

What's happening in Southeast and East Asia

In
The
News.

Government Seeking to Control How Cambodians Dress with Public Order Law

The government recently drafted new legislation that will determine how Cambodians can dress in public, prompting sharp criticism as people see the move as an infringement of personal freedoms. The Public Order Law has not yet been finalized and as such may still be altered to reflect the concerns of the public, but as it stands the law will regulate items of clothing in the name of tradition and modesty.



If approved, Article 36 of the draft law will prohibit men from wearing “trousers but [no shirt] in crowded places or who wear shorts showing any part of the genital area.”

It will also forbid women from wearing “items that are too short or [too see-through], or which shows some part of the partial of the genital area.”

The Public Order Law, in its current form, appears to expand the government’s ability to control women’s ability to choose what they wear, although men will also be subject to the proposed legislation.

Source: Cambodianess.com

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Third Hong Konger charged under new national security law

A Hong Kong man was dragged from a court shouting democracy slogans and remanded into custody on Tuesday (Nov 24) after becoming the third person to be charged under a sweeping new national security law. The man's detention is a stark illustration of how the new legislation, imposed by Beijing this summer, has created a host of speech crimes with stiff consequences for those accused of breaching the rules.



Ma Chun-man, 30, was bundled away by police as he shouted "Spread the word, democracy is cultivated with blood and sweat" after being charged with "inciting secession" - one of the new national security crimes.

Beijing imposed its new security law in late June, bypassing Hong Kong's legislature and keeping the precise contents secret until it was enacted.

It targets four new crimes: secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces. The law also granted China jurisdiction over especially serious crimes and empowered the mainland's security agents to operate openly in Hong Kong for the first time.

Source: The Straits Times

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Jakarta 'strongly condemns' abuse of Indonesian worker in Malaysia

Indonesia has issued a statement strongly condemning the persistent abuse of an Indonesian migrant worker by her Malaysian employer, underlining the many reports on such cases that it had received in recent years. The Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) on Tuesday rescued MH, an Indonesian national who had been a domestic worker with a family in Kuala Lumpur, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.



Source: The Jakarta Post

The Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur first alerted the ministry with information on MH it had received from Tenaganita, a Malaysian human rights NGO committed to the protection of vulnerable people, including migrants.

“MH was tortured. She was beaten with blunt objects, cut with sharp objects, scalded with hot water and not given food,” the ministry said in statement, adding that Malaysian authorities had admitted MH to Kuala Lumpur Hospital for treatment and detained MH’s employer.

“The Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur is continuing to assist MH and will appoint a retainer lawyer to monitor the legal process against her employer,” the statement said.

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In Japan, more people died from suicide last month than from Covid in all of 2020. And women have been impacted most

Experts have warned that the pandemic could lead to a mental health crisis. Mass unemployment, social isolation, and anxiety are taking their toll on people globally. In Japan, government statistics show suicide claimed more lives in October than Covid-19 has over the entire year to date. The monthly number of Japanese suicides rose to 2,153 in October, according to Japan's National Police Agency. As of Friday, Japan's total Covid-19 toll was 2,087, the health ministry said.

For the last 10 years leading up to 2019, the number of suicides had been decreasing in Japan, falling to about 20,000 last year, according to the health ministry -- the lowest number since the country's health authorities started keeping records in 1978.

The pandemic appears to have reversed that trend, and the rise in suicides has disproportionately affected women.

While the reasons for Japan's high suicide rate are complex, long working hours, school pressure, social isolation and a cultural stigma around mental health issues have all been cited as contributing factors.



Source: CNN.com/Asia