

Scaling back Xpress already?

May 2, 2008

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines



Scaling back *Xpress* already? – May 2, 2008

One of several readers to point this out: ...Have you noticed the [Xpress](#) has been scaled back from 48 pages to 40? ...

Earlier: About [Xpress](#) and [The Nation](#)

Purple line draws mega-firms

May 3, 2008

Categories: Subway

[Purple line draws mega-firms](#) – *The Nation*, May 3, 2008

Death sign

May 3, 2008

Categories: Signs and Billboards



Death sign – May 3, 2008

These signs are going up all over town. It reads: Be careful of this danger point. During the festival time, this area had an accident and a death. Project of the traffic accident campaign, Bangkok.

Samak, don't be such a @&&%# coward

May 3, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[World press freedom day – but not for thailand](#) – The Nation, May 3, 2008

...The report concludes that Samak is a non-responsive leader who uses every trick of the trade to evade, lie and stonewall rather than provide facts and give an accurate picture of what is going on in the country on a day-to-day basis. He also is rude, impolite and uses abusive language, both during interviews and in the commentaries on his programmes. He also has made sarcastic remarks against journalists. He is extremely insensitive to gender and has no respect for female journalists...

[Samak, don't be such a @&&%# coward...](#) – The Nation, May 3, 2008

...Those air-head shits don't know a goddamn thing about your awesome language skills. Tell me that you did not mean it when you said you'd stop your press conferences for good. Tell me that you just said that to shut your critics up for the time being...

Thaksin and Manchester City: Thaksin Shinawatra asks players to bow

May 4, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin](#)

[Shinawatra asks players to bow](#) – *Sunday Mirror*, May 4, 2008

...Manchester City owner Thaksin Shinawatra has hit the club with another shock by asking for the players to bow to him Thai-style before each game...

Bowing is a traditional mark of respect in Shinawatra's native Thailand. But some at City see this as another example of how the former Thai Prime Minister is turning the club into his personal dictatorship...

[Get to](#)

[know the new Manchester City chairman: Thaksin](#) – *YouTube*,

May, 2008

[Due](#)

[Delusion](#) – *vitalfootball*, May, 2008

[City Fans](#)

[To Protest Thai Owner](#) – *Goal.com*, May 4, 2008

[Man](#)

[City players said in revolt against Thaksin](#) – *Bangkok Post*,

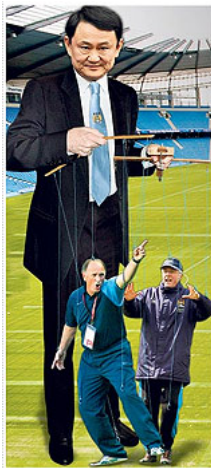
May, 2008

...Thaksin left his son Panthongtae and daughter Pintongta, both installed by him as City board members, to field questions and when, inevitably, asked if Eriksson would lead the tour, Panthongtae froze, mumbled a "yes" then looked desperately to his sister for support. Both left the launch steadfastly refusing to answer questions by the foreign journalists who were in pursuit."

Thaksin and His Muppets on a String

May 5, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Source: *News of the World*)

[Muppets on a string](#) – *News of the World*, May 5, 2008

Thai academics urge media to stop suppressing the rights to differ

May 7, 2008

Categories: Censorship

[Thai academics urge media to stop suppressing the rights to differ](#) – *Prachatai*, May 7, 2008

Thai kids teach locals a few tricks

May 8, 2008

Categories: Sports, Vietnam

[Thai kids teach locals a few tricks](#) – Vietnam Net, May 8, 2008

Towering over their rivals, students from

Stri Wittaya 2 school, Thailand, dominated play not only in football and basketball but also in sepak takraw (rattan ball kicking), a sport in which both Vietnam and Thailand boast top players...

Signs in Mae Hong Son

May 8, 2008

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: Sadartu)



(Photo:
Sadartu)

Signs in Mae Hong Son – May 8, 2008

Above: Malaria, which most people thought it was eradicated from Thailand, is still found in Mae Samlap. Since Mae Samlap is a quay in Salween River where there are a lot of Thai and Burmese people, therefore the warning of malaria infection here is needed to be written in the Burmese language.

Left: Tha Ta Fung, the village of Pakakayor Thai people, is the village where most of the villagers have still very well preserved customs and traditions, especially the language. Nobody thought that such preservation would obstruct learning and teaching of the Thai language in schools. Therefore, the schools have to be announced as the Thai-speaking areas.

Prince Phillip quote map

May 16, 2008
Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Prince Phillip quote map](#) –
May, 2008

The Duke accepts a conservation award in Thailand with his own unique style: “Your country is one of the most notorious centres of trading in endangered species in the world.”

Duang Yoobamrung: Poachers and Gamekeepers

May 17, 2008

Categories: Thai Politics

[Poachers and Gamekeepers](#) – Prachatai, May, 2008

...Acting as any innocent bystander would, Sub-Lt Duangchalerm, as he then was, fled the country. After all, he only had his wealth, his powerful family connections and his father's flair for self-publicity to protect him against malicious charges....

Black May – Censorship issue of the Bangkok Post

May 18, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992, Censorship

Censorship issue, p. 2-3 – *Bangkok Post*, May 18, 1992



Censorship issue, p. 3-4 – *Bangkok Post*, May 18, 1992



[Back to index of 1992 Black May headlines](#)

Black May – ‘Drastic’ action to quell riot

May 18, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992

‘Drastic’ action to quell riot – *Bangkok Post*, May 18, 1992

[Back to index of 1992 Black May headlines](#)



[Back to index of 1992 Black May headlines](#)

Southeast Asian rice cartel plan “going nowhere”

May 18, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Southeast Asian rice cartel plan “going nowhere”](#) – Reuters, May, 2008

But only Thailand, the world's number one rice exporter, and Vietnam have major surpluses, last year accounting for about 47 percent of world wheat trade...

Black May – Bloody battles rage in City

May 19, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992



[Back to index of 1992 Black May headlines](#)

Bloody battles rage in City – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 1992

Black May – Young doctor tells of battles to save life

May 19, 2008
Categories: Black May 1992

Young doctor tells of battles to save life – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 1992

Bangkok Post Tuesday May 19, 1992

HOME NEWS

Young doctor tells of battles to save life

WHILE shooting continued yesterday, an intern doctor faxed a letter to the *Bangkok Post* describing what occurred and how he felt treating patients during the emergency.

Here is his letter.

"I would have been deeply sorry and would have felt ashamed of myself, had I failed to turn up at Samsen Loeung on May 17 to join and give moral support to the democracy-loving demonstrators. I had joined the protest several times and was very impressed with the politeness, peacefulness and generosity of the protesters. I noticed that most of the protesters were educated and had social awareness. I was close willing to participate in the rally, despite the fact that I had to prepare for an examination.

I joined them listening to the Hyde Park (style rally) for about an hour and a half before the protesters moved to the Democracy Monument and the Phan Fah Bridge. There was a huge crowd. These people had the heart to call for democracy.

He said that when he was at the 'fortress' at Maha Chulalongkorn Road, a series of fireworks exploded occasionally to scare the crowd. But the protesters managed to stay calm. They clapped their hands to support one another. MajGen Chamling Domang encouraged the crowd to sit still, saying that in doing so the military would not

attack them and the protesters gave full cooperation to his call.

However, there were some young drunkards who caused a nuisance to both the peaceful crowd and threw rocks against the authorities. MajGen Chamling tried to stop the nuisance which was seemingly aimed to incite unrest since it violated an agreement that they would protest in peace. Finally it was learnt that all the instigators were the 'third hands', he said.

At midnight, the doctor said he noticed first-aid centres set up by his Siriraj junior. They were treating the injured without the help of skilled doctors, so he decided to join the operation and help the victims, most of whom were beaten on the head and body.

Around 1 a.m. 2 a.m., the doctor managed to divide the first-aid centres into two groups, one at Serendang Restaurant and the other at the fortress. The centres were later moved to a temple pavilion. At 2 a.m. he was told that the 'curfew' was announced and MajGen Chamling had been arrested. As he heard that the military would use force to quell the crowd, he told women interns to go home. He was still there with 15 volunteer nurses and doctors. They arranged for emergency first-aid in case there was bloodshed while a first-aid centre in a safe place.

At 3.45 a.m. there was a series of gunshots. HK33 may-be, the letter said.

He then received a woman patient who was shot in the right of the head.

There was lots of blood but the bullet did not go through the brain. I gave her a pressure dressing and waited for the ambulance.

There were three more patients. One was shot in the upper abdomen and the other two were shot in the lower right stomach and the right hand respectively.

"I waited for the ambulance from Siriraj from 1.1 p.m. until 4 a.m. and then decided to use a pick-up truck, called hastily with a first-aid team to send the four to hospital. All of them had a lot of blood. The first three patients died on the way to the hospital."

He said a policeman hit a student on the head then pushed him into the canal.

The victim never emerged. I witnessed at least five deaths. These victims died while being treated before reaching hospital. There were about 15 to 30 people shot and I treated them case by case depending on their seriousness.

He was told that there would be another attempt to disperse the crowd again at 5 a.m. and that he had better keep the first-aid centre in a safe place.

"And an ambulance from Wachira Hospital was coming in, so I went on searching for patients."

At 3.30 a.m. as I approached the barbed-wire barricade - some 50 metres away - there was more gunfire. I lay on the ground and tried to

reach the fortress to find a place to hide without knowing how many more would be left behind fatally injured."

At 6.30 a.m. he decided to take some volunteers out of the riot site to retreat.

A fourth-year student of a technical college who was injured in a clash between Government forces and anti-Shachinda protesters also insisted that police started the riot when they began beating protesters near Wat Su Kiet.

The student, Vorasont, who asked for his surname to be withheld, said he was standing next to hunger striker Prapach Karnolpetch on a road behind the temple when police began to beat people they arrested.

The beating angered protesters who tried to help the victims.

As most demonstrators at Phan Fah bridge heard of the incident, they tried to reach the crowd at Damrong Rak Road.

He said a group of young men who came from a concert at Wang Wian Yai Circle tried to instigate the events that started the riot.

He saw police using their batons to beat the crowd while soldiers used the back of their guns.

He claimed he also witnessed a policeman set fire to a fire truck near Wat Su Kiet fire station.

Other witnesses claimed they saw pickup trucks taking bricks to the police who then hurled them at the protesters.

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Black May – Enough: End this terrible tragedy

May 19, 2008
Categories: Black May 1992

Enough: End this terrible tragedy – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 1992

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ข่าวก่อนหน้าหน้าถัดไป

PostOPINION

Enough: End this terrible tragedy

DESPITE criticism of its undemocratic nature, the recent Thai Constituent Assembly provides a fundamental right for the people to assemble peacefully. Article 64 of the charter says: "The people have the freedom to assemble peacefully and without arms. Such freedom cannot be restricted unless through the virtue of specific law dealing with public gatherings and the protection of the people's convenience in using such public places." The maintenance of law and order in times of war or when the country is under a state of emergency or when martial law is declared.

The right to peaceful assembly where people air their opinions in a non-violent manner is universally guaranteed in the free world. It is one of the basic characteristics of a democracy. Crucial to a peaceful assembly is the restraint by both the protesters and law-enforcement authorities to avoid using force. This was evidenced in the previous week-long demonstrations which passed without violence despite tension which ran high at the time.

Unfortunately, the latest protest against Prime Minister Suthida Kragayoon which turned violent and triggered forceful suppression by the Government has deteriorated into something bordering on a national tragedy. The sort of restraint that was evidenced in the previous demonstrations gave way to emotion-charged encounters and violent clashes between the protesters and security forces. The situation appears to have turned particularly ugly last night as armed government troops tried to quell defiant protesters.

Along with the protesters, those who were targeted by the official use of force and the actions of Maj-Gen Chantong Sriruang and other protesters suffer in the aftermath.

The tumultuous events over the last 48 hours will go down as a dark episode in Thai history. The already fragile political situation and social fabric have been shattered. Scenes of armed violence and bloody clashes that were flashed across television screens around the world have reduced this country's international image to nothing better than a banana republic. The incalculable damage to various aspects of the national economy will probably take years to reverse.

Who is going to be responsible for these disastrous consequences? Which side — between the Government and the protesters — is responsible for "triggering" off the first wave of violence that subsequently led to the chaos? The state of emergency notwithstanding, who bears responsibility for the large casualty toll? What action is being taken to put a speedy end to the nightmarish situation? These are questions that need to be urgently addressed.

It was apparent that a small group of ministers that went on a rampage throughout the course of many days set off the subsequent violence. The Government has invariably accused them of being part of the protesters acting at the behest of the protest leaders — but Maj-Gen Chantong blamed the rampage on the hands work of the Government. Amid these conflicting allegations, it is appropriate for an independent investigation panel to be set up to look into the root cause as well as all other crucial aspects of this tragic episode. This panel can be headed by a neutral person who is respected by the public to ensure that justice is brought to bear on the victims.

In the meantime, both sides will have to exercise extreme self-restraint to put an immediate halt to further violence. Enough damage has been caused to life and property — the country can take no more.

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CIA's secret detention program

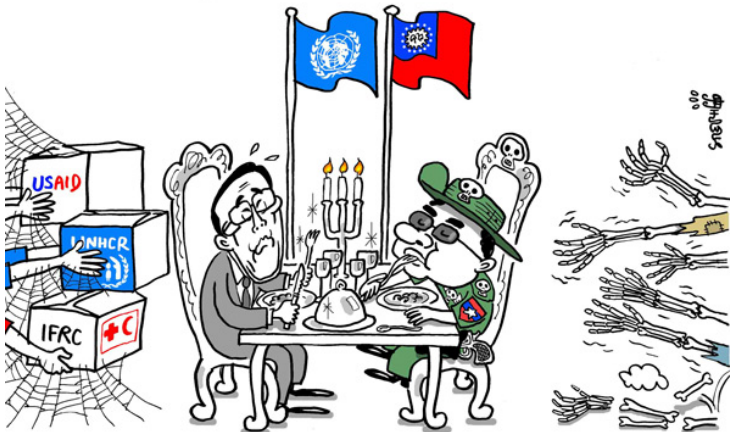
May 19, 2008

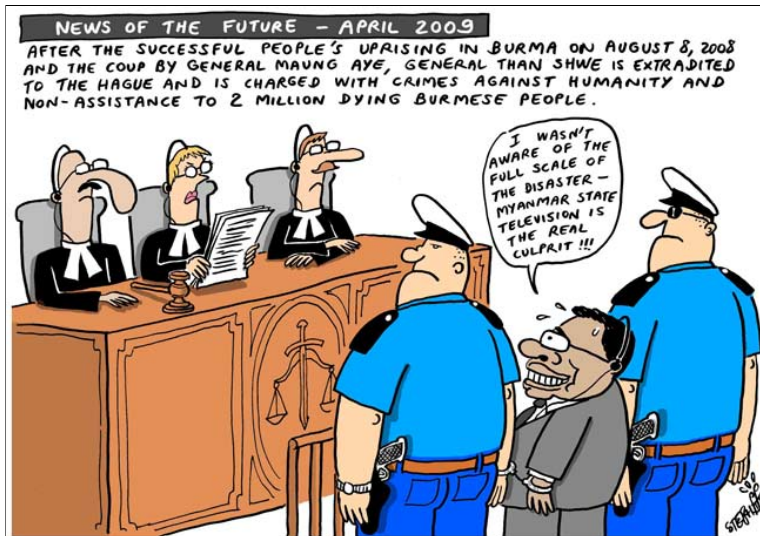
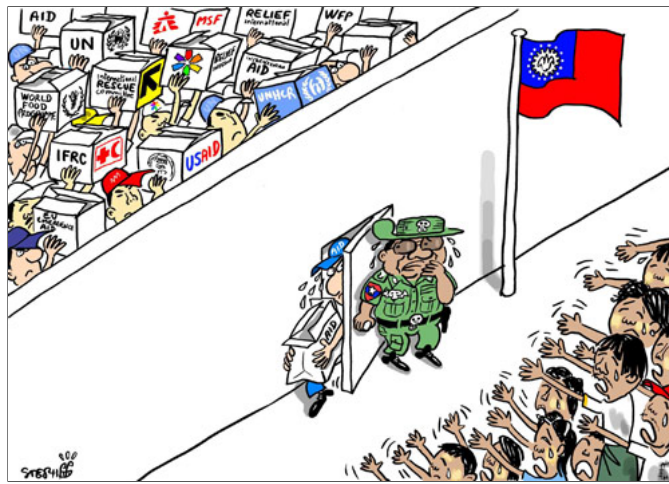
Categories: Thai Secret Prison

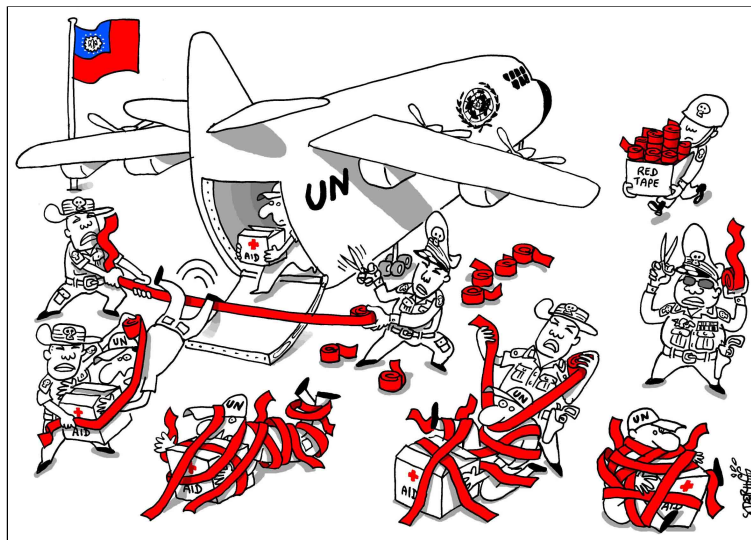
[CIA's secret detention program](#) – May, 2008

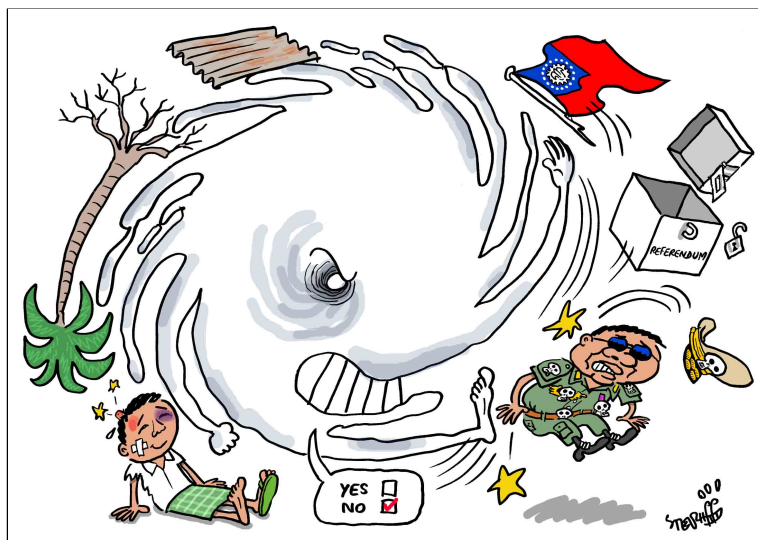
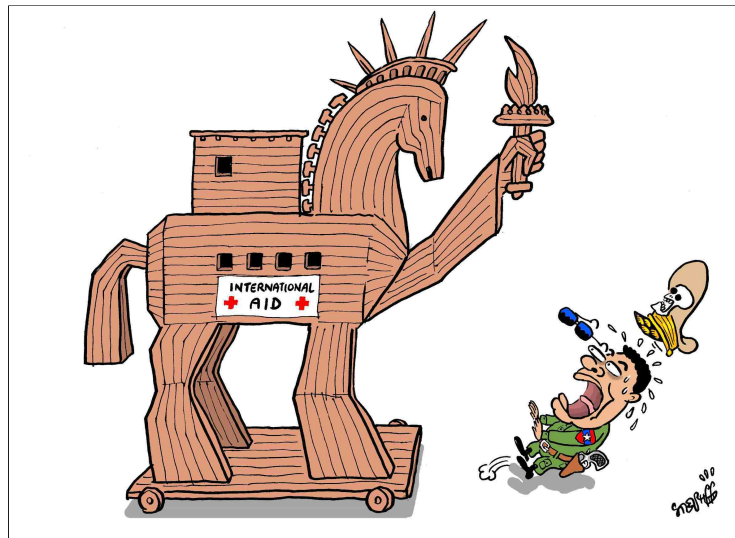
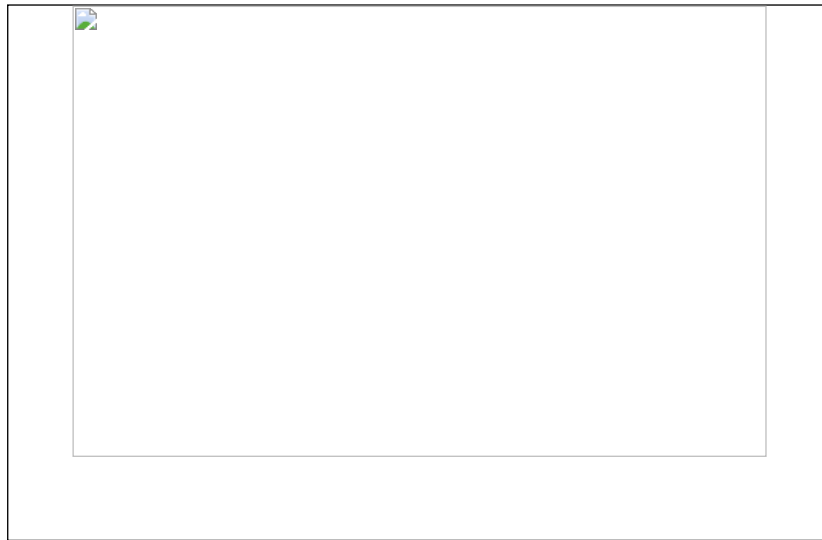
Stephff's cyclone in Burma cartoons

May 20, 2008
Categories: Stephff's Cartoons









Black May – Even dogs turn their backs on this field

May 20, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992, Editorial Cartoons



ThaiRath, May 20, 1992

A cartoon by “Chai Ratchawat” a well-known cartoonist

Title: Village headman named Ma and the Thung Ma Mern field

The caption reads: And one day, a serious epidemic occurred in the Thung Ma Mern village and at the same time a drought hit too... The laughs and joys of Mr. Ma, the village headman, his pal “Jhoy,” and gang were gone... like every actor in the story.

