

A tale of two newspapers: Privy Councillor Prem “rebukes” Thaksin

March 1, 2005

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers, The Thaksin Years

The Nation leads with this story and stresses that it is ‘a major rebuke’ to the PM’s ‘heavy-handed approach.’ *The Post* blandly and carefully reports Prem’s comments on page three without any reference to the PM.

[Prem: Unrest solutions lie in royal advice](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 1, 2005

... Gen Prem said applying the King’s advice was the best approach because it was pure, unbiased and filled with compassion and care.

He said it was also necessary, however, that the advice be properly understood. “The problems in the deep South are similar to waging war. So it is necessary to know exactly who the enemies are, where they are and what are their strategies and goals,” he said...

He suggested the government stick to the rule of laws, social rules, love and legitimacy without bias to help solve problems in the three largely Muslim provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat. He said it was not right that Thai Muslims were being treated like second-class citizens...

Prem: Unrest solutions lie in royal advice

ANUCHA CHAROENPO

Gen Prem Tinsulanonda, president of the Privy Council, has urged organisations concerned with finding solutions to the southern violence to put His Majesty the King’s advice into practice.

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He said it was also necessary, however, that the advice be properly understood.

“The problems in the deep South are similar to waging war. So it is necessary to know exactly who the enemies are, where they are and what are their strategies and goals,” he said.

He was speaking at a seminar on “Collaboration in Solving Unrest in the South of Thailand Based on Royal Advice”, jointly held by the Foundation for International Human Resource Development and Thammasat University, at the Chulabhorn Research Institute yesterday.

Gen Prem highlighted the salient points of royal advice – Understand, Access and Develop – and told participants comprising southern community leaders, state officials, academics and NGOs, that those who will apply the advice to their work must study it carefully. Then they would have the same understanding and speak the same language.

He suggested the government stick to the rule of laws, social rules, love and legitimacy without bias to help solve problems in the three largely Muslim provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat. He said it was not right that Thai Muslims were being treated like second-class citizens.

Privy Councillor Kasem Wattanachai said the King has ruled the country for 60 years. Hence, there was much advice which people could apply as “principles of thought” to better their lives and improve the lives of those in the South.

Chaiwat Satha-anant, a political scientist from Thammasat University, said he had spoken with some people in the deep South and found they were not interested in the zoning of villages into red, yellow and green areas.

“They know only red, white and blue in this country,” he said, referring to the three colours of Thai flag which stand for nation, religion and the king, respectively.

Other participants also called on the government to stop fighting violence with violent means in the deep South, and to allow local Muslims to have more say in how to run their own lives.

[SOUTHERN CONFLICT: PM should ‘adopt Royal approach’](#) – *The Nation*, March 1, 2005

...In a major rebuke to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra’s current heavy-handed approach to settling the southern conflict, two top Privy Council members have urged the government to adopt the Royal approach, which focuses on pacifist and development-oriented means.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, chair of the Privy Council and a former prime minister, did not mince words in his opening speech during a workshop on “Collaboration in Solving Problems in Southern Thailand according to the Royal Approaches”. He referred to the situation in Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani as having worsened since January 4 of last year...

He went on to say that when a problem is misrepresented, it becomes increasingly difficult to formulate a solution. “Instead of solving the problem, it adds to the problem,” he added...

SOUTHERN CONFLICT: PM should “adopt Royal approach”
Published on March 01, 2005

Privy Councillors stress the importance of development, understanding, accessibility

In a major rebuke to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra’s current heavy-handed approach to settling the southern conflict, two top Privy Council members have urged the government to adopt the Royal approach, which focuses on pacifist and development-oriented means.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, chair of the Privy Council and a former prime minister, did not mince words in his opening speech during a workshop on “Collaboration in Solving Problems in Southern Thailand according to the Royal Approaches”. He referred to the situation in Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani as having worsened since January 4 of last year.

“Whichever organisations want to settle the problem must know what is really going on. They must also know correctly the problem they are going to resolve,” Prem said.

He went on to say that when a problem is misrepresented, it becomes increasingly difficult to formulate a solution. “Instead of solving the problem, it adds to the problem,” he added.

In handling the southern conflict, he said it was imperative for the government to stress accessibility (khao thueng), understanding (khao jai) and development (pattana).

Daily violence has become a common occurrence over the past year, with more than 600 officials and civilians killed.

Prem, who served as prime minister from 1980 to 1988, presided over a calmer period in southern Thailand, when the government’s olive branches were well received by disenchanted groups.

He dismissed the allegation that Thai Buddhists look at Thai Muslims as second-class citizens. “It is not true, on the contrary, we are all Thais and we are equal,” he said.

He said that the rule of law must be the foundation of an effective resolution in the deep South, along with good will and impartiality.

The workshop yesterday also featured a lecture from Dr Kasem Wattanachai, another Privy Council member, who spoke of the wisdom of Their Majesties. He quoted His Majesty the King for most of his presentation and said that problems in the deep South should be approached with this wisdom.

He reiterated that solving the southern conflict required using the experience of many parties in a collaborative process.

He reiterated that the southern conflict needed experience and collaboration with others. “To disown other people’s intellect is tantamount to ignoring the existing foundation which can be useful, he said without elaboration.

Throughout his presentation, Kasem was passionate in highlighting HM the King’s wisdom contained in various speeches over the past two decades. Thailand is the land of equals and all Thais are united, he said.

Recently, General Surayud Chulanont, another Privy Council member, criticised Thaksin's zoning policy in the South as divisive and unconstitutional. He said that Thai-Muslims had been mistreated and that the authorities must listen to locals.

Suphon Thanukrit

Thai-language newspapers – March 2-3, 2005

March 2, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

March 2, 2005

* On February 28, Mr. Jaturat Kiratiwuttipong, Human and Social Faculty professor, Rajabhat University, Nakornsrihammarat reveals that the university is drafting a bachelor's degree curriculum based on local Intelligence. In this program students do not have to graduate from grade 12, but only have 3 rai of land and can manage their land with local intelligence. From this the study will add international intelligence to their daily lives. This will be the first curriculum that persuades the villagers to be a learned man or a teacher such as Mr. Prayong Ronnarong who received the Mac Zaizai Award and Mrs. Hi Khunchanta, the old woman who has knowledge of agriculture, etc. This curriculum could be taught in the second semester of 2005.

* On March 1, Mr. Jakapob Penkhae, a government speaker, announced that the cabinet approved 823 million baht to solve the drought problem for 4628 villages around the country.

March 3, 2005

* "Jae Bieb" or Rabiebrat Pongpanichh, Chairperson of Housewives Association, Ministry of the Interior and chairperson of Promotion of the Warm and Happy Family Association, sent a letter to the executive of Ajinomoto Company to object to the advertisement that destroys the image of mothers and mothers-in-law. This ad focuses on the fussy mother-in-law who tests the daughter in the rules of cooking.

* "Ming" or Doctor Pommin Lertsuriyadej, Minister of Energy, will continue the blasting of the 13 million-year-old fossil cemetery in Maemoh, Lampang. He said EGAT has looked after it very well already and combines the stewardship with seeking lignite for people so they can get cheap electricity. The National Human Rights Commission resists by saying the fossils are a world heritage and can be as important as a national treasure that should be preserved. Meanwhile, the Lampang Provincial Administrative Organization will mobilize the local organizations to resist.

Thairath

March 2, 2005

* **Bloody news** – Mr. Chatchai Tima, a worker at a shoe factory in the Jomthong area, could not clear a lover problem with his girlfriend at her dormitory. He cut her throat and then cut his throat and his wrists until he died, but his girlfriend survived with serious injuries and in ICU at the hospital.

* Pol. Sgt. Prateep Thamjai got a call from a guard at Save Center Supermarket, Phutamonthon Sai 2 Road that four thieves are trying to steal the pickup of Mr. Somzong Chanprasert. Pol. Sgt. Prateep showed up to make an arrest and the thieves ran back to the pickup and drove away, but one person opened the door and ran away. Mr. Prateep decided to jump up and hold the back of the pickup while the thieves drove. The thieves drove like in an action movie, but he held on for 5 kms. Other police followed and stopped the pickup and arrested all of the thieves.

March 3, 2005

* In Lobburi province, on March 2, Pol. Sen. Sgt. Maj. Nimitr Wongsasuk shot himself mysteriously. The police found that he called to Ms. Nitaya Poolperm, a student of Rajabhat University who was killed on March 1. At the beginning it is assumed that he may be involved with her death on lover case because he is one of her boyfriends or may be it is about his stress at work, or he wants to avoid a mistake.

* Mr. Eddy Sim, Singapore businessman and owner a golf equipment shop in Singapore with a branch on Silom, met with a reporter to reward the one who helped his 6-year-old daughter during the tsunami. He finally found Mrs. Janpen Chailin, 32 years old, who helped his daughter by grabbing her when she float by in the water. She put a necklace with a portrait of King Rama V on the girl. Mr. Eddy made an appointment and will meet Mrs. Janpen in Phuket to return the necklace with locket and reward her with money.

Thailand and Cambodia to celebrate 55 years of diplomatic relations

March 2, 2005

Categories: Cambodia

[Thailand
and Cambodia to celebrate 55 years of diplomatic relations](#)

– TNA, March 2, 2005

Thailand and Cambodia plan to celebrate the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year with a series of cultural exchanges, the Thai Ambassador to Cambodia said in Phnom Penh on Wednesday...

"There is no Cambodian law forbidding Thai soap operas, but I think television stations are still not confident enough to show them. They have simply practised a self-censorship," he said...

Bangkok's floating forest

March 2, 2005



(Photo: Danny)

Bangkok's floating forest

– March 2, 2005

Danny reports: *I was down at Rama III Road last week and visited a park adjacent to the Rama 9 Bridge (NW side of bridge). Whilst the park was very green and had a good amount of shade, I was surprised by the amount of tree trunks in the area and near the river. Not just near but actually on the river! Sawn logs floating on the the river adjacent the park.*

I have many times seen loads of floating logs, chained together, being transported up river, usually at night when river traffic is low. I have always wondered about the origin and destination of these logs, (sawmills up river?).

However, these logs, which I estimated to number over 1000, seem to have been 'stored' at the site for many months as one can tell from the moss and state of the logs. Although, there are some makings on all the logs most likely related to grading, there is no indication as to their destination.

The logs do seem to be a good playground for some children and provide a fishing pier for fisherman.

I was wondering if anyone could give some information on these logs.



(Photo: Danny)



(Photo: Danny)

Thailand's opposition party appoints Abhisit as new leader

March 4, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

[Thailand's opposition party appoints Abhisit as new leader](#) –

AFP, March 4, 2005

Thailand's opposition Democrat Party appointed Abhisit Vejjajiva, a youthful Oxford-educated career politician, as its new leader in the wake of last month's massive election loss...

Preah Vihear

March 4, 2005

Categories: Preah Vihear



(Photo: jpatokal)

Preah Vihear – March
4, 2005

[Thread](#)
[on the forum](#) – [Photos](#)
[from Jpatokal](#)

Above: The ‘VIP’ shed

CITY OF GHOSTS: From a grand total of 323 in 1997, only 57 derelict buildings remain

March 4, 2005

Categories: Buildings

[CITY OF GHOSTS: From a grand total of 323 in 1997, only 57 derelict buildings remain](#)

– Bangkok Post, March 4, 2005

... "According to our data there were 323 suspended projects in 1997," said Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) deputy governor Samart Ratchapolsitte. "Now there are only 57 suspended buildings in the capital." ...

Back in the late 1990s at least one international property consultant warned that some of Bangkok's suspended buildings could turn into safety hazards, as developers were not "mothballing" their projects and leaving steel rods exposed to the elements that would rust and cause structural problems.

Those reports are now being brushed aside.

"The overall standard of construction in Bangkok is pretty good.

High-rise buildings tend to be over-engineered if anything," said Mr Landy...

Bangkok developers' failure to mothball their projects _ a process of sealing off and protecting unfinished construction from theft and deterioration _ will more likely just add to the cost of getting them restarted.

There was literally no mothballing of projects between 1997 to date, industry sources said.

"The mechanical systems and piping will have to be totally replaced," said Mr Dilokpul.

"In fact, it will cost a new developer more to replace and modify these." ...

Chilly Bangkok

March 5, 2005

Chilly Bangkok – 11:45am,
March 5, 2005

It is 23 Celsius (73 Fahrenheit) in Bangkok now with a stiff breeze
from the east.

The crown of Ayutthaya

March 6, 2005

Categories: History

The crown of Ayutthaya

‘Bogus farangs and crony capitalists’ – [The trouble with national treasures and national assets](#)

– *The Nation*, March 6, 2005

...Thaksin wants the ancient headgear back because it is a national treasure, while at the same time he wants to hasten the sale of national assets, a programme that will benefit politicians and their cronies just as previous deals yielded billions of baht to favoured investors and their relatives.

The so-called international investors are in fact local politicians and business cronies who have set up companies abroad and can claim the right to buy stocks under prearranged allocations. The investors are not “farangs” as the public might have been led to believe but the familiar faces seen on golf courses among our CEO’s entourage...

[Stolen crown theory mars Thai exhibit – TV reporter in L.A. creates stir that reaches Bangkok](#)

– *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 5, 2005

...But when Jom Patch of the Thai network ITV learned from interviewing curators here that the gold crown probably came from the sacred crypt and, in his words, “might be stolen,” he thought he had himself a scoop.

...All of this information, he says, “has been in the public realm for years. I don’t see what the big deal is. I don’t see why it’s coming up now. None of us feels comfortable about stolen property. None of us feels comfortable about an archaeological site that’s looted before it can be studied. However, the Philadelphia Museum bought the crown fair and square at public auction — the Sotheby’s catalog has a full-page color photograph of the object — and they’ve had it on display ever since. Why have they waited 23 years to investigate?” The director of Thailand’s Office of National Museums and the director general of the Thai Fine Arts Department were part of the delegation that flew here from Bangkok last month for the opening of the “Kingdom of Siam.” Neither questioned the provenance of the crown, which the Sotheby’s catalog notes was acquired by a dealer named Klejman in 1965...

[HEADPIECE FRENZY – Unexpected boost for Chao Samphraya National Museum](#)

– *Bangkok Post*, March 6, 2005

...Ms Subongkot said the museum struggled with a meagre state budget, so it was hard to make the place more attractive to the public. The museum display, especially in the main building, has not been changed for nearly 40 years, she said. The Chao Samphraya museum gets just 80,000 baht a year for maintenance. That includes everything from lawn-keeping to the conservation work on the artefacts...

[Statement from the Asian Art Museum about the Post’s report on the Ayutthaya crown](#)

– *Bangkok Post*, March 4, 2005

Post misses significance of San Francisco show
The Asian Art Museum is proud to have organised the immensely important exhibition, “The Kingdom of Siam: The Art of Central Thailand, 1350-1800”—the world’s first major exhibition of art from Ayutthaya, and the first exhibition of classical art from Thailand shown in the United States in more than 30 years.

The museum worked closely with more than 15 institutions from all over the world—including the National Museum of Thailand—to bring the exhibition together, and we are delighted to showcase the rich cultural heritage of this important period of Thai history to a global audience. The exhibition is on view at the Asian Art Museum through May 8.

We at the museum are disappointed that the Bangkok Post’s only reference to the exhibition focuses on one object, a beautiful crown whose place of origin in Thailand has not been conclusively confirmed by exhibition curators and other experts—despite their best efforts. The crown was borrowed from the Philadelphia Museum of Art specifically for inclusion in “The Kingdom of Siam”. Before being lent to the exhibition, the crown was on display in the galleries at the Philadelphia Museum of Art since 1982, and viewed by millions of visitors.

It is disheartening that Thailand’s leading English newspaper makes no reference to the scholarly significance of the exhibition and its accompanying catalogue, or mentions the more than 80 other rare priceless treasures on view in the exhibition (most on view in the US for the first time, serving as unique ambassadors of Thai culture),

but rather concentrates its coverage on one object that has actually been on view and accessible to the public for more than 23 years.

TIM HALLMAN
Asian Art Museum
San Francisco

[Thais](#)

[rally outside U.S. Embassy over human rights report, antique crown](#) – AP, March 3, 2005

About 200 people rallied outside the US Embassy Thursday to protest against a US report on human rights in Thailand and to demand the return of an allegedly stolen antique gold crown.

The Thai Love Nation Group staged the protest with six elephants before dispersing peacefully after handing over a statement to embassy officials, MCOT state radio station reported...



(Photo: Post Today)

Wat Ratchaburana in Ayutthaya –
March 4, 2005

(from [Carl Parkes'](#) *Southeast*

Asia Handbook) ...Inside the Khmer-style prang, a secret crypt once guarded dozens of 15th-century murals, 200 Lopburi bronzes of Khmer-Bayon style, 300 rare U-Thong Buddhas, 100,000 votive tables, and a fabulous treasure trove of priceless gold objects. Thailand's equivalent of the Tutankhamen treasure lay untouched until 1957 when scavengers stumbled on the buried crypt. Much of the booty vanished into international art markets before the government stepped in, stopped the treasure hunters, and placed the remainder in the Ayutthaya National Museum...

[Thread on the forum](#)

[Thai](#)

[prime minister orders investigation of golden crown allegedly taken from temple](#) – AP, March 1, 2005

...The pure gold, 5-kilogram (11-pound), 19-centimeter- (7.5-inch-) tall crown, currently on exhibit at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, reportedly disappeared in 1957 when a temple in central Thailand was robbed by antiques thieves, local television station ITV reported Monday.

...According to Thai art historians quoted Tuesday in local media, thieves in 1957 broke into the temple in Ayutthaya province, 70 kilometers (44 miles) north of Bangkok, and stole royal gold antique urns, accessories and other artifacts. There were no laws at the time prohibiting the trade of Thai antiques...

[Thailand](#)

[to seek return of ancient crown from US](#) – AFP, March 1, 2005

...Jakrapob Penkair said the cabinet agreed to seek the return of the crown dating from the Ayutthaya period, which stretched from the 14th to 18th centuries.

...Jakrapob did not elaborate on what grounds the return of the treasure, which belongs to a private collector, would be sought...

On the forum: ["The](#)

[Kingdom of Siam" @ Asian Art Museum, San Francisco](#)

– February 28, 2005

Capsized ferry leaves 10 dead

March 6, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[STORM](#)

[DAMAGE: Capsized ferry leaves 10 dead](#) – *The*

Nation, March 6, 2005

Several others seriously injured as heavy rains lash South; Patong Beach 'Rak Andaman' festival breaks up in panic...

North Korean holidays

March 6, 2005

Categories: North Korea

[North](#)

[Korean holidays](#) – March 6, 2005

BoingBoing links to a crazy North Korean travel movie. NK does not like it.

Mahachon on verge of joining Thai Rak Thai

March 6, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Mahachon on verge
of joining Thai Rak Thai](#) – *Bangkok Post*,

March 6, 2005

... "Without its party leader and secretary-general, Mahachon is in a difficult situation. So it is possible it could be dissolved and merge with Thai Rak Thai," Mr Boonjong said...

The World's Top 100 Wonders

March 7, 2005

The World's Top 100 Wonders

– March 7, 2005

[The World's Top 100 Wonders](#)

– How many of the world's top wonders have you seen?

Terrorists target offshore call centres

March 7, 2005

Categories: India

[Terrorists target offshore call centres](#) – *The Register*,

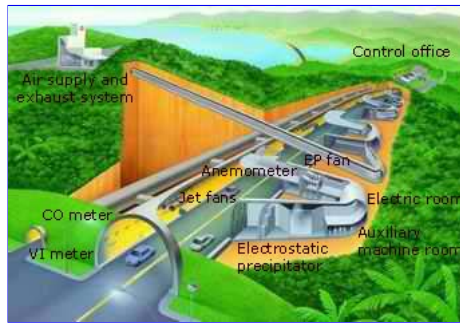
March 7, 2005

*A terrorist cell busted by Indian police
was planning attacks on leading software firms in Bangalore...*

Second Mekhong bridge

March 7, 2005

Categories: Bridges



(Source: haivan.cup.com)

[Second](#)

[Mekhong bridge](#) – March 7, 2005

A thread on the forum about the [second Mekhong bridge](#) which is part of the Indochina Highway and will ultimately connect India, Burma, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. Links:

[Satellite image of the construction](#) and a 6,255m long tunnel section in Vietnam that has its own [website](#).

Almost like being there: Alternative Bangkok

March 7, 2005

Almost like being there: [Alternative](#)

[Bangkok](#) – March 7, 2005

Chatchawal Phansopa points out: [Alternative](#)

[Bangkok](#) – *An interesting page about parts of Bangkok*

which foreigners do not usually see. Photos were taken from

Th. Ratchaphruek which stretches from Th. Krung Thon Buri to

Th. Rattana Thibet via Th. Phetchakasem/Th. Barommarat Chachonnani.

These areas are not very far from Silom/Sathon and a short drive

from Saphan Taksin.

Van VDO goes underground

March 7, 2005

Van VDO goes underground –

March 7, 2005

Anyone familiar with Bangkok's incredible selection of pirated classic films will have seen the Van VDO logo at the beginning of many copy DVDs. After years of operating openly from a stall in Jatujak Market, Van sent this message to his mailing list:

Dear Valued clients,

Due to the matter of the current rigor enactment of Copy Right Act which seriously had impeded us to continue our business, we regret to announce that we have to stop our business at Jatujak Flee Market since now. Please be accordingly informed that we has no policy to open any new store, branch or had distributors or agents to sell or dispense our products at any new places.

However, we still provide the service for clients to order by email.

Therefore, those who are interested are able to view the film list and details of how to order via the web site and email address below.

<http://homepage.mac.com/vanvdo/dvdlist.htm>

(Password required, type vanvdoon to enter the site)

We realize that this method possibly caused inconvenience to some clients. But this is the only channel for maintaining and nourishing our relationship as well as exchanging film experiences and perspectives with clients.

Finally, we would like to thank for all your mighty supports to our business up to now and we hope that you would enjoy watching your favorite films. Also, please support the less opportunity but enriched films in quality for letting them more chances to public present in theatre as it will encourage and favorably support the film producers and distributors to continuously in long term basis provide you such gorgeous films as the same as we had performed to our clients from the past until now.

Best regards,

Van' VDO.

Also: A [funny](#)

[bootleg DVD cover](#) from Malaysia that includes a disparaging quote from a review of the film

Thai-language newspapers – March 8-9, 2005

March 8, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

March 8, 2005

* March 7 – Nakornsrihammarat, Mr. Kramon Thongthammachat, the Chairperson of the Constitutional Court opens a seminar and speaks on “Government organization by the constitution and the Right and Freedom Protection of People.” He said that the present constitution is a people’s constitution so people should participate to protect it so it is not overthrown by a dictatorship. Thailand has changed the constitution 15 times and the present one is the 16th meanwhile the USA has had only two in 220 years and also people have participated well to protect it. Thailand’s constitution can be put in the Guinness book for the most canceled constitutions in the world.

* Dr. Narong Sahamethapat, Deputy Director General of the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health investigated the area at Panompa Mountain Amphur Wangzaipoon, Pichit Province because there are people who became diseased from a mercury toxin substance in a gold digging area. So the department is cooperating with Naresuan University to set up a system to prevent the mercury contamination.

Thairath

March 8, 2005

* **Bloody news** – Chiangmai– March 7, Mr. Choochat Liamwanich, the 54-year-old director of Chiangmai Informal Educational School was shot dead by his teacher friend, Mrs. Sudarat Waten. The police found a letter on her desk describing her revenge to kill him because he accused her of stealing her friend’s ATM card and withdrawing 60,000 baht. She was upset when knowing that she would be investigated and might be disciplined.

* On March 7, the Criminal Court at Ratchadaphisek Road delivered the judgment on Mrs. Kultea or Teawa, a 37-year-old Cambodian defendant. She is to be imprisoned for 85 years for obscenity and trafficking Cambodian girls, 15-18 years old, to a Malaysian brothel.

March
9, 2005

* Mr. Watcharapong Nawadee, former banker, was arrested and his house was searched after he stole 200,000 baht from Bualuang Internet banking. He and his friend stole almost 10 million baht from Siam Commercial internet banking and was arrested many times, but he did not stop.

* Mrs. Rujira Arunratsawad, 27-years-old, is the luckiest woman from Samutprakarn province. He got one million baht from finding a 1 million baht bottlecap from the “Open 30 lids of Oishi tea and get 30 million baht” promotion. The executive of the company handed out her money at U.M. Tower building and said that she is the second person who got the lucky reward. The first one was in Ayuthaya province.

March
9, 2005

* On March 8, the representative of Provincial Administrative organization, private citizens, and independent and local organizations in Maemoh Lampang had a meeting and consensus on three solutions. These were, first, setting up policy for EGAT to slow down the blasting of the 13-million-year-old fossils and wait for biology and geology to study the source of the fossils. Second, Thambon Administrative organization will check the progress of EGAT work and will proceed with a case if they do something illegal. Third, The Network of Public Society will organize a seminar on March 12 to educate people about the source of the fossils and find out the solution whether it should be blasted or preserved.

* 50 centimeter long bones that are 60 million years old and 100 other pieces of skeletons were found by workers who are digging a pool in Ban Koksoong, Thambon Koksoong, Nakornratchasima. The initial information is that it was a big animal which ate plants. The Thambon Administrative organization will bring the case to the council and set up this place for tourism.

Preachers on Khao San Road

March 8, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Preachers on Khao San Road

– March 8, 2005

Don reports: *Here's something I haven't seen before: (We) just returned from Khao San Road. There was a tag team of evangelist preachers imparting the Word of God at TOP VOLUME right smack dab in the middle of the street. Never seen that before. At times when they were particularly fervent, the hippies and backpackers sitting on the sidewalk being entertained by them would break out in applause.*

Indian version of The Simpsons

March 8, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Indian](#)

[version of *The Simpsons*](#) – March 8, 2005

Send up of *The Simpsons* in a cliched Indian style...

Smoke from forest fire in Cambodia spreads to eastern Thailand

March 8, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Smoke](#)

[from forest fire in Cambodia spreads to eastern Thailand](#)

– TNA, March 8, 2005

Thailand's eastern province of Trat is being affected by a forest fire in Cambodia, but the impact is still controllable, according to local authorities...

Thaksin to give top priority to opening casinos

March 8, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Thai Government Expected to Push for Casino](#) – *Business Day*, March 8, 2005

The planned launch of a casino business in Thailand will take a step closer to reality as the new cabinet of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is expected to give top priority to the issue.

Thaksin's advisors will soon come up with the idea that the government build the integrated entertainment complexes, including casinos in Phang-nga province's Khao Lak island where the construction of a new airport is underway.

"Previously, a group of Malaysian businessmen led by Tan Chee Kiang purchased a plot of land on Yao Yai island, which is also located in Phang-nga province, so as to build on it the integrated entertainment complex, dubbed 'Phuket Paradise', at a combined investment of between 20-40 billion baht..."

Prachathai.com

March 8, 2005

Categories: Thai Politics

Prachathai.com

– **March 8, 2005**

Terry points out a web newspaper–www.prachathai.com.

Asiper adds: *It is intended as an independent, alternative, non profit online newspaper like Manager Online, but it will "tell the truth of Thai society and no sanction from any organization or political party." People can participate and post their opinions. Senator Jon Ungphakorn is the secretary and on the website's committee. The chairperson is Dr. Kasem Sirisumphan, a senior journalist. There are lots of NGOs and some contributions from The Nation, Post Today, Nation Geographic, Access to AIDS, Foundation for Consumers, professors from Thammasat University, Network of 4 Regions of Slums, etc.*

The government's e-auction site

March 8, 2005

Categories: Business

[The government's e-auction site](#) – March 8, 2005

Malaysia promotes Bigfoot hunt

March 8, 2005

Categories: Malaysia

[Malaysia](#)

[promotes Bigfoot hunt](#) – AP, March 8, 2005

Apparently, nobody wants to meet Bigfoot. The Malaysian Forestry Department says there are no takers for permits on offer to explore a protected forest for the mythical creature...

Free of quota, China textiles flood the U.S.

March 9, 2005

Categories: China

[Free of quota, China textiles flood the U.S.](#) –

New York Times, March 9, 2005

In the first month after the end of all quotas on textiles and apparel around the world, imports to the United States from China jumped about 75 percent, according to trade figures released by the Chinese government...

Tsunami volunteer ‘abducted’ – Quizzed about her work with Porntip

March 9, 2005

Categories: Thai Police

[Tsunami volunteer](#)

[‘abducted’ – Quizzed about her work with Porntip](#)

– *Bangkok Post*, March 9, 2005

[Abduction demands police action](#) – *The Nation*,
March 10, 2005

Outsider filmmaker: Thunskas Pansittivorakul

March 10, 2005

Categories: Film and TV

Outsider filmmaker: Thunskas Pansittivorakul

– March 10, 2005

Thunskas Pansittivorakul, an alternative filmmaker who makes movies of "near-zero commercial value" has made a website that brings together alternative Thai filmmakers: thaiindie.com

From his [profile](#):

...His film, "Sigh", has been selected to show at the Thai Film Festival in Hong Kong. However the Thai embassy in Hong Kong is not approved of this film and decides to ban it. "Voodoo Girls" can not be shown in Bangkok Film Festival because it reflects the bad image of Thai women. The festival is organized by Tourism Authority of Thailand.

"Unseen Bangkok" was shown for a small group of people protected by the authority of Japanese Foundation in Thailand. Moreover, his film called "Happy Berry" was selected to show at Makati Cinemania International Film Festival 2004, but also was canceled by the censorship in Indonesia...

[Underground experience](#) – [Independent may be too bland a description for the shorts and documentaries of radical filmmaker Thunskas Pansittivorakul](#)
– Bangkok Post, March 4, 2005

...In an age where being non-mainstream seems fashionable, perhaps Thunskas represents a rare breed of old-school agitator whose rebellious art is driven by ideals rather than by commercial interest (his movies have near-zero commercial value). And his presence might suggest a cultural mechanism at the time when society is slipping into the grip of neo-conservatism...

