Children of Migrants in Thailand Get Caught Without a Country

January 1, 2011

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

Children of Migrants in Thailand Get Caught Without a Country - VOA, January, 2011

Miserable Indoor Zoo in Bangkok Sparks Controversy

January 1, 2011 Categories: Wildlife and Nature

Miserable Indoor Zoo in Bangkok Sparks Controversy - care2.com, January, 2011

Sawasdee the year of the rabbit

January 1, 2011

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Thai Rath, Cartoon by Chai Ratchawat, January 1, 2011 The poem reads: Sawasdee the year of the rabbit The year of the rabbit is predicted to be favorable and hopeful, The election comes with prosperity and money to spend, the year of a smile on everyone's face, to kick the poverty and scarcity away, to have strong mind and living away from doctor, to live sufficiently following the Father's speech, to have chairs stick to your button, to have happiness during the day and night time

The state led by Mark

January 1, 2011

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Komchadluek, January 1, 2011

The words on the boat read: The state led by Mark

The boat is standing on a stump that reads: The case of party dissolution

The words on the oar read: The populist policy

At right, square-faced Thaksin sits on a stump that reads: Reconciliation Red Shirt leader Jatuporn sits on Democracy Monument in the background.

At the bottom are the words: Sawasdee New Year 2011 At top is a cartoon rabbit representing the new year.

Tiger-lion-bull-rhinoceros headed figures

January 1, 2011

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Khaosod, January 1, 2011

The title reads: Sawasdee New Year 2011

The words on the gift bag read: Sweat of the people

Populist policy

January 1, 2011

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Daily News, January 1, 2011

The main title reads: Sawasdee New Year 2011

The rabbit (symbol of the new year) holds a sign that reads: Populist policy

At top left along the telescope: Wikileaks

Karaoke! Espionage! Haute Cuisine!: Adventures in the North Korean Government's Restaurant Chain

January 3, 2011

Categories: North Korea

<u>Karaoke! Espionage! Haute Cuisine!: Adventures in the North Korean Government's Restaurant Chain</u> – fastcompany.com, January 3, 2011

...Okryu-Gwan is based in Pyongyang and also maintains outlets in China, Nepal, and Thailand...

Old postcard of the grounds of the Siam Intercontinental Hotel

January 3, 2011 Categories: History



Old postcard of the grounds of the Siam Intercontinental Hotel-now the grounds of the Siam Paragon.

3 years of traffic hell, and then Bangkok will be 'a better place'

January 4, 2011

Categories: Mass Transit

3 years of traffic hell, and then Bangkok will be 'a better place' – Bangkok Post, January 4, 2011

...Ms Soithip said construction of the Purple Line from Bang Sue to Bang Yai and the Red Line from Bang Sue to Taling Chan was under way. Construction of the Red Line from Bang Sue to Rangsit will start after August.

Construction of the Green Line from Soi Baring to Samut Prakan and from Mor Chit to Saphan Mai will begin late this year, and the Pink Line from Khae Rai to Pak Kret will be accelerated so construction can begin this year.

Next year may see the start of work on the Blue Line from Bang Sue to Tha Phra and Hua Lamphong and the Purple Line from Bang Sue via the new parliament house in Kiakkai to Wang Burapha.

Bang Sue railway station will be upgraded to become the hub for most of the electric train services, including the Airport Rail Link and commuter trains...

We have lost our land to Cambodia indeed

January 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, January 4, 2011

The man is saying: Mark, the PAD says something right... We have lost our land to Cambodia indeed The caption reads: Panit, don't forget to report to the PM urgently.

Over 300 traditional Thai toys disappearing from society

January 5, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

Over 300 traditional Thai toys disappearing from society – The Nation, January 5, 2011 ...a Thai wooden top and a bamboo flying saucer used to be very popular but they cannot attract children these days...

China to build \$1.5 bn trading centre in Thailand

January 5, 2011 Categories: Business

<u>China to build \$1.5 bn trading centre in Thailand</u> – AFP, January 5, 2011 China will build a "commercial city" in Thailand worth \$1.5 billion that will allow traders to re-export Chinese-made goods and avoid costly tariffs...

Snakes tie the knot

January 5, 2011

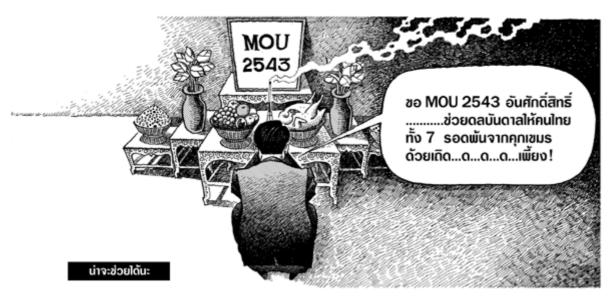
Categories: Cambodia

<u>Snakes tie the knot</u> – San Diego 6, January 5, 2011 Almost 1,000 people flocked to a wedding in Cambodia between two snakes...

Thinking that it might help

January 5, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, January 5, 2011

The word on the sign reads: MOU 2000

PM Abhisit, praying at the shine, says: Asking that MOU 2000 provide sacred help to seven Thais to survive

in the Cambodian jail!

The caption reads: Thinking that it might help

Halo, we entered Cambodia already

January 5, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, January 5, 2011

The cartoon title reads: Loving the nation secretly asking for the return of the land from the neighbor

The word on the building reads: Cambodian Prison

The direction right at right reads: Cambodia/Thailand

The man is saying: Halo, we entered Cambodia already... do not let others know as only the Prime Minister knows

Anti-Udom site

January 6, 2011 Categories: People

<u>Anti-Udom site</u> – January 6, 2011 Someone unhappy with troubled aviation pioneer Udom. Thanks to Dave for pointing this out.

Immunitor website is back

January 6, 2011 Categories: Health, Scams

Immunitor website is back – January 6, 2011
The <u>website</u> of the homegrown Thai AIDS treatment is back.

Thai zoo unveils white tiger cubs

January 6, 2011 Categories: Wildlife and Nature

Thai zoo unveils white tiger cubs – AP, January 6, 2011

Six years prison for stabbing man to death

January 6, 2011 Categories: Crime

Six years prison for stabbing man to death – Edmonton Sun, January 6, 2011

...Court heard Sudsaneh, 37, was stabbed once after coming to help two fellow Thais who were being mugged by Stewart and other thugs near 99 Street and 82 Avenue...

2 Romanians charged in Thailand over international ATM scam involving UK bank accounts

January 6, 2011

Categories: Crime, Scams

<u>2 Romanians charged in Thailand over international ATM scam involving UK bank accounts</u> – Winnipeg Free Press, January 6, 2011

...The men had withdrawn about 14 million baht (\$463,000) since entering Thailand on New Year's Day with three accomplices...

Thai tourism recovers from political crisis

January 6, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011, Tourism

Thai tourism recovers from political crisis – Straits Times, January 6, 2011

Thailand's tourism industry has made a 'remarkable' recovery from the 2010 political crisis that turned the centre of Bangkok into a battleground and scared off thousands of tourists, officials said on Thursday...

Sven-Goran Eriksson admits Shinawatra strain at Man City

January 6, 2011

Categories: Sports, Thai Politics

Sven-Goran Eriksson admits Shinawatra strain at Man City - BBC, January 6, 2011

..."Every time we lost he never spoke to me for a week after but when we won it was dinner and very nice hugs and things, so it's difficult to work with people like that..."

In some provinces, the Prime Minister cannot walk

January 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, January 6, 2011

Left: It is very strange that Thais who walk along the border cannot help themselves any longer.

Middle: Oooi! Do not walk along the border

Right: In some provinces, the Prime Minister cannot walk, Pued!!

Thailand's Red Shirt hero relaxes and waits

January 7, 2011

Categories: Analysis, High Tension in Thailand 2011

Thailand's Red Shirt hero relaxes and waits – thestar.com, January 7, 2011

...He insisted he is not advising members of the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), the formal name for the Red Shirts, who enjoy wide support among Thailand's rural poor and working class. "I don't know them," he said...

Abhisit: Sawasdee New Year 2011

January 7, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sawasdee New Year 2011 – January 7, 2011

The billboard reads: Happy New Year 2011 – National Broadband generates opportunity, equality for strong Thais' lives – Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister

On January 7, the billboard was taken down (above), returning the sign to its default image (below).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Facebook wedding

January 8, 2011 Categories: People

Facebook wedding – January 8, 2011

A reader reports about the Bangkok wedding of <u>Christopher Cox</u> and <u>Visra Vichit-Vadakan</u>: ...her mother is now a public-health prof at Thammasat... Visra was born in California and actually counts English as her first language... Nuntavarn (her mother) used to say how much her daughter hated the Thai school system. Mark Zuckerberg is here for the wedding. The bride's father is a high-up official at Loxley, just down the street from the Bangkok Post. Earlier this week, before I even heard of the wedding, there was a heavy police presence outside the Loxley Building as I walked past it, and I wonder now if it had anything to do with the wedding or Zuckerberg...

Sathorn Road pavilion

January 8, 2011

Categories: Infrastructure



(Photo: Wesley)

Sathorn Road pavilion – January 8, 2011

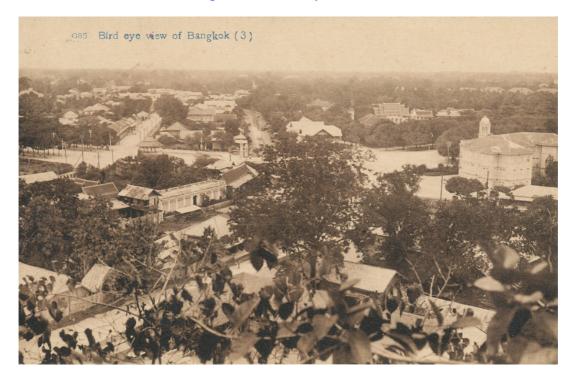
Wesley writes: ...here's a snapshot of the new weird bridge-like pavilion that the BMA is building atop the Sathorn-Narathiwat intersection, taken from my 28th floor office in Empire Tower. It's some kind of pedestrian crossing combined with an open space in the middle beneath a false bridge arch (the arch is decorative rather than supportive). My best guess is that they're going to create a rentable pavilion space for events, since such spaces command premium rental fees in Bangkok (Paragon, Central Chidlom, etc) and there are none on Sathorn. But that's just a guess.

"Birds Eye View of Bangkok"

January 8, 2011

Categories: History, Old photos and films

More views of the area here: Phan Fa Bridge area over the years



(Source: Vintage postcard)

Above and below: Views of the Phan Fa Bridge area.

The above postcard photo (labeled "Y.Ebata, (Prom Photo Studio, Mikasa, Y.Asow and Co." on the reverse) was taken from the top of the Golden Mount.

It shows a rare historical image of buildings in the Mahakan Fort community including the long narrow structure (at left middle) that contained an inscription dating it to the Rama V era. This scuttled the Thai Rak Thai government's insistence that the Mahakan Fort community be razed and turned into a "tourist park" since regulations stipulated that buildings from the Rama V era in Ratanakosin Island must be preserved.





(Source: Vintage photo)

The Crusader: Canadian lawyer involved in world's highest profile human rights cases

January 8, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

<u>The Crusader: Canadian lawyer involved in world's highest profile human rights cases</u> – thestar.com, January 8, 2011

... "What happened was, the government didn't want to talk," he says bluntly. "The government's preference, quite frankly, is to mow people down in the streets..."

Top places travellers get diarrhoea

January 8, 2011 Categories: Health

<u>Top places travellers get diarrhoea</u> – relax.com, January, 2011 #3. THAILAND: The rate of getting diarrhoea was 64.50 out of 100,000 visits

Busted or bullied?

January 9, 2011

Categories: Drugs, Thai Police

Busted or bullied? – Bangkok Post, January 9, 2011

A new "war on drugs" may well have started 10 days ago when 100 drug officers and immigration officials swooped in on Nana's Soi Africa in a military-style operation. At 9.40pm, police vehicles blocked off the entrances to Sukhumvit Soi 3 to prevent anyone entering or leaving...

Is this what LIFE is really all about?

January 9, 2011

Categories: Thai Newspapers and Magazines

Is this what LIFE is really all about? - andrew-drummond.com, January 9, 2011

Thailand's English language newspapers appear to be in a quandary. The "Nation" newspaper appears to be no longer recognisable as a newspaper and today the "Bangkok Post" is again downsizing and merging a lot of its supplements into one single one called "Life"...

Heaven gives birth to me

January 10, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons





From Manager, January 10, 2011

At left, Thaksin says: Heaven gives birth to me, why do you send Abhisit to be born? At right, PM Abhisit says: Heaven gives birth to me, why does heaven send Hun Sen down to earth?!

Cambodia: Worker jailed for printing news blog article and showing it to colleagues

January 10, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Cambodia: Worker jailed for printing news blog article and showing it to colleagues</u> – Reporters Without Borders, January 10, 2011

Fear of deportation hangs over Myanmar refugees hiding in Thailand

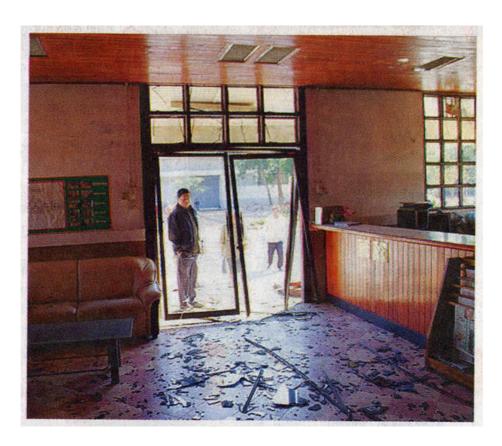
January 10, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma, Refugees and Migrants

<u>Fear of deportation hangs over Myanmar refugees hiding in Thailand</u> – reliefweb.int, January 10, 2011 ..."I think we're going to see this ongoing "coming across, being sent back, returning, being sent back," over this next dry season because the issue of the Border Guard Force remains unresolved and... until that is actually resolved, we can expect to see these ongoing skirmishes," she said...

Bomb at Prem Tinasulanonda School

January 10, 2011 Categories: Terrorism



(Source: Matichon)

From Matichon, January 10, 2011

The caption reads: Bombing Pa's School – The damage condition of the Rakmuangthai 31 Library building inside the Prem Tinasulanonda School in Nampong District in Khon Khen Province after the bomber threw a TNT grenade at 3 am on 8 January. Previously, the school has experienced two bomb attacks.



(Source: Daily News)

From Daily News, January 10, 2011

The caption reads: Defiance to Pa – Police from Nampong Police Station in Khon Khen Province inspect the area where a bomber placed a bomb in front of the library of the Prem Tinasulanonda School, causing damage to school's equipment. However, there is no report of injury. This is the third time that a bomb attack has taken place at the school.

The telephone that has the most missed calls

January 11, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, January 11, 2011

Hun Sen checks the missed calls on his phone: From Suthep, 2,460 times... from Abhisit, 2,720 times... The caption reads: The telephone that has the most missed calls.

