

Thaksin appalled by Hun Sen's economic knowledge

January 2, 2010

Categories: Cambodia

Thaksin appalled by Hun Sen's economic knowledge (3) – *Khmer Intelligence News*, January, 2010
Thailand's former premier Thaksin Shinawatra who has recently been appointed as economic advisor to Cambodia's prime minister Hun Sen is reportedly appalled the latter's poor economic knowledge and stubbornness. When Thaksin asked Hun Sen what measures he has taken to counter the ongoing world economic and financial crisis, Hun Sen was unable to speak clearly. Hun Sen tried to say there was nothing he could do and he had to only wait for the United States and Europe to "resolve their problems." When Thaksin asked him about the size of the economic stimulus package the Cambodian government has adopted, Hun Sen just scratched his head. And when Thaksin asked him about the social safety net the Cambodian government has put in place to protect the population, Hun Sen just asked back, "What is this?"

Cambodia, Thai soldiers enjoy new year's dance near border

January 4, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Cambodia, Thai soldiers enjoy new year's dance near border](#) – Bernama, January 4, 2010

Some 80 Cambodian and Thai soldiers enjoyed a New Year's dance last weekend, a festivity that helped the two sides of armed forces to know each other and exchange gifts...

With Hmong expulsion, Thai army asserts foreign po...

January 6, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[With Hmong expulsion, Thai army asserts foreign policy role](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, January 6, 2010

...Thai analysts are hardly surprised, given the long history of the Thai army calling the shots to determine Bangkok's foreign policy with neighborhood Laos, Cambodia, Burma and Malaysia. It is rooted in military thinking that was dominant during the Cold War, when Thailand was a strong ally of the United States government's war in Indochina...

Historical Thai flags

January 7, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Historical Thai flags](#) – *FOTW*, January, 2010

Police report on Pornthip raises tension in court

January 7, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Police report on Pornthip raises tension in court](#) – Sin Chew Jit Poh, January 7, 2010

...Karpal Singh who represented Teoh's brother Teoh Meng Kee alleged that the police report was made to intimidate and refrain Dr Pornthip from giving evidence of the second post-mortem carried out on Teoh's body recently.

...Karpal said Dr Pornthip needs assurance that she would not be detained by the Immigration when she arrives in the country to give evidence on the second post-mortem...

RP offers to buy Thai rice without duty as compensation gesture

January 7, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[RP offers to buy 370,000 MT Thai rice without duty as compensation gesture](#) – *Manila Bulletin*, January 7, 2010

Military to buy mobile phone jammers

January 7, 2010

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Last one in, again](#) – Bangkok Post, January 7, 2010

...Two weeks after the army announced that terrorists in the South were switching from mobile phones to other types of remote controls to set off their bombs, the military announced it would purchase new, updated and more expensive equipment to jam mobile phones; this time, the jammers come from Japan at a cost of (cough) 1.5 million baht (cough) apiece; you should be ashamed for what you're thinking right now, the leaders of the armed forces have absolutely no motive but pure national security and the idea of a kickback on such equipment is hateful thought...

Father continues fight for justice in Thailand

January 7, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Father continues fight for justice in Thailand](#) – Red Deer Advocate, January 7, 2010

...Iovinelli said Uthai originally claimed he fired his gun in self-defence, but at the most recent hearing said instead that he fired his gun accidentally.

“Our concern throughout is how do you accidentally shoot two different people that are far apart from one another?” he said...

Thai Market owner finds hate graffiti

January 7, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai Market owner finds hate graffiti](#) – *Reporter News*, January 7, 2010

S Korea to join U.S., Thai-led Cobra Gold exercise

January 8, 2010

Categories: Thai Military

[S Korea to join U.S., Thai-led Cobra Gold exercise in late January](#) – *chinaview.cn*, January 8, 2010

The walk of austerity

January 8, 2010

[The walk of austerity](#) – *The Star*, January 8, 2010

Commonly practised in Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Laos and Sri Lanka, Theravada Buddhism is sometimes called the Forest Tradition...

Stigmatized in the Deep South

January 9, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Stigmatized in the Deep South – January 9, 2010

From an email forwarded from friend living near the Inkayuthaboriharn military camp in Pattani who was accused by the military of being an insurgent:

I do not want to talk about the painful memory any longer because it brings the feeling that I do not want to think about. Talking about it makes me feel the pain every time... I hope that the story that I tell will be one of the solution for state authority... I accept that the operation of the authority as I told is not the state policy to solve the problem and bring peace.

However, I want to raise the question asking high ranked authority and the state policy controller whether they have explored seriously about how operational officials perform their work. Do they follow the declared policy?

Today the word “suspected” was put on my face for the rest of my life . Every time that the violent situation occurred in this area, I will be one who was brought into investigation questioning my involvement. I have to live in society with the suspected charge of bombing and shooting despite that I am proved I was not involved in the incident.

I feel that I was put into the new world by the state authority and they indirectly kill me... and the government itself narrows my living space. Today no one dare associate with me like before, merely because I was stigmatized as militant...

Arisman's comments

January 9, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

Arisman's comments – January 9, 2010

Several asked about what Arisman's comments were which are referred to in this article: [Suthep orders action against Arismant](#).

As far as we can tell the comments are the public threats to firebomb the houses of EC members if they do not dissolve the Democrat Party. There have also been calls to burn down Privy Councilor Prem's houses in Bangkok, Korat, and Songkhla.

Arisman is a significant Red Shirt as he is one of the few willing to personally lead protest activity on the ground (as opposed to others who threaten and posture on radio and at rallies). Arisman led the charge into the Asean Summit in Pattaya last April.

If Arisman has fled the country as is rumored, this is a boon for the government as it removes a personality who has shown the willingness and ability to lead aggressive protests.

There has been a much higher ratio of talk to action in the last two months and the Thai-language press is beginning to question the Red Shirts's ability to bring numbers together and take real action. Even the rally at the EC on Friday turned out to be a convoy of just 30 taxis.

Compare this to the English-language press which has been breathlessly reporting the Red Shirts' boasts along with scuttlebutt from blogs (for example: [Reds ready to rumble in Thailand](#) – Also: The idea that low-level minor military friends of Thaksin could break ranks during a protest and somehow support the Red Shirts is ludicrous).

After so many boasts of large numbers of protesters and a final siege of the government, the pro-Thaksin movement will have to come up with impressive activities soon—perhaps the protest at Surayud's house and then a long march into Bangkok (although land encroachment by an “old ginger” is hardly a strong issue with the public).

Senior Chinese legislator meets Thai guest

January 10, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Senior Chinese legislator meets Thai guest](#) – *People's Daily*, January 10, 2010

Zhou Tienong, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, met in Beijing with a delegation of the National Assembly of Thailand on Monday. The delegation was led by Chai Chidchob, president of the National Assembly and speaker of the House of Representatives...

Fugitive treaty with Thailand is near

January 10, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

[Fugitive treaty with Thailand is near](#) – *The National*, January 10, 2010

...UAE and Thai officials are expected to sign an extradition treaty on Wednesday, a deal that Thailand hopes will lead to the UAE handing over the former Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who is reported to be living in Dubai...

Images of Siamese dance from the past

January 10, 2010

Categories: Old photos and films

[Images of Siamese dance from the past](#) – *YouTube*, January, 2010

1905 – Bangkok street scene

January 10, 2010

Categories: Old photos and films



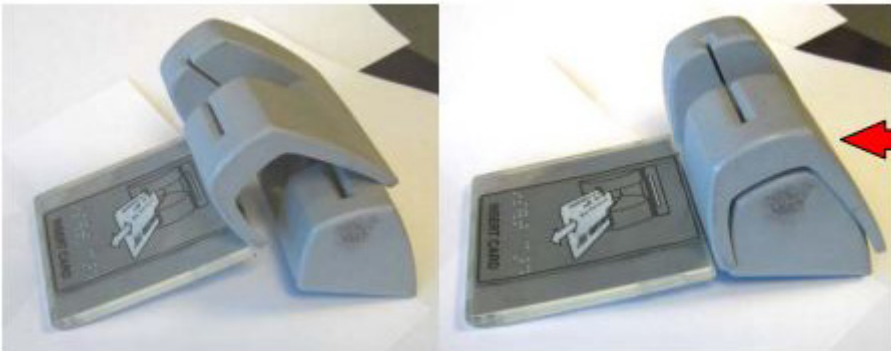
(Source: Vintage postcard)

1905 – Bangkok street scene

Would you have spotted the fraud?

January 11, 2010

Categories: Crime



(Photo: krebsonsecurity.com)

[Would you have spotted the fraud?](#) – *krebsonsecurity.com*, January, 2010

The Cambodian government returns CATS to Thai owners

January 11, 2010

Categories: Cambodia

[P. Penh returns CATS to Thai owners](#) – Bangkok Post, January 11, 2010

The government of Cambodia has officially returned the operation of Cambodia Air Traffic Services (CATS) to its owner, Bangkok-listed Samart Corp Plc, Samart executive vice chairman Sirichai Rasameechan said on Monday.

The Cambodian government earlier seized control of CATS and barred its Thai employees from the offices after Thai engineer Sivarak Chutipong was arrested for passing fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra's flight information to the Thai embassy in Phnom Penh. He was later pardoned by Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni.

"Thai staff employed by CATS can now return to work as usual," Mr Sirichai said.

Earlier, Mr Sivarak said he planned to return to work for CATS in Phnom Penh after Cambodian premier Hun Sen assured his mother, Simarak na Nakhon Phanom, that he could 'stay happily in Cambodia'.

Thai backpackers top insurance list

January 11, 2010

Categories: Tourism

[Thai backpackers top insurance list](#) – UKPA, January, 2010

...Claims following Thailand visits account for 22% of all backpackers' claims, according to InsureandGo...

Cambodian PM says Thai government won't survive

January 12, 2010

[Cambodian PM says Thai government won't survive](#) – Reuters, January 12, 2010

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said indicated on Tuesday that relations with neighbouring Thailand remained tense and said “it won't be long” before a change of government in Bangkok...

Protesting Against the Privy Councillor at Khao Yai Thieng Mountain

January 13, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics



From *Komchadluek*, January 13, 2010

The headline reads: Glut of reds at the Khao Yai Thieng Mountain – Privy Councilor discusses ways to handle – Surayud insists will not resign – Surayud seeks way to go down from Khao Yai Thieng, p. 15



From *Komchadluek*, January 13, 2010

Top (in red): Gen Surayud's house

Top left:

Channel 7's signal booth

Top right: EGAT's reservoir

Middle left: Channel 3, 9 signal station

Middle right: Police authority's safety front

Middle right (in red): Red shirts' stage

Bottom middle (building with red roof): Police weapon checkpoint

Bottom left: Nakorn Ratchaseema Provincial police's Klongphai Safety Operational Center

Bottom right: Ban Khao Yai Thieng village, Moo 6

Bottom left (road): To Nakorn Ratchaseema

Bottom middle (road): Mitraparb Road

Bottom right (road): Bangkok

Phuket tourists driving turtles away

January 14, 2010

[Phuket tourists driving turtles away](#) – *AsiaOne*, January 14, 2010

Cambodian military towns spring up on Thai border

January 14, 2010

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Cambodian military towns spring up on Thai border](#) – ABC Radio Australia, January 14, 2010

...It's believed a total of 14 new villages will eventually be established at a cost of hundreds of millions of US dollars. A multi-ministerial committee, headed by former Phnom Penh governor and long-time Preah Vihear supporter, Chea Sophara, is driving the development. It's a long-term plan, with land along the heavily-mined border being cleared for new infrastructure to sustain the permanent relocation of soldiers and their families...

Bird spotted just twice in 139 years found

January 15, 2010

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Bird spotted just twice in 139 years found breeding in northeastern Afghanistan](#) – *Treehugger*, January 15, 2010

The warbler, called the “world’s least-known bird species,” was first spotted in India in 1867 and wasn’t seen again until a sighting was made in Thailand in 2006...

Also: [More in-depth information about the bird](#)

Honouring the memory of the master planner of Bangkok

January 16, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Honouring the memory of the master planner of Bangkok](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 16, 2010

Last week Bangkok, Thailand and the world lost a truly remarkable citizen. Former Bangkok governor (1992-1996) Krisda Arunvongse na Ayudhya died of coronary artery disease at Siriraj Hospital on Tuesday at the age of 78. Krisda was better known for his endeavours outside politics, but in his years of public service he provided an example that we can only hope will be emulated more in future years...

MSU to join hands with Thai university

January 16, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[MSU to join hands with Thai univ](#) – *Times of India*, January 16, 2010

...Students, researchers and teachers of M S University can now look forward to enrolling for academic, research and joint degree programmes at Thammasat University...

Thailand blames its critics for refugees' fate

January 16, 2010

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Thailand blames its critics for refugees' fate](#) – Sydney Morning Herald, January 16, 2010

...Mr Abhisit said delays on the part of the proposed resettling countries – Australia, the US, Canada and the Netherlands – had kept the Hmong in detention and, ultimately, was a factor in them being deported...

Bangkok Bus and BRT News 2004-2010

January 17, 2010
Categories: Buses

[BRT off to a sluggish start amid heavy traffic](#) – *The Nation*, June 1, 2010

BRT begins service – June 1, 2010

Richard reports: *I went to test out the BRT dedicated bus route today. I [posted live updates and pictures](#) on Twitter as I went along.*

Here are some links for my moblog and video taken with my iPhone: [A Ride on the BRT Dedicated Bus – Video](#)

I went non-stop to Ratchaphuek by BRT and then came back by taxi to see

which is faster. The taxi took 27 minutes (including about 7 minutes when he got lost and had to do a u-turn) and cost 137 baht. The BRT bus took 51 minutes & was free. The bus drivers had trouble on approach to the stations and crashed into the platform a few times. They are hoping after practice to get this down to 30 minutes per run.

I know this is old news, but [the David Beckham temple has its own station now at BRT Wat Pariwat](#).

Finally, I have a google map with pictures showing the stations on the route. [I have already started to explore the route to add tourist attractions](#).

[BMA launches first BRT line](#) – *The Nation*, May 31, 2010



(Photo: Steve)

BRT testing – May 28, 2010

Steve reports: *I took these snaps this evening from our condo on Rama III (overlooking the Wat Pariwat BRT station). It looks like they are testing the buses (above) and possibly testing out other drivers' responses to the bus lanes actually being used by buses!*

It really looked like they were trying to teach commuters a lesson – traffic stuck behind the three buses tried to drive over the curb stones, with the result that one truck got very stuck (below)...



(Photo: Steve)

BRT stalled? – March 4, 2009

Wes notes: *I work at Sathorn and Narathiwat and I couldn't help noticing that the construction on the BRT stations has stopped. In fact it stopped in December. The foundations are there, even the escalators under blue tarps, but since putting in the frame for the roof the workers have disappeared. Given the history of transport infrastructure in this town, I can't help but suspect the worst — that the project has stalled for political or financial reasons...*

[Another BRT delay on cards](#) – Bangkok Post, October 28, 2008

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) says City Hall should suspend its Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) project until it concludes inquiries into alleged irregularities in the 300 million baht purchase of 45 buses...

[City bus plan still getting flak](#) – Bangkok Post, August 19, 2008

While the Transport Ministry remains upbeat about its plan to lease 6,000 new air-conditioned buses to improve the public bus service, critics are still unconvinced it is the right solution for the debt-ridden Bangkok Mass Transit Authority (BMTA)...

[No bidders in e-auction for Bus Rapid Transit](#) – The Nation, November 12, 2007

...According to deputy city clerk Ratthapol Meethanathavorn, companies might have been reluctant to bid for the project because the BMA clearly states that it will impose a Bt777,554 daily fine on the successful bidder if it fails to provide the vehicles within the specified date...



(Photo: Dick van der Spek)

Bus photos in 1981 – November 5, 2008

Above: Charan Chanitwongroad, not far from Phrarambridge.

Below: Klong Toey



(Photo: Dick van der Spek)

[Rapid bus system delayed](#)

– [Critics say dedicated lane for new service would worsen congestion](#) – *The Nation*, October 29, 2007

[Poor outcome seen for city BRT bus plan](#) – *Bangkok Post*, August 30, 2007

...Mr Prapat said the project was supposed to carry about 20,000 commuters a day while the BRT has the capacity to take 80 commuters per trip.

He added the fare may not be enough incentive for people to leave their cars at home and ride the BRT.

Commuters may be reluctant to pay the fare, proposed at between 12-18 baht a trip, especially if they have to connect with other mass transit modes.

A single ticket for all mass transit systems would help solve the problem, as it would increase convenience.

[Second BRT route planned](#) – *The*

Nation, July 21, 2007

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has announced plans to build a second Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route, from Nonthaburi's Pak Kret to Bangkok's Mor Chit...

[Official BRT website](#) –

April 10, 2007





(Photo: Jerry)

BRT construction – April 3, 2007

Jerry reports: *Unique Engineering have been dropping off red and white curbside barriers at each proposed BRT stop along the Narathiwat/Rama 3 route. There is also a sign (picture attached) in Thai regretting the inconvenience and saying it will be finished early 2551.*

[BMA may sign contract next month to build bus rapid transit routes](#) – *The Nation*, January 17, 2007

[First BRT route to open next year](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 18, 2007

[Capital to get its first city rapid bus route](#) – *The Nation*, January 4, 2007

[Rapid bus route gets nod](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 4, 2007

...The project had two primary routes—the Chong Nonsi-Bangkok Bridge and the 19.5-km Nawamin-Kasetsart routes.

But the government only gave the go-ahead for the Chong Nonsi-Bangkok Bridge route because a special bus lane for the other route has not yet been completed, said government spokesman Yongyuth Mayalap. He said the Transport Ministry had no plans to build the rapid bus lane anytime soon as it feared the project would only worsen traffic congestion on Phaholyothin road, where traffic is always bad.

The approved BRT route starts from Surawong road, heads to Narathiwat Ratchanakarin and Rama III roads, then crosses the Chao Phraya river at Rama III bridge, and ends at Ratchaphruek intersection. Commuters will be able to board the bus at 17 stops. Rapid buses will be allowed to pass through red lights at intersections to speed up the journey.

[BMTA to decommission all non-air-conditioned buses](#) – *The Nation*, August 5, 2006

[Transport Ministry](#)

[prepared for Thailand's liberalization of passenger bus services](#) – *TNA*, May 31, 2006

Thailand's city and inter-provincial bus services are being improved to meet the government's standard in preparation for the planned liberalization of the country's passenger bus services, according to Deputy Transport Minister Gen. Chainant Charoensiri...

[Rapid](#)

[bus service runs out of steam](#) – *The Nation*,
February 24, 2006

The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, a pet project of Bangkok Governor

Apirak Kosayodhin, is likely to flop due to several setbacks, especially the lack of money, demand and governmental support, a city official said yesterday...

End tipped

for rapid bus scheme – Democrats worried support will suffer – *Bangkok Post*, February 24, 2006

City

incumbents fear BRT will be tough sell – *Bangkok Post*, January 11, 2006

... A party source said they were worried that buses running on the Navamin-Kaset-Mor Chit route under the BRT scheme would worsen traffic on nearby Phahon Yothin road and that could upset voters.

Under the scheme, the buses would run in the right lane of roads, alongside traffic islands.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has postponed the launch of the BRT service several times.

... Critics have accused the government of dragging its feet in approving the operations of the BRT bus routes. So far, the issue has not yet been put on the cabinet agenda for consideration.

The source said the Democrat councillors wanted the BRT service to be launched after the city council election...

4,000 new

buses, shorter routes – Transfer ticket plan should cut congestion – *Bangkok Post*, January 9, 2005

The Bangkok Mass Transit Authority (BMTA) will start revamping bus routes this month and deploy 4,000 new air-conditioned buses in a major exercise to provide Bangkok commuters with a more convenient and safer bus service...

Bidding for the Bangkok Smartway (BRT) – translated and summarized from *Bangkok Biznews*, November 15, 2005

The winners of the bidding for the Bangkok Smartway are

- 1) Mochit – Kaset – Nawamin – Rama Indra km 8: ITD -> 705 million baht
- 2) Chong Nonsee – Bangkok Bridge: Unique Engineering & Construction -> 681 million baht

However, BMA has to negotiate the price with ITD and Unique Eng. since both are higher than the medium price of 682 million baht for the Kaset route and 660 million baht for the Phra Ram 3 route. BMA would have to call a new bid if both companies refuse to cut the budget.

The delay on the construction would result in a fine of 0.005 of the total construction cost per day.

If both companies sign the contract with BMA, they have to finish the project in 180 days before testing the system which consists of

- 1) Stations with elevators and flyovers along with aircon systems -> 18 stations for Mochit – Nawamin – Ram Indra route (19.5 km) and 16 stations from Surawongse to The Mall Tha Phra (16.5 km) which is better than the stations on the first route.
- 2) Separated tracks to prevent private cars from entering the BRT route (except at interchanges and u-turns) along with yellow paint for BRT routes on interchanges and U-turns
- 3) Power lines and computers to control the system.

BMA has to discuss with the Highway Department and Provincial Highway Department to allow the construction of BRT routes on the roads under their jurisdiction.

BRT stations – November 1,
2005

Wisarat found these maps of BRT stations at the BMA Traffic Bureau website: [Mochit](#)
– [Nawamin – Khanna Yao line](#) and [Chong](#)
[Nonsee – Rama 3- Ratchapruek Road](#)

BMA investing in ‘Smart Ways’

(BRT) – translated and summarized from *Thairath* and *Dailynews*, October 25, 2005

The budget for the Bangkok Smart Way by Krungthep Thanakhom for the first
two routes
is 2.298 billion baht.

1) Before the actual services – 0.0872 billion
baht

2) After the actual services – 2.2109 billion
baht

Krungthep Thanakhom would run the advertising deal on the stations and
buses in addition to collecting tickets while Krungthep Thanakhom would
pay 10% of revenue to BMA.

There will be 463 officers for the Bangkok Smart Way and they would spend
27.28 million baht on PR and marketing to boost the image of the project
which will be allocated as follows:

14.94 million baht for TV commercials, radio commercials, magazine commercials,
advertising signs pamphlets, and websites.

1.5 million baht for opening the project

4.5 million baht for community and education institute participation

There will be 18.40 million baht/month
for salaries which can be allocated as follows:

120,000 baht for the general manager

18,000 baht for secretariat

85,000 baht for operating manager

18,000 baht for each BRT driver

10,000 baht for each security guard

85,000 baht for PR manager

30,000 baht for financial director

8,500 baht for each maid and janitor

10,000 baht for each telephone operator

15.7 million baht for bureau expenses

11.44 million baht/month for analysis

and plans which can be allocated as follows:

250,000 baht for the expert managers

1,800,000 baht for foreign personnel

7,300,000 baht for fuel and testing

6,270,000 baht for administration

791,800 baht for erecting the directing signs and
fare collecting.

After opening, the expense will be allocated as follows:

1) Building maintenance – 342.64 million baht

2) Constant expenses such as salary of 1118.45 million baht

3) Various expenses such as fuel, tickets, marketing and PR of 749.84
million baht

The personnel expense is the greatest expense, especially the consultant
expenses.

BMA Traffic Bureau has hired PCI to be the project consultant.

More details can be seen here: [Thaiinsider](#), [Daily](#)

[News](#), [Thairath](#)

BMA Smart Way is here: [Daily](#)

[News](#), [Thairath](#)

Political football between BMA and the Central Government: [Khom](#)

[Chad Luek](#)

Earlier: [BRT bidding postponed](#)

[indefinitely due to red tape](#) – *Manager Daily*, October 11, 2005



Nine BRT mockups – October 1, 2005

[Nine BRT mockups from the Transport Ministry](#) (2.72MB/pdf)



BRT bidding postponed indefinitely due to red tape – translated and summarized from *Manager Daily*, October 11, 2005
 ITD, STECON, and Unique Engineering have submitted the bidding for both lines of BRT (Bangkok Smart Ways). BMA was given a license to run the service and the BMA Traffic Bureau feels confident that the Bangkok Smart Way will be ready for a test run in June 2006 and open for service on August 9, 2006.

However, a cabinet resolution has granted BMTA a monopoly on bus routes in Bangkok and vicinity, so Krungthep Thanakhom and BMA are not allowed to run BRT services. BRT is considered a bus service. BMA would have to ask for an exemption from the government. This would be really hard if not impossible to do despite the fact that Land Transportation has granted permission for BMA to run BRT services.

Note: BMA would now feel outraged that TRT has stabbed them in

the back again by lulling them into complacency with Land Transportation's license and then stabbing them in the back later using bureaucracy.

