

# BAYON



# PEARNIK

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# Soggytown

**S**oggy, waterlogged, muddy, almost like glue when my flip flops would get stuck in the mud while checking out the garden.

It was relentless, it just kept coming down in buckets. And even when it wasn't pissing down, it still kept raining enough to keep everything in a state of ultimate wetness and the clouds keeping us in a state of sun deprivation.

We got 335mm – 13.5 inches - in six days and lots more before and after for a total of 556mm or close to 22 inches for July as a whole. Almost twice the average for July of 290mm.

Everyone says it was the worst they'd seen. It was easily the heaviest month since I started keeping a log two years ago. However, without any real measure, it's impossible to say if it's any kind of record.

It kept on pouring it on well until the middle of August with modest rain every day until the 17th when a whopping 183mm – nearly 7.5 inches – fell in the 24 hours starting at 6am. Once again the worst anyone had seen. I was out on the town on the night of the 17th and

I could hardly believe my eyes. It was persistent and determined, it just kept coming down in buckets. After 10 years watching my gauge after every rainfall I've got a pretty good handle on how much is coming down. We'd already had some rain earlier in the day so I was concerned my gauge would overflow, it only goes up to 5 inches or 125mm. Got home after 1am and I made it just in time, it was maxed out at 125. If it'd gone over I'd have no idea by how much. Then between 1am and 7am we got another 58mm. There was the usual local flooding after that one, but the river remained in its banks in town.

We do have a regulation government weather station here, but it's been sitting idle for a long time, so I'm the one with the stats since I'm Kampot's official, unofficial weatherman.

Next heaviest month after July was October of 2016 with 452... update: at deadline August has already surpassed that record... and there's lots of rainy season yet to go. Getting back to July, there was so much rain it overwhelmed a tree I'd previously thought was a swamp lover. I've had two specimens of a small tree with bright yellow-green leaves for some time. One was on high ground and always had smallish leaves. I don't water my big plants and trees much in hot season, I can barely keep up the watering of my potted plants. After that one had been around for years I planted another one in a place that's always wet; near my sink drain. The second one grew very fast and had giant leaves that were a lot less yellow, almost looked like a different plant. The latest deluge made it droop and set it way back, but it's still alive and will recover.

As usual there was a lot of flooding of properties along the river closer to the dam. They gave ample warning and turned the sirens on before opening some of the flood gates, but once again the dam operators waited too long. If they had let the river flow when first apprised of the torrential amount of rain expected, flooding upstream close to the dam would've been a lot less.

There was only local flooding in town, though certainly lots of it, but the river rose only a bit over its banks in one spot. The big flood of 2009 where the water extended 200 or 300 meters inland from the river was a combination of high tide, storm surge and very heavy rains, but mostly there was a breach in the dam under con-

struction at the time. The authorities and dam builders insisted that didn't happen, but a friend who's been around for a very long time sent one of his employees to check it out and he found a steady stream of rock trucks going up to the dam through the night. They normally didn't work at night and definitely wouldn't be driving up there in the driving rain if it wasn't an emergency.

Flooding in 2009 at my house which is 1.5 kilometers north of old town and about 200 meters from the river was about 60cm above ground level. My house was built in 2001 and all the other houses built before the flood were built at or close to ground level, so it's safe to assume there was no collective memory of flooding there. In other words, it was only the dam breach that made the difference. Since 2009 almost everything has been built up on fill to raise it above ground level.

Even with all that the real reason for the flood is topographical which was then exacerbated with the help of poor planning and by connected people with money. What I'm referring to is the bottleneck in the river in the south of town. You don't really notice it



much from ground level, but when you see an aerial view it's surprising and unmistakable. Just a couple hundred meters down from the old bridge the river necks down to about half of its previous width. Aerial photos from 80 years ago show it, but the part that extends into the river is undeveloped and surely flooded in heavy rain, thus easing flooding upstream. More recently, in the last decade, the neck has been extended with fill and a retaining wall built to keep the river out. Somebody gained a lot of very valuable land in the process of insuring that flooding would get worse in town just upriver.

Another impact of the deluge was the utter destruction of parts of national highway 3, with extensive potholing in many other areas. A short ways from the new bridge a full kilometer of road was turned to mush, not a trace of pavement remaining. Four factors were involved in the wreckage. The first is poor quality pavement. Most of the nation's highways are paved

with a thin layer of bitumen – tar – sandwiched between two layers of gravel. It's not a very smooth pavement, but it works fine for light duty vehicles, at least for a few years. Asphalt, the next best alternative is far more expensive. Then add very heavy rain, which by itself would only be a minor problem, you know, a few potholes here and there. The third is very heavy trucks. When you add them, you're in for trouble. When a rock truck, for instance, is loaded to its design limits it's very hard on a low quality road. But then you have many operators adding capacity to the rear and building up the sides, so it's carrying an additional 50% or so over capacity and very hard turns to pure disaster. The final crushing blow to the highway was the clo-

sure of hwy 4 by flooding. Highway 4, the main route between the capital and Sihanoukville, is used by a lot more trucks than 3, so when they all shifted over to 3, the road was doomed.

So people ask why they don't do it right the first time. Priorities, priorities. Here is an illustration of what it was like to go from Phnom Penh to Battambang, Cambodia's second largest city, in 2002 on Highway 5. The original pavement, dating back to at least the 1960s, was so eroded and pockmarked it was unusable by vehicles larger than a motorbike. So picture this: pedestrians, bicyclists and motos using the ancient roadway with cars and trucks driving on the dirt shoulders. There was so little traffic that our shared taxi driver crossed over, the few times it was possible and/or necessary because of the poor condition of the shoulder, to the opposite shoulder and drove the wrong direction. When you start from that point, you've gotta get something in place, you can't insist on a more longlasting but far more expensive pavement. In fact, one of the big guy's best points is infrastructure improvement.

Of course it wasn't only the highway that was damaged. A lot of the minor roads that were paved with bitumen turned into washboards capable of no more than 10kph without a totally jarring experience, well at least in my tiny Tico; maybe one of those tank-like Lexus SUVs could go a little faster, but not much. Many of the dirt roads have been turned into mud slurries or small lakes or series of little ponds. It's going to be a long time before they can repair the damage.