Ladyboy Butterfly Flaunts Curves at Bangkok Party: London Stage

January 11, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

<u>Ladyboy Butterfly Flaunts Curves at Bangkok Party: London Stage</u> – bloomberg.com, January 11, 2011 ...A new production, set among Bangkok Ladyboys, is the latest venture at London's Little Opera House" in the King's Head pub-theater...

Shoes that belonged to a prostitute in Thailand

January 11, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society



Above: "Shoes that belonged to a prostitute in Thailand"

<u>Exodus Cry Reaches Out To Human Trafficking Victims</u> – www.kctv5.com, January 11, 2011 ...There was a ribbon-cutting on Tuesday in Grandview to open a museum that highlights the dark underworld of human trafficking...

Chasing 'Kasit'

January 12, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011



From Matichon, January 12, 2011

The caption reads: Chasing 'Kasit' – The Thai Patriots Network led by Somboon Thongburan and Gen. Kittisak Rathaprasert gather in front of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 11 to dismiss MFA Minister Kasit Piromya due to his ignorance of the seven Thais who were detained in Cambodia.

HRH Princess Sirindhorn visits the border patrol police school

January 12, 2011

Categories: The Monarchy



From Komchadluek, January 12, 2011

The caption reads: HRH Princess Sirindhorn visits the border patrol police school 1 at Ban Namchiew in Tambon Khaodaeng in the Sabayoi district of Songkhla to see the teaching and progress of the project under Royal suggestion during HRH's royal duty visit to Songkhla, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat on 10-14 January 2011.

The Big Gift Box

January 12, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thai Rath, Cartoon by Sia, January 12, 2011

The caption reads: The gift from who? Finally to take the big gift box.

The words on the hooded figure's robe: Ordering crackdown on the people

The letters on the front of the gift boxes read: Populist policy

The letters on the side of the gift boxes read: Vote wooing in advance

The top box reads: Prime Minister for a second round

The words on the street sign: Ratchaprasong

The skulls are saying: The dead never receive the gifts.

The mouse holds a sign that reads: Reconciliation needs the release of the UDD

There is a red balloon and bird at the right to refer to the release of origami birds and balloons to call for the release of UDD leaders from jail.]

Myanmar: Junta Troops Using Prisoners as Human Minesweepers

January 12, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>Junta Troops Using Prisoners as Human Minesweepers</u> – The Irrawaddy, January 12, 2011

A New, More Cautious Suu Kyi?

January 12, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

A New, More Cautious Suu Kyi? – The Irrawaddy, January 12, 2011

World Bank Predicts Thailand's 2011 Economic Growth To Be Lowest In Asia

January 12, 2011 Categories: Economy

World Bank Predicts Thailand's 2011 Economic Growth To Be Lowest In Asia – Bernama, January 12, 2011 In its world economic outlook report, the World Bank predicts that the Thai economy will grow by only 3.2 percent this year, the lowest growth in Asia in five years and drop from its 7.5 percent expansion which was the highest growth in Asia last year, Thai News Agency (TNA) reported...

Nation journalist held up at gunpoint by 'police'

January 13, 2011 Categories: Crime

Nation journalist held up at gunpoint by 'police' – The Nation, January 13, 2011

Tiger-Lion-Bull-Rhinoceros enter parliament

January 14, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thai Rath, January 14, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: What MP formula would you like to enter the parliament?

Left: The 400+100 formula! Right: The 375+125 formula!

Rape report

January 14, 2011 Categories: Crime

Island police rue UK newspaper rape report – Bangkok Post, January 15, 2011

Police say a 23-year-old British woman who alleges she was gang-raped on the island last month refused to cooperate with investigators. They also said the report in Britain's Daily Mail newspaper had badly damaged Thailand's reputation...

<u>'Send us cash or we'll rape her again': Thai men call victim's mother in UK</u> – oneindia.in, January 14, 2011 A British woman has revealed that she was gang raped for two hours in a Thailand hotel by Swedish and Thai men, who then phoned her...

A Seemingly Legitimate Fraud?

January 14, 2011 Categories: Scams

A Seemingly Legitimate Fraud? – asiasentinel.com, January 14, 2011

...Everything appears legitimate here with all legally signed documents in place – except that you will never get your money and you will never need to deliver your goods. They are not interested in your products, all they want is your signature and stamp on the contract.

The buyers can even use these contracts as collaterals to tap credit arrangements from the banks.

...What the Chinese company gets out of it is a bill of lading or other documents showing it has transacted a, say, US\$2 million deal despite the fact that no transaction has taken place. That gives the nonexistent or temporary company legitimacy. It can then use that legitimacy any way it chooses with the Chinese authorities...

Tunisia versus Thailand

January 14, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

Tunisia versus Thailand – www.citywire.co.uk, January 14, 2011

...First of all, both countries have an almost identical GDP per capita level of around USD 9,000. Secondly, they both doubled their GPD per capita in the last 10 years and are regarded as economic success stories. Thirdly they are both open economies and score well in terms of business environment. Out of 133 countries, the World Economic Forum ranks Tunisia 32nd and Thailand 38th...

We closely keep an eye on you too

January 15, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thai Rath, Cartoon by Chai Ratchawat, January 15, 2011

Left (the foreigner says): I traveled to some dictatorial countries and they do not allow people to walk in out of the way areas.

Middle: When you visit Thailand, we closely keep an eye on you too. / Why like that?

Right: for fear that you will be jailed by Hun Sen for the charge of jaywalking in the land of Cambodia.

Red Shirt filing charges at the World Court is merely symbolic

January 15, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam



From Komchadluek, January 25, 2011

The headline reads: Red Shirt filing charges at the World Court is merely symbolic In this article, a judge expresses the opinion that the Red Shirt World Court filing merely represents a symbolic act, but is fruitless in practice since Thailand does not acknowledge the Charter of Rome. He alleges the filing is merely made to draw the attention of the international press.

Chasing Away

January 16, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thai Rath, January 16, 2011 The cartoon headline: Chasing Away

Top left: Chasing away the abbot of Anongkaram Temple!

Top middle: Chasing away the children to return home at 10pm!

Top right: Chasing the vocational students from different institutes to be out of sight!

Bottom left: Chasing all!

The words on the picket signs read: Pravit get out!, Kasit get out!, Suthep get out! and Abhisit get out!

Bottom middle: Chasing away protestors from the business area!

The words on the picket sign reads: Do not claim the right, To infringe the right, The rights of business

operation, of others

The word on the sign reads: Rajaprasong

Bottom right: Expelling each other!

Corporate Tax Could be Halved in Thailand

January 17, 2011 Categories: Business

Corporate Tax Could be Halved in Thailand – taxationinfonews.com, January 17, 2011

Buddhist Temple Design Inspired By Superman, Spiderman, Batman, And Keanu Reeves

January 17, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

<u>Buddhist Temple Design Inspired By Superman, Spiderman, Batman, And Keanu Reeves</u> – feelguide.com, January 17, 2011

Yesterday I came across the strangest temple I have ever seen in my entire life. It's the Wat Rong Khun buddhist temple in Chiang Rai, Thailand. The sanctuary was conceived by acclaimed Thai artist Chalermchai Kositpipat, and is of such staggering complexity that it is estimated the building will need almost 100 more years to complete its construction...

Parade of shame: The elephants of Thailand forced to ride tricycles and steer with their trunks

January 17, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

<u>Parade of shame: The elephants of Thailand forced to ride tricycles and steer with their trunks</u> – Daily Mail, January 17, 2011

As the country's national symbol, you would expect the people of Thailand to show nothing but respect for their elephants.

But the once-majestic beasts are clearly still viewed by some as mere circus performers...

Thaksin's Building a Better Future Foundation gone

January 17, 2011

Categories: Thaksin Lobbying



Thaksin's Building a Better Future Foundation gone – January 17, 2011
The website of <u>Thaksin's "Building a Better Future Foundation"</u> has gone offline. The "Foundation" was one of several overseas lobbying initiatives meant to pressure the Thai government, but very little was ever done with the site.

Hmong community loses iconic hero, leader

January 17, 2011

Categories: People, Refugees and Migrants

Hmong community loses iconic hero, leader – Asian American Press, January 17, 2011

The Chinese arrive in Bangkok

January 18, 2011 Categories: Business

The Chinese arrive in Bangkok – Financial Times, January 18, 2011

...The Thai-China International City project is a 700,000 square metre behemoth that is going to be built in Bangkok as a wholesale showcase for Chinese goods in south-east Asia. The cost of the enterprise is moot: the Chinese media peg it at \$1.5bn, but Thailand's ministry of foreign affairs has a rather more sober price tag of \$310m, most of which will come from Chinese investors...

What are the black trucks in a Presidential Motorcade?

January 18, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

What are the black trucks in a Presidential Motorcade? – bitsandpieces.us, January 18, 2011 Have you ever wondered what all those extra SUVs are in the Presidential or VIP motorcades? You know, the ones with severely tinted windows. The SUV's that no one gets in or out. Maybe they are Unmarked \tilde{A} ¢ \hat{a} , – \tilde{E} æblack helicopters' on four wheels

Well, wonder no more. They have a 6 barreled 7.62 mm mini gun. They Fire over 4,000 rounds per minute The wipers need to be run to remove Spent casings when the weapon is firing.

Cambodian diplomat slams BBC Radio 4

January 18, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Cambodian diplomat slams BBC Radio 4</u> – Asian Correspondent, January 18, 2011 ... Ambassador Hor Nambora's letter came just a day after the BBC radio documentary series ran the story that explains "why global investors are suddenly fighting to snap up cheap fertile paddy fields from poor villagers, who claim they are being exploited and intimidated..."

Sven: City lucky to be rid of Thaksin Shinawatra

January 18, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

Sven: City lucky to be rid of Thaksin Shinawatra — Manchester Evening News, January 18, 2011 ... "I have nothing against anyone at City. The only one who didn't understand anything was the owner at that time. They are lucky he is not there any more and he should never have come. But now they have good owners…"

Call to lift sanctions against Myanmar sparks controversy

January 18, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>Call to lift sanctions against Myanmar sparks controversy</u> – Deutsche Welle, January 18, 2011 ... The demand by Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers for the international community to lift economic sanctions against Myanmar has been led by Thailand and Indonesia. The two countries' foreign ministers told a regional meeting on the weekend that democracy had returned to Myanmar...

Curfew measure for teenagers

January 19, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thai Rath, January 19, 2011

Left – The policeman says: We come to promote the curfew measure to ban teenagers from leaving home after 10pm.

Middle: Who are you?

Right: Victims of the car collision caused by a teenage driver causing death to 9 people.

Thai bourse index soars 41% over 2010, second highest in Asia

January 19, 2011 Categories: Economy

Thai bourse index soars 41% over 2010, second highest in Asia – Thaipr.net, January 19, 2011

Heaven and hell in the Phi Phi Islands

January 19, 2011 Categories: Tourism

Heaven and hell in the Phi Phi Islands – Salon, January 19, 2011

...And one of the things that amazes me is how miserable all of these kids seem. Not so much the guys as the girls, who wander around with fixed, glassy stares. It's a look of both intensity and detachment, a sort of pained bewilderment, as if every girl on the island has suddenly been told she is pregnant with quadruplets...

Cambodia denies action to block critical web blog

January 19, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Cambodia denies action to block critical web blog</u> – Xinhua News Agency, January 19, 2011 ...Khieu Kanharith, minister of information and the government's spokesman said Wednesday that no action was taken against KI-Media, a web blog which is critical to the government...

Brit pensioners start murder fund in Thailand

January 19, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

Brit pensioners start murder fund in Thailand – andrew-drummond.com, January 19, 2011 ...But the wife and her lover have been released and the brother has not even been found. The release came despite the fact that a deposition objecting to bail was signed by signed by thirty four Thai policemen, including two colonels, one Major, a Captain, two Lieutenants, 29 Sergeants, and one corporal. Mr. Rees, from Pembroke said: "There have been a series of killings of husbands in Thailand by Thai wives. We are determined that this one will not be covered up..."

Democracy in Singapore: how free are we?

January 19, 2011 Categories: Singapore

<u>Democracy in Singapore: how free are we?</u> – The Temasek Review, January 19, 2011 ... There was no mention of where Singapore stands. Normally the media here will brag if any ranking is positive. A google search threw up some interesting nuggets of information...

Missing lawyer's wife seeks progress

January 19, 2011

Categories: Human Rights

Missing lawyer's wife seeks progress – Bangkok Post, January 19, 2011

...Mr Somchai disappeared in Bangkok on March 12, 2004, while representing clients from the deep South accused of attacking an army munitions base two months earlier.

He was forced into a car by a group of men, never to be seen again...

Suthep: Chaiwat's arrest fully justified

January 19, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

Suthep: Chaiwat's arrest fully justified - Bangkok Post, January 19, 2011

Core leader of the Thai Patriots Network (TPN) Chaiwat Sinsuwong and former senator Somboon Thongburan had ignored a summons and failed to report to police to answer charges of terrorism, and therefore the police had no option but to arrest them, Deputy Prime Minister for security affairs Suthep Thaugsuban said...

Close Encounters of the Buddhist Kind

January 20, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

<u>Close Encounters of the Buddhist Kind</u> – FP, January 20, 2011 Thanks to Carleton for pointing this out. It is amusing to read that "Dhammakaya has diligently worked to avoid the limelight." Particularly stunning is this <u>Nuremberg Rally-style shot</u>.

UDD guard arrested for arming Red Shirt guards

January 20, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>UDD guard arrested</u> – Bangkok Post, January 20, 2011

...Mr Tharit said Mr Manop took part in the seizure of a large number of weapons from soldiers during the clash at Khok Wua intersection on April 10 last year. The weapons were later shown on the UDD stage and then distributed to UDD guards for use against soldiers...

UDD guard arrested

The Department of Special Investigation has arrested a man who was a security guard of the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) during the April-May violent protest last year.

DSI chief Tharit Pengdit identified the man as Manop Chanchangthong, alias Ped, who was arrested on Wednesday.

Mr Tharit said Mr Manop took part in the seizure of a large number of weapons from soldiers during the clash at Khok Wua intersection on April 10 last year. The weapons were later shown on the UDD stage and then distributed to UDD guards for use against soldiers.

Mr Manop was also one of the UDD guards who wrested pistols from police who tried to arrest red-shirt leader Arisman Pongruangrong at the SC Park Hotel on April 16, Mr Tharit said.

The suspect admitted to showing the weapons on the UDD stage, but denied taking them from soldiers. He said he got the weapons from fellow UDD guards, but had not distributed or used them, Mr Tharit said.

Mr Manop has been charged with terrorism. The DSI will take him to the Criminal Court tomorrow to seek permission to detain him further.

Mindless Patriots

January 20, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

Mindless Patriots - TAN, January 20, 2011

There has been widespread criticisms over the filing of a petition to His Majesty the King by the Thai Patriots Network (TPN) who is currently calling for the resignation of the Abhisit Vejjajiva government...