BRT in Los Angeles – October
14, 2005

Victor writes: *I was checking out 2Bangkok the other night, and noticed the BRT brochure posted. I checked out the photos, and thought the buses looked real familiar. I then realized that I just saw a news segment on our Local ABC7 channel, featuring the opening of the Metro Orange Line. I decided to track down the website and thought I'd share it with you. The planned BRT for Bangkok looks very similar to the Metro Orange Line. (At least, we now know that the system works, and its currently running in the Valley) What I thought the coolest part of the system, is that they have a 14 mile bike path, designed with art, and each station is designed differently by different artists to show a different decor. I don't think it would be the same for Bangkok because of the limited spaces we have for developing such a line. It seems like, (from the digitally generated graphics, at least) they are building these routes over current busy streets. Please check out their [website](#).*

Only Chong Nonsee-Kalaprapruek Road Smart Way (BRT)

to be constructed – translated and summarized from *Thairath*, October 7, 2005
The bidding for a contractor for the Bangkok Smart Way (BRT) will be started on October 11, 2005. Krungthep Thanakhom will have to run the Bangkok Smart Way project so the contract with Krungthep Thanakhon will be signed on October 10. They expect that the Bangkok Smart Way from Chong Nonsee will be opened in June 2006.

BMA and Krungthep Thanakhon said they are worried about these issues:

1. The delay on Mochit-Nawamin Smart Way due to the fact that the Highway Department is still in charge on Kaset-Nawamin Road and the middle of the road will have pillars from the Expressway Authority. Therefore, cooperation with ETA (they plan to construct an expressway) and the Highway Department (handling the Kaset Tunnel construction) is a must.
2. Cooperation between the BMA Traffic Bureau and Krungthep Thanakhon is still plagued with red tape and BMA and members of the BMA Council and District Council still does not fully trust Krungthep Thanakhom.
3. The payment between Krungthep Thanakhom and BMA will follow the regulation of BMA. No special payment allowed unless they can show evidence.

[BRT likely on Rama](#)

[3 only](#) – *Bangkok Post*, October 8,
2005

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) is likely to develop its Bus Rapid Transport system (BRT) only on the Rama III route because of possible problems on the other route from Navamin to Mor Chit. Senior officials of the BMA and its subsidiary Krung Thep Thanakhom Co, the BRT developer, met yesterday to discuss the mass transit service that will feature convoys of air-conditioned buses on dedicated lanes to function as feeders for the BTS electric train system.

The meeting discussed the Rama III route that stretches from Rachaphruek road to the Chong Nonsi station of the BTS railway and the Kaset-Navamin route from the eighth kilometre marker of Ram Intra road to the BTS depot in Mor Chit.

The delegation foresaw the possibility that only the Rama III route could be finished and opened next June, as planned. The other route would have to be built on the Kaset-Navamin road where the Highways Department owns the road surface and the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority supervises the road island. Complications are expected with coordination of the state

agencies on the Kaset-Navamin road.

In addition, the route will pass the congested Kaset-Phahon Yothin junction, causing traffic problems during construction. The bidding contest for the Rama III route will take place next Tuesday.

Call

[for massive Bus Rapid Transport system to end city's traffic woes](#) – *The Nation*, September 13, 2005

A leading academic think-tank has proposed a radical approach to Bangkok's traffic congestion by suggesting authorities sacrifice half the city's main roads in favour of developing a comprehensive Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system.

The first "Bangkok Road Map" released yesterday covers seven major proposals for the city's development over the next decade. It was prepared by the Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (JGSEE) and funded by the National Research Council as a suggestion paper for both the government and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA)...

BMA going to run BRT services – translated and summarized from *Dailynews*, July 11, 2005

BMA Traffic Bureau has concluded the details for the bidding on the first 2 BMA BRT lines.

1) Khannayao – Nawamin – Kaset – Mochit (19.5 km)

2) Chong Nonsee – Rama 3 – Bangkok Bridge – Ratchapruet (16.5 km) with a total budget of 2.795 billion baht which includes 64 BRT buses (0.8 billion baht) – either leasing 100 million baht a year or purchasing the new ones, 0.3 billion baht signals and the rest are for the tracks and stations. BMA is going to run the service by hiring the private sector without a joint venture to prevent regulation.

The bid form selling for the private sector, the contractors and the BRT suppliers would start in July 20-31, 2005 to start the bidding process in September 2005. The construction is to start in October 2005 and be ready for service in May 2006

However the section from Mochit to Kaset has a provision that the station and signals must be the knockdown type made from steel once the construction of the Phaholyothin extension starts so as to move those stations to other place such as the extension from Kanna Yao to Fashion Island, etc.

BRT delay: BMA to transfer the chief of BMA transportation bureau – translated and summarized from *Bangkok Biznews*, June 21, 2005 and *Dailynews*, June 22, 2005

Both BRT lines have been delayed. Bidding will be at the end of July instead of June. The reasons for this delay are due to modification of stations, requiring slimmer islands in the middle of the road to accommodate BRT with little compromise on road lanes at Nawamin Road and Phaholyothin Road. Furthermore, the installation of traffic lights at the u-turns along Narathiwat route is necessary since u-turn lanes along that road has share the same BRT lane.

The review on bus procurement—leasing vs. purchasing 64 BRT buses with Euro 3 diesel engines and a price tag of 700 million baht. Euro 3 engines can be modified into NGV engines later on if diesel fuel becomes too expensive. NGV stations are too few at present.

The first 2 BRT lines are

1) Kaset – Nawamin

2) Narathiwat Ratchanakharin

Krungthep Thanakhom will control the BRT service and they have to hire BMTA to run the BRT service.

The delay of bidding has dashed the hopes of opening BRT in March 2006.

The new deadline is May 2006 to serve those students at the beginning of the school year in 2006.

However, Governor Abhirak has to transfer Chief Thaweesak out of BMA Traffic Bureau due to his failure to deliver BRT on time and push Chief Taweesak to work as BMA General Inspector . Khunyaing Pakorn (BMA City Clerk) agrees with Governor Abhirak about this punishment.

BRT hitting another hurdle –
translated and summarized from *Dailynews*, June 8, 2005

BMA said the first two lines of BRT projects have to be delayed to March 2006 but may have another delay due to the Joint Venture Act of BE 2535 which is quite a tough law to get around. BMA has no experience in running a bus service. BMA could only purchase BRT buses and construct the tracks while BMA and the private companies may have to pass the environmental assessment and get cabinet approval—even the [Samrong and Taksin Skytrain extensions](#) have been delayed by the cabinet due to political vendettas.

BMA may have ask Krungthep Thanakhom (State Enterprise of BMA) to run BRT without a private joint venture, but Krungthep Thanakhom has no experience running a bus service—so it may have to hire BMTA, BRT or BMCL and Microbus to run the system without sharing.

BRT: No conclusive decisions – translated and summarized from *Dailynews*, May 25, 2005

The BMA Deputy Governor said BMA has set up the BRT Project Bureau and sent men from the BMA Transportation Bureau to settle issues such as the Kaset Tunnel.

Furthermore, BRT Project Bureau is going to hire the consultant this July to handle ticket prices, the system, the depots and maintenance center, as well as the concession holders and who will run the systems.

BMA decides to purchase BRT buses instead of leasing since purchasing can be done much faster than leasing. The concession holders would pay the lease to BMA. The BRT buses must be Euro 3 Diesel Engine since there are more petrol stations than NGV stations available. Even if the central government has imposed the decree to change the fuel from Diesel to NGV, BMA feels convinced that they can change the engines into NGV. BMA Traffic Bureau has drafted the TOR on BRT route construction and BRT bus procurement. The bidding and the construction could be started in August 2005 and the project will be done by March 2006.

However, this BRT policy is definitely running into conflict with the BMA Treasury office that prefers leasing over purchasing to cut the maintenance burden.

BMA has not come up with the plan for the concession holder in the case they need a bailout. However, it is a case of politics which is the main force that pushes purchasing instead of leasing to be able to get it done as soon as possible to beat TRT in the next General Election.

BMA will eventually face the dilemma with concession holders soon after finishing the line. Bailing out the concession holder too much will punch a big hole in the BMA treasury. Asking the private concession holders to take some burden will force the concession holders to hike fares. This should be settled before purchasing the buses and equipment.

More delays for the BRT – translated
and summarized from *Thairath*, May 18, 2005

There will be a delay on BRT project since BMA can not decide whether they should buy or lease 100 sets of BRT buses, and the type of BRT bus engines—either

Euro3 Diesel or NGV. The construction of the Kaset tunnel and the extension from Bangkok Bridge to Rajapruek Road as well as the extension from Nawamin to Km 8 have compelled them to redesign the routes.

From the Thai-language press: BRT controversies – translated and summarized from *Manager Weekly*, April 22-28, 2005 and *Dailynews*, April 22, 2005

Governor Abhirak is trying to beat premier Thaksin by introducing BRT as a cheap alternative to the 500 billion baht mass transit projects. BMA has refused to let BMTA and OTP participation in the BRT project.

After BMA has ignited fury from BMTA by telling BMTA and OTP not to meddle in BMA's handling of BRT, a member of BMA council told the press that he afraid that BRT may never get started due to many Irregularities such as:

1) Purchasing BRT buses instead of leasing the BRT buses—a big source of corruption and collusion. Leasing would leave the burden on the maintenance on the supplier instead of BMA.

2) No feeder system for BRT to increase the number of passengers.

3) The feuds with BMTA on BRT issues will render the BRT system useless.

BMA better hire either BTS, BMTA or BMCL to handle the BRT services instead.

The BMA Board refuses to answer the BRT issues raised by the BMA Council which is an indication of corruption and collusion. The same can be said about the collusion on Smart Traffic sign procurement.

Also: Responses on [BMA](#)

[handling of BRT – BMA](#)

[Q & A on BRT – BMA](#)

[Article about BRT – BMA](#)

[article about Smart Bus Stop – BMA](#)

[Article about Smart Taxi Stop – BMA](#)

[Smart Traffic Sign – BMA](#)

[website about BMA BRT – Big](#)

[BRT Map](#)

For help with Thai acronyms, check the [2Bangkok.com](#) [glossary](#).

[Transport Co only just trundles](#)

[along](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 1, 2005

.. Politics has consumed Bor Khor Sor for years, maybe decades, and enfeebled the agency.

...Staff say politicians demand kickbacks from private bus operators in exchange for long contracts. They said these kickbacks can vary from 500,000 baht to multi-million-baht payments, depending on the popularity of the route, some of which are virtual monopolies.

This acts as a disincentive to operators to improve their services once they have signed a contract. Passengers on some routes must make do with old, unsafe and dirty buses, and are left to wonder how these vehicles manage to pass their yearly inspections by the Land Transport Department.

...The buses themselves illustrate the company's inefficiency, said one company staff member. The Transport Co buses are powered by a rich assortment of engines: Mercedes Benz from Germany, Isuzu from Japan, Volvo from Sweden and Daewoo from South Korea. Using different engines adds to maintenance costs, he said, but this was the result of more political interference...

[Route extension plans delay service](#)

[opening](#) – *Bangkok Post*, March 25, 2005

Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin has postponed the opening of the city's Bus Rapid Transit service (BRT), after a consultant proposed extensions to the first two routes.

An adviser to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration on the BRT project, Pacific Consultants International Co has proposed that the Mor Chit-Kaset-Navamin

route should instead start from the Navamin-Ram Intra kilometre 8 intersection southward on Navamin road, turn right to Kaset-Navamin road and turn left to Phahon Yothin road until reaching the Mor Chit bus terminal.

The extended route is 19.5 kilometres long and will have 18 stations built at intersections, crowded areas and electric train stations.

The Chong Nonsee-Rama III-Rachaphruek route will start at the Surawong intersection, go on Narathiwat Rachanakharin road, turn right at Rama III road and cross Rama III bridge to Ratchadaphisek road until reaching the Ratchada-Krung Thon Buri intersection...

Earlier: [Bangkok's](#)

[new rapid bus services to start soon](#) – TNA, March 24, 2005

...The first bus route of nearly 20 km will begin from Navamin Road passing Kasetsart Intersection and end at the Mo Chit bus terminal.

The second route will begin from Chong Nonsee through Rama III area and ends at the Ratchaphruek area, on Bangkok's Thon Buri side...

[Busway](#)

[increases fleet, improves ticketing system](#) – The

Jakarta Post, March 5, 2005

News from our neighbors: The TransJakarta Busway Management announced on Friday it had added nine new buses to its existing fleet of 56 buses to cope with large numbers of passengers during the morning and afternoon rush hours...

The busway corridor from Blok M in South Jakarta to Kota in West Jakarta serves about 60,000 passengers during weekdays. That figure drops to 40,000 during weekends because many regular passengers are businesspeople whose offices are located along the 12.9-kilometer corridor...

BRT war – OTP vs BMA – translated
and summarized from *Dailynews*, February 16,
2005

After observing the OTP demonstration of the BRT plan, Deputy Governor Samart told the press that even though OTP did start the study of BRT routes before BMA, OTP has never implemented the BRT service since OTP is just a planning office, not the agency that is going to run BRT services. BMA expects to hand over the OTP plan for nine BRT routes to BMTA. On the other hand, BMA has planned and executed BRT plan at the same time to make a quick traffic resolution according to the new BMA governor's policy.

BMA already has planned 12 BRT routes with a total distance of 185 km including the first 2 lines (Navamin Intersection – Navamin Kaset – Mochit and Surawongse – Chong Nonsee – Rama 3 – Bangkok Bridge – Ratchapruek road

)

BMA suspects that OTP refuses to recognize and incorporate the BMA version of the BRT plan into the OTP plan due to the fact that it comes from the Democrat Party while OTP plan has been approved by the TRT Party. This kind of competing plan would confuse the public. Nevertheless, BMA told the press that BMA has to cooperate with OTP and redefine the rolls of each agency so as to push the BMA version into the final plan.

The routes of the new version of the OTP plan are not the same as the BMA plan. However, BMA told the press that it cannot handle all nine routes imposed by OTP because BMA has already planned 12 BRT routes of its own. The cost to implement the BRT route in the BMA version will have a price tag of 50-70 million baht/km while OTP version is about 50 million baht/km due to the fact that BMA will install escalators and air-conditioning system for very large stations.

OTP coming up with their own version of BRT plan so as not to be outdone by BMA – translated and summarized from *Thairath*, February 15, 2005 and *Matichon*, February 15,

2005

After seeing the BRT plan of BMA, OTP has come up with their own version and invited BMA, Metropolitan Police, BMTA, and the private concession bus and van operators to see the OTP plan.

Metropolitan Police told OTP that they will cooperate with the future operators of BRT for traffic rearrangement. The private bus and van concession holders also told OTP to restore the order for buses and vans which are now in a state of anarchy thanks to BMTA's poor supervision. Electrified buses and vans are also good choices.

OTP has come up with 9 BRT routes with a total distance of 379.72 km can be described as follows:

- 1) Bang Khae – Rangsit -> 56.80 km
- 2) Suvannabhum – Donmuang -> 52.57 km
- 3) Muang Thong Thani – Klong Jan – Samut Prakarn -> 54.30 km
- 4) Suwinthawongse – Talingchan -> 42.86 km
- 5) Ram Indra – Nawamin – Phetkasem – Talingchan -> 35.87 km
- 6) Pra Samut Chedi – Siam Square -> 34.56 km
- 7) Ekkamai – Southern Bus Terminal -> 22.77 km
- 8) Rama 2 – Ram Indra -> 58.83 km
- 9) Rangsit – Chatuchak -> 21.6 km

The average cost is about 50 million baht/km with a total price tag of 18.986 billion baht. There will be stations every 800 meter with automatic fare collectors.

All the routes are not duplicated from BMA's first two routes and BMA also cooperates with OTP to finalize the routes which are to be done in March 2005.

More details of the BRT system – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, February 9, 2005 and February 11, 2005

BMA Deputy told the press after receiving study results on BRT from PCI and AEC that BMA should either rent BRT articulated buses or purchase the new BRT articulated buses to serve the first 2 lines.

- 1) Naweamin Intersection (Ram Indra Km 8) – Nawamin – Kaset – Phaholyothin – Mochit Station (19.5 km)
- 2) Rajapruek – Bangkok Bridge – Rama 3 – Chong Non See – Surawongse (16.5 km)

There will be a station about every 800 meters.

The ticket price will be 10-18 baht.

The highest quality at very reasonable prices will win the bid.

The specifications for the BRT articulated buses are

- 1) 18-m long
- 2) 150 passengers/car
- 3) the floor at the same level as the platform
- 4) 64 sets of articulated BRT buses – 35 sets for Kaset-Nawamin and 24 sets for Chong Nonsee Rama 3 (5 for standby)
- 5) 10 million baht/set

The construction for BRT routes will start in April 2005 with 5 new flyovers at Rama 3.

They will use stone blocks with 6-7 inch height as the mark for BRT routes which cars are not supposed to use. However, they will use yellow paint as the mark for BRT routes in some sections such as Kaset intersection, Lad Phrao intersection, Mochit Station and Bangkok Bridge due to busy traffic and they will impose a 1000 baht fine for each car that runs on BRT lanes.

The construction cost will be 2.5 billion baht. New BRT depots at Nawamin Intersection and Ratchapruek Road have to be constructed.

After getting route approval from Land Transportation, BMA would open BRT services in October 2005 and BMA would not ask for the sudden termination

of BMTA bus routes.

The estimated number of passengers for Kaset Nawamin route is 40,000 a day while Chong Nonsee – Rama 3 will have 50,000 a day.

BRT service will be handled by the private sector. Either BTS, BMCL or Microbus can handle the BRT system if they want even though BTS should handle BRT as feeder lines for BTS Skytrain to enable them to offer a joint ticket system between BTS and BRT and double the daily passengers from the current level of 400,000 passengers a day. Otherwise, BMA will hire someone else (e.g. BMTA) to handle the BRT service.

Specifications for BRT – 10-18 baht/trip – translated and summarized from *Dailynews*, February 9, 2005

BMA, PCI (Thailand) Co. Ltd., and AEC Co. Ltd. has held a meeting about BRT specifications at the BMA Dindaeng Youth Center on February 8 at 9:30am. There were 120 people attending.

The BRT routes:

- 1) Km 8 (Charakhe Bua) – Nawamin – Kaset – Mochit (19.5 km)
- 2) Chong Nonsee – Rama 3 – Bangkok Bridge – Ratchapruiek (16.5 km)

Budget: 2.0-2.5 billion baht (70 million baht/km)

Will run in the center of the road with stone blocks and reflective marks.

Cars which go into BRT routes will get a 1000 baht fine. BMA is also asking for BMTA to readjust bus routes so they will compete with each another.

Stations: every 700 meters with flyovers and ticket booths in the same fashion as BTS. Some stations will be air-conditioned. Central Platforms.

Vehicles: Articulated aircon buses with Euro 3 engines with the length of 18-19 meters with 3 doors on the right-hand side. 150 seats.

Service hours: 5am-11pm

Headway: 3 minutes (rush hour) and 5 minutes (non-rush hour)

Ticket price: 10-18 baht

Investment plan: BMA investing on route construction and articulated buses while the private sector will run the services.

Opening date: 2006

Estimated number of passengers:

- 30,000 passengers a day for each route by 2006
- 40,000 passengers a day for each route by 2007
- 80,000-100,000 passengers a day for each route by 2022

The most worrying issues:

- The loss of a traffic lane especially at Lad Phrao intersection and Kaset route
- Profitability–However BMA is going to ensure that the service will be in black.

Submitting the plan: February 9, 2005

Bidding: April 2005

Construction: 6 months

Opened: October, 2005

Governor Apirak comes up with BTS & BRT extensions – translated and summarized from *Manager Daily* ([here](#) and [here](#)),

January 31, 2005

- 1) [The pending extensions](#) (8.9 km Samrong Extension and 2.2 km Taksin Extension)

- 2) The proposed extensions

- 2.1) Paknam Extension (Samrong -Samut Prakarn – 7.9 km)

- 2.2) Phetkasem Extension (Taksin Intersection – Phetkasem – 4.5 km)

- 2.3) Phaholyothin Extension (Mochit – Saphan Mai – 12 km)

- 2.4) Rattanakosin Extension (National Stadium – Phrannok – 7.0 km)

Total 31.4 km

The results from studies will be submitted by the end of 2005.

2.5) Saphan Mai – Lum Lookka (14 km) -> under study

3) The first 2 [BRT](#) routes modified

3.1) Charakhae Bua (Ram Indra km8) – Nawamin – Kaset – Mochit

3.2) Rajaphruek Road (Taksin – Phetkasem road) – Bangkok Bridge – Rama III Road – Chong Nonsee, Surawongse (Linking line to cover the track not covered by Silom line and extensions)

These 2 BRT lines will be constructed in October 2005

4) New BRT lines as replacements for [Samak's pet projects](#)

4.1) Suvannabhum BRT (Onnut – Lad Krabang – Suvannabhum Airport -> 20 km)

4.2) Bang Na BRT (Banna – Wat Sri Lam – Ramkhamhaeng 2 -> 8 km)

5) Improving the canal boat services to function as feeders

5.1) Improved Saensab line

5.2) Improved Phaseecharoen line

5.3) Revived Lad Phrao line

5.4) Revived Premprachakorn line

5.5) Revived Phadung Krungkaserm line

6) Other traffic accessories

6.1) 200 smart bus stop signs (done in July 2005)

6.2) 150 smart taxi stop signs (done in June 2005)

6.3) 40 smart traffic signs (done in October 2005)

6.4) 34 smart crossing lights (done in July 2005)

However, BMA needs government approval for modifying the conditions to allow BMA to bail BTSC out of trouble.

BRT lines extended to Patthamawikorn and Mahaisawan (Thonburi) – translated and summarized from *Thairath* and *Matichon*, December 16, 2004

BMA Traffic and Transportation Bureau and PCI (Thailand) Co. Ltd. have set up a seminar on BRT as a feeder line to BTS which has the capacity to handle 30,000 passenger/hour/direction. The minimum charge on BRT is 10 baht. BRT requires a marketing strategy to get more passengers so as not to incur heavy losses like the BMTA buses.

Deputy BMA Samart told the people that BRT will have to be extended from Nawamin Road to Patthamawikorn flea market (market near Patthamawikorn suburb village) and from Bangkok Bridge (Bangkok Side) to Thonburi (either Samreh to Tha Phra because the u-turn at the foot of Bangkok Bridge is too narrow). The final route will come out on February 12, 2005. After that BMA will start the construction so as to run the service on October 2005.

[‘Innovative bus systems offering affordable, clean urban transport for Asia’](#) – ADB, December 8, 2004

...Under the BRT system, a section of the road, preferably the central part, is dedicated to buses that work like a light-rail transit system.

BRT improves the quality of traffic on roads by putting the buses on a separate track, providing bus stations with level boarding and alighting, pre-pay systems, covered shelters and a place for users to park their cycles. Buses stop at designated stops, are clean, well maintained and the bus staff are well trained.

Realizing the importance of developing safe and sustainable urban transport

systems in Asian cities, the ADB-supported Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) has launched a pilot project to develop a sustainable model of urban transport (PSUTA). The project is being tested in Pune, Hanoi and Xi'an. "This project will highlight that expensive rail systems are not the only solutions to public transport problems," says ADB Lead Transport Specialist Charles Melhuish. "There are other public transport possibilities, which these cities must consider. The Bus Rapid Transit system is one such solution."...

First 100 days for Governor Aphirak: BRTs, smart signs, and reviving boat services – translated and summarized from *Thairath*, December 8, 2004
Governor Aphirak said the first two BRT lines will be opened in October 2005 while smart taxi signs will be installed in June 2005 and smart traffic signs will be installed in July 2005. Smart parking lots will be opened in October 2005 while new BMA school buses will be implemented in January 2005.

BMA is also going to revive boat services along canals in 2005:

- 1) Charoen Phat – Phetkasame 69
- 2) Extension of Saensab boat service from Wat Sri Bun Ruean to Minburi
- 3) Revival of Lad Phrao route -> Phra Khanong Bridge – Yingcharoen market (Saphan Mai)
- 4) Feeder boat service from Hua Lamphong to Thewet
- 5) Revival of Premprachakorn route as feeder boat service – Bangsue market – Donmuang

BMA is going to run a cleaning campaign to cut air and water pollution while cleansing the canals and collecting garbage.

Buses – political connections

and patronage prevent safety measures being implemented – translated and summarized from [*Siamturakij*](#), November 24-27, 2004

The connections between political-patronaged concession buses and BMTA is the major cause of accidents which kills at least one passenger and maims several passengers a month.

The concession buses owned by Jongchai, Watthana, Man, and Choocheep are the main offenders while Saha Khonson holds most routes of concession buses.

The frequent accidents of concession buses are due to the buses with poor maintenance and the bad drivers. Those who run the top echelons of BMTA always receive bribes and monthly kickbacks from politicians who own the ill-maintained concession buses.