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Black May – Shootings were in self-defence, says spokesman

May 20, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992

The Nation, May 20, 1992

Shootings were in self-defence, says spokesman

Indiscriminate killings denied; TV footage tells another story



Male bluefish (*Morone chrysops*) are known for their voracious appetite and are a popular game fish. They are found in coastal waters and estuaries, and are known for their ability to travel long distances. The fish in the image is a male, characterized by its long, pointed snout and prominent dorsal fin.

Black May – Chronology of Events

May 20, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992

The Nation, May 20, 1992

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS	
May 18 8.40 pm: Troops open fire on about 30,000 demonstrators, most of them sitting on the street in front of the Government Lottery Office. The gunfire continues for 30 minutes. Demonstrators cover bodies of those killed with the national flag while injured protesters are given first-aid by fellow protesters. May 19 2 am: A hijacked gas tanker arrives at the rally site near the Royal Hotel. Some demonstrators tell hotel room occupants, most of them journalists, of an imminent search for protest organizers. They also warn of a possible fire that will result if the gas tanker explodes. 2.10 am: An army spokesman says the military will have to apply forceful measures against what he describes as vandals and arsonists whose targets are government buildings. 3.45 am: The Capital Security Command warns some 30,000 demonstrators to disperse or face drastic action. 4.15 am: Troops fire into the air and on demonstrators continuously for about a half an hour. Many people are killed and a large number of protesters injured. Corpses and injured demonstrators are moved to the Royal Hotel where they wait for ambulances. Troop formations advance from the Kok Wua intersection toward the demonstrators forcing them to retreat toward Suan Luang. 5 am: Troops march up to a crowd of demonstrators in front of the gutted Public Relations Department building, forcing them to retreat toward the Pinklao Bridge blocked and guarded by marines. The marines allow the people to pass through their barricade onto the bridge. There is a standoff between army troops and the marines. The army troops later back off. 5.20 am: Troops arrive at the Royal Hotel, where many demonstrators have taken refuge, and start a room-to-room search for the protesters. The captives are herded downstairs, forced to strip to the waist and lie on the pavement in front of the hotel. 5.40 am: About 1,000 people arrested by troops are taken away in army trucks to unknown destinations. 6 am: Smoldering fires at the Public Relations Department, the Revenue Department and the Government Lottery Office, which were thought to have been brought under control earlier, start burning again. The buildings have been set ablaze by protesters. 8.13 am: Twenty-four army trucks take about 1,000 protesters away from the Royal Hotel. 10.30 am: A police spokesman tells relatives of protesters arrested by authorities that the protesters will be charged with instigating riots aimed at overthrowing the government, violation of the state of emergency law prohibiting the illegal assembly of more than 10 people, and violent attempts to change the Constitution. 10.37 am: The Interior Ministry announces it will provide free transportation for demonstrators who want to return to their hometowns upcountry. 11.05 am: The last group of demonstrators is taken away from Rajdamnoen Avenue to the Bangkok Police Academy. 11.15 am: The Capital Security Command warns commuters using public transport against the possible hijacking of city buses by what it calls "ill-willed people" who will force them to join demonstrations throughout the city. 1.30 pm: Long queues are seen at petrol service stations throughout Bangkok after the Police Department advised operators of the stations to take precautions against possible acts of sabotage. 2.25 pm: Twenty truckloads of troops move into Bangkok by way of Bangpa-Trat Highway to reinforce more than 10,000 already deployed in the city. 2.40 pm: Gen Suchinda, speaking on government-controlled TV networks, denies rumours that the Royal Family has fled the country and that he has withdrawn B200 million from his bank accounts and is preparing to leave the country. 2.58 pm: The Capital Security Command orders all Bangkok metropolitan police stations to reinforce their manpower and step up security measures in anticipation of a possible outbreak of crime. 3 pm: A group of demonstrators carrying the bodies of fellow protesters killed by army troops is escorted and fired upon by troops at Wongwian Yai. No casualties are reported. 3.35 pm: Some 400 protesters march along Petchaburi Road and destroy police kiosks and traffic lights along the way. They hijack four buses and abandon them a few kilometres down the road. According to people in the crowd, they are going to Ramkhamhaeng University. 3.48 pm: About 500 troops disperse several hundred demonstrators on Lam-lung Road off Rajdamnoen Avenue. The troops fire into the air and beat up protesters who refuse to go away. 3.55 pm: The troops clash with protesters who have returned to Lamluang Road but the demonstrators keep coming back to confront them. 4.15 pm: The Capital Security Command denies the rumour that troops have beaten up demonstrators at Victory Monument and that many of the people have been killed. 4.42 pm: At Bangkok Police Academy, a photographer of <i>Nuea Nua</i> daily is beaten up by troops who arrested him on Rajdamnoen Avenue area earlier in the morning. 4.43 pm: Four hundred people threaten to set fire to Chana Songkram police station at the west end of Kaosarn Road unless 100 protesters arrested earlier in the morning are released. 5 pm: Troops clash with protesters in the Pinklao Bridge area. Several people were killed when troops fired on them. 5.33 pm: About 2,000 demonstrators confront troops at Lamluang Road again. 5.45 pm: About 1,000 protesters boo and jeer troops stationed near the Banglamphu department store and refuse to go away even when troops fire into the air. 6.10 pm: A procession of 500 motorcyclists, some of them carrying placards denouncing the killing of unarmed people by army troops, heads toward Ramkhamhaeng University. 6.35 pm: Demonstrators, numbering more than 10,000, set up a stage at Ramkhamhaeng University to denounce the military. 7 pm: A police squad comprising 120 patrolmen is sent out onto the streets to track down motorcycle vandals. 7.20 pm: The crowd at Ramkhamhaeng grows to 20,000 and keeps increasing. 7.24 pm: At Saphan Khao area, a stage is set up and speakers speak out against the military. About 2,000 people gather in the area. Troops are stationed nearby.	

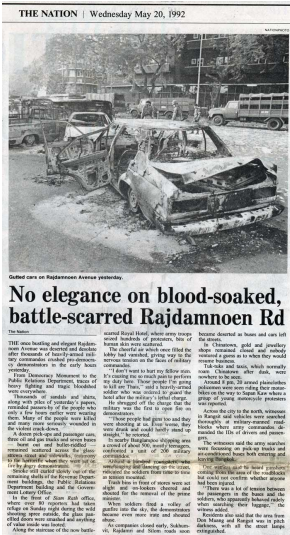
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Black May – City braces for more riots

May 20, 2008
Categories: Black May 1992



The Nation, May 20, 1992



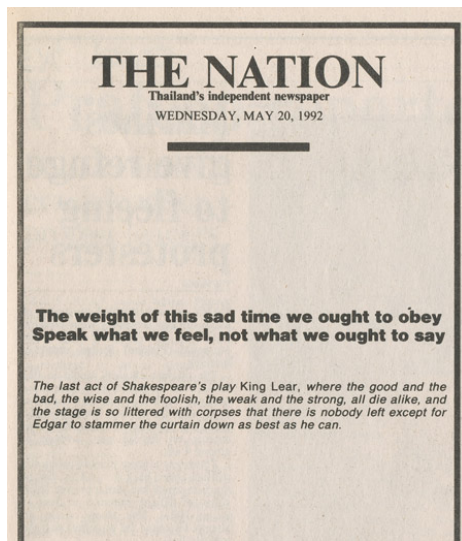
The Nation, May 20, 1992

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Black May – Where peace took its last turn

May 20, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992



Where peace took its last turn – *The Nation*, May 20, 1992



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Black May – Disastrous End-Burning-Chaos in the city

May 20, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992



Thai Rath, May 20, 1992

The big headline reads: Disastrous End – Burning – Chaos in the city – The Public Relations Department severely burnt – Soldiers conquer – Many regretted urgently urged for peace



Thai Rath, May 20, 1992

The caption reads:

The moment Chamlong was taken into custody –

The military inspectors seized Maj. Gen. Chamlong Srimuang and handcuffed him and brought out from the crowd of people who were lying on the street while other soldier team, armed with weapons, was standing nearby at the site

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Huge Protest in City – April, 1992

May 21, 2008

Categories: Black May 1992

Huge Protest in City – *Bangkok Post*, April 21, 1992

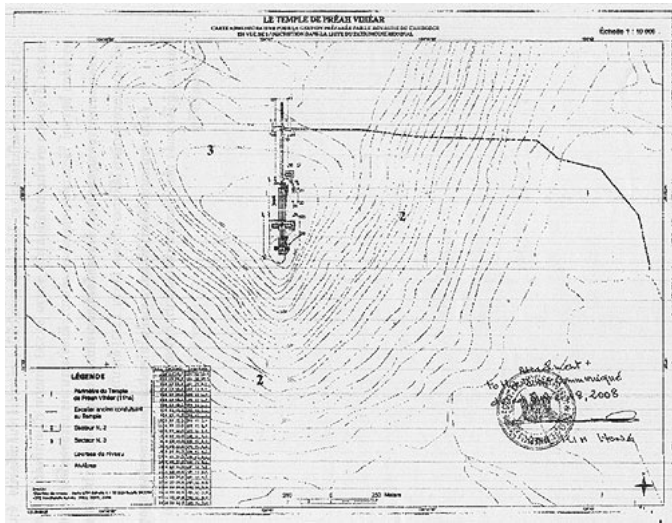
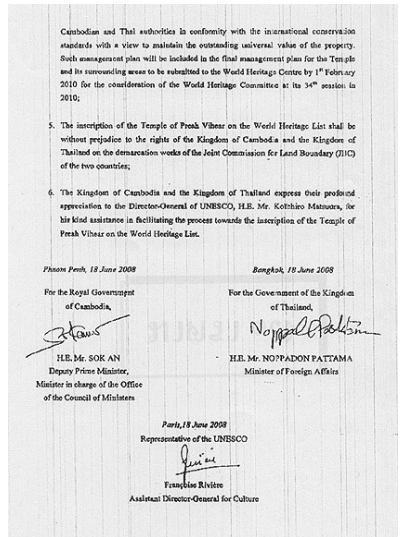
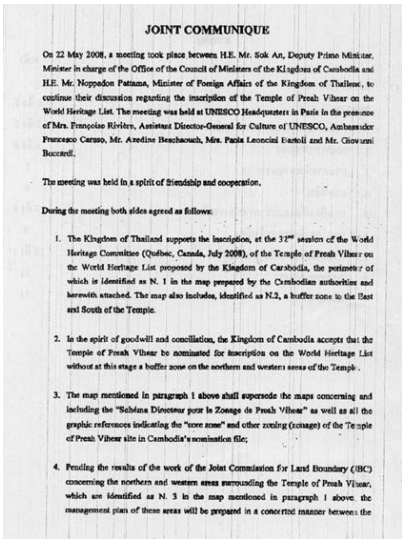
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Preah Vihear Joint Communique

May 22, 2008
Categories: Preah Vihear



Earlier [Preah Vihear Temple news](#)

Manit Sriwanichpoom

May 23, 2008

Categories: Art

Artist: Manit Sriwanichpoom



(Photo: Tang Gallery)

Pink Man Army – May, 2008

Manit Sriwanichpoom's "Pink Man Army" at Tang Beijing in August, 2007

Pas pointed

this out in the [forum](#):

This might be of interest to some of you: a Thai photographer by the name of Manit Sriwanichpoom. His work was featured internationally and recently exhibited at the Venice Biennale. Manit's works confronts social / political issues like the excess of consumption, the impact globalisation, poverty etc. Some of his photos are deliberate dramatisation with actors, sometimes set against derelict landscapes (like the abandon Hopewell pillars and skeletons of unfinished Bangkok skyscrapers). Check it out:

[1](#)

– [2](#)

The Pink Man is both a brash observer and symbol of excess, vulgarity, and falseness. Many Thais are somewhat bewildered or confused by Manit's work. Concepts of darkly humorous socially conscious art are not well established here. There is also a certain resistance or immunity to self-criticism so many people perceive Manit's work as simply a failed attempt at comedy that is in bad taste.



Above: 'Pink Man' inserted in a famous photo of a policeman shooting into Thammasat University during the 1976 coup

On

[this page](#) is one of his most famous images—the Pink Man with shopping cart looming above the Bangkok skyline.

Other great Pink Man images: ["PINK](#)

[MAN IN VENICE \(4\)"; in](#)

[front of a wat](#), with [man](#)

[eating ice cream](#).

Photos of [Manit](#)

[Sriwanichpoom and Sompong Tawee](#), a model for Pink Man.

A variety of [striking](#)

[images](#) from Manit and a [review](#)

[of the Pink Man work](#).

["From](#)

[Desires to Where?"](#) – a joint exhibition by Manit Sriwanichpoom and Weng Fen

On [this](#)

[page](#) at the bottom is a 'modern' version of people fleeing from a napalm attack. Part of [This Bloodless War](#) (1997)

Photos from ["In](#)

[your face"](#)

Talking

pictures – The Star Online,

January 23, 2005

... “Horror in Pink are the photographs of the 1976 lynchings. I published them in 2001 because the newly-elected governor of Bangkok, Samak Sundravej, was believed to have supported the massacre of the students. How could we have let him become governor? Have we forgotten our heroes who died for democracy? Why did these heroes die? ... and I thought the answer was so that we could go shopping.

“The Pink Man in the photos represents today’s people. They have forgotten their history and are only interested in consumerism. The pink man is disturbing because of the amused way in which he looks at the horrible events going on around him. Some people despise him for behaving in such a manner, but many of us have forgotten the sacrifices of the past, so we are not so different...

“My next pink man exhibition will concern neo-nationalism. Again I will use the economic crisis as the starting point because before that, nationalism was on the decline. But in Thailand, I think nationalism is back. Our ruling party is Thai Rak Thai, which means ‘Thais love Thais’.”...

Protest

– a new book by Manit Sriwanichpoom –

Bangkok Post, November 5, 2003

Last month we mentioned Manit Sriwanichpoom, the outrageous artist and commentator on the Thai world. Today the *Post* has an article about his latest book which laments the growing boredom with which the increasingly monolithic government and media treat grassroots issues: *Each Tuesday for a year Khun Mani turned up at Government House to photograph whoever might be protesting. Occasionally, there was no-one but some Tuesdays “yielded three or four major protests, involving hundreds or thousands, like a trade fair displaying ‘Problems of the People’*

”.

Tuesday, one learns from the book, is the protesters’ favourite day because the cabinet meets on Tuesday and there are a large number of reporters around, so your protest has a better chance of being covered in the newspapers the next day. Or at least that’s the way it used to be. Khun Mani notes that today, “now that the so-called mass media are unable or unwilling to do their duty, it is useless to protest even on a Tuesday. However loud and agonised, your cries can no longer penetrate the walls of Government House to reach the ears of the reporters inside...”

...Ms Ing also ponders on the present state of the Thai media: “The Thai media’s state of spiritual corruption at the present time is such that, far from reflecting what is actually happening, they have become a fun-fair house of mirrors, making us laugh or shocking us with their distorted images but giving us no understanding of our problems and the context of our times. They are accurate only in the way that they do reflect, by their own inadequacy, the moral bankruptcy of our nation....

Sunday night PAD protest

May 25, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

Sunday night PAD protest



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Anti-PAD protesters on the south side of Democracy Monument intersection yelling at the PAD crowd.

Sunday night PAD protest

Also: All the earlier rallies – [High tension in Thailand](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Protesters throwing things – May 25, 2008

Raw, unedited footage of a small group of about 40 anti-PAD protesters (right side of the street) throwing things at PAD protesters (left side of the street) at Democracy Monument in Bangkok.

Not the Nation: [People's Alliance for Democracy Protests Against People, Alliances, and Democracy](#)

...As an expression of their democratic principles, the PPP supporters pelted the PAD with bottles, rocks and plastic bags full of feces before being pushed back by police. The PAD, in response, exhibited their traditional defense of Thai values by turning up the volume on their loudspeakers and chanting insults about their opponents' masculinity. Meanwhile, neutral passers-by showed their civic spirit by cursing at both sides to stop blocking traffic.

[Police fail in their job to protect](#) – Bangkok Post, May 28, 2008

Acting National Police chief Pol Gen Patcharawat Wongsuwan owes society a clear explanation for the poor performance of his subordinates in handling the protest by the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) _ and the counter-protest by the pro-government group at the Democracy Monument _ over the weekend. On the surface, the two sides appear to be fighting over the 2007 Constitution _ whether to keep it or to change it. But we all know that deep down the conflict is all about that one controversial man named Thaksin Shinawatra, the former prime minister and de facto leader of the People Power party...

Crowd size – May 25, 2008

[Bangkok Post](#):

The protest, which drew about 5,000 demonstrators, was to continue overnight and today.

[TOC \(ASTV\)](#):

Ten of thousands of People's Alliance for Democracy supporters joined the massive street protest at the symbolic Democracy monument.

Size of the Friday crowd? – May 30, 2008

The Nation: [About 8,000 people join PAD rally Friday evening](#)

[TOC reports](#) 25,000

[Bangkok Post](#): ...PAD leader Sondhi Limthongkul, along with other core leaders, went on stage yesterday evening and read out a statement attacking the PPP-led coalition government to the cheers of over 10,000 supporters of the alliance who gathered at Makawan Rangsan bridge...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

After the second round of water bottle throwing, police line up in front of the anti-PAD group.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The PAD crowd gathered around Democracy Monument.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

PAD stage



Reporting on the Sunday night rally

Komchedleuk, May 27, 2008

Yellow headline: Members of the People's Alliance for Democracy gather on the Makawan Rangsan Bridge

White headline: Two mobs fight aggressively

Smaller white headline: Throwing feces, rocks, punching and hitting others –

Fearing that a third party may cause trouble

Members of the National United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship chasing and hitting the People's Alliance for Democracy's members – about 100 people injured – about ten seriously

Thai Media Project – May 2008

May 30, 2008

Categories: Thai Media Project

Pid Mai Mid – *Matichon*; Column: 'Pid Mai Mid', May 31, 2008

People have long been talking about there being 'graven images' and a highly-significant shrine on Phanom Rung Mountain in Buri Ram Province. It is also said that some other people recently tried to 'desecrate' some of the mountain's venerated objects, in order to control the destiny of the province in such a way that the province might become instrumental in changing the destiny of the country.

It has been reported that a high-ranking Royal Thai Air force officer, of the rank of Air Chief Marshall (ACM), recently held a religious ceremony at Phanom Rung Mountain. It is also thought that the ceremony might have inadvertently motivated others to engage in the desecration of sacred objects that has since taken place at Prasert Phanom Rung .



(Photo: Bangkok Post)

Bangkok Post, May 21, 2008 – An official and security troops inspect one of the damaged ancient statues at the Phanom Rung temple ruins in Buri Ram. The Shiva Linga stone, a symbol of the Hindu god Shiva, was also moved off its plinth.

Some say that the ACM in question is none other than ACM Chalit Pukphasuk (AKA 'Big Toi'), the Royal Thai Air force Commander-in-Chief. ACM Chalit visited an air force radar installation, also based on Phanom Rung Mountain, on April 5.

On the occasion of his birthday on April 5, ACM Chalit made merit at a number of different religious sites. After visiting the local radar installation on the same day, 'Big Toi' was accompanied by a number of military personal and local residents to Prasert Phanom Rung – where they held yet another merit-making ceremony.

ACM Chalit was seen to pray in front of a number of sacred relics at Prasert Phanom Rung – and was even heard to declare that, "I hope the situation in this country will soon improve, and that His Majesty the King will remain in good health."

On April 7, ACM Chalit proceeded to Chiang-Mai Province to [attend a ceremony performed by the famed astrologer, Warin Buawiratler](#). The ceremony was carried out with the explicit intention of prolonging the destiny of the country. The ceremony included a special religious rite to locate a new Buddha image. This new image is said to portray the Buddha in the classic posture of enlightenment after having nearly being defeated by the 'forces of evil.'

ACM Chalit's prayers, at Prasert Phanom Rung, were heard clearly by both the military people and the civilians present at the ceremony. All, who were present, heard the ACM's words – and most would have probably understood their wider symbolism.