Thailand's tropical gulag

January 20, 2011 Categories: The Thai Deep South

<u>Thailand's tropical gulag</u> – Aljazeera, January 20, 2011

Gold fever infects Preah Vihear

January 20, 2011 Categories: Preah Vihear

Gold fever infects Preah Vihear – phnompenhpost.com, January 20, 2011 ... "They thought it was gold ore but actually it was just mercury," Om Phirom added...

Value of new foreign investment in Thailand falls

January 20, 2011 Categories: Business

<u>Value of new foreign investment in Thailand falls</u> – BusinessWeek, January 20, 2011 The value of proposed foreign investment projects in Thailand dropped by almost one-third last year, the country's Board of Investment has announced, as concerns about political stability peaked...

The world's water-coolers - Where the influential people meet and talk

January 20, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

The world's water-coolers – Where the influential people meet and talk – The Economist, January 20, 2011

Abhisit and eggs

January 21, 2011 Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, January 21, 2011

PM Abhisit is saying: After I solve the expensive price of eggs, I will solve the problem of expensive scales.

Fighting after raping

January 21, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Manager



From Manager, January 21, 2011

Left, Banharn is saying: Must be 400 + 100 Middle, Abhisit is saying: Must be 400 + 125 Right, Sanan is saying: Must be 375 + 125

A raped woman's body, who represents Democracy, lays at right.

The men in the background are saying: They cannot reach the agreement on how many babies they should have after the rape.

Revealing the gun robbery plan!

January 21, 2011

Categories: The Thai Deep South



From Komchadluek, January 21, 2011

The headlines reads: Revealing the gun robbery plan! – 11mm-M16 loss of 50 – Prayuth orders immediate suppression – The check on the statue of the Phra Ong Dam base after militants in the South attacked and caused damage – Finding 50 pistols-M16s disappear and 5,000 bullets – Prayuth announces the use of the special law in opposing the militants] – Mournful funeral for three warriors – Read page 16

The caption by the graphic reads: Five groups attacking the military base

- 1. The 30 killer team attacking the western direction (mountain range)
- 2. Watching the gateway/blocking electricity
- 3. Staging the road blockade
- 4. Cutting trees to block the authorities
- 5. Grabbing the war weapons

The words on the map are names of roads and places: Rubber plantations, ammunition store, housing building, the knockdown village, base, checkpoint, the Maruebotok School, Ruesoh, Narathiwat, Rangae district, Maruebo rail station

The use of war weapon is consisted of 11mm pistols, M16, A2 and A4 of more than 50 guns and 5,000 rounds of ammunition.

Bottom left: The warrior blood captain Colonel Krit Khampeerayarn, 7 years to conquer the unrest in the South! Page 3

Bottom right: 1 troop. 5 teams to attack in all directions page3 – A master copy of the year 2004 – killing soldiers – robbing guns

Sawasdee New Year 2011

January 21, 2011

Categories: New Year's Cartoons



From Matichon, January 1, 2011
The words on the graphic read: Sawasdee New Year 2011
An accompanying poem reads:
Wake up Thais, help pave the path ahead,
Many troubles that you find, do not allow them to cause suffering,
Together help chase away the old ghosts that take advantage,
to take political benefits which is trivial,
We people have worked ourselves to death to get it,
doesn't let go but takes 40% this year

Nahm London loses its Michelin star, but should Bangkok care?

January 21, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink

Nahm London loses its Michelin star, but should Bangkok care? - CNN Go, January 21, 2011

...Australian chef David Thompson recently — and controversially — opened a Thai restaurant, Nahm, at the Metropolitan Hotel in Bangkok. It was based on his London operation, the first Thai eatery to be awarded a Michelin star.

Except that, a few days ago, Michelin announced that said star had been withdrawn...

${\bf 25\ protest\ deaths\ explained-DSI\ says\ troops,\ red\ shirts\ share\ blame}$

January 21, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

25 protest deaths explained – DSI says troops, red shirts share blame – Bangkok Post, January 21, 2011

Internal Power Struggle at Myanmar Times?

January 21, 2011 Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>Internal Power Struggle at Myanmar Times?</u> – The Irrawaddy, January 21, 2011

Photojournalists face deportation

January 21, 2011 Categories: Journalism

Photojournalists face deportation - CPJ/IFEX, January 21, 2011

..."We call on Thai authorities to reconsider the deportation of journalists John Sanlin and Pascal Schatterman and take into consideration the prospect that Sanlin will suffer severe reprisals if he is forcibly returned to Burma," said Shawn Crispin, CPJ's senior Southeast Asia representative. "Thailand has long been a safe haven for exiled journalists to report freely on Burma. CPJ encourages the Thai government to maintain that important press freedom role for the region..."

Rats and Lizards

January 22, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons





From Manager, January 22, 2011 Left: Panit during his stay in Cambodia. Right: ...when returning to Thailand.

The crocodiles are saying: Lacking qualifications, resign from MP now.

Hundreds of Animals in Bangkok Live Uncomfortably

January 22, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

<u>Hundreds of Animals in Bangkok Live Uncomfortably</u> – Coffetoday, January 22, 2011 ...But Pata Zoo, a company with centers in various districts of Bangkok, has ignored and citing lax legislation, said environmental groups...

Analysis: Succession in focus but Cambodia strongman staying put

January 23, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

Analysis: Succession in focus but Cambodia strongman staying put – Reuters, January 23, 2011

...The rapid rise of Major-General Hun Manet has drawn attention to a topic rarely discussed in Cambodia: who will succeed his father, long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Comparisons have been made between the rise of Hun Manet and that of Kim Jong-un, the son of ailing North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, promoted from obscurity in September to be a general and politburo member in what was seen as the unveiling of a successor...

Two Swedes killed in Thailand in past week

January 23, 2011 Categories: Crime

<u>Two Swedes killed in Thailand in past week</u> – The Local.se, January 23, 2011

AIS fate in the balance over concession

January 24, 2011 Categories: Business

AIS fate in the balance over concession – The Nation, January 24, 2011

...AIS' original concession term ends in 2010 but in 1996, TOT extended the term to 2015. The ministry's team viewed that TOT should honour the original term after the Supreme Court delivered its verdict last February in the asset-seizure case of fugitive Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Part of the ruling cited that Thaksin has abused his power to benefit his telecom empire...

Pesticides Continue to Harm Cambodia's Farmers

January 24, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Health

<u>Pesticides Continue to Harm Cambodia's Farmers</u> – VOA, January 24, 2011 A new study shows that many Cambodian vegetable farmers suffer from acute pesticide poisoning...

Cambodia suppresses question on '97 grenade attack

January 24, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Cambodia suppresses question on '97 grenade attack</u> – CPJ, January 24, 2011 ...Government spokesman Phay Siphan later told news media that the government was within its rights to confiscate reporters' recordings and equipment to protect the "privacy rights" and "dignity" of officials...

Thai telecoms: wires crossed

January 24, 2011 Categories: Business

<u>Thai telecoms: wires crossed</u> – Financial Times, January 24, 2011

It has been an embarrassment to Thailand that its neighbours Cambodia and Laos – which are less developed in other ways – have raced ahead by licensing third generation mobile networks. But Thailand's chaotic attempts to cobble together a 3G network of its own seem to be yielding little more than further confusion...

Danish Support for Cambodia to Stop

January 24, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Danish Support for Cambodia to Stop</u> – ScandAsia.com, January 24, 2011 Denmark's Minister for Development S, ren Pind announced on Thursday that he over a few years will stop all development support for Cambodia and two countries in Africa, Zambia and Benin...

Marine parks in South 'a huge source of graft'

January 25, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

<u>Marine parks in South 'a huge source of graft'</u> – Bangkok Post, January 25, 2011 ... The admission fee was Bt400 per person but corrupt officials offered a 30-per-cent discount if operators did not ask for receipts...

DVB Cut Programs Due to Funding Shortfall

January 25, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>DVB Cut Programs Due to Funding Shortfall</u> – The Irrawaddy, January 25, 2011 A reduction in funding for 2011 has forced the Oslo-based Burmese news agency, Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB), to cut some of its TV and radio programs, and lay off employees...

Thai airline recruits transsexuals as flight attendants

January 25, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

Thai airline recruits transsexuals as flight attendants - DPA, January 25, 2011

...The transgender attendants will wear a special gold-coloured 'third-sex' name tag to help passengers and immigration authorities know what gender they are dealing with, she said. Thanyarat Jiraphatpakorn, winner of the 2007 Miss Tiffany transsexual beauty pageant, was among the successful candidates to land a job on the new airline, which plans to launch flights on March 1...

Two journalists freed in Thailand

January 25, 2011

Categories: Journalism, Myanmar/Burma

Two journalists freed in Thailand – Straits Times, January 25, 2011

Thai authorities have released two photojournalists who had been facing deportation after re-entering the country from neighbouring Myanmar, police said on Tuesday...

Abortion pills imported from India

January 25, 2011 Categories: Drugs



From Thairath, January 25, 2011

The caption reads: The abortion pill – The abortion pills, imported from India, Mifepristone200 mg, was illegally and openly sold in private hospitals and clinics. The pill was sold on Internet at 5,000 baht per set despite the Food and Drugs Administration has not allowed for the usage of the medicine. Many sellers were arrested.

The power of red

January 25, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011



From Komchadluek, January 25, 2011

The caption reads: The power of red – The gathering of Red Shirts sit down to listen to the speech given by UDD leaders at the Democracy Monument. Some gatherers dress in Cambodian prisoner's robe with cockroaches and rat crawling on their face in a mockery of the seven Thais who are imprisoned by Cambodia.



| The caption reads: Don't tell anyone, foolish boy! This story, only the PM knows. Secret order! | |
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Thai Inquiry Into Violence Falters

January 25, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>Thai Inquiry Into Violence Falters</u> – NYT, January 25, 2011

Portraits of the Wounded - NYT, January 24, 2011

This is where I started

January 25, 2011 Categories: Art, Navin

<u>This is where I started</u> – The Nation, January, 2011 Something from the always interesting Navin...

Thailand – the ultimate Teflon country

January 25, 2011 Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>Thailand – the ultimate Teflon country</u> – the sundaily.com, January, 2011

Lobbyist registration tracker: Amsterdam & Peroff for Thaksin Shinawatra

January 25, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

<u>Lobbyist registration tracker: Amsterdam & Peroff for Thaksin Shinawatra</u> – reporting.sunlightfoundation.com, January, 2011

Hate mobs thrive in Asia's booming social media

January 25, 2011

Categories: Culture and Society

Hate mobs thrive in Asia's booming social media – AFP, January, 2011

..."Only your death is worthwhile for what you have done," said an angry post on the site. "Are you still a human?" asked another. One of the members of the cyber hate campaign threatened to rape the youngster if he saw her...

Catching the Red Shirt gunmen

January 25, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011



(Photo: Daily News, January 22, 2011)

Above and below: The caption reads: Seizure of the UDD guard – DSI announces the arrest of Manop Charnchangthong, former UDD guard, following a terrorist charge. The alleged is claimed to be involved in a gun robbery and a gun fight with soldiers and officials. The arrested denies the charge.

Catching the Red Shirt gunmen – January 25, 2011

Authorities apprehended perhaps the best-known Red Shirt gunman, Manop. He was one of the first identified when bloggers started to notice Red Shirts guards behind the stands at the rallies were also photographed carrying weapons during the melee at Ratchadamneorn Road in April, 2010 (see below).



(Photo: Daily News, January 22, 2011)



Earlier: Attempts to determine the identities of Red Shirt gunmen – April 13, 2010 Here and here



Earlier: Snipers – Daily News, April 13, 2010

More photos emerging of unknown gunmen who targeted commanders leading soldiers in the crackdown on Red Shirt protesters on April 10, 2010–including snipers in buildings on Ratchadamneorn Road with professional sniper rifles (top right).

Also: <u>ISOC spokesman says military officer identified Romklao for assailants</u> – The Nation, April 12, 2010 <u>Col Romklao: Pre-meditated or accidental death</u> – TAN, April 12, 2010



(Photo: Daily News, April 15, 2010)

Earlier: Soldiers supporting the Red Shirts – April 16, 2010

Newspapers on April 15 were filled with comparison photos attempting to link the heavily armed men in black seen at the April 10 clashes to the Red Shirts. These efforts first started on blogs (<u>here</u> and <u>here</u>). At least one of the men in black claim the photos taken of him carrying guns was not taken the night of the clashes.



(Photo: Khao Sod, April 15, 2010)

Police thwart protest bomb bid

January 25, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>Police thwart protest bomb bid – Suspects say they were hired to instigate unrest</u> – Bangkok Post, January 25, 2011

Bombs discovered ahead of PAD rally – The Nation, January 25, 2011

...Manager website claimed the five were red shirts. But some sceptics said that since the bomb scare would discourage people from joining the yellow shirts' anti-government rally, the whole incident might have been "staged" for government benefit.

Others went even further, claiming the incident was a ploy to "save the yellow shirts' faces", as their rally would not attract many people anyway...

Unknown crab species

January 25, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature



From Komchadluek, January 25, 2011

The caption reads: Unknown breed – Mr. Somchai Likitsathaporn shows the picture of unknown breed, weight about 400 grams, caught in a fish net at sea close to Bangbao Bay in Tambon Kohchangtai in Kohchang district, Trad province. The authority submitted a request to check it with a research unit.

Knife to throat

January 25, 2011 Categories: Crime



From KhaoSod, January 25, 2011
The caption reads: The minute of life – Apichet Suthito, DJ of a famous pub, invaded the mansion of Rossukon Deesui, located at Intamara and used a knife to threaten the hostage. The police raided to rescue the victim safely on January 23, 2011.

Who told that I went bankrupt?

January 26, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, January 26, 2011

Abhisit is holding a copy of MOU 2000 and saying: Who... who told that I went bankrupt? The caption reads: Near the Cambodian casino.

PAD to file suit against PM, Suthep

January 26, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

PAD to file suit against PM, Suthep – Bangkok Post, January 26, 2011

PM: April House dissolution is possible

January 26, 2011

Categories: Analysis, High Tension in Thailand 2011, Thai Politics

PM: April House dissolution is possible – Bangkok Post, January 26, 2011

Kunming to South East Asia – 7000 km by bicycle

January 26, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Kunming to South East Asia – 7000 km by bicycle – January 26, 2011

Bob writes: My friends (you remember the Chinese guy hiking the Yunnan Railroad to Vietnam) have begun an 80 day journey by bicycle from Kunming to Singapore. One of the group is an Austrian and has a daily blog. I give you the link for today as they have just entered Laos.

You can follow along over the weeks ahead to see their progress. At some point they will visit Bangkok... There are 6 in the group (lost one already due to an accident). This is ostensibly a cultural tour to promote friendship between China and Southeast Asian countries. One of the team is an American named Jesse so they have English capability. Best Regards as you follow the daily adventures.

