

## **“Lady boy” war erupts in Thailand – two arrested**

September 2, 2007

Categories: Pattaya

[“Lady boy” war erupts in Thailand – two arrested](#) –

*PinkNews*, September 2, 2007

*Scores of teenage “lady boys” and male prostitutes have been involved in a three day “gay war” on the Thailand resort of Pattaya. The resort is popular with ...*

## **A Thumbnail History of Nana Plaza**

September 2, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[A Thumbnail History of Nana Plaza](#) –  
nanajournals.blogspot.com, September 2, 2007

## Thai temple makes lucky charms of infants' ashes

September 4, 2007

[Thai temple makes lucky charms of infants' ashes](#) – Reuters, September 4, 2007

*...The idea of mixing the human ashes into the "Multiple Rich" amulets came after neighbours told the abbot they saw spirits of dead infants buried in the temple graveyard in their dreams asking to be freed, monk Lertsak Thitayano told Reuters.*

*"The abbot wanted to set them free so he decided to cremate them and make merit for them by mixing their ashes into the amulets to empower them in helping the people," he said.*

*To gain maximum "power", the Jatukam Ramathep amulets, named after two Hindu gods, have to be prayed over by monks for days...*

## Fitch warns Thailand of economic volatility

September 4, 2007

[Fitch warns Thailand of economic volatility](#) – Bangkok Post, September 4, 2007

*...Fitch has placed Thailand's sovereign rating at BBB+, lower than those of Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, and Malaysia, but higher than those of India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia...*



## “Asian Confusion”

September 5, 2007



"Asian Confusion" –

September 5, 2007

Hot on the heels of their [18-year-old "who knows how to please you"](#), here is [another amusing Novotel ad](#) that came with the email subject line "Asian Confusion at Novotel Hotel."

# Fire at the Mandarin

September 5, 2007

Fire at the Mandarin

[Bangkok hotel where fire injured 16 guests had no water sprinkler system](#) – AP, September 5, 2007

[Fire at Mandarin Hotel under control](#) – *The Nation*, September 5, 2007

*Fire that broke out at the Mandarin Hotel on Rama IV Road early Tuesday morning has been put under control at about 8pm.*

*...Helicopters that rushed to the hotel helplessly flied over the hotel...*

*...Many tourists said that the hotel's water sprinkles did not work when the fire broke out.was not equipped with water sprinkles to distinguish the blaze.*

## Bangkok: City of Cleanliness and Greenery

September 5, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News



Bangkok: City of Cleanliness & Greenery –  
September 5, 2007

[Bangkok 'City Hall' launches website to the world](#) – TNA, September 4, 2007

Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin said that the new international website [www.bangkok.go.th](http://www.bangkok.go.th) would replace the previous version [www.bma.go.th](http://www.bma.go.th) this Sunday. As Bangkok has been ranked the top Asian and world tourism destination, visitors can browse the website in many languages, including English, French, Japanese and Chinese. Web users can view a Bangkok map and updated information of accommodations, tourist attractions, restaurants and events...

## **“Tiger Temple Negative Report”**

September 5, 2007

["Tiger Temple Negative Report"](#) – Friskodude, September 5, 2007

*I just received a message from someone who recently volunteered at the Tiger Temple near Kanchanaburi, and she requested that I publicize the deplorable treatment of the animals. She's also not so wild about the way the monks are running the place...*

## Thaksin's war on drugs kin still wait for justice – Mass killing of tribesmen remains unsolved

September 6, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Thaksin's war on drugs kin still wait for justice – Mass killing of tribesmen remains unsolved](#) – Bangkok Post, September 6, 2007

*Among 2,500 victims from the first three months of the Thaksin Shinawatra government's war on drugs, the mass killing of six Mien hilltribesmen at Ban Pha Lung, once known as a heroin production base, in Chiang Rai's Muang district appeared to be the country's biggest case. The six Mien (or Yao) tribesmen, including village chief Kiattisak Saksrichompoo, were shot and killed by gunmen while on their way home from a meeting at the office of the tambon Huay Chompoo administration organisation on Feb 27, 2003.*

*Two days before the shooting, Kiattisak had led the men who were drug addicts and small-time drug dealers to surrender to authorities in Muang district...*

### THAKSIN'S WAR ON DRUGS / KIN STILL WAIT FOR JUSTICE

*Mass killing of tribesmen remains unsolved*

ANUCHA CHAROENPO

*Chiang Rai – Among 2,500 victims from the first three months of the Thaksin Shinawatra government's war on drugs, the mass killing of six Mien hilltribesmen at Ban Pha Lung, once known as a heroin production base, in Chiang Rai's Muang district appeared to be the country's biggest case. The six Mien (or Yao) tribesmen, including village chief Kiattisak Saksrichompoo, were shot and killed by gunmen while on their way home from a meeting at the office of the tambon Huay Chompoo administration organisation on Feb 27, 2003.*

*Two days before the shooting, Kiattisak had led the men who were drug addicts and small-time drug dealers to surrender to authorities in Muang district.*

*After they returned to the village, some villagers saw four strangers show up in a pick-up truck.*

*One of them asked where the village chief's house was, saying they were assigned to make a survey of road conditions for improvements.*

*"I don't actually know who killed my husband but they must pay the price for what they did to him and my family," said Laiwang Sae-phan, 45, wife of the late village chief.*

*Mrs Laiwang said her eight-year-old youngest daughter kept asking about her father, and she did not have enough time to take care of her.*

*The widow, now the family breadwinner, grows lychee to make a living but its price continued to fall due to oversupply of the fruit in the past few years.*

*About a decade before he was killed, Kiattisak was arrested on a heroin trafficking charge. He spent five years in detention before the Supreme Court acquitted him for lack of evidence. Authorities believed the village chief remained the most influential figure in the area.*

*Surapong Boonyuen of Chiang Rai's Muang district police station, who heads the investigation into the six murders, denied that authorities had anything to do with the killing of the tribesmen.*

*Drug traffickers were believed to be behind the murders since Kiattisak had disclosed to authorities opium plantations near his village.*

*His information led to the arrest of four people, the officer said.*

*Pol Lt-Col Surapong also said the case has become stalled due to lack of evidence that could lead to the arrest of suspected gunmen.*

*"So far we have no witnesses to the killings," the officer said but added that police were ready to investigate further if fresh evidence turned up.*

*Mrs Laiwang said her husband had never been involved in the drugs trade.*

*Kiattisak was a good man and a dedicated social worker who liked to help other people, she said.*

*"Had he really committed any wrongdoing, he should have been arrested and prosecuted," she said.*

*Veena Sae-tuen, 30, the wife of another murder victim U-kuay, said she had had a hard life since her husband died.*

*She had no permanent job and recently decided to take a new husband, hoping he would help take care of her and her two children.*

*"I have never received any help from the government or local authorities. Local police came to the village to question me and left without telling me anything until today," she said.*

*Manwang Sae-phan, 48, the mother of another murder victim, Boonma, said the death of eldest son was her greatest loss since he used to be the family breadwinner.*

*"I want the government to help me out of this trouble but I don't know exactly what to say and do," she said.*

Also: [How many died in Thai drug purges?](#)

## **Snake in hospital gurney kills Thai man**

September 7, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Snake in hospital gurney kills Thai man](#) – AP, September 7, 2007

## The ultimate Bangkok cityscape!

September 7, 2007

The ultimate Bangkok cityscape! – thailandbilder.se, September 7, 2007

Don't miss [this](#)  
(5.73MB)...

## Thaksin denies story, has no Swiss accounts

September 7, 2007

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Thaksin denies story, has no Swiss accounts](#) – Bangkok Post, September 7, 2007

*Spokesmen for ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra*

*yesterday denied he had concealed money in Swiss banks, saying he was misquoted by a Swiss newspaper. They said Mr Thaksin did not threaten to sue Swiss banks for freezing his accounts in Switzerland as reported by Mittelland Zeitung because he did not have any money deposited in the country...*



## Call from a southern militant – September 8, 2007

September 8, 2007

Categories: The Thai Deep South

Call from a southern  
militant – September 8, 2007

[Troubles  
in the South index page](#)

On August 22, 2007 a person claiming to be a militant called an executive of school three times. The first time was at 9:33 am, calling from Yala Rajabhat University. The second time was at 11:42 am, calling from a public telephone near the university. These locations for the origin of the call were confirmed by the telephone company. The first two calls were not answered as the school executive was at a meeting at Yala Charlie Hotel. The third call was at 2:49 pm. The conversation went as follows:

Militant: Are you ?

School director: Yes.

Militant: I heard that you've asked for troops at your school, haven't you?

School director: So what?

Militant: Here's a warning. If you did ask for troops at your school, you'll be in trouble. I know what car are you driving.

School director: I know where you are and who you are, too. (Believing the person he was talking to was a Rajabhat Yala University student.) You don't want me to ask for troops? So, will you assure the safety of my teachers?

Militant: I will.

School director: If you say so, I won't ask for troops at my school. But if you break your promise, I won't care about your warning. I didn't request any troops. It is just military policy.

(The school executive believes there were some spies at a meeting in Yala's Amphur Krong Pinang two months ago when he requested troops at a meeting.)

**Earlier:** [Conversation with a southern separatist](#)

**Earlier:** [Deep South Diary – Another call from a southern separatist](#)

**Earlier:** [Editorial cartoon from the southern separatist](#)

---

[Buddhists suspected in Thai raids](#) – *The Washington Times*, September 6, 2007

...Maj. Gen. Samret Srirai, the military commander in charge of security operations in the south, said an initial inquiry suspects Thais United is behind the shootings in Kolomudo. He noted that about a month after the attack, the national police chief ordered Gen. Phitak, the Thais United leader, to be transferred out of the region.

But Gen. Phitak, 56, may be too strong and popular to be sidelined. Hundreds of Thais United members took to the streets to protest his transfer, and he stayed put, saying his mission is to protect the region's Buddhist minority. "We don't shoot innocent Muslims. We only shoot insurgents," he said. "They deserve to be killed..."

---

[Troubles  
in the South index page](#)

## Drug runner a dead man laughing

September 8, 2007

Categories: Crime

[Drug runner a dead man laughing](#) – *The Australian*, September 8, 2007

*...McMillan cheated death through a miraculous escape from the infamous Thai jail known as the Bangkok Hilton. He rehearsed for the breakout from Klong Prem prison in 1996 by years earlier plotting to escape from Pentridge Prison's DDivision in a helicopter...*

## More about Manit Sriwanichpoom

September 8, 2007

[More  
about Manit Sriwanichpoom](#) – Asia  
Photography Blog, September 8, 2007

Also a link to [his website](#)...

If there is anything more furiously astonishing than [these photos](#), we don't know what it is...

*...How shocking when, last year, more than a million voters elected Samak Sundaravej their new governor of Bangkok. I was flabbergasted. Was not this the same Samak who back in October 1976 went on radio to urge that brute force be used against pro-democracy protesters, in the events that culminated in the most horrifying massacre in Bangkok history? ...*

## **Fes Cannady's photos from 1966-67 in Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base**

September 8, 2007

Categories: Old photos and films

[Fes Cannady's photos from  
1966-67 in Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base](#) –  
September 8, 2007

## Exorcising Bangkok's skyline

September 9, 2007

Categories: Buildings

[Exorcising Bangkok's skyline](#) – *Asia Property Report*, September, 2007

*...This led to an ugly chain of events. Because many of the original lenders had shut their doors, the enforcement process of the loans, in terms of the clearance process, took a long time, making it very difficult for the bank to repossess collateral.*

*"So for a number of years, through to about 2003, the Bangkok skyline was dotted with partially complete buildings, anywhere from just the piling being completed up to the developments that were 90% complete but just had no money left to finish them off," said Pitchon...*

## Self-righteous rantings

September 9, 2007

Categories: Local Beliefs

[Self-righteous rantings](#) – *The*

*Nation*, September 9, 2007

*... I never said Thailand was perfect. I said I like it.*

*It's the best place I have ever seen for freedom, a sense of values, great weather and the general attitude of the people, not to mention the cost of living. But, most importantly, it is an everyday pleasure watching people treat each other in a civil manner. That alone is reason to defect."*

*He likes the care Thai people expend on children, the respect for their elders, the Buddhist ethos, the sense of fun and the close social relations in his village. And you can smoke in the bars...*

## Editorial: Yasothon incident an utter disgrace

September 9, 2007

Categories: Thai Police

[Editorial: Yasothon incident an utter disgrace](#) – *The Nation*, September 9, 2007

*...It would have been beyond belief in many countries, but what happened at a Yasothon a police station a few days ago represents so much that is true about Thailand's law-enforcers and "dark influences". According to news reports, a local godfather and his men stormed into the station after his son had allegedly been assaulted by one of the officers. That officer reportedly was made to prostrate himself before the man but was still beaten unconscious by the gang while two of his supervisors looked on. After an uproar in the media, four senior police officers in the northeastern province, including the provincial chief, were transferred to inactive posts...*

## Thai army finds opium fields ready to harvest in North Thailand

September 10, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai army finds opium fields ready to harvest in North Thailand](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, September 10, 2007

*...The Thai army has found 50 opium fields, some ready for harvest, in secluded valleys between Chiang Mai and Mae Hong Son provinces, according to a regimental commander...*



## Thais can be proud of their democracy

September 10, 2007

[Thais can be proud of their democracy](#) – Bangkok Post, September 10, 2007

*Former leader and adviser to the oldest political party in Thailand Chuan Leekpai lays out how to make the Sept 19 coup the last one.*

*...There was a coup and the reason for it at the time was annoyance caused by that situation (Mr Chuan laughs). I tell this story to demonstrate that you cannot stage a coup just because you are annoyed. This kind of behaviour is an obstacle to democracy...*

## Piranha or Thai Chanda?

September 10, 2007

[Piranha or Thai Chanda?](#) – *The Daily Star*, September 10, 2007

*Fish farmers and hatchery owners in Mymensingh have claimed that fishery authorities have 'branded' their Thai Chanda as Piranha and asked them to destroy those...*

## **Drug situation ‘as severe as six years ago’ – Speeds pills flooding in from northern border**

September 10, 2007

Categories: Drugs

[Drug situation ‘as severe as six years ago’ – Speeds pills flooding in from northern border](#) – *Bangkok*

*Post*, September 10, 2007

## **Press release of Dr. Thaksin and Khun Ying Pojamarn Shinawatra dated September 11, 2007**

September 11, 2007  
Categories: 2006 Coup

[Press release of Dr. Thaksin and Khun Ying Pojamarn Shinawatra dated September 11, 2007](#) – TrueThaksin,  
September 13, 2007

*In regards to the press release of the AEC issued on  
September 10, 2007, accusing Dr. Thaksin and Khun Ying Pojamarn of  
concealing assets, the AEC also accused Dr. Thaksin of being the true  
owner of Ample Rich and Win Mark, citing 'credible' evidence...*

# Old Phuket – The Tin Legacy

September 11, 2007  
Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Old  
Phuket – The Tin Legacy](#) – TAT, September, 2007

## Thai police deny Tamil Tiger leader held in Bangkok

September 12, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai police deny Tamil Tiger leader held in Bangkok](#) – *Reuters*, September 12, 2007

Thai police said on Wednesday

there was no truth to reports triggered by an allegation on a Sri Lankan government Web site that a top Tamil Tiger leader had been arrested in Bangkok...

## Thailand to change name back to Siam?

September 12, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand to change name back to Siam?](#) – Travel

Industry News, September 12, 2007

You can sign the petition [here](#).

## **‘Padmanathan not detained in Thailand’**

September 13, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Padmanathan not detained in Thailand’](#) – *The Times of India*, September 13, 2007

*LTTE leader K Padmanathan, an accused in the Rajiv*

*Gandhi assassination case, has not been detained in Thailand, External  
Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said in Bangkok on Friday...*



## **‘Good’ Thai girls enter the boxing ring**

September 13, 2007

Categories: Sports

[‘Good’ Thai girls enter the boxing ring](#) – IHT, September 13, 2007

*...Until recently, it was considered very bad luck for a girl or a woman to enter the boxing ring. Muay Thai is a sport steeped in superstition, where gold and silver talismans, blessed by Buddhist monks and engraved with words and symbols, are sometimes imbedded under the fighter's skin. The presence of a woman, especially if she was menstruating, was thought to cancel the invulnerability conferred by these and other charms and blessings.*

*“Each boxer has magic words to protect himself,” said Amnart Saichalard, a former fighter who now teaches muay Thai at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. He has gold talismans buried under his skin near his Adam's apple and in his biceps.*

*“The belief was that if a woman came too close to the charm you would bleed more during a match,” Amnart said.*

*As a concession to tradition, girls these days enter the ring by crawling under the bottom of four ropes. Boys can climb through the ropes any way they want...*

## **Reports on domestic violence cases will be banned**

September 13, 2007

Categories: Crime

[Reports on domestic violence cases will be banned](#) – *The Nation*, September 13, 2007

## Something's fishy about that Thai bikini

September 13, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Something's fishy about that Thai bikini](#) – *The Star Online*, September 13, 2007

*Thai entrepreneurs have developed a way of processing  
skins of the tropical tilapia fish to make durable leather...*

## Red Lotus: A Lao movie

September 14, 2007

Categories: Film and TV

[Red Lotus: A Lao movie](#) – *The Nation* blog, September 14, 2007

*...An 80 minute movie was produced more than 30 years ago when the Lao People's Revolutionary Party newly took the power. It is the first movie making in Laos during the new regime...*

## Arakanese Monks Arrested for Demonstration in Bangkok

September 14, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Arakanese](#)

[Monks Arrested for Demonstration in Bangkok](#) – Narinjara News, September 14, 2007

*... A monk who is a close associate of the two reported that they were arrested by Thai police 15 minutes after they staged the demonstration by holding posters in front of Burma's embassy in Bangkok.*

*Thai police first attempted to block them from staging the protest, but the monks persisted in their efforts. Shortly after, the Thai police rounded them up and took them to an unknown location, a witness said. Thai police attempted to disrobe the monks to remove their respected status, but were advised by Thai monks to follow Buddhist religious principals. The two monks were sent to Bangkok's central jail for illegal foreigners...*

## Ultralitigation! Thai businessman wins right to exploit old series

September 14, 2007

Categories: Film and TV

[Ultralitigation! Thai businessman wins right to exploit old series](#) – *The Daily Yomiuri*,

September 14, 2007

*...The Tsuburaya side claimed the document had been forged, but Sompote claimed it was authentic. Sompote insisted that Noboru had offered the contract after he sold the 1973 and 1974 movies they coproduced to companies in Hong Kong and Taiwan without discussing the matter with Sompote. Noboru offered the contract as a way of making up for the profits he didn't pay to Sompote...*

## 7 deadly sins package

September 14, 2007

[7 deadly sins package](#) – September 14, 2007

Another classic [Novotel ad campaign](#)... At left is the [“Sloth” package](#)...

Earlier: [“Asian Confusion”](#)

Earlier: [“She knows how to please you...”](#)



(Source: Novotel)

## Proud of Sutthisarn: “Sutthisarn Classic”

September 14, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Proud of Sutthisarn: “Sutthisarn  
Classic” – September 14, 2007  
We like this...



## Coming soon: \$10 million for a flat in Bangkok?

September 14, 2007

Categories: Property and Development

[Coming soon: \\$10 million for a flat in Bangkok?](#) – FinanceAsia, September 14, 2007

...The rumour mill in Bangkok is in full swing.

Benjaporn Chatkaew, director of sales and marketing at rival high-rise Le Raffine, says, "I understand prices start at Bt200,000 there, but go up as high as Bt400,000 (\$12,000)". Le Raffine is a recently completed development into which Hong Kong's hedgies are known to have bought million dollar palatial duplexes. Prices in top condo developments in Bangkok cap out at about Bt150,000 per square metre at present, so the Sukhothai will set a new upper benchmark.

"\$12,000 per square metre is outrageous, this is what you get in a very well located district in Paris, and even in the Champs Elysees," says Parisian Richard Bigg of Star Research in Bangkok. "Which one would you chose if you had the money? Residing in Paris or in noisy Bangkok near the dump?"...

# Harris Black Watch

September 15, 2007

[Harris Black Watch](#) – September 15, 2007  
Website about sometime Thailand-resident...