It is important to note, however, that the influential people of Buri Ram regularly mix with the more ordinary folks of their province at such social gatherings. This would have meant that ACM Chalit's message would also have been clearly heard by influential local politicians. Given the extreme sanctity of the new national Buddha image in Chiang-Mai; Buri Ram's influential people would undoubtedly have felt great trepidation at the ACM's actions and words. They might also have felt that both of these ceremonies were conducted to deliberately increase their sense of unease.

Regardless of the possible reasons for sacred relics recently being desecrated in Buri Ram Province, 'Big Toi' was so annoyed by the vandalism that he ordered air force personnel to stand guard over Prasert Phanom Rung. He has also since said that the air force will cooperate with provincial officials to ensure that such shocking events never happen again.



...at a higher level – Column: Ma the village chief and Toong Ma Mern; Author: Chai Ratchawat, May 28, 2008

Left – Jakrapob says: We had prepared a troop of people to fight against Gen Prem, but we had to give up because we found someone behind Gen Prem who was in the upper level!

Right – PM Samak says: We had prepared to dismiss Jakrapob, but we had to give up because we found someone behind Jakrapob who was in the higher level than PM.



Jakrapob and the *Manager* – *Manager*, column: Nominee Maew + Nominee Maew; author: Ngao, May 27, 2008

Left to right: Jakrapob says: I polished my flanks about the speech so much that they were gone a lot... / But...Oh! / This is nice...breast is breast...waist is waist...butt is butt / If I had known this before, I would have done it earlier.



‘Even a buffalo swears...’ – Author: Palangkorn, *Daily News*, May 28, 2008

‘Even a buffalo swears...’

The farmer says: Foreigners, don’t expect to own our land! – We will never accept capitalism.

The buffalo says: “Are you teaching us to be slaves?”

Wording on the bag: To buy farmers’ land

It’s asking for a coup when Democrats employ similar strategies to Gen. Chavalit – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, Ngao Sa Thon: Duangta Wannasilp, May 2008

Jakrapob Penkair delivered a speech to the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Thailand (FCCT) last year, in which he seemed to suggest that the time was ripe to force an end to the alleged hegemony of the military, big-business interests and royal institutions over this country’s political system. The words of Jakrapob’s speech recently resurfaced to haunt him – and have since become a very hot political issue.

Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyud has recently commented, on this controversy, that such talk has long been the domain of the nation’s communist sympathizers – and that there are still a few people around who persist in holding such views.

Jakrapob’s speech was actually made on August 29 last year, but the controversy – over the exact tenor of his speech – has only recently materialized. Indeed, this controversy has become the ‘talk of the town’, since certain Democrat Party members first decided that the time was right for the speech to come under the political looking-glass.

To really understand this controversy, we need to take a close look at the Democrat Party’s role in bringing the contents of Jakrapob’s speech to wider public attention.

Senior Democrat Party members complained recently that agit-prop leaflets had been distributed as part of a sustained campaign to discredit their party. They also complained that their party had come under attack on a number of websites – of which some were said to have connections with the ‘old power’. They further pointed out that these attacks also contained smears on Thailand’s monarchy and its Privy Council. The party thus felt itself compelled to publicize the contents of Jakrapob’s speech, on the pretext that those words had set a dangerous precedent in Thai society.

This political tactic looks remarkably similar to the one with which the Democrat Party set out to discredit Pridi Phanomyong in November 1947. Indeed, it almost seems like yet another attempt by the Democrat Party to invoke the support of Thailand’s royal institutions – in its fight to regain political power.

It was Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyud who (long ago) first hinted that it might be strategic to reduce the grip of our military, our big-business interests and our royal institutions on our country’s political system. It should be noted that Chavalit suggested such ‘power’ adjustments as a means to counter the growth of communism in this country.

It now seems that it is the Democrat Party that is intent on dragging Thailand’s monarchy into the political fray. It should be noted that violent political crises have often arisen when this country’s politicians have attempted to conflate the controversial topics of our monarchy and our communist sympathizers in the same political debate.



New danger – By Arun, *Krungtepturakit*, May 15, 2008

It reads: New Danger



Badly injured – by Zeer, *Thairath*, May 15, 2008

It reads: Badly injured –
on the right:: oil crisis – on the left: food crisis – on the leg: terrorism

Dangerous undercurrents stirring for this PPP-led government – translated and summarized from *Khao Sod*, May 18, 2008

Parliament has appointed Chai Chidchob as the new House Speaker, amid scenes of considerable agitation – due mainly to a mistake made by the Interim House Speaker Somsak Kiatsuranont. The Royal Proclamation of Chai Chidchob's new position was not actually read out before the 80 year-old politician took his seat in the House Speaker's Chair. The opposition party was prompted to voice its indignation over this premature action.

It was a chaotic start for Speaker Chai Chidchob, but the proposed amendments of the 2007 Constitution could spell even more trouble for him. These amendments could actually have an extremely negative effect on the Samak administration in the long-term. Apparently, there are no legal experts who are willing to explain the importance of the amendments to the general public. It also seems highly unlikely that Chai Chidchob would ever be capable of convincing the public of the importance of these amendments.

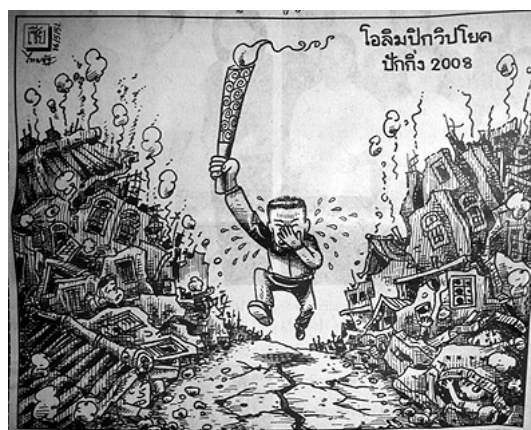
The appointment of the new House Speaker has delighted many Democrat Party MPs. This is because the House Speaker is a critical figure in times of constitutional amendment, and Chai Chidchob seems to be the kind of person who could generate a great deal of dissent in the House. Indeed, the proposed amendments could be likened to a ticking time bomb, as they are likely to cover highly controversial issues.

The Samak administration has a public image that would seem to forebode many future troubles. It is widely perceived to be mostly interested in making decisions for the personal benefit of its members and friends, and is believed to make little effort to listen to differing opinions.

These problems might all cause a great deal of opposition to the proposed amendments, and could also stimulate the expansion of the various public movements that are already ranged against this government. This 'opposition' would be well-advised to begin making plans to take over the reins of power – possibly at very short notice.

Samak, Jakrapob, Thaksin and 'invisible' politics – translated and summarized from *Daily News*, May 18, 2008

It seems that the allegations of lèse majesté against Prime Minister's Office Minister Jakrapob Penkair are becoming increasingly serious. Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej has shown some signs of attempting to protect his minister from these allegations, but appears to have done nothing to reduce the friction that these allegations are causing between his government and the military. It is important to remember that it is the duty of the military to protect the dignity of our royalty. It is rather surprising that PM Samak has gone out of his way to defend Jakrapob, since it is normal political practice for a minister who stands accused of disrespecting our royalty to resign. The underlying reason behind Samak's defense of Jakrapob might just be that the PM thus hopes to gain the greater trust of his Cabinet and his People Power Party members. Conversely, he might also have found compelling evidence that Jakrapob is in the clear over these allegations. Many people appear to believe that former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has been involved in deciding how both Jakrapob and Samak should react in this crisis. Indeed, the more that Jakrapob is protected from the consequences of his own actions, the more Thaksin will fall under suspicion of manipulating Thai politics from behind the scenes.



Grief Olympics – by Zeer, *Thairath*, May, 2008

It reads: Grief Olympics –
Beijing 2008

Current situation is not about too much or too little democracy, but about the faults of our political parties – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit Online*, Column: News Maker: Koh Satanagarn, May 17, 2008

The National Economic & Social Advisory Council President Dr. Gothom Areeya recently commented that the current political conflict in Thailand is somewhat different from the one that occurred at the time of the 'Bloody May' event sixteen years ago (1992). He said that Thailand was experiencing an unprecedented degree of political and public unity in 1992 – and that there was then a very common sentiment that it was time to rid the country of military dictatorship.

Dr. Gothom believes that the current major political issue is not about having too much or too little democracy, but about having a flawed party political system. He also believes that certain politicians, when faced with the possibility of their party's dissolution, are only intent on amending the Constitution to ensure their own political survival – and that this is in contravention of current public opinion.

Dr. Gothom suggests that the rules for any upcoming general election should comply with those laid down by the 1997 Constitution. He warns that Thailand's present political problems could lead to a violent upheaval between political factions, a greater degree of social conflict and an upswing in the violence in the deep

south. He further warns that it is dangerous for Thais to rely only on their emotions when attempting to solve political problems – and that these problems would be better solved by people relying more on their intelligence and powers of reasoning.



Best – By Son, Matichon, May 15, 2008

Top:
Best father

Bottom:
Best son

[Earlier "carrying" cartoons](#)



Flags – by Chai Ratchwat, *Thairath*, May, 2008

Left: This flag is said to be made by farang football fans of Mancity.

Right: This flag is said to be made by Ericson and Mancity football players.



Do you agree? – by Arun, *Krungtepturakit*, May 12, 2008

The general says: Those who agree, raise your hand.

The armband reads: Burma government

The paper he holds reads: New constitution

Behind the general it says: Very good, very good.



Carrying, Part 1 – by Zeer, *Thairath*, May, 2008

On the chair it reads: Reserved for Chai

Under the chair it reads: Chairperson of parliament

Center top: Son's duty, Father's task

The small rat says "For uncle first, I am old already"

The military's current worthlessness – translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*; Author: Panthep Puapongphan, May 21, 2008

The actions of our military must come under close scrutiny, as rumors of an impending coup d'état are spreading by the day. We really should have learned some vital lessons from the apparent worthlessness of previous coups, since they have usually done nothing to prevent the return of bad politicians soon after. We should have already learned that coups can inflict great damage on our economy. We should now know that military dictatorships are unacceptable to those other nations with whom we do business. Military dictatorships frequently violate the constitution, as they attempt to thwart the abuse of power by parliamentary dictatorships. At the same time, parliamentary dictatorships abuse the constitution to absolve themselves of any responsibility for criminal acts carried out by their members during their tenure. Both forms of dictatorship show absolutely no regard for public opinion.

We are currently under the thumb of an extremely powerful parliamentary dictatorship. This government has placed power in the hands of a number of dirty politicians. These politicians have shown that they are willing to abuse their power to protect bad people. These politicians are also willing to support their ministerial colleagues who pose a grave threat to the reputation of our royalty. Crisis now seems to be around every corner. The stability and sovereignty of our nation is clearly affected by these political developments. Our three southernmost provinces face violence on an almost daily basis, but the government seems to be largely ignoring that problem. Additionally, Cambodia seems intent on invading our territory and stealing our heritage. Religion is also being used as a political football by this government, as part of its current attempt to convince people that constitutional amendments are necessary. The reputation of our royalty is being defamed on a regular basis. Ordinary people are suffering from galloping inflation, with higher prices for many goods. In the face of so many crises, we might well ask ourselves what exactly the military is doing about all these things. Have they not always promised to protect the nation, its people and the monarchy? That said, we must also remember that it is vital that we do not once again make the big mistake of thinking that a coup is the only solution to all our problems.



Trying to make me quit – *Manager*, Column: Chim Pai Da Pai, Author: Bancha/Kamin, May 27, 2008

Left:

There are 2 tigers trying to make me quit being PM – yesterday

Middle:

There are 18 Buddhist saints trying to make me quit being PM – today

Right:

There are 67 million humans trying to make me quit being PM – tomorrow

Government must act before things get worse – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*; Column: Criticism, May 21, 2008

There is an urgent need to stop the severe damage that is currently being inflicted on the reputation of our royalty. We must avoid this situation getting even worse, if we are to avoid the defamation of our royalty becoming even more widespread. Our royalty must not be dragged into political conflicts, and must also not be used as an excuse to mount a coup d'état. The Ministry of Interior recently reported that 29 websites are suspected of spreading information that could negatively impact the monarchy – and so cause violent conflict between different groups in our society. One government minister has come under heavy public criticism for expressing opinions that seem to pose a grave threat to our royalty, but the current government shows no haste to ensure that this does not reoccur. The government must act quickly to resolve this crisis. Any action it takes, however, must be conducted in an even-handed and transparent manner.

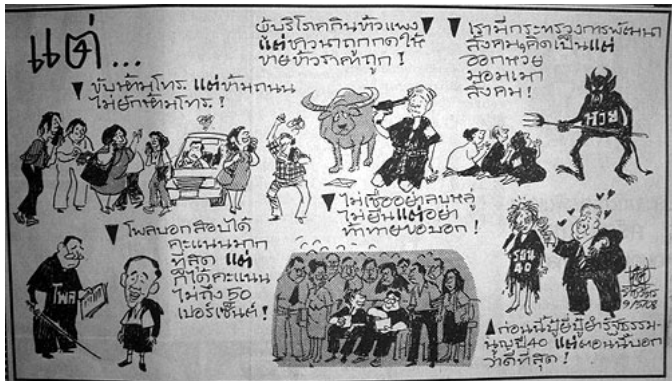
'Big Boss' might even miss his chance to seek political asylum – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Turakit*; Kae Roi Karn Muang; Author: Reporter No. 10, May 26, 2008

It seems that just about all the possible 'next' moves, that the 'Big Boss' can make, are likely to backfire on him in one way or another. One bad move could end all of his chances to regain his former dominance over Thai society. He could even forfeit the opportunity to seek political asylum, if he places a foot wrong.

It is highly likely that the 2007 Constitution will be torn asunder by this government. It is perhaps worth noting that it was only necessary to amend a few articles of the 1997 Constitution, during the writing of the 2007 Constitution. Members of this government continue to talk of their great reverence for the 1997 Constitution, but their proposals for ‘major’ amendments to the 2007 constitution are bound to result in a charter that bears absolutely no resemblance to the object of their supposed reverence.



It reads: Lerm is jealous that Uncle Chai has a good son who is holding his father to be the speaker of the house.



Results of a poll says he will pass with high rank, but he didn't even get 50 percent.

It's your right not to believe, but don't show disrespect or try to challenge.
Previously, he criticized the 1997 constitution, but now he says that it is the best ever constitution.

Analyzing Samak's 'Crazy Coup' obsessions – Lt. Gen. Prayuth may have a future in counter-insurgency down south – Gen. Anupong's anti-coup plans –
translated and summarized from *Matichon Weekly*; Author: Paruehas Asadong; May 9-15, 2008

In spite of the widely-perceived failure of the last military coup d'état (September 19, 2006) Thailand's obsession with coups appears to be completely undiminished. This national obsession has once again been highlighted by the fact that even the Prime Minister now appears to be suffering from 'Coup Obsession Syndrome' (COS).

Prime Minister (& Minister of Defense) Samak Sundaravej's COS sufferings appear to have left him in a political coma. He appears to have become completely obsessed with the recent rumors that a coup attempt might occur on April 21. He has also recently commented that those who favor a coup would almost certainly be prepared to kidnap and detain all the ministers in his cabinet.

PM Samak has also recently said that several groups are trying hard to provoke military officers into staging a coup. He has even posed a rhetorical question as to whether the military will allow themselves to be again provoked into mounting a coup. It seems as if PM Samak truly believes that the 2006 military takeover was nothing more than a 'Crazy Coup'. He appears to be incapable of perceiving that the supporters of the 2006 coup were in complete earnest in their efforts to topple former PM Thaksin Shinawatra from power.

The currently circulating coup rumors are not at convincing. The same could also be said about recent statements about the possibility of another coup by both leading members of the current government and groups of pro-Thaksin supporters. Indeed, these statements appear to have been made as part of a deliberate attempt to create a groundswell of public opinion against the government's detractors.

Around mid-April, a confidential source warned PM Samak and other prominent members of the current People Power Party-led government that they would have to act with extreme caution as enemies of the government were said to be keeping the houses of its ministers under surveillance.

Lt. Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha (AKA 'Big Tu'), the Royal Thai Army's First Region Commander, recently told his officers – during a training session – that he was preparing himself for a possible transfer to conduct RTA counter-insurgency operations in the three southern border provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat. One more issue, that is arousing a great deal of conjecture, is the likely role of RTA Commander-in-Chief Gen. Anupong Paojinda in any fresh coup attempt. Many observers are wondering which side Gen Anupong might opt to be on, as his apparent closeness to PM Samak would seem to preclude him from making any serious comment on the possibilities of another coup. Indeed, Gen Anupong no longer even seems to be capable of defending the honor of his C-in-C position. It is doubtful whether Gen. Anupong is pursuing quite the same hidden agenda as the 2006 Coup Leader Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin. Many observers seem to think, however, that Anupong might actually be intent on fooling both former PM Thaksin Shinawatra and the current PM Samak Sundaravej.

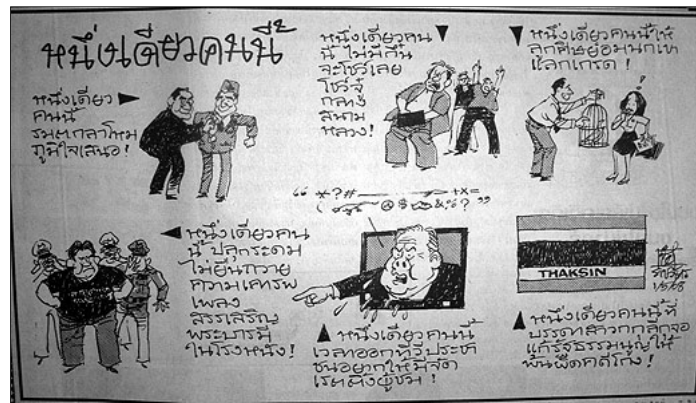
PPP plan, to amend the
Constitution, could unleash violent mob – Military might have to stage
coup – translated and summarized from *Krungtep*
Turakit; Column: News Maker; May 7, 2008

Dr. Chaiyan, a Lecturer at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Political Science, has recently commented on the possible effects of the constitutional amendments currently being mooted by the People Power Party (PPP). He says that PPP moves, to urge the constituent parties of the current coalition government to back the amendments, could have a significant impact on Thai society – with former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra possibly benefiting most from that impact. If the proposed amendments of Section 237 and Section 309 of the 2008 Constitution go ahead as planned, Thaksin Shinawatra might not have to face the ignominy of being proved guilty of corruption. If these amendments do not proceed as planned, it is likely that PPP will instigate a protest mob – and that violent incidents could then arise, in which people might actually get killed. As a result of such incidents, the military would almost certainly feel compelled to stage yet another coup. This action would again put party politics on hold, and the country might again descend into chaos.

Dr. Chaiyan further warns that a future coup would probably take a very different form from the one that took place on September 19, 2006. He says that thousands of people could be killed in any coup in the near future.

CPD warns government about
possible coup – Senator raises idea of new CDC being established – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*,
May 4, 2008

People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) Coordinator & Campaign for Popular Democracy (CPD) Secretary-General Suriyasai Katsila says that a coup could possibly result from the political conflicts that might follow the current government's attempts to rewrite the 2008 Constitution. He has also suggested that the Prime Minister should reconsider his likely role in any such future conflict, by avoiding any form of confrontation that could lead to a divisive political schism. Meanwhile, a group of former members of the Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) – from the 14 southern provinces – have voiced their collective disagreement with the government's haste in bringing about constitutional revisions. The group say that they will campaign against the revisions, and that they will also be encouraging the general public to debate the pros and cons of constitutional revision. Furthermore, a Nakorn Sri Thammarat Province Senator – Siriwat Kraisin – has recently proposed that a new CDC be set up with the responsibility to promote public participation in the constitutional amendment process. Senator Siriwat believes that the establishment of a new CDC could help to prevent the tense political standoffs that could arise from moves to amend the 2008 Constitution.



"This is the one" – *ThaiRath*,
May 4, 2008

Top, left to right: This is the one whom the Minister of the Defense proudly presents
This is the one who has no common sense to show off and, instead, decides to show his penis at Sanam Luang.
This is the one who allows his students to suck his penis for a better school record

Bottom, left to right: This is the one who does not pay respect to His Majesty the King at cinema
This is the one whom people want to be rated when he speaks on TV programs
This is the one for whom subordinates are trying to amend the Constitution to help him defeat all charges.

Those who have long hated Thaksin will now have to endure his nominee, Samak, as PM – Who will be the next PM after Samak? –

translated and summarized from *Matichon*, Column: A Discursive Column, May 2, 2008

Anti-Thaksin factions have been with us since the year 1993, when the government of that time – as led by the Palang Tham Party – changed its Foreign Minister from Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri to Thaksin Shinawatra. That event led to the founding of a 23-MP faction, within Palang Tham, that was opposed to Thaksin's political ascendancy. This anti-Thaksin faction became a great deal more active in 1998, following the coming-to-power of Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai Party in that year's General Election. However, serious opposition to Thaksin's rule only really began in earnest about 3 years after the TRT-led government had swept into power. The September 19 Coup of 2006 marked a high-point for the various anti-Thaksin factions. Prasong Soonsiri was to become the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) during the tenure of the interim government installed by the Council for National Security (CNS).

The December 23 General Election of 2007 brought Thaksin's nominee, Samak Sundaravej, to power at the helm of the People Power Party (PPP) – the main constituent party of the current coalition government. There appear to have been a number of attempts to unseat Samak from the Prime Ministership in recent months, but it is still far from clear who might succeed him in the post if he is eventually ousted.