The city has been building better quality pavement in a lot of places, ranging from low quality reinforced concrete on secondary streets and rural

places, to high quality where truck traffic is heavy. As long as a low quality concrete road has only an occasional truck using it, it could last a long time even if its surface gets rough through erosion. It's going to be a long time before the damage can be repaired.

Talking about the weather, I've got to bring up the challenge to the earth that supersedes all other problems: climate change. I'm not saying the recent deluge had anything to do with global warming; we are prone to great storms, besides we are missing records for many years.

It certainly might've been a factor, but if true, I don't have the technical expertise to confirm that. It does stand to reason though since warmer air holds more moisture, so when it really does come down, the amounts are likely to be greater. Many scientific studies lately have linked climate change to specific storms.

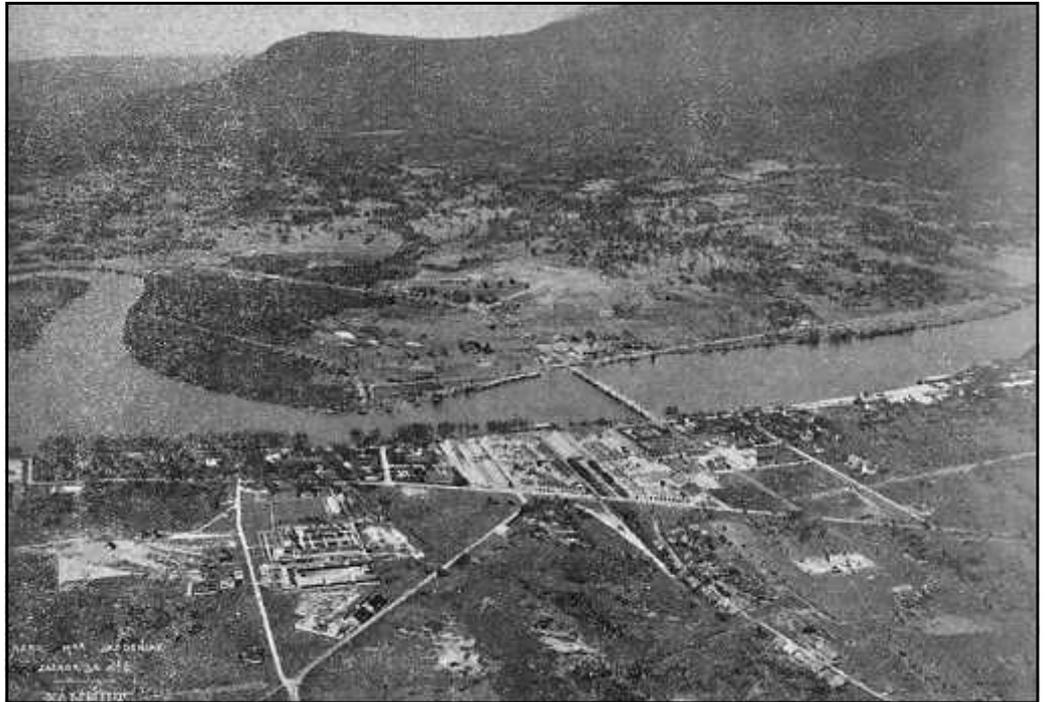
We've now experienced 400 months in a row of temperatures higher than the 20th century average. Hasn't been one below average since the mid 80s. Concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere have grown from 280ppm before the industrial revolution to 410 today. The last time CO<sub>2</sub> was that high millions of years ago the temperature was 3°C higher than today. To date world temperature has risen only about 1°C and yet there've been havoc-causing storms and extremely high temperatures recently. The highest temperature ever reported on earth, about 54°C or 129°F, recently happened in a town in south Pakistan. (There's a higher temp from Death Valley, 56C, from 1922, but that's been discredited.) Portugal just had a temp of 47C – 117F – and Sweden above the arctic circle recently had a temp of 30° and forest fires so you can just imagine the incredible difficulty of the human race surviving a planet warmed by 3°.

And in more bad news, meteorologists are now saying we've actually, over the last decade or so, been going through a natural cycle that should've brought cooling and the naturally warmer cycle is coming so if true, a lot more records are about to be broken.

The reason the air hasn't risen by 3° is that most warming has gone

into the oceans and they change temps very slowly, but it will eventually catch up. Many people, especially in the past had the mistaken notion that warming meant every place getting a little warmer, but the reality is that while most places will get a climate that doesn't deviate much from average most times, a good part of the excess heat will go into extremes of drought, baking temps, floods and major storms.

Feedback loops are accelerating warming. When the sun hits ice, which is white, its rays are mostly reflected, when it melts it exposes land or water which is a lot darker and retains heat. When permafrost melts as a result of the arctic warming much more than temperate or tropical zones, it releases large amounts of methane which is 80



times more potent a greenhouse gas than CO<sub>2</sub>. Methane in the atmosphere is in smaller amounts than CO<sub>2</sub> and it dissipates in about 20 years as opposed to CO<sub>2</sub> which takes 100 years, so it hasn't been considered as serious a problem. But if a large amount is released, it'll be a very big problem, indeed.

It didn't have to be this way. A FB friend posted a news article from 1913 that spoke of the problem of burning fossil fuels and producing CO<sub>2</sub>. Electric delivery trucks were common in America's cities in the 1920s. Back in the 70s or 80s a Pentagon study showed that if the department spent \$5 billion on solar installations for its remote locations, the ramp up of production would bring the cost down to competitive levels. Needless to say, it didn't happen. In the late 70s a study done by Exxon's own scientists warned of the coming climate change problem caused by burning fossil fuels. Instead of being a corporate good citizen (imagine that!) publicly recognizing the problem and making the appropriate adaptations, they buried the report and proceeded to spend tens of millions of dollars funding skeptics and deniers.

Jimmy Carter declared, after the oil embargo of 1973, that a switch to renewables was the moral equivalent to war. He tried to change government direction and did his tiny little part by putting a solar water heater on the White House roof. Then Reagan was elected, "It was morning in America" and those solar panels were ugly and silly and had to go. Republicans always insisted that solar had to pay its own way without subsidies, but to this day Big Oil gets \$16b a year in subsidies. Bush Jr., best friend of big oil and demeanor of renewables, hypocrite that he was, built a house in Texas that would make an environmentalist proud. The temperature 30 meters below the ground where his house is is always about 57°F – 14C – so he had a set of pipes placed in the ground and installed a small pump to bring up that cool air. Whether it's hot or cold outside, that air helps to get his house to room temperature and his utility bill is far less as a result. A very simple and not very expensive way to reduce burning of fossil fuels.