**Italian Bangkok blog with interesting photos**

September 15, 2007

[Italian Bangkok blog with interesting photos](#) – September 15, 2007

## OCM to Thailand: Don't act like a novice hos

September 15, 2007

Categories: Sports

[OCM to Thailand: Don't act like a novice host](#) – *Malaysia Star*, September 15, 2007

*The Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM) have taken SEA*

*Games hosts Thailand to task, saying they should not act like a “novice host”.*

*OCM honorary-secretary Datuk Sieh Kok Chi said yesterday that Thailand, the hosts of five previous SEA Games and four editions of the Asian Games, should be more professional and not act like novices...*

## First Thai anime cafe may be last

September 16, 2007

Categories: Local Beliefs

[First Thai anime cafe may be last](#) – Bangkok Post, September 16, 2007

*...The cafe opened in April 2006 and was staffed*

*primarily by female students from nearby Chulalongkorn University.*

*Police investigated the shop in July after complaints that minors were frequenting the cafe and viewing manga with adult content. As a result, two managers of the cafe were arrested on charges of exposing minors to obscene manga...*

## No Blowing Smoke: Poppies Fade in Southeast Asia

September 16, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[No Blowing Smoke: Poppies Fade in Southeast Asia](#) – New York Times, September 16, 2007

*...Three decades ago, the northernmost reaches of Laos, Thailand and Myanmar produced more than 70 percent of all the opium sold worldwide, most of which was refined into heroin. Today the area produces about 5 percent of the world total, says Mr. Costa's agency. What happened?*

*Economic pressure from China, crackdowns on opium farmers, and a switch by criminal syndicates to methamphetamine production, appear to have had the biggest impact. At the same time, some insurgent groups that once were financed with drug money now say they are urging farmers to eradicate their poppy fields...*

## K-girls to be sidelined

September 17, 2007

Categories: Local Beliefs

[K-girls to be sidelined](#) – *The Nation*, September 17, 2007

*...Ladda said she sympathised with women working in the nightlife industry but added that revealing dresses should not be worn and openly seen in the streets, even though such venues operated late at night...*

## **The fate of tragic Aaron was set after he shunned Bangkok**

September 17, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The fate of tragic Aaron was set after he shunned Bangkok](#) – *Irish Independent*, September 17, 2007

*The Irish university graduate who died in the Thai air crash had only boarded the ill-fated flight because he did not like staying in Bangkok...*



## One year after coup, Thai economy mired in uncertainty

September 17, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[One year after coup, Thai economy mired in uncertainty](#) – AFP, September 17, 2007

*One year after Thailand's*

*coup, the kingdom's economic growth ranks among the lowest in Southeast*

*Asia as domestic demand and investment have slumped due to political*

*uncertainty, analysts said....*

## Regional perspective: One year after September 19: bad casting

September 17, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[Regional](#)

[perspective: One year after September 19: bad casting](#) – *The Nation*, September 17, 2007

*...Thailand is under a curse. We have tried to do good things in bad times and bad things in good times. The outcome is obvious. There is no paradigm shift – only a new vicious circle is in the offing.*

## Plan for sea canal puts Hindu belief in sharp relief

September 18, 2007

Categories: India

[Plan for sea canal puts Hindu belief in sharp relief](#) – Washington Post, September 18, 2007

*...The Indian government began dredging the shallow ocean bed two years ago and is now poised to break apart Adam's Bridge, whose demolition is necessary to allow ships to traverse a direct route between the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. But the project has become entangled in a complex web of resistance from environmentalists, fishermen, political parties and Hindu activists...*

## Thailand accused of deliberate abuse of N. Koreans

September 18, 2007

[Thailand accused of deliberate abuse of N. Koreans](#) –

Reuters, September 18, 2007

*...North Koreans being held in Bangkok launched a hunger strike in April over conditions at the detention centre.*

*More than 300 women, including babies, children and the sick and elderly, were crammed into cells sufficient only for 50-100 people and with only four toilets between them, Kim said.*

*The treatment reflected an apparent policy decision by Thailand's military-appointed government to try to stem the flow of refugees entering the country, he said...*

## Something about China Airlines Flight 611 in 2002

September 18, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Something about China Airlines Flight  
611 in 2002 – September 18, 2007

Martin writes: *I am a regular reader of 2Bangkok and just wanted to point out, that I remember a fatal accident of a 747 of China Airlines in 2002 in the Straits of Taiwan and know that Orient Thai Airways was named in the news of being somehow involved. After some research I found the following article at [Wikipedia](#). Orient Thai Airlines had a purchase contract of an old 747 Boeing Jet from China Airlines subject to fly for them from June 2002. The jet was built in 1979 and used by China Airlines. During the last flight of this plane for Chinese Airlines on 25th May 2002, the plane broke apart due to metal fatigue just after taking off in Hong Kong. The purchase contract with Orient Thai Airlines was canceled after that, which was supposed to pay 1.4 Mln US\$ for the plane. I always remembers this accident, when visiting the Donmuang Airport, after seeing Oriental Thai Airlines and One-Two Go.*

## On-Two-Go statement

September 18, 2007

On-Two-Go statement – September 18, 2007

Ton notes: *I'm sure you're getting emails galore about the plane crash down in Phuket, but I just wanted to [point something out from the One-Two-Go website](#). I had expected an apology statement, and below is how it has been translated in English. Not sure who issued this statement — is it me, or is “corpse transportation” a rather inappropriate direct translation from a cultural perspective?*

[From the site](#): *...For any inquiries such as names of passengers on board, how to pick up passenger's relatives to the point of accident including responsibility of corpse transportation, please directly contact the following One-Two-GO hotline numbers.*

## Murals on public housing by the expressway

September 18, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Murals on public  
housing by the expressway – September 18, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

# Crown Property Bureau Razes Suan Lum Under New “Profit Insufficiency Theory”

September 18, 2007

Categories: Humor

NottheNation: [Crown Property Bureau Razes Suan Lum Under New “Profit Insufficiency Theory”](#)

... “Obviously we’re delighted that the Crown Property Bureau is following the noble and wise Profit-Insufficiency Theory,” said Central Pattana president Kobchai Chirathivat. “We at Central Pattana have been advocates of it for years. Making money is what matters, and having more money makes you better than those who don’t. This is the heart of Thai culture and the CPB exemplifies it better than anyone...”



## Disgraced Scientist Moves Research Base to Thailand

September 19, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Disgraced Scientist Moves Research Base](#) – AP, September 19, 2007

*Disgraced cloning scientist Hwang Woo-suk has relocated his research base to Thailand to avoid the ethical disputes his work would cause in South Korea, a scientist close to Hwang said Wednesday. Hwang and some 10 associates have been working at a national university laboratory in the southeast Asian country since June, said Park Se-pill, a Cheju National University professor and well-known stem cell scientist.*

*Park declined to further identify the university, but added that the school is providing active support for Hwang...*

# ‘To Return to a Democratic Thailand’ by Thaksin Shinawatra

September 19, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

## Commentary:

[‘To Return to a Democratic Thailand’ by Thaksin Shinawatra](#) – WSJ, September 19, 2007

*...One year before, I had been overwhelmingly re-elected as prime minister of Thailand. Thanks to the people of my nation, I was the first leader in the near 100-year history of Thailand to be not just democratically elected, but democratically re-elected. Under my administration, we had cut poverty almost in half, provided universal access to affordable health care for the first time, balanced the budget and paid off our debts to the International Monetary Fund. In addressing the United Nations, I intended to emphasize to the world the success and maturity of our democracy. I was never able to deliver my remarks, however, because I awoke on the morning of Sept. 19 to the news that my government — and Thailand's democratic constitution — had been overthrown in a military coup. The coup came as a shock to me and to most Thais. Democracy appeared to have become well entrenched in Thailand following adoption of the Constitution of 1997. Also known as the "People's Constitution," this charter was universally acclaimed as the most democratic constitution in the history of Thailand...*

*To Return to a Democratic Thailand*

By THAKSIN SHINAWATRA  
September 19, 2007

*One year ago today I was in New York, preparing to address the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of my nation. I was filled with pride as I looked forward to delivering my remarks.*

*One year before, I had been overwhelmingly re-elected as prime minister of Thailand. Thanks to the people of my nation, I was the first leader in the near 100-year history of Thailand to be not just democratically elected, but democratically re-elected. Under my administration, we had cut poverty almost in half, provided universal access to affordable health care for the first time, balanced the budget and paid off our debts to the International Monetary Fund. In addressing the United Nations, I intended to emphasize to the world the success and maturity of our democracy.*

*I was never able to deliver my remarks, however, because I awoke on the morning of Sept. 19 to the news that my government — and Thailand's democratic constitution — had been overthrown in a military coup.*

*The coup came as a shock to me and to most Thais. Democracy appeared to have become well entrenched in Thailand following adoption of the Constitution of 1997. Also known as the "People's Constitution," this charter was universally acclaimed as the most democratic constitution in the history of Thailand.*

*The people of Thailand have the same democratic aspirations and expectations as the people of other mature nations, and they will not rest until these are restored to them. Regrettably, the military rulers in Bangkok have spent most of the past year worrying not about promoting our nation's economic development or restoring basic rights to the Thai people, but rather about preventing me or anyone sharing my political philosophy from returning to political power.*

*In reflecting on the past year, I am appalled by the suffering that has been inflicted on the Thai people by the junta's misplaced priorities. I have made clear to all who will listen that I have no desire to again hold political office in Thailand. As a patriot whose first loyalty is to my King and country, I wish only to return to a democratic Thailand to live in peace with my family.*

*The junta justified the coup in part on the assertion that my administration was corrupt. Once in power, they created a government agency whose sole purpose was to validate this claim by finding me and my family guilty of some form of financial malfeasance. After investigating me for a year, none of the original charges has been sustained, so they have concocted new ones. In so doing, they have had to invent new interpretations of Thai law with respect to investment and taxation.*

*These new legal interpretations cannot be applied only to me, however, which has jeopardized Thailand's hard-earned reputation for predictability and respect for the rule of law. As a result, foreign investment — long a principal engine of Thailand's economic growth — has begun to dry up.*

*To try to stop me or anyone sharing my enthusiasm for free markets and democracy from ever regaining power in a free election, the junta has banned my former political party, forbidden over 100 of the most prominent political figures in Thailand from running for political office, and frozen my financial assets in Thailand. For most of the past year, Thailand has been under martial law, with freedom of the press restricted and activity by political parties severely limited.*

*The junta appointed a committee to draft a new constitution for Thailand, stacking it with hand-picked bureaucrats. The committee's top priority was to reduce the role of the Thai people and their elected representatives in national decision making. The constitution they produced needlessly reduces the size of the lower house of parliament to 480 from 500 members, the size of the Senate to 160 from 200 members, and redraws parliamentary districts in a manner designed to diminish the voting strength of the 35 provinces in northern and northeastern Thailand that have been most strongly opposed to the coup.*

*In addition, the new constitution strips the Thai people of the power to elect the Senate. Instead, senators will henceforth be appointed by unelected selection committees. The antidemocratic role of the Senate and the judiciary is amplified by features empowering the Senate to appoint heads of independent agencies and to remove the publicly elected prime minister.*

*In a referendum last month, an unexpectedly large number of Thais voted against adoption of the constitution, despite severe restrictions on organized opposition to the referendum imposed by the junta during the campaign.*

*There will now be a national election on Dec. 23, which the junta wants the world to accept as free and fair. As campaigning begins, however, the junta continues to apply martial law in the 35 northern and northeastern provinces. In those provinces, it remains illegal for more than 10 persons to gather for political purposes — though this rule and others are rarely enforced against political parties favored by the junta. To ensure itself a free hand, the junta is resisting efforts by the European Union and others to deploy election monitors.*

*The world appears inclined to accept all these departures from democratic norms. The explanation is as simple as it is troubling. The international community is so disgusted by the junta's mismanagement that it wants it to pass from the scene as soon as possible. Rather than quarrel over the details of democracy, the world appears ready to look the other way so as to provide no reason for the junta to delay the Dec. 23 election. In a bizarre twist, the junta's greatest weaknesses — its incompetence and unpopularity — have been transformed into its greatest short-term strengths.*

*The world is miscalculating, however, if it thinks there can be stability in Thailand without true democracy. The voters of northern and northeastern Thailand who the junta wants to disenfranchise may be poor, but they will not be denied their voice — nor will the millions of other Thais whose rights are being restricted.*

*We will not have stability, democracy and development in Thailand until we have genuine national reconciliation. Needless to say, national reconciliation will not be achieved at gunpoint or through rigged elections, but rather when our generals and politicians finally put the national interest above their own narrow interests.*

*Mr. Thaksin is a former prime minister of Thailand.*

## Year on, Thailand's "good coup" gets failing grade

September 19, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

[Year on, Thailand's "good coup" gets failing grade](#) – Reuters, September 19 2007

*...It also failed to prise Thaksin from his central position in Thai politics, despite his party being disbanded for electoral fraud and 111 of its executives, including him, banished from politics for five years.*

*The billionaire telecoms tycoon has kept a mesmerising grip on the country.*

*A referendum last month that approved a military-backed constitution showed Thaksin still commanded considerable support in the countryside, where most Thais live and which helped him to two landslide election victories, especially in the north...*

## Old ads

September 20, 2007

Categories: Old newspapers

Old ads

Ads from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.



Old ads: 'Thailand's Coolest Store'

Left: An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950. Below are photos of the building from 1964 and at present.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Charlie Sullivan)

**Above:**

A photo of the building from 1964-65 from our [Daily Tram series](#).

**Below:** The building today. Recently the building was mentioned as part of the [Rattanakosin reclamation](#) to be developed into a 4-star hotel.



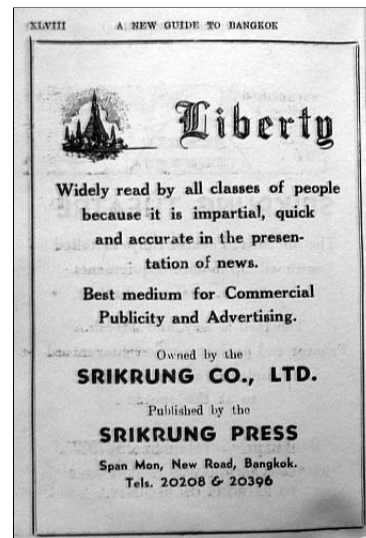
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old ads: 'The Thai Farmers Bank Ltd.'

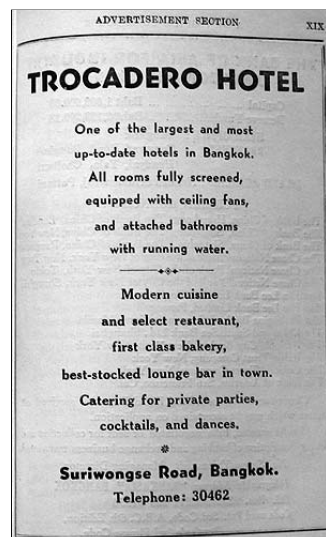
Left: An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old ads: 'Liberty'

Right: An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950. Any reader know what this publication is?



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old ads: 'All rooms with private bathroom'

Left: An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.

Old ads: 'All rooms with private bathroom'

Left: An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.

More photos of the Ratanakosin Hotel area are here: [Phan Phiphop Lila Bridge over the years](#)





ADVERTISEMENT SECTION XXIII

**THE THAI DANU BANK, LIMITED**  
*Ban Moh Square, Bangkok, Siam.*  
 Cable Address: "DANUBANK" Telephone: MANAGER 22511 GENERAL 22324


CAPITAL AUTHORIZED (fully paid up) Tcs. 10,000,000.00

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
 H.S.H. Prince Upalisan Jumbala—*Chairman*.  
 H.R.H. Prince Chumbhot Bhongse Faribatra  
 H.R.H. Prince Bhanubhandhu Yugala  
 H.S.H. Princess Atcharachawee Devakul  
 Mr. K.Z. Levi Mr. Prachual Purananda  
 Mr. Siew Kai-Suan Mr. Traist Thavasin  
 Mr. Chan Manabhongse (C.Z. Mar), *Manager*.

**CORRESPONDENTS AND AGENTS**  
**NEW YORK:** Banque Belge pour l'Etranger (Overseas) Ltd.  
 The Chase National Bank.  
**SAN FRANCISCO:** Wells Fargo Bank & Union Trust Co.  
**LONDON & BRUSSELS:** Banque Belge pour l'Etranger (Overseas) Ltd.  
**ZURICH, SWITZERLAND:** Leu & Co's Bank, Ltd.  
**TOKYO:** The Chase National Bank.  
 Fuji Bank.  
**HONGKONG:** The Shanghai Commercial & Savings Bank, Ltd.  
 The United Chinese Bank, Ltd.  
 Banque Belge pour l'Etranger S.A.  
**SINGAPORE:** The Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Ltd.  
 The Overseas Union Bank Ltd.  
**PENANG & MALAYA:** The Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp., Ltd.  
 Foreign Exchange and General Banking Business transacted.  
 Current Accounts opened and Fixed Deposits accepted for one year or shorter periods at rates which will be quoted on application.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

XXII A NEW GUIDE TO BANGKOK

  
**THE SIAM COMMERCIAL BANK LTD.**  
 Incorporated by Royal Charter  
 1906

CAPITAL ... .. Baht 3,300,000  
 RESERVES ... .. Baht 6,011,000

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
 Phya Manava Raja Sevi ... .. *Chairman*  
 H.S.H. Mom Chao Winwaditaya Rabibadhana,  
 Luang Shira Jotisai,  
 Luang Ach Bisalich,  
 Nai Leng Srisomwongse  
 Nai Abhorn Krishnamra.

**AGENTS:**  
 National Provincial Bank, Limited  
 National City Bank of New York,  
 Swiss Bank Corporation,  
 Netherlands Trading Society,  
 American Trust Company,  
 Bank of New South Wales,  
 Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

**BRANCHES:**  
 Chiangmai, Lampang and Korat.  
 Abhorn Krishnamra ... .. *Manager*.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

ADVERTISEMENT SECTION XXV

**THE UNION BANK OF BANGKOK, LTD.**  
 (No. 2 Rajawongse Road)  
 Capital Fully Paid-Up Bahts 10,000,000  
 Cable Address: "UNIONBANK" Telephone: 20781

**Board of Directors.**  
*Chairman*  
 H.E. Chao Phya Sridharmachides  
*Vice-Chairman*  
 Mr. Aw Boon Haw, O.B.E. *Managing Director*  
 Luang Swadi Dhatri Luang Pracherd Aksarakasana  
 Mr. Sahat Mahaguna Mr. Kamthorn Visudhipol  
 Mr. Athon Sangkawitana Mr. Loh Kong Hiang  
 Mr. Low Peng Hui.

**FOREIGN AGENTS:**  
**LONDON:** The Eastern Bank Ltd.  
 The National Bank of India Limited.  
 Swiss Bank Corporation.  
**NEW YORK:** The Chase National Bank of the City of New York.  
 Irving Trust Company.  
**AMSTERDAM:** Kottredamschebank N.V.  
**ZURICH:** Union Bank of Switzerland.  
**ROME:** Banco Di Roma.  
**HAMBURG:** Aussehandelsbank, G.A. Kochen.  
**CALCUTTA:** United Commercial Bank Ltd.  
**KARACHI:** )  
**BOMBAY:** ) National Bank of India Ltd.  
**MADRAS:** )  
**SINGAPORE:** Overseas Union Bank Ltd.  
 Overseas Chinese Banking Corp., Ltd.  
**COLOMBO:** Bank of Ceylon.  
**HONGKONG:** China State Bank Ltd.  
**AUSTRALIA:** The National Bank of Australasia, Ltd.,  
 Melbourne & Sydney  
**NEW ZEALAND:** National Bank of New Zealand Ltd.  
**OSAKA:** Chase National Bank of the City of New York.  
**TOKYO:** Chase National Bank of the City of New York.  
 Teikoku Bank Ltd.  
 Banking Business of Every Kind Transacted  
 Luang Pracherd Aksarakasana  
 Managing Director.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old ads: 'The Siam Commercial Bank Ltd.'

An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.

Old ads: 'Banking Business of Every Kind Transacted'

Left: An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.

Old ads: 'Dehydrated Bananas'

An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.



**THE BANGKOK-SWISS  
TRADING CO.**  
612-616 Tanon Luang, Telephone: 20357  
P. O. Box 349 Cable Address: BASWICO

\*\*\*

Affiliated Company: Siam Trading Co., Ltd.  
ST. GALL, Switzerland.

✽

**IMPORTERS OF:**  
Pharmaceutical Products,  
Textiles, Watches,  
Hard-wares, Dyes,  
Food Stuffs, Machineries,  
Essential Oils & Type-writers.

