

# BAYON



*Pearnik*

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# Kampot and My Yakosa Alto Sax

It's been three months since the sturdy fence and grand gates were finished surrounding the large vacant lot at the corner of old bridge and the riverside where our 41 story building is planned, but there's still no information on the fence describing what's planned and no activity inside. The developer must have something going for him to secure that very valuable piece of land, but it's not a good sign that he can't produce a little information for the masses. Or maybe it *is* a good sign for us Kampoters: most of us would much prefer if it was never built. Six, eight, ten stories, sure, but 41? Not right for our little town.

But the Chinese are coming and, if the rumors are correct, offering fabulous amounts of money for prime properties: like \$2.5 million for the land equivalent to six storefronts on the riverside. Money to burn I'd say. An investment of 2.5 mil requires being able to get \$25,000 per month in rent if it isn't purely speculative. That's more than \$4000 per storefront, when they now go for as little as \$700. Much more and they'd have few takers. It's happening now in Phnom Penh. In the hostess bar zone off the riverside, owners are offering rents at 50% off. Too many bars, not enough customers. You can ask the sky, but if you're out of line you'll be asking forever.

One local real estate guy is predicting prime land in KP will go for \$1000 per meter by year's end. Never know, it could be. The Chinese swooped into Sihanoukville offering owners double what they thought their properties were worth.

The key is casino gambling. Without that advantage those prices are from outer space. The current rule for casino operations is it has to be more than 200 kilometers from Phnom Penh or on the borders. The casino on Bokor Mt. has an exemption, but that's a special case aided by the country's richest man holding the long term concession. For Kampot? We all hope not. Totally change the town's character for the worse.

It isn't just in town that prices are exploding. There's a local RE guy who's dividing up a rural property a few kilos out of town, offering tiny 5 x 20 meter lots for \$9000 or \$90 per meter. He's offering to sell on contract for a down payment and monthly payments. So if you really have to own property and you're satisfied with a piece of land barely big enough to put a house on, you're in luck. However, with lots so small, nobody will put nice houses on them. What you'll have is a ghetto, an instant slum... lots of tiny houses squeezed into their postage stamp sized lots. I don't mean to denigrate the people who might live there, but it's better to have a mix of properties instead of bunching all the tiny ones together.

Still, people love Kampot and fall for it very fast so demand is high and not just by westerners, many Cambodians are also paying high prices. All that is compounded by the influx of refugees from the Chinese takeover of Sihanoukville. I don't see that as a problem in itself, only that it adds to the pressure on land.

However this land-craze feeding frenzy could be like the Bitcoin hype of a few months ago when it shot up to stratospheric

heights only to come crashing down to a small fraction of its peak. There is massive debt in the Chinese economy so if, as many people are predicting, it crashes, that free flowing Chinese money will come to an abrupt halt. And it isn't just the Chinese economy under threat, many countries, rich and poor, including the US are also in a vulnerable state. Of course, I've been wrong before, so maybe it *will* go up forever.

In other related news construction of our new passenger port has been delayed again, now it's supposedly before the end year when construction starts. The port now pegged at \$10 mil is projected to serve an average 1000 people per day. Maybe they're being over optimistic and/or don't really have it together and



they're just stalling. For sure it would be nice to be able to get to Vietnam, Sihanoukville, Koh Kong and Thai islands from here by boat.

The first time I traveled between Koh Kong and Sihanoukville in 2002, there was no road, or rather it was there but parts of it had devolved into a single lane dirt track. At first the thought of going by water seemed cool, but the reality was way different. The boat carrying about fifty people was crowded, stuffy and noisy so a bunch of us rode on the roof in the hot sun for several hours with some of the boat's exhaust blowing our way. It was better than inside, and really, it would be great to have a comfortable seagoing alternative to the roads.

Still, the thought of an extra 2000 people a day going through Kep and Kampot in high season is not pleasant. But the growth it seems is going to come anyway, and in spite of any negatives, it does bring great greater choices. There's now a bar in town called Levels where you can play computer games. While I must admit I did enjoy the 20 minutes in my life when I played a simple computer game, I really haven't felt the desire to replicate that experience so I probably won't go all that often. It's doing well enough without me.

I generally go to the same few bars every night, but I often think I should get around more, it's just that I know where I'll be comfortable. What if I go to a new place and it's kinda dead or I don't connect very well with the people or place? I'll try to make the best of it, but I'll be drinking too fast ready to move on. That's a problem since my brew intake is quite limited: by the time I get to six beers on a long night I'm practically staggering. Even three or four can get me a bit tipsy and destabilized. But the scene, I love the scene: hanging out with friends, drinking, talking, jok-

ing, listening to music.

And I love to be out dancing. I try my best to make it to Banyan Tree on Friday night where there'll be 100 or 200 people all drinking, smiling, dancing and being so darned happy. Doesn't matter how old I get, I'll never tire of it... If I can stand, I'll dance. Thirty years ago I was most often the oldest person on the dance floor. Now at 77, it's hard to best me on that one though it does happen on a rare occasion. There's a band in town called Rock Bottom playing ZZ Top and such. It always surprises me how most bands around play that old time music and that young people really like it. Timeless.

We now have an art gallery in town. There are some interesting works on display and lots of wall space to hang more.

Girlie bars have come to Kampot. I had been under the impression that they weren't allowed but now there are 5 or 6. I don't mind that much but I'd prefer they stay out of the center of town, maybe in some special district on the other side of the river. There are lots of guys in this world who for any number of reasons – fat, old, ugly, abrasive – who'd have no chance of companionship otherwise and lots of willing young women, many who are uneducated, whose options are very limited or who prefer the life as opposed to earning much less working long hours in difficult jobs. And there've always been the KTVs for the locals and knowing foreigners... so live and let live.

The riverside promenade has once again turned into a car park. They actually leave room to walk, usually. In addition to degrading the experience of walking by the river, vehicles damage tree roots and the pavement.

The city should place obstacles to access, but then parking would become more difficult since the many restaurant boats docked along the river draw lots of people.

It's definitely low season and mighty quiet around town sometimes. The first two weeks of September were very dry and a welcome relief from the torrents of July and August. Now that it's started to rain again it's that steady all day rain typical of this time of year rather than thunder and buckets of rain stuff.

