Morning News* / តុល្យភីនបេល្យ្រុក / សុខិសសុខសុរុក

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Daily</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Khmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average pages</td>
<td>4, Black &amp; White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>45,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher/ownership</td>
<td>Nguon Nonn</td>
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<td>Editor-in-chief</td>
<td>Nguon Nonn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Founding Date</td>
<td>1994 – Ceased?</td>
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Overview:

Morning News was founded in early 1994 by Nguon Nonn with US$500 investment of his personal pocket saving to run a small office under his apartment (Mehta, 1997). A survey conducted in 1995 by Judith Clarke from Journalism Department of Hong Kong Baptist College listed the paper was printed twice-weekly with a circulation of 1,429 copies, but sometimes it was published more often than this. It is important to point out that the current list by the Ministry of Information posted on its website, www.information.gov.kh, shows another newspaper with a similar title, Pel Proeuk (Belbryk), with a different publisher. However, it is not clear if there is any connection between these two newspapers as there has no source confirmed on this found during the course of this research.

According to Mehta (1997), during the early period of its publications, the paper was very successful and well-known for its bold expose on many sensitive issues such as corruption, and shook the coalition government. Its reports were well-researched and the paper was acknowledged by the public as one of the few credible newspapers in the country. It also important to point out that because of its quality, the paper became the country’s top-seller with a circulation up to 45,000 copies per week. The number even rose higher later and was sold like a hot cake, especially when it was reporting on the mastermind of the coup in 1993 led by Prince Chakrapong.

However, it is also important to point out that Morning News, like most local Khmer language newspapers, was not independent from the politics at all. It was very loyal to the royalist and Nguon Nonn himself was a member of FUNCIPDEC. Because of its plucky coverage, the paper got into trouble several times includes having to postpone its publications and the jail of its editor. For example, on March 23, 1994 Nguon Nonn was charged with libel and jailed after his article alleging the governor of Svay Rieng province, Hok Long Dy, and a deputy governor of Prey Veng province, Yuth Phou Than, of corruption. The article alleged the governors of stealing vehicles belonged to the United Nations. However, with an intervention from the retired King, Nonn was released in the following two days. The second charge against him was on breaching the national security when his report alleged the President of the National Assembly, Chea Sim, and his brother-in-law Sar Kheng, Minister of Interior, were behind the coup led by Prince Chakrapong on July 3, 1993. Consequently, the paper was ordered to temporarily close down and Nonn was jailed. Fortunately, he was released after serving for almost one month when the government found no evidence of connection or involvement of Chea Sim and Sar Kheng within that coup.

Perhaps, it is also worthwhile mentioning that Nonn is one of the Cambodian prominent journalists. According to Mehta (1997) he used to work for a semi-government paper, Realites Cambodgiennes,
the government publication Kambuja and Le Sangkum in the 1960s. Later in the 1960s, he was the editor in-chief of Khmer Ekareach (Khmer Independent).

Issues held by Yale University Library:

1994 [Year 1]
- Issue [36-40]: [Jul 1, 4, 5, 7, 8] (duplex, except 39)
- Issue [60-64]: [Dec 16, 20, 23, 27, 30] (duplex)

1995 [Year 2]
- Issue [65-71]: [Jan 3, 6, 17, 20, 24, 27] (duplex)
- Issue [72-77]: [Feb 10, 14, 17, 21, 28] (duplex, except 72)
- Issue [78-86]: [Mar 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31] (duplex)
- Issue [88-93]: [May 5, 10, 13, 16, 19, 26, 30]
- Issue [94, 96-99]: [Jun 2, 6, 9, 13, 16]
- Issue [101-112]: [Aug 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31] (duplex, except 103, 107)
- Issue [113, 114]: [Sep 1-2, 6] (duplex)
- Issue [115]: [Oct 31] (duplex)