"Outsider" view of Thai politics these days

January 26, 2011 Categories: Thai Politics

"Outsider" view of Thai politics these days – midnightuniv.org, January 26, 2011

Indonesia's Massive Rice Import Order Leaves Markets Stunned

January 27, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink

<u>Indonesia's Massive Rice Import Order Leaves Markets Stunned</u> – The Irrawaddy, January 27, 2011 Indonesia's bumper purchase of 820,000 tons of Thai rice, more than four times the volume initially sought, lifted the market on Wednesday, but traders were unconvinced prices would stay high with Vietnam's rising supply and lower imports projected from the Philippines...

Banco a Bangkok pour OSS 117

January 28, 2011 Categories: Film and TV



Banco a Bangkok pour OSS 117 – January 29, 2011

A.K. writes: Just to say I just watched a (terrible) French film, title "BANCO A BANGKOK POUR OSS 117". It was shot outside and inside the ERAWAN, ca 1963.

IMDB - Original trailer - On Wikipedia - On Amazon

Amsterdam: Russia Fools Us, Fools Selves

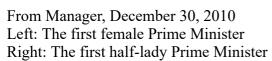
January 28, 2011 Categories: Robert Amsterdam

Amsterdam: Russia Fools Us, Fools Selves – err.ee, January 27, 2011

Yingluck vs Mingkhwan

January 28, 2011 Categories: Editorial Cartoons





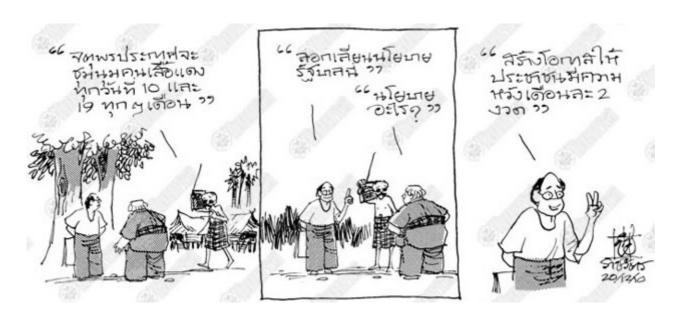


นายกๆ ครึ่งหญิงคนแรก

This is copying of the government policy

January 28, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Thairath, Cartoon by Chai Ratchawat, December 22, 2010

Left: Jatuporn announces that the reds will gather on every 10th and 19th of the month.

Middle: This is copying of the government policy – What's policy?

Right: Generate opportunity for the people to hope twice a month.

"Yama" to be "yaba"

January 28, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons





From Manager, December 21, 2010

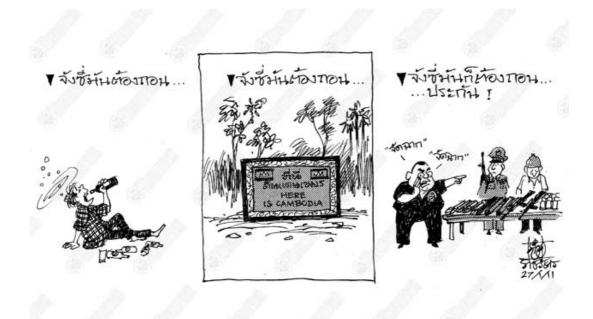
Left – Sanoh Thientong says: Change the name from "yama" to be "yaba" and the problem will disappear. The left caption reads: The thought of the man of the old age

Right – Korn Jatikavanich says: The change of the name of the populist policy to the popular progress policy, then the populist policy problem will be solved.

The right caption reads: The thought of the new generation

Like this needs a withdrawal

January 29, 2011 Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, January 29, 2011 Left: Like this needs a withdrawal Middle: Like this needs a withdrawal

The words on the sign read: Here is the Cambodian land

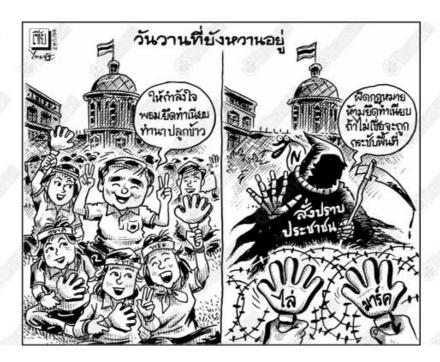
Right: Like this needs a withdrawal... for bail

The man is saying: Setting the scene, setting the scene

The Sweet Old Days

January 29, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



The cartoon title: The sweet old days From ThaiRath, January 29, 2011

Left: Moral support for the PAD to grow rice.

Right: Illegal, cannot seize the Government House. If do not believe it, will face the measures to take the area back.

The words on the hand clappers read: Dispel Mark

The words on the devil's robe reads: Order crackdown on the people

A Letter from Three Pagodas Pass

January 29, 2011 Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>A Letter from Three Pagodas Pass</u> – The Irrawaddy, January 29, 2011

Before and Now

January 30, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



The cartoon headline reads: Before and Now

From ThaiRath, January 30, 2011 Top left: Before: Car racing Now: Exchanging gunfire

Top middle: Before: Finding love via the internet

Now: Finding abortion pill via the internet

The word on the sign: Emergency

Top right: Before: Selling drugs and going to jail

Now: Going to jail and selling drugs

Bottom left: Before: Egg is an egg

Now: Egg is a kilo

Bottom middle: Before: The gang fights by punching

Now: The gang fights by shooting

Bottom right: Before: Releasing fish Now: Releasing monitor lizards

Bye Bye Bangkok's premiere

January 30, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

Bye Bye Bangkok's premiere – Time of India, January 30, 2011

...As slogans blared from megaphones denouncing Thailand's leaders at a recent "red shirt" anti-government protest, one group waved baguettes and held up French placards in solidarity with a popular revolt in Tunisia...

Indian Navy, Coast Guard rescue Thai vessel from pirates

January 30, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Indian Navy, Coast Guard rescue Thai vessel from pirates</u> – NDTV, January 30, 2011

There was an exchange of fire between INS Cankarso and the pirate vessel, following which fire was noticed in 'Prantalay' and some personnel were seen jumping into the waters...

Prince Andrew's Thai Vow

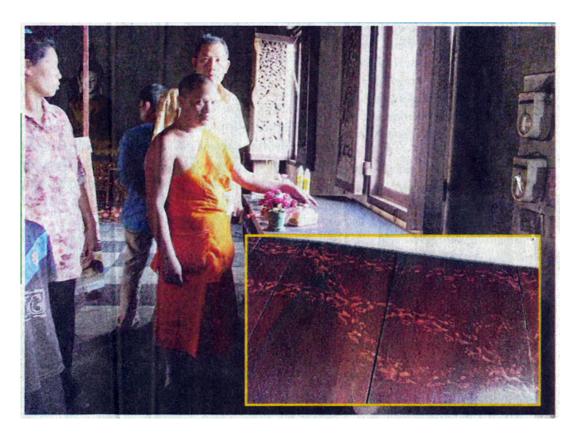
January 30, 2011 Categories: Business

<u>Prince Andrew's Thai Vow</u> – Daily Star, January 30, 2011 Playboy Prince Andrew has promised to challenge tough immigration rules so he can help more Thaimasseuses set up shop in Britain...

Traces of the naga serpant

January 31, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs



From ThaiRath, January 31, 2011

The caption reads: Being alert for the naga serpent's trace – Traces similar to scale of a snake appears on the monk's seat inside the Ubosot of Phutthimaram Temple in Muangnan district. On the ceiling of the Ubosot appears traces of a fire and water was on the floor. Villagers believe that the legendary Naga serpent helped extinguish a fire. The temple's age is more than 400 years old.

Sea turtle

January 31, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature



Komchadluek, January 31, 2011

The caption reads: Identifying the cause – The staff of the Marine and Coastal Resources Research Center, the Central Gulf of Thailand, investigates four carcasses of the Hawksbill Sea Turtle and Green Turtle that were stranded, to identify the cause of the death. The center's records reveals that 9 turtles died on January 29, 2011.

ATM Skimmers That Never Touch the ATM

January 31, 2011 Categories: Scams

ATM Skimmers That Never Touch the ATM – krebsonsecurity.com, January 31, 2011

Jet Ski Scammers Emboldened – Using new tactics to avoid police involvement

January 31, 2011 Categories: Scams

<u>Jet Ski Scammers Emboldened – Using new tactics to avoid police involvement</u> – ThaiVisa, January 31, 2011

An American Mosque in Cambodia

January 31, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>An American Mosque in Cambodia</u> – the-diplomat.com, January 31, 2011

Border priest held for spying

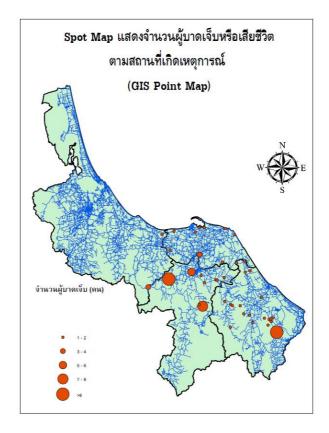
January 31, 2011 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Border priest held for spying – Phnom Penh Post, January 31, 2011

Deep South Violence Statistics – January 2011

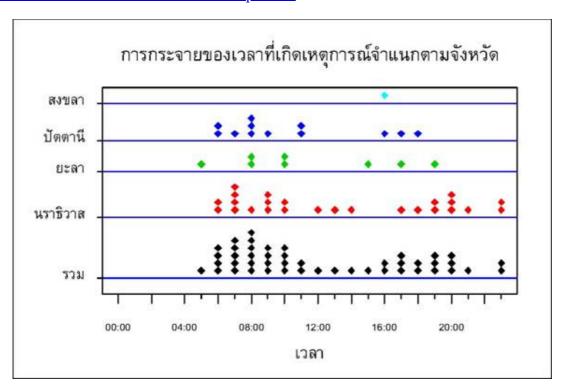
January 31, 2011

Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics

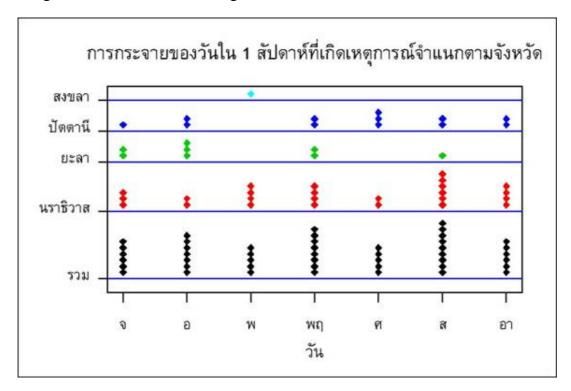


Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the dead and injured by location. The orange spot shows the number of the injury from 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 and more than 8

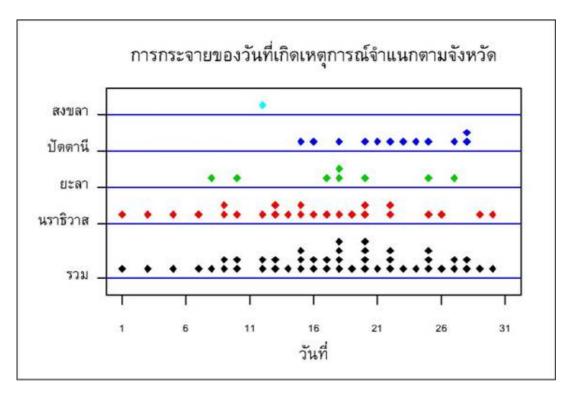
Southern Violence Statistics – January 2011 Index of violence statistics for the Thai Deep South



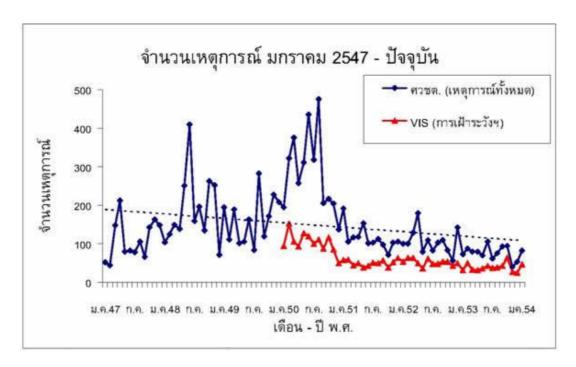
This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



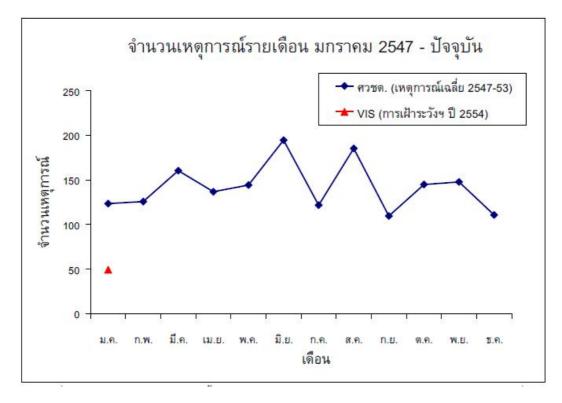
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The days of the week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



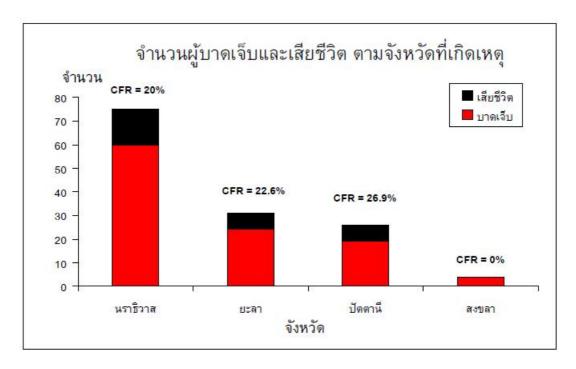
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



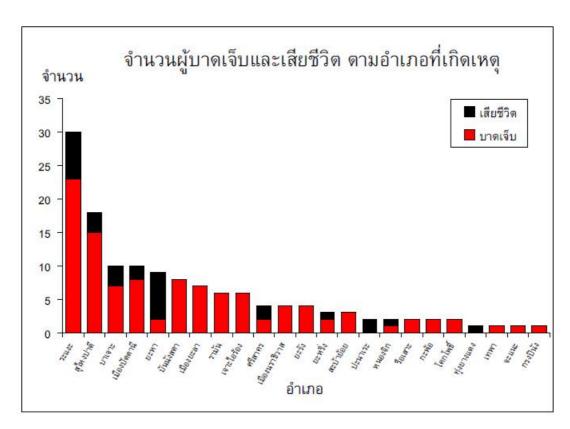
Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009, 2553 is 2010, 2554 is 2011). The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination 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 year 2010. 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 0-200. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).

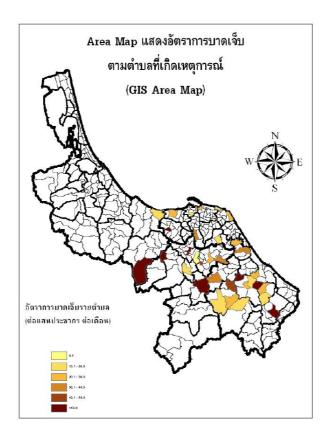


The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Narathiwat, Yala, Pattani and Songkhla). Black= dead, red=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar.