Some of the rural roads have become impassable even for motorbikes. The combination of all that rain and a constant procession of construction vehicles churned up a friend's road into a sea of mud slurry. They can get out on bicycles, but on moto they have to take a several kilometer detour. The city, meanwhile, has continued its previously scheduled road upgrading doing projects that are important, but nowhere near the urgency of the worst spots, which they'll get to eventually, I guess. My local guy who does work for me can't get his tuk-tuk out so both of us are out of luck.

My Yakosa alto sax.

Sometimes you'll come across merchandise that has a Japanese name but nowhere does it say where it was made. It's pretty clear though who the culprit is. So this is the story of my presumably Chinese made alto sax. I, like most people I imagine, try to avoid buying Chinese for while they are very clever at making things that look good, they often crumble in front of your very eyes. Here's an illustration: back in the nineties when I was living in Kunming in Yunnan province I had a friend who was working on making accessories like wallets and bags out of hemp. It grows wild throughout the province as well as having a hemp industry. He arranged for a factory to make some samples. They looked good and well made with quality fabric but with just a little effort they came apart, the thread worthless. He took them back and showed him how easily they came apart. The manager said, What's the problem? My friend said, I can't sell this. The manager's response was that they couldn't afford good thread.

That's sorta the story of my sax. So I went down to Madison, probably the largest music store in Phnom Penh. My budget was

severely limited so it had to be among the cheapest alternatives. First he showed me a Yakosa with a price of \$400. It's unusual in that it isn't made of brass, as almost all saxophones are. It's a dark yellow metal and quite a bit heavier than brass. Being an odd color they dressed up the metal with antiquing, trying to make it look really old.

So I tried it out. I hadn't played in 30 years, but had spent a few seconds not long before trying out a friend's and knew it was time to get back into it. It sorta played, but some notes came out as squeaks or other strange sounds. Nope, lets try another. It played better but not really up to snuff, so lets go for another. Like the first it was nearly unplayable. Okay, do you have any other brands at the same cost? Tried a different brand at the same



budget price, still a no go. They also had Jupiter saxes, also made in China, that worked fine, but at twice the price it was out of the question. In comparison one of the friends I'd gone with stopped in a Yamaha shop, theirs cost \$2500. A top of the line Selmer goes for about \$10,000.

I had to get something so settled for the second Yakosa I'd played. It really wasn't working right, but as luck would have it there was a long time sax player in town who tried it, checked it out and pointed out that there were two places on the instrument where you could make adjustments and a very short time later with a little tweaking it worked fine. So for lack of minor adjustments that took less than a minute, they sent out instruments that didn't play.

The Jupiter had a very big round sound, the Yakosa much lighter, almost nasal, but fine, a perfectly acceptable sound. Good craftsmanship and quality for a measly \$400. It's fascinating how instruments that by necessity are the exact same dimensions can sound so differently.

It's got a case that's a marvel of convenience. Handle on the top, handle on the side, special pouch on the side for music and odds and ends and backpack straps, which came in very handy for a year or so until I put a little stress on one and the thread just came apart. The side handle wasn't secured very well so I had to reinforce it. It's basically pressed fiber with a heavy cloth covering. Two of the three zippers on the case have crapped out. I've had it for six years, but I don't play it all that much. If I did play a lot it would've started falling apart in about 6 months. Just a little upgrading and the case would last in intact for many years.

It came with a brush that fits inside the barrel to absorb excess moisture that builds up when played. They're called pad savers for without it the moisture causes the pads to deteriorate. They're not cheap, I paid \$20 for one for my tenor sax. The only problem with the Yakosa brush is that it isn't long enough to protect the pad at the very end. Finally, it came with one reed in a paper sleeve with the word *Reed* on it instead of *Reed*. Close enough.

Cambostan

# IN BAD TASTE

## Woman Claims Groping by Cabinet Designee as Newborn in NY Nursery

It may have happened over 50 years ago, but a NY woman claims she remembers it as if it were yesterday. Now she's appalled that her groper is being considered for a top Cabinet post in the current administration. But that's only if he survives a Congressional grilling. And that won't happen, according to the irate woman in question, who plans to testify before Congress next week.

"He's been a groper from day 1. Enough is enough," said the purported gropee.

Here's her story, as told to a NY newspaper. "We were only a day old in a hospital nursery and had been placed alongside one another on a huge changing table. The nurse happened to glance away for a moment, and that's when Mr. Cabinet Designee made his move. He rolled over and reached inside my diaper, trying to grab my butt. Fortunately, I had a loaded diaper, so all the pig got was a handful of shit. Never got through to my butt at all. But it wasn't for a lack of trying." Meanwhile, the Cabinet Designee released a statement to the press in which he denied responsibility for the incident. "I do not recall that happening at all," he said. "I was in the nursery minding my own business, and had no interest in anyone else's business at all." No shit.

## Vietnamese currency rockets - the dong is up

For years it has been an underdeveloped backwater of south-east Asia, best known throughout much of the world for its devastating war against the US. Nevertheless, Vietnam is very much an up and coming country, particularly in an economic sense. Never has the Dong been so powerful.

At the start of this year, a US dollar could buy you around 23,000 Dongs, which is quite a handful until you realise that that is only worth about one dollar. Few other currencies worldwide were worth so little - maybe the Salvadoran Colon, but you can still fit many Dongs into a Colon.

Since February though, the Dong has shot up, and it just keeps on growing. The Dong/Pound ratio is high, and the Dong/Bhat index is also swelling.

An Asian currency hasn't grown this fast since South Korea's boom, when it had a really big Won. That didn't end happily though, and if the Vietnamese isn't to overheat and blow up, then they had better calm down their Dongs with careful fiscal policy.

## "So You Think You Can Dance" To Feature First Quadriplegic Dance Crew

In the midst of declining ratings over the past 15 seasons of So You Think You Can Dance, producer Jessica Lively confirmed today that the show has been picked up for an additional season to premier in 2019.

Despite the dwindling viewership, she is confident that the show will make a return to primetime with the addition of more "inclusive and diverse dancing crews" to the lineup.

The show's scouts are particularly excited to premier the show's very first quadriplegic dance crew, who go by the name of "The Rolling Dirty-Thirty". As the name suggests, the crew is comprised of thirty handicapable talents, whom incorporate finely choreographed B-Boy routines based around such numbers as OutKast's, "I Like The Way You Move"; Ludacris hit, "Stand Up"; and the Unk 2006 club-banger, "Walk It Out".

