Evonne Goolagong Cawley in 1980.

“What’s there to say about Kim?” Sharapova said. “There’s so many great things besides the fact she’s been an incredible tennis player and champion. She’s someone that went away from the sport to commit herself to being a mother and a good wife and then coming back and being a professional and winning a few more grand slams. She was always so focused and determined. One of the best athletes the game saw in women’s tennis,” Sharapova said.

“And just a really great person, very humble. At the end of the day, just a down-to-earth person that reflected on life in a very good way.”

Clijsters praised Murray’s ability to handle pressure at Wimbledon this year and the Scot returned the favour in New York.

“As a person, which is much more important than the tennis, she’s a lovely person,” Murray said.

He also admired the competitive side of Clijsters, Murray said.

“Early in her career she obviously had a lot of tough losses. She was competing with Justine Henin and a lot of pressure came with that. She lost a lot of tough matches to Henin. She managed to turn that around after taking a break. To come back to win a slam, or a couple more slams, is pretty incredible.”

“I’m sure she will be remembered as one of the best players of the last 15, 20 years, and also one of the best people.”

Venus Williams said Clijsters’ successful return to the tour in 2009 fuelled hope that her own recovery from an autoimmune disease was possible.

“Kim has had a resurgence like no other, coming back to win two majors,” Williams said. “I think she’s inspiration for everyone who has said if you put your mind to it, if you have a dream, you can do whatever you want.”

Top seed Victoria Azarenka described Clijsters as the ideal role model. “For the kids she’s one of the people who you always like to be around,” she said. “Obvi- ously a lot of people love her. She’s definitely one everybody is going to miss.”

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Belgium’s Kim Clijsters will play in her last grand slam tournament, the 2012 US Open which starts today, before retiring from the game.

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