There are many ways for BMTA to receive kickbacks

- 1) Savings account in the BMTA Credit Union (BMTA Saving Cooperatives) of 35 million baht from 11 owners of the concession buses with the annual interest rate of 7% . The well-paid interest all went into the dotting bill of BMTA High Ranking Officer.
- 2) The list of Bribery paid to BMTA
 - 2.1) 15,000 baht/bus for bus expense (total 3000-4000 buses)
 - 2.2) 150 baht/bus/day for driving the buses
 - 2.3) parts of diesel fuel subsidies for minibuses disappears. This money is supposed to keep the price at 10.80 baht—lower than the subsidized market rate is 14.59 baht.

This kind of corruption in BMTA concession buses is the main cause of the daily bus accidents and BMTA is unwilling to impose any regulations on those bus since they have been fattened with bribery.

During the tenor of Aram Lohweera (the deputy MOTC Minister who is handling BMTA bus), he granted private concession buses to 54 companies, but the actual number of companies is over 100. Most of them run by politicians who act like robber barons.

The following is the list of those buses run by influential families.

- 1) Suphan Yanyon – Jongchai Thiangtham (politicians that rule Nonthaburi) – BMTA bus No 64 (both aircon and non-aircon)
- 2) Krungthep Rotruam – Jeh Kiaw (Ms. Sujinda Choedchai–the godmother of Choedchai Tour) – Main supporter of Thai Rak Thai in Khorat
- 3) Kittisunthorn – Choocheep Harnsawat –the political dynasty that runs Pathumthani as their own estate
- 4) Sannimit + Assawahem – This one is run by Man Phatthanothai and Mahthong (Wattana Assawahem)
- 5) SK Tour – Mr Anothai Uthensut–the former BMTA Director – BMTA Bus No. 39 (non aircon), No. 177 (aircon), No. 183, Aircon 528, Aircon 530, Aircon 531, No 170, No 171, No 172, etc.

Bus corruption – translated and summarized from [*Siamturakij*](#), November 26, 2004

BMTA insiders told *Siam Thurakij* correspondents about the series of corruption inside BMTA which results in poor service as well the daily fatal accidents.

Now, both concession buses and BMTA buses are in very dilapidated conditions and can cause fatal accidents at any time. The BMTA Board does not care about a major overhaul since they are only caring about how to siphon money from BMTA. However, it may be harder to siphon money now since Minister Nikorn is planning to purchase 400 brand new buses with a total price tag of 2 billion baht–without any plan to upgrade existing buses which is a big source of corruption.

The procurement of 500 Euro 2 type busses in 2000 caused a 1.5 billion baht loss due to the following irregularities.

- 1) Doctored financial plans so they can be approved by the Ministry of Finance.
- 2) Contracts with the private sector that allows those with connections to exploit leasing and contracts on maintenance.
- 3) Collision on the bidding for the 500 bus procurement.

The conflicts of interests on the selling of both decommissioned buses and the routes to politicians is another source of corruption. The liquidation of 500 decommissioned buses at a price of 410,000 baht each is too cheap. Even the decommissioned buses sold as scrap to junk dealers has a price tag of 470,000 baht each.

Even when there are investigations, the issues just simply disappeared without any conclusion.

[The future of the bus](#) – *Bangkok Post*, November 29, 2004

Special rapid routes that have worked successfully in many other cities are at the core of an integrated, overhauled mass transit system for Bangkok...

Feasibility studies for Bus Rapid Transit – BMA vs. OTP – translated and summarized from *Dailynews*, November 24, 2004

After hearing about the OTP plan on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) which are quite different from BMA's plan, BMA feel very stunned and wonder what is the real reason behind such a rival plan. Even though OTP has made a study on the project before BMA, BMA is the actual office that is going to implement the system. Therefore, OTP better cooperate with BMA to implement the plan instead of imposing a plan on BMA and force them to execute it.

[BMA begins to design BRT buses](#) – TNA, November 17, 2004

...Deputy Bangkok Governor Samart Ratchapholsit said on Tuesday that

the two contractors were required to complete the Bt 6.9-million study on the two initial service routes–Nawamin-Kasetsart-Mor Chit terminal and Chong Nonsee-Bangkok Bridge within 90 days...

BMA refusing to purchase 100 second-handed aircon 2 buses from BMTA for BRT – translated and summarized from *Matichon*, October 11, 2004

Deputy Governor Samart has signed the approval for the TOR for BRT studies and then asks OTP to supply the consultant to handle the project which will be done in one week. After that, the consultant must complete the BRT studies in three months so as to run the service within one year. BMTA has offered 100 aircon buses which

are going to be decommissioned very soon at the price of 300,000 baht/bus.

However, BMA declines the offer since the price tag of refurbishing the buses is about 3 million baht/bus. On the other hand, the Euro2 bus costs BMA 5 million baht/car which is slightly higher than BMTA's offer plus refurbishing cost. Furthermore, many passengers would not like to ride the refurbished buses since they love to ride the new ones and BMA has a clear policy to offer brand new buses.

After getting the data that OTP is going to run 9 BRT routes (with the Navamin – Mochit line overlapped), BMA governor said it is not a problem since the BMA project must follow OTP's suggestion. However, the first two lines must be conceived first to show the success of the BRT system so that the other eight will follow.

Commentary Wisarut: Insiders say BMA is aiming for the Phaholyothin route instead of the alternative along Ngamwongwan Road since they do not want to create more enemies with the Highway Dept. The Ngamwongwan Road route would impinge on Vibhavadd Rangsit Highway, Rama 2 Highway and Bangna – Bang Pakong Highway.

Preparing for the BRT – Existing bus routes must be altered to prevent cutthroat competition BMTA and BMA – translated and summarized from *Manager Daily*, September 30, 2004

Deputy BMA Governor Samart said he will issue the TOR for the consultant to handle the survey and design of 2 BRT routes (Navamin – Mochit, Surawongse – Bangkok Bridge) with a price tag of 7 million Baht.

For the Navamin route, it will be either turn left to go along Phaholyothin road (the original route) or go straight ahead along Ngamwongwan Road, turn left to go along Vibhavadee Rangsit Highway before ending up at Mochit Station (alternative route). On the other hand, Rama 3 BRT is still intact (Chongnonsee – Rama 3 – Bangkok Bridge).

The consultant must handle the plan for integrated ticket system between BRT and BTS Skytrain (and some extended to MRTA Subway) since BRT must function as a feeder for both mass transit systems. The BRT system will have the control system which forces the passengers to purchase tickets before riding.

The consultant must come up with the report by the end of 2004 so they can make an assessment on the details and impose the conditions for the contractor to come up with the system. The BTT must be opened by the end of 2005 or at worst early 2006. BMA must ask BMTA to either eliminate the redundant bus routes or shorten the routes such as BMTA No 77 (Mochit – Victory Monument – Narathiwat Ratchanakharin – Sathon – Central Rama 3), Circle line 178 (Nawamin – Lad Phrao – Ratchadaphisek – Kaset – Nuanchan – Nawamin) so as to push more passengers into BRT. If BMTA still insists on keeping the same old routes, both BMA and BMTA will suffer heavy loss due to a price war.

BRT news – September 21, 2004

Reports: *After setting up the radio show "BMA*

Governor Meeting with the People" from 7 to 8pm on Radio Jor Sor 100 (FM 100 MHz), Governor Apirak got a very hot response since there are at least 150 phone calls (call him at 1137) to him to start the BRT project as well as Skytrain extensions, the flood control projects, etc., etc.

After negotiation with OTP by Dr Samart Rajpolsit, it seems that OTP agrees to make a settlement on the BRT since OTP, BMTA, and Deputy Minister Nikorn received a public backlash after delaying the project. Smart taxi and smart traffic signs will follow soon. The discussions are [here](#).

[here](#),

[here](#),

and [here](#).

BRT: what the Thai-language press is saying – September 17, 2004

[Thai humor: Buses "so](#)

[damned jam-packed that my baby is going to come out of my womb!"](#)

– translated and summarized from

"Viva BMTA Bangkok Bus", originally at Pantip.com and published in [Khao](#)

[Hua Rau weekly magazine](#), courtesy of *Khao Hua Rau*, No.

778

OTP and BMTA slam the brakes on Governor Apirak's BRT

– translated and summarized from *Manager Daily* and *Matichon Daily*, September 14, 2004

After the 2-hour meeting between Governor Apirak (along with BMA Board such as Deputy BMA Governor Samart and City Clerk Khunying Natthanon) and Deputy MOTC Minister Nikorn as well as BMTA, Land Traffic Dept., and OTP at the Government House on September 13, they came up with the following conclusions:

1) BRT is a good project.

2) However, the BMA needs to make deeper studies on this project. And after that, the final decision about who is going to handle this project–BMA or BMTA.

3) OTP and BMTA are slamming the brakes on Governor Apirak's BRT by claiming that Phaholyothin Road is not suitable for BRT. BRT would gobble 1-2 lanes of road which increases congestion along Phaholyothin Road from Kaset Intersection to Mochit. Furthermore, the construction of the tunnel from Kaset – Nawamin road to Ngam Wongwan road in the next two months is going to worsen traffic around that intersection.

4) Kaset – Nawamin – Mochit route has been shortened from 14 km (Nawamin – Kaset – Ratchayothin – Mochit) to 5 km (Nawamin – Sathree Witthaya 2 – Lad Plakhao – Kaset) so as not to duplicate the BTS route while the Rama 3 route is intact since there is already a special bus way. Only the improvement of the route and facilities would make it a BRT route.

5) BRT could become lose-riden like BMTA. One of the alternatives is to force BRT into a bus lane section when they turn left to Phaholyothin Road. This Phaholyothin line would overlap with the future BTS extension from Mochit to Saphan Mai. Therefore, BMA must come up with alternative routes or they have to shorten the route to 5 km.

BMTA also agrees with OTP since the existing BMTA buses are not suitable for BRT services since the gate in on the left instead of on the right.

Governor Apirak responded to the BMTA and OTP that BMA is going to revise the BRT plan so as to come up with the details of this project such as

the project form, the routes, the flyover to allow passengers to go across the street to ride the bus, the buses, the fare rates, the budget and the agency that will handle the BRT. This detailed studies will be done in three months and then BMA will come back to discuss with BMTA and OTP later.

Nevertheless, BMA will speed up this project to be done in one year with the long route to feed Mochit Station even though BMA is compelled to come up with alternative routes since Premier Thaksin has asked for it. The same can be said about the Rama 3 route. BMA has to make a settlement with BMTA so as to finalize who is going to take charge of the BRT and who is going to carry the burden if it becomes loss ridden.

BMA and other agencies agree in principle that the Phaholyothin extension of the Skytrain (Mochit – Ratchayothin – Senanikhom – Kaset – Bang Bua – Bang Khen – Saphan Mai) has to become a reality as soon as possible. Further survey on the demands of those who live along Phaholyothin road as well as other roads along BRT is a big must since the half trillion baht investment in the mass transit system is involved.

BRT line details –
translated and summarized from *Siamturakij*,
September 15-18, 2004

- 1) Navamin – Satree Witthaya 2 – Lad Pla Khao – Lad Phrao Canal – Kaset – Sena Nikhom – Ratchayothin – Lad Phrao – Mochit Station -> 14 km, 700 million baht
- 2) Surawongse – Chogn Nonsee Station – Tawandaeng Brew House – Rama 3 Road – Sathupradit – Rama 9 Bridge – Thanon Tok – Bangkok Bridge -> 13 km, 800 million baht
The cost for the resat will be 50 million baht/km
- 3) Talingchan (Kanchanaphisek Outer Ring Road) – Sirinthorn Road – Borommarat Chonnanee Road – Southern Bus Terminal – Central Pinklao – Pinklao Road – Pata Pinklao – Pinklao Bridge – Sanam Luang – Ratchadamnoen Avenue – Phan Fah Bridge – Lan Luang Road – Yommaraj – Phetburi Road – Ratchathewee Station -> 14 km
- 4) Future Park Rangsit – Vibhavadee Rangsit – Donmuang Station – Laksi Station – Bang Khen Station – Wat Samian Naree – Ratchavibha – Lad Phrao – Suthisarn – Army Stadium – Surasak Montree School – Veterant Hospital – Dindaeng -> 27 km
- 5) Minburi – Mistine – Sukhaphiban 3 – Sapohan Soong – Triam Udom Nomklaop – Summakorn – Wat Sriboonruan – Lum Salee – Sri Nakharin – Uniliver – Hua Mark Station – Seacon – Seri Center – Wat Sri Iam – Sikharin – Sri Thepha – Samut Prakarn -> 28.2 km
- 6) Bang Bon (Kanchanaphisek Outer Ring Road) – Central Rama 2 – Rama 2 Highway – Dao Khanong -Samreh – Taksin Road – Wongwian Yai -> 14.6 km
- 7) Nakhon In Road (Kanchanaphisek Outer Ring Road) – Wat Bang Oy Chang – Rama 5 Bridge – Bypass Road – Tiwanon – Rewadee – Kae Rai – Bang Lumphoo Ngam Wongwan – Phongphet – Ngam Wongwan – Bang Khen Station – Kaset -> 20.1 km
- 8) Highway 3100 Prapa canal – Muang Ek – Ban Mahi canal – Nobel Neocity – Sri Saman – St. Francis Xavier School – Chang Watthana – MWA – Soi Samakki – Dhurakij Bundit U. – Phongphet – Phrachuen – Prachanivet 1 – Prachanukoon – Phrachachuen market – Premprachakorn canal – Wat Saphansoong – Techawanit Road – Rama 5 Orad – Vijiravut College – Chitladd Palace – Mable temple – Royal Tuft Club – Phitsanulok Road – Yommaraj -> 27 km
- 9) Pakkret Pier – AMD – Maungthogn Thanee – Tesco Chang Watthana – Big C – Chang Watthana – ICT – Laksi Station – Rajabhat Phranakorn – Bangkhen

– Ram Indra – Nuan Chan – Km 8 – Khannayao – Nawamin -Inthararak – NHA
– Bang Kapi -> 28.9 km
10) Phra Phimon canal (Kanchanaphisek Outer Ring Road) – Bang Yai – Rattathibet
road – Bang Rak Canal – Ratchaphurek Road
– Tilingchan – Bang Wah – The Mall Tha Phra – Taksin Intersection – Wongwian
Yai -> 24 km

The ticket rate will be 5 baht plus number of kilometers to travel and
one ticket to be used on all BRT lines.

The most important stumbling block is BMTA and OTP since both agencies
have strong hostility toward BMA. BMTA refuse
to merge with BMA at all and they have come up with their own plan while
OTP still has internal rivalries which causes Dr Samart to resign to protest
DR Khamroblux and become Deputy BMA Governor and carry the BRT project
with him. It is up to Governor Apirak to make an negotiation with both
BMTA and OTP.

Commentary by Wisarut: Even though line 8 will help to turn the
blindspot are into a golden area, the poor connection with Impact Muangthong
Thanee could diminish much of the value.

After line 9 becomes a reality, bus no 150 will have to cease to exist.

Minister Nikorn and BMTA Labor Union seems to be lazy to come up with
the specialized bus which has gates on both sides as proposed by Governor
Apirak. This implies that BMTA and Minister Nikorn seem not to learn from
the hard lesson from the unsuccessful BRT in 1996.

They should add Line 11 (Bangkapi – Chokchai 4 – Ratchadaphisek – Chandrakasem
– Ratchayothin – Ratchavibha – Northern Bus terminal – Mochit)

Very short honeymoon – It is BMA vs.
the central government again – September 15,
2004

*Comments: It seems to me that the conflict between
BMA and Central Government is going to resurface again. This time, the
conflicts will definitely reach the crisis level due to the upcoming elections
in January 2005. Furthermore, the conflicts of interests between BMTA
and BMA has been revealed. Even OTP (Office of Transport and Traffic Police
and Planning) has shown their hidden true nature.*

*After the initial rejection of the Kaset route of BRT, Governor Apirak
said he would never shorten the route. He will go for the alternatives
to ensure that even though the Skytrain extension has not reached Kaset
yet, BRT will still function as a feeder line for BTS.*

*Deputy MOTC Minister Nikorn tried to calm the public fury toward him,
but his explanation is so confusing that I could not translate his words
into proper English.*

*Even though many people still have strong skepticism about the BRT Project,
most people have booed BMTA and Deputy Minister Nikorn who care about
their own vested interests (and the voting block) from the BMA union instead
of the comfort of the passengers and have replaced the comfortable monthly
and weekly pass with the cumbersome coupon system.*

*Furthermore, they have lost trust in OTP that initially touted BRT as
the alternative to the Skytrain, but now reject the BRT plan from BMA.*

*Initially, they also asked BTS not to extend routes before nationalization
and then they suddenly changed their minds by asking BMA to extend the
route to Kaset despite of the fact that MOTC has declared an alternate
plan for mass transit expansion with a price tag of half a trillion baht.*

*This kind of flip-flop by OTP only makes them lose any leftover creditability
in the public mind. OTP is just a puppet and mouthpiece for Premier Thaksin
and Minister Suriya.*

Thai viewpoints on this BRT issue after the meeting with BMTA can be shown [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

For help with Thai acronyms, check the [2Bangkok.com glossary](#).

Thaksin approves of 2 BRT lines

while complaining to Governor Apirak that 28 billion baht to counter traffic is too much – translated and summarized from *Manager Daily*, September 9, 2004
Premier Thaksin said the "BMA deserves at least 2 BRT lines."

1) Kaset – Nawamin line -> (Nawamin – Sree Witthaya 2 – Lad Plakhao – Kaset – Senanikhom – Ratchayothin Central Lad Phrao – Mochit)

2) Rama 3 Line -> (Krungthep Bridge (Thanon Tok) – Sathupradit – Thanon Chan – Thung Mahamek Chong Sonsee – Surawongse)

This was after receiving the proposal for 10 routes of BRT with a total distance of 202 km and a request from governor Apirak for 70% budget support from the central government (the rest paid by BMA). However, Premier Thaksin said BMA should wait for 2 months to get the cabinet resolution for both BRT routes.

Furthermore BMA needs to transform 900 municipal police (Thesakit) into a temporary Traffic Police–up from 600 Thetsakit.

However, Premier Thaksin complained that 28.8 billion baht for Skytrain extensions (Samrong and Thaksin and Saphan Mai with total budget of 15.9 billion baht) and other traffic solutions (Smart Taxi Stops, Samart Bus) is too much. Governor Apirak said he will try to cut down and control the costs to prevent cost overruns.

Furthermore, the connections between Sanesaeb Boat service, Chaophraya Express Boat, Skytrain and Subway must become a reality.

Premier Thaksin said BMA should have torn down some unused advertising billboards and also construct a new National Stadium in Thonburi while transforming old National Stadium into a giant public park.

Commentary by Wisarut: National Stadium used to be a Siamese version of Buckingham Palace for the first crown prince. However, it became a part of Chulalongkorn Campus until 1936. After that, the new regime tore down the palace to make the National Stadium (the first section opened in 1937, 2nd section opened in 1940, and series of modernization and renovation during Seap Games, Asian Games, and Seagames until 1998). Turning National Stadium into public park is not a bad idea, but the architect (especially one from Chulalongkorn University) should come up with an idea for the new park which takes into account its long history.

Thaksin delays Skytrain extensions,
but approves two BRT routes – translated and
summarized from *Thairath*, September 10, 2004

After the meeting between Governor Apirak and Premier Thaksin at Government House on September 9, Premier Thaksin approved two BRT Lines:

1) Nawamin – Satee Witthaya 2 – Lad Plakhao – Kaset – Senanikhom – Ratchayothin – Lad Phrao – Mochit Station, 14 km, 700 million baht

2) Thanon Tok – Krung Thep Bridge – Rama 3 – Thung Mahamek – Thanon Chan – Chong Nonsee Station – Surawongse, 13 km, 800 million baht

If both BRT lines cost more than the 700 million baht budget, the central government will cover the rest but BMA needs to trim down the BRT budget first.

However, Premier Thaksin is asking to delay the BTS Skytrain for another

two months. Furthermore, Premier Thaksin is asking Governor Apirak to improve pathways, surroundings around parks and sport fields, modernize boat services to connect with Skytrain and Subway and create new parks along Chao Phraya River.

Furthermore, Deputy PM Suwat is asking Governor Apirak to construct the via duct with moving walkways from MBK to connect with Chitlom via duct at Ratprasong intersection.

Initially Governor Apirak has proposed the budget for four traffic projects as follows:

- 1) BRT Projects (1st and 2nd line) 1 billion baht
- 2) Skytrain extensions
 - 2.1) Taksin Extension (Phase 1-2) 2.250 billion baht
 - 2.2) Samrong extension (Phase 1) 8.4 billion baht
- 3) Phaholyothin extensions 19.5 billion baht
- 4) Lum Salee Solution 0.659 million baht

Premier Thaksin is asking Governor Apirak to trim the budget through cooperation between the PM Office and BMTA while asking BMA to delay the Skytrain extensions until BTS has be able to make debt restructuring. Furthermore Premier Thaksin said the government plan for this was conceived long ago but only materialized on September 7.

Traffic Police: "BRT may not work as thought"—stuck at u-turns and unsuitable roads – translated and summarized from *Thairath*, September 9, 2004 and *Dailynews*, September 9, 2004

The Commander of Metropolitan Traffic Police said the BRT project is a good project. However, BRT will work only for roads with at least 6-lanes of traffic since BRT is going to gobble at least 1-2 traffic lanes and BMTA buses will use another lane as well.

Furthermore, BMA has to construct the new U-turns to replace the old ones—especially on roads with a small number of lanes. The intersections will be a problem since they cannot block lanes for the buses all the time.

Furthermore, pedestrians are reluctant to walk on flyovers to go across the street to BRT stations. Jaywalking across the street is quite dangerous as well. This is one of many elements which caused the failure of the bus scheme at the middle of the road at Lad Phrao and Narathiwat Ratchanakharin. BRT is much more suitable for roads with few intersections and stops every 500 meters.

Comments and criticism about BRT projects can be seen at the following webboards:

- 1) <http://www.pocketonline.net/board/view.php?id=14847&page=all>
- 2) <http://www.pantip.com/cafe/chalermthai/topic/A2987856/A2987856.html>
- 3) <http://www.pantip.com/cafe/chalermthai/topic/A2990549/A2990549.html>
- 4) <http://www.manager.co.th/QOL/ViewNews.aspx?NewsID=9470000049892>
- 5) <http://www.manager.co.th/Politics/ViewNews.aspx?NewsID=9470000050218>
- 6) <http://www.mthai.com/webboard/5/19469.html>

Apirak proposing additional BRT routes and alternative for the first route after inspection of 10 Bangkok gridlocked intersections – translated and summarized from

Matichon, September 8, 2004
Dailynews, September 8, 2004
Dailynews, September 7, 2004
Thairath, September 7, 2004
Thairath, September 9, 2004

Governor Apirak has made an inspection of 10 critically gridlocked intersections before coming up with 10 BRT routes. During the morning inspection around Bang Kapi area, Governor Apirak found that there are about 20,460 cars entering into five stores in Bangkapi area (The Mall Bang Kapi, Lotus, Makro, Tawanna, Nomjit) thus clogging three intersections (Bangkapi Tee Intersection, Bangkapi Cross Intersection, Suan Son intersection).

For the case of Lumsalee Intersection (AKA Lum Sahat coined by local people), there are at least 8000 cars around this section during the morning rush hour alone. BMA needs the 2.5-km flyover from Lum Salee to Surau Ban Mah and then the Serithai road from Surau Ban Mah to Bangchan Industrial Estate must be expanded from 6 lanes into 8 lanes.

After the inspection, Governor Apirak said "a single alternative for the first BRT line is not enough for public demand, we must make three alternatives!"

1. Nawamin – Satree Witthataya – Lad Pla Khao – Kaset – Senanikhom – Ratchayothin – Central Lad Phrao – Mochit Station via Kaset – Nawamin Road (the original route)

2. Nawamin – Satree Witthataya – Lad Pla Khao – Kaset – Kasetsart U. – Wat Samian Naree – Ratchawipha – Shinnawatra 3 – Horwang School – Mochit Station via Kaset – Nawamin Road, Ngam Wongwan Road, and Vibhavadd Rangsit Highway (2nd alternative to cover for those who live on Campus and those who live and work along Vibhavadee Rangsit Highway)

3. Nawamin – Satree Witthataya – Lad Pla Khao – Kaset – Senanikhom – Ratchayothin – Ratchawipha – Kamphaengphet 2 – Mochit 2 – Or Tor Kor – Mochit Station (3rd alternative for those railway people who live around Kamphangphet 2 area, and for those who use the Northern Bus terminal)

The route for the first line will be finalized next year. The bus will be a new one though and the construction cost will be 50 million baht/km (total 700 million baht for 14-km of the 1st route).