✽

**EXPORTERS OF:**  
Skins, Hides,  
all Siamese Products,  
and  
Dehydrated Bananas.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

ADVERTISEMENT SECTION XXVII

**ANIMALS,  
BIRDS & REPTILES**  
Direct from the Virgin Jungle of Siam.



- ELEPHANTS
- TIGERS
- LEOPARDS
- BLACK PANTHER
- BEARS
- GIBBONS
- MONKEYS
- HORNGILLS
- PYTHONS
- COBRAS
- KING COBRAS

**Other items also available.  
Please state your requirements.**

**CHALERM KENNELS & ZOO**  
419 Soi Sariga, Silom Road, Bangkok, Thailand.  
All Overseas Orders are Promptly and Carefully Executed.  
Tel. Address: "EACOM" P. O. Box 26

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

XXXVIII A NEW GUIDE TO BANGKOK

BY APPOINTMENT  TO H. M. THE KING

**THAI NAKON**  
Cable Address: "THAI NAKON, SIAM"  
Opposite T. E. C. (Wat Lieb)  
Tel. 20092

✽

**Appointed as Royal Jeweller  
to  
H. M. THE KING**

**MAKER OF NIELLOWARES**  
With a long-established reputation  
for fine craftsmanship.

**We invite you to visit our workshop,  
and select our genuine Thai Niellos.**

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old ads: 'Direct from the Virgin  
Jungle of Siam'

**Left:** An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a  
guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.

Old ads: 'Maker of Niellowares'

**Left:** An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a  
guidebook to Bangkok from 1950.

Old ads: 'Complaints are attended  
to at the spot.'

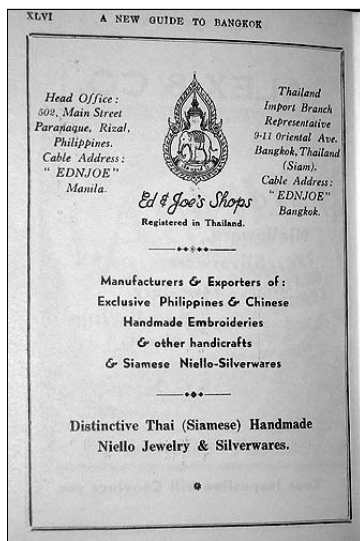
An ad from *A New Guide to Bangkok*—a guidebook  
to Bangkok from 1950. This type of building was often  
used for Thailand's earliest movie theaters. Below is  
Saha Theater (*Sahapappayon*), a similar theater  
building still standing in Songkhla.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old ads: 'Ed & Joe's Shops'

Any reader know who Ed and Joe were?

A reader comments: *I was doing a search for "Ed and Joe's" and your site came up and I saw an ad from the 50's (left) and you asked who they were. They were a import/export company for jewelry and other stuff. If you want to see what kind of jewelry go to Ebay.. [this is one of my listings that I am selling...](#)*



Old ads: '3 1/2 days to England'

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old ads: 'Fly POAS'



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

## No sign of stem-cell scientist

September 20, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[No sign of stem-cell scientist](#) – *The Nation*, September 20, 2007

*Thai stem-cell experts were unaware of South Korean cloning scientist Hwang Woo-Suk's very existence, much less his plans to do research here.*

*Looking into records for the past three months, the Immigration Bureau said nobody by that name had entered the Kingdom...*

**Earlier:** [Disgraced cloning scientist flees to Thailand](#) – *Khaleej Times*, September 17, 2007

*...Hwang and some 10 other researchers have been in Thailand for two months, focusing on research into the cloning of pet animals and the production of stemcells that could be used for cell treatment, they said...*

## Truth vs truth

September 20, 2007



**Above left:** TrueThaksin.com  
**Above right:** TodayThailand.com

Truth vs truth – November 5, 2007

After 14 months, the coup government has finally come up with the website they promised to counter Thaksin's savvy politicking–[www.todaythailand.org](http://www.todaythailand.org). The domain was created on September 20, 2007 by Dr. Wittayatorn Tokeaw, an MCOT board member. The registrant organization is "RakMuangThai" which is probably the [government publicity center](#) (and [here](#)). And amusingly, the name servers are CHARLIE.NOBODYKNOW.COM and DELTA.NOBODYKNOW.COM.

## **Burning down Myanmar's Internet firewall**

September 21, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Burning down Myanmar's Internet firewall](#) – *Asia Times Online*, September 21, 2007

*Myanmar maintains some of  
the world's most restrictive Internet controls, including  
government-administered blocks on foreign...*

## **Transsexual Association of Pattaya discussed at City Hall Meeting**

September 21, 2007

Categories: Pattaya

[Plans to form Transsexual Association of Pattaya discussed at City Hall Meeting](#) – *Pattaya City*

*News*, September 21, 2007

## My Thai colonic irrigation

September 22, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[My Thai colonic irrigation](#) – *Times Online*, September 22, 2007

*... We can, however, swallow 35 bentonite clay drinks and 105 herbal laxatives to help the cleanse, along with 105 vitamin and mineral supplements. We'll also consume 560 pints (318 litres) of coffee, squirted up our behinds to flush out toxins...*



## Refusing to Stand for the Royal Anthem

September 22, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Fisticuffs over anthem](#) – *The Nation*, September 22, 2007

*Anti-coup activist Chotisak Onsueng and a female*

*companion were attacked and verbally abused after they refused to stand up for the Royal anthem at a Bangkok cinema on Thursday night.*

*Chotisak, a coordinator of the September 19 Network Against the Coup, told The Nation yesterday that he and his companion had had to call the police in order to end the feud after someone in the audience shouted at them and a slight physical skirmish took place...*

## Car-free day

September 22, 2007

Car-free day – September 22, 2007

**Right:** Sign at the Sala Daeng Skytrain Station

[The  
official website](#)

## Thai email forwards: “Mr. Thaksin Life in London”

September 22, 2007



(Source: Unknown)

Thai email forwards: “Mr. Thaksin Life in London” – September 22, 2007

More photos [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

**More:** [Thai email forwards](#)

[Thaksin says he'll return home but not soon](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, September 20, 2007

... “I love my people, I love my family. I will definitely go back to Thailand, and I will find the right timing,”  
Thaksin told British Broadcasting Corp radio...

## Where is the windmill?

September 22, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Where is the windmill? – September 22, 2007

Above is a view from Two Pacific Place on Sukhumvit Road. It appears there is a building bordering Lumpini Park that has a windmill...

## Police at Jatujak Park

September 22, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Police at Jatujak Park – September 22, 2007  
Police on Segway Scooters at Jakujak Park...

## Iranians and Israelis did not cooperate after crash

September 23, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Iranians and Israelis did not cooperate after crash](#) – *The Nation*, September 23, 2007

*The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to inform readers of this newspaper about the most recent developments and viewpoints and policies of the Iranian government and accordingly the embassy itself...*

*Iran's Ambassador to Thailand, Pak Aeen, has denied the allegations that Iranian and Israeli teams had cooperated to identify the Thai plane crash's victims...*

*Associated Press news agency claimed on Tuesday that Iranian and Israeli officials "put aside political animosity" to work together in southern Thailand and the Israeli forensic team was helping Iranians identify the victims of the crash.*

*Please be informed accordingly.*

## Ikea delays Thai plans as government moves to tighten foreign ownership laws

September 23, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ikea delays Thai plans as government moves to tighten foreign ownership laws](#) – Telegraph,

September 23, 2007

*...The Daily Telegraph can reveal that the lingering after-effects of last year's military coup and a series of tougher laws on foreign ownership have prompted Ikea to postpone a move into one of south-east Asia's most important economies.*

*The delay reflects growing nervousness among overseas investors following Draconian revisions to Thailand's Foreign Business Act and the publication of draft legislation covering the retail sector which may have a serious impact on Tesco and Carrefour, the French supermarkets group.*

*Since the ousting of Thaksin Shinawatra, the former prime minister and current owner of Manchester City Football Club, a year ago this week, the Thai government has proposed changes to the definition of a "foreign" company to mean one which is not controlled or majority-owned by Thais. It has also vowed to stamp out the use of nominee shareholders for the subsidiaries of multinationals operating there, alarming the many overseas firms which have largely relied on the use of such structures...*

## Sea cave trip reveals Thailand's lost worlds

September 24, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Sea cave trip reveals Thailand's lost worlds](#) –  
Stuff.co.nz, September 24, 2007



## **Customs Department crushed Bt40 million Ferrari**

September 25, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Customs Department crushed Bt40 million Ferrari](#) – *The Nation*, September 25, 2007

## 30,000 people walk out on Samak speech

September 26, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[30,000](#)

[people walk out on Samak speech](#) – Bangkok

*Post*, September 26, 2007

In his first provincial political campaign since taking the helm of the People's Power party (PPP), veteran politician Samak Sundaravej saw three-quarters of his audience walk out during his speech in Buri Ram, and was greeted with catcalls in Nakhon Ratchasima. Ten minutes into his speech, the audience had dropped from about 40,000 to about 10,000. But Samak continued for another 30 minutes, criticising the government. Samak followed key PPP member Newin Chidchob on stage. The Burin Ram politician opened up to the public for the first time since last September's coup. Newin told the crowd the best way to carry the fight to the coup makers was to choose Samak as the next PM. Earlier in the day, Samak was met with boos and jeers from protesters in Nakhon Ratchasima who prevented him from worshipping at the Thao Suranaree statue. Samak's car changed direction, bypassing the province's landmark statue of the heroine, and headed to Wat Sala Loi, where he paid respect to her ashes instead. Samak threatened to sue the protestors for defamation. In his speech later in the day in Buri Ram, Samak said, "The Thai Rak Thai party is immortal and now returns as the People's Power party..."

## **“Like to carry the torch?”**

September 26, 2007

[“Like to carry the torch?”](#) – September 26, 2007

*The Lenovo Group and The Nation are jointly hosting a contest for two Thais to take part in the chain of torchbearers for the Beijing Olympics when the torch reaches Bangkok next April...*

## On the forums: “The Inlusionist”

September 27, 2007



On the forums: [“The Inlusionist”](#) – September 27, 2007

## **International Working Steam Locomotives 2007**

September 28, 2007

[International  
Working Steam Locomotives 2007](#) –  
September 28, 2007

## Bounty for ‘gangster’ monkeys in Cambodia

September 28, 2007

Categories: Cambodia

[Bounty for ‘gangster’ monkeys in Cambodia](#) – Australian Broadcasting Corporation, September 28, 2007

*Cambodian police have put a \$US250 (\$283) bounty on the heads of several monkeys who have been terrorising tourists at a key temple in the capital and destroying nearby residents’ laundry, officials said...*

## **“Steam trains in Thailand 1973-1975”**

September 29, 2007

“Steam trains in  
Thailand 1973-1975” – September 29, 2007

[The  
last train to Haadyai – The  
Songkhla Bullet – The  
Smugglers' Express](#)

## **“The Nation: The website without a clue.”**

September 29, 2007

[“The  
Nation: The website without a clue.”](#) –  
FriskoDude, September 29, 2007



# Myanmar Watch 2007

September 30, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Permanent link for this page](#)

Myanmar threads on the 2B forum

[News Alert](#)

[International politics of crisis](#)

[Neighboring country forum](#)

[How to register for the forum](#)

GoogleEarth Placemarks

[Sule Pagoda](#)  
[Shwedagone Pagoda](#)  
[Aung San Suu Kyi's compound](#)  
[U.S. Embassy](#)

The Press

[The Irrawaddy](#) (and a good cartoon) (seems to be timing out periodically)

[Burma Digest](#)

[New Light of Myanmar](#) (government news)

Reference from Wikipedia

[Senior General Than Shwe](#)

[2007 Burmese anti-government protests](#)

[1988 Uprising](#)

[Burma vs Myanmar naming](#)

[VOA in Burmese](#)

[Radio Free Asia in Burmese](#)

Myanmar Watch  
September 26-October 2, 2007  
[Permanent link for this page](#)  
The 2Bangkok Weekend Edition is [here](#).

[CNN video of beatings](#) – October 3, 2007

You can view this type of file with [Miro](#) (formerly Democracy Player).

[Security forces search for protesters photographs in hand](#) – Mizzima News, October 3, 2007

[Famous Burmese actor Kyaw Thu sheltered in Thailand](#) – Mizzima News, October 3, 2007

[Junta Leader's Family Still Out of Burma—Says Diplomat](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, October 3, 2007

...So far, the rumor mill has covered a wide base: Than Shwe's family is said to be in Vientiane, Laos; Macau, China; or Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The family is believed to have left Rangoon on the day security forces opened fire on protesting monks and demonstrators. The Bangkok-based newspaper *The Nation* earlier reported that Than Shwe's wife had fled to Thailand. Then, she was reported to be in Dubai, where she was allegedly spotted by some Burmese who live there. That report said Burmese tycoon Tay Za was accompanying the family...

On the forum: [Burmese joke](#)

[Burma Information Blackout: The Media War](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, October 2, 2007

...This week, the incoming news has slowed down, and images are in short supply, yet the violent crackdown continues. Burma news has slipped back, replaced by the Ukraine election, the South Korean president's visit to the north and events in Iraq...

[Rangoon's Journals are Paralyzed](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, October 2, 2007

...Residents in Rangoon are "giving their attention and interest to the protests, but we can not report the story and provide the information the public wants, so we know that they won't buy our news journals," an editor said...

[We Want Justice](#) – *Burma Digest*, October 2, 2007

[Burma: Thousands dead in massacre of the monks dumped in the jungle](#) – *Daily Mail*, October 2007

[Sonthi says 'live with Burma'](#) – *Bangkok Post*, September 30, 2007

[New Indian army chief calls Myanmar crackdown 'internal matter'](#) – AFP, October 1, 2007

[Who needs Thailand?](#) – *The Star Online*, September 29, 2007

Admitting that Thailand and Asean are in over their heads, Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont finally mustered enough courage to call on China and India to use their influence to end the violence in trouble-plagued Myanmar...

[Did Than Shwe's Wife Flee to Dubai?](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, September 30, 2007

...It has been suggested that they went to Dubai. But Bangkok-based newspaper *The Nation* earlier reported that Than Shwe's wife had fled to Thailand. However, a Burmese worker in Dubai who requested anonymity informed other Burmese in exile that he saw Kyaing Kyaing and her family members checked in at the most expensive hotel in Dubai and the tallest hotel in the world, the Dubai Burj Al Arab...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Protest at the Chinese Embassy

On the [2Bangkok YouTube channel](#) are two clips ([one](#) and [two](#)) showing a group of Burmese shouting slogans in front of the Chinese Embassy ([GoogleEarth Placemark](#)) on Ratchadapiesek Road in Bangkok at 12:11pm, September 30, 2007. Cars on the road are backed up to take a look at the protest while reporters photograph the incident and police take photos of the protesters (below).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

---

[RIGHTS-BURMA: Whiteshirts – Junta's Storm Troopers](#) – IPS, September 30, 2007

*In much the same way that Italy's Benito Mussolini and Germany's Adolph Hitler unleashed their respective 'blackshirts' and 'brownshirts' to terrorise dissenters, Burma's military regime has deployed its 'whiteshirts' against protesting Buddhist monks and civilians...*

---

Breaking news of September 30 – from [Burma Myanmar Genocide](#)

***To take records of Dead Bodies in the River***

*Burmese democratic activists have announced to inform and to take records and photographs of any corpses at the lower delta of Yangon River and Hlaing River in Yangon.*

***A high school student got shot***

*Ko Hla: A high school student was shot down in South Oakkalapa Township yesterday. The student's parents managed to get his body but the military search the whole quarter and took back the body by force later.*

---

Myanmar notes

\*

Interesting to note that the Myanmar government's [New Light of Myanmar website in English](#) stopped updating on September 26, 2007. Perhaps the outrageous propaganda on the site does not play well in English: *Some monks and people enter homes – Saboteurs threaten families demanding them to join protest if not provide cash, kind*

\* [Naypyidaw: Abode of Kings in a Derelict Kingdom](#) – photos of Myanmar's new capital under construction

\* Another interesting website:  
[MyanmarMuslim.net](#)

More [nogs](#) (news blogs)

---

["Ultimatum to the Government of People's Republic of China"](#) – Burma Myanmar  
Genocide, September 29, 2007

---

---

Wrap-up of events from Burma Digest: ["September blood bath in Burma"](#)

---



(Photo: Dorepo)

Scenes from a protest at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok – September 28, 2009

A rally on Sunday was stopped by police: [Police foil Burmese workers' plan to rally in front of Burmese embassy](#) – *The Nation*, September 29, 2007

*Samut Sakhon – Police dispersed some 40 Burmese workers who gathered here late Saturday night to travel to rally in front of the Burmese embassy in Bangkok Sunday. The workers were gathering near a vehicle flyover in Krathum Ban district and were negotiating to hire a bus to transport them to Bangkok.*

*Police questioned their plan and learnt that they wanted to demonstrate against the Burmese junta in front of the Burmese embassy.*

*The workers were found to carry proper working permits so they were asked to disperse and go home.*



(Photo: Dorepo)





(Photo: Dorepo)

---

[The Irrawaddy's Web site Disabled by Virus](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, September 29, 2007

**Earlier:** We still think it is more likely that a switch to a flash-laden entry page caused them to exceed their bandwidth...

**The Irrawaddy off-line** – September 29, 2007

Unfortunately, *The Irrawaddy* is off-line as of Saturday and returns a "Bandwidth Limit Exceeded" error. Usually the site is text and a few small photos, but they unwisely decided to cover the present crisis by adding multiple Flash photo slideshows to their front page...

---

[Oil companies keep up Myanmar ties](#) – CNN, September 29, 2007

---

[Photos from Yangon today](#)

---

More Breaking news of September 29

[Here](#) and [here](#).

---

Breaking news of September 29

[burmanow](#) is [posting translations of the various Myanmar blogs](#) about what is happening today:

*29 Sep 07, 11:56 second man: Junta's strategies to squash demonstrators have changed a bit. It is reported that they will be using snipers to shoot down leaders. More systematic approach to corner demonstrators from both sides like yesterday in Pansodan Street.*

*29 Sep 07, 11:30 – MyoThant: A group of 88-generation activists are urging UN and US & UK embassies in Rangoon to open a 1-page web service via WIFI access to general public just to submit news photos (with user name: 2007, pw: 2007). Please write to them to request this.*

*29 Sep 07, 08:21 Niknayman: Than Shwe's private puppet organization called USDA is now gathering to do a progovernment protest. They demand a compulsory participation of 1 person per family in some parts of the town, to show some activity to the special UN delegate Mr. Gambari.*

---

Sights and sounds of protest

Here is a [Quicktime clip of a shooting](#) on September 27, 2007.

Parts of this clip have been shown on CNN and BBC, but they always omit the sound so that foreign guest experts can be questioned and explain they have no idea what is really going on...

With the sound, one can hear the roar of the crowd and the echo of gunfire. Here is the caption for the clip:

*This video clip was taken by a civilian journalist on September 27, 2007 north of Sule Pagoda in Rangoon where Japanese journalist Kenji Nagai was shot in the chest by Burmese soldiers. It was filmed minutes before he was killed nearby.*

---

[More blogs added to the list](#)

---

On Wikipedia: [Burma vs Myanmar naming](#)

---

[Satellite images corroborate eyewitness accounts of human rights abuses in Burma.](#)  
[AAAS reports](#) – AAAS, September 28, 2007

*A new analysis of high-resolution satellite images completed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) pinpoints evidence consistent with village destruction, forced relocations, and a growing military presence at 25 sites across eastern Burma where eyewitnesses have reported human rights violations...*

[View a full copy](#) of the Burma report.

---

\* We just thought we would note how blog posts can get spun into something more concrete. For instance, [First Post](#) is [reporting](#) claims by [Helfen ohne Grenzen \(Help without Frontiers\)](#) that appear to be based on [speculation by dissident Burmese news sources](#) concerning a mutiny or coup in Myanmar. It is interesting to see how "speculation" over troop movements ends up being reported as a "mutiny" and "coup". All the sources do state however that there is no independent confirmation of these rumors.

\* Those who follow Myanmar news know that independent news sources run by dissidents outside of Myanmar are always predicting the imminent collapse of the ruling regime. The glut of "collapse is imminent" news is also why foreign "experts" on Myanmar originally shrugged off the importance of the current protests when they started.

---

#### The Citizen Journalists

The real source of news these days is citizen journalists and their news blogs or "nogs." It is interesting how the big media outlets—particularly CNN—give much time to reporting about this new trend, but never seem to want to publicize the urls of the blogs they are sourcing their news from.

Here are some of the best ones:

[Mogok Media](#) – [Mizzima News](#) – [Soneseayar](#) – [Reporter Diary](#) – [justice and injustice](#) – [Niknayman](#) – [MMEDWatch](#) – [Mandalay Gazette](#) – [ko htike's prosaic collection](#)



(Source: Photo posted on [Niknayman](#) blog)

More: [Burma-Myanmar Genocide 2007](#) – [Yanaung](#) – [drlunsw](#) – [MyanmarMuslim.net](#)

---

#### Protests continue – Friday, September 28, 2007

**Right:** Monasteries locked down by Tatmadaw soldiers from [gmhembree's photos on Flickr](#)



(Source: Photo from [gmhembree's photos on Flickr](#))

[Myanmar junta supremo's family leaves country](#) – merinews, September 28, 2007

... The family of eight was said to have boarded Myanmar's Air Bagan flight, which landed in Vientiane at 6 p.m. (local time) on Thursday.