Obama set the country in the right direction, but only in general terms. He didn't give climate change the attention it deserved. Now we have Trump appointing deniers all through his government and recently proposing that utilities be required, forced, to use coal. But use of coal is slowly dying of its own accord. Every year US production and consumption goes down, partly because in many cases it's now cheaper to build new solar and wind than it is to burn coal in an existing plant. He also opened up large expanses of coastline to off-

shore drilling, but out of the many leases offered only 1% have been purchased.

China, India and many other countries including Cambodia are still building new coal plants, when solar and wind are often cheaper. Not very smart. We could've been almost completely transitioned to a sustainable and far cleaner world by now. Instead we're in a race against time to stop climate change before we roast our planet.

# IN BAD TASTE

## **Trump Combover Now UK's Most Requested Style At Hairdressing Salons**

There may have been protests in London and around the UK, but US President Donald Trump also has his admirers, as has been proven at hairdressing salons up and down the country, with haircutters saying that the 'Trump combover' is the style that the vast majority of fashion-conscious Brits are asking for!

Trump, 72, visited the UK last month to meet the Queen and Prime Minister Theresa May before going on to complete the most important part of his trip in Scotland, where he played golf. A 20-foot balloon of a baby in a diaper in the image of Trump, was flown in the London sky to show the President what a section of the populace thought of him, but others were quick to give him their support.

Many say that the UK, itself, would benefit from having a leader like Mr Trump, but it's possible these people, as well as not knowing anything at all about politics, do not know the meaning of the word 'megalomaniac', or, indeed, which day of the week it is.

The main effect the President has had on his UK fans is with regard to his hairstyle. Queues formed early on Saturday at hundreds of hairdressing salons all over the country, with a whopping percentage of customers asking for "a Donald Trump".

Salon owner Jenny Boggins, whose business is in London, said:

"He's a very distinctive man, and it's a very distinctive style. We're a business, and happy to oblige."

Her assistant, Marie, 18, asked:

"Does 'distinctive' mean 'ridiculous'?"

## **Woman Highly Unimpressed With The Man She Was Stalking**

34-year-old Sharon Brooks, a violent, emotionally-disturbed, hyperactive, obsessive-compulsive, delusional, narcissistic nymphomaniac with a history of mental illness and a criminal record longer than a 'coast-to-coast' railroad, said that she was highly unimpressed with a man that she had been stalking for the previous 2 weeks.

"I couldn't believe just how fucking boring his life was," Sharon said in reference to 39-year-old David Moore, a man she was originally infatuated with, but who she eventually discovered to be more 'dull' than the kitchen knife she used to stab her last boyfriend with.

"He wakes up every morning and spends at least 50 minutes in the bathroom, which leads me to believe he's constipated," she stated.

When asked more about David's daily routine, Sharon explained that he goes to work for an insurance company on Monday through Friday, comes home at exactly the same time, takes a nap, eats a microwavable dinner, takes another 50-minute shit, and then watches really lame TV shows for 3 hours before going back to sleep.

"I became so bored watching him that I almost fell out of the tree in his back yard," Sharon told lead reporter, Mike Temples.

"And his weekends are even worse," she continued. "He comes home on Friday and drinks cheap beer until he falls flat on his face. When he wakes up around 1:00pm on Saturday afternoon, he goes to the gas station, buys more beer, and does the exact same thing! On Sundays, he basically just stumbles around trying to do his laundry."

Sharon went on to explain that she has decided to give up on men completely.

"I was really disappointed by this entire experience. After all the energy and effort I put into it, I basically got nothing in return. At one point, I even left a love letter on the windshield of his car describing all the erotic and intensely sexual things I wanted to do to him. He read it, yawned, and then kept drinking beer. What a jerk!"

## **Man's Stag Night Was "Unconventional"**

A man who was due to be married in a week's time, and planned to celebrate his last few days of 'freedom' in a truly celebratory way, made some very strange arrangements for his Stag Night, it has been claimed.

Roger Stagg, a factory worker from Mansfield, was due to marry his

dear, childhood sweetheart, Agatha, on Saturday, 23 June, and decided to spend the evening of Friday, 15 June, in the quiet, relaxing comfort of his own home - with a male deer.

The 'animal' in question was, in fact, a child's plastic inflatable toy, but it suited Roger's agenda perfectly!

Accounts differ on what happened that evening and into the early hours of Saturday - and in which order - but the several eyewitnesses who had got wind of Roger's ghastly intentions, and were peering through gaps in his curtains, all agreed on one thing: it was no night to be an inflatable deer!

One of Roger's ex-friends who was there, Steve Orgasmatron, said:

"Fair enough. It's his Stag Night. He can do whatever he wants. And I mean whatever he wants!"

Another man who was looking through the curtains, John Scrote, laughed:

"It was a bit unconventional, I suppose, but it takes all sorts - even sickos!"

## **Teenage Dickhead's Street Cred Destroyed After Man Tells Him "Fuck Off, Knobhead!"**

The feelings of a teenager were left in tatters last night, when a man outside an off-licence told the lad, in no uncertain terms:

"Fuck off, knobhead!"

The incident happened outside 'Beero Beers' in Romford, Essex, as bully David 'Ammo' Hamilton and his 15-strong gang of hooded hoodlums slouched around the shop frontage, looking for mischief, and acting anti-socially to anyone that came in or out of the shop.

Earlier victims had included a 12-year-old boy - there to buy some crisps - whose money Ammo had 'borrowed', two 14-year-old girls who had been called 'slags', 'sluts' and 'whores', as a consequence of being pretty, and local loner, Timmy Tompkins, whose bicycle tyres were let down by Ammo and his gang, amid great mirth.

When bricklayer Terry Smith turned up to buy a case of beer for a night-in he had planned with two mates, Ammo stood in the builder's way. Terry politely asked him to move, and sniggering could be heard from the bullies. Terry asked again. Ammo told him, "Say 'please'!", so Terry did. Then, Ammo said "Pretty please."

Terry looked at Ammo for a few seconds, and then he glanced round the circle of bullies. The sniggering ceased. A sinister sense of dread came over the youths, as they realised that they may have bitten off more than they could chew with this one. Terry grabbed Ammo's ear, and told him: "Fuck off, knobhead!"

