

# In a steamy Thai factory, soccer ball makers put their stamp on the World Cup

July 2, 2006

Categories: Business, Sports

[In a steamy Thai factory, soccer ball makers put their stamp on the World Cup](#) – *International Herald Tribune*, July 2, 2006

*...Only about a dozen of the 250 workers who assemble the Adidas-brand balls here are men. And Akiyoshi Kitano, the Japanese supervisor of the factory, said it is better that way. When it comes to production goals, women are much better at handling the ball, he said.*

*“The ladies are more skillful,” Kitano said, adding that their fingers are more nimble and their work more precise...*

# **Thai hunger for cheap energy throws lifeline to Myanmar**

July 2, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Thai](#)

[hunger for cheap energy throws lifeline to Myanmar](#) – AFP, July 2, 2006

# UBC True Hardball

July 3, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

UBC True hardball –

July 3, 2006

Latest salvo in the competitive mobile phone industry.

The highly popular *Academy Fantasia*, a show where viewers vote off members each week with SMS messages, can now only be accessed with a UBC True mobile phone account—unlike before when anyone could participate.

To make sure no one misses out, this month's UBC True program guide comes with a SIM card.

# Siang Pure Oil

July 3, 2006

Categories: Uncategorized



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Siang Pure Oil –

July 3, 2006

One of the several retro/modern ads for Siang Pure Oil. It says: *Ease your dizziness with mentholated ointment – Siang Pure Oil*

# Songkran-like holiday in Brazil?

July 3, 2006

Categories: Songkran

Songkran-like holiday in Brazil?

– July 3, 2006

[This](#)  
[photo](#) on [this thread](#)

has an illustration of Carnival in 1822 with water throwing and smearing white substance on faces that is reminiscent of Thailand's [Songkran](#).

# Finding the man who is hiding a woman inside

July 4, 2006

Categories: Film and TV



Finding the man who is hiding a woman inside – July 4, 2006

No country makes more quirky, politically incorrect, and culturally specific movies than Thailand. The latest: *Gang Chanee gap E Ab*

The movie is a comedy about a group of women trying to expose a man who they suspect is a closet homosexual.

Explanation of the title:

"Gang" – the English word

Chanee – Thai gays use this slang word which means a gibbon (a kind of monkey)–to refer to women. It is said that when women speak of their husbands in a group they use the colloquial "pou" and the chant of "pou, pou" in a group of women chatting supposedly sounds like the gibbon's call.

gap – with

E Ab – This means "a man hiding what he is–i.e. a woman" (E is a colloquial for woman, Ab means hiding)



Above right:

Fold-out poster showing all the places on a man that give away him being gay.

*Eyebrow: Bends like the bottom of Jennifer Lopez*  
*Ear: Gaydar Paris Institute – Notice the earring that shows of which kind of gay he is.*





# Ways sought to add value to unfinished buildings of 1997

July 4, 2006

Categories: Buildings

[Ways sought to add value to unfinished buildings of 1997](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 4, 2006

*Property developers and authorities have agreed to accelerate the rehabilitation and completion of buildings that have remained unfinished since the 1997 economic crisis. According to Suparut Kawatkul, the permanent secretary of the Finance Ministry, 281 buildings remain incomplete in Greater Bangkok, representing 6.2 million square metres of space...*



# Buying property in Thailand

July 4, 2006

Categories: Property and Development

[Buying property in Thailand](#) – *Hua Hin Today*,  
July 4, 2006

# Thai TV commercials

July 6, 2006

Categories: Advertising and Commercials

[Shinmai Chips](#)

– July 6, 2006

# Navy: Wreckage in Gulf of Thailand is Manitowoc-built USS Lagarto

July 6, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Navy: Wreckage](#)

[in Gulf of Thailand is Manitowoc-built USS Lagarto](#) – *Gazette Extra Sports*, July 6, 2006

*Wreckage at the bottom of the Gulf of Thailand is the USS Lagarto, the U.S. Navy said Wednesday. The Manitowoc-built USS Lagarto disappeared around May 3, 1945 in an area near Thailand where U.S. ships worked to disrupt Japanese military supply routes...*

# True's mobile phone promotion on Silom

July 6, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: True's mobile phone promotion on Silom.

# Euro Parliament passes resolution on internet censorship

July 7, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Euro Parliament passes resolution on internet censorship](#) –  
*The Irrawaddy*, July 7, 2006

*The European Parliament on Thursday passed a resolution on Internet censorship condemning governments which ban content—including Burma, China and Vietnam—as well as IT companies that work with them to impose online restrictions...*

*Meanwhile, Internet users in Burma have said that the previous ban on Google Talk and Gmail has been lifted, although the use of both is still hampered by slow Internet connections—a common problem in the country. Some had switched to Gmail Lite, a version that can run at lower connection speeds. In Mandalay though, sources said Google Talk and a similar program, Skype, were still unavailable. Other free web-based emails that were blocked late last month at the same time—Sailormoon.com and Mail2World—are also still banned, users said.*

# Thai press coverage of Burmese migrant issues criticized

July 7, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Thai press coverage of Burmese migrant issues criticized](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, July 7, 2006

*Burmese living in Thailand are pictured in a negative way in the Thai press, media activists told a conference in Chiang Mai on Friday...*

# “i love farang”

July 7, 2006

Categories: Signs and Billboards

“i love farang”  
– July 7, 2006  
**Right:** Taxi sign





# Gang uses phones to foil police

July 7, 2006

Categories: Scams

## [Gang uses phones to foil police](#)

– Bangkok Post, July 7, 2006

... "They look like ordinary people and some are well-dressed. When they reach their 'workplace', they change into shabby clothes and roam the local streets holding out their hands for money," police said.

When night falls, the pick-ups take them to other begging spots.

Some journalists failed in their attempts to capture the mobile phone-flaunting beggars on camera because the beggars were vigilant and quick to spread warnings among themselves. Their patrons usually give money out of sympathy for the beggars, some of whom walk with what look like painful limps. But generous folk might now be having second thoughts after seeing the police appearance send the beggars sprinting off at top speed, police said.

Mr Somphop said it is tough for the police to crack down on the beggars because the gang is well organised, with influential figures behind it.

Moreover, some local residents have condemned the authorities for harassing the underprivileged and the poor, Mr Somphop said.

# Time to rethink position on Korea

July 7, 2006

Categories: North Korea, Thai Politics

[Time to rethink position on Korea](#) – *The Nation*, July 7, 2006

*Thailand must stay out of the missile crisis and focus instead on developing a united front among Asean members. Listening to caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon talking about the nuclear crisis in the Korean Peninsula, one only can say: Please, mind your own business. The issues related to North Korea and its nuclear ambitions are complicated, and they are outside the purview of Thailand and policymakers here...*

# World Cup fans warned not to take alcohol

July 8, 2006

Categories: Food and Drink, Local Beliefs, Sports

[World Cup fans warned not to take alcohol](#) – TNA, July 8, 2006

*As the final match of the World Cup draws near, fans are again advised by Thailand's Public Health Ministry not to consume alcoholic drinks while watching it as they could die from heart attack, which can result from over excitement producing fast heartbeats and sudden shocks...*

# Thai fashion label Jaspal has a very international face

July 8, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai dressing](#) – Star Online, July 8, 2006

*For a home-grown brand, Thai fashion label Jaspal has a very international face...*

*...The story of the Jaspal Group began in 1947 when Vilasinee's grandfather (the namesake of the business) began a business of importing and distributing bed and bath products.*

*Through the years, Jaspal & Sons diversified into manufacturing, retailing and real estate, among other things...*

# Yearlong search finds no vultures

July 8, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Yearlong search finds no vultures](#) – *The*

*Nation*, July 8, 2006

*Wildlife experts have given up hope of finding vultures in Thailand after a year of research turned up no trace of the scavenging birds...*

# Thoughts on spending 37 years in Thailand

July 9, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Entering  
the Not-So-Swinging Sixties](#) –

*Bangkok Post*, July 9, 2006

Don writes: *Roger Crutchley, the Sports editor at the "Bangkok Post," turned 60 last week. Below are his thoughts on spending 37 years in Thailand. (In 1969, he set out from England with some friends, to travel overland to Australia. His stories of 1969 Afghanistan are highly amusing. He stopped in Thailand and never left):*

*...A common question is how I have "survived" in Thailand all these years, as if living here was some kind of punishment. In fact it's been a delight, but there have admittedly been times when I didn't have a clue what was going on. It's a truism that the longer you stay in Thailand, the more you realise how little you know about the place.*

*...In 1969, our 800 baht a month house in Makkasan wasn't air-conditioned so we left the door and windows open to let the breeze in. It also let the neighbours in – an immediate introduction to the Thai community spirit. Everybody dropped in to say hello and they made themselves at home. Sometimes I'd surface to find half the neighbourhood ensconced downstairs getting stuck into their mid-morning som tam. Babies who'd never seen a farang before would scream in horror at the sight of the whiter-than-white Crutch tottering down the stairs...*

# Spot Light: Supernatural sightings?

July 9, 2006

Categories: Local Beliefs, Malaysia

[Spot Light: Supernatural sightings?](#) – New

*Straits Times*, July 9, 2006

*If a toyol is bothering you, or your neighbourhood is being terrorised by a jin, who do you call? No, not the ghostbusters but the P-Team.*

*They are a team like no other and their members are made up of religious teachers and healers from Malaysia and neighbouring countries...*



# Foreigners net buyers of THB1.76 billion Thai stocks Monday

July 10, 2006

Categories: Economy

[Foreigners net buyers of THB1.76 billion Thai stocks Monday.](#) –

*Dow Jones*, July 10, 2006

# **HRA questions legality of PLA extradition from Thailand**

July 10, 2006

Categories: Human Rights

[HRA questions legality of PLA extradition from Thailand](#) –

*KanglaOnline*, July 10, 2006

*Imphal-based human rights body Human Rights Alert has called into question the legality of the sudden extradition from Thailand of four...*

# Thailand ‘most risky place for holidaymakers’

July 10, 2006

Categories: Tourism

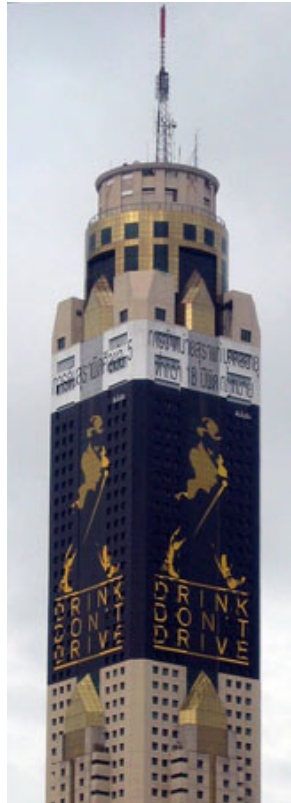
[Thailand ‘most risky place for holidaymakers’](#) – *Guardian Unlimited*, July 10, 2006

*Thailand is the most hazardous destination for British holidaymakers, where they are most likely to suffer food poisoning, theft, traffic accidents or the loss...*

# Baiyoke Billboard

July 10, 2006

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: Jit for 2Bangkok.com)

Baiyoke billboard – July 10, 2006

The message on Thailand's tallest building: "Drink Don't Drive." The white part at the top is the warning message warning people under 18 not to drink.

# **CPB urged to abandon plan to turn historic Silom Club into highrise**

July 10, 2006

Categories: Buildings

[CPB urged to abandon plan to turn historic Silom Club into highrise](#)

– *Bangkok Post*, July 10, 2006

# PM's role as defender of democracy is a joke

July 10, 2006

Categories: Today in History

[PM's role as defender of democracy is a joke](#) – Bangkok Post, July 10, 2006

*...The very thought of Mr Thaksin standing up to defend democracy would send a chill down the spines of most democracy aspirants. It was bizarre, and sounded too good to be true given the man's past record which consistently shows just the opposite.*

*Examples abound in the past five years of the government's complete disregard for democratic principles. Take for instance press freedom. The Thai Journalists Association has compiled a long list of cases of journalists who criticised his administration and were intimidated, removed from their positions or had their bank accounts secretly investigated. Some critical dailies were denied advertising revenue because advertisers were warned not to support the newspapers.*

*Take a look at the outgoing Senate which was nothing but a rubber stamp for the Thaksin administration. What a disgrace! Then there are those independent organisations, such as the National Counter Corruption Commission and Election Commission, which were supposed to serve as checks-and-balances mechanisms, but were rendered dysfunctional by this government.*

*But most offending of all seems to be a famous remark about democracy unwittingly made by Mr Thaksin some time ago. "Democracy is not an end in itself, but just a means..."*

*What has been witnessed in the past five years of Mr Thaksin's premiership is not democracy in its universally-accepted sense, but "managed democracy" in which the majority rules supreme, and at their own whim, with little regard for the minority....*

*PM's role as defender of democracy is a joke*

*Deputy-Editor-in-Chief calls discusses Thaksin's blatant disregard for press freedom and his Senate buyout*

*Bangkok Post*

*Monday, July 10, 2006*

*By Veera Prateepchaikul*

*The voice from the television set echoed across the newsroom on Thursday, June 29. It sounded so familiar but the words were not.*

*"If anyone wants to push the country backward by throwing away democracy, I will not allow it. I repeat, I will defend democracy with my life. Therefore, if there are any attempts to usurp democracy while I am Prime Minister... I will definitely never permit them to succeed."*

*"It couldn't be him." That was my initial thought when I heard the voice. But when I turned my eyes from the computer screen to the television, his familiar face came into full view which made my heart sink. It was Thaksin Shinawatra, Caretaker Prime Minister and dear leader of the Thai Rak Thai Party.*

*"He must be kidding!" I then thought. But a close look at his face on television revealed no clue that he was kidding. Instead, it was the stern face of a man who was not only serious but appeared to be on the warpath.*

*The very thought of Mr Thaksin standing up to defend democracy would send a chill down the spines of most democracy aspirants. It was bizarre, and sounded too good to be true given the man's past record which consistently shows just the opposite.*

*Examples abound in the past five years of the government's complete disregard for democratic principles.*

*Take for instance press freedom. The Thai Journalists Association has compiled a long list of cases of journalists who criticised his administration and were intimidated, removed from their positions or had their*

*bank accounts secretly investigated. Some critical dailies were denied advertising revenue because advertisers were warned not to support the newspapers.*

*Take a look at the outgoing Senate which was nothing but a rubber stamp for the Thaksin administration. What a disgrace! Then there are those independent organisations, such as the National Counter Corruption Commission and Election Commission, which were supposed to serve as checks-and-balances mechanisms, but were rendered dysfunctional by this government.*

*But most offending of all seems to be a famous remark about democracy unwittingly made by Mr Thaksin some time ago. "Democracy is not an end in itself, but just a means..."*

*What has been witnessed in the past five years of Mr Thaksin's premiership is not democracy in its universally-accepted sense, but "managed democracy" in which the majority rules supreme, and at their own whim, with little regard for the minority.*

*Have any of us ever heard from Mr Thaksin or any of his ministers about the need to maintain "good governance", which is central to democratic rule. What we heard from one of his top advisers was "practical governance", the real meaning of which is difficult to fathom. It seems that the entire administration was too shy to even utter the words "good governance", probably because they would be unable to put it into practice. Also eluding Mr Thaksin's government was the ability to provide moral leadership. Instead, they opted for practical leadership.*

*Of course, there are many gullible people among us who would fall for whatever Mr Thaksin says, even if it sounds bizarre. They might even hail him as a "born-again democrat."*

*For democracy aspirants, Mr Thaksin's proclamation that he is a guardian of democracy is laughable. It was meant only for the gullible and Thai Rak Thai admirers. Obviously, a lot more than mere words are needed from a man who has never taken democracy seriously for us to believe he really means business.*

*Who knows? Perhaps Mr Thaksin, with his aggressive remarks about the mysterious charismatic individual and this talk about democracy, only intended to send a message to that rival that he is not a lame duck and is ready to fight for his own political survival. Whatever his admirers and detractors said or thought about him might have never entered his head, and perhaps he wouldn't care less if it had.*

*Veera Prateepchaikul is Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Post Publishing Co Ltd.*



# The endangered Javan rhino

July 11, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[The endangered Javan rhino](#) – *Friskodude*,

July 11, 2006

# 35 most influential Thais

July 12, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[35 most influential](#)

[Thais](#) – July 12, 2006

This is the special feature for *The Nation*'s [35th anniversary](#).

# **Man stabbed on notorious city overpass**

July 12, 2006

Categories: Crime

[Man stabbed on notorious city overpass](#) – *The Nation*, July 12, 2006

# Ministry bastardises bid process

July 12, 2006

Categories: Business

[Ministry bastardises bid process](#) – *The Nation*, July 12, 2006

...The ministry held a jasmine-rice auction late last month, but the process concluded after a week due to the government's "special bargaining" process.

The highest bidder should win the contract. But every time, the ministry asks the winning bidder to boost the price...

# Roiling storm clouds

July 12, 2006

Categories: Weather

Roiling storm clouds  
– July 12, 2006  
Storm clouds moving over the Chao Phraya from  
Thonburi  
on Wednesday afternoon.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

# Searching for cave fish and oxygen in Thailand

July 13, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Searching for cave fish and oxygen in Thailand](#) –

*New York Times*, July 13, 2006

*...Many of those caves had high levels of carbon dioxide because of the wood and other debris that had washed into the caves during the rainy season. As the wood decays, it releases carbon dioxide, a gas that is heavier than air and that tends to pool invisibly in low areas of caves with stagnant air (although concentrations can change rapidly as a cave breathes cyclically each day)...*

(Get your login from [BugMeNot](#).)

# Graffiti

July 13, 2006

Categories: Art



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Graffiti– July 13, 2006

Derelict building viewed from the Surasak Skytrain Station.



# Interesting spam

July 14, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Interesting spam – July 14, 2006

Some sites get penis enlargement spam–2Bangkok.com gets this kind of spam: [MART Corporation](#):

*Our Website is for People with Tough Cleaning Problems*

*– Unique Solutions from MART – The Company that Invented and  
Perfected Power Washing*

# Ubon Ratchatani Candle Festival

July 15, 2006

Categories: Thai Holidays and Festivals

[Ubon Ratchatani Candle Festival](#) – terrybkk.com, July 15, 2006

# Trip inspires student's mission against sex trade in Thailand

July 15, 2006

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Trip inspires student's mission against sex trade in Thailand](#) – *Journal Sentinel*, July 15, 2006

American student discovers Pattaya: *"It was horrific,"*  
*he said. "The city is driven by sex tourists..."*

## More interesting spam

July 15, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

More interesting spam –

July 15, 2006

I do not know why an insurance salesman is [promoting tuk-tuks](#)  
(or sending spam about it), but the new body design is nice...

# **Would Vietnam war money have been better spent bribing the enemy to stop fighting?**

July 15, 2006

Categories: Vietnam

[Would Vietnam war money have been better spent bribing the enemy to stop fighting?](#)

– *The Straight Dope*, July

15, 2006

# **“Kidnapped and Robbed by Bangkok Police”**

July 15, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

["Kidnapped  
and Robbed by Bangkok Police"](#) –

Writing.com, July 15, 2006

*...The payments that I made to the "Good Police"  
were as follows...*

# Oil of ‘physic nut’ can fight Aids, power machinery

July 15, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Oil of ‘physic nut’ can fight Aids, power machinery](#) – *The Nation*, July 15, 2006

Strange headline of the week...