The chartered flight carried eight passengers. Than Shwe's close associate Tayza, a business tycoon in Myanmar, owns the airline.

The passengers were said to be close relatives of Than Shwe including his wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing...

[Today's news from The Irrawaddy](#) (seems to be timing out periodically): Trucks loaded with troops raided the offices of Burma's main Internet service provider, Myanmar Info-Tech, located at Rangoon University (Hlaing campus) around noon on Friday in an effort to cut all public access to the internet... She said the demonstrators were boxed in between Anawrahta Road and Maha Bandoola Road. Dozens of protesters were arrested, bound and beaten. The troops pursued fleeing people into buildings, she said, singling out people with cameras. If they were arrested, the troops beat them while shouting, "Is it you who sends those pictures out?"... Burmese authorities announced they are to make house-by-house calls on homes in the area round the Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon, checking on residents. The Sule Pagoda is a rallying point of the demonstrations rocking Rangoon, and many protesters seek shelter in nearby homes...

From [ko htike's prosaic collection](#):

Friday, 28 September 2007

Burma time 14:28

Thousands of protester are on the street of YGN, now.

[\(ko htike's prosaic collection\)](#) has a good [2Bangkok-style](#) hour-to-hour news feed of events as they are happening.)

[Speculation over possible confrontation among Burmese generals – Troops marching to Rangoon – Burmese Air Force planes airborne](#) – Mizzima News

[Elected Representatives Plan Rangoon March; Overnight Raid on Mandalay Monastery](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, September 28, 2007  
*Representatives who were elected in the 1990 elections that were nullified by the junta plan to hold a demonstration march in Rangoon on Friday, on the third day of public protests in which military authorities killed at least nine people. Australian Ambassador Bob Davis told CNN that he believed the true death toll ran into "multiples" of the official figure...*

---

**Protests** – Thursday, September 27, 2007

Latest from *Burma Digest*: [Gruesome Murders on Streets of Burma](#)

Burma Protests: [the Situation on September 27](#)

[Burmese laymen pick up monks' protest, two foreigners dead](#) – *The Nation*, September 27, 2007

[The government line – New Light of Myanmar](#): *Protesters throw stones at members of security forces and use catapults. Two senior police, six others wounded. One protester killed, three wounded. Some monks and people enter homes. Saboteurs threaten families demanding them to join protest if not provide cash, kind. Authorities urge people to make complaints in person or on line to Ward PDCs, Township PDCs or local authorities against intimidations, extortions, coercion.*

Protests – Wednesday, September 26, 2007

["Protest walk not the work of Sangha. When there was no response from Kyakhatwaing Monastery, NLD protesters shouted rude and rough words"](#) – *New Light of Myanmar*, September 26, 2007

More from *Burma Digest*

- [Photo: Bloody Crack Down in Burma](#)
- [Photo: People under Attack from soldiers](#)
- [Video: Demonstrations despite Bloody Crack down](#)
- [Video Request by Student Leader Moe Thee Zun](#)
- [Those who have become trapped in the clutch of the SPDC](#)
- [Time for soldiers to show their courage](#)
- [Polite, Realistic Reminder to the Burmese Generals](#)

[Junta's crackdown on protesters kills 5](#) – *The Nation*, September 26, 2007

On the forum: [Myanmar crackdown begins](#)

---

[Burmese Junta Orders State Emergency, Authorizes Use of Weapons, Says Source](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, September 19, 2007

*...Police officials in Naypyidaw, the regime's new capital, issued a state of emergency order to local police on September 6, said the source. The military and police have been told to prepare for any eventuality and to stockpile weapons, loudspeakers, cameras, barbed wire, bullet proof jackets, red and blue colored scarves, medical supplies and other equipment. Hospitals have been told to prepare for large numbers of injured persons, according to sources...*



## Bomb near Army HQ

September 30, 2007

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

[Bomb explodes near Army headquarters](#) – *The Nation*, September 30, 2007

[One soldier, one police injured in Bangkok explosion](#) – *The Nation*, September 30, 2007

[GoogleEarth Placemark for Army HQ](#)



*Matichon*, October 2, 2007 – Bomb

at army headquarters to bid Sonthi farewell and welcome new army chief – Police officer loses his arm in blast



*Daily News*, October 2, 2007 – Bomb

in front of army headquarters similar to that used in Major attack



*Kom Ched Leuk*, October 2, 2007 –

Bomb goes off in front of army headquarters to bid Sonthi farewell



Manager, October 1, 2007 – Bomb explosion in front of army headquarters to welcome Anupong



## Editorial Cartoons – September 2007

September 30, 2007

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



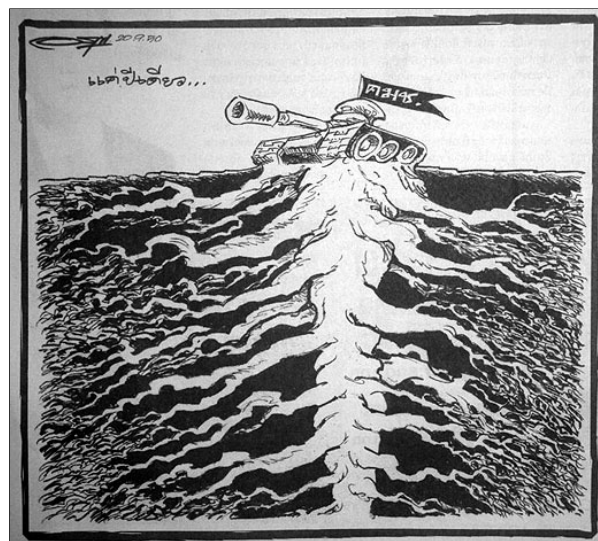
Thai humor: Political  
performance – Na Ban Bang Kae, *Manager*,  
September 21, 2007

Left panel: Gen. Sonthi to Gen. Anupong: I appoint you to be the C-in-C.

Right panel: Professor Thirayuth Boonmi : I appoint you to be a heroine of likay .



Tank running in circles – *Krungthepturakit*, September 19, 2007  
On the tank is reads "CNS." The tank is circling an overturned constitution.  
The caption reads: One year past... just do this so far!!!



"CNS – Just one year" – *Krungthepturakit*, September 20, 2007

Money – *Matichon*,  
cartoon by Son, September 22, 2007

**Top:** Ha, ha... You be sure

**Bottom:** We have an advantage over other  
parties.. Hee... Hee...



“Rest in peace!” – *Thairath*, September 19, 2007  
 Rest in peace!  
 On the bottom left it reads: 1 year of CNS



“Bad condition” – *Krungtepturakit*, September 19, 2007  
 Bad condition..



The C-in-C should be...? – *Manager*, At Ban Bangkhae, September 7, 2007  
**Left:** Before – Sonthi pointed out that the C-in-C must be good as a military and administration.  
**Middle:** Yesterday – Sonthi confirmed that the C-in-C must be a good person before being proficient.  
**Right:** Today – Sonthi equivocated that the C-in-C may be a person from the outside or inside .  
**Right bottom:** So... what for tomorrow?



The lion and the mouse – *Thai Rath*, September 6, 2007  
 Samak as the mouse chews through a rope holding Thaksin as the lion. On Samak's shirt are the initials of the People Power Party. At the bottom it reads: Don't forget Aesop's Tales... !  
 From WikiSource: [The Lion and the Mouse](#)



Listen to who? – *Thai Rath*, September 4, 2007  
 Panel 1: UN is not (our) father. Don't listen to it.  
 Panel 2: So, listen to who?  
 Panel 3: EU.

Another cartoon using this subject is [here](#).





Pojaman and Thaksin remain –  
August 21, 2007

From *Poojadkuan*, Na Ban Bangkae by Buncha/Kamin:

After the referendum, we know that they are still in these areas.

## Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy News 2003-2007

October 1, 2007

Categories: Buildings, History



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Deep digging at the old Russian Embassy – October, 2007

[2Bangkok.com visits the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy](#) – March 25, 2005

---



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Construction at the old Russian Embassy – September 10, 2007

---



Old Russian Embassy site sign – March 26, 2007

Project owner

North Sathorn Realty Co., Ltd.

Project: Infinity Tower sales office

Construction period: 180 days (September 1, 2004 – February 27, 2005)

License number: 8919/2547 LOR.WOR. September 1, 2004

Architecture: Palmer & Turner (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
Engineering: Palmer & Turner (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
System engineering: Palmer & Turner (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
Construction supervisors  
Contractor: Bouygues Thai Co., Ltd.  
Supervisors: Wiriya Jitprani POR.YOR. 18184  
Supoj Tuangsintawikul POR.SOR.THOR. 2907

"Elephant in the hole" story – March 27, 2007

Pieter writes: *Thanks for quoting me in the "Elephant in the hole" story. It appears now that this is actually a movie set and at several evenings last week scenes have been shot at that location. There really doesn't seem to be any other purpose to the construction of the pit.*

The hole and the elephant – March 21, 2007

Pieter points out an [interesting thread](#) on Skyscrapercity about the hole and an elephant in downtown Bangkok. Could it be that this is some kind of ceremony since this is the former site of the Western Cemetery? (below)



(Source: 2Bangkok.com)

**From the year 2000: The End of the Western Cemetery**

*Early one Sunday morning in January, 2000 I was on the Chong Nonsi Skytrain station and noticed workers "removing" the Western Cemetery in downtown Bangkok. Bones, clothes, and wooden coffins were being burned and the headstones were being broken up. Oh well, this world is for the living. How many of us even know where our great-grandparents are buried—much less go and visit the graves? ...*



Old Russian Embassy site sign – March 26, 2007

Project owner  
North Sathorn Realty Co., Ltd.  
Project: Infinity Tower sales office  
Construction period: 180 days (September 1, 2004 – February 27, 2005)  
License number: 8919/2547 LOR.WOR. September 1, 2004  
Architecture: Palmer & Turner (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
Engineering: Palmer & Turner (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
System engineering: Palmer & Turner (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
Construction supervisors  
Contractor: Bouygues Thai Co., Ltd.  
Supervisors: Wiriya Jitprani POR.YOR. 18184  
Supoj Tuangsintawikul POR.SOR.THOR. 2907





(Photo: Baggage label from the 2Bangkok.com collection)

Baggage label from the Hotel Royal – March 3, 2007  
And below is the site today...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Old Russian Embassy and new development – December 21, 2006



**Above:** Postcard view from the 1930s of the Hotel Royal located in the Luang Sathorn Mansion (later the Russian Embassy).

History of the Luang Sathorn Mansion/Russian Embassy site – March 17, 2005

**1914** – The mansion was built by Luang Jitjamnongwanich as his residence

**1927** – The mansion became the ‘Hotel Royal’

**1948-99** – Used as the Soviet, then Russian Embassy

**2005** – Restored and used as a health club as a part of Sathorn Square development

**Also:** (from [Rediscovering the history behind Bangkok’s historical buildings](#), *The Nation*, May 2, 2004)

*...He said that few people seemed to appreciate the fact that the mansion of Luang Jitjamnongwanich on Sathorn Road was being converted into an office building*

for the Russian Embassy.

"But then we tell that this area is related to the main characters of the novel "Si Phaendin". That building could be Khun Prame's house, where Mae Ploy went to get married. The imagination and feeling makes a big difference," he added...



Simulacra at the Russian Embassy – March 29, 2005

Rajan was the first of several to notice: *I was going through images of the [Russian Embassy](#) on your website (one of the best). When I was looking at the "Second chamber with metal bed springs leaning against the wall" picture ([bottom of this page](#)) I noticed a human face like image on the wall... What do you think?*

**Left:** Detail of the 'face'

**Right:** Detail of the 'face' from a second photo taken in the room.



(Source: Golden Land Plc/The Venetian)



(Source: The Venetian)

Sathorn One design based on Las Vegas casino? – March 12, 2005

Rapee was the first to point out that the 'Venice of the East' design from [Sathorn One](#) is in fact taken from the Venetian Casino in Las Vegas. Even the rendering of the completed project (left) is an exact match for the artwork on the Venetian Casino website (right). It appears that the Sathorn One 'rendering' is actually a photo from the casino with a skyscraper added in the background.



(Source: Golden Land Plc)

The canals of Sathorn! – March 11, 2005

[One Sathorn Square](#) – This overwrought design is similar to the flashy creations from the height of Bangkok's last building boom in the 1990's. However, it is much more creative than other office tower proposals for the site that included removing the Luang Mansion/Russian Embassy building.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Prime location – August 31, 2004

The corner lot at Sathorn and Narathiwat Road is being prepared. The land (including the adjacent Russian Embassy) is being developed by Golden Land PLC.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The future of the Luang Mansion/Russian Embassy – July 23, 2004

Golden Land PLC has finally declined our requests to photograph the old Luang Mansion/Russian Embassy on Sathorn Road saying they were still planning the use of the building and that the building itself was 'very dilapidated.' They said the building will be protected and integrated into whatever will be built on the corner of Sathorn and Narathiwat Road.

They further observed 'candidly' that the Luang Mansion/Russian Embassy building was shoddily constructed and not worthy of being protected. They said the only reason it was a protected building was that Thailand had already torn down most important historic buildings and this was all that was left.

Above and below are photos of the mansion that could be obtained by looking into the site. The photo above shows an office for consular affairs constructed off the front of the building.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Previous plans for the site

Left and below are rendering from the 1990s for the Russian Embassy/Luang Mansion site that entailed razing the building. These were collected and provided by [Bangkok Highrises](#).



[SATHORN SQUARE: Historic site boosts value of project](#) – *The Nation*, November 1, 2004

...Likewise, the Russian embassy's three buildings will be restored to become a key element in Golden Land's massive 220,00-square-metre Sathorn Square mixed-use project.

Sathorn Square will house a five-star hotel, office tower, shopping mall and residential condominium.

In addition to these projects, Golden Land has bought an additional 2.5 rai of freehold land next to the embassy. The site will be used for its luxury 33-storey condominium called "Infinity"...

Interesting things from the [Bangkok Highrises site](#) – August 18, 2003

Photos of the strange buildings on the Assumption University (ABAC) Bangna Campus, the towers at Shinawatra University and Suranaree University of Technology. Also a new design for Sathorn Square that would apparently appear to require the tearing down of the Russian Embassy—one of the largest Thai-style mansions left.

## Phuket crash analysis ‘could take 3 years’

October 1, 2007

[Phuket crash analysis ‘could take 3 years’](#) – Bangkok Post, October 1, 2007

...Aviation Department Director General Chaisak

Angkasuwan said data decoded from the black boxes, sent to the US more than two weeks ago, had already reached Thailand but an analysis of the data will need at least six months to three years, depending on its complexity...



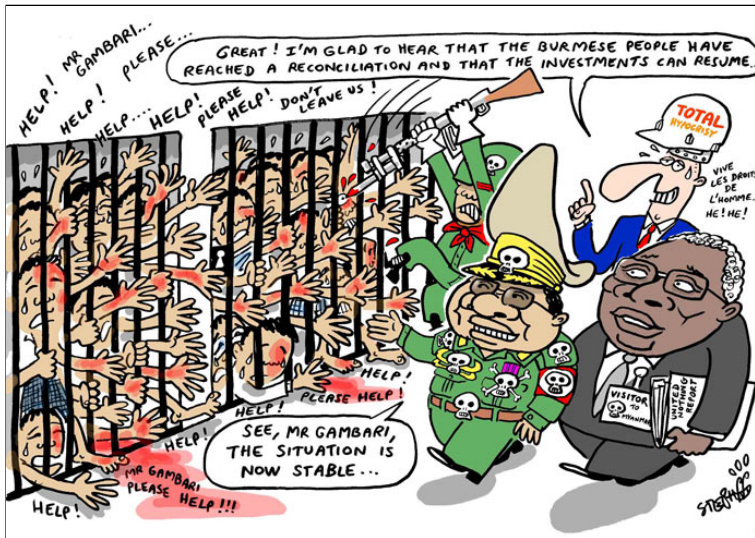
## Thai confirms Pornsawan used ammonia!

October 1, 2007

[Thai confirms Pornsawan used ammonia!](#) –  
PhilBoxing, October 1, 2007

*A Thai national, who was present at the Donnie Nietes-Pornsawan Kratingdaenggym WBO bout last night, revealed in a post-fight interview that indeed, the erstwhile unbeaten Thai fighter used “Chai Che Chew” or better known as Ammonia to help revive him in the crucial moments of the 12-round showdown...*

October 2, 2007  
Categories: Stephff's Cartoons



**Also:** [US Campaign for Burma](#), [Burma Campaign UK](#), [Boycott Total Oil \(Students Against Total\)](#), [Official Total Response](#)



[Next page](#)

## Bangkok on CNN's Planet in Peril

October 2, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

Bangkok on CNN's *Planet in Peril* –

October, 2007

Heading the [Southeast Asia section](#): *Southeast Asia is the center of the illegal animal trade. It is a multibillion-dollar business, and Bangkok, Thailand, appears to be at the hub of the black market. One trafficker there says profits are huge, at least double what he invests...*

The video on the Southeast Asia page also shows an interesting incident where an elephant unexpectedly grabs Jeff Corwin's arm in its mouth and flings him around...



## Airport Link takes shape

October 2, 2007



(Photo: Tomas)



(Photo: Tomas)

Airport Link takes shape –  
October 2, 2007

Tomas reports: *Here some amazing shots as ([the Airport Link span](#)) crosses Ramkamhang Road (near the former [Nasa Vegas Complex](#))...*

## More bike paths

October 2, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: CB)

More bike paths – October 2, 2007

CB reports: *The mad bicycle lanes are back – this time on downtown Sukhumvit road. Shortly after they were first painted in, some local wit chalked in “for carts” in Thai at the edges of these new lanes, but today the official painters came back to stencil in icons of a pushbike every 50 meters just in case there is any doubt as to their intention. I have yet to see an actual live cyclist try to use them – a few passed by on the roadside without imagining they could really use the pavement. However locals are already using them as car parking spaces and a whole row of stalls has been set up across the cycle path at one point. Just like the [ill-fated cycle paths on Narathiwat road](#), the path occasionally disappears for 30-40 meters when the going really gets tough, such as around police boxes...*



(Photo: Gigabyte)

Earlier: [Narathiwat Road](#) bicycle paths

## Ambush suspect now in Thailand?

October 2, 2007

Categories: Crime

[Ambush suspect now in Thailand?](#) – Sun

Star, October 2, 2007

*After formal charges of murder and frustrated murder were filed in court against the Mondias in Pulupandan for the controversial May 30 ambush of Mayor Magdaleno Peña, talks then milled around Bacolod City that the principal accused, Sammy Mondia, is no longer in Bacolod but in Thailand...*



## Marking Time in Thailand

October 2, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

[Marking Time in Thailand](#) – *Washington Post*, October 2, 2007

*...Kraisak Choonhavan, a Thai senator until last year's military coup d'etat, said Thais cringe when they hear Western leaders say Burma's repressive military government previously had not generated high-level attention because it did not create a security problem beyond its borders. Viewed from Thailand, he said, Burma's junta, in power for more than 40 years, and the recurring explosions of violence it has engendered are clearly risks because of the number of people fleeing here for safety.*

*"For us, it is indeed a security problem," he said...*

## **In Thailand the shy get their condoms at the bank**

October 2, 2007

Categories: Health

[In Thailand the shy get their condoms at the bank](#) – Reuters, October 2, 2007

*...Despite Bangkok's reputation as one of the world's*

*sex industry centers, Thailand is a generally conservative country...*

*"HIV/AIDS is returning to Thailand since the government awareness campaign started 20 years ago has fizzled out," said a bank spokesman who declined to be identified.*

*"We want the teenagers to be aware of the problem..."*

## Thai cabinet approves 56 bln baht Bangkok railway construction

October 2, 2007

Categories: Mass Transit

[Thai cabinet approves 56 bln baht Bangkok railway construction](#) – *Forbes*, October 2, 2007

*...The new SkyTrain line will connect Bangkok's sprawling weekend market to the southwest of the capital and is expected to start operations in 2012.*

*Bangkok existing mass transit system has only three lines — two above ground, and one underground — totalling 75 kilometers (47 miles) of tracks. Together the three lines carry almost 630,000 passengers a day.*

## Bangkok's air pollution slowly evaporating

October 4, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok's air pollution slowly evaporating](#) –

AFP, October, 2007

*...The number of vehicles using natural gas in Bangkok is small but growing fast, having tripled to almost 20,000 in the past 18 months thanks to incentives that cut the cost of engine conversion, the Land Transport Department said.*

*This has led to an explosion in natural gas consumption, up 71 percent last year to 93 million litres (24.5 million gallons). In the first seven months of this year, the total topped off at 110 million litres (29 million gallons)...*

## Contrasts

October 4, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Myanmar's Minorities Face Persecution](#) – AP, October 4, 2007

*...The Karen, the Shan and other minority groups who live along the Myanmar-Thai border have been attacked, raped and killed by government soldiers. Their thatched-roofed, bamboo homes have been torched. Men have been seized into forced labor for the army, while women, children and the elderly either hide out in nearby jungles until the soldiers leave or flee over the mountains to crowded, makeshift refugee camps...*

[The Sukhothai Bangkok launches New Mercedes-Benz Limousine Fleet](#) – ASIA Travel Tips, October 4, 2007

The Sukhothai Bangkok hotel is now offering guests a brand new fleet of Mercedes-Benz S320 CDI, managed by a team of specially trained drivers...