Highly regrettable actions on the *Prachatai* website – translated

and summarized from *Phujatkan*, Author: Surawit Weerawan, May 1, 2008

I am a keen observer of the online news reports to be found on the *Prachatai* website. Since its inception, this site has usually espoused the political philosophy of its founder Jon Ungpakorn. The website's mission statement suggests it is just another media news outlet – albeit one that places a high priority on keeping the Thai public well-informed. I have recently noticed, however, that the website's reporting style has undergone a considerable change. This change seems to indicate that the site has fallen under the influence of a pro-Thaksin faction. The change has been especially highlighted by the website's recent publication of the articles of two columnists with an opposing political standpoint. 'The Fist' column is penned by Nattakorn Thewakul, whilst its opposing column is the work of Rossana Tositrakul. The two columnists use their opposing articles to showcase the current political conflict that is gripping this country. I would say that Rossana's column is the one that has most in common with the political philosophy of Jon Ungpakorn – the website's founder. That said, readership comments on the two columns indicate substantial support for Nattakorn's column – with many being highly-critical of Rossana's column.

In the mean time, the same two columns are now also being published on our very own *Phujatkan* website – which is widely renowned for its anti-Thaksin political stance. On our site, readership comments are highly critical of the political stance taken in Nattakorn's column – while being relatively supportive of the political stance taken by

Rossana's column.

Overall, I am rather critical of the editorial teams of the various Thai Language online news websites. Indeed, I am now prepared to be especially critical of the Editor of the *Prachatai* website. The site prides itself on being an independent media outlet that aims to keep the Thai public well-informed on developments in our nation's system of democracy – under a constitutional monarchy. *Prachatai* receives financial support from both ordinary members of the public and several large organizations – including the Rockefeller Foundation and the Thai Health Promotion Foundation. Nevertheless, it is still the case that the majority of its funding comes from the public.

A recent *Prachatai* article – that greatly vexed me – was one that encouraged the site's readership to express their support for a young man called Chotisak Onsoong. Chotisak recently became the subject of a *lèse majesté* prosecution, after having

refused to stand to attention during a public performance of HM the King's Royal Anthem. I wish to criticize the editorial team of the *Prachatai* site for a distinct lack of thoughtfulness over this issue. Their controversial position shows that they lack any real awareness of just how sensitive an issue this is for the vast majority of Thai citizens – who mostly hold a supreme respect for their monarchy. I believe that the site's Editor-in-Chief should begin to toe the line with the sound political philosophies espoused by the site's own founder, and by large numbers of other like-minded Thai citizens – regardless of his own personal political bias. I would also like to add that I believe that the Editor's usual high degree of thoughtfulness seems to have completely deserted him over this particular issue.

Election posters in the deep south – June, 2008

June 1, 2008

Categories: Elections, The Thai Deep South

Election posters in the deep south – June, 2008

Right: Yala Pattana Team – Please select – Mr. Ittipol Waedo to be a member of the Yala Provincial Administration Organization – Area 1, Muang District –

No

5 – “No discrimination between each party, we will cooperate for the locals”



(Dr. Has for
2Bangkok.com)



Left: The Democrat Party – Day – Month – 2551 at 8 am-3 pm –
Please select the administration team –
President of the Yala Provincial Administration Organization –
No. 1

(Dr. Has for 2Bangkok.com)

Right: Stop conflicts, bring reconciliation

No discrimination between each party, we will cooperate for the locals – Please select
Mr. Mukdar Mata to be President of the Yala Provincial Administration Organization –
No. 2 –

Yala Pattana Team



(Dr. Has for
2Bangkok.com)

Sunday morning at the PAD protest

June 1, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Cartoon backdrop on the main stage – It shows Thaksin sitting atop a Samak head modeled after the demon named Rahoo that causes eclipses. On either side of the Samak head are government politicians.

Thaksin sits on Samak's head and says: Lots of fun!

Under the Samak head: Thailand belongs to me.

On the red flag: Thief state get out.

To the left of the Samak head: Stop selling the nation.

On the foot on the left: Farmer

On the hand on the left: Laborer

On the hand on the right: Intellectual people

On the foot on the right: Poor people

On the hand on the right at the bottom: Students

Sunday morning at the PAD protest – June 1, 2008

Also: [Map of the area](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: No entry for all vehicles after 16:00



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Flags for the crowd to wave



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Collecting signatures for impeachment of MPs who supported a constitutional change



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Women preparing a vegetarian breakfast for the crowd



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Young children in blue Santi Asoke uniforms eat breakfast while other people take a nap in the shade



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Monks having their morning meal – These are Santi Asoke monks that wear brown color outer robes and eat vegetarian food. They are part of Chumlong Srimuang's group that is participating in the protests.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The protest was stopped in front of the United Nations building.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The main stage – Left (a quotation from a poem): "Fight for building the free way.
The more it is dark, the more the paddy sprouts bloom challenging" – written by Jiranan Pitpricha
Right: Overthrow the Thaksin regime. Chase the puppet government. Thaksin get out!
Banner under the stage level: E-Pen got out – When will Samak go?
The red lettering below reads: Thief politician



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Thailand will has no way to be developed if the "grassroots" do not know about politics.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Police line at the north side of the protest site



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

It reads: Police state – You can take a photo for a memorial



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Homemade riot shields to counter police attempts to disperse the crowd

A Saturday to remember...

[Govt cancels to use forces to disperse protesters: Chalerm](#) – *The Nation*, May 31, 2008

CNN's take: [Thai PM threatens forces on protesters](#)

[Some 150 motorcyclists with green headband gather at Sanam Luang: police](#) – *The Nation*, May 31, 2008

[Police offer to help PAD relocate rally site](#) – *The Nation*, May 31, 2008

Deputy police spokesman Pol Maj Gen Surapol Thuanthong said police were talking to the leaders of the People's Alliance for Democracy to help them relocate to a new rally site...

[PAD forms lines of 100 guards around protest site](#) – *The Nation*, May 31, 2008

[GoogleEarth Placemark for the location](#)

Thread on this situation is [here](#).

And we have to note *The Nation*'s headline for Saturday: '[Easing of political tension](#)' (although few expected PM Samak's surprise announcement this morning that the protests must stop and the PPP will renew attempts to amend the constitution)

[200 anti-riot police deployed at Education Ministry](#) – *The Nation*, May 31, 2008

[Urgent: Metropolitan police chief says protesters to be dispersed today](#) – *The Nation*, May 31, 2008

[Police will deal with protesters, PAD leaders set to surrender](#) – TNA, May 31, 2008

[PM: no coup, constitution will be revised, protest must halt](#) – TNA, May 31, 2008

Stressing that there will be no coup d'état as he ordered anti-government activists of the People's Alliance for

Democracy (PAD) to halt their protest, Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej on Saturday said his government would continue to push to rewrite the 2007 constitution...



(Source: NBT)

[PM threatens to crack down on protesters](#) – Bangkok Post, May 31, 2008

... "I'm here to say that I will take legal action against them because they have no right to be there. I won't let you, nor will police and soldiers," he said.

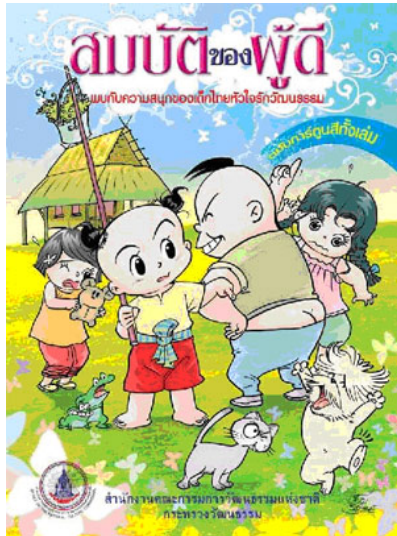
"The country needs peace. The rally has caused damages to investment," he added. "I need to take away this scar. You have the right (to protest), but you have to do it somewhere else..."

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Sombat Khong Phudee cartoons

June 1, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society



Sombat Khong Phudee – June/July, 2008

Quality of well-mannered people

Experience the joyfulness of children who live cultural lives

The Office of the National Culture Commission has published the comic book *Sombat Khong Phudee* (The Qualities of Decent People) for distribution to young people. Some newspapers have speculated that it is in response to PM Samak's use of rude speech. Over the next few weeks we will feature the entire entertaining comic translated into English.

[Part One: Well-mannered people must be in order](#)

[Part Two: Well-mannered people must not behave naughty.](#)

[Part Three: Well-mannered people must be polite](#)

[Part Four: Well-mannered people must have beloved behaviors](#)

[Part Five: Well-mannered people must be dignified](#)

[Part Six: Well-mannered people must do their jobs well](#)

[Part Seven: Well-mannered people must be kind](#)

[Part Eight: Well-mannered people must not be selfish](#)

[Part Nine: Well-mannered people must be honest](#)

[Part Ten: Well-mannered people must behave in a moral manner](#)



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part One: Well-mannered people must be in order

June 1, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society

Sombat Khong Phudee

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Part One: Well-mannered people must be in order

Top: Ahhh! Snake! Snake!

Middle: Hahaha! She runs away. Very funny.
Huh?

Bottom:
Arghh! Snake! /
Hey... boy



Top left: You crazy old man, you, you, you...
You come out without any warning.
I'm frightened

Top left: Rude /
Or you think you are an old man and you can tease me!?

Middle left:
No, I didn't intend to tease you. I was about to ask about a... /
A...

Middle right: Hey, Piak, come play football. / Bouncing sound

Bottom:
Quick. /
Ouch! They don't even say sorry. /
Hehe! I'd better show off.

Top: Zoom /
Hey! /

You, get it, Beckham free kick.

Middle left: Can't these kids play nicely? Don't they see an adult standing here.

Middle right: Hey, Uncle, are you asking for troubles? I heard that. /
Oh, fierce boy

Bottom left: Uncle, who are you looking for? I have never seen you before. /
Err.

Bottom right: I am Buncherm and here is my sister Nong Bai Tong. /
Hi.



Top left: I heard you are looking for someone. You can ask me. / Hmm, he is polite.

Top right: Err, I'm looking for a...

Middle left:
Aaa...Arghhhh

Middle right:
Help!!
Help, Piak has got bitten by a snake.



Bottom right:
Bank kicked the ball and it fell into a bush. Piak got in to pick it up and he was bitten. The snake ran away.

Top: Come quick! You crazy! Ouch!

Help me quick! /
Should we help this impolite boy?

Middle left: Oh, I feel dizzy.

Middle right: Piak! Are you dead!?

Bottom left: One hour later

Bottom right: Dad!



Top: Oh, I'm still alive.

Middle left: Ha ha, I am happy. It must be because of merits I have created which help me.

Middle right: Here! /
Bang /
Why are you hitting me?

Bottom left: You! Keep laughing. You would have been dead if a kind stranger was not a snake specialist. / Doctor? /
He gave (anti-venom) serum to you.

Bottom right: Thank you very much for saving my life, doctor. Err, have you found the a...? /
Yes, I did. Here, a health center. /
Oh, I kept wondering what it was.



Top left: You should thank you friends for carrying you here.

Top middle: We are happy seeing that you are alright.

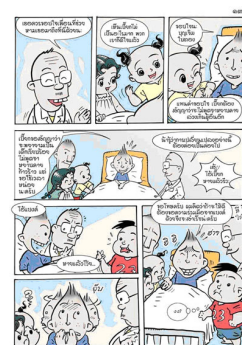
Top right: Thanks a lot, Bunchern and Bai Tong. /
Instead for saying thank you, you must promise us you will not say rude words or insult the others again.

Middle: I promise that I will try to be a polite boy and will not say rude or offensive words. But this must take some times. /
I know that this kind of changes takes time. /
Hey, Piak, you are getting better?

Bottom left: Bank, I'm damn fine now. /
Oops!

Bottom right: I'm sorry. I think, to get this done, we must ask Bank for his help.
Hi hi, ha ha. /
Ha ha, that's right. /
Confused

End of part one



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[Part Two: Well-mannered people must not behave naughty.](#)

Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part Two: Well-mannered people must not be naughty

June 1, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society



Sombat Khong Phudee

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Part Two: Well-mannered people must not be naughty

Top left:

Wow! So nice, Buncher!

Top right: Where do you get the clothes from?

Top right: Are they new ones. They look really nice.

Middle:

He he, no, they are my brother's clothes.

Bottom:

He he, I thought they were outdated.

Top left:

Yeah, it is very old-fashioned and not classy at all

Top right: Bank?

Bottom left: Look at me. Low-cut pants. Attractive to girls.

Middle right: Eiwwww very dirty.

Bottom: right: I see your butt! Gross!



Top: See? I'm so cool that she keep screaming. /
She screams because your jeans are ugly. /
Gross, how can you wear them?

Middle left: Oh, how can you say that? I bought these ones from Siam Paragon!

Middle right: What Paragon? I want to ask one question. Didn't dogs bark at you wearing them?

Bottom left: Yup. I would not be able to eat for days. You cannot compete with Buncher. His clothes are much better.

Bottom right: What? He looks like a joker.

Top left: Hey, have you washed your jeans since you bought them? /

Gross! /

Why do I have to wash them? I will wear them for five days before I have them cleaned.

Top right: Clothes don't need to look good, but they must look polite and clean. You know that? /

Go home and have them washed.

Middle left: At least, there is one person who will praise me. It's cute and trendy Nong Fern.

Bye! I must see her. Bye, you old-fashioned!

Middle right: In front of Nong Fern's house /

Bank, what's going on today? What makes you come to see Nong Fern right in



front of her house? /
I want to show off my brand-new trendy clothes which I have just bought.

Bottom left: Nong Fern must say that I am fashionable.

Bottom middle:
She will get back from her extra class soon. I'd better wait here.

Bottom right:
I have been waiting for quite a long time and my butt gets itchy. Maybe the clothes are too new and I'm not used to it. /
Then scratch it. It's fun.
See? Fun?



Top left: Having fun, huh? / It becomes itchier every time I scratch it.

Top right: Oh, it's time Nong Fern finishes her school.

Middle: Tut! / Hey, Uncle, I have seen you staring at us for quite a long time. Any problems?

Bottom left: Ah, I have some problem. I want both of you to stop your disgusting behaviors.

Bottom right: Who are you to teach me? My own parents never complain about anything.

Top: Dad! I'm coming. /
Oops /
Sweetie

Middle: Bank and Piak, what are you guys doing here? And why are you wearing such ugly jeans? / Stunned /
D... Dad? /
Is Nong Fern your daughter? /
Ugly jeans... gosh

Bottom left: Somebody dirties up our outdoor area. Two of your friends volunteer to help clean it up. You two help each other. I'll check up later. Let's get in the house sweetie.

Bottom right: If we didn't spit on the floor, we would not have to do the cleaning and shame ourselves. / Ugly jeans

Part Three: [Well-mannered people must be polite](#)

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Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part Three: Well-mannered people must be polite

June 1, 2008

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Part Three: Well-mannered people must be polite

Top: Before the school opens, the headmaster arranges a meeting with students and their parents at school to help improve and clean the school, as part to welcome the new semester and to tighten the relationship among residents in the community.

Bottom: Everyone is happy with their assignments and help one another. The school yard then looks better.



Top: I share it to you. / Thank you. / While working, kids know how to share things with friends.

Bottom left: After that, they clean the classroom. / Hey, before the school opens, that mirror was not broken.

Bottom right: It is very late. Khunnai Pak Primprom and her son Lersa come to join an activity after being invited by the headmaster. / Socialites of the village!



Top: Parents can have some refreshing water here. And kids, do you all have water? / I'm so thankful. / I drank already. Thank you. / I must thank kids and all parents for coming to help today.

Bottom left: I will take the tray back. / Oh, such a good boy. I thank you, too.

Bottom right: Son, can you please put this tree pot at the flagpole and don't forget to put beautifully it in order.

Top: Oh, stop now Lersak my son, don't touch anything. We are not slaves.

Bottom left: I thought they invited parents to join a party. But instead, they want us to do dirty chores. Socialites like us cannot accept it.

Bottom right: Right, son? / Err, but I want to do what others do.



Top left: Bang!!

Top right: Don't be that violent to a kid.

Middle : My son is strong enough. He doesn't need to be this gentle like those kids. And adults should pay kids respect? No, I cannot take it.

Bottom left: Madame, a polite behavior, either by children or adults, is a Thai manner.

Bottom right: And that's why there are too many gays. / Oh, you go too far.

Top left: Hey, who is talking about gays? I'm here now. / Eiww

Top right: I saw your face and I want to be your friend. / But I don't want.

Middle: I heard your son is strong? I like that type of man. / Mom, help! / Noooo..my son! I can't take this. Let's go home.

Bottom left: Let's go back son. Run fast. This is disgusting.

Bottom right: Stare... stare / Oops



Top left: Sorry. May I introduce myself. I am Boy and here is my younger brother Bug. /
Yes. /
He asked me to accompany him because he has something to tell his teacher.

Top right: Go on, tell the teacher what you want to. /
Err..I want to say that...

Bottom left: I must apologise to you and the school. I went playing football during the school break and broke a window.
I'm sorry. /
Oh, it's you

Bottom right:
I have saved up 100 baht from my pocket money and I'll pay for the broken window.

Top middle: Sniffling

Top right: I'm so glad there is a student like you.

Bottom: Keep your money. The school will pay for the fixing itself. I want to let you know that your decision to make an apology is a courageous and respectful behavior. /
My brother taught me to say sorry if I do something wrong. /
Oh, although he is not a real man, he is a good person. /
You awesome /
It does not matter who you are. All you need is to be a good person. /
The community will get peace if residents love and forgive each others.



[Part Four: Well-mannered people must have beloved behaviors](#)

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Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part Four: Well-mannered people must have beloved behaviors

June 1, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society



Sombat Khong Phudee

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Part Four: Well-mannered people must have beloved behaviors

Top:
Mico!

Middle:
Bow-bow

Bottom left: Fup!

Bottom right:

Top: /
What's wrong Bai Tong. Your eyes are red. /
Buncherm

Middle left: My cat Sinuan has disappeared since this morning.
I have been seeking, but I can't find it.

Middle right: This is noon now. She has not come out for her lunch yet.

Bottom: Maybe it is chasing after some pigs, oh sorry, rats,
somewhere.



Top left: Yes. I do think so. It might have been running after a rat. /
See? Bank thinks the same way.

Top right:
She might have chasing after a rat and running into a snake.

Middle: And she then became the lunch of the snake.
Ha ha /
Hey!

Bottom left: crying sound

Bottom right: How come could you speak that out? She is feeling low. Look at
the situation. You are saying ill-fated words.

Top left: Oops. Sorry then. The snake might have not eaten the cat.

Top right: It might just fasten on the cat, crush it before swallowing it. Ha ha
/
See. He looks very happy saying these things.

Middle: This man is happy while the others are sad. /
Fun. /
Oops, I forgot that I have to go home feeding my clever dog Hong. /
Bad manners.

Bottom left: Look, I'm going into the woods to collect some vegetables. I'll
help you look for the cat.

Bottom right: Maybe it might have gotten lost in the woods. /
Thank you. I'll go with you.





Middle: Sinuan. Sinuan.

Bottom left: Sinuan. Sinuan.

Bottom right: Mico Mico

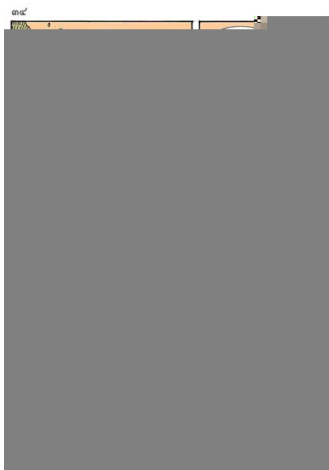
Top left: Mico Mico /
Look. That's Sinuan over there.

Middle left: Sinuan, come here.

Middle right:
Why doesn't it come here? /
What's the matter? /
Mico

Bottom left:
Or she wants us to go there?

Bottom right: Mico / Sinuan, are you alright?



Top left:
Hey, you guys, give me a hand. /
Buncherm, Bai Tong

Top right: My dog Hong hasn't come back yet. I don't know where it is. / Crying

Bottom left: Hey, listen up, what are you guys doing?

Bottom right:
That's Hong.

Top left:
Oh my, I have been wondering where you are.

Top right: Hong fell into an old well. Sinuan then sit here looking after him for a long time to wait for someone to help him.

Middle: Bai Tong, from now on, I will no longer see others' unhappiness as a fun thing. / Moaning /
I'm sorry. /
It's alright.

Bottom:
And thank you, Sinuan, for your kindness and for that you kept looking after Hong. /
Mico

[Part Five: Well-mannered people must be dignified](#)

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Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Well-mannered people must be dignified

June 1, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society

Sombat Khong Phudee

Part Five: Well-mannered people must be dignified

Top: Today is an important day as two of our villagers received the best-person award. /
Woo! / Cool! / Awesome! /
Mr. Pui Kuitoh, please come up and receive the best supporter award.
One Loud cheer, please, my brothers and sisters.

Middle:
Hero! /
I feel so glad, my brothers and sisters. /
Cool Cool Cool Cool! /
This humble award cannot be compared to my big heart which devotes itself for you all. /
Hure Hure! / Wow!

Bottom left: I promise that I will protect our community forever. /
Wow! / Cool! / Hure!

Bottom middle:
The next one is the pride of our village, who received the most well-mannered person award. Mr Or Up-ip,
please.

Bottom right: Well! I'm blushing. /
Er..Er..Hello, well, I'm so glad, no problem and thank you very much.