# Tamil-Brahmi inscription on pottery found in Thailand

July 16, 2006

Categories: History

[Tamil-Brahmi inscription on pottery found in Thailand](#) –

*The Hindu*, July 16, 2006

*...He has confirmed that the pottery inscription is in Tamil and written in Tamil-Brahmi characters of about the second century AD. Only three letters have survived on the pottery fragment...*



# Thousands of chairs

July 17, 2006

Categories: The Thaksin Years

Thousands of chairs –

*The Nation*, July 17, 2006

*A staff of the controversial Dhammakaya temple [inspects the venue](#) for the meditation in Pathum Thani where hundreds are expected to attend, including politicians of the local level through out the country. However many see the planned event as a show of forces to counter the anti-Thaksin movement. Caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will give a speech on Wednesday.*

# New Thai-Burmese border road planned

July 17, 2006

Categories: Highways and Roads, Myanmar/Burma

[New Thai-Burmese border road planned](#) – *The*

*Irrawaddy*, July 17, 2006

*... The 140-million baht (US \$3.66 million) plan is to be proposed to the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy, where the Burmese government will be asked to cooperate.*

*The planned road would start south of the border town of Mae Sot, in Tak province, at Valley village in Pob Phra and then travel 28 kilometres cutting through Karen State to Nong Loung village in Umphang district, also in Tak. It would mean using two fords across a loop in the narrow Moei River...*

# PTT named one of world's 500 largest companies by Fortune

July 17, 2006

Categories: Business

[PTT named one of world's 500 largest companies by Fortune](#) –

TNA, July 17, 2006

*...the globally-recognized magazine had notched up PTT by 108 to the 265th largest company from 373th last year, making PTT become the single Thai company named in the 500 top ranks...*

# SEC clamping down on investment sites

July 17, 2006

Categories: Economy

[SEC](#)

[clamping down on investment sites](#) –

*Bangkok Post*, July 17, 2006

*... According to the Securities and Exchange*

*Commission, people offering investment advice and management must not only be properly licensed, but also must work only at approved asset management firms or securities brokers.*

*The SEC last week closed [www.dsm-stockpile.com](http://www.dsm-stockpile.com), a website that had been found to have been dispensing advisory services as well as managing assets...*

# Thai Rock Stars to Give New Yorkers Opera

July 18, 2006

Categories: Music

[Thai Rock Stars to Give New Yorkers Opera](#) –

AP, July 18, 2006

# Egg smuggle case cracked

July 18, 2006

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Egg smuggle case cracked](#) – *Daily Telegraph*,

July 18, 2006

*...Floyd, who has been breeding birds for more than 30 years, then changed his story and told the airport official he hid the eggs because he “wanted to surprise his girlfriend” who he was meeting in Thailand...*

# **“Sweltering UK hotter than Bangkok”**

July 19, 2006

Categories: Weather

[“Sweltering UK hotter than Bangkok”](#) – CNN, July 19, 2006

The headline has already been amended to ” UK’s heat may surpass Bangkok.” Here is the [original](#).

# Disabled Can't Fly Alone on Thai AirAsia

July 19, 2006

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Disabled Can't Fly Alone on Thai AirAsia](#) – AP, July 19, 2006

*Southeast Asia low-cost carrier AirAsia said Wednesday it will not allow blind, deaf and other disabled passengers to travel alone on flights in Thailand because the airline does not have the ground staff to help them, officials said Wednesday...*



# Woman nabbed for bringing home “cheap” Bangkok medicines

July 20, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Woman nabbed for bringing home “cheap” Bangkok medicines](#) –

*Cebu News, July 20, 2006*

*...Agents from the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and Bureau of Customs-Mactan held Montesclaros for questioning after seizing 40,800 tablets of assorted medicines.*

*Also confiscated from her were 20 bottles of Mycostatin oral drugs and 300 tubes of Nisoral (5mg) ointment along with 552 units of Mena facial cream.*

*...Carlito Ermac, chief of the K-9 group of PDEA, said his office was tipped off by the NBI that Montesclaros and one of her companions were scheduled to arrive in Cebu allegedly carrying illegal drugs worth P6 million from Bangkok.*

# **Round-up of alleged land scammers ‘could hurt image’**

July 20, 2006

Categories: Property and Development, Scams

[Round-up](#)

[of alleged land scammers ‘could hurt image’](#) – *The Nation*, July 20, 2006

# Pervert's Thai murder charge

July 21, 2006

Categories: Crime

[Pervert's Thai murder charge](#) – *The Evening Chronicle*, July 21 2006

# talkingmachine.org

July 21, 2006

Categories: History

[talkingmachine.org](http://talkingmachine.org) – July 21, 2006

Phasit writes: *I always read the thai history from your website. seeing many the old pic so I prefer to recommend my friend website [www.talkingmachine.org](http://www.talkingmachine.org)*

# Navsari diamond trader abducted in Bangkok

July 22, 2006

Categories: Crime

[Navsari](#)

[diamond trader abducted in Bangkok](#) – PTI, July

22, 2006

*A Navsari-based diamond trader, who was on a visit to Bangkok, has been abducted some days ago, sources in the diamond industry said. On receiving the information, that diamond trader Mihir Mehta was abducted, his father immediately rushed to Bangkok to get more details about the same, sources added. Police is yet to begin investigation...*

# **“Iranian embassy in Bangkok denounces Zionist aggressions”**

July 22, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[“Iranian embassy in Bangkok denounces Zionist aggressions”](#) –

IRNA, July 22, 2006

*The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangkok, Thailand, in a statement issued on Saturday, said the oppressed peoples of Palestine and Lebanon have once again become the subject of aggression by the Israeli regime...*

# Election Posters 2006

July 23, 2006

Categories: Elections

Last look at election posters –  
July 31, 2006

This poster (right) has a thank you note  
pasted across it. It reads: Thank you for every vote that you  
cast for me. I intend to work in order to develop our Jatuchak  
district with my full ability. Mr. Anantachat (Ob) Buasuwan  
– Candidate No. 2 of Bangkok Councils of Jatuchak zone



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



**Above left:** Democrat Party – Join to push Bangkok to forward with your one valuable vote – Please vote for all the team of Democrats

**Above right:** Not handsome, but gets results – Bangkok councilor Candidate Somsak Rattanakangwanwong – Vote for No.1 – Your one vote has meaning – Vote all for District Councilors 8-14 ("Not handsome" Somsak is running against the Democrat's [Pipat](#). The Democrats do seem to field boyish-looking candidates.)



Last look at election posters -July 24, 2006

[Democrat sweeps 20 of 36 districts in Bangkok district council elections](#)

– *The Nation*, July 23, 2006

**Right:** The inset reads: Cheating on 16 projects  
– Solving traffic project

**Left:** TRT poster. The purple inset reads *Garbage flows over the lane.*



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Elephants voting – July 18, 2006

**Left:** Council member and district council member elections – 23 July 2006 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



"Mudslinging" posters and dirty  
tricks? –  
July 14, 2006

**Right:** The original sign reads:  
*For two years, the BMA has not changed. Vote for Thai Rak Thai  
candidates to speed up BMA work... Next 2 years , Bangkok will  
improve – 23 July vote for Bangkok and district member  
elections  
– vote for all TRT*



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Apirak stands by  
decision to axe posters – TRT ‘slandered’ city, complaint to EC laid](#)  
– Bangkok Post, July 13, 2006

...He said Mr Rattapol ordered certain posters to be torn down on  
the grounds that they contained content slanderous to the Bangkok Metropolitan  
Administration (BMA), and did not carry information identifying who published  
them.

... "This is boring. We should spend time campaigning constructively,  
highlighting each party's policy," he said.

...Deputy BMA spokesman Thanom Onketpol said Mr Rattapol has ordered  
all 50 district offices in Bangkok to remove all campaign posters carrying  
slanderous content against the BMA from the streets. These posters do  
not carry the identity of their publishers, nor the number of any election  
candidate, he said...

[Row over campaign posters heads to court](#) – The Nation, July  
13, 2006

...Rattapol said he ordered 50 district offices to remove those posters  
that did not carry the names or numbers of candidates but merely mudslinging  
messages.

More than 1,400 posters were removed from 28 districts...

July 13 – Offending posters begin to be modified  
in various ways

**Left:** The original sign with party and candidate  
numbers added

**Below right:** A panel stapled over the middle of the sign  
reads: *Water is musty in the canal – Lots of mosquitos*



**Below left:** A panel stapled over the middle of the sign (in *Thai Rath* headline-style font) reads: *Prior arrangements to buy fire fighting vehicles rumoured losing 5000 million baht in tax revenue*

It is peculiar that the signs were modified like this at the same time BMA is announcing it will sue TRT over these messages.

July 14 – The panels on the posters below have been removed.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Election poster –  
July 15, 2006

**Right:** Election poster for Mr. Pipat Labpratana, Bangrak district, Democrat Party for the Bangkok councilors election on July 23.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

More elections – July 7, 2006

Elections for Bangkok councilors will be held on July 23. Above are posters for TRT (left) and the Democrats (right).

Party election posters –  
April 22, 2006

**Right:** Jatujak District – April  
30 – Please support – Good intention, Continuous



(Photo:  
2Bangkok.com)

(working), Develop  
Jatuchak – No. 1-8 – A quality team

**Left:** Democrat Party, Congress  
members of the district – Love our district – Love  
Bangkok – Vote  
the entire team of Democrats to congress for this  
district



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Back to [Thai  
Elections main page](#)

# Warning for buyers of Samui land

July 24, 2006

Categories: Property and Development

[Warning for](#)

[buyers of Samui land](#) – Bangkok

Post, July 24, 2006

*People interested in buying property*

*on the resort island of Koh Samui have been warned they could*

*end up with an illegal title, as only 10% of the property*

*developers operating there are licensed...*

# The Golden Jubilee Diamond

July 24, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The Golden](#)

[Jubilee Diamond](#) – Wikipedia,

July 24, 2006

*... While the current whereabouts of the Centenary are unknown, the Golden Jubilee is known to have been purchased from De Beers by a Thai syndicate in 1995. The diamond was then given to King Rama IX of Thailand as tribute on the 50th anniversary of his coronation, who had the Golden Jubilee mounted in his royal sceptre.*

*The diamond's existence remains little known even to the people of Thailand, as the government reported the Golden Jubilee to be "a large golden topaz..."*

# Anti-beggar billboard

July 25, 2006

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

**Above:** Anti-beggar billboard on Sathorn Road. It reads: *Thai youths' lives are in your hands. Do not support selling and buying on the road. Best wishes from Social Development and Human Security Ministry. Tel. 1300*

[New](#)  
[attitude urged to child beggars](#) – Bangkok  
Post, July 25, 2006

[Most](#)  
[of the child beggars in Bangkok are illegally smuggled in from Cambodia](#) – *Thaisnews*, July 25, 2006  
*The Mirror Art Foundation discloses that child beggars in Bangkok can make up to 1,000 baht a day if they are disabled...*

# Talks on extending Nagaland truce in Bangkok on July 28-29

July 25, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Talks](#)

[on extending Nagaland truce in Bangkok on July 28-29](#)

– ZeeNews, July 25, 2006

*The government and the NSCN-IM will hold talks in Bangkok on July 28-29 on the ceasefire in Nagaland, which will expire at the end of this month, amid indications the rebels could toughen their stand to get some "concessions" on their "charter of demands" before going ahead with the peace process...*



# Ceding territory to the French

July 25, 2006

Categories: History

Ceding territory to the French

– July 25, 2006

**Right:** 1905 – Ceding territory to the French

**Also:** [International Boundary Study – Laos-Thailand Boundary](#)



(Source: Ceding territory to the French – *Le Petit Journal*, 1905)

# “The One of the Masterpiece”

July 25, 2006

Categories: History, Signs and Billboards



“The One of the Masterpiece” – July 25, 2006

Delightful English from a property development brochure...



# Young Myanmar rebel Johnny Htoo surrenders

July 26, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Young](#)

[Myanmar rebel Johnny Htoo surrenders](#) –

AP, July 26, 2006

# Surakiart's UN bid appears to be doomed

July 26, 2006

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Surakiart's UN bid appears to be doomed](#) –

*The Nation*, July 26, 2006

# Two Hudson High School students visit Thailand

July 27, 2006

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Two Hudson High School students visit Thailand](#) – Worcester Telegram & Gazette, July 27, 2006

*Locals believe the water off the coast of Ranong Province in Thailand is haunted by ghosts. Many feel that the sea, once a valuable source of income, is now a graveyard choked with death and sorrow of those who perished from the tsunami nearly two years ago...*

# **French travel warning was “slip-up” : FM**

July 27, 2006

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[French travel warning was “slip-up” : FM](#) – *The Nation*, July 27, 2006

# Troubles in the South – August 2006

July 28, 2006

Categories: The Thai Deep South

Troubles in the South

– August 2006

[Troubles  
in the South index page](#)

---



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

**Above:** Damage at Islamic Bank of Thailand, branch 1



**Bank bombings in the deep south –  
August 31, 2006**

More on [Troubles in the South](#)

**Left:** Damage at Islamic Bank of Thailand,  
branch 2

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





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

Dr. Has reports: *Today at 11:30 there were bomb explosions at many banks in Yala. In this picture (above) is Islamic Bank of Thailand, branch 1. Before the incident occurred, the bank officers were inform that there will have bomb, but they did not tell the customers so the explosion caused many injuries. At the Islamic Bank Branch 2 officers found the bomb and then told customers to get out of the bank.*



(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

Mr. John reports: *The officers investigate the place where the assailant shot Mr. Son Piyayak, a resident at Soi Tan2, Nakuea Road, Amphur Muang Pattani. He was shot at his ear on Pattani-Narathiwat line 42 Mu 3 Ban dee, Thambon Barahom Amphur Muang Pattani.*

[23 Yala banks hit by bomb blasts](#) – *The Nation*, August 31, 2006

*Muslim militants launched 23coordinated time bomb attacks at commercial banks in this southern province Thursday, killing at least one man and severely injuring at least four bank customers, police said...*

---





(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

Almost like being there: Burned car –  
September 5, 2006

Mr. John reports: *Burned car of Jaktra Promkaewr, 42-year-old deputy chief of Thambon Bangkhao, Amphur Nongjik, Pattani. The assailants tried to shoot him while he was drinking tea, but he shot back at them and then two more assailants shot him while he was running to his car parked in front of a tea shop. The assailants intercepted him and he shot back until he was out of bullets. He escaped injury but finally the assailants shot the car's windows, took his guns inside, and burnt his car.*

---

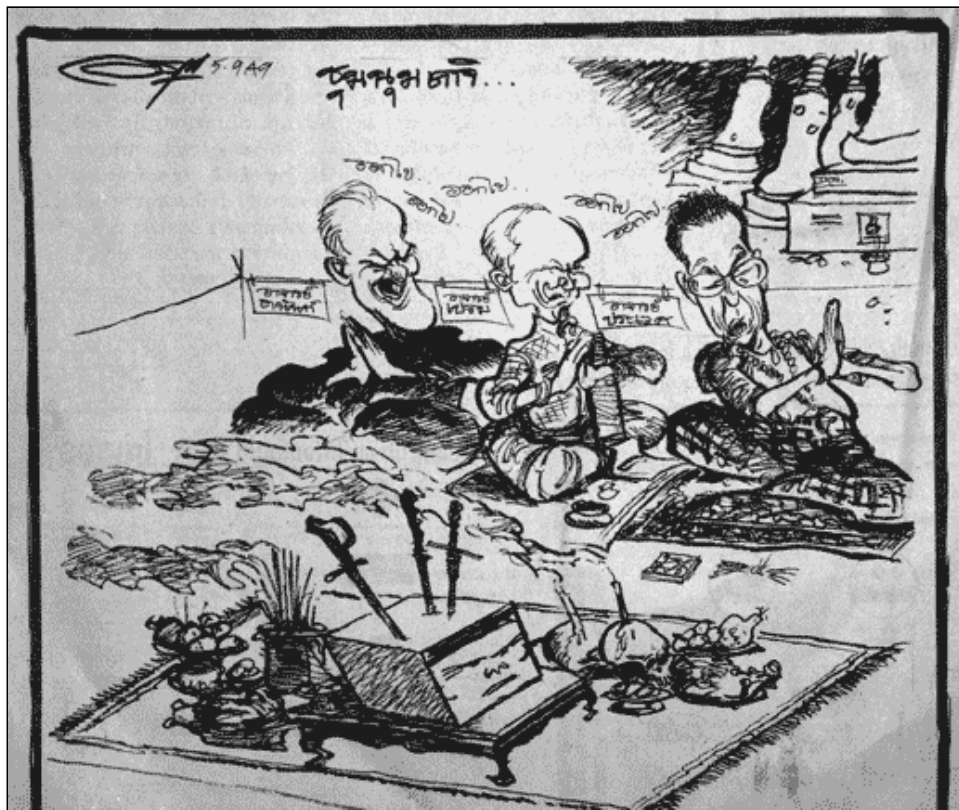
Many in the army believe that the car bomb was intended to drag "Pa" Prem's faction into confrontation with government – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, August 27, 2006

Caretaker PM Thaksin is completely convinced that at least four army officers were involved in an apparent bomb plot assassination attempt against him last week. Some hours after the plot was discovered, he suddenly sacked General Pallop Pinmanee from his post as Deputy Commander of the Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC). General Pallop is a personal friend of Major-General Chamlong Srimuang—a leader of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD).

Many in the Royal Thai Army believe that the bomb plot was a set-up by the government to discredit certain army factions and to take the public's attention off the beatings of ordinary people that have happened at recent protests in the Prime Minister's presence. Another benefit from such a set-up might also be to gain sympathy for the Prime Minister, by making the public believe that the assassination had been plotted by factions in the army. The sacking of a top general was carefully planned to create a vacuum into which a high-ranking policeman might step as the vanguard of a coming "police state." This belief was probably strengthened by a gathering of grass roots Thaksin supporters who rallied in front of "Pa" Prem's residence to demand that he spare PM Thaksin's life. This spectacle occurred the day after the bomb plot, at the same time that a large number of high-ranking Thai citizens had assembled to help General Prem celebrate his 86th birthday. It was obviously an attempt to discredit Prem and make it look like he had authorized the bomb plot assassination.

With the nation currently "all at sixes and sevens," it seems many recent incidents are driving the army towards a psychological point of no return at which they might just blunder into a face off with the present government.

---



Editorial cartoon – *Krungtep Turakit*, September 5, 2006

Title: The masters' gathering

Master Anand, Master Prem, Master Prawase

They chant "Get out, get out, get out" at a cursing rite. Note the square box–square for so-called "square-face" Thaksin–with swords stuck in it.

"Strictly check"

**Right:** Strictly check – *Manager*, September 5, 2006  
The first day of bank opening in the five amphurs of Yala , police and military search customers strictly. Meanwhile people go to the banks as usual.



(Source: *Manager*)

[Bank bombing headlines](#) – September 1, 2006

[Thailand still baffled by insurgency](#) – *AFP*, August 31, 2006

*Thailand's army chief has said government forces still do not know who they are fighting as they try to hunt down Islamic insurgents behind a wave of deadly violence in the south...*





(Source: *Krungthep Thurakit*)

#### Communist's revenge – August 28, 2006

On August 14, General Sondhi Boonyaratklin, Thai Army Commander-in-Chief, speculated that the Thai Communist party was behind some of the violence in the deep south. Several editorial cartoons took the unlikely speculation to comment on Thai "disunity."

Above: *Krungthep Thurakit* editorial cartoon, August 17, 2006: This is why the Communist party is reborn

**Left side:** (on the tombstone) The grave of the Communist party (dialogue) "What! We took more than 50 years to try to disunite the Thai people, but did not succeed. Thaksin has only taken five years and the people are disunited already."

**Right side:** (on the tombstone) Chinese bandit communist (dialogue) "That's right comrade, this challenges us, so we have to have revenge..."

Intelligence unit admits leading bombmaker once stayed in Thailand – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*, August 15, 2006

After the police in the UK recently disrupted an airplane terror plot, the whole world is still frightened that such an attack might yet take place. The Thai Government is alert to the possibilities of such an attack and has increased security measures at high-risk locations such as tourist attractions and embassies.

On August 14 at 10:30am at a restaurant near Bangkok's Samsen Train Station, Taikorn Polsuwan announced that he had recently been informed that there was a current plot to commit a terrorist attack in Bangkok.

Major-General Atthakrit Thareechat, Commander of the Special Branch Division 3, has already been assigned to increase security measures at the high-risk embassies of countries like the United Kingdom, Israel and the United States.

Pol. Major-General Panya Mamen has put into place new security measures at tourist attractions and also at airports that are likely to be frequented by Israeli, English, and American travelers.

There are also rumors circulating that a leader of the Hezbollah terrorist group—named as Sayid Mobin—was hiding out in Thailand three months ago. Sayid claimed he was in Thailand for the purposes of "cultural exchange" between Thailand and the countries of the Middle East. During his visit to Thailand he stayed in the South and also traveled to other provinces on occasion.

