



National June 11, 2021

# Selfish move: Infected workers use fleeing colleagues as cover to escape too

Tith Kongnov / Khmer Times /

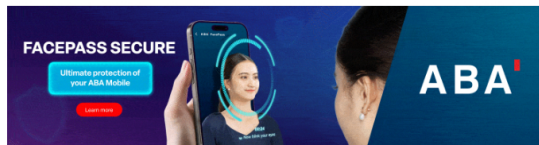


Authorities educate workers at Fortress Factory in Dangkor district on the importance of taking tests for Covid-19 after a positive case had been found. Fresh News

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As scores of their colleagues fled to avoid having to undergo swab tests, 11 garment workers who tested positive for Covid-19 at a factory in the capital took the opportunity to escape along with them, potentially spreading the virus into the community.



On Wednesday, about 1,000 workers at Fortress International Co Ltd in Dangkor district's Pong Toek commune fled while the authorities were conducting swab tests.

Pong Toek commune clerk Mam Sarin told *Khmer Times* yesterday that the incident at Fortress International factory took place because the 1,000 workers wanted to go home and did not want to wait for their turn to be tested.

"Fortress International Co Ltd has about 1,800 workers and on Wednesday night, 300 samples were taken and 11 tested positive for Covid-19," he said.

"Immediately after being tested positive for Covid-19, the 11 patients took advantage of the commotion caused by the others fleeing the factory and ran away with them. So far, the authorities have found only seven of the escapees," he said.

Sarin said that the authorities in Dangkor district, in cooperation with the factory administration, have already contacted the other workers who had fled and told them to come back for testing tomorrow.

Phnom Penh Governor Khuong Sreng yesterday ordered authorities to strengthen measures to ensure that workers who are scheduled to be tested for Covid-19 do not flee the factories.

The measures include beefing up enforcement, including the use of more police officers to tighten security around the factories where testing is taking place.



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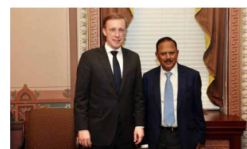


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## Opinion



### In intelligence, perils of poor judgement

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Sreng said local authorities should educate factory workers on the need to cooperate with volunteer doctors who go to collect their samples for testing because failure to do so could result in them or their families becoming infected with Covid-19.

"I would like to call on all workers as well as the people throughout the capital to cooperate with the Phnom Penh administration, local authorities, health officials as well as all the volunteer doctors in order to facilitate sample testing," he said.

"Taking a sample is very important. If they test negative, they can continue to work as usual. Only those who test positive must go to hospital immediately so as not to aggravate the situation," Sreng added.

The incident in the capital follows a similar one in Svay Rieng province on May 27 when thousands of workers in surrounding factories at Tay Seng I Special Economic Zone had panicked and fled when they came to know that a team of doctors were taking samples at the A and J (Cambodia) Bicycle Assembly Factory in Bavet city.

In another development, Siem Reap Provincial Administration has taken the capital's lead and will fine vendors and people who do not wear or improperly wear masks in order to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Deputy provincial governor Pin Prakot said yesterday that prior to the decision to impose fines, the provincial administration had conducted a two-month campaign to educate people on the importance of wearing masks.

According to the Law on Measures to Prevent the Spread of Covid-19, a person caught not wearing a mask in public can be fined between \$50 and \$250.

Siem Reap province reported on Tuesday that so far it had a total of 249 positive Covid-19 patients, 90 recoveries and two deaths.


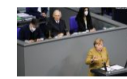


Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health yesterday reported 426 new cases of Covid-19, bringing the total number in the Kingdom to 36,666. Of the new cases, 46 are imported and the rest are linked to the February 20 Community Event.

The ministry also announced 11 more people had died from Covid-19, bringing the total number of fatalities to 300.

At the same time, the ministry recorded 760 new recoveries, bringing the total number in the Kingdom to 29,807.



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Tags: COVID-19 in Cambodia, Fortress International Co Ltd, garment workers

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### Can You Drink Cold Water in Hot Weather?

With the current heat wave, the messenger services are awash with well meant health advice. One such advice I've recently come across is a warning to avoid cold water, both for drinking and as a means to cool down. The reason given is that "somebody did that then had a stroke."



### Learning to coexist with wildlife crucial

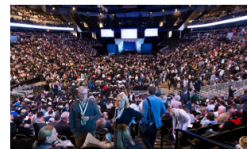
Since early April, multiple incidents of wild monkeys attacking people in a village in Wanning, Hainan province, have been reported. At least nine people including children have suffered injuries.



### Myanmar, Civil war of 'many against many' tearing country up

Myanmar is now four years into a civil war that shows no sign of abating. Following an October 2023 offensive in the north-eastern state Shan, the military junta, known as the State Administrative Council (SAC), lost control over swathes of territory on the border with China.

### Features



### AI may be better for scammers than society, says Warren Buffet

Warren Buffett cautioned the tens of thousands of shareholders who packed an arena for his annual meeting that artificial intelligence (AI) scams could become "the growth industry of all time".



### 'City Hunter' – Action-packed adaptation of legendary manga...

If you are a fan of Jackie Chan, you will remember the hilarious Hong Kong film City Hunter, in which Chan plays Ryo Saeba, a womanising private detective on a goofy quest to find a millionaire's daughter.



### 'The Fall Guy' delivers a blast of

### pure high-wire showmanship

Gear up for laughs and thrills with The Fall Guy, now showing in all cinemas nationwide. The dynamic duo of Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt promises to bring heart-pounding action with side-splitting comedy and some romantic tensions.

### Good Times2



#### An on-again, off-again year for Siem Reap's arts

Siem Reap's 2020 arts and lifestyle coverage kicked off the year on an optimistic note that, with the wisdom of hindsight, turned out to be somewhat ironic.



#### Remaining sane while you care for your baby

Because our baby is now at the centre of our life, it has been mentally challenging since even getting a good night's sleep or a decent meal has suddenly become a real task.



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