Thailand Stockpiles Anti-Flu Drugs for Bird Flu Fight

March 10, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

[Thailand Stockpiles Anti-Flu Drugs for Bird Flu Fight](#) –

Reuters, March 10, 2005

Thailand, a country on the frontline of the war against Asia's bird flu, is stockpiling Tamiflu and considering producing a generic version of the antiviral drug, health officials said...

(Not) Bangkok in 1957

March 10, 2005

Categories: Old photos and films



(Photo: Unknown)

(Not) Bangkok in 1957

– March 10, 2005

On the [forum](#)

Tom notes: *Very interesting to see these photos on the front-page today, but they are definitely NOT showing Bangkok in 1957. The second photo at the Democracy Monument is showing both Mercedes W110 (built 1961-1968) and W114/115 (1968-1976). So technically not possible as these cars did not exist in 1957. So guess at least the second photo is from the end sixties.*

We have added another street scene from the set below. We believe it of Charoen Krung Road with the rise in the distance being a bridge over Khlong Ong Ang.

Earlier: Bangkok, 1957 – March 8, 2005

Andrew passed along these interesting photos of Bangkok in 1957 that are being circulated by email.



(Photo: Unknown)



(Photo: Unknown)

Thai-language newspapers – March 10-11, 2005

March 11, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– March 11, 2005

* On March 10, at Imperial Queen Park Hotel, TAT and the National Film Confederation Association organized a ceremony giving an honorary award for the success of the *Ong-Bak* film. Mr. Suwat Lippatapunlop, Deputy PM and Chairperson said *Ong-Bak* is in the top twenty box office in USA and earned 16 million baht from showing in 32 countries around the world. Meanwhile actor Ja-Panom Yeerum said this is historic and unexpected and a chance for public relation and support for tourism to Thailand.

Thairath

– March 11, 2005

* Samutsakorn – The teacher from Wat Yaibanbor, Thambon Banbor took 27 nauseous and vomiting students, 4-12 years old to the Banpaew Hospital. After checking the syndrome, the doctor sent the most seriously sick students to another hospital. The director of school assumed that they ate sweetmeat “lookchub” which was sold by Mrs. Poon, a monger in front of school. She accepts her mistake and said that the cause may be from a coconut milk ingredient that she has just changed.

* On March 10, police

were informed that Mr. Louis Joseph Chiavacci, a 61-year-old American, took Ms. Noi (not her real name), a 14-year-old student, for taking nude photos and to rape her at the motel in Sukhumvit Soi 11. Police found a digital camera with more than 50 nude photos of Thai women so the police seized the camera. The police informed the US embassy in Thailand which send an officer to coordinate and found that Mr. Chiavacci is an engineer and has previous offenses for obscene materials, carrying guns, and bad checks. He has be free from penalties for two years.

A tale of two newspapers: Surprises in the cabinet?

March 11, 2005

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers, The Thaksin Years

A tale of two
newspapers: Surprises in the cabinet? –

March 11, 2005

Bangkok Post's delight with the new cabinet—also their headline—is
not shared by Reuters...

Big

[surprises in new cabinet](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March
10, 2005

*The cabinet line-up, which has been anybody's guess for weeks,
was revealed unofficially in full yesterday with Sudarat Keyuraphan
and Surakiart Sathirathai being the biggest surprises...*

Few

[surprises in Thaksin's new Thai cabinet](#) – Reuters,
March 10, 2005

*Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's new cabinet contains
few surprises as he is giving key economic and security jobs
to trusted aides and political supporters, according to leaks
of the list on Friday...*



More articles about the new cabinet

March 11, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[List of new Cabinet ministers of Thailand](#) – AP, March 11, 2005

[Finance minister retained as new Thai Cabinet announced](#) – AP, March 11, 2005

[Cabinet](#)

[spoils go to Thaksin's supporters](#)

– *The Nation*, March 12, 2005

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister have scored 26 of the Cabinet's 35 positions for 24 members of their factions, including three for the businessmen who finance the Thai Rak Thai Party...

[Deputy](#)

[speaker's first item of business: A nose-powdering room](#)

– *The Nation*, March 12, 2005

...Lalita, the country's first female deputy House speaker, said her first order of business was to equip the women's lavatory on the second floor of the building with beauty equipment, hair dryers, cosmetics, combs and perfumes. "These will help improve the look and personalities of female MPs," she said...

One year ago

March 11, 2005

One year ago

[Somchai's](#)

[family despairs of justice](#) – *Bangkok*

Post, March 11, 2005

[A](#)

[YEAR ON, AND STILL NO NEWS ON SOMCHAI – Five suspects about to stand trial, but police seem to lack interest in pursuing the Muslim lawyer's](#)

[disappearance](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 11, 2005

A year since human rights advocate and Muslim lawyer Somchai Neelapaichit went missing, the government has little to tell his relatives or the public about what happened.

Critics say authorities lack the will to pursue officials involved in the kidnapping, abduction and murder of human rights defenders. Only last weekend men abducted and held a tsunami relief volunteer for questioning, before releasing her unharmed...

Funny hotel review

March 11, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Funny hotel review

– March 11, 2005

Don reports: *Check out the [Customer](#)*

[Review](#) at this website supposedly promoting this Pattaya hotel:

"Room has cockroach. Stayed in the room 417 with wholly covered carpet on the floor. The carpet is so dirty that it smells as it has been in dead-mans grave for a hundred years. Been promised at the booking that it will be a room on high floor with sea view. But upon the arriving the hotel says that no room on high floor is available. Instead got a room on the forth floor at the sea side without seeing sea but only the roof of front buildings. The worst thing is that the room has cockroaches. Fortunately enough warm water that keep me clean. The hotel has the simplest breakfast I have never ever seen and every day the same. The good thing about the hotel is the central location."

A tale of two newspapers: Thaksin's speech

March 11, 2005

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers, The Thaksin Years

While the *Post* mentions in passing that Thaksin was criticized for "for thinking and acting unilaterally," *The Nation* gives almost equal space to past criticisms of Thaksin. *The Nation* and *Post* each portray quotations from the speech differently.

For example, the *Post* mentions Thaksin's pledge to start a center to track missing people while *The Nation* adds this center will search for 'people who went missing during the government's war on drugs.' *The Nation* also adds a criticism of the upcoming, but as yet unknown, cabinet.

[PM vows to change his tune – Will listen to critics, respect human rights](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 10, 2005

Thaksin Shinawatra promises to keep an open mind, listen to dissent, make up with the press, respect human rights, support non-governmental organisations and return power to people by promoting participatory democracy in his second term...

His pledges were uncharacteristic, considering Mr Thaksin was criticised during his first term in office for thinking and acting unilaterally.

Mr Thaksin said he would exercise his absolute House majority wisely, and not abuse his power. "I will not use that political security in a wrong way but will maximise it for the love and unity of Thais, to make them become one and to solve problems and eliminate obstacles," he said...

Mr Thaksin said democracy would be developed further, and that could come in the form of strengthening grassroots-administration bodies, ensuring independent organisations could be truly independent and supporting NGOs which make "constructive" contributions.

"I will respect NGOs that have no hidden agendas," he said.

Mr Thaksin pledged to increase people's power, partly by returning power taken from them by various laws. He would also give people a chance to exercise their power by visiting them and giving them a say, calling public hearings or even holding a referendum on important matters...

Mr Thaksin promised to promote human rights. He would discuss with human rights groups ways to lift Thailand's standard of rights protection, open a centre to track down missing people and identify unknown bodies.

He also promised to develop his relations with media outlets that treasured Thailand's dignity and wanted only good things for the country. "I will try to understand the media which is still trying to keep pace with development," he said.

The government would stamp out family problems, drugs, drinking and smoking, and poverty.

"I will help our people live a better life in a better society that enjoys better education and a better economy," he said...

[THAKSIN ASSUMES POWER : 'I shall uphold human rights'](#) – *The Nation*, March 10, 2005

Assuming the mantle of prime minister for the second time, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday suggested he would take a softer approach to a number of issues that routinely embroiled him in controversy during his first term...

The Thaksin administration was the target of persistent criticism from international rights groups, in particular for its heavy-handed suppression of the Tak Bai protest and the killing of dozens of militants at the Krue Se Mosque. Thaksin said he welcomed constructive criticism by human-rights groups and was willing to hold one-on-one discussions with them.

Thaksin has also been faulted in the past for showing little interest in cases of people who went missing during the government's war on drugs. Yesterday, Thaksin said the government would set up a centre to search for such missing people.

The unsolved case of missing Muslim-lawyer Somchai Neelapaichit, believed to have been killed by police, rates high among the controversial issues that have hurt the government's image.

Thaksin also made conciliatory remarks towards the press, with which he has had a stormy relationship. He said he was willing to make amends. Yet he insisted that he would do so only on condition the press did not harbour hidden agendas. "I will try my best to understand the press," he added.

Countering popular fears that he might want to exploit the overwhelming majority of Thai Rak Thai in the House, Thaksin insisted the party's dominance was, in fact, in the national interest. "I will use this stability granted to the government towards the building of national unity," he said...

His new administration, he pledged, would also provide substantive support to local administrative bodies, independent agencies, and "good" NGOs...

Thaksin has been under pressure to appoint a qualified and trustworthy Cabinet, following his landslide election mandate. But critics say what has been leaked to the press so far is anything but impressive...

Thai-language newspapers – March 11-13, 2005

March 12, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

‘Destroy world day’

– March 12, 2005

Yesterday we mentioned the talk in Thai newspapers about the March 13 doomsday event. Today, *The Nation* mentions this too ([Doomsday prediction sparks fear of tsunami](#), *The Nation*, March 12, 2004). It is strange that *The Nation* states people are ‘wondering how it originated and whether any astrologer had actually announced it officially’ when the Thai-language papers have many articles on the subject along with the opinions of many astrologers.

Hypermarkets are not afraid of disaster –

translated and summarized from *Matichon*,

March 11, 2005

According to the horoscope that indicates bad luck or a ‘destroy world day’ on March 12-13, Mr. Thanaphon Tungkananun, the development director of Zencar company and the hypermarket Carrefour said the company is not afraid of the forecast and will not have any special activity to persuade customers come to shop—neither will Robinson or The Mall shopping centers.

Kasikornthai Bank (Thai Farmer’s Bank) Research Center informed that Thai people used 4000 million baht for horoscopes during February 26 to March 4, 2005 which does not include making merit, averting the effects of misfortune, fortune book, etc. Meanwhile, Chaingmai people in 16 districts are afraid of earthquakes and the land sinking news of March 12.

Earlier: March 13 – the day to watch – translated

and summarized from *Matichon*, March 10, 2005

The Chairperson of the Horoscope Society, Mr. Pinyo Pongcharoen, said many fortune tellers warn Thaksin not to do any activity on March 12-13 because it is a ‘world destroy day.’ The fortune teller said Thaksin is a Virgo so he has to be careful with emotion and common sense. This year he will be very exhausted, facing problems and has to be careful of his health—which is not well. On March 13 all should be careful of natural disasters, accidents, and traveling by air.

One fortune teller who is a movie star and survivor of the tsunami, Mr. Channaron Kuntitao said he is also watching for March 12, but in his opinion April 2 or 3 is a worse day. Be careful traveling because in Esarn and the North will have hail.

A tale of two newspapers: Reporting on the new cabinet

March 12, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

A tale of two
newspapers: Reporting on the new cabinet –
March 12, 2005

Nothing underlines the pro-government caution of the *Post* and the uncompromising, often rabid anti-government slant of *The Nation* than their reporting on the new cabinet. When the *Post* does decide to be critical, they are careful to qualify it by adding ‘critics say’ and more and more the *Post* uses quotes from a named person to report the news—in this case several academics explain the cabinet appointments via direct quotes. *The Nation* offers a hard-hitting appraisal with every paragraph citing nepotism, inexperience, party financiers, or appointments made to keep “a watch on Suriya.” *The Nation* does do a good job explaining the likely political undercurrents that define the appointments—something that the *Post* would never touch. *The Nation* also has interesting profiles of the new faces in the cabinet.

[Cabinet](#)

[line-up ‘puts growth first’ – Critics: Curing social ills gets short shrift](#) – *Bangkok Post*,

March 12, 2005

The face of the new cabinet underlines the fact Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is a shrewd political player but one who is more concerned about achieving strong economic growth than curing social ills, critics said yesterday... The cabinet members would still have to prove they were “Mr Cleans” and ministers must be up to scratch since Mr Thaksin had already announced he would make frequent reshuffles to his cabinet, Mr Sombat said.

Warakorn Samakoses, rector of Dhurakij Pundit University, rated the economic team as good since Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak and Commerce Minister Thanong Bidaya had won high praise from the private sector...

[Cabinet](#)

[line-up fails to impress](#) – *The*

Nation, March 12, 2005

Despite his strong mandate, PM refuses to drop scandal-tainted ministers while choosing new ones based on connections... There were no cheers from admirers, and regular critics said the ministerial line-up underlined their scepticism that nepotism still weighs heavily in the decision-making of the most powerful prime minister in modern Thai history.

Politicians whose images are plagued by corruption scandals remain in the Cabinet, with some getting even bigger posts. Some were “demoted”, but that they were kept in the government at all must have disappointed those who thought that 19 million votes would embolden Thaksin to do away with all the black sheep...

Charoen tops Forbes list as richest man in Thailand at US\$3 billion

March 12, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

[Charoen](#)

[tops Forbes list as richest man in Thailand at US\\$3 billion](#)

– Bangkok Post, March 12, 2005

...Mr Charoen, who was ranked 194th worldwide, is joined this year by Chaleo Yoovidhya (292), the founder of the Krating Daeng/Red Bull empire with \$2.2 billion, and Charoen Pokphand Group patriarch Dhanin Chearavanont (387) at \$1.7 billion.

The Chearavanont family's wealth, while nothing to sniff at, has dwindled substantially from the heady days of the economic boom in the early 1990s, when as many as 11 Thais were on the Forbes list of billionaires. In 1994, Mr Dhanin ranked 26th worldwide with a fortune estimated at \$5.3 billion in 25-baht dollars...

Chinese-Thai groups hail enforcement of anti-secession law

March 13, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

[Chinese-Thai groups hail enforcement of anti-secession law](#)

– chinaview.cn, March 13, 2005

...At a seminar held here Monday, Teng Suksudprasert, vice-chairman of the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, said the anti-secession law, passed earlier in the day by the National People's Congress (NPC), is a law for peaceful reunification.

Visith Leelasithorn, president of the Tiochew Association of Thailand, noted that the approval and enforcement of the law could further safeguard peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

The adoption of the law with a high support rate manifested the common aspiration of the Chinese people and overseas Chinese to oppose secession and "Taiwan independence" and their wish for national reunification, said Amorn Apithanakoon, president of the World Chinese Unity Center in Thailand...

Chao Pa: Doyenne of Bangkok society

March 13, 2005

Chao Pa: Doyenne of Bangkok society
– *The Nation*, March 13, 2005

[Chao
Pa: Doyenne of Bangkok society.](#)

– *The Nation*, March 13, 2005

...But she took her illness bravely, telling the Channel 9 TV interview that she was not afraid.

"Whatever happens, happens. If I'm sick, I won't resist it and I rest. If I have to go, it is the circle of life so I don't think too much," she said.

"I record my voice every year and I want it to be heard at my funeral. I want to thank people who come to my funeral. It's normal and everyone must face it. No one is immortal and when you die, you die."...

[SOCIETY](#)

[HOSTESS: Chao Kokaew falls into coma](#) –

The Nation, March 13, 2005

Socialite remains on life support but will receive no medication at relatives' request...

Thai-language newspapers – March 14, 2005

March 14, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– March 14, 2005

* Prakroo Suwithan Pariyattikit, the abbot of Wat Thongpu, Thambol Suanprik, Amphur Pranakornsirayuthaya gave an interview on March 13 saying that the police in Ayutaya are not competent because they cannot arrest the robber who came to steal the ancient treasures of the temple many times. Although the monk informed the police every time, the old team of robbers still came back and the police did not arrest him even when they saw the robber walk around the old market. The abbot asked the Art Department come to register the old assets of the temple and asked that people should participate to look after and preserve the local assets.

Thairath

– March 14, 2005

* **Bloody news** – March 13, Private (Pvt.) Prison Khumduang, 19-year-old Khonkaen resident, shot himself at his workplace because of losing his new mobile phone. His training teacher said Prison was very worried that his girlfriend has just bought and paid for the down payment of 7000 baht, but he has to continue paying monthly by himself for eight months while he has little salary and she complains to him about this. Although his friends comfort him not to think too much, he is still unhappy and kill himself at last.

* Kanjanaburi –

The astrologers' forecast that March 12-13 is a doomsday and there may be an earthquake in Kanjanaburi made the area very quiet with tourists canceling more than 1000 rooms. Mr. Cherdvit Rittiprasat, the Kanjanaburi Governor, confirmed the safety of the structure of Srinakarin Dam which has a composition of stone and clay and is flexible to accommodate any vibrations so people can be confident the dam is safe.

* The

source from the Agriculture and Cooperative ministry said that the first job for Sudarat Keyuraphan's team is moving and adjusting things in their working area. This includes moving the 6-7 meter high date trees which were standing near the stairs of the Ministry. These were lifted up with a crane and moved by truck to the Agriculture Chaloemprakit Museum in Klong Luang, Prathumthani Province. This was done because the sinsae said that they should adjust the Feng Shui of the workplace environment and the date trees are bad luck for the Minister.

Thailand at global forefront of digital camera boon

March 14, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand
at global forefront of digital camera boon](#) –

TNA, March 14, 2005

...Mr. Boonjert Hanwichitchai, deputy director for operations of IT City Plc, says that the digital camera market in Thailand is set to record a high rate of growth this year; with sales expected to exceed one million units, compared to 800,000 last year and 600,000 in 2003...

‘Absolut Bangkok’

March 14, 2005

Categories: Advertising and Commercials



(Source: Absolut Ads)

‘Absolut Bangkok’ – March
14, 2005

Interesting Bangkok-themed ad from [Absolut Ads](#).

More on the Cabinet 2005

March 14, 2005

Categories: Thai Politics



Above: Komchadluek's

March 12 news of the cabinet appointments: 'All Thaksin's people seize the main ministries – Noi (Sudarut) is Minister of Agriculture'



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above:

Former PM Chuan Leekpai comments on the cabinet appointments on Saturday

More on the cabinet

– March 14, 2005

EDITORIAL:

Concentration of power continues – *The Nation*,
March 14, 2005

Thai

PM defends cabinet choices amid criticism – AFP, March
13, 2005

... "The cabinet members include some ex-bureaucrats who have received plum positions after abandoning their political neutrality during the election campaign," former prime minister Chuan Leekpai, now the opposition Democrat Party's chief advisor, said in the *Nation* newspaper.

Opinion pieces in the English and Thai language media offered further criticism, with one calling the cabinet a "hodgepodge of misfits" and another blasting the "eleven PhDs" now in the body...

Thai-language newspapers – March 15, 2005

March 15, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– March 15, 2005

* In Chaingrai, on the night of March 13, there was rain and strong wind which made advertising signs fall down and knocked out the power. Meanwhile, in Maejun district, a hail storm destroyed one house, and a storm blew the roof off of two houses in Maesai and broke a 50-year-old big tree in Chiangsaen district.

Thairath

– March 15, 2005

* Sudarat gave an interview yesterday (March 14) after the Cabinet meeting in Huahin saying she did not order and did not know who [moved the date trees](#). Newin Chidchob, Deputy Minister of Agriculture is also puzzled as to who did and said he is just a deputy. Meanwhile Mr. Bunpot Hongthong, the Permanent Undersecretary of the Ministry admitted he did it because it was a plan to adjust the view in front of the ministry.

*

On March 14, there was strong wind and heavy rain for 1 hour in Rasit municipality, Pathumthani which caused a 30 cm high flood and traffic jam for 5 kilometers. Also it made a big advertisement sign of Issariya Firstferty village come off and hit an electric poll of the gas station near Tesco Lotus causing one worker to be slightly injured.

* March 14 – The Fine

Arts Department continues resisting EGAT blasting the fossil beds after the Council of State points that they are ancient ruins and prepare to inform EGAT. If EGAT continues, it will be charges with criminal penalties for the destruction of national assets.

* This

year is the worst serious drought covering all areas in Thailand especially in 66 provinces. Suffering hardship in Esarn is at 100%. The agriculture market has tumbled down valued 7 billion baht.

Rare Painite Gemstone Found in Burma

March 15, 2005

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Rare Painite Gemstone Found in Burma](#) – *The Irrawaddy*,
March 15, 2005

New examples of one of the world's rarest gemstones, painite, have been found in northern Burma, the latest such discovery in the country where the mineral was first discovered five decades ago, a local journal said Tuesday...

Apirak stories...

March 15, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

Apirak stories...

[Apirak plans 20-year development roadmap](#) – Bangkok Post, March 15, 2005

...Under the roadmap, Bangkok will be divided into 12 zones based on their activity and physical profiles.

There will be an "Old Town Zone" covering the Rattanakosin area (old Bangkok) and parts of old Thon Buri town adjoining the Chao Phraya river.

There will also be a "Central Business District" or "Lumpini Zone" encompassing Bang Rak, Pathumwan, Vadhana and Sathon districts, a "New Business Zone" in the Rama III road area, and a "Sri Nakharin Group" covering Lat Krabang, Min Buri and Prawet districts near the new Suvarnabhumi airport...

[Bangkok governor willing to hear proposal from residents](#) – Bangkok Post, March 15, 2005

...While ducking the question whether the community could be allowed to stay on under a land-sharing scheme, the governor said he was receptive to the community's proposal, which envisioned the people and park co-existing...

More on [Removing the Mahakan Fort community](#).

Also: [Removing the Soi Leunrit community](#).

Also: [A walk through Pak Klong Talad](#)

More from the Wat Pasalawan controversy

March 16, 2005

More from the Wat Pasalawan controversy

– *Korat Post*, March 16, 2005

We are not sure what this is really about or why we should care, but the [Wat Pasalawan controversy continues](#).

...Despite the need for appropriate decorum, Daeng lashed out in a barrage of anti-foreign invective that will shock you when you read it. We have been asked, with deep respect, to tone down our coverage, and have...

Brazenly taking my photo, this man, who was the one that slapped our female assistant on 12 February 2005 inside Wat Pasalawan, he then walked away, saying, "You are now considered a target." Why have police not apprehended this man? They need his real name. Do you know it? Call us.

...We have been threatened, and a recent public radio broadcast has cited us by name as attempting to harm the mon... and religion...

PLEA FOR ENGLISH SKILLS: Just 50 MPs turn up for House pep-talk

March 16, 2005

Categories: Humor

[PLEA](#)

[FOR ENGLISH SKILLS: Just 50 MPs turn up for House pep-talk](#) –

The Nation, March 16, 2005

...MPs would also be called on to press the Kingdom's case when they travel overseas. "It's not a time for MPs just to go shopping. For example, they should be able to explain the situation in the South when abroad..."

Thai-language newspapers – March 17, 2005

March 17, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– March 17, 2005

* On March 16, an AFP news report from Paris, France referred to the opinion of a geologist from North Ireland in Nature Magazine that earthquake specialists warn there will be a strong earthquake of 7.5-8.5 on the Richter scale causing a tsunami again which will occur in the India Ocean near Sumatra, Indonesia.

*

On March 17, the executive of Portektueng Foundation canceled all volunteers in the country except five border provinces after finding that illegal volunteers are creating a bad reputation by earning money from dead bodies, scamming money from their relatives or fighting to seize the dead. Somebody mentioned Portektueng to solicit contributions despite the foundation never collects money.

Thairath

– March 17, 2005

* Mrs. Pranom, a 53-year-old who earns money by collecting and selling water morning glories went to see the doctor to check her genitals because there is blood and she feels itchy and very painful. After checking, the doctor found that a big leech 5 cm long and 2 cm wide inside so he used pincers to take it off. It is assumed that the leech began sucking her blood while she was collecting water morning glories in Rangsit Canal.

*

Pol. Lt. Gen. Somchai Petprasert, MP of Korat constituency 14 said that Lamtakong is a water source of Lamtakong Reservoir which flows from Khaoyai National Park, but there are some resorts and golf courses that dam up the water. He asked related organizations and provinces to investigate.

Tom Vamvanij's blog

March 17, 2005

Tom Vamvanij's blog

– March 17, 2005

Tom Vamvanij's blog in [Thai](#)
and [English](#)

has interesting comparisons of local media reports in a style 2B
readers will appreciate...

BMA denies reports of gay hotline

March 17, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[BMA denies reports of gay hotline](#) – TNA, March 17, 2005

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) today denied reports that it was setting up a 24-hour telephone advice helpline for gay men and introducing information about homosexuality into the school curriculum, saying that it did not have the expertise to do so...

Ayutthaya wants share of historical site fees

March 17, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ayutthaya
wants share of historical site fees](#) – Bangkok

Post, March 17, 2005

...But the department keeps all the fee money and spending is at the sole discretion of the department's director-general and is not made public...

Public services were expensive so the municipality had little money left over from its annual budget of 100 million baht for local development, he said...

Rebuilding Thailand's dream island

March 18, 2005

Categories: 2004 Tsunami

[Rebuilding](#)

[Thailand's dream island](#) – BBC, March 18, 2005

2Bangkok.com visits the Thonburi locomotive shed

March 19, 2005

Categories: Thai Railroads



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

2Bangkok.com visits the Thonburi locomotive shed

March 19, 2005

Thanks to the SRT steam engine workers and the Thai Rot Fai fanclub

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The Thonburi locomotive depot near Bangkok
Noi Station



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Two dogs guard engine 850

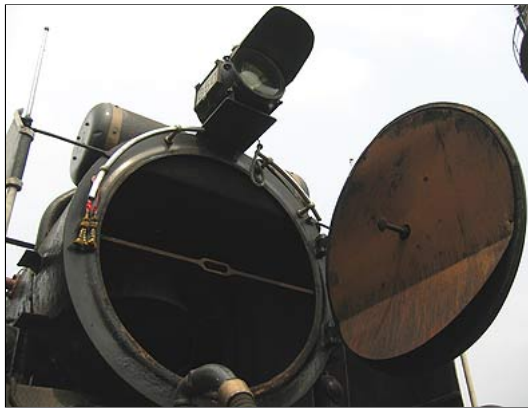


(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Engines 850 and 824 parked nose to nose



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Engine 850 with smokebox open



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Left: Firebox door open
Right: Interior of the firebox



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Detail of firebox
For more info: [Steam101: parts of a locomotive](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Maintenance notes



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Detail of Engine 850



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The locomotives were made in Japan



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

View from the cab of Engine 824



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: View from Engine 850's cab



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Right: Engine 824 vents steam



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Makeshift dwelling in an old boxcar



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Maintenance board for the engines in the
Thonburi shed



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Homemade railroad benches



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below: Elevated tracks
for maintenance
Below left: Engine 4111 on the elevated tracks
Below right: Under the train



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Signs above the football pitch
read "Playing sport has many advantages" and "Drugs harm
society."

Below: Homemade bleachers and football goal.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Interior of Engine 824's cab



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old steam engine tool display



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Workers' locker room area on top of a sleeping room.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Two interesting things near [Thonburi Station](#)

Left: A cement model of the Thonburi Station tower
Right: A tree that has grown into a fence and pipe.

Thai Airways' new livery

March 19, 2005

Categories: Airports and Airlines

Thai Airways' new livery

– March 19, 2005

Chatchawal points out [Thai's](#)

[new livery](#). On the forum: [TG's](#)

[new livery](#). **Also:** Anyone heard about [Thai Sky Airlines?](#)

Construction worker housing

March 19, 2005



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Construction worker housing

– March 19, 2005

This is the worker shantytown behind the Central World Plaza.

Phuket Gay Festival set to earn Bt100 million

March 19, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Phuket](#)

[Gay Festival set to earn Bt100 million](#) – TNA,

March 19, 2005

The pink baht will help revive the tsunami-damaged tourism industry on the southern island of Phuket next month when over 5,000 homosexuals from across the world descend on the island for the province's 6th annual Gay Festival.

According to Mr. Chanok Kaewsrinual, head of the Phuket Gay Association, the festival on Patong Beach on 7-10 April will include a range of events, including the unmissable drag parade...

Pol. Col. Theeraphol Thipcharoen, superintendent of Kathu district police station, also noted that the event was important to help Phuket shrug off its unearned image as a destination for sex tourists, including those engaging in underage sex with young rent boys. According to the police superintendent, child prostitution in fact does not occur anywhere in Phuket.

OKMD and TK Park

March 21, 2005

Categories: Buildings, Culture and Society

OKMD and TK Park

About OKMD

– July 6, 2005

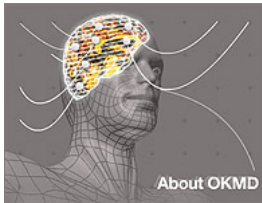
2Bangkok.com has [previously mentioned TKPark](#),

part of a government initiative to take learning to the people and bypass the hidebound academic institutions that refuse reform...

as well as promote TRT initiatives.

Heavily promoted are foreign management gurus, an explanation of "Mr. Thaksin's Second Term Policy Priorities," and a contest emphasizing how important the building of mass transit is. The contest winner gets a copy of the book *Prime Minister Thaksin: The Leader Who Inspires Thai People To Read For Reaching The Knowledge Based Society*.

There is obviously a lot of money put into this endeavor and the TKPark facilities are heavily used and appreciated. All this is part of the Office of Knowledge Management and Development (OKMD).