Furthermore, Kaset Intersection must have a new 4-lane tunnel from Military Engineer Dept to Kaset Market (the BRT which goes along Ngam Wongwan Road will definitely use that tunnel).

Furthermore, the new BRT route will replace the tram along the canal proposed by Dr Bhichit. The route will go from Surawongse Road (at AIA Building) to Bangkok Bridge (Thanon Tok Intersection) via Narathiwat Ratchanakharin Road and Rama 3 Ring road. The total distance for this route will be 12 km.

This can be considered as the second BRT route to feed Chong Nonsee station and improve the access for those who work in Surawongse area and those who live around Thung Mahamek – Thanon Chan – Sathupradit – Thanon Tok area. Furthermore, Governor Apirak is asking Chaophraya Express Boat to revive Thanon Tok Pier and expand their service to pick up the BRT passengers.

The other BRT routes will be as follows. Only after getting the budget approval from the central government:

1. Minburi – Bangchan – Ban Mah – NIDA – Bangkapi – Chokchai 4 – Lad Phrao – Mochit via Lad Phrao – Serithai Road -> a substitute to Lad Phrao Elevated Way

2. Lum Salee – Hua Mark Station – SEACON Square – Seri Center – Wat Sri Iam via Sri Nakharin Road

3. Suwinthawongse – Ram Indra – Laksi via Ram Indra – Chaeng Watthana Road

4. Mochit – Laksi – Donmuang via Phaholyothin Road and Vibhavadee Rangsit Highway

5. Talingchan – Ratchathewee Station

6. Suwinthawongse – Saphan Soong – Lumsalee via Ramkhamhaeng Road (Sukhaphiban 3) -> a substitute for MRTA Orange Line expansion

Governor Apirak also said he would remove the redundant BRT routes once BTS Skytrain has been expanded to the following routes:

1. Saphan Taksin – Taksin Intersection – The Mall Tha Phra – Phetkasem via Taksin – Phetkasem Road and Krung Thonburi road (AKA New Sathon Road)
2. Onnut – Samrong – Samut Prakarn via Sukhumvit Road
3. Mochit – Ratchayothin – Donmaung via Phaholyothin Road

The list of 10 Bangkok critical gridlocked intersections which may need a BRT solution are

1. Lum Salee (Eastern Bangkok – this also cover into Bangkok Intersection nearby)
2. Arun Amarin (Central Thonburi) -> 116,333 cars a day
3. Mahaisawan (Southern Thonburi)
4. Lad Phrao (Gate to Bangkok downtown) -> 248,823 cars a day
5. Bang Khun Non (Northern Thonburi)
6. Km 8 Ram Indra (Northeastern Bangkok – The section in between Bangkok, Laksi and Minburi)
7. Ratchayothin (SCB Park and Major Ratchayothin) -> 155,796 cars a day
8. Rama 9 (Eastern Bangkok between Ram Khamhaeng and Klong Tan)
9. Surasak-Sathon (CBD)
10. Bang Na (Southern Bangkok)

Office of Traffic Management (where Dr Samart -> now the deputy BMA Governor-> used to work) also proposes the following BRT route to be handled by BMA.

1. Talingchan – Ratchathewee Station – Pratoonam – Phatthanakarn
2. Rangsit – Donmuang – Laksi – Kaset – Din Daeng
3. Minburi – Lum Salee – Sri Nakharin – Samut Prakarn
4. Minburi – Lum Salee – Hua Mark – MRTA – Rama 9
5. Rama 2 (Bang Bon) – Wongwian Yai via Taksin road and Rama 2 Highway
6. Kanchanaphisek Outer Ring Road – Rama 5
7. Muangthong Thani – Chaeng Wattana – Phongphet – Prachachuen – Prachaniwet – Bangsue – Phyathai
8. Nawamin – Kaset – Mochit

Not surprising, Dr Samart just transferred the OTM plan to be handled by BMA instead of the debt ridden BMTA even though they may have to shorten some routes to prevent redundancy. They hope that this BRT route will become successful after learning from the past failures of BRT along Lad Phrao Road and Narathiwat Road.



BRT route!

– *Post Today*, August 31, 2004

Wisarut pointed out this map of the first proposed BRT route coming from Bangkok Governor-elect Apirak and his advisor, the highly-respected Dr. Samart. Promises of BRT routes were a cornerstone of Apirak's campaign. The route appears to start (in the upper right-hand corner) at Ram Intra Expressway, then proceeds along Kaset-Nawamin Road (this is the new road that extends east from Nganwongwan Road), goes down Phahonyothin Road before terminating at the Morchit Skytrain Station.

[Earlier bus news](#)

Photos from Sunday's Silom Festival

January 17, 2010



(Photo: Kewalin)

Photos from Sunday's Silom Festival – January 17, 2010



(Photo: Kewalin)



(Photo: Kewalin)

Thai Naval Battle Memorial Day

January 17, 2010

Categories: Thai Military

[Thai Naval Battle Memorial Day](#) – *paknamphotos.com*, January 17, 2010

On Sunday 17th January 2010, Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Kamthorn Pumhiran presided over the wreath-laying ceremony and the merit making ceremony in front of HTMS Thonburi at the Royal Thai Naval Academy in Samut Prakan. Today marks the 69th anniversary of the battle with the French on 17th January 1941 near the island of Koh Chang...

A shelter for Bangkok's homeless

January 17, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[A shelter for Bangkok's homeless](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 17, 2010

Sanam Luang's 300 residents will soon have to move...

‘Mew’ Lalita–latest presenter of Protex soap–urges Thai families to stay protected from harmful bacteria

January 19, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘Mew’ Lalita’ latest presenter of Protex soap’ urges Thai families to stay protected from harmful bacteria](#) –
Thai PR.net, January 19, 2010

2 men indicted in California for ivory smuggling

January 19, 2010

[2 men indicted in California for ivory smuggling](#) – *Washington Post*, January 19, 2010

Thailand may ban off season rice crops

January 19, 2010

[Thailand may ban off season rice crops](#) – *Commodity Online*, January 19, 2010

Thailand said it is looking at banning off-season rice farming after a campaign to discourage farmers from planting a second or third crop failed to meet its target.

The government wants to limit the amount of rice being grown because of the fear of a looming water crisis...

“A Teaching Job In Thailand Guaranteed After Just 40 Hours Online TEFL Training”

January 19, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[“A Teaching Job In Thailand Guaranteed After Just 40 Hours Online TEFL Training”](#) – 24-
7pressrelease.com, January 19, 2010

Reveal secret dealings with Thaksin Shinawatra – Amarasinghe challenges Rajapakse

January 20, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

[Reveal secret dealings with Thaksin Shinawatra – Amarasinghe challenges Rajapakse](#) – *lankatruth.com*,
January 20, 2010

Rubber Duckzilla

January 20, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Rubber Duckzilla](#) – *Official Nintendo Magazine UK*, January, 2010

Rubber Duckzilla destroying Chamchuri Square ([Google Earth Placemark](#)). Full photo [here](#) and another version [here](#). Apparently it has something to do with an [advert for cola and a promotional online game](#).

Thaksin lands in Cambodia

January 20, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Thaksin lands in Cambodia](#) – *Straits Times*, January 20, 2010

PHNOM PENH (AFP) – FUGITIVE former Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra arrived in Cambodia on Wednesday for his third trip as a controversial economic adviser to the country, said a government spokesman.

Thaksin, whose visits have stoked a diplomatic row between the Thai and Cambodian governments, landed in a private jet at Phnom Penh International Airport, spokesman Khieu Kanharith told AFP. 'He has arrived. He just landed,' Khieu Kanharith said. 'I don't know about his itinerary yet.'

Thailand and Cambodia recalled their ambassadors in November and expelled senior diplomats over Cambodian premier Hun Sen's appointment of Thaksin, who is living abroad to avoid a jail term for corruption in his home country.

Tensions between the neighbouring countries soared further when Phnom Penh then refused to extradite Thaksin during his first visit to Cambodia in his new role.

During his previous stays in Cambodia, Thaksin has addressed top government officials on how to boost investment, tourism and agriculture. He also met scores of his 'Red Shirt' supporters from Thailand, where he remains a hugely influential figure.

Before Thaksin's appointment as an adviser, relations between Thailand and Cambodia were already tense due to a string of deadly gunbattles at their disputed border, where troops have faced off since July 2008.

[Thaksin warns of 'country in flames'](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 20, 2010

Thaksin warns of 'country in flames'

** Published: 20/01/2010 at 01:10 PM*

Fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Tuesday night again accused the Abhisit administration of a double standard on law enforcement.

"An activist who fought for landless farmers in the South, Somporn Pattanaphum, was shot dead but the government has done nothing to resolve problems of poor farmers.

"Instead, the Democrat-led administration has provided protection for the person who encroached on a forest reserve. If such double standards continue, the country will be in flames (บ้านเมืองจะลุกเป็นไฟ-ban mueang ja luk pen fai)," Thaksin said in his "Talk around the World" program on his website.

Thaksin said he was sentenced to two years in jail just because he had signed to allow his former wife to lawfully buy a plot of land in Bangkok, but another person could occupy a block of land in a forest reserve with protection from the state.

[Surayud ordered to give up contested plot of land](#) – *The Nation*, January 21, 2010

[Security beefed up for Anupong](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 21, 2010

Security has been beefed up for army chief Anupong Paojinda following a grenade attack at army headquarters last week, apparently aimed at his office.

An army source said yesterday a battery of 150 soldiers and a team of bomb disposal experts had been reinforced at the army head office on Ratchadamnoen Avenue. Security accompanying Gen Anupong on motorcades had also been increased.

The security detail for Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwon had also been stepped up, the source said. The heightened protection for the army commander, minister and army compound came after an M79

grenade was fired on the night of Jan 14 into the sixth floor of the building which houses Gen Anupong's office.

Report of One-Two-Go crash landing at Phuket, Thailand

January 20, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Current safety documents and investigation reports for download – report of One-Two-Go crash landing at Phuket, Thailand](#) – *InvestigateUdom*, January, 2010

Many files and movies, also flight data recorder lasting 5 minutes...

Website main page: [“Investigate Thailand’s Udom Tantiprasongchai”](#)

[JACDEC’s airliner safety statistics: Airlines](#) – *jacdec.de*, January, 2010

More Edith Clampton and Readers' Responses

January 20, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[More Edith Clampton and Readers' Responses](#) – *thai-blogs.com*, January 20, 2010

Earlier: [The legendary Edith Clampton](#) – *thai-blogs*, January 18, 2010

...She was highly “controversial” because a large minority of the Post Bag readers actually took her letters seriously, including embassy officials and big corporation heads. At the end of the day, what made Edith’s letters so classic were probably the incredibly serious replies which often bombarded the sub-editors desk in batches...

Pink piglet-shaped salapao

January 20, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: Nils)

Pink piglet-shaped salapao – January 20, 2010

Nils notes: *Snapped at my local 7Eleven: Big Pao Minced Pork with Carrot and Crab Stick*

1890s – Siam princess and princesses in a palace pond

January 20, 2010

Categories: Old photos and films, The Monarchy



(Source: Historical photo)

Circa 1890s – Siam princess and princesses in a palace pond



(Source: Historical photo)

Circa 1890s – Siam princes and princesses playing tug of war

Thaksin warns of ‘country in flames’

January 20, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Thaksin warns of ‘country in flames’](#) – Bangkok Post, January 20, 2010

Fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Tuesday night again accused the Abhisit administration of a double standard on law enforcement.

“An activist who fought for landless farmers in the South, Somporn Pattanaphum, was shot dead but the government has done nothing to resolve problems of poor farmers.

“Instead, the Democrat-led administration has provided protection for the person who encroached on a forest reserve. If such double standards continue, the country will be in flames (บ้านเมืองจะลุกเป็นไฟ-ban mueang ja luk pen fai),” Thaksin said in his “Talk around the World” program on his website.

Thaksin said he was sentenced to two years in jail just because he had signed to allow his former wife to lawfully buy a plot of land in Bangkok, but another person could occupy a block of land in a forest reserve with protection from the state.

Violence in the Family

January 21, 2010

Categories: Crime, Signs and Billboards



(Source: 2Bangkok.com)

Violence in the family – January, 2010

The billboard reads: Violence in the family – not a personal case, but the case that the society must understand/care about – If is seen – committing violence, please inform – with the concern of the Metropolitan Police Headquarters

Killer phone number a hoax

January 21, 2010

[Killer phone number a hoax](#) – TAN, January 21, 2010

...False rumors have surfaced in various provinces that one can die from picking up a phone call from unknown numbers, particularly those that start with 083 and end with 3366.

Authorities have proved that this bizarre rumor is a hoax...

Winery scam

January 21, 2010

[Winery scam](#) – *Sonoma Index-Tribune*, January 21, 2010

As some of you may have, I received an e-mail purportedly from one “Anna Maldonado” who identifies herself as “an American” and whose e-mail address appears to be an Italian hosting site called Katamail.com . She says she lives and works in Bangkok, Thailand, and that “when I was around last time I got a bottle of one of your wines from a friend as a gift and I love...

Thai poachers turn funghi farmers in bid to save forests

January 21, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai poachers turn funghi farmers in bid to save forests](#) – AFP, January 21, 2010

Nuan Muangchan began to illegally log rosewood as a teenager; creeping at night into Thailand's largest national park and hiding from animals and rangers to smuggle out her loot...

The Raid and Maj. Gen. Kattiya Sawasdiphol

January 22, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

The news Thursday night is about the raid on Maj. Gen. Kattiya Sawasdiphol's driver's house that netted war weapons—allegedly related to the grenade attack on Army Headquarters that only came to light in the press today. For now, there are Thai-languages articles on the raid [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)

Human Rights Watch World Report: 2010 – Thailand

January 23, 2010

[Human Rights Watch World Report: 2010 – Thailand](#) – *HRW*, January 23, 2010

Schoolie returns home from Thai jail

January 23, 2010

[Schoolie returns home from Thai jail](#) – *Sky News Australia*, January 23, 2010

A Sydney teenager has arrived home after spending two nights in a Thai jail during a schoolies trip...

Now that's a slam trunk! Meet Toktak, the elephant who plays basketball

January 23, 2010

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Now that's a slam trunk! Meet Toktak, the elephant who plays basketball](#) – *Daily Mail*, January 23, 2010

Tata Young: “I’m not sexy at all”

January 24, 2010

[Tata Young: “I’m not sexy at all”](#) – *The Jakarta Post*, January 24, 2010

Seeking a fresh beginning in the strange land called Texas

January 24, 2010

Categories: Uncategorized

[Seeking a fresh beginning in the strange land called Texas](#) – *Star Telegram*, January 24, 2010

...Nayhai, 22, told me his story. While living in an UNHCR camp, he swam across a narrow river that demarcates Thailand from Myanmar with the intention to catch fish. When he lay down on river bank to dry off, one of the thousands of mines planted by the dreaded Tatmadaw (army regulars) blew up under him, tearing off both his hands and shattering his right eye.

He is illiterate, even in his native tongue. Yet he wants to work and seeks no charity...

Bulgaria – Europe’s third-biggest exporter of pros...

January 24, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bulgaria – Europe’s third-biggest exporter of prostitutes](#) – novinite.com, January 24, 2010

...The report assessed that about two fifths of Britain’s estimated 80,000 prostitutes were migrants, most commonly from Lithuania, Thailand and Poland...

Fight is on for villagers to control natural resources

January 24, 2010

Categories: Uncategorized

[Fight is on for villagers to control natural resources](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 24, 2010

The scramble for dwindling natural resources is growing worldwide and fuelling armed conflicts. Bamrung Boonpanya, an activist who has been working to empower people in the Northeast for over 30 years, points to ways for villagers to defend themselves and their resources...

Kai Look Koie: Son-in-Law Eggs (Thailand)

January 24, 2010

[Kai Look Koie: Son-in-Law Eggs \(Thailand\)](#) – *NY Daily News*, January 24, 2010

The museum for the study of money

January 24, 2010

[The museum for the study of money](#) – *Bangkok Post*, January 24, 2010
...A letter of permission is required before visiting...

Tangled Thai: Bangkok's red tape slows the rebound

January 25, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Tangled Thai: Bangkok's red tape slows the rebound](#) – Break Bulk, January 25, 2010

...For example, for two years the country's constitution has required new projects to undergo environmental impact assessments. However, said Rainer Roessler, BDP Project Logistics' Thailand-based general manager, no rules were laid out about how to go about getting these assessments done, so the permitting process bogged down...

Bangkok visit

January 25, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bangkok visit](#) – Manila Bulletin, January 25, 2010

...The impressive ultra-modern network of skyways has successfully alleviated Bangkok traffic. Notably, there are only a few advertising tarpaulins on these structures. Moreover, Bangkok has retained a “garden city” look as all its 25 parks, main traffic islands, spaces under skyways are well-tended green areas bursting with flowers and decorative plants endemic to Thailand. Many of these botanical marvels are also found in the Philippines but are somewhat ignored.

The common denominator of Asian countries with progressive economies is love of country which means that their movers and shakers have a sense of nation that compel them to uphold national interests. Most Thai leaders are guided by love of country like the Governor of Bangkok, M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, who was a former MP and concurrently head of the BMA; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Kasit Piromya, and the various project directors like Dr. Royol Chitadon, director of the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute...

Thai Airways launches cultural overhaul

January 25, 2010

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Thai Airways launches cultural overhaul](#) – *Thailandnews.net*, January 25, 2010

...Abusing perks is arguably the tip of the iceberg at Thai Airways.

Corruption and collusion with politicians in purchases of everything from airplanes to seat cushions was the norm in the past, insiders said.

"Every time there is a purchase, there is some trick involved because there is always some politician involved," said one Thai Airways manager who asked to remain anonymous.

Under the premiership of Thaksin Shinawatra from 2001 to 2006, interference in purchases by the board of directors, which is appointed by the government, reached new heights, Piyasvasti said.

"About five years ago, the board became so active that management simply stopped managing the company, and that started a rapid decline in Thai Airways," Piyasvasti said...

Full text:

"When you are seeking enormous capital increases from shareholders, particularly the government, you need to restore good governance in the company," Piyasvasti told the German Press Agency dpa.

Thailand's finance ministry holds a 70-per-cent stake in Thai Airways, which is also listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Piyasvasti, a technocrat who served as energy minister under the military-appointed government of 2006-07, was named the airline's president in October. He is the second 'outsider' brought in to steer the flag carrier, which started in 1960 as a joint venture between Thai Airways Co. and the Scandinavian Airlines System, or SAS.

In 1977, the Thai government bought out SAS, and Thai Airways became a state enterprise. While its state enterprise status has been a source of fiscal stability, it has also drawn the carrier into the muck of Thai politics and the drawbacks of state enterprise 'culture'. One of Piyasvasti's first campaigns has been to eliminate the rampant abuse of perks—such as free tickets, upgrades and extra baggage allowances—for management, staff and politicians as well as the friends and relatives of all of the above.

The campaign quickly netted Thai Airways executive chairman Wallop Bhukkanasut, who was forced to resign last month after being found guilty of checking in 30 pieces of luggage weighing 398kg on a Thai Airways flight from Tokyo to Bangkok in November. He had not paid for the overweight luggage, which he picked up in Bangkok's lost and found office to avoid detection of the abuse. Wallop, whose wife runs a gift shop in Bangkok selling Japanese items, was later charged \$6,000 for excess luggage.

"You cannot expect the staff at Thai Airways to have governance and to devote their energies to the company if the top people in the management and board members are abusing their privileges," Piyasvasti said.

Abusing perks is arguably the tip of the iceberg at Thai Airways. Corruption and collusion with politicians in purchases of everything from airplanes to seat cushions was the norm in the past, insiders said. "Every time there is a purchase, there is some trick involved because there is always some politician involved," said one Thai Airways manager who asked to remain anonymous.

Under the premiership of Thaksin Shinawatra from 2001 to 2006, interference in purchases by the board of directors, which is appointed by the government, reached new heights, Piyasvasti said. "About five years ago, the board became so active that management simply stopped managing the company and that started a rapid decline in Thai Airways," Piyasvasti said.

In 2005, the board took responsibility for decisions on all purchases above \$1.5 million and appointments of even middle management, he noted. Many of the purchases made by previous boards, such as buying gasguzzling Airbus 340-500 aircraft for the since-cancelled Bangkok-New York route, have come back to haunt Thai Airways' bottom line.

As part of his agreement to become Thai Airways chief executive, Piyasvasti insisted that he be given full management control and the board be limited to policy decisions. Piyasvasti's report card is so far so good. In 2009, Thai Airways managed to cut its non-fuel costs by \$303 million and, with a surge in cargo and passenger traffic during the last two months of 2009, has managed a small profit for last year. But in some ways, the good news is bad news for the new CEO.

“If the company becomes profitable again, people can easily go back to their old ways, and that would not be sustainable,” Piyasvasti said. “That’s why if you want to change the company culture, you cannot wait.”

1890s – Siamese Postman and Siamese Family

January 28, 2010

Categories: Old photos and films



Siamese postman
Circa 1890s



Siamese family
Circa 1890s

Good news for Thai solar industry

January 28, 2010

Categories: Energy

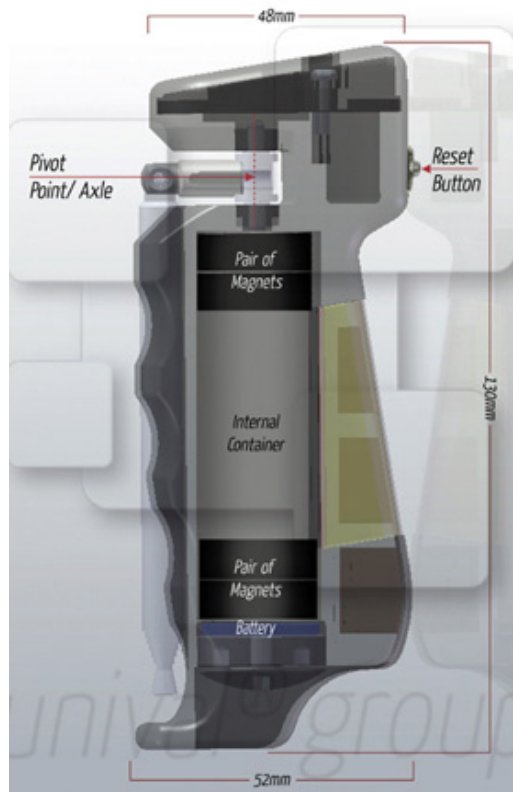
[Good news for Thai solar industry](#) – *renewableenergymagazine.com*, January 28, 2010

Plans to build one of the world's largest ever photovoltaic (PV) solar farms near Bangkok (Thailand) has boosted the Thai government's efforts to accelerate the development of a national PV market...

GT200 scam

January 29, 2010

Categories: Scams



(Source:
Unival Group)

How does the GT200 "work?" – January 29, 2010

From e-k9.net: 4 – How does the GT200 work?

The GT200 works on the principal of dia/para magnetism. All substances carry a magnetic charge that, when stimulated by an impulse of electricity, (static) creates an attraction between the substance being detected and the GT200 unit itself. This is called EMA or Electro Magnetic Attraction.

The simple way to explain this technology is to take an inflated balloon and rub it on your hair. A static charge is being created making that balloon “attract” it to say, a wall. Provided that there is enough charge on that balloon, it will remain “attracted” to the wall for an indefinite amount of time. However, once the "charge" has dissipated, the balloon will then “unattached” between itself and fall to the ground.

What the GT200 is doing is creating an “attraction” between itself and the substance it wants to detect.

Through the Substance Sensor Card and the movement of an operator, an attracting field is created in the card reader that, in turn causes the

Receiver”s antenna of the GT200 to “lock onto” a signal, indicating the direction in which the substance can be located. When the magnetic signal of the substance that the GT200 is searching for, is located within its detection range, the GT200 receiving antenna will move toward the direction that the substance exist. In essence the GT200 functions like a hyper sensitive receiver.

We have strong reason to believe that the reference-card based devices have been created by a group of people, who initially tried to copy our technology but failed to reproduce the MED method. This is why they only copied the general shape and had to add another method, which they believed would be close to our approach. The result has been disastrous and they have created a massive scam, which is despicable.

(Source:
Unival Group)

From [Unival Group](#): *HEDD1® – Handheld Explosive Detection Device Technology*

HEDD1® is setting new standards in handheld explosive detection based on its unique patented Magneto-Electrostatic Detection (MED) method.

HEDD1® forms a modulated Magnetic Field (MMF) that allows detection of all types of commercial and military explosives (TNT, Dynamite, Ammonite & Diesel, PETN, RDX, Gun-powder, Semtex, C4 etc.) including liquid explosives (TATP etc.) within a distance between 2-100 meters behind and through all types of barriers (including concrete, steel etc.).

And a [pdf here](#).