## Postponement of election would yield only negative results

October 4, 2007

Categories: 2006 Coup

### Editorial:

**Postponement of election would yield only negative results** – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, October 4, 2007

Several ministers in the Gen. Surayud Chulanont's government have already resigned, including Government Spokesman Dr. Yongyuth Maiyalarp. The National Legislative Assembly is now investigating the moral standing of members of the Cabinet, including Gen. Surayud. It is rumored that Gen. Surayud may resign. The bomb attack on September 30, which injured two police officers, raised concerns among the public. People thought that the election, which has been scheduled for December 23, would be postponed by three to four months.

The rumor of the postponement of the election has affected people negatively. Those who understand the situation will know that only natural disasters and the destruction of the constitution can obstruct the election.

Thai people are now looking forward to voting on December 23. Other countries are also monitoring whether the election will be held as scheduled. All parties should urge authorities to push for a successful election and do not let some bad apples ruin it.

## Protest at the Burmese Embassy

October 5, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Protest at the Burmese Embassy – October 5, 2007

These are photos from a protest on the narrow sidewalk in front of the Burmese Embassy on Sathorn Road in Bangkok. Groups that organized the demonstration include the pro-Thaksin United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD). Below a Japanese reporter stands in front of a photo of the photographer slain in Yangon last week.

A YouTube clip of the protest is [here](#).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



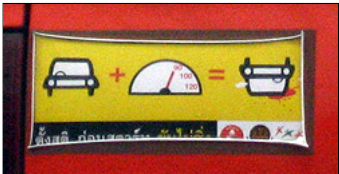
(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

---



Driving safety bumper stickers

October 5, 2007  
Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)

Driving safety bumper stickers – October, 2007

## Editorial: Because he tried to resist the passage of flowing water

October 5, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

**Editorial: Because he tried to resist the passage of flowing water** – translated and summarized from *Phujadkan*, October 5, 2007

It is unbelievable that Gen. Tossatorn Muang-am has been appointed the permanent-secretary of the Ministry of Interior, replacing Gen. Bannawit Kengrien, who has been dismissed from his post.

These two generals, who played a major role while the country was ruled by tyrants, have received a

tragic destiny. It shows that brave people will not receive any respect, unlike those that flatter and pander to their superiors.

The reason of the transfer could be that Gen. Bannawit obstructed somebody's rise to power.

Gen. Bannawit has done many things for the sake of the Kingdom; he has acted like a hero. However, in this land, these kind of people are not wanted. We must realize that if Gen. Tossarot Muang-am tries to do things which benefit the Kingdom, but steps on someone's foot, he will just be swept by the current.

## Editorial: Why topple the PM?

October 5, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

**Editorial: Why topple the PM?** – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, October 5, 2007

The article comments on the movements of the National Legislative assembly on checking the performance of Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont and his Cabinet concerning transparency in the administration. The author doubts whether some members of the NLA want the PM to resign from his post. However, the author supports the address of the NLA Chairman, Meechai Ruechupan who says the PM should stay until the interim government ends its term.

## “The shocking confession” from PM Surayud

October 6, 2007

Categories: Analysis, Thai Politics

“The shocking confession” – October 6, 2007

Many, many Bangkok readers have asked about this, so this is the explanation: PM Surayud has been using the Thai saying “jon glap jai” to admit he used his influence in the past to enrich himself. In English this is stated as “I have never claimed to be a perfect man and am only a reformed thief.”

This is an expression for a person to say when they have changed their mind to be a good person.

For instance, when a “southern thief” (a southern separatist) is reformed and joins with the Thai government, he is said to be “jon glap jai” meaning he broke the rules in the past, but now he has changed or turned over a new leaf.

PM Surayud is known to have two 40 million baht cars and a resort house illegally on public land in Khao Yai. This means he has used his influence as many Thai men do to reap financial benefits from his position. This type of this activity usually only becomes an issue when a “big man” gets into a position of power and others want to knock him out of his position.

The Surayud/CNS junta thought they were immune from corruption attacks because they held power (in the same way Thaksin and his cronies acted with impunity when they were in power). However, a revolt from former anti-Thaksin allies appointed to anti-corruption groups has decimated the Surayud-led government in recent weeks. Surayud is doing damage control by trying to express to the public he has his flaws and is vulnerable, but is trying to do the right thing.

We mention all this because it is not at all clear from the way the PM’s statements are being reported in English that his statements are couched as a “jon glap jai” idiomatic phrase. *The Nation*, in particular, reports the PM’s statement as if the PM is making a very peculiar admission by describing himself as a “former thief.”

[Sonthi](#)

[mum on future](#) – *The Nation*, September 30, 2007

...Regarding criticism that his estate might intrude into national parkland in Nakhon Ratchasima, he said the National Counter Corruption Commission had already released its findings on the case.

*“I have never claimed to be a perfect man and am only a reformed thief,” he said, insisting that despite his flaws, he strives to do good deeds...*

[Thai talk: PM’s shocking confession: I used to be bad](#) – *The Nation*, October 4, 2007

*“I have said it before and I am saying it again: I am not a good man. I am only a repentant convert.”*

...Reporters at Government House just let PM Surayud Chulanont off the hook too easily. They should have squeezed a full confession from the premier. This must be the first time that the “reluctant, gentleman prime minister” even remotely suggested that he wasn’t such a good man after all...

## **Giles lashes fellow academics: “Corrupt and disgusting”**

October 6, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[Giles lashes fellow academics in Chula’s Political Science Faculty: “Corrupt and disgusting”](#) – *Prachatai*, October, 2007

## **The Man Who Scared a Shark to Death (and other true tales of drunken debauchery)**

October 6, 2007

Categories: Books

*The Man Who*

*Scared a Shark to Death (and other true tales of drunken debauchery)* – October 6, 2007

A new book by Noel Boivin and Christopher Lombardo – [The Shark Book blog](#) – [Buy the book](#)

## Download Sulak's banned book (in Thai)

October 6, 2007



[Download](#)  
[Sulak's banned book \(in Thai\)](#) – October  
6, 2007

**Also:** [Thai](#)  
[police ban, confiscate book on democracy, monarchy](#) – Southeast  
Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA)

## Editorial: The PM's important mission

October 6, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

Editorial: The PM's important mission – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, October 6, 2007

The government of General Surayud Chulanont has been leading the country towards an election, and many people consider this to be the most important mission of his government. There is a perception, however, that the Prime Minister considers all other issues as of lesser importance. This has led to speculation that General Surayud no longer has a desire to be the country's Prime Minister. Moreover, many people continue to worry that the country will still not be at peace after the election – because of the continuing political conflict. Many people now also view the coup d'état as a mistake, which has led to yet more conflict – as politicians continue to fight over access to the money and power with which they can control the country.



## Painting the Rama 9 Bridge

October 6, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Painting the Rama 9 Bridge – October 6, 2007

Recently the previously non-description grey Rama 9 Bridge has been painted royal yellow to match the Mega Bridge.

## **A King Turns 80, Let the Party Begin**

October 7, 2007

Categories: HM The King's Birthday

[A King Turns 80, Let the Party Begin](#) – NYT, October, 2007

# How Young Is too Young to Be a Prize Fighter?

October 7, 2007

Categories: Sports

[How Young Is too Young to Be a Prize Fighter? – The Business of Muay Thai Martial Arts in Thailand \(print version without photos\)](#) – ABC News, October, 2007

...Meanwhile, Nong Pet's situation worsens during the time Kellstein films her — she was forced to take an exhibition match in a brothel, accepting tips from Westerners.

Although he wasn't sure about the long-term effects of Muay Thai on children, Kellstein ultimately found it to be an economic necessity. "I don't think we really understand it," he told Vargas. "We don't have poverty on that level."

...Regarding child labor, Mead stressed that in many countries it's unusual if children don't have to do serious work. "The idea that childhood is a time of play and of education is something that 200 years ago almost nobody in the world had," he said.

Is it really just Western sensibilities that make Americans shocked to see young girls punching each other without head gear as adults bet on them?

"We, Americans, we live in kind of a bubble-wrapped world and our kids live in a bubble-wrapped world," Mead said. "Life out there in much of the world has choices that we can hardly imagine. & Thailand has a very large commercial sex industry, so in that sense it's progress if girls are going to the fighting ring rather than the brothel. You have to hope that some years from now they won't be going to either one." For his part, Kellstein said he no longer gets angry about parents allowing their children to fight. "The thing I get angry about is that there is so much inequality in the world and that economic situations like this arise," he said. "These circumstances exist and we should think of ways to make it better for everyone. Not just in Thailand, but everywhere."

## Thailand of the 60's

October 8, 2007

Categories: Old photos and films

Thailand of the 60's – October, 2007

Anthony writes: *I am not sure you already gave the link to those pictures. Thailand of the 60's, some fantastic pictures:* [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

## Leader of anti-Tesco group threatened

October 8, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

**Leader of anti-Tesco group threatened** – translated and summarized  
from *Phujatkhan, October 8, 2007*

Thunya Limpatanakun the owner of a beverage store, is one of the leaders of a group of retailers opposing the construction of Tesco Lotus in Amphur Kampangsaan, Nakornpatom province. She disclosed to journalists that while she was sitting at her desk, she was just barely missed by a bullet shot into her house. She believed that this bullet was the result of her resistance to TESCO LOTUS construction. She quickly informed the police of the incident.

## Editorial: At risk of losing face

October 8, 2007

Categories: Thai Military

**Editorial: At risk of losing face** – translated and summarized from *Kom Chad Luek*, October 8, 2007

The move to transfer Admiral Bannawit Kengrien from the position of Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence to a chief advisor position and run a disciplinary probe against him has drawn the public's interest.

The reason people are interested is because of the purchase of weapons for the armed forces, including a Ukraine-made armoured vehicle, which cost nearly four billion baht. The purchase was not transparent and some groups are expected to illegally benefit from the action.

Several parties criticized the purchase of the Ukraine vehicle as it is an outdated one and may cause troubles. A Russian vehicle is more advanced by far.

The purchasing process is also questioned.

As long as the force cannot clarify the decision and answer questions, the Ukraine vehicle issue will not end, possibly tarnishing the image of the armed forces.

## Brain parasite

October 8, 2007

Brain parasite – *Matichon* by Son, October 8, 2007

Doctor: I x-rayed your brain and found that you have headache at present because this parasite bored your brain.

Surayud thinks: Appears familiar.



## Thailand launches “No belly for Thais” campaigns

October 9, 2007

Categories: Health

[Thailand launches “No belly for Thais” campaigns](#) – TNA, October 9, 2007

*Thailand's Public Health Ministry in cooperation with other eight organisations has launched 'No Belly' campaigns after Thailand ranked fifth among the Asia-Pacific countries where the citizenry is defined as being overweight...*



## Being Indian in Bangkok

October 9, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Being](#)

[Indian in Bangkok](#) – Hindustan Times,

October, 2007

*...He told me how Thais are the most 'non-confrontationist' people in the world. You'll never see — or hear — people fighting on the streets, or anywhere else for that matter unless it was their bedrooms. He talked about his workplace. "You know how it's like with us Indians, we get stressed about everything, so initially it was a problem with our Thai employees." What did they do? "They quit. Simple. They can't handle tension."*

*He also told me how being a sex worker there is a way of life. "Like being an engineer or a doctor." You are looked upon as being a driver of the high-noon sector of sex tourism in the booming Thai economy. Traffic is chaotic, but you don't hear a single honk. Lane driving is so straight that you think of classroom geometry boxes. And if you are behind the wheel, you have to give way to pedestrians. But then, right of way is rarely used as you have to go up overhanging footbridges and then come down on the other side. Someone stopped me when I tried to dart across an almost empty road once. God, was I missing India!...*

## Thailand will send 800 troops to Darfur on peacekeeping mission

October 9, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

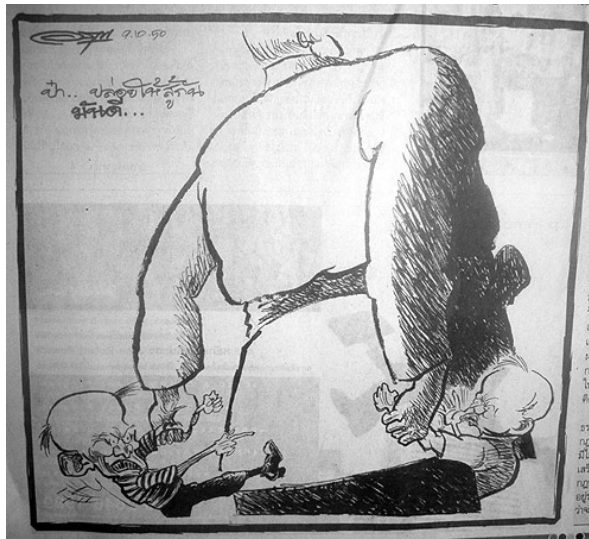
[Thailand will send 800 troops to Darfur on peacekeeping mission](#) – AP, October 9, 2007

*Thailand will send 800 troops to Darfur to join a peacekeeping operation in the wartorn region of western Sudan by the end of the year, a government spokesman said Wednesday. Thailand's Cabinet approved a plan Tuesday to send one battalion of 800 troops on a one-year mission to the United Nations and African Union joint mission to Darfur by Dec. 31, said government spokesman Chaiya Yimwilai...*

## “Let them fight...”

October 9, 2007

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



“Let them fight...” – *Krungtepturakit*, October 9, 2007  
Pa ... Let them fight. It is enjoyable.

## More fighting sons

October 9, 2007



More fighting sons – *Poojadkuan*, October 9, 2007  
A poll points out that families in Thailand are in turmoil.  
For example: Pa's sons still fight each other.

## **4000 baht annual fee for Thai Amex card?**

October 10, 2007

4000 baht annual fee for Thai Amex card? – October 10, 2007

If you have a Thai-issued American Express card, you recently received a letter praising your “incredible total” of points earned on the card and reminding you that you have “enjoyed unmatched privileges” over the last year. Finally you are “invited” to keep the card for another year for a “nominal fee of Baht 4,000.” This fee represents almost a doubling of the fee over the previous year.

However, Amex is ready for the backlash. Anyone who complains or threatens to cancel the card is routed to a special agent to calm them down and offer them 13,500 Thai Airways points or a 4,000 baht voucher for Emporium/Paragon/Central if they pay the fee and stay with Amex.

## **“Drag only!!”**

October 10, 2007

“Drag only!!” – October 10, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

# Mind the People!

October 10, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

**Mind the People!** – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*,  
October 10, 2007

The term of the interim government will soon end, with the upcoming general election. We note that there are many ongoing conflicts between Prime Minister Surayud 's government and the National Legislative Assembly (NLA), as the NLA is in the process of testing the transparency of the PM and his cabinet. It is important that the government now concerns itself with the well-being of its citizens, who are increasingly faced with problems in the economy and in their standard-of-living.

## Police suspect some Helsinki Thai massage parlours of procurement

October 11, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Police suspect some Helsinki Thai massage parlours of procurement](#) – *Helsingin Sanomat*,  
October 11, 2007



## **Thailand to build anti-AIDS, anti-bird flu drug factory**

October 11, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand to build anti-AIDS, anti-bird flu drug factory](#) – AHN, October 11, 2007

## People Power Party rally

October 12, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: [Samak Sundaravej](#) on a giant screen towers over viewers

Introducing the People Power Party – October 12, 2007

These are photos of the People Power Party rally on Friday evening.

Despite [reports that the turnout was smaller than expected](#), the crowd was very, very large. However, the crowd was solidly made up of country people (non-Bangkokians).

On the [2Bangkok YouTube channel](#) are two clips of the rally at Sanam Luang ([GoogleEarth Placemark](#)) that shows how big the crowd was.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: "Every True story VCDs"



TRT – Down, but not out –

The logos of TRT (left) and the look-alike logo of the the successor party, People Power Party (right)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

**Above:** Sanam Luang has finally been resodded, but the result is a swampy, waterlogged field.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

**Above:** The People Power Party stage – "The People Power Party meets the people"



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

**Above:** "Bangkaen loves Samak"



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

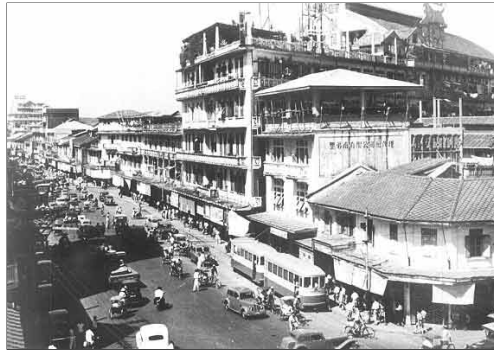


# Phra Ya Sombat Phaisan Building

October 12, 2007  
Categories: Buildings

## Once Our Tallest Building

The 9-storey Phra Ya Sombat Phaisan Building on Yaowarat Road in Yawarat was for decades the tallest building in Bangkok (photographed by Latbin Bonnak, circa 1950, the National Archives). Note the old cars and the [tram line](#) in front of the building.



(Photo: Latbin Bonnak, circa 1950, the National Archives)



(Photo: National Archives)

Here is an earlier photo of the area circa 1927-1937. The upper stories of the building are still under construction. A line of cars is parked down the center of Yaowarat Road. Note also the white light post in the middle of the road and Chinese-style rickshaws. The tram line electrical wires are there, but are barely visible. The white pole behind the one of the rickshaw holds the wires.



(Photo: Latbin Bonnak, circa 1950, the National Archives)

The adjacent intersection on Yawarat Road circa 1950 (photographed by Latbin Bonnak, the National Archives) called "Chaloemburi Intersection" (from the name of the cinema nearby – now nearly abandoned). Note the old-style bus right behind the truck carrying the white bags. It cannot be read without seeing the actual photo, but the building on the right corner has a sign that reads "Serra Vallo's Tonic."



(Photo: Wisarut)

The area today–The corner building is also the same as it was in the 1920's, but it has a new roof.

Phraya Sombut Phaisarn Building is now a Chinese restaurant selling shark fin soup, swallow nest soups, as well as other Chinese delicacies.

**By the way:** Decades later, when the 32-storey Bangkok Bank headquarters was opened on Silom Road in 1982, it was Bangkok's tallest building. Pas of Bangkok Highrises comments: The Dusit Thani Hotel (21 stories) was the tallest building in Bangkok way before Bangkok Bank was built. Also Wat Arun which is about 85m / 200ft was built some 200 years ago (if you consider that a highrise building).

## Freedom Blues

October 12, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Freedom Blues](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, October, 2006

*...The 36-year-old former student activist was freed in 1999 after serving more than eight years as a “guest” of the military junta, but life in the real world has proved as difficult—though in other ways—as his existence behind bars...*

# The Hunt for Ieng Sary in Thailand

October 12, 2007

The Hunt for Ieng

Sary in Thailand – source unknown, October 12, 2007

*The Thai Embassy in Cambodia has said that the Thai Government will make efforts to hunt for, arrest, and send back to Cambodia suspected ex-Khmer Rouge leaders, who should be brought to trial at the KR Tribunal if they flee to Thailand.*

*A local news media quoted a Thai embassy letter as stating on 3 October that the Thai Government, too, had contributed \$24,331 toward this tribunal. Therefore, it did not think that the suspects would possibly escape to Thailand. However, the Thai Government would not remain indifferent to this matter if it could actually happen. It would hunt for, arrest, and deport them to Cambodia.*

*The first secretary of the Thai Embassy to Cambodia, Thitichai Sengpithak said he believed the possibility that the remaining suspects had fled to Thailand was very minimal, because the authorities were watching over them vigilantly.*

*It should be pointed out that Ieng Sary, former foreign minister of the KR regime, who is likely to be a suspect of the KRT, is currently in Bangkok having a heart checkup.*

## **Dead Malaysian panther believed bound for Thai kitchens seized at border**

October 12, 2007

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Dead Malaysian panther believed bound for Thai kitchens seized at border](#) – AP, October 12, 2007



## Revered Buddhist monk passes away, but leaves behind a life's work to remind his fellow Buddhists

October 12, 2007

Categories: Buddhism

Revered Buddhist monk passes away, but leaves behind a life's work to remind his fellow Buddhists – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, October 12, 2007  
The death of revered Buddhist monk Luang Por Panyanandha Bhikkhu was recently announced . Phra Panyanandha devoted his entire life to the Buddhist religion, and taught many people to follow the good principles of the Lord Buddha. Many Buddhists will mourn the death of this revered monk, but he has left behind his works and his teachings to remind his fellow Buddhists of the principles that they should continue to follow. Phra Panyanandha was widely known for his focus on the attainment of true Buddhist wisdom through daily good deeds.