"In no way are we trying to exploit these brave contestants for mere entertainment," said Lively in response to the initial criticism. "We hold ourselves to a higher standard and we carry our heads high knowing we're doing our part to represent those who physically can't carry their heads high. We'll continue to do so one step at a time."

The announcement seems to be working wonders, as already there has been an increase in viewer interest, and applicants who wish to be featured on the show's upcoming season. One such hopeful dance crew is "The Golden Nuggets", a four-piece group made up of mid-gets that perform expressive avant-garde dance renditions of Goldfrapp tunes, such as: 2008's "Clowns"; as well as 2000's "Lovely Head" and "Oompa Radar".

When asked about the peculiar song choice, "The Golden Nuggets" dance leader Melvin Highmore, had this to say: "We dance to what is relatable, and Goldfrapp just seems to understand the struggle of the little guy caught up in this complicated, big world. We're excited to showcase our talents on the show, and prove once and for all that we

are just as capable as anyone else. We'd love to give you sneak peek at our performance... could you just hit the "play" button there, I can't quite reach it."

And what a performance it was, the pitter-patter of tiny feet culminating into a fantastic show of emotion and incapability. With the level at which these tiny performers executed, we here at The Spoof can hardly contain our excitement to see what they and "The Rolling Dirty-Thirty" have to offer to the next and likely last season of So You Think You Can Dance. Keep your DVR's free, as this will be a tv event that you won't want to miss.

## Bozo Trots Out Usual Bollocks In Vain Attempt to be Relevant

The Daily Telegraph was once a serious newspaper but is now reduced to having a front page spread featuring a serial liar and idiot. Monday's edition had emblazoned upon it Bozo Johnson's self-satisfied face as he once again trotted out his usual guff in his fading attempt to become prime minister.

As usual, this loud mouthed insufferable failure of a political pygmy tried to sound Churchillian, but only managed to mix metaphors and raise stupid images which would be more akin to The Sun or The Daily Star. He is living proof that education is not equated with intelligence or competence.

Johnson wrote in the Daily Telegraph that the approach agreed at Chequers "means disaster" for Britain.

*You signed up to it, shithead and only walked away after Dumbo Davis had led the way. Coward, as ever.*

On his no deal Brexit wish, Bozo wrote: "The whole thing is about as pre-ordained as a bout between Giant Haystacks and Big Daddy; and in this case, I am afraid, the inevitable outcome is a victory for the EU, with the UK lying flat on the canvas and 12 stars circling symbolically over our semi-conscious head."

*So Bozo, in this "bout" which fat bastard are you?*

Mr Johnson said negotiations based on the Chequers plan had so far seen the EU take "every important trick", adding: "The UK has agreed to hand over £40bn of taxpayers' money for two-thirds of diddly squat." *"Diddly squat?" Old Etonian for "I wouldn't get out of bed for less than a million quid".*

The ex-foreign secretary said the PM's plan would hand the EU "victory".

*Yawn! Are we at war? Back to the 1940s with Corporal "They Don't Like It Up 'Em" Johnson.*

A Downing Street spokesman said: "There's no new ideas in this article to respond to. Let's face it Bozo is a loser and has nothing to contribute" while former home secretary Amber Rudd told the BBC's Politics Live: "Once again, it's a case of leap before you look - there's absolutely no proposal here, but what else do you expect from a smug self-regarding wanker."

## Multigender Pangender Transgender Couple -Who Wears the Trousers?

Unusually, on waking up, Lesley Jones, of Middlewich, Cheshire, who was born a woman, decides what gender he will be for that day depending on what she feels like. If she feels like he is male on that particular day, he binds his chest, wears trousers, and farts copiously over breakfast.

His boyfriend, Leslie Smith, of Hove, East Sussex, who was born a man, also decides which sex he will be on waking. If he feels like a female, she will wear a lightly-padded bra, and nag about the shower needing fixing over breakfast.

On days that both partners are female, they identify as lesbians, and on days that both are male, they are just your average gay male couple. On days where they are the opposite of their birth sexes, they say it can be quite confusing for passers-by, particularly if they are using public toilets.

Leslie commented, "Once, Lesley went into the male toilets and decided she was female halfway through a pee. He went in fine, then she ran out crying, because a man had exposed himself to her!"

On days where both are their birth sexes, they visit family and enjoy tea and biscuits with their elderly parents who have no concept of any type of sexuality except straight.

Lesley and Leslie both state that they don't want to physically change their sexes, they just want to decide each day what's going to confuse the public the most, and be accepted and recognised for their choices.

# THE PUB PAGE

Pub Page – October

The bars I have been dropping by have been pretty dead the last week or so – rains are clearly not doing them any favours. One would think that would make the staff at the hostess bars a bit more enthusiastic when a punter forges one of the flooded streets to try to spend some money, but I guess the lack of patronage has led to a number of the bars allowing their staff to submerge themselves on their mobile and chat outside with their friends. In the alternative, perhaps they just sized me up and decided they were better off ignoring this intrepid but underpaid (and thus perhaps overly parsimonious) reporter. I won't go through the usual suspects line up, but I felt a severe lack of attention and a few of them despite the general lack of patronage. BTW – thanks to Sensations bar on 130 St for inviting the Pub Page to their anniversary party.

A quick GSM note – still trying to unload places at half price. Amazingly, while I have this from indirect sources, so it has not been verified, I was told that existing tenants who came in early and are not getting the traffic flow they were expecting, were not given any break. While it is hard to give them too much grief for trying to draw in some customers, the horrid karaoke from the center of the mall may actually kill the business of the few bars that have some. There do seem to be some smaller places opening but more food than bar. Hopefully there will be some more new spots soon and there will be something to report.

Went to a bunch of new hostess bars this week, let's start the tour on 136 St. Before I get there, much kudos to After Dark for running the best promotion, from a full disclosure yet deeply disappointing perspective, that I can remember here. On the sign that says 2 for 1 blow jobs on Saturdays in very clear print it expressly states that they mean the drink. Deep sign but cheers for accuracy.

I dropped by the Phnom Penh Sharaton (not a typo and clearly done to avoid engaging in serious intellectual property litigation with Marriott International). It is beside the Hilton (of course) and is pretty bare bones with a disturbing lack of amenities. A bunch of staff sat outside and there was only the bartender inside when I strolled by. Had a bit of difficulty ordering a drink and, in the confusion, I decided I was not in the mood and checked out early. I will drop by again but not in a rush.