The website [explains](#):

Thailand has figured out how to cope with this intense competition. Of course, Thailand will not opt for purchasing cutting-edge technology to enhance production capacity, and gain lower unit price. Thailand will not participate in a price cutting battles either. In stead, Thailand establishes an organization namely "Office of Knowledge Management and Development (OKMD)" to accomplish this task. Here one can also learn about the "National Institute for Brain-Based Learning (NBL)"



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

TK Park

– March 21, 2005

[TK Park](#) is a trendy interactive

library on the top floor of Central World Plaza teeming with children.

The library is stuffed full of all the latest magazines, books, and plenty of net-connected computers.

From [The](#)

[TKPark Story](#): *The search for and management of knowledge, information and technology, which are so varied and rapidly changing in the present world are the sources of inspiration for His Excellency Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Chinawatra, the Prime Minister, to prepare Thailand as a knowledge-based society, which leads to the foundation of the Office of Knowledge Management and Development, OKMD (a public organization)...*

The TKpark is originated from the desire to create "A lively library, which embraces continuous changes, with good and updated books. A library that will never die." Its main objective is to promote genuine love and needs for reading and continuous learning for the Thai people...

The TKpark Working Group has made a research on the operations of 'lively' libraries in various countries. It is all agreed that reading is a vital basis for learning, which is to be followed by practical activities to solidify the matters learnt...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Thai-language newspapers – March 21, 2005

March 21, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

<p><i>Matichon</i> – March 21, 2005</p> <p>* On March 20, during the forth day of Thailand’s Universe Beauty Contest activities in Phuket, Ban Laem Tukkae, a tsunami-impacted fishermen’s village, declared it would not permit tourists to visit. Lots of police arrived to to watch over the village.</p>	<p>*</p> <p>Dr. Tienchai, Permanent Undersecretary of the Public Health Ministry, revealed that hemorrhagic fever (dengue fever) spread out very seriously in Thailand especially in Esarn and the central area and two have died. He warned the Provincial Public Health Office to watch for those who have continuous hot fever more that three days. People who take medicine and still have a high temperature, but has other fever symptom may have dengue as well.</p>
<p><i>Thairath</i> – March 21, 2005</p> <p>* On March 20, Sanoh Tienthong, senior advisor of TRT and leader of the Wang Namyen faction is upset that Thaksin did not treat him with respect because he gave him the position of an honorary chairperson in the government. He said this position is a funny council position which never existed before and one who created it is funny also.</p>	<p>*</p> <p>On March 20, 10:45am, a strong wind made a military plane slide into a ditch at Doi Pabong, Amphur Fang, Chiangmai and 10 soldiers were injured.</p>

U.S. Army Vet Photos of Thailand

March 21, 2005

Categories: Old photos and films



Above: Harry Piskun's
[photo](#) of the old Erawan Hotel.

Every day it seems more photo sites start up featuring photos taken by US army vets who served in Thailand. Here are some interesting sites:
U-tapao photos (click on the buttons on the left side of [this page](#))

[Links to other U-tapao sites](#)

[Bangkok then \(1970\) and now \(2005\).](#)

[Songkran in 1970](#)

Thai Elvis

March 21, 2005

Thai Elvis –
March 21, 2005
[Thai](#)
[Elvis](#) at the [Palms](#)
[Thai restaurant](#)

ASEAN should have withheld Myanmar membership – former US envoy Holbrook

March 21, 2005

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[ASEAN should have withheld Myanmar membership – former US envoy Holbrooke](#)

– AFX, March 21, 2005

... 'Instead, a dreadful group of people whose behaviour violates all the norms of civilization, all the wonderful things Thailand for example stands for, were invited to join ASEAN with no real conditions.'

Holbrooke pointed to the European Union's recent decision to block membership talks for Croatia until Zagreb finds a war crimes suspect, as an example of how ASEAN could have dealt with Myanmar...

Axum Obelisk

March 21, 2005

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Axum Obelisk](#) – *Design Observer*, March 21, 2005

William Drenttel details the moving of the Axum Obelisk in the late 1800s from Egypt to New York, complete with photographs. It is an astounding story of innovation in moving techniques. 71 feet and weighing 244 tons, Cleopatra's Needle was turned sideways, loaded onto a boat, shipped across the ocean, loaded onto a custom-created rail line, and erected in Central Park — at a cost of only \$100,000. A similar event is taking place right now, sending an obelisk from Italy to its original home in Ethiopia, but it will be split into three parts and cost \$450 million.

Alternate New York

March 21, 2005

Alternate New York –

March 21, 2005

Images of New York, not just as it once was, and [as it might one day be...](#)

Tradition of Thailand's foreign policy is at risk

March 21, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Tradition of Thailand's foreign policy is at risk](#) –

The Nation, March 21, 2005

This *Nation* editorialist is horrified that ASEAN is no longer at the heart of Thailand's foreign policy ("Asean has been relegated to number two") and the government dares push a Thai head of the U.N. There do not seem to be reasons offered as to why these things are bad. Either the article was over edited (with the reasons being lost) or once again opposition to doing anything differently is reason enough for most critics.

Secret of Thailand's Success? It's the Women

March 21, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Secret of Thailand's Success? It's the Women](#) – Bloomberg,

March 21, 2005

...Which Asian nation is doing best when it comes to women's advancement? Thailand. It scored 92.3 of a possible 100, and according to MasterCard's index, 100 equals gender equality. The survey was based on interviews with 300 to 350 women in 13 nations and national statistics.

...Thailand, Malaysia and China are three economies widely seen as the future of Asia. Thailand's economic boom in recent years has prompted many leaders in the region to look to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's growth strategy, known as "Thaksinomics" ...

Many married women in Asia have maids?

March 21, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Many married women in Asia have maids?

– March 21, 2005

Conor points out a strange opening line in a *Bangkok*

Post story: *For many married women in Asia, everyday household duties such as the washing, ironing and vacuuming are tasks usually left to the maid...* ([Housework](#)

[aerobics](#), *Bangkok Post*, March 21, 2005)

THAI rejuvenates itself ahead of airport launch

March 21, 2005

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[THAI](#)

[rejuvenates itself ahead of airport launch](#) –

Business Day, March 21, 2005

... "The tasks include changing the logo of the airline, employees' uniforms and the look of its exterior, etc so as to rejuvenate THAI," said Kanok...

Thai-language newspapers – March 22, 2005

March 22, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– March 22, 2005

* On March 21 at the criminal court on Rachadaphisek Road, two witnesses, Mr. Makata Harong and Mr. Sukree Maming, testifying in the case of the kidnap of lawyer Mr. Somchai Nilapaijit, disclosed that they were tortured in many ways—kicking, electric shock, and even were urinated on by the police to force them to confess to stealing guns and causing unrest in the south. They said that Mr. Somchai came to help them with a lawsuit before he was kidnapped. They confirmed that they recognized one of five defendants, Pol. Maj. Ngoen Thongsuk as one who threatened them.

*

Dr. Thawat Suntrajarn, the director of Department of Communicable Disease Control reveals that hemorrhagic fever (dengue fever) of four types has spread out in the last 2-3 years. In the first two months of 2005, the rate of illness is up 48%. It is highest in Bangkok followed by Phuket, Trang, Ranong and Krabi. Meanwhile there is still no vaccine to prevent this disease and in Suratthani now there are 70 sick.

Thairath

– March 22, 2005

* **Bloody news** – Mr. Chatree Sappermphon, the supervisor worker in the rice godown in Praram 3 area, Prasamutjedee, Samutprakarn killed his 2-year-old and 8-month-old children by breaking their necks, shot his wife who pregnant 8 months and then shot himself. The police found a letter telling to his parents that he apologized for the suicide. He said he did not have a smooth family life and often quarreled with his wife, had a 3 million baht debt and his house was in mortgage and would be seized by the bank soon. He intended to kill only himself, but his wife loved him so much that she wanted to follow.

* In Nakornratchasima, there was a sad story from the drought, when police of Amphur Sikiw were informed that the dead body of Mr. Soi Chat Pudza, 64-years-old, was found wearing a long-sleeve shirt, black pants and carrying a bag. There was no wound except for a small fang. His wife told the police that they owned a cassava plantation, but drought killed it all. He and his wife got into trouble and had no money so he has to go to forest to hunt. On March 20, it was assumed that he was bitten by a snake while hunting.

On the forum: Bangkok One Way Traffic System 1984

March 22, 2005

On the forum: [Bangkok One Way Traffic System 1984](#) – March 22, 2005

airlana writes: *Bangkok's one way traffic system was introduced Saturday 4 February 1984. Thousands of maps were distributed. Here's a copy of that [original map](#). I remember the confusion well.*

Power consumption hits record high

March 22, 2005

[Power consumption hits record high](#) –

AP, March 22, 2005

...Demand for electricity hit a record high of 19,593 megawatts on Monday, the state-owned Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand said. The figure was 1.4 percent higher than the previous record of 19,326 megawatts set in March last year, the agency said...

HIV RUMOUR: “Aim to defame Thai workers”

March 22, 2005

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[HIV RUMOUR: “Aim to defame Thai workers”](#) –

The Nation, March 22, 2005

...Italian Thai Development, which hired the Thai workers for the construction project, said some of them had returned to Thailand simply because their employment contracts had ended...

Earlier: [38](#)

[Thai construction workers found HIV positive in Bangladesh](#)

– AP, March 20, 2005

Thirty-eight Thai construction workers in Bangladesh have been found to be infected with HIV, a news report said Sunday...

EDITORIAL: Anti-booze lobby not acting sober

March 22, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[EDITORIAL: Anti-booze lobby not acting sober](#) – *The Nation*, March 22, 2005

...The significance of the board's decision lies in the fact that what started out as a healthy public debate on a valid issue about how to mitigate harmful effects of alcohol consumption has become manipulated and distorted by some who harbour hidden agendas.

...No one denies that Buddhist monks have a right to freedom of expression like any other citizen of this country. What's more, they are expected to provide leadership on moral issues. But why have they singled out the liquor industry for a public display of moral indignation when there are other, probably greater evils that have so far eluded their wrath, such as the country's sex industry? ...

Thai-language newspapers – March 23-24, 2005

March 23, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

March 23, 2005

* Bangkok is the area with the most incidents of hemorrhagic fever (dengue fever) especially in villages and buildings in 10 inner and outer areas. This is because migrants inhabit these areas and move around often.

* On March 22, 300 volunteers of Portextueng (a charitable organization) in six central provinces including of Singburi, Angthong, Ayuthaya, Nakornnayok, Saraburi and Loburi came to assemble in front of the Portextueng head office in Bangkok asking for clarification as to why the executives cancel volunteer in all countries. Mr. Vinai Praditkanok, the head of volunteers explain that there was a problem with people abusing the only the Portextueng name (to fraudulently get donations), but not the individual, uniformed individuals. Finally the protesters tearfully took off their uniforms and went home.

* On March 22, there was a hail storm in Thambon Saengsawan, Amphur Nongsaeng, Udonthani which destroyed 57 houses in Ban Tabhai Mu 4 and 50 houses at Nongwa Mu 6, but no one was injured. Meanwhile, in Amphur Khumpawapi, there was a tornado that destroyed houses and threw a roof onto a high electric pole and made the electricity went out. A primary report said it damages 6 villages and 80 houses.

Thairath

March 23, 2005

* On March 22, at a press conference at the Crime Suppression Division, Mrs. Chatchama Somboonsap, Chairperson of Police wives club said the women police will do a fashion show with beautiful dresses that create a soft and sweet image. The sexiest tiger pajama (sleeping suit) will be shown later at the Red Cross Fair.

* The guard of Taladtai, Amphur Kongluang, Pathumthani informed the police that he found a Honda CRV parked at Taladthai since March 18, but could not contact the driver. The police found that the owner is Mrs. Suchalee Chumna, working for Airbus, who disappeared with her friend. Recently she worked with an Indian group tour. The police could not say it is kidnapping, deception or business conflict with the Indian group, but they will follow the case.

March

24, 2005

* 126 Esarn members of Parliament gather to be a ‘group of sticky rice’ pressing and asking government for prominent positions. They are upset that Esarn has lots of MPs, but few in prominent positions. They appoint Mr. Chanchai Chairungroeng to be a leader to press for justice for them. Chuwit Kamonvisit warns Maew that there will be a new group in TRT called ‘the bitter group’ which has Sanoh Tienthong will be the leader. The Election Commission revealed that TRT got donations which amounted to 129 million baht. The biggest donation is from Khunying Or, Pojaman Chinawatra with 85 million baht.

* Watch for April 27 which will be the hottest day . The Meteorological Department predicts it will be 40 degrees. Nevin Chidchob, Deputy Agriculture Minister, is worried that the water level of Krasiew Dam in Supanburi is down 16% and 17,000 villages are at risk. Meanwhile, the Director of Royal Rain said both artificial and natural rain will increase the water in the dam to a satisfactory level.

* On March 23 at GMM Grammy Place Building, Mr. Paiboon Dumronchaitham or ‘Ar Koo,’ Chairperson of Dumrongchaitham Foundation, and artists of JMM Grammy handed over 100 million baht for supporting tsunami children victims’ lives and education in six southern provinces. The fund will not have any obligations.

March

24, 2005

* In Samutprakarn on March 23, 26 year-old Mr. Wattana or Om Khunkum, deceived Ms. Nattaphan Youngchub that her relative came to visit. When she opened the door, he attacked to get into her room and tried to rape her, but she fought and bit his tongue almost in half. He did not stop and covered her head with a blanket. She pretended to be dead making him shocked and he ran away. She shouted and called to police to arrest him. He was apprehended while he escaped a motorcycle with blood in his mouth.

* The police of Pathumwan Station were informed by Mr. Choochai Namwasulak, a lawyer of Chulalongkorn University, that an undesired person sent a fax with the message “There will be an assembly and protest against the administration of the university about their idea to take back the land of Utentawai Institute.” The message also threatened that if someone informed about the threat, one student will be killed. The lease ran out on Utentawai in September, 2005 and Chulalongkorn University will not continue the contact and wants the land back to extend the university, but the students of Utentawai always protest.

Emergency repairs for Giant Swing

March 24, 2005

Categories: Giant Swing - Sao Ching Cha

[Emergency repairs for Giant Swing](#) – TNA, March 24, 2005

...Although several restoration operations have been carried out in the past, the Fine Arts Department now wants to take down the whole structure to examine it in more details...

Bang Na traffic snarls set to ease

March 24, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bang Na traffic snarls set to ease](#) – *The Nation*, March 24, 2005

...The traffic congestion has been compounded for over a year due to three construction projects.

The first two projects were the construction of two overpasses and expansion of traffic lanes on Bang Na-Trat to accommodate the planned opening of Suvarnabhumi Airport later this year.

The third was the expressway extension to link the Bang NA-Din Daeng route with the Bang NA-Bang Pakong elevated expressway and the Art Narong tollway.

The two overpasses will be completed before the other projects...

Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 7. The East Wing

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

2Bangkok.com

visits the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy

– March 25, 2005

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[Metal-lined chambers](#) – [6. Labyrinth](#)
– [7. The East Wing](#) – [8.](#)
[Sleeping with an ax](#) – [9. The North Wing](#)



The East Wing

The east wing is filled with stairways and sectioned off into at least four discreet sections without any interconnection.



A mini metal-lined room in the East Wing has the metal peeled back from floor to ceiling apparently to remove something.



A kitchen



Another long stairway
leading to one padded room.





The largest center section of the East Wing is only accessible by an exterior staircase that is too rotten to climb. There is also no apparent way to access rooms on the first floor below the stairway.

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Next: [8. Sleeping with an ax](#)
Previous: [6. Labyrinth](#)

Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 6. Labyrinth

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

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[Metal-lined chambers](#) – [6. Labyrinth](#)
– [7. The East Wing](#) – [8.](#)
[Sleeping with an ax](#) – [9. The North Wing](#)



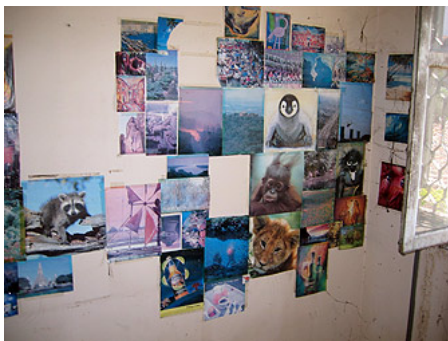
Labyrinth

The north end of the West Wing
has a continuous series of rooms connected by security doors.





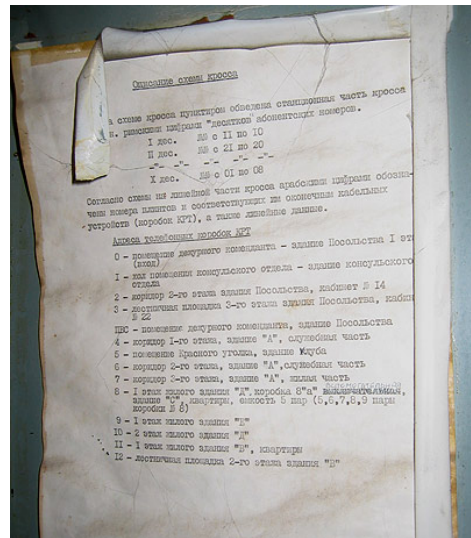
To go through the rooms, one has to weave back and forth through room after interconnected room.



Also in the West Wing were consular offices. Above are some leftover office decorations.



A padded room



Notes on an electrical utilities box



Main mansion as viewed from the West Wing

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Next: [7. The East Wing](#)
Previous: [5. Metal-lined chambers](#)

Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 5. Metal-lined chambers

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

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visits the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy

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[Metal-lined chambers](#) – [6. Labyrinth](#)
– [7. The East Wing](#) – [8.](#)
[Sleeping with an ax](#) – [9. The North Wing](#)



Metal-lined chambers

We found two padded
and metal-lined chambers in the West Wing. Note thickness of the
walls at the doorway.



Window looking
out of one metal chamber



Section where
some apparatus was apparently removed.



View from one
metal chamber through to another.



Metal hanging
over one of the windows



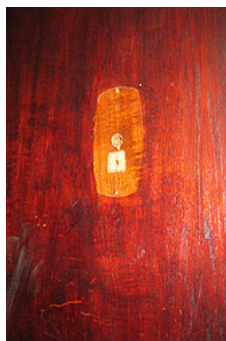
Another window



Ceiling of a chamber



Double door to
a chamber with insulating carpet



Most doors in
the West Wing have a peephole



Second chamber
with metal bed springs leaning against the wall.
(Some viewers have spotted a [strange
image](#) in this photo.)

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Next: [6.
Labyrinth](#)

Previous: [4. Rooms with no way in](#)

Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 3. The West Wing

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

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– [4. Rooms with no way in](#) – [5.](#)
[Metal-lined chambers](#) – [6. Labyrinth](#)
– [7. The East Wing](#) – [8.](#)
[Sleeping with an ax](#) – [9. The North Wing](#)



Connecting passage from the main mansion to the West Wing

The West Wing





Russian phones
dumped in a closet area



Throughout the
buildings are spots that appear to be damaged by dry rot or where
something was dug out of the wall.



Russian phones
spilling out onto a rickety staircase. The building is riddled with
stairways—some too brittle to climb.



The ground floor
corridor in the West Wing



Looking back toward
the main mansion

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Next: [4.
Rooms with no way in](#)
Previous: [2. Stairs to nowhere](#)

Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 2. Stairs to nowhere

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

2Bangkok.com visits the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy – March 25, 2005

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Stairs to nowhere

Stairs behind a false wall that lead to nowhere. Note the dust-covered bouquet on the stairs...



Looking down the stairs at the false wall



Under the stairs is a small area with shelves (left). The area was closed off with a panel that matches the wall. Once removed (right) there is a passage that apparently is for handing something from the small area to the outside (the small square is the exterior opening).



Detail of wooden paneling

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Next:
[3. The West Wing](#)
Previous: [1. Main mansion](#)

Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 1. Main mansion

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

2Bangkok.com visits the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy – March 25, 2005

[More info on the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy site](#)

The vacant and mysterious Luang Sathorn Mansion and former Russian Embassy. See soundproof and metal-lined rooms, a labyrinth of windowless chambers, and rooms with no apparent way in...

[1. Main mansion](#) – [2. Stairs to nowhere](#) – [3. The West Wing](#) – [4. Rooms with no way in](#) – [5. Metal-lined chambers](#) – [6. Labyrinth](#) – [7. The East Wing](#) – [8. Sleeping with an ax](#) – [9. The North Wing](#)

Main mansion



The portico



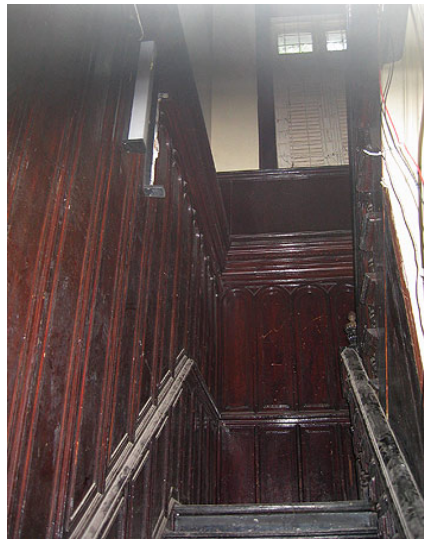
Roof of the portico



Entrance to the
mansion



The
salon



Stairs
to the upper floor of the main mansion



Security
entrance to the embassy



Behind the glass
at the security entrance. Note the curtains blowing in the background.



Control panel at
the security entrance



Exit
from the salon



Smaller salon on
the west side of the mansion



Detail of the small
salon ceiling



Another view of
the main salon

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Next: [2.
Stairs to nowhere](#)

Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 8. Sleeping with an ax

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

2Bangkok.com visits the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy – March 25, 2005

[More info on the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy site](#)

[1. Main mansion](#) – [2. Stairs to nowhere](#) – [3. The West Wing](#) – [4. Rooms with no way in](#) – [5. Metal-lined chambers](#) – [6. Labyrinth](#) – [7. The East Wing](#) – [8. Sleeping with an ax](#) – [9. The North Wing](#)



Sleeping with an ax

The interior

floors of all the buildings are covered with thick dust with no footprints—as if no one dares to venture inside. The one exception is the north section of the East Wing where footprints lead up a flight of stairs. There, on the second floor, are the Spartan living quarters of a solitary individual who apparently sleeps with an ax.



Stairway to the ax chamber.



'Kitchen' under the stairway.



The East Wing as viewed from the main mansion.

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Next: [9. The North Wing](#)
Previous: [7. The East Wing](#)

Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 9. The North Wing

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

2Bangkok.com visits the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy – March 25, 2005

[More info on the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy site](#)

[1. Main mansion](#) – [2. Stairs to nowhere](#) – [3. The West Wing](#) – [4. Rooms with no way in](#) – [5. Metal-lined chambers](#) – [6. Labyrinth](#) – [7. The East Wing](#) – [8. Sleeping with an ax](#) – [9. The North Wing](#)

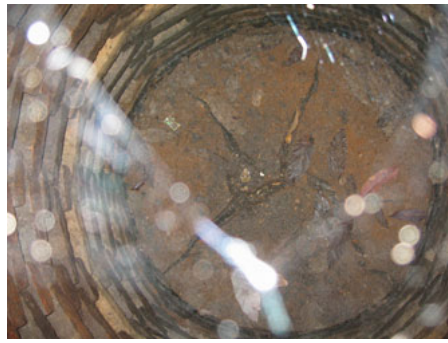
The North Wing



Portico of the North Wing



Baby bathtub in the nursery



One of the many
cisterns on the site



Demolished swimming pool.



Newly painted main mansion



Back to Part 1: [Main
mansion](#)

Previous: [8. Sleeping with an ax](#)

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Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy 4. Rooms with no way in

March 25, 2005

Categories: Buildings, History

2Bangkok.com

visits the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy

– March 25, 2005

[More](#)

[info on the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy site](#)

[1.](#)
[Main mansion](#) – [2.](#)
[Stairs to nowhere](#) – [3. The West Wing](#)
– [4. Rooms with no way in](#) – [5.](#)
[Metal-lined chambers](#) – [6. Labyrinth](#)
– [7. The East Wing](#) – [8.](#)
[Sleeping with an ax](#) – [9. The North Wing](#)



Blocked stairway

Rooms with no way in



There were several areas in the three-story West Wing we were able to see from the exterior, but were unable to reach from inside. One entire section on the third floor (above) seemed to have no apparent entrance.



Stairway that
leads to one padded room on the third floor.



Almost every room
had a section knocked out of the wall where apparently some apparatus
was removed.



Leftover chemicals



The West Wing
has many gated staircases



Packing material
stamped with Russian letters

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Next: [5.
Metal-lined chambers](#)
Previous: [3. The West Wing](#)

Thai-language newspapers – March 25, 2005

March 25, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– March 25, 2005

* Thaksin declined to comment on the Esarn MP "sticky rice group" that negotiates for positions in the government. He said "Believe me, I am here so do not worry, everything is ok." The contentions situation is cooled after Thammarak Issrakool, Esarn chairperson, come to clear the situation. Meanwhile, the Wangnamyen faction of Sanoh Tienthong still will operate a political situation center to keep an eye on the government at Sanoh's house on March 29.

*

Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research noted an exciting phenomenon when the rare white champak Sirinthorn flower that grows only in Lopburi province bloomed outside its season. This is because the weather is very hot and dry making the flower stressed and it boomed early to produce seeds.

Komchadluek

– March 25, 2005

* Mr. Aekavit Naowaroj, a 25-year-old Ramkamhaeng University student is very tense and worried he would not to pass the two law subjects that would prevent him from graduating this year. He complained to his brother that he is discouraged before deciding to jump off the 10th floor of of the science operation building at the university yesterday.

*

In Buriram, a raving 47-year-old man used a knife to hold his niece hostage. He charged that a doctor wanted to take his kidney. The police negotiating with him for five hours before shooting him with rubber bullets. His relatives said he has a nerve problem and was released from the Buriram Center Hospital. Before he threaten his niece, he complained that the doctor will sell his kidney and give money to his family, but nobody believes him.

Songkhla city website

March 25, 2005

Songkhla city website

– March 25, 2005

Asiper points out the [Songkhla city website](#).

Amata Art Award

March 27, 2005

Categories: Art



Rapee writes: *Had I not used Thanon Ratchadamnoen Nok regularly, I would never have known that there were these interesting pieces of art being displayed on the footpaths along Thanon Ratchadamnoen as part of the First Amata Art Award Exhibition. The exhibition, organized by [Amata Foundation](#) and [Bangkok Metropolitan Administration](#), runs from March 13 through April 9, 2005.*

Besides not getting enough mention by the media, when I have tried to find a website of the exhibition on the internet, nothing turned up. So I thought, it would be nice to let others know about the exhibition and make them want to come and enjoy it themselves.

Hopefully, this will not be the first and only art exhibition on Thanon Ratchadamnoen.

Update:

ttaace [writes](#)

[on the forum](#): Unfortunately, the exhibition has ended 3 days sooner than it was scheduled. As I passed by the exhibition on Thanon Ratchadamnoen Nok around 9 pm last night (April 5), these arts were packed and removed from the curbsides. I guess BMA needs the space for Songkran decorations as this morning I saw "Naga (king of snakes)" fountains were being installed around the Democracy Monument and also on the sidewalks of Ratchadamnoen Nok.



First Prize

"Lunar Circle"

Pisit Hattakornvijit

Melding and mixed media



Second Prize

"Blossom of Time"

Napat Thamniya

Melding and fiberglass



Third Prize

"Life Development"

Naruthorn Sedkhunarat

Fiberglass

And some other pieces that I like...



"Slider"

Panu Udompaethaikool

Fiberglass



"Gratified"

Sahathep Thepburi

Fiberglass



"Invulnerable"

Thanadon Tubsuntia

Plaster



"Nature – Natural"

Kamol Moolkonkhaew

Wood carving



"Stupa of merit, beauty and the truth"

Wijit Apichatkreingrai



"Back to fight the sky – face to fight the fat clay"

Apichat Seesom

Terracotta – Iron



"Imagination, spirit and dream"

Amnuay Gunta-in

Resin



"Belief in Thai's social no. 2"

Ronnachit Bumee



"The circle and rhythm of life no. 2"

Sugree Casorclasara

Fiberglass and gypsum



"History of Elephant"

Kham-Ai Degdoun-Ta

Wood carving



"Revolution 2004"

Paiyan Banjongklieng

Stone and metal

And much more...

You must see them yourself!



Amata Art Award
Outdoor Art Exhibition
Mar 13 - Apr 9, 2005

Asean Must Urge Change in Burma-Thaksin

March 28, 2005

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, The Thaksin Years

[Asean Must Urge Change in Burma-Thaksin](#) – AP, March 28, 2005

Southeast Asia's main economic and trade group must support democratic reforms in military-ruled Burma to persuade the ruling junta that it must change, Thailand's prime minister said Monday amid criticism over plans for Burma to take leadership of the bloc next year...

Thai-language newspapers – March 29, 2005

March 29, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon – March 29, 2005

* On April 10, the government will organize a big merit ceremony for the country. Mr. Wissanu Kruangam, Deputy Prime Minister, will give an interview on March 28. He is chairperson of the Implementation Solidarity of Committee Building Merit. They will perform a merit making ceremony in front of Dusit Palace. This has three objectives: to build the country's solidarity, to bring back spirit and willpower through religion, and devote the past good deed to those who died of bird flu, Sars, the tsunami and unrest in the south. There will be three types of ceremonies: Buddhist, Isam Sikh, and Brahman.

* Pol. Maj. Gen. Surasit Sangkapong, the director of the Government Lottery Office, reveals the price negotiation committee for the online lottery has met with Loxley Company—the supplier of the online lottery. The Government Lottery Office will able to start lottery by automatic machine in November 2005.