## **King Power defies order to move outlets from airport**

October 13, 2007

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[King Power defies order to move outlets from airports](#) – *Bangkok Post*, October 13, 2007

## “Police Day”

October 13, 2007

Categories: Thai Police



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

“Police Day” –  
October 13, 2007

This billboard near Klong Toei reads: On October 13, Police Day – The Royal Thai Police invites you to participate in an oath-taking ceremony and an official march performed by police officials in occasion of the celebration of His Majesty the King’s 80 th birthday. Information Department, the Royal Thai Police. The ceremony will start on 03:00 pm until 06:00 pm, at the Rajamangala National Stadium.

## One more banned book: Nine Commentaries on the Chinese Communist Party

October 14, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[One](#)

[more banned book: Nine Commentaries on the Chinese Communist Party](#) – Prachatai, October 14, 2007

*...On October 10, Thai daily "Matichon" reported news of the ban order for the book in Thai translated from Chinese. The book criticises the Chinese Communist Party. A Thai 'Press Officer' empowered to act as government book censor comments that the text of the book directly attacks the Chinese government and may affect peaceful relations between Thailand and China. Therefore the Thai government issued its ban order on October 8 under Article 9 of the Printing Act of 1941 as "contrary to public order or good morals". Such an order may be issued by publication in the Government Gazette or any daily newspaper...*

## Thai school apologizes for Nazi parade

October 15, 2007

[Thai school apologizes for Nazi parade](#) – *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, October 15, 2007

*A Thai school apologized to the Simon Wiesenthal Center for sponsoring a Nazi-themed parade. The Wisenthal Center in a news release said a group of students...*

## Thaksin documentary to coincide with election campaign

October 15, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin documentary to coincide with Thai campaign](#) – Reuters, October 15, 2007

*Ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will distribute a documentary in Thailand of his life in exile and takeover of Manchester City football club ahead of December elections, his lawyer said on Monday...*

## Telegraph gaffe

October 15, 2007

Telegraph

gaffe – October 15, 2007

For the first day these article were online, the *Telegraph* had the first paragraph of the Rupert Brooke article ([Letters reveal Rupert Brooke's doomed love](#)) on the end of hospitalization article ([Thailand's King Bhumibol admitted to hospital](#)) creating an odd factoid many readers asked about. It was all a mistake and the *Telegraph* has now corrected the gaffe.

## Outcry over Supreme Court building

October 15, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Outcry over Supreme Court building](#) – *The Nation*, October 15, 2007

*The Supreme Court Building has stood on Rattanakosin Island for several decades but not many people know the history behind its construction...*



## Ayutthaya might be removed from Unesco's World Heritage list

October 17, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Ayutthaya might be removed from Unesco's World Heritage list](#) – *The Nation*, October 17, 2007

*...Khaisri had received an initial report from the Fine Arts Department claiming the site, inscribed on Unesco's World Heritage List in December 1991, had problems with city planning that might lead to the site being removed from the list, the minister said.*

*Ayutthaya was also deemed a world heritage with the most problems with land encroachments, which was now beyond Fine Arts Department officials' control, Khaisri said...*

*Fine Arts Office 3 director Anek Sihamat said the site's inner area covering 1,800 rai – out of the total 6,000 rai where many of important historical places such as Wat Phra Sri Sanpetch and Wat Ratcha Burana were situated – now had people building structures over these ancient sites...*

## “Dangerous man”?

October 17, 2007

"Dangerous man"? – October 17, 2007

From a Burmese email forward: *Please be careful this man at singapore. He is myanmar army intelligent major and now at singapore. He take alot of photos at here. Please send this mail to all myanmese people at singapore.*

Photos: [Here](#) and [here](#).

## Corrupt law enforcement, sex networks provide cover for pedophiles in Asia

October 17, 2007

Categories: Crime

[Corrupt law enforcement, sex networks provide cover for pedophiles in Asia](#) – AP, October 17, 2007

... "This can be an open crime in Thailand when Western men are obviously in front of people carrying on in this way. It becomes normalized so they don't think they are doing anything wrong," Prober said...

Some of their customers — mostly older men — commit their crimes with relative impunity, walking hand-in-hand with underage girls in Bangkok or with boys in a resort hotel on the Indonesian island of Bali...

## Manhunt focuses on Thai resort

October 18, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Video from CNN: [Manhunt focuses on Thai resort](#) – October 18, 2007

*CNN's Matthew Chance reports on the police hunt for a suspected pedophile, now centered on a sex resort in Thailand...*

*Pattaya's sex trades employs thousands of men and women... and children too...*

*Neil was recognized the the owner of one of the Pattaya bars often used by foreign sex tourists...*

[New details on charges against pedophile suspect](#) – October 19, 2007

*... "Christopher was always friendly," a longtime guard at Neil's former Bangkok condominium told Chao. "He used to arrive in a taxi and walked hand in hand into the apartment with different boys."...*

## Egat threatens to move coal plants to Laos

October 18, 2007

[Egat threatens to move coal plants to Laos](#) – Bangkok Post, October 18, 2007

*The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) plans to develop coal-fired power plants in neighbouring countries to serve Thailand's power demand unless local anti-coal activists stop protesting, says Egat governor Kraisi Karnasuta...*

## Don't commend theft of AIDS' drug patents

October 18, 2007

Categories: Drugs

[Don't commend theft of AIDS' drug patents](#) – *The Hill*, October 18, 2007

*Imagine if Congress sponsored a resolution praising a foreign government — which recently seized power in a military coup — for stealing from U.S. companies and deliberately undermining the fight against AIDS.*

*Amazingly, that's exactly what's happening. The military government of Thailand, which came to power in a coup last September, is actively stealing patented medicine from the very companies that have developed the leading cures for AIDS...*

*Never mind the fact that manufacturing the drugs actually costs more than buying them through legal channels — or accepting them for free. Clearly, this decision was about enriching cronies in the GPO, not helping Thai AIDS patients...*

## Saphan Kwai in 1968

October 20, 2007

Categories: Communities, History

### Saphan Kwai in 1968

We came across this old photo (right) of the northeast corner of the Saphan Kwai (Buffalo Bridge) intersection in 1968. It is from the [website](#) of J.B. Sadler, a former U.S. soldier once stationed in Bangkok. The photo below shows what the same corner looks like today. The gold shop (on the corner) that was there in 1968 is still there today. There was even more development in intervening years—before the [Skytrain](#), this intersection had a "flyover" bridge that has since been torn down to make room for the Skytrain construction. Just beyond the left edge of these photos was the old [Saphan Kwai Market](#) which is being replaced with a Big-C supermarket.



(Photo: J.B. Sadler)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: J.B. Sadler)

**Above:** Looking west along Suthisarn after the Saphan Kwai intersection in 1968.

**Below:** The same view in 2006



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

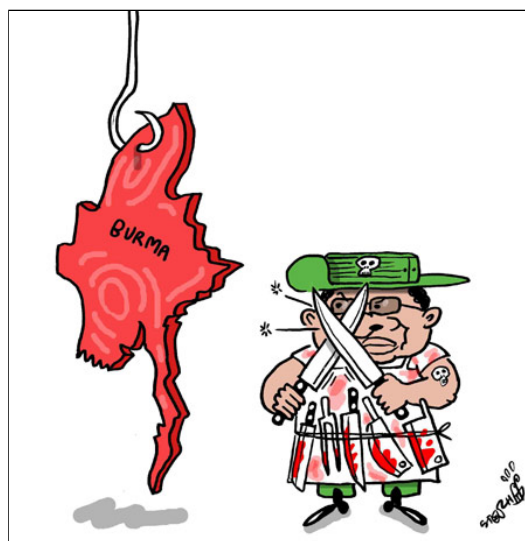
**Also:** [Last glimpse of Saphan Kwai Market](#) and [Suthisarn Road 1963/2006](#)



## Stephff's Burma cartoons

October 20, 2007

Categories: Stephff's Cartoons

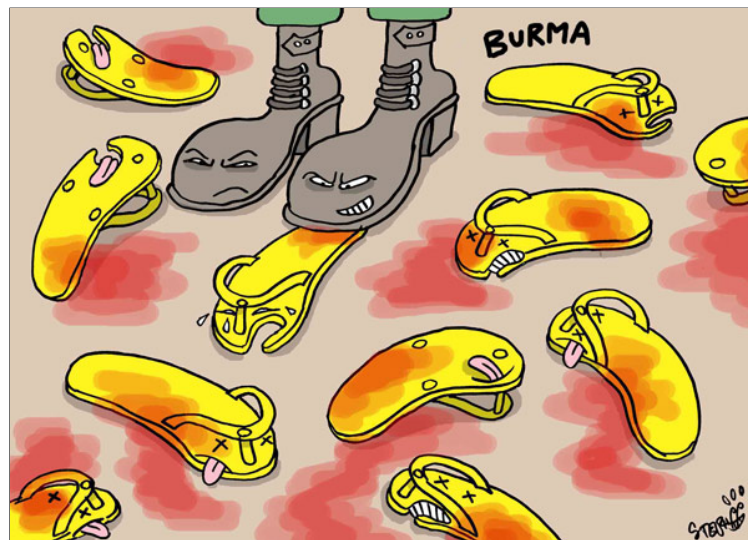
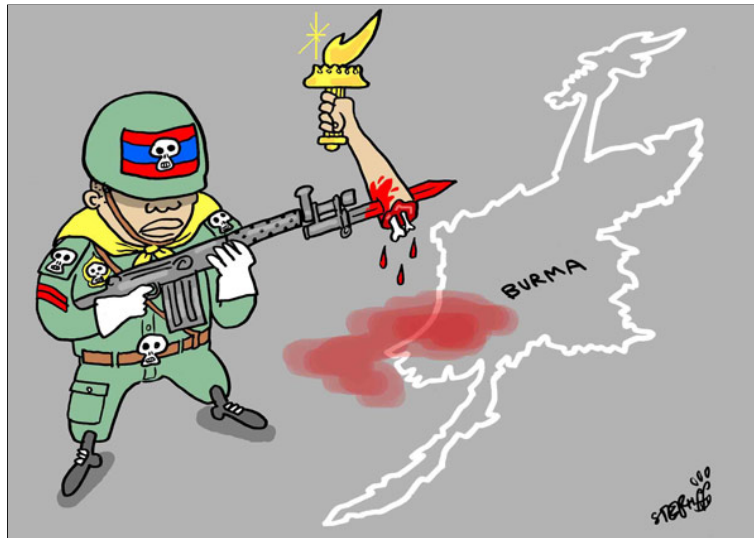


[Next page](#)

## Stephff's Burma cartoons

October 20, 2007

Categories: Stephff's Cartoons

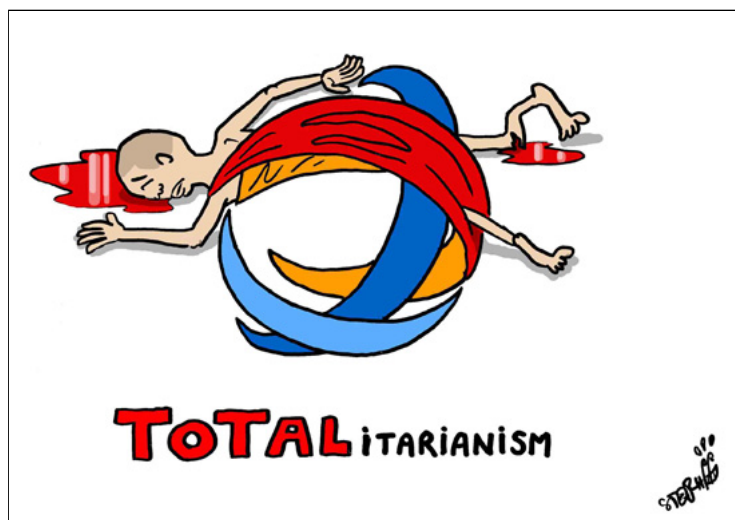
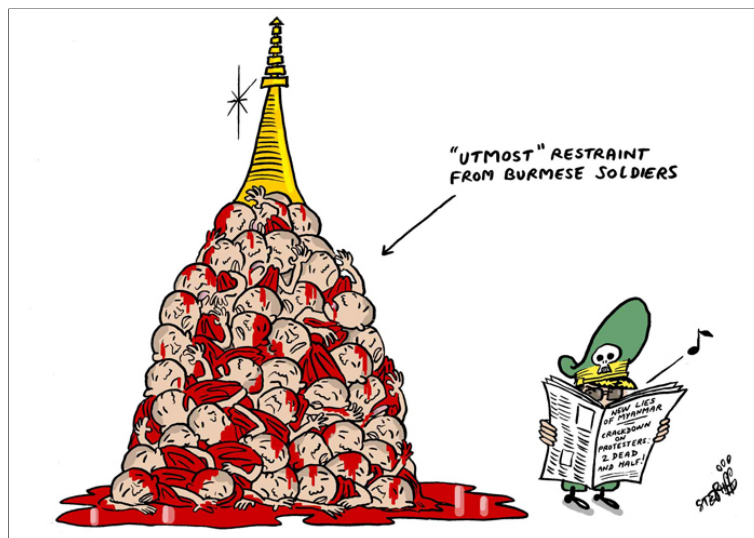


[Next page](#)

## Stephff's Burma cartoons

October 20, 2007

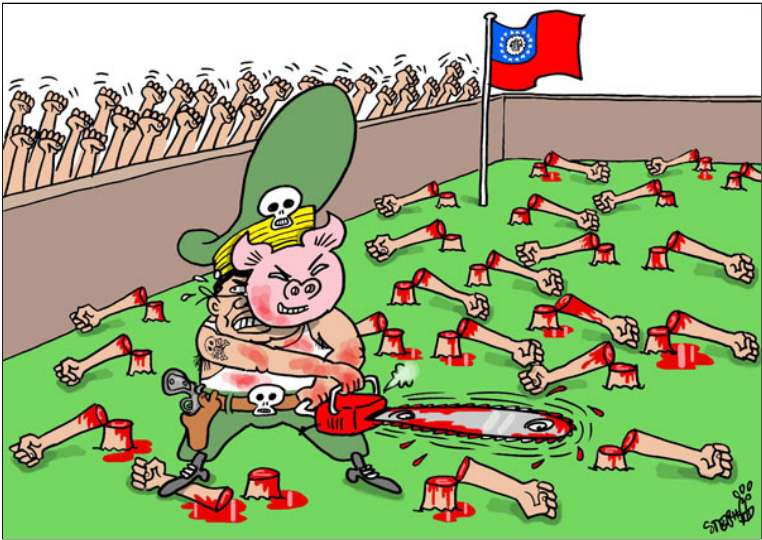
Categories: Stephff's Cartoons



[Next page](#)

Stephff's Burma cartoons

October 20, 2007  
Categories: Stephff's Cartoons





WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR SPONSORS (WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF COURSE) FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL FESTIVAL OF BLOOD AND REPRESSION ... THANKS TO :

A WORLD AWAY TRAVELS - ABERCROMBIE & KENT - ADVENTURES ABROAD - AL CATEL - ANDAMAN CLUB - ANJUMAN TEAK SUPPLIES PVT LTD - ANDREW BARK TRAVEL - AQUATIC - ARCHEOLOGICAL TOURS - ASIA OPTICAL - AUBLEY TRAVEL - BAKER HUGHES - BALT'S WORLDWIDE - BAMBINO TRAVEL - BEN LINE AGENCIES - BJ SERVICES - BRITANNIC GARDEN FURNITURES - CHE HELICOPTER CORPORATION - CHEVRON - CHINA NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION - CHINA PETROCHEMICAL CORP - CHA GROUP LTD - CROWN RELATIONS - DANFORD EQUITIES CORPORATION - DAREWOOD - D&T GROUP HOLDINGS LTD - DIETHELM WELSER - DRAGON TRAVEL - ECAT - E.O. BARTON - EYARA GROUP - EURO TECK - FLATOUT BICK & CO - FOCUS ENERGY - RANDOM HOUSE - GAT AUTHORITY OF INDIA - GEMHO'S ADVENTURES - GEOPETROL - GINJALIE IMPORT-EXPORT - GOLDEN ARROW PTE LTD - HAPAG-LLOYD - HAWKE HOUSE LTD - HELICOPTERS NEW ZEALAND - HUNTER PUBLISHING - HUTCHINSON WHAMPOUR LTD - HEO YACHTS - IMPACT PUBLICATIONS - INPIRIT GUIDES - INTERA RESOURCES - ITERA GROUP - IVANHOE MINES - JAMES LATHAM - JET GOLD CORP - KAJIMA - KEPPEL CORPORATION - KERRY LOGISTICS GROUP - KUKCODAN FURNITURE - KOGAF - LEEWARD CAPITAL CORP - LET'S GO - LISTER - LONELY PLANET - MAERSK - MARUBENI - MEKONG TRAVEL - MEL FLOORING - MITSUI - MITSUI OSEK LINES - MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE - MORRAN TIMBER - MOSE CO - MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOCIETY - NEW HORIZONS TRAVELS AND TOURS - NING TIMBER - NIKKO HOTELS INTERNATIONAL/JAPAN AIRLINES - NIPPON OIL - NOBLE CALDONIA - NYK SHIPPING - OCEC BANK - OLD BURMA THWAR TRADING - ONGC - ORIENT EXPRESS - PEREGRINE ADVENTURES - PETRONAS - PETTITIS - PTF EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION - PURPLE JARREN - ROAD TO HANADLAY - ROBINS TIMBER - ROLLS-ROYCE - SAFURA EAST PETRO-LEUM DND - SCANSIA SAN BND - SCHENKER - SCHLUMBERGER - SHANGRI-LA HOTELS - SIEMENS - SILVERBIRD TRAVEL - SJPM OFFSHORE - SGS GROUP - SOMPO JAPAN - SRI ASIA TOURISM - STEPPES TRAVEL - SUMITOMO CORPORATION - SUMITOMO MITSUI FINANCIAL GROUP - SUTEC ENGINEERING CO LTD - SUZUKI - SWIFT - TAIGA CONSULTANT LTD - TAISEI - TENNYSON TRAVEL - TOTAL OIL - TRAILBLAZER GUIDES - TRANS INBUS LTD - TRAVEL WORLD MEDIA - ULTIMATE TRAVEL COMPANY - UNITED OVERSEAS BANK GROUP - UTOPIA TOURS - VOYAGES TO ASIA - WILLIAM CARVEY FURNITURE - WILLIS GROUP HOLDINGS - WORLDWOOD - ZARUBELZHEFF

SOURCE : [www.burmacampaign.org.uk/dirty\\_list/](http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/dirty_list/)



## Bangkok has that sinking feeling

October 20, 2007

[Bangkok has that sinking feeling](#) – Yahoo, October 20, 2007

## Annual Hindu procession

October 21, 2007

Categories: Thai Holidays and Festivals



Photos from the annual Hindu festival on Silom Road – October 21, 2007

Thanks to Jokey for sending these photos...

Earlier: [2005: Vegetarian Festival in Had Yai](#)

Earlier: [2005: Annual Hindu procession](#)

(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)



(Photo: Jokey)





(Photo: Jokey)

## Photos from the annual Hindu festival on Silom Road

October 21, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: Jokey)

[Photos from the annual Hindu festival on Silom Road](#) – October 21, 2007

**Earlier:** [2005: Vegetarian Festival in Had Yai](#)

**Earlier:** [2005: Annual Hindu procession](#)

## Let's promote the great Indic civilisation

October 21, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Let's promote the great Indic civilisation](#) – *Times of India*, October 21, 2007

*...To Son Sann, a venerable figure already in his late 70s, Cambodia was an Indic civilisation being overrun by the forces of a Sinic state, and he was bewildered that India, the fount of his country's heritage, should sympathise with a people as distinctly un-Indian as the Vietnamese. Given that Vietnam's invasion had put an end to the blood-soaked terror of the rule of the Khmer Rouge, i was more inclined to see the choice politically than in terms of civilisational heritage. But Son Sann's words stayed with me...*

## Babcock & Brown to buy toll road stake in Thailand

October 22, 2007

Categories: Highways and Roads

[Babcock & Brown to buy toll road stake in Thailand](#) – Bloomberg, October 22, 2007

*...Babcock plans to buy a stake as large as 33 percent for A\$130 million (\$115 million), subject to agreement of Don Muang's shareholders, the Sydney-based company said in a statement today...*

## Chulalongkorn Day 2007

October 23, 2007

Categories: Chulalongkorn Day



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Chulalongkorn Day 2007 – October 23, 2007

Here are some views of the wreaths placed at the equestrian statue of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) at the Royal Plaza.