More bomb sniffer scams – February 1, 2010

Nils reports: *Yikes, how many variants/companies exploiting this scam are there?*

Apart from ATSC’s “ADE651”, e-k9’s “GT200” and Unival’s “HEDD1”, there’s one more device called “Sniffex.” Here is one of many failed tests, [filmed by hidden camera, apparently at a trade show](#).

And: the now banned ADE651 from the UK was sold to the Thai Border Police, in addition to the GT200 sold to the army??? [ADE651 Advanced Detection Training in Thailand](#)

The above video was put up by [fraudster Jim McCormick himself](#). (.....note the lovely comments!)

Meanwhile, the [ATSC company website](#) is down.

Yet more on the GT200 ‘detectors’ – February 12, 2010

Nils points out: [Covers the whole fraudulent history of the GT200, ADE651, Alpha 6, Sniffex, Sniffex Plus, HEDD1, H3 Tec, MOLE, PSD-22, Quadro Tracker etc...](#)

[James Randi sums it all up – Excerpt from Nation TV – Mexican who built his own ‘detector’](#)

[Something similar from Thailand \(5:00-6:00 is hilarious\)](#) –

One of the sarcastic user comments: "you should offer this to the Thai government... should be possible to sell it for 700,000-800,000 Baht..."

INEFFECTIVE BOMB DETECTOR –

Army drops GT200 bombshell – *The Nation*, February 19, 2010

..."I understand the scientific tests, but what the Army is trying to say is the device operators on the ground can use them effectively. This may not be explained scientifically, but I'm telling the truth," Anupong said...

From *Not the Nation*: Army defends Gt200 scanners as "able to detect money"

Testing shows scanners 100% effective in locating illegal profits for army officers...

From *Not the Nation*: GT200 scanners to be replaced with fortune tellers, feng shui experts, amulets and reincarnated geckos

"Proven technologies" sure to detect bombs, say Thai scientists...

Why Thailand still uses discredited bomb detectors – *Christian Science Monitor*, March 1, 2010

...Thai courts don't admit GT200 readings as evidence in criminal cases. But the military has used them widely to identify suspects in the south who are then "invited" for questioning under emergency laws, says Sunai Pasuk, a Thai researcher for Human Rights Watch. The group has documented torture and other forms of abuse in military custody...

“Meet A Gang’s Rep In A Go-Go Bar”

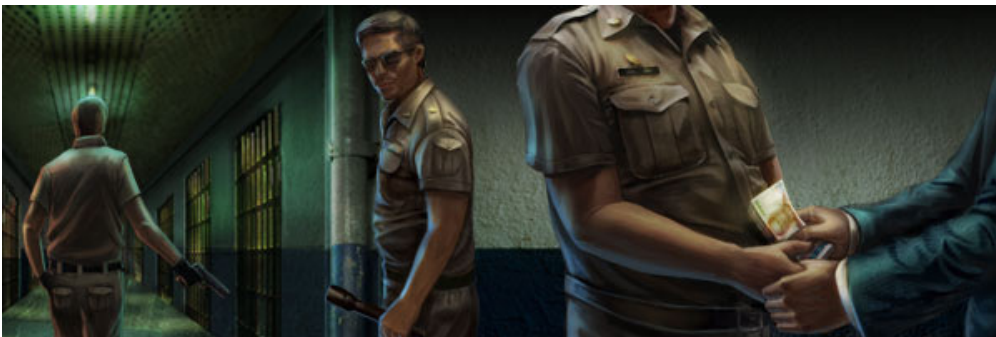
January 29, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News



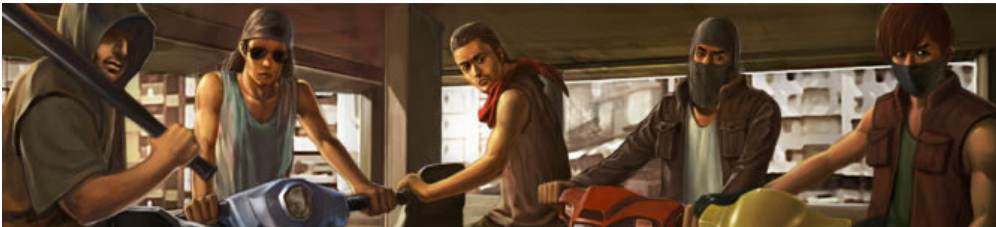
(Source: Mafia Wars – Bangkok)

“Meet A Gang’s Rep In A Go-Go Bar”



(Source: Mafia Wars – Bangkok)

“Pay Off The Guards At Bangkwang Prison”



(Source: Mafia Wars – Bangkok)

“Move Stolen Art Through Suvarnabhumi Airport”

Mafia Wars Bangkok or Virtual Bangkok? – January 29, 2010

Mafia Wars is proud to unleash its newest city–Bangkok, a city overrun by crime and chaos as two gangs struggle for dominance over turf...

Nils updates: *Mafia Wars Bangkok is still delayed..... however, a small number of users have been selected as beta testers and been given access to the first 2 new job tiers. Also, Zynga has released a “Royal White Elephant” limited loot item and “Bangkok Crates” containing some new Asian weapons, armor and vehicles, available to all users for in-game currency.*

More at the (very comprehensive) Mafia Wars Wiki, including detailed item lists, job names for the tiers (‘Brawler & ‘Criminal’) plus artwork (as leaked/compiled by users who already have access): [Bangkok](#), [Brawler](#), [Criminal](#), [Faction Store](#), [Purchased in](#)

[Bangkok](#), [Bangkok crate](#), [tuk-tuk](#), and a nice business: [tourist guide scam](#) (right)



(Source: Mafia Wars – Bangkok)

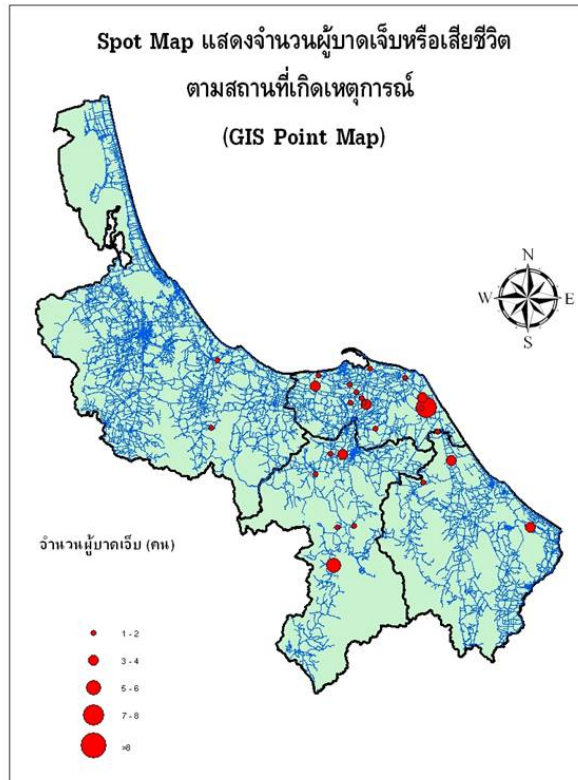
More on Mafia Wars – Bangkok – February 20, 2010

Nils reports: *The remaining 4 episodes have now been rolled out (themes & locations in brackets):* [Pirate](#) (piracy & smuggling, Malaysia/Indonesia) – [Commandant](#) (drug trade, Golden Triangle) – [Oyabun](#) – (Tokyo) – [Dragon Head](#) – (Hong Kong) – [Bangkok Boss Contest](#)

Southern Violence Statistics – January 2010

January 30, 2010

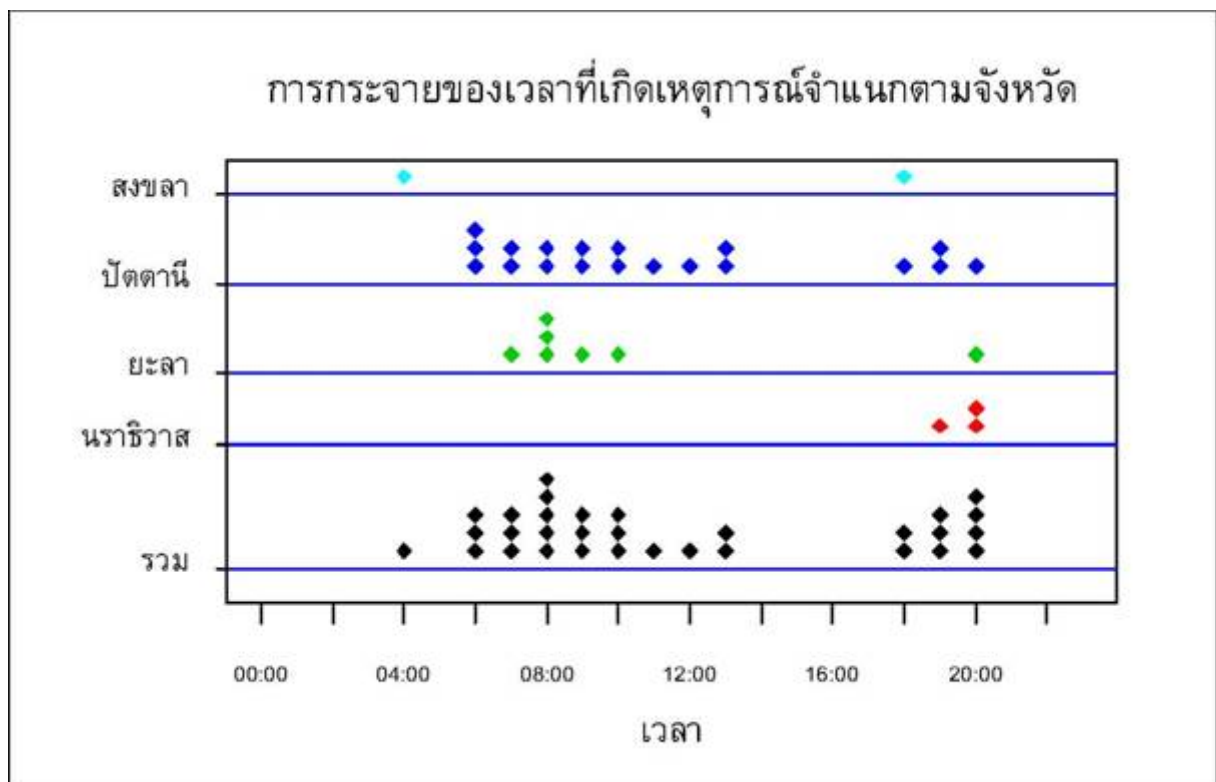
Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics



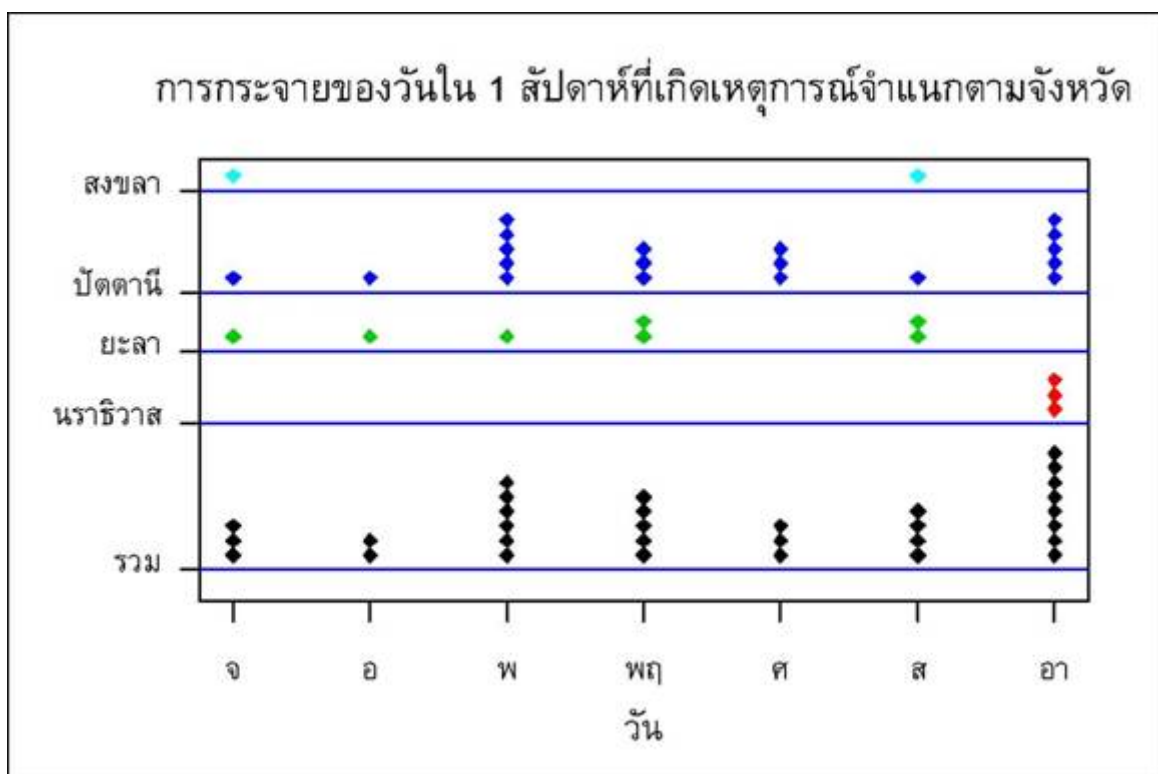
Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the dead and injured by location.

Southern Violence Statistics – January 2010

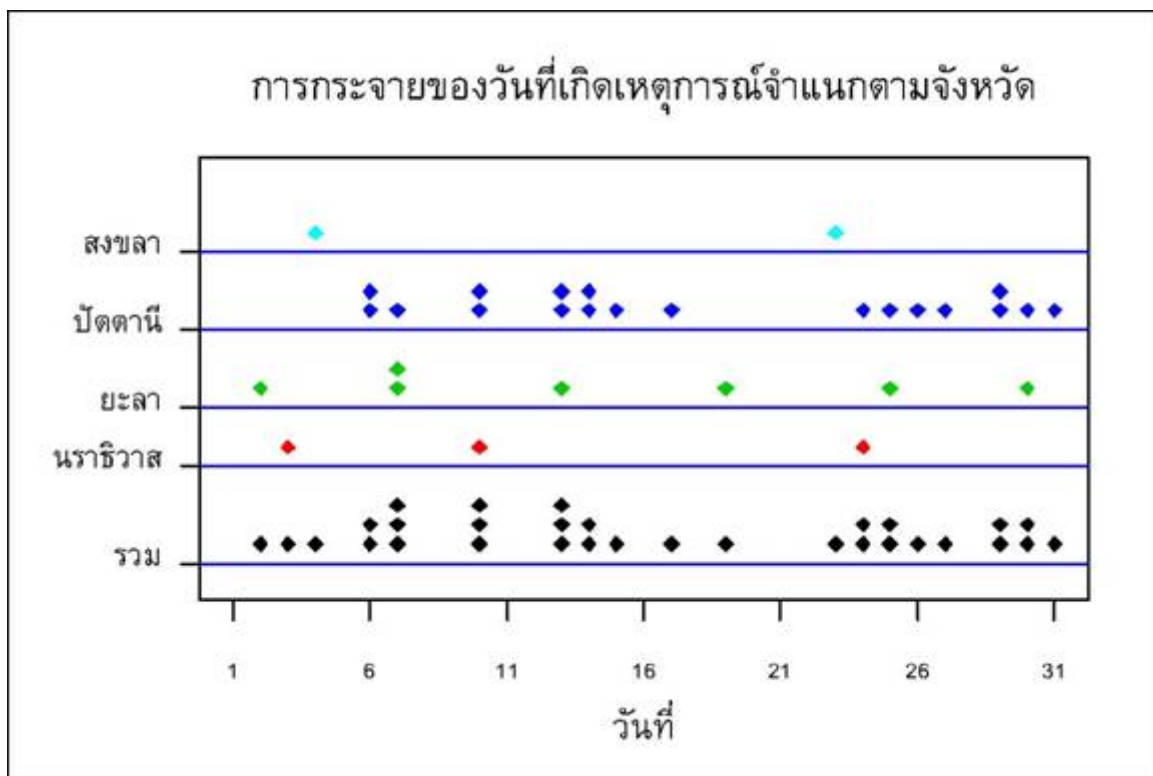
[Index of violence statistics for the Thai Deep South](#)



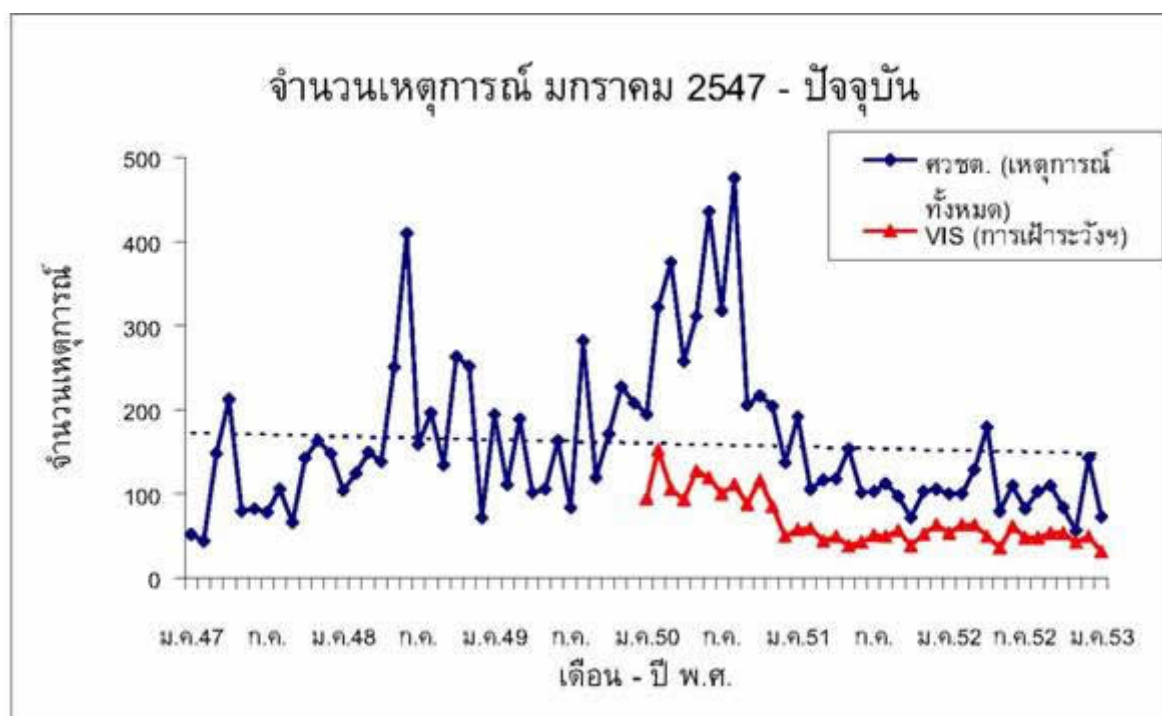
This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The days of the week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

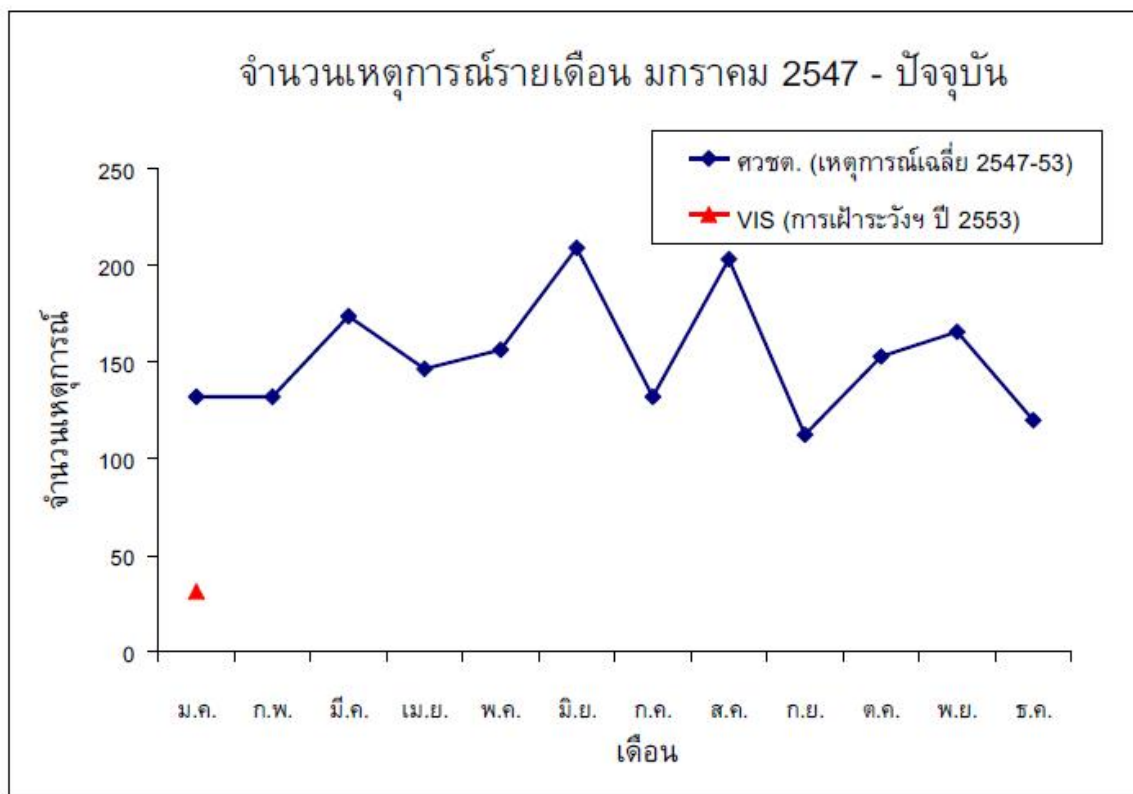


This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

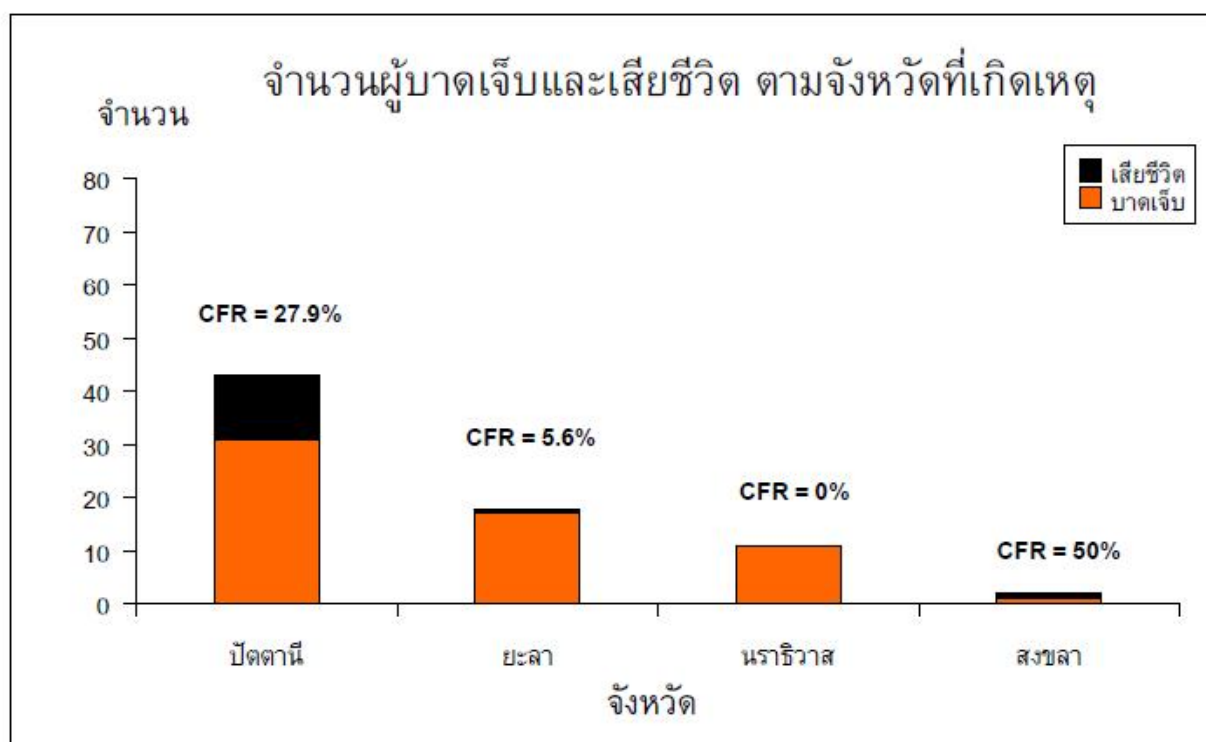


Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009, 2553 is 2010).