Top: I'm very excited with this award. /
Be careful, you'll pee your pants if you're too much excited. /
You can't compete your father. He keeps talking.

Middle: Hey, speak more loudly, Uncle Ao. /
You keep teasing him.

Bottom left: This is too much, Piak. I'll hit your mouth./
Wow, Nu Dee, Uncle Ao's daughter, she wants to fight us.

Bottom middle: The upper being is getting mad. A storm is coming.

Bottom right:
Hey, seek a place to hide, a tornado is coming.

Top: The storm is very severe. All residents run for life. Kids lost their ways and run into danger.

Middle left: Hide in a hall. Everyone seeks shelter.

Middle right: Hey, Piak, be care, the storming is coming this way.

Bottom left: Wow! It pulls out a tree.

Bottom right: Kids are in danger. Adults are already safe.

Top left: The storm already comes to Piak.

Middle left:
Bang!

Middle right:
Piak! /
Ngaek!

Bottom: Buncherm, take all kids to my car, quick!

Top left:
Uncle Or keeps trying to move kids into the car amidst the severe storm.

Top right: We are safe. / Thank you, Uncle Or, for saving our lives.

Middle: Oh, am I in heaven? There are lots of stars. /
You are conscious!?

Bottom left: You got hit by a pestle. But there is no need to be scared now. We are save now. We are in my
father's car.

Bottom right: The storm ceases /
Everyone please helps check damages and see if there is anyone injured. The ward is right there.

Top: Good news brothers and sisters, all kids are safe. Mr. Or helped our children from the storm.

Middle left: Or! Cheers! Cool!

Middle right: He he. Don't flatter me. I'm blushing.

Bottom left: Although Uncle Or isn't good at speaking, he has a brave and good heart. /
Be dignified.

Bottom right: Dad, you must stretch your back.

Top left: From now on, I will stretch my back, ok? / Stretching /
Look better! / You cool! /
That's ok.

Top right: Well, where is my father?

Middle:
He is not here and there.
Dad!

Bottom left: Bunchem, where do you think Uncle Pui is? There is no sound from him. /
I think Piak already found him.

Bottom right: The jar is shaking. Is he here?

Top: That's right. I'm here. Has the storm ceased?

Middle left:
He he. /
Is this the hero?

Bottom left: Thank you for saving Piak, Pi Or. /
It's fine.

Middle right:
Reform yourself, please, Dad. / I will not disappoint you again. I promise.

Bottom right: After the event, Uncle Or always walks with his stretched back. /
Dad, do it well. That's too much. /
I'm getting used to it sweetie.

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Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part Six: Well-mannered people must do their jobs well

June 1, 2008

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Part Six: Well-mannered people must do their jobs well

Top:

What? Mr. Porn wants to borrow my money to be a transportation fee to seek a job in Bangkok? /

Oh, I mean it. I will return the money to you as soon as possible.

Middle left: And how can I be sure that I will get the money back if I give you my money.

Bottom left: I'm pretty sure that I will be able to find a job because I will not be choosy. /

You are not choosy, but I fear that they will not want to hire you.

Bottom right: And if you can't find a job, will I get my money back?

/ Oh my...

Top left: I think I won't get into this. You look skinny like fishbone. Who will want to hire you? Borrow someone else. /

Gosh. / Huh? What is Uncle Porn doing at Bank's house?

Bottom left: Toilet /

Eiw..Why does the school toilet smell so bad? Gross

Middle right:

Bank! You are late again.

Bottom right:

I think I will have to punish you. / Oh, I'll be lashed for sure.

Top right:

What are you doing, Bank. Today, teachers no longer hit students. /

Wow.

Middle left: But...

Middle right: You have to clean the men's toilet on Saturdays and Sundays because the janitor is on sick leave. /

Hah?

Bottom left: Oh my, hit me instead, please.

Bottom right:

Bank rushes home to talk to Pek. /

Come on! It's just the cleaning. I'll pay you ten baht, ok? /

Eiw! Handsome men won't do this job.

Top left: Hmm. /

Oh, does classy Bank really have to clean the toilet?

Top right: Hey, look, Bank, let's go see Mr. Porn. /

Huh?

Middle left: Hah!?! Is it true, Pek?

Middle right: Yes, it is. He allows you to borrow his money. /

Yeh!

Yeh! I can go looking for a job now.

Bottom left: But, you must thank Bank for all of this.

Bottom right: Oh, thank you very much, Boss. /

It's alright. He is my father. It is not a big deal.

Top left:

Wait, but you must do something for the boss.

Top right: Anything, tell me.

Middle left: Ha ha, it's done.

Middle right: I don't know if Bank can take responsibility for this easy job. I must check it out.

Bottom: Gosh, he is sleeping. / (on the sign) Men's WC

Top right: I thought he had been sleeping. But in fact, he must be tired from the cleaning. All are clean.

Middle left: Being like this, I hardly believe that he is a responsible boy.

Middle right:

On the signs: Men's WC, Women's WC /

I'd better let him do the cleaning for women's toilet next time.

Bottom: Talking about toilet, I feel like going pottie.

Top left:

Ouch!

Top right: Teacher Malee /

Bang! Bang! /

You! Lecherous thief!

Middle left: No, I am not. /

You, lecherous thief hidden in Women's WC. Here!

Middle right: I'll be dead. What was Mr. Porn doing in Women's WC. I told him to clean only Men's WC.

Bottom: Oh, that's the whole story. You are bad Bank, you can't do such an easy job.

Top left:

And why did Mr. Porn clean in the Women's WC. I told you to clean only Men's WC.

Top right: Er... It was like, when I finished cleaning Men's WC, I saw that that women's side was also dirty. So I decided to do a bit cleaning. That's all.

I didn't think that...

Middle: Bank, you should take Mr. Porn as your ideal. He is hard-working. He also did good job and is not choosy. He keeps his words as well. This is a good man. He is better than the old janitor.

Bottom left: Porn, you are a hard-working person. You don't need to go to Bangkok to seek a job. I will tell the headmaster to hire you as a full-time janitor. / Really, teacher?

Bottom right: And you, Bank, you will have to clean to toilet from Monday to Friday. / Argh! My God!

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[Part Seven: Well-mannered people must be kind](#)

Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part Seven: Well-mannered people must be kind

June 1, 2008

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Part Seven: Well-mannered people must be kind

Top left:

Oh, that's no big deal, sir.

Top right:

People around here are all poor. Most of them are farmers.

Middle: Their eyes will widen if they see money. I'll manage it, sir.

Bottom left: Don't forget my commission. Ok, sir.

Top: Who is prowling in front of the house?

Middle right: He looks suspicious. Get prepared, Hong. /
Grrr

Bottom left:

Bow

Bottom right: Go ahead. Bite him. /

Bow /

Wow, this little dog barks really loud.

Top left:

Hey, listen up kid. /

No. Bite him. I'm satisfied.

Top right:

Hak Hak

Top right: Hur, I'm tired.

Bottom left: Oops, I have dropped my glasses.

Bottom right:

This is too bad. Where are they?

Top left: Are you looking for these?

Middle left: Thank you so much for helping me find them.

Middle right: Here, I give you 100 baht.

Bottom left: I don't want it. I just wanted to help. / This is money.

Bottom right: You are very generous. (He drops the wallet.)

Top left:

Look, I feel hungry now. Do you know any good restaurant around here?

Top right: Try Pa Ju's street restaurant. It's just about 100 metres away from here.

Middle: Pi Bunmee! /

What's up, Buncherm?

Middle: Thanks a lot, Buncherm.

Bottom left: Huh? Hey, is it...?

Bottom right: Thank you very much for the ride.

Top left: I'll give you 100 baht for the gas.

Top right: Oh, no, this is a bicycle. I'm leaving.

Middle left: Hmm, really yummy.

Middle How much does it cost? Wait, I must look for the money first.

Bottom left: Oh my, I think I dropped the wallet on the road side. Oh, I also dropped my handbag which has more than a hundred thousand baht. Gosh.

Bottom right:
Er...Er...

Bottom right:
It's alright. I'm promoting new menu items now. I let customers taste my food for free. I'll take money for the next plate.

Top right: Uncle! Are these two bags yours? Yes, they are.

Middle left:
Hey, that's a candidate for the member of the Parliament position! Sir?

Middle right: I told you to come see me at my house. I'll manage it myself. You just give me the money.

Bottom: Everybody here is kind and generous. They help you from their heart. Ok, from now on, I will fairly compete with my rivals.
I will create a new tradition urging people to use kindness to pay for something. /
It's good. /
Oh, Sir.

Continue to [Part Seven: Well-mannered people must not be selfish](#)

[Contents](#)

Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part Eight: Well-mannered people must not be selfish

June 1, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society

Sombat Khong Phudee

[Contents](#)

Part Eight: Well-mannered people must not be selfish

Top: Wow! All of you make beautiful artwork from dough.

Middle: But, Buncherm, are you sure you are building a buffalo? Isn't it a pig? /
He he /
Ha ha

Bottom left: Everyone did a good job. But tomorrow, the jobs might be more difficult.
It's noon now. We will take a break.

Bottom right:
Come on, let's have lunch. /
Yeh! We are hungry.

Top left: Bai Tong has a boiled egg.

Top middle: Buncherm has Mok Pla Siw.

Top right: Nu Dee has fried green frog, oh no, fried pork.

Middle:
Ok, let's eat together and we'll be united.

Bottom left: Wait, can I join? I have boiled beef with herbs.

Bottom right:
Er, are you interested?

Top left: Your food is so good. Why do you want to share it with us?

Top right: Yes. Our food is not delicious.

Middle left: So what? I'm not a selfish boy. Common, let me join.

Middle right:
See, we'd better let him join as he wants to.

Bottom left: What!? Is this beef? It is as small as rice.

Bottom right: Er... I was hungry before noon. So I ate it and that's what left. He he.

Top:
Ngum, Ngum

Middle left: Hmm, really great. We'd better share our food. It made me full.

Middle right: You are the only one who is full.

Middle: Hey, Buncherm, I bought a new portable game console. You come with me to play it.

Bottom left: No, if Bai Tong and Nu Dee can't play it, I won't play it as well.

Bottom right:
It's your choice. So, just think that I haven't invited you. It's up to you. I'm just trying to share my thing.

Top left:
In the afternoon after school /
Teacher's Office /
Hey, Bank, I...

Top right: What Teacher Malee will make me do again? Err... I have to go back home to play a game, oh no,
to help my aunt sell stuff at her shop. I'm really not available.

Middle:
Buncherm, come here, I want you to do me a flavor. /
Yes, sure.

Bottom left: I want you to help me bring a bread box from the canteen. /
Yes.

Bottom right: I will give the bread to you guys tomorrow. Make sure it's the box with a black ribbon. /
Bread.

Top: I'll give him a hand. For the nation, I can do it. /
You said you are not available.

Middle right: Teacher's Office /
Thanks a lot. /
Yes. /
Yes.

Bottom left: Who will be so dumb waiting until tomorrow?

Bottom middle:
We'll be able to eat only one piece.
A boy like Bank must always eat more than others. / Chomp, chomp /
Why does it smell strange?

Bottom right: The next morning at Bank's house /
Oh... my stomach feels sore. /
What's the matter? Let's go to the hospital.

Top left: Teacher /
Friends

Middle left: Do you guys feel alright?

Middle right: I feel so bad after I had eaten the bread yesterday.

Middle left: That's it. That's why there was some bread missing from the second box. You know what bread
in the second box is not for eating as it is expired.

Middle right: I'll use it for my dough creation subject. Look at your friends' works.

Bottom left: Oh, this is only because of my selfishness. It makes me feel terrible.

Bottom right:
I won't do it again. /
Hospital

[Part Nine: Well-mannered people must be honest](#)

[Contents](#)

Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part Nine: Well-mannered people must be honest

June 1, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society

Sombat Khong Phudee

[Contents](#)

Part Nine: Well-mannered people must be honest

Bottom left: In the morning /
Good morning, teacher.

Bottom right:
Good morning, Uncle Porn.

Top:
Oops, you don't need to 'wai' me. I'm not a teacher.

Middle left:
Receive their wai, Porn. It's good that they show respect to adults. /
Teacher Malee.

Middle right: Thank you. If you don't come help me I won't have this good chance.

Bottom left:
You don't need to thank me. If you were not this hard-working, I would not help you. /
Thank you for the compliment.

Bottom right:
Oops, sorry, I was careless. /
Ouch!

Top left/right: Alright students, today I will teach you moral subject.

Middle: Teacher! /
Yes, Bank?

Bottom left:
Er...some of my books and necessities, which I left in the drawer are lost.

Bottom right:
You lost your things?

Top left:
Teacher's Office

Top right:
Hmm... there is nothing lost inside the school for a long time. Why now?

Middle left: Hmm...

Bottom left: One week later /
All of my stuff in the drawer is gone.

Bottom right: Again?

Top left: This is weird. Things in the drawer were lost during one week. Those children just sit at their regular desks. I never see them around other's desks.

Top right:
Porn, come here.

Middle left: What? There are things lost in the school?

Middle right: Hmm, I haven't seen any strangers getting inside the school. /
Make sure you tell me if you see one.

Bottom left: Hey, why do you take those old table legs? /
Oh.

Bottom right: I'm not busy and I want to try building a table. /
That's good.

Top left:

At night
/ There, turn on the light!

Top right: Halt! Thief!

Middle left:
Hey, Porn!

Middle right: Is the thief you? I have trusted you all the time. /
Oh no, Porn.

Bottom left: Wh..What thief?

Bottom right:
And Porn tells the whole story /
Oh, that's the story. / Yes.

Top: Yes. Like I told you in the afternoon, I saw there were lots of old wood bars. So I wanted to make new ones from them to place old desks in the classroom. I put old desks in the storeroom and never touched those things inside the drawer.

Middle left: Then take me to the storeroom.

Middle right:
Storeroom /
That's my desk.

Bottom left: It's true. My comics and snacks are still here.

Bottom right: Comics and Snacks? /
Oh, I'm in trouble.

Bottom right:
Porn, I'm sorry I misunderstood. That's good Porn, the honesty. But make sure you tell me next time. /
Yes, Teacher.

Continue to...

[Part Ten: Well-mannered people must behave in a moral manner](#)

[Contents](#)

Be good everybody!



Sombat Khong Phudee – Part Ten: Well-mannered people must behave in a moral manner

June 1, 2008

Categories: Culture and Society

Sombat Khong Phudee

[Contents](#)

Part Ten: Well-mannered people must behave in a moral manner

Top: The school is over /
Come quick, we're leaving kids. /
Rak Wicha School /
Wait for me! /
Wait up! / Please sit closer! / Brrr

Middle left:
I hear the bus coming. /
Pack your things quickly, Bai Tong. The bus is coming.

Middle right:
Help! /
Mub! /
Huh?

Bottom: Ouch /
Oh my! /
Gosh! /
Tub! /
Joi! Who did this to you?

Top left:
Ouch!

Top right:
Ouch! /
You are bleeding. It is scary. Who hit you, Joi?

Middle left: Ouch!

Middle right:
Stop saying ouch. Tell me who hit you?

Bottom left:
It's the giant kid of the Pratom 5.

Bottom right: The giant of Pratom 5!? The one who is younger than us?

Top left: Yes. He came forcing me to give him money for the bus's fee. I didn't give him. So he hit me.

Top right: He is a gangster. We should tell Teacher Malee.

Middle left: No, we can't. He told me he will kill me, if I tell the teacher. /
This is cruel.

Middle right: See. I don't know how to get back home. All of my money has been taken.

Bottom left: Here, let's collect money for Joi's bus fee.

Bottom right:
One baht or two baht each. /
Yes. Yes.

Top left:
Er..thank you very much. /
You sure you don't want to go to the nursing room? /
There is no need. I can stand this.

Top right: Here is your fee. You'd better go back home now.

Middle left:
Thank you so much everyone. I'll sit here and rest for a while. You guys go home.

Middle right:
A day later /
That's the Giant.

Bottom left: This is strange. That Giant looks calm. I don't know that he can be so bad.

Bottom right:
And what's the matter. He goes to the nursing room very often. Or he is trying to hide his immoral behavior?

Top left:
That evening /
Joi, you have been hit by the Giant again? /
Ouch! Yes.

Top right:
Gosh. I can't stand this villain. I will tell the teacher.

Middle left: Don't. I don't want to be attack again. I just want the bus fee.

Middle right:
In the evening of the next day /
The Giant

Bottom left: You are late! / Ouch!

Bottom middle: Bro, I'm sorry. The teacher in the nursing room left the room very late. /
Don't hit me.

Bottom right:
Here, don't defend yourself. Give me the merbromin tincture and the bandage. /
Pia! /
Ouch!

Top:
I'm going to put on some makeup to fool them. /
Quick! I may not have enough money to buy cigarettes. /
(Completely mean) /
Yes, Pee Choi.

Middle left:
Making up /
If those stupid people get back before I reach home, I'll hit you.

Middle right:
You /
Teacher Malee /
You cheated us.

Bottom left: He he /
Er...

Bottom right: I know I'm wrong. /
Don't just smile. You always bully people. Follow me to the office. /
Call your parents and tell them to come here right away.

Top left: Why do you let him mistreat you like this? /
I don't want to fight with a senior student.

Top right:
Bai Tong thinks Yak's idea is not right. We must prioritize justice. We must not surrender to meanness. /
I'm being mad for you.

Middle: We should have fought him back. /
Don't do that. Teacher Malee must have punished him hard enough. You'll be unhappy if you keep being angry.

Bottom:
Oh, your words sound like a doctrine. It reminds me to control myself. Thanks a lot, Yak. /
He he, my father taught me. /
This is the benefit of father's instruction. /
Remind yourself that good people will not behave badly.

[Contents](#)

Be good everybody!



Advice to drivers?

June 4, 2008

Categories: Signs and Billboards

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Advice to drivers? – June 4, 2008

Signs at the entrance to the expressway at Din Daeng.

Ousted PM Thaksin retakes center stage as Thais resume street protests 2 years after coup

June 4, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

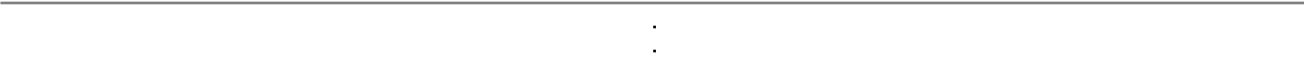
[Ousted PM Thaksin retakes center stage as Thais resume street protests 2 years after coup](#) – IHT, June 4, 2008

...The protests may just be a tip of the iceberg of a fundamental conflict between “the old establishment” represented by the coup leaders and Bangkok’s traditional power-brokers and “the new establishment” of Thaksin and his allies.

Thaksin transformed Thailand by bringing the once largely silent rural population into any future political equation. His return to power, officially or behind the scenes, would likely put populist politics back on track along with other hallmarks of his regime — crony capitalism, corruption and centralization of power...

Cartoons from Stephff

June 6, 2008
Categories: Stephff's Cartoons



Northern People Council demonstration

June 7, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Northern People Council demonstration – June 7, 2008

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Banner on the stage: Show our strength to protest against the PAD

On red flag: Bring back the '97 Constitution

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Dr. Weng Tojirakarn, President of the People's Committee for Reforming the 2007 Constitution, gave a speech to the Northern People's Council at Kuang Tha Phae Gate in Chiang Mai Province, on Saturday, June 7, 2008.

Though there were not many demonstrators after it started raining, a group of die-hard demonstrators crowded at the front of the stage.

On the banner behind the stage:

Northern People Council –

Show our strength to protest against the PAD –

Together with the public sector political group –

Association of northern people loving Democracy, the grass roots and OTOP group, the metropolitan villagers group, the group of 'October people' for Democracy from the north, and the group of June 24 for Democracy

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

The banner reads: Bring back the 1997 Constitution of the people

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

On the yellow sign: Thailand... does not belong to... "PAD"... Therefore, don't lead Thai people into trouble with the feeling of PAD toward the Government ...PAD must care for the feeling of most people in Thailand who want to see prosperity in the country... by the anti-PAD group

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

Views of Sanam Luang

June 7, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Views of Sanam Luang – June 7, 2008

Above: At the south side of Sanam Luang is the crematorium structure of HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana

Below: At the north side of Sanam Luang is the "permanent" stage for the “Anti-Coup d’État People’s Forum” which seeks to counter the ongoing PAD protests. The wording behind the stage reads: We love the King.

Sanam Luang council against the dictator alliance system and unfairness –
Sanam Luang anti-dictatorship

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Bangkok Revolution

June 8, 2008

Categories: Signs and Billboards

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Bangkok Revolution – June 8, 2008

It reads: Bangkok Revolution, must do it quickly.

9 June – all together

Earlier examples of Thai "scare advertising":

[The threatening billboard](#) – [Ghost Game poster 2519-2549](#) – [The return of...?](#) – [Eat somtam](#)

An Announcement of Ratchadamnern Makkawan Demonstration School

June 9, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Press release from the PAD – June 9, 2008

From a press release: referring to last night press conference held by students groups on their stances against the samak administration and for the people alliance of democracy at the stage on makkawan bridge, here is to inform you more about this by sending a relevant statement as attache herewith.

An Announcement of Ratchadamnern Makkawan Demonstration School

Attention please,

This is an announcement regarding the status of the Kingdom of Thailand. Our nation is being devoured by an evil force contained in an angular-faced being. If you are not alert, aware, and very concerned by this development, our country may be completely engulfed in a sea of darkness called Thaksinocracy. Immediate action must be taken to halt this progress.