Also: [Short video clip of the area](#) on the [2Bangkok YouTube channel](#)

Also: [Chulalongkorn Day 2005](#)

Also: [Vintage arch photos from 1907](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

**Above:** Note the wreath from the [People Power Party](#) (on the left)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

## Tiny Thai, aged 11, has big future if she avoids Wie pitfalls

October 23, 2007

Categories: Sports

[Tiny Thai, aged 11, has big future if she avoids Wie pitfalls](#) – *Independent*, October, 2007

*...Her father, Somboon, certainly sounded like a man after B J Wie's heart, if not his business acumen, as he spoke enthusiastically of the professional future of his daughters. "I have a couple of future top 10 players here and I'm really proud," he said.*

*The cynics will no doubt roll their eyes at his comments, particularly in the light of Wie's current plight. Last week, her coach David Leadbetter joined the queue to criticise her advisers – i.e. her parents – following a season in which her reputation plummeted as she missed a whole series of cuts and assembled a catalogue of controversy...*



## D'oh!

October 23, 2007

D'oh! – October 23, 2007

Thanks to the many readers who pointed out the following: *The [big front-page story](#) for Chulalongkorn Day today, “Siam in Europe,” incorrectly lists the date of Rama V’s death as November 23, 1910. It should be October; That’s why TODAY is Chulalongkorn Day.*

## 1 killed, 5 injured in ride accident at Siam Park

October 23, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

**Above:** Site of the incident taken at 13:09, about 40 minutes after the accident.

[1 killed, 5 injured in ride accident at Siam Park](#) – *The Nation*, October 23, 2007

*One woman was killed and five other people were injured when two boats of the Indiana Log ride at Siam Park collided following, causing one to fall out of its way...*

# King of the White Elephant

October 24, 2007

King of the White Elephant – October 24, 2007  
On [Wikipedia](#) and on the essential [WiseKwai...](#)

## Painting insulting to monks axed

October 24, 2007

Categories: Art, Buddhism

[Painting insulting to monks axed](#)

– *The Nation*, October 24, 2007

... "Doo Phra" (watch amulet or watch monk) depicts monks in a crowd watching a Buddha amulet, a practise deemed improper for Buddhist monks.

...Earlier this month, Anuphong Chanthorn's "Bhikku sandarn kar" painting incurred the wrath of monks when it won the National Art Competition organised by Silapakorn University.

The painting depicts monks with pointed lips like a raven's beak, which prompted monks to form an alliance to protect Buddhism and lash out against offending artists.

The alliance recently filed a criminal lawsuit against Silapakorn University for defaming Buddhism...

## Police to announce paedophiles blacklist

October 25, 2007

[Thai cops hunt for dozens of paedophile suspects](#) – Reuters, October 25, 2007

*Thai police, who ended a global manhunt with the arrest of a Canadian paedophile suspect last week, are looking for dozens more foreign suspects, mostly Germans, who may be hiding in the country, a senior officer said...*

[Police to announce paedophiles blacklist](#) – The Nation, October 26, 2007

*The Thai police will soon release to the public a list of 50 indicted Western paedophiles and their photographs that it has received from European police, Pol Maj-General Wimol Pao-insaid Friday.*

*Canadian Christopher Paul Neil, who was arrested last week in Nakhon Ratchasima following a global manhunt, is ranked 13th on the list, said Wimol, commander of the force's Children, Juveniles and Women Division...*

## Three Years Ago: Anniversary of the Tak Bai incident

October 25, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Anniversary of the Tak Bai incident –  
October 25, 2007

Today is the third anniversary of the [Tak Bai incident](#) (on Wikipedia).

**Also:** [The Tak Bai VCDs](#) and other news from the time including the nationwide address by then PM Thaksin (right) as well as Thaksin's condemnation of the *Bangkok Post* for damaging Thailand's international reputation over its reporting of the event and its aftermath.



## Intelligence services tell Burmese media outlet to close temporarily as authorities allegedly plan crackdown on exile organisations

October 26, 2007

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

[Intelligence services tell Burmese media outlet to close temporarily as authorities allegedly plan crackdown on exile organisations](#) –

Mizzima/IFEX, October 26, 2007

*Thai intelligence services told at least one Burmese media outlet based in Thailand to temporarily close its offices, allegedly because the Thai government is planning to launch a nation-wide crackdown on “illegal” Burmese groups based in Thailand.*

*Informed sources told Mizzima that the offices of pro-democracy Burmese opposition groups in Thailand will be searched by security personnel as part of a nation-wide “operation” to be launched in early November 2007. The sources say that the measure follows the Burma military junta’s claims that Thai-based organizations instigated or were helping recent anti-regime protesters in the neighbouring country.*

*The Burmese regime has linked the monks leading the demonstrations in August and September with organisations based in the Thai border town of Mae Sot. Burmese Religion Minister Brig Gen Thura Myint Maung was quoted in the 25 October edition of the state-run newspaper as saying that “bogus monks” who are in contact with opposition groups based in Thailand had instigated the recent protests in Burma.*

*Myint Maung, citing the names of monks who organized the protests, said, “All 15 monks have visited Mae Sot in Thailand and some of them have attended training courses in explosives and community organizing there.”*

## Investigating a tea shop bombing

October 27, 2007

Categories: The Thai Deep South



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)

Investigating a tea shop bombing – October 27, 2007

Kolok reports: *On October 27 the police investigate the place where insurgents planted a bomb at a tea shop and khao yam shop on the road across from the railway in Tambon Thanyongmas, Amphur Rangae. One person died and 14 were injured.*



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)





(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)

## Leftover billboard from the referendum

October 27, 2007

Categories: Signs and Billboards

Leftover billboard –

October 27, 2007

Here is a billboard leftover from the August referendum. It reads:

First time in history – Go for the referendum on August 19, 2007 – Issued by the Office of the Prime Minister



2Bangkok.com)

(Photo:

## Thailand Prostitution Issue Visits Nebraska

October 27, 2007

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Thailand Prostitution Issue Visits Nebraska](#) – Nebraska.tv, October, 2007

*...When asked if families like their children working in bars, Kamram had this surprising response: "Yes, to support the family, and maybe can marry with a foreign husband," she said...*

## **From CIA Jails, Inmates Fade Into Obscurity – Dozens of ‘Ghost Prisoners’ Not Publicly Accounted For**

October 27, 2007

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

[From CIA Jails, Inmates Fade Into Obscurity – Dozens of ‘Ghost Prisoners’ Not Publicly Accounted For](#) – *Washington Post*, October 27, 2007

*...One of them, Abdallah al-Sadeq, was apprehended in a covert CIA operation in Thailand in the spring of 2004, according to Noman Benotman, a former member of the Libyan militant network...*

## **On YouTube: Jakrapop at the FCCT**

October 28, 2007

Categories: Thai Politics

On YouTube: [Jakrapop at the FCCT](#) – October, 2007

## Hue attracts swarms of Thai tourists

October 28, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Hue attracts swarms of Thai tourists](#) – VietNamNet Bridge, October 28, 2007

*...On October 23, Hue welcomed nearly 6,000 Thai visitors, most of whom arrived by land caravan tours on the Trans-Asia Highway through the Lao Bao Border Gate in Quang Tri province...*

## Outer Ring Road Bridge almost ready

October 28, 2007



(Photo: Jerry)

Outer Ring Road Bridge almost ready –  
October 28, 2007

Jerry writes: *Still not open, but today some bikers were crossing the bridge. This photo looking east.*

## Bangkok's clandestine optical disc factory raided

October 29, 2007

Categories: Uncategorized

[Bangkok's clandestine optical disc factory raided](#) – *Business of Cinema*, October 29, 2007

...Investigation Bureau (CIB) together with Motion Picture Association representatives, raided a clandestine optical disc factory in Meenburi, Bangkok...



## Thai rice sales surging as India, Vietnam struggle

October 29, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai rice sales surging as India, Vietnam struggle](#) – Reuters, October 29, 2007

*Thai exporters will be making aggressive offers to sell their rice over the next few months on tightening world supplies, and a strengthening local currency is unlikely to discourage overseas sales...*

## Who is this?

October 29, 2007

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Who is this? – October, 2007

From a billboard on Ratchadapeisek Road: *Find an answer to any labor-related question here.*

*Labour Hot Line: 1546*

Who is the man on the right? One reader thinks it is Sayan, a famous autistic comedian.

# The Nation Hails History-Making Discovery of Incredible Program Called “Spell Check”

October 29, 2007

Categories: Humor

From *NottheNation*: [The Nation Hails History-Making Discovery of Incredible Program Called “Spell Check”](#)

...Group editor Pana Janviroj was fast to claim the news as a trailblazing moment in the history of journalism in the country. “The discovery of this program known as ‘spell check’ is the greatest breakthrough for English-language Thai media in the country since we discovered the thesaurus function in 2002,” he announced.

...The editor-in-chief of the new content-free paper ‘Daily Xpress,’ Tulsathit Taptim, said that the discovery of spell check would not impact the publication’s name. “The new generation of sophisticated readers is much too clever to care about spelling words correctly. For this segment it is important to have trendy misspellings that highlight hip letters, like the letter X in Xpress. Spell check, while obviously an exciting new technology, is more suited to the older generation of ‘Nation’ readers.”

## Election-related editorial cartoon and news – 2007

October 30, 2007

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Elections



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)

**Above:** Voting in Amphur Sungaikolok, Narathiwat Province



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

**Above and below:** Vote counting in Yala Province



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

---



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Time to vote –  
December 23, 2007

**Above and below:** Voters casting their ballots in Krong Pinang, Yala Province in the Thai Deep South



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

---

Choose the upright – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, December 18, 2007

Regarding the general-election to be hosted on December 23rd, I would like to remind eligible voters that their participation in the vote will steer the direction of political future. This is because the nation is facing many problems, including the political breakup atmosphere. I would like to state that it is important that the one who will lead the next government has to be upright, devoting and diplomatic one.

---

**Election competition in Pattani** – translated and summarized from *Thailand Journalist Association*, December, 2007

Regarding a poll on the up-coming general election revealing the Democrats will gain certain numbers of MP seats, Muslim community leader Ismael Ben Jasamit



states that the result might differ from the poll. Ismael says that it is hard for the Democrats to win election in the 2 constituencies in the province in the up-coming election.

However, some election analyst insist that the Democrats' Pattani constituency 1 MP candidate team led by Anwar Salei and Ismael Benibrawhib should win the seat in the constituency 1, comprising of Muang, Kok Poh, Mae Lam and Nong Chick district. Anwar's strong point is that he closely works with locals, both Buddhists and Muslims in the community.

At the same time, former MP representative Den Tohmeen (a Democrat rival) states that he believes the election on December 23 will give way to the return to power of the Wadah political group. He states that his Wadah group will win at least 2 MP seats in the 3 border most provinces, including 2 from Pattani.



"Grassroots" – *Krungtepturakit*, December 12, 2007

It reads: Grassroots

PPP leader Samak is above ground, but the root is Thaksin.



Two-Face –

Na Ban Bangkae by Bancha Khamin, *Manager*, December 12, 2007

Left: Let's have conciliation.

Right: Kill it, must kill it!



[Prachai resigns as leader of Matchima Thipataya](#) – *The Nation*, December 4, 2007

Matchima Thipataya Party leader Prachai Leophairatana resigns from his party on Tuesday after the Criminal Court found him guilty of violating stock market regulations and sentenced him to three years in jail on Monday...

Or not...

[Prachai U-turns on political decision](#) – *Bangkok Post*, December 4, 2007

...Members of Matchimathipataya party voted unanimously to allow Mr Prachai to continue serving as party leader. In a sign of gratitude for their support, he thanked them and asked for a few more days to decide what to do...

And also...

[Prachai may face contempt hearing](#) – *The Nation*, December 5, 2007

Things have gone seriously wrong for Matchima Thipataya Party leader Prachai Leophai-ratana, who was sentenced by the Criminal Court on Monday to three years in jail for stock manipulation...

(Photo:  
2Bangkok.com)

**Left:** November 10, 2007 – It reads: Matchima Prachatippathai Party – 15. Thailand's economy is in trouble. Professionals are in need. Please vote for Prachai Leophairatana.





Don't try too hard! You will only get yourself into deeper trouble! – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, November 23, 2007

The general public are confused by the fact that a large number of former Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party politicians, who have forfeited their right to stand for political office, are still calling for their political rights to be restored. Some of this group have arranged public meetings to express their resentment at the restrictions placed upon them. Still others have set up websites on which they claim that they are being treated like second-class citizens.

Disgruntled former TRT politicians have even encouraging their spouses, children and relatives to compete in the election on their behalf.

Some uneducated and irresponsible people, who still can not comprehend the cunningness of 'tricky' politicians, will continue to receive financial inducements in return for their votes – and will make no attempt to inform the Electoral Commission of these corrupt acts. Such people are yet again encouraging mean-hearted politicians to break the law.

The structure of Thailand's civil society is inadequate to prevent such mean-hearted individuals from becoming involved in politics. The patronage system of this Kingdom is still very strong, and this sad fact is yet again unlikely to provide any real benefit to the general public. The law of the land should be a lot stricter on this issue, and should punish all those who are guilty of such crimes – regardless of whether they are prominent politicians or highly influential people.

December 23 – The Sound of Heaven –

translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, November 21, 2007

There is only one month left before all Thais will get their opportunity to help determine this country's future.

Komchadluek has conducted some research that shows that the People Power Party (PPP) will gain about 190 electoral seats in the upcoming general election – the highest number of any party. PPP will gain the most seats in all regions except for Bangkok and the South. The Democrat Party (DP) will get about 128 seats.

However, there is still a possibility that a well-run DP electoral campaign will eventually lead to it achieving more than our current projection of 128 seats.

Over the past five years, the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party has commanded the highest number of Members of Parliament. TRT was the first political party in Thai history to gain overwhelming support from the electorate in a very short timeframe.

[Campaigner: Viagra used to bribe voters](#) – AP, November, 2007

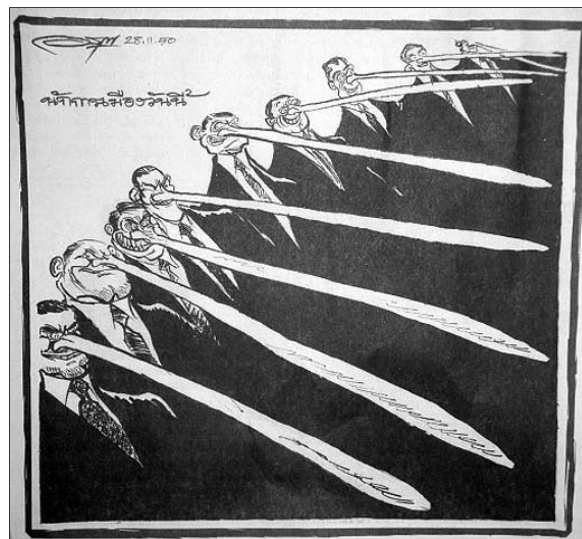
[POLITICAL CLOWNS? – Some unusual candidates and policies have been unveiled for this election](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 20, 2007

...Several years ago Mr Smith ran for the governorship and had the public in stitches when he presented his policy to solve the traffic jams in Bangkok.

He said the traffic was congested because cars had to stop at red lights. To solve the problem, he said, if he was elected governor he would order all traffic lights to be turned green all the time...

[Ousted Thai PM's allies appeal to UN for help](#) – AFP, November 22, 2007

Former members of ousted Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra's political party on Thursday appealed to the United Nations human rights office for help after they were barred from election campaigning...



**Pinocchio** – *Krungtepturakt*, November 28, 2007

It reads: Politician nowadays



Who will be PM? – *Thairath*, November 29, 2007

On the chair it says, "The 25th PM." Several political figures attempt to climb over the boots representing the military government to get to the PMship. These include Abhisit as an infant (top right), big-noses Samak with his chef's hat on (middle), and Banharn carrying a ladder (bottom right). Banharn says, "give it to me first. I am old."

Praying – *Matichon*, by Son, November 29, 2007

Above: Yesterday... Thaksin prays: Eriksson, take my team to the winners, please.

Bottom: Today... Thaksin prays: Samak, take my team to the winners, please.



Populism = drugs – *Krungtepturakit*, November 29, 2007

Top: This election, we get benefits

In the three hands are drug implements with "populism" written on them.  
At the bottom: We can see the big spread of drugs





The wives of Big Bung – *Manager*, Na Ban Bangkhae, November 29, 2007

Left: The asset lists of Big Bung

Right: The wives of Big Bung

At the bottom: This is more interesting



You can be in jail! – *Krungtepturakit*, November 20, 2007

At left are figures representing the 111 banned TRT executives including Sudarat and Chaturon.

In the middle, current Election Commission chairman Apichart Sukhaggonond says: Don't take a risk. Otherwise you will be in jail.

At right, former Election Commission chairman Vasana Puemlarp—who is also incarcerated, says: Don't take a risk. Otherwise you will be in jail.

At the bottom it reads: With the best from Election Commission and Ex-Election Commission.

Populist policies – *Krungtepturakit*, November 21, 2007

Left: On the melting candy it reads: Populism

At the top it reads: Still can sell...



What are you afraid of? – *Na Ban Bangkae*, *Manager*, November 20, 2007

At left, Chalerm Yoobamrung holds a sign that reads,

"Next year, I will be Interior Minister"

In the middle, Samak holds a sign that reads, "Next year, I will be Prime Minister"

At right, the oil barrel holds a sign that reads, "Next year it will be 150 Dollar per barrel"

The barrel says: I get into people's dreams, they are afraid of me and then wake up, but when they dream of both of you they are more afraid of you than me. Why?!

---

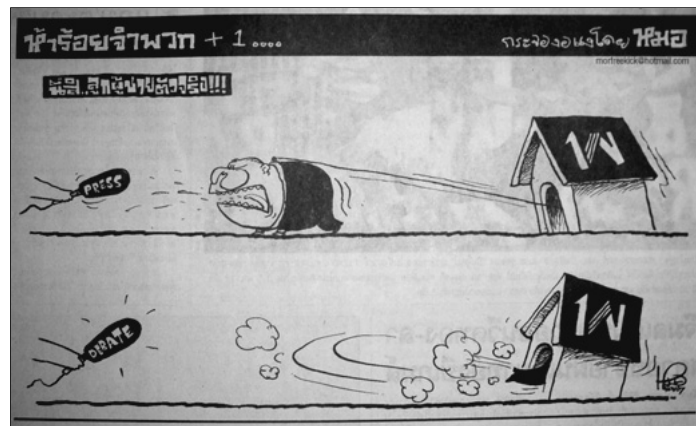


Thai players for Manchester City – *Manager*, *Na Ban Bangkae* by Bancha / Kamin, November 17, 2007

Manchester City coach Sven-Goran Eriksson thinks:

Damn... I was deceived to do a campaign for votes for the PPP!

---



Barking dog – *Krungtepturakit*, November 14, 2007

At the top, Samak, as a barking dog, talks to a "press" microphone. At the bottom, when a "debate" microphone is produced, Samak hides in the doghouse. At the top it reads:

This is a real gentleman!

This is a reference to recent weeks when Samak made extremely bellicose and confrontational public statements. However, after being challenged to a public debate by Democrats' Abhisit, it was announced Samak would not engage in such a debate.

---



Hong, hong – *Manager*, *Na Ban Bangkae* by Bancha / Kamin, November 12, 2007

Left, at the bottom:

Cat's language

The cat is saying

"Meow meow"

Right, at the bottom: Cat feeder's language

Samak is saying:

Hong hong (the sound a dog makes in Thai – basically he is barking)

The meaning of this is that Samak is a well-known cat lover. However, his recent tough statements to the media are said to be like a barking dog. Thus, a person with cat sympathies is barking like a dog.

---

[Leena to sue party leader, Prachai](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 12, 2007

...Suthipol Thaweechaikarn, Secretary-General of the Election Commission (EC), declined to comment much on the case, stating that EC regulations usually applied in cases where political parties attempted to bribe candidates into running in the election race.

"There has never been a case in which the party attempted to bribe a candidate not to contest the election so we will have to examine Ms Leena's documents before deciding what to do," Mr Suthipol said...