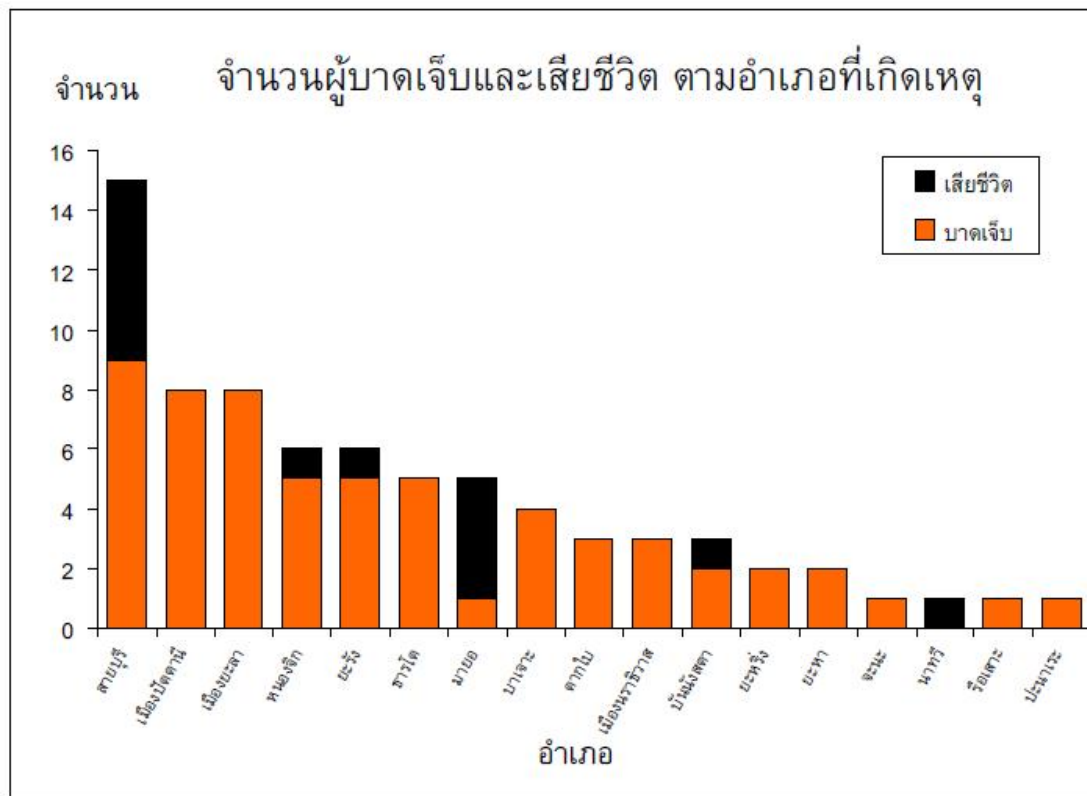
The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination Center (counting all incidents both injury and non-injury). The red line shows data according to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance (a form that hospitals, doctors and clinics are supposed to fill out to report violent incidents).



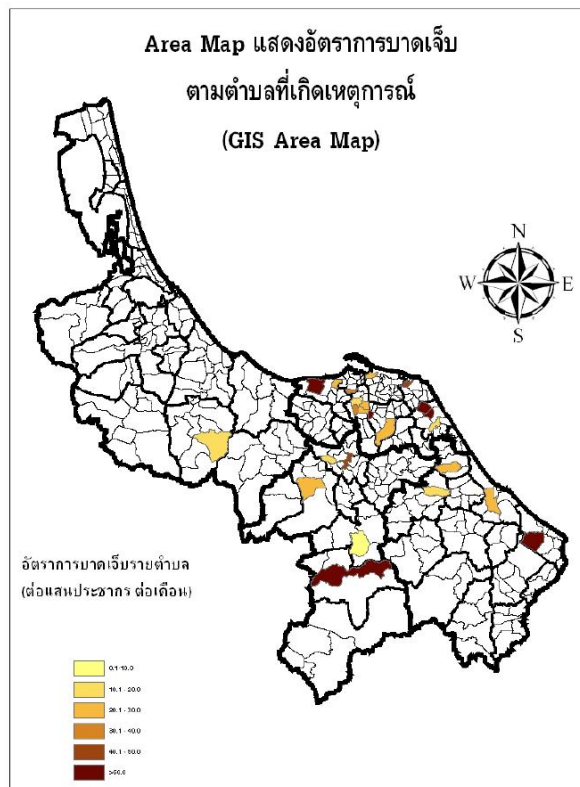
The blue line shows the average monthly level of violent incidents from 2004 up to the present. The red line shows the information provided to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance in the present year. The y-axis shows the numbers of events from 0-300. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).



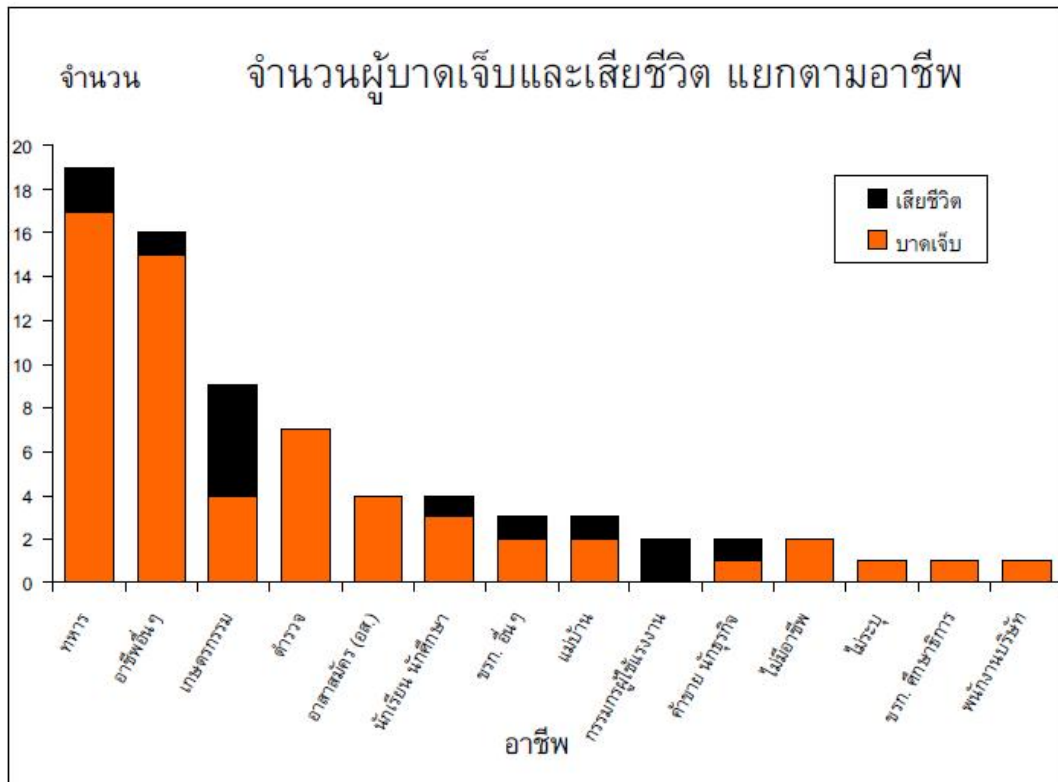
The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla). Black= dead, orange=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar.



The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, orange=injured.



Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of violent events by tambon (village). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 1-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, and greater than 60.



The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, orange=injured.
 From left to right: Soldiers, others, agriculture, police, defense guard volunteer, students-college students, other officials, housewives, laborers, businessmen, unemployed, unidentified, Education Ministry officials, company employees

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

Stop

January 30, 2010



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Stop – January 30, 2010

The billboard reads: Stop hurting Thailand by using violence

North Korean arms were headed to Iran, Thailand report says

January 30, 2010

Categories: North Korea

[North Korean arms were headed to Iran, Thailand report says](#) – Bloomberg, January 30, 2010

...A copy of the report, obtained from diplomats whose governments hold Security Council seats, said the 40-ton cargo's destination was Airport Mahrabad in Tehran. It says the plane departed from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and that the shipper was the Korea Mechanical Industry Co...

Crosswalk Sign

January 30, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Crosswalk – January 30, 2010

From a sign in Chinatown:

Drivers and passengers' notification

1. Not crossing at the crosswalk will face up to a 200 baht fine.
2. Car drivers and motorcycle riders who do not slow or stop at the crosswalk for passerby will face up to 500 baht fine penalty.

Beginning from August 1st, 2009

(This is the project of strict traffic discipline campaign to promote crosswalk users to lessen accident risk and promote good concern for following traffic rules.)

Traffic Work, Plabplachai 2 Police station – 02-221-5494

- Right – Ratchawongse Road – Left Ratchawongse Intersection
- Left – Wat Tuek Intersection – Phra Pok Klao Bridge



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Thaksin obtained Cambodian citizenship in March 2009

February 1, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

Thaksin obtained Cambodian citizenship in March 2009 – [KhmerIntelligence](#), February 1, 2010

Thaksin obtained Cambodian citizenship in March 2009 (2) – Thailand's fugitive former premier Thaksin Shinawatra obtained a Cambodian passport in the last week of March 2009. The Royal Decree granting Thaksin Khmer citizenship was signed off by CPP and Senate President Chea Sim in his capacity then as Acting Head of State. King Norodom Sihamoni had been “advised” to unexpectedly but discretely leave Cambodia for France in that last week of March 2009 in order to keep secret the CPP decision to grant Khmer citizenship to Thaksin.

23 fishing cats found in Prachuap Khiri Khan

February 1, 2010

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[23 fishing cats found in Prachuap Khiri Khan](#) – *The Nation*, February 1, 2010

Cashing in on cheap Thai fireworks

February 1, 2010

[Cashing in on cheap Thai fireworks](#) – *New Straits Times*, February 1, 2010

Unscrupulous local traders are ignoring the government's ban on the sale of firecrackers and fireworks as they rush to score big profits during festive periods. They are taking advantage of the low prices offered by suppliers in Sungai Golok, Thailand...

Mr. Jim on longboard

February 1, 2010



(Photo: www.mrjimonlongboard.blogspot.com)

[Mr. Jim on longboard](#) – February 1, 2010
Longboarding through Thailand for charity.

Fighting Over Good English

February 2, 2010

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Fighting over good English – February 2, 2010

The billboard reads: Good English – needed everywhere

Earlier: [“The farang in you”](#)

Earlier: [Ads from Wall Street](#)

King of Siam board game

February 2, 2010



(Source: Board Game News)

King of Siam board game – February 2, 2010

From [Board Game Geek](#): *Siam 1874: A power struggle has broken out. Siam's king has initiated reforms that have resulted in a clash between the Malays, Lao, and Royalists. The appearance of unity, however, must be preserved or the British might move in and make a colony out of Siam. Will the Siamese succeed in this tightrope walk and maintain the nation of freedom?*

[Game home page](#) – [Online play instructions](#) – [Online version of the game](#) – [King of Siam board game FAQ](#)

More on the King of Siam board game – February 2, 2010

Andy writes: *Nice to see [that game](#) on your main page, I discovered it by fluke some time ago and even wrote a bit on it in my [blog](#).*

The author of the game also has a (German language) [blog](#). I even imported one box of that game for [Rikker](#), so it has at least one copy in Bangkok already by now.

A fit and proper person?

February 3, 2010

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[A fit and proper person?](#) – *Bleacher Report*, February, 2010

...These changes were brought in after former Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's rein as Manchester City owner. Just a year after buying Manchester City he was charged with corruption and had 1 billion worth of assets frozen by the Thai authorities in 2007. However, there was more. The "Human Rights Watch" wrote a letter to the Premier League (confirmed in a statement issued by the Premier League of receipt of the letter on 31st July 2007) questioning how they could deem Shinawatra "fit and proper" with there being a number of alleged human rights violations against him. How can someone who just 12 months after being cleared by the Premier League to take over the football club be then charged with such offences and have such serious allegations against their name? ...

Hunt for identity of mystery RAF airman after photograph album is handed in to charity shop

February 3, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Who is Siam Joe? Hunt for identity of mystery RAF airman after photograph album is handed in to charity shop](#) – *Guardian*, February 3, 2010

Gen. Chavalit to lead “People’s Army”

February 4, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Panlop: Chavalit to lead red shirts](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 4, 2010

...Gen Panlop said Thaksin was now ready to negotiate with the government for truce, but with a condition that he must not be put in jail. It would be useless to negotiate if he had to serve time in jail first once he returned to the country, he added...

[Gen Chavalit appointed as Supreme Commander of People’s Army of Thailand](#) – *TAN*, February 4, 2010

Right: Chavalit illustration from *Matichon Weekly* in 2007



(Source: *Matichon Weekly*)

[PM believes formation of People’s Army just a scare tactic](#) – *TAN*, February 4, 2010

[Thaksin: First it was non-violence, now it’s a people’s army](#) – *suthichaiyoon.blogspot.com*, February 4, 2010

[Suthep vows not to tolerate “illegal forces” of red-shirt movement](#) – *The Nation*, February 4, 2010

[February: A month of foul-smelling political revulsion](#) – *The Nation*, February 4, 2010

...If you want to know who’s plotting to throw the country into such a disastrous state of affairs, then find out who would gain most from a nation torn apart by an outbreak of violence that could deteriorate into a civil war...

[Chalerm: Row with Sudarat ended](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 3, 2010

[Chalerm urges unity, blocks out Sudarat](#) – *The Nation*, February 4, 2010

[Chavalit denies he will head ‘people’s army’](#) – *The Nation*, February 4, 2010

[Chavalit rejects red-shirt offer](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 4, 2010

...“I think it’s a misunderstanding. Gen Panlop may want me to help out and be part of the mass of people who love this country,” Gen Chavalit said.

...He said army specialist and red-shirt supporter Maj-Gen Khattiya Sawasdipol, known as Seh Daeng, just wanted to warn the Democrat-led government not to suppress the people...

[More about Chavalit](#)

SKorean marines storm beach in war games with US

February 4, 2010

[SKorean marines storm beach in war games with US](#) – AP, February 4, 2010

More than 800 U.S., Thai and South Korean marines stormed a beach Thursday with Seoul joining the annual war games for the first time.

...Singapore, Japan and Indonesia also are participating in the war games involving 11,500 military personnel.

On Thursday, marines and U.S. Navy Seals charged onto a beach southeast of Bangkok from 24 amphibious vehicles as helicopters clattered overhead and simulated explosions erupted along the shore.

Outside the office window

February 5, 2010



(Photo: Jokey)

Outside the office window – February 5, 2010



(Photo: Jokey)

Maj. Gen. Khattiya's outbursts not the key news of the week

February 6, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

Maj. Gen. Khattiya's outbursts not the key news of the week – February 6, 2010

Right: From *Nation Weekend*, February, 2010

The headline reads: Black tigers roar! – bloodshed over the land

“The Bali Boat”

February 6, 2010



(Source: Vintage photo)

“The Bali Boat” – February 6, 2010

A Thai caption on the photo reads: The Bali Boat (Bali Rang Thaveep) – The royal boat used for the royal voyage to visit the Terengganu in the year of the Rattanakosin era 124

Avram Grant says Thai masseuse was too old to be a prostitute

February 6, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Avram Grant says Thai masseuse was too old to be a prostitute](#) – *Mirror*, February 6, 2010

Premiership football boss Avram Grant last night insisted he only visited a “Thai vice den” for a rub down....

AIDS vaccine effects may wear off, researchers say

February 7, 2010

Categories: HIV-AIDS

[AIDS vaccine effects may wear off, researchers say](#) – Reuters, February, 2010

An AIDS vaccine that appears to have worked at least partly in Thailand may only temporarily protect patients, with the effects starting to wane after a year or so, researchers reported on Thursday...

Said and Done: Portsmouth's fittest owners

February 7, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

[Said & Done: Portsmouth's fittest owners](#) – *Guardian*, February 7, 2010

...The fit-and-proper-person test. Owners passed fit by the Premier League to run Portsmouth so far this season:

... Sulaiman al-Fahim, head of troubled property group; frontman for unnamed investors; “close friend” of convicted fraudster and human rights violator Thaksin Shinawatra, and of Piers Morgan...

Insects devastate Thailand's rice crop, institute says

February 7, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Insects devastate Thailand's rice crop, institute says](#) – *Thailandnews.net*, February 7, 2010

Excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides and other poor farming practices have led to an insect plague in Thailand's rice fields that was predicted to reduce yields by 30 per cent in vast areas...

Brit drug baron's luxury life on the run in Thailand

February 7, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Brit drug baron's luxury life on the run in Thailand](#) – *Mirror*, February 7, 2010

...Darren Oxley, 42, could have been jailed for at least 10 years for running a multi-million-pound syndicate dealing cocaine and ecstasy – but he skipped bail after he was found guilty.

Bungling police and officials from the Crown Prosecution Service have never made any attempt to extradite him – and he even managed to renew his British passport in Bangkok.

He is now living the high life in Thailand, driving Lamborghinis and Bentleys while running a company building luxury houses...

Rural Thailand simmers with anti-gov't rage

February 8, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Rural Thailand simmers with anti-gov't rage](#) – IPS, February 8, 2010

...The billionaire telecommunication tycoon played to the gallery. "I will fill your pockets with money," he promised. "I have a plan for your children's education."

..."It is very important, the next fight," Thaksin's nasal voice crackled. "If you don't walk ahead, you will lose a lot. If you walk ahead, you can get a good life and good hope..."

Thai stocks may slide after ‘double top’: technical analysis

February 8, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai stocks may slide after double top: technical analysis](#) – Bloomberg, February 8, 2010

Thailand's SET Index may slide as much as 20 percent after twice failing to breach peaks in the past four months, according to Kasikorn Securities Co.

A ‘double top’ formation, or approximately equal peaks either side of a moderate trough, was a ‘dangerous indicator’ in the medium term, the brokerage said in a report today...

Stockholm policeman warned after Thai brothel visit

February 8, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Stockholm policeman warned after Thai brothel visit](#) – *The Local*, February 8, 2010

A Stockholm police officer has been reminded of his responsibilities after being caught in a Thai massage parlour under surveillance by the vice squad...

Thailand maintains good international connections

February 9, 2010

Categories: Airports and Airlines

[Thailand maintains good international connections; V Australia and Kingfisher new in 2009; only one US non-stop](#) – *AnnaAero*, February 9, 2010

Aim to seize Thaksin's assets

February 9, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Aim to seize Thaksin's assets](#) – *AFP*, February 9, 2010

Thailand's attorney-general wants all of former premier Thaksin Shinawatra's US\$2.2 billion (S\$3.1 billion) fortune to be seized by the court in its ruling this month, the office said in closing arguments Tuesday...

Thai police, soldiers raid Karen media office

February 9, 2010

[Thai police, soldiers raid Karen media office](#) – *ifex*, February 9, 2010

Thailand to help finance 9-kilometre rail link with Lao capital

February 9, 2010

Categories: Laos, Thai Railroads

[Thailand to help finance 9-kilometre rail link with Lao capital](#) – *The Nation*, February, 2010

THAILAND: Anti-govt movement opens rural minds through “schools”

February 10, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

[THAILAND: Anti-govt movement opens rural minds through “schools”](#) – IPS, February 10, 2010

... ”This is the first time I am joining this school,” says Songkan, a mother of two children. “I want to learn about injustice and what is wrong in our country after I became an active supporter of the Red Shirts after the April crackdown last year.”

Her views are echoed by Pathamawan Sriwongudonslip, who gave up her normal Sunday routine tending to the orchids in her garden to don a red shirt and to listen to lectures on political, social and economic injustice that voters in rural Thailand have been subjected to by Bangkok’s royalist-dominated political machine...

Thai monk walks million miles on barefoot

February 10, 2010

[Thai monk walks million miles on barefoot](#) – *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, February 10, 2010

A Thai monk walks 20 kilometres on barefoot a day to remind those who pursue a material life to protect and concern about mother nature...

Thumbs up to separate pumps for foreign cars

February 11, 2010

[Thumbs up to separate pumps for foreign cars](#) – *AsiaOne*, February 11, 2010

Petrol stations at border towns in Kelantan have set up separate pumps for locals and foreigners since early this year. The move followed complaints by locals that they had to wait a long time to fill up their tanks as Thai cars hogged the queue...

‘Not dad’s nominees’

February 11, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[‘Not dad’s nominees’](#) – *The Nation*, February 11, 2010

...Their combined holdings were worth Bt40 billion. Most importantly, they were not acting as nominees for their parents, they argued.

...No taxmen were present when there were transactions of shares between the British Virgin Islands-registered Ample Rich Investments and Thaksin and Panthongtae and Pinthongta. Thaksin sold Ample Rich, which owned 392 million shares in Shin Corp, to Panthongtae for only \$1...

American Clay: Narong Vanavisutra... is our Dealer of the Month

February 11, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News, Announcements

[American Clay: “Narong Vanavisutra, owner of PaintFX Company Ltd, is our Dealer of the Month”](#) –

American Clay, February, 2010

...So I bought a piece of land near Khao Yai National Park- 2 hours drive from Bangkok – and developed an organic farm. My farm has no chemical additives and I use primitive and natural techniques to grow my crops...

‘Businessman S’ behind suspicious funds for red shirts?

February 11, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

[‘Businessman S’ behind suspicious funds for red shirts?](#) – *The Nation*, February 11, 2010

“Thailand, Laos crisis: Anupong Paochinda’s shameful, grotesque visit to Washington, America condemned”

February 12, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[“Thailand, Laos crisis: Anupong Paochinda’s shameful, grotesque visit to Washington, America condemned”](#)

– *Media Newswire*, February 12, 2010

Dalai Lama: Blackballed from Thailand

February 12, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Dalai Lama: Blackballed from Thailand](#) – *GlobalPost*, February 12, 2010

Long tale of the lost land

February 12, 2010

[Long tale of the lost land](#) – *MalaysiaNews.net*, February 12, 2010

Twenty-one years ago Thai national Boonsom Boonyanit lost her two beach front lots in Tanjung Bungah in Penang to Adorna Properties Sdn Bhd following a fraudulent transfer...

Did you know Bangkok Dangerous had a viral campaign?

February 12, 2010

Categories: Film and TV

[Did you know *Bangkok Dangerous* had a viral campaign?](#) – *MovieViral*, February 12, 2010

Zero rupee note that Indians can slip to corrupt officials who demand bribes

February 12, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News



[Zero rupee note that Indians can slip to corrupt officials who demand bribes](#) – 5th Pillar, February, 2010

US scientists warn of fraud of stem cell ‘banks’

February 13, 2010

Categories: Health

[US scientists warn of fraud of stem cell ‘banks’](#) – AFP, February, 2010

...In Thailand, for example, parents pay in the region of 3,600 dollars to make a deposit in a stem cell bank, thinking they are taking out a sort of health insurance for their child.

But Irving Weissman, director of the Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Stanford University in California, said the well-meaning parents were being fleeced by the stem cell bankers...

‘High do’: Couples tie the knot in ‘flying wedding’ ceremony while suspended from Thailand cliff

February 14, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[‘High do’: Couples tie the knot in ‘flying wedding’ ceremony while suspended from Thailand cliff](#) – *Daily Mail*, February 14, 2010

Thailand should learn lessons from its competitors

February 14, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thailand should learn lessons from its competitors](#) – *Property Report Asia*, February, 2010

...He says: "None of our clients are giving up on Thailand, but on the other hand people are taking a wait-and-see attitude. Clients have been slow to reinvest and upgrade. We have some clients that should be upgrading their technological infrastructures but, at the moment, because of many uncertainties when these companies make a capital expenses request to their headquarters the companies are saying 'wait'..."

Laos of Central Thailand

February 15, 2010

Categories: Laos, Old photos and films



(Source: undated postcard)

Siam's little image problem

February 16, 2010

[Siam's little image problem](#) – *The Nation*, February 16, 2010

... "It is a sensible, harmonious, calm, peaceful and respectful country driven by humanity and a soulfulness, unlike any other place in the world..."

Sae Daeng Threats

February 16, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

Sae Daeng threats – February 16, 2010

Maj. Gen. Khattiya's (Sae Daeng's) [threats against the Prime Minister's family and the cabinet](#) have caused even Thaksin's lawyer to speak up.

From the [Post](#): ...Mr Noppadon also said he would like to say on behalf of Thaksin that army specialist Maj-Gen Khattiya Sawasdipol should not use the former prime minister's name in conducting his activities, because this could cause misunderstanding and send out wrong signals...

Noppadon: Thaksin not involved

Published: 15/02/2010 at 05:04 PM

Online news: Breakingnews

Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra had nothing to do with the weekend grenade attack and discovery of C4 explosive near the Supreme Court, his lawyer and close aide Noppadon Pattana said on Monday.