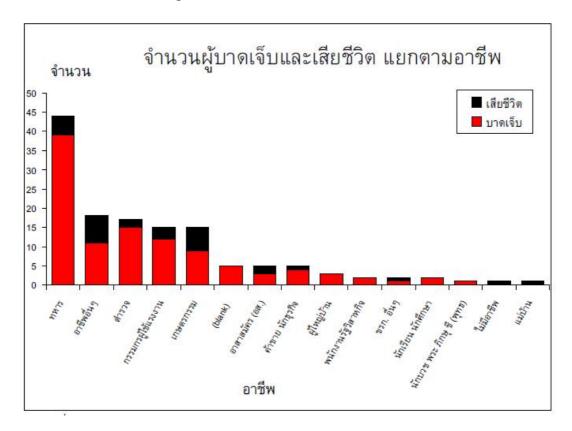


The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, red=injured.

The district on the X-axis is read (from left to right): Rangae, Sungaipadee, Bacho, City of Pattani, Yaha, Bannungasata, City of Yala, Raman, Choai-rong, Sisakorn, City of Narathiwat, Yarang, Yaring, Sabayoi, Panare, Nongchick, Ruesoh, Kapoh, Koakpoh, Thungyangdaeng, Thepa, Chanae and Krongpinung.



Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of injury classified by tambon (100,000 population per month). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 10.1, 10.1-20.0, 20.1-30.0, 30.1-40.0, 40,.1-50.0, and greater than 60.0



The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, red=injured. From left to right: Soldier, others, police, laborers, agriculturists, (blank), businessmen merchants, village chief, state enterprise employees, other officials, student college students, unemployed, housewives.

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy website

January 31, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy website</u> – January 31, 2011

Thai crackdown on 'red shirts' planned years ago, report alleges

January 31, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

Thai crackdown on 'red shirts' planned years ago, report alleges - The Star, January 31, 2011

- ...The Thai government's crackdown on "red shirt" protesters last spring was planned nearly four years in advance and modelled on the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, a report contends, saying Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva approved military force against unarmed civilians.
- ...But Amsterdam and Peroff argue the court still has the power to investigate Abhisit for possible crimes against humanity because he is a British citizen, born in England on Aug. 3, 1964...

Thai 'red shirts' salute Tunisians

January 31, 2011

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



Egypt calls strike, 'million man march' - Bangkok Post, January 31, 2011

March 2010: The Red Shirts' Million Man March

It was almost a year ago the Red Shirts <u>conducted their own "Million Man March"</u> (or a "20 million man march" <u>according to Weng</u>) in their attempt to overthrow the Thai government on behalf of Thaksin.

<u>Thai 'red shirts' salute Tunisians</u> – Times of India, January 28, 2011

As slogans blared from megaphones denouncing Thailand's leaders at a recent "red shirt" anti-government protest, one group waved baguettes and held up French placards in solidarity with a popular revolt in Tunisia...

Aggressive at Davos

February 1, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 1, 2011

The Prime Minister is speaking from Davos, Switzerland

Left: Cambodia must take down the flag or war will occur.

Right: Davos is very far from Cambodia, Hun Sen will not be able to hear this.

The caption reads: Aggressive away from home

Thailand among the world's most optimistic nations

February 1, 2011 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Thailand among the world's most optimistic nations – The Nation, February 1, 2011

Bannawit: Coup countdown has begun

February 2, 2011 Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

Bannawit: Coup countdown has begun – Bangkok Post, February 2, 2011

Amsterdam 'only in it for the money'

February 2, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam, Thaksin Lobbying

Amsterdam 'only in it for the money' – Bangkok Post, February 2, 2011

...Lawyer Robert Amsterdam is simply "deceiving a billionaire" for the money he can earn by filing a case with the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the government under Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva for alleged crimes against humanity during the red-shirt protest in April-May last year, Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban said on Tuesday...

Hun Sen on the toilet

February 2, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 2, 2011

Hun Sen is saying: Mark, could you use soft paper for your protest letter? My bottom hurt when using it for a clean wipe!

The caption reads: The reaction of Hun Sen towards the protest letter

2Bangkok Situation Update: Thaksin's Revolutionary Season

February 3, 2011

Categories: Analysis, High Tension in Thailand 2011, Robert Amsterdam, Thaksin Lobbying



Above: Image from DTV of the Red Shirts' first attempt to take over the government via mass action in 2009.

2Bangkok Situation Update: Thaksin's Revolutionary Season – February 3, 2011

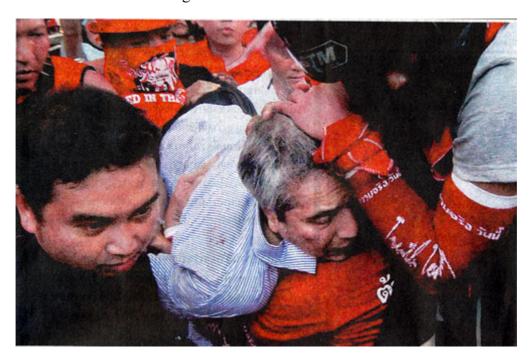
The <u>Thaksin-funded report</u> to the International Criminal Court paints the Red Shirts as a non-violent movement and alleges that the government and military callously desired a bloodbath. <u>Further assertions</u> are made that the Red Shirts had nothing to do with the burning of Central World. The misrepresentation of these events in both the ICC report and in such articles as <u>Thailand Under Abhisit</u>: <u>Burma with Luxury Hotels</u> seems clumsy and overblown. It is hard to see how an international audience, increasingly savvy about events in Thailand, would be swayed by many of these claims.

The timing of the ICC report, as well as multiple claims from the Red Shirts about a coup, could be part of the ramping up of rhetoric as we near "Thaksin's revolutionary season"—March-April. This is when, during the last two years, well-planned efforts have been made to overthrow the government. It is a period when many provincial farms lie fallow and it is easy to recruit people for rallies.

The 2009 effort was well-planned and surgical. It was direct and militant in its language and aims. The 2010 effort was more grand and chaotic, ultimately depending on an occupation of the city center to force the military to finally fight it out and provide the long hoped for casualties the movement desired. Had the Red Shirt leaders not been divided among themselves and been more direct in their actions, it could possibly have been successful considering the reticence of security forces to act.

The claim that the Red Shirts were essentially peaceful seems hollow after hearing the daily threats of the Red Shirt leaders from the stage, the very public showing of how Red guards wired buildings for burning, and the pronouncements of rebel soldier Seh Daeng. The Red Shirts' expressions of anger and "dissatisfaction" as a pretext for violent acts is entirely in keeping with Thai cultural norms (more about this in <u>Is everything in Thailand "unprecedented?"</u> – May 24, 2010 and <u>About Thai protests</u> – April 30, 2010).

The idea that the military strongly desired a crack down is also not accurate. Historically, Thai governments were seen to lose legitimacy after violence was perpetrated on the populace and thus have to step down. Since the 2006 coup, the establishment has been at pains to avoid at bloodshed while the Red Shirts have pinned their hopes on it–from the <u>surprise attack on Prem's residence</u> to the <u>2009 Red Shirt rioting</u>. Afterward, each of these incidents were played up along the lines of "the government has shown their hand—they have hurt the people—this requires the government to step down." Repeatedly the Red Shirts have called on this political tradition to insist that the government is finished.



From ThaiRath, April 14, 2009 – After the attack on the Prime Minister's car, Reds take the Prime Minister's secretary Nipon Prompan hostage. They later claim they were "protecting" him and then send him to the hospital.

While there were no deaths caused by the military during the 2009 rioting, Thaksin and others immediately alleged there were many deaths and that meant the government had to step aside. Even when Red Shirts were attacking the Prime Minster's car in Pattaya or taking hostages and attempting to <u>assassinate the PM</u>, authorities were reticent to intervene, much less open fire.

During the 2010 Red Shirt rallies, there were finally scores of deaths. These rallies shook the establishment to its foundations (more about this here: <u>Colonel Romklao's revenge</u> – May 14, 2010) and showed the relative independence of both the military and police from civilian control and highlighted the extreme reticence of these forces to becoming involved.

Rebel military personnel (such as Seh Daeng) were taken out by snipers in response to the humiliation the military experienced when it was successfully challenged on Ratchadamneorn Road by the so-called "men in black." Seh Daeng repeatedly claimed that the defeat on Ratchadamneorn meant that the Thai state was finished and that he was in contact, if not leading, a shadow military force. Despite these and other boasts by the Red Shirts that their men in black were successfully fighting the military, the ICC report makes the strange claim that the men in black were actually part of a government plot to frame the Reds.

It is also highly likely (and a reasonable assumption knowing how the Thai establishment thinks) that snipers were deployed to make sure that Pathumwanaram temple would not be a continuing safe refuge for Red Shirts fleeing Rajaprasong. The establishment knew that violence was the long-sought after goal of the Reds and they would be giving them what they wanted, so the decision to finally wade into the Red Shirt rally site and fight it out must have been a difficult and calculated choice. Compared to the levels of violence perpetrated to "save" the Thai state in 1973, 1976, and 1992, it is surprising that security forces were able to react so quickly and decisively and that the government has able to avoid stepping down. This may be because, unlike the instances of using state power against protesters in past decades, the Red Shirts were not seen by the public as democracy protesters, but as a group funded by a politician for personal gain.

With Thaksin's revolutionary season of March-April coming up again, it is time to watch if there will be a new ramping up of agitation and protest in coming months. With two failed uprisings already attempted, it will be interesting to see what tact will be tried next.

The urgency in 2009 and 2010 to topple the government was, in part, to prevent hardliner Prayuth in coming to power. With Prayuth in control and a dependable Chief of Police installed, it may be that the playing field has changed and that direct confrontation may not be as productive. The tact of using mass protest to force the hand of the military has not succeeded so far and, if anything, Thaksin's political proxies realize he will never be allowed to hold power again. The government, aware of the March-April rally period, could likely call new elections in a way that interferes with the ability and rational for protest during that time.

The case for more Red rallies in coming months is related to the fractious state of Thaksin's Pheu Thai Party. Even if the grouping adheres together for the coming elections, there is a feeling that the establishment will never allow a party that vows to "bring Thaksin back" to form a new government—not after the chaos and level of rhetoric against the very highest institutions that has been generated over the past few years.

Knowing this, Thaksin may decide to shift focus from the fickle MPs of the Pheu Thai and back to the Red Shirts. This means relying on Red Shirt mass action again and possibly covert methods of creating unrest to paralyze the state and force it to allow Thaksin to return to the political equation.

Egypt resources

February 3, 2011

Categories: Nothing to do with Thailand, but Interesting

We Rebuild – February 3, 2011

<u>Resource site</u> for various methods of insuring a free flow of information. Of particular interest: <u>Instructions</u> <u>for setting up a Dial-up Networking Server</u>

Buy this satellite – February 3, 2011

Q&A: As Egypt Shuts Down the Internet, One Group Wants Online Access for All – Time, January 31, 2011

<u>Top 10 Autocrats in Trouble</u> – Time, January 31, 2011

How Do We Know How Many Protesters Came Out in Cairo? – FP, February 1, 2011

...They're probably guessing. The most widely used method of counting crowds was developed by the U.S. National Park Service in the early 1970s and relies on three factors: the size of the space where the event occurs, the amount of the space occupied by the crowd, and the density of the crowd. Crowd density can vary from "mosh pit" close — one person for every 2 feet — to the more common one person for every 5 feet — your standard Tea Party rally. It's nearly impossible to get an accurate count from the ground because of an optical illusion called foreshortened perspective that makes crowds closer to the observer appear denser than they actually are, so aerial photos are generally needed...

Each Dreams On Their Own

February 3, 2011 Categories: Editorial Cartoons



The cartoon headline reads: Each dreams on their own

From ThaiRath, February 3, 2011

From left to right:

The poor dream about lotto figures

The people at the southern border dream of an end to the unrest

The vocational students dream about peace

Chaiwat dreams about the red shirts becoming their friends

Tood-Too dreams of a coup

Mubarak Sphinx

February 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, February 4, 2011

The cartoon title reads: Asking to take back the space of land from dictators around the world The words on the signs read: The Egyptian, toppling down power, President Mubarak, Tunisia The words written on the ground read: The power of the people who love democracy

Red Shirts Insist a Coup is Near

February 4, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 4, 2011

At left, UDD Acting leader Thida Thavirnset and UDD leader Jatuporn Prompan are seated. Thida is saying: Soldier, don't dare think about staging a coup d'etat. We Red Shirts will not allow it. We will gather on the road and fight against it to the end.

PM Abhisit is saying: Yeah Sis, threaten them, do not let them do it.

The caption reads: The first time that Mark cheers the Red Shirt's opinion.

31st MEU to participate in exersize Cobra Gold 2011

February 5, 2011

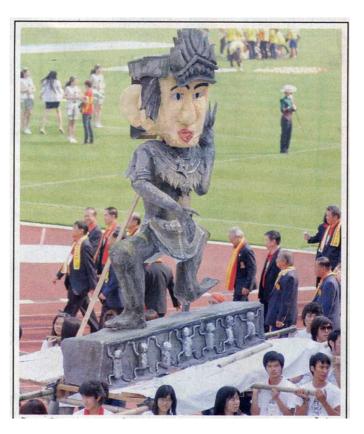
Categories: Thai Military

<u>31st MEU to participate in exersize Cobra Gold 2011</u> – U.S. Marine Corps, February 5, 2011 The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit is scheduled to participate in training exercise Cobra Gold 2011, Feb. 7-18. This will be the 30th year Thailand has hosted Cobra Gold, and it has become one of the largest land-based, combined military training exercises in the world...

Political mockery

February 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Krungthepturakit, February 6, 2011

The caption reads: Political mockery: The political mockery parade of the Thammasat-Chulalongkorn 67th Football Match at the Supachalasai yard that contains the float mocking Abhisit Vejjajiva. The body of the model is a holy deity, seen at Cambodian historical sites. The figure's head shows the handsome face of Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Praying to King Naresuan

February 6, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, January 17, 2011

PM Abhisit, backed by other government members, says: We would like to urge you to reduce the aggressive action by stepping down from the horse's back... drop down your weapon... as this might make Hun Sen turn angry.

The name on the base of the statue: King Naresuan The Great

Two nations announce they will protect their sovereignty

February 6, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia



From Krungthepturakit, February 6, 2011

The headlines read: Two nations announce they will protect their sovereignty – Thailand-Cambodia "Stop"

The plague of fanaticism

February 6, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>The plague of fanaticism</u> – Bangkok Post, February 6, 2011

..."We should destroy them," he moaned. "We are bigger and stronger, we can wipe them out," he groaned. "They shot at us first," he blasted.

His sentiments undoubtedly reflect those of many Thais, shocked and angry, and, most importantly, ready to go to war...

President Mubarak Heading for a European Exile in Montenegro?