We must use our flame of knowledge to bring light to darkness. We cannot and will not allow evil to hide behind false legality. We, as individuals loyal to the Kingdom of Thailand, must stand together and bring down a twisted system that people call a nominee government.

We stand here as representatives of the Ratchadamnern Makkawan Demonstration School, which consists of students from colleges and universities in Thailand and abroad. It is not important who we are or where we come from, but why we are here. To recognize the importance of the political debate conducted here at the University of Rachadamnern, we have established our own school for all school children of Thailand.

In our Demonstration School, free debate and thinking is encouraged, and we are given the liberty of expressing our opinions.

We are here today because the current government does not have the mandate of governance. They exist not for the people, but for themselves. They are doing nothing to deal with the current high food and oil prices. They are ignoring the problems of youth and education and instead concerned only to act out every command of the puppeteer. 100 days have passed, and the only notable activity was this government's attempt to twist our constitution so the puppeteer and his peers may escape from justice.

It is impossible to guess what rules we will have to play by in the future. Judging from current events, we can only guess that the rules will be continuously mutated so long as criminals are given the strings of this puppet show.

We have decided that it is time for us youngsters to come out and support the People's Alliance for Democracy. The current government has lost its mandate of governance. This government does not exist for the people, by the people. Instead, it exists to continue with the legacy of Thaksinocracy – a legacy that is solely concerned with draining out every drop of this country's resource for the benefit of a selected group of businessmen and politicians. One does not need to look beyond the transmutation of State Enterprises and the systemized corruption to know that this government no longer deserves our support.

Thus, as free, law-abiding citizens of Thailand, it is our duty to voice our dissatisfaction in the form of this peaceful and legal demonstration. We may be young, but we have the same right as everyone else to make choices. We are the future of our country, and the future does not want this government. What the future wants and needs is a Kingdom of Thailand that still belongs to the people.

As the current youth and the future leaders of this country, we make the following 4 demands:

1. To our peers: It is time for us to be responsible citizens. We must make consciences choices, and this requires a firm grasp of knowledge presented from both ends of the spectrum. We must make the right choices, using our values and morals to separate what is right from what is easy. We cannot let incorrect information govern our choices. We must not allow the problems of our country to slide by uncorrected. We have to stand up, take a stance, and help set things back on the right track. We cannot allow society to dictate our future.

2. To the adults; parents, teachers, and the greater society: Do not try to silence us or shelter us. We want to make our stance, as you did when you were our age. This is our country as much as it is yours. Do not try to protect us from harm, for the danger to our country is greater. Free us from limitations, and let us make our own decisions.

3. To the media and the press: Remember your responsibility of presenting all aspects of news. Be unbiased, as the media should be, and gives us the freedom of choice.

4. To the government, and the police: You must not forget that it is our constitutional right to participate in demonstrations, especially ones as peaceful as the PAD's. The PAD has never used force to attack, and if you carry out your threats of using force to dispel this rally, you are proving to the international community that you are indeed an authoritarian government in disguise.

These are our four demands drawn up with good and pure intentions. We stand by our older students in the fight for the preservation of our country, the Kingdom of Thailand. We will assist in the mission to spread truth to those who have not yet enrolled in our Demonstration School. With perseverance, the truth will prevail.

The Students of the Ratchadamnern Makkawan Demonstration School

Garlic Protest

June 10, 2008

Categories: Food and Drink

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Signs (left to right)

If garlic aren't sold, we have no money to pay for... kid's tuition fees.

Will you let us ... starve or ...

We want the answer...from you

We will fight...for living (Garlic growers)

Oil prices are rising but garlic has no price.

Though Myanmar didn't ask for help, the government instead asked to help.

Garlic Protest – June 10, 2008

Sadortu reports: *Garlic growers from three districts, namely, Mae La Noi, Mae Sa Rieng and Sop Mei, gathered in front of the Mae Sa Rieng District Office asking the government to subsidize the garlic prices. There are two requests: to have the government subsidize garlic prices to be 2023 baht/kg. The reason to help the garlic growers is because the longer the garlic are kept, the weaker they are. The weight of the garlic will reduce. Therefore, the garlic grower network has to request the government to solve the problem within this August.*

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Signs (top to bottom)

We will fight until we die.

We need assistance.

Farmers are in trouble, but you just stay still.

Though Myanmar didn't ask for help, the government instead asked to help.

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

We come to ask for help from the government urgently! – Garlic growers in Mae Sa Rieng District

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Garlic growers group in Mae Sa Rieng District in Mae Hong Son Province and the network.

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

Mae Sa Rieng District Director Mr. Decha Sutthaphol asked the people to be calm as the problem is under consideration.

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

The garlic growers listened to the District Director carefully.

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

The District Director.

(Photo: Sadortu for 2Bangkok.com)

If growing garlic has no price (return), we'd rather grow marijuana instead.

Drink Friday, Cremation Monday

June 11, 2008
Categories: Signs and Billboards

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sign at expressway entrance – June 11, 2008
Friday Saturday Sunday Monday
Drunk -> Pray for funeral -> Kid's ordination -> Cremation
I already told you, but you wouldn't believe "Don't drive drunk"

Another troublemaker missing in Thailand

June 12, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Another troublemaker missing in Thailand](#) – UPI, June 12, 2008

The authorities in Khon Kaen probably did not like Kamol Laosophaphant. His campaign to expose corrupt council dealings over state railway land, among other things, reportedly had a group of police ready to beat him up just last year...

Kamol, as it happened, had cause for concern. On Feb. 7 he went to the Baan Phai station to lodge one of a dozen criminal complaints that he was preparing against local officials. He never came back to his house only a few hundred meters away...

A thread about disappearances is [here](#).

Thaksin wants to change Manchester City's club crest to remind him of home in Thailand

June 15, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thaksin Shinawatra wants to change Manchester City's club crest to remind him of home in Thailand](#) – *Sunday Mirror*, June 15, 2008

Manchester City's billionaire owner Thaksin Shinawatra is changing the club's crest... to remind him of home in Thailand.

It means City's golden eagle could be replaced by an elephant or even a mythical half-bird half-human garuda, which are both national symbols in Thailand...

Thaksin urges Thais to put their faith in the stars

June 16, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thaksin urges Thais to put their faith in the stars](#) – AFP, June 16, 2008

Thailand's ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra on Monday urged Thais to put their faith in the stars, blaming the alignment of planets for the current economic and political woes...

"Be patient with this headache of a situation until July 2. When Mars leaves, the current situation will ease up," he said.

Like many Thais, Thaksin puts great stock in the predictions of fortune tellers who dispense advice on everything from business deals to the precise time of day couples should get married...

Various sights at the PAD rally

June 19, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

(Photo: Asiper)

PAD group from Pattalung

Various sights at the PAD rally – June 19, 2008

Earlier: [Sunday morning at the PAD protest](#) and [map of the site](#) – June 1, 2008

[Sunday night PAD protest](#) – May 24, 2008

[PAD rally](#) and [Weekend front pages](#) – April 24, 2008

And [High tension in Thailand](#)

(Photo: Asiper)

PAD group from Nakorn Sri Thammarat

(Photo: Asiper)

It reads: SERC – Join to sign your name to stop the privatization law

(Photo: Asiper)

Signs read: The unfair election committee that serves the Thaksin regime –
Somchai... Hedsod Get out

Sign on the right: Ai Haey Mak in the body of a tyrant get out

(Photo: Asiper)

(Photo: Asiper)

(Photo: Asiper)

(Photo: Asiper)

(Photo: Asiper)

The sign reads: Kingdom of Srivichai warriors

(Photo: Asiper)

(Photo: Asiper)

The shirts read: Revolution Democracy 2008

(Photo: Asiper)

(Photo: Asiper)

(Photo: Asiper)

PAD group from Pakpanang, Nakorn Sri Thammarat

(Photo: Asiper)

More on [High tension in Thailand](#)

Municipal Works hunting down person who placed black bag over CCTV

June 21, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

(Photo: Confidential)

Photo of the incident on June 21, 2008

[Municipal Works hunting down person who placed black bag over CCTV](#) – PRD, June 23, 2008

Municipal Works Director Theerachai Tiensanchai spoke of an incident in which an unknown person placed a black bag over a closed circuit camera of the city positioned in front of the Government House...

Sunday morning at Government House

June 22, 2008

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2004-2008

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Makeshift barbed-wire barrier at the Ratchadamneorn Nok-Sri Ayuthaya Road

Sunday morning at Government House – June 22, 2008

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Vegetarian breakfast

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Police peeking over the Government House wall and talking to a protester

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: People's Alliance for Democracy from Ranong province

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Protesters seated in the shade of the street

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Police in riot gear at the gates of Government House

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Mannequin set up on a coffee cart

The signs read: On the shirt: Stop!

Label on his hand: Get out

White sign: The PAD from Pibulmangsan do not want Thaksin

Green sign: Nakornsri Thammarat People save the nation

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

English-language signs

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

T-shirt with the graphic of Samak that has become a [symbol of the protest](#)—

Samak as the demon named Rahoo that causes eclipses

The shirt reads: Enough – Thailand's politician deceiver

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Looking across the stage area towards Government House

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Left: Chamai Maru Chet Bridge

Right: Chumporn PAD

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: The Interior Minister orders ASTV media to close, but ignores the website breaching institutes from Songkhla

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The new stage

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sign on the left is has Noppadon's head above it. The sign reads: Noppadon the squint-eyed man – you go and pay respect to the dog animal because you are worse than them.

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sign at the top right: We will fight until our last blood is parched.

Sign at the bottom left: Enough for those who sell the nation and partake in corruption

Sign at the bottom right: The land belongs to our children and it is our duty to protect our land

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Side with the uprightness to save the nation's benefits

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Paper-cut Samak

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Make-shift riot shields

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Left: Warrior of the Ratchadamneon

Right: Democracy

Bottom: The Popular Politics School

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Reporters resting

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand](#)

The gratified Thai Rak Thai 111 Foundation sign

June 23, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The gratified Thai Rak Thai 111 Foundation sign – June 23, 2008

The TRT Foundation building is located on Nakon Sawan Road. It is the headquarters of the supposedly non-political former TRT members who were banned from politics for five years. The sign reads (literally, from left to right) Foundation 111 Thai Rak Thai

Graffiti at far left: Thaksin a tyrant

Graffiti at middle left: Anti-Thaksin regime – Anti-bad money – Anti-republican movement –

Anti-constitutional amendment to protect group members and serve the needs of the tyrant

Dr Thaksin gives an amazing insight into his City dream

June 23, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[EXCLUSIVE: Dr Thaksin gives an amazing insight into his City dream](#) – [thisislondon.co.uk](#), June, 2008

...Just now, my wife asks me to stay away and, if I have to go to Thailand, not to stay for long,' explains Thaksin. 'We have intelligence that there may be more danger.'

He has survived three car bomb attacks and six assassination attempts. 'I should be a man who drives around in a nice sports car, not an armoured car,' he adds with a smile.

...What about the reports of almost 3,000 killings in an aggressive offensive against drugs? 'Sometimes, as a leader you must have an angry face. In the past, I have ignored these allegations published in the Thai media, with whom I have no relationship. The foreign media has since picked them up and this is damaging. Now you are asking me these questions and I am happy to answer:

'These figures you have read are not true. They are figures created by the military. I was not a ruthless dictator. No. There have been investigations: The Premier League, for example, has ways of investigating these matters, I welcomed the Fit and Proper Persons Test for new owners for that reason...'

The rule of law lives to fight another day

June 26, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[The rule of law lives to fight another day](#) – *The Nation*, June 26, 2008

...The Supreme Court's ruling will be a big setback to Thaksin and Pojaman in their fight against corruption and tax-evasion charges. The pair will have to find a new team of lawyers since Pichit and Thana are likely to face disciplinary action from the Lawyers' Council of Thailand. Their licences could be revoked. The Supreme Court did not rule on the ownership of the money. As observers, we only want to ask who owned the Bt2- million that was put in a gift box intended to bribe the court. Did Pichit or Thana withdraw Bt2 million from their own bank accounts and wrap it as a gift? Or did either one of them take the Bt2 million from someone else in order to attempt to bribe the court? If the latter, who was that someone else?

Because of love, please let me measure the alcohol content in your breath

June 28, 2008

Categories: Signs and Billboards, Thai Police

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Because of love... – June 28, 2008

The billboard reads: Because of love, please let me measure the alcohol content in your breath. Concentrate... before starting a car – from the Thai Health Promotion Foundation.

Democracy in Asia? Beware of Thailand

June 28, 2008

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Democracy in Asia? Beware of Thailand](#) – Lastampa.it, June 28, 2008

...It is absolutely clear: The protesters represent a minority. As such, they should be allowed to voice their grievances but only as far as they do not interfere with the government functioning.

...This is not happening—the police seem powerless, the military refuses to intervene, and the demonstrations grow bolder by the day. The protesters insist on the same old thing: The prime minister must quit. Why should he quit? Because a mob said so. Then who should appoint the new government? Who knows. Or does somebody? ...

What's at stake? The power to change Thailand's old ways. A group of entrenched interests opposes the radical reforms brought by Thaksin. He wants to foster new entrepreneurs, create new small and medium enterprises, give credit to new companies, and let old inefficient ones go bust. But those old companies hate to lose their privileges to newcomers and are trying to cling to their monopolies by any means. Three elections prove that the majority of Thailand is with Thaksin...

If Thailand's democracy fails again, Burma, with its military regime, will be lost forever. What's more, the militaries that just went back to their barracks in the Philippines and Indonesia may be tempted to come out of them and seize power. The effort to push reforms and disarmament in North Korea would lose steam. Western drive for democracy and human rights in China would lose credibility if America's firm ally in the region were to slip back to chaos or military rule. Who could believe the West wants really democracy in China when it allows democratic Thai government to be toppled by a raging mob? In sum, the whole Asian political balance would be at stake...

Preah Vihear Temple

June 29, 2008

Categories: Preah Vihear

"Foreign Heritage" – by Arun, *Krungtepturakit*, July 9, 2008

Preah Vihear Temple

[Thailand defensive as Cambodia acts tough](#) – *Malaysia Star*, July 30, 2008

In 1962, the World Court (ICJ) ruled that the temple stood on Cambodian soil, and Cambodia unilaterally filed for World Heritage List status...

[Thai noodles: the first victim of the Preah Vihear spat](#) – *KI*, July 24, 2008

The calls for the boycott of Thai products are increasing. The Men Sarun Co. Thai company which sells the Mama brand package noodle from Thailand, is stopping its production in Cambodia...

[The Thai's unique view of the Khmer people and history](#) – *Preah-vihear.com*, July, 2008

[Thai tourists cancel Cambodia trips over security fears](#) – *AFP*, July 11, 2008

About a thousand Thais have cancelled visits to Cambodia's famous Angkor Wat ruins since an ownership dispute erupted between the two neighbours over another temple, a tourism chief said Saturday...

[Thai PM resents court injunction on Hindu heritage temple](#) – *Thaindian*, July 2008

...The temple built in 1037 by King Suriyavaraman of what is now known as Cambodia along Thai-Cambodia border is one of the most brilliant examples of Hindu architecture and precedes by 100 years another Hindu landmark structure, the Angkor Wat...

Bloody Prasat Preah Vihear –

Thai fights against Thais –

Hun Sen urges Samak to withdraw military forces – *Komchadleuk*, July 19, 2008

Caption reads: Stressful –

Thai scouts (left) and Cambodian soldiers (right) have been fully armed to control the situation around the problematic Prasat Preah Vihear Temple. Owing to the situation, Mr. Samak has to call for an urgent meeting with army commanders. – *Daily News*, July 19, 2008

Samak makes a reply to Hun Sen – He affirms Cambodia violates Thailand's sovereignty.

He says the country has protested against the issue for four times. The Supreme Commander has been sent to negotiate with Tea Banh. Thai and Cambodian soldiers almost fire guns at each others – *Daily News*, July 19, 2008

"Thai-Cambodian armies face each other! – 'Anupong' commands ready to fight if invasion occurs" – *Komchadleuk*, July 18, 2008

"Suranari troops seal off 'disputed areas' – 'Trade Border Board' called for urgent talks" – *Matichon*, July 18, 2008

[No record of Cabinet resolution over Preah Vihear Temple](#) – *The Nation*, July 11, 2008

Democrat Party secretary-general Suthep Thaugsuban said on Friday that the Cabinet resolution over the signing of the joint communique was not in the record kept by the Government House.

He said the Cabinet resolution was an incriminating evidence that the Democrats needed to launch an impeachment proceeding against Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej.

He said the government officials had informed him that the report of the Cabinet resolution regarding the matter was not kept. "It is strange that they did not keep this important Cabinet resolution," he said.

[The Joint Communique](#) – July 11, 2008

Cabinet notes – July 11, 2008

Interestingly enough, neither Cambodia nor Preah Vihear is mentioned in the summary from the weekly cabinet distributed by the government PR department.

From June 17

Foreign Affairs

30. Result of the APEC Structural Reform Deputies' Meeting

31. Result of the 16th meeting of the commission to maintain law and order along Thai-Lao borders

From June 24

Foreign Affairs

15. Formation of joint commission of high-ranking Thai officials regarding the bilateral cooperation between Thailand and Bahrain

16. Trade negotiation between Thailand and USA

17. Energy cooperation between Thailand and Myanmar

From July 1

Foreign affairs

18. Approval to a plan to help Lao People's Democratic Republic to be a host of the 25th SEA GAMES

19. 24th General conference of the Universal Postal Union

20. Plan regarding cultural cooperation between the Ministry of Culture in Thailand and in China during 2008-2010

21. Donation of interest income from subsidy under the project aimed at encouraging people to voluntarily make contributions to the Academic Cooperation Fund

22. Amendment to the memorandum of understanding regarding the establishment of ASEAN center to promote trade, investment and tourism

[Case concerning the temple of Preah Vihear](#)

[\(merits\)](#) – International Court of Justice,

Judgment of 15 June 1962

Joker / Buffalo – Kajor Ngongae by Mor, *Krungtepturakit*, July 11, 2008

At the top: The image of Siam Foreign Ministry at the world stage meeting

Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama is portrayed on the left as a "joker" and on the right as a buffalo (considered an insult in the Thai-language world).

Left: Before the meeting

On file he is holding: Khao Preah Vihear

Right: After the meeting!!

[Communique from Norodom Sihanouk](#) – *Phnom Penh Post*, July 8, 2008

I. Certain journalists are writing that the main entrance to the Preah Vihear temple faces Thailand and not Cambodia.

II. The Thais have said, say and have written and write that one of the "proofs" of Thai ownership of Preah Vihear is constituted by the fact that access to the temple is infinitely more easy from the Thai side rather than from the Cambodian side.

III. These journalists and these Thais seem to ignore the following historic facts, ones which amply prove that the mountain and the temple of Preah Vihear are 100% Cambodian and belong 100% to Cambodia...

[Thai PM resents court injunction on Hindu heritage temple](#) – *Thaindian*, July 2008

...The temple built in 1037 by King Suriyavaraman of what is now known as Cambodia along Thai-Cambodia border is one of the most brilliant examples of Hindu architecture and precedes by 100 years another Hindu landmark structure, the Angkor Wat...

[Thai official: Controversial temple likely to be approved as World Heritage site](#) – *People's Daily*, July 5, 2008

Attempts by Cambodia to list the controversial Preah Vihear temple, which stands across the area of both Cambodia and Thailand, as a World Heritage site during the current United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) annual session held in Canada's Quebec City, are expected to bear fruit, according to Thailand's World Heritage Committee...

[Cambodia sends riot police to guard Thai embassy: officials](#) – *AFP*, July 3, 2008

Earlier: [Burning of the Thai Embassy in Cambodia in 2003](#)

[Preah Vihear Temple and the Thai's misunderstanding of the World Court judgment of 15 June 1962](#) – June 29, 2008

There are worrying signs of tension between Cambodia and Thailand over Preah Vihear temple. This could escalate into war. It is a hot issue in Thai politics and the dispute has arisen from misunderstanding of the International Court of Justice Judgment of June 1962 on the part of Thai successive governments, politicians, Thai academics with except of a few such as Dr. Charnvit Kasetsiri. The tensions have been exacerbated by incorrect and fraudulent statements made by Thai partisans...

Investigation of the Prasart Preah Vihear issue – reflects on the upcoming Cambodian election – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: Scoop, June 27, 2008

The Royal Thai Embassy (RTE) in Phnom Penh has prepared an emergency evacuation plan for Thai citizens living and working in Cambodia. The RTE fears that Cambodian politicians might exploit the conflict over Prasart Preah Vihear during their campaigns for the upcoming general election in that country – and that this might stir up volatile local sentiments. Businessmen in the Thai-Cambodian orbit are encouraging people not to let their passions become enflamed by the issue – but to let both governments negotiate with each other in a calm manner. Meanwhile, Thailand's political opposition is using the Preah Vihear Temple issue as a means to attack the current Samak government.

Cambodia is holding its general election on July 17. The Department of Consular Affairs (DCA) of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs has already set up a plan to evacuate Thais from Cambodia if public sentiments there get particularly heated. The DCA fears a repeat of the anti-Thai riots that occurred in Phnom Penh 5 years ago. Although the situation in Phnom Penh seems to be relatively calm at present, Thais living and working in Cambodia are very much in fear that anti-Thai sentiments could again spill over. In 2003, the Prasart Preah Vihear issue was one of the main factors that led to a riot in which over 1,000 Cambodians came out onto the street to torch the property and businesses of Thai expatriates.