Ammo's underpants started to get wet. A big, warm, dark patch appeared on his jeans. Terry looked down and smiled. Laughter broke out amongst the bullies. Ammo picked his bike up off the floor, and got out of there as fast as he could. He's staying in to watch telly from now on.

## **Infestation of Rees-Moggs to be fumigated**

The House of Commons is to be fumigated after a Rees-Mogg was discovered in the main chamber. Although only one of the insectoids was found, it is thought to be part of a breeding pair.

Rees-Moggs are a member of the genus *Privilegius Conservatus*, and are often raised in the marshy school-lands around Slough. The Rees-Mogg feeds on small insects and poor people. From there, they spread far and wide, and have been spotted throughout the British Isles.

In appearance, they seem unthreatening, and they have a similar body shape to the praying mantis. They are actually related to the BoJo and the Gove slime monster, and can spew poisonous bile at will.

The Rees-Mogg preys on the poor and the vulnerable, dazzling them with displays of apparent eloquence. However, the dangerous creature is only interested in its own well-being, and will stop at nothing to protect its interests. It has a dislike of foreign creatures and reproduces ferociously.

Rentakill have confirmed that they sent two men armed with pesticide to the Houses of Parliament, which is currently closed for the summer.

# THE PUB PAGE

**B**ack from my first month off in years. Much thanks to the Evil Publisher for giving this intrepid, exhausted and hardworking investigator some time to relax and go to bars without having to pay attention to where I am or how much my drink cost. The month off was very much appreciated.

However, here I am back to business and willing to show my gratitude by starting the page off with SKIRTS!!! The bar has officially moved down the street to #3 on St. 174 – just a bit in from Norodom and just before the Happy Dumrei if you are coming from St. 51. It has also merged with and been subsumed by th

e Pubas another part of the Evil Publisher's convoluted commercial empire. Same great food from the Pub, same good times from Skirts. Actually, I have to say that I really like the new digs, not as much space as the old but clean and bright with the cutest bar couple in PP. There are a few Happy Hour specials running - from 10 am – 4 pm, draft is USD .75; from 11 pm – 1 am, beers are USD 1. Regular prices are very reasonable with most spirits running at \$2-3, most beers \$2.5-3 and drafts at \$1.25. The new Pub (I guess this means I don't have to say "Skirts" any more) is open from 10 am until 3 am (or however much later you can convince the publican to stay open).

Another big move is Cyrcee bar. Our favourite secret bar (although given the next review, I probably should not be playing favourites) has moved around the corner to No 182 St. 130. It still has the same unique and friendly service in a very familiar looking set up. The Pub Page had not been for a while and decided to check out the new digs with my faithful bodyguard/shepna (I promised not to name him for purposes of this review) and we were quite pleased with the new digs. Service was quick and friendly, and my shepna was almost persuaded to stay behind and drop his load. Generally, spirits are USD 3.5, beer cans are \$2.5-3 and beer bottles are \$3.5-4. Lady drinks are \$3.5.

Moving on to a (relatively) new establishment – Secrets bar on St. 136. It has been going a couple of months and is still evolving a bit based on the few times, the Pub Page has dropped by. Secrets is quite a bit different than most bars in the area – the valet parking alone should be a clue. There is a large bar, lot of booths and what appears to be a large investment in lights and sound system. The place is very spacious and looks much more like a night club on the inside. It is set for live music but on the nights, I dropped by, the bar was just playing recorded

tunes synced to videos on the big screen TVs. Music was good each time and at a very reasonable level so that we could talk around the table and my fellow explorers of the unknown could chat up some of the very friendly staff and other patrons (a few of whom we recognized as being staff at other local establishments). Clearly a lot of time and money was spent on this place – seriously

check out the Men's bathroom. One warning – it is not priced to appeal to the people looking for USD 1 drafts – in fact their drafts are USD 4 or 5 per glass. Bottled beers and most spirits range between \$4.5-6 with many spirits available by the bottle. Deep sigh – mixers are extra (the Pub Page never lights that). The manager told me that it is open 7:30 pm – 3 am; although the website says 4 am closing – guess someone will have to test this... Dropped by Tiger on St 136 a couple of times. Major renovations seem to have made the place gaudier than ever but actually a lot more comfortable and spacious. Music was still deafening on each occasion. Seems like they have bulked up on staff and customers that wanted to be able to communicate seemed to hang out on the patio. Happy hours are 7 am – 7 pm with drafts at USD .75, most cans at \$1.5 and selected spirits at \$2.5. Normal prices are \$2.5 for beer can, \$4 for beer bottles and most spirits at \$4 and up. It was busy on one of the nights I dropped by and dead on the other – basically



par for the course on St 136 these days. Overall, not really my cup of tea (by now, most probably know I prefer music at a more reasonable volume at hostess bars), but there are things to appeal to all sorts here.

Almost forgot – GSM update. Much to no one's surprise there are big signs advertising that rents have been halved. That may be what the place needed, as a few new places were in the process of opening up over the last month. There seem to be a lot of empty units still and it is not clear that any place is doing even a reasonable fraction of the business Home Food and Martini are pushing through Going to hold off on the report a bit to see if more places open up.

That is it for this month. Thank you once again for the unpaid holiday leave, Mr. Evil Publisher sir.

# The CAMBODIA DREARY

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This is a work of fiction and satire any semblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental



**More toxic sludge builds up in Sinoville. Spreading throughout town with the never ending torrential downpours. Meanwhile many people are experiencing no water supply as the system cannot cope with the expanding population and disruption to pipes by rampant construction. Infrastructure is unable to cope so expect sewage problems along with crumbling roads.**

## Penal Code Defended, Not Suspects

BY SAL UT  
THE CAMBODIA DREARY

Spokespeople raced to defend the penal code after accusations that it had more holes than a cyclo-driver's shirt.

In particular, it was stressed that lawyers would be freed from the burden of spending pre-trial detention with suspects. Instead, suspects would have access to counsel every seventh Thursday of the month.

