

His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni presided over here this morning at the Independence Monument a celebration to mark

the 58th anniversary of national independence from France. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly; Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister; Prince Sisowath Chivoan Monirak, First Vice President of the Senate; and other Cambodian high-ranking officials participated in the ceremony with a crowd of Phnom Penh residents and students in attendance. Foreign Ambassadors to Cambodia were also present at the event. The king laid a wreath and lighted the victory flame, which will be kept burning until Nov. 11; and dozens of white doves and balloons were released on the occasion.