February 6, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>President Mubarak Heading for a European Exile in Montenegro?</u> – suite101.com, February 6, 2011 ... "As a Montenegro citizen, Thaksin can get a Schengen visa that allows him to travel to 30 European countries under the Treaty of Amsterdam. Thaksin's Montenegro citizenship will not change the verdict of the Ratchada land procurement case since he is still a Thai citizen.

"However the case would be affected if his Thai citizenship were withdrawn..."

Back-to-School banner

February 7, 2011 Categories: Signs and Billboards



The banner reads: Together promoting the students' behavior – Finding students, college students quarrelling, escaping classes, behaving improperly, call Semarak 1570

Thai Prefers To Resolve Conflict Bilaterally

February 7, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Thai Military

Thai Prefers To Resolve Conflict Bilaterally – Bernama, February 7, 2011

..."We will extend our fullest cooperation to the Indonesian Foreign Minister by providing information about the conflict," he told reporters here, as Thai and Cambodian troops continue to clash at the disputed border area for the fourth day, Monday...

Thailand food poisoning death

February 8, 2011 Categories: Health

<u>Thailand food poisoning death</u> – Stuff.co.nz, February 8, 2011 ...Sarah Katherine Carter, 23, died at Chiang Mai Ram Hospital, in northern Thailand, on Sunday morning after eating toxic seaweed she bought from a food market on Friday...

Globalist Page: Robert Amsterdam

February 8, 2011 Categories: Robert Amsterdam

Globalist Page: Robert Amsterdam – InfoWars, February 8, 2011

Take Note

February 8, 2011 Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 8, 2011

Left: Take note... Take notes on everything... Do not miss anything

Right: Those who sit close to you look accustomed

Rate of Death

February 8, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, February 8, 2011

A head is flying from a sign reading: Thailand-Cambodia border The head is saying: Thais are lucky that they have Abhisit as PM.

The skulls are saying: Crackdown leading to 91 deaths and more than 2000 injured the Democrat government, people in the southern border provinces merely die 900 The words on the robe read: Ordering crackdown on the people

Vulture Premieres the Poster for Cannes Hit Uncle Boonmee, Designed by Chris Ware

February 8, 2011

Categories: Film and TV



<u>Vulture Premieres the Poster for Cannes Hit Uncle Boonmee, Designed by Chris Ware</u> – nymag.com, February 8, 2011

Thailand's Rising Nationalism

February 9, 2011 Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>Thailand's Rising Nationalism</u> – WSJ, February 9, 2011

Metered motorbike taxis

February 9, 2011 Categories: 2Bangkok News

Coming soon to Bangkok: Metered motorbike taxis - CNNGo, February 9, 2011

<u>Introducing the First Real Taxi Meter Innovation in 100 Years</u> – Fast Company, February 8, 2011

Monks at a Rural Thai Temple Restore Dignity and Serenity to AIDS Victims

February 9, 2011 Categories: Health

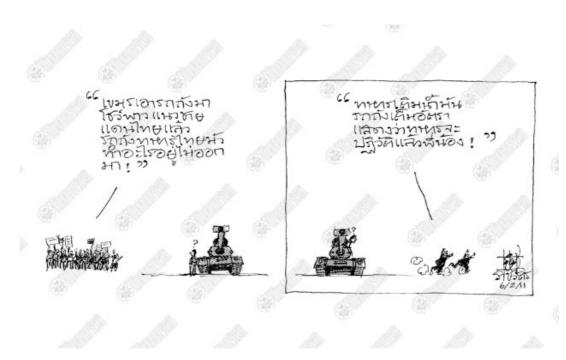
Monks at a Rural Thai Temple Restore Dignity and Serenity to AIDS Victims – Jakarta Globe, February 9, 2011

For over 20 years, a temple in the hills of Lopburi province has been proving that, with the right support, people living with HIV/AIDS can continue to lead happy, peaceful lives free from the heavy stigma their disease often carries in Thailand...

Tank

February 9, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Thai Military



From ThaiRath, February 9, 2011

Left, protesters are saying: Cambodia dispatched tanks to show off their power at the Thai-Cambodian border. What are Thai troops doing? Why they have not come out? Right: The Thai Army filled up their fuel tanks fully—that means that they are ready to stage a coup.

Bad Omen Clouds

February 10, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs, Weather

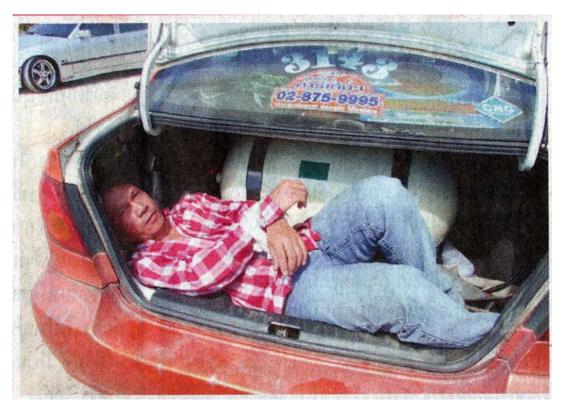


From Daily News, January 28, 2011

The caption reads: Threatened by bad omen – The strange phenomena of the clouds above Bangkok generates fear in the public as they believe it is a bad omen or possible disaster. However, the weather forecast insists the phenomena is ordinary on a windy day.

Taxi driver robbed

February 10, 2011 Categories: Crime



From Khaosod, January 28, 2011
The caption reads: The victim – Mr. Likhit Ruangrit, a taxi driver, was robbed by two robbers who took 4,000 baht before putting him, hands tied, inside the car's trunk. The case was reported by bystanders from Klongluang district in Patumthani.

Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok's Iconic Lobby Refurbished

February 10, 2011 Categories: Buildings

<u>Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok's Iconic Lobby Refurbished</u> – Elite Traveler Website, February 10, 2011 ...All new upholstery, carpeting and furniture has been tastefully chosen by renowned interior designer Jeffrey Wilkes, the same creative mind who was behind the 2009 renovation of all the 338 guestrooms in the River Wing Building...

Foreign Ministry opposes Unesco temple visit

February 10, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

Foreign Ministry opposes Unesco temple visit – Bangkok Post, February 10, 2011

..."There has never been and there will never be Cambodian soldiers at the temple of Preah Vihear. This has always been a place for worship and tourism," the statement said, adding that the only security presence at the temple was a small number of police officers with light weapons to ensure safety.

The Associated Press reported yesterday that its journalists who had reached the temple saw hundreds of Cambodian soldiers in and around the sprawling temple compound, which was fortified by sandbagged

bunkers...

Strongman father dreams of glory for 'heroic' son

February 10, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

Strongman father dreams of glory for 'heroic' son – Bangkok Post, February 10, 2011

Hun Manet is no stranger to the Thai military. Even ordinary Thais know about the eldest son of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen from the border conflicts near Preah Vihear temple. The Thai military top brass has kept a close watch on Hun Manet since he went to West Point in the United States more than a decade ago...

Deminers outline cluster bomb plan

February 10, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Deminers outline cluster bomb plan</u> – Phnom Penh Post, February 10, 2011 The Cambodian Mine Action Centre said today that it was deploying an "emergency response" team to Preah Vihear province following Thailand's alleged use of cluster munitions during recent clashes in the area...

Video From The Hangover, Part II Set

February 10, 2011 Categories: Film and TV

<u>Video From The Hangover, Part II Set</u> – Coming Soon, February 10, 2011 ... What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas, but what happens in Bangkok can't even be imagined...

In Myanmar, colonial-era buildings risk demolition

February 11, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

In Myanmar, colonial-era buildings risk demolition – LAT, February 11, 2011

- ...Preservationists fear that Yangon's several hundred colonial-era buildings, a legacy of the British Empire at its height, will succumb to voracious Chinese property developers with a history of building tacky shopping malls for a quick buck.
- ...Most of Yangon's colonial-era Baroque and Beaux Arts-style buildings the largest collection in Southeast Asia were erected between 1900 and 1920...

Rare animals bust at Suvarnabhumi

February 11, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

Rare animals bust at Suvarnabhumi – Bangkok Post, February 11, 2011

...The group's regional director, William Schaedla, commended the seizure but raised concerns about the open availability of protected animals at Chatuchak, which he said was "just down the street" from Thai wildlife protection offices.

"Frankly, the situation is totally unacceptable in a country that claims to be effectively addressing illegal wildlife trade," he said...

91 Rohingya refugees land on Indian shores claiming Thailand pushed them into sea

February 11, 2011

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

91 Rohingya refugees land on Indian shores claiming Thailand pushed them into sea – Brandon Sun, February 11, 2011

Ninety-one Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh have landed on India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands claiming they had been turned back into the sea by the Thai navy, a police officer said Friday...

Thailand's Red Shirts and the 'Revolution' question

February 11, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

Thailand's Red Shirts and the 'Revolution' question — eastasia forum.org, February 11, 2011 The UDD's immediate tasks are threefold. First, seeking the release of political prisoners (although it is increasingly clear this will not be possible until regime change is effected); second, it is focused on the pursuit of justice and accountability for the massacres of 2010; third, it seeks the dissolution of Parliament and the current regime. In particular, supporters of Red Siam are more action oriented than many other red groups and some perceive UDD as focused more on appearement with the regime and back-door deals than on planning for structural changes...

Cambodian Government Approves Controversial Titanium Mine

February 11, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Cambodian Government Approves Controversial Titanium Mine</u> – PR Urgent, February 11, 2011 The Cambodian government has approved a titanium mine which will lead to the deforestation of over 50000 acres of rain forest...

Prasarn Says Dong Devaluation to Have Little Impact on Thailand

February 11, 2011 Categories: Economy

Prasarn Says Dong Devaluation to Have Little Impact on Thailand – Bloomberg, February 11, 2011

Thai authorities probe woman's death

February 11, 2011 Categories: Health

<u>Thai authorities probe woman's death</u> – Stuff, February 11, 2011

...At this stage, Miss Carter's death was thought to be from myocarditis – inflammation of the heart from viral, bacterial or fungal infections.

Her death could as easily have been caused by "some other infection" rather than toxic seaweed, even an illness such as influenza, Dr Pasakorn said...

The catapult kid of Bangkok, the Time cover girl mutilated by the Taliban and the world's other best press photographs of 2010

February 11, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

The catapult kid of Bangkok, the Time cover girl mutilated by the Taliban and the world's other best press photographs of 2010 – Daily Mail, February 11, 2011

Police hand over CAPO orders to UDD

February 12, 2011

Categories: Errors, High Tension in Thailand 2011

Police hand over CAPO orders to UDD

Published: 12/02/2011 at 11:28 AM

Online news: Local News



Commander of Metropolitan Police Division 1 Pol Maj Gen Wichai Sangprapai has late Saturday morning handed over the two orders of the Centre for Administration of Peace and Order (CAPO) to leaders of the yellow-shirts protesting at Makkhawan Rangsan bridge.

Maj Gen Chamlong Srimuang, a co-leader of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), had signed his name to officially accept the CAPO orders.

Maj Gen Chamlong said UDD leaders will meet at 4pm today to discuss ways to counter attack the government as police have started asking area back from the yellow-shirts protesters.

Police hand over CAPO orders to UDD - Bangkok Post, February 12, 2011

Naked Jackpot

February 12, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 12, 2011
The word on the sign being held by the Pm reads: Bilateral
The PM is saying: Look!! I can play!
The man in the casino says: Let him join in.

Speaking to the 'People's Loudspeaker'

February 12, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>Speaking to the 'People's Loudspeaker'</u> – The Irrawaddy, February 12, 2011 Documentary filmmaker Rex Bloomstein speaks to The Irrawaddy about his encounter with imprisoned Burmese comedian Zarganar...

Thailand: Trial of web forum moderator jeopardizes freedom of expression

February 12, 2011 Categories: Censorship

<u>Thailand: Trial of web forum moderator jeopardizes freedom of expression</u> – Amnesty International, February 12, 2011

The Thai authorities should drop all charges against human rights defender and web forum moderator Chiranuch Premchaiporn, whose trial continues this week, Amnesty International said today...

<u>Let the people speak freely and clearly</u> – The Nation, February 11, 2011 Supinya Klangnarong of the Campaign for Popular Media Reform believes that an open telecom and media sector is vital to improving democracy in Thailand...

Keep your talismans close, boys

February 12, 2011

Categories: Local Beliefs

Keep your talismans close, boys - Bangkok Post, February 12, 2011

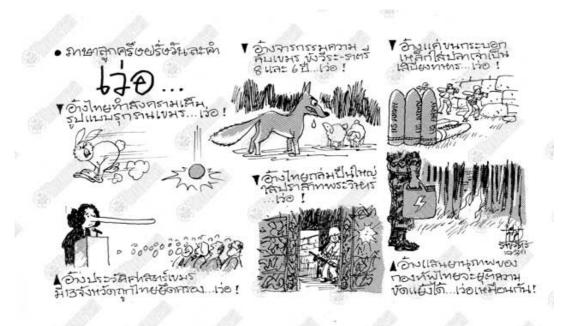
...Second Army chief Thawatchai Samutsakhon issued assorted talismans to soldiers stationed at the disputed border area near the Preah Vihear temple in Si Sa Ket's Kantharalak district to ward off Khmer curses.

"I believe in this and I have to take care of my subordinates in every possible way," Lt Gen Thawatchai said. Lt Gen Thawatchai is a follower of the late Luang Poo Jiam Atissayo, a respected monk at Wat Intrasukaram in Surin's Sangkha district...

Exaggerated!

February 13, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, February 13, 2011

The headline reads: The daily words by half-breed tongues – Exaggerated

Top left: Claiming that Thailand is staging complete war against Cambodia... exaggerated!"

Top Middle: Claiming that spying on Cambodian secrets means jail for Veera and Ratree for 8 and 6 years... exaggerated!

Top right: Claiming they are only using the steel pipe to make the preserved fish... exaggerated!

Bottom left: Cambodian history accounts claiming that 13 of their provinces were occupied by Thailand... exaggerated!

Bottom middle: Claiming that Thailand staged the gunfire attack at Preah Vihear... exaggerated!

Bottom right: Claiming that the Thai military will be able to end the conflict... also exaggerated!

Thailand's movie-star medics

February 13, 2011 Categories: Health

<u>Thailand's movie-star medics</u> – aljazeera.net, February 13, 2011 Bangkok's ambulance volunteers shed their unsavoury reputation and begin to be lauded for their efforts...

Bangkok car bomb injures 18

February 13, 2011

Categories: Errors, The Thai Deep South



Bangkok car bomb injures 18 - UPI, February 13, 2011

Address to the UDD: The Future Belongs to You!

February 13, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

Address to the UDD: The Future Belongs to You! - robertamsterdam.com, February 13, 2011 ...As part of the reconciliation efforts, a real "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" – perhaps based on the South African model – must be instituted. The focus of the commission should not only be on the most

recent episodes of state violence, but also on previous incidents such as the 1973, 1976, and 1992 massacres,

which have so far gone unpunished.

...Let's not let the "ammart" get away with murder again— not this time. Let's end impunity— once and for all. Let's not allow Prayuth and the Army to control the future of Thailand. The future belongs to you!