I know I reported on Secrets last month, but I recently dropped by again a couple of times just to see how it was evolving. It is a bit of a curious beast. On my two visits, once it was pretty quiet (as was everywhere else I visited that night), but on the

other night, it was the busiest bar I was in over the last week with almost every booth occupied. Had the band going both nights – not really my cup of tea but people seemed to enjoy or at least not be bothered by it. Most of the customers looked fairly well occupied. Still want to try the food at some point, but overall enjoy the place as an occasional swing by despite the drinks being a bit steep

– although it is almost worth the extra cost just to be able to use the bathroom.

I kayaked up to 104 St. next. As I went by I noticed that the Hooters sign was not on the side of the corner building. Not sure how long ago it came down, but I guess this means that Hooters finally gave up on their remake of the 1986 Tom Hanks classic.

While not new, Bunny Bar has changed ownership – I was told that there was a new partner brought in – and with it some big changes – well, a paint job at least. Rest of the place seems unchanged so same friendly service, same comfortable local, same reasonable prices, new colour.

First of my new bars on 104 was Rodeo which has occupied the old Cavern space. It has been open about a month and a half from what I understand. No offense to the great and powerful Barry but I actually liked what they did to it. It is black with a lot of blue LED (ok I can skip some of the lighting), but it feels pretty open and by cutting back the bar they made room for a pool table.

Cans of beer (except ABC) are USD 2, bottles are USD 3.5-4 and local drafts are 1.5/glass and 6 a jug. Lady drinks are a bit odd as there are a mix of USD 3.5 and 5 options – so if you are worried about it, make sure you check what your companion is ordering. Spirits are mostly USD 3.5-4 with a few higher priced options. Music was a bit loud but not overbearing. Overall this seems like a good new option on 104.

Another good new option was Boss bar beside 104 bar. Nothing not to like. It was comfortable although a bit dark. Staff was friendly and were quite pleasant despite realizing that I was not looking for any company and I was just passing through quickly. Music was at a good level. Pool table in the back. Draft beer is USD 1.75, and jugs are 6, cans are 2 (except ABC) and bottles are \$3 or 4. Spirits are mostly \$3.5 or 4 and wine is \$4.5 or 6. A good relaxing option in a part of 104 St. where the bars seem to compete to deafen their customers and prevent any chance of communication.

Time to hit some non-hostess bars I think – if only I knew any...



# 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



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**Seng Sona displaying her impressive assets. However the “Khmer Wives” association seems to have a distasteful view and are rumoured to have pressed for a ban on her udderly sexy behavior.**

## Big Boob Ban

BY SAL UT  
THE CAMBODIA DREARY

The Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts has ordered the director of Cambodian Television Association to fire the Cambodian star named Seng Souna.

Mr. Thai Noreaksathya, secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, said that Mrs. Seng Souna was temporarily banned for a year because of her sexy outfits and behavior which reflect badly on Cambodian traditional culture.

Four other starlets have also been given a warning about their sexy behaviour and large assets.

A member of the “Cambodian Wives Association” seemed pleased at the ban.

“How can we compete when our husbands are ogling as those huge mammaries bouncing around. I am not having ten liters of silicone put in my body to compete with jugs like that.”

“We hope this sends a message to others that bouncing body parts will not be tolerated on television.”

The “Wives Association” is widely believed to have been behind the KTV ban twelve years ago. When too many hubbies were caught with their  
Continued on page 17

## Walk or park that is the question

BY CHOY MAI  
THE CAMBODIA DREARY

In the last few years the police have cracked down on bars and restaurants encroaching onto pave-

ments. Stating there must be one and a half meters space so people can walk easily. One owner had a month long dispute over this to preserve most of his terrace.

Now a new edict has left him speechless.

In the past few weeks the authorities have been visiting places

with a large amount of motos parked outside. When asked about this he said most of them belonged to his staff.

He was then told that all the bikes would have to park on the pavement to allow better traffic flow!

After banging his head on a table the

owner sauntered inside to attack a bottle of single malt.

Another edict just came from the Phnom Penh governor.

All wedding and funeral tents will be banned from public streets from the beginning of October.

Maybe they can hold them on the pavement  
Continued on page 17

## About Cambodia

Report: Civil Servants need more holidays

Page 17

How to sell your ass to the Chinks

Page 17

Hazardous waste plant gets ok in Snooky to save on street lighting as the whole place will glow in the dark

Page 17

Chinese visa office opens for trips to Sihanoukville.

Page 17

Semicolon: the period for the new millennia

All pages

## Two month holiday proposed for Oct & Nov

BY RAY BIDLOONY  
DISASSOCIATED PRESS

As the public holiday is upon us after a brief lull the Ministry of Holidays and Lazing around has proposed that October and November be a two month holiday to streamline things.

With Pchum Ben October 8, 9, 10. October 15 Kings Commemoration Day. October 23 Paris Peace Agreement Day. October 29

Kings Coronation Day. November 9 Independence Day and November 21, 22, 23 Water Festival.

With most officials taking a week out for any three day holiday and three days for a one day holiday it is proposed that all other holidays be moved to these months apart from Khmer New Year.

Therefore getting the ridiculous

amount of holidays here out of the way in one big lump. Businessmen seemed to support the idea. Citing the fact it would cut out a lot of problems with staff going AWOL and a ton of bullshit excuses.

The Ministry of Labour was no committal about the idea and laughed all the way to  
Continued page 17

# FAUX NEWS

## Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani: Truth isn't truth and Trump isn't Trump

In further evidence of the phantasmagorical world in which President Donald Trump and his minions are living, the US President's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, has claimed that "truth isn't truth" during a television interview.

Mr Giuliani was arguing that Mr Trump should not testify to the Russia probe, as he might be "trapped into perjury as he is an habitual and compulsive liar. Of course he wouldn't lie as he is president, but you know Trump is Trump or rather he isn't, if you see what I mean".

"Truth is truth", NBC host Chuck Todd countered. Mr Giuliani denied this was the case, and said two rival versions of events were in contention. Trump aides and lickspittles have a track record of denying factual evidence with their own fantastical version of events, notably when Kellyanne Conway told Todd in January 2017 that the White House was entitled to present "alternative facts." Todd retorted at the time: "Alternative facts are not facts. They're falsehoods."