Thairath – March 29, 2005

* **Bloody news** – On March 28, Mrs. Nittaya Chohiom was killed by her husband, Mr. Anurak Aiempong, who used an 18-inch palm tree knife to cut her .The mother-in-law tried to stop by seizing the knife and taking their 13-year-old son to run away, but she also was cut on her leg and hand. After he assaulted the two of them, he shut the door and stayed silent in the room until the neighbors broke down the door and found that he had hanged himself.

* After an 8.2 earthquake people in the south (Phuket, Pang Nga, Songkhla, Satun, Nakornsrihammarat, Krabi, Surattani, Ranong Yala, Narathivat and Pattani) panic and run in confusion, afraid of another tsunami. The tall buildings in Nakornsrihammarat shook and lots of roosting swallows swarmed from the sky making people stampede. In Hadyai, Songkhla, the tourists who stay on high floors run out from the hotel. Doctors and nurses move patients to the lower floors or outside the building. Meanwhile people in Bangkok who stay at the highest buildings—Baiyoke and also GMM Grammy felt the shaking so they evacuated the buildings.

SafePhuket.com

March 29, 2005

SafePhuket.com – March
29, 2005

We were just remembering back in 2002 after the Bali bombing when the [SafePhuket.com](#) website was set up to convince tourists that Phuket was safe... The site is no longer online.

ThaiCabinCrew.com

March 29, 2005

ThaiCabinCrew.com – March
29, 2005

Jear points out this interesting site: www.thaicabincrew.com

Earthquake felt in the South 2005

March 30, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok

Back to [2B newfeed: Indonesian quake and tsunamis in Thailand](#)

Posted at 11:28pm, March 28, 2005 – Channel 9 news anchor Sorrayuth Sutadsanajinda is reporting that a strong earthquake was felt in "Hat Yai and Phuket" at 11:00pm. People in Hat Yai are SMSing him the info...

Posted at 11:29pm, March 28, 2005 – [Magnitude 8.2 – NORTHERN SUMATRA, INDONESIA 2005 March 28 16:09:37 UTC](#)

Posted at 11:39pm, March 28, 2005 – Asiper reports: *SMS and phone call from Thueng Look Thuengkon, the popular programme on Channel 9, hosted by Sorrayuth Sutadsanajinda – "23.25 earthquake in Phuket, Hadyai, and now in Sikao, Trang province. I saw from SMS, some said it also was felt in Bangkok in the tallest buildings."*

Posted at 11:57pm, March 28, 2005 – Asiper reports what is being said on Thai-language TV: *Mr. Smit Thammasarot has just warned six provinces in the south about the earthquake and tsunami saying that if they see the water level drop they must leave the coast areas.*

Posted at 00:20am, March 29, 2005 – Asiper reports what is being said on Thai-language TV: *Mariya Aiebakor, Thai woman report from Phuket, said that about 1000 people are standing in front of hotels in Phuket. The hotels shook and walls cracked. Mr. Samit said for Hat Yai and Songkhla people not to worry, but people on the west coast must be concerned. People should go to higher ground. Tsunamis may happen in 15-20 minutes, but will not be as big as the ones on December 26, 2004 waves.*

Posted at 00:28am, March 29, 2005 – Asiper reports what is being said on Thai-language TV: *The earthquake was also felt in Amphur Huazai, Nakornsrihammarat. At Pang Nga, the governor has just told people to move from the coast shortly after the quake.*

Posted at 00:50am, March 29, 2005 – Asiper reports what is being said on Thai-language TV: *In Bangkok, people in the Grammy building also felt the earthquake, so the officers moves to the downstairs area. At Patong Beach in Phuket people are in confusion. All are using telephones to tell others so the network is busy. Lots of tourists and people in Pang Nga are moving making traffic jams. Foreigners are not as excited as the last time because they have a warning this time.*

Posted at 01:19am, March 29, 2005 – Asiper reports what is being said on Thai-language TV: *People in Hadyai are in confusion after the earthquake. Malaysian tourists and people who stay in the hotels have moved out. Some checked out of the hotels to stay in a bus because they feel safer. The police warn that it is better not to go back to stay in the hotels.*

Posted at 01:19am, March 29, 2005: It is becoming unintentionally funny–CNN International is relentless interrogating everyone they interview wanting to know if there was 'panic when the quake struck.' That seems to be their main concern. CNN clearly has a paucity of reporters monitoring local-language sources or they would have plenty of details to report. With their generic and detached coverage of southeast Asian countries, CNN International usually does not have anything specific to talk about when they report on events in the region.

Posted at 01:37am, March 29, 2005: CNN International anchor Tumi Makgabo is now asking Richard Roth reporting at the United Nations in New York if he has heard if there was panic from the quake... By now the quake news is in all the major media, so 2Bangkok.com will leave it to them to continue to report it.

[A thread about the quake is on the 2Bangkok forum.](#)

For comparison, [the stats of the December 26 quake.](#)

Earlier: 2B newfeed (December 26, 2004-January 3, 2005): [Indonesian quake and tsunamis in Thailand](#)

A tale of two newspapers: Tsunami warning – March 30, 2005

[PM: Wave alert works](#) – Bangkok Post, March 30, 2005

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday expressed his satisfaction with the tsunami alerts issued on Monday night after a powerful undersea quake struck off Indonesia's Sumatra island...

[Scare reveals evacuation plan flaws](#) – The Nation, March 30, 2005

Monday night's tsunami scare in southern Thailand revealed flaws in local authorities' evacuation plans, senior officials warned.

"Many people were left stranded on beach roads because of confusing traffic directions. They could well have died if a tsunami really had hit the shoreline," Phuket Governor Udomsak Aswarangkul said yesterday...

[Thailand's tsunami warning system to be established in one week](#) – TNA, March 29, 2005

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said here on Tuesday that Thailand's tsunami warning system would be established within one week...

And a quick reassurance from TNA:

[Thai tourism unaffected by Indonesian quake](#) – TNA, March 29, 2005

The earthquake in Indonesia on Monday evening has not affected any of Thailand's tourist spots, including those in the southern Andaman region, according to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT)...

Back to [2B newfeed: Indonesian quake and tsunamis in Thailand](#)

Thai-language newspapers – March 30, 2005

March 30, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon – March 30, 2005

* On March 25, Transport Minister Suriya Juengrunroengkit said the PM agrees to open the motorway and Burapavithi expressway (Bangna-Bangpakong) free of charge during Songkarn festival (April 12-18) to afford the facilities for people and to save gas during heavy traffic jams.

* Sudarat Keyuraphan, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, found that there may be corruption in the 300,000 well digging project, because it is only one company bidding. She is very worried about the problem. The primary information she knows is that the company that will win the bid belongs to a TRT party candidate and has the backing of a high level politician.

Thairath – March 30, 2005

* Nakornpanom – Mr. Thaongpub Luangsri, head village of Moo 4 Bannadon, and 10 villagers went to the sheriff to report Mr. Sakorn Piapon, a 50-year-old villager who eats the flesh of dead bodies burnt at the cemetery. The police found that he is a normal person who suddenly killed his mother and was in jail for 15 years. His brother and sister did not accept him when got out of prison so he had to stay in the cemetery asking for food from monks and other people. He ate human flesh for the first time because he was very hungry.

* Sanoh Tienthong will have a 71st birthday party on April 1 and will also do merit at Alpine Golf Lodging. He will not invite individual persons, because everyone knows his birthday. Meanwhile he will see whether Thaksin will come or not, but he thinks Mrs. Yaowapa, Thaksin's sister, will not come.

Tram sign: Touching wires = death + fine

March 30, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Tram sign: Touching wires = death + fine – March 30, 2005

Via BoingBoing: *Seth Godin* posted [*this funny sign from the Newcastle Tramway Authority on his blog*](#).

Thailand's 'war on drugs' had unexpected consequences, new study says

March 30, 2005

Categories: Drugs, The Thaksin Years

[Thailand's 'war on drugs' had unexpected consequences, new study says](#) –

AP, March 30, 2005

...A report on the study, published in the March issue of the *International Journal of Drug Policy*, said 70 percent of intravenous drug users surveyed claimed they stopped using heroin after the campaign began.

However, nearly a third of those who quit said they had switched to smoking methamphetamine or opium, according to the study by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Chiang Mai University Research Institute for Health Sciences and the Northern Drug Treatment Center in Thailand...

Construction on National Route 7 resumes

March 30, 2005

Categories: Cambodia

Construction on National Route 7 resumes

– *The Cambodia Daily*, March, 2005

News from our neighbors: *Construction restarted Sunday on National Route 7 – between Stung Treng town and the border with Laos following warnings last week by National Assembly President Prince Norodom Ranariddh that Cambodia was prepared to use military force against Laos in order to finish upgrading the road...*
National Road 7 was built during now-retired King Norodom Sihanouk's reign from 1955 to 1970, but was damaged during the war in Vietnam and during the civil war in the 1980s and 1990s...

Road Safety In Thailand website

March 30, 2005

Categories: Highways and Roads

[Road Safety In Thailand website](#) – March 30, 2005

Complete set of new cigarette warning labels

March 31, 2005

Categories: Culture and Society, Health



Complete set of new cigarette warning labels
– March 31, 2005

Hamish sends in these scans
of the new health warnings on Thai cigarette packages.

Left: *Smoke and
get old quickly.*

Right: *Smoking gives you lung cancer.*

Below, left to right:
*Smoking makes your mouth smell, Smoke and destroy your
lungs, Smoking Harms Children, Smoke Can Kill People*



Thai-language newspapers – March 31, 2005

March 31, 2005

Categories: Thai Media Project

Worms!

Komchadluek usually has strange and sensational news. They [reported](#) on March 31 that 100,000 worms or caterpillars (*kratoo*) that live on the ground the ground climbed into *jamjuree* trees. People believe these worms have a special instinct and this may be bad omen or portend a natural disaster. This happened in Amphur Muang, Phuket at Thambol Chalong. *Matichon* also reported this the next day, but put the number of worms at 10,000.

Matichon – March 31, 2005

* Mrs. Orapim Pimjaroen, a planner at the Town and Country Planning office in Bangkok said at the seminar "The main index of Economics in 2005" that there are two kinds of city plans which are the concentrates city plan and special plan. She said Bangkok office does not agree if the Suwannapoom plan will be a special economic zone because it will take some land area of Bangkok in Romkao and Ladkrabang quarter to merge with Samutprakarn province. This will deprive peoples' rights by being able to seize or surrender land to the government.

* On March 29, Mr. Naarkun Sittipong, the Permanent Undersecretary of Energy Ministry, agrees to adjust the figure of electric forecast for peak use in 2005 to 20,819 megawatts which is an increase of 7.80% over last year from 19,326 megawatts.

Thairath – March 31, 2005

* Bloody news – At 3:00am on March 30, Phaholyothin Police Station learned of a car crash on Kumpaengpetch Road where Mr. Opas Chaaem, a motorcycle messenger, was hit by a taxi and run over, making his body stuck in the nook at the back wheel. The police found only the green yellow taxi, but there is no driver or documents left in the taxi . Checking the taxi registration number, the police found the taxi owner, but he said he transferred that taxi to another person long ago.

* In Kanjanaburi, EGAT guarantees that the dam will not break . The officer usually checks and there is nothing wrong. Meanwhile, Mr. Chaiyuth Khuntaprab, the earthquake expert, said they need to watch the dam for 24 hours and set up checking equipment. There is worry that Kanjanaburi has not prepared yet for a case of the dam bursting and have no clearly warning plan or the principle to move people. Although the possibility of a broken dam is small, that doe snot mean preparations should be made to protect people.

‘Depreciation of baht unaffected Thai economy:BOT’

March 31, 2005

Categories: Economy

[‘Depreciation of baht unaffected Thai economy:BOT’](#) – TNA, March 31, 2005

We just like the title of this article.

A Region Booming Among Asia's Economic Giants

March 31, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Southeast Asia Rising: A Region Booming Among Asia's Economic Giants](#) – March 31, 2005

Interesting conference: *Thailand remains one of the fastest growing economies in Asia, and its economic surge reflects broader positive developments across Southeast Asia...*

Thailand on fire

March 31, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thailand on fire – 9:25am, March 31, 2005

CNN International weathercaster Mair Ramos is showing a NOAA satellite image of northern Thailand, Myanmar and Laos showing the region dotted with fires "highlighting the severe forest fire problem" that is "caused by slash and burn farming in the region." We have checked the NOAA site, but cannot find the same image... If anyone can find this image, but let us know.

Strange intro

March 31, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

Strange intro – April 4, 2005

Peter was the first of several people to point out this incredibly bizarre and rambling intro to a Q&A column on autos: [Shedding light on flashing lights](#) (*The Nation*, March 31, 2005). Beyond demonstrating that *Nation* editors are not paying attention to what goes into their newspaper, it is nonetheless an interesting insight to how many young Thais views foreigners living in the country.

Many Americans and Europeans choose to spend their retirements in Thailand. Thais are generally very nice to foreigners, and we sometimes tend to honour them more than fellow Thais. The majority of foreigners who come to Thailand are good people and don't cause problems. But some capitalise on our generosity and use Thailand as a hiding place to get away from crimes they have committed back home. Some even go further and start committing new crimes in this country. Today there are certain foreigners who rely on being "farang", and trick Thai women from the provinces into marrying them. In return they give the women a small amount of money every month in exchange for being able to live in the Kingdom permanently. In the process they also get a partner in bed.

Some of these farangs take advantage of legal loopholes by setting up independent organisations and find ways to publicise themselves. They go to the provinces, donated a petty sum to schools, or take photos at restaurants and small factories in the villages, all so they can send the pictures abroad and claim they are doing charity work. They are angling for support money from international organisations. They lie to people and say that they work for an NGO, even though their work does not benefit the public and is merely a commercial enterprise.

These foreigners, who generally are not well off, usually live in small provinces, like in the Northeast. Sometimes these farangs even trick fellow farangs. As far as I know, the Thai authorities are carefully watching these people and waiting to get their hands on evidence to go after them. Without evidence the police could be accused of violating the bad farangs' rights.

But today, I have some questions from a good farang concerning the use of indicator lights in Thailand...

More on the 'Strange intro' – April 5, 2005

Concerning the 'Strange intro' from yesterday, we commented "Beyond demonstrating that *Nation* editors are not paying attention to what goes into their newspaper..."

Today a sub-editor at *The Nation* wrote to clarify: *Not true. It was let through basically unchanged by the sub-editors' desk in the hope it would stir some controversy via letters to the editor and thereby force something to be done about these mad uninformed ramblings that appear from time to time. The responsibility of what goes into each section of the paper is the responsibility of that section's editor. The section editor in this case, being who he is, probably saw nothing wrong with the story...*

Dubai tower to be world's tallest building

March 31, 2005

[Dubai tower to be world's tallest building](#)

— AP, March 31, 2005

... "We're going to records never approached before. Not only will it be the tallest building, it will be the tallest manmade tower," said Robert Booth, a director at Emaar Properties, the Dubai construction firm developing the spire-shaped, stainless-steel-skinned tower.

...He refused to reveal the total number of stories, but a mock elevator at the site held a button for a 189th floor. The building's 10 foot sway in the wind means designers need to prevent whiplash in the ultra-long cables hauling up 50 elevators...

Drug-crazed US tourist found hanged in hotel

March 31, 2005

[Drug-crazed
US tourist found hanged in hotel](#) – TNA,
March 31, 2005

Troubles in the South – April 2005

April 1, 2005

Categories: The Thai Deep South

Troubles in the South – April 2005

[Troubles in the South index page](#)

[Fear stalks Thai Muslim south, cripples economy](#) – Reuters, April 29, 2005

Police leaflet – April 27, 2005

Translation of a leaflet distributed by police in Yala:

*Transfer your eyes to be capital
The country needs participation, Yala residents' safety is in your eyes.
Buying clues concerning security, crime and drugs
The provincial police constabulary of Yala needs information and clues that lead to tranquility
Your clues have value from 300 to 10 million baht
You do not need to tell your name, information. There will be no record, photo, or inquiry.
We need only the truth that you know and you see
Method: Call to inform the information or clue including your bank account, your useful information and lead to the officer. We will transfer money to you immediately.
The call is 3 baht. You may get 10 million baht. Call 0-7321-1800 or 0-1092-2678.
The Investigative Provincial Police Constabulary of Yala*

[Bangkok bomb threat dismissed](#) – TNA, April 26, 2005

Thailand's government has dismissed bomb threats to Bangkok as rumour and speculation. Recent newspaper reports had misinterpreted the police order to increase security in the capital city, the Interior Minister Pol. Gen. Chidchai Vanasatidya said on Tuesday.

The chief of the Special Branch Police had earlier reportedly warned of a possible bomb attack in Bangkok.

"There is no such threat. He did not say so, but the media has misinterpreted it. He only said there was a need to tighten security," said the interior minister...

Yesterday: [Revenge bombing in city feared](#) – Bangkok Post, April 26, 2005

Police are on the lookout for a separatist who has arrived in Bangkok and may be preparing a car bomb in the capital on the first anniversary of the fatal crackdown on militants at Krue Se mosque in Pattani province on April 28 last year, a police source said.

A reliable source at the Metropolitan Police Bureau said yesterday that deputy Bangkok police chief Pol Maj-Gen Krisada Pankongchuen had a meeting with senior investigators from all sub-divisions of Bangkok police over the weekend and discussed the arrival of the suspected separatist terrorist...



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Yala

Dr. Has reports: April 22, 2005 – Thousands of Yala residents from many Amphurs in Yala came out to protest the terrorists. The banner below reads 'understand, access, development.'



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Also: [‘A tale of two newspapers’ archives](#)

[Queen condemns southern ‘brutes’ – Urges nation to decry bandits, whose actions are ‘devoid of humanity’](#) – Bangkok Post, April 24, 2005

...*"I must reiterate that my intention is not to tell you to take up arms to fight the enemy. That is not what we should do... but we have to help protect the country without holding a weapon."*

The Thai people, the owners of the country, can no longer afford to stand by since a grave danger now faced not only people in southern Thailand but the welfare of the whole nation as well as its future, she said. Thais have to help each other just as they did during the tsunami disaster, which had impressed her and made her proud to be Thai. "It is time. And I invite all of you to think about what you can do because the danger is upon the nation," Her Majesty said.

Earlier: [HM The Queen's speech](#) – November 19, 2004



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Yala

Dr. Has reports: April 21, 2005 – *A phone booth in Amphur Raman, Yala Province burned by insurgents this week. This is the seventh phone booth vandalized by separatists recently.*



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Yala – April 18, 2005

Dr. Has reports: April 18, 2005 – *A fire burns in a field of Amphur Muang and Ban Kuelae, Amphur Raman, Yala which damaged more than 100 rai and caused villagers evacuate in a disorderly manner. A strong wind made the fire spread quickly.*

[JTIC Briefing: Thai insurgents widen their target base](#) – Jane's, April 14

...*JTIC has learned from reliable sources that Thai intelligence agencies believe two Syrian nationals may have been involved in both the Hat Yai blasts and a car bomb attack in Sungai Kolok on 17 February. These suspicions throw into sharper relief the probability of some degree of active foreign involvement in the current campaign, in addition to the external funding that is understood to have fuelled its growth...*



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Yala – April 12, 2005

This is a billboard campaigning for peace in the deep south: ... *People, put your faith and respect only the one God, Allah. And Nabimuhammad is the religious diplomat of Allah. Certainly, you will get the real success...*

[Nobel Peace laureate Ebadi calls for troop withdrawal, dialogue to end bloodshed in southern Thailand](#) – AP, April 10, 2005

Scare tactics – April 9, 2005

In the last few days this rumor-mongering email (right) has been widely circulated warning that terrorists are already in Bangkok and that everyone should avoid major shopping areas.

Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2005 12:14 PM
Subject: ก่อการร้ายในกรุงเทพ -- urgent!!!

มีเรื่องแจ้งให้เพื่อนๆทราบทุกคน

ช่วยบอกต่อคนใกล้ชิดด้วย

ทราบข่าวมาจากเพื่อนพี่ เขาเพิ่งออกมาจากรัฐสภาว่า ได้มีกลุ่มก่อการร้ายเข้ามาในกรุงเทพแล้ว

ในช่วงนี้ไปจนถึงหลังสงกรานต์

ให้หลีกเลี่ยงจุดที่อาจจะเป็นที่ก่อเหตุ ได้แก่

1. เซ็นทรัล ลาดพร้าว

‘Suspicious item’ found

Posted at 20:01, April 7, 2005 – The Nation Channel is reporting a suspicious item, approximately 4kgs, found in Central Latprao on the fifth floor (The item was in fact on the second floor, not the fifth). The area is cordoned off while they await the bomb squad.

Posted at 20:43, April 7, 2005 – No updates on this story yet...

Posted at 21:01, April 7, 2005 – The Nation Channel is reporting the item was not a bomb. When checked, it was found to be a bottle of water and a newspaper.

Thai-language editorials – April 6, 2005

‘Siang Sao Long’ writes in his column in *Manager Online* on April 5, 2005 that he worried that there will be coup d’etat if the government does not start to demonstrate that it can see through the terrorists’ plans.

Bomb in the South

Posted at 10:04am, April 6, 2005 – The Nation Channel is reporting a bomb went off at Sungaikolok railway track, Narathiwat. One person found suspicious material in a planting basin so she pulled it out and it exploded. This happened shortly before 10:00am.

[Thai government urges citizens on alert in Bangkok](#) – Reuters, April 5, 2005

The Thai government urged people in Bangkok on Tuesday to be on the alert for signs of militant attacks following the bombing of an airport in the commercial centre of the south by suspected Muslim extremists.

"Please help us watch out for any threat because if it happens, it will hurt every one of us," said Defence Minister Thammarak Israngura in the first such appeal since separatist violence broke out in the far south 15 months ago...

[‘No sign yet of bomb attacks in Bangkok’](#) – TNA, April 4, 2005

...The explosions at the airport, a hotel and a department store in the southern town of Hat Yai were clearly the work of the BRN Co-ordinate, a separatist movement operating in Thailand's three southern border provinces, Pol. Lt. Gen. Proong Boonpadong, a Special Branch police commissioner told reporters on Monday.

...But the public should not panic as there has been no indication so far that Bangkok would be a targeted, Pol. Lt. Gen. Proong said.

The authorities did not plan to disable mobile phone services within airports, he said...

Also: [Govt agrees to step up security measures to ‘APEC-level’](#) – TNA, April 4, 2005

The Thai government has agreed to beef up security measures at the country's all airports, railways stations, bus terminals and other major public places to a highest international standard level equivalent to those in place during the kingdom's host of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Meetings two years ago ([APEC 2003](#)), according to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Pol. Gen. Chidchai Vanasatidya.

[SONGKHLA BOMBINGS](#) – April 3, 2005

[Troubles in the South index page](#)

Sanoh: PM is certain to come to my party

April 1, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Sanoh: PM is certain to come to my party](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 1, 2005

Thai Rak Thai chief adviser and influential Wang Nam Yen faction leader Sanoh Thienthong said he was certain Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra would attend his birthday celebrations even though he earlier said he had other plans...

Thailand has more than enough Bangkoks

April 1, 2005

Categories: Communities

[Thailand has more than enough Bangkoks](#) – Bangkok Post,

April 1, 2005

So, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak wants to see 10 more Bangkoks in upcountry areas. The idea may raise eyebrows, but it is not as far-fetched as it may seem. Some provinces have already followed in Bangkok's footsteps...

Old communities have been disintegrating with no end in sight, thanks to past development and official "beautification" efforts, particularly in the historic Rattanakosin city. These deleterious effects are not confined to the capital city alone but have spread to surrounding provinces, which have become Bangkok's satellite towns by default...

"If we can develop upcountry provinces to be like Bangkok, with 10 Bangkoks or Shanghais throughout the country, imagine what Thailand will be like," he said at a meeting with business leaders on Monday...

Ads for `germ-killing' air-cons suspended

April 1, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ads for `germ-killing'
air-cons suspended – Manufacturers told to back up claims](#) –

Bangkok Post, April 1, 2005

The Consumer Protection Board (CPB) has suspended advertising for 11 air-conditioner models until it determines if claims about their germ-killing properties are misleading or overstated.

The brands affected are Saijo Denki, Amana, LG, Carrier, Hitachi, Panasonic, Samsung, York, Daikin, Mitsubishi Electric Mr Slim and Mitsubishi Heavy Duty.

Most of the companies have advertised that their air-conditioners are able to kill germs, bacteria or viruses, of contain purification systems that provide "99.99% clean air" to users...

The bad omens of 2005 are building

April 1, 2005

Categories: Local Beliefs, The Thaksin Years

[OVERDRIVE:](#)

[The bad omens of 2005 are building](#)

– *The Nation*, April 1, 2005

...Morality has really been turned upside down. The people are indifferent to sin (mai mee khuam la ai to bab). This is another bad omen. The youth do not want to learn and like to enjoy life beyond their means. Politicians and businessmen have no respect for the old values. They want quick money.

...These bad omens might not add up to 16, the amount cited in the old prophecy in which King Pasendi in Nibata Jataka talked with Lord Buddha. Still they are bad omens that all Thais have to watch for if they want to avert the catastrophe just beyond the horizon. The prophecy has been written whether you like it or not.

Thaksin's 'right' quote

April 2, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

Thaksin's 'right' quote – April 2, 2005

Thaksin's 'right' quote at the parliamentary debate on the South was widely reported in many different ways:

[*Bangkok Post*](#): *"We are human, and humans make things right or wrong. I am now determined to undo what I have done wrong in the past," he said.*

The Nation (along with a goofy photo of Thaksin on the front page): *"You can't be 100-percent right or wrong. I have always tried to right any wrongs. Sometimes I get it right, sometimes not so right. I agree that violence breeds violence."*

The Nation website only carried half of the quote (right).



Below is a translation of Thaksin's complete initial statement from *Matichon*. It started with Democrat leader Abisit submitting 9 points to address in the conflict in the South. In Thai style he made a joke with wordplay saying something like: "I know you like number 9 so I have 9 proposals, but the urgent one is number 4 because I like number 4." (Number 9 was the party number for Thaksin's TRT in the last election and number 4 was the Democrat party number.)

Thaksin: I appreciate that the leader of the Democrat party gives me advice, but we have to accept that no human is 100% right or 100% wrong. We try to solve in ways that sometime is right and sometime is wrong. When I took a rest in Japan, I had time to reflect. For 9 suggestions of Abhisit, some are quite the same as we had, but it was not reported to people so they would know. I understand that we have the same idea on seeing the peace and the right way of practice. I am sincere every time about setting up a commission such as the independent commission investigating the Takbai event. I will follow what it investigates and never intervene until they will finish investigation and make a proposal to rectify. The commission proposes to mend and we follow by passing a cabinet resolution. We always mend things, but it might not be systematic. For the National Reconciliation Commission, it will have complete freedom. If they want me to support any activities, I will only agree and stand with them.

For the 4 policies, the first one; zone division, actually we don't divide into zones. That is not the policy. For the case of Takbai, I agree that everything must be fair and disclosed, but something cannot be revealed, because we have to protect the witnesses.

Economically we have tried, although it is halted, we must continue. For education, I agree that we accept that we neglected it, but we will improve. For culture and understanding, we will do 100% and monitor the officers' performance.

For foreign work, such as sending Thai military to Iraq, we send the technical and medical military for humanity because Muslim people are in trouble. This satisfied Iraq and increased cooperation among nations. The government will implement and support the National Reconciliation Commission.

Why I immediately respond to the leader of the Democrats is because I appreciate his creative advice so I give his honor to say that I admire you for your advice and I accept your 9 proposals. We must work together.

Songkhla Bombings

April 3, 2005

Categories: The Thai Deep South

Posted at 21:07, April 3, 2005 – Reports of bombings in Songkhla...

Posted at 21:18, April 3, 2005 – Thai-language TV is reporting that bombs were detonated at Carrefour and Hat Yai airport. This is a serious escalation of the [violence in the deep south](#) outside of the three southern provinces. (Thanks to Asiper and Stephen for their early tip-offs to this news.)

Posted at 21:38, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *A bomb in the center of Had Yai at 8:40pm. The first is in front of Carrefour—18 person were injured and 2 died and after that at Had Yai Airport—lots of people were injured (from Manager Online). Channel 9 reports that there was also a bomb at Green World Hotel and that one died and ten were injured at Hat Yai Airport.*

Posted at 21:51, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Channel 9 states that no one was injured at Green World Hotel. All three bombs were remote control bombs. The guard at the Green World Hotel can remember two persons on motorcycle and they put a suitcase in front of Green World and later it exploded. Police are questioning the guard.*

Posted at 22:03, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Nation Channel reports at Hat Yai Airport 1 died and 15 were injured. At Carrefour no one died, 9 were injured—3 seriously.*

Posted at 22:05, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Nation Channel says at 9:30 police warn and are checking at the airport. They suspect that there may be a bomb on the second floor of the car park.*

Posted at 22:07, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Had Yai intelligence unit said the during the upcoming Songkarn they may find a car bomb again (from The Nation channel).*

Posted at 22:10, April 3, 2005 – For reference: From the Thai-language press: [80-day plan to form Pattani state – Betong to be new capital city](#) – Manager Online, February 20, 2005

Posted at 22:13, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Channel 9 reports that Suriya Juengrungrongkit, Transport Minister, will go to Had Yai tomorrow morning at 7am.*

Posted at 22:14, April 3, 2005 – 2Bangkok.com editor Ron Morris notes: *With the recent moves the government has made to unite with the opposition and stop drastic hard-line measures, the separatist forces in the South might feel compelled to act forcefully to regain momentum.*

Posted at 22:18, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Channel 9 says that police have checkpoints around the city.*

Posted at 22:20, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *From Channel 7: 7e injured were sent to Songkhlanakarin Hospital, Krungtep Hadyai Hospital, and Ratyindee Hospital.*

Posted at 22:26, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Pravit Wongsuwan, army commander, asks people to help watch for terrorists. The PM will have a meeting tomorrow about this situation.*

Posted at 22:28, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *One of injured gives interview that it is lucky that an airplane was not parked nearby. The bomb only hurt the passengers who were sitting at the airport. At Carrefour, the bomb was in a garbage bin in front of the main entryway (from Channel 7).*

Posted at 22:31, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *All Hat Yai Airport flights are canceled (from Channel 7).*

Posted at 22:32, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *The Deputy Commander Chief of Region 4 said there may around 30 injured at the airport (from Channel 7).*

Posted at 22:34, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Police are checking a suspicious suitcase on the second floor and also in the car park at the airport (from Channel 7).*

Posted at 22:37, April 3, 2005 – Still no word of this event on *The Nation* website.