This terrorist is a master of name changes and Sayid Mobin is just one of his assumed aliases. It has also been reported that he was the bomb making expert behind the "Truck Bomb" attack in Thailand on March 17.



(Photo: Mr. John for 2Bangkok.com)

**Almost like being there: Shot in the deep south –  
August 10, 2006**

**Mr. John reports:** *Police officers took Mr. Mahamazabuding Buenae, 25-year-old, a resident of 40/4 Mu.3 Thambon Korlum, Amphur Yarang, Pattani, to the hospital after he was shot seriously. This incident took place on August 10 at Romklao Road, Mu 6, Thambon Satengnok, Amphur Muang, Yala.*

---

[Militant attacks ‘unlikely’ in Bangkok](#) – IHT, August 11, 2006

*...In a recent interview with Jane’s Information Group, PULO’s foreign affairs spokesman, Kasturi Mahkota, said the organization had no interest in launching any attack on the capital...*

---

**Iron women quelling the southern thieves –  
translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*, July 28, 2006**

**Right:** Military officers training 140 women in Pattani to use weapons to fight southern insurgents. The women call themselves the *Satree Lek Prab Jone Tai* group.



(Photo: *Thai Rath*)

---

**Southern unrest has wide impact – Northern Muslims want solutions –  
translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, July 31, 2006**

Insurgency in the three southern border provinces and Songkhla Province has also affected Muslims in the north. Haji Kasem, an imam in Chiang Mai Province, recently said that other



local people were no longer as friendly to Muslims as they used to be. Government officials have also become suspicious of Muslims in the province. Chiang Mai's Muslim population is descended from Muslims in China and Pakistan who have mostly lived in the province for a long time. Haji Kasem also said that local Muslims want to live in peace with the rest of the Chiang Mai population without suffering any negative impact from the southern unrest. On July 30, a man was shot dead on the Waeng to Sungai Golok highway. He was identified as Asawa Soramad, a former soldier. No evidence was found at the scene.

---

**PM scoffs at Pulo's threat to hit cities** – Bangkok Post, August 10, 2006

*Caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra yesterday poured scorn on a threat by the Pattani United Liberation Organisation (Pulo) to attack Bangkok and Phuket, saying it was just propaganda. Mr Thaksin downplayed rumours that the insurgent group based in the South was ready to switch its targets from the southern region to major cities such as Bangkok and Phuket. The threat was brought to light following a recent interview of a senior member of Pulo with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)...*

---

**Thai police identify 700 insurgent suspects in southern unrest** – Bernama, August 4, 2006

*Police in southern Thailand have identified about 700 suspects believe to be insurgents involved in the daily unrest in three provinces there.*

*Region Four Police Chief Adul Saengsingkeaw said they are prepared to issue warrants of arrest to the suspects but manpower constraints were hampering their effort...*

---



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

Almost like being there: Safety meeting –  
August 2, 2006

*On August 2 at 2:00pm, the Krongpinang Sherriff called school administrators, military, Krongpinang police, frontier police 3301, kamnan (head of district) and head of villages in Amphur Krongpinang for a meeting to set a plan for teacher safety. The sheriff said the assailants will increase violence to attack official places and they will be dressed like officers so people must note the name, rank, and position of the people they talk to. Sometimes the assailants used the same vehicles as officers and sometimes they use women or groups of women*

*to operate. Meanwhile, the Krongpinag Police received a fax (probably from the Royal Thai Police) to be careful in Amphur Krongpinang and Bannangstar because the assailant moves near the Talohsumae mountain and Ban Luemu in Krongpinang.*

---

[Troubles  
in the South index page](#)

# Chocolate Yaba Seized in Tak Province

July 28, 2006

Categories: Drugs

[Chocolate Yaba Seized in Tak Province](#) – *The Irrawaddy*,

July 28, 2006

*Police in Thailand's Tak province have discovered a new form of amphetamine pills being smuggled across the Burmese border from Karen State, according to local police officials...*

# Backside of Doi Inthanon

July 28, 2006

Categories: Tourism

[Backside of Doi Inthanon](#) – [ThaiSuperBike](#),

July 28, 2006

*In upper MHS province Monday the local cops said that the alternate road from Chiangmai to Pai will be finished this year. I went 5km up the far end near Pai and it's a beauteous banked black-tarmac playground.*

*At Khun Yuam on the Burma border, the road to Surin Falls is great until the last 6km which is already graded but not yet paved.*

*Hellin' fun ride yesterday from Khun Yuam around the backside of Doi Inthanon to Mae Chaem, lots of high-altitude curves. Beautiful views despite the cloud cover starting around 1,600m on Mt. Doom. After 7 hrs of twisties, rolled into Thoen and then blasted down to Tak for the nightlife.*

*There is a mountainous section of incredible 270-degree switchbacks on the 50km stretch between Li and Thoen, don't miss it if you're in the area. Great way to use up the tread on the sides of your tires.*



# Satellite photos reveal lilliputian China in China

July 28, 2006

Categories: China

[Satellite photos reveal lilliputian China in China](#) –

BoingBoing, July 28, 2006

*...This post at the Sydney Morning Herald describes an military facility in the desert of China which someone spotted in recently released hi-res photos in Google Earth. It's a 500:1, 700 x 900 meter scale model of the territory China took from India in the 1962 Sino-Indian War. There has been a lot of discussion, and many humorous suggestions, but nobody has figured out its function.*

# High tension in Thailand – July, 2006

July 30, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Back to the High tension in Thailand main page](#)

[Three EC commissioners thrown behind bars, losing status](#) – *The Nation*, July 25, 2006

[Vasana infuriated by opponents' boo](#) – *The Nation*, July 25, 2006

---

[We should not confuse ill-gotten wealth with success: Gen. Prem](#) – *The Nation*, July 29, 2006

---

[Election commissioners denied bail, go to prison](#) – TNA, July 25, 2006

---

[Thai premier plans to stay in politics](#) – TNA, July 25, 2006

---

[Premier cornered again as court hands down verdict](#) – *The Nation*, July 26, 2006

*...Thaksin has lost his allies at the EC. His key fortress has been destroyed. Going into the October 15 poll, the Thai Rak Thai Party will not have "home-field advantage" as in previous elections. The new Election Commission could make trouble for Thai Rak Thai by giving some of its candidates red cards – something that would never happen if the Vasana-led EC were still allowed to function.*

*There was no time, nor was there any contingency plan on the part of the Thai Rak Thai camp to disrupt the scene following the court's landmark ruling. Disturbances would definitely have broken out, which would have put off the election indefinitely, had the royal decree not come down last Friday.*

*The royal decree was issued with perfect timing...*

---

[What swayed the judges](#) – *The Nation*, July 26, 2006

*...The three commissioners then decided to organise the repeat vote in 38 constituencies, mostly located in the South, Phetchaburi and Nonthaburi.*

*They authorised local electoral offices to register additional candidates. Under their instruction, candidates from the first round of voting were allowed to switch constituencies and run in the repeat vote even though the EC had not endorsed balloting results.*

*They went ahead with the plan for additional candidates even though the Supreme Court had ruled on April 9 that it was illegal for candidates to switch constituencies before the endorsement of votes in the first round.*

*...The three commissioners also allowed repeated registrations for candidates in Songkhla after no qualified individuals stepped forward, it said.*

*"The candidacy registration debacle happened even though the EC had issued a ban on accepting additional candidates for repeat voting," it said. The ban was published in the Royal Gazette on December 26, 2000.*

*"The consequence of the three commissioners' action was to help the Thai Rak Thai Party overcome the 20 per cent rule, which, in turn, meant the balloting outcome was not a true reflection of the people's will," the court said...*

---

[Poll hinges on the PM bowing out](#) – *The Nation*, July 29, 2006

*...Key players in the party, known as the 'Paesano Six', are trying to put pressure on Thaksin to make him announce his political future before election day.*

*They have reportedly won over Thaksin in their desire to move from a one-man-show leadership to a collective decision-making process.*

*Even if he wins the next election, Thaksin won't be able to rule the country. That's because the anti-Thaksin group will never let him survive. Other countries will have little confidence in Thai politics and economics...*

---

[Guard democracy beyond EC ruling](#) – *The Nation*, July 29, 2006

*...It needs to be determined whether the commissioners' blatant bias in favour of Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai was motivated by self-interest in the form of bribes or other financial incentives.*

*The guilty verdict against the three commissioners provides some clue as to how the Thaksin government was able to manipulate and then corrupt a major democratic institution like the EC for political gain. Thai society already has an inkling of how the nomination process in the Senate was rigged to favour the appointment of people friendly to the Thaksin regime to sit on key "independent" agencies like the EC...*

[PM no longer has the connections to bestow 'immunity'](#) – *The Nation*, July 29, 2006

*...Outgoing Senator Chirmsak Pinthong also questioned Thaksin's remark along these lines. He said: "Throughout his life, Thaksin has lived by connections. When this kind of incident happens, Thaksin only thinks about connections. If there are no connections, he thinks about how to get one with the judiciary." The collapse of the EC will create a further domino effect. Those who have been serving the Thaksin regime in any dubious way and hoping that they would be able to get away with everything they have done, will regret that choice like the EC trio. Thaksin's immunity no longer works...*

---

[Suriya storms out of meeting](#) – *The Nation*, July 26, 2006

*...There have been rumours that Suriya, also the industry minister, was planning to resign from the ruling party even before yesterday's walkout.*

---

Thaksin: Stay or go?

Thaksin could go: [Sudarat discloses reconciliation options](#) – *The Nation*, July 24, 2006

[Surapong insists Thaksin to contest Oct 15 election](#) – *The Nation*, July 24, 2006

*...He said Thaksin would become the next prime minister if the people still trust and vote for the Thai Rak Thai.*

[Thaksin declines to commit himself whether to take political break](#) – *The Nation*, July 23, 2006

---

[TRT focus on policy, not Thaksin](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 25, 2006

---

[Political sentiment turns toward the Democrats](#) – *The Nation*, July 25, 2006

*...The Democrat Party, meanwhile, should have realised that national political sentiment turned in its favour on Sunday because Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin alone could not have led the party to such an impressive performance.*

*After all, Apirak has yet to achieve anything major in his past two years as the city governor.*

*His much-touted smart traffic signs and bus stops have flopped and his Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project has yet to come into service.*

*And although Apirak received plaudits when he went ahead with the plan to extend the Skytrain route, the extension is still not in operation.*

*While Thaksin is expected to do something for his party, Democrat leader Abhisit Vejjajiva should be aware of his crucial role too.*

*Instead of waiting to reap benefits from Thai Rak Thai's declining popularity, Abhisit should prove he is a worthy choice for the premier's post.*

---

[Chang Noi: Two stories on the origins of Thai democracy](#) – *The Nation*, July 24, 2006

---

July 22, 2006

**Left:** *Khao Sod* front page, July 22, 2006  
– The King enters the hospital for surgery



So how does the King exert influence when he is recovering from major surgery during a critical political juncture?

[King endorses election decree](#) – *The Nation*, July 21, 2006

*...His Majesty the King wants to see the next election to be clean and fair and want the country to live at peace as soon as possible, Government Spokesman Surapong Suebwonglee said Friday.*

*Surapong said His Majesty states the wish by writing down a note on the royal decree to set the election day, which His Majesty signed on Thursday.*

*It was the first time that His Majesty wrote down a note on such a royal decree...*

[Talk of TRT defections has conspiracy theorists salivating](#) – *The Nation*, July 19, 2006

[Key ministers have exit plan](#) – *The Nation*, July 19, 2006

[Samak fires broadside at Gen Prem](#) – *The Nation*, July 19, 2006

More on [Samak](#)

[PM turns temple talk to politics](#) – *The Nation*, July 19, 2006

[Sonthi out to block Thaksin's man – Wants former Prem aide as his new deputy](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 18, 2006

*...Gen Sonthi, who is preparing the annual reshuffle list, is reported to be blocking the path of assistant army chief Gen Pornchai Kranlert, a former classmate of Mr Thaksin, by proposing that Gen Pairote Panichsamai, the army's chief adviser, be appointed deputy army chief...*

[Banharn's behaviour 'suspicious'](#) – *The Nation*, July 18, 2006

*People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) coordinator and spokesman Suriyasai Katasila said yesterday the behaviour of Chat Thai leader Banharn Silapa-archa and his party was suspicious and could be viewed as a possible conspiracy with the ruling Thai Rak Thai Party...*

[Minister surprised at new assistant](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 18, 2006

[Unprecedented challenge to Prem](#) – *The Nation*, July 18, 2006

*...The wearing of the combat uniform and a speech in which Prem urged the country's soldiers to show loyalty to the monarchy seems to have signalled that a line has been drawn in the sand between the country's elite and the Thaksin regime.*

*...Never before have the Thai elite faced this kind of outright challenge from an elected politician. It is totally unprecedented and has shaken the foundations of the elite. Responses from members of the elite have been muted, while most members of the general public don't really know what is going on in this political drama.*

---

[A 'Dear Thaksin' letter the govt doesn't want you to see](#) – *The Nation*, July 18, 2006

*...By the way, even though my hotline is open 24 hours, please don't call unless it's a real emergency – like needing an airlift in the middle of the night. You can be sure that we never abandon friends in time of troubles. Field Marshal Thanom and family members of late President Marcos can testify to that.*

---

[Letter 'portent' of govt crackdown](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 17, 2006

*... The caretaker prime minister could have conceived a plan to suppress political dissent. The letter may have impressed upon the recipients a grave picture of the political situation, providing the government with grounds for suppressing its opponents should it become necessary.*

*Historically, Mr Surachai said, it was common for national leaders to write to their counterparts, as though to give them advance warning, before proceeding with drastic action.*

*"The letter may be implicitly telling other countries not to be disturbed if violence erupts here," he said...*

---

[Military 'must back King'](#) – *The Nation*, July 15, 2005

*Prem reminds soldiers of their duty to His Majesty and their country as leaks point to a purge of disloyal officers...*

*His remarks come during a time of national political turmoil triggered by an annulled general election and uncertain preparations for a new vote scheduled for October.*

*This electoral indecisiveness happened amid a power play in the armed forces as the government and its opponents tried to outwit one another.*

*Leaks from the government camp indicated an imminent purge of officers seen as having questionable loyalty...*

---

Today at Lumpini – July 14, 2006

After PAD marchers delivered letters to various embassies around town, a rally was held at Lumpini Park.

The tenor of the proceedings were the same as [previous rallies](#). For instance Professor Tortakoon Yomanat, speaking to the crowd, claimed that the food in Government House is being tested before Thaksin eats it. He claimed that the Public Health Department sent three officers to test food before cabinet members were to eat it. He noted that famous leaders often died by being poisoned like Napoleon.

---

[PM mum on plans for military promotion](#) – *The Nation*, July 15, 2005

*...Even though Sonthi secured his present position with Thaksin's blessing last year, he reportedly fell out of favour in March after refusing to rally behind the government over the possibility of declaring a state of emergency against street protests.*

*If and when Thaksin decides to pick a new Army commander, Sonthi is likely to assume the ceremonial position of supreme commander, replacing General Ruengroj Masaranond, who is scheduled for mandatory retirement.*

*Outgoing Senator Seree Suwanpanont said Thaksin would be guilty of politicising the military reshuffle if he showed favouritism to promote Pornchai and other allies from Pre-Cadet Class 10...*

---

Conspiracy from the Northeast – July 14, 2006





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

On Monday, on July 10, a Nation publication, the Thai-language *Kom Chek Luek*, screamed: *Esarn to restore the nation – Revealed is a plan that has no shadow – Incite Thai people to kill each other – Create a civil war – To change politics* (above)

Imagine that headline in *The Nation* or *Bangkok Post*. *Kom Chek Luek* was created to compete with sensational dailies like *Thai Rath*.

*The Nation*, operating more along Western journalistic lines and always careful not to inflame the Thai situation with English-speakers, only mentioned the "conspiracy from the northeast" in a highly refined way on Monday – [Premier 'wants to incite civil war'](#) – *The Nation*, July 10, 2006 and later [Yongyuth denies calling up local units](#) – *The Nation*, July 13, 2006

The "civil war" reference refers to the widespread rumors in the Thai-language world about the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry training legions of fanatical Northeasterners to descend on Bangkok to violently confront antigovernment protesters. [Thai Post](#) and the [Manager](#) (and [here](#)) have also promoted these stories as well.

The Natural Resources and Environment Minister has often been the subject of such accusations. One of Sondhi's [antigovernment protests in January](#) was disrupted by hundreds of young men believed to be ministry employees. They were thwarted when the National Anthem was played over loudspeakers causing all parties to stop fighting (Thais are expected to stand at attention during the National Anthem) and police moved in and separated the participants. During the height of the protests in February and March, protest leaders told the crowd that thugs were gathering at the ministry to be ready to confront marchers with violence.

---

[Message in a Bottle](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, July 14, 2006

---

[Dhammakaya denies helping TRT friends](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 14, 2006

*Wat Dhammakaya yesterday denied that a gathering of local administration bodies from across the country at its temple was intended to muster support for embattled caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra... Close relations between government leaders and the temple played no part in the decision to hold the event, he said.*

*A former member of the House committee on religious affairs said Wat Dhammakaya has close ties with leading Thai Rak Thai party figures such as party secretary-general and caretaker Industry Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit and caretaker Labour Minister Somsak Thepsuthin. Mr Suriya's wife, Surisa, once donated 40 million baht to the temple.*

*The temple has been criticised for its fund-raising and teaching methods. Its former abbot, Phra Dhammachayo is being investigated over land embezzlement...*

---

[Communist party may be reborn soon](#) – Bangkok Post, July 14, 2006

*Former communist insurgent Surachai Danwattananusorn, better known as Surachai sae Dan, yesterday announced his decision to form the New Thai Communist party in his southern home province of Nakhon Si Thammarat.*

*Mr Surachai said the party would represent low- and middle-class people and fight against capitalism. He believed that the time was right for a communist party to play a part in politics as the capitalist system was deteriorating...*

---

[Armed forces warned to prepare for a crisis](#) – Bangkok Post, July 14, 2006

---



Thaksin's letter to Bush – July 12, 2006

Manager [broke this story in Thai](#) at 10:14am.

[Letters between Thai prime minister and US president](#) – The Nation, July 12, 2006

[Govt confirms authenticity of letters](#) – The Nation, July 12, 2006

[Former FM criticises Thaksin's letter to Bush](#) – The Nation, July 12, 2006

[Notes to leaders seen as embarrassing, self-serving](#) – The Nation, July 13, 2006

[‘Dear George’ letters shameful](#) – The Nation, July 13, 2006

[Why I think the ‘Thaksin-Bush’ letters were forged](#) – The Nation, July 13, 2006

A thread on the letters is [here](#).

---

[Interior Minister downplays rumoured plot to assassinate Prime Minister](#) – TNA, July 12, 2006

*Interior Minister Kongsak Wanthana dismissed rumours of a plot to involving foreign assassins alleged to have been hired to kill Thailand's caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, saying such hearsay only serves to sow fear and confusion among the public...*

*Meanwhile, Marshal Kongsak played down concerns that a gathering of members of the Dharma Gaya religious sect, scheduled early next week at its temple in Pathum Thani province, had been designed to thwart a massive gathering of the anti-Thaksin People's Alliance for Democracy set for Friday in the capital. Neither had the Dharma Gaya gathering been designed to show massive support for the embattled prime minister as alleged, Marshal Kongsak said.*

*Nonetheless, a hundred thousand people are expected to show up at the temple next Monday...*

---

[PM's Office Minister Suranand 'set to quit'](#) – *The Nation*, July 13, 2006  
More on [High tension in Thailand](#)

---

[Friday's anti-Thaksin coalition rally moves from Sanam Luang to world stage](#) – TNA, July 12, 2006  
...The demonstrators will march to four foreign embassies—those of France, China, Russia and Japan—during the morning, to publicly read an open letter regarding the democracy alliance stance towards the content of the letter which the premier earlier sent to the US leader, Mr. Suriyasai said...

---

On the forum: [Extreme anti-government news](#)

---

[Thaksin denies three ministers to resign](#) – *The Nation*, July 13, 2006

---

[Thaksin will go to Brunei this weekend](#) – *The Nation*, July 13, 2006  
...The caretaker premier will leave Bangkok on Saturday and return on Sunday...