"This should free prosecutors from the shackles of evidence when sentencing those guilty of willful and intransigent innocence despite being faced with mounting political capital"

The government also defended increased phone tapping, monitoring, and search provisions, saying that they were in line with those in other countries such as America, the US, and the States; critics, however, have already suggested that leaving the judiciary in sole charge of the implementation is akin to leaving a Catholic priest in sole charge of the KY

Continued on page 17

## Toxic Plant for Sihanoukville

BY CHOY MAI  
THE CAMBODIA DREARY

In a surprise move Chinese investors had the sheer gall to propose a toxic waste disposal plant in

Stung Hov district Sihanoukville.

A committee heard their horrific proposal including all their safety guidelines which will evaporate if the plant is approved.

Why not build it in China is an overriding question as most of

the waste will come from there.

Lack of environmental safeguards in the kingdom is probably the answer.

One official who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "Why do they want to build a toxic waste plant? They seem to have

made Sihanoukville a toxic waste dump already so why do they need a second one."

One wag suggested that the recently announced Wisney World could probably fill in and do the same job if the proposal failed *Continued on page 17*

### About Cambodia

Report: Civil Servants need to 'get out more'

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Spokesperson: country committed to a free media; reporters who suggest otherwise to be prosecuted.

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Comedian joins Funcinpec meeting instead of prince. Did anybody notice?

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Cleared Ratanakiri forests to give up smoking for healthier profits.

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Semicolon: the period for the new millennia

## FUCINPEC plows head on into oblivion

BY RAY BIDLOONY  
DISASSOCIATED PRESS

PHNOM PENH -- Dismay was felt this month as FUCINPEC failed in its bid to become one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

The party, long ignored by voters, did not gain one seat in the general election. Bas reliefs cloaking the walls and showing mystical naked apsaras dancing

with former leaders in foreign cities have had little swayover a disenchanting public.

Supporters have responded by claiming that the voting has been biased and belittling. "It is unfair to focus on policies, performance, and personalities while at the same time ignoring the real issue for the voters - we are the aristocracy," said a press

statement issued by both of them.

Meanwhile party members are refusing appointments in some irrelevant committee and court cases seem to be waiting in the wings as disputes envelop the hierarchy.

Next will probably be who will sell off their third party headquarters *Continued on page 17*

# FAUX NEWS

## Boris Johnson refuses to apologise for shoving a letter into Muslim woman's face

The former foreign secretary stands by his actions and insists that if the woman wasn't dressed like a letter-box then he wouldn't have tried to post a letter into her head.

Khadija Qidwai has just finished a shopping trip to Tesco and was waiting for the bus home when Boris Johnson walked up to her and pushed a large white envelope into her eyes.

Although Khadija screamed and tried to move away Mr Johnson continued to ram the letter through her veil

while muttering, 'Bloody silly thing'.

Fortunately, the incident soon ended when a passerby saw what was going on and wrestled Johnson to the ground.

Ms Qidwai reported the incident to the police, saying in her statement that a fat vagrant had tried to blind her.

However, further investigations revealed that it was, in fact, Boris Johnson attempting to post off his annual Beano subscription.

"It bloody well wasn't my fault!" Johnson insists. "How was I to know that this young Muslim woman dressed in black and holding two Tesco carrier bags wasn't a good old-fashioned red post box?"

This isn't the first time Boris has made a mistake like this.

Earlier this year he threw a banana skin into the mouth of a parliamentary assistant after stepping on their foot; they yelled in pain and he assumed they were a pedal bin.

Then there was the rather embarrassing occasion he mistook the Prime Minister's striped dress for some steps and tried to walk up her.

And the less said about the time he thought a white-capped Mo Farah was a pint of Guinness the better.

"Now look," said Johnson. "People are free to dress as they like. But if you refuse to dress like me and have the audacity to belong to a culture I'm too stupid and insensitive to understand then you're begging for me to abuse you in some way.

"It's not my fault."

## 350 US newspapers look for polite ways to call Trump a dick

In a mass protest, coordinated by the Boston Globe, hundreds of

## God greets Aretha Franklin with more than a little Respect

Aretha Franklin was greeted at the pearly gates in the way the Queen of Soul should.

The singer has passed away at the age of 76, leaving behind a body of work spanning seven decades and 20 US number one hits.

Watching Aretha strut past, St. Peter commented "that's that lady from The Blues Brothers. I loved her in that."

"Her cameo in Blues Brothers 2000 even made me resent the rest of that film a little less.

Dressed in his best suit, a nervous God said, "I've actually been really nervous to meet this incredible woman. And that doesn't happen for just anyone.

"When she hit those big notes in (You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman, I get goosebumps. Which is quite hard to do when you're an omnipotent deity without a traditional human form – that's how good she is.

"And when she sang Say A little Prayer For You, that was just the best prayer ever, and trust me, I've heard some beltors in my time.

"When she sang, believe me, I paid attention, as did everybody else. You couldn't not, really. What a voice, what a spirit. No wonder she was seen as such a powerful symbol to the black community in the 60s through to today.

"I was so proud to see her win an award from Martin Luther King – he told me he can't wait to see her again.

"Anyway, I don't want to make this about me but I was on bloody good form the day I created her."

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news outlets in America penned similar editorials condemning Donald Trump's persistent attack on the media and tried to find less obvious ways to label him a petulant wanker.

At the Philadelphia Enquirer, senior editor Simon Williams said that the process he went through would have been the same for his colleagues across the nation.

He explained, "We all start off the same way. You write a rough draft explaining that only tinpot dictators try to blame the press for their fuck-ups and that attacking us will neither change the way we cover the news nor make Donald Trump competent.

"You also point out that it's not our fault the president is a lecherous man-child who is so spoilt he can't accept anything that isn't nauseating sycophancy.

"That's the core argument but then you have to make it family friendly. So you edit and you use euphemisms. Fiery means erratic. Thin-skinned means whiny little bitch. Populist means racist. Down to earth means stupid.

"Only trusts his inner circle means he probably fucked his daughter. And so on.

"Look. We would rather cover actual news stories, but that idiot spends every rally trying to set his army of mouth-breathers on us. It's scary. None of them could name a single African city but those guys can shoot."

The US Senate also passed a resolution stating that the press was not the enemy of the people. The precise wording was subject to tense late-night debates.

In the end, all Senators agreed that the appropriate term to describe Donald Trump was "retarded thimble-dick".

## **Burqas apparently biggest issue facing family of twats from Nantwich**

ISLAMIC women's clothing is somehow having a terrible effect on a white, mostly atheist family in Cheshire.