Mr Noppadon was referring to the M79 grenade attack at Rajamangala University of Technology Phra Nakhon on Saturday and the discovery of 1.3kg of C4 charge at the fence of the Supreme Court's compound on Sunday.

He said he talked to Thaksin on Sunday night.

Mr Noppadon called for the authorities to catch those responsible.

he said when the Sepreme Cout delivers its verdict in his 76 billion baht assets case on Feb 26, Thaksin would be listening to it in Dubai and he hoped the court would give him due justice.

No matter what the verdict might be, Thaksin and his family were prepared for it and would act within the law and through peaceful means, he said.

Mr Noppadon also said he would like to say on behalf of Thaksin that army specialist Maj-Gen Khattiya Sawasdipol should not use the former prime minister's name in conducting his activities, because this could cause misunderstanding and send out wrong signals.

Maj-Gen Khattiya, known as Seh Daeng, should be more careful with his words, he said, adding that the red-shirts were also concerned about this.

Thai floral tag for baby elephant

February 16, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[What's in a name? Thai floral tag for baby elephant](#) – *The Age*, February 16, 2010

...Five floral Thai names have been shortlisted – Leelawa dee (frangipani), Mali (jasmine), Ma Li Wan (climbing jasmine), Su Ma Li (osmanthus) and Iyares (meaning orchid and elephant).

The names will go to an online poll, with one lucky voter who picks the winner scoring a trip to Thailand to explore the home of the elephant's ancestors...

Thailand emerges as extreme risk nation on Maplecroft terrorism list

February 16, 2010

Categories: Terrorism

[Iraq, India and Colombia top Maplecroft terrorism list – Thailand emerges as extreme risk nation](#) –

Maplecroft, February 16, 2010

...Ranked 11th in last year's Terrorism Risk Index, Thailand has now dropped two places in the ranking and into the extreme risk category. Terrorism incidents in Thailand's restive Muslim south – such as the October 2009 bomb attacks in Sungai Kolok – largely account for the country's rating...

Evidence of oversupply in Bangkok housing market

February 16, 2010

Categories: Property and Development

[Evidence of oversupply in Bangkok housing market, says president of Agency for Real Estate Affairs](#) – *Asia Property Report*, February 16, 2010

Industrial row spells trouble for turbulent Thailand

February 17, 2010

Categories: Business

[ANALYSIS-Industrial row spells trouble for turbulent Thailand](#) – Reuters, February 17, 2010

... "Unlike political concerns, risk concerns and protests, this is very quantifiable — you can see how much this is going to cost," he said.

"Thailand is beginning to ratchet up an unfortunate (political risk) score. These are big investments and from the foreign perspective, these issues are piling up ... It's not painting Thailand in a very elegant light." Whether this is the result of a favour to big business or a simple bureaucratic oversight, the government is now in hot water, paying the price for failing to heed warnings to set up an independent body to assess health and environmental risks from industrial projects, as required by the 2007 constitution...

Thailand's downward spiral amazes investors

February 17, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Thailand's downward spiral amazes investors](#) – Bangkok Post, February 17, 2010

... people would call me and ask about my own safety. I had to tell them my own safety was not an issue at all. I was having a normal life like before. Nevertheless, we had a state of emergency and that was very negative in the eyes of the foreigners. The positive pictures that we experience here in Thailand, they don't go around the world. But the negative ones go around. I mean newspapers, they like to show all the clashes, and all the pieces that were in all the other parts of the city...

Size doesn't matter

February 17, 2010

Categories: Sports

[Size doesn't matter](#) – Bangkok Post, February 17, 2010

Do you know that sumo wrestling is practised in Thailand? And do you know about the Thai sumo association? Surprisingly, there are both male and female Thai national amateur sumo athletes...

Stealing destroying assets that belong to the building

February 17, 2010

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sticker reads: Stealing destroying assets that belong to the building is considered a criminal act and the wrongdoer will be ultimately punished

Merchant of Death case is a pantomime

February 18, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Merchant of Death case is a pantomime – author](#) – RT, February 18, 2010

...What's more we have Bout co-conspirator Andrey Smolin, who actually disappeared from Bangkok's Sofitel hotel where he was guarded by forty commandoes, handcuffed, no shoes, no wallet, no passport. We are supposed to believe the American version of events that: Smolin escaped without anyone noticing; makes it out of the hotel without anyone paying attention; a hotel surrounded by 200 commandoes and special forces — you were here, you know what it was like; makes it into a taxi, handcuffed; goes to the airport, handcuffed without a passport; somehow eludes the taxi driver without raising suspicion; not paying for his taxi drive; gets a ticket without a passport, handcuffed, to the only place in the world, if convicted he's going to serve three life sentences.

...There is no hope of Viktor Bout ever getting a fair trial in the United States. There is no hope of anybody getting a fair trial, who is what in Russian we call “inakomyslyashhi” somebody who thinks differently than what the main stream publications allow them to think. And that's unfortunately what's going to happen...

Truck hits Thai princess' convoy in Bangladesh

February 18, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Truck hits Thai princess' convoy in Bangladesh](#) – AP, February 18, 2010

...Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was unhurt in the accident Thursday in Tangail district, said local police official Habibullah Sarker. The princess was not in the car that was hit, he said...

Red Shirt Protests 2010 Main Page

February 19, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



(Source: *KhosSod*, April 10, 2010)

[May 27-31, 2010](#)

[May 25-26, 2010](#)

[May 24, 2010](#)

[May 22-23, 2010](#)

[May 21, 2010](#)

May 20, 2010 – [The day after: Rama IV Road area](#)

[May 20, 2010](#)

[May 19, 2010](#)

[May 16-18, 2010](#)

[May 1-15, 2010](#)

April 30, 2010 – [Friday afternoon on Silom Road](#)

[April 16-30, 2010](#)

[Red Shirt graffiti on Democracy Monument](#)

April 14, 2010 – [Situation Update](#)

[April 10-15, 2010](#)

April 10, 2010 – [Thai-language newspapers reporting on the events of Saturday](#)

April 9, 2010 – [Thai-language newspapers reporting on the events of Friday](#)

[April 1-9, 2010](#)

[March, 2010](#)

February 19, 2010 – "[Opposing Bangkok Bank – Supporters of the aristocrats – Destroying Abhisit – The government of the robber](#)"

Red Shirt Protest at Bangkok Bank

February 19, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above:

Guards for the Red Shirt protest (here wearing black) man barricades on the west-bound lane of Silom.

Red Shirt protest on Silom – February 19, 2010

The Silom protest at Bangkok Bank was another modest Red Shirt gathering. Press numbers of 1000 people are perhaps too generous. The protester makeup was typical of recent protests—the crowd listening to the speaker was made up mostly of middle-age women armed with clappers. Ringing the protest area were dozens and dozens Red Shirt guards and other men looking around importantly.

Earlier: [Red Shirt protests – April, 2009](#)

Earlier: [The "Red" publications](#)

Earlier: [High tension in Thailand \(2005-2008\)](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Guards inside the gates of Bangkok Bank



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Red Shirt guards (in black) mill around the barricades on Soi Convent



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Red Shirt stage facing Bangkok Bank

The banner in the background reads: Opposing Bangkok Bank – Supporters of the aristocrats – Destroying Abhisit – The government of the robber

The bottom right of the banner has Privy Council members and PM Abhisit with Hitler mustaches.

The sign in the foreground reads: UDD – Red Uthai Thani



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Police on the other side of the street



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: We just missed photographing a huge pile of signs that went by on a cart that read "No justice, no peace!"



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: A few security guards at the west end of the protest area.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Looking towards the Bangkok Bank building.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Red items for sale.

Earlier: The frozen Shinawatra accounts

February 19, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

Earlier: The frozen Shinawatra accounts – February 19, 2010

From August 15, 2008: *The totals in the Shinawatra accounts left in Thailand have been spoken of often, but it is interesting to contemplate the mind-boggling amounts broken down by various banks.*

The “major” accounts are

18,100,000,000 baht at Bangkok Bank

2,100,000,000 baht at the Bank of Ayudhya

39,600,000,000 baht at Siam Commercial Bank

1,400,000,000 baht at Thanachart Bank

500,000,000 baht at the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives

15,700,000,000 baht at the Government Savings Bank

10,000,000,000 baht at the Islamic Bank of Thailand

2,700,000,000 baht at the Securities and Land Depository Centre

(Source TNA/MCOT)

Thaksin Restructures the Red Shirts

February 19, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin restructures red shirts](#) – Bangkok Post, February 19, 2010

SPECIAL REPORT: People's armies flourish as MPs told to hold rallies in their provinces

...Information gathered from Feb 1 to Feb 10 showed that 18,346 people took part in rallies in Bangkok and the provinces and that Thaksin phoned in seven times to address his supporters, according to a security source quoting a report by security agencies.

Thaksin repeatedly stressed the need for the red shirts to join the rallies in Bangkok.

...Thaksin had changed tactics by making Pheu Thai Party MPs responsible for holding rallies in their respective provinces.

Key UDD figures would be asked to appear as "participants" only to address supporters...

Thaksin restructures red shirts

SPECIAL REPORT: People's armies flourish as MPs told to hold rallies in their provinces

Published: 19/02/2010 at 12:00 AM

Newspaper section: News

Fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has restructured the red shirt movement in preparation for a major rally in Bangkok ahead of the court verdict in his 76 billion baht assets case.

Security agencies have monitored the red shirt rallies led by the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) in various locations this month.

Information gathered from Feb 1 to Feb 10 showed that 18,346 people took part in rallies in Bangkok and the provinces and that Thaksin phoned in seven times to address his supporters, according to a security source quoting a report by security agencies.

Thaksin repeatedly stressed the need for the red shirts to join the rallies in Bangkok.

The source said the UDD would hold a rally in Nakhon Sawan tomorrow and then one in Bangkok from Monday to Friday, after which it would gather in Sukhothai's Muang district on Feb 27.

The court is due to bring down its ruling on Feb 26.

Thaksin had changed tactics by making Pheu Thai Party MPs responsible for holding rallies in their respective provinces.

Key UDD figures would be asked to appear as "participants" only to address supporters.

The source said Thaksin had also revamped the structure of the red shirt movement.

The restructuring involves the setting up of a "people's army" with a ratio of one "army" personnel to 10 red shirt supporters.

Many of the UDD's local chapters have established such units. In Udon Thani, the pro-Thaksin Khon Rak Udon Club has recruited about 200 men to act as security guards wearing military-style uniforms, while in Chiang Mai about 100 similar security guards have been recruited.

Army specialist Khattiya Sawasdipol, widely known as Seh Daeng, is in charge of putting together a similar unit made up of about 150 security guards.

The source said Maj Gen Khattiya had tried to seek Thaksin's backing to manage and supervise spending on the guards.

The security source said this had caused a rift between Maj Gen Khattiya and a faction led by Veera Musikhapong.

The UDD was already split between Mr Veera's faction and a faction led by Jakrapob Penkair.

Differences are also emerging within Mr Veera's own faction as Natthawut Saikua felt Maj Gen Khattiya should be allowed to play a more prominent role.

The source said security guards were paid 1,000 baht a day at the rallies.

If a rally is held in Bangkok, money spent on security operations amounted to about 2 million baht a day, the source said.

The source said Thaksin's plan to restructure the red shirt movement also involved the setting up of a group of red shirt civil servants, now with a membership of about 2,000.

Some feel this was a move to chip away at the established UDD support base.

Thaksin asked his Class 10 fellows from the Armed Forces Academies Preparatory School, retired police officers and retired civil servants from the Interior Ministry who were loyal to him to establish the group of red shirt civil servants.

The security source said the UDD's rally preparations were not going smoothly.

A group of politicians led by former Thai Rak Thai Party acting leader Chaturon Chaisaeng plans to travel to meet Thaksin at an undisclosed location to propose that occasional small protests be held to pressure the Democrat Party-led coalition government. However, the source said Mr Chaturon's proposal was unlikely to appeal to Thaksin, who favours a more forceful approach to gaining victory.

The source believes the UDD's rallies in Bangkok might last only a few days, and would be held at various locations in Bangkok.

Sifu Robert McInnes Responds to Police and Media Charges

February 19, 2010

Categories: Crime, Pattaya

Update: [Sifu Robert McInnes Responds to Police and Media Charges](#) – *Pattaya Times*, February, 2010

[NZ national & Pattaya icon detained on weapons violations](#) – *Pattaya Daily News*, February, 2010

And don't miss his [martial arts](#) website.

Designs for the new parliament design exhibition

February 19, 2010

Categories: Buildings

[Designs for the new parliament design exhibition](#) – February 19, 2010

Andreas writes: The BACC currently has an exhibition on the designs of the new parliament... [English](#) – [Thai](#) – [2Bangkok forum thread on the topic](#)

Miss Bangkok – Lust in Translation

February 20, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

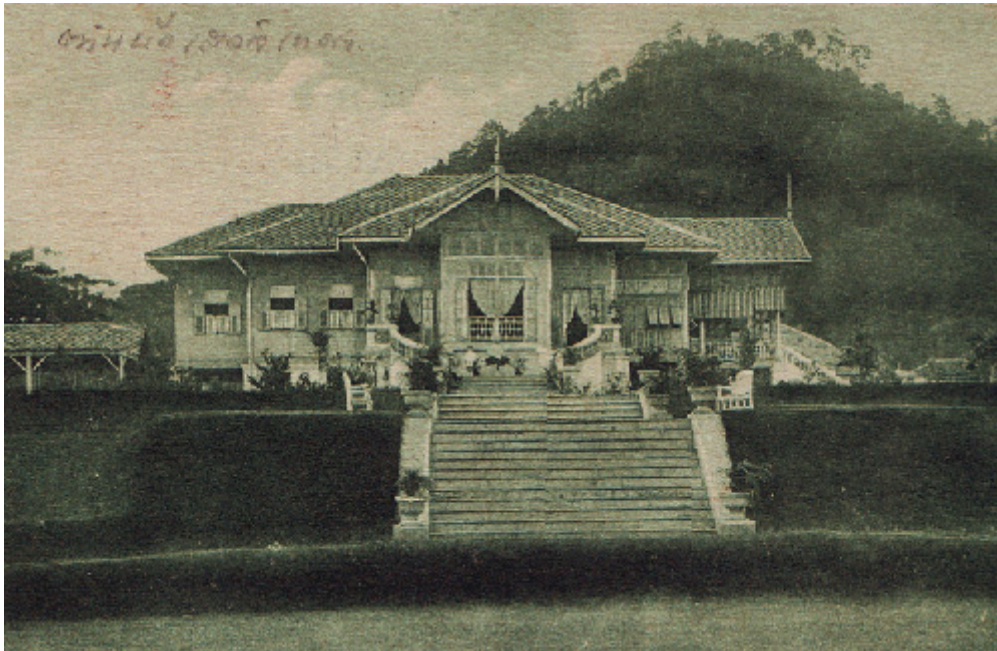
[Miss Bangkok – Lust in Translation](#) – *TMZ.com*, February, 2010

Americans certainly didn't invent prostitution in SE Asia and probably not that saying, which I think is a translation of what they would say in their own...

Royal palace in the countryside

February 20, 2010

Categories: Old photos and films



(Source: undated postcard)

Royal palace in the countryside – February 20, 2010

This undated postcard has a notation: The palace for thedsa visit

There is also an interesting post on [Changwat, Amphoe, Tambon: Changes in romanized names](#): ...*This explains why in my first trips to Thailand I still saw the old airport spelled “Don Muang” everywhere, and only recently the street signs pointing towards that district have changed to “Don Mueang”...*

Update: [CAT](#) explains: *Thanks for featuring my blog on the main page again, curious if I will see a peak in my access statistics again... But I think the postcard text simply means “Palace for royal visits in the countryside” – the word thesa originates from Sanskrit “desa” meaning country. [I had once dissected the two words](#) “thesaphiban” (?????????) and “thesaban” (??????) having the same “thesa” at beginning even though spelled slightly different in Thai, the long missing in thesaban.*

I guess in the postcard “thesa” really means “country”, and is not the abbreviation for thesaphiban or even monthon thesaphiban.

BTW: I’d love to see more historical photos of the administrative offices, I once posted one taken from a book [on my blog](#).

Such old photos should be all have their copyright expired, but are almost impossible to find in the net, and I have no access to the National Archive...

[Thai Royal Palaces Virtual Tour presented to you by Bureau of The Royal Household](#) – February, 2010

Pet shops in Thailand's Chatuchak market to be registered

February 20, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Pet shops in Thailand's Chatuchak market to be registered](#) – *The Nation/Asia News*, February 20, 2010

Abhisit Billboard

February 20, 2010
Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The billboard reads: Together donate tax for the political parties' development – 001 Democrat Party

Watch the 10 days after the asset freeze, beware of the third hand's attempt to turn the situation

February 20, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



From *Vote*, February, 2010

The headlines on the cover reads: In depth and confidential – Watch the 10 days after the asset freeze, beware of the third hand's attempt to turn the situation – Thaksin's plan to take over the town – to put an end to the war on judgment day – assailing four battle fields on February 26

“Bangkok girl.”

February 20, 2010

Categories: Laos, Old photos and films



Left: “Bangkok girl.” – from an undated postcard

(Source: undated postcard)

Krungthep Turakit: The asset confiscation of Thaksin

February 20, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



From *Krungthep Turakit*, undated.

The title reads: Krungthep Turakit: special issuance – The record of the historic lawsuit – The asset confiscation of Thaksin – 46.373 billion baht – The end of the beginning – Political business of the Shinawatra

Thinking of Japan, Think of us

February 21, 2010

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The advertisement reads: One of the top tourism companies that is the biggest of Asia – Thinking of Japan, Think of us – Thinking about our company – JTB – Yes, we can do

Cat and Mouse in Thailand

February 21, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

[Cat and Mouse in Thailand](#) – *blogs.straitstimes.com*, February 21, 2010

New Thai-themed product in the U.S.

February 22, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News



New Thai-themed product in the U.S. – February 22, 2010

Lee writes: *Interesting new product in the USA market.*

I have never noticed much scent at all from fresh dragon fruit, or the trees...

“I am really a man”

February 23, 2010

Categories: Film and TV



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



“I am really a man” – February 23, 2010

Billboard about a stage production about the gay life.

At the top of the billboard: Only the one time when you dare say you love someone, your life will change – Somchai Khemklad, Thitinan Suwansak, Day Freeman, Samat Chaisuwan, Dr. Sari Wongmonta, Chalit Fuangar-rom, Marut Sarowart and Wasan Uttamayothin – The drama on stage by Dr. Seri Wongmonta – “I am really a man,” performed at the Aksara theater at the King Power.

This advertises a drama directed by Dr. Seri Wongmonta [based on a film he wrote](#) (left).

Bangkok holidays: Thailand's charming city that oozes kindness

February 24, 2010

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Bangkok holidays: Thailand's charming city that oozes kindness](#) – *Daily Mail*, February 24, 2010

...On our first morning, I forgot to remove my credit card from a hole-in-the-wall machine and went on my way.

Minutes later, two teenagers sprinted after me, one brandishing my piece of plastic as though it were the key to life. In London, I would have been the one doing the sprinting to prevent the finders-keepers brigade from cleaning up...

More than 15,000 Thais go to Sweden and some with wrong intentions

February 24, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[More than 15.000 Thais go to Sweden and some with wrong intentions](#) – *ScandAsia.com*, February 24, 2010

[Young Swedish man suspected for big time fraud arrested in Bangkok](#) – *ScandAsia.com*, February 24, 2010

Delivering happiness to Father with a smile

February 24, 2010

Categories: Signs and Billboards, The Monarchy



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

This billboard on Phisanulok Road reads: Delivering happiness to Father with a smile – Begin today at www.weloveking.org

Inhospitality – Life gets harder for Thailand's guest workers

February 25, 2010

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Inhospitality – Life gets harder for Thailand's guest-workers](#) – *The Economist*, February 25, 2010

Enstrom sells helicopters to Thai army

February 25, 2010

Categories: Thai Military

[Enstrom sells helicopters to Thai army](#) – *UpperMichigansSource.com*, February 25, 2010

Enstrom Helicopter Corporation in Menominee has announced a deal to sell 16 helicopters to the Royal Thai Army....

Thai customs seizes 2 tons of ivory

February 25, 2010

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

[Thai customs seizes 2 tons of ivory](#) – *Washington Post*, February 25, 2010

... "This is the biggest seizure we have ever had," Seree said. "This is a real accomplishment for Thailand. Normally, this would have gone right through but we got the tip-off..."

Thailand: The country with a lot of news

February 25, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Compared to other developing countries, Thailand has always had an amazing amount of major political news stories each week. The events of the last few years has only increased this.

Take [four years ago in late February 2006](#):

PM close to quitting,

Thaksin filing multiple lawsuits against newspaper and political parties for defamation and “obstruction of democracy,”

Thai press talking about the evil omens of the Thaksin years, government TV reporters fired for interviewing the opposition,

and, of course, CNN pondering Thailand’s “presidential crisis.”

Thaksin: I'll accept the verdict / I do not accept the verdict

February 26, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Thaksin: I'll accept the verdict](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 26, 2010

[Thaksin: I do not accept the verdict](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 26, 2010

[Poll: Thaksin should accept the verdict](#) – *Bangkok Post*, February 28, 2010

Assailant hurls M67 grenade at Bangkok Bank Srinakharind branch

February 27, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010, Security

[Assailant hurls M67 grenade at Bangkok Bank Srinakharind branch](#) – *The Nation*, February 27, 2010

[Bangkok Bank Phrapradaeng branch hit with bomb attack](#) – *The Nation*, February 27, 2010

[Bomb blast hits Bangkok Bank's Thanon Silom branch](#) – *The Nation*, February 27, 2010

Giant Headlines About Thaksin Assests Case

February 27, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



Above: *Komchadluek*, February 27, 2010

Below: *Krungthepturakit*, February 26, 2010

And from *Not the Nation*: [‘Nation’ Seeks Font Size Big Enough For Final, Final Showdown To End All Showdowns Headline](#)

...Shouting across the newsroom, he ordered his graphic designers to find an even bigger font. “What do you mean 108 is the limit?” he said. “This is much bigger than the 108 size font. There is no 110 or even 112? This is a huge story. I want the headline right across front page top to bottom – whole headline. Can we run the paper horizontally?”...

'พิพากษา'

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กรณียื่นอาชญาบัตร 12 หมื่นล. เหตุเป็นข้อพิพาทภาษี

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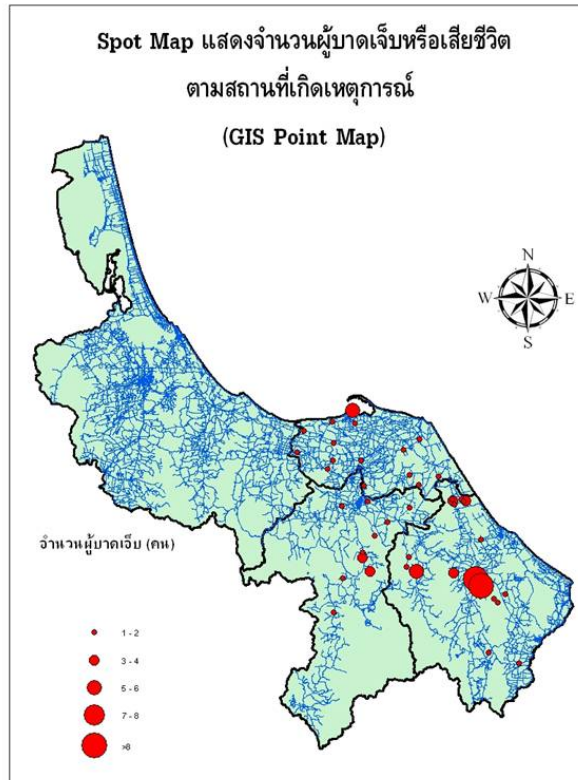
'ทักษิณ'สถาบันไม่เคยตัดสินบนศาล

...