---

On top of Democracy Monument – *The Nation*, July 10, 2006  
In case you missed it: Three men [climb up Democracy Monument](#) on Rajadamnoen Road on Sunday night, criticising Thaksin Government and refused to come down. They agreed to end their strike and climb down from the monument on Monday afternoon...  
A police officer [held on to Boonsin Yokthip](#), one of the three protestors who climbed on top of the Democracy Monument on Sunday, as they drop on to an air mattress. The first two protestors had agreed to come down but Boonsin refused, thus, the use of force.

---

[In deference to HM the King's health, anti-Thaksin rally may be postponed](#) – TNA, July 11, 2006

---

The "charismatic individual" – July 1, 2006

The press is now openly reporting that Thaksin's comments concerning a "charismatic individual" are thought to be in reference to head of the Privy Council, Prem Tinsulanonda. Bangkok forumers were [discussing this a week ago](#).

The word Thaksin is saying in Thai is คนมีบารมี. This is someone with moral authority, grandeur, influence, but colloquially and in the media this word is often used with added negative connotations.

Mentioning a "charismatic individual" has turned into a trap for Thaksin. [The last time the Prem was criticized](#), Samak's TV and radio programs were canceled under pressure from the military. Thaksin must proceed carefully now to diffuse perceptions that he is implicating Prem.

[Thaksin urged to name foe – 'Charismatic' enemy claim draws flak](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 1, 2006  
Caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's remarks about a mysterious "charismatic individual" have landed him in trouble, amid increasing demands that he identify who he means. The remarks set off speculation that he was referring to Gen Prem Tinsulanonda, chief of the Privy Council, who is well regarded by the public. Mr Thaksin, who has made similar allegations twice in less than a week, dodged questions about the individual. On Thursday he said the unnamed person was at work to oust him from office...



[PM told to reveal name of plotter – Prem not target of charge, say Sudarat, Chavalit](#) – *The Nation*, July 1, 2006

...Thai Rak Thai Party deputy leader Sudarat Keyuraphan and former prime minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh dismissed widespread speculation that Thaksin was referring to Privy Council president General Prem Tinsulanonda. Sudarat said she believed the speculation was aimed at tarnishing the ruling party. Meanwhile, security has been stepped up for the premier because of fears that certain elements angry with him might resort to violence, a security source said



yesterday.  
(Source: Bangkok Post front page, July 1, 2006) *Thaksin has drawn flak rather than sympathy after revealing the alleged plot to overthrow him unconstitutionally. He made the remarks while addressing a gathering of top bureaucrats at Government House on Thursday. He spent yesterday keeping tight-lipped on a burning question – who is the charismatic individual who wants to replace him by pushing for a royal intervention under Article 7 of the Constitution? ...*

[Prem's aide urges Thaksin not to make more enemies](#) – The Nation, July 1, 2006

**Earlier:** On the forum: [Who is the “highly charismatic individual” behind Visanu’s resignation?](#)

*...Cabinet members close to Mr Thaksin said he was becoming tired of fighting a proxy war. He believed he was pitted against a highly charismatic individual who was behind campaigns to oust him from office. The individual in question was believed to be behind the resignation of his top legal experts, Borwornsak Uwanno and Visanu Krue-ngarm...*

*The source said Mr Thaksin was putting on an act when he stepped onto a stage and sold populist policies. Instead he was ready to step aside as prime minister and take advice from “non-partisan” individuals who would mediate to resolve the political crisis, said the source...*

---

[Premier ‘wants to incite civil war’](#) – The Nation, July 10, 2006

[Kingdom ‘is on the verge of bloodshed’](#) – The Nation, July 10, 2006

[‘Bid to oust Thaksin not democratic’](#) – The Nation, July 10, 2006

---

[OAG proposes dissolution of Democrat, Thai Rak Thai, 3 other parties](#) – The Nation, June 27, 2006

---

[LEGAL WARNING – Thaksin ‘is violating the Constitution’](#) – The Nation, July 5, 2006

*Legal expert Meechai Ruchuphan has warned that Thaksin Shinawatra, the caretaker prime minister, could be seen as violating Article 8 of the Constitution with his June 29 remark that somebody who has reserved power beyond the Constitution is undermining the democratic system.*

*In the article “The Responsibility of the Prime Minister” on his website ([www.meechaithailand.com](http://www.meechaithailand.com)), Meechai said the media and most people believe the person who has reserved power and is most beloved by Thais is His Majesty the King...*

---

[Chuan says Democrat has no contingency plan](#) – The Nation, July 6, 2006

*Democrat Party chief advisor Chuan Leekpai said the Democrat had not planned to set up a new party to prepare for a scenario in which the party might be dissolved.*

*Chuan said the Democrat had been under threat of party dissolution by the Election Commission from the beginning but it did not fear because it had done nothing wrong.*

*“I affirm that we have never thought about setting a new party as contingency plan,” Chuan said.*

*“It’s understandable if our party is dissolved under the Thaksin regime. But what makes us proud that we have been fighting against the regime for five years now.”*

---

[Complaint filed against Chat Thai, Mahachon](#) – The Nation, July 6, 2006

*...He said the grounds he used to accuse Chat Thai and Mahachon Party is the same as the one the EC pressed against the Democrat Party. He asked the Election Commission to use evidence that Thai Rak Thai Party filed a complaint against the Democrat Party on the same charges to incriminate Chat Thai and Mahachon Party.*

---

[Thailand’s new political party set up](#) – TNA, June 30, 2006

*... “The party is not a nominee of the TRT Party, nor is it funded by any Muslim group overseas,” Mr. Pichet affirmed.*

*“The Thai Peace Party is a home built by Thai Muslims themselves to represent their own voices and to be*

*the place where they can think and work out their own policies independently to resolve problems,” he said....*

*“If the next general election is set on October 15, we’ll run in some constituencies, but if the poll is further adjourned, we’ll run in all the 400 constituencies across the country,” Mr. Sombat said.*

---

[Will it come to ‘that’?](#) – *The Nation*, July 7, 2006

*The eventual survival or demise of Thaksin Shinawatra, the landslide product of Thailand’s “democracy”, might – just might – be decided by anything but.*

*Although no one wants to see it happen, the possibility of a military showdown to settle one of the biggest political conflicts in modern Thai history has risen above the “taboo” line. For one thing, Thai politics and the role of the military have been interwoven ever since the 1932 bloodless coup to move from absolute monarchy to democratic rule...*

GWR noted the following: Note that [Samak](#) (not exactly an army favorite right now) has taken off for New Zealand. – [NZ govt concerned about political crisis in Thailand](#) – *The Nation*, July 7, 2006

**Also:** [Seminar back on, with Prem invite](#) – *The Nation*, July 7, 2006

---

[Six new parties endorsed](#) – *The Nation*, July 7, 2006

*...The six include the Palang Phaendin Thai Party of former Thai Rak Thai member Likhit Dhiravegin, and the Thai Women party co-founded by caretaker Senator Khom Kaen Rabiebrat Pongpanit...*

[Fifteen new parties formed in a month](#) – *Bangkok Post*, July 7, 2006

*...Thanit Sriprathet, director of the EC’s political party affairs, explained that the names and logos of dissolved parties could be reused for party registration.*

*... Mr Thanit said assets of the dissolved parties would be donated to the charities or foundations of their choice. In the case of the Democrat party, if it is dissolved, its assets would go to the Kuang Abhaiwong Foundation.*

*Thai Rak Thai’s assets would go to the Sai Jai Thai Foundation which is under royal patronage...*

---

[Tribulations of two emerging democracies](#) – *Forbes*, June 19, 2006

This is the controversial article by Lee Kuan Yew that supposedly compares Iraq and Thailand. Frankly, it does not make much sense. It is almost as if two separate articles on Iraq and Thailand were accidentally merged.

---

[Abhisit demands Thaksin to name names](#) – *The Nation*, July 1, 2006

[Chirmsak says Thaksin’s Thursday is his swan song](#) – *The Nation*, July 1, 2006

[Thaksin files libel suit against Democrats, seeking Bt1 billion](#) – *The Nation*, July 1, 2006

---

[Thaksin confirms plan to attend World Cup final](#) – *The Nation*, July 2, 2006

---

[LEGAL WARNING – Thaksin ‘is violating the Constitution’](#) – *The Nation*, July 5, 2006

*Legal expert Meechai Ruchuphan has warned that Thaksin Shinawatra, the caretaker prime minister, could be seen as violating Article 8 of the Constitution with his June 29 remark that somebody who has reserved power beyond the Constitution is undermining the democratic system.*

*In the article "The Responsibility of the Prime Minister" on his website ([www.meechaithailand.com](http://www.meechaithailand.com)), Meechai said the media and most people believe the person who has reserved power and is most beloved by Thais is His Majesty the King...*

# Thailand eyes Myanmar's natural gas reserves

July 30, 2006

Categories: Energy, Myanmar/Burma

[Thailand eyes Myanmar's natural gas reserves](#) – AFP,

July 30, 2006

*Thailand's largest energy firm PTT Plc has said it has joined the race against China and India in a bid for exclusive rights to military-run Myanmar's northwestern natural gas reserves...*

# **“Ramakien”: Thai Rock at the Lincoln Center Festival**

July 30, 2006

Categories: Music

["Ramakien":](#)

[Thai Rock at the Lincoln Center Festival](#) – *New York Times*, July 30, 2006

*Grandly ambitious and inconclusive, overstuffed and sketchy, "Ramakien" imported a thriving arts scene from Bangkok to the Lincoln Center Festival in a three-night stand that started on Friday at the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center...*

# Monday afternoon storm

July 31, 2006

Categories: Weather



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Monday afternoon storm  
– July 31, 2006

# Hip-hop concert launches Freedom Campaign

July 31, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Hip-hop concert launches Freedom Campaign](#) – UPI, July 31, 2006

*A Black Eyed Peas concert in Bangkok has ushered in the beginning of "The Freedom Campaign" for detained Nobel Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar.*

*The hip-hop group's performance in the capital of Thailand Monday marked the start of an effort to bring attention to the Myanmar people and to Kyi's non-violent attempts to bring democracy to the region, a news release said...*

# One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) orders in Thailand

July 31, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[One Laptop Per Child \(OLPC\) orders in Thailand](#) –

desktoplinux.com, July 31, 2006

*...OLPC program director for Middle East and Africa  
Khaled Hassounah confirmed to DesktopLinux.com July 31 that  
Nigeria has indeed committed to buy 1 million machines,  
and then revealed that Brazil, Argentina, and Thailand also  
have placed similar commitments...*



# High tension in Thailand: August, 2006 news

August 1, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Foot-dragging in 'nominee' probe smacks of conspiracy](#) – *The Nation*, August 31, 2006

*You might have thought you misheard him, but caretaker Finance Minister Thanong Bidaya obviously meant every word he uttered when he said that foreign investors employing "nominees" to effectively break the 49-per-cent limit on ownership in Thai companies was a "traditionally okay thing to do"...*

---

["Watch VCD of police interview of Lt Thawatchai Klinchana"](#) – *The Nation*, August 30, 2006

[We don't know lawyer in VCD : Thawatchai's family](#) – *The Nation*, August 29, 2006

---

[TRT plan to gather 1 million supporters 'needs explaining'](#) – *The Nation*, August 24, 2006

[TRT 'will bring millions to city'](#) – *The Nation*, August 29, 2006

[Interior Minister expects security chaos before general election](#) – *TNA*, August 28, 2006

[PM 'wants chums in key army posts'](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 29, 2006



Front pages –  
August 30, 2006

*Daily News*, August 30. 2006

Photo: Soldier examines a bomb crater in the deep south

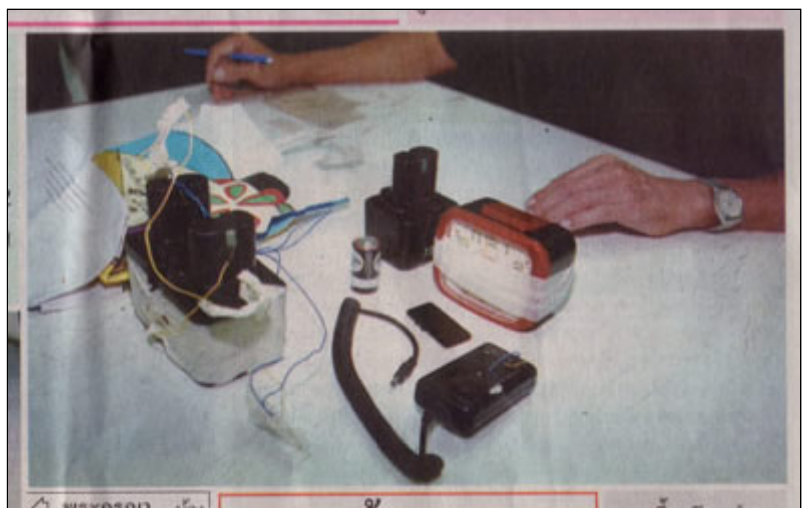
Top: Privy councilor suggests government officials to make Thailand clean

Middle: Sumej supports the power person to relinquish

Bottom: The owner of a cattle pen was killed in the Eucalyptus forest of a former minister

*Khao Sod*, August 29, 2006

Photo caption (right): August 28 – The parts of a bomb that a mysterious person placed near Siam Commercial Bank, Sirinthorn branch, near Thaksin's house. It was found with a letter that criticizes Thaksin strongly. The police believed this was to add to the turmoil.







Matichon, August 29, 2006

Photo caption (left): Turmoil in the city – August 28 – The officers investigate the suspicious thing looks like a bomb near Siam Commercial Bank, Sirinthorn Branch, Kwaeng Bang Bumru, Bangplad district, Bangkok near Soi Jaradlap that can link to the entrance of PM Thaksin's house. After investigation, it is found to be a fake bomb to deceive people.

---

[News analysis: Thai democracy: Who threatens it?](#) – *The New York Times*, August 27, 2006

*... "It's not true that Thaksin represents genuine democracy and overthrowing him in the streets is unacceptable," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political scientist at Chulalongkorn University. "I think democracy is nuance; it's subtle and has to be contextualized. Just because you have someone coming along and winning elections is not tantamount to having democratic rule..."*

*Thaksin's aggressive use of power and the uprising against him have set the country on an uncertain course stretching the limits of the constitution and, as Thaksin said, threatening democracy.*

*"My fear is that we will emerge out of this crisis many months from now so bruised and so bloody that we'll be unrecognizable," Thitinan, the political scientist, said.*

*A question that many opponents of Thaksin, as well as those of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who succeeded Estrada, fail to ask is what would come next if their elected leaders were overthrown, sidestepping the democratic process.*

*In the Philippines, Arroyo is the product of people power. Yet she has disappointed the public, so she in turn has become the target of people who want to push her from office.*

---

[The ghosts of violence](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 25, 2006

*...As is well known, quite a few survivors of the Oct 6 crackdown now serve in the inner core of the TRT party. One of them, the caretaker PM's secretary-general, Prommin Lertsuridej, came out almost in tears to beg every party, October veterans in both the government and People's Alliance for Democracy camps in particular, to try to refrain from violence, to reach for one another and stay in unity.*

*What an absurd call. This country \_ or any in this world \_ has never really been unified under any single umbrella. People are different, holding on to different ideologies, faiths and preferences. The way to co-exist together in peace is through tolerance \_ to agree to disagree \_ not through banging the heads of people who disagree with you until they become silent and you gain a phony appearance of "unity" ...*

---

[More violence predicted](#) – *The Nation*, August 21, 2006

*Opponents vow to keep on hounding PM; supporters warn of 'terrible' happenings...*

---

[Broadcasters gag themselves](#) – *The Nation*, August 21, 2006

---

[Banned garland sellers 'in need of help'](#) – *The Nation*, August 21, 2006

*... "Selling garlands is a legal and honest job. There should be some conditions or solutions made available to them while they are barred from the streets and prevented from making money," she added.*

*She said child immigrants had taken many jobs available in Chiang Mai from Thai children and teenagers, with most gas station attendants now Burmese youths.*

*Chaiphan Praphasawat, director of the Communities' Rights Foundation, said government agencies had*

exploited the fact that the floral exhibition was regarded as an event to mark His Majesty the King's 60 years on the throne, making critics reluctant to criticise what had been done to garland sellers.

---

[Interference by politicians leave armed forces in turmoil: inspector-general](#) – *The Nation*, August 20, 2006

---

[Banharn 'to return as premier'](#) – *The Nation*, August 19, 2006

...A key member of the Thai Rak Thai Party said Thaksin might try to reduce the political pressure on him by forming a coalition government with Banharn's Chat Thai Party. He would then offer Banharn the post of prime minister during the period of political reform expected after the election.

...

This strategy is one of the three options drawn up by the Thaksin camp. Another is for Thaksin to ignore public protests against him and stay on as prime minister following a Thai Rak Thai victory at the polls. The last option is for Thaksin to step aside and hand over the premiership to Chidchai Vanasatidya, Bhokin Bhalakula or Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan, the source said...

---

The stompings: "6 October Paragon" –  
August 28, 2006

Recently Thaksin has taken to traveling in Bangkok with dozens of plainclothes men who attack and kick people who shout abuse at him in public. Oddly enough, these men all wear identical white shoes.

Right: Cover of Matichon's weekly magazine: 6 October Paragon  
Matichon's weekly news magazine last week was headlined with the bloody face of one of those attacked and the headline "October 6 Paragon." This is a reference to the October 6, 1976 massacres when right-wing groups attacked anti-government protestors.



[Alarm grows as protesters bashed](#) – *The Nation*, August 22, 2006

Three hurt, three arrested after PM's minders target protesters on third day of violence...

[Thaksin's protesters, supporters clash in Siam Paragon](#) – *The Nation*, August 19, 2006

[Thaksin ambushed with protest in Siam Paragon](#) – *The Nation*, August 19, 2006

...Before leaving in his car, Thaksin strongly criticized the protesters as "lacking developed mind" and asked officials to take legal action against them.

...He said the protesters should have waited until October 15 to express their dislike against him by not voting for him.

---

[Somkid's departure no great impact: PM](#) – *The Nation*, August 17, 2006

[Bitter rift between Thaksin and Somkid](#) – *The Nation*, August 17, 2006

---

[Reconciliation about more than silencing critics](#) – *The Nation*, August 17, 2006

...Laced with sarcasm and vindictiveness, Thaksin declared: "Whoever wants to quarrel with me can carry on. But I won't quarrel back. Whoever wants to condemn me may do so but I will kruad nam for them..."

His vengeful tone was evident. Kruad nam is supposed to be a traditional religious rite of forgiveness. But that's for the dead, those who no longer pose a threat to his political power...

---

[TRT dominates TV news reports: survey](#) – *The Nation*, August 15, 2006

...Analysis of six major free-TV stations showed reports about Thai Rak Thai appeared most frequently – 369

times – and most news featured caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra...

---

[PM hits out at senior figures](#) – *The Nation*, August 16, 2006

---

[Abhisit: Time past for Shin ruling](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 16, 2006

... "The authorities in charge have spent long enough to conclude whether any parties concerned had violated the law. They don't have any excuse to keep quiet on this matter. And if they continue to avoid taking any action, they may be charged with dereliction of duty themselves," said Mr Abhisit yesterday...

---

[The Democrat party's moment of truth](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 16, 2006

... Given their slick TV ads and promises to outdo Mr Thaksin in the very same populist game the TRT leader has shrewdly exploited to great success, the Democrats appear bent on leading an election campaign through marketing, public relations, and well-spun images, in an effort to give the caretaker prime minister a taste of his own medicine.

But this is a foolish strategy.

The Democrats are setting themselves up for another defeat at the polls if they think they can out-populist Mr Thaksin's populism, because he has cemented first-mover advantages, having locked up rural electorates on his policy handouts and giveaways.

To promise even cheaper education and cheaper healthcare, as the Democrats have done, is morally bankrupt.

They would be putting up an essentially populist agenda they have been attacking for five years, risking accusations of facile emulation and outright hypocrisy...

---

[Thai mutual funds lose steam](#) – *The Standard*, August 14, 2006

Thailand's mutual fund industry is losing steam after four years of heady growth as rising interest rates and a faltering stock market take their toll...