Posted at 22:39, April 3, 2005 – From *TNA*: [Three bomb blasts in Hat Yai kill two](#)

Posted at 22:41, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Channels 7 and 9 are reporting that at the Hat Yai Big C, a suspicious material was found. It is being checked by the police.*

Posted at 22:43, April 3, 2005 – From the AP: [Bombs in southern Thailand airport, department store kill at least two, hurt 15](#)
...Witnesses said the explosion at the airport took place near the check-in counters and that all flights leaving the airport were immediately canceled. However, an airport official later said that departures were continuing...

AP and various sources are stating that the hotel is 'Dream World Hotel.' As far as 2Bangkok.com can ascertain, the hotel is actually 'Green World Hotel.'

Posted at 22:47, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Deputy Minister of the Interior, Sermsak Pongpanich, said the terrorists have pressure in the three provinces in the South (Yala, Nara, and Pattani) where they were strickly checked, so they expanded to another province. He said the terrorists are audacious because Had Yai is a commercial town and has lots of people (from Nation Channel ITV).*

Posted at 22:47, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *The Deputy Songkhla Governor has just said that the two suspicious materials found at the Hat Yai Airport were not bombs.*

Posted at 23:11, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Channel 11 is reporting one foreigner died in the blast at the Hat Yai Airport. NOTE: No other news source has reported a foreigner dying so far.*

Posted at 23:13, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *For urgent info people can call 1341. To check the list of people who died and were injure they can call the Narenthorn Center at 1669.*

Posted at 23:17, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *From Channel 11: Some of the injured have their entrails ripped open or their arms or legs torn off.*

Posted at 23:19, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *On Channel 11 the Tourism Police are reporting two foreigners—they are checking if they are French or American—were injured. Foreigners can get information by calling 1155.*

Posted at 23:22, April 3, 2005 – Several sources in the South and Deep South have informed 2Bangkok.com that mobile phone signals in the South have been turned off to prevent further remote control bombs from being detonated.

Posted at 23:25, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *The Nation Channel* is saying that the Deputy Chief of Public health says 52 are injured. Hospitals in Songkhla have enough equipment and blood on hand to deal with the situation. A child who was ripped open was operated on urgently.

Posted at 23:37, April 3, 2005 – ITV is showing photos sent from mobile phones from the Hat Yai Airport and Carrefour. We have screen captures of these photos and will post in a few minutes...



Posted at 23:41, April 3, 2005 – First photos of the bombings

ITV showed the first photos of the Hat Yai bombings taken by mobile phones with cameras (left and right).



Posted at 23:48, April 3, 2005 – All the Thai-language channels have returned to their regular programming.

Posted at 23:56, April 3, 2005 – Asiper reports: *The Nation Channel* is quoting Boonchoi Kongsri, president of the Teachers' Association, who says that the situation in Songkhla is not safe and the mistaken government policy made the situation more serious.

Posted at 00:06, April 4, 2005 – *The Nation* is posting its first photos and news about the incident on its website.

Posted at 00:36, April 4, 2005 – Asiper reports: *From The Nation Channel: a Deputy Chief of Public health has just said that there are there are 2 dead and 66 injured. At Had Yai Hospital, 25 persons (1 American, 2 Brunei), at Songkhlanakarin Hospital, 12 persons (1 French), at Krungtep Hadyai Hospital 8 persons, at Sikarin 7 persons, and at Ratyindee 6 persons.*

Posted at 00:45, April 4, 2005 – [TERROR IN HAT YAI: Blasts hit airport, hotel and Carrefour](#), *The Nation*

Posted at 00:48, April 4, 2005 – Asiper reports: *The head of police in Songkhla says police have clues and a sketch of the terrorist, but are keeping the info secret now. The Deputy Governor of Songkhla says one of the dead is Mr. Nattapon Jaroensin, 39-years-old and a Had Yai resident. He went to pick up his wife at the airport. His son was seriously injured also (from The Nation channel).*

Posted at 00:53, April 4, 2005 – Asiper reports: *The Songkhla Governor said most of the serious injuries were from the Had Yai Airport because the bomb was inside the terminal (from The Nation channel).*

Posted at 00:58, April 4, 2005 – Asiper reports: *Before the accident, the Songkhla Governor was recovering in the hospital in Had Yai. When he heard about the situation, he took off the saline drip and went to visit the injured at many hospitals.*

Posted at 01:01, April 4, 2005 – All the Thai-language channels are returning to regular broadcasting...

Posted at 09:19, April 4, 2005 – **Update:** Despite what the wire services are still reporting, the name of the hotel where one of the bombs was planted is Green World Palace Hotel in Songkhla, also known as GW Hotel (not 'Dream World Hotel near Hat Yai'). This error could be persisting because TNA is also [reporting it wrongly](#). *The Nation* [has the name right](#) as does the [Post](#). The hotel can be seen in the third photo down on [this page](#).

More on [Troubles in the South](#) and [Nationalism and Right-wing Politics](#)

Pen-ek Ratanaruang: Beach hosts film shoot

April 3, 2005

Categories: Film and TV

Pen-ek Ratanaruang: [Beach hosts film shoot](#) – *The Nation*, April 3, 2005

Patong Beach served as the location yesterday for the first day of shooting in Thailand for the film “Invisible Waves”, directed by Pen-ek Ratanaruang...

Bhutan bans smoking in world first

April 4, 2005

Bhutan bans smoking in world first –

April 4, 2005

Don Entz answered our question, "has any nation ever banned cigarettes?"

by pointing out this recent development: [Bhutan](#)

[bans smoking in world first](#) – *China Daily*, December 18,

2004

Worker still paying back debt after 19 years

April 4, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Worker](#)

[still paying back debt after 19 years](#) – Bangkok

Post, April 4, 2005

Nineteen years ago, Sawai Kornkanok borrowed 5,000 baht from a loan shark. Today, he is still paying back the loan at 7,100 baht a month.

The 48-year-old state railway employee said at the time he took the money he signed a contract that put his loan at 200,000 baht with 5% monthly interest.

He said he signed the contract because he needed the money. When he failed to make payments, the loan shark took him to court and the court ordered him to repay the loan according to the terms of the contract...

Peoples' Calendar

April 4, 2005

Categories: Human Rights

Peoples' Calendar –

April 4, 2005

Translated from the “People’s Calendar Ratsadorn Damnern”—a Thai-language calendar that lists important human rights events in Thai history.

1 April 2448 or 1 April 1905

Day of abolition of slavery in Thailand in the King Rama

V Era. So today is 100th anniversary of the abolition of slavery. (Report by Mr. Wichai Narapaiboon, Thai Labour Museum Foundation)

2 April 2518 or 2 April 1975

Nisit Jirasopon, student of Chaingmai University, the chief reporter of Athipat Newspaper was murdered by being thrown off a train at Tambon Donzai Amphur Tubsakae Prajuabkirikhun province while he was travelling to report the news of the Nakornsrithammarat Governor being fired.

The 'How Come' Deal 2004-2005

April 5, 2005

Categories: Subway, The Thaksin Years

A tale of two newspapers – Thaksin's son and the subway advertising contract – April 12, 2004

For once, the *Bangkok Post* has a lot more detail about the deal. However it omits speculation from Thai-language papers about the reason for offering the concession to Thaksin's son—so that the government will pay a good price to buy back the subway concession.

Thaksin's son gets deal from subway company – translated and summarized from *Prachachat Thurakij*, April 9-12, 2004

BMCL is trying to please Premier Thaksin by offering a deal to How Come Co. Ltd. (an advertising agency run by Premier Thaksin's son). This will ensure that the government will buy the concession at a very good price.

Competition for subway contract – Firm run by PM's son seeks a share – *Bangkok Post*, April 12, 2004

...Triads, which includes subway operator Bangkok Metro (BMCL) as a major shareholder, holds a 25-year concession to manage advertising on the subway system. Tipsuda Yimwilai, the company's chief executive officer, says ad space, available for agencies to lease since November, is now 80% fully booked, with the remaining 20% just awaiting final documentation.

But a surprise announcement over the weekend that How Come Entertainment, owned by Panthongtae Shinawatra, the only son of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was angling to win an indoor advertising contract for the subway has thrown the plans for Triads Network into jeopardy.

Triads' sales could fall by half if How Come successfully gains a contract from Bangkok Metro. The maneuvering has also raised questions about whether a deal was struck between the government and BMCL in order to allow the new ad provider entry into the market...

Capitalists with political connections grabbing subway advertising and telecom – translated and summarized from *Bangkok Biznews*, April 22, 2004

How Come Advertising is grabbing all the golden areas of the subway while the private sectors yell with fury about BMCL's rule for a monopoly on telecommunication systems inside subway stations while other groups will have to pay heavy rent at 80 million baht a year. However, How Come has not signed a deal with BMCL yet.

Triad Network Co.Ltd has to cut revenues 50% (80-90 million baht) to allow How Come Co. Ltd (the advertising agency run by Mr. Phanthongthae Shinnawatra – Premier Thaksin's son) to grab prime areas inside all the stations. Furthermore, BMCL is cutting down the contract period with Triad Network from 25 years to 10 years with an extension every 5 years to please the stock buyers through the restructure before offering an IPOs.

So far Triad Network has sold 80% of the advertisable area in subway stations for consumer products, automobiles and electronics. Therefore, Triad Network has to send the message to those advertising agencies who have purchased packages from Triad to cancel the advertising package or change the advertising area to be more flexible while eliminating the 10% charge on the agencies. On the other hand, the agencies will have to contact How Come if they insist to rent the prime areas.

This causes a 50% cut in revenue since revenue sharing depends on advertising rates along with the share holding rate. Even though this change will shake the confidence of the agency, everybody will accept this fact while losing the right to set up advertising on plasma TVs or printing advertising tabloid like VGI global has did at Skytrain stations. The company will focus on MRTA PR and the outdoor advertising instead.

Triad Network is a joint venture between BMCL and the Yimwilai family (Triple A Co.Ltd.) with a share holding ratio of 56:44 and registered capital of 3 million baht with a plan to boost capital to 20 million baht by the end of this week. MRTA will run the PR section on their own and leave Triad Network to run the advertising in some sections of the stations. Triple A also runs the advertising on four sides of Baiyoke Tower.

How Come said they have been invited by BMCL and assigned to work on the advertising on the tunnel sections.

BMCL said they have held stock in three subsidiaries relating to BMCL: Triad Network (subway advertising), Metro Mall (subway retailer), and Radianz Communication Network (basic telecom in subway), and they thought that How Come will bring more benefit than Triad network—at least 3 times the amount Triad Network offers due the higher prices for advertising. BMCL has full right to cancel the old deal since the new deal offers much more benefit than the old one without calling a new bid since it is the joint venture with BMCL.

Even though How Come claimed that they have not signed the deal with BMCL yet, the news source said that How Come has signed a contract with BMCL on the advertising on the platform level as well as the special event area with a monthly rent of 60,000 baht in all 18 stations. The ads will be in positions opposite the screen doors. This will include ads which will be change every few seconds with light reflection creating animation—the most efficient advertising form.

Furthermore, Mr Siriwat Kajornprasart – son of Maj Gen Sanan Kajornprasat (the secretariate of Democrat Party) has grabbed the deal for the Bangkok Station free magazine for those who ride Skytrain and Subway – now in its 3rd issue. This is another form of advertising to serve 300,000-400,000 Skytrain passengers.

CP's True Telecommunication is grabbing the concession on the telecommunication installation in all 18 stations. Initially, AIS is offering the telecom deal with BMCL, but BMCL refused to let AIS handle the project since they consider True as a more viable partner since True has the experience in both conventional phones and mobile phone while AIS only has expertise in mobile phones. BMCL Board of Directors do not want those related to Shin Corp to monopolize subway deals. However, BMCL still allows other telecoms to manage fiber optic cables since MRTA just hired True to deal with system installation but not management.

The telecommunication system inside subway station is a very critical part of the subway system and it has the potential to be a money maker since ATM machines, public phones, and mobile phones must be usable even inside subway stations – thus those companies need to rent air time as well as communication cells.

Furthermore, BMCL has asked NRC (BMCL's subsidiary) to have exclusive rights to handle the antenna for telecom systems while other telecom companies need to pay 80 million baht annual rent to use both fiber optic systems and mobile phone systems which causes lots of anger from other telecom firms.

AIS has just installed only one telecom station at Thai Cultural Center Station to support the the land owned by Khunying Potjaman Shinnawatra (Premier Thaksin's wife). However AIS and DTAC are still not able to conclude the telecom deal with BMCL since the annual lease is now at 80 million baht/year.

However the installation of the telecom system by the private sector without permission from TOT PCL and CAT PCL and the collection of monthly rent from telecom installation by MRTA/BMCL are violating the TOT Act of BE 2497(1954) and the State Enterprise capitalization Act of BE 2542 (1999) which states that TOT and CAT are the ONLY authorized agencies who can install the telecom system in Thailand unless TOT or CAT have granted a concession to the private sector to handle this job until the National Telecom Board is set up. Therefore, the telecom stations installed inside subway stations must be confiscated and transferred to TOT or CAT.

Note: Expect a court fight between BMCL (and MRTA) against TOT PCL and DTAC soon on telecom deal inside subway stations.

More on 'lucky' subway deals – April 23, 2004

The *Post* again has lots of detail and *The Nation* takes it farther by recounting all the influential persons and businesses involved in the subway. This is the kind of thing Thais ruefully refer to as 'lucky'—when well-connected people have extraordinary success in business.

Subway cake carved up – PM's son's company in talks with BMCL – *Bangkok Post*, April 22, 2004

Under pressure from Bangkok Metro Company Ltd (BMCL), Triads Networks Co has agreed to amend its sole advertising concession for the Bangkok subway to allow How Come Entertainment Co, a new firm led by Panthongtae Shinawatra, to offer lucrative advertising services for the new transport system. Triads and BMCL sealed the amendments just before the long Songkran holidays in a deal questioned by many as rife with political overtones.

Triads, an ad placement agency partly owned by the Yimwilai family, agreed to reduce its original 25-year concession to 10 years with a five-year renewal option. Space allocated for media placements within the subway system was also cut in half under the new contract.

How Come, formed just last November, recently announced that it was building up its business contacts including a deal to import Japanese cartoon series to be aired on Channel 3, controlled by BEC World Plc.

Mr Panthongtae, the 23-year-old only son of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, is chief executive and president of How Come, a company whose other young executives include Aiyakup Kritboonyaleai, Hana Tassanavalai and Nantasit Jamsomboon.

Aiming to become an integrated entertainment group, How Come expects revenue of up to 100 million baht this year.

...Triads had originally held sole rights to ad placements within the subway system. But under the "agreed" changes to the contract with BMCL, Triads will lose rights to place ads in station platforms, offer multimedia telecommunications services and event marketing.

... Industry executives expressed resignation about the changes, seemingly the result of clear political connections.

"We're now completely confused about who to deal with regarding commercial ad space. No one has ever told us what the situation is about," said one media buyer.

Others said the entry of How Come was not surprising, given the lack of transparency and nepotism that have characterised state contracts in the past.

Advertiser upset about Shinawatra move – The Nation, April 22, 2004

Triads Networks Co Ltd, a joint venture between Bangkok Metro Co Ltd (BMCL) and the Yimwilai family, established to develop advertising in Bangkok's new subway system, said yesterday it would lose 50 per cent of its business following an unexpected revision of the concession contract by BMCL this month... How Come Co Ltd, an agency set up by Panthongtae Shinawatra, son of the prime minister, is reportedly bidding for the rights to market the 20 kilometres of trackside advertising between Bang Sue and Hua Lampong, which is expected to generate more than 20 per cent of total revenue of the entire project.

METRO DEALS: 'In crowd' line up at the subway – The Nation, April 23, 2004

Thailand's first subway system has fast become a goldmine for businesses with connections to major political parties.

A source at BMCL said that How Come Entertainment Co Ltd, an advertising agency set up by Panthongtae Shinawatra, son of the prime minister, had submitted a bid for the rights to market advertising space for the 20km of tunnels between Bang Sue and Hua Lampong.

It will also launch a new kind of advertising on tunnel walls – illuminated full-motion displays which passengers will be able to see when they look through the dark windows of moving trains, he said.

...Suriyasai Katasila, secretary of the Campaign for Popular Democracy group, yesterday questioned if such deals were "benefit sharing" among people associated with national politics.

'Deals' needs MRTA's seal – The Nation, April 24, 2004

Compared to earlier articles on this issue, this one is more sedate, attributing news about connected people involved in subway deals to 'media reports.'

No concession or subcontract work granted by the subway company can be valid without the approval of the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand (MRTA), its governor said yesterday...

Bangkok Metro Co Ltd (BMCL) had been reported as awarding jobs to telephone company True Corp and cell-phone operator Advanced Info Service to install fibre-optic cables in the subway line so mobile phones can be used underground...

So far the only deal presented to the MRTA was for Triads Network, a subsidiary of BMCL, to rent out advertising space in the stations.

"Triads' management did not guarantee a high return for us, so the MRTA asked them to revise their plan," Prapat said.

BMCL renegotiated Triads' contract this week, giving Triads less prime space in subway tunnels to sell to advertisers.

Media reports have said BMCL is planning to award the rights to another firm, while the How Come Entertainment advertising agency founded by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's son Panthongtae was keen on the subway advertising business.

Tale of two newspapers: Subway deal for Thaksin's son go or no go? – May 15, 2004

PM's son's company expected to win deal for subway system – Bangkok Post, May 15, 2004

How Come Entertainment Co, a new entertainment firm owned by Panthongtae Shinawatra, is expected to be awarded the sole concession to offer advertising space along the tunnels of the new Bangkok subway...

Putting the brakes on the Traid Network/How Come deal – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, May 13, 2004

MRTA is putting the brakes on the Traid Network/How Come deal since it violates the MRTA Act of BE 2545 which prohibits an advertising agency to subcontract to other agencies.

Furthermore, MRTA feel worried about safety of the ads in the subway stations since no flammable materials are allowed to be used in the subway system except those that produce nontoxic smoke.

Subway advertising deal closed – translated and summarized from *Manager Daily*, August 20, 2004

How Come claim they have successfully made a 500-million baht deal with BMCL and MRTA for the ads in Subway stations ([Manager Daily – August 20, 2004](#)).

The ad from How Come will show up in Subway stations in October 2004.

BMCL-MRTA following the order from Suriya for revenue sharing without lowering subsidiaries – translated and summarized from *Prachachat Thurakij*, November 4-7, 2004

BMCL and MRTA have agreed to make a settlement on revenue sharing on the Subway. Mobile phone services inside subway rolling stock will be done by MRTA. Radianz will have to handle the system maintenance instead.

MRTA governor will submit this settlement plan to the Board on November 10. After the plan has been approved, BMCL will start commercial development as soon as possible.

The revenue sharing scheme can be described as follows:

*1) 7% of revenue from the 3rd party who pay rent to BMCL for ATM installation, public phones, and How Come Advertising signs will be handled to MRTA
2) Better revenue sharing scheme from subsidiaries such as Triads Network Communication (56% owned by BMCL) and Metromall Development (60% owned by BMCL) from the fixed 25% to BMCL to the gradual increased revenue sharing from 25-30% to BMCL. BMCL will pay 7% of that revenue to MRTA. However further revenue to MRTA will be under discussion.*

3) Radianz Communication Network Co.Ltd. (75% owned by BMCL) will have to transfer all telecom deals with AIS, TRUE, and other mobile phone service providers to be handled directly by BMCL which already has permission from the Post and Telegraph Department. Radianz will handle only the maintenance. This scheme will enable BMCL to give full revenue sharing from the lucrative telecom deal to MRTA while BMCL still tightens its grip on Radianz. This will speed up the process so as not to get stuck with a decision by the Attorney General.

This settlement will make all the party involved feel very happy—more revenue for MRTA and BMCL and passengers will get very good telecom services while riding the Subway.

Mobile phone services will have a 5-year concession while How Come will have a 10-year concession, and Metromall will have 5-7 year concession with full right to have concession extended.

Subway: Commercial development begins – new extensions to be approved – *Manager Daily*, October 21, 2004

Subway deal still stalled: those 'at the top' want to turn the MRTA board into a rubber stamp of approval for their selfish interests – translated and summarized from *Than Sethakij*, January 9-12, 2005

The MRTA Board told Than Sethakij correspondents that those in the top of MRTA have their own selfish interests so they have added extra conditions to the commercial deals which MRTA Board would not approve—such 3-4 extra provisions. However the board already approved the first version of the plan. Therefore, the MRTA Board would reject the deal so that those at the top of MRTA would come up with a new plan in line with the MRTA's and BMCL's interests—but not those in the top's interests. Nevertheless, the MRTA Board told those at the top that they would come up with the legal details to explain the board about the extra provisions.

The long extended delay on MRTA commercial deals has caused 70% of the 504 shops to wait for the approved deal. The deal should be done by the end of January 2005 since BMCL and Metro Mall Development Co. Ltd. have stuck a deal with those who are going to rent the space and they thought that the MRTA Board and MRTA top brass could come up with compromises on the disputes.

The case of the latest dispute is not about an unfair deal at all since the MRTA Board has approved the BMCL's plan (25% for the first 6 years and 35% for the rest of the concession), but those in the top have added extra provisions. This is even though the very high and lucrative share from real estate deals could not match with the offer from Metro Mall.

In the 11 subway stations, only 100 sq meter of the 30,000 sq meter will be used for commercial purposes. 70% of commercial space has been leased by those who plan to sign the contract with Metromall such as 7-11 (Thailand), Central Retails, Minor Group, 5-star OTOP, Siam Kubota (subsidiary of Siam Cement PCL). The other 30% will be reserved for minor enterprises.

BMCL has told Howcome Entertainment Co.Ltd., Metromall Development PCL, and Triad Networks to wait until the commercial planned has received the final approval.

Metro Mall Development has a plan for 2.6 billion baht revenue in 10 years. This is giving to BMCL 947.4 million baht and BMCL will give MRTA 66.3 million

baht. On the other hand, Triad networks will get revenue of 2.8 billion baht— giving to BMCL 974 million baht and then BMCL will give 68.2 million baht to MRTA.

[PM's son's firm wins 10-yr subway deal](#) – *The Nation*, April 5, 2005

Tussles in subway commercial deals; BMCL vs MRTA – translated and summarized from *Thairath*, August 5, 2006 and *Dailynews*, August 5, 2006

Even today, the BMCL Commercial deal is not approved by MRTA yet since they cannot explain to MRTA about the 7% annual contribution to MRTA which derived from 25% of revenue sharing of 3 subsidiaries—the other 18% will belong to BMCL which can be paid back to the subsidiaries. This is a very bad deal since they have no plan to give more to MART when the venue increases. Furthermore, they cannot explain about the public safety inside the subway tunnels and stations after the commercial deal becomes a reality. The subcontract with How Come is not effective until How Come and BMCL can produce a convincing explanation.

Stop the terrorists from expanding

April 6, 2005

Categories: The Thai Deep South, The Thaksin Years

Editorial: Stop the terrorists from expanding – translated and summarized from *Thairath*, April 6, 2005

The bomb explosion in three places in Songkhla show that the terrorists have expanded the area to terrorize from the three southern border provinces. It is noted that the violence has developed and changed from shooting government officials, burning schools, robbing gun from military camps, and shooting innocent villagers to bombs at hotels and restaurants and also car bombs although lots of police and military have worked seriously on the problem.

We do not know clearly what these new moves by the terrorists mean, but we should not be careless although the Defense Minister said it is a normal crisis situation and the army commander specified that the terrorist were pressured by the government in the deep south they expanded to other provinces.

The terrorists are trying to make people afraid and show that they have ability to set the time and place for violent events. They choose the vulnerable targets such as the place where there are crowds of people, hotels, shopping centers and airports for the maximum psychological impact. For issue of the expansion of the unstable area, we should not see one angle that the terrorists were pressured by the government. We should see the lesson from our neighbor, the Philippines, where terrorists operate in the southern islands and after that they moved to the capital which they have a network linking with the other terrorist groups such as JI and Al Qaeda.

The terrorists want to make people, including foreigners, be afraid for their safety. The urgent mission of the government is to assure peoples' safety. This should start in the three southern provinces. Serious attention must be paid to possible targets—even in Bangkok.

At the same time, National Conciliation must be fostered and made part of the national agenda to make people participate in solving problem from the origin even though this may take time and lots of patience. Meanwhile protecting people and suppressing the terrorists should be implemented under the framework of law.

Thailand's royal rainmaking

April 6, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

[Thailand's royal rainmaking](#) – *Asia Times*, April 6, 2005

...The cloud-seeding technique involves the use of chemicals, such as sodium chloride or silver iodine, which are released into clouds to stimulate rainfall. The King began testing the process for which he holds the patent three decades ago. Hua Hin is the original base where these techniques were first used.

The process involves two separate steps – one that seeds warm clouds, and another for cold clouds – and is said to be particularly successful in that it can more precisely target areas where the rain is to fall...

Hell money

April 6, 2005

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Hell](#)

[money](#) – April 6, 2005

All about ceremonial Chinese banknotes...

Satellite images of Bangkok

April 6, 2005

Satellite images of Bangkok

– April 6, 2005

From the [forum](#):

36 different satellites images of Bangkok are [here](#).

Thai lanterns spark UFO scare

April 6, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai lanterns spark UFO scare](#) – *Citizen*, April 6, 2005

A look at Thaksin's cabinet 2/1 – “Where we want to go”

April 7, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

From the Thai-language press: A look at Thaksin's cabinet 2/1 – “Where we want to go” – translated and summarized from the ‘Thailand Affairs’ section of [a dayweekly](#).

Vol. 1, No. 44, March 17-April 7, 2005

Group of experts (4)

Visanu Kruangam: Deputy PM

Lawyer of the Thaksin Government who works on bureaucratic reform and law.

Sermak Pongpanich: Deputy of Interior Minister

Dear husband of Senator Rabiebrat, he works favorably with Thaksin by following him like a shadow.

Rung Kaewdaeng: Deputy Education Minister

The leader who developed the policy on education reform which did not develop much.

Viset Joopiban: Deputy Energy Minister

Former MD of PTT who got this position to organize the EGAT privatization.

Political group (11)

Pinit Jarnsombat: Deputy PM

Former member of Seritham Party that merged with Thai Rak Thai Party. He is the leader of the Wang Payanak faction

Waratthep Rattanakorn: Deputy Finance Minister

One of Group #16 that disintegrated and merged with the New Aspiration Party (Kwam Wangmai) and moved to TRT. He belongs to the Wang Buaban faction.

Chaiyot Sasomsap: Deputy Finance Minister

He has been advisor for Somkid Jatusripitak and part of the Nakornprathom faction.

Nevin Chidchob: Deputy Agriculture and Cooperative Minister

Leader of the Buriram group and "Minister Yee" in every poll, but he works well in the eyes of Thaksin.

Preecha Laohapongchana: Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister

One of the important leaders of the Wang Payanak faction with ‘Pinit.’ His accomplishment is getting lots of seats in Esarn for TRT.

Uraivan Tienthong: Culture Minister

The wife of Sanoh Tienthong, the Godfather of Wang Namyen faction.

Suvit Kunkitti: ICT Minister

Former leader of the Kitsangkom Party. He and his team quit and moved to TRT. His accomplishments in dealing with the tsunami relief effort made him a minister again.

Somsak Tepsutin: Tourism and Sports Minister

The leader of Wang Namyom faction that put out branches from Wang Buaban.

Sorra-ut Klinpratum: Labour Minister

A TRT warlord of the central region. He belongs to the Wang Namyen faction.

Yongyuth Tiypairat: Natural Resource and Environment Minister

Under the Wang Buaban faction. In charge of the Chiangrai Province area, he was able to get all the seats for TRT.

Suwat Lippatapunlob: Justice Minister

Former leader of Chat Pattana Party that was pressed to merge with TRT. He has a voter base in the big city areas such as Nakornratchasima.

Capital group (6)

Suriya Juengrunroengkit: Transport Minister

Has a family network in automobile parts and the golf business. Is part of the clan that runs the Summit Group and Thai Summit Group.

Suriya Lapvisuttisin: Deputy Commerce Minister

The owner of Picnic Gas which is a giant in the field of cooking gas and second only to PTT. He belongs to the Somsak Tepsutin group.

Wattana Muangsuk: Industry Minister

Nephew-in-law of those who run the CP Group which is known as a source of big capital on an international level.

Anuthin Chanvirakool: Deputy Public Health Minister

Capitalist of the Chat Pattana Party. The son of the owner of Sino-Thai Engineering which is one of the five construction contract groups.

Adisai Potharamik: Education Minister

The former president of Jasmine International Company Limited. He is a father of the 53rd richest stock market millionaire in 2004.

Pracha Malinon: Social Development and Human Security Minister

Capitalist, ex-big boss of TV Channel 3 Entertainment business which has high billing in Thailand.

Group of the connected persons (14)

Somkid Jatusripitak: Deputy PM and Finance Minister

The co-founder of TRT who helped set its policy from the beginning.