Southern Violence Statistics – February 2010

February 28, 2010

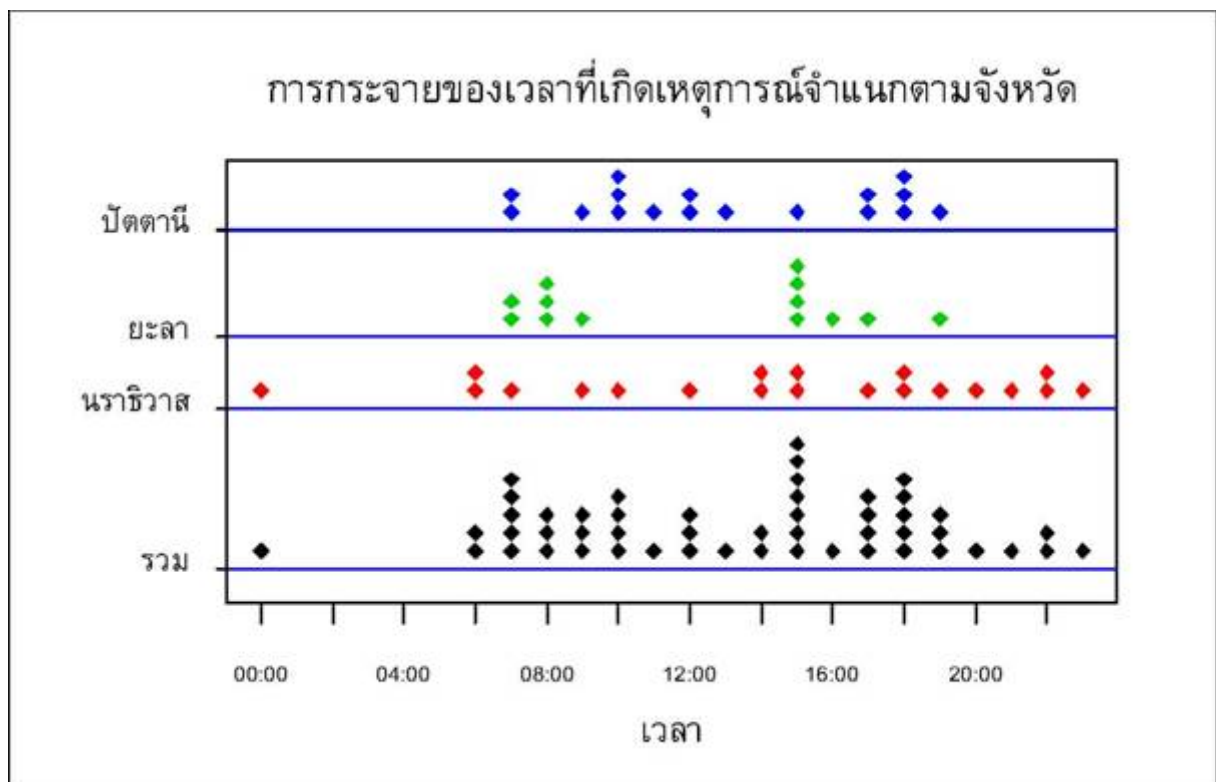
Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics



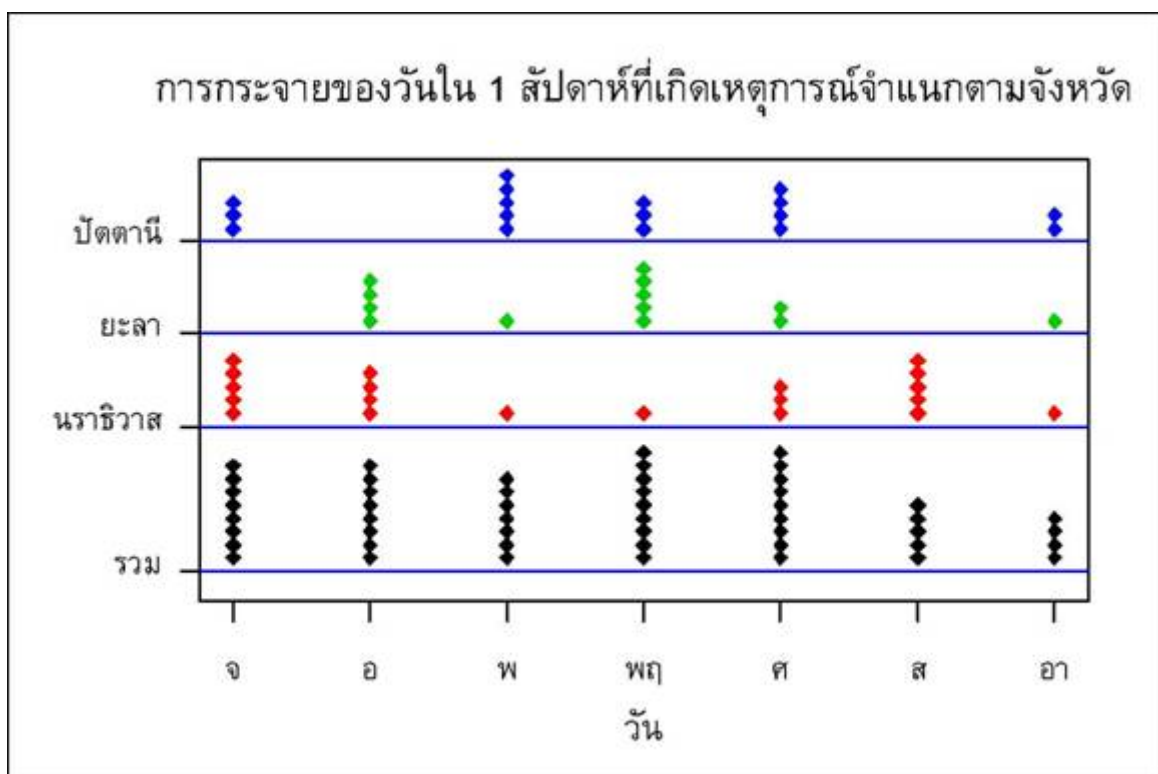
Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the dead and injured by location.

Southern Violence Statistics – February 2010

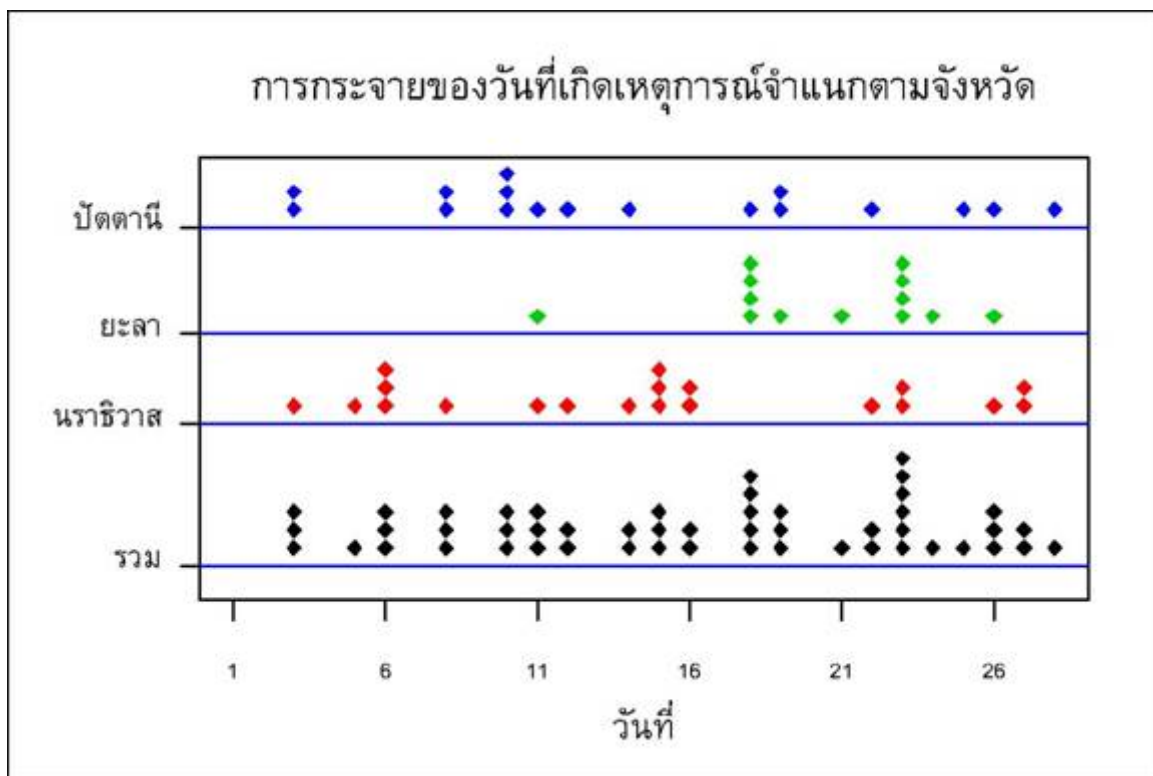
[Index of violence statistics for the Thai Deep South](#)



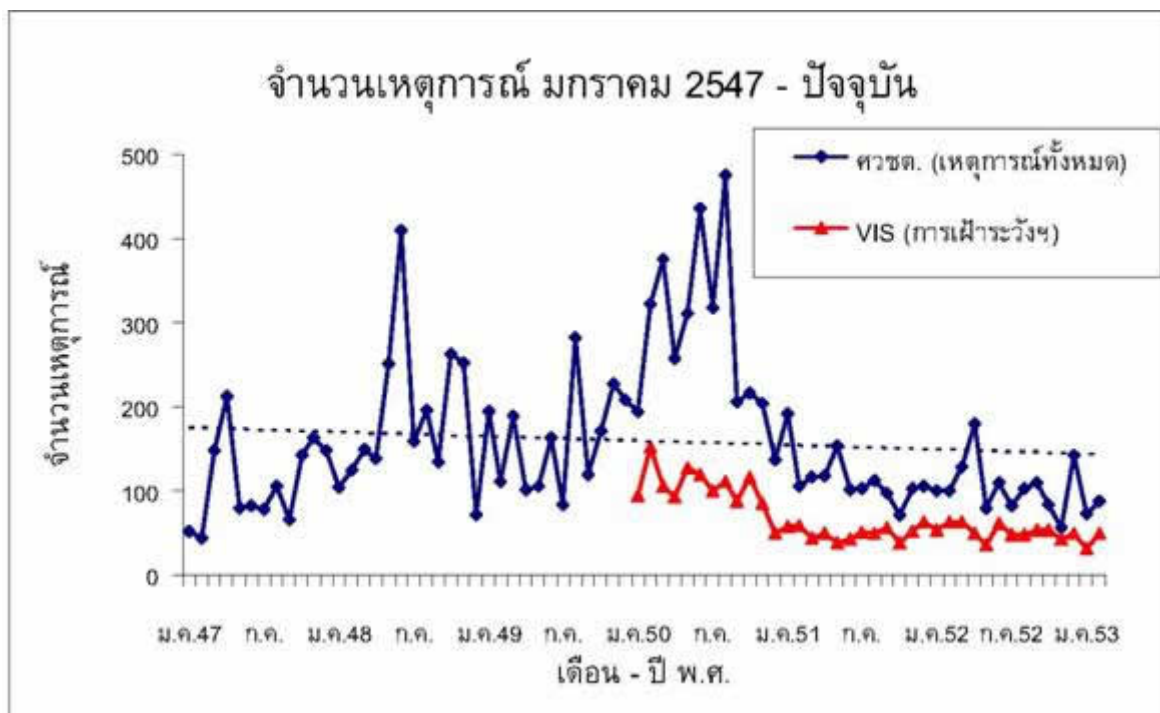
This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The days of the week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

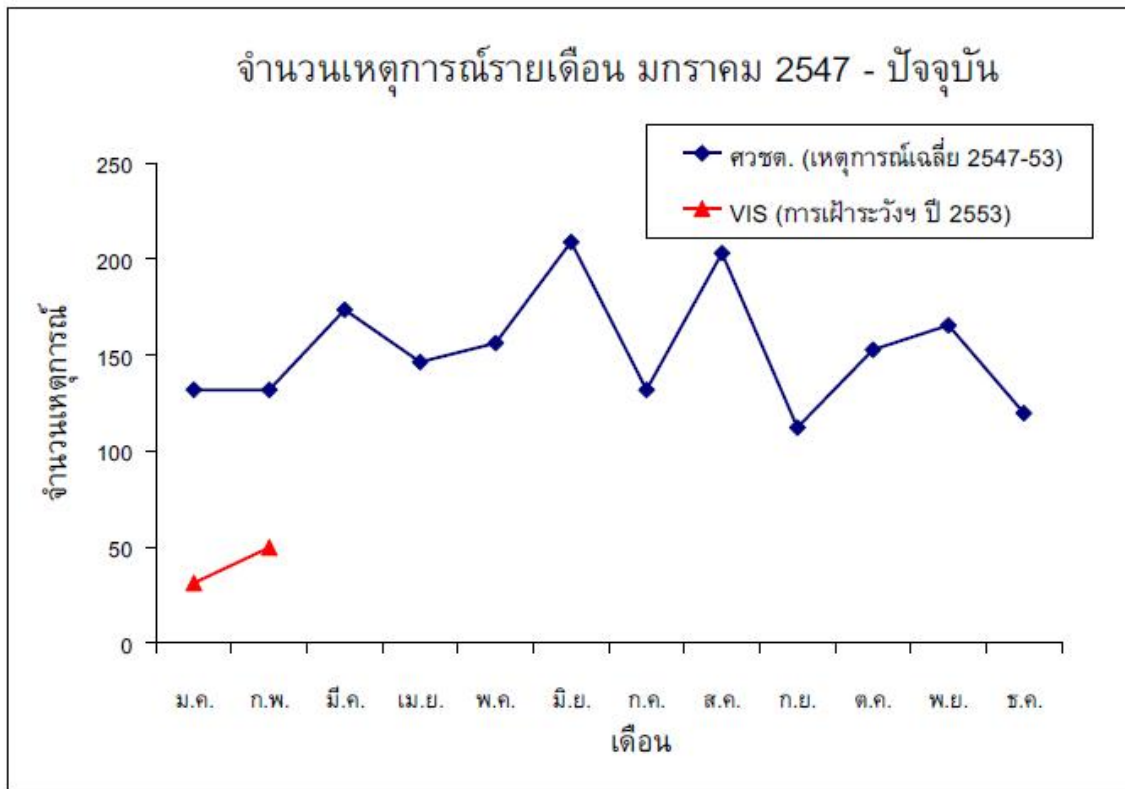


This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

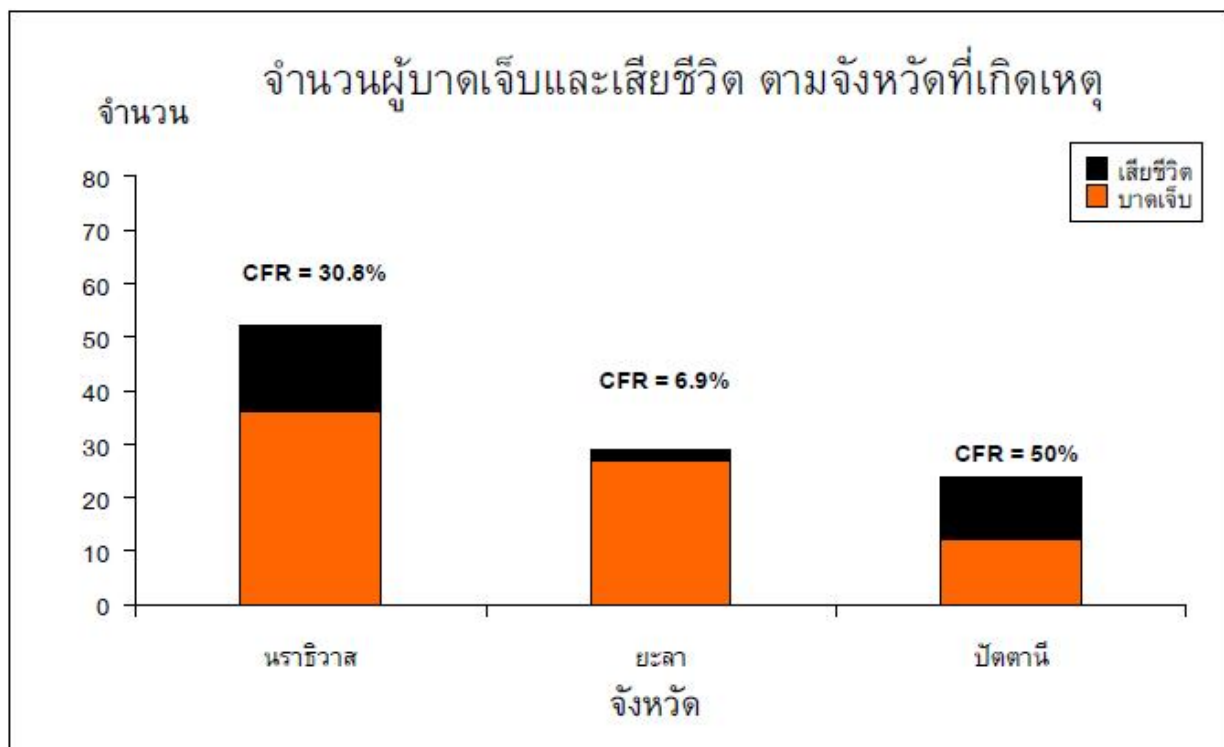


Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009, 2553 is 2010).

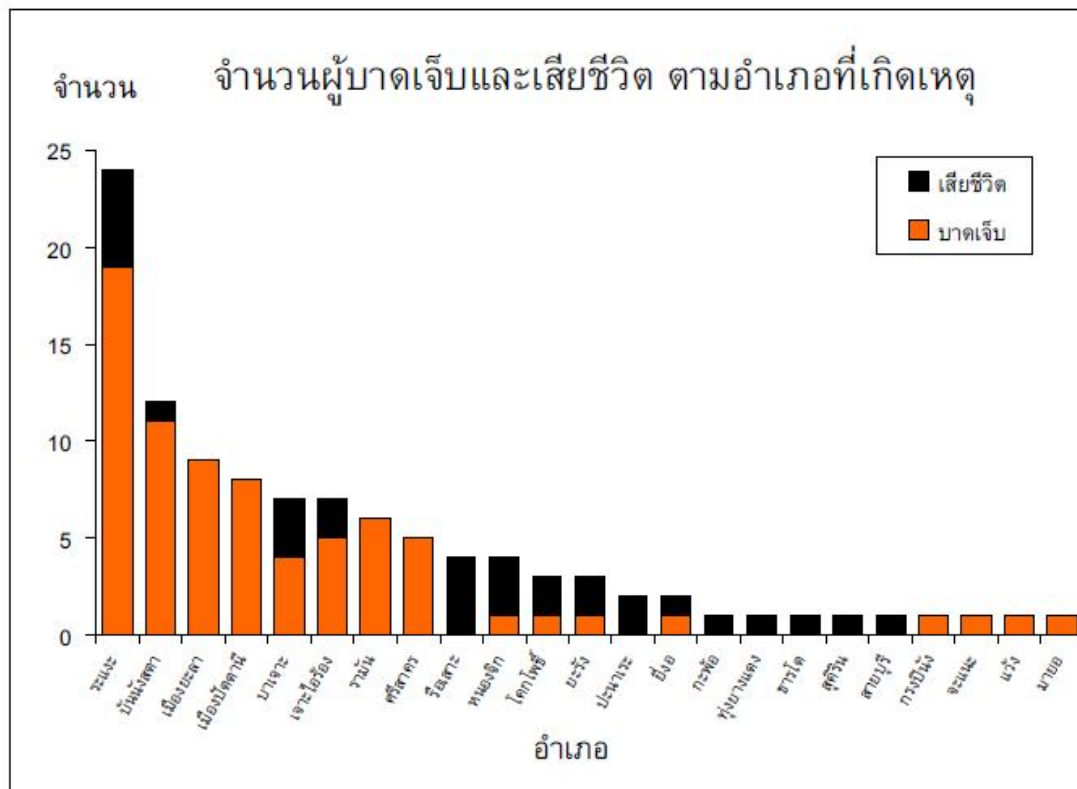
The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination Center (counting all incidents both injury and non-injury). The red line shows data according to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance (a form that hospitals, doctors and clinics are supposed to fill out to report violent incidents).



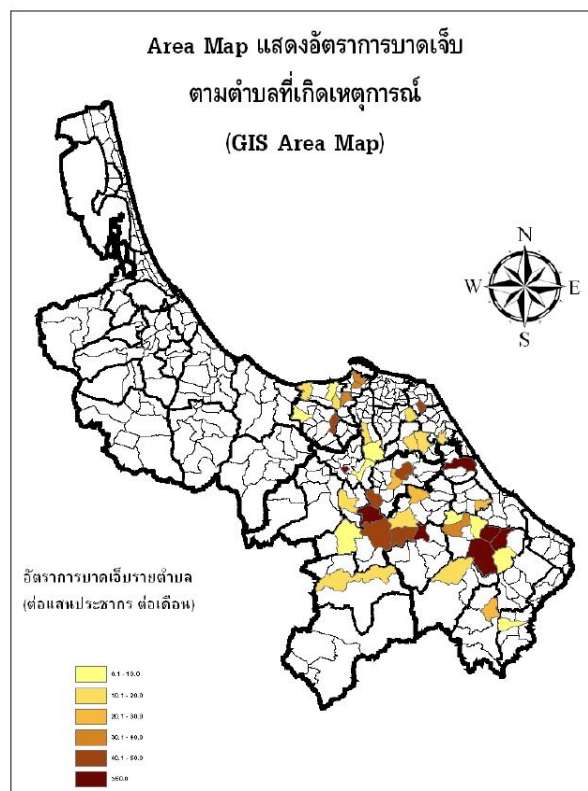
The blue line shows the average monthly level of violent incidents from 2004 up to the present. The red line shows the information provided to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance in the present year. The y-axis shows the numbers of events from 0-300. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).



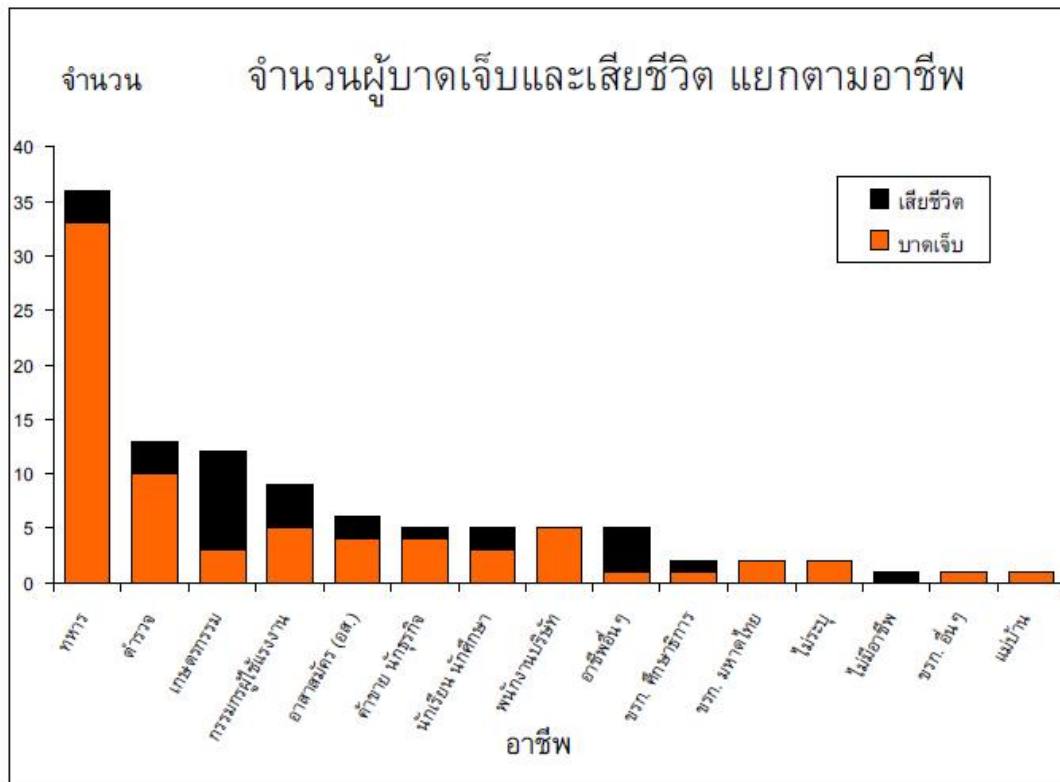
The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla). Black= dead, orange=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar.



The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, orange=injured.



Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of violent events by tambon (village). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 1-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, and greater than 60.



The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, orange=injured.

From left to right: Soldiers, police, agriculture, laborers, defense guard volunteers, merchants and businessmen, students and college students, company employees, others, Education Ministry officials, Interior officials, unknown, non-employed, other officials, housewives

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

Bomb scare at Victory Monument

February 28, 2010
Categories: Security



(Photo: Jromerz)

Bomb scare at Victory Monument – February 28, 2010

[From the forum](#): *Today at Victory Monument the police have closed off the entire area in front of Rachawithi Hospital — Someone left a large black suitcase at one of the seating shelters.. There are hundreds of people standing on the walkway under the skytrain watching the proceedings, lots of police, military police, bomb squad members around the entire perimeter area, and some reporters taking pictures. As of 1 PM the suitcase was still in the same place.*



(Photo: Jromerz)