---

[SE Asian neighbors reap gains from Thailand's lingering crisis](#) – *AFP*, August 12, 2006

Thailand's next government will have to win back foreign investors who have begun to turn to neighboring countries out of concern over months of political turmoil here, experts say...

---

StopThaksin website –

August 14, 2006

The [StopThaksin.com](#) website appears to be up. Also check out the [downloads](#).

---

[So who will take care of the Shinawatras?](#) – *The Nation*, August 11, 2006

... Thailand's dictators of old had no problem living a quiet life after finding themselves out of power. Some cases in point are the leaders from the Thanom-Prapas or Suchinda regimes. After some bloody violence, they agreed to step down for the sake of political reform and the national interest. The military or one of the more charismatic persons of the day underwrote their safety. The dictators' assets went untouched.

This is the peculiar Thai style of political compromise, a style that is rarely found in other countries.

Thaksin's may be the first case in which nobody dares to underwrite a former leader's wellbeing after he steps down. The caretaker prime minister can only blame himself. He has painted himself into the corner.

If he loses power he risks having his assets seized by the new government. The wealth of the other Shinawatra, Damapong and Wongsawat clans could also be in danger...

If Thaksin is finally driven into a corner, you can expect violence. But there can't be peace without war. Only then can a political compromise be struck. Between now and October 15, anything could happen.

---

[Prem leads army top brass in show of unity – Officers celebrate anniversary of school; interference in reshuffle list](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 6, 2006

Privy Council president Prem Tinsulanonda yesterday led all key past and present army top brass at an event at their former school, in what was seen as an attempt to show the unity of the army. Gen Prem did not talk to the press during his participation in the 119th anniversary of the Royal Military Academy in Muang district of the central province of Nakhon Nayok. It was the first time for a few years that he had joined the

*event, and sources close to him said the former prime minister's decision to go this year was aimed at fostering unity, amid reports of attempted political interference...*

[Back to the High  
tension in Thailand main page](#)



# Bangkok Post's 60th Anniversary

August 1, 2006

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

More on the *Post's*  
60th – August 1, 2006

On August 1 the *Bangkok Post* contained an interesting set of extras for their 60th anniversary edition including a replica of their first edition front page (right).



Left: The August 1, 2006 front page of *Bangkok Post* showing a photo from the 1960s of the Post offices at Mansion 4, Ratchadamneon Road. They also mention the new Post Publishing printing facility which will open on Bang Na-Trad Road Km. 19 in 2007.

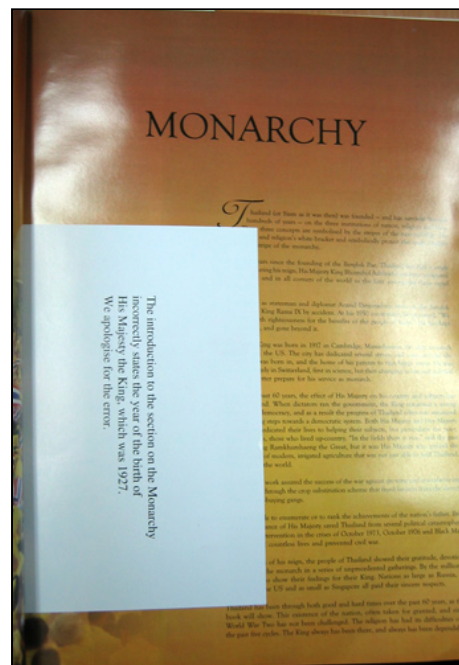
Right:

In the otherwise lavish and informative anniversary book, the date of the King's birth is misstated in one of the opening articles requiring a errata sheet.

**Yesterday:** Bangkok Post's  
60th anniversary – August 1, 2006  
Today is [Bangkok  
Post](#)'s 60th anniversary...

[Buying the first edition of the Post](#) – Bangkok  
Post, August 1, 2006

**Also:** The anniversary of *The Nation*: [Happy birthday to The Nation](#)  
– July 1, 2006



[BANGKOK  
POST 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION](#) – Bangkok Post,  
August 1, 2006  
*Proud history of fair, honest, responsible news coverage*

*Proud history of fair, honest, responsible news coverage*

*The Bangkok Post thanks readers for sixty years of support and reaffirms its commitment to honesty and freedom of expression in a democratic kingdom*

Bangkok Post  
Tuesday, August 1, 2006

*Sixty years ago a handful of Thais and an American, armed with blind faith and determination, launched a new English-language newspaper despite a lack of funds. Five hundred copies of the four-page paper were printed on an old Japanese press from a two-storey house on Krung Kasem road. The Bangkok Post was born, and it sold for a mere one baht.*

*In its inaugural editorial, the founding fathers of the Bangkok Post said they wanted to fill Bangkok's need for a "good newspaper."*

*But more importantly, they wanted the newspaper to act as "a voice of the people" in key challenges facing Thailand after the Second World War.*

*Those challenges included infusing in "our people the will to serve each other" and to achieve the goal of making Thailand a truly democratic kingdom.*

*Crucial to achieving democracy, the editorial said, was the need for the country to boost education and the need for "competent, unselfish leadership" at all levels.*

*Over the past six decades, many aspects of Thailand have changed. Yet, at times, it appears that the same challenges remain. Going through periods of political upheaval, economic highs and lows, as well as social changes, the Bangkok Post today remains part of Thai society.*

*As Thailand's oldest newspaper — having grown from a mere four pages to 60 pages — we are here today because of your trust and support as readers.*

*We cherish and value your trust dearly and it is only appropriate that, on this very special occasion of our 60th anniversary, we reaffirm to you, unequivocally, our pledge to continue serving Thai society with honesty*

*and responsibility.*

*We reaffirm our commitment and dedication to adhere to our long-standing tradition of reporting and analysing the news in a fair and balanced manner. We promise to make our positions clear on crucial issues affecting the country. When we err, we will admit our mistakes and correct those mistakes accordingly.*

*And we pledge to defend to the utmost the principle of freedom of expression, a crucial lynchpin in a democratic society, so that we as a nation can achieve the lofty goals and dreams set out decades ago.*

*This is who we are. These are our core values. And we thank you for allowing the Bangkok Post to continue serving Thailand for decades to come.*

# Twin highrises under construction again

August 1, 2006

Categories: Buildings



Twin highrises under construction again – August 1, 2006

One of the granddaddies of Bangkok derelict highrises, the old Tokyu complex on Ratchadapeisek Road, is suddenly under construction again. The project was [abandoned](#) [about 10 years ago](#)—even before the 1997 economic crash. Does anyone know what is happening with this project?

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



# History of the Thai oil industry: Three soldiers marching on

August 1, 2006

Categories: Energy

[History of the Thai oil industry: Three soldiers marching on](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 1, 2006

*Back in 1946, a year after the end of World*

*War II, Thailand's only oil refinery \_ which had a capacity of 1,000 barrels per day \_ in Chong Nonsi had been bombed and its only oil tanker, Samui, had been sunk, leaving the country with a severe oil shortage. Although the situation is not as bad today, the country is still facing oil problems, particularly from the rising price of gasoline, which is 30 baht a litre \_ 25 times higher than it was 60 years ago...*

# Investment in Laos: Thai firms 'missing opportunities'

August 1, 2006

Categories: Laos

[Investment in Laos: Thai firms 'missing opportunities'](#) – *The Nation*, August 1, 2006

...*"The successful construction will turn*

*Laos from a 'landlocked' to a 'land-linked' country," Rathakit said.*

## **“Waistline exceeding 40 inches”**

August 2, 2006

Categories: Thai Police

[“Waistline exceeding 40 inches”](#) – *The Nation*,

August 2, 2006

*A police officer takes a rest after an aerobic exercise in a police campaign for officers who have waistline exceeding 40 inches. About 100 police officers from Bangkok police stations attended the month long programme...*

# Thai PM Holds Sudden Talks with Than Shwe

August 2, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, The Thaksin Years

[Thai PM Holds Sudden Talks with Than Shwe](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, August 2, 2006

*Thailand's caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra led a delegation to Naypyidaw for talks with junta leader Snr-Gen Than Shwe and other undisclosed junta officials on Wednesday...*

[Burma](#)

[visit fuels rumours](#) – *The Nation*, August 3, 2006

*...The visit also came on the same day US President George W Bush signed legislation renewing economic sanctions on Burma to signal his "serious concern" about the military regime there, the White House said in a statement...*

*However, a source at Government House said Thaksin may have gone to Burma to join the race with China and India for exclusive rights to Burma's north-western natural gas reserves...*

[Hidden](#)

[agenda seen in PM's 1-day Burma trip](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 3, 2006

# Bomb Blasts in Burma—A Chronology

August 2, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Bomb Blasts in Burma—A Chronology](#) – *The Irrawaddy*,

August 2, 2006

*The number of bomb attacks in Burma has increased sharply this year, to an average of more than one a month. The Irrawaddy has prepared (and will be regularly updating) a chronology dating back to 1983...*

# Launch of Pracharaj Party today

August 2, 2006

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Launch of Pracharaj Party today](#) – *The Nation*,  
August 2, 2006

# KL gets tough on spread of misinformation via Net

August 2, 2006

Categories: Malaysia

[KL gets tough on spread of misinformation via Net](#) – *The Nation*, August 2, 2006

*If information in blogs, websites and online*

*portals was incorrect, bordered on slander, caused disturbance or compelled the public to lose faith in the nation's economic policies, their authors would be detained for investigation, Badawi said...*

# **BANGKOK POST 60TH ANNIVERSARY: Thaksin appeals to media**

August 3, 2006

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines, The Thaksin Years

[BANGKOK POST 60TH ANNIVERSARY: Thaksin appeals to media](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 3, 2006

*Caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has appealed to the media to help maintain the image of the country to boost investor confidence. Addressing the Bangkok Post's 60th anniversary party on Tuesday night, Mr Thaksin said the Post is the newspaper most quoted by other countries and its readers are not limited to Thais. He asked the editorial staff to look after the country's image in the eyes of the international community. "The Bangkok Post is the newspaper which other countries use most often as a reference. I'd like to leave good thoughts with the Bangkok Post," he said...*



# **Rambo: Coming to Bangkok (and Burma)**

August 3, 2006

Categories: Film and TV

[Rambo: Coming to Bangkok \(and Burma\)](#) – newley.com, August 3, 2006

# Friday afternoon storm

August 4, 2006

Categories: Weather



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Friday  
afternoon storm – August 4, 2006

# Thai police crack credit card wiretap scam

August 4, 2006

Categories: Scams

[Thai police crack credit card wiretap scam](#) – *The Register*,

August 4, 2006

*Tourists from Australia and New Zealand are among an estimated 48,000 victims of a highly-organised credit card fraud ring in Thailand...*

# **Iran's Mafia and Thai gang carried and robbed young Aussie owner of Diamond Shop**

August 5, 2006

Categories: Crime, Pattaya

[Iran's Mafia and Thai gang carried and robbed young Aussie owner of Diamond Shop](#) – *Daily News*, August 5, 2006

*Iran's Mafia abducted a young Aussie, son of Diamond Shop's owner and a jewelry designer and Thai gang in South Pattaya. He was thrown on to vehicle, completely robbed before leaving him in the middle of a jungle...*

# Fist fight on stage was ‘a disappointment’

August 5, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

The Ramakien fight –  
August 6, 2006

Thai-language dailies also featured screen captures on their front pages of the "Ramakien fight" between Thai rock stars in New York.

**Right:** *Thai Rath*, August 6, 2006

**Below:** *Daily News*, August 6, 2006



[Fist fight on stage was ‘a disappointment’](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 5, 2006

*A high-profile fist fight between musicians at the recent opening of the Ramakien in New York was a disappointment, Apinan Poshyananda, the director-general of the Office of Contemporary Art and Culture, said yesterday. The fight between Seksan Sookpimai, better known as Sek Loso, and Krissada Sukosol Clapp, or Noi, from pop-rock outfit Pru took place on stage in front of a 1,000-strong audience during the first of the three performances of Ramakien: A Rak Opera staged at LaGuardia Theatre as part of the prestigious Lincoln Centre Festival...*

# How the Thai press covered the latest mass bombings

August 6, 2006

Categories: Analysis, The Thai Deep South

This week saw one of the largest waves of bombings in the deep south stretching again into three districts of Songkhla. This wave of bombings was lightly reported in the Thai-language press, not rating a front-page headline in most of the dailies.

The disinterest in the Thai-language press comes in the face of stories more interesting to the Thai public, such as the recovery of Thai King after surgery and the crash involving vehicles in the Prime Minister's motorcade. That "bandits" or "bad guys" continue to disrupt life in the deep south is not as interesting to the public after three years.



The lighter coverage in the Thai press translates to lighter coverage in the English-language Thai press as well. The English-language dailies largely base their coverage on watered-down versions of stories in the Thai-language press. Thai-language articles are converted to versions relevant and understandable to a Westernized audience. In the process many details are omitted.



This means even sparser coverage in the international press. Stories on Thailand in the international press are created by rewriting material from the *Bangkok Post* and the *Nation* and adding some background material. This is how the latest widespread demonstration of violence in the Thai deep south was hardly noticed outside of Thailand.

**Above:** *Komchadluek*, August 2 – The headline reads: Turmoil in the four southern provinces

– Burning a rubber factory – Shooting – Bombing expands to Songkhla (Province)

**Left:** *Krungtep Turakit*, August 2 (back page) – Article title on the bottom left: Bad guys create turmoil in the South – Burn more than 70 spots and bomb houses

**Right:** *Thai Rath*, August 3, 2006 – The bottom half of the front page features prominent photos of the wrecked cars in Thaksin's motorcade



## Vehicles

[in Thai premier's motorcade crash, injuring 3; PM unharmed](#) – *The Star Online*, August 2, 2006

Two vehicles traveling in Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's convoy crashed with a passenger car Wednesday, injuring two security officials and a civilian, police said. The prime minister was unharmed...



**Left: Komchadluek**, August 3, 2006 – The headline reads: Turmoil overnight – Bombing train tracks – 3 officers dead and one seriously injured – Even a medical team luckily escaped injury

At the top right is a photo of a wrecked vehicle from Thaksin's motorcade.

**Right: Krungtep Turakit**, August 2 (back page) -The article title on the bottom half of the page reads: 4th army sums up the 118 spots (that were attacked) – Rubber factory burned

The main photo is of a police petrol truck that was attacked in the deep south.



**Left: Phujatkan**, August 3 – Photo of the Thaksin motorcade crash







# Democrat plan hailed as good for the public

August 6, 2006

Categories: Thai Politics

[Democrat plan hailed as good for the public – Party says people's living conditions have worsened in past five years](#) – Bangkok Post, August 6, 2006

*Critics of the Thai Rak Thai government yesterday hailed the Democrat party's policies as appropriate remedies for current economic conditions. The opposition party believes the government's policies are taking their toll on people. Its latest campaign broadcasts on television have unveiled the policies it plans to implement if it wins the Oct 15 general election.*

*They range from raising the minimum wage to reducing electricity fees, bringing down oil and gas prices, setting up a sufficiency economy fund, and promoting free education and free health care.*

*The Democrats also plan to reorganise the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and PTT Plc, which party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva said had earned huge profits that largely went to shareholders as dividends or ended up circulating back within the organisations. After the reorganisation the huge profits should be redistributed to the public, he said...*

# Old stomping grounds – Former offices disappear, but fond memories remain

August 6, 2006

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[Old stomping grounds – Former offices disappear, but fond memories remain](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 6, 2006

*Sixty years ago, on Aug 1, 1946, 25 staff members produced the first 500 copies of the Bangkok Post in a two-storey house on Krung Kasem road, a business area in those days.*

*The paper has lasted long enough to see its 60th anniversary celebration last Tuesday, but its original office at 934 Krung Kasem road has not.*

*The house originally belonged to Phraya Supakornbannasarn, a high-ranking official during the reign of King Rama VI, and was sold to the state after the Post moved out in 1956, said 64-year-old Sumana Vasutarn, a relative of the original owner...*

And an [item from the Bangkok Post front page, August 6, 1946](#)

# MPG-CAPS scam

August 7, 2006

Categories: Energy, Scams



MPG-CAPS scam comes to Thailand –  
December 15, 2006

A thread about this article is [here](#).

Rüdiger reports: *The new "Fuel Freedom International" scam has arrived in Bangkok... A seminar was held last Sunday at the Chaophya Park Hotel to lure people from Bangkok into the put-a-pill-into-the-gas-tank-of-your-car-to-improve-the-fuel-mileage-it-gets-from-gasoline-as-well-as-reduce-emissions scam.*

They [prepared already pages in Thai](#) and then there is the [home page](#).

Then of course Google comes up with some interesting pages if you look for "MPG-CAPS" scam such as [here](#) and [here](#). (Conclusion. On average, with the pill in the tank, we saw a drop in fuel economy by about 2mpg. There was no perceivable increase in acceleration or the ability to perform at-speed overtaking maneuvers. This pill is another scam. Don't bother with it.)

Websites : [myffi.biz](#) and [mileagesecrets.com](#)

MPG Caps, or any of the other "pill in your fuel tank" products are the cheapest and easiest-to-find miracle cures for increased power and gas mileage. The products are simple. They're normally pills, in a pop-out wrapper just like medical pills, or in a bottle. They smell foul and the manufacturers claim that one pill per 20 gallons of fuel will give you increased power and performance whilst at the same time cutting your mpg (in some cases they claim up to 30%). Explanations range from "organic engine conditioner that improves fuel economy and power by creating a micro-thin coating on the combustion chamber allowing fuel to burn better" all the way up to the fantastical "nanotechnology particles that seek out and change the molecular structure of refined gasoline to make it burn more efficiently". Wow. Impressive stuff, but as always, it's nonsense. Typically these pills are biodegradable plant or sugar compounds laced with food colouring and some odd petrochemical to give them an official smell. They don't work and are simply yet another scam to make you part from your money.

ABC reported on a AAA test of the MPG Caps and found their claims to be invalid – [ABC report](#)

Texas recently closed down Bioperformance Inc. for fraud linked to their magic fuel pill – [Report](#)

For my test of the MPG Caps fuel pills head over to my [Product Reviews](#) page.

**Also:** [No shortcuts to saving money on gas](#) – CNN, August 7, 2006

# **Siemens has whip hand over rail extensions – No other winning bidder would have specs to make new stretch compatible**

August 7, 2006

Categories: Skytrain

[Siemens has whip hand over rail extensions – No other winning bidder would have specs to make new stretch compatible](#) – *The Nation*, August 7, 2006

# What hope for the Democrats?

August 7, 2006

Categories: Thai Politics

[What hope for the Democrats?](#) – Chang Noi, August 7, 2006

# Manager Online claims it under hackers' attacks

August 7, 2006

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines, Thai Politics

[Manager Online claims it under hackers' attacks](#) – *The Nation*, August 7, 2006

*...Manager Online announced on its first page the worm programme has been hidden long with compiled files of photos of the 60th anniversary celebration of His Majesty for Internet users to download...*



# Ice maker won fat air-con deal at airport, say Democrats

August 8, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ice maker won fat air-con deal at airport, say Democrats](#) – Bangkok Post, August 8, 2006

*... "An initial investigation has found there was an irregularity," Mr Alongkorn said. The company had no experience in providing airport services, but was given a higher technical score than Thai International Airways which has provided the same services to Don Muang Airport for the past 10 years. The contract winner had run an ice factory in Bang Bon, a massage service at Don Muang and engaged in some agricultural business, Mr Alongkorn said...*

# **Fears for labour force as women shun marriage**

August 9, 2006

Categories: Labor

[Fears for labour force as women shun marriage](#) – *The Nation*, August 9, 2006

# Oil's a Hot Topic in Cambodian Talks with Thailand

August 9, 2006

Categories: Cambodia, Energy

[Oil's a Hot Topic in Cambodian Talks with Thailand](#) – Rigzone, August 9, 2006

*Wrangling over revenues from joint offshore oil reserves was expected to remain a hot topic during Thai caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's visit to Cambodia, local media in Phnom Penh reported Wednesday...*

# Media: don't mess with Singapore

August 9, 2006

Categories: Singapore

[Media: don't mess with Singapore](#) – *The Nation*, August 9, 2006

*...The latest edition of the Far Eastern Economic Review called Chee Soon Juan, leader of the Democratic Party, a martyr. The island-state's overactive self-defence mechanism kicked into gear with all guns blazing. The magazine ran a profile of Chee in which he expressed his views on former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew and his son, the current Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.*

*...Last week, as part of a policy review, Singapore said that foreign publications – particularly the Financial Times, International Herald Tribune, Newsweek and Time magazine – must now put down a deposit, equivalent to Bt5 million, as well as hire a legal representative. This requirement sends an unambiguous message to foreign media...*

# Rules of elephant polo

August 9, 2006

Categories: Sports

[Rules of elephant polo](#) – August  
9, 2006

Thanks to elephant jockey Don for pointing this out.