Mr Giuliani then said: "I'm not going to be rushed into having him testify so he can be trapped into perjury. You know how he likes to lie." He added: "When you tell me that the president should testify because he's going to tell the truth and he shouldn't worry, well that's so silly because it's somebody's version of the truth. Not the truth."

Todd responded: "Truth is truth." Mr Giuliani said: "Truth isn't truth."

So what do we take from all this? Anything which Donald J. Trump utters isn't true, or is it?

## Dismay as Larry the cat rejects Chequers Plan

As if things couldn't get any worse for beleaguered PM Theresa May, news has emerged that at a recent meeting of government pets



a motion to reject the Chequers Plan was carried unanimously. Mrs May has expressed her 'disappointment' all pets have now signed a declaration agreeing with the EU heads of state, every opposing MP in the House, any voter arsed enough to read it, every back bench Conservative and practically all of her cabinet. 'I respect their right to an opinion, but would prefer Larry didn't shit on every copy put in his litter tray,' she said today, insisting Boris Johnson started it. 'Putting copies in the litter tray, that is' she clarified.

## Perth Australia voted the world's most miserable city

An international panel of lifestyle experts has compared 100 of the world's major cities. Emerging top of the pile for live-ability is Vienna in Austria. And coming in a distant last is Perth in Western Australia, which is dubbed "The Miserable City".

Panel spokesperson Brenda Shapelybotham explained. "We examined lifestyles in all the cities using nine criteria. Perth came last in every category." Shapelybotham listed the categories:

- 1 Things to do - the highlight of Perth is a trip to Ratsarse Island, 20 kilometres offshore from Perth. The panel visited Ratsarse and confirmed it's full of giant rats, drunken bogan Aussies, and beaches that look the same as those in Perth, except they're crowded and littered with discarded beer bottles and condoms.
2. Friendliness - Perth recorded the only negative score of any city. Not one person returned a single panel member's smile and 5 panel members were assaulted, 2 seriously, for daring to smile at locals.
3. Vista - apart from Kings Park, a massive 100-foot-high mound of kangaroo dung in the city centre, Perth is completely flat. In fact the whole of Western Australia, is basically a bland, flat, dirty brown desert landscape with the odd scrub tree, and inhabited by drunken indigenous people and a lot of deadly animals.
4. Safety - Three panel members were hospitalised during their 5 day stay. One was bitten by a spider, another lost a foot to a shark while swimming on a metro beach, and another was clubbed and tasered by a local police officer who she asked for directions.
5. Travel opportunities - Perth scored even lower than its Friendliness score. Perth is perfectly situated at the wrong side of Australia to be anywhere near anything else in Australia. At the same time it's so far from anything else in the world nobody ever goes overseas because it's unaffordable. Its location is referred to as the "arse-end" and is also responsible for the very low variation in the Perth gene pool.
6. Culture - Perth peoples' idea of culture is watching a Big Mac rot and get fly blown on the barbecue table on a hot summer afternoon. The panel found no other evidence of culture.
7. Climate - Perth only has 2 seasons. Fucking hot, and damp,

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cold. Houses in Perth are built the British way (but using building codes from 1952) and so everyone freezes their butts off for the six month winter, then fries and roasts through the 50C degrees in the shade hell they call summer, when it's too hot to venture out before 2am.

8. Career opportunities - Shapelybotham could hardly contain her amusement. "If you want to be a sewage worker, Big Mac Dispenser, or work in a god-forsaken stinking hot desert minesite, Perth's the place for you. Say no more."

9. Affordability - while Perth has become more affordable to live in than the big east coast cities, you can expect to pay eight dollars for a coffee and twenty for a pint. Given the minimum wage is twelve bucks an hour, more and more people are choosing to live with their parents until they, themselves, are in their mid-fifties.

Shapelybotham summed Perth up as "The ultimate miserable city". Latest figures from the Australian government indicate people are voting with their feet. In 2017, 500,000 people left Perth for the Ukraine, Venezuela and the Republic of the Congo. Most were Poms.

### **Northern Ireland border to be controlled by invisible leprechauns!**

Brexit has obviously caused many problems, both within the EU borders and the UK, and these problems need to be solved before the UK floats uncontrollably into the Atlantic Ocean.

Great political intellectuals (cough, cough) are busy attempting to come up with solutions for the problem of the Ireland / Northern Ireland border and, of course, BOJO, who is leading the gallop towards a UK disaster, has come up with several 'brilliantly insane' solutions.

Here are just a four of his recommendations:

1) Build a "Mexican Wall" and call it the "Humpty Trumpty Hadrian's Wall" in memory of the fall of the Roman Empire and sticking one up at Donald Trump's failed attempt to do the same.

2) Get Bill Gates to build technical gadgets along the border and make BOJO the Microsoft president of UK operations with a salary of £2 billion a year.

3) If Bill doesn't play ball, plant a row of 'Apple' trees along the border, sponsored by Apple, with smart phones attached so trucks can be photographed as they pass. BOJO then collects 50% of import taxes and 50% of the advertising.

4) Let Northern Irish Militant groups patrol the border, Ukrainian style, with machine guns, balaclavas, and dressed in camouflage, terrorist uniforms. Any truck loaded with EU goods will be blown up and the driver exiled to Calais.

None of these recommendations have held any water with the PM, however. But, Theresa May has elected to forward one of the ideas to the EU in a bid to placate BOJO, because she's crapping in her pants that if she doesn't, when BOJO becomes the new PM, she will end up in The Tower with her head on the block!

And what is the idea which Theresa May will be putting to the EU negotiators? Well, BOJO's brilliantly insane idea is invisible leprechauns to patrol the border.

Since the invisible leprechauns cannot be seen, all traffic passing the border will travel freely, just like it does now. Furthermore, since BOJO's army of invisible leprechauns have dual nationality, Irish and British, they will work for the best interest of both parties.

Whisperings from Brussels indicate that the EU is willing to accept this proposal and end the deadlock on the negotiations.

It is rumoured that chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier commented on the plans, "We have been waiting for the UK to put forward a concrete solution for dealing with the Irish border, but all we have had so far is pie-in-the-sky proposals around IT systems which have not yet been built. These cohorts of proud

workers which shall patrol the border sounds to us like a fantastic solution which is ensured to succeed."

Whether the invisible leprechauns will work remains to be seen, but one thing is for sure, it appears that BOJO has saved Brexit!