[Thai PM's foes throw nationalist temple tantrum](#) – *The Star*, June 25, 2008

(Source: khmerization.blogspot.com)

The secret map – June 19, 2008

[Thailand, Cambodia sign joint document on Preah Vihear temple](#) – *TNA*, June 18, 2008
And a [thread](#) on the forum about it.

[Cambodia not claiming any Thai land: Noppadon](#) – *The Nation*, June 18, 2008

Thailand has not lost a single square centimetre, as the new map drawn up by Cambodia to propose the Hindu temple of Preah Vihear as a World Heritage site claims nothing beyond its right, Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama said yesterday...

[Thread](#) on the Preah Vihear maps

[Thaksin set to invest big time in Cambodia](#) – *Bangkok Post* with editorial comments by KI, June, 2008

[Thailand heads for another political showdown](#) – *DPA* with editorial comments by KI, June 19, 2008
... 'It looks like Thailand decided to help Mr Hun Sen in the elections,' said Kraisaak Choonhavan, a member of the Democrat opposition party.
'The government's way of handling this has created the suspicion that personal gains are more important than national gains,' added Kraisaak...

Below: *Komchadleuk* photo from a government press conference on the new map

(Source: *Komchadleuk*)

[Thailand cedes ancient temple](#) – *The Australian*, June 23, 2008

Thailand is moving to accept a new map that will uphold Cambodia's World Heritage claim on the ancient 10th century Khmer temple that straddles the countries' common border – a long-contested site and former Khmer Rouge sanctuary that almost brought the two claimant nations to war in the 1960s...

From *Not the Nation*: [Abhisit: "Parking Lot Next to Preah Viharn Is Part of Our National Heritage"](#)
...Abhisit said the parking lot "is an essential part of our national heritage, without which Thailand would never be the same again. We have always reaped huge financial windfalls from our incompetent neighbors and the parking lot outside the black magic Khmer temple of Preah Viharn is part of that centuries-old cultural tradition."
He suggested placing red, white and blue striped cones in all 750 spaces until the dispute was settled.

Thai Media Project – June 2008

June 30, 2008

Categories: Thai Media Project

More: [Unlocking the Thai world: Thai-language newspaper headlines](#)

Pra Prayom cover – *Matichon Weekly*, June, 2008

It reads: Oh, look what you have done to me. How can you do that to me?

Pluem Obama – *Nation Weekend*, June, 2008

It reads: Pluem Obama – feudalism which is not outdated

Ticking timebombs – translated and summarized from *Krungthep Turakit*; Column: Political Tracking (Kae Roy Karn Muang); Author: Reporter No.10, June 30, 2008

The censure debate, instigated by the opposition Democrat Party, and the debate on the national budget (for the next 12 months) have both now been concluded. The People Power Party (PPP)-led government of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej is still faced with 3 ‘ticking’ political timebombs, however. The ‘bomb’ that could explode first is a Constitutional Court ruling over the Preah Vihear Temple – since that court has already issued an injunction to temporarily halt any Cabinet and Foreign Ministry participation in the registration process of that temple as a World Heritage Site by the Cambodian government. This ruling might well come out in support of the considerable public distrust that has been generated by the work of the PPP-led government. The second ‘bomb’ might be the 2 million baht ‘pastry box’ bribery case, which involves a lawyer of a certain deposed Thai prime minister. The court’s eventual verdict on that case could have a significant impact on other corruption investigations currently in progress against former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The third ‘bomb’ could be the July 8 court verdict over the electoral ‘red card’ issued to the former House Speaker & Deputy PPP Leader Yongyuth Tiypairat, that might possibly seal the demise of both the PPP and Thaksin Shinawatra.

‘Secretary Tu’ – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, June 28, 2008

Interior Minister Pol. Captain Chalerm Yoobamrung has recently been criticized over his alleged intervention in the acquisition of a 48-rai plot of land by one of his supporters on Racha Yai Island (City District, Phuket Province). These allegations were made by Suthep Theugsuban, the self-styled Shadow Interior Minister, during a recent ‘Vote of No Confidence’ debate against the Samak government in Parliament.

An investigatory committee, into incursions on government land, recently ordered the Ministry of Interior to revoke the Nor Sor 3 Kor document of the disputed land plot because of insufficient evidence that it was eligible for private ownership. It was then proposed that the current Interior Minister should make a judgment over the issue.

Chalerm has tried to explain the matter to both Parliament and the media, saying that he knows the man involved in the disputed ownership – Khun Suthichart (AKA Tu) – but disputing any notion that the person named was ever his ‘personal secretary’.

It is a fact that ‘Tu’ is a key supporter of Minister Chalerm, and that they are quite close to each other. ‘Tu’ is known to most officials in the MOI as ‘Secretary Tu’ – even though it is thought he has never been officially employed in that capacity.

‘Secretary Tu’ is not a servant in any normal sense of that word. He is actually a successful businessman who owns many hotels. He is the Managing Director of the Racha Yai Island Company and the Racha Yai Estate. His family runs many real estate businesses in Phuket Province.

‘Tu’ is said to regularly hang around the MOI’s main administrative building in Bangkok, always at the ready to involve that ministry in his plans. It is also said that he has his own room in the building, and that he frequently attends meetings there.

From Makhawan Bridge to Chamai Maruchet Bridge – PAD protestors in battle of patience with PPP-led government – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Inside the Country, June 27, 2008

The current People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protest rally is intent on ousting the People Power Party (PPP)-led government from power. This long-term political conflict is likely, however, to turn into a trial of wits – to find which side possesses the greatest patience. The PAD protest rally moved to a location in front of Government House on June 20. There is every indication, however, that the tense standoff between the PAD and the government is set to continue for a considerable time yet. Foreign media correspondents have commented that the PPP-led government will probably face even stiffer political opposition in the months to come, with the confrontation between the PAD and pro-Thaksin supporters possibly leading to a military intervention. Internal media correspondents have revealed that the Prime Minister is being encouraged by the Royal Thai Army (RTA) Commander-in-Chief (C-in-C) to remain in office. The C-in-C has ruled out the use of emergency decree powers to break up the PAD protest rally, however. The PAD has announced that it will continue with its anti-government protests outside Government House, regardless of any significant events that might occur within the country’s parliamentary system. I believe that the PAD leadership might eventually have to reassess its protest strategy against this government. The PAD might eventually be forced to abandon the current location of its protest if the PPP-led government persists in allowing the police to handle the rally in a patient and non-aggressive manner.

‘People’s Politics’ – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Editorial, June 24, 2008

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej’s comments during his weekly ‘Samak’s Style of Talk’ TV program on Sunday (June 22) have convinced many people that he knows nothing at all about ‘People’s Politics’. Or is it perhaps that he knows more about it than he is letting on – but can not come to terms with it from his narrow outlook? During the program, Samak stated that his government had been legally elected. Additionally, he labeled the 5 leaders of the People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) as “a five-man gang”.

Such talk could be viewed as an indication that there are significant gaps in Samak’s political awareness. It might also indicate that his concept of current Thai politics is an extremely backward one – stuck in an era when ‘representative democracy’ was considered the norm. Our political system turned itself into a ‘participatory democracy’ long ago. That said, there is still a tendency for some Thais to think that winning an election is all that really matters. The thinking appears to be that those who win elections have an absolute right to do as they please including the condemnation of those who gather to express their views through the means of ‘street politics’.

‘People’s Politics’ is already a fact-of-life in our political system. The rules of engagement for this kind of politics were even laid down in the 1997 Constitution allowing ordinary citizens to fully participate in political movements and actions at their own will.

Another smart step by PAD – provoking a coup to take power from the government – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Wipak Haeng Wipak, June 23, 2008

The People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protest rally in front of Government House – beginning on June 20 – could be counted as a victory of sorts for them. That said, it is a victory that belies the heavy rancor that has been generated by the PAD’s ongoing political conflict with the government of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej.

The PAD found it to be a physical pushover to move its protest mob from the Makawan Rangsang Bridge to Government House – easily achieving the goal that they set for themselves on May 25. But in the case of the PAD’s primary objective – to stop the government from proceeding with amendments to the 2007 Constitution – it seems that the movement could be far less successful.

PAD leader Sonthi Limthongkul recently made a very interesting comment. He said that the PAD not only wanted to oust the government, but also wished to assume its powers. By studying the speeches of PAD leaders, we get a remarkably clearly insight into the operational strategies and goals of that movement.

This ‘fight’ seems set to continue for a considerable time yet. It is undoubtedly the sharpest piece of politicking that this country has witnessed since the ‘People’s War’ era.

Thaksin Regime Vs. PAD – RTA C-in-C yet to choose sides – Female politician attempts to spy on former CNS members, as part of efforts to stave off another coup – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Special Report; Author: Paruehad Assadong, June 21, 2008

People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protest rallies, against the ‘old power’ of the Thaksin Regime, have now been going on for over 2 years. The rallies began before the September 19 Coup staged by the Council for National Security (CNS) in 2006 – under the leadership of General Sonthi Boonyaratglin. At the outset, the PAD was viewed as enjoying a close relationship with the coup-making faction in the Royal Thai Army (RTA). The PAD protest rallies are now attempting to oust the elected People Power Party (PPP)-led government of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej. The PAD once again appear to be hoping that some RTA factions will again side with them, and stage another coup.

The RTA Commander-in-Chief General, Anupong Paochinda, has continued to maintain his silence over the current political chaos. Anupong is known to be close to former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra who was ousted in the 2006 Coup. Anupong has only stated so far that he sides with the people rather than with the government. Anupong’s attempt to ignore politics may demonstrate his desire to protect his post at all costs, by hiding it behind the shield of PM Samak. (It should be noted that Samak is also the Defense Minister.) If Samak resigns in accordance with PAD demands, a new prime minister might just decide to make things difficult for the incumbent RTA C-in-C.

The PAD still enjoys quite a close relationship with those RTA factions that staged the September 19 Coup of 2006. It now appears that the PAD protest rallies are aimed at rousing the RTA, in the hope that some of its factions will support a ‘new’ coup. Many subordinates of the former CNS Chairman, Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin, are still in power – and if a degree of unanimity is reached in this group, another coup could take place.

Gen. Anupong’s eventual decision, to side with or against the current government, will be an all-important one. If he decides to change his mind, and support the PAD, a coup will undoubtedly occur. Thaksin’s strategy to prevent such a coup will be to sow the seeds of disunity amongst ‘influential’ RTA senior officers. Sudarat Keyuraphan, a former leading light in the Thai Rak Thai Party, recently managed to get herself invited to a private luncheon meeting of high-ranking RTA officers. Those present were mainly the Royal Thai Military Academy alumni of the Gen. Sonthi. This prompted Sonthi to cancel his previously-scheduled appointment to join this meeting.

‘New’ police region for restive South? – translated and summarized from

Khao Sod; Column: Chok Mai Mee Moom , June 19, 2008

Current proposals to establish a ‘new’ Provincial Police Region 8, to oversee the three restive southern border provinces (of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat), might eventually bear fruit for both the current government and the nation as a whole.

These proposals appear to entail far more than yet another attempt to create a personal empire, or to create more cabinet seats – the sort of cynical move that a certain politician attempted in the past.

National Police Chief General Patcharawat Wongsuwan has recently visited the South, where he held a meeting with Pol. General Pansiri Prapawat and Pol. Lieutenant-General Adul Saengsingkaew. After this discussion, Patcharawat immediately came up with the idea of creating a new police region to tackle the region’s problems. It is likely, however, that other government officials will seek to hinder such a move – and that the cooperation of these officials, or lack of it, will probably be instrumental in deciding whether or not there will be any improvement in the region anytime soon. If a new and permanent police region is established, with a well-chosen and competent commander, the region’s unrest could eventually be eased.

Nation For Sale – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*; Column: Kae Roy Garn Muang , June 19, 2008

Thais are much more sensitive to such clichés as ‘Thailand For Sale’ than they ever are to the mention of the word ‘corruption’. This is because they believe that every Thai government has its corrupt side. As long as any government continues to provide benefit to the majority, the thinking goes that a degree of corruption is acceptable. That said, any Thai government accused of betraying its own country is likely to be sorely tried in its attempts to remain in power. Former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was once heavily criticized for selling Thailand’s leading satellite business to another country. His government was finally terminated by a military coup on September 19, 2006.

The current government is also being accused of attempting to put Thailand up ‘For Sale’ – in relation to the Khmer ancient monument of Khao Preah Vihear. Thai Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama has stated that the Cambodian government’s current initiative, to register Khao Preah Vihear as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS), will not affect Thailand’s ongoing territorial claim to the temple. Many Thais seem to believe, however, that this country is about to lose part of its territory to Cambodia. They are also afraid that the Thai government might be holding secret negotiations with the Cambodian Government. They fear that the current Thai government could allow Cambodia to register the temple as a WHS in exchange for favors involving that country’s offshore oil and gas concessions. It is even thought that those favors might extend to investment opportunities in Cambodia’s Kong Island. Thais might not perhaps be so worried if it were not for the fact that their Foreign Minister enjoys a very close relationship with Thaksin Shinawatra – who is reputed to have plans to invest heavily in Cambodia.

The Khao Preah Vihear issue will again be under consideration during the period July 2-10. Further negotiations over this hot topic might well lead to it becoming even more controversial – despite Thaksin having predicted that the Thai government’s numerous problems will be successfully resolved in the period following July 2.

It is perhaps also worth noting that Thais are still arguing over exactly who it was who made immense profits through gaining ‘insider’ information over the float of the Thai Baht on July 2, 1997 – all of 11 years ago!

A glimpse of a possible future Thai-Cambodian offshore oil and gas treasure trove – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: Scoop; Author: News on National Security Team; page: 1, June 24, 2008

The territorial dispute over the Preah Vihear Temple is generating a lot of doubt and anger in both Thais and Cambodians – despite a decision still being awaited over the possibility of the ancient monument’s enlistment as a World Heritage Site (WHS). Many sources have suggested that this territorial dispute could involve some sort of hatched-up agreement to ensure that certain individuals benefit from the future exploitation of Cambodian oil and gas concessions. These concessions lie in an offshore area over which there are overlapping territorial claims by Thailand and Cambodia.

There has also been a great deal of speculation over the exact business relationship between the deposed Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. It is thought that both men stand to gain from future investments in joint Thai-Cambodian exploitation of their overlapping oil and gas reserves in the outer Gulf of Thailand. It has been claimed that the Thai government – under Thaksin’s influence – is willing to compromise on its territorial claims over Preah Vihear in exchange for being allowed to take the leading role in offshore oil and gas exploitation.

The Cambodian Commerce Minister recently revealed, to the Cambodian press, that Thaksin stood to benefit from the initiation of joint Thai-Cambodian offshore oil and gas exploitation – in exchange for a rapid compromise over the Khao Preah Vihear territorial dispute.

Foreign Minister Noppadon Pattama has since denied, however, that there is any conflict of interest over this territorial dispute for his government. He has also insisted that business interests will not be directly involved in any future bilateral talks between the Thai and Cambodian governments over their overlapping offshore territorial claims. That said, he has also opined that the Cambodians have the right to involve any oil conglomerate they like in the exploration and exploitation of their offshore oil and gas concessions.

During the tenure of his government, deposed PM Thaksin Shinawatra visited Cambodia to instigate talks with its government over the demarcation of the disputed territorial overlap. Those talks were stalled by the 2006 coup, but resumed when the People Power Party (PPP)-led government came to power this year.

Negotiations over offshore oil and gas claims, in the outer Gulf of Thailand, are now likely to be delayed yet again by Cambodia’s upcoming General Election in

July. They may also be delayed by the fact that UNESCO will shortly begin pontificating over the possibility of Preah Vihear being registered as a WHS. I believe that Cambodia's failure to secure WHS status might also destroy the dreams of those who wish to invest in the exploitation of its offshore oil and gas concessions for the sake of heavy personal profit alone.

Losing land to Cambodia

– translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: *Matichon* Prelude, June 21, 2008

Two days ago, *Matichon* published an article expressing some doubts over a move by the government of Samak Sundaravej to enter into negotiations with the Cambodian Government over the status of Prasart Phnom Preah Vihear. This government has since shown some inclination to hide the real details of that negotiation process from its citizens. This administration only agreed to release the details of that process after it came under a great deal of public pressure. The information, thus revealed, has done little to reduce the high level of public distrust of Foreign Affairs Minister Noppadon Pattama. This government always appears to be far too eager to acquiesce to proposals put forward by FM Noppadon. Prasart Phnom Preah Vihear has thus become, once again, a major issue in the minds of many Thais. If Noppadon had made any attempt to study the historical conflict between Thailand and Cambodia over this ancient monument, he would have been far better prepared to tackle this issue. He would have realized that by allowing Cambodia to register parts of this mountaintop temple as a 'World Heritage Site' (WHS), that Thailand would be effectively denying itself the right to take back any part of the disputed territory in future.

What is so odd here is that this government has so easily acquiesced to Cambodian desires to register the disputed territory as a WHS. Noppadon has also spoken about it being necessary for Cambodia to return the 'compliment'. This strange request might just be because Noppadon and his supporters do not actually have (themselves) any real business interests in Cambodia. Or is it just the case that he has already placed far too much trust in the Cambodian Government?

Noppadon has no right to make major decisions alone – just because he considers himself smart. It is a matter for the Kingdom as a whole and any attempt to deal with complex issues in a cavalier manner is almost certain to cause far more damage than it actually fixes.

Also a police victory in June – translated and summarized from *Thai Post*; Column: The Editorial; Author: Pleaw See-ngern, June 21, 2008

Regarding the claim of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) that its protest group won an important victory by breaking through police barricades to surround Government House yesterday. I believe that the Royal Thai Police (RTP) can also claim victory over this incident, since they were not tempted to react with undue force against those protesters who were prepared to resort to violence. This shows that the RTP is capable of respecting the rights of ordinary citizens who wish to demonstrate their opinions with a protest – an entirely normal event in any true democracy. I would like to thank the RTP, and also the Royal Thai Army, for not overtly interfering in the ongoing political chaos with the use of force – since a show of strength would have done nothing to resolve our current political problems. I wish to comment, however, that the current political chaos is not a result of the PAD protests – but rather the inevitable result of the actions of the 'old power' Thaksin Regime. The solution to our numerous political problems is, undoubtedly, to address their deep-rooted causes.

They make us believe that this is democracy – *ThaiRath*, June 20, 2008

They make us believe that this is democracy

Top left: The head of the party goes one way, while the party's members go another way

Top middle: The Prime Minister and the Cabinet were remotely appointed by an unseen hand

Top right: The reorganization of the media means the media is allowed to present news with only one aspect

Bottom left: The government has a right to avoid being probed like those people running away from Tsunami

Bottom middle: The country is ruled under the 'one country, two ministers' system

Bottom right: People are jailed when they do something illegal, while politicians amend the Constitution to make themselves innocent.

Warnings by adults are a waste of time – and could be likened to the droning of flying mosquitoes – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, June 21, 2008

The huge rift of public opinion, in Thai society, appears to be widening yet again – and could easily lead to an outbreak of communal violence at any time.

Respected and learned senior citizens have already pointed out possible solutions to this widening gulf – but they have generally received far more negative feedback than positive, as a result.

Eminent social critic Dr. Prawes Wasi recently suggested that 4 former prime ministers – Anand Panyarachun, Chuan Leekpai, and Barnharn Silapa-archa and Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyud – should meet to seek solutions to this crisis. This suggestion was criticized by Anand, who said that the situation had already deteriorated too far to be worth discussing. Dr. Prawes keeps trying, however. He has also proposed the formation of a 'Government of National Unity', but has yet to receive any response from those who might be included in it. He has also written an article detailing a number of ways in which our current national crisis could be resolved. Politically-independent individuals – such as Professor Nithi Eyoowsriwong, the academic Theerayut Boonmee, Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyud and a number of other prominent citizens and academics – have already offered their advice on this burning political issue. So far, the government has made no response to any of that advice.

Pid Mai Lap – translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: *Pid Mai Lap Special*, June 21, 2008

People are waiting to see whether there will be any changes in the government line-up during the period leading up to July 2 – as former PM Thaksin Shinawatra has mentioned that there will be some let-up from the country's numerous problems early next month. The Democrat Party are of the opinion, however, that this indicates that Thaksin still wants to be the center of public attention. Others believe that the former PM is signaling the imminence of a political occurrence that might have a big impact on the future of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej. It is rumored that some people are predicting that Deputy PM and Education Minister Somchai Wongsawat could replace Samak as prime minister. PM Samak recently appointed a number of new Defense Ministry Spokesmen. One of those appointed was Lieutenant-General Paradon Pattanathabut. Rumor also has it that Paradon has been secretly assigned, by Thaksin, to keep a close eye on the current 'puppet' prime minister.