Friends – *Krungtepturakit*, November 7, 2007

This striking editorial cartoon shows Sanan and Banharn embrace on the occasion of Sanan's faction joining Banharn's Chat Thai Party. At the top it reads: The party of shark fin

This is to indicate the partnership is an exclusive and expensive partnership made up of elites in the same way shark's fin soup is an expensive dish of the elite. Banharn has fox ears to indicate he is tricky (chau lay). Sanan is drawn with his trademark big ears and bites at Banharn, perhaps indicating the relationship is not a real friendship, but a duplicitous business decision.

Overall the point of this cartoon is to point out the insincerity and venality of the political merger.



Ticking bomb – *Thairath*, November 5, 2007

Gen. Sonthi is tied to the election box that is ticking like a bomb while Samak, in Issan garb, waves from outside.

Varut writes: *The small figure is most likely PM Surayud, not Samak "in Issan garb"*.

*He's dressed as a hermit and he's riding a turtle. That's one of Surayud's nicknames – "Ruesee Leang Tao" or the Hermit who raises Turtles. "Hermit" implies that the person is morally good but somehow reclusive or not connected to the real world. Turtles refer to his ministers who are slow and passive.*

*Note that another PM, Seni Pramot, was known as "Ruesee Leang Ling" or the Hermit who raises Monkeys as his cabinet was full of untrustworthy, unruly people.*

At the top it reads: Tick-tock, time begins to count down

On the box it reads: Election of December 23

Notes around Gen. Sonthi read: The Election Committee, Secret order of CNS, Intercept the People Power Party in every way





The struggle – *Thairath*, November 8, 2007

Samak (with Thaksin's photo behind him) arm wrestles Gen. Sonthi. Other political figures help Gen. Sonthi.

The title reads: This field ...of who? ...for who?

On the box it reads: Election, December 23, 2550

The note on Gen. Sonthi's back reads: Military leads politics

Gen. Sonthi meets CNS – Soldiers assigned to monitor election run-up – translated summarized from *Komchadluek*, October 30, 2007

Deputy Minister of the Interior Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin summoned Defense Minister Gen. Boonrawd Somthat and high-ranking members of the Council for National Security (CNS) to a meeting today.

Gen. Sonthi said – after the meeting – that there had been no discussion about the 'secret documents', as only general issues had been raised.

One source said that Gen. Sonthi and the CNS members had discussed measures to cope with the parliamentary general election on December 23.

It has also been announced that the three parties present at today's meeting will meet every Tuesday – in the run up to the election – to pool information about the nationwide preparations for the poll.

Security force units will be assigned to selected locations throughout the country, and given the responsibility of reporting on the situation in their area on a weekly basis.



"Thai-style democracy" – by Seer, *Thairath*, October 21, 2007

Above Gen. Sonthi's head it reads: Foreigners must understand... Thai-style democracy.

On the left is a drawing of the constitution being supported by a tank (the military). On the right is a military boot on a ballot box. On the box it reads: Election under martial law.



"Sincere and fair" – *Krungtepturakit*, October 22, 2007

On the sign above the runners it reads: Election

Gen. Sonthi (holding a starting pistol) says: I confirm that the election will be sincere and fair.

In the other hand he holds a gun to the head of People Power Party leader Samak. Others at the starting line include Abhisit, Banharn and Chawolit.

---



"Made to order" – *Krungtepturakit*, October 20, 2007

**Bottom left:** Event at the restaurant – "(Made) to order"

PM Surayud says to Gen. Sonthi: Brother... Send the bill to that table. They are going on a huge rampage.

On the sword it reads: Chairperson of Reputation Protection

By the exaggerated nose of one of the characters at the far table, it is clear the person is People Power Party leader Samak who is known for his aggressive and public political attacks. The cartoon probably means that Samak's boldness provides an opportunity for the government to "deal with" Samak in some way to neutralize him.

---

New election rules –

October 25, 2007

Interesting ramification of the new EC rules: *CANCELLATION OF TODAY'S SPECIAL BCCT LUNCHEON \* \* \* DUE TO NEW ELECTION COMMISSION RULES*

*\* \* \* KHUN ABHISIT VEJJAJIVA, Leader of the Democrat Party personally telephoned the BCCT office this morning. His office has been informed by an Election Commissioner, via a journalist, that it is now illegal for him to speak at today's BCCT lunch. Khun Abhisit and the BCCT apologise to all those that had booked to attend for any inconvenience caused...*

---



The "Central chain" – At Ban Bangkae, *Manager*, October 23, 2007

At left, Chawolit, dressed as a clown, thinks: This gang comes strong... they are more funny than I am.

Chawolit carries a tray that reads: Central chain – 1 baht each

Left to right: Sanoh, Prachai, Korn Tapparangsri, and Somsak (?)

This is a scene that references a typical comedic variety show.

The cartoon shows Chawolit as a clown (or joker) as his boast that he will be a "central chain" to apparently merge with other political factions has come to naught. Other political performers are stealing the limelight and leaving Chawolit in the shadows.

---





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Political party billboard – October 12, 2007

It reads: “For the land – For the happiness of the Thai people”

Motherland party Strengthen the nation,  
maintain religion and respect the royal throne for the Kingdom



(Photo: Bangkok Post)

"This hall is just too big" – Bangkok Post, October 19, 2007

**Left:** Peua Pandin leader Suvit Khunkitti speaks to an almost empty hall at the party's first assembly yesterday at Muang Thong Thani in Nonthaburi. Supporters paid by canvassers to attend left straight after having lunch—without waiting for the party leader's address.



Holding the election hostage – Na Ban Bangkae, Poojadkuan, October 8, 2007

Prasong holds a gun to PM Surayud's head and Surayud holds a gun on a ballot box. Surayud says: If my brothers and sisters let this guy kill me, this box will die with me... Will you let him do that?

## Bombings in Narathiwat

October 30, 2007

Categories: The Thai Deep South



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)

Bombings in Narathiwat – October 30, 2007

[Troubles  
in the South index page](#)

Kolok reports: *The police investigate the places where the insurgent bombed more than 10 places in Narathiwat cause. This caused 1 to die and 8 injured. This occurred on October 30, 2007.*



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)





(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)



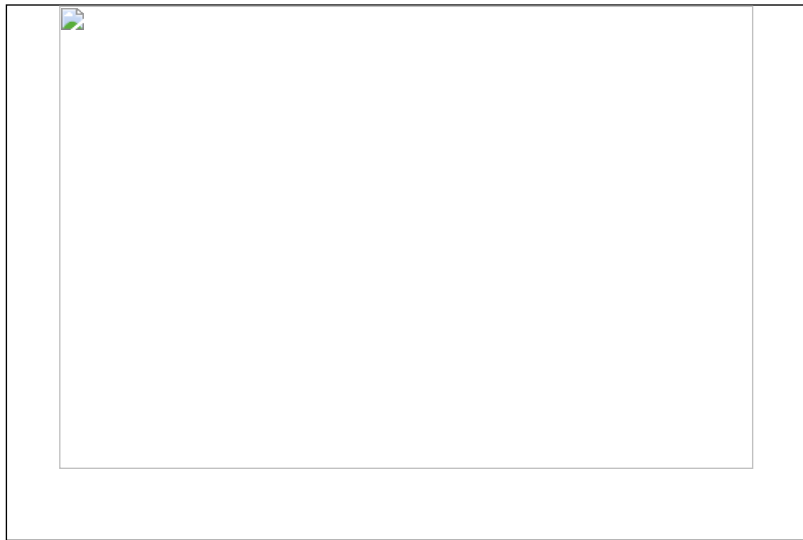
(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)

---





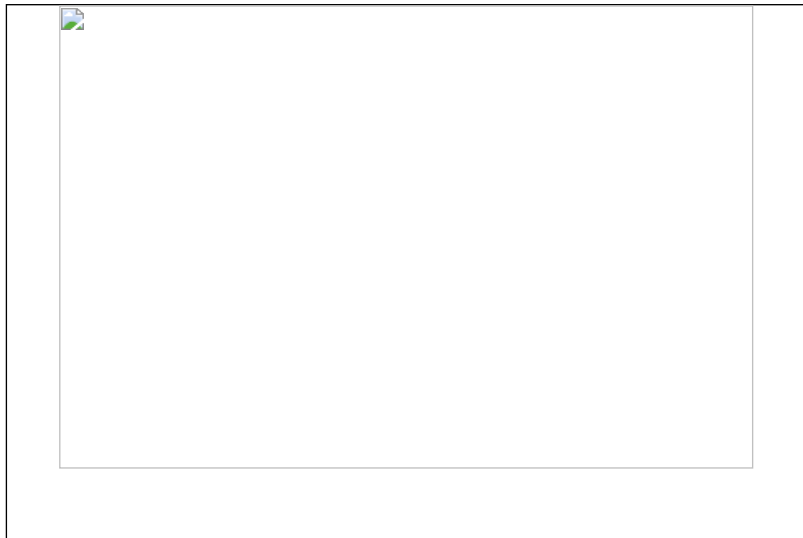
(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)

End of year bombs – December 30, 2007

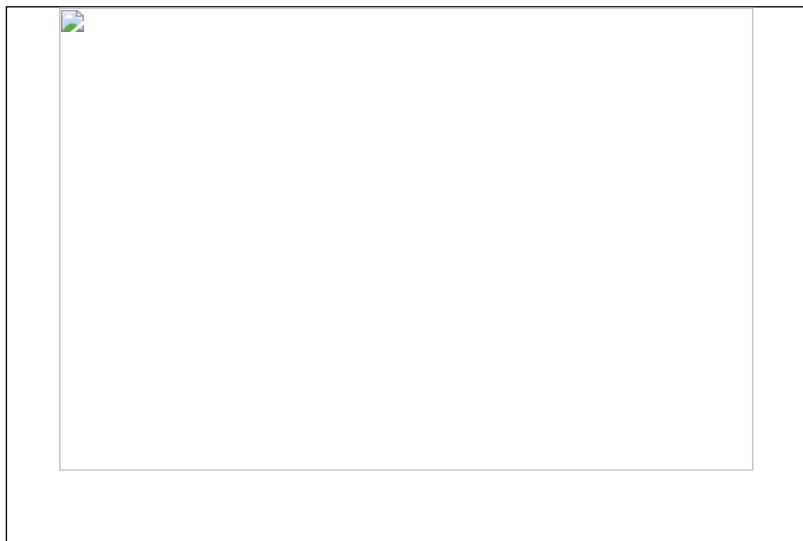
Kolok writes: *The remains of more than 21 motorcycles where the insurgents planted a bomb at the car park at Rivera Hotel, Amphur Sungaikolok, Narathiwat on December 30, 2007. They also planted the bomb at Sabai Sabai Karaoke shop causing more than 32 people injuries.*

**Also:** January

4 is the 4th anniversary of the separatist raid on an army depot in Narathiwat marking, arguably, the start of the renewed violence in the Deep South.



(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)

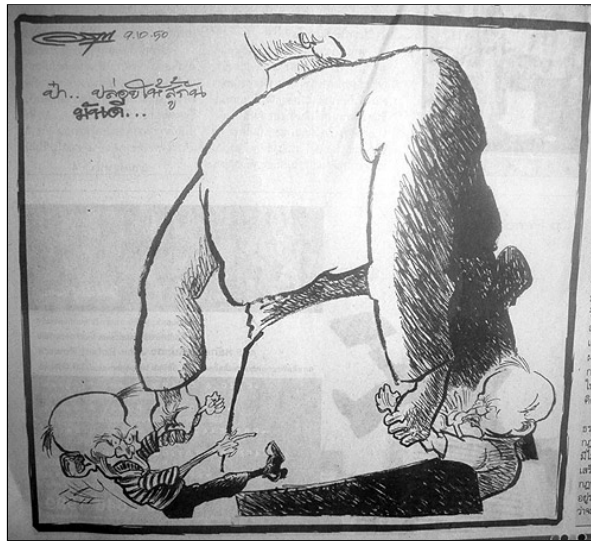


(Photo: Kolok for 2Bangkok.com)

## Thai Media Project – October 2007

October 30, 2007

Categories: Thai Media Project



“Let them fight...” – *Krungtepturakit*, October 9, 2007  
Pa ... Let them fight. It is enjoyable.

---

**Leader of anti-Tesco group threatened** – translated and summarized from *Phujatkhan*, October 8, 2007

Thunya Limpatanakun the owner of a beverage store, is one of the leaders of a group of retailers opposing the construction of Tesco Lotus in Amphur Kampangsaan, Nakhonpatom province. She disclosed to journalists that while she was sitting at her desk, she was just barely missed by a bullet shot into her house. She believed that this bullet was the result of her resistance to TESCO LOTUS construction. She quickly informed the police of the incident.

---

**Editorial: Because he tried to resist the passage of flowing water** – translated and summarized from *Phujadkan*, October 5, 2007

It is unbelievable that Gen. Tossatorn Muang-am has been appointed the permanent-secretary of the Ministry of Interior, replacing Gen. Bannawit Kengrien, who has been dismissed from his post.

These two generals, who played a major role while the country was ruled tyrants, have received a tragic destiny. It shows that brave people will not receive any respect, unlike those that flatter and pander to their superiors. The reason of the transfer could be that Gen. Bannawit obstructed somebody's rise to power.

Gen. Bannawit has done many things for the sake of the Kingdom; he has acted like a hero. However, in this land, these kind of people are not wanted. We must realize that if Gen. Tossarot Muang-am tries to do things which benefit the Kingdom, but steps on someone's foot, he will just be swept by the current.

---

**Editorial: At risk of losing face** – translated and summarized from *Kom Chad Luek*, October 8, 2007

The move to transfer Admiral Bannawit Kengrien from the position of Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence to a chief advisor position and run a disciplinary probe against him has drawn the public's interest.

The reason people are interested is because of the purchase of weapons for the armed forces, including a Ukraine-made armoured vehicle, which cost nearly four billion baht. The purchase was not transparent and some groups are expected to illegally benefit from the action.

Several parties criticized the purchase of the Ukraine vehicle as it is an outdated one and may cause troubles. A Russian vehicle is more advanced by far.

The purchasing process is also questioned.

As long as the force cannot clarify the decision and answer questions, the Ukraine vehicle issue will not end, possibly tarnishing the image of the armed forces.

---

**Revered**

**Buddhist monk passes away, but leaves behind a life's work to remind his fellow Buddhists** – translated and summarized

from *Matichon*, October 12, 2007

The death of revered Buddhist monk Luang Por Panyanandha Bhikkhu was recently announced. Phra Panyanandha devoted his entire life to the Buddhist religion, and taught many people to follow the

good principles of the Lord Buddha. Many Buddhists will mourn the death of this revered monk, but he has left behind his works and his teachings to remind his fellow Buddhists of the principles that they should continue to follow. Phra Panyanandha was widely known for his focus on the attainment of true Buddhist wisdom through daily good deeds.

**Mind the People!** – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, October 10, 2007

The term of the interim government will soon end, with the upcoming general election. We note that there are many ongoing conflicts between Prime Minister Surayud's government and the National Legislative Assembly (NLA), as the NLA is in the process of testing the transparency of the PM and his cabinet. It is important that the government now concerns itself with the well-being of its citizens, who are increasingly faced with problems in the economy and in their standard-of-living.



More fighting sons – *Poojadkuan*, October 9, 2007  
A poll points out that families in Thailand are in turmoil.  
For example: Pa's sons still fight each other.

Brain parasite – *Matichon* by Son, October 8, 2007

Doctor: I x-rayed your brain and found that you have headache at present because this parasite bored your brain.

Surayud thinks: Appears familiar.



**Editorial:**  
**Postponement of election would yield only negative results** – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, October 4, 2007

Several ministers in the Gen. Surayud Chulanont's government have already resigned, including Government Spokesman Dr. Yongyuth Maiyalarp. The National Legislative Assembly is now investigating the moral standing of members of the Cabinet, including Gen. Surayud. It is rumored that Gen. Surayud may resign. The bomb attack on September 30, which injured two police officers, raised concerns among the public. People thought that the election, which has been scheduled for December 23, would be postponed by three to four months. The rumor of the postponement of the election has affected people negatively. Those who understand the situation will know that only natural disasters and the destruction of the constitution can obstruct the election. Thai people are now looking forward to voting on December 23. Other countries are also monitoring whether the election will be held as scheduled. All parties should urge authorities to push for a successful election and do not let some bad apples ruin it.

---

**Editorial: Why**

**topple the PM?** – translated and summarized from *Matichon*,  
October 5, 2007

The article comments on the movements of the National Legislative assembly on checking the performance of Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont and his Cabinet concerning transparency in the administration. The author doubts whether some members of the NLA want the PM to resign from his post. However, the author supports the address of the NLA Chairman, Meechai Ruechupan who says the PM should stay until the interim government ends its term.

---

Editorial: The PM's important mission – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*, October 6, 2007

The government of General Surayud Chulanont has been leading the country towards an election, and many people consider this to be the most important mission of his government. There is a perception, however, that the Prime Minister considers all other issues as of lesser importance. This has led to speculation that General Surayud no longer has a desire to be the country's Prime Minister. Moreover, many people continue to worry that the country will still not be at peace after the election – because of the continuing political conflict. Many people now also view the coup d'état as a mistake, which has led to yet more conflict – as politicians continue to fight over access to the money and power with which they can control the country.

## Foreign teachers under scrutiny after Thai paedophile arrests

October 30, 2007

Categories: Crime

[Foreign teachers under scrutiny after Thai paedophile arrests](#) – AFP, October 30, 2007

*Thai authorities are conducting background checks on more than 1,000 foreigners working in Thailand after a spate of arrests for alleged child sex abuse, a senior officer said Wednesday...*

## **Sunday Market vendors resist demolition**

October 30, 2007

[Bloody Clash at Sunday Market](#) – *The Nation*, October 30, 2007

[Sunday Market vendors resist demolition](#) – *Bangkok Post*, October 31, 2007

## “Flying Pan”

October 30, 2007



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"Flying Pan" – October 30, 2007

## Patong tunnel idea given fresh impetus

October 30, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Patong tunnel idea given fresh impetus](#) – *Phuket Gazette*, October 30, 2007

*The concept of building a tunnel between Kathu and Patong has been refloated and is being researched with an 80-million-baht feasibility study. Building the tunnel alone is already being estimated to cost as much as up to a billion baht...*



## Vietnam named in globalisation index rankings

October 30, 2007

Categories: Vietnam

[Vietnam named in globalisation index rankings](#) – VN Economy, October 30, 2007

*At Kearney consulting group and Foreign Policy Magazine have just released the “Globalisation Index 2007”. This is the seventh time this annual index has been released and the first time it has the name of Vietnam, at the 48th position among the total 72 countries and territories reviewed.*

*...Singapore continues to hold the top position, followed by Hong Kong, which overthrows Switzerland. Malaysia ranks 23rd, falling by four grades. The Philippines also drops by seven grades to 38th, due to the decrease of the foreign investment flow.*

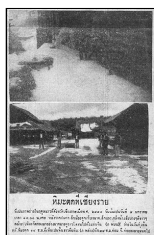
*Thailand's position reduces by 8 grades to 53rd, lower than Vietnam though it was in the ranking list in the first year. The reason for its fall is political.*

*Indonesia is even down by 9 grades, to rank 69th. Though this country doesn't have especially weak points, it is poor in many globalisation factors, for example personal transfer, (68th), telephone traffic (67th), tourism (65th), and government transfer (67th).*

# Snow in Thailand

October 31, 2007

Categories: Uncategorized



Snow in Thailand – October 31, 2007

With temperatures in the far north dipping lower and lower, it is time once again to point out ["The day it snowed in Thailand"](#)

**Also:** "Dynamic" or database-driven sites websites often clog search engines with garbage because of the automatic way they generate useless pages. Take for instance: [Snow and Ski in Thailand](#) which is auto generated by a skiing website CMS–all to generate the META content description: "Thailand Snow Ski Vacation Rentals."

## Territorial losses of Siam 1867-1909

October 31, 2007

[Territorial losses of Siam 1867-1909](#) –

October 31, 2007

Interesting graphic from Wikipedia...

## Japanese firms in Thailand targeted in scam

October 31, 2007

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Japanese firms in Thailand targeted in scam](#) – *The Daily Yomiuri*, October 31, 2007

An increasing number of fraud cases are targeting small and midsize Japanese food-related companies in Thailand...

## **Thai Police Net More than 1,000 Migrants, many Burmese**

October 31, 2007

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Thai Police Net More than 1,000 Migrants, many Burmese](#) – *The Irrawaddy*,  
October 31, 2007

## Railway strike

October 31, 2007



(Photo: Sardortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Railway strike -October 31, 2007

Thanks to Sardortu for sending these photos of the railway strike at Hat Yai Station.



(Photo: Sardortu for 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: Sardortu for 2Bangkok.com)