### **Tesco unveil 'Jack in the Box' budget funeral service**

Tesco supermarket has announced it will go into direct competition with Cooperative Funerals in a bid to corner the market in dead people. Tesco plan to follow the basic principle of 'Stack 'em high and sell 'em cheap' and will bury people in their car parks. Dead customers will be interned in a standing position to maximize parking space. The rollout begins next month, but trolley attendants at a trial store in Twickenham have been spotted pulling long trains of coffins.

Chief executive Dave Lewis said 'This is an exciting new direction for Tesco. Not only will our funerals be cheaper and quicker than our rivals, but mourners will be able to collect bonus points and exclusive offers with each service they attend. Go to three Tesco funerals and you could enjoy a day out at Peppa Pig World, absolutely free!' He denied that this heralded the end of bags for life, but suggested they could be a 'low cost option'. He added 'if being buried in a car park is good enough for a royal surely it's good enough for the rest of us.'

The announcement comes as a blow to the Co-op which failed to invest in online 'click and collect' hearses. Lidl have teamed up with Greggs to offer cost-effective, value-orientated cremations with a hot pasty thrown in, but market analysts believe it may be too little too late.

In addition to burials, Jack in the Box will sell handkerchiefs, sandwiches, and pet insurance. Terms and conditions apply.

Vatican confirms that resurrection of the Chequers deal would be classified as an official miracle

The Catholic Church has today confirmed it is ready to announce an official miracle if the EU27 adopts Theresa May's Chequers plan for Brexit.

With documented miracles few and far between since the invention of the camera phone, the Vatican is keen to see if Theresa May can offer a bonafide miracle which they can lay at the feet of baby Jesus.

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Advertising, Editorial, Inquiries and anything else :  
The Bayon Pearnik, P.O. Box 2279,  
Phnom Penh 3.

Advertising, Editorial : 012-803-968 (Adam),  
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# TECHNOLOGY PAGE

## How do you recover from a dead internal hard drive or SSD? Or if Windows becomes so messed up it's useless or even unbootable?

You can always reinstall Windows from scratch. But after that you must reinstall all of your programs, and then reconfigure everything.

But if you have a relatively recent image backup handy, you can recover Windows, your programs, and your configurations with a few minutes' work.

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

### Image backup vs. file backup

An image backup copies everything on your drive, including partitions and the boot sector. It's the only way to back up your Windows installation properly, with all of your programs and settings. Don't confuse this with a file backup, which only copies your data files (documents, photos, spreadsheets, and so on).

Of the two, the file backup is by far the most important. You can always reinstall Windows and your applications, but you can't reinstall your business records or your family photos. You should back up data files daily. If you're not regularly backing them up, see my 3 easy steps for getting this going.

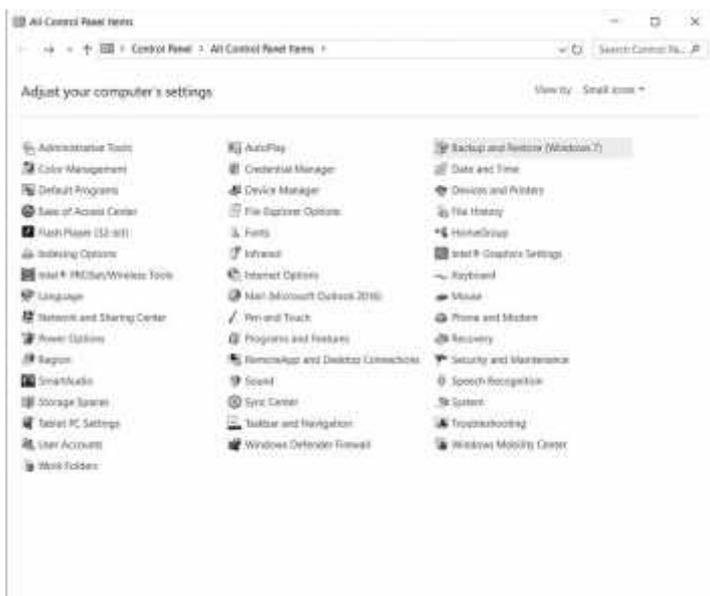
By comparison, an image backup simply saves you the major hassle of reinstalling everything. I recommend you create an image backup three or four times a year, saving it to an external hard drive. (See our roundup of best external drives if you don't already have one.)

This article focuses on Windows 10. I've already covered the subject for Windows 7 and 8.

### How to create an image backup in Windows 10

1. Plug in your external hard drive—which should have enough free space to hold everything on your internal drive. (The WD My Passport 4TB is our current top pick for this purpose.) Make sure Windows can access the drive.

2. Now go to Control Panel > Backup and Restore (Windows 7)



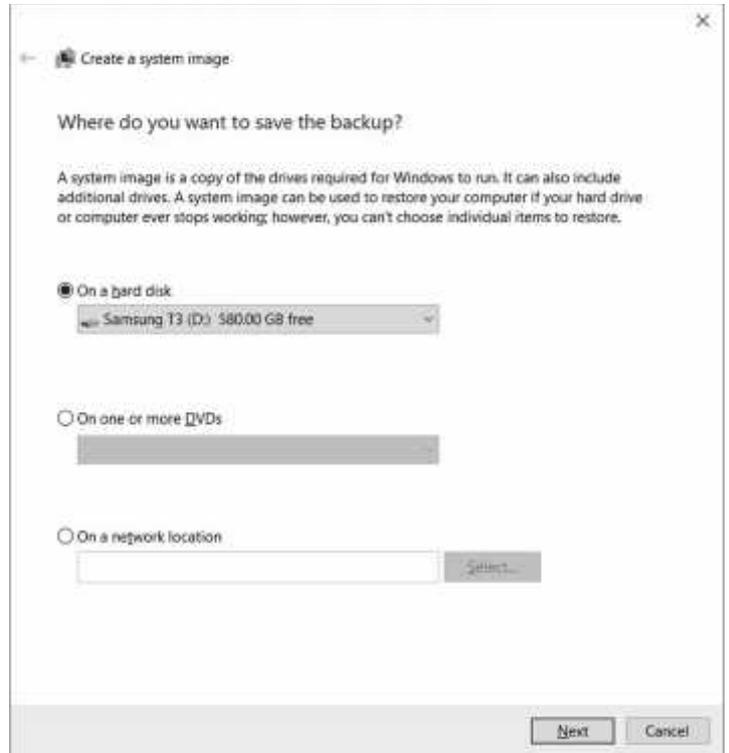
—don't worry about the "Windows 7" label.