The Sheridan family are angry and upset about a small number of Muslim women wearing burqas, particularly when reminded by politicians and the media.

Mum Donna said: "You could wear a burqa to rob banks. It immediately draws attention to you and there are probably better disguises, but I can't sleep at night for thinking about it.

"As a family we've got our own worries. It's hard making ends meet and our son Mark can't find a job after university, but these women wearing strange outfits in other places are making our lives hell.

"I worry that people might think they're post boxes and put letters through the eye slot so they don't get delivered. That's never actually happened, but what if it was your car insurance?"

Daughter Jennifer said: "If everyone wore burqas I wouldn't know if I was talking to my mum, a teacher or a paedophile. My GCSEs would be bound to suffer."

Dad Steve Sheridan agreed: "It just doesn't feel like your own country anymore when women aren't showing plenty of flabby midriff in ill-advised lycra tops.

"We're not racist because we worry about all sorts of religious clothing. I'm always fretting about vicars getting dangerously hot under their big cassocks."

## **Man who crashed stolen plane appointed head of Brexit strategy**

A man who closed a Seattle airport by stealing a plane, which he later crashed, has been appointed as the new head of Brexit strategy due to his 'forward thinking approach'.

The unnamed airline employee made an 'unauthorised takeoff' late on Friday, before flying around erratically and then crashing into an island. An almost perfect metaphor for Brexit.

'The flight path apparently had no clear aim in mind, doubled back on itself several times, and ultimately ended in fiery de-

struction. All of which is an improvement on how our current Brexit work is going, so I offered him a job immediately.' said Theresa May.

Experts suggest that somebody willing to steal a plane in a spur of the moment decision, do loops in it, and then slam it into the ground, is perfect for steering Britain out of the EU, and likely to come up with a much more coherent plan than the current government.

'Assuming he survived the crash he can start work on Monday and I'm sure he'll show us all a thing or two about forward planning and a coherent approach with a clear end goal in mind,' continued Mrs May.

'Although even if he died, which is entirely likely, he'll still probably do a better job than me.'

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# TECHNOLOGY PAGE

## Your PC boots, gets to the Windows desktop, then freezes. Now what?

It might take some sleuthing to find out what's freezing up your computer, but these tips will help.

Cara Carlson can boot her computer just fine...until she gets to the Windows desktop. Then it freezes and won't respond to keyboard or mouse.

A lot of programs and drivers load into Windows when you boot. One of them apparently doesn't play well with others. The trick is to discover and then eliminate the problem program.

But how can you do that if Windows freezes before you can do anything with it?

[ Further reading: Our best Windows 10 tricks, tips and tweaks ]

The trick is to boot Windows into Safe Mode, which avoids potential problems by skipping the autoloading programs and all but the most basic drivers. Once there, you should be able to disable all of your enabled autoloading programs. How this is done depends on your version of Windows.

Windows 7

Boot the computer and immediately start pressing and releasing F8 over and over again. Instead of the Windows login screen, you should get the Advanced Boot Options menu. Select Safe Mode.

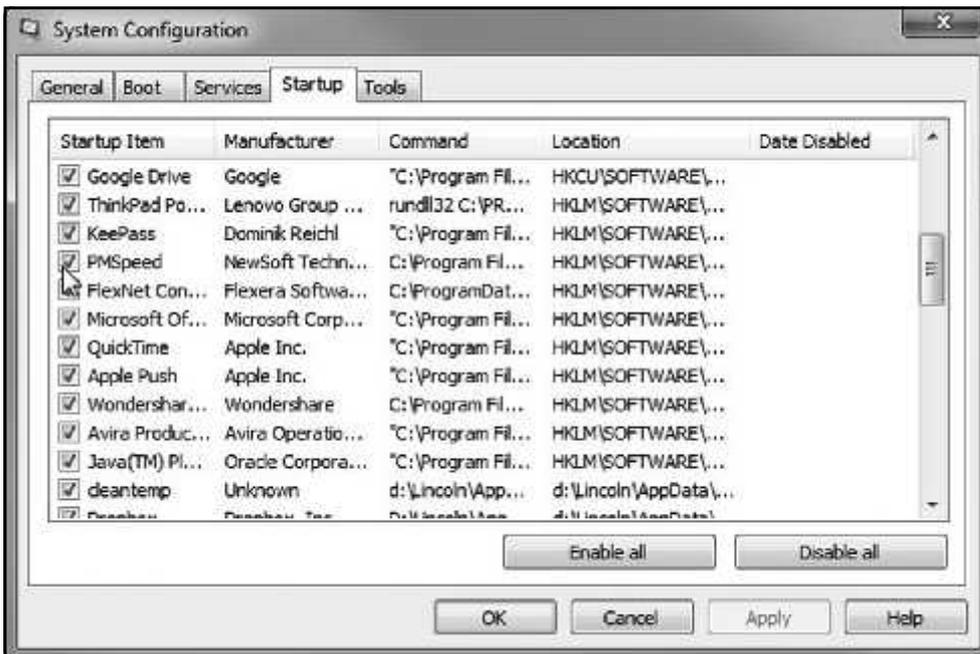
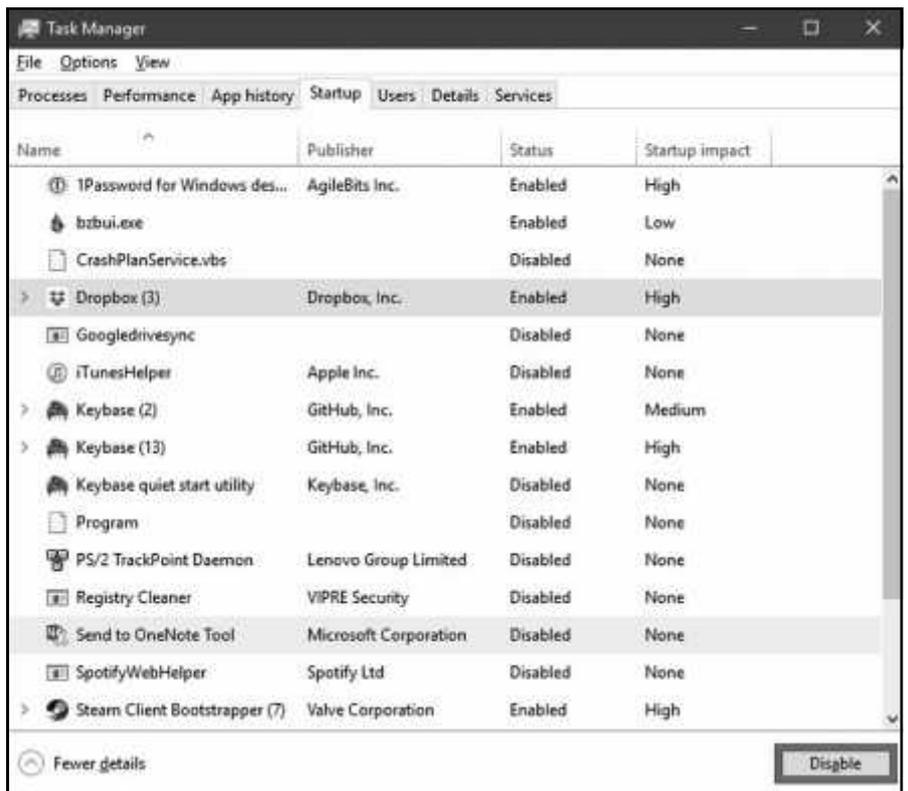
Once you've booted into Safe Mode, click Start, type msconfig, and press Enter to bring up the System Configuration program. Click the Startup tab.