# “The Ultimate Thai Police”

August 10, 2006

Categories: Thai Email Forwards, Thai Police



Thai Email forwards: "The Ultimate Thai Police" – August 10, 2006

Thanks to HS for sending along this cartoon and translation (from *Manager?*) satirizing the strong-arm tactics of Thai Police.

It is interesting to note that while the police are sometimes harshly criticized and scrutinized like this—uniformed police even comprising comic characters in Thai daytime TV, the military usually refuses any comic or satiric representations.

More [Thai email forwards](#)

Translation of the cartoon:

*The Ultimate Thai Police*

*:: There have been a test to find out which country has the greatest and ultimate police in the world. The contest took place at a rainforest somewhere in the world.... In the final round there were only 3 competitors left...*

*:: The policeman from Thailand*

*:: The FBI from USA*

*:: ...and KGB from Russia*

*Scientist: The rules for the last round is... I will let go of this rabbit into the forest... you will have to find it within 10 minutes to complete the task.*

*Scientist: One of the FBI representative.... will start NOW!*

*:: The FBI uses advance technology to find the rabbit through satellite and computers... since the forest was so dense and wide the satellite could not get hold of the rabbit in its sight.*

*:: For that case he did not retrieve the rabbit within 10 minutes*

*Scientist: Time's Up... The representative from FBI does not pass the test.*

*FBI: Oh!!*

*Scientist: Next up is a representative from KGB!*

*:: ...who chooses to torch down the whole forest... just to chase the rabbit out of there.*

*:Image: KGB holding torch with burning flames from the forest beside him.*

*:: Since the forest was dense and too wide for him to torch the place... time ran out*

*Scientist: Time's Up... The representative from KGB does not pass the test.*

*Goat: ...ohhh... I confess that I am a rabbit... I am a rabbit... sniff sniff... just don't beat me up anymore.*



# Foreign workers in the north say forced to work under rocket fire

August 10, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Foreign workers in the north say forced to work under rocket fire](#) – Haaretz, August 10, 2006

*At least 30 Thai workers have complained in the past few days that their employers are forcing them to work in fields in the north, even as Katyusha rockets launched from Lebanon rain down on towns near the border...*



# Insanely obsessive ultra realistic vector art

August 10, 2006

Categories: Art

[Insanely obsessive ultra realistic vector art](#) – BoingBoing, August

10, 2006

*...he drawing of the woman shown here was created by Thai artist Ussa Methawiitayakul...*

# Crackdown on Illegal Use of Chinese Mobile Phones

August 10, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Crackdown on Illegal Use of Chinese Mobile Phones](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, August 10, 2006

*...Offices and homes have been raided and at least three arrests made, according to local residents. The crackdown came days after official warnings were issued about the legal consequences of buying and using Chinese-made phones.*

*The Chinese phones, smuggled across the Kachin-China border, cost around 100,000 kyat (US \$76), a fraction of the 2.5 million kyat (\$1,850) demanded for a legally obtained phone. Mobile phone use in Burma is strictly controlled by the government, whose Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications is the country's only mobile phone service provider...*

# Dismay over National Library Move

August 10, 2006

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Dismay over National Library Move](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, August 10, 2006

...*"We don't know whether the new building in Naypyidaw is ready or not," one official, requesting anonymity, told The Irrawaddy by phone on Thursday. "Anyway that's state policy. We have no choice..."*

# **‘Influential figures’ behind delay in move**

August 10, 2006

Categories: Communities

[‘Influential figures’ behind delay in move](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 10, 2006

...

*Influential figures are behind a delay in the relocation of pavement vendors from Bo Bae market to a new shopping area, a source at the Crown Property Bureau said yesterday. The bureau awarded Pattana Saphan Khao Co a concession to develop the old Ambassador cinema site on Larn Luang road as a new area for the vendors.*

*But the relocation, set for Aug 15, has been delayed \_ apparently for political reasons...*

[Google Earth](#) Placemarks: [Ambassador Cinema](#) and [Bo Bae Market](#)

# **‘Matichon’ feels oil-price heat**

August 10, 2006

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

[‘Matichon’ feels oil-price heat](#) – *The Nation*, August 10, 2006

# Strange Basket

August 10, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Basket –

August 10, 2006

Anyone know details about this kind of basket? A thread on this is [here](#).

August 10, 2006  
Categories: Thai Police

August 10, 2006  
Categories: Thai Police

10/08/2006	12:54:43	Rhon Kaen Highway Police	4215
110 kmh	124 kmh APP	109.5 m	km.420-421 Nonsomboon KK.
			UX014015

Nekochan reports: *I got a mail from a friend warning about a new highway traffic monitoring system. So, Thai highway patrol does not need to hide behind trees anymore. The letter says: (my brief translation)*

*On August 10, 2006 at 12:54 our laser monitoring system detected speed violation on highway # 2 at section 420-421 km, Noon Som Bun, Khon Khan. The speed was at 124 kph beyond the 90 kph limit.*

Please report to Highway Patrol Police 2 (Khon Khan Precinct) within 15 days. The 400 baht fee can be

*paid via postal service.*

*Regards,*

*.....(name)*

*Attached with a picture of the car!!*

*Very interesting! Foreign driver watch out!! You are caught on tape.*



# European aristocrat dies in jail

August 11, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[European aristocrat dies in jail](#) – *The Nation*, August 11, 2006

*...Hohenlohe, 49, from Liechtenstein, apparently altered the date on his visa, leading to his arrest on July 29 at Bangkok International Airport...*

# Ten Election Commission candidates selected

August 11, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ten Election Commission candidates selected](#) – August 11, 2006

# Hell Items

August 11, 2006

Categories: Local Beliefs



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Made of paper –

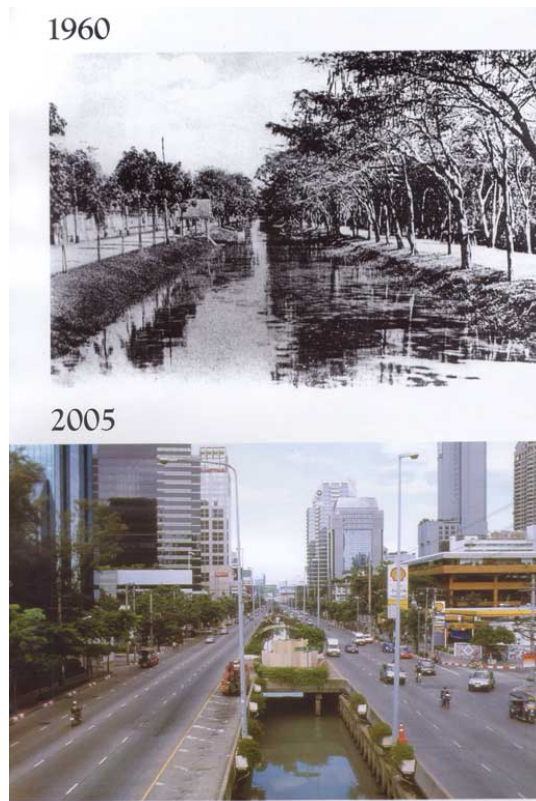
August 11, 2006

This is a set of personal items made entirely of paper. It costs 40 baht (about USD \$1). Note the cell phone with a PT Cruiser wallpaper. It is part of a Chinese custom of burning paper items, including faux money, as an offering to deceased ancestors in heaven.

On Wikipedia: [Hell bank note](#)

# Sathorn Road Then and Now

August 11, 2006  
Categories: History



(Photo: *Bangkok Post*)

Sathorn Road then and now –  
August 11, 2006  
Interesting photos from the *Post*'s 60th anniversary book...

## BMA smart traffic sign

August 11, 2006

## Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

## BMA smart traffic sign –

August 11, 2006

Green, orange, or red signifies free-flowing, slightly congested, or stopped traffic respectively.

**Left side:** Follow the King's idea. Develop the nation. Develop sustainable electricity.

**Right side, words in white, clockwise from top:** Bridge Somdej Prapinklao, Rama VIII Bridge, Dheves, Miksakawan, Krasudsuk, Mansri

**Red:** You are here!

**Yellow left:** Ratchadumnoenklang

**Yellow middle:** Nakornsawan, Krungkasem

**Yellow right:** Wisuttikasad, Ratchadumnoennok

# Thai Town, Los Angeles, California

August 12, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Town, Los Angeles, California](#) – Wikipedia, August 12, 2006

Thanks to Nils for pointing this out...

# Thailand tsunami disaster scam letter

August 12, 2006

Categories: Scams

Thailand tsunami disaster scam letter – August 12, 2006

*Keita .S. Zaghmi.*

*Tel: +66-7494-5240.*

*Email: [keitazaghmi2000@yahoo.co.in](mailto:keitazaghmi2000@yahoo.co.in)*

*Dear Sir,*

*With due respect trust and humanity. I write you this letter which I believe, would be of great interest to you. I believe you are a highly respected personality considering a careful research which I have been able to make in respect to your kind of person, before I decided to entrust this transactions and database in your country into your hands which I believe you will not betray my trust and confidence already entrusted on you.*

*My name is Keita Zaghmi. My mother and I sincerely need your help to keep my mother alive. I need your attention regarding my family business and current situation. And note that you have to handle this confidential and sincerely by not discussing it with anyone for security reasons and also to avoid any third party complications. I pray you will us down.*

*My mother is currently admitted in a private Hospital here in southern Thailand as a result of injuries sustained from the Thailand Tsunami disaster.*

*I am the only surviving child of my parents. Mr/Mrs. S. M Zaghmi a citizen of Liberia, My late Father before his sudden death owns a Resort in the Phuket Island of Thailand. It is quite unfortunate that my father and my two sisters died of the Tsunami disaster that occurred in Phuket Thailand, 26th December 2004 and their bodies are yet to be discovered and my mother narrowly escaped death.*

*My father's business was raised down to nothing. But a deposit of 273.76366, 000.000 Thailand baht (7.5 M US\$) which is the only document left behind for me and my ill mother at the moment. I was advised by my late father never to deal with Thailand people in terms of business. My mother and I in a mutual agreement want this fund to have two beneficiaries, as I am too young to handle the fund. So we can be able to transfer/Lift the money out of Thailand to your country in your name.*

*At present, I am the next of kin / Beneficiary to my entire father's wealth and I would like a meeting with you my mother and I so that we will discuss on how best to invest this money in your country. Moreover, you can indicate your option towards assisting us as we have mapped out 15% of the total sum for you as compensation for your assistance.*

*Reach us on this phone number: +66-7494-5240. Most preferably at night anytime from 22.00hours Gmt(10.00p.m) because at this time, my mother and I are usually together because she is free from medications at night except on sudden or unforeseen emergencies.*

*Your quick response will be of great benefit to us and please remember to include your full contacts details in your reply. May GOD Shelter and Care for you as you assist us.*

*Mail my private Email: [keitazaghmi2000@yahoo.co.in](mailto:keitazaghmi2000@yahoo.co.in) , Tel: +66-7494-5240.*

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Keita S Zaghani.*



# Thai family debunks stereotypes of uneducated, poor illegal immigrants

August 13, 2006

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Thai family debunks stereotypes of uneducated, poor illegal immigrants](#) – *Duluth News Tribune*, August 13, 2006

*For many immigrants, few things represent the American dream like a home of their own. So it was a proud day for a Thai immigrant and her three adult children when they pooled their resources to buy a five-bedroom, two-story home in Sacramento, Calif., last August...*

# AIDS Prevention: A strategy that works

August 13, 2006

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[A strategy that works](#) – *New York Times*, August 13, 2006

*Twenty-five years into the HIV pandemic, there remain few developing countries that have had success in controlling the virus. Thailand is one of them.*

*In the late 1980s, Thailand experienced the first HIV epidemic in Asia, and one of the most severe. By 1991, 10.4 percent of military conscripts from northern Thailand were infected by the virus, the highest level ever reported among a general population of young men outside Africa...*

# Lollipops with flashlights banned

August 14, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Lollipops with flashlights banned](#) – *The Nation*, August 14, 2006

## **Pramual: Govt clearly broke, no liquidity**

August 14, 2006

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Pramual: Govt clearly broke, no liquidity](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 14, 2006

*Pracharaj party deputy leader Pramual Rujanaseri wants to know how the caretaker prime minister plans to fund his promised 200-billion-baht poverty eradication scheme when the government is obviously broke. He said the government's lack of money was clear in its move to force the Government Savings Bank (GSB) to buy shares in Mcot Plc to finance a three-billion-baht purchase of TMB Bank shares...*

# Wat Yannawa tenants fight back

August 14, 2006

Categories: Communities



(Source: GoogleEarth)

[Wat Yannawa tenants fight back](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 14, 2006

*...The temple management has a different view of what should be done with the area. It argues the shophouses are run-down and wants to clear them and build a six-storey commercial complex with an underground parking lot...*

It is no wonder that the wat would wish to redevelop the shophouse area. This could be a key commercial area since it fronts the newly refurbished piers under the Taksin Skytrain Station that, incredibly, have clear and complete informational signs in English. This is finally making the riverboat system accessible to a wider number of tourists.

It is unfortunate that existing tenants can only call for such a key potential commercial area to remain a row of dark and run down buildings instead of being invited to join in redevelopment of existing structures. There is also the issue of the "Sathorn eyesore," so-called because the hulking derelict high-rise can be seen when traveling down Sathorn Road. We are not aware of any redevelopment plans for the site which is just across from the wat.

Kudos to the *Post* for being the only English-language source for these community development issues in English. *The Nation* ignores such stories probably not realizing how popular a subject they are with foreigners who like to bemoan greedy institutions evicting long-time residents.

# Reaching for the sky in Pattaya

August 14, 2006

Categories: Pattaya

[Reaching for the sky in Pattaya](#) – *The Nation*, August 14, 2006

*After starting a property-management business in Pattaya with Bt100,000 of savings, Bruno Pingel is now overseeing the development of a Bt12-billion project – Ocean One, a 91-storey condominium...*

# Bangkok Clubs: The Survivors – A history of Bangkok's oldest clubs

August 15, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok Clubs: The Survivors – A history of Bangkok's oldest clubs](#) – Bangkok Recorder, August 15, 2006

... "We've cut many things," explains David. "Originally... you could hold the bottle for three months, but four 'working girls' would take three months on one bottle. Now it's only one month..."

... "Now, corruption has come back. And, as you know, there's after-hours bars all over the city. And they will never let QBar and Bed stay open late because neither one of us are really willing to pay a third of our income – we won't do it."

... "They should be applauding bars like Q Bar and Bed Supperclub, as international clubs in Thailand, bringing in the world's best DJs and better drinks. They should be supporting these kind of bars. But instead it's Nana Plaza and Patpong."

... "So, then they came up with the new law: everybody has to have an original passport. Which of course is not a law. Every embassy in the world will tell you not to carry your passport. So they brought that law on the spot and they took hundreds of people to jail. We had the Israeli ambassador in the club that night. He had diplomatic immunity, but they took the papers and threw them on the floor... it was bad..."

**Also:** For those who have been here longer than ten years: [Last look at NASA Spaceadrome](#)

# Thai death probe red tape ‘delay’

August 16, 2006

Categories: Crime

[Thai death probe red tape ‘delay’](#) – BBC, August 16, 2006

*...Sue Jones said: " We are in their (Thai authorities) hands until we receive this official document. We have been waiting for 12 months for it, but every time we ask for it they tend to delay things."*

*The Thai authorities have been asked to comment.*



# **The 620 million baht underwater cable power lines in Krabi are expected to be ready by 2008**

August 16, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The 620](#)

[million baht underwater cable power lines in Krabi are expected to be ready by 2008](#) – August 16, 2006

# **First Thai superhero to battle Hollywood at box office**

August 17, 2006

Categories: Film and TV

[First Thai superhero to battle Hollywood at box office](#) – *Channel NewsAsia*, August 17, 2006

*Thai filmmakers are hoping that a kickboxing superhero who can scale skyscrapers and deflect bullets will become a box-office rival to Hollywood legends like Superman and Spider-Man...*

# **Madacusca keen on Thai OTOP goods**

August 17, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Madacusca keen on Thai OTOP goods](#) – TNA, August 17, 2006

Thanks to [StufBangkok](#) for pointing this out...

# **Mr. Chana: Thailand-India FTA provides advantages to Thailand**

August 17, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Mr. Chana: Thailand-India FTA provides advantages to Thailand](#) – *ThaisNews*, August 17, 2006

# Traffic ‘bigger risk than disease’

August 17, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Traffic ‘bigger risk than disease’](#) – Scotsman, August 17, 2006

*...While the most popular destination for UK gap-year travellers is Australia, which has a good road safety record, an increasing number of young people are choosing "edgier" destinations such as India, Kenya, Thailand, Cambodia and Brazil.*

*The Make Roads Safe campaign and the RAC Foundation said travellers in Thailand and Brazil are at four times the risk of being killed on the road than in the UK...*

# Plastic surgery in Pattaya

August 17, 2006

Categories: Humor

[Plastic surgery in Pattaya](#) –

August 17, 2006

A classic website...

# Negative Thai News 2002-2006

August 18, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Bangkok takes a beating – August 18, 2006

CNN's [Anderson Cooper 360](#): ...Law enforcement officials say John Mark Karr is a former school teacher. Arrested in Bangkok, Thailand, notorious for its sex trade and for child prostitution... One of the things, obviously, everybody has been asking about here today has been the location, Thailand, a country known for a very active sex trade and a very active sex trade that involves very young children. Any hint from the authorities there about any connection to that with this man?...

CNN's [Anderson Cooper 360](#): ...But it's a lot different arresting someone in Bangkok than it is in the United States. How can you even offer someone in Bangkok an American lawyer? They're not — they're not — there are not any of them over there...

CNN's evening newscast described the parading of the suspect by the Thai police as being *reminiscent of Lee Harvey Oswald*.

CNN Breaking News: Boulder DA: Ramsey murder suspect John Karr [started working as second grade teacher in Thailand Tuesday](#) ...Karr had begun working as second-grade teacher in Bangkok international school system on Tuesday, Lacy said...