Emirates' exiles in spotlight after Mubarak fall

February 13, 2011

Categories: Thai Politics

Emirates' exiles in spotlight after Mubarak fall – AP, February 13, 2011

...Thaksin has been keeping a far lower profile since offering interviews in 2009 to the international media, including The Associated Press.

He broke the tacit rule set by the UAE for its exiles: keep quiet. The UAE frowns deeply on any kind of political activism within its borders, including by exiles and others targeting their rivals at home...

Wants to Commit World War

February 14, 2011 Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, February 14, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: Wants to Commit World War

The words on the back of the chair: Tasty food–good music"

The sign in front of him reads: Foreign Ministry The words smoke at left: Thai-Cambodian War

The words on the map read: Blaming allies for supporting Cambodia to stage war with Thailand.

Pheu Thai pre-election sign

February 15, 2011 Categories: Elections



Pheu Thai pre-election sign – February 16, 2011 It reads: 5 failures of the Abhisit ruling government, 10 to be tolerated by Thais nationwide. Time is up for the government failing its administration – The Pheu Thai Party

World Muay Thai Council Belt Holder Knocked Out By Unknown

February 15, 2011 Categories: Sports

<u>World Muay Thai Council Belt Holder Knocked Out By Unknown</u> – Bernama, February 15, 2011 Thailand boxer Champree Patlong out punched local hopeful Syukri Hassan to emerge victorious in the Perak "GCS Ultimate Champions" Open Tomoi 50kg category here Tuesday...

Scramble to stockpile rice has started

February 15, 2011 Categories: Food and Drink

Scramble to stockpile rice has started – thestar.com.my, February 15, 2011

Arab Uprisings a Lesson for Cambodia: Activist

February 15, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Arab Uprisings a Lesson for Cambodia: Activist</u> – Voice of America, February 15, 2011

Political repression, restriction on expression and social and economic equity can all act as a "ticking time bomb" for a country's leadership, a prominent rights activist said Thursday.

Comparing Cambodia's situation to those of Egypt and Tunisia, which have seen major revolts in recent weeks, Ou Virak, president of the Cambodian Center for Human Rights, told "Hello VOA" that all political participants here should work to ensure people's rights...

Like Bloomberg, People in Thailand Like Icy Beer, Too

February 15, 2011

Categories: Food and Drink

<u>Like Bloomberg, People in Thailand Like Icy Beer, Too</u> – NYT, February 15, 2011

...When the mayor said Monday that he likes to drink his beer with ice, beer connoisseurs criticized him as a wimp, a philistine and worse. On Twitter, some wondered if suds on the rocks were grounds for impeachment...

A test of fortitude for Thai, US forces

February 15, 2011

Categories: Thai Military

A test of fortitude for Thai, US forces - DVIDS, February, 2011

...U.S. and Thai forces waged a massive assault on a fictional enemy border just a few short hours after the demanding events of the field training exercise. The joint force used Marine TOW missiles, fighter jets, and Thai artillery to pound the distant hillside which represented the border of the fictional hostile country blamed for the capture of hostages in the previous day's exercise.

For nearly 30 minutes the empty valley suffered the wrath of the two countries' firepower in an impressive display of explosions and air dominance. Immediately afterward, a rush of Thai and U.S. paratroopers flooded in and took the area in a hail of live gunfire...

Just How Open Is Your Internet?

February 15, 2011 Categories: Censorship

<u>Just How Open Is Your Internet?</u> – mashable.com, February 15, 2011

Happy New Year from the Democrats

February 16, 2011

Categories: Signs and Billboards



The billboard reads: Happy New Year 2011 SIN JIA YU EEH SIN NEE HUAD CHAI" Best wishes from Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva—Mr. Banyat Banthadtharn, MP Dr. Khunying Kanyala Sophonpanitch-MP Samart Maluleem, MP Suth Panyasakulwong, MP Kamron Bamrungrak and the team of Bangna district representatives

Stop Shooting the People

February 16, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Komchadluek, February 16, 2011

Left: The UN statement suggesting Thailand and Cambodia end the shooting permanently is not stating the case exactly.

Middle: Then what would the UN need to say to hit the right issue?

Right: Calling for Cambodians to stop shooting the people—not stop shooting permanently.

Bilateral is Bilateral!

February 16, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 16, 2011

The man from France is saying: Bilateral is bilateral... Please do not stamp down on us!!! The word inside the black box is read: Sending a man like Kasit sometimes is good like this.

PAD and UDD: Common Ground

February 16, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, February 16, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: The different pole-harmonics

Left: Take out Abhisit. The word on the shirt: PAD

Right: Release the UDD prisoners.

The word on the hat: UDD

The woman (Thida Thavornset, UDD leader) holds a pamphlet that reads: Bring back justice.

The sign held by the mouse reads: Imprisonment of the UDD without knowing time of release infringes on human rights.

Another Thai-themed Nigerian scam letter

February 16, 2011 Categories: Scams

Another Thai-themed Nigerian scam letter – February 17, 2011

Dear

I got your basic contact through your country's Web Business Directory which prompted me to contact you directly through your email address to seek your help and assistance

My name is Mrs, Suchart Chaovisith wife of the former Thailand Finance minister, during the (PM Thaksins) regime who was forced out from power by the military.

In view of the recent death of my husband as you can read from the bangkokpost news website confirming his death to the public and Thailand Government. I am worry over the political crises, However my main point of contacting you is to seek your sincere suggestion and guideline to invest in your country.i do not need to tell you of the absolute confidentiality which we both must have to observe, if we are to go into investment, or rather if you are to help me in investing in your country.

From the brief explanation of my present situation right now, you will understand my position with the government now and understand that I need absolute confidentiality in this transaction.

Thanks for your anticipated co-operation and my regards to your family. And feel free to contact me on my email for now, until arrangements are made.

Please reply to my private email address: suchart.chaovit@rediffmail.com

Sincerely, Mrs.Suchart Chaovisith Thailand Bangkok

How secure is your Thai-brand safe?

February 16, 2011 Categories: Crime



(Photo: PattayaOne.net)

How secure is your Thai-brand safe? - February 17, 2011

<u>English Resident and his Thai Wife seriously assaulted in South Pattaya house robbery</u> – Pattaya One News, February 14, 2011

A thread on this article on ThaiVisa and one on Leeco Safes

...they use a screw driver to pierce the outer layer than a can opener (yes an ordinary can opener) to cut a hole large enough to fit your hand through, then with a stanley knife (box cutter) and screw driver cut away the barrier material then cut the inside skin again with the can opener...

Truth but no reconciliation

February 16, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>Truth but no reconciliation</u> – Radio Netherlands, February 16, 2011

...Commission head Kanit na Nakorn knows the odds are against him. General elections set for later this year might put an end to his work, but he is defiant: "I don't care if a new government can suspend our work. If the people believe in us, they'll support us, which will compel the government to let us continue..."

Thailand, China Plan Rail Project

February 16, 2011

Categories: Mass Transit, Thai Railroads

Thailand, China Plan Rail Project – WSJ, February 16, 2011

Thailand expects to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese government in April to codevelop a 150 billion Thai baht (\$4.89 billion) high-speed rail project, Permanent Secretary for Transport Suphoth Sublom said late Wednesday...

Vietnamese-Styled Pagodas Flourish In Thailand

February 16, 2011 Categories: Buildings, Local Beliefs

<u>Vietnamese-Styled Pagodas Flourish In Thailand</u> – Bernama, February 16, 2011

Gecko, lizard finds bring local species to 60

February 17, 2011

Categories: Wildlife and Nature

<u>Gecko, lizard finds bring local species to 60</u> – The Nation, February 17, 2011 Thai taxonomists have discovered 10 native geckos and lizards during the past year, bringing the total number of gecko/house-lizard species in Thailand to 60...

Leaked 'Statement' Adds to Dunkley Intrigue

February 17, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>Leaked 'Statement' Adds to Dunkley Intrigue</u> – The Irrawaddy, February 17, 2011

...Tin Htun Oo holds 51 percent of the shares in The Myanmar Times and Dunkley and his fellow investors hold the remaining 49 percent stake.

...In 2004, the publishing landscape changed dramatically for The Myanmar Times when junta chief Snr-Gen Than Shwe purged Khin Nyunt's entire intelligence service and placed the spy chief under house arrest. Thein Swe was also arrested and received a sentence of more than 100 years in prison. And Sonny Swe, then the majority shareholder and the deputy chief executive officer of The Myanmar Times, was arrested on the charge of committing "economic crimes" (i.e. corruption), given a 14-year sentence and sent to prison in Lashio, Shan State.

The regime then hand-picked Tin Htun Oo as Dunkley's new business partner and handed him Sonny Swe's 51 percent interest in The Myanmar Times...

Aussie publisher's fate with Burma govt – AAP, February 16, 2011

The fate of imprisoned Australian publisher Ross Dunkley lies with the Burmese legal system and government after investors settled over management control of the Myanmar Times newspaper, according to a senior investor representative...

Enter the orange shirts — The capital's crucial two-wheeled political class

February 17, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

<u>Enter the orange shirts – The capital's crucial two-wheeled political class</u> – The Economist, February 17, 2011

...One reason why Mr Thaksin remains so popular is that he cracked down on the overlords. He also ensured that motorbike taxis were registered with city hall and that their drivers were issued with numbered jackets. After Mr Thaksin was ousted in a military coup in 2006, the extortionists returned to demand their cut. The registration system unravelled as drivers traded jackets or dropped out and others arrived with unregistered bikes. Some jackets ended up in the hands of the "influential people", who rented them out or sold them on for up to 150,000 baht (\$4,900)...

Rights group condemns "online censorship" by Cambodian government

February 17, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Censorship

<u>Rights group condemns "online censorship" by Cambodian government</u> – MaC, February 16, 2011 A human rights group on Wednesday condemned the apparent blocking of several websites critical of the Cambodian government, saying the move marked 'a significant milestone in the march toward a more oppressive media environment...

Cambodia Blocks Anti-Government Websites - VOA, February 17, 2011

...However, Internet users and bloggers say access to certain sites that criticize the Cambodian government has been blocked or redirected since the rise of Internet-driven protests across the Middle East in recent weeks...

The view from Cambodia

February 17, 2011

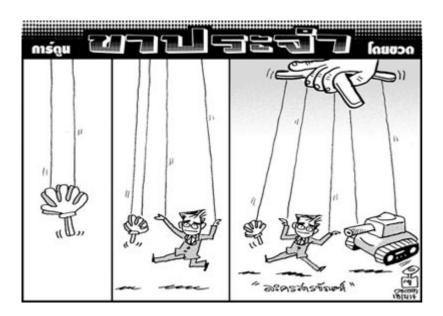
Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

The view from Cambodia – The Phnom Penh Post, February 17, 2011

...Moreover, when Thailand says: Well, we controlled the temple in the 1800s and before, the Khmers have a simpler reply: Yeah, but WE BUILT IT! We started construction in the early 9th century, modified and improved it for 250 years and then continued to pray there and celebrate our Gods for another three centuries until you guys stole it after you sacked and looted our capital at Angkor Wat three times between 1352 and 1431. Thank you very much. End of story...

Who is the Puppeteer?

February 18, 2011 Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Cartoon Khaprajam by Khuad, Daily News, February 18, 2011 The caption reads: The Sa-ra-khan Drama

Red shirts to flood Rajprasong with 1 million red paper cranes

February 18, 2011

Categories: High Tension in Thailand 2011

Red shirts to flood Rajprasong with 1 million red paper cranes – The Nation, February 18, 2011

Exactly one year ago the Red Shirts were gearing up for their Million Man March

MICT booklet explaining Thai internet laws

February 19, 2011 Categories: Censorship



MICT booklet explaining Thai internet laws: Webmasters are responsible for content even if they did not post it

The page reads: Michael: What are you looking at? Can I see it?

Jack: Nah, and why are you asking? I did not do it by myself. Someone posts a porno picture on my website. I did not do it.

Michael: Do you know that the host who support or allow others to post the porno, the false message, disgracing others, and the message related to terrorism on their website will face the 5 year jail sentence or up to 10,000 baht fine or both, same as the one who posts the message? Jack: Is it true? I have to delete it right away.



MICT booklet explaining Thai internet laws: Being a hacker is illegal

The page reads: Pim: Jack, I remember that you have a friend who normally hacks data from computers of agencies, right?

Jack: Ah! That was long long time ago, do you still remember it?

Pim: Certainly, I remember almost everything. Warn your friend that if he continues doing this, he needs to mind this action as now there is a bill issued to regulate the operation of hackers. Hackers will face up to 6 month jail sentence or up to 10,000 baht fine. If hacking into others' information, they will face up to 2 years jail sentence or up to 40,000 baht fine. Hackers who hack into others' computer systems and make changes to the system or cause the system operation to fail will face up to a 20 years jail sentence.



The page reads: Jack: Have you seen the fake porno VDO clip of a famous model that is spread through the website?

Michael: Yes... I have heard that it was made by the gang, however, they were arrested by the police and face up to 3 year jail and 60,000 baht fine penalty. It is not worthwhile to do. Do not even think about it Jack!



MICT booklet explaining Thai internet laws: The meaning of improper content

The page reads: Michael: Do you guys know about the meaning of improper content according to the ICT act?

Opal: Ah, it refers to the false message that impacts national security, generating fear among the public or troubling others, including information related to terrorism and pornography. Those who spread the information into a computer system or to the public will face up to 5 years jail or 10,000 baht fine penalty or both.



MICT booklet explaining Thai internet laws: The cool and sexy cyber spy

The page reads: Opal – I am Opal, as you see that I am beautiful and sexy. I believe that many readers know me already because I am famous and gained many awards from stage contest. Asking about tips for the pageant? I just learned it from my mom. My principle career is actress. I am talented and scrutinizing in very detail. I am strongly interested in other people's stories and many say that I should have a second career as cyber spy.



MICT booklet explaining Thai internet laws: We can get you wherever you are on earth

The page reads: Michael: Does everyone know that the bill regulating computer crimes is subject to penalize the wrongdoer outside the Kingdom of Thailand as well? If there is anyone who starts a website outside the

| country to distribute information disgracing the monarchy, destroying the security of the juristic system or generating fear among Thai people, the wrongdoer will be persecuted by law and receive penalties inside the Kingdom of Thailand. |
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This is way cooler than the floating market: The Maeklong Railway

February 19, 2011 Categories: Thai Railroads

This is way cooler than the floating market: The Maeklong Railway – Daily Contributor, February 19, 2011

A Story of Personal Triumph and Utter Failure in Thailand

February 19, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

A Story of Personal Triumph and Utter Failure in Thailand – The Clarion, February 19, 2011

...Now I knew the city. I knew when cab drivers were 'taking me for a ride'. I knew that the monks only rode on air conditioned buses. I knew I was accustomed to this place: and what a feat it had been. My hatred of the wafting smell of raw sewage on the street, the hoards of bloated stray dogs lying comatose in empty phone booths, the creeping feeling of claustrophobia underneath my skin, the glares and stares from thousands of Thai faces, the snaking pattern sweat made when inching down my back...

