



National May 12, 2020

# Garment workers protest unpaid April wages

Sen David / Khmer Times /



Workers gather outside the factory to demand outstanding wages. KT/Siv Channa

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More than 600 workers of the SEPIA garment factory in Phnom Penh's Porsenchey district on Monday staged a protest in front of the factory premises to demand their unpaid wages.



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Sok Kha, one of the workers, said they had not received their wages from April 1 to 17. He added the protest was organised after the company, which promised to pay their wages on Saturday, failed to deliver.

“Since the start of 2020, our wages have always been delayed and for the April wages, the company failed to pay us,” he said, adding the unpaid wages have only made it more difficult for them to pay their rent. “We are also demanding for the partial pay [\$30] which we is due to us after the company suspended its operations.”

Another worker Hay Chansophea said they have yet to receive 17 days’ worth of wages, after the company decided to suspend its operations after April 17 due to a lack of clothing orders.

“All 600 workers did not get their wages for 17 days of work in April. We call on the company to pay its workers regularly and on time,” she said.

Far Saly, president of the National Trade Unions Coalitions, said workers have been increasingly concerned with the massive layoffs and furloughs amid the pandemic.

“The union is concerned with how the government can help the affected workers as more lose their job in the wake of the coronavirus,” said Mr Saly.

The Garment Manufacturing Association in Cambodia, in a statement released last week, said 180 factories have temporarily halted operations, with 60 more presumed to follow. The widespread operational suspensions have affected close to 200,000 workers.

In response, the government has provided a social fund of \$70 for each affected worker, with \$40 coming from the government and \$30 paid out by their respective factory.



Tags: **garment workers, protest, unpaid wages**



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**Opinion**



**UNESCO symposium highlights mutual learning, intercultural...**

An international symposium on intercultural exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations was held Monday (April 15) at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, the French capital.



**For Melania Trump, a cautious return to the spotlight?**

Extremely discreet at the White House and even more reserved since leaving Washington, Melania Trump is keeping

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observers guessing whether she will appear, however warily, on the campaign trail alongside her husband.



### **War takes toll on Gaza's ancient heritage**

Gaza's ancient Greek site of Anthedon has been bombed, its "Napoleon's Palace" destroyed, and the only private museum burned down: the war has taken a terrible toll on the rich heritage of the Palestinian territory.



### **Aquaculture, funding can play a vital role in ensuring food security**

Food security is emerging as a troublesome issue worldwide. We are not spared. It is proving to be even more critical than energy security.

## **Features**



### **Unravelling issues in Trump's Supreme Court immunity case**

The Supreme Court has scheduled a special session to hear arguments over whether former President Donald Trump can be prosecuted over his efforts to undo his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden.



### **Memories from the life of a KR genocide survivor**

As a genocide survivor of the Khmer Rouge and the executive director of an organisation dedicated to helping survivors, I have always believed that I have a firm grasp of the full spectrum of harm inflicted upon Cambodian society by the regime, particularly since I have dedicated my life to helping people in this population.



### **Possible TikTok ban in US won't see app disappear anytime soon**

The House passed legislation Saturday that would ban TikTok in the United States if the popular social media platform's China-based owner doesn't sell its stake within a year, but don't expect the app to go away anytime soon.

## **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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