[Sicko bagged in Bangkok](#) – New York Daily News, August 16, 2006 (Also: [John Karr's resume](#))

## And the ancillary stories:

[Poverty, corruption in Asia helps sex trade thrive](#) – CNN, August 17, 2006

*It's a photo that has become a staple in the tabloids of Southeast Asia: the foreigner taken in by police after being caught in bed with a local boy or girl.*

*For many of the region's countries that derive huge sums of money from the tourism trade, it's a vivid illustration of its seamiest side — child sexual exploitation...*

The *LA Times* runs the same story with a slightly different headline: [Child sexual exploitation thrives in Thailand, region](#)

[Bangkok known as center for sex industry](#) – Denver Post, August 17, 2006

*Bangkok is a pedophile paradise with a lucrative child-sex industry.*

*"Certainly it's an attractive place for a pedophile who has the money to travel, so it follows the person who murdered JonBenet Ramsey would be attracted to Thailand both as a place to fulfill sexual desires and as a place to hide," said criminal justice Professor James Alan Fox of Northeastern University in Boston.*

*"If you know who you're looking for, that might be a place to look..."*

The *Daily News* runs the same story, adding a bit to the headline: [Thailand known for active sex trade, especially of kids](#)

[The JonBenet Suspect: A Loner's Life in Thailand](#) – Time, August 17, 2006

*John Mark Karr, 41, lived on the ninth floor of a rundown apartment building in a Bangkok district full of similarly rundown buildings and guest houses...*

And the Fox News report about Thailand: 'Pedophile Paradise'? (link on the top right side of their [front page](#))

*"...it's no surprise where he fled to..."*  
*Sex is a "billion dollar industry in Bangkok"*  
*"Washington Square in downtown Bangkok where sex is offered with kids..."*  
*"The Entertainment Act of 1966 says that places where tourists come are exempt from banning prostitution..."*  
*"Is the only reason someone is going to Bangkok Thailand is for the sex industry?"*  
*Well I'd hate to speculate on that and ruin Thailand's tourism industry in all together in one shot, John, but it is listed as the third place for child abuse and child sexual exploitation."*  
*"The implication is that the Thai government doesn't care—it lets this happen."*



## Meanwhile:

[Mobile phones 'warping cultural values'](#) – *The Nation*, August 17, 2006

*Thai cultural values have been warped, with half the population "dependent" on cell phones, the National Culture Commission said yesterday...*

*...The third "disease" was impatience and hot tempers caused by getting used to a instant connections and a response to orders. People become irritated over other things, even trivial events, in life.*

*...The last "dysfunction" was insincerity resulting from the nature of phone conversations, which are not face-to-face dealings. Users are prone to use overly sweet words or lies to convince the other party that they care about something, when they do not.*

*Amornrat said overuse of cell phones was also causing other problems. Ear disease, severe headaches and nerve disorders have become more common due to long exposure to the cell-phone's electromagnetic field. Also, more and more peeping toms or exhibitionists are using phone cameras to shoot nude pics to be published on the Internet...*

More "Bangkok takes a beating" – August 19, 2006

[Thailand, Sex-Trade Capital?](#) – ABC, August 18, 2006

*"The way Wall Street is to finance — Bangkok is to pedophiles..."*

[Bangkok, Haven for Sex Offenders](#) – family.org, August 18, 2006

*...John Mark Karr lived in central Bangkok, known for its massage parlors and sex tourism. The area fit Karr well, a known pedophile. Ann-Janette Alejano-Steele with the Polaris Project, an anti-human trafficking organization, says Thailand is a pedophile's paradise.*

*"If you're hiding and you're a pedophile, certainly that's going to be a place to hide partly because that lifestyle is acceptable."*

*...LaRue says while the U.S. is not immune from pedophiles, our laws are intended to see that we don't become another pedophile haven like Thailand.*

[John Mark Karr's Strange Life as a Teacher](#) – *Time*, August 18, 2006

*He moved from country to country and school to school, winding up in Thailand, where expatriate instructors have a special cachet...*

*But Thailand's headmasters, it seems, sweat not such details. In fact, at least one Thai school administrator thought Karr's variegated experience an asset...*

[Suspect's 'Lonely' Bangkok Life](#) – *LA Times*, August 19, 2006

*...Karr evidently spent much of his time in the dreary, claustrophobic room he rented at the Blooms Residences, one of the city's countless low-end boarding houses that target both budget travelers and long-term guests.*

*Situated on a quiet, narrow street in the city's bustling Sathon District, the building has a drab, salmon-*



colored exterior. Its facade is a honeycomb of small balconies and dirty windows, each with a small air conditioner jutting out of it. Guests can rent rooms for three hours, by the day or by the month. Only cash is accepted.

Karr paid about \$225 a month for Room 1927, on the ninth floor. Little sunlight would have filtered through his window, which looks out onto another wing of the complex. From his tiny, rusted balcony, Karr could crane his neck to the right and watch Bangkok's choked traffic snake along a highway...

---

Still more "Bangkok takes a beating" – August 21, 2006

[Investigators considered Karr 5 years ago – CHILD EXPLOITATION: Thailand known for lax enforcement](#) – Chronicle Foreign Service, August 19, 2006

*When John Mark Karr stepped out of his grungy room on Si Bamphen street, scents of grilled food wafted in Bangkok's humid air while coquettish male and female prostitutes paraded on the sidewalk.*

*Karr would have attracted little attention with his slight build in a neighborhood that caters to expatriate residents with outdoor cafes, massage parlors, budget travel agencies and seedy hotels...*

*He repeatedly came to this city of 6 million inhabitants, where expatriates enjoy a low cost of living and a don't-ask-don't-tell social etiquette that allows vice and discretion to flourish. Bangkok, which also attracts millions of visitors for its magnificent temples, markets and canals, is well known for sex tourism, drugs and street markets that sell fake documents...*

[JonBenet arrest raises Asian crime fears](#) – AFP, August 18, 2006

*The arrest in Bangkok of an American suspect in the decade-old JonBenet Ramsey murder case has again cast the spotlight on Thailand as a criminal hideaway, especially from sex charges overseas...*

*Child protection groups and criminal experts fear that Thailand's reputation as a haven where crimes go unpunished is attracting foreigners seeking a luxurious lifestyle while escaping justice.*

*...Barely a month goes by in Thailand without another arrest of a foreign sex offender or violent criminal.*

---

Yet still more "Bangkok takes a beating" – August 22, 2006

[Case puts seamier side of Thai tourism in the spotlight](#) – USA Today, August 20, 2006

*...The frenzy surrounding the deportation of American John Mark Karr dominated Thai TV and headlines over the weekend, the case a reminder of Thailand's struggle to shake its image as a magnet for foreign "sex tourists" and pedophiles...*

[JonBenet exposes Thai teaching flaws](#) – BBC, August 19, 2006

[The Quiet Farang](#) – NYT, August 19, 2006

*...Nit Dandin, a veteran teacher of the Thai language to Westerners, put it to me this way: "Why do farang come to Thailand after they kill or rape somebody in their own country?"...*

[English-language circuit in Asia begs for teachers, little screening](#) – Canadian Press, August 20, 2006

And even *The Nation*: [A perfect lure for paedophiles](#) – *The Nation*, August 19, 2006 (We believe 2B must have given them the idea for this story...)

---

Will it ever end?: "Bangkok takes a beating" – August 24, 2006

[Karr's time as teacher in Bangkok under cloud](#) – IHT, August 22, 2006

*...A recent posting on the TEFL (Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) monitoring website TEFLWatch.org said, "For anyone out there curious, Thai schools do not hire on a trial basis. All evidence*

suggests that John Karr worked long term at both establishments, at least several months," and claimed the schools were "blatantly lying" to save face, adding that the issue is of serious concern for parents of children at schools across the country...

[Thailand's smile hides multitude of sins](#) – Boston Globe, August 22, 2006

*To the millions of holidaymakers who flock there every year, Thailand is the "Land of Smiles," a picture-postcard paradise of white-sand beaches, tropical sun and exotic eastern charm.*

*But behind the relentlessly promoted tourist image lies a darker reality in which legendary hospitality also extends to less savory visitors — from misfits and murderers, to perverts and pedophiles from across the globe.*

*... "If you think the meaning of life is riding a bike with a black-haired girl on the back and having a cheap beer, then this is definitely the place to be."*

[Exploiting the system, in the guise of 'ajarn'](#) – Bangkok Post, August 23, 2006

*...And sometimes, you can find yourself sharing an office with Hannibal Lector.*

*...Just like the former US state senator who was repeatedly caught and convicted for drunk driving and beating his girlfriend. When he carried a loaded revolver into the state legislature he was finally expelled from office. At the height of his power, white racist supremacist and militia members rallied at his demagogic speeches against minorities and welfare recipients, but most recently he has found himself teaching English at a university in Thailand.*

*...I met him in a go-go bar in Phuket. It was the quip about the human race being a plague on the earth and that only through a systematic programme of racial purification would we survive as a species, that made me realise he was not on a mercy mission in the Third World.*

*He was last seen teaching a transsexual prostitute to sing the Star Spangled Banner in an area notorious for homosexual encounters with young men who had had a sex change operation in Bangkok.*

*Then there was the teacher at a prominent language school in Phuket, who was recently exposed as a confidante of Adolf Hitler's personal radiologist. At 85, he was old enough to have been around during the Third Reich and his imperious gait was chillingly resonant of high rank. He spoke German, Greek, Italian, Thai, French and English fluently, but his speciality was to craft letters for bar girls consisting of lies and half-truths to beguile mostly male Caucasian tourists out of their money.*

*I was once privy to a meeting he thought was private and observed him perform the customary Nazi military salute when he greeted a German friend. At first, I thought it was moment of historical parody, but then observed both men deliver the same Nazi salute to each other with triumphant, choreographed precision at their farewell.*

*He still teaches English today, helping young bar girls conjugate irregular verbs and writes letters while receiving an old age pension from the Italian government.*

*There was another teacher—an American, former Arizona patrol officer who, while working in Thailand, started to exhibit repressed aggression towards his students.*

*His violent outbursts and confrontations involved minor infractions of university regulations. He became obsessed with thwarting students from gaining unfair advantage by cheating, and spent hundreds of hours devising examinations that would challenge the ingenuity of students to anticipate the content of examination papers...*

---

It never ends: "Bangkok takes a beating" – August 26, 2006

[Why sex offenders thrive in Bangkok – Cheap Trick](#) – New Republic, August 24, 2006

*...Until I saw John's girlfriend, that is. One evening, I noticed John with his arm around a small Thai woman. He walked upstairs and I trailed behind, recovering from my workout. As he turned to enter his apartment, I glimpsed his lady's face—the face of a preteen girl.*

*...Sadly, Bangkok should have been one of the first places they looked. Political scientists often blame failed states like Afghanistan or Somalia for breeding terrorism and crime. But, in actuality, criminals prefer semi-failed states or cities, where you can live a good life without worrying too much about arrest. After all, who wants to live in Kabul or Mogadishu? No, Bangkok's combination of comfortable lifestyle, sophisticated financial institutions, endemic child poverty, and lax legal system make it perfect for fugitives, sex offenders, terrorists, and other deviants...*

[Bangkok big for gender reassignment surgery](#) – *Between The Lines News*, August 24, 2006

---

More: "Bangkok takes a beating" – August 28, 2006

[The Bangkok attraction – Sex industry, anonymity abound where Karr lived](#) – *Denver Post*, August 27, 2006  
*...Bangkok is a mash of unplanned neighborhoods, incessant traffic jams and choking air pollution. It's also a cosmopolitan metropolis with upscale shopping malls, towering buildings, Buddhist temples and a thriving sex industry.*

*Thais have a wink-and-smirk reaction to the sex trade, a billion-dollar industry that draws tourists from around the world...*

[Thailand under a familiar glare](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 27, 2006

*...2Bangkok.com, a locally run website, monitored the "bad news about Bangkok" and plucked and posted quotes from the worst of it...*

---

The beat goes on: "Bangkok takes a beating" – September 4, 2006

[The Dark Side of Sex in Bangkok](#) – *Oh My News International*, September 2, 2006

*Thai children exposed to pedophiles and the lives of many women ruined*

*...Some tourists visit to sleep with as many partners as possible. Gay bars and clubs are popular. Pedophiles paying for the services of prostitutes are commonplace. Sex tour operators earn a lucrative income bringing men from the U.S. and Europe to Bangkok.*

*...A number of foreign teachers come to Thailand to party, and care little about their teaching jobs. Some of them have even started Web sites that critique Bangkok's nightlife. They rank the quality of whorehouses, offer tips on visiting go-go bars, and hold contests for the search for the best prostitute. Some hold chat forums to discuss their sexual exploits or the pros and cons of different strip clubs.*

*...Thailand has a high rate of sexually transmitted diseases, prostitutes are exploited, and a few suffer from insanity as their sexual obsessions grab hold of them. Yes, there is a dark side to sex, and it can be found in Bangkok.*

---

Bangkok takes a beating: Bangkok, China?

[John Karr should be in China](#) – *The Daily O'Collegian*, August 30, 2006

*...He needed the return ticket after a school in Bangkok fired him for "extreme strictness" with students and took the job in China after two failed relationships with minors, which led to his exile.*

*... But most importantly, law enforcement should have requested the Chinese hold Karr in custody until blood samples mailed to the U.S. matched blood taken from the crime scene.*

*The most recent development in the Ramsey case: no suspects, but we managed to bring back a pedophile to the U.S. who was destined to solitude in China. We should have left him to rot.*

---

2003: Drug killings

2B monitors news on Thailand around the world and ever since the fuss over the threatened expulsions of foreign journalists early in 2002, the international press gleefully documented all the rotten-to-the-core Thai institutions. A second wave of negative news started after Thailand's drug killings began in 2003.

[More withering criticism of the Thai government in the New York Times](#) – May 24, 2003

*The New York Times is carrying another harsh editorial about the drug war: ...News anchors announce the numbers "killed by other drug dealers" without skepticism. Foreign ambassadors at a meeting here expressed concern about the killings, but the leading daily newspaper's headline said they had given the campaign full support... Criticism has been met with abuse and intimidation. When a member of Thailand's*

National Human Rights Commission spoke to a United Nations group about the campaign, the prime minister called the action a "sickening" betrayal... Not surprisingly, no investigative journalist has dared to look closely at the killings.

The last time the NYT ran an editorial like this, the Thai ambassador in the U.N. wrote a response (*Every unnatural death that occurred during police operations will be investigated.*)

Thai Ambassador responds to NYT article – April 17, 2003

The Thai Ambassador to the U.N. sends a [letter to the editor](#) of the New York Times in response to an article on the drug killings (*Every unnatural death that occurred during police operations will be investigated.*) This is the article in question: [NYT: "An extraordinary campaign of government-approved killings is under way in Thailand"](#) (April 7, 2003). *In rural areas and city slums, residents say they now stay indoors at night for fear of what have become known as "silent killings." The most dangerous thing, they say, is to answer a police summons to respond to an accusation of drug dealing. "Most of them got killed on the way back from the police office..."*

[Thailand mentioned in "Tyrants" editorial](#) – New York Times, April 4, 2003

The New York Times writes about the world's tyrants, such as Castro's unprecedented crackdown on opposition in recent weeks as well as crackdowns in Zimbabwe and Belarus. Thailand is now routinely mentioned in such company: *In Thailand, the government has justified what appear to be summary executions in the name of a war on drugs. At least 1,900 people have been killed, including innocent bystanders. These crackdowns, too, all passed with little notice or comment. That dictators move in times of world crisis comes as no surprise...*

[How others view the drug war](#) – Los Angeles Times, March 24, 2003

As the highly popular drug war draws to a close, the LAT sums up: *...There have been several cases, like the deaths in Phetchabun, in which suspects have been killed in broad daylight minutes after leaving a police station, activists say... Some human rights activists fear a return to the ways of the military dictatorship that ruled Thailand from 1957 to 1973 and employed death squads to eliminate opponents...*

---

May-August 2002

[Rigging the Races](#) – MSNBC, August 27, 2002

*Thai horse racing is rigged. The industry, which is one of the biggest in Asia, stands alone in terms of corruption.*

[Security lapses at Don Muang](#) – Bangkok Post, August 19, 2002

This is not international, but it was written by an international travel consultant—locals would not touch this subject. Anyone notice how they are no longer using security straps on x-rayed baggage?: *Other airline officials said they believed that some of the security staff were working together on this. When the bags went through the X-ray machine, those with something worth stealing were secretly identified, such as by affixing the sticker somewhere else on the bag rather than where it should be affixed—along the zipper, on top of the lock/keyhole or along the mouth of the bag. The AAT managing director inspected this pilferage area last May. The former guard has also reportedly been arrested, but nothing was announced—in order to prevent embarrassment and more detailed questions about how he managed to get past security. Further information on this was not immediately available.*

**About Pantip Plaza** – August 18, 2002

Ever wonder what it is like to live where copyright means nothing? Locals will already know about this, but if you don't know, this Yahoo [article](#) explains Pantip Plaza. *A home edition of Windows XP software is sold in a legitimate shop on the second floor of Pantip at 9,000 baht. A few yards away, the copied program is offered at 130 baht.*

[Re-engineering the drug business](#) – 09:28, June 22, 2002

Long New York Times article (free registration required) with details about how drugs move from Myanmar through Thailand...

[Buying ivory in Thailand](#) – BBC, 08:19, June 21, 2002

Many people wonder about this—ivory is openly for sale in many places.

**Thai boiler rooms in the Aussie press** – 08:18, June 21, 2002

Pas Seangsong of [Bangkok Highrises](#) mentioned how lately the Australian press has had lots of reports about Thai boiler rooms (*...this story was on three TV channels yesterday. The Australian security finance commission is [running a campaign](#) to alert people here of cold caller business...*). However, there has not been much at all in the local Thai press about it.

**[Thailand flooded by drugs](#)** – *Christian Science Monitor*, May 30, 2002

During the past year, Thailand's borders have been overrun by smugglers bringing in methamphetamines from Myanmar. The resulting unprecedented addiction has touched every level of Thai society. Now there's fear this plague could spread out into neighboring countries.

**Thai Parliament Farked** – 07:43, May 25, 2002

[Fark.com](#) (one of the most popular sites on the web—it features links to anything interesting) has a link to an [article from Reuters](#): "Thai parliament eternally damned, beset by ghosts, hellfire, monks with AK47s." I suppose this is how the rest of the world sees us.

For example: *Chalerm Yoobamrung told parliament he had been visited in a dream by the ghost of Grandma Nuem, who asked him to try to right past wrongs.*

# Seoul to sign FTA with Asean minus Thailand

August 18, 2006

Categories: Business

[Seoul to sign FTA with Asean minus Thailand](#) – *Business Times*, August 18 2006

*...South Korea's Bilateral Trade Bureau Deputy Director-General Hong Ji-in said Thailand was not ready to sign the agreement because the FTA did not cover rice, one of Bangkok's key exports...*

# World Map of Happiness

August 18, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

World Map of Happiness –

August 18, 2006

Nils pints out the [World Map of Happiness](#) and the [map](#).

*According to a recently published map, Malaysians are the happiest people in Asia, and the 17th happiest in the world. New Zealanders closely follow them at 18th in the world ranking. Australia's happiness ranking is 26th in the world, ahead of the Solomon Islands (54th), Indonesia (64th) and Papua New Guinea (86th). The least happy people are in Myanmar and Laos...*



# Oriental Hotel brochure from the 1930s

August 19, 2006

Categories: Old photos and films



Above and below: Oriental Hotel brochure circa 1930







**Above:** Oriental Hotel from the Chao Phraya River circa 1970



**Above:** Oriental Hotel, date unknown



**Above:** Oriental Hotel baggage sticker

# Thai Beach, 1926

August 19, 2006

Categories: Old photos and films



Thai Beach, 1926 – August 19, 2006

Anyone know about this type of boat? And is that a railroad track running along the beachfront?

