

## CAMBODIA MARKS THE 61 ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

August 15, 2014



Ten Thousands of people including dignitaries, armed forces, civil servants, monks, students and local residents gathered at the Independence Monument in Phnom Penh to mark the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of national independence from France (Nov. 9, 1953-2014).

This annual celebration was presided over by His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia,

with National Assembly President Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, and many other senior leaders of the royal government, National Assembly and Senate in attendance. Foreign Ambassadors to Cambodia were also present at the event.

On the occasion, His Majesty the King paid homage to the fallen combatants who have sacrificed their lives of the cause of national independence and lighted a victory flame, which will be kept burning for three days, until Nov. 11 in the afternoon. After that, dozens of white doves and balloons were released. On the same day, in the evening there will be the display of fireworks to mark the event.

This annual ceremony was broadcasted live on local TV channels and radio stations. Cambodia gained full independence from France on Nov. 9, 1953 under the royal leadership of His Majesty the late King-Father Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, the father of national independence, territorial integrity and national unity.