Pol. Gen. Chidchai Wannasatit: Deputy PM and Interior Minister

The senior member of the Military Preparatory School and a close friend of Thaksin. When he was a secretary at the office of the Narcotics Control Board, his performance won him favor in the government.

Suranan Vetchachiva: Office of PM Minister

He has worked as public relations for TRT since the beginning and he is the person closest to the media.

Tanong Pittaya: Deputy Commerce Minister

He is close to “Khun Ying Or” since he worked with the Shinawatra company.

Sudarat Keyuraphan: Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister

Minister who always works closely with Thaksin.

Poomtham Vetchayachai: Deputy Transport Minister

The founder and one of the most important persons who sets the strategy for the TRT election.

Somchai Soonthornwat: Deputy Interior Minister

Brother-in-law of Boonkli Plangsiri. He is the right hand man of the PM in the Shinawatra group.

Dr. Suchai Jaroenrattakun: Public Health Minister

He is the private doctor of the PM’s mother-in-law.

He gets a high position moving from Deputy Minister to Minister.

Surakiat Satienthai: Deputy PM

He has been Foreign Minister for four years. Once one of the candidates to compete for the position of UN Secretary General.

Gen. Thammarak Issarangkool Na Ayuthaya: Defense Minister

One of the TRT founders who moves back into the post of Defense Minister after helping get seats for the election in Esarn.

Kantati Supamongkon: Foreign Affairs Minister

One of Thaksin followers since the party was founded.

Korn Tapparangsri: Science Minister

He is the heir of the ‘Ratchakroo Era’ and was coddled by PM in gratitude.

Jaturon Chaisaeng: Deputy PM

Although he was not satisfied with the PM in the way he works, he has strong image and the status necessary for being minister.

Adisorn Piengket: Deputy Transport Minister

A protector of Thaksin in the House of Parliament. He can gain Thaksin’s mind by working hard on the election campaign.

Government Efficiency

April 7, 2005

Categories: The Thai Deep South, The Thaksin Years

Editorial: Government Efficiency

– translated and summarized from *Matichon*, April 7, 2005

Thai people and foreigners get information about the unrest in the south from the country's media and foreign media. The news presented is part of the event and comes from interviews and many other sources.

The information that people are likely to trust should be from government interviews from many levels such as the PM, Deputy PM, ministers, military leaders, police leaders, and administrative government officials. The statements they make after they have a long meeting about the security with every section should clearly state the kind of terrorist, their objectives, the progress of investigation, and how to arrest them.

The government assigned Pol. Gen. Chidchai Wannasatit, Deputy PM for security and Interior minister, to inform the press. His conference was confusing and disjointed, but it should have been frank. It should not evade or find a scapegoat in the media or others.

The government is the national executive that has all mechanisms at its command such as manpower, laws, money and even the ability to intercept telephone calls for national security. The unrest in the south started in 2004 and continues to 2005. The objective of the terrorists is supposedly separatism, but the government should know best what the movement is and who they are. This is because one year ago, the police and military arrested a lot of terrorists, investigated and also processed the case in court so the government should know their plan.

The situation would be helped by a justified and clear policy implementation, enough government resources, along with government officials making sure they do not menace the people in the three southern provinces.

It is unfortunate that, up to now, the public is still vague about the information on the subject. We do not know what kind of movement the terrorists belong to. It is like fighting with a ghost or in the dark because the terrorist do not leave a letter or statement that specifies their demands. The officers have to find out by themselves. Although it is very difficult, the government should be able to see through their tricks and follow events closely. If not, national security will be affected and as in every time when there is a serious situation, the responsible person will give interviews in the old way—with no news and nothing clear.

New Airport opens in Poipet Cambodia

April 7, 2005

[New
Airport opens in Poipet Cambodia](#) – April
7, 2005

On the forum: Northern Flood Alleviation Canal

April 7, 2005

On the forum: [Northern Flood Alleviation Canal](#) – April 7, 2005

Police raid Pantip

April 7, 2005

[Police
raid Pantip](#) – *The Nation*, April
7, 2005

A tale of two newspapers: Security measures

April 7, 2005

Categories: A Tale of Two Newspapers

A tale of two newspapers: Security measures – April 7, 2005

The *Post* has a brief mention of security cameras towards the end of a long article detailing the many general security measures to be put in place in the wake of the Songkhla bombings. *The Nation* has a different story that seems to indicate a kind of police state is at hand. Their headline and article seem written to enflame Western attitudes towards government surveillance.

ANTI-TERRORISM

MEASURES: Security cameras everywhere

– *The Nation*, April 6, 2005

PM calls for closed-circuit watch on hundreds of key sites, random searches, plus machine guns for airport guards... Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will order all major transportation facilities, tourism sites, public offices and other high-profile venues in the country to install closed-circuit cameras as a countermeasure against possible terrorist attacks. The venues include bus and train stations, airports, hotels, department stores, shopping malls and all government offices, said Pol General Chalermdej Jombunud, government spokesman. At the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday, Thaksin instructed Sermak Pongpanit, deputy interior minister, to meet with private firms and relevant public agencies and officials, including provincial governors, to push through the new measures, he said. ...Officials on security details at public events and places would be authorised to conduct random searches, he said. ...Thaksin said he was aware that the new measures would annoy some people, but he insisted they were for the good of the entire country...

NSC

puts country on 'red alert' – Landmines to protect police in remote South

– *Bangkok Post*,

April 6, 2005

Security forces have gone to the highest state of alert after Sunday's multiple bombings in Songkhla took the nation from a state of regional unrest in the deep South to a real threat of terrorist action against general civilian targets. The decision to go to red alert came after a security meeting involving the air force, the Transport Ministry, Airports of Thailand Plc and Thai Airways International at the Royal Thai Air Force headquarters yesterday. The meeting was convened in the wake of the multiple bombings in Songkhla on Sunday. One of the targets was Hat Yai airport. ...The Transport Ministry would also order Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Co to acquire and install security camera systems at its airports as well as at bus terminals to support the top security approach...

Thai-language newspapers – April 8, 2005

April 8, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– April 8, 2005

* This coming Songkran, 80,000 million baht will be spent. People are still afraid of tsunamis so the South is the least popular destination—it was the second most popular choice last year. The Thailand Chamber of Commerce forecast says the economy slows down, but Thai people are shoppers so they will save money for shopping although their income decreases. People will stay at home more than going out if they are impacted by rising gas prices.

Thairath

– April 8, 2005

* On March 7 at 6pm, Paholyothin Police station was informed to check a suspicious box which lay in the way of an escalator on the second floor in front of Body Glove Shop, Central Ladpro shopping center. While people still shopped, officer used sting to bar the way and four tires to surround the object for safety. After one hour some of customers knew and evacuated the shopping center because they were not sure whether it was a bomb. Finally the police found it is a box with three bottles of water and newspapers. Mr. Pravitt Sittijanyakoul, the Chief Deputy of Marketing Manager said Central has a safety principle system and will continue to assure the safety of consumers. Meanwhile Pol. Gen. Chidchai Wannasatit gave interview about the serious daily events and that people are upset with the terrorists using violence. People question if government officials are efficient and why they cannot solve the problem. Now he almost runs to help solve the problem.

* The manager of

Matichon Publishing reveals that the total sale of Matichon books this year at the book fair is 15% higher than last year. He also said the rising gasoline rising prices and apprehension about terrorism did not impact sales. The number of people is the same and purchasing power did not decrease.

* On March 7,

a lecture on “Horoscope of the Nation: Year of the Rooster” was organized at the multi-purpose building, Thammasat University. Mr. Pinyo Pongjaroen, chairperson of International Horoscope Association said Thailand’s horoscope this year is not good until 2006. He had never seen the situation like the tsunami, unrest in the south and even car bombs. After April 9, Thailand will face serious problems with economics, politics and society such as a crisis of national income embezzled by corruption, illegal business flourishing, expanded drought, and a crisis over water and oil. Be careful on April 8-11, There may be a serious disaster including big terrorism especially at the important religious and bureaucracy locations. Thaksin’s horoscope is indicating that he will have bad luck and face an accident or health problem. Apart from this he will face a problem with political partners. He also has to be careful with woman who causing a split and low favor with the public. There is no solution except that the PM and Thai people are calm with meditation, practice mercy, faith and pray everyday to help reduce tension.

Songkran Preparations on Ratchadamnoen

April 8, 2005

Categories: Songkran

"Songkran Splendours" Preparation
Ratchadamnoen Road, Bangkok, Thailand
April 8, 2005



Rapee writes: *Songkran Splendours is a part of Bangkok Grand Songkran Celebration. Its grand opening ceremony will be held on April 9, 2005 at 4:00 pm at Lan Phub Pla Maha Jedsabodin, Thanon Ratchadamanoen, Bangkok. For more details of Songkran Festival in Thailand, please visit [Tourism Authority of Thailand's page](#). The following are some pictures of the preparations and some decorations for the festival taken on April 8, 2005.*



The Thai Pavilion at LAN Phub Pla Maha Jedsabodin probably will be used for the grand opening ceremony.



Benches are being installed at a seating area along Thanon Ratchadamnoen Nok for spectators that attend the Songkran Splendours Parade.



(Dancing?) fountains are being installed on Pan Pha Li Lat Bridge.



A traffic lane on Thanon Ratchadamnoe Klang is closed to accommodate (dancing?) fountains.



A Naga fountain at the Democracy Monument viewed from Thanon Ratchadamnoen Klang.



Another Naga fountain on the other side of the monument, viewed from Thanon Dinsor. There are less Nagas on this side.



Even a fire hydrant on Thanon Ratchadamnoen now has a huge faucet ready for the Songkran celebration.

Earth's Oldest Known Object on Display

April 8, 2005

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

[Earth's](#)

[Oldest Known Object on Display](#) – AP, April 8, 2005

A tiny speck of zircon crystal that is barely visible to the eye is believed to be the oldest known piece of Earth at about 4.4 billion years old. For the first time ever, the public will have a chance to see the particle Saturday at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where researchers in 2001 made the breakthrough discovery that the early Earth was much cooler than previously believed based on analysis of the crystal...

Seri Court

April 8, 2005

Categories: Communities

Seri Court – April 8, 2005

Photos of the US Army apartments near Saphan Kwai ([here](#) and [here](#)).

Thai keyboard layout desktop wallpaper

April 8, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai keyboard layout desktop wallpaper](#) – April 8, 2005

More from Wit Pimkanchanapong: *Because my new G4PB have no Thai alphabet screen on keyboard. It will cost around 1400 THB to silkscreen it. This desktop wallpaper will save my money (+ I can practice my typing skill)...*

From the forum: Bangkok satellite maps

April 8, 2005

From the forum: [Bangkok satellite maps](#) – April 8, 2005

...go to www.spaceimaging.com

and select THAILAND from the "Search for City by Country" and then select "Bangkok."

The page has an aerial view of greater Bangkok area which can be click to enlarge. Also each of the 36 portions can be viewed separately from the "scenes" at right of the aerial view.

Thai sarcasm: Suggestion for the terrorists

April 8, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

[Thai sarcasm: Suggestion for the terrorists](#) –
Manager Online, April 8, 2005

Google map sightseeing

April 9, 2005

[Google](#)
[map sightseeing](#) – April 9, 2005

‘The Bush Mafia, Kofigate and the Thai Connection’

April 9, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[‘The Bush Mafia, Kofigate and the Thai Connection’](#)

– News From Bangladesh, April 9, 2005

Letter to the editor with wild accusations about putting a Thai in the UN as Secretary General.

...Thaksin pressed Thai foreign ministry officials to back Surakiart, a career civil servant and foreign service official. He got numerous journalists to build up Surakiart, a dull, humorless bureaucrat. He got the ASEAN bloc of ten Southeast Asian nations to name Surakiart its candidate for the top UN post...

PM defies astrological warnings

April 9, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[PM](#)

[defies astrological warnings](#) – TNA, April 9, 2005

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is normally known for his belief in fortune tellers, but when the president of the International Astrological Association [recently](#) [predicted](#) that the country could face a serious crisis and that Mr. Thaksin himself would have health problems, the prime minister became unusually dismissive.

Describing astrologers as 'guessers', the prime minister noted to the nation on his weekly radio address this morning that Thais had a habit of only remembering the accurate predictions that astrologers made and conveniently ignoring the wrong forecasts...

PM dismisses bomb threats as work of ‘madmen’

April 10, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[PM](#)

[dismisses bomb threats as work of ‘madmen’](#) –

TNA, April 10, 2005

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday blasted the [apparent hoaxers behind bomb threats](#) at department stores in the Thai capital, describing them as ‘madmen’ who belonged in psychiatric hospitals...

BANGKOK, Apr 10, (TNA) – Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday blasted the apparent hoaxers behind bomb threats at department stores in the Thai capital, describing them as ‘madmen’ who belonged in psychiatric hospitals.

Responding to reports that department stores in Bangkok had received bomb warnings, the prime minister condemned the apparent hoaxers in the highest terms, while nonetheless admitting that the capital’s police force needed to respond quicker when threats were made.

The nation has been on knife-edge since explosions rocked the southern city of Hat Yai last weekend, an indication that separatist insurgents are now taking their campaign outside the southern border region.

Yesterday Mr. Thaksin refused to comment on reports that officials were intent on catching insurgents working under the command of Mr. Sapaeng Baso, thought to be one of the main separatist leaders, but conceded that intelligence reports suggested that groups of young men with distorted ideas of history and religion were behind many of the attacks in the border provinces.

“The government must continue to address the fact that violence is occurring on a daily basis in the south. We will employ three methods: reconciliation to boost good understanding, development to ensure that innocent people have employment, and the amendment of law enforcement”, he said. (TNA)–E006

Thai culture in transition

April 10, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai](#)

[culture in transition](#) – *The Anniston Star*,

April 10, 2005

...Thailand today is faced with the disruptive impact on its traditional core values and institutions, rooted in hierarchy and patriarchy, by the emerging forces of individualism, egalitarianism and good governance. The ensuing struggle between tradition and change has proved to be volatile with concomitant instability, disorder and disharmony. Some see Thai society's survival in retrenchment, in preserving and strengthening the barricades of tradition; only then will there be social and political stability and security. Others contend society's survival is actually dependent on breaching those very barricades and reforming Thai society to be more in tune with a largely antithetical set of values identified with so-called civil society. Both sides tend to view this culture conflict, this internal "clash of civilizations", as a zero sum game...

Songkran decorations at night

April 11, 2005

Categories: Songkran



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

Songkran decorations

at night

Thanon Ratchadamnoen, Bangkok, Thailand

April 11, 2005



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

Rapee writes: To accompany with ["Songkran Splendours" Preparation page](#), the following pictures show how beautiful Songkran decorations on Thanon Ratchadamnoen look at night.

Above: The Thai Pavilion at Lan Plub Pla Maha Jedsadabodin is the main stage for cultural performances. Surprisingly, in a good way, the shows draw a big crowd every night.



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

One of the "Songkran Splendours"
Parade floats was parked along Thanon Ratchadamnoen. This float has
replicas of 7 Thailand's most sacred Buddha images.



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

Another float has Thai mythical
creatures such as garuda (half bird half human).



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

Intertwined nagas float.



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

Dancing fountains along the road divider on Thanon Ratchadamnoen.



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

The main attractions of the decorations on Thanon Ratchadamnoen are naga fountains around the Democracy Monument. Thousands of locals and tourists stop by to take photos every night.



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

The beautifully lit Naga fountain
on the east side of the monument, viewed from Thanon Ratchadamnoen.



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

Another Naga fountain on the south
side of the monument, viewed from Thanon Dinsor.

Foreign funds see more than just sun ‘n’ surf in Thailand

April 11, 2005

Categories: Economy

[Foreign funds see more than just sun ‘n’ surf in Thailand](#) –

The Economic Times, April 11, 2005

Drought, bombings and doubts about growth may normally make foreign investors think twice about a country, but fund managers are flocking to Thailand, lured by its political stability and ambitious development plans...

Spaghetti strap girls warned of disease risk

April 11, 2005

[Spaghetti strap girls warned of disease risk](#) –
TNA, April 11, 2005

...In an extraordinary directive published yesterday, a ministry spokeswoman warned young women who favour 'spaghetti strap' tops, particularly those made from dark-coloured fabrics, that they were putting themselves at risk of being bitten by mosquitoes, which were the carriers of diseases ranging from elephantiasis to dengue fever and malaria. The ministry spokeswoman warned women who showed their shoulders, backs or belly buttons that they could become the victims of such conditions unless they modified their sartorial habits...

Rangoon “could destabilise region”

April 11, 2005

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[WASHINGTON](#)

[ON BURMA: Rangoon “could destabilise region”](#)

– *The Nation*, April 11, 2005

...Burma’s continued effort to “nuclearise” itself is being scrutinised by the US intelligence community. At the end of 2003, Washington was alarmed by the developments and demanded clarification from Moscow through a diplomatic channel...

Siam and WWII

April 11, 2005

Siam and WWII – April 11, 2005

An interesting series of articles in the Malaysian newspaper, *The Star*, has a rather unflattering appraisal of Siam's role in WWII

[Thais fought, but...](#)

...The rest of the world, and Malaysians in particular, believe that Thailand (or Siam, as it was known then) simply stood by and allowed Japanese troops to march through on their way to conquer Malaya and Singapore in 1941.

Many Thais, however, will have you know their soldiers put up a good fight.

Their resistance may have lasted just six hours but, to the residents of Nakhon Si Thammarat province, it was a major battle...

Nakhon Thai War Veterans Organisation branch head Col Somphon Suprasert said the fighting in Thailand was brief but brutal, with the Thai defenders managing to inflict severe losses on the Japanese. However, the fighting was "a mistake" because, Col Somphon explained, there was a secret pact between Bangkok and Tokyo in 1940 that paved the way for Japan to march through Thai territory unopposed...

[Memories of friendly invaders](#)

... "Then, the first thing they did was climb up telephone poles to cut the wires. I think some local folk shot at them. The Japanese were brave ... one fell but another took his place. They didn't care about been shot," he recalled, adding: "Later, they moved swiftly into the town centre."

... "It was utter confusion. The Japanese then started the aerial bombing of Songkhla and my uncle – he was a trader – was killed in the blasts."

... "It was a good period for us. The Japanese were friendly and some soldiers became traders and conducted commercial activities alongside their Thai counterparts. Trade was thriving."

[Co-operate or perish](#)

Thailand had little choice other than to cooperate with Japan because it was threatened with the destruction of its capital, Bangkok, if it resisted.

It was the most practical thing to do, said Chatchai Sugrakanchana of Rajabhat University Nakhon Si Thammarat.

Offering a Thai perspective on WWII, Chatchai said the Thai leadership made a wise decision as the country was then spared the full horror of war...

[Logical route to Singapore](#)

...Also, the good network of trunk roads that ran from Singora, present-day Songkhla, all the way down the Malayan peninsula to Singapore would make progress relatively easy for Lt Gen Tomoyuki Yamashita's 25th Army...

Government House

April 11, 2005

Government House – April
11, 2005

History of the [Government
House building...](#)

The Oil-for-Food Program and Thailand

April 11, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

The Oil-for-Food Program and Thailand

– April 11, 2005

Documents from the [Independent](#)

[Inquiry](#) into the [Iraqi](#)

[Oil-for-Food](#) program investigation has lists of all buyers of Iraqi oil and vendors for humanitarian suppliers during the program.

Here are the Thai-registered companies that participated (figures in USD):

Oil sales

Thailand was the 31st highest oil purchaser most with 330.193 million total

Thai purchasers

Chaiyaporn Rice Co. Ltd. – 233.985 million

PB Pongboon Intertrade Co. Ltd. – 14.596 million

Petroleum Authority of Thailand – 82.334 million

Humanitarian goods and oil

spares purchases

Thailand was 14th highest supplier with 703.812 million total

Thai Vendors

Chaiyaporn Rice Co. Ltd. – 675.119 million

Pongboon (PB) Intertrade Co. Ltd. – 8.763 million

Thai S.D. Marketing Ltd. – 19.930 million

All about Sorayuth

April 12, 2005

Categories: Analysis, Thai Politics

All about Sorayuth

– April 12, 2005

2Bangkok.com has mentioned Sorayuth and his breaking news reports several times this year and 2B readers have asked for more info on who he is.

Sorayuth Sutassanajinda hosts some of the most popular and influential morning and evening news and talk shows. He has publicized many significant incidents in the past few years on *Thueng Look Thueng Kon* and won one of the top media awards last year for his reporting. He clearly has the ear of the public.

SMS reporting is a big part of his shows. He is often first to report breaking news via listeners who send in on-the-spot reports via SMS (we have often mentioned these reports on 2B).

Also, with regularity, SMS ‘polls’ are presented to show public support for controversial government initiatives even when more scientific polling shows the opposite. For instance, on the morning of February 21, an ABAC Poll was published that showed 68% did not agree with the red zone plan for the South. At the same time, Sorayuth was reporting that his ‘SMS poll’ showed that 72% agreed with Thaksin. It is widely believed that this kind of overwhelming and instantaneous support for government policies (as well as floods of aggressive pro-government comments on Thai-language forums) is organized by the government (or political parties).

Criticism is sometimes leveled over Sorayuth being very careful not to criticize the government. When PM Thaksin is interviewed by Sorayuth, it is noticed that he asks easy questions that seem rehearsed so viewers will sympathize with Thaksin. Once *Khaosod* newspaper joked that Sorayuth may be the new spokesman for the government. Sorayuth was upset by this and countered he was only trying to be neutral.

Foreign pirates reign over Bay of Bengal – pirates mostly from Myanmar and Thailand

April 12, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Foreign](#)

[pirates reign over Bay of Bengal – pirates mostly from Myanmar and](#)

[Thailand](#) – News From Bangladesh, April

12, 2005

The pirates mostly from Myanmar and Thailand have long been engaged in looting the marine fisheries of the Bay of Bengal, as the authorities concerned are indifferent to the problem...

State mulls legality of trooper from Thailand

April 12, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[State](#)

[mulls legality of trooper from Thailand](#) – whnt19,

April 12, 2005

The Tennessee Highway Patrol has placed a trooper on administrative leave with pay because he's not a U-S citizen.

Steve Sakearapanee (sak-ar-a-PAHN'ee) has lived in Nashville most of his life but was born in Thailand and never became an American citizen.

He's been a trooper for seven years and has received good evaluations for his work.

But state officials told W-S-M-V T-V of Nashville today that they now are seeking a legal opinion on whether he can carry a gun and patrol state highways.

He passed a background check in 1998 and answered "no" to the question of U-S citizenship on an employment application.

The new year: “riding a donkey and eating milk and butter”

April 13, 2005

Categories: Songkran

Translated and summarized from the “Sumnak Khao Hua Khiew” column by Mae Look Chan (He), *Thairath*, April 13, 2005

Songkran this year will not fierce as last year as Ms. Songkran last year, Raksoddevi, who drinks blood three times a day so there were lots of big disasters with lots of people lost as well as poultry (chickens and ducks) which were killed in great numbers.

But Miss Songkran this year, Montadevi, is a kind beautiful woman, sitting with eyes closed on a donkey. Her favorite food is milk and butter.

This years’ forecast: Riding a donkey means the Thai economy grow slowly, but surely. Starting a big business on Saturday will be fortuitous because Saturday this year is the best day. The rating of ‘Thaksin meets the people’ radio program on Saturday will be okay.

Monday is a doomsday. It should not be a day for doing good things. Cabinet meetings on Tuesday will be clear on urgent matters and good for roaming cabinet meetings . Wednesday and Thursday are for cabinet meetings at government house. Sunday is a wicked (devilish) day and one should stay at home.

According to He (Mae Look Chan) Miss Songkran this year likes to drink milk and butter. This may be related to the FTA meaning that Thailand may be disadvantaged. And people who eat noodle or rice with curry will not be protected from Ms. Songkran.

He (Mae Look Chan) is very worried because after Songkran the Government will increase diesel gasoline prices and cooking gas prices will be floated. If the government cannot control food prices, the government will not survive. This is not a threat, but it is the truth.

Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2005 Part 1

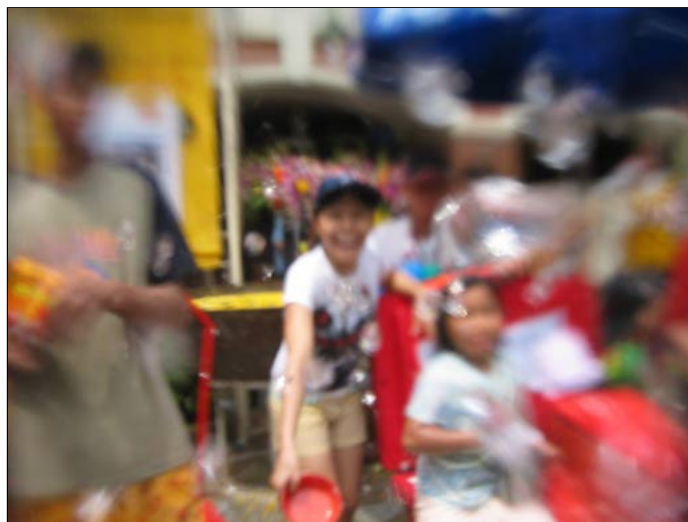
April 13, 2005

Categories: Songkran



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Songkran float near Democracy Monument



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

More photos on [page 2](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Khao Sarn Road on Songkran 2005



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Revelers



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Campaign to discourage the groping of female Songkran revelers.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

People cooling off in the mist front of the [naga fountains](#).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

A more authentic Songkran tradition—sprinkling Buddha images with water.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Police officer on duty



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Man wearing a Saddam mask



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Each year there are more commercial tie-ins and product promotions on Khao Sarn Road on Songkran.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Promotional materials thrown out to the crowd.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Group promoting mobile phone repair. Wet phones mean Songkran is a peak time for the mobile phone repair business.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Waterproof cigarette stand

More photos on [page 2](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

50th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement

April 13, 2005

50th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement

– April 13, 2005

Thanks to Khmer Intelligence for pointing out the 50th Anniversary of the [Non-Aligned](#)

[Movement](#) and noting that *Among the Founding Fathers of the Nonaligned Movement (Chou En-lai, Nasser, Nehru, Sihanouk, Sukarno, Tito), only Cambodia's ex-King Norodom Sihanouk is still alive.*

Thailand to host world toilet summit

April 13, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand](#)

[to host world toilet summit](#) – AP, April 13, 2005

Thailand plans to upgrade hygiene in its public toilets to meet international standards as it prepares to host the World Toilet Summit next year; a health official said Wednesday...

Odd headlines

April 13, 2005

Odd headlines – April 13,
2005

Nothing to do with Thailand, but interesting: ‘Programming’ points out these peculiar sounding headlines: [Secret Service protecting expectant duck](#) and [Robots to replace child camel jockeys in UAE](#)

PM Thaksin, family praised as ‘Family Day’ role models

April 14, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[PM Thaksin, family praised as ‘Family Day’ role models](#) – TNA, April 14, 2005

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has been praised as a ‘family man’ and his family has been appreciated as the ‘example family of the year for Thai politicians’, according to a poll marking the ‘Family Day’ on 14 April.

The ABAC poll, conducted by Assumption University, said that most of respondents in Bangkok and its peripheral areas, or 73.9 percent, had praised the prime minister for his role of ‘family man’.

The prime minister’s family was also praised by the majority of the respondents, or 86.3 percent, as the ‘example family of the year for Thai politicians’, followed by the families of former prime minister Banharn Silpa-archa (3.3 percent) and former prime minister Chuan Leekpai (2.3 percent).

Most of the respondents voted for the family of Chatchai-Sinjai Plengpanich, as the ‘example family for Thai actors and actresses, followed the family of Sombat Metanee, and the family of Yuranant Pamornmontree, who is now a deputy government spokesman.

The family of “Bird”, Thongchai McIntay, was praised by most respondents as the ‘example family for Thai singers’, followed by the families of “Big D2B”, or Panvarat Kittikorncharoen and “Somchai-Nat Khemklad”.

The majority of respondents praised the family of Paradorn Srichaphan, Thailand’s male tennis champion, as the ‘example family for Thai sportsmen’, followed by the families of Yaowapha Burapolchai and Piyapong Phiew-on.

The majority of respondents, or 73.9 percent, praised Gen. Prem Tinsulanond, a former prime minister who is now the head of the Privy Council, as the best elderly man who has done good deeds for the nation, followed by former prime minister Anand Panyarachun (24.8 percent) and former prime minister Chuan Leekpai (7.2).

The survey also found that the majority of respondents, or 81.1 percent, have good relationship among members of their families.

The ABAC poll interviewed 2,855 people in Bangkok and its surrounding areas between 7-12 April on the random basis to mark the ‘Family Day’ today.

Thai-language newspapers – April 14, 2005

April 14, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– April 14, 2005

* The ‘intelligence unit’ warned that terrorists have plans to bomb in three risky areas in Had Yai–public parks, transport stations, and Songkla Nakarin University–so these areas are being strictly watched. Meanwhile, the a new security unit emphasizes it will be on guard against sabotage near the Chaopraya River both in Bangkok and Nontaburi province.