Thailand's Full Moon parties are 'schoolies on steroids'

February 20, 2011 Categories: Tourism

<u>Thailand's Full Moon parties are 'schoolies on steroids'</u> – NEWS.com.au, February 20, 2011 ...Now an investigation by The Sunday Telegraph has uncovered a high-risk, unregulated and dangerous culture of drinking and drug taking – among revellers and "officials" – which any parent would shudder to think their child is walking into...

The proposals on land reform deserve attention

February 20, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

The proposals on land reform deserve attention – The Nation, February 20, 2011

...The red shirts violent campaign last year, whether it was a real grass-roots uprising as the movement claims or a Thaksin Shinawatra-sponsored agitation as alleged by the Democrat government, has brought to light the issue of economic inequality in Thailand. This forced the government, academics and civil society to look back on long-forgotten problems, one of which is the poverty associated with being landless. The embattled Abhisit government promised to act, and the Anand committee was formed...

Notorious company Transocean has entered into a contract for drilling job in Thailand

February 20, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Notorious company Transocean has entered into a contract for drilling job in Thailand – neftegaz.ru, February 20, 2011

Amazing video of the army shooting unarmed protesters in Bahrain

February 21, 2011

Categories: Black May 1992

Amazing video of the army shooting unarmed protesters in Bahrain – YouTube, February 21, 2011 The part when they shooting starts and people start to run was exactly what it was like <u>during Black May in 1992</u>.

Far from Myanmar's political turmoil, Inle Lake is an island of calm

February 22, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

<u>Far from Myanmar's political turmoil, Inle Lake is an island of calm</u> – M and C, February 22, 2011 Day is breaking early on the Inle Lake in Myanmar. In the magical hour in which night gives way to the dawn, there's a mixture of sounds – the splash of jumping fish, the cackling and cawing of colourful birds and the strains of Buddhist hymns...

<u>Local Burmese celebrate traditions now forbidden in Myanmar</u> – Waterloo Record, February 21, 2011 ...In Burma — now called Myanmar — Chin traditions like the bamboo dance and harvest dance are forbidden, but at King Edward Public School on Saturday the Chin dances, costumes and song filled the gym...

Mystery woman bids for Thai AirAsia

February 22, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Mystery woman bids for Thai AirAsia - Bangkok Post, February 22, 2011

...TAA management treated her offer and the background of Nice Life International Co with scepticism. Business Development Department records show Nice Life International has registered capital of 25 billion baht, an unusually large amount for a real estate firm that seems to be unknown within the industry. "Is this a joke or something?" laughed Tassapon Bijleveld, TAA's chief executive. "Do you think we should take this sort of hot air seriously?"...

More on the Thai secret prison

February 22, 2011

Categories: Thai Secret Prison

More on the Thai secret prison – February 22, 2011

From Indictment For Torture Filed Against George W. Bush: The Facts: ... The UN Joint Study on secret detentions noted that detainees had been held in Afghanistan, Thailand, Poland and Romania, among other locations. The ICRC described the fourteen individuals previously held as part of the CIA detention program, whom BUSH transfered to detention at Guantanamo, and which BUSH announced in September 2006, as "missing persons..."

Greg Lowe: Why cycling in Bangkok is suited only for the suicidal

February 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Greg Lowe: Why cycling in Bangkok is suited only for the suicidal – CNNGo, February 23, 2011 ...Friends who ride motorbikes around town concurred with my wife and said I was mad to even consider it, adding that the longer you cycle in Bangkok the more likely you are to pay the ultimate price. The sad thing is they're probably right. Cycling any distance in Bangkok means taking your life in your hands and hitting the road or being relegated to the drudgery of riding circuits at Lumpini Park, until they ban bikes there that is...

Marines, Sailors experience part of Thai culture

February 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

Marines, Sailors experience part of Thai culture – U.S. Marine Corps, February 23, 2011 ... "This tour was an absolute blast," said Staff Sgt. Jason R. Dobos, a section leader with 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st MEU. "It highlighted a different side of Thai culture than you don't normally see..."

Profiteering from Palm Oil

February 23, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, February 23, 2011

The cartoon headline reads: The war to seize oil

The words above the bottle reads: Taking benefits from the crisis on palm oil

The words on the bottle read: Palm oil

The words on the stove on the left: Bhumjaithai Party The words on the stove on the right: Democrat Party The words bowl containing eggs: The kilo egg

The words on the lady: Commerce
The words on the man: Deputy Minister

BMA's Super Skywalk will make Bangkok pedestrian friendly

February 23, 2011 Categories: Skytrain

BMA's Super Skywalk will make Bangkok pedestrian friendly – The Nation, February 23, 2011 Pedestrians in the capital will be able to enjoy greater convenience and safety now that Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has promised to spend Bt15 billion on building the Super Skywalk System, a 50-kilometre clutter-free elevated walking space...

Bowing to the hierarchy: the challenges of working in Cambodia

February 23, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

Bowing to the hierarchy: the challenges of working in Cambodia - Crikey, February 23, 2011

...Learning about these potential challenges at pre-departure training for my AYAD role in web development at Friends in Phnom Penh and feeling somewhat apprehensive before leaving Australia, I channelled Richard Simmons in a candlelit ceremony and devised a plan: keep active and say "yes" to as many things as possible...

Blogging still popular in Cambodia?

February 23, 2011 Categories: Cambodia

<u>Blogging still popular in Cambodia?</u> – Asian Correspondent, February 23, 2011 The first TEDx held early this month in Phnom Penh proves that bloggers are actively joining online discussions about what's going on in Cambodia. From personal things to politics, blogging took off in this Southeast Asian nation in the early 2000s, long before those young Cambodians started to embrace Facebook last year...

Should Buddhists cry for war?

February 23, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

Should Buddhists cry for war? - GlobalPost, February 23, 2011

...I've previously described the hardline rhetoric coming from self-proclaimed Thai "patriots," who want the army to back down Cambodia with force. The group's leader even urged troops to launch a full-scale invasion to seize Angkor Wat, an ancient temple and symbol of Cambodian pride...

Thai hospital offers free sex change to competition winners

February 23, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Thai hospital offers free sex change to competition winners</u> – EARTHtimes, February 23, 2011 ..."I face a lot of contempt and discrimination now, but after the operation society will need to accept me as a complete woman," said Jaras Phaphan, a 21-year-old college student who was one of the five winners...

Triple Thailand tragedy: Briton drowns during stag party, pensioners die from 'food poisoning' and adventure holidaymaker is injured by rampaging elephant

February 23, 2011

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

<u>Triple Thailand tragedy: Briton drowns during stag party, pensioners die from 'food poisoning' and adventure holidaymaker is injured by rampaging elephant</u> – Daily Mail, February 23, 2011

A British tourist is fighting for life and a Swiss woman has been killed after an elephant went on the rampage during an adventure holiday in Thailand.

The tragedy came as another Briton drowned at a stag party on the Thai island of Phuket and two pensioners from Lincolnshire were found dead from suspected food poisoning in Chiang Mai...

Cambodia: AIDS epidemic follows condom promotion

February 23, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, HIV-AIDS

<u>Cambodia: AIDS epidemic follows condom promotion</u> – Catholic Culture, February 23, 2011 A well-funded condom-distribution and population-control program, funded in part by the United States Agency for International Development, has helped fuel the spread of AIDS in Cambodia, according to Human Life International (HLI)...

Free At Last

February 24, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 24, 2011

Jatupron is thinking: Hmmm.. from now, the support money is to be divided between nine ...

The sign on the building: The Klongprem Prison

The caption at the bottom reads: The only Red Shirt who is not happy!

PHL seeks royal pardon for Pinoy prisoners in Thailand

February 24, 2011 Categories: Crime

PHL seeks royal pardon for Pinoy prisoners in Thailand – GMA News, February 24, 2011

...The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the petitions covered Filipinos with the oldest cases and the longest prison sentences, including two people sentenced to 25 years in jail...

Cambodia vs. Thailand foments more conflict

February 25, 2011

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

Cambodia vs. Thailand foments more conflict – The Kansas City Star, February 25, 2011

Across the Middle East and beyond, kings and dictators are quaking in their castles, afraid their people will throw them from power. All except one, that is.

In Cambodia, longtime dictator Hun Sen, like his fellow potentates around the world, watched the news and figured out his own strategy. He decided to give a speech and threaten his people.

"I would like to tell you that if you want to strike as in Tunisia," he warned, "I will close the door and beat the dog this time..."

"Baby 1001" or "Babe 1001"

February 25, 2011 Categories: Crime

Women freed from 'inhuman' baby ring – AFP News, February 25, 2011

...Police said the company, called Baby 101, received orders by email or via agents from childless couples and in some instances the male partner would provide sperm to inseminate the women...

In 2009: <u>Taiwan warns Bangkok-based company on fertility tourism</u> – asianewsnet.net, August 27, 2009 ...<u>Babe 1001</u> has been targeting potential Taiwan clients for quite some time through its Chinese-language ad on the Internet. The ad lists the telephone number of Babe 1001's headquarters as one in Bangkok, with a telephone number for its branch located in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh...

Praising Gaddafi

February 25, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From ThaiRath, February 25, 2011

The caption at top reads: The mother of dictators... Killing later but becoming more famous

The words on Gaddafi's robe: Order crackdown on the people

The words on the hooded figure's robe: Order crackdown on the people

Behind him is a sign that reads: Ratchaprasong

The words on left skull pile: The Libyan people – 300-400 dead bodies

The words on right skull pile: Thais – 91 dead people

Asset grabs in Myanmar

February 25, 2011

Categories: Myanmar/Burma

Asset grabs in Myanmar - atimes.com, February 25, 2011

Myanmar is in the midst of a large-scale privatization drive that promises, for better or worse, to shake up one of Asia's most moribund economies. However, investors keen get involved in the fire sale would be wise to weigh the experience of media entrepreneur Ross Dunkley, who is languishing on unclear charges in the country's Insein prison...

Living with the Tiger

February 25, 2011

Categories: Film and TV

Living with the Tiger – February 26, 2011

...My name is Mike Thomas and I'm a British filmmaker living in Thailand. I have recently finished making a not-for-profit film called 'Living with the Tiger'. Very briefly, it's about a group of HIV-infected orphans in Lopburi province that have been abandoned by society. It follows the lives of a couple of the children over 3 years and their attempts at reintegration back in to their communities. Rather than offering the predictable and depressing images normally associated with HIV, we have tried to present something that offers hope, compassion and inspiration. The story is framed by the children's preparations for an ambitious performance in an opera, based on the best selling book, Life of Pi.

Our aim is to raise awareness of the stigma and discrimination that affects these children and the millions of other people living with HIV. We are planning an outreach campaign that will include further screenings of the film in workplaces, educational establishments, theatres and festivals. We have tried to make the film entertaining so that it will have a broad appeal and reach out to everyone, especially those that don't have any connection with HIV...

Opponents say Thai Prime Minister can lose job over British citizenship acknowledgement

February 25, 2011 Categories: Thai Politics

Opponents say Thai Prime Minister can lose job over British citizenship acknowledgement – ANI, February 25, 2011

The political opponents of Thailand Prime Minister Abhisit Vejajjiva have said that he could lose his job over his acknowledgement that he also retains a British citizenship...

Abhisit may be the right prescription for Thailand – MySinchew, February 25, 2011

...Having just returned from Bangkok where I spent some time with Abhisit, I can vouch for his supremely cool and open-minded style. The 46-year old politician has always been calm, rational and charming even under enormous pressure...

Kanit and Sanan Speak up for the Red Shirts

February 26, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 26, 2011

Sanan is saying: After the release, if the 7 red leaders feel annoyed and want to stage torching, we two will let them to torch us first, is that right Mr. Kanit?"

Kanit says: Yeah.

The caption reads: The two witnesses should guarantee...

The sign on the wall in the background read: Na Nakorn Residence and Kajornprasart Residence

Fight to the Death

February 26, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 26, 2011

The words on the boxing pants: "Pheu Thai" and "Democrat"

Sodsri is saying: Anybody, please help kill these two boxers on the stage and dismantle the fight stage. This is too cruel to be true for human beings!!!

The caption reads: Committee person Sodsri cannot bear

The commendable castration of Mr S

February 27, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

The commendable castration of Mr S – Bangkok Post, February 27, 2011

...When the Democrats and Bhumjaithai have a go at it, no one is more gleeful than Pheu Thai Party members. Party spokesman Prompong Nopparit said there are politicians, with the initials Mr S and Ms P, who are making a lot of money out of this. Who Mr S and Ms P are, of course no one knows. Not even DPM Suthep or Minister Pontiva...

Supatra Sasuphan, world's hairiest girl, 'delighted' with title, says shaggy face boosts popularity

February 28, 2011

Categories: 2Bangkok News

<u>Supatra Sasuphan, world's hairiest girl, 'delighted' with title, says shaggy face boosts popularity</u> – NY Daily News, February 28, 2011

Thai Prime Minister's Confession Underscores Urgent Need to Prevent Violence Against Protesters

February 28, 2011

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

<u>Thai Prime Minister's Confession Underscores Urgent Need to Prevent Violence Against Protesters</u> – PR-USA.net, February, 2011

...Amsterdam also drew comparisons between this case and the violence used against demonstrators across the world, including recent protests in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, and Libya. "This is in many ways a landmark case built upon strong evidence, representing an opportunity for the international community to show that dictators and authoritarian leaders will be held accountable for using violence against their own people. Given the abhorrent repressions and high death tolls in the current struggle for democracy across the Arab world, we need to send this message now more than ever..."

Cambodia: Blocked sites back up

February 28, 2011

Categories: Cambodia, Censorship

Cambodia: Blocked sites back up – phnompenhpost.com, February 28, 2011

...Paul Blanche-Horgan, CEO of Ezecom, had previously said the blockage was a technical issue, but declined to comment.

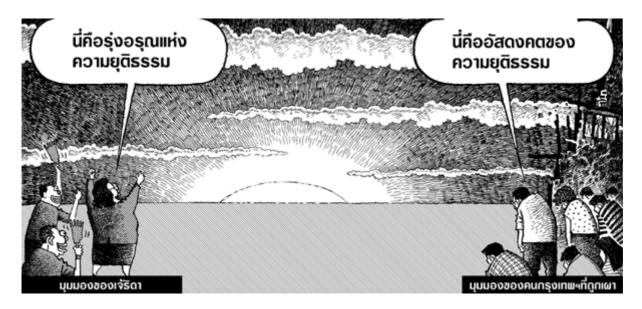
[&]quot;I have no idea, mate," he said.

[&]quot;I mean, you know, it's ridiculous. I have no comment. Bye-bye..."

Dawn of Justice or Fall of Justice?

February 28, 2011

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From Manager, February 28, 2011

At left, Thida Thavornset, UDD leader says: This is the dawn of justice

The caption underneath reads: The viewpoint of Thida

At right: This is the fall of the justice

The caption underneath reads: The viewpoint of the Bangkok residents who faced arson