Thumbs up for temple deal – *Chim Pai Da Pai* column, *Phujatkan*, June 20, 2008

The man says: To allow Cambodia to register the Preah Vihear temple as a World Heritage site is really a masterpiece work of Noppadol

The sign on the barbed wire reads: Cambodia

At the bottom right: Yes, lots of people agree with it

Three-Way ‘Third Way’ to end the nation’s ongoing political conflict – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Column: Chak Thong Rob ; Author: Kilen Pralongcherng, June 19, 2008

Eminent social critic Prawes Wasi has recently commented on the ongoing political conflict that is afflicting the whole nation, with particular reference to the pro-Thaksin groups and their opponents. Prawes suggested the three following ways in which the current political rift: could be brought to an end:

1. The People Power Party-led government should be allowed time to fully-demonstrate its intentions for the country’s future, without any further hindrance from its opponents. This, however, would mean that the government would need to focus all its energies on ensuring that it was running an effective and honest administration. The Cabinet would need to establish a ‘good’ public image, and demonstrate to the public that it would not abuse its powers or interfere with the judicial system.
2. The two opposing poles of present-day Thai politics should realize that the judicial system offered the best hope of a breakthrough solution to their conflict. This would make it necessary for all groups in Thai society to show their respect for the judicial system. It would also make it very necessary for the judiciary to demonstrate its transparency in running a system based on sound judicial principles.
3. Deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra should seriously review his own role in the ongoing conflict. He should clearly restate his decision to quit politics, and not get involved in business deals that might fuel further conflict – such as making investments in Cambodian casinos, rice trading, or soliciting investments in the country by middle-eastern capitalists. Thaksin should prove to the country, as a whole, that he has its best interests at heart.

‘Thai Khadi Research Institute’ says new agreement with Cambodia could result in Thailand losing territory – translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; June 18, 2008

The ‘Thai Khadi Research Institute’ today issued a statement concerning the current cross-border argument over the Prasart Preah Vihear ancient monument on the Thai-Cambodian border. The statement commented on an agreement recently reached by the government of Samak Sundaravej with the Cambodian government – saying that by allowing the Cambodians to go it alone in registering the ancient monument as a ‘World Heritage Site’, the Samak government was also allowing certain political groupings to derive personal benefit.

The statement urged the government, the military hierarchy and the Thai people to arrive at a decision about whether they wished to protect the nation’s best interests. It urged people not to be easily seduced by the words of those groupings who stood to benefit most from the agreement.

The statement also said that if the Thai government signed a non-transparent agreement with the Cambodian government, it would be to the disadvantage of the nation as a whole.

The statement added that a non-transparent agreement would succeed only in changing Thailand’s land and sea boundaries for the personal benefit of those who pushed hard for the agreement – and that it could eventually result in Thailand losing territory to Cambodia.

The statement urged all groups in Thai society to remain alert, and to weigh up its conclusions carefully in arriving at the truth of the matter.

Dissolution of parliament seems likely outcome – translated and summarized from *Naew Na*; Author: Kad Ta Tap ; June 14, 2008

The current Thai government seems rather unstable, in the face of so many economic and political problems. People are increasingly unhappy with higher goods prices, the oil crisis, high inflation and low income – amongst others. Many are beginning to feel that this might be an opportune moment for the government to leave office, with so many mobs of demonstrators active throughout the country. ‘Puppet’ Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej is certainly under great pressure from the current economic and political problems. Not only does he have to find a solution to the rising prices of goods, but he also has to attempt to amend the 2007 Constitution for the sake of his ‘puppeteer’. It has even been suggested that Samak might wish to consult a psychiatrist – since he seems to be suffering from a mental illness. The two possible solutions for Samak’s problems are that he can either dissolve parliament or he can resign as PM. It seems possible, however, that Samak will not wish to ‘die’ alone. The dissolution of parliament thus seems likely to be the eventual outcome for this afflicted administration.

‘Thaksin Regime’ or ‘Samak’s Show’? – translated and summarized from *Naew Na*; Author: Chalermchai Yodmalai, June 14, 2008

The label ‘Thaksin Regime’ is capable of creating either pain or pleasure in different groups of Thais. Although Thaksin Shinawatra is no longer this country’s prime minister, the People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) is still firmly convinced that Thaksin’s political influence remains largely undiluted. They see current Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej as little more than Thaksin’s political nominee – with Thaksin as the ‘de facto’ leader of this present government. Despite the official dissolution of the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) Party in May 2007, Thaksin supporters continue to believe that the spirit of TRT still lives on in the form of the People Power Party. Both PAD and Thaksin supporters are of the same belief in this respect – but this apparently similar belief has actually put the two factions at each other’s throats. In effect, PAD supporters believe that a protest against Samak is additionally a protest against Thaksin. Conversely, Thaksin devotees believe that their support for Samak is also a form of support for Thaksin. It seems, however, that the number of PAD supporters is not now as large as it was before the 2006 coup d’état.

The PAD again steps back to observe? – translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*, June 8, 2008

All the current political conflicts and problems of this country seem unlikely to be happily resolved any time soon – since this government seems only to care about those constitutional amendments that will please its ‘Big Boss’ and reverse the legal decision to dissolve the Thai Rak Thai Party. The government is, however, facing stern opposition from both the Democrat Party and the People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD). This administration would be well-advised to immediately tackle the present-day problem of rising prices for many goods. It should also do something about the ‘dangerous mind’ of former Prime Minister’s Office Minister Jakrapob Penkair. Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej is continuing to face down the PAD in an aggressive manner – and has even threatened the use of violence against it. The PM has taken such a hard stance in spite of the withdrawal of the parliamentary motion to amend the 2007 Constitution – and despite the recent resignation of Jakrapob as a minister. Samak has since denied making such threats against the PAD – saying that his words were misunderstood. It is actions and words like these that make this government seem so untrustworthy to so many people.

Nevertheless, the PAD is currently under a great deal of pressure to make its next big political move. Many people believe that the government has done enough to satisfy the PAD’s political demands – by both dropping the constitutional amendment motion, and accepting Jakrapob’s resignation. Many now believe the PAD should halt its protest rallies, and return to more of an ‘observer’ role in local politics.

PAD can hold peaceful demonstrations, but must not attempt to ‘destroy’ government allies with different views – translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*; Column: Tassana Vicharn Kit Mai Wun Arthit, June 8, 2008

This government is trying to mislead people by encouraging news reports that paint the People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) as a troublemaker. Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej and his Foreign Affairs Minister are also trying to make people believe that the PAD demonstrations are having a negative affect on foreign investments, by claiming that investor confidence has been dented by the PAD’s depiction of their government as unstable and ineffective.

The PAD has serious problems of its own, however; since its leadership seems to hold some rather negative attitudes. The group has lost the support of many of its normal political allies, through its tendency to constantly express rather contrary opinions. The PAD should stop blaming its enemies for their lack of patriotism and lack of respect for the Royalty. Rather, it should move rapidly to find out why its normal allies are not more supportive of its protests. These ‘old’ allies now appear to feel that the current political situation is not serious enough to warrant them providing more vociferous support for the PAD cause. Indeed, the PAD may even be taking the risk that its ‘old’ allies might eventually throw their support behind the current government.

Thai politics in a dilemma – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, Author: Nongnuch Singhadecha, June 12, 2008

The People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) leadership continue to insist that their current protests are a political endgame – in which they will either win handsomely, or will be forced to concede this country to former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The PAD has thus created a very difficult situation for itself – with little apparent likelihood that it can successfully master these difficulties.

The PAD now faces the immense challenge of coaxing more support from ordinary citizens. It faces the uphill battle of persuading such folk that it is their civic duty to support its protest. It needs to convince people that its protests are not a further step towards anarchy.

The PAD may eventually have to accept that there is now a widely divergent range of political opinion in this country. This is even the case amongst the more highly-educated sectors of our society. Many people believe that the PAD protests are having a negative effect on the nation’s economy and society. Indeed, many find it truly hard to understand why the PAD should feel it is so necessary to take such risks with their futures.

That said, there are definitely many who think that the PAD protests are entirely justified. Such supporters cannot stand the idea of the ‘Ghost Baby’ Government being able to get away with anything it so desires. They are especially worried about the government’s proposals to amend the 2007 Constitution – which they believe are only intended to rehabilitate a certain former politician.

The current political situation needs to be kept under close scrutiny. We will all have to wait and see if the majority of Thais will eventually see fit to support the PAD – or whether they will prefer to stay at home with the view that the protests are a step closer to anarchy.

NPN leader Taikorn reveals a ‘malignant’ plot to turn Thailand’s constitutional monarchy into a republic –

translated and summarized from *Phujatkan*, June 7, 2008

Northern People’s Network (NPN) leader and key People’s Alliance for Democracy (PAD) supporter Taikorn Ponsuwan has recently revealed that there is a ‘malignant’ movement at work, that is intent on replacing Thailand’s constitutional monarchy with a republic. Taikorn says that this movement favors the abolition of the monarchy. He claims that a key component of this movement is the left-leaning ‘Sahai Supab’ group, which is comprised of former members of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) – that were active in the Northeast during the October 1976 event. Taikorn claims that this ‘malignant’ movement is not interested in destroying the political power of deposed Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, since they believe that it will be necessary to employ that power to destroy the monarchy. The group thus view Thaksin as an important ally in their struggle, with the trade-off being that they will eventually help Thaksin to reclaim his assets – which were frozen by court order after allegations of corruption were filed against him. Taikorn says that two pro-Thaksin groups – the former United Front of Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) and the ‘White Ribbon’ group – are participating in this anti-monarchy plot. Taikorn warns that, since the PPP government was formed, there have been a number of attempts to attack the constitutional monarchy. He claims that the government’s reaction to these attempts has been very ineffective, since it has not treated them with any great seriousness. Taikorn is urging the public to support the PAD’s fight against Thaksin’s power, which he sees as offering the best form of protection for our constitutional monarchy.

Summaries of *Phutjakan* columnists

Devil’s claws in the state under police’s authority – By Sirianya, June 8, 2008

The return of dark circle of the police ruling mafia gang begins after the People Power Party steps into power as government leader. The dark circle, mentioned originated in the time the national police was ruled by Police General Pao Sriyanond. At that time, the mafia gang and gunmen clique were subordinates of the mafia police. I criticize that the following cases are involved with the mafia police and signs that the malign circle has returned. First, the case filed against the Election Commission that claimed the vote ballots corruption. Secondly, the alleged corruption case, filed against Auditor General Office Chief Jaruwan Mentaka. Thirdly, the charge, filed against the Asset Scrutiny Commission, responsible for investigating the disbanded Thai Rak Thai Party corruptions. Fourthly, the arrest warrant, issued for bringing in the former Special Investigation Division Director-Genera. Fifth is the police’s movement in gathering evidence that possibly leads to the arrestment of the 5 People’s Alliance for Democracy core leaders. The sixth case is related to former Head of the Secretariat Office of the defunct Council for National Security General Somjed Boonthanom. The last one is in relation with the lawsuit filed against General Saprang Kanlayanamitr, former member of the CNS. The mafia police ruling state is returning and the mafia police do everything or serve the politicians with concern most to their own benefits.

Wars between the dual worlds –

By Yook Sriariya, June 8, 2008

I have been urged by my friend to write a piece of analytical work about the ongoing political crisis of Thailand by basing on the philosophy of the Taoism. I would say that nowadays’ world has considerably change and the world is losing balance. Regarding the social chaos, people are classified into different groups after the arising of the world’s top class, recognized as the Elite or the Superclass. I will not call the Superclass group as capitalists as they have fairer development in vision that threatens the world. The Superclass like the Hedge Fund CEO has influence over the US government and other governments in the world and the Superclass can rob the world(the nation and its people) by their investment. Thailand’s deposed premier Thaksin Shinawatra is one of the Superclass member, who enter the world’s superclass society by his Manchester City football club ownership.

Assassinating Mandate from Buri Ram –

By Bannaros Buaklee, June 7, 2008

The Thailand’s political dark circle remains existed up to the present. The mafia politicians are still partaking. About 10 year earlier, in the year 2000, the life menace case, involved with the Democrat Party’s MP candidate in Buri Ram Panawat Lienphong was evidence of the story of Thai mafia politicians. Panawat fell victim in a shooting, aimed at killing him. The Democrat MP survived but was severely injured. The police investigation team revealed that the gunman initially confessed that he was hired by Chai Chidchob’s son, brother of Newin Chidchob, the former Thai Rak Thai’ s Buri Ram MP . However, the suspect later changed his testimony to the police, saying the Chidchob family has no involvement with the case. The case ended without any masterminded be taken into justice. Nowadays, the dark circle of politics continues. Some politicians can do whatever to maintain and pass on their power.

A Hired leader –

By Chaianand Samutwanit, June 8, 2008

The nation needs a leader who has wide visions and understands the modern day problems and the factors involved. The leader should own new work style that support the development of the governmental bureaus and have good communication ability, compared to a good manager who effectively coordinates work with his team. I am worried with the leader who admits he is somebody’s nominee. As it is far beyond our ability to find the definition of “nominee leader” in dictionary for political science studying, the leader is, therefore, called a “hired leader”. This is only for Thailand where everything can be hired, including a leader or a mob.

It all depends on ‘himself’ –

translated and summarized from *Thai Rath*; Column: Samnak Khao Hua Kiew; Author: Mae Luk Chan, June 11, 2008

Besides the Euro 2008 Soccer Tournament, this month will probably also witness an ‘Extraordinary Session’ of the Thai Parliament.

Political pundits are forecasting that this session will initially be a rocky and ill-tempered one – as the major issue under debate, by Members of Parliament, will be the proposed amendments of the 2007 Constitution. Once, however, the amendment debate has been concluded, the temperature in the chamber is likely to drop dramatically. Indeed, aficionados of local politics are likely to be highly disappointed by the abrupt curtailment of confrontational politics that is likely to occur once the debate is over.

Despite sixty-one senators having requested the holding of a ‘No Confidence’ debate & vote, it is highly unlikely that the current political dissatisfaction with this government will force any significant changes to its conduct. Indeed, the 2007 Constitution does not actually even provide senators with the right to initiate such a debate.

If – however – at least one-in-three senators calls for a ‘General Debate’, the government will be forced to accede to their demand. That would mean that Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej and his entire Cabinet members would come under the scrutiny of the Senate over the conduct of their first 4 months in power.

I believe that the eventual outcome of this 'General Debate' will largely depend on Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's ability to control his temper during the proceedings.

PPP-led government uses psychological warfare to encourage anti-PAD sentiments – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, June 8, 2008

It looks like the current political situation is in the process of change, after Jakrapob Penkair announced that he would resign from his position as Prime Minister's Office Minister. Additionally, a number of Members of Parliament have withdrawn their signatures from a parliamentary motion to initiate amendments to the 2007 Constitution. The People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) – which is currently putting pressure on Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej to resign – has also stated that it has no intention of moving its protest site away from the Makawan Rangsang Bridge.

PM Samak Sundaravej and his People Power Party (PPP)-led government presently appear to be moving away from a reactive strategy towards the PAD protests, towards more of a proactive response.

Another significant change is that the PAD also appears to be moving away from its accusational attacks against the government, towards a more defensive position. All these moves have occurred since Samak recently launched a tirade against the PAD protest gathering. The PM's outburst placed the PAD in a position from which they could not easily retreat. This outburst also convinced the PAD that their protests should additionally aim for the resignation of the PM.

We should always bear in mind that the majority of Thai people clearly want to see their country return to the path of peace. The majority also want the government to solve their numerous present-day problems, and bring an end to the current political conflict through compromise with its detractors.

It should, therefore, be no great surprise that the PAD attempt to oust the government has actually ended up placing it at a disadvantage since the Samak administration was clearly elected by the common will.

Column: Luck Dtae Mai Lab (Stories Revealed in Detail) –

translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Author: Jaran Pongjeen, June 6, 2008

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's on-air tirade against the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) on the state-run NBT television channel on May 31 could have been a big mistake. Many more members of the public joined the PAD protest rally soon after the PM's unscheduled television statement. The PAD also followed up the PM's tirade by claiming that his statement had not been agreed upon during any cabinet discussions. Four out of five coalition parties in the People Power Party (PPP)-led government have expressed some opposition to the PM's words.

There has also been some speculation over the possibility of four of the coalition government parties throwing their support behind the opposition Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva. It is thought possible that Abhisit might be able to form a coalition government of approximately 247 MPs, with the PPP in opposition with about 233 MPs. One obstacle to such a scenario is that the Ruam Jai Thai Chat Pattana Party (RJTCPP) will probably continue to support the PPP as it is highly-protective of the two ministerial posts it holds in the incumbent cabinet.

I believe that the ongoing political crisis could possibly lead to a coup d'état or a tense political standoff, as the PAD is continuing to voice its strong opposition against the PPP-led government. This problem might only come to an end if Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej were to resign. The PPP still appears to have some room for political maneuver, however.

One future option is for a new government to be formed by any one of the three following parties: the PPP, the Democrat Party or the RJTCPP. Such a new government might be formed in the style of a conciliatory national government, as suggested by the revered elder social critic Dr. Prawes Wasi. (The Democrat Party is probably not in favor of holding a new election, since it appears to have limited funds with which to run a campaign.)

A second option is for the government to defer its parliamentary motion to initiate amendments to the 2007 Constitution. A special committee might then be formed, to study possible amendments in greater depth, under the leadership of Chai Chidchob – the House Speaker. Chai is viewed by many as a person who could play an important role in bringing an end to the ongoing political conflict, as he is the father of the key PPP member Newin Chidchob.

Thaksin and Gen. Prem reconciled? – Thaksin says, "I'm sorry for everything" – Is he just 'taking one small step back, in readiness for a giant leap forward'?

– translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: Scoop, June 2, 2008

The current political conflict is looking increasingly serious. The conflict is particularly heated over the issues of the proposed constitutional amendments and the inflammatory speeches that have been made by Jakrapob Penkair in the past. In the midst of all this political turmoil, former PM Thaksin Shinawatra 'unexpectedly' met elder statesman Gen. Prem Tinsulanonda at the funeral of Gen. Anupong Paochinda's mother on May 26. Additionally, some pro-government MPs and senators have withdrawn their support for the parliamentary motion to initiate amendments to the 2007 Constitution. Jakrapob Penkair has also decided to resign from his position as the Prime Minister's Office Minister. These two latter actions are believed to have been ordered by Thaksin Shinawatra.

Rumor has it that Thaksin has become a lot less aggressive in his actions since orders went out to seize 70 billion baht of his assets. His softened approach could also be as a result of military dissatisfaction with Jakrapob's inflammatory speeches against the Royalty, and the alarming increase in political tension that has resulted from the recent People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protests. Thaksin was even reported to have told Gen. Prem (at the funeral) that he was sorry for all the negative political events that may have accrued from his past actions. It has to be said, however, that the supposed 'chance' funeral meeting between Thaksin and Prem was NO coincidence. Thaksin's apparently conciliatory behavior towards Gen. Prem can almost certainly not be trusted. It should perhaps be perceived as an example of Thaksin 'taking one small step back, in readiness for a giant leap forward'.

'White Ribbon' group should beware the 'black' of election cheats doesn't stain its campaign

– translated and summarized from *Krungtep Turakit*; Column: Newsmaker, June 5, 2008

Dr. Chuchai Supawong has recently criticized the move of a university lecturers' network to encourage people to wear a white ribbon as a form of symbolic protest against the street demonstrations of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD). Dr. Chuchai said that the 'White Ribbon' campaign could make it easier for the PAD to be portrayed by its opponents as violent and aggressive. He also said that the 'White Ribbon' group should not question the intentions of the PAD, as he believed that PAD supporters were essentially 'good' people.

He thought that the best solution to the current political conflict was for the government to cancel its plans to amend the Constitution – which he believed were intended to allow former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to return to power, by preventing any legal action being taken against him. Chuchai also warned the group to be careful to avoid their campaign blurring issues of 'correct political behavior' and the 'correct course of justice' – as he believes that any further complication of these issues might only serve to further confuse the electorate.

'White' to survive?

– translated and summarized from *Matichon*; Column: Krongrang Tamnan Khon; Author: Gartong, June 8, 2008

The Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs at Thammasat University, Parinya Thewanaruemitkul, was once a political activist who took part in the 1992 'Black May' event. Parinya has now come up with an idea that he hopes will help to return this country to peace. He is promoting the idea of people wearing white as symbol of peace, to counteract the current political schism. He has formed a group of undergraduates to support him in his 'White Peace' campaign – which calls for an end to the current political conflict between two entrenched political camps: namely the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) and the People Power Party (PPP)-led government.

I believe this movement should serve to remind us how important it is that the combined creative power of our academics and undergraduates is brought to bear on the vital issue of maintaining an everlasting peace in our nation.

Report on police handling of the PAD mob

– translated and summarized from *Komchadluek*; Column: First Page Scoop, June 4, 2008

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej once again spoke directly to the public on his 'Samak Style of Talk' weekly TV program on state-run NBT on May 31. Samak spoke of the stern measures that he intended to take against the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) protest mob if they did not conform to his wishes. That speech led to a police riot-squad being assembled at the Makawan Rangsang Bridge, where the PAD protest rally platform is currently based. One source revealed that the government's plans included the arrest of 5 key PAD leaders. National Police Chief Gen. Patcharawat Wongsuwan followed up Samak's speech by going to the bridge to enter into serious dialogue with the protest group's leadership. The police were apparently concerned that they would face strong public criticism if they took strong-arm action against the protestors – since PM Samak had not issued the necessary Emergency Decree to allow such drastic action. There was some thought that the police could use traffic laws to take legal action against the demonstrators – but it was duly noted that this legislation did little more than specify the level of fine that could be imposed on violators.

Americans dying overseas

June 30, 2008

Americans dying overseas – September 26, 2008

[Non-Natural Death Cases Abroad – July 1, 2005-June 30, 2008](#)

[Non-Natural Death Cases Abroad – October 2002-June 30, 2005](#)

[Statistical Summary – July 1, 2005-June 30, 2008](#)

(Thailand is number 3 only after Mexico and Iraq.)