# **Bangkok police launch sweep of Pattaya bars**

August 19, 2006

Categories: Pattaya

[Bangkok police launch sweep of Pattaya bars](#) – *Pattaya City News*, August 19, 2006

# Mr. Yes never says NO!

August 19, 2006

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Mr. Yes never says NO! – August 19, 2006

# **Sulak case closed**

August 19, 2006

Categories: Thai Politics

[Sulak case closed](#) – *The Nation*, August 19, 2006

# **Medieval Chiang Mai pagoda collapses in heavy rain**

August 19, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Medieval Chiang Mai pagoda collapses in heavy rain](#) – TNA, August 19, 2006

# **“Harmony of Life” to become established brand name for Thai capital**

August 19, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[“Harmony of Life” to become established brand name for Thai capital](#) – TNA, August 19, 2006

[City of Life tagline belongs to Hong Kong](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 17, 2006

*The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration needs to change its English slogan, “City of Life,” as it is the same as the one used by Hong Kong last year...*

*A possible substitute might be “Bangkok \_ Harmony of Life” accompanied by the logo of four-coloured petals symbolising effective resolution of city problems.*

**Also:** [City of Life: Hong Kong](#) – [City of Life: San Diego](#) – [Bangkok will be “City of Life” : Governor](#) – [Jerusalem: City of Life](#) – [Hong Kong – Not a City of Life, but a City of Struggle](#) – [Singapore’s City of Life](#)



# Daily News, October 14, 1974

August 20, 2006

Categories: October, 1973

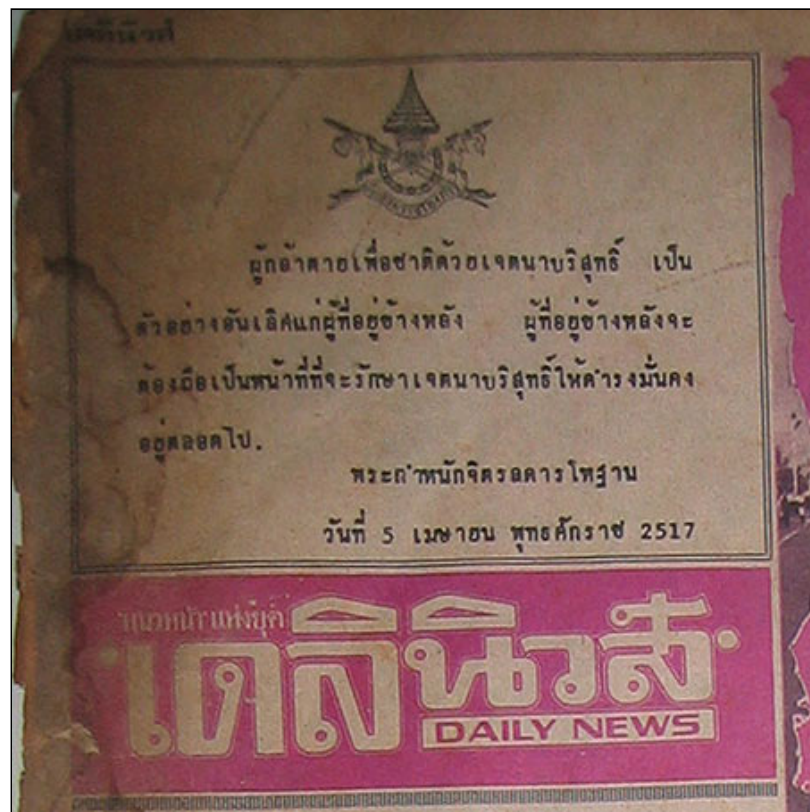


Old newspaper – *Daily News*, October 14, 1974

It reads: A throng of a hundred thousand people participate the funeral procession of the heroes to the crematorium at Sanam Luang – Mournful funeral anthem resounds – HM the King eulogizes the brave who died for the nation! – the procession stops to mourn at the bloodshed spot – The atmosphere is tremendously mournful.







It reads: The brave who died for the nation with their innocent intention are models for the next generation. The following generations are, therefore, to maintain such innocent intention eternally.  
Chitlada Palace  
April 5, 1974

# India's Hitler-themed restaurant draws fire

August 21, 2006

Categories: India

[India's Hitler-themed restaurant draws fire](#) – MSN, August 21, 2006

*Name will 'stay in people's minds,' says Mumbai restaurateur...*

# **InnoForm Media splurges on rights to Thai films**

August 21, 2006

Categories: Film and TV

[InnoForm Media splurges on rights to Thai films](#) – *Channel NewsAsia*, August 21, 2006

# How long to earn a Big Mac?

August 21, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[How long to earn a Big Mac?](#) – AP, August 21, 2006

*Swiss bank releases its ranking of the costs of living worldwide, this time with a little spin: How long does a local have to work to earn enough to buy a tasty American icon?*

*Bangkok comes in at 67 minutes, while neighboring Kuala Lumpur comes in at only 33 minutes...*

# **Ay, there's the rub, at Bangkok expo**

August 21, 2006

Categories: Humor

[Ay, there's the rub, at Bangkok expo](#) – *VNA*, August 21, 2006

"Humorous" headline...



# “Big Cleaning Toilet Day”

August 21, 2006

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: Hamish)

"Big Cleaning Toilet Day" – August  
21, 2006

Hamish writes: *I see by the date on this banner that I snapped on Thanon Nakorn Rachasima that I may be a tad late. However I am very curious as to whether any 2B readers partook in the advertised festivities!*

# Thaksin's public beatings

August 22, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

**Right:** *Daily News*, August 22, 2006 – 2 mobs “chase vs cheer” for Thaksin – Worldwide shame – Bloodshed strikes in front of shopping mall



**Left:** *Matichon*, August 22, 2006 – Fear for recurrence of October 6th – “Like vs detest” over Maew charged again – Old aged and females hurt

**Right:** *Khao Sod*, August 22, 2006 – Once again, Maew “promote-banish” beaten at Central World Plaza



**Left:** *Kom Chad Luek*, August 22, 2006 – Smash up of the anti-Thaksin – Aged and females included – A hundred police disregard

[Police charge mystery duo for assaulting](#) – *The Nation*, August 22, 2006

[Police and 3 injured seek video footage of clashes](#) – *The Nation*, August 22, 2006



*The Nation*, August 22, 2006 : Photo shows all young men who involved in attacks on Thaksin's opponents at Central World Shopping Complex on Monday wore brand new white sport shoes and white wristband. These confirmed earlier suspicions that the attacks was an organised efforts.

[Law society accuses police of letting Thaksin's supporters attack protesters](#) – *The Nation*, August 22, 2006

["Men in black not ones of us" Special Branch police chief](#) – *The Nation*, August 22, 2006

[Pale PM looks weary of dodging 'guerrillas'](#) – *The Nation*, August 22, 2006

...While observing the exhibition at Central World Plaza, Thaksin recited a poem by Sri Praj, one of Ayudhaya's greatest poets, to a group of children. "This Land bears witness for me. I am a disciple with a master. If I do wrong, I would be glad to go to the scaffold. If I do no wrong and you insist on killing me, let the sword return to you," Thaksin said.

Then he turned to the children and said: "The situation is like mine now. I have to go this way..."

[Back to the High tension in Thailand main page](#)

# **New exhibition spaces encourage Thais to think outside the box**

August 22, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[New exhibition spaces encourage Thais to think outside the box](#) – AFP, August 22, 2006

# Democrats call for new share ownership rules

August 22, 2006

Categories: Economy

[Democrats call for new share ownership rules](#) – Bangkok Post, August 22, 2006

*Foreign shareholding restrictions should be lifted across all industries to eliminate the widespread practice of nominees, according to Democrat party executives.*

*Instead, a new independent organisation could be established to help protect national security interests in certain key sectors, similar to that used by the United States, according to Korn Chatikavanij, a deputy secretary-general of the Democrats.*

*“Competition should be open and shareholdings held in a straightforward manner, open to public scrutiny,” he said...*

# Remembering protests of the past

August 24, 2006

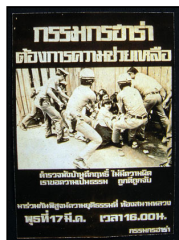
Categories: History

Remembering protests of the past –  
August 24, 2006

Mr. John reports: *These are political posters that campaign for workers, people, and students to resist the dictatorships from 1973-1978.*

**Right:** Wide government power tramples the female worker. All workers unite to fight.

**Below:** Hara (jeans) workers need help.



These posters decorate the Naihua Pub in Had Yai. This is a pub opened and owned by the singer named Saeng Thammada. He is a Southern singer who sing songs of life and some sarcastic songs about society. He also sings a song making fun of Thaksin and came to join PAD at a gathering Sanamluang.

These posters can also be found at the [Thai Labour Museum](#).

# Car bomb headlines – August 25, 2006

August 25, 2006

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

What a week... First [the beatings](#) and now something else.

The *Kom Chad Luek* program on TTV 1 is calling today's events "strange" and a "scene setting" for the PM. Various people are being interviewed expressing opinions that the southern "bandits" are behind today's events and others saying it is set up by the government.

Is it an assassination attempt? Was it really a car bomb (or "bomb in a car" as they like to say in Thailand)? Was the man cruising near the PM's soi or picking up a friend?

[‘Bomb plot to kill Thaksin foiled’, questions linger](#) – *The Nation*, August 25, 2006

[Doubts over Thaksin's lucky escape](#) – *The Nation*, August 25, 2006

*...In what was seen as an unprecedented act, Thaksin's security people were extremely helpful with the media, providing photographers with pictures of Lieutenant Thawatchai Klinchana and the explosive materials found in the vehicle.*

*Thaksin said yesterday that he had been the target of failed assassination plots on at least two occasions in the past two weeks. He claimed one happened when he was getting off his official plane at the Don Muang air force base, but he did not elaborate.*

*The premier has made similar claims over the past six years, although none has been proven.*

*A military strategist also pointed out that the explosive devices in the car yesterday were not assembled or ready to be detonated.*

*Conflicting statements were issued throughout the day. Initially, investigators on the ground said the bomb was not assembled, but the chief of the Metropolitan Police, Lt-General Wiroj Jantharangsee, told a press conference in the afternoon that it was assembled and ready to be set off...*

[If I was behind it, I would not have missed: Pallop](#) – *The Nation*, August 24, 2006

[I narrowly escape assassination attempt: Thaksin](#) – *The Nation*, August 24, 2006

[Thaksin](#)

[sacks Gen Pallop](#) – *The Nation*, August 24, 2006

[Police](#)

[defuse bomb near residence of Thai prime minister](#) – *The Nation*, August 24, 2006

[GoogleEarth](#) Placemarks: Where the ["bomb in car" was stopped](#) – Thaksin's soi: [Soi Charansanitwong 69](#)

**Also:** Today is Prem Tinsulanonda's birthday. All the top military brass will come to his house at [Si Sao Teves](#)... we can only imagine what will be discussed.

**Also:** Supposedly due to the pressure from the Channel 9 union workers, [Samak](#) resigned from his new radio show after three days (*Kom Chad Luek*, August 24, 2006).

**Right:** *Krungthep Thurskit*, August 25, 2006 – National Bank points out that the bomb news did not effect the economy – Arrest of Pallop's minion while he was driving and carrying bombs – Government is certain this is (an attempt at) Thaksin's assassination



**Left:** *Khao Sod*, August 25, 2006 – Press "the army lieutenant" about the car bomb – Reveal that the plan fails – Maew could survive



**Left:** *Kom Chad Luek*, August 25, 2006 – Intercept bombing of Thaksin – Hid bombs in a car – Order to sack Pallop immediately

Quote on the left side: Full general Pallop expresses his mind:  
"If I did it, the PM will not survive."

Incident may prove 'beneficial' for TRT – *The Nation*, August 26, 2006

Wife told Thawatchai will simply ‘die in prison’ if he does not confess his crime – *The Nation*, August 26, 2006

[Chamlong says Class 7 officers not behind plot](#) – *The Nation*, August 26, 2006

[Thai leader accuses military officers of assassination bomb plot](#) – AFP, August 25, 2006

[Thai defense minister says bomb a plot to bring down government](#) – AFP, August 25, 2006

# Car crash

August 25, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: Hahn)

Car crash –

August 25, 2006

Hahn writes: *Took this picture on the bridge between Ratchadaphisek and Jaransanitwongse. Thought you might want to see this. I took this picture on August 25.*



# **Thailand is considered as a sanctuary for foreign criminals**

August 25, 2006

Categories: Pattaya

[Thailand is considered as a sanctuary for foreign criminals](#) – *Pattaya Daily News*, August 25, 2006



# **Hawai'i fruit farmers wary of Thai plan**

August 25, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Hawai'i fruit farmers wary of Thai plan](#) – *The Honolulu Advertiser*,  
August 25, 2006

# Bangkok's underground drainage tunnel will be opened in September next year

August 25, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok's underground drainage tunnel will be opened in September next year](#) – *Thaisnews*, August 25, 2006

*...Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin said the tunnel, which is 35 metres deep into the ground, will drain water from Makkasan pond into the Chao Phraya river. Construction costs about two billion baht, Mr. Apirak said.*

*He said the tunnel will help prevent flooding in the inner city and several main roads because it has the capacity to pump 45 million cubic meters of water per second.*

# Sars Wars: Bangkok Zombie Crisis

August 25, 2006

Categories: Film and TV

[Sars Wars: Bangkok Zombie Crisis](#) – DVD Times, August 25, 2006

*...Naturally then, when Sars Wars: Bangkok Zombie Crisis came through my door I had no idea what it was. It also appears to be a film that's escaped many people, having been released across Thailand in 2004, with little sign until now. In the hopes of having it reach a wider audience, Discotek has picked up what will undoubtedly be a cult hit, as Thailand slowly emerges as being something of a contender amongst the bigger boys...*

# Anti-tobacco body slams US ambassador

August 25, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Anti-tobacco body slams US ambassador](#) – *The Nation*, August 25, 2006

*The country's leading anti-tobacco body said Friday that US Ambassador to Thailand Ralph Boyce had breached the US State Department Directive on Tobacco Policy Abroad by leading a group of giant tobacco producers to meet with Public Health Minister Pinij Charusombat on Thursday.*

*The group, which included US giant Philip Morris (Thailand), complained to the minister about unequal controls on all forms of tobacco products with cigar and pipe tobacco being less restricted than cigarettes...*

# **Thailand retained the NFL Flag Football World Championship with a thrilling 45-32 victory over Canada in Cologne, Germany**

August 26, 2006

Categories: Sports

[Thailand retains NFL Flag Football title](#) – NFL.com, August 26, 2006

*Thailand retained the NFL Flag Football World Championship with a thrilling 45-32 victory over Canada in Cologne, Germany...*

# Secrets of the Sea Gypsies of Thailand

August 28, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Secrets of the Sea Gypsies of Thailand](#) – Yahoo News, August 28, 2006

*As the anniversary of the Tsunami of 2005 approached, we headed for Thailand to meet the Sea Gypsies, survivors of the tsunami...*

# The anti-drinking ad in popular culture

August 29, 2006

Categories: Health



(Source: *Krungthep Turakit*)

Above: Editorial cartoon, *Krungthep Turakit*, August 29, 2006

Left side: Poor – Under stress – Drinks

Right side: Rich – Under stress – Eats everything

Title at the bottom: Quit... and everything will be better!!



This editorial and the magazine cover below are based on a public service advertisement from the [Thai Health Promotion Foundation](#) that often shows on TV.

It shows a drunken villager being watched by his family (left) as a narrator speaks:

Quit drinking – quit being poor – start this Buddhist Lent,  
Poor – Stressed – Drinking whiskey

Right: *Siamrath Weekly*, August 18-24, 2006  
The title reads: Rich – Under stress – Haunted





**Left:** Along the same vein a reader reports on an alcohol warning label: ...*At the top they have a large warning in Thai rather like you see on cigarette packets. ...it says “Drinking alcohol breaks Buddhist precept number 5.”*



# Thai Newspapers – August-September 2006

August 30, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

The biggest mass market dailies usually feature their most sensational and frivolous stories for the weekend. Here are two examples from the same day...

**Left:** *Thai Rath*, September 3, 2006



Girl with the boa:

Her name is Emma. She is very cool. Nearly earned her Dr. degree.

Big headline in the middle:

A worker becomes a wealthy man immediately. Promptly flies to get his jackpot of 50 million baht

To the left is something about new warnings for cigarette labels: Smoking makes you get lung cancer. Makes your voicebox get cancer.

Bottom left: Owner of shop in Samui Island showing the parts of a winning lottery ticket.

Bottom right is a man in the sand on Rayong Beach: People come to bury themselves for sand therapy that can treat rumatism, leg, and body pain.

**Right:** *Daily News*, September 3, 2006

The "burst" on the upper left says: In this issue you can check the government lottery awards.

Black skull:

Hacking of the [Narathiwat government website](http://www.narathiwat.go.th).

Under it the headline reads: Suppression Division search five places where car care targets are

Below is a photo of a dog that can pull a truck.



This is one of the many weekly news magazines.

**Left:** *Siamrath Weekly*, September 7, 2006

From the article "Good-bye Thailand": The shock of the car bomb on 24 August caused a big lost. These are about the certainty of the government to provide safety and security of the nation and a sign to the foreigner not to stay or invest in Thailand.

The index of the Industrial Council is certain to decrease.

Employment conditions and industrial investment will not expand much. This reflects that business are not certain in investment...



(Source: Khao Sod)

"Outrage picture" – *Khao Sod*, September 1, 2006

A staple of the Thai press is the outrage or sensational photo—often of people acting irreverent in relation to Buddhist images.

**Caption :** *Three men from Ayuthaya dance nude making a votive offering in front of Khao Buddha in the desert temple in Amphur Visetchaichan, Angthong province. They swore to do this when they got the red card and their wish was fulfilled.*



(Source: Krungthep Turakit)

"We love Thaksin!" – August 30, 2006

**Above:** *Like Thaksin! Love Thaksin!: People who use the name “People who love peace, unity, and democracy” come to Government House on August 29 to give moral support to caretaker Thaksin Shinawatra in the midst of a stream of assassination bombs and increased protection for the PM.*



(Source: Kom Chad Luek)

[Oxen ‘may be kouprey’](#) – *The Nation*, –  
September 1, 2006

*Wild oxen resembling the kouprey, a wild species believed to be the most endangered large mammal in the world, have been spotted deep in the jungle near to where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Cambodia meet, the head of the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Variety Conservation Department said...*





Various news of August 7, 2006

**Above:** *Thai Rath*, August 7, 2006 – The caption reads: Bomb the bus: The police of Lad Prae Police Station investigate the bomb explosion at bus No. 95 at the curve of Wat Bangtoei. The bad guys use timed bomb covered with plaster and lay it on the floor near the cushion at the back of the bus. This caused four to be injured. One suspicion is that it may be a conflict in the mass transportation company.

Not all the dailies picked up the bus bombing. Others were filled with the choosing of the new

Miss Thailand and a 29-inch TV than fell on and killed a 4-year-old girl.



**Left:** *Khao Sod*, August 7 2006 – The caption reads: Bloody: On August 5, 2006, the officers of Langsuan Hospital, Chumporn are saving lives of youth who were shot and stabbed by a drunken man after the concert of "Bao V," the southern singer at Aouychai 3 Market. This caused 1 death and 4 injury.

Under the photo is the headline about the TV falling on the 4-year-old girl.

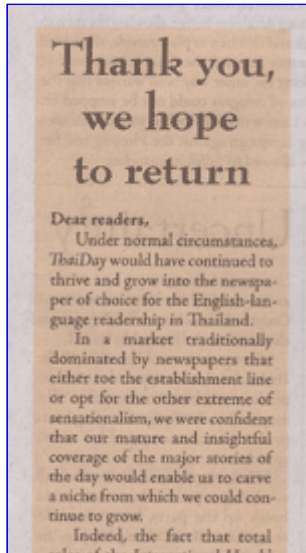
# Goodbye to ThaiDay

August 31, 2006

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Goodbye to *ThaiDay* –

August 31, 2006



*...In a market traditionally dominated by newspapers that either toe the establishment line or opt for the other extreme of sensationalism, we were confident that our mature and insightful coverage of the major stories of the day would enable us to carve a niche from which we could continue to grow.*

*...has resulted in credit lines for the Group being cut, bank overdraft facilities being withdrawn and advertisement for Group publications being pulled. The financial well-being of this newspaper and its staff have inevitably suffered. So instead of continuing to struggle through such cloudy circumstances, we have decided to call it a day.*

*We hope this will be just a temporary break. Given the mounting problems gripping the ruling regime of late and seemingly endless blunders committed by the caretaker premier himself, it seems just a matter of time before he steps down. Once the prevailing crisis is resolved and the various negative factors contributing to ThaiDay's closure disappear, we intend to return, hopefully bigger and better...*

Earlier: *ThaiDay* as rabid as *Manager*? –

March 3, 2006

We have noticed that *ThaiDay* (a supplement to the Thai version of *International Herald Tribune*) tends to be as rabid as its parent newspaper, the Thai-language *Manager*.

For instance, overstated or overblown headlines: [Thaksin is doomed, say diplomats](#) – *ThaiDay*, March 2, 2006

Articles that either do not really explain the situation or that downplay the real story: [Apirak hopes new team will revitalize City Hall](#) – *ThaiDay*, March 2, 2006

The article quotes Apirak that the reshuffle "was done because the new policy of 2006 is not focused on megaprojects but community development." Only after 11 paragraphs is there a passing single mention of corruption allegations in the BMA.

In contrast, the *Post* gives the reason for the reshuffle in its first paragraph: "The top-level changes were prompted by a high-profile graft row involving the e-auction of 16 city megaprojects worth 20 billion baht." ("Apirak orders revamp of BMA's operations", *Bangkok Post*, March 3, 2006)

[Thaksin opponent forced to close his newspaper](#) – *South China Morning Post*, August 24, 2006