Each item has a checkbox. The ones that are checked are enabled. Make a note of which ones are enabled so that you can go back to them later

Windows 8.1 or 10

Boot normally. When you get to the login screen (which comes before the desktop), click the power button in the lower-right corner of the screen. While holding down Shift on your keyboard, click Restart and then release Shift.

After the reboot, you'll come to a blue help screen with several options. In Windows 8.1 select Troubleshoot > Advanced options > Startup Settings > Restart. For Windows 10 as of version 1803, select Troubleshoot > Advanced options > See more recovery options > Startup Settings > Restart. The See more recovery



options link is below the other tiles you see on the screen.

When the computer reboots and the Startup Settings menu appears, press 4 for Safe Mode. Once you've booted into Safe Mode, right-click the taskbar and select Task Manager. When the Task Manager opens click More details in the lower left corner, and then in the larger Task Manager window click the Startup tab.

You can tell which autoloaders are enabled by reading the "Status" column. Note which ones are enabled so that you can return to the original configuration if need be. Then single-click each enabled program and select Disabled in the lower-right corner.

Once they're disabled

When you're done, reboot to get out of Safe Mode. If your initial problem has gone away, bring up the Startup tab again in Task Manager and experiment. Enable

if need be. Then uncheck them all.

and disable autoloaders, and reboot, until you find the culprit.

(After you find the culprit, you'll have to boot into Safe Mode again to disable it.) Consider whether you need this type of program—or, if you do, whether you should switch to a competitor. If the problem persists, you should take a good look at your drivers.

## When your computer reboots itself over and over again

Something is rotten in the state of your Windows PC. Here's how to deal with a computer that keeps re-booting.

"Is there anything I can change...to fix this?" Yes and maybe. There's a setting you can change that will give you at least a hint of the problem. But the hard part starts after you get that hint.

So let's get you to a point where your crashes contain some useful information.

Go to the Search tool in your version of Win-

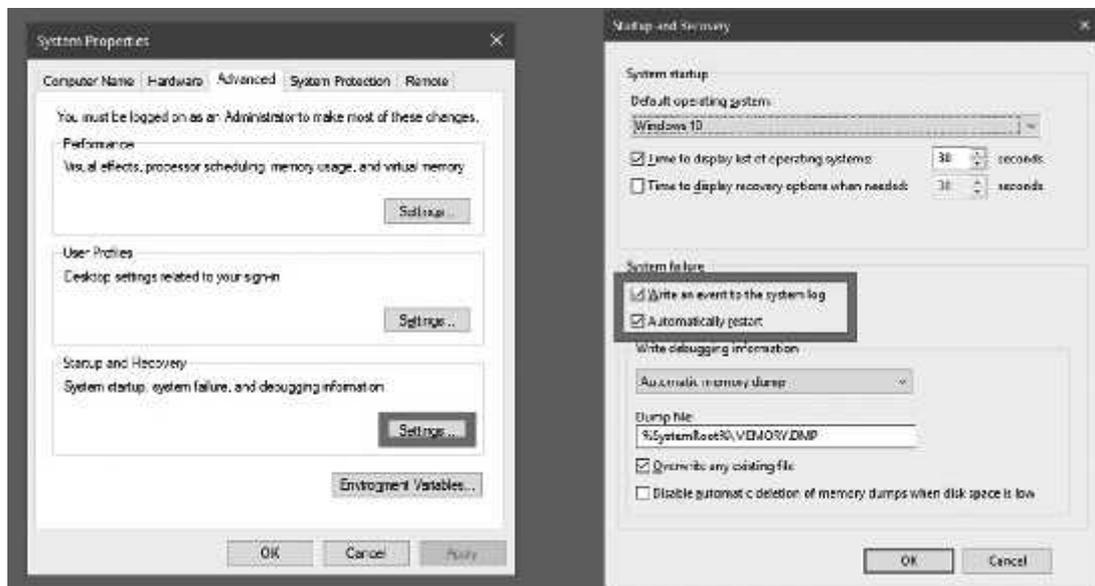
Click the Advanced tab.

Click the Settings button under Startup and Recovery (as opposed to the dialog box's other two Settings buttons).

Uncheck Automatically restart.

You might also want to check Write an event to the system log if it's not already checked.