* Interesting quote from *Matichon*:

"During Songkran, any official who can hand in a drug dealer–especially the big agents–can get both a reward and a big step up in the bureaucracy."
– Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister

* Five ways to increase

happiness in the family – A Suan Dusit poll reveals on April 12 that a survey of 1146 people (fathers 22.51%, mothers 35.60%, and sons/daughters 41.8%) about the big problems that the Thai family wants to be solved:

1. Lack of taking care of each other/no time – 39.1%
2. Poverty/consumption/expenses – 25.6%
3. Social problems: drugs, youth, education -12.68%
4. Domestic violence/quarrels – 11.7%
5. Divorce that according to no plan or not ready to get married – 6.15%

How to be a happy family

1. Face and listen to each other – 41.99%
2. Pay more attention to family members – 26.43%
3. Increase warmness and spend time with the family – 20.14%
4. Plan for save money/not live extravagantly – 6.25%
5. Forgive each other – 5.19%

Songkran on Khao Sarn Road 2005 Part 2

April 15, 2005

Categories: Songkran



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Business goes on—businesses moving furniture through the crowd.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Filling up water bottles



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

A vendor tries to push her cart down Soi Rambuttri.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Authorities confiscate buckets of talcum plaster at the entrance of the Khao Sarn Road area.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Outside of Khao Sarn Road, aggressive groups of young people smear each other with talcum powder plaster.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Pickup truck full of talcum powder pellets to sell to the crowd.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

A kid wearing a knockoff Bart Simpson mask.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Ronald McDonald cradling a water bottle.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

People attempt to make sure that the water they throw is ice cold.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Ultraman squirtgun



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Channel 9 reporters attempt a live update, but people keep smearing their faces with talcum powder. Note the technician having a beer in the right corner.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Dancing fountains on [Phan Fa Bridge](#)—unfortunately they take up the entire sidewalk and people have to walk in the street.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Line of traffic waiting to enter the downtown area near Khao Sarn Road.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Other areas of town are practically deserted.



Songkran 2005 Part 3

April 15, 2005

Categories: Songkran



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Photos on this page are from the last day of Songkran in downtown Bangkok. Above and below are revelers on Ratchadamnoen Nai Road with Wat Pra Kaew in the background.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Technician controlling the dancing fountains on Ratchadamnoen Klang Road (as seen through the mist from the fountains).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above and below are examples of water wars between passing pickup trucks full of young people.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

HM The King's motorcade passing Democracy Monument returning from Songkran ceremonies at Wat PRA Kaew.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Policeman splattered with talcum powder



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Crowds walking along Ratchadamnoen Klang Road



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sprinkling various Buddha images with water on Songkran



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Buddha image set up in front of a spirit house along with a silver bowl with water (at the bottom) for residents to pour on the Buddha image.



(Photo: Sisuda)

Photo from Songkhla Province: Crowds of young people passing each other to throw water.



(Photo: Sisuda)

Photo from Songkhla Province: Pickup truck water throwers race down a flower-lined boulevard.



(Photo: Sisuda)

Photo from Songkhla Province: Giant chunks of ice ready to make water for throwing ice cold.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Talcum powder paste on Ratchadamnoen Klang Road



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

thaibugs – All About Thailand's Insects

April 15, 2005

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Thailand's Amazing
Insects](#) – April 15, 2005

On the banks of the Chao Phraya river

April 16, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[On](#)

[the banks of the Chao Phraya river](#) – Weekend

Standard, April 16-17, 2005

Bangkok's Chinatown is arguably the most original, unreconstructed and exciting ghetto of its kind in the world, so real it can hurt the senses, writes Graham Lees...

Unlike so many modern-day Chinatowns, this one is not about ethnic Chinese food – it's about small metal foundries, oily secondhand engine repair shops; textiles, gold, gemstones, herbs and spices, and wholesaling of everything from drainpipes to sundrapes, from mounds of sun-dried fish to stacks of saucepans...

Thai provincial flags

April 16, 2005

Thai provincial flags –

April 16, 2005

Carleton Cole points out an interesting page with [flags of Thai provinces](#) as well as more details on [this page](#).

Khao Phra Viharn

April 16, 2005

Khao Phra Viharn – April
16, 2005

A [trip report](#)
[to Khao Phra Viharn](#) from the Cambodian side.

SciTek Krungthep

April 16, 2005
Categories: Maps

SciTek Krungthep – April
16, 2005
Nils points out [SciTek Krungthep](#)—remote
sensing, mapping, GIS, etc.

Tadika Sumphan

April 17, 2005

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[More](#)
[on Troubles in the South](#)
and [Nationalism and Right-wing Politics](#)



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Tadika Sumphan 2005

Dr. Has

explains: During April 27-28, Amphur Raman organized Tadika Sumphan. Tadika means Islamic school for children. There are 115 schools in Amphur Raman that participated. This is the attempt of the government to foster peace in the area. These photos show some activities of Tadika Sumphan.

Invite you to come to
Tadika Sumphan 2005
Join activities: Reading Alqura-arn Koran Contest
Saying Savor
Reading Saror contest
Reading Anasis
Q & A about religion, Islam Culture parade, OTOP,
traditional food fair
On 27-28 April 8.00-20.00
At the sports ground of Amphur Raman, Yala



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Entrance to the Tadika Sumphan
at Amphur Raman



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

*Tadika Samphan of year
2005, Amphur Raman, Yala*



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

*Love, understanding and
affiliation builds conciliation and peace*



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Understand, access, development



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

*Recipients of eua-arthon
bachelor's degrees, Amphur Raman*



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

OTOP shops



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

*Power of peace (top
left), New wave (top right), No war (middle
left), Youth is future of the nation (middle
right)*



(Photo: Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Winners of the drawing contest

Customs House renovation

April 17, 2005

Categories: History

[Natural Park group closes deal for six-star riverside hotel](#) – Bangkok Post, May 11, 2005

... The luxury hotel with only 33 rooms is expected to open around the end of 2007. Applying for permission from related government agencies will take about six months and construction two years. The average room rate will be about \$800 per night and the project will break even in 10 years. Revenues from hotel rooms are projected at 220 million baht in the first year and 260 million baht in the second year...

[Eviction makes way for luxury](#) – Bangkok Post, April 17, 2005

Families are being evicted in order to turn an 1890 riverside building into a luxury 'six star' hotel... A long-established bond between about 40 families from the marine police and Bang Rak fire department and a former customs house on the banks of the Chao Phraya is soon set to come to an end. The stately riverside building, constructed during the reign of King Rama V in 1890, will soon enter a new phase of its history as a luxury hotel... Before the building was used to house families from the marine police and Bang Rak fire department, the building was used as a customs house. Import tariffs, known as phasi roi chak sam, were once collected there, and so the building was often referred to as Rong Phasi Roi Chak Sam. The first director-general of the Customs Department, Chao Phraya Phassakornwong, or Porn Bunnag, named it Sulakasathan, and the name can still be seen engraved on the building...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Customs House plot to be leased](#) – Bangkok Post, May 29, 2004

TCC Land, Great Heritage and Natural Park Plc have submitted bids to take over a prime five-rai development site alongside the Chao Phraya River... The property, located next to The Oriental Hotel, comprises five rai of riverfront land with buildings over 100 years old formerly used by the Fire Department and Customs Department... "The priority is to see these historic buildings maintained," Mr Wisudhi said, explaining the heavy focus on the technical proposals by the bidders. The winning bidder will also be required to construct a separate building for use by state agencies to be relocated from the development, at a cost estimated at 160 million to 170 million baht. An up-front payment of 50 million baht by the winner is also required, with minimum annual payments of at least 50 million throughout the life of the concession...

Left: The Customs House complex next to the Oriental Hotel.

Team rushes to Japan to improve Thai Pavilion, stave off criticism

April 17, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Team rushes to Japan
to improve Thai Pavilion, stave off criticism](#) –
Bangkok Post, April 17, 2005

*Strong criticism against the Thai Pavilion at the World Exposition
2005 in Aichi, Japan, has prompted the Ministry of Natural Resources
and Environment and its contractor, JSL Co Ltd, to launch a modification
drive in a bid to save Thailand's face...*

The art of capturing the moment

April 17, 2005

Categories: Art

[The art of capturing the moment](#) – *The Nation*,
April 17, 2005

...Established in 1939 by Yim Hoontrakul and his cousin, Chaya Jitrakorn is one of Thailand's oldest studios. There are two branches, one on Tripetch Road near the Chalermkrung Theatre and another near Central Department Store Wang Burapha. Chaya Jitrakorn became famous during the era of Field Marshal Plaek Phibunsongkhram. When Plaek was prime minister, Yim was his personal photographer...

In Burma, economy is shrouded in mystery

April 17, 2005

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[In Burma, economy is shrouded in mystery](#) – IHT,

April 17, 2005

...Although the government says Burma's economy grew 12.6 percent last year, the International Monetary Fund has complained about a lack of credible statistics and estimated a national growth rate of about zero. A recent report prepared for the European Commission speculated that the economy had probably contracted...

Nike Factories In Thailand

April 18, 2005

Categories: Business

Nike has [released](#)
a [list](#)
[of all their world suppliers](#). Here are the 73 Thai factories that supply Nike.

A.C.P. APPAREL CO.,LTD. 99/9 MOO 15 BHAN-KOKPANGPOUAY
LAHAN CHATURAS LAHARN, CHATURUS CHAIYAPHUM CHAIYAPHUM 36130

ANTICE (TON-NUNN) CO.,LTD. 547-555 CHAROENNAKORN SOI 40, CHAROENNAKORN
RD. KLONGSAN KLONGSAN BANGKOK 10600

APPAREL CREATIONS CO. LTD. 197/59, 88 RATCHADA PHISEK SOI 25, WATTHAPHRA,
BANGKOK YAI BANGKOK BANGKOK 10600

BANGKOK RUBBER PUBLIC CO.,LTD. 90 M.11, BANGNOMKO 90 MOO 9 -SENA ROAD,
TAMBON BANGNOMKHO, SENA SENA AYUTTHAYA 13110

BANGKOK RUBBER PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED 611/40 SOIRATUTHIT 2 (PRADOO
1) BANGKLO BANGKHORLAEM, BANGKOK 10120 BANGKLO, BANGKOLAEM BANGKOK
BANGKOK 10120

BANGKOK RUBBER SAHARATTANA CO.,LTD. 225 MOO.3 TAMBON.KUNGSAMPAO MANOROM
CHAINAT 17110

C.G. PETROCHEMICAL CO.,LTD. 52 MOO 1 , PIMPA , BANGPAKONG CHACHOENGSAO
CHACHOENGSAO 24180

CASTLE INTERTRADE CO.,LTD. 358 SOI SOMDETPHRACHAOTAKSIN 41 BANGPAKOK,
RAJBURANA BANGKOK BANGKOK 10140

CHAMP KABIN CO., LTD 117 MOO 5 SUWANNASORN ROAD NONSEE KABINBURI PRACHINBURI
25110

CORTINA SIAM SPORTS CO., LTD. 88 MOO T. BANMAI, A. MUANG, A. MUANG
CHACHOENGSAO 24000

EAGLE SPEED INDUSTRIES (THAILAND) CO.,LTD. 343 CHALONGKRUNG LUMPLATIEW
LADKRABANG BANGKOK BANGKOK 10520

EAST ASIA GARMENT CO., LTD. 162/98-107 SOI PRACHAN PETCHKASEM ROAD
PHASRICHAROEN SOI PRACHAN 28 , PRASICHAROEN BANGKOK BANGKOK 10160

ENDO THAI CO., LTD. 211 MOO 4 LADKRABANG ESTATE CHALONGKRUNG RD. BANGKOK
BANGKOK 10520

FEDURA LIMITED (UDON) 140 MOO5, TUMBOL KUDSKA, MUANG UDONTHANI 41000

FOOTWEAR TECH 1530 CO., LTD. 507/2 MOO 11 SUKHLAPIBAN 8 NONGKHLAM
SHIRACHA SRIRACHA CHONBURI 20280

GARMENT TECH INTERNATIONAL CO.,LTD 55/1 MOO6 PHRAYA -SURANE ROAD KLONGSARMWAR
BANGKOK 10510

GENERAL KNITS 77 SOI UDOMSUK 37 ,SUKHUMVIT 103 ROAD BANGCHAK,PRAKANONG
BANGKOK BANGKOK 10260

GRANDEUR GARMENT CO.LTD. 61/1 MOO 4 SOI PETCHKASEM 47/2, PETCHKASEM
ROAD. BANGKAE BANGKAE BANGKOK 10160

HI-TECH APPAREL 1046/184-195 M. 1 SOIPRACHA-UTHIT 41, PRACHA-UTHIT
RD, BANGMOD THOONGKRU BANGKOK 10140

HI-TECH APPAREL 20/51 M. 2 SOI PACHA-UTHIT RD, THUNGKRU THOONGKRU
BANGKOK 10140

HONG SENG KNITTING LTD.,PART 649 / 4 – 5 SUKSAWAD 30, SUKSAWAD ROAD,
BANGPAKOK RAHJABURANA, RATHJABURANA BANGKOK 10140

INNOVATION NAKORNLUANG FOOTWEAR CO., LTD. 111 MOO 4, TAMBOL BANGPRAKRU
NAKORNLUANG AYUTTHAYA 13260

INTERNATIONAL CURITY FOOTWEAR CO.,LTD 620/5 MOO 11 SUKHAPIBARN 8 ROAD,
TAMBON NONGKHARM NONGKHARM, SRIRACHA SRIRACHA CHONBURI 20280

IVY LEAQUE GARMENT LTD.,PART 141 / 543 – 7 PRACHA-UTHIT 29, PRACHA-UTHIT
ROAD, TUNGKRU TUNGKRU BANGKOK 10140

KABINBURI PANASIA FOOTWEAR CO.,LTD 139 MOO 5 SUWANNASORN ROAD, TAMBON
NONSEE NONSEE DISTRICT KABINBURI KABINBURI PRACHINBURI 25110

LA GARMENT (1999) CO., LTD. 2492 SOI LADPRAW 126, LADPRAW RD., WANGTONGLANG,
WANGTONGLANG BANGKOK BANGKOK 10310

LIAN THAI APPAREL CO., LTD. 19/1 PETCHKASEM ROAD, TAMBON YAICHA SAMPARN
SAMPRAN NAKORNPATOM 73110

LIBERTY GARMENT CO.,LTD 137 / 47 SOI PHAWANA 41 LATPARAO RD., LATYAO
, JATUJAK , BKK JATUJAK BANGKOK BANGKOK 10900

LIBERTY GARMENT CO.,LTD. 65 MOO 5 TUMBON JUNG-HARN AMPUR JUNG-HARN
JANGHAM JUNG-HARN ROJET 45270

MASCO ENTERPRISE (THAILAND) CO., LTD. 41/5 MOO 1, T. BANMAI A. MUANG
CHACHOENGSAO 24000

MASTER PIECE GARMENT 88/2 MOO 4 RAMA 2 ROAD SAMAEDUM BANGKOK BANGKHUNTIAN
10150

MSP SPORTSWEAR CO., LTD. 1342 MOO1 RACHASRIMA CHOKCHAI ROAD, TOMBOL
HUA-TALAY AMPHUR MUANG NAKORN RACHASRIMA NAKORNRATCHASRIMA 30000

NAN YANG GARMENT CO.,LTD. 71 MOO 12, PHETKASEM 71 RD., THAILAND. NONGKHAM
BANGKOK 10160

NANYANG GARMENT CO., LTD. (PICHIT) NAN YANG GARMENT CO.,LTD , 99/1
, ROAD, BANNA, WACHIRABARAMEE, 66140 MOO. 4 PHITSANULOK NAKORNSAWAN
TAMBOL AMPHUR PICHIT PICHIT PICHIT

NC APPAREL (UPOUNTRY) 219 M2 BANHOI MALIWAN RD. NONUDOM CHUMPHAE KHON-KEAN

NICE APPAREL (LOPBURI) 199 MOO 6 TUMBON TADINDUM CHAIBADAL,LOPBURI.
CHAIBADAL LOPBURI 15130

NICE APPAREL COMPANY LIMITED 500 SOI THANAKARN AKARNSONGKROH 10 NGARMWONGWAN
ROAD. MUANG DISTRICT NONTABURI 11000

NK APPAREL (UPCOUNTRY) 369 M4, MANJAKIRI RD, TAPIBON BAN TOOM MUANG
KHON-KAEN 40130

NOVELTY APPAREL CO.,LTD 166,168 MOO1 PHETKASEM RD. T. YAYCHA A. SAMPHAN
NAKORNPATOM 73110

OPTECH COMPANY LIMITED 134 MOO 7 SUANLUANG KRATUMBAN SAMUTSAKORN 74110

P.S.R. FOOTWEAR CO.,LTD. 83 MOO.11 T.BANGNOMKHO 83 MOO 9 SAMKOK-SENA
ROAD, TAMBON BANGNOMKHO, SENA SENA AYUTTHAYA 13110

PAN ASIA FOOTWEAR PUBLIC CO., LTD. 507 MOO 11 SUKHAPIBARN 8 ROAD,
TAMBON NONGKHARM SRIRACHA SRIRACHA CHONBURI 20280

PILOT KNIT SPORT WEAR CO.,LTD. 20/6 MOO 7 BANGKHUNTIAN RD., BANGBON
KATE BANGBON BANGKOK BANGKOK 10150

RAJA UCHINO CO.,LTD. 630 MOO 11, SUKHAPHIBAL 8 ROAD, NONGKHAM, SRIRACHA
CONBURI SRIRACHA CHONBURI 20230

RAMA SHOES INDUSTRIES CO., LTD. 81 MOO. 8 SUKPRAYOON RD. TOMBON NAPA
AMPHER MUANG MUANG MUANG CHONBURI CHONBURI 20000

RIAN SILP KNITTING CO., LTD. 101 MOO 7 PHETKASEM ROAD, AOMNOI, KRATUMBAN
AUMNOI KRATHUMBAN SAMUTSAKORN 74130

SIAM CASUAL WEAR CO.,LTD. 512 SOI RAMKHAMHANG 39 (THEPLILA 1) WANGTHONGLANG
BANGKOK BANGKOK BANGKOK 10310

SIAM UNISOLES CO.,LTD. SAMUTSAKORN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE 1 MOO. 5 THONBURI-PAKTOR
RD., TAMBOL THASAI MUANG SAMUTSAKORN 74000

SRIKRUNG DEVELOPMENT TEXTILE CO.,LTD 12/1 M 9 SOI PETCHAKASEM 35 RD.
PASICHAROEN BANGWAH, PASICHAROEN BANGKOK BANGKOK 10160

STAR POLYMER CORPORATION CO.,LTD LAD KRABANG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE ZONE
3 255 CHALONG KRUNG RD., LAMPLATIEW,LAD KRABANG BANGKOK BANGKOK 10520

T.U.W. TEXTILE COMPANY LIMITED 113 MOO. 4 SAMPATUAN NAKORNCHAISRI
NAKORN CHAISRI NAKORN PATHOM 73120

T.U.W. TEXTILE COMPANY LIMITED 64 MOO. 11 BUDDHAMONTHOL SAI 5 RD.
RAIKING SAMPRAN NAKORN PATHOM 73210

TAYEH CO, LTD. 243 MOO 2, SOI WIROONRAT , SETTHAKIJ ROAD, KRATUMBAN
OMNOI SAMUTSAKORN 74130

THAI EASTERN INDUSTRY CO., LTD. 42/220 MOO 5 SOI MOOBANSRISTHIEN,
PETCHKASEM RD., RAIKHING RAIKHING SAMPRAN SAMPRAN NAKORN PRATHOM 73210

THAI GARMENT EXPORT CO., LTD 50/3 MOO 4 CHAENGWATTANA ROAD, PAKKRED
PAKKRED NONDHABURI NONDHABURI 11120

THAI GARMENT EXPORT CO., LTD. (FTY 1/3) 129 MOO 4 PETCHKASEM RD.,
OHMNOI KM 26 OHMNOI KRATUMBAN SAMUTSAKORN 74130

THAI GARMENT EXPORT CO.,LTD. 188 MOO 10 SRIMAHAPHOT, THATUM SRIMAHAPOT
PRACHINBURI PRACHINBURI 25140

THAI SILP 79 MOO 14 KINGKAEW ROAD, RACHATHAWA, BANGPLEE BANGPLEE SAMUTHPRAKAN
– 10540

THAI SILP SOUTH EAST ASIA IMPORT EXPORT CO., LTD. THAI SILP SOUTH
EAST ASIA IMPORT EXPORT CO.,LTD. 79 MOO 14 KINGKAEW ROAD, RACHATHAWA,
BANGPLEE SAMUTHPRAKAN – 10540

THAI SOCK CO., LTD. 29/1 MOO 4, POOCHAOSAMINGPRAI ROAD, SAMRONGKLANG,
PRAPRADAENG PRAPRADAENG SAMUTPRAKARN 10130

THAI TECH GARMENT MANUFACTURING CO., LTD 99/2 MOO 1 SIKHIU-CHOKCHAI
RD. PAKTHONGCHAI NAKORN RACHASRIMA 30150

THONG THAI TEXTILE CO., LTD. 23/39 MOO7 PETCHKASEM 81 NONGKHAEM NONGKHAEM
BANGKOK BANGKOK 10160

UDON GARMENT FACTORY CO.,LTD 115 MOO 13 TAMBOL BANTARD AMPHUR PHEN
BANGKOK UDONTHANI 41150

UNION FOOTWEAR PUBLIC CO., LTD. 99 MOO 5, BANGNA-TRAD KM.38 ROAD BANGPAKONG
BANGPAKONG CHACHOENSAO 24180

UNION FRIEND GARMENT CO., LTD. 1099/1-6 SOI DACHA, CHAN RD., TUNGWATDON
SATHORN SATHORN BANGKOK 10120

UNION SHOES CO., LTD 99/5 MOO 5, BANGNA-TRAD KM.38 ROAD BANGPAKONG
CHACHOENSAO 24180

UNIVERSAL SPORTING GOODS(THAI) CO., LTD. 91 MOO 1 SOI WATTHEIN DAD,
PETCHAKSEM ROAD, BAN-MAI BAN-MAI SAMPHAN SAMPHAN NAKORPATHOM 73110

V.T.GARMENT CO.,LTD 602/40-50 SOI CHARTSANGKORH SATHUPRADIT RD. BANGPONGPANG
YANNAWA THAILAND BANGKOK 10120

VEGA BALLS MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. 653 SOI E 6 MOO 4 , PATTANA 1 ROAD,
BANGPOO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE (EPZ) , PRAEKSA MUANG – SAMUTPRAKARN 10280

VT INDUSTRIAL 3 M. 4 SURANARAI RD CHAIBADAN LOPBURI LOPBURI 15230

WECH WIWAT 2 CO., LTD. (ROMKLAO) 358/81-82 MOO 3, ROMKLAO, KLONSONGTONNUN,
LADKRABANG BANGKOK 10520

WECH WIWAT CO., LTD. 99 MOOTEE 3, PRAYASURENT ROAD, BANGCHAN, KLONSONGSAWA
BANGCHAN BANGKOK BANGKOK 10510

WORLD CUP INDUSTRY 110/3-4 EKKACHAI RD BANGBON BANGKOK 10150

Tourists to Laos find link blocked

April 18, 2005

Categories: Laos

[Tourists to Laos find link blocked](#) – Bangkok Post, April 18, 2005

...The Tourism Authority of Thailand started promoting tourism in that part of the country immediately after the bridge opened. It said that with just a passport and permit for international use of vehicles from the transport office of Loei province, tourists could travel in their cars to Laos and stay in the country for up to 15 days.

But in February the prospect of travelling on a new and faster route to Luang Prabang suddenly vanished when authorities of Kaen Thao sent an informal message to their counterparts in Tha Li district to stop the flow of tourists to Luang Prabang via the bridge.

...The price of land at Ban Na Kraseng has increased tenfold to 300,000-400,000 baht per rai.

The land price is expected to rise to one million baht per rai once a new immigration office, duty-free shops, a police station and a hospital are completed in the next one to two years.

Thai-language newspapers – April 19, 2005

April 19, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

<p><i>Matichon</i> – April 19, 2005</p> <p>* On April 18, a meeting of senate considers the case of the dry longan fruit from 2003. The Suratthani Senator, Mr. Anand Alodom explains that the government lost 3235 million baht through interference. This loss consists of 2639 million baht from lost sales, interest compensation of 456 million baht, and management cost of 140 million baht. This loss was caused by widespread corruption. Meanwhile, Mr. Kaewsun Atipoti, Bangkok Senator, suggests the senate should investigate a politician's company in depth that is behind this longan corruption.</p>	<p>* On April 18, a storm in Satun Province damaged 710 houses impacting 3000 villagers. Four were injured including Mrs. Duang Promurai, 50-years-old, who was crushed by the concrete wall and is now being treated at Satun Hospital. The total damage is about 5 million baht.</p>
<p><i>Thairath</i> – April 19, 2005</p> <p>* On April 18 at the Bangkok governor's office, Governor Apirak Kosayothin said the Office of Town and Country Planning will present a plan to restore the Giant Swing. This is an urgent issue because the swing pole is very old and in a state of decay. The wood needed should be 25 metres long, 50 cms in diameter, and 4 pieces of wood are needed. A good one would be from the hopea or teak tree, but hopea is more sticky and resistant. If someone has this kind of wood, please sell or donate by calling 0-2354-1250. The restoration will begin within three months and maybe afterwards the swing ceremony will be performed again.</p>	<p>* Thaksin blames the media when they ask whether the government has a goal to link with NGOs and academics to be part of the government. Thaksin says the media just guesses what the government think and he never heard this idea. He also said there will be no house dissolution and the next election will be in four years.</p>

Voyage de M. Iagor

April 19, 2005

Voyage de M. Iagor –

April 19, 2005

Stephen point out these [old slides](#).

On the forum: Thai cardinal

April 19, 2005

On the forum: [Thai cardinal](#) – April 19, 2005

On the forum: Old Siam Photographs

April 19, 2005

On the forum: [Old Siam Photographs](#) – April 19, 2005

PM likes Constitution just fine when it suits his needs

April 19, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[PM likes Constitution just fine when it suits his needs](#)

– The Nation, April 19, 2005

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was spot on when he commented over the weekend that the People's Constitution was "functioning well" and that there was no need to amend it unless the public so demands. I would say exactly the same thing if I were him. Yesterday's front-page headline of the Thai Post explains why...

PM likes Constitution just fine when it suits his needs

Published on April 19, 2005

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was spot on when he commented over the weekend that the People's Constitution was "functioning well" and that there was no need to amend it unless the public so demands. I would say exactly the same thing if I were him.

Yesterday's front-page headline of the Thai Post explains why.

Thaksin was "urged to promote democracy" by initiating a constitutional change that would allow an under-strength opposition to censure him directly. The existing rules require a censure motion against the prime minister to be signed by at least 200 MPs, which means the former telecoms tycoon could retire from politics 15 years from now without a single parliamentary scratch.

The academics making that call were obviously grabbing at straws. Even a complete fool wouldn't initiate such a change if he were in Thaksin's position. How nice it must be to pull every government string with opposition MPs virtually unable even to mention your name when attacking administrative failures or deploring enormous interests awarded by the state to companies linked to you-know-who. Accountability is highly overrated. This era, Thais seem to need a leader who is fast, furious and, most important of all, well protected, because his stability and the nation's are inseparable.

But the point is that this proposal will never go away. No matter how desperate it may seem, it will quickly gain momentum if other constitutional changes are floated. In Thailand, charter amendments are often done as a package, which means if the government or Parliament initiates just one change, a Pandora's box would be opened.

And among all the proposals being suggested at the moment, the one seeking to make it easier to censure the prime minister makes the most sense. Others would only serve special interests, such as the proposed relaxation of rules limiting political office-holders' roles or investment in businesses. Thaksin, no matter how popular, would not like to be perceived as backing constitutional changes that would enhance special interests while ignoring ones that would make Thai democracy stronger.

The prime minister would also not want to become involved in a constitutional-amendment game, which, as history shows, could easily evolve into something quite uncontrollable. Debate can provoke emotions, invoke forgotten values and even threaten a government's position. The "green flag" fever of 1997, which forced Parliament to reluctantly accept the existing charter, drafted by a special assembly, also proved that the spirit of political reform is strongest when disillusionment with the status quo is widespread.

A still-popular prime minister might want to gamble. But Thaksin is apparently smart enough to know that if a constitutional fervour coincides with, say, a major corruption scandal or a downturn in the economy, things could turn pretty nasty for him politically. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh looked fairly comfortable when he took office in 1996, but the financial crisis a year later and the campaign for constitutional reform combined to see him ousted unceremoniously.

Like it or not, no matter how dominant Thai Rak Thai is in politics, when Thailand starts debating constitutional change, it won't be about what the powers-that-be want. So, Thaksin is doing the right thing – sitting tight, making nice comments about democracy and the present charter and sounding ready to back positive changes advocated by the public. (But the prime minister might have overdone it yesterday when, speaking with his Danish counterpart, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, he claimed that Thailand was a model of democracy and "selling" the ideology to every country. The visiting Danish leader was, however, polite enough not to say, "I thought democracy was not your goal.")

Thaksin may not be that familiar with constitutional games. But he must have witnessed over previous decades that anyone attempting to alter a charter to protect special interests often ended up with his tail between his legs. That he has ironically benefited from this People's Charter provides another major motive for a hands-off strategy.

Reformers, meanwhile, will just have to wait and see. Any push for meaningful constitutional amendments would most likely prove futile without government support. We might be getting stuck in a constitutional vacuum. One of the charter's biggest flaws – the prime minister's strong shield against parliamentary censure – could possibly be removed if he sees the need to fix its lesser shortcomings. That is unlikely to happen, though, with Thaksin's statement that this charter was doing fine the strongest hint that he won't attempt anything risky.

Tulsathit Taptim

Tulsathit Taptim is managing editor of The Nation.

Thai-language newspapers – April 20, 2005

April 20, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– April 20, 2005

* April 19 – The cabinet has a cool idea to decrease the accidents for Songkran next year. They will have a continuous campaign to emphasize to those who ride motorcycles to wear helmets and will have a questionnaire to figure out how a helmet should look like and whether they want an PM or movie star to sign their signature on it.

Thairath

– April 20, 2005

* On April 19, at Thai Rak Thai Party headquarters, there was a pouring ceremony for Thaksin and the senior, Sanoh Tienthong. Yaowapa Wongsawat, Thaksin's sister, was hugged by Sanoh when she poured water on his hands . Meanwhile, Thaksin ordered party members not to speak so much and stop quarreling. He said he also was going to try to calm down more.