3. Click Create a system image in the upper left.

3. On the following screen, make sure your backup drive is selected (or conversely choose the option to back up to DVDs or a

network location).

4. Hit Next, make sure your C: drive is selected (as well as any other drives you want to back up), and click the Start backup



button.

The backup may take a few hours. You can continue to work as it backs up. However, I prefer to start the backup at the end of the workday so it doesn't slow anything down.

When the backup is over, you'll be asked if you want to create a System Repair Disc. If your PC has an optical drive, create the disc.

If not, create a Recovery Drive: Plug in a blank flash drive, open Control Panel's Recovery tool, click Create a recovery drive, and follow the prompts. Or follow our guide to making a recovery drive. This drive will enable you to restore your system image when the time comes.

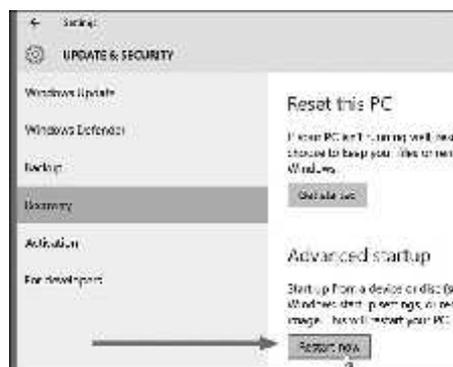
### Restore the backup

When Windows is in a seemingly hopeless condition, you'll need to get into the recovery environment to restore the image. Here are three ways to do that:

If you can still boot into Windows: Select Start > Settings > Update & security. Select Recovery in the left pane, then select Restart now.

If Windows won't boot and you have a System Repair Disc: Insert the disc into your optical drive and boot your PC. When you're asked to "Press any key...", press any key. Then pick a language.

If Windows won't boot and you have a Recovery Drive: Insert the Recovery



flash drive into a USB port and boot your PC. If your PC skips the flash drive and attempts to boot Windows, reboot and enter your Setup screen (F2 usually works; if it doesn't, check your manual). Look for a boot or boot order option. Once you've successfully booted the flash drive, select a language.

Once you're in a recovery environment, select Troubleshoot, then System Image Recovery. Follow the instructions.

## Google's new search features tap AI to make your Android phone and PC even smarter

We didn't expect Google to copy something from Yahoo, of all search engines.

Microsoft's not the only company using AI to improve the quality of its services. Google, in marking the 20th anniversary of Google search, announced its own plans to tap artificial intelligence, including enticing you to interact more with its rebranded, deeper Discover activity feed and other services.

Ben Gomes, the vice president in charge of Search and the Google Assistant, outlined several changes the company is making to enhance Google's search algorithm. Interestingly, the majority of the changes seem slated to appear within Google's mobile app. Most also seem to involve getting you to interact more with Google's services, so the search algorithm can learn more about you—and make smarter guesses about what you'll engage with more, for instance. Gomes wrote that a full 15 percent of everyday queries are completely unknown to the Google search algorithm.

Why this matters: Artificial intelligence (AI) seems to be the new watchword at companies like Google, Microsoft and others: sprinkle a little AI on a feature, and watch its engagement grow.

In this case, there's a benefit—cool stuff!—and a cost: You have to be signed in to Google's services, which some people avoid for privacy's sake. In fact, it's interesting that Google announced this today, as there was yet another flap over Google's latest privacy snafu.

Here's a short list of the changes you'll see within Google's search algorithm.

**Activity Cards:** A smarter search history

You're probably aware of how to access your Search History on a desktop browser: CTRL+ H, typically. But when you try to dig out a site you've searched for previously, it can be a chore: You'll have to manually enter terms in the search box and try to remember which pages led you where.

**Google**

Google's history cards will display if Google thinks they're relevant.

Later this year, the Search box will reveal cards that link back to your previous searches, "when it's useful," Google says. The idea is very similar to Microsoft's "pick up where you left off" language, which it's used to describe the Windows Timeline feature—in fact, Google used this same phrase when describing its new Search features.

**Collections:** A better bookmark?

If you've ever searched for a topic over time, you might forget what you saw, and where. Old fogies might be tempted

to use a browser bookmark to remember their place, but Google has a new name for this: Collections. It will debut later this fall.

**Google**

Want to store a page for later? Try a bookmark Collections.

Instead of putting a webpage in a bookmark, or a folder of bookmarks, you assign a search card to a Collection of given topics. As Collections seem like just a reimagining of the bookmark process, the process sounds pretty similar.

**The Google feed, now called Discover**

One of the innovations that Yahoo brought to search before ceding it to Bing was its emphasis on searching through exploration: Yahoo's algorithmically generated homepages would encourage you to click a topic and explore it, generating more and more clicks as you delved deeper. Google offers something similar: its Feed, accessible by clicking on the search box within an Android phone.

**Google**

Google's activity feed of things it algorithmically thinks you'll like: Discover.

The feed is renamed Discover, but the premise is the same: Based upon your history, Google will suggest numerous topics for you to click and explore later this year.