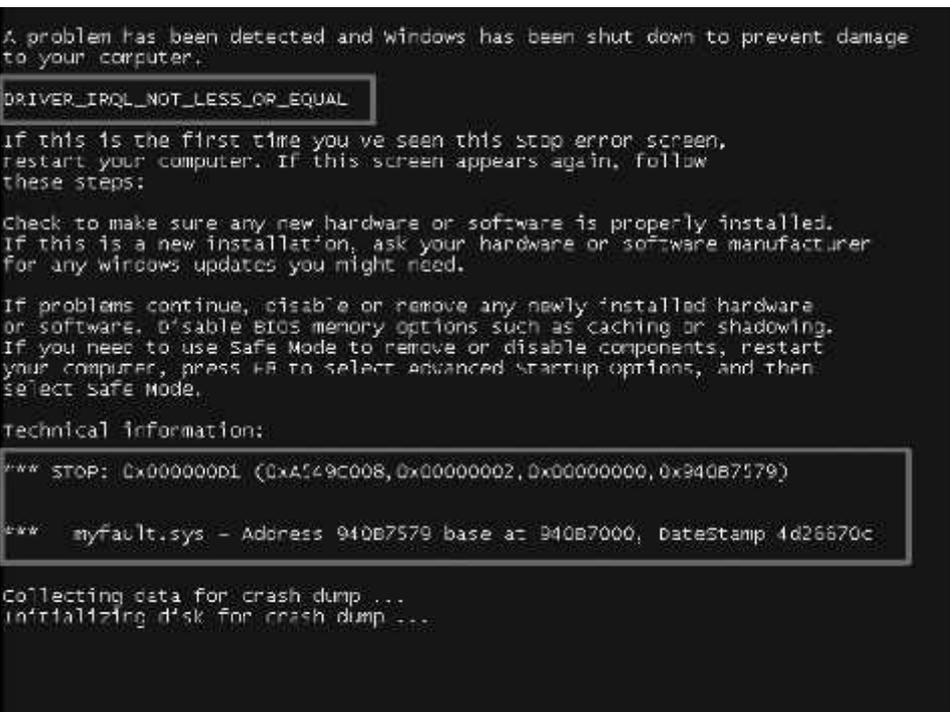
System Properties windows in Windows 10.



From now on, your system won't simply reboot when it can't keep going. Assuming you're not yet running Windows 10, you'll get a blue screen filled with intimidating text. Microsoft calls this a Stop Error, but everyone else prefers a more descriptive term: The Blue Screen of Death (BSoD).

With all that text on the screen, what should you look at? First and foremost, the second paragraph on the screen, which will be in all caps. Make a note of that. Also note the "Technical information" at the bottom of the screen. But that second para-

graph near the top contains the most useful clues.



For Windows 10, Microsoft redesigned the BSoD to make it less frightening. I like to call this new version the Blue Face of Death (although it's really more of a Cyan Face of Death). Let's see if that nickname catches on.

Whatever you call it, you can't miss the needed clue. The on-screen words pretty much tell you what to look for.

Once you reboot, use your favorite search engine to find what the Internet says about this particular error. In all likelihood, it will be a bad driver, which can be easily replaced with a download from the manufacturer's website.

But it could be something more difficult, such as defective RAM. I recommend MemTest86 for figuring out this problem.

# Bits from the Beach

Well this has to be one of the wettest wet seasons in memory. The rain in Sihanoukville and more so Kampot is nearly daily and torrential. This has led to Route 4 being cut off yet again and minor flooding in Kampot more than once. The closing of route 4 is putting more and more traffic on routes 41 and 3. Route 3 from the junction of route 41 is a complete mess. There are reports that the journey from Kampot to PP now can take nearly 5 hours and from Sihanoukville, either via route 4 or via Kampot can take up to 8 hours. Some taxi drivers are now reportedly asking extra money due to the road conditions. In Sihanoukville, Beach Road Hotel has been pulled down, so to the businesses to the front of it, including those that were fighting the landlord for compensation. Ana Travel has moved down the road closer to the Golden Lions Roundabout. With Utopia being pulled down and the Square gone, that is a large building site, with just the now Chinese owned Coolabah Hotel being the remaining building in the middle of a massive development site. Most of the other buildings on that large block have been pulled down as well. Things will get crazy once the rebuilding starts in this large block.

tower cranes visible from that one point. There is nothing fun about living in a construction site and there are fewer and fewer Western Expats doing that. One wonders just how many tower cranes there are in Sihanoukville and Otres, probably more than the nearly 50 Casinos that now operate in the second largest casino destination in the world. At the current rate of growth it may well surpass Las Vegas as the Casino capital of the world in terms on number of casinos within 3 years.

It appears that the dormant Pearl City (located behind Sokha resort), which was built about a decade ago and has been vacant ever since is springing to life. Chinese have been seen living in the townhouses and the central market in that location appears to be renamed and getting ready to finally open. Lots of rumours abound as ever. Rumour is that BS Holiday Villas has been sold and that much of Otres Village has been sold, we will await better sources before confirming this.

Water continues to be an issue in Sihanoukville and many residents are without it unless they have a well. The same thing is beginning to occur in Kampot as well, where resident numbers have swelled dramatically. The irony of having so much rain and so little running water is not lost on most.



Every society can be considered to have the good, the bad and the ugly. We have not seen much good from the new Sino overlords but a fair bit of the bad and the ugly. Many Chinese orientated brothels have sprung up in various parts of town catering to their own select crowd. Competition must be heating up as there was advertising on cars and flyers were being distributed. On flyer was left on the ground and garnered with publicity. The competent authorities suddenly realised what was happening in front of them and raided some and closed down others, with statements about the moral fibre of the country being at risk. The have also raided a few large scale drug dens as well.

The police continue to crackdown on Chinese drivers without licences. This month more than fifty cars have been impounded including the Bentley pictured.

Must be a wonderful earner for the cops. But atleast they are leaving westerners alone ( not that there are many left to stop!.)

The publisher of this magazine recently went down to Sihanoukville for the first time in a couple of months and was shocked by the changes, vowing to never return. This is someone who has made nearly monthly trips for two decades and had a good network of friends and business. He had trouble finding both accommodation and a western place to drink. Khmers are also having trouble finding good and reasonably priced Khmer restaurants in which to eat in the town centre as most have sold out to the Chinese.

One long time expat took a drive from Independence beach to the Lions roundabout via Sokha and counted 18 high rise buildings under construction in just that strip. This does not count all the other high rises under construction or completed elsewhere in the city. A drive up Polwaystreet from Otres reveals 17

Kampot is beginning to resemble Sihanoukville of a decade ago and also recently, with the number of unhinged people wandering around and the number of Westerner deaths and suicides. Sihanoukville had three distinct areas, Victory Hill, Town and Ochheateal Beach and was much larger so the people off their medications were spread about, however Kampot town is far more concentrated and there is a far higher number per square metre than before. The Chinese takeover of Sihanoukville has changed the expat face of Kampot and many of the "originals" are unhappy about this change. The Bundy Bar already appears to be a meeting place for the Sihanoukville refugees.