Komchadluek –

April 20, 2005

* April 20 – Nong Hongtae, a boy injured in the explosion at Hadyai Airport, likes the character Ultraman. So Mr. Warayuth Thavornphasook, the GM of Chiyo Production, which has the copyright of Ultraman Thailand, and his team visited Nong Hongtae at Hadyai Hospital. This made Nong Hongtae very glad to see Ultraman Zoffe visiting him at his bed. Ultraman also gave him presents. The doctor reveals that Nong Hongtae's mind is better. He sings the song "Deck Doi" to his mom and pretends to be Ultraman.

‘Where are the good people?’

April 20, 2005

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

‘Where are the good people?’

– April 20, 2005

During Songkran banners went up on flyovers around town that read ‘Where are the good people?’ This was a tie-in to a government TV campaign to remind people not to give into excess.

U.N.: Some countries benefiting from bird flu, while economic toll may not be as bad as expected

April 20, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

U.N.:

Some countries benefiting from bird flu, while economic toll may not be as bad as expected – AP, April 20, 2005

Some Asian countries ravaged by bird flu have been able to limit the loss of billions of dollars by modifying their poultry exports, a UN animal health economist said Wednesday, pointing to Thailand which is now cooking much of its meat...

But Thailand recovered some losses by dramatically increasing its cooked chicken exports, Hall told lawmakers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at a bird flu meeting. It is expected to export about 350,000 tons of cooked chicken to Japan this year _ up 50,000 tons from last year...

Democracy in Myanmar?

April 20, 2005

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

Democracy in Myanmar? –

The Irrawaddy, April 20, 2005

Anti-government Burmese sources look with skepticism the claim that Thailand is pressing Myanmar to be democratic: [Thaksin:](#)

[Thailand Sells Democracy to Burma](#) and [Cartoon:](#)

[‘We Are Selling Democracy’](#)

Thai-language newspapers – April 21, 2005

April 21, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

<p><i>Matichon</i> – April 21, 2005</p> <p>* Dr. Kornpatra Mayurasakorn, doctor of social medicine, Samutsakorn Hospital reveals his research of National Research Committee office that overthrows 30 years of belief that one should not eat eggs every day. His research specific that the healthy working people can eat eggs every day and will not get raised cholesterol, but will have decreased fat and no risk of high blood pressure as they thought.</p>	<p>* On April 20, Pol. Gen Sontichai Wattankultep, superintendent of a police precinct of Yatakhao, Trang Province reveals that war weapons were found in the overhanging stone of Buntad Mountain, Thambol Naikuan. These are weapons hidden in 1980 so he does not want people to be panic and think they are from the current unrest groups in the three southern provinces. Some bullets in a box no. 8073 with English instructions shows it belongs to the Thai army. It is believed that these were war weapons from communist soldiers in 1979. Besides, some war weapon theft were covered by the <i>Matichon</i> newspaper in 1980.</p>
<p><i>Thairath</i> – April 21, 2005</p> <p>* Bloody news – Mr. Chun Chuan Wan, a 41-year-old wealthy Chinese Malaysian man, and owner of a mini mart in Penang, was shot dead in his Toyota Altis (plate no. PGF-28, Malaysia) by two Thai male teenagers in Had Yai. Near his body Ms. Duangporn, a 30-year-old was also seriously injured. For this bold shooting, the police assume it may be related to a lover case or to his business. He often comes to Had Yai and may have a conflict with others.</p>	<p>* At the Center for Research and Development of Sex Study, Chulalongkorn University, a seminar of Sex language was organized about “Factors related to refraining from sex in female youth.” It reveals that female student of vocational schools have more sex than secondary school female students. The factor that leads them to have sex is influence from close friends. If they know more about sex, they will have less sex, because they will know the effects on them if they have sex too early. This is opposite to the male student that have sex more when they know more about sex. The researchers suggest that family relationships are very important—especially associations that build up sincerity, trust and people who can advise.</p>

Bangkok's birthday?

April 21, 2005

Bangkok's birthday? – April
21, 2005

April 21 is supposedly Bangkok 223rd anniversary (it has been observed around this date in the past), but we have not heard of any observance this year.

Thai-language newspapers – April 22, 2005

April 22, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon – April 22, 2005

* The Nutrition Association recommends eating one egg every day. Meanwhile the Public Health Ministry specifies that normal people can eat 3-4 eggs per week, children 1-year-old and up can eat eggs every day. Their study reveals Thai people eat eggs half as frequently as foreigners. Dr. Kornpatra Mayurasakorn, the researcher, also reveals that there are both supporters and objectors to his research. He prepares to continue research as to whether the elderly can eat an egg every day.

Thairath – April 22, 2005

* **Bloody news** – Nakornpathom – Police were informed that Mrs. Sunan Kingkaew, a 40-year-old cloth merchant, was shot dead with .38 gun by two young men riding a motorcycle in front of her stall before. Police investigated and found that she had been arrested in drug cases, but was released many times. She also sister-in-law of Mrs. Ubon Thoopjinda, the god mother of Tangluang Community, Nakornpathom who sell drugs and was shot to death 10 hours before. It is assumed that this was related to a double-cross about illegal business.

* On April 21, Thaksin gave an interview after presiding over the opening ceremony of Justice Court Day 2005 at the Institute of Bureaucracy Development of Justice Court saying that he will travel abroad often and will spend six months total overseas. “Yes, I will be in other countries more often. If you count it up, it will be 180 days.” He went to Indonesia in the afternoon. He will come back for the TRT Annual meeting on April 24 and will go to Jordan and come back to Thailand again on April 27.

* Bangkok – The police of Taopoon station arrested Mr. Worapon Tunaiem and Mr. Monti Sirikool with stolen Bangkok Bank and Kasikornthai ATM cards. They robbed a transvestite on April 13 by pretending to buy sex and on the way to a room their friends come out to rob the victim’s money and mobile phone. The polices also arrested another member of the team.

The lore of Guy Yang Makkasan

April 22, 2005



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The lore of *Guy Yang Makkasan* –
April 22, 2005

Guy Yang Makkasan, the landmark restaurant at the intersection of Makkasan and Ratchaprarop Roads, is gone. This was a wooden building by the railroad tracks with chickens turning on spits in front of red glowing coals at the front of the restaurant. The shop served somtan, grilled chicken and other northeastern food.

It is likely the building was removed as part of the general clearing of encroaching buildings along the tracks in the Makkasan area in preparation for the [Airport rail link](#).

Parking was available across the tracks in an old shopping area. People from all walks of life would park and then walk across the oily railroad tracks to reach the restaurant. The entire building rumbled and shook as trains passed. It was fun to sit and watch traffic in the heart of modern Bangkok in a building steeped with traditional lore. Among the stories:

- * The placement of the grill that roasted chicken was at the front of the restaurant facing the end of Makkasan Road. This was done for proper *wong shui* (feng shui). Normally buildings that face an oncoming road either have small wong shui mirrors or, in rarer cases, a flame or cooking fire. Any of these is said to block the bad fortune that travels down a road. It was only in the last few months that the chickens were placed behind glass to protect them from exhaust fumes from the road a meter away.

- * Due to a special number the restaurant had been given by a fortune teller, the restaurant only cooked a set number of chickens a day and usually closed by 6:00 pm when the food ran out.

- * There was a photo on the wall of the late owner/manager along with a small shrine. In hushed tones the senior staff of the restaurant would tell this tale of his legendary death: The owner had come from the northeast and recruited all his staff from there for his successful restaurant. Once a fortune teller told him that the bad luck he had earned by slitting the necks of so many chickens who return upon him. The owner had a habit of mercilessly berating the staff he brought in from the provinces and most bore it stoically. One day, however, a young man who had had enough of the bullying grabbed a knife and slit his boss' throat, killing him and bringing the fortune teller's predictions to reality.

Vietnam's 'Professor Turtle' Keeps Lake Legend Alive

April 22, 2005

Categories: Vietnam

[Vietnam's](#)

['Professor Turtle' Keeps Lake Legend Alive](#) –

April 22, 2005

...Now, more than a decade after communist Vietnam opened its doors to the outside world, thousands of tourists flock annually to the lake to learn about the legend and perhaps catch a glimpse of the "monster" turtle estimated to weigh about 440 pounds.

...World Conservation Union scientist Hendrie told an environmental conference in Vietnam last month that the giant turtle is thought to be one of six of its species remaining...

Letter From Bangkok: Thai leader's promise on rights unfulfilled

April 22, 2005

Categories: Human Rights, The Thaksin Years

[Letter](#)

[From Bangkok: Thai leader's promise on rights unfulfilled](#)

– *International Herald Tribune*, April

22, 2005

...Five years ago, Thailand looked set to lead Southeast Asia on human rights. Its armed forces had retreated from politics, its press ranked among the region's freest, a new constitution produced by a process of democratic debate had created semi-independent bodies to provide checks and balances to executive power, including a National Human Rights Commission.

Instead, however, "Thailand has gone from being a beacon of freedom and respect for human rights in the region to being a country of high concern," said Brad Adams, Asia director of Human Rights Watch. "Much of the steady progress Thailand had made in the last decade has been rolled back under Thaksin's tenure."

A war on drug trafficking that Thaksin started in 2003 illustrates the point. It led to 2,200 killings, many bearing the hallmarks of extra-judicial execution-style slayings. Tactics Thaksin adopted to curb the insurgency in the south proved to be similarly ferocious. At least 78 Muslims arrested after a riot in October died in military custody. Most of them reportedly suffocated in military trucks, where they had been stacked in piles. No one has been prosecuted or punished.

...Yet little else has changed. Somchai's disappearance continues to be hidden behind a wall of official obscurity. Moreover, although Angkana is a co-plaintiff in the case against the five officers, she has not been allowed to see the police investigation that is the basis of the prosecution case against them. Applications by Thai Law Society to see the police report have been blocked on grounds of national security...

“Quality of life” index for 111 countries

April 22, 2005

["Quality of life" index for 111 countries](#) –

The Economist, April 22, 2005

Where will be the best place to live in 2005? Thailand is #42. A full list is [here](#).

Ripping Off Good Reads in China

April 24, 2005

Categories: China

[Ripping](#)

[Off Good Reads in China](#) – *LA Times*, April 24, 2005

The five-volume "Executive Ability" book series is a classic in Chinese business and management circles. Collectively, it has sold more than 2 million copies in the last two years. Top universities and public libraries in China keep multiple copies on hand.

It's also a big fake.

The series purports to be a translation of English-language works, but no such titles exist. The principal author — a Paul Thomas, said to be an eminent Harvard University business professor — is not real. Also made up is the rave review on the back cover, attributed to the Wall Street Journal: "The most practical and advanced management thought of our time."...

Details: The Giant Swing

April 25, 2005

Categories: History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Details: The Giant Swing before restoration

April 25, 2005 – The base of the north (right) and south (left) legs of the swing



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

July 30, 2005 – The base of the north (right) and south (left) legs of the swing

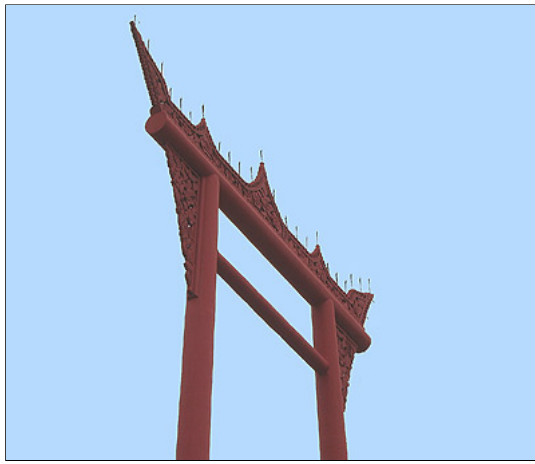


(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

April 25, 2005
– Top of the swing with lightning rods



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

July 30, 2005 – Top of the swing
with lightning rods



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

April 25, 2005 – Details
of the swing legs – Left – south leg, Right – north leg



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

April 25, 2005 – Above and right



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Left: July 30, 2005

Thai-language newspapers – April 25, 2005

April 25, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon – April 25, 2005

* April 24 – "Forum of Consumers" is opened at Thammasat University. Senators, MPs and the Bangkok Governor also joined. Dumrong Puttan, Bangkok Senator and Chairperson, said the government is very slow to solve problems and in some cases takes two years. Meanwhile, Apirak will open a hotline for consumer complaints. Jurin Laksanavisit, Democrat Party list MP urges the setting up of a fund for consumer protection and a Consumer Protection Court.

Thairath – April 25, 2005

* **Bloody news** – Saraburi – Mr. Samai Ponrum was held at Muaklek Police Station after stabbing his stepdaughter. He was upset that she always abused him and chased him out of the house. He was grabbed by neighbors. The police will find out whether this is the real cause of the murder.

* Thai Rak Thai creates a new executive board. Thaksin starts the choosing of 119 persons. Newin, Suwat, and Sontaya are the deputy leaders. Meanwhile Pramuan Rujanaseri was dropped. The five deputy secretaries are Maew's people. Thaksin declares a dream to make TRT to a political institution and gain even more votes with no more factions. He retorts that Banharn failed because people lose the faith in him, not because of a 'big rain.'

* **Bloody news** – The police of Klongtan Station investigate a body that apparently fell from the 9th floor of Charoenjai Place Building in Soi Pridi Pranomyong 31. It is found that Mr. Pud Wanke, a 41-year-old guard for the building, stole money and a Toyota car key from Ms. Chonlatis Chootim who stayed in room 9C, but he slipped when he climbed out on the balcony and fell.

Abandoned places in Japan

April 25, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok

Abandoned places in Japan – April 25, 2005

Eerie photos of an [abandoned amusement park](#) (page 1, [page 2](#), [page 3](#)), apparently in Japan. [Abandoned places in Japan](#)

Four tram tickets sell for US\$187

April 25, 2005
Categories: Trams



Winning bid: **US \$187.50**

Ended: Apr-21-05 18:39:51 PDT

Start time: Apr-14-05 18:39:51 PDT

History: [12 bids](#) (US \$9.95 starting

Winning bidder: [atts64](#) ([116](#) ★)

Item location: Newportbeach
United States

Four tram tickets sell for US\$187 – April 25, 2005
We noticed that four vintage Bangkok tram tickets sold for an amazing \$187 on eBay.

Campaign poster – Thaksin Pays Off the Nation’s Debt

April 25, 2005

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Leftover campaign poster: *Thai Rak Thai party – New thinking, new doing for Thai people – Independent now, worked two years to pay off the IMF debt – M.P. Siri Wangboonkerd and Pranakorn, Pomprab residents support Thaksin to pay off the debt for Thai people.*

On the forum: Night map of Thailand

April 25, 2005

On the forum: [Night map of Thailand](#) – April 25, 2005

Thaksin's Cabinet

April 25, 2005

Categories: The Thaksin Years

Another from Chang Noi:

[From Westminster to Washington](#) – April

25, 2005

...And in his recent Cabinet choice, 27 of the 35 ministers are outsiders. This fact was rather disguised because many of them had been ministers and MPs before. But others are people tied directly to Thaksin himself including a long-standing banker, family doctor, and several political aides. Ministers need have no political base or standing other than their relationship with the prime minister.

...In Thailand's old system, much of the power lay with locally rooted MPs and with senior bureaucrats. The prime minister's influence depended on how he balanced these two poles. The new system has a strong central phalanx made up of the quasi-directly elected prime minister, his hand-picked Cabinet, and the new cadre of staffers. The banging about inside the TRT party over recent weeks is a consequence of these changes...

A tale of two newspapers: Krue Se and Tak Bai reports ‘censored?’

April 25, 2005

Categories: The Thai Deep South

A tale of two newspapers: Krue Se and Tak Bai reports ‘censored?’ – April 25, 2005

[Commission to release reports into Krue Se, Tak Bai deaths](#) – Bangkok Post, April 22, 2005

The reports on the Krue Se and Tak Bai clashes will be released on Sunday but some details about how almost 200 Muslims died in the encounters will be withheld so as not to inflame unrest in the deep South, National Reconciliation Commission chairman Anand Panyarachun said...

He would release as much as he could, but some sections would be left out since they may affect ongoing court cases, inflame religious and racial conflicts or have an adverse impact on people who gave accounts of what happened.

...Nideh Waba, chairman of the group of Islamic schools in the five southern border provinces, welcomed the decision to release the reports saying he was one of those who had given accounts to police...

[SOUTHERN TRAGEDIES: Reports to be censored prior to publication](#) – The Nation, April 22, 2005

The National Reconciliation Commission will release the official reports on the two bloody suppression operations at Tak Bai and Krue Se Mosque last year, but only after screening them for sensitive sections.

“The government authorised the commission on Monday to distribute the reports as it sees fit,” NRC chairman Anand Panyarachun said yesterday.

Apart from passages endangering personal safety, prejudicing the ongoing judicial review or fanning religious strife, the public will get full access to the reports, he said.

Two independent committees completed their investigations last year but the government would disclose only some of the findings. Information on events leading up to the high death tolls was withheld.

... “Justice, legitimacy and transparency must prevail before social strife can end...”

[Independent panel descends to deep South](#) – TNA, April 21, 2005

...The commission would also look into reports on official investigation of last year’s violent unrest at the province’s Krue Se Mosque and at the Tak Bai Police Station in the nearby Narathiwat Province, in which scores of Muslims were killed, at its next meeting, scheduled for 24 April, said the journalists...

A tale of two newspapers: Krue Se and Tak Bai reports are released – April 25, 2005

[Use of force at Krue Se condemned – NRC releases reports into southern deaths](#) – Bangkok Post, April 25, 2005

The two independent reports into the Krue Se and Tak Bai clashes fault the use of overwhelming force and want officials to be held accountable for the tragedies. The reports were released almost in full by the National Reconciliation Commission yesterday...

[KRUE SE, TAK BAI INCIDENTS: NRC releases official version](#) – The Nation, April 25, 2005

Anand says panel censored findings for witnesses’ safety and to assist reconciliation – The National Reconciliation Commission (NRC) yesterday released the government reports on the Krue Se and Tak Bai incidents with parts of the documents blacked out.

NRC chairman Anand Panyarachun said the panel’s censorship was aimed at protecting the rights and safety of witnesses and preventing negative effects on its reconciliation efforts...

Thai-language newspapers – April 26, 2005

April 26, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

<p><i>Matichon</i> – April 26, 2005</p> <p>* The core person of Chatthai Party counters Thai Rak Thai. Banharn confirms the ‘shower of rain’ and the ‘truth is the truth’ and will stop talking otherwise it will be cause pain. Chuwit blames TRT rotten factions and points out that “primary voting is the advance buying vote and it is the way to avoid the Election Commission.” Meanwhile three groups in TRT believe it is difficult to disintegrate the factions.</p>	<p>* At the cabinet meeting on April 26, Culture Minister Uraiwan Tienthong will propose a 172 million baht budget for a project hiring monks to teach morals in school. The target is one monk teacher for each thambon. This project will hire 4,000 monks who will get a 2,000 baht allowance per month.</p>
<p><i>Thairath</i> – April 26, 2005</p> <p>* Pratumthani – A car crash on Rangsit-Nakorn Nayok road under repair. Two men died instantly. One is Mr. Songsak Somwadwong or Aek Inzis Eakow, comedian of Toomtam Choenyim band, who has ability to imitate politicians. His friend said that day Mr. Aek had a ‘black face.’ He also ate five dishes of rice. Mr. Aek said he felt as if he may never eat again.</p>	<p>* Chachoengsao – Mr. Somsak Runnaroj, a 35- year-old worker at Precise Steal Toy Construction wearing his uniform was found dead straddling his motorcycle near a path near Sotharavej Hospital. After an investigation, police and doctors found no wound or injures, but found he had asthma medicine in his pocket and four false teeth stuck in his throat. It is thought that Mr. Somsak died from choking on his false teeth and had been dead for 5-6 hours.</p>

Baiyok I Building declared a ‘dangerous area’ after fire

April 26, 2005

Categories: Buildings

[Baiyok I Building declared a ‘dangerous area’ after fire](#) – TNA, April 26, 2005

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has declared the ‘Baiyok I Building’, one of Bangkok’s high-rise buildings in Patunam area, to be a ‘dangerous area’ in which no one are allowed to enter...

A fire broke out at the building this afternoon, injuring seven people trapped inside, some of whom are foreigners, although the fire was later under control...

It was the second fire at the building this week...

Thai-language newspapers – April 27, 2005

April 27, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– April 27, 2005

* Gen. Prem Tinlasulanon, the head of the Privy councilors and a statesman made a speech to Yala, Pattani, and Naratiwat youths at the Prem Tinlasulanon Foundation. He counters that it is not true that Muslims are second class citizens. He confirmed that Thai people have no class divisions. Meanwhile, the cabinet appoints Jaturon Chaisaeng, Deputy Prime Minister to take charge on the SIM card issue. The Chairperson of DTAC complains that controls on prepaid cards make DTAC lose 900 million baht.

Thairath

– April 27, 2005

* Phuket – A patient of Wachira Hospital, Mr. Anand Termtan, 84-years-old, complained of ear pain and blood from both ears. After checking, the doctor found there were lots of worms inside. He said that two days ago when he was putting out the garbage, a fly went inside his left ear so it may be the fly laid its eggs there.

1,000-year sentences in 17-year court case

April 27, 2005

Categories: Crime

[1,000-year sentences in 17-year court case](#) – TNA, April 27, 2005

...But today the Bangkok Criminal Court finally found five men guilty of stealing royal orders and decorations, and handed down sentences of over 1,000 years each.

The case, which has been dragging on since 1988, involves the now-deceased deputy temple abbot and 15 other men accused of forging documents relating to temple donations in order to request royal decorations from the Ministry of Education, and of soliciting charitable donations for their own personal use...

Police report on Baiyoke Tower fire

April 27, 2005

Categories: Buildings

[Police report on Baiyoke Tower fire](#) – TNA, April 27, 2005

...Hotel guests at the Bai Yoke One tower moved their belongings to the sister building, Baiyoke Two on Wednesday after the city's administration declared the 43-storey building off-limits.

The Bangkok municipal authorities believed the fire was sparked by a short circuit in the control room, the top Bangkok official, Khun Ying Natthanon Thavisin told TNA.

...The Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayothin has signed a contract for fire engines and other gear from Austria. Although it costs more than six billion baht, the new equipment will help officials fight any fires in building over ten storeys...

Chinatown circa 1940s

April 27, 2005

Categories: Old photos and films



Chinatown circa 1940s – April 27, 2005

What street is this?

Changes to Samui airport plan

April 27, 2005

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Changes to Samui airport plan](#) – Bangkok Post,
April 27, 2005

The Aviation Department is revising plans for Koh Samui's second airport after Transport Minister Suriya Junggrunreangkit visited the site and saw that a mountain would block a runway. If approved, the second Samui airport would be built on 2,000 rai of land in the Phru Na Muang area. It would cost about 500 million baht excluding land expropriation costs.

Kasem Chankaew, head of a team conducting the feasibility study, said the Aviation Department had assigned Kasetsart University's environmental college to study the possibilities of the project by focusing on necessities, the location and size of the airport, the number of flights, environment and noise pollution.

The island's current airport, belonging to Bangkok Airways, a private firm, is deemed too small.

Anusorn Wongwisuthivej, a tourism business operator and former Thai Airways International pilot, said the island needed one more airport as Bangkok Airways' facility could accommodate fewer than 350,000 tourists per year. This year the island expects 920,000 visitors.

More on [Ring road/ring rail projects](#)

Thai-language newspapers – April 28, 2005

April 28, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Matichon

– April 28, 2005

* Maj. Gen Sanan Kajornprasart, former chairman advisor of Mahachon Party, asks for two more days to make a decision whether he will get the position of party leader after the annual meeting on April 24 resolved to make him leader. Sources close to him hint he will accept.

* Dr

Pradit Charoenthaitawee, of the National Human Rights Commission gave an interview on April 27 about the case of Tesco Lotus. Allegedly the store ordered workers to work on holidays without getting payment, but instead giving them a substitution for a normal work day. This violates the Labour Protection Bill of 1998. Meanwhile, Ms. Wilaiwan Saetea, Chairperson of the Thai Labour Solidarity Working Committee said Tesco Lotus has a head office in England and knows the rules of International Standard Employment, so it is strange that this chronic problem has existed since the stores opened in Thailand. The government claims not to know and the Labour Ministry has neglected to investigate.

Thairath

– April 28, 2005

* **Bloody news** – Saraburi

– Mr. Anuchai Noitai, son-in-law of Mrs. Khanthong Morya, was crazy when his wife wanted to divorce him. He shot his wife and injured two other persons while killing his mother-in-law and three other family members. He also burnt a car and attacked many people and then ran away. The polices have not apprehended him yet.

* Mr.

Poksak Settabutra, director of the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority, gives the green light for the buses to raise fares on 1 baht for both normal and air-conditioned buses. It will start May 2.

Rangoon to Host Thai Trade Fair

April 28, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Cambodia

[Rangoon to Host Thai Trade Fair](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, April 28, 2005

Rangoon will host the Thai Trade Fair 2005 from May 4-7, according to today's State-run The New Light of Myanmar...

Traffic trouble spam

April 29, 2005

Traffic trouble spam –

April 29, 2005

Electron cars? Flying cars? Green system? We keep getting this bizarre traffic-related spam. Don't miss their [website](#).

{Note: It is not a spam, it is A LOVE AND DUTY, we assist BGFG propagate information of love, BGFG don't know herself. Please LOVE OUR 1000,000,000 CITY BROTHER AND SISTER (include yourself and your family), to decrease casualty in peacetime, and give city people tranquility and welfare, to create 21-CENTURY NEW MAINSTAY PEOPLE-SERVE INDUSTRY, it is a sort of charity}.

Traffic trouble is one of the greatest trouble of city people. It not only give city people great vexation, also deprive thousands men's life, gestating the man life tragedies. Please give love to city people, to propagandize and popularize the superconductive green traffic system. It is new inventing 21-century most advanced traffic system.

(In green traffic system, the cars of car-current like electrons in electric current under superconductive state), the resistance reduces to a minimum value, therefore 3 significant merits emerge:

1. Low Cost. No interchange and underground railway must be built to improve the city's traffic condition. The investment is much smaller, only 1/10 (or below) of common traffic road system, (from small city to very large city the total investment of whole city only 100M-450M USD), greatly decrease the tax burden of city people.

2. On road and at crossing can't form traffic jam, greatly decrease vexation of travelers and drivers.

3. Traffic accidents decrease approach to zero that greatly decreases casualties and man life tragedies in peacetime.

(Can contain flying cars)

Green traffic system shall give the people of your city happiness and tranquility, cast off bothersome traffic trouble.

Details see: www.greensparkling.net

HOW TO GIVE LOVE TO CITY PEOPLE:

1. IF YOU ARE POOR MAN, Please you copy this letter and transmit to 10 (or above 10) your friends and relations. And 2 emails transmit to city officers, to urge them to set up green traffic system in their city.

2. IF YOU NOT A POOR MAN, AND IF YOU ARE A BIG CORPORATION OR OTHER ENTERPRISE, Please you invest this new mainstay industry, (can't invest, please YOU assist or support us purely, even less than US\$ 10), to speedup this significant item's development. Our address and bank account see APPENDIX.

(The market of green traffic system about US\$ 500,000millions, this enterprise shall become 21-century new mainstay industry. So the investors not only have helped city people, also God rewards themselves great chances for their benevolence).

3. IF YOU ARE NEWSPAPER, TV, IT ENTERPRISE, PLEASE PROPAGANDIZE FOR IT FREE OF CHARGE

TO THE INVESTORS AND OTHER PEOPLE, if you can't believe it is a real fact, please see the details in website: www.greensparkling.net or attend the learned conference. (see www.greensparkling.net)

Labour Museum at Makkasan

April 29, 2005

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Labour Museum at Makkasan](#) – April 29, 2005

Wisarut points out this Thai-language article about the Thai Labor Museum.

Earlier: [Thai Labour Museum reopens](#)

Bumrungrad on 60 Minutes

April 29, 2005

Bumrungrad on *60 Minutes*

– April 29, 2005

Concerning the recent story about Bumrungrad being profiled on 60 Minutes ([Bumrungrad](#)

[gets its '60 Minutes' of fame](#), *The Nation*, April 27, 2005),

Loren points out: *You can actually [watch](#)*

[the story on the CBS news web site](#).

The last time Thailand's medical tourism was profiled in the *New York Times*, outraged lawyers wrote to the editor warning people that it would be nearly impossible to sue for malpractice in Thailand.

Waterworld fears again

April 30, 2005

Categories: Uncategorized

Waterworld fears again – April 30, 2005

If the mid-1990s there was a run on land in the north because fears of a ‘waterworld’—Thailand being soon inundated by rising ocean levels. This was stoked by many stories and musings in the Thai-language press. Today a similar story appeared: [Residents of Lampang could someday live near the seashore](#) – Bangkok Post, April 30, 2005.

Thailand's coastline could touch the northern province of Lampang after the widespread melting of the polar ice caps dramatically increases sea levels worldwide, a scientist said yesterday.

"It is possible the sea will move up to Lampang, about 600 kilometres north of Bangkok," Chirapol Sintunawa, of Mahidol University's faculty of environmental sciences, told a press briefing yesterday on global warming's effects on Thailand.

"Scientists can't tell when the inundation will occur, but it is very likely the progression of the ice melting and resulting rising sea levels will be clearly seen in the next three years," he said.

Mr Chirapol's study on the possible effects of global warming will be presented at Environment Fair 2005...

"There is no doubt that southern and central regions of Thailand will lie under the sea if we cannot stop the ice cap from melting soon," said Mr Chirapol...