Wandering tourist hurt by landmines

A Cambodian tourist was seriously injured by landmine explosions at the Phra Viharn (Phrea Vihear) temple ruins yesterday.

(01.01.2004)
Chay Lok, 27, from Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey province, was among 3,000 tourists, most of them Thais, touring the ancient ruins on the Thai-Cambodian border on New Year's Day. Although the temple is inside Cambodia, it can be reached only from the Thai side of the border, through Pha Mo I-Daeng in tambon Sao Thong Chai of Kantharalak district. While the tourists were looking over the ruins, two explosions were heard, sending people running in fear. One man, identified as Chay Lok, was injured seriously. He was sent to Kantharalak Hospital and then transferred to Sapphasit Prasong Hospital in Muang district, Ubon Ratchathani. His condition was given as serious last night. The man is thought to have strayed off designated routes while sightseeing. A large number of landmines have still to be removed from the temple ruins and its surroundings.

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