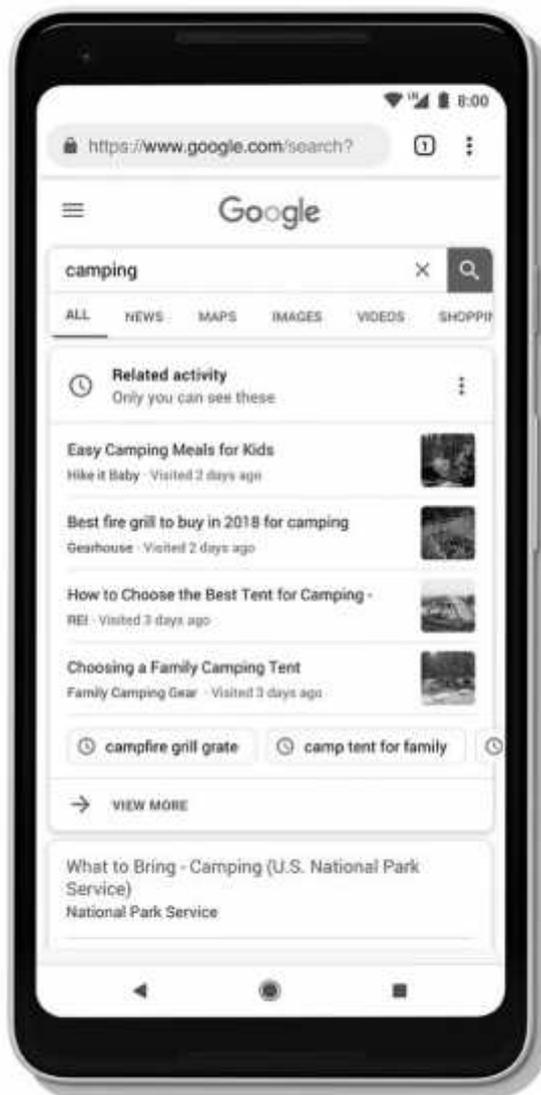
The cards that the Discover feed shows you will offer different ways of interacting with it. A flower-like Discover icon allows you to drill down. A little, unnamed control panel icon will push more or less content to your feed—your choice. If you're starting to explore a given topic or location, Google may consider some of the content to be "evergreen," and relevant even if it's a few weeks or months old. And if you speak multiple languages—based on your searches—Google's will try to figure that out, too.

**Diving deep within Google Images search, with Lens**

One of Microsoft's responses to our story on how Bing has lost its way was that one of the innovations within Bing's image search was its ability to pull out elements of an image, such as a pair of shoes in a photo of a living room, and use that as the basis of an entirely new search. Now Google says it will bring the same ability to Google Images (via a feature called Lens) in the coming weeks.

Google also said the company would now do a better job of suggesting videos to illustrate what you're searching for.

In all, using AI to enhance the way in which Google interacts with you is nothing new. The real test will be how much you interact with Google, based upon its new search features.



# Bits from the Beach

A couple of months ago we said that the roads became rivers and then lakes. Well the degradation of the rivers cum roads has continued unabated. The roads are now like river beds on the odd occasion it stops raining for long enough for the roads to dry up. When wet the huge holes in the road have been swallowing vehicles to the point where cranes are required to lift the vehicles out of the holes.

Recently the majority of the town became a giant sea, with many places and houses under water to a depth of a metre, more or less. This did not stop cars from driving through it and one rich person, with more dollars than sense found out that whilst Bentleys are nice cars, it is only Aston Martins that can become water borne vehicles (think James Bond films) and he too needed a crane to lift his waterlogged pride and joy to dry land. The worst affected areas were around the former LV (street 104) and the area near MloTPang training centre which backs the general area behind the former Aqua that was swamp that has now been filled in. Such is what happens when you destroy the natural infrastructure and do not replace it with and planned infrastructure construction.

Interestingly, on one of the few days without rain, the Chinese KTV beside the JinBei casino caught fire. Fire trucks were called. It is probable that the casino owns this as they were directing the fire hoses from the upper floors of the casino onto the roof top below.

Statistics have been released as to how many Chinese have been granted work permits and the figure is huge, with the vast majority of the people believed to be residing in Sihanoukville. The Chinese population has grown so much that the Chinese police are now cooperating with the local police and will offer training and advisors in how to deal with the Chinese. We think that I will not be long before the PRC police are seen on the streets in uniform, as the pace of the colonization snowballs.

One of the drivers for the help by the PRC police is the recently revealed foreign crime statistics, and it is little surprise to anyone who reads the newspapers, that the largest group of foreign criminals are the Chinese, plus the continued gang fighting amongst Chinese gangs, something that did not happen before. This lawlessness has made the newspapers and the Cambodian government is so concerned that they have sent down four different task forces, including various ministries and police to help restore law and order. The local competent authorities decided to do a crackdown on cars and drivers which resulted in the impounding of several vehicles as the drivers or cars were not properly licensed, all the drivers involved turned out to be Chinese.

Roads into and out of Sihanoukville and Kampot continue to be a nightmare, with the near constant heavy rains and heavy vehicle traffic. Route 4 has been closed again, which usually leads to route 41 and the lower part of Route 3 becoming a mess. Route 31, via Kep is also fast becoming similar and parts of the road to Kho Kong have reverted to the former muddy red clay roads

reminiscent of years gone by before that road was sealed.

The government has approved a large Chinese run hazardous waste plant to be built out at Steung Haw (just up the coast from Sihanoukville). This bit of infrastructure is in theory intended to be used to take care of the hazardous waste created in Sihanoukville. However given the proposed size of the plant, they either expect the area to grow enormously (highly likely) or they may well be planning on importing hazardous waste to the processed there (more highly likely, especially as the port is being expanded)

In Barang news, the exodus has continued unabated. The Cozy guesthouse was recently emptied out of the long term tenants and the building was razed to the ground as something new will

be built in its place. Let us hope that they manage to deal with the flooding as the swamp across the road has also been filled in ahead of future development. People continue to experience 5 or more days without town supply water and constant electric blackouts as usual, but somehow the Chinese owned concrete batching plants manage to get enough water to keep the cement trucks busy. When the water comes out of the taps it is often discoloured. It may be a good idea to brush your teeth and wash your food with bottled water.

However there are signs that there is some money being spent on infrastructure. Near CT clinic they were digging up what passes for a road, hopefully to improve it, when they hit a watermain, meaning more people will be without water for a period.

Also the competent Authorities have obviously learned about infrastructure. They have removed the rubbish at the end of Serendipity beach road and beautified the area ... until more rain washes rubbish down and no one collects it. Rubbish collection services are dire, especially in this location and on business owner is refusing to pay for a very trashy service that he never receives, causing the competent authorities to intervene on behalf of the useless rubbish collection company. Pity they do not spend as much effort in collecting rubbish as their fees.

It looks like the road widening of beach road is going ahead, at least the part at the top of the road. It was a couple of years ago that the authorities went down the road, spraying a red line indicating where buildings needed to be moved back, often through the middle of some business premises. Recently the competent authorities went through the top of beach road and sprayed movable items like party cycles and generators and even buildings with the word, "Move", making it look like a graffiti attack. It was apparently easier than delivering paper notices.

Meanwhile things have been quiet if very wet down in Kampot town. It seems people are getting along better. One helpful young western woman was offering pole dancing lessons for just \$5 recently, maybe she has high hopes for the entertainment industry. Needless to say she